



*Starlings have been enjoying the book -
The Matchbox Diary by Paul Fleischman*

*The story is about a granddad who moved
to America from Italy as a young boy
and put items into matchboxes to
remember things. This week, we have
been writing a biography about the
man's life and here are some quotes from
the work the children have completed.*

Introduction

This is a book about the life of a man in the 1500s. Life was hard for the man and his family in Italy so they moved to America for a better life. (Emelia and Annie)

Childhood

In Italy, life was hard for Harry since his family were very poor. He would lie on the windowsill all day as his floor was just gravel and earth. It was very cold in the winter, all that kept him warm was the fire under the cooking pot. If he was hungry, his mother would give him an olive stone to suck on that tricked his brain into thinking he had food, after all his family didn't have enough food. (Holly)

The Journey to America

When I got onto the boat, I looked up and saw the most richest people, they were wearing frilly dresses and big hats with flowers on them. The waves crashed and thumped as the boat tilted side to side. 'Quick, hold on tight!' the captain shouted. The journey took 19 days. (Annabella and Ava)

Arrival at Ellis Island

When Harry and his family came close to Ellis island, they could see the Statue of Liberty. Harry had been crying so much, his eyes were red and puffy, they wouldn't let him in until a doctor came and checked his eyes. The doctor said, 'It's just because he has been crying, he can come past.' (Hope)

Life in America

The family found their father and Harry checked it was him by smelling his moustache. They went on a horse-drawn carriage. Everywhere they went, there was work to be done. One day, Harry went to a baseball game with his father and that is where he found the other matchboxes. Harry got a bit older and he had some coal to write with. As quick as a flash, 'He should learn to write his name,' said mum with a worried voice because he might not be able to. It was a relief when he learnt to write his name, Harry. 26 year passed and Harry got an excellent job, he became a printer for the rest of his life. (Ellis)