

Magic Tree House, Book 39

Dark Day In the Deep Sea (Unabridged)

Chapter 1: back to the sea

Jack felt rain drops he looked up and saw the summer storm cloud .

Hurry! Jack called to Anne.

They were riding their bikes home from library, Jack's backpack was filled with library books. He didn't want them to get wet, as Jack and Anne peddled fast, a large wet bird swooped over them and flew into the frog creek woods.

Did you see that? Cried Jack.

A seagull. Called Anne. it's a sign.

You are right. Said Jack.

The last time they 've seen a seagull in frog creek, the magic tree house was waiting for them.

The woods, said Anne,

Jack and Anne pumped their bikes on the curb, the rain fell harder and they headed into the wet woods. Their bike tires pumped over the rough ground, crushing leaves and snapping twigs,

It must be time to look for another secret of happiness for Merlin ,

Jack called.

I hope Merlin's feeling better. Shouted Anne.

I hope Anne and Catherine came to the tree house. Shouted Jack.

Me too. Shouted Anne.

Jack and Anne steered their bike under cannon piece, in the wet leaves, by the time they came to the tallest oak in the woods, the seagull had disappeared, but the magic tree house was back. it was high in the tallest oak, its rope ladder swing in the wind and rain, Jack and Anne climbed off their bikes, prompted them again the trunk of the tree,

Teddy, Catherine! Anne shouted .

There was no answer.

I guess they didn't come this time. Jack said.

Done. Said Anne. I really want to see them.

Boo! Two elder kids looked down out of the tree house window. A curly haired boy with a big green, and a girl with the sea blue eyes and beautiful smile,. Both were wearing long green cloaks.

Yeah! Cried Anne. and Jack.

The rain felled harder and they started climb up the rope ladder, when they climbed into the tree house, they yawned off by the coming and hug from Teddy and Catherine.

Morgan sent us to tell you about your next mission for Merlin. Said

Teddy.

How is Merlin? Asked Anne.

Teddy stopped smiling, he shook his head,

Merlin still suffered from unspoken and sorrow. Catherine said sadly.

When can we see him? Asked Anne.

We learned to seek great secrets of happiness to show with him.

Said Jack.

You may visit him after you have learned two more secrets. Said Catherine. Morgan believes four is the magic number that would sure our success. We have come to send you for your searching for third secret. Said Teddy.

Catherine took a book from her under cloak and handed it to Jack and Anne. from morgan's hands, to our hands, to yours. She said.

Jack took the book from her, the cover showed the waves crushing on the beach. The deep sea.

Whoa. Said Jack. We are going to the ocean?

Yes. Said Teddy. That is where you will next search for our secrets of happiness.

The ocean always makes me happy. Said Anne. once Jack and I traveled to a cove from swamp to dolphins, and we were running to the octopods, they were nice and shining.

But the shark we saw wasn't shy. Jack broke in. it had a big hammer head.

Oh, ma'ma. Said Catherine.

We took a ride in a minute surb. Said Anne. it was so cool.

Until it started to lick andsaid Jack.

We had to do a skip. Said Anne.

Yeah. Said Jack. We tried no to splash. So the shark would not notice us.

We have so much fun. Said Anne.

Catherine smiled.

While we hope you would not find the same fun on this journey. she said. but on case you do, do what your wand to help you , do you not? Asked Teddy.

The wand of diandas?

Of course. Said Jack.

I always carry it, just in case.

Jack washed into his bag and pulled out the silvery wand. It was shaped like the speared horn of the unicorn.

You remember the three rules ? asked Catherine.

Sure. Said Jack.

To make magic we use a wish with only five words.

And before we use the wand, we had to try our hardest. Said Anne.

And wand can only be used for the good of others. Said Jack. Not just ourselves.

Exactly. Said Teddy.

I wonder who the others would be on this mission? Said Anne.

She looked at Teddy and Catherine, maybe you guys?

I fear not. Said Catherine. You must find the third secret on your own.

Just remember to keep your wits about you. Said Teddy.

And listen to your hearts. Said Catherine.

Ok. Said Anne. what you tell all about it, when will we see you again?

Lighting flash of the woods, as Jack pointed to the cover of the ocean book

I wish we could go there. He said.

Thunder cracked in the dark sky, the wind blew harder. The tree house started to spin. It spun faster and faster. Then everything was still. Absolutely still.

Chapter 2: pirates again?

Jack opened his eyes, Teddy and Catherine were gone, the warm air was filled with mist, Jack and Anne peered out of the window together, the tree house had landed, and the tall tree with spreading branches, the mist was so thick, they couldn't see anything around them, but Jack was clothed gloves, and swooping rolling waves, he smelled the salt water and sea wit.

The ocean is out there, fell it? Said Anne.

I heard it and smelt it. Said Jack.

Let's go play in it. Said Anne.

She put off sneakers and socks,

We can't just play. Jack said. we have to look for the secret of happiness.

While I am happy when I am playing in the ocean.

Anne started down the rope ladder,

I am sure our mission is harder than that. Jack thought.

He took their library book out of his pack and replaced them with the deep sea book.

Hurry! Said Anne.

Jack put on his pack, and started down after her. He stepped off the ladder onto the misty ground.

Come on. said Anne.

Jack followed Anne toward the sound of the sea birds and waves. They walked through the feathery fans and climbed to the sanding and they rounded the top, and the waves wide sandy beach. But the ocean itself was still shored and grey hiss.

Whoa. Said Anne.

Yeah. Said Jack.

Come on, Let's go in. Anne said.

Jack and Anne hurried down the dune and ran toward the ocean, Anne waved into the water, Jack stood at the edge and pulled out their research book , listen to this, Anne. He called.

Jack read loudly.

Water cover three quarters of the earth. Mostly ocean is the normal plain that little two miles deep. But some oceans are change dredged more than six miles deep.

More than Six miles? Anne asked, splashing the water with her hands.

It's six miles from our house to libes.

I know. Said Jack. He read more.

The ocean is the home of thousands and thousands sea creatures, mountains and volcanoes are also in the deep beneath the surface of the sea.

Mountains and volcanoes? Asked Anne. Under the water?

That was the book says. Said Jack.

The ocean's whole world we don't know anything about.

While some people know about. Said Anne. or that book couldn't be written.

Good point. Said Jack.

Put the book away and come in Jack. Said Jack.

The sun's coming out.

Jack looked up from his book, the sun was burning our the mist and making the day hotter

Let's go swimming. Said Anne.

As Anne dove to the wave. Jack put his book back to his backpack, he left his pack on the beach and waded into the water.

Great. Ah! Called Anne.

Yeah! Jack said as he ducks to the soft goofy sand.

Cool sear water rounded the caps, He felt warm sun shine on his face.

Let's swim further out. Maybe the secret of happiness is in the deep of the sea.

How could We go down there without submarine? asked Jack.

The wand. Said Anne. maybe it would turn us into fish or something.

Jack closed his eyes and pictured the darkness of the deep ocean filled with thousand creatures.

But the wand can be used only we try out hardest. I don't think we done that yet. He said.

Alright. Said Anne.

Plust for the good of others. So first we have to find some others.

Jack said. his eyes still closed.

Jack, you wouldn't believe it. Said Anne.

What? Jack asked dreamly.

Take a look! Said Anne.

Jack sighed and opened his eyes. The mist cleared the bit, and the day becoming bright and hot.

I think we just found the others. Said Anne.

She pointed out to the sea.

Jack sheeted his eyes granted to the vivid sunlight, he saw a large wooden ship with three tall masts.

Whoa, he briefed. That's a ship from long time ago.

Yeah. Remember what we read in the pirate ship? Said Anne. this ship looked the same. doesn't it?

Oh, no. said Jack. Pirates again?

Look, a rowboats leaving the ship. Said Anne.

Oh, ma'am. Said Jack.

It's heading toward us. Said Anne. just like the other time,
remember? The pirates came to shore and chased us? Remember
Pinky? Stinky? And captain Bones?

All Panic. Said Jack panicking.

He splashed out off the water round up on the beach,

Where shall we go? Asked Anne, hurrying after him.

To the tree house. Said Jack.

He grabbed his backpack

But pirates climbed up the tree house, said Anne. pinky and stinky
found

Forget Pinky and Stinky, said Jack , let's just get out of here.

Jack and Anne charge toward the sand dune they raised up the top
and ran to the tall fur of the grass until they came to the rope ladder.

Up, up , cried Jack.

Jack and Anne climbed into the tree house,

Pull up the ladder. Said Jack.

Together they hauled the rope ladder after them,

With the Pennsylvania book, said Jack, he looked around widely
and always took home. He grabbed it and found the picture of the
frog creek,

Wake, wake, don't make a wish yet. said Anne.

She was looking up the window,

I am not so sure that these guys are from the pirates.

Clenching the Pennsylvania book to his chest, Jack looked out the window with Anne, there were three men in the rowboat, the boat rowed in the top of the wind came close to the beach. Two of the men wad scrambled out and pulled the boat from the shallow water up to the sand. They both were huge blocky wrests over wide heavy slivered shirts. They were wide round heads, and wide pants rolled up to their knees.

Those two guys looked all liked Pinky and Stinky. Said Anne.

You're right. Said Jack.

Pirates never wear such cleaner close.

I looked at the third guy. Said Anne.

The third man stepped out of the boat carrying a butterfly net. He pulled out his poky west, revealing all the fashion suits and boot tied

He definitely looked like a pirate. Said Anne.

Yeah. Said Jack. He looks he had never been on a boat before in his life.

As the two sailors pulled the rowboat further round to the beach.

The man in the boat tie, picked up a stick, he started poking and pumping on the sea wade,

What's he doing? Asked Jack.

The man dropped his stick, and picked up something small from the sand, he studied it for a moment, then he nodded down, pulled the small book out of his pocket, and started to read.

Who is he? Said Jack.

I don't know. Said Anne.

but one thing for sure, pirates never carry butterfly net with them, or read any notebooks,

You're right. Said Jack.

He put on the Pennsylvania book

So what's going on? let's go find out. Said Anne.

She dropped the rope ladder back to the ground. And started down.

Jack grabbed his pack and hurried after her. Together they ran barefoot over the hot sand and through the fishery furs. They climbed on top of the sand dune, and looked down.

The three men were sailed and the water. Of the big ship drifted off the shore.

Hi! Look! You can see the name of the ship. Said Anne.

Jack peered to the haze, and read on the side of the ship.

HMS-challenger.

Oh, look it! Get up! He whispered.

He pulled out their research book and searched the index.

It's here. He whispered. He found the right page and read.

The HMS-challenger, HMS stands for Her majesty ship, was a British navy vassal. It served at the first dedicated scientific exploration ship in the history of the world.

Oh, ma'am, said Jack looking up. That is so cool.

Yeah. Read more. Whispered Anne.

Jack read on.

From 1872 to 1876, the HMS challenger circled the globe, exploring the dark depth of the ocean, there were over 200 seamen and 6 scientists on board.

So we landed in the 1870s. said Jack looking up again.

And that guy with butterfly must be one of the scientists. Said anne.
come on, let's go meet him.

Before Jack could tell her the way, Anne darted down the sand dune.

Hi guys! She called. She weaved her arms. Hi!

The three men waved around. Their eyes grew wide, and their mouth dropped open, they looked at Anne as they were staring at a ghost.

Chapter 3: a creature named Henry

Jack threw their book onto his pack, and quickly ran to join Anne.

Hi! He said to the three men.

Don't be afraid. Said Anne. we come in peace.

The three men kept talking, who, who are you? One of the sailor spattered.

Jack and Anne walked closer.

I am Jack and this is Anne. said Jack.

The man in the bowtie stepped forward, he had long mustache and big friendly smile.

My name is Henry. He said. I came to shore to look for wild butterflies, plants and shelves. But At the same I found rare creature called Jack and Anne instead.

And we found creature called Henry. Said Anne, giggling. That were named terenidom to the time of dinosaurs.

I beg your pardon. Said Henry.

a.. she is dizzy. Said Jack.

What's unusual wit. Said Henry. His eyes were sparkling.

Well, you have not only found Henry, you also found Joe and Tommy. Two able sail men brought me here.

Hi! Joe and Tommy. Said Anne.

She gave the two sailors a big smile. But Joe and Tommy didn't smile back. They were both scaring.

Where are you from? Joe asked suspiciously.

Frog Creek, Pennsylvania. said Anne.

Where is that? Asked Tommy.

America. Said Jack.

How nice. Said Henry. Why are you here?

We are.. well... we are on vacation, said Anne. We came here with our family, back here or somewhere. She waved vigorously.

Vacation? Said Henry.

Our parents like vacation, are really out of the places. Said Anne.

Henry chuckled.

Americans?

Are you a scientist from the HMS Challenger? Jack said.

He was eager to change the subject.

Well, yes. Said Henry. I'm from one of the teams trying to solve the riddles of the deep.

Jack loved the sound like riddles of the deep.

What kind of riddles you have solved so far? He asked.

Well for one thing we have learned that the ocean floor absolutely teeming with life. Said Henry.

You didn't already know that? Asked Anne.

We thought that probably the keys. Said Henry, but mind you that many people can not imagine life can exist in the icy dark deep. And in fact some of them still believe that there is no floor in the ocean at all. They think the seagulls down forever.

Are you serious? Said Anne. Huh! I guess you maybe letting the note of the ocean too miles deep. Of course some ocean six miles but ...

Anne? said Jack, you might...a lot about the sea. Said Henry. Looking at Anne with curiosity.

Well, I know the mon rain, just the volcanoes down the ocean too. Said Anne.

Jack linding close to Anne,

Stop showing off. He said under his breath.

Am.. I mean... maybe, just maybe. Anne said to Henry. Of course, I'm only guess,

And you are a very good guesser. Said Henry. And out voyage came did many volcanic rocks from the deep.

Cool. Said anew. How did you get them, many, sir?

Manysirps? Asked Henry.

You know you carry down into the deep sea. Said Anne.

Anne..said Jack between his teeth. He gave her look and said :

Just stop. .

Jack was pretty sure that manysirps hadn't been invented by the early 1870s. he quickly changed the subject again.

Are you study butterflies too? He said pointing to Henry's net. And seashells?

Indeed I do. Said Henry. If I came to a shore, to search for rare shell just now. and I think I may had found it cousin. He opened his book to a page, and showed the pencil drawing of the shell.

Would you like us to help you find more? Asked Anne.

Well, thank you. Said Henry. But I have been quite successful to be found where I came for. We will be going back to the ship now.

Oh, please can we visit the HMS Challenger? Anne blurred out.

Out of the question. Said the sailor Joe.

Well, I am.. said Henry.

Sir, the captain would never approve bringing children on board.

Tommy broken in. it's absolutely against rules.

Henry looked at Jack and Anne,

Jack didn't want to break the rules. But at the same time, he really wanted to visit the ship.

We would really like to learn more about the sea exploration. He said. he gave the scientist a hopeful smile.

We promise we can help many wands way. Said Anne. And our parents like us to learn new things.

Henry turned back to the two seamen

Surly suck bright and curious young people should be allowed to our ship. He said. since would be drifting and dragging all day, we can return them to shore before nightfall.

Joe and Tommy frowned at each other, but Joe finally gave a quick nod.

Yeah! Anne said.

Thanks! Said Jack. We promise we won't cause any trouble.

I see it you don't . said Henry looked and smiled.

Joe and Tommy would you mind lending our two visitors your life perseveres?

Never feed them. Sir. Said Joe.

Well, we must do what we can to keep them safe. Said Henry.

The two seamen grudgingly handed Jack and Anne their balky vests.

So these are all profession life perseveres? Thought Jack. The vest was made blocks of coal, tied together, even though Jack buckled it tightly, it hang over his body. Almost sleeping off.

I am afraid they are big. Said Henry. But still it might save you so we kept size.

Don't worry, said Anne, we are really good swimmers.

We should go now, sir. Joe said impatiently.

Yes, yes, Henry said, let it be off.

Joe and Tommy pushed the rowboat into the shallow water. While Jack and Anne had been talking with Henry, the water had turned choppy. Dark gray clouds had rolled in, hidden the sun, Climbing up to me. Henry told Jack and Anne, and then followed them into the rowboat. Jack's backpack wooden flit over his lifeJacket, so he clutched the pack to the chest, as Joe and Tommy pushed the boat furthering to the ocean. The sailors jumped in, picked up their oars,, and began rowing back to the ship.

Chapter 4: off the ship

The wind is against us. Joe said to Tommy in rouse voice, even though the boat past the vergers, he kept bunching up and down on the sweltered. Water splashed over the side, and soaked Jack's cloth, but Jack wasn't worry about the wind or water. He was worried about been seasick, because waves or noise had come over him.

Sorry, it's top going. Henry said.

We can take it. Anne said.

We hope. Called Jack.

The last thing they even to do is threw up, especially Joe and Tommy. We shall get back just in time. To see all of the man this morning's catch. Said Henry.

This is so much fun. Said Anne. her eyes shinning, and the litter rowboat popped up and down, Jack wasn't having any fun at all. He kept sit grabbed his backpack, closed his eyes and ridded his teeth. Everyday we make new discoveries. Said Henry. Off the we found one hundred new species. Giant worms, several feet long, shrimps and lobsters, the

Ahi. Said Joe. Pulled on his oars.

But the creature on should be worried about.

What creature is that? Asked Anne.

The great monster. Answered Tommy.

Jack opened his eyes, what? You mean like a shark? He asked .

No, no, led, it is much worse than any sharks, even the 24 foot tiger shark that had been following us, said Tommy. The sailor blinked nervously.

Whoa! 24 foot tiger shark? Thought Jack.

He looked the dark water for the shark fin.

Ah...this monster is much bigger than the shark. Shouted Joe.

They say it looks like a cross between dragon and a gigantic starfish.

mm...more like a floating nest of snakes made... said Tommy with a shakily shudder. they say a body with squiggling until it's death.

A floating nest of snakes? Anne asked.

Jack gulped, he turned to Henry : have you see the monster/? He asked the scientist.

Henry shook his head, I have never seen it. He said. but my crew men had seen something danger , the monsters just yesterday.

Don't be scared, mate. Said Joe . if we see a monster, we will hell la ha pum that them.

We will shot it with our cannons. Said Tommy.

He and Joe laughed loudly.

Maybe the sailors on the ship is trying to scare the scientist. Jack thought hopefully. Why nor they been laughing?

When they reached the HMS Challenger, the rowboat drew a long side the big ship, rocking on the water. Jack grabbed his backpack tighter as the more wave of sea sickness washed over him.

You go first, mate, Joe said to Jack. You looked a bit green.

Pledge on the pack of one arm, Jack grabbed the lads of the ladder, he held on tightly, climbed from the wooden hoof of the ship up to the top deck. Anne came after him, then Henry, Joe, and Tommy. When they were all on the deck, the two seamen hauled up the rowboat,

Jack took a long deep breath, though the large ship jolted above the wind, it was nearly as bad as the small rowboat's movement on the waves. Looking around the deck, Jack saw teams of sailors –working, some were quailing ropes, others were hauling up ridge of baskets. Jack turned to Henry asked what sailors were doing. But Henry was staring at the top man in the white uniform and heavy satter older man in the dark suit, overworking briskly for them. The two men were frowning.

Oh, no. murmured Henry. Prepared me that do.

How are they? Asked Anne.

Before Henry could answer, the man in white shouted, what have you done this time Mr. Moseley?

Jack moved closer to Anne, he clanged his pack to his life fast.

Well, captain Ire, started Henry, goodness, whatever have you found us form the sea now, Henry? The porty man asked. A fork like fork, a creature of the deep?

Yes. Professor, it's Jack and Anne from America. Said Henry. I found creature vacation to the island.

The porty man smiled.

Oh, I see. I thought perhaps the monster will say goodbye some the yesterday.

The monster again? Thought Jack.

This ship is not the place for children, Mr. Moseley. The captain said gruffly.

Yes. I know, sir. Said Henry . but these two are extraordinary. They hardly see like children at all. The quiden depending on great knowledge of sea. I thought my people will bring them to boat in the afternoon and return them to shore.

I am afraid it goes against the ship's rules. Said the captain.

It's not Henry's fault. Captain. Anne pepped up. We beg him to let us visit your ship.

Well, did you know, the porty man asked and twinkling : why is that?

We love the ocean. Said Anne.

And we really like to learn more about the sea ask exploration. Sir. Said Jack.

Well, you've come to the right place. Said the man. I allowed me introduce myself, I am Professor Thomson, the scientific director of the challenger. The professor is one of the world's most expert to the ocean. Said Henry.

Whoa. Said Anne.

Well, I don't know about that. The professor said modestly. But it put something fast and began speaking as if giving a lecture . since the beginning of the tide, the secrets of the deep had been hidden

from us, but now with all our expedition, we have learned many things,

Like what? Asked Jack.

We have used miles and miles of steel wires to measure the depth of the deep sea. Said the professor. We have lowered the marmites to measure the temperature of the deep, but perhaps the most important of all, we have learned about the amazing creatures who live in the dark ridging or the far beneath the ocean waves.

That is all well good. Professor. The Captain broken in. but I wonder these children to ship immediately. Before the weather get worse. Do you hear, Mr. Moseley? Off the ship.

Chapter 5: Ooze

The captain turned and stroked away.

Sorry. Friends. Henry said to Jack and Anne. but captain in charge, he looked around, I see Joe and Tommy are helping the man bring up the catching now. as soon as they are free, I will ask them to back you to the shore. I am very sorry.

That's ok. Said Anne. you did what you could.

Before you young people leave, perhaps you would like to see

today's specimens. Asked professor.

Sure. Said Jack and Anne together.

Then come along. Said professor. Every single day we make new discoveries. Hurrying with Anne across the deck, Jack couldn't wait to see what just been brought from the deep. They just followed Henry and the professor, to the team of sailors pulling up large nets, the nets was backs and mops and above them.

What these mops for? Asked Anne. they swayed up the sea animals form the floor of the ocean. Explained Henry.

We pulled them from the stalkness of the light of the day. Said the professor.

That might scare them. Said Anne.

But the professor seemed didn't to hear her.

Over the years we've hold up tens of thousands of specimens. He said.

As the sailors dumped back unto the deck, Jack saw mostly mud, but lying in the mud, was tiny scrumming pinky yellow fish and fairy own sea stars.

No monster there, arh..said Anne.

The professor looked at her, not today, me dear. He said.

I was just kidding. Said Anne. do you believe monsters?

Oh, well, the professor looked seriously. The sea is very deep, my

dear. It covers nearly three quarters of the world. So I say to myself, my did not in mysterious creatures. Including monsters?

Good point. Thought Jack.

But don't be afraid, children, said the professor. Someday we will catch hold of monsters and study them. We will Conquer our fear through knowledge.

What way? Henry?

Yes, sir. Said Henry.

Conquer our fear through knowledge.

The professor repeated his words with enthusiasm. I shall that to my lectures.

Low thunder roared in the sky, Jack looked up, black clouds covered over head, a strong gust wind swept over the deck,

Attention! The captain shouted heading toward them. Our scholars headed their way. For now take the children below to the main deck,

Yes, sir. Said Henry. He smiled to Jack and Anne.

Well, friends, I suppose you will get stay with us for while longer after all.

Yell! Anne said softly.

Only those on watch stay on deck. The captain shouted to his crew.

Everyone gets out to below. Henry led Jack and Anne away just

before the rain began to pour down. Water dropped from Henry's
hiring backpack and life fast as he and Anne followed Henry to the
steep fled of stairs to the dimly hole way.

Our ship is conveyed from a war vassal to a ship of sea laboratories.
Henry said. it maybe move 16s or 18s guns of broom for them.
Would you like to see mine?

Oh, yes. Said Jack. He couldn't wait to see the actual sea
laboratory.

Follow me. Henry on lap of the door. And showed Jack and Anne a
large dim road. It was a small sky-like over its head. And pumded
to the glass.

Henry struck a match and led a couple of oil laps, shadows danster
around the room, Jack smiled and led out the deep sigh. He loved
the sea lab.

Sall of hundreds of different bottles, the bottles were filled with
floating blocks, in the middle of the room was a wooden table, it
held the maps, rulers and mumters, bowls with looking staff and a
big microscope.

Henry pointed to the microscope.

Would you like to see some thing remarkable? He asked.

Oh, yes. Said Anne.

She peered to the eyepiece, Whoa, that's amazing. She braved.

Let me see. Said Jack. He put his pack back down on the table, and looked at the microscope. He saw the tiny skeleton of the seahorse, Cool! He said. that seahorse is no bigger than the grain of the sugar. Said Henry. But of course I am fascinated by the larger creatures as well. Well just yesterday, I spent several hours studying the ear ball of the dolphin and a tooth of the shark.

And what's all those battles? Asked Anne. she pointed to the rows and rows bottles on Henry's shelves.

Many curiosities. Said the scientist. That large one for instance, the closer creature looks like a giant sock, some call that blubber fish, but in face it is not a fish at all, it was made of millions of tiny sea creatures,

Yoo.. said Anne. and there is rare sea slug. Said Henry. He pointed to a bright yellow blub floating in the clear liquid.

Nice color. Said Jack.

We study whatever we're bringing up from the deep. Said Henry. We measured the specimens and identified them, and then we persevered them in the bottles of alcohol, and labeled the bottles.

So all of the bottles were seacreatures? Said Anne.

Oh, no. many bottles were filled with ooze from above the sea. Said Henry.

Ooze? said Jack

They are official name for mud. Said Henry smiling. Here fill it.

Henry picked up one of the plates from the table, and held out to Jack and Anne, then rub the sticky mud between their fingers.

Oozes is good name for it. Said Jack

Henry gave them a cloth to wipe their hands then he picked up a large book from the table, and here are the notebook I have transferred our natural history specimens, he said.

He opened the book.

Inside were beautiful bottle colors jells plants and butterflies.

These are great. Said Jack.

Henry's notebook remind them for the notebook they have seen in Leonardo da Vinci's studio.

This is beautiful. Said Anne. she reached her hand across the Henry's table, and picked up the glistening ground seashore, the shore was wide and curved with reddish brown lines.

Yes. Henry said softly. My nodless shore.

Is this one of your specimens? Asked Anne.

No. said Henry. I don't consider this is a specimen. It's more like a treasure. I am afraid I had great found the little creature we once lived inside that shore.

What did it do? Asked Anne.

Oh, they just swam around the small top of the tide for him. Said

Henry. But it move backwards, wheather funny fell down itself and get out. All over me. Henry smiled. I was quite sad when it died. I wish I had returned to the sea. And reput the shore down let out the quiet sad. Silly just something well I know.

Not silly at all. Said Anne .

The ships been alright, the ship's bell rang

Ah...time to go. Said Henry. The captain mont's tide ship, it against the rules to be late. So let's be off to the world room.

What's the world room? Jack asked.

That was the scientists the navy officers eat. Said Henry

Eat? Jack said vikerly.

Chapter 6: peace soup

Henry led Jack and Anne out of the sea lab, locking the door behind them, then he led the way through the hall and down to other flat of the deep steps, in the faint light of the lower deck, Jack saw navy officers and scientists sdreaming through the door to the head. He Anne and Henry lied up behind them. And found them into the room. Still wearing their balky life vests, Jack and Anne sat at the long bench at the front of the table. Many of them stared at them with

curiosity. The professor smiled and captain did not looked happy.

I thought my friends might be joining for lunch, sir. Henry said to captain. I promise they will well return to shore after the storm.

Very well. Said the captain. Immediately, after the storm.

Yes. Sir. Said Henry .

He turned to the other officer at the table. Gentlemen, may I introduce Jack and Anne from America? They are adventure travelers ..

i.. murmured Jack and anne. The officers and scientists looked at them politely. Sailors in wet uniforms exacted as waiters bringing food, plates and cups at the table.

What we have for lunch? Anne whispered to Henry.

The usual. Henry said sighing. Salted meat, pickles, dry biscuits.

This is not good. Thought Jack. He was right.

When they were served, they could hardly look at their food, much less to eat it. He was thirsty though. So he reached for his cup and took a long sip of water. Jack immediately spit back to his cup, it was unbelievable sourer . he gagged and coughed, when he looked up, everyone was staring at him, including the captain.

Excuse me. Jack said weping his mouth, his face felt hot from the embarrassment.

You just caught for lemon juice lad. Said the professor , most of us

take it in small sips.

Lemon juice? Asked Anne .why?

It prevents scurvy. Said the professor. Everyday we all drink a cup of lemon juice, to previme scurvy. Otherwise we got grave and radden teeth.

Yark. Said Anne

Henry smiled. You will get scurvy if you don't eat enough vegetables. He said. but it's hard to keep vegetables in ship,

Jack couldn't think about drinking anything at that moment. All of it is specially for the pickles. Made him felt even craze here. They rolling in the ship up either.

The waves seems getting more and worse. He said to Henry.

They do indeed. Said Henry. He turned and looked at the small round wondow.

Can see a safe, it seeks as a piece soup about there.

Oh no. Jack grown to himself. Please don't talk about the peace soup. The ship lerched, cups and plates, flattered across the table, and crushed the floor. Anne grabbed Jack and ship rocked wildly.

Steady where she goes. Said the captain. It seems the storm is fully aponished. Said the professor. The ship lurched again. More cups and plates flad off the table. Jack and Anne almost slid off the chairs, without any sign, nervousless, the officers and scientists

stood up and hurried up out the room. As if they knew just one thing to do in bad way together.

I will take you down the hole. Henry said to Jack and Anne. we will wait there until the waves calm down.

The ship pitched violently, as they stood up from the table, holding on to the backroom, their lives. Henry stared at Jack and Anne, out the world room. Jack nearly swept on the floor. He speared feet across some soggy biscuits and pickles, he tried not to think about it. All in the dark hall, the wind hauled down the stair wall to the top deck. Spring them all with ocean frown.

I must go to secure my lab. Henry shouted to Jack and Anne.

He pointed to the stairs, go down one more flat and I will join you when I can.

Welcome with you. Said Anne.

It's better to be safe. Said Henry. Followed the others! Quick! Come soon!

Henry unlocked the door to his lab, and disappeared inside.

Come on, let's go down. Said Jack.

He grabbed Anne's hand and crawled pulled her toward the fairwell, officers and sailors heading down ahead of them. Just as Jack and Anne started down, the ship lurched again, Jack stomach lurched with it. He covered his mouth,

I am definitely going to be sick. He thought. He really didn't want to walk through the upstairs or from the captain with others.

You go down, be no right there. Jack shouted to Anne.

Why? Where are you going? Anne yelled.

Just do down. Said Jack.

Then he wald around and charged up two fight steep steps to the top deck. When Jack stepped on the deck, the rain was pumping. The wind was howling. The waves look like dark mountains. See fonud must blowing everywhere. Jack knew at once he had met a mistake.

Better to be in berust, than drown. He thought.

Just as he turned back to the steps, Anne burst onto the deck, Jack! He cried. What are you doing? Jack forgot all about throughing up.

I made a mistake. He shouted. We should not be up here. Go down I am coming with you. We have to go back down.

He pushed Anne toward the stair way. A giant wave crushed over the side of the ship, Jack fell and slipped form the fun covered deck. It was impossible to see anything, the wind was squirming, Jack tried to stand, but whirl was let fast, he couldn't stand up and from his feet, Jack finally held himself up, but just as he did, the other giant wave pull break over the side of the ship, the ship rolled again.

And Jack felt to his knees, another wave crushed over the deck, Jack was squaped up by the phone mit water, and tossed over board. Into the cherlling sea.

Chapter 7: help

Jack plunched down into the sea, the water was freezing cold, he pumped back up to the surface, choaking and coughing, the life vest kept Jack closed, but the waves kept hammering at him.

Help! Jack shouted. Thought to the twenty foot tiger shark, and mysterious monster sharp through his mind.

Help! Help! He screamed.

Jack heard someone else was screaming .

Help ! it was Anne. she had been washed off the deck of ship too.

Jack flapped his arms and kicked his legs trying to get to Anne. a wave lifted a tossed toward them, just as Jack reached for her hand.

Another wave pushed the pass out of the ridge.

The wand. Jack ! Anne shouted.

The wand, Jack, use the wand.

The wand. Jack thought, the wand of diandas, where was it/ ?

Anne's backpack, he didn't have a backpack, where was the

backpack?

Jack! The wand! Anne yelled.

I don't have it. Jack shouted. His voice was lost in the roll of the storm. Jack kept fleeing and kicking trying to reach Anne again. Jack felt his crouch life vest coming to loose. Another wave crashed over to him, and one side of the vests slipt down his arms. Jack clutched the vest, trying to keep it on. but the waters kept pouring targing and teasing himself ,nothing like a monster. As Jack desperately thought the water, he saw another wave vest, floating free on the waves. It was Anne.

Where was she?

Anne! Jack screamed.

As he looked around, he lost his fright with the sea. A wave washed him and off him, then the other wave crashed down onto his head, and pulled him down to the deep. Jack held his breath as he pup punching through the black water. He threshed his arms and kicked legs trying get back to the surface. It's had popped above the wind, waves and took wonder deep gulf before another wave. Washed over them and even under again.

Jack kept kicking and trying to swim. But the fight to get back to the surface with two great, just when he was running out above the air, he found something coved around his waist, and he found himself

been lifted toward the surface. Jack's head popped above the water again, he opened his mouth and gasped for air, the waves were swirling and foamy but Jack kept his head above them. Something around his waist, was holding him up, Jack couldn't think at first, he was trying to hard to breath, and then he saw something, spreading across the water near him. It looked like a giant grey umbrella with dark spots all over it, rising from the center of the umbrella was a huge head, it had yellow eyes like purples, stretching out from the umbrella was tentacles, lots of tentacles. All connected by silk web with double row of suckers on each wand.

A giant octopods. Jack thought with horror.

It is much bigger than octopods he had seen a long time ago. And this time the tentacles of the huge creature with curling around his waist,

Help.! Jack shouted.

He tried to pull himself free from the sick rubbery arm, the giant octopod held him tightly, Jack looked around widely, where is Anne?

Jack! Anne shouted.

Jack saw her, when octopod's tentacles lifted Anne above the surface of the water too. Jack's relief and seen Anne was matched by his terror.

Work hard. He cried. Try the way to escape!

Jack kept trying break free from the huge tentacles, but the more he fought, the tighter the grape the octopods speaking,

Don't fight him, Jack! Anne yelled. He's rescuing us.

Jack couldn't think straight, was she crazy?

He's dangled us and pulled us back under. He shouted. We have to fight him.

No! shouted Anne, you're wrong. Can't you see he's saving us from drowning?

He is? Thought Jack.

Jack tried not to panic, the octopod's arm around him was middle felt firm, but you could it what try to strangle them, it actually felt like was hugging him, circling him like a innertube, holding him above the water.

Jack saw the creature's huge yellow eyes fixed on him, as Jack stared back to his eyes, he knew it seemed Anne was true!

The creature was trying to hug him instead octopod looked concerned. He looked curious too, even a little shy. Staring back to the eyes of the octopod's, Jack found himself smiling.

As he and Anne kept bopping up and down in the arms of octopods, all of Jack's vanished, this was the weirdest rescue he had ever experienced.

How are you? Anne said to the octopods. We come in peace.

Jack felt so dazed he started laughing, Anne laughed too. Even the octopods looked amused. Their laughter was interrupted by a blur of horn. Jack heard men's shrieking and shouting. He looked up and saw the HMS Challenger heading toward them.

Chapter 8: monster of the deep

Sailors were on the top deck, they were yelling and pointing, the giant octopods loosened his hold on Jack and Anne,

The ship! Jack giggled before slipping under the water. His head popped back up,

Swim to the ship! He shouted to Anne..

Jack and Anne started swimming, the sky was still covered with clouds and sea was still rough, but arm over arm, they swam until they got closer to the side of the ship.

A,,oh! Ay! Someone shouted from above.

Jack looked up, and saw Henry and professor were standing on the top of the ladder.

Climb up! Yelled Henry.

Hurry! Children! Hurry! Cried professor. Before it comes back.

Jack swam as fast as he could to the ladder, he and Anne got there the same time, they pulled themselves onto the ladder, and climbed. When they reached the top, Henry and professor helped them onto the deck.

Henry grabbed the wood planks around them,

It's goodness that You're safe. Said the professor. I thought you've been pulled to the hood. Said Henry. How did you end up the water?

The storm, the waves. Gaspd Jack. Shivering.

The waves toward our boat. Said Anne.

Why not you are bind deck? Said Henry. I was, I was , sea-seal. Said Jack.

I followed Jack and kept waves crashing down and washed them to the water. Said Anne.

Our life dose us the first, said Jack. But then they came off,

Then the octopod saved us. Said Anne.

That monster saved you? Asked professor.

No, no, not a monster, said Jack. A giant octopods.

Yes, the monster in the deep. I do not think it's saved you, boy. Said the professor. It's a miracle did not each you on your sister alive.

No.no. he's not a monster. He didn't try to do any of that. Said Jack.

He did save us. Said Anne. he brought up above the water.

Really. Said Jack. He kept us from drown. And we got scared away by the ship.

We didn't even thank him, Jack. Said Anne. we didn't say goodbye.

Jack and Anne looked back at the water.

Hi! What's going on over there? Said Anne. she pointed to the rear of the ship . sailors were facing the sea. Yelling and shouting,

What are they yelling at? Anne asked.

Jack and Anne threw out their blinks and took off across the deck, they saw Joe and Tommy, standing and yelling at the crowd.

What are they doing? Anne yelled. What's going on?

There 's a monster in the net! Shouted Tommy.

We've caught the piece of the last. Shouted Joe.

Caught it? Anne looked at Jack.

Come on. Jack cried.

He and Anne pushed their way through the crowd,

Children, stop! The professor shouted and hurried after them, don't get in the way.

But Jack and Anne squeezed through the way across the sailors and scientists, until they got the the railing of the ship, they looked down, the giant octopods was tangled in the net. His arms was jeering in the sea water, into foam, his body had turn bright red, a cloud dark ink billowed around him,

You are hurting him. Yelled Anne. leave him alone.

Move away. Yelled the sailor.

Some of the sailors were yelling the mean things at the octopods.

Other seemed terrified. Even the captain was caught up with panic.

Stand back. he shouted. It could be powerful enough to sink the ship.

That's crazy. Yelled Jack. Leave him alone.

It's ghost, it is as hard as steal. Shouted one of the sailors.

No, they are not. Cried Anne. they are soft. They saved us from drown.

But everyone kept shouting.

Hungry for human flesh.

Let all men stand by!

Forest of blocks.

He's not any of those things. Yelled Anne.

Draw the hard pulls. Yelled sailors.

Get your axes and swords and rifles. Yelled another.

Ready the guns. Said the captain.

No.... screamed Anne.

No. roared Jack.

The children are right. Shouted professor.

He and Henry squeezed through the crowd too. They were

standing behind Jack and Anne, Jack felt a rush of relief.

The professor says we are right. Yelled Anne.

Do not destroy it, captain. Yell the professor. Hall it on board.

On board? Said Jack.

Keep swords and knives in you sheathes! Said the professor. His eyes grimed. So we can study it.

No, no, let him go. Said Jack.

Just let him swim away, be free! Please! Screamed Anne.

Let him go.

But neither the professor nor the captain, seemed to hear Jack and Anne. they were too busy arguing what to do with the giant octopods.

We must kill it. Professor. Said the captain. It could grap the haul and drag the ship down to the bottom.

But science need it alive. Said the professor. At least we need finish our exam on it.

By now the octopods gathered his long arms to around himself as if protection.

Anne burst into tears.

Henry help him. She shed. Do let them kill him or capture him.

Henry looked sad too.

Excuse me, sirs. He shouted. Excuse me, the girl is right. We

should let him go.

But no one listen to Henry either.

Jack,! Cried Anne. she grabbed Jack, tears were streaming down her cheeks. Save him, we have to save him.

What can we do, we try everything. Said Jack.

Anne remembered the it's own work helped him remember. And Jack knew exactly. What to do.

Chapter 9: think think

Where is my backpack? Jack yelled to Anne.

What? Anne said.

My backpack! Said Jack. Don't worry about it now, said Anne, we have to ...the wand, the wand.

Jack interrupted her.

Oh, said Anne. the wand.

We have to find my pack, fast! Said Jack.

Jack and Anne pushed back the sailors to crowding and railing.

They ran across the deck, did you bring it in the rowboat? Yelled Anne.

Yes. No. I don't know. Said Jack, I can't remember.

Think, think! said Anne.

Jack tried to think as he ran around the upper deck of the ship.

There haven't rowboat. What happened the rowboat? I felt sink in the rowboat. I had my backpack in the rowboat.

I remember! Jack shouted, I was holding on to it, when we first came to boat.

Then it's here somewhere. Said Anne. the world room. said Jack.

Hurry! Cried Anne.

Jack and Anne raised down two flats of steps, they looked in the world room, Jack's pack was there.

Henry's lab! Said Anne.

Yes, yes, it's there. Jack cried. I remember now, I left it on the table, I put it down when I looked through microscope. Jack and Anne ran up one flat to Henry's lab. They tried to open the door, but it was locked,

We need Henry. Said Jack.

We don't have time. Said Anne.

We don't have a choice. Said Jack.

Jack and Anne charged back upstairs to the upper deck, the crew was still gathered in the end of the deck, yelling and shrieking about the octopods. Henry was coming toward them,

Henry, help us! Said Anne.

She raised Henry and grabbed him by the arm,, and pulled him stairs.

You have to unlock you lab. We have to get Jack's pack. It's life or death. Hurry! Hurry!

Why? What? Bothered Henry.

We will explain later. Said Jack.

Just hurry. Said Anne.

Henry looked back ford, but he walked quickly and led Jack and Anne down the stairs. Then nearly pushed them across the hall toward his lab. The scientist pulled his key and unlocked the door. Jack and Anne burst into the lab.

Yell! Said Anne.

Jack's pack was on the table, Jack grabbed it and toward open. He pulled out the wand of diandas. The silver speared wand gleamed in the dim light of the room,

What is that? Asked Henry.

We will explain later. Said Anne.

Come on, let's go back up. Said Jack.

Now we don't have time. Cried Anne. use it now, Jack, say something now before they hurt them. Jack held up the wand,

Five words. Said Anne.

I know. Said Jack.

But what five words? This is their only chance.

Hurry! Said Anne.

I am. Said Jack. But we just can say even one time. We must make sure the ship never ever try to hurt them, other like him again.

Jack closed his eyes, he pictured the giant octopods, his umbrella like body, and ling tentacles, the gaze of yellow eyes, the gaze as the curiosity and shininess. Jack thought the sheer wonder of the octopods existence. The giant sea animal was incredibly amazing. It was like a miracle. Jack and wished he and Anne can explain the miracle of the octopods to everyone. But no one would listen to him, unless...

Hurry! Jack! Say the words. Said Anne.

Make them hear the truth! The words had burst into Jack's head.

What? Said Anne.

Make them hear the truth. Said Jack. His eyes still theft tight.

That's my wish. Make all the guys upstairs hear the truth about octopods.

What are you talking about? Said Henry. What's that stick waving.

Jack opened his eyes, he shook his head to Anne, but she didn't see him.

It's a magic wand. Anne said to Henry.

Actually. Said Jack, trying to think something else to say.

Oh, oh, yes I see. Said Henry. He smiled sadly.

You're pretending like children ...

We are children, said Anne, come on, Jack, let's go tell them the truth.

Chapter 10: the heart of the ocean

Jack put his wand back to his pack, then he and Anne charged back to lab with Henry behind them. The three of them came back upstairs, when they stepped out to the top deck, they heard the sailors still shouting and yelling. Jack and Anne raised across the deck, they pushed through the crowd until they got to the railing.

The octopods were still in the net. Bright red and hiding his head in fear. The sailors gathered with weapons some were aiming him and pumps . others stood by with swords and knives, some pointed pistols.

Stop! Cried Anne.

Stand back. the captain yelled at her.

You must brilliant up your life. Begged the professor. I beg you to let me exam it before you slay it, captain. But before the captain could answer, someone held hard plume on the creature, it missed and

landed on the water with a splash .

No! yelled Anne.

Listen to us. Jack yelled and slowed forward.

You have to yell the truth.

He stood up on the bottom of the round ship's railing, so everyone could hear him.

Don't touch him. He shouted. He's not going to hurt you, he deserves to live peacefully in the sea. He's a miracle of nature. But no one was listening to Jack. No one even turned to look at him.

Stop. Hear us¹ said Anne. We speak the truth. Leave him alone.

Remove the children. The captain roared again. Now!

Tommy and Joe grabbed Jack and Anne.

Let him go ! we have to talk to them. Yelled Anne kicking and flailing.

She and Jack broke loose from the sailors,

She is right. We have to hear the truth. Yelled Jack running toward the railing.

He is ok, where we is, he is different from people. But it's a miracle.

Again, no one seemed to hear them.

The magic is no working. Anne cried to Jack.

I know. Said Jack.

He was desperate, no one was hearing the truth,

What was wrong. ?

He and Anne had followed the rules, they had tried to help others, not themselves, they had tried their hardest first and Jack had used only five words.

Look! A sailor shred. Look at the monster.

Jack and anew looked back at the water, the giant octopods had uncovered its head and raised out of the water,

Le...rrrr.....the sound was breathy. And whispery and as if came from the wind. The member of the crew lowed their weapons and stepped back and all.

It, it speaks. Shouted the sailor.

Me....e....

The sound was wild and shrill. As if came from the deep forest.

Go.....

The sound was hollow and haunted. As if came from the ancient gun, or bell, or dorm.

Ho.....me....

The sound was bearably and sad. As if came from the heart of the ocean.

Iam...no.. monster....

The octopods fell back to the water, all the seamen and scientists stared and wondered with terror, then Anne's voice shred the

silence.

Did you hear him? He said: let me go home. I am no monster.

The crew looked at each other and shock,

That what he said, I heard it. One man said. heard it with my own ears.

I heard it too. Said the other.

Me too. Said the other.

It's a sign. Said the sailor. We can't hurt him, or other like him. Said the other.

All eyes turned to the captain, he stood still for a moment, staring down on the giant octopods and the net, the captain looked at the professor, the professor seemed stunt, he opened his mouth, but no words came out . the captain looked at Jack and Anne,

Please hear him. Anne said. he told you the truth.

The captain stared at the octopods, for a long moment, then he raised his hand,

Free him. He said softly.

The sailors slowly pulled down their hard plums, access pistols and rifles, and ropes.

Sir, I request permission to cut the creature from the net. Henry said to captain.

The captain nodded.

Permission granted, Mr. Moseley. Said the captain.

Help me, Henry said to Jack and Anne.

Sure. Said Jack,

We will come to mate. Said Joe.

Joe and Tommy hurried after Jack and Anne, to roll the small boats from the deck. The sailors lowered one of the boats down on the surface of the water. Then Jack, Anne, Joe , Tommy and Henry all climbed down the ladder side by side. Everyone watched from the deck, Joe and Tommy rowed along the side of the ship until they came to the spot to the giant octopods trapped. The two sailors held the bows steady with their oars.

Grab the net. Henry said to Jack and Anne.

Jack reached out and grabbed the corner of the net, Anne help them pull it out of the water. Henry used big knife, to slash through the thick rope strings . even though the rowboat rowed violently, Jack didn't feel sick at all.

Jack Anne and Henry pulled the ton net into the small boat. Jack kept staring at the octopods, he looked back at all of them with his great eyes. His tentacles spread about him like a giant flower. His fat shrill color changed back to grey.

Goodbye, you. Anne said softly . and go home now.

The octopods left two of the tentacles as if to wave goodbye. Then

it slip under the surface of the water and vanished.

Chapter 11: goodbye mates!

Jack looked up, the captain the professor and the crew member were all gazing out of the side silently down the water. Henry gave captain a salute. The captain saluted back. then everyone on board clapped and shouted. Overhead the clouds disappeared, as if the curtain had been pulled away from the sky. Pink red swollws light straight the blue. The cheery died down.

Let us disturb this water slow more. Commanded captain. Unfold the sails, disting up the wowlers,

Henry turned to Jack and Anne,

Were they prepare the ship, shall we return the shore? He asked.

Yes. Please. Said Anne.

Jack just nodded. He was totally exhausted.

As Joe and Tommy started rowing back toward land, the wind shifted and died down to a breeze.

I prodict the fine night. Tonight. Said Henry. Tommy.

As tomorrow too. Said Joe.

The wind should be brisk. I go town and sail. Said Tommy

When they drew close to shore. Tommy and Joe both jumped out of the boat, splashing to the shallows, they pulled the boat onto the beach. Jack and Anne heaped out, Henry climbed out after them.

Thanks. Jack said to the sailors.

Henry walked with Jack and Anne up to the dunes.

Are you sure you will be alright ? he asked. What will you do when night comes .

Don't worry. Said Jack . look at our parents before dark.

Luck you.. Henry said wishfully.

I wish we could back to my own family before dark.

I hope you keep having a good voyage. Said Anne .

And I hope you learn a lot. Said Jack.

Bye.

Wait. Before you go, said Henry, I want to give you something.

Henry reached to his pocket of the waist and took out a beautiful nodule shell.

The real reason I ran to my lab when the storm came is to get this.

he said. I didn't reclude it. But now, I would like to give it to you,

Oh, no. Henry. You love it, you keep it. Said Anne.

I do love it. Said Henry. But I wonder want you two love it. Today you talked to me, no, you talked to all of us, an important lesson, it's

the dark day in the deep sea when we caught anything creatures softer, the professor said we can conquer fear through knowledge, but you told us that fear can wise be conquered through compassion. Even we scientists, must never forget to have compassion for all living creatures. By compassion to little creatures, once lived in the shell. Make me very happy.

Oh, ma'am. Thought Jack.

That's the secret.

Henry held up the gleaming nodule shell, and Anne took it from him.

Thanks, Henry. Anne said.

We promise we'll take good care of it.

Thank you. Said Henry.

He pressed his hand cross his eyes,

Well, I must say goodbye now. enjoy the rest of your vacation.

Henry saluted them, before Jack and Anne could say anything, the scientist turned and walked briskly back to the rowboat.

Let's go , Anne said to Jack. Jack and Anne walked around the dunes, and headed to the sea grass to the rope ladder. When they climbed back to the tree house, they looked out the window, the rowboat was gliding over the shimmering water of the sun lit sea , heading back to the HMS Challenger.

Goodbye, mates! Said Jack.

Our mission. Said Anne, as if she just remember .

She looked at Jack, we didn't discover the secret of happiness.

Yes, we did. Said Jack with a smile. Henry said it actually. The secret of happiness is having compassion for all living creatures.

Compassion ? said Anne.

Yeah. That means having sympathy and love for them. Said Jack.

Oh, sure. Anne said matter flakily. Loving other creatures makes me very happy. I wonder why some people don't get that.

I don't know. Said Jack.

Too bad to have say a mirror. First. I can octopods talking. Said Anne.

I know you mean. Said Jack. The octopods just is the octopods, it's the real miracle. Anne smiled.

And Henry's seashell. The little creature inside. And too. She said. He was a miracle too.

She hold up the shinning shell.

Jack took the shell from her and carefully put it in his backpack, the shell will help us remember the secret of happiness. He said.

I think we always knew it. Said Anne .

Henry just put it in the woods for us . come on let's go.

Anne picked up the Pennsylvania book and turned to the picture to

the frog creek woods.

Let me go home.

She said repeating the streaming sound of the octopods.

Jack smiled he started to tell her to say it right, but before he could,

The tree house started to spin. It span faster and faster. Then everything was still. Absolutely still.

Soft rain drops paddled against the roof of the tree house,

I love been home. Said Anne.

Me too. Said Jack. With a sigh.

Jack and Anne striped on their backpack and pulled on their sneakers, then Jack took out their research book out of his pack and pulled it in the library books,

All I want to do now is going to our warm dry house. And see mom and dad. Said Anne.

Me too. Said Jack. And read my new library books!

And eat dinner. Said Anne.

A good dinner. Said Jack. No steal biscuits and lemon juice.

He slipped on his backpack, and no peace of soup.

Peace of soup? Asked Anne.

But Jack already started down the ladder, and he read a little more , climbing to bed. He continued. Warm dry bed, and warm dry house.

Said Anne following him.

Yeap . said Jack. Stepping on to the web ground.

I guess the octopods want go home too.

Here I wonder what is his name.

Hmm.. said Anne.

She and Jack climbed back on their bikes,

I think his name maybe...

Charles.

That sounds right. Said Jack laughing .

I wonder Charles had an octopods wife. And octopods kids,

I guess he does. Said Anne.

Let's better to get way to hold all the arms.

Jack laughed again.

Yeah, I beg you are right. He said.

And he and Anne took off riding from frog creek woods . the rain fell harder, but it didn't matter. They were having home.

The end