

Penguin  Readers

E. NESBIT

THE
RAILWAY
CHILDREN



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People in the story



Bobbie



Peter



Phyllis



Mother



Father



Perks



the Old
Gentleman

New words



countryside



medicine



prison



railway



tunnel



to wave

Note about the story

Edith Nesbit (1858–1924) started writing stories because she and her husband were **poor***. She wrote forty books for young people. She was **kind** to poor people and helped them a lot.

Nesbit wrote *The Railway Children* in 1905. We must be kind to people – Nesbit shows us this in her story.

Nesbit's father died – she was only four years old. Her father was not there and, in *The Railway Children*, the children's father is also not there.

Trains are very important in this story. Old trains needed **coal** and many villages had a station.

Before-reading questions

- 1 Look at the cover of the book. What do you think happens in this story?
- 2 Look at the “People in the story” on page 4. Choose two people from the story and describe them.
 - This person is a boy/girl/man/woman.
 - He/She is . . . years old, I think.
 - He/She is wearing . . .
- 3 Living in a big city and living in the countryside are very different. Write in your notebook. What things can you see in a big city and what things can you see in the countryside?

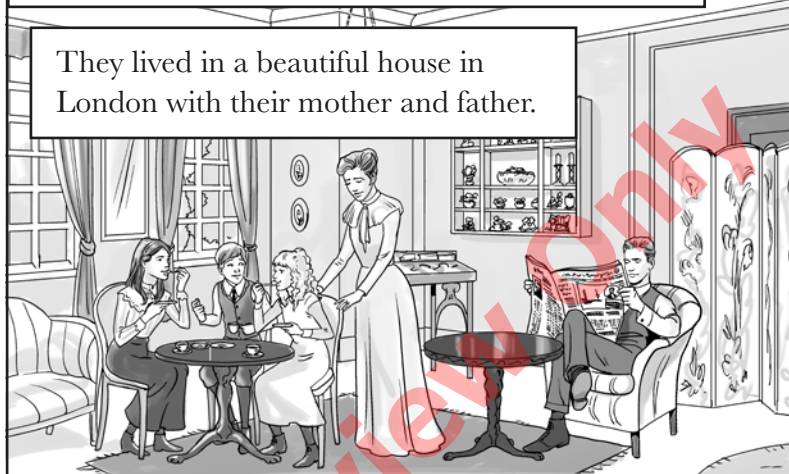
*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on page 63.

CHAPTER ONE

The beginning

At the beginning, they were not Railway Children.

They lived in a beautiful house in London with their mother and father.



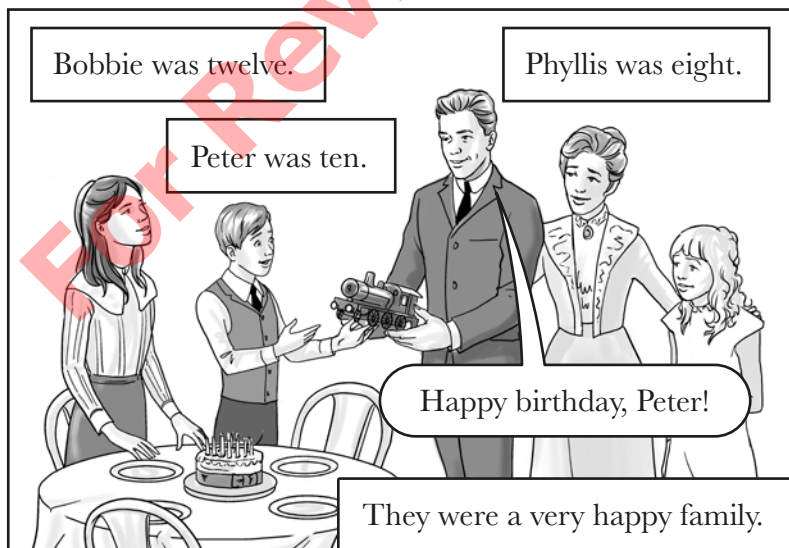
Bobbie was twelve.

Phyllis was eight.

Peter was ten.

Happy birthday, Peter!

They were a very happy family.



But one day, two men came to the house.

We must speak to you.

Let's go into my office.

Why are those men talking to Father?

I don't know, Bobbie.

