

A COMPLIMENTARY LARGE-PRINT ACTIVITY PACK

The Great British Memory Lane

Care Home Activity Pack



Story | Conversation | Quiz | Puzzle | Sharing

Designed for relaxed reading and group activity sessions

Large, clear type - black-and-white and easy to print

FROM THE CREATOR OF SIMEY'S PEEDIE TALES

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A few unhurried moments together

This complimentary pack brings together one familiar British story and a selection of gentle large-print activities. Read aloud, choose a question, try the puzzle or simply let the conversation wander.

How to use the pack

- Choose any page that feels inviting.
- Read slowly and leave room for conversation.
- Memory and imagination are both welcome.
- Skip anything that does not feel comfortable.
- There are no time limits and no wrong memories.

Permission to use

You may print and use this complimentary pack within one care home, day centre or community group. Please do not sell it or redistribute it elsewhere.

The Kettle Was Never Far Away

The first sound in Elsie's kitchen each morning was the scrape of the match and the quiet rush of the gas ring. The kettle went on before anything else. By the time the curtains were open, the tea caddy was waiting beside the pot and two cups had been set on the table.

Nothing in the kitchen was grand, but everything had its place. String was kept in a drawer because useful string was never thrown away. Buttons lived in a biscuit tin. Brown paper was folded neatly for another day. In the larder stood jars of jam, a dish of dripping and a row of tins whose labels all faced forward.

Monday was washday. The sheets went through the mangle and then out to the line, where the wind filled them like sails. If rain threatened, everyone watched the sky. A sudden shower could bring half the street rushing outdoors to rescue washing with arms full of pegs.

There were regular jobs: blacking the grate, polishing the brass, sweeping the step and shaking the rugs. Bath night took planning because hot water did not appear without effort. In winter, a hot-water bottle was tucked into the bed early enough to take the chill from the sheets.

Yet the house was rarely silent. The wireless brought voices into the sitting room. A neighbour might tap at the back door for a cup of sugar. Someone was always calling, mending, stirring or setting something aside for later.

And through it all, the kettle was never far away. Tea marked the start of the day, the end of a job and the moment when everyone finally sat down together.

What detail in this scene feels most familiar to you?

Take your time. A memory may arrive through a sound, object or small routine.

A few gentle questions

Choose one, several or none. Memory and imagination are both welcome.

- 1** What usually happened first in the kitchen each morning?
- 2** Was there a particular day for washing or cleaning?
- 3** What was kept in the pantry, larder or food cupboard?
- 4** Who made the best cup of tea in your family?
- 5** How was your home kept warm during winter?
- 6** Which household job did you enjoy - or try to avoid?

Everyday things at home

Say the answers aloud or write them down. One point each if you feel like keeping score.

- 1** What was a coal scuttle used to hold?
- 2** What did a mangle squeeze from freshly washed clothes?
- 3** Which cupboard or room kept food cool before most homes had a fridge?
- 4** What was placed in a bed to warm the sheets?
- 5** What held washing on a line?
- 6** What cover helped keep a teapot warm?
- 7** What household item was often polished with black lead?
- 8** What might be kept in an old biscuit tin for future repairs?
- 9** Which glass containers were left on the doorstep by the milkman?
- 10** What did people strike to light a gas ring or fire?

Easy Word Search

Find twelve words. They run across or down, forwards only. Spaces are not shown in the grid.

P	G	E	T	A	Q	S	Y	Z	B	R	O	O	M	D
J	K	H	J	P	U	I	X	L	U	L	L	C	X	O
J	S	J	H	E	S	C	R	A	T	W	F	P	P	G
B	E	I	T	G	E	C	U	R	T	A	I	N	S	L
R	V	J	S	B	U	S	E	D	O	S	R	W	M	S
E	I	U	M	A	N	G	L	E	N	H	E	S	Y	A
E	Z	A	O	G	L	X	X	R	S	I	P	U	C	F
P	Q	V	C	I	O	B	Y	C	H	N	L	N	D	I
L	W	Q	L	I	T	X	O	P	P	G	A	K	O	N
C	V	B	B	A	W	T	T	J	O	K	C	J	I	C
J	O	C	L	B	V	K	E	T	T	L	E	Y	B	D
P	A	R	R	N	B	P	A	N	T	R	Y	T	P	R
A	V	U	Z	L	I	G	P	R	R	G	Q	P	Q	A
Y	F	O	B	L	O	P	O	L	I	S	H	I	I	O
H	W	X	C	I	M	K	T	F	V	I	Z	E	S	N

KETTLE
LARDER
MANGLE
BUTTONS

WASHING
FIREPLACE
TEAPOT
BROOM

CURTAINS
PEG BAG
PANTRY
POLISH

MATCH THEM UP

Objects and their uses

1. Coal scuttle

2. Peg bag

3. Tea caddy

4. Button tin

5. Larder

6. Mangle

7. Grate

8. Wireless

A. Fire

B. Radio programmes

C. Coal

D. Tea leaves

E. Clothes pegs

F. Spare buttons

G. Wet washing

H. Food

FINISH THE SAYING

1. Home is where the...

2. Waste not, want...

3. Many hands make...

4. A watched pot never...

5. Make hay while the...

6. There is no place like...

Build a Shared Memory Lane

Invite different answers and write down as many as the group can remember. Local and family versions are welcome.

1. Things once kept in a kitchen drawer

2. Jobs done on washing day

3. Foods stored in a pantry or larder

4. Ways homes were kept warm

5. Sounds heard around the house

A memory does not have to be exact to be worth sharing.

Encourage stories; avoid correcting small details.

A little help

TEA-BREAK QUIZ

1. Coal
2. Water
3. Larder or pantry
4. Hot-water bottle
5. Clothes pegs
6. Tea cosy
7. Coal range or grate
8. Buttons
9. Milk bottles
10. A match

MATCHING SAYINGS

- | | |
|-----|---------------|
| 1-C | 1. heart is |
| 2-E | 2. not |
| 3-D | 3. light work |
| 4-F | 4. boils |
| 5-H | 5. sun shines |
| 6-G | 6. home |
| 7-A | |
| 8-B | |

Would this work in your care community?

The complete Great British Memory Lane Activity Book contains twelve themed chapters, twelve short stories, large-print quizzes and puzzles, conversation prompts, answer pages and a dedicated Scotland and Orkney chapter.

Find the book and request further information
simeyspeedietales.co.uk

Written and created by Simon Hay

Thank you for reading, remembering and sharing.

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