



0. The King's Speech - Story Preface

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This portrait of King George VI, by Sir Gerald Kelly, was created between 1938 - 1945 and is part of the Royal Collection. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

*To the Glory of God,
and in memory of George, King,
Servant of his people
1895 - 1952*

Memorial to King George VI, Garrowby Hill, Yorkshire

Albert Frederick Arthur George was never meant to be a king. The second son of George V and Queen Mary, Bertie (as he was known to his family and friends) was a shy boy. Growing up in the shadow of his brother Edward, the Prince of Wales, Bertie was perfectly content with a place on the sidelines.

Shunning the spotlight, he didn't like people staring at him. He certainly didn't like public speaking (since Bertie had a profound stammer). What man could be a king without giving speeches and publicly greeting people?

Then ... the King's second son was forced to take the job he never wanted. When King Edward VIII gave up Britain's throne to marry an American (whom the British Parliament - and most Brits - did not want as their Queen Consort), Bertie needed to change his name and his position.

How was he able to transform himself from unwilling king to much-loved monarch? Help for the new sovereign, known as George VI, came from unlikely places. One of the most unlikely was Lionel Logue, an Australian-born speech therapist who'd moved to London in the nick of time.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/The-King-s-Speech>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/The-King-s-Speech>

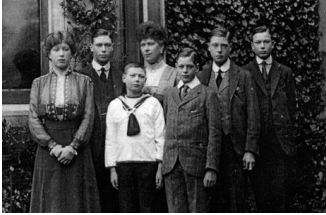
Media Stream



King George VI - As the Duke of York

Image of Prince Albert, as Duke of York. Vintage photo, online courtesy UK National Archives. Passage from the diary of Queen Victoria, quoted by William Shawcross in *The Queen Mother: The Official Biography*.

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Queen Mary with Her Six Children

Image online, courtesy U.K. National Archives.

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Bertie and David, Future Kings, Dressed as Boyhood Sailors

Photograph by Queen Alexandra, included in a book entitled *Queen Alexandra's Christmas Gift Book: Photographs from my Camera*. (Scroll further up, on the link, to see the hardcover and a picture of the Queen.)

The book, "to be sold for charity," was published by "The Daily Telegraph," in 1908. It is freely available online, courtesy Google Books.

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Lionel Logue - Speech Therapist for Duke of York

Lionel Logue, in 1937, photograph by Bassano. Image X85183 from UK National Portrait Gallery.

Quoted passage from *Song of Hiawatha*, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

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The King's Speech

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The King's Speech - Trailer

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