



The Railway Children



Spotlight 10 unit 2d Literature
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Edith Nesbit (1858-1924)



Edith Nesbit was born in Surrey. After she got married in 1880, she started writing children's poems and stories to help support her large family. Her writing was very popular. Her well-

known stories include *Five Children and It* (1902) and *The Phoenix and the Carpet* (1904). Altogether, she published more than 40 novels before her death in 1924.

Nesbit's most famous and well-loved story is *The Railway Children* (1906). The novel is about the adventures of a middle class Edwardian family living near a railway station in the suburbs of London at the turn of the 19th century. In 1970, the book was made into an extremely successful film.

Edith Nesbit (1858-1924)



Read the biography to find out

1. Where was she born?
2. How many novels did she publish before her death?
3. How did she start writing children's stories?
4. What are her well-known stories?
5. Where do you think the story take place?





2. Explain words in bold (you can use dictionaries)
- they were **ordinary suburban**
 - **tiled** (passage) that was called a hall
 - electric **bells, French windows**
 - as **the estate agents** say
 - calls to **dull** ladies
 - read them **aloud** after tea
 - **refurnishing** of the doll's house
 - getting over a **mumps**
 - a lovely **nursery** with **heaps** of toys
 - **merry** nursemaid
 - never **cross**, never **unjust**
 - pretty life was **over and done with**
 - a **model** engine
 - presents were full of **charm**
 - charm **lasted** for three days
 - Peter's **inexperience**
 - Phillis's good **intentions**
 - went off with a **bang**



Match the highlighted phrasal verbs with their meanings

Recovering from, proved to be, became an adult, invented, exploded

1. Grew up
2. Made up
3. Getting over
4. Went off
5. Turned out



Explain the underlined phrases in the text in your own words

1. Every modern convenience
2. Who meant extremely well
3. Paying dull calls
4. Who was there very own
5. Its charm lasted in its full perfection
6. Broken to bits
7. Darken their lot