

A Recount of Year 5 and 6's Trip to the Rose Theatre

On Wednesday 27th April Year 5 and 6 went to the Rose Theatre, Kingston. We left school promptly at 9am and walked to the bus stop at Ealing Broadway. Then we travelled for about 50 minutes on the 65 bus, until finally we arrived at the theatre.

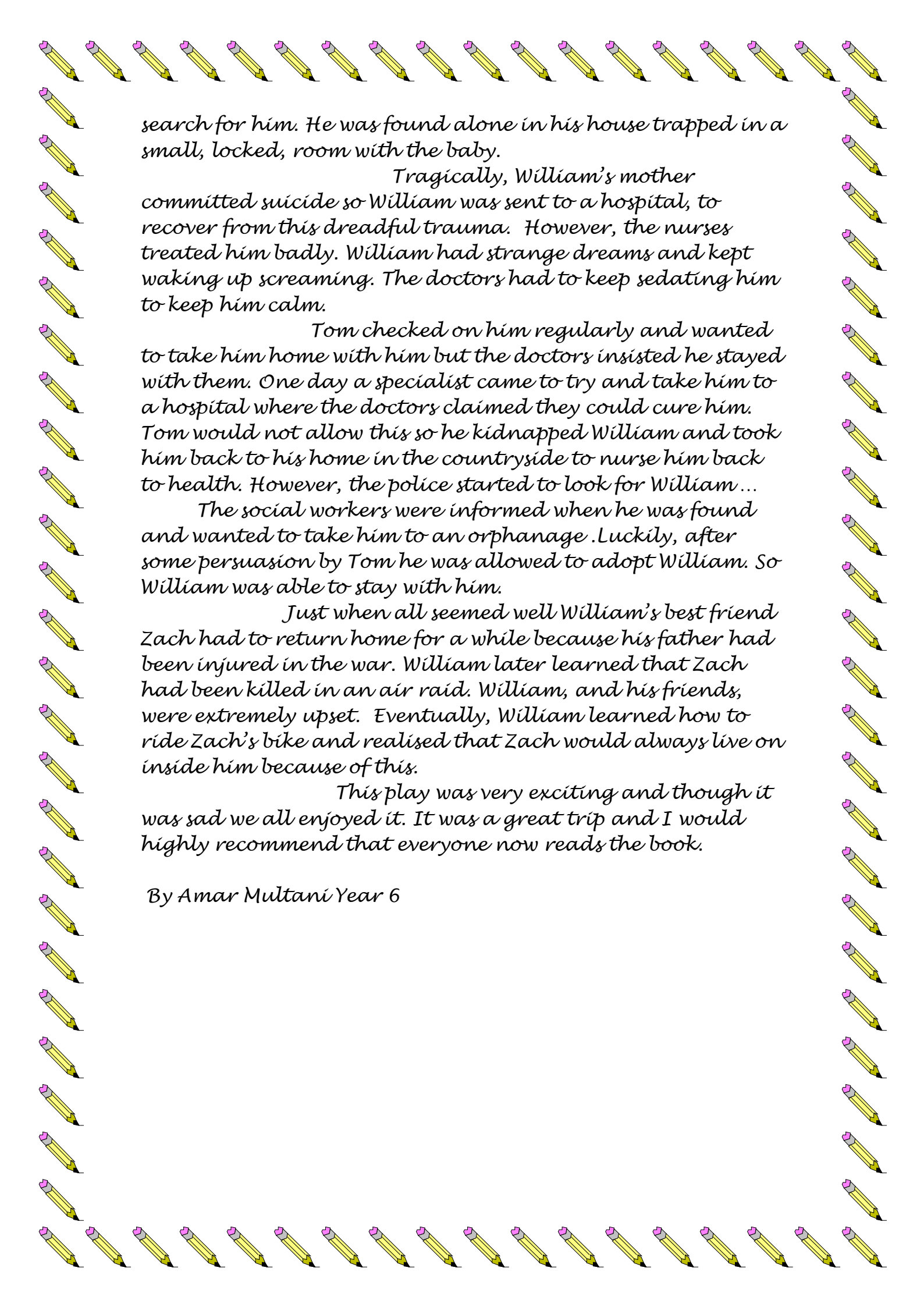
When we went inside the theatre we had a quick snack (a biscuit and drink) before we headed to the auditorium for a talk about the background of the play, how it was produced and how the rehearsals were conducted. This was called a 'Page to Stage Workshop' and lasted for an hour. We learned that it was set in the period of World War 2. We also discovered that Tom Oakley's dog, Sammy, was actually a puppet which was controlled by one of the actors. However, we didn't notice the actor much because he was nimble and discreet.

Afterwards we had some lunch, a sandwich, fruit, a Kit Kat and a drink, and then we returned to the auditorium for a second time. Now we sat at the very top level so we could get a better a view of the stage, and a better view it was!

When the play started we were very excited because most of us had not read the book or seen the film. Once the smoke cleared, and the screams had started to quieten, the first image we saw was of a line of evacuees, some sad, some excited, being introduced to their new carers.

One of the boys, William Beech, stayed in Tom Oakley's house. Tom Oakley was an old man with a dog called Sammy. At first he seemed like an old grumpy man but we later learned that he was miserable and bad-tempered because he had lost his son and wife to a deadly disease.

During the play William and Tom's relationship grew stronger and stronger. William also made a circle of friends at the school, Zach, George, Carrie, and Ginnie. He also became fond of one of his teachers Annie Hartridge. However, he had to go back to London because his mother was sick, really she was not, she had given birth to another baby and William was needed to look after her. Months later, Tom became worried when William did not answer his letters so he travelled to London, to



search for him. He was found alone in his house trapped in a small, locked, room with the baby.

Tragically, William's mother committed suicide so William was sent to a hospital, to recover from this dreadful trauma. However, the nurses treated him badly. William had strange dreams and kept waking up screaming. The doctors had to keep sedating him to keep him calm.

Tom checked on him regularly and wanted to take him home with him but the doctors insisted he stayed with them. One day a specialist came to try and take him to a hospital where the doctors claimed they could cure him. Tom would not allow this so he kidnapped William and took him back to his home in the countryside to nurse him back to health. However, the police started to look for William...

The social workers were informed when he was found and wanted to take him to an orphanage. Luckily, after some persuasion by Tom he was allowed to adopt William. So William was able to stay with him.

Just when all seemed well William's best friend Zach had to return home for a while because his father had been injured in the war. William later learned that Zach had been killed in an air raid. William, and his friends, were extremely upset. Eventually, William learned how to ride Zach's bike and realised that Zach would always live on inside him because of this.

This play was very exciting and though it was sad we all enjoyed it. It was a great trip and I would highly recommend that everyone now reads the book.

By Amar Multani Year 6