

## **“God knows”**

By Minnie Louise Haskins (1875 – 1957)

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

### **Discussion questions**

1. This is the opening section of a longer poem and it became famous as it was spoken by King George VI in his Christmas speech in 1939, shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War. What picture or image does it bring to mind as you read these lines?
2. At the start of a new year we can never know what lies ahead, but what comfort do you think these words might have brought to people listening at that time, particularly since many of them had loved ones who had been called up to fight?
3. There have been other famous speeches made by rulers or leaders, such as the speech made by Elizabeth 1 as the country faced the impending Spanish Armada in 1588, and the speech made by Sir Winston Churchill in June 1940. What words would you use to describe the impact that these speeches would have made on their listeners, or those who read the words later?

<http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item102878.html>

<https://winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1940-the-finest-hour/fight-them-on-the-beaches/>