

*The boys waited patiently as the guards slowly lowered the drawbridge. They looked across the river at the rising sun. Neither spoke. It was an event they had witnessed from this exact spot a thousand times. Thomas flinched as the rusty iron chains let out their first ear splitting scream of the day. The huge castle door swung open. Even though the boys had been working there for years its foul smell always seemed to surprise them. Grimacing they walked past the guard who studiously ignored them. To gain access to the kitchen Thomas and Geoffrey walked downstairs, past the well and through the storeroom. Halfway across the storeroom however they both stopped at almost exactly the same moment. Something was not quite right in the castle that morning. It was to be a day that neither would forget for the rest of their lives...nobody was around, it was quiet and eerie.No footsteps or voices were heard, no babies were crying.They wandered around the castle halls but still no sight of movement. "Where did they go?" asked Thomas, "I dont know" replied Geoffrey. They carried on walking towards the kitchen but when they got there,there was no food in the cabinets,only some left over salad from last night's dinner.They knew this was a bad idea but they went into the King's chamber but still no sight of anyone,the cleaners were gone so were the Nurses, the boys didn't know where they had gone and why the went. "Do you think somebody took them" asked Geoffrey, "of course not! Nobody can take 53 people away in one night!" replied Thomas. They went outside to see if the guard was there and he was, luckily, the boys asked him if he saw them leave, he said yes but he didn't see where they went. "Did you see the King or just the staff" asked Thomas, "I only saw the staff," the guard replied. "I've got an*

idea!" said Geoffrey, "we can take a horse to go search for them!" Thomas agreed and so did the guard. As they walked to the stables they saw the King's crown lying on the cobbly ground. They decided to take it with them, but when they got to the stables they realised that they only had one choice of using Timmy, the baby horse that was in training. They had to use Timmy, it was their only choice so they attached him to the chariot and started to search, although Timmy was a baby horse he was quite good at pulling the chariot, he did wobble a bit, but then he got the hang of it. First they searched around the castle grounds but there was no sign of anyone. Next they started to check at the nearby forest, they saw something, but they weren't sure what it was so they got a bit closer, then they realised that it was a man tied to a tree with some rope. The man said "Thomas? Geoffrey? What are you doing here?" "King Mathew? Is that you?" asked the boys. "Yes" replied the man, "can you come and help me out of this rope?" he asked, By this time the guard had found the boys because earlier the boys had ran in front of the guard to go see the man. The boys and the guard helped the king out of the rope. "Who brought you here?" asked the guard, " he was wearing a brown leather coat with a top hat and he had a moustache." replied the King. "Where are the others?" asked Geoffrey, "I dont know". All 4 of them went searching for the others but they had no clue where they could be. The guard gave the King his crown back but the King said "no keep it hidden, the man is looking for it." The guard nodded and put it in his rucksack. They all kept on travelling while they heard the clip clops from the horse's hooves. With a blink of an eye, Thomas saw a man, he was wearing a brown leather coat, a top hat and he had a moustache. Thomas

*murmured "uhm guys, i see somebody and he sees us." They all looked towards the man and the king said " go faster, it's him!" The guard whipped Timmy to make him go faster,they finally got away and ended up at an abandoned building.They went inside and saw loads of people sitting round a dusty table on a dirty bench.They finally realised that it was all the staff sitting down miserably. It took awhile but they got everyone back to the castle, and the guards arrested the man that was trying to steal the King's crown.Do you think he will escape?...*