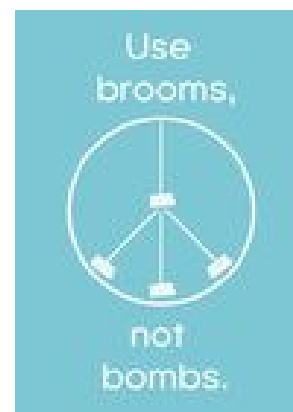


The Broom Army

Source: <http://www.themortonreport.com/uk-riots-the-broom-armys-operation-cup-of-tea/>

1 Match the words with their definition on the right.

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---|
| 1 | riot (n) | to promise |
| 2 | loot-(v) | to choose to ignore |
| 3 | yob (v) | violent protest by a crowd |
| 4 | front line-(n) | to steal during a war, riot |
| 5 | livelihood (n) | to dominate |
| 6 | gloat (v) | an animal that lives on trees and is very slow |
| 7 | pledge-(v) | your work that provides the money that you need to live |
| 8 | outwit-(v) | to show that you are proud at your own success |
| 9 | sloth (n) | someone, especially a young person, who is rude, noisy, and sometimes violent |
| 10 | imminent-(adj) | the place where enemies meet to fight |
| 11 | disregard-(v) | to defeat someone by being smarter than them |
| 12 | prevail-(v) | something;(usually bad) that is going to happen in the very near future |



2 Find out about the riots by reading the following text.

The Broom Army Fight Against Looters in "Operation Cup of Tea"

The British anti-riot movement sweeps to victory



Just how have the British been coping with the riots and looting on their city streets? Forget the riot police; forget water cannons; forget bringing in the British army. The Great British public has fought back the only way it knows how: with a stiff upper lip, a sense of humour, and a nice cup of tea.

After four days of terror and looting at the hands of hoodie-wearing yobs, the British public got tired of hoping that their government would finally take action and formed their own army: the Broom Army.

The **front line** came in the form of Turkish shopkeepers in London, who stood side by side and formed a barrier between the **looters** and their **livelihood**. The call to arms went out on Twitter; #fightback began to trend. When relief supplies were required the morning after the battle, hundreds responded to #riotcleanup and arrived en masse to pick up the fallen and damaged. Proudly they held their brooms high up; the moral victory was all theirs.

The pause was brief. The Broom Army knew there would be another battle to fight that very evening. They knew that the shameful **looters** would soon get bored of **gloating** over the goods they had stolen and would be back for more once darkness fell. It was time to prepare in the only way the British know how — by having a cup of tea.



And so, #OperationCupOfTea began at 8.30 pm on Tuesday evening. By Wednesday afternoon over 200,000 people had **pledged** to **'Make Tea Not War'**. By proudly posting pictures of themselves, armed with steaming cups of tea on Twitter and Facebook, ordinary citizens were demonstrating their anti-riot sentiments.

Slogans such as **'Mugs not Thugs'**, **'Use Brooms not Bombs'**, and **'Steal Hearts not Trainers'** (a reference to the fact that the **looters** were breaking into sportswear stores and stealing 'trainers' or sports shoes) demonstrates the good old British sense of humour's ability to survive under attack.

Even shopkeepers under threat of further **looting** used their sense of humour to **outwit** their **sloth-brained** enemies. One manager of Waterstones, a chain of bookstores, decided to leave his doors open for the **looters**, "because then they might actually read something". One fast food store manager posted a sign on his door: *"Due to the imminent collapse of society we regret to announce we are closing at 6pm tonight"*.

You could argue that this level of dry, sophisticated, and utterly genius wit will completely pass the jobs by and therefore is a waste of time. You are probably right but, actually, who cares what they think? They DON'T think. We should **disregard** them; turn our backs; they have **looted** their way beyond the right to be heard.

Listen instead to the battle cry for good that vastly outnumbers them. More people turned up on the streets to clean them up than turned up to destroy them. Armed with their brooms, their teabags, their wit, and their Churchillian fighting spirit, the Broom Army will **prevail** and the **looting** scum will fail.

3 Vocabulary

1. People were afraid to walk on the streets because there were _____ everywhere.
2. Because she studied, she was able to _____ her opponents in the math contest.
3. He _____ to return the money.
4. In WWII, the _____s were in Africa, Asia and Europe. There were no major battles in the US.
5. Casual dress _____ in US fashion.
6. He was there to _____ over their defeat.
7. The alarm was a mistake. There is no fire. Please _____ the fire alarm and return to your seat.
8. The zoo got 2 new couples of _____ last year.
9. The thunder and lightening are getting closer. A storm is _____.
10. After the flood the people _____ the stores for food.
11. Seven people were hurt as police tried to quell the riot.
12. Many people tried to defend their _____ by keeping arms.

