

**Key Stage 2:** History- What was it like for children living in Victorian Britain?  
English - Diary Writing

**Key Stage 3:** History- What was middle class life like?

## The Wedding Day

Have you ever been to a wedding? Have you ever been a bridesmaid or a page boy? It is always an exciting occasion. In 1850 Sarah was a bridesmaid at her Aunt Rebecca's wedding. Her brother Arthur was a page boy. Their Aunt Rebecca was from a wealthy family and so a reporter came from the local paper and this is what he wrote:

Miss Rebecca Shaw was today married to the honourable Harold Horesley. The bride and her three bridesmaids wore traditional white dresses and veils trimmed with spring flowers. The bride was radiant in a close fitting bodice with full skirt, trimmed in lace. She also wore white kid gloves and low heeled satin shoes. The two page boys were in black velvet and carried Miss Shaw's train. The groom wore a grey morning coat with flowers in the lapel. The bridal party walked to the church on a carpet of blossoms, ensuring a happy path through Miss Shaw's future life

The bride raised her veil as she left the church smiling at the small crowd. The couple took carriage pulled by grey horses back to the bride's home. Guests threw rice and grain.

The reception began at 12.30 with the presentation of the happy couple to their friends and relatives. The house was bedecked with flowers and the buffet, which the guests took standing up, was exquisite. The larger wedding cake was cut and boxed for guests to take on leaving. As is traditional, the bride and the groom also had their own individual smaller cakes. The bride shared hers with her bridesmaids.

Helped by her bridesmaids, the bride changed into a travelling dress of deep red. The carriage took the bride and groom to the railway station where the best man had already done his duty by finding them a railway carriage and loaded it with their luggage. The destination of the honeymoon is naturally a secret but, when they return, the happy couple seem set to enjoy a prosperous future together in their new home in Harrogate.

Use a dictionary to find out the meaning of some of the words in the report:

*Lapel*  
*Bodice*  
*Kid gloves*  
*Bedecked*  
*Exquisite*  
*Destination*  
*Prosperous*

There are a lot of people at a wedding. What do you think that Sarah and Arthur thought of the day? Write what one of them put in his or her diary that night about all that had happened to them during the day. You can add ideas of your own as well as mentioning the things that the reporter noticed.