

A guide for people with aphasia

# Bertie George the Sixth



King George the
 fifth dies and his
 son Bertie is
 crowned King
 George the sixth of
 England.

 World War Two is looming.



 Bertie has a severe speech impediment.
 He worries he is not the leader Britain needs.





**Lionel** The Speech Therapist

**Elizabeth**The
Queen



Bertie's wife
 Elizabeth hires a
 speech therapist
 called Lionel Logue.



 Lionel uses unusual methods that are difficult for Bertie.



 Will Bertie gain the confidence and skills he needs for his first radio broadcast?



- Running time almost2 hours
- 1 hour 58 minutes

• 4 acts = 4 screenings

#### Act 1 = under half hour

# What is happening

The Duke of YorkBertie - suffers with a severe stutter. His wife Elizabeth- The Queen Mother - hires specialists to try to help him.

# Scene image



Stop at 27 min 52 sec

#### Act 1 explained

 Bertie struggles to speak at Wembley stadium.

After many failed efforts
 Bertie's wife Elizabeth hires
 speech therapist Lionel Logue
 who is unorthodox and
 controversial.

 Lionel auditions for a theatre company and is rejected
 because of his age and class.

Bertie successfully reads
 Hamlet without stammering
 with Lionel's methods.

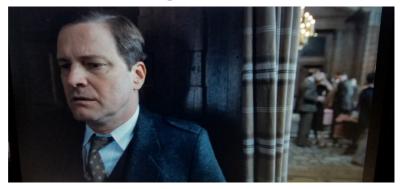
Bertie's doubts and temper
 get the best of him and he
 leaves the session.

#### Act 2 = half hour

#### What is happening

King George V is dying and tells Bertie he must step up as a leader and a speaker.

# Scene image



Stop at 58 min 14 sec

#### Act 2 explained

Bertie listens to the recording
 Lionel made and returns for
 more lessons.

Bertie learns tools to help
 him overcome his stammer.

Bertie tells Lionel he was
 abused by his nanny and
 punished repeatedly by his
 parents. Lionel says these
 things contributed to his
 stammer.

 David reveals he will marry his mistress Mrs. Simpson. Wallis
Simpson David's
mistress.



Bertie is outraged at David's
 behaviour and David accuses
 him of trying to take the
 throne for himself.

# Act 3 = under half hour

### What is happening

Bertie returns to Lionel and continues therapy.

David abdicates the throne.

# Scene image



Stop at 1 hr 17 min 51 sec

# Act 3 explained

Bertie's brother David
 abdicates the throne to marry
 Mrs. Simpson.



- Bertie struggles to write his coronation speech and Elizabeth comforts him.
- Bertie returns to Lionel to apologise.
- Elizabeth and Lionel's wife
   Myrtle meet.

# **Myrtle** -Lionel's wife.



#### Act 4 = half hour

#### What is happening

Lionel and Bertie rehearse the coronation in the abbey.



# Scene image



End credits 1 hr 47 min 19 sec

#### Act 4 explained

- Lionel and Bertie go to the abbey.
- Bertie confronts Lionel about his qualifications.
- **Archbishop** tries to replace Lionel. Bertie objects.



- Bertie and Lionel rehearse the coronation in the abbey.
- Bertie and family watch footage of Adolf Hitler speaking.



 The British ambassador in Nazi Germany quits.

- **Britain is at war** with Germany.
- Lionel and Bertie rehearse the declaration of war.



Churchill says he had a speech impediment.

#### Churchill was tongue tied



Abnormal lingual frenulum

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- Elizabeth and Lionel support
   Bertie before and during
   speech.
- Bertie delivers his speech and is successful.



#### **Discuss**

Did you like the film?

What did you like?

Can you relate to Bertie?

Can you relate to Lionel?