



BELARUS

The Chernobyl Disaster - Twentieth Anniversary

At 01:23am on April 26th 1986, reactor four at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in Pripjat, Ukraine, exploded. 56 people died instantly in what has been described as the worst nuclear disaster in history. 300 times more radiation was released in this explosion than by the Hiroshima bomb that fell on Japan in 1945.

Tons of radioactive fallout drifted across Belarus, Eastern Europe, Scandinavia and the UK. Today, parts of Wales cannot be farmed as the amount of radiation in the

soil is too high. It is estimated that Belarus received 60 per cent of the fallout. Around 340,000 people had to leave their homes in certain parts of Belarus due to the radiation and were forced to settle in other parts of the country.

Radiation causes many serious health problems including cancers and birth defects. Many people are still dying of cancers caused by the disaster, including children who weren't even born at the time. It is believed that 200,000 people died in Belarus between 1990 and 2004 from cancers and other illnesses due to radiation poisoning.



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the world's largest orphan charity

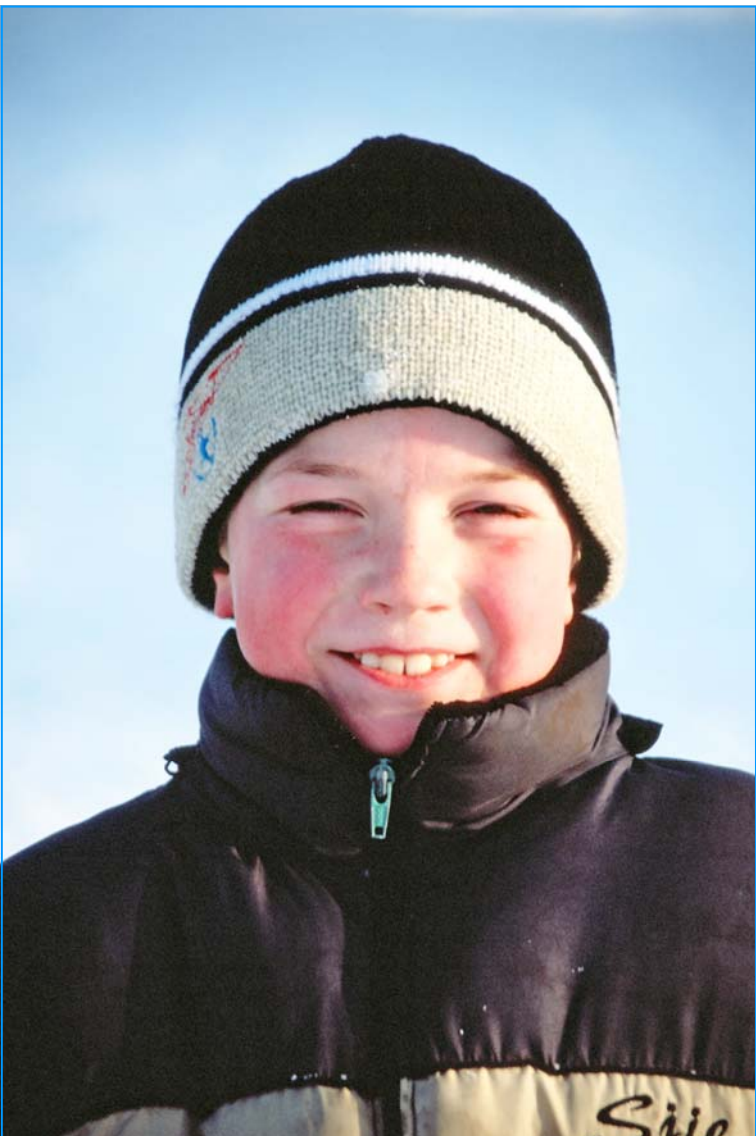
Arthur's Story

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Arthur was born into what was a happy family in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. Arthur's mother was ill as a result of the Chernobyl disaster. When Arthur was just four years old his mother died.

Arthur's father could not cope after the death of his wife. He turned to drink, lost his job and paid no attention to his son. Apart from his elderly grandmother, Arthur had no relatives to take care of him. Social services did their best to help the family, but very soon Arthur's father died in an accident. Arthur was just five years old and all alone in the world.

Now seven years old, Arthur lives in the SOS Children's Village in Marina Gorka, near Minsk, where he once more has a happy family, a caring mother and brothers and sisters. One of Arthur's favourite things to do with his family is to cook.



APPLES BAKED WITH HONEY

A traditional recipe from Belarus

500 g cooking apples, 4 tablespoons honey, 50 g sugar.

Preheat the oven to 175 C (350 F).

Wash the cooking apples and remove the cores. Fill the hollows with sugar.

Place the apples in a baking tray, pour in a little water and put in the oven for 15 minutes.

Before serving pour the honey over the apples.

Serve immediately.

Enjoy!



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