SUPPLEMENTARY READING

1 *Read the story **A Great Sailor**. Say what battle made Nelson Britain's national hero.*

A Great Sailor

> Horatio Nelson [həˈreɪʃou ˈnelsn], Emperor Napoleon [ˈempərə nəˈpoulɪən], Trafalgar [trəˈfælɡə], Egypt [ˈiːdʒɪpt], Copenhagen [ˌkoupnˈheɪɡn]

In 1805 a great war was fought between the British and the French. The ruler of France was then the Emperor Napoleon. He wished to make himself ruler of the whole world. With his armies Napoleon made himself ruler over many lands, but he never ruled Britain. Why was this? Britain was an island, and the ships of the British navy[1] would not let Napoleon and his armies cross the sea. The greatest of all the British sailors at this time was Horatio Nelson.

Nelson fought many times against the French ships. He was very brave, and when the ship was in battle, he was always to be seen on deck, cheering[2] on his men. In one battle he was blinded[3] in his right eye; in another he lost his right arm; but he did not think of giving up.

Nelson was kind and just, as well as brave. Once, when he saw that a young boy who had just joined the ship was afraid to climb up the tall masts[4], he cried out:

"Come along, I'll race you to the top!"

In the race to be the first the boy forgot his fear.

"There, now," said Nelson when the two were at the top, "that's nothing! You must learn to climb masts much higher than this!"

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[1] **navy** [ˈneɪvɪ]— морской флот
[2] **to cheer** [tʃɪə] — подбодрить
[3] **blind** [blaɪnd] — слепой; **to be blinded** [ˈblaɪndɪd] — ослепнуть
[4] **mast** [ˈmæst] — мачта

"Our Nel," the men used to say, "is as brave as a lion, and as gentle as a lamb."

Nelson's greatest fight with the French was the battle of Trafalgar, which was fought near Cape[1] Trafalgar on the coast of Spain. Just as the battle was about to begin, the signal flags were seen flying on the masts of Nelson's ship, the *Victory*. This was the signal which the British sailors read: ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN THIS DAY WILL DO HIS DUTY.

As the British ships bore down on the French line, the sailors remembered Nelson's message, and made up their minds to fight their hardest for their brave leader.

Soon the battle was raging[2]. The guns roared, ships crashed together and masts struck by gunfire fell with a thud[3] to the decks. Through the noise and the smoke the captains and officers shouted their commands, the sailors toiled[4] at the guns and the ships' boys ran to and fro with powder[5] and shot.

Nelson, on the *Victory*, was on deck as usual. His men could pick him out, even through the smoke, by the four stars which shone upon his blue and white coat. These four stars were the cause of his death. A man on one of the enemy ships saw them and fired. Nelson was struck on the shoulder and was carried below to die.

Already the British were winning the fight. Nelson heard cheer after cheer from his men, as one enemy ship after another was captured[6]. Before long one of his officers brought word that the battle was won.

Two hours later the brave sailor died. With his last

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[1] **cape** ['keɪp] — мыс
[2] **to rage** [reɪdʒ] — неистовать, бушевать
[3] **thud** [θʌd] — глухой звук, стук
[4] **to toil** [tɔɪl] — усиленно трудиться
[5] **powder** ['paudə] — порох
[6] **to capture** ['kæptʃə] — взять в плен, захватить

breath he said: "Thank God, I have done my duty!"

Admiral Horatio Nelson won several brilliant victories over the French Navy near the coast of Egypt , at Copenhagen, and finally near Spain, at Trafalgar, in 1805, where he destroyed the French-Spanish fleet. Nelson was himself killed, but became one of Britain's greatest national heroes. His words before the battle of Trafalgar, "ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN WILL DO HIS DUTY", have remained a reminder[1] of patriotic duty in time of national danger.

Do You Understand The Story?

2   *Answer the questions.*

1   What battles did Nelson take part in? Who did he often fight against?
2   How did he suffer in the battles personally?
3   How did Nelson treat his sailors? What did the British sailors say about Nelson?
4   How did Nelson help a young sailor to forget his fear?
5   What was Nelson's greatest fight?
6   What was the name of the ship on which Nelson fought?
6   What was the message that Nelson sent to his ships during the battle at Trafalgar?
7   How did the British fight in the battle?

What Do You Think?

3   *Explain why Nelson became Britain's greatest national hero and why he is remembered by his countrymen today.*

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[1]   **reminder** [rɪ'maɪndə] — напоминание