

## **The Letters**

### **Letter 1**

**Becoming a midshipman**

Was *George* the right age?

Was his family rich?

Did they know someone important?

Do they know someone else important that might help them?

Why are they headed for Portsmouth? Look it up on the internet.

### **Letter 2**

How does *George* and his mother say goodbye to one another?

Why are they careful about their final parting? (She may not see him again for one or two years)

### **Letter 3**

Who is the letter from?

How does he try to tell *George's* family that he will be looked after?

Does he think he will make a good officer?

*Collingwood* would be a very busy man. What does it tell us about him that he takes the time out to write a letter to *George's* parents?

### **A Midshipman's Life for Me**

What conversation might take place in your family between your parents, brothers and sisters?

Your father writes a letter to an important local businessman—Sir John Belsay. What does he write in his letter?

You have been aboard ship for a week and *Collingwood* tells you that you must write home. Do you tell your parents you like the life in the navy and miss them or you hate it all and wish to be home. Describe what you have experienced about life aboard ship.