

## BOYS

**THOMAS:** The Book of Everything, by Thomas Klopper, aged nine... nearly ten. Address: Breughelstreet 3, Amsterdam, Holland, My family. There are four people in my family. Me, Thomas Klopper, aged nearly ten, Pappa, who is my father Europe, Northern Hemisphere, Earth, Solar System, Galaxy, Universe, Space. Year: 1951.

My family. There are four people in my family. Me, Thomas Klopper, aged nearly ten. Pappa, who is my father. His name is Abel Klopper.

My mother is called Mamma, Mrs. Klopper and Jannie. She is very kind to everybody.

My sister is Margot and she is sixteen.

Margot is stupid.

### **FATHER:**

Read them wisely and take care that your heart belongs to the Bible. 'Then God said to Moses: "Go to the pharaoh and tell him to let my people go. And if he will not, then I will send a plague of frogs. The Nile shall swarm with frogs, and they shall force their way into his house, and into his bed, everywhere the frogs shall come." And so it came to pass that the frogs covered the land of Egypt. But the magicians did the same with their rods, and they too summoned the frogs, through the whole land of Egypt.'

## GIRLS

### **MRS. VAN AMERSFOORT:**

It's damned nice to have you here. Damned nice. I don't get enough visitors. My children left home long ago ... Oh no, you're too young to remember the War. The Nazis, they executed my husband. He was in the resistance. Traitors gave him away- Poor buggers were afraid for their own skins, of course, so the Nazis caught him. They put him up against that wall out there, and they shot him dead.

Mustn't dwell on it too much. Here, have you ever seen one of these?

### **Auntie Pie** (pronounced Pee):

Benno hit me! And you know why? Because I bought a pair of slacks. My husband hit me for wearing trousers! Has he got a screw loose or what? ...And now I think that you, as his oldest brother, should talk to him and tell him this is not right. Otherwise I'm standing outside our house with a placard—"Mr Klopper hits his wife for wearing trousers'. I mean, has he got a screw loose or what? .....Really? I see your completely useless. But, I'm telling you, if he hits me one more time I'm leaving and never coming back. And from now on I'm only wearing trousers! You watch me!