Lily Dobbin's Story



Lily Dobbins lived with her grandparents in a gate lodge on the old Milltown Road entrance to Belvoir Park in the early 1900s. Her mother died when she was only three years old so she came to live with her grandparents then. She had some strong memories of Belvoir.

"It was a nice lodge... I wish I could draw a design of it. Belvoir Park was a walled-in estate so we lived behind the wall with big double gates about 15 feet high and painted red. We could not see the road or anyone passing unless we stood up on a big tree trunk to look over the wall. Needless to say I spent a lot of time looking over the wall and so got the nickname of "Jack-in-the-box" by the village boys...

It was a beautiful place to live. Such a big park where I could wander for miles and always alone...

During schooldays we enjoyed the simple pleasures of gathering watercress and flowers in spring and blackberries and crab apples in autumn.". •



Fact or Opinion?

Read the sentences below and tick the box to show whether they are facts

Statement	Fact	Opinion
Belvoir was a walled-in estate.		
It was a beautiful place to live.		
During their school days they gathered blackberries and crab apples.		
Lily had to stand on a log to see over the wall.		
She was called "Jack-in-the-box" by the village boys.		
Lily enjoyed being outside.		
They enjoyed simple pleasures.		



Lily Dobbin's Story



"In winter once it got dark at 4pm we were in for the night. The lamp was lit and a good fire. Learn your lessons and do your exercise and go to bed early by candlelight. We had barrels for rain water but spring water for cooking was a problem. It was quite a way to the well and if I did not get there before dark Uncle Tom had to go when he came home from work. On a dark night I had to go with him to carry the lantern. He would take two big quart cans and that was called a "go" of water and was used only for drinking, making tea and cooking. Granny used to say it was as precious as gold dust and had to last two days."



Think about Lily's description of every day life. Are there any problems? Could you live the same way as Lily and her grandparents? Look at the three factors then explain your decision.

Factor 1: Light

Advantages	
Disadvantages	
Interesting factors	

Factor 2: Water

Advantages	
Disadvantages	
Interesting factors	

Factor 3: Transport

Advantages	
Disadvantages	
Interesting factors	