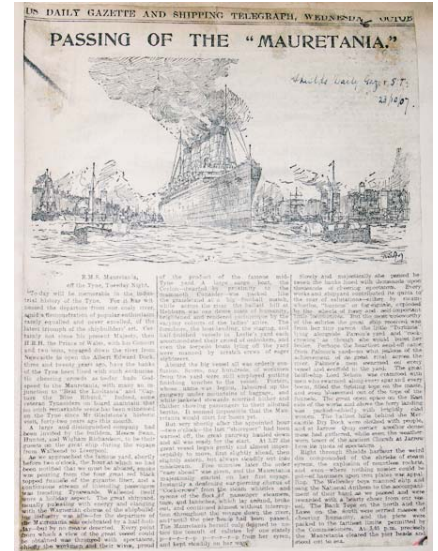


'I lived to see the Mauretania sail'...

The building of the *Mauretania* was a major event. It showed that Britain was the best ship builder in the world – a powerful message to send to other countries! Local people were proud of the liner. On the day it was launched from Swan Hunters Wallsend shipyard, thousands of people joined the celebrations.

The *South Shields Daily Gazette and Shipping Telegraph* described the day it was launched. Read the extract from the article on Sheet 5a or read from the full text on Sheet 6a.

Now look at the picture of the two children below – they were actually photographed standing on the *Mauretania*.



Task:



Write an account of the launch of the *Mauretania* from the point of view of one of the children in the picture. Write your account in an 'autobiographical' style i.e. as if you actually were one of the children and you really lived through that day.

In order to make your story more believable carry out the following research before you begin:

Re-read the extract from the *South Shields Gazette* and take note of all the sights, sounds and smells of the day.

Read the 'Mauretania Magic' information sheet and visit the following websites for more info:

<http://www.greatships.net/mauretania.html>

Look at the children in the photograph again and try and get a sense of who they were and why they were on board the ship. Ask yourself:

Do they look rich or poor?

Why do you think this?

Why might they be sailing on the *Mauretania*?

How do you think they feel about sailing on the *Mauretania*?

Where do you think they are going?

