

a nearby hotel. We girls were content to promenade along the sand, watching a Punch and Judy show and listened to the hurdy gurdy player. We held our parasols aloft and our bonnets in place to keep the sun from reaching us. Indeed, had it not been for the gloves we had brought, I fear that we might have had very pink hands by the end of the day. Little Sarah went right to the sea edge with Mama and dabbled her toes, though she did complain that the water was very cold. Henry set about digging up the beach then father took him for a donkey ride which he enjoyed very much.

The picnic was a triumph. We had cold chicken and ham with pickles and cook had baked small bread buns. The cakes and lemonade were delicious. Papa bought a bottle of beer from a vendor on the beach and we had small packets of roasted chestnuts. Ramsgate itself is a fine town and we finished off our day with a tray of tea at a tea shop on the promenade.

On the return train journey the little ones slept but I sat dreaming about how it must be to live at the seaside all the time. It was quite dark when we reached home and I was very glad to fall into my bed.

Promise me Aunt May that you will come to visit us before too long because I would like to tell you more about my day.

Your loving Niece,
Julia

KS1

What did this letter tell you about going to the seaside in Victorian times? What things are the same as now and which are different?

Send two postcards from the seaside

On one card draw a picture of the beach in Victorian times using Frith's painting and this letter for ideas. On the other side of the card, write about the Victorian day.

On the second card, draw a picture of a beach today and write on the back about a day at the seaside now.

KS2

This letter might be written by a young lady on the beach in the picture Ramsgate Sands. Is her experience of a trip to the seaside like yours?

Write a letter to Aunt May telling her about a day trip you have made

Where did you go? How did you travel? What did you see and do?
What did you eat? How did you feel about your day?