

Extract 1

It was shortly after Bertie first started to walk that his mother and father decided a fence must be put around the farmhouse to make a compound where Bertie could play safely. It wouldn't keep the snakes out - nothing could do that - but at least Bertie would be safe now from the leopards, and the lions and the spotted hyenas. Enclosed within the compound were the lawn and gardens at the front of the house, and the stables and barns at the back - all the room a child would need or want, you might think. But not Bertie.



QUESTIONS

Why did Bertie's parents think they needed a fence around their home?

What clues are there that this story is not set in England?

What sort of person is Bertie? Can you find a clue in the text?