

## Audioscript

I. Hi! My name's Josh, and I want to tell you about a brilliant trip I did recently. It was to the Weather Forecasting Centre in our city! I'd wanted to go there for ages as I'm really interested in the weather. My after-school club had tried to organise a trip, but not enough people wanted to go. So I suggested it to my youth club and they agreed to take us.

When we arrived at the Centre, we were given drinks and then a guide told us about the history of the place. He said it was set up in 1854, but it wasn't until 1859 that they started telling people about very strong winds coming. These were really important for people working outdoors, and for transport. When communications improved, the Centre sent its weather forecasts to ships, but later the forecasts also went into newspapers, where everyone could read them.

Our guide also told us that information for forecasts used to come from weather stations on the coast, where forecasters could actually see bad weather coming. But now they get a lot of information from space. This information is put into what they call their supercomputers, and then these produce the forecasts. It's really clever!

Of course, we all want to know what the weather will be like - if we're going to the seaside, we want to know how much sunshine we'll get! But one thing many people need to know is how much rain there'll be. That affects everyone, but especially farmers or sportspeople. And in our city, it's really important for the zoo- they need to know what the temperature will be because of their animals.

It was a fun day, and I'd like to work at the Centre when I'm older!

II. Anna: Hi, Harry! What's that book you're reading? Heroes?

Harry: Hi Anna! Yes, it's about the kind of people that teenagers us think of as heroes. I mean, lots of people think a hero nowadays has to be someone like in films - like Superman, always running around rescuing people. But I think there are plenty of ordinary people going around doing great things, and they're nothing like Superman.

Anna: Mmm, I guess so, although it's not always doing brave things that makes people heroes - sometimes it's about what they encourage you to do, isn't it? Those people can be heroes too

Harry: That's a bit like my granddad, then. He's done all sorts of things to help other people since he sold his business and gave up work. And he's taken me to

lots of interesting places I wouldn't see without him. He's definitely my hero! But those heroes never get to be famous, do they? It's not fair.

Anna: That's true - he sounds like one of those quiet heroes you get in story books...

Harry: Yeah, he is. And a story book's one place where you do need proper heroes - without one, a story book's really dull.

Anna: Mm, I'm with you there. I read loads of them and I definitely wouldn't get to the end if they didn't have heroes in them.

Harry: I'll lend you some of my books - I've got lots...

Anna: OK. But great writers can really help you to love reading to can't they? So for me, they're heroes! I mean, I wasn't keen on reading until I found my favourite. Still, it's unusual to find writers that can do that - for me, anyway.

Harry: And what about sportsmen, rock stars, people like that? They're the kind of heroes that teenagers like us are supposed to admire. I wouldn't think of them as someone to copy, though wa you?

Anna: They're probably the last people I'd think of!