

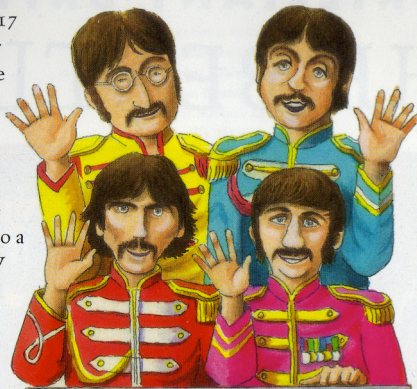
The Beatles by Richard Brassey (Pages 1-4)

Brilliant Brits Collection
(Orion Books, 2003)



Who had 17 number one hits, more than anyone else before or since?

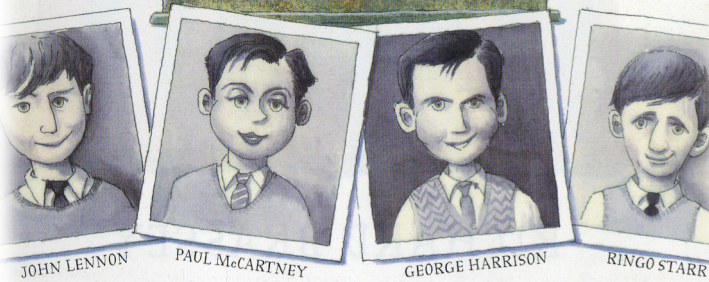
Who once played to a worldwide TV audience of 400 million people?



Whose fans screamed so loud they couldn't hear themselves play?

The Fab Four!
The Lovable Moptops!
The Topper-most of the Poppermost!!

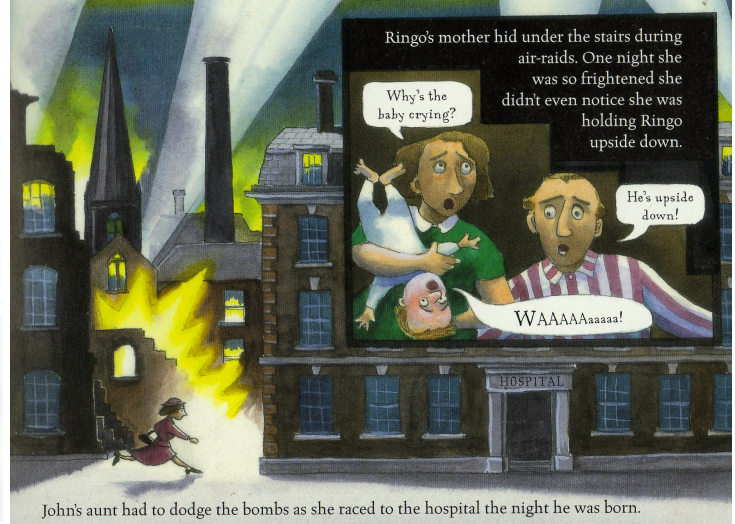
THE BEATLES !!!



All four Beatles were born in Liverpool during the Second World War and grew up in and around the city.

Page 1

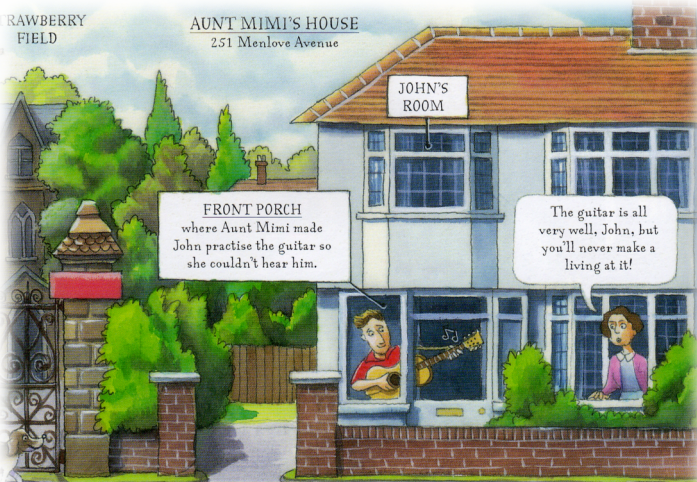
Ringo was the first to be born. John arrived next, during an air-raid. He was given the middle name Winston after the famous Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. Paul and George came along later, when the worst bombing was over.



Liverpool was a tough place to live during the war. It was often bombed by the Germans. But at last peace returned and with it hope for the future. Even so, times were hard.

Page 2

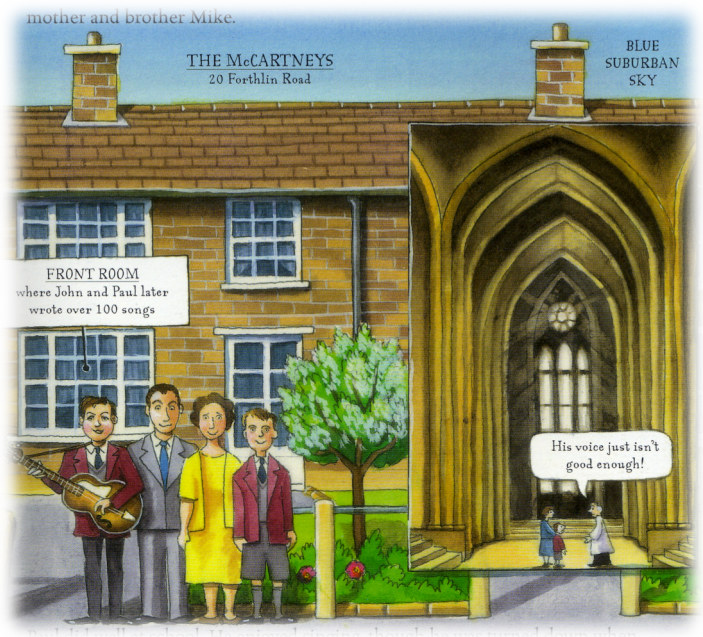
When he was five, John's mother and father split up. Neither felt able to look after him so he went to live with his aunt Mimi. Just down the road was an orphanage in a big house called Strawberry field. John used to slip through the fence and play for hours in the woods that surrounded it.



Mimi wanted John to work hard at school, but his reports said he was hopeless, acted like a clown in class, and was on the road to failure. All John wanted to do was play the guitar his mother has given him. As a teenager he saw quite a lot of his mother, and it was a terrible shock when she was killed in a road accident.

Page 3

Not far away, in a little house on Forthlin Road, lived Paul with his father, mother and brother Mike.



Paul did well at school. He enjoyed singing, though he was turned down when he applied to join the cathedral choir. When he was fifteen his mother died. Paul had just been given a guitar. He lost interest in school and spent all his time playing it.

Page 4