

**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE**

**NG KIDS' time-travelling mouse, Max, meets the world's most famous nurse...**

In 1854, Britain entered the Crimean War, a conflict with Russia. Unfortunately, the hospitals for soldiers were dirty, overcrowded and infested with rats. Disease was rife.

This month, we're celebrating the life of Florence Nightingale, also known as the 'Lady with the Lamp' because she checked on her patients through the night.

Florence helped make hospitals clean and safe and modernised the world of nursing.

Oil! Turn that lamp off! I can't sleep!

Moan...

I want to go home...

I don't know why they're complaining! I love it here!

Conditions were so bad in hospital that injured men preferred to stay on the battlefield!

No! Not the hospital! You can't make me go!

Come on you fool!

A keen nurse, Florence made her way to the army hospitals in Turkey, near Crimea. At first she wasn't welcome.

This is no place for a lady.

Arr! Let me out!

Or men for that matter.

But swamped doctors soon realised they needed help from Florence and her team of nurses. They got to work...

Splish!

Scrub this place from top to bottom!

O!

She got workmen to clear the hospital's blocked drains, hired a chef to feed patients healthy food and cleaned and aired out the building.

Ahh! Fresh air!

You need to kick up a stink to get rid of the stink!

Meanwhile, out in the battlefield, another revolutionary caregiver, Jamaican Mary Seacole, bravely tended the troops. She set up her own hospital and even treated the enemy!

Don't help him! The rascal shot off my moustache!

Rasp!

Mary was ill and penniless after the war, but many ex-soldiers organised a festival in her name to make money for her. The Queen's nephew even made a bust of her!

Your bravery places your head and shoulders above all others!

Florence, meanwhile, used her experiences to write hundreds of books, pamphlets and reports on hospital planning. She also gave advice to the government on health issues.

I'm going to throw the book at them!

Well, not literally!

In 1860, she opened the Nightingale Training School for Nurses in St Thomas's Hospital in London. Women could now be properly trained and nursing became a respected career.

Bah! Women doing proper jobs? Whatever next?

Don't get me needles!

By the time Florence died in 1910 she had transformed attitudes to health and nursing, eventually leading to the creation of the NHS we know and love today!

Eek! Cold!

Take a deep breath!