**4. Scent Hounds**

Scent Hounds specialise in following the scent or the smell of their quarry. It wasn’t until the mid 1500s that hounds began to be classified according to their type and purpose, i.e. Sight Hounds, Scent Hounds, etc. It is not necessary for Scent Hounds to be as fast and agile as Sight Hounds – they do not need to keep their quarry in sight. Scent Hounds are built for endurance. They can follow a scent for long distances and even across running water.

Scent Hounds have distinctive characteristics, features and traits which are perfect for their purpose. They have large noses which have deep open nostrils and their lips are loose and moist, designed to pick up scent particles and follow the trail of an animal. Their ears are long which concentrates the scent on the nose. Their bodies are designed for endurance, an essential asset when following any scent trail.

Hunting takes different forms and as man opted for hunting their quarry either on foot or horseback so the Scent Hounds were selectively bred to suit either form of hunting. Most Scent Hounds were used in packs – making a loud deep baying noise alerting hunters to their location.

**5. Going Solo**

But our luck held, and after two more weeks at sea, on a black wet night in early autumn, we nosed our way into Liverpool Docks and tied up. I ran down the gangway immediately and went off to try and find a telephone kiosk that had not been bombed out of action. When I found one at last, I was literally shaking with excitement at the thought of speaking to my mother again after three years. She could not possibly have known that I was on my way home. The censor would not have allowed such things to be written in letters, and I myself had not heard from anyone in the family for many months. No letter from England had found its way up to Haifa. I got the trunk-call operator and asked for our old number in Kent. After a pause, she told me it had been disconnected months ago. I asked her to consult Directory Inquiries. No, she said, there were no Dahls in Bexley or anywhere else in Kent come to that.

The operator sounded like a lovely elderly lady. I told her how I had been abroad for three years and was trying to find my mother. "She’ll have moved.", the operator said. "She’ll probably have been bombed out like all the rest of them and she’s had to move somewhere else." She was too kind to add that the whole family might well have been killed in the bombing, but I knew what she was thinking and she probably guessed that I was thinking it, too.

(From Going Solo by Roald Dahl)

**6. Witches and Fairies**

Witches and fairies have been associated in the popular mind since the earliest times. Often the same attributes applied to both groups: the practice of sorcery, the ability to appear and disappear at will, shapeshifting, the preparation of magic salves, the stealing of children, dancing in circles and having nocturnal parties.

There is no dearth of theories about the origins of fairies. Some researchers claim they represent the of a race of dwarf people who really did live underground in earth burrows and were gradually driven into hiding by Central European invaders from Mediterranean regions. Others see both witches and fairies as worshippers of the Old Religion of The Mother Goddess and The Horned God. And still others see them as psychological or social projections.

Whatever their origins, fairies tend to come in two varieties: Goblins are generally evil, and delight in plaguing humans; Hobgoblins are helpful spirits who assist country folk in their labours. Fairies were said to be dangerous at sea where they rode eggshells as boats and tried to sink sailing ships with magical storms.

(From Witches by Erica Jong)