

# The Adventure of Moving to Secondary School

Adventures are great, right? We're fascinated by people who choose to engage in dangerous and extreme activities in the world's toughest environments. These intrepid individuals face extraordinary challenges in: polar and desert regions; atop mountains; in space; in the sky; on the oceans, or under water.

Captain Scott may be famous for his doomed trek to the South Pole in 1912 but he completed many other astonishing feats of endurance before that. On another expedition with his team he dragged heavy sledges across Antarctica for five weeks in darkness. They dodged crevasses in temperatures so cold their teeth cracked – all to collect penguin eggs!

Joe Simpson is a climber who dragged himself to safety after being left for dead in a crevasse in the Andes. His adventure is a powerful story of survival in extremes. He spent three days in appalling pain, dehydrated and hungry, and haunted by the thought that he would find his base camp abandoned. His experience was harrowing but he survived it all!

Belinda Kirk was the 'skipper' of the first female crew to row non-stop around Britain. She knows that adventure changes people's lives by: giving them inspiration; building confidence; fostering creativity, and enabling them to reconnect with nature.

Barbara Hillary is the first African American woman and oldest person on record to reach both the North and South Poles at the young age of 79! Hillary continues to prove that adventure is for everyone regardless of race, age, gender or mobility.

And finally, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield has adventured into space and does a great job of applying the lessons of space to everyday life on earth. He encourages us to: work hard; value learning; remember that the journey is worthwhile even if the destination seems unattainable. We should all attempt to keep things in proportion and try to be nice.

Why am I telling you about these people? Well. You are all about to embark on one of the biggest adventures of your lives so far: The Adventure of Moving to Secondary School. You don't need to worry about: extreme temperatures; cracked teeth; falling down a hole, or training your muscles to row around Britain. You'll have different things on your minds! However, the English teachers at Lutterworth College think that you have probably already experienced some other adventures in your lives so far and we would like to explore those with you. Many of you will already have shown: determination, confidence, resourcefulness, patience, and creativity in a wide variety of situations. You know how to work hard and value learning. And you will be aware that every journey is worthwhile. Including the one you are on right now!

## **What would your English teachers like you to do?**

When we meet you, we would like to find out about your adventures. This will enable us all to learn a little bit about each other and will hopefully help you to settle in to your new English lessons, when you arrive at Lutterworth College. You can choose to produce some work on any adventure that you have ever had, at any time. You can even make one up if you don't want to share a real one. Let me show you what we mean...

## Read this:

*I was once lucky enough to go on holiday to South Africa. South Africa is an amazing place, a huge country with fantastic beaches, safaris and... ostrich riding! My dad decided it would be a great idea for us all to go to an ostrich farm and climb upon the backs of these gigantic birds. In case you didn't know, the legs of an ostrich are so strong that one kick could actually kill a human being. I was terrified. It goes without saying that the experience was one of the worst ones of my life. We arrived at the farm. I was shoved into a field with an ostrich and some farmers; told to clamber on to the bird and then reminded that - if I didn't squeeze really tightly with my knees - the ostrich was likely to flip me off its back with its useless wings and use one of its fatal kicks to do away with me. It was horrific. A once in a lifetime experience that I will never, ever repeat.*

This is an example of an *anecdote*. An anecdote is a very short story. Anecdotes are often funny and usually about a personal experience. I'll let you decide if you think being forced to have a ride on an ostrich is funny or not!

## Your task:

We would like you to think about all the adventures that you've ever had, or might like to have. Perhaps you've been on a holiday where you went ostrich riding? No? Lucky you! You might have been on holiday and had a different kind of adventure? Surfing with dolphins in Cornwall? Climbing a mountain? Perhaps you went on a trip when you were in Primary School? Did you stay away from home for the night? Did you have to eat anything strange? Have you had any adventures with your friends or your family? Do you have a hobby that has taken you on adventures? Some of you will be expert horse riders. Some of you will be in sports teams that have had adventures together. Or is there an adventure that you would like to have but haven't yet had the chance to try? **Make a note of all the ideas that pop into your head, whatever they are.**

**Now. Look at all your ideas about adventures and choose the one you would most like to work with.** We would like you to complete **one** of the activities from the following list:

1. Write an anecdote about your adventure, like the example above.
2. Write a more developed story about your adventure.
3. Create a poem about your adventure.
4. Make a painting, drawing or collage about your adventure featuring words that describe how adventures make you feel.

Take your time to choose from the activities and enjoy thinking about adventures! When you have finished, **keep the piece of work safe** so that you can bring it to share with your English class, when you are asked to.

**In addition, we would like to recommend that you keep reading.** It's a good idea to **aim for at least 20 minutes a day**. Your brain is a muscle and just like any muscle in your body, it needs to be exercised! If you run every day, you'll get better at running. If you read every day, you'll get better at reading. Perhaps you want to try an adventure book next? We can recommend:

- **The Hobbit** by JRR Tolkien
- **Gulliver's Travels** by Jonathan Swift
- **Boy 87** by Ele Fountain
- **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain
- **The Call of the Wild** by Jack London