



Behind the Walls

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Teaching Guide

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RATIONALE & THEMES

The spring and summer of 1689 are cold and damp; almost foreboding, as the forces that are destined to shape Europe prepare to engage. The city of Derry sits, overlooking the river Foyle, walled and waiting.

Driven by a fierce determination not to be subdued, their cry of 'No Surrender' echoes; igniting a power struggle.

Resisting overwhelming Jacobite forces and enduring a siege that reduces them to starvation and despair, the citizens ensure a Williamite victory in the first great battle in the War of the Three Kings.

The themes explored are:

- Courage
- Friendship
- Loyalty
- Responsibility
- Identity
- Integrity
- Despair
- Loss
- Suspicion
- Endurance

SUMMARY

Richard Talbot, Catholic and Jacobite Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, distrusts the allegiance of the Protestant city of Derry and decides to replace their garrison regiment with a more sympathetic Jacobite Redshank one.

Alarmed by the withdrawal of their own regiment and fearful for their safety at the hands of the Redshanks, the city's citizens are in turmoil. Seizing the initiative, 13 apprentices shut the gates of the city, denying the Jacobite regiment access to the city.

The Jacobites have no alternative but to lay siege.

As the siege tightens, tensions rise and opinions polarize. The Catholics are

expelled and the remaining Protestants endure bombardment and misery as the siege unfolds.

Despite negotiations, Rev George Walker and Col Adam Murray drive the citizens to maintain their defiance and refuse to surrender the city even when King James approaches the walls in person.

With the death rate mounting from disease and hunger, the city stands firm.

Finally, when all seems lost, a squadron of three ships manages to break the river boom and carry relief supplies to the city.

The siege has been broken and the Williamite forces have been victorious. James's army, demoralized, strikes camp and sets off to meet William at the Boyne, their deciding encounter.

In Derry, the city recovers, awaiting the final outcome of the kings' struggle; some of the defenders journey to the Boyne to continue their support for William as he faces James and the might of King Louis of France.

APPROACH

This story, although historical, has many contemporary resonances, particularly in the understanding of how religious and political differences can affect perspectives and influence events.

Small group discussion can be used to widen understanding and identify myths.

The activities relate easily to the PSHE / PDMU frameworks and will facilitate a discussion-based approach to the novel.

The guide is divided into four sections to accommodate both the development of the story and understanding of the events.

Section 1 The Approaching Storm Pages 7 - 94

SUMMARY

Horace is causing uproar, barking a challenge in unfamiliar streets before his owner Daniel manages to regain control.

The city is buzzing with rumour about the Catholic King James and a challenge to the right of accession of his newborn son from the Dutch Prince William and his Protestant wife, James's daughter Mary.

Lord Talbot, James's lieutenant in Dublin, has withdrawn the Protestant garrison from the city, intending to replace it with a loyal Catholic one.

At a meeting in the Market Place, Daniel listens and the crowd cheers news of William's challenge that James's infant son is an imposter, and has no right to the throne.

As trouble looms Protestant families start to seek the shelter of the city.

The sense of foreboding increases as Daniel questions his father and older brother Robert about what might happen, and is confirmed when they meet Adam Murray who is gathering a Protestant force to resist Talbot's Catholic soldiers.

The Sherrard family welcomes a new arrival; Daniel has a sister, Alice.

A letter is discovered and the city council calls a public meeting. The Comber letter reveals a plot to murder every Protestant in the city. Terror seizes the crowd and prejudices are unleashed. The citizens see the Jacobite garrison at the gates as both proof and provocation.

The city sheriff hesitates when the Jacobite officer requests billets for his men inside the city. The initiative is snatched when 13 young apprentices, including the Sherrard

brothers, slam the city gates shut in the face of the Jacobite garrison.

The Jacobite lieutenant fumes as Alderman Tomkins tries to restore order and secure the city arsenal as a means of diffusing the situation.

Overhearing his plans, the apprentices rush the arsenal; take control, and declare themselves William's army.

Their euphoria is short lived when they discover the arsenal will only arm half of the city's defenders.

Suspicion grows that the Comber letter is a forgery and the threats spurious. The city is divided on how to resolve the predicament. There is deep mistrust of James. The gates remain locked.

Lord Mountjoy and Col. Lundy return from Dublin and try to negotiate a settlement.

News of a Jacobite set-back at Enniskillen further serves to encourage the city.

Tensions surface between Robert and his father when Mr Sherrard expresses a warning at the speed events are taking. The brothers leave for guard duty with their father's caution ringing in their ears.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- **(Read p16):** The citizens of Derry are outraged that their king is Catholic and his new son will become another Catholic king. The Act of Settlement disqualifies a Catholic from being monarch in the UK today. What does this mean for the many loyal British subjects of the Queen who are Catholic?
- **(Read p38):** The Comber letter incited the crowd. Why do you think it was so easy to convince them that they were in danger? What does that say about the way we react to news. What do you think were the two key elements of the letter that confirmed their suspicions and provoked their anger?
- **(Read p38):** The crowd listening to Alderman Tomkins suddenly changed into a mob and he lost control of them. What do you think is the difference between a crowd and a mob and what do you think caused the change?
- **(Read p71):** A group of unelected apprentices seem to be allowed to make the major decisions. Why do you think the leadership of the bishop and the council was ignored? How is the mob able to exert its influence so clearly?
- **(Read p91):** Mr Sherrard urges his sons to form their own opinions. Why is he concerned that they will not be allowed

to do this? Is his advice pertinent today? Can you think of examples where our opinions might be formed for us?

ACTIVITIES

1. Keeping the Peace (Read pp13-14)

Mrs Sherrard and her son Daniel realise that the city needs a force to maintain law and order. Today that function is the responsibility of the Garda/PSNI.

Work in small groups to anticipate the 4 most significant effects if we did not have the protection of the Garda/ PSNI? How might this affect you or your neighbourhood?

2. William's Pamphlet (Read pp15-16)

The Dutch Prince, William, has issued a pamphlet declaring James's son to be an imposter.

Many of the people in Derry are illiterate, so it has to be read out.

Create a recording of what you think the pamphlet must have sounded like the first time it was read. Include all the background noise and shouts.

3. Horace (Read pp28-29 & 34)

Horace watches events carefully. His priorities and interpretations are very different to those of the rest of the Sherrard household.

The author considered giving Horace a voice. If she had, what do you think his views might have been on what was happening? What do you think he would have considered important?

Draw a picture of Horace and add the comment he might have made to some of the events.

4. The Walls (Read p30)

One of the main characters in the story is the Walls themselves. They represent the spirit of defiance.

For their international reprint, O'Brien Press will use a different cover for the book.

Could you create an image, which shows the strength, power and defiance of the Walls, and the story it represents? What colours would you use and what images would you choose?

5. The Comber Letter (Read pp36-37)

When the letter has been read out, it causes

alarm among the crowd.

Work in small groups to imagine that you are reporters who have to file a story on what has happened.

Describe the atmosphere and interview different people in the crowd.

Write about the impact you think the letter will have and discuss whether you think the letter is genuine.

6. The Musket Manual (Read pp72-73)

It is clear that many of the men have never fired a musket before.

Mr Sherrard agrees to create a simple pictorial manual on one page to illustrate how to load and fire it effectively.

He knows a lot of the people cannot read, so he has to devise a way to instruct without confusing them.

Can you help him?

Try these links to see how the musket was used:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJMbxZ1k9NQ
home.insightbb.com/~bspfen/flintlockfaq.html

7. 12th December 1688 (Read p86)

Lord Mountjoy keeps a diary where he records not only the events, but also his predictions, fears and judgements.

Being denied entry to the city alarms him and he fears how things might develop.

Create his diary entry for 12th December 1689.

8. Alice (Read p93)

Mrs Sherrard finds comfort in the smell of her newborn daughter.

The sense of smell is a very powerful prompt to our emotions.

Create a short poem (**Haiku/acrostic/cinquain**) to describe some of the smells that make you feel better. Add illustrations if you wish.

Use the sites below for ideas.

www.poetry4kids.com/blog/lessons/how-to-write-a-haiku/
www.poetry4kids.com/blog/lessons/how-to-write-a-cinquain-poem/

Section 2

Lundy's Downfall

Pages 95 - 177

SUMMARY

Lt. Col Robert Lundy has, by agreement, taken command of his garrison inside the city as he attempts to broker a compromise. His position is difficult.

News reaches the city that James and his family has fled to France, yielding the crown to William and Mary. The celebrations are short lived when it is realized that James will be aided by King Louis of France to recover the throne and the role of Derry will now be pivotal in the struggle.

Attitudes harden and polarize in the city and the catholic population is forced to flee with only the possessions they can carry.

William is king, but the Jacobites hold Ireland, and James intends, with the support of the French army, to regain his throne. Derry will be the first step in his renaissance.

William has written to the city elders appreciating their loyalty and promising supplies if everyone swears allegiance to him.

Lundy, piqued at the affront of having to change sides in public makes the fatal error of insisting on doing this in private, thus further undermining his tenuous grip on authority.

Daniel's father has to deliver the news to Robert's friend Henry Campsie that his father will die of his fever. It is news he is certain he will deliver regularly in the coming weeks.

Adam Murray confides his anxiety about Lundy's motives to his father Gabriel, who confirms his assessment that Lundy believes the city cannot be defended.

More help has been promised from London and the council draws up a document of 'Mutual Agreement' forbidding anyone from leaving the city and setting out the punishments for various 'treasons'.

Rev Walker, a firebrand preacher whose defence of Dungannon had been thwarted by Lundy, covets Lundy's position as governor.

The command structure of the city is fractured and they are unable to return cannon fire to the Jacobites because Lundy has ordered the gunpowder stored under lock and key while Adam Murray and his force are forced to forage in the countryside, locked out of the city at night.

When Murray learns that negotiations are

taking place to surrender the city and that King James himself will arrive that day he is determined to prevent it happening.

James's plan is simple; he only needs to present himself before the city and they will accept him. Despite the desperate urging of caution from his French advisors, that is what he attempts to do.

On the Walls the apprentices are unimpressed and decide to handle the negotiations themselves, informing James that the council are in session and not to be disturbed.

Approaching the city, the French reinforcements are unaware of the agreed 4-mile limit. Panic seizes the boys and Henry Campsie fires his musket killing the king's trumpeter.

His cry of 'No Surrender' is taken up by the crowd and hurled defiantly in the face of James and his army followed by a volley of stones, forcing them to retreat and when Col Witney, Lundy's deputy, arrives it is too late to prevent the incident or rescue the cause.

The crowd greets Murray's arrival enthusiastically as he pledges to defend them to the last man. Facing Lundy and the council to consider the terms of surrender Murray upbraids them defiantly and leaves to discover the citizens have donned white armbands to show him their support.

James has withdrawn, confused and finally accepts the counsel of his French advisor, ordering the siege to begin.

Lundy relinquishes his post and when Murray refuses it, it is offered jointly to Col Baker and Rev Walker who accepts with barely disguised pleasure. The die is cast.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- **(Read p96):** Col Lundy is in a difficult position. He is a Protestant and sympathizes with the defenders yet as a soldier he believes his duty is to support the king. Where do you think a person's first loyalty should lie? Should duty / loyalty be allowed to influence decisions that you are not comfortable with? Is it ever justified to be disloyal?
- **(Read p102):** The Catholics have been forced to leave the city. They no longer recognize the place as 'home'. Can you identify what makes people call somewhere their home? How are people with different views able to share a place, both calling it home?
- **(Read pp123-124):** The city elders have drawn up a 'Mutual Agreement' and have assumed the right to kill anyone

they think necessary. Do you think it is ever right for one group of people to give themselves the right to kill others? In what circumstances, if any, would you agree with the elders? Were there other strategies they could have used?

- **(Read pp126 &128-129):** Both the Williamite and Jacobite forces pray to the same God for victory. His commandment is 'Thou Shalt not Kill', so do you think He will take sides? If He does take sides, which one would He take and how could He justify the slaughter on the other side? Why do you think that the those who believe in the Christian God of peace and love have been involved in so many wars?
- **(Read p167):** The council, who has been elected by the citizens, see their authority evaporating, while Adam Murray, who has not been elected, is increasingly seen as the leader. What does authority and leadership mean and how can they be assumed and maintained? What has caused the crowd to ignore the advice of the council and look to Murray for leadership?

ACTIVITIES

1. Loyalty Sets (Read pp95-96)

Lundy is torn between duty to his king and loyalty to his religion.

Everyone has conflicting loyalties and sometimes we need to prioritize them.

Work in small groups to create a list of 10 loyalties that you have.

Draw a set of 4 concentric circles and into the centre circle write your top loyalty.

In the next ring add those loyalties, which are also important but not as important as the centre one.

Do the same for the next rings until you have used all the loyalties in your list.

Can you explain your choices?

2. Evacuee (Read pp99 & 103)

The Catholic citizens in the city have decided to leave. At a secret meeting they decide to write to the council outlining their reasons. They had two main reasons.

Could you create the letter that they sent?

Which emotion was stronger for them, anger or fear?

The council has asked them to reconsider, write the reply they sent to them?

3. Opinions (Read pp109-111)

Mr Sherrard is anxious that his sons form

their own opinions and are not unduly influenced by others.

He decides to write a short **DO/DONT** guide to help them. He lists what he thinks are the 5 most important pieces of advice.

Could you help him produce the guide?

4. Memories (Read p122)

The puddles in the Diamond sparkled like gems as they reflected the sunshine. As they caught his eye, Henry imagined he could see images reflected there of his life, past, present and future.

As a group using a large sheet of paper could you recreate what he saw and tile the page to create a mosaic of images?

5. God says (Read pp125 & 159)

Rev Walker feels that God has spoken to him directly. It is not unusual for some people to feel this way.

However if God **had** spoken to him, what advice might He have given to him?

Check the Bible links below to decide if Rev Walker was indeed influenced by God.

List what you think is Jesus's most important advice and decide if Rev Walker is being influenced by it or not.

www.openbible.info/topics/helping_others

www.openbible.info/topics/caring_for_others

www.openbible.info/topics/forgiving_others

6. James (Read pp147-151)

The Count of Avaux, chief advisor to James, reports directly King Louis.

Avaux is worried about James's ability to make sensible decisions and decides to report his concerns secretly to Louis in a dispatch.

He has to choose his words carefully as it is unwise to criticize a king directly.

Can you help him prepare the dispatch?

7. The Chorale (Read p160)

Beginning as a whisper and swelling quickly, the chant of '**NO SURRENDER**' reverberates along the Walls.

The Apprentice Boys of Derry would like you to compose a sound symphony for them using only the words 'No Surrender' repeated again and again, accompanied by suitable dramatic music.

Create a 20-second piece for them.

8. Lundy's Guilt (Read p175)

As Lundy prepares to leave the city under

darkness for the last time, he realizes that he is a pariah. Everyone believes him guilty of treachery.

However, was he really to blame?

Examine the evidence from the site below and then write a short defence for him to show that the tag he has been given of **Lundy the Traitor** is unfair and misleading. thetrialoflundy.com/

Section 3 Siege Pages 178 - 261

SUMMARY

The city wakes to bombardment. Helpless, the defenders watch the Jacobites' 'scorched earth' policy deprive them of every blade of fodder for their animals.

Murray plans an ambush, which is initially successful with the fatal wounding of the French commander. However, the tactical retreat designed to draw the French into the ambush founders as the inexperienced defenders fail to realize the need to stagger their musketry to ensure a constant barrage.

Murray is forced to call a retreat as they race for the safety of the Walls, while Rev Walker marshals the defenders as 'Meg' spits cannonfire at the Jacobites, allowing Murray and his troops to reach safety.

The continuing Jacobite bombardment and the shortage of food adds to a deteriorating situation. Mr Sherrard cautions his sons on their safety.

When Robert is accosted in the street for food, it seems that Rev Walker has been favouring his own congregation and soldiers in the distribution of supplies. Many who have come into the city for shelter are left to their own devices.

When Mr Sherrard's timely arrival rescues Robert, the boy resents his father's help.

Adam's father, Gabriel is escorted to the Jacobite camp, where he witnesses the soldiers killing an old woman who they fear is a witch.

Hamilton, the Jacobite commander, instructs Gabriel to visit Adam and persuade him to surrender Derry, threatening to hang Gabriel if he does not comply. Instead, Gabriel uses the opportunity to encourage Adam. Confronting Hamilton on his return, Gabriel is spared execution and he returns home, taking the body of the old woman for a Christian burial.

Hunger and disease rage through the city,

weakening many and claiming lives. Water is scarce and they have to run the gauntlet of Jacobite musketry to reach the well.

The reality of their situation is grim, forcing the boys to seek reassurance from each other that their actions were justified.

As more families choose to desert the city, the fear for those left intensifies. Rumour is rife. Rev Walker's larder is raided on suspicion of hoarding food. A supply of beer is discovered, prompting Henry to declare it the secret of Walker's fiery sermons.

Returning from guard duty, Daniel is met by an aroma he has almost forgotten. Without waiting to question, he tucks into the stew his mother has prepared. As the silence around him grows, he realizes that Horace has made his final sacrifice for the family. Exploding in a fury of recrimination, he forces Robert to admit that their situation is a direct consequence of the Apprentice Boys' actions.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- **(Read p194):** In an outburst, Governor Walker reveals what he thinks of some of the defenders. It is not complimentary, but he was grateful for their support when he needed it. How do you think the outburst reflects his motives, character or sincerity?
- **(Read p199):** After the battle, the defenders begin the grisly task of stripping the Jacobite bodies of anything of value. Do you think this is a dignified way for them to treat the dead? How do you think that the enemy dead should be treated after a battle?
- **(Read pp206 & 209):** The city is facing starvation and disease. Some of the defenders believe that food should only be available to the guards, and the refugees and the rest of the people should fend for themselves. In many third-world conflicts today, the same belief about how to distribute food aid exists. What do you think is right?
- **(Read pp224-228):** Gabriel witnesses the murder of the old woman in silence, yet is able to defy Col Hamilton's threat to hang him. Why was he unwilling to offer a defence for her, yet fearless when facing his own threat? Should he have spoken to defend her or was he blind to the injustice because she did not share his beliefs?
- **(Read pp259-260 & 243):** The Apprentice Boys believe in a cause. However, the personal consequences of their actions force them to question whether they were being manipulated. How do you think that causes can be used to persuade

people to act without thought? Read the poem *'Dulce et Decorum Est'* from WWI and decide if the Apprentice Boys were really free to make their own choices?

www.gradesaver.com/wilfred-owen-poems/study-guide/summary-dulce-et-decorum-est
www.slideshare.net/rgarofano/dulce-analysis-8303442

ACTIVITIES

1. Sound and Fury (Read p 194)

As Walker defends Murray's retreat there is noise and confusion everywhere.

Imagine that you are a war correspondent and prepare a short (1 min) podcast from the safety of the Walls.

Your report will have to create a dramatic description of what can be seen and heard.

2. Siege Recipes (Read p205)

As the food shortages became critical the people were forced to eat anything. To make the food as palatable as possible the women began to swap recipes.

Devise a recipe that might disguise what the people were forced to eat.

www.thereformation.info/Derry%20facts.htm
www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-22508439

3. Faces (Read p210)

As the crowd pressed around them, their desperate faces were an image that Robert would never forget. Create a collage of the faces he saw in the style of Edvard Munch's picture, 'The Scream'.

What colours might be effective? Would you show anything more than the faces?

Use the sites below for ideas.

www.kinderart.com/arthistory/munchscream.shtml

www.elizabethreoch.com/the-scream-art-lesson-plan/

4. Leaving (Read P218)

Gabriel Murray believes that he is leaving his home for the last time. He takes his bible, some bread and beer, but leaves his dog.

If you had to leave home for the last time, what would you take and what would you leave?

Can you choose three things for taking and three for leaving and explain your reasons?

5. The Witch (Read pp222-223)

Gabriel witnesses the old woman being killed without saying anything in her defence.

Describe in a 100-words how you think he

could have acted differently and what effect it might have had?

6. Honour (Read pp223-235)

Col. Hamilton is an honourable man and a strict commander. Gabriel impresses him and he is outraged by the way his soldiers treated the woman.

In his diary that evening he gathers his thoughts about Gabriel and why he didn't plead for his life. He considers the likelihood that the city will surrender and how he might encourage it and he registers his revulsion at the soldier's conduct.

Could you recreate the diary page?

7. Concern (Read p243)

The conditions inside the city are appalling with people dying on the streets from hunger and disease. If this were to happen today, one of the aid agencies would launch an International Appeal.

Design the poster that an agency such as Trocaire might use to launch the appeal.

How would they present the situation? Would they focus on the human cost or the political division?

Check this link for examples.

www.google.ie/search?q=emergency+appeal+posters&tbn=isch

8. Was it worth it? (Read pp258-260)

When he realizes that they have eaten Horace, Daniel explodes in a rage of accusation against his brother, blaming him entirely for their predicament.

Later, when tempers cool, Mr Sherrard suggest they each complete a set of 'WORTH IT' columns.

One column is headed, '*It was worth it because*', the other is headed "*It wasn't worth it because*".

Daniel agrees to complete the '*It wasn't worth it*' column.

Work in small groups to help both brothers to add 5 statements to each column.

9. Horace (Read p261)

Mrs Sherrard realizes how much she misses Horace. He loved her and now she appreciates that she loved him too.

In his memory she decides to write a short poem to praise him, his friendship and his sacrifice.

She calls the poem 'Horace'.

Help her to write and illustrate it.

SUMMARY

A stealth attack on the Walls at night convinces Walker and Baker that there is a papist 5th column in the city and they decide to search every house adjoining the Walls.

When Col Mitchelburn sees his sister's house raided, tempers flare resulting in a sword fight with Baker, before order is restored with pride the only injury.

The siege continues, the death toll mounts and everything that can be eaten is eaten. No animals are immune as the population waits for William to send relief supplies.

Patrolling the streets in the dead of night, weak from hunger and delirious, Murray sees an apparition of an armed angel on a white horse that grows out of the mist to embrace the city, disappearing again with the pealing of the cathedral bells.

A frenzy of cheering greets the sight of the relief ships, stifled when they realize that the Jacobite boom across the river will prevent them from reaching the city.

A wretched column of refugees is spotted shuffling towards the city. De Rosen, the Jacobite commander, has ordered the Protestant community outside the city rounded up, stripped and marched to the Walls in the hope that city would allow them inside and thus deplete their remaining supplies.

Enraged, Murray threatens to hang each of Derry's Jacobite prisoners unless the refugees are allowed to withdraw. However, before the column withdraws, he manages to exchange some of the more able-bodied from the column with defenders who are unable to continue.

As the column withdraws, Daniel observes that the threatened massacre, which provoked the shutting of the gates, has not taken place.

Shouts from the Jacobite camp draw the city's attention to the sodden body of McGimpsey, hanging from a gallows. He had attempted to swim across the lough to the Williamite ships. Another attempt to breach the Walls follows and this is again repulsed by Murray and Baker. Baker dies and Mitchelburn is replaces him.

Meeting Murray on her way to the cathedral, Mrs Sherrard questions the need for so much

death. Murray resolves to try and capture cattle from behind the Jacobite lines. The raid goes badly wrong.

In desperation, an attempt is made to call the cattle, by scorching the one remaining cow in the city and making it bellow for help. The attempt fails.

The relief ships have broken the boom and can be seen sailing towards the port. The city is saved, but when Daniel tries to rouse his friend James to share the news, he discovers that poor James has passed beyond care.

The siege is broken and the Jacobites retreat.

The city has a new commander and the defenders try to pick up the threads of their lives again, however for the Sherrard brothers, the adventure continues as they make preparations to join William's army at the Boyne.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

- **(Read p287):** Governor Walker refuses shelter to the naked, shivering column. He blames the French commander. Is he correct? Should the needs of those inside the city come first? Today this is still happening with boatloads of refugees from Africa being refused shelter in Europe. Is this right?
- **(Read pp 307-308):** The threatened massacre by the Jacobites never happens and Daniel questions the need for the siege. The Comber letter was a fake, to make the Catholics out to be murderers in order to frighten the city. Do you think that the defenders were allowed to make their own decisions or were they being manipulated?
- **(Read p323):** Flags can be very powerful symbols, commanding people to follow them. The crimson flag of the defenders prompted very strong emotions. Why do you think people are prepared to give allegiance to pieces of coloured fabric? Is this a positive or negative human trait?
- **(Read p351):** Gabriel mocks Adam's irritation at Rev Walker's biased account of the events of the siege. If it is true that history is written by the victors, can we ever be confident that any version of an event is really truthful and without bias?
- **(Read p354):** Murray is 'hero-worshipped' by the Sherrard brothers and their decision to follow King William has been influenced by him. They believe that they owe King William a debt. Why do you think they believe this and what has their experience during the siege taught them? Is their interpretation of the siege correct? How would you advise them?

ACTIVITIES

1. Hunger (Read pp275-275)

Hunger has been a threat throughout human history. Today many people throughout the world still die from hunger. Yet there is more than enough food for all.

You or your family is a victim to hunger. What 3 things would you do to survive?

Is there anything that you would definitely not do in the face of starvation?

2. Warrior Angel (Read pp278-279)

Adam Murray sees a vision of a warrior angel. He may be delirious from hunger but he is convinced that it is a sign to encourage the defenders.

He orders a banner to be made displaying what he has seen and has it hung in the cathedral.

Can you help him to create the banner?

3. To whom it concerns (Read p289)

Rev Walker, although outraged, is enjoying writing the letter to the enemy commander.

Every word and phrase is written to enhance his importance. Every comment and criticism is about how he feels.

When he has finished, his signature is also designed to display his importance.

Could you make a copy of the letter in the handwritten style you think he might have used?

4. Baker and Sherrard (Read p314)

Baker knows that he is dying and he thanks Mr Sherrard for his care. Before he leaves him, Gov. Baker looks him in the eye and asks, 'Could it have been different?'

Mr Sherrard thinks carefully and replies honestly.

They have a brief exchange of views and reach an agreement.

Could you write the dialogue for their conversation?

5. My Place (Read p318)

Mrs Sherrard struggles to remember the ancient Gaelic name for the city.

Every place has an interesting story associated with its name.

Research and describe the story behind the placenames where you live.

6. Why Me? (Read p322)

Many children died during the siege from hunger, disease and injury for the causes of both James and William.

If you could represent them, how would you present their question to the kings: '**Why did I have to die for you?**'

How would you ask the question? Would you use sound/music/images or text?

How do you think the kings might reply?

7. What Next? (Read p350)

Major-General Kirke has taken control of the city and he has made some very quick decisions.

He is aware of the shortage of food, the effects of disease and the need to restore order.

He is also very aware of where the power and influence lies within the city and his need to take control of it before it takes control of him as it did Lundy.

He makes a list of 5 priorities and issues 5 orders in order to ensure the priorities are achieved and the city is secured.

Work in small groups to decide what his priorities and orders were.

8. Mother (Read p358)

It is the eve of battle and William and James's armies face each other across the river Boyne.

Daniel and Robert have together written a letter to their mother to describe their feelings and the experience of being part of William's army.

They have both had time to think about the siege and their part in it.

Do you think their views have changed?

Write the letter they sent to their mother.

Apprentice Boys Now

The annual celebration by the Apprentice Boys Clubs of Derry takes place in August.

These links provide useful, additional background.

www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/siege/introduction.shtml

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eL-mVM9IxbA