

CHAPTER 1

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN, IN MY EARLY TWENTIES, I FELL in love with a girl named Gladys Hungerton. Gladys was the most beautiful girl I had ever seen – she had dark hair, large brown eyes, and delicate ivory skin. Unfortunately, Gladys was not in love with me; though we spent many hours together talking and laughing, she regarded me as a friend and nothing more. Despite this, I made the decision to propose to Gladys. I knew there was a chance she would reject my proposal, but I had to try. And so, one cold October evening, I visited Gladys at her house and asked her to marry me.

‘Oh, Edward,’ said Gladys after a long pause, ‘we have such a beautiful friendship, why can’t we simply remain friends?’

‘Because I love you, Gladys!’ I exclaimed. ‘I want to spend the rest of my life with you!’

Gladys gave me a look of pity. ‘But I don’t love you, Edward, and I have never loved you.’

‘Why can’t you love me, Gladys?’ I cried. ‘Is it my appearance?’

Gladys squeezed my hand gently. ‘No, of course not,’ she said.

‘Is it my character?’ I asked. ‘Tell me what you want me to change!’

Gladys sighed. ‘Edward, let me explain to you what kind of man I want: I want a man who has no fear of death; a man who has travelled the world and who has had many exciting adventures. I want to marry a man who’s brave, heroic and famous!’

‘All right,’ I said. ‘If you want a brave and heroic man, I will do something that will make you proud.’

Gladys laughed at my enthusiasm. ‘What are you going to do?’ she asked.

‘I don’t know,’ I replied. ‘But if I do something great, will you marry me then?’

‘We’ll see,’ said Gladys with a smile. ‘Now, you’re working the night shift at the paper and you’re running late.’

I said goodnight to Gladys and walked briskly to the offices of the *Daily Gazette*, where I worked as a journalist. When I arrived, I immediately made my way to the News Editor’s office.



'Good evening, Mr McArdle,' I said, knocking on the door.

'Hello, Mr Malone,' replied McArdle. 'I must say, I really enjoyed your latest article; you've done some excellent work for us.'

'Why, thank you,' I said.

'What did you want to see me about?'

'I'd like you to send me on a mission for the paper.'

'What sort of mission did you have in mind, Mr Malone?'

'An adventure,' I replied. 'A dangerous adventure!'

McArdle raised an eyebrow. 'You seem very eager to lose your life,' he said.

'I need to do something heroic,' I explained, 'My future depends on it.'

McArdle looked at me curiously. 'I'm afraid we only send very experienced journalists on important missions,' he said. 'Wait a minute, I have an idea – would you be interested in interviewing Professor George Challenger?'

'Professor Challenger?' I repeated. 'The famous zoologist? Didn't he punch a journalist from *The Telegraph* the other day?'

McArdle nodded. 'Two years ago, Professor Challenger went on an expedition to South America. When he came back last year, he told everyone that he'd seen dinosaurs and other strange beasts. Most people think he's lying about what he saw. The journalist from *The Telegraph* called him a liar too – that's why he punched him. After that encounter, Challenger stopped doing interviews. Perhaps you can convince him to do one last interview; I'm sure our readers would be interested to find out more about his adventures.'

McArdle handed me a thick file. 'Here's some information on the professor; you might need it.'

I took the file and looked through the notes. 'Do you think he's telling the truth?' I asked.

McArdle shook his head. 'I doubt it very much,' he said.

'All right,' I said. 'I'll pay professor Challenger a visit.'

I returned to my office and wrote a letter to the Professor asking him to meet me the following Wednesday. Then, I spent the rest of my shift reading through McArdle's notes. I had no idea then that my interview with Professor Challenger was about to change my life forever.



CHAPTER 1

Reading Comprehension

1 Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Edward visit Gladys one cold October evening?

2. What kind of man does Gladys want to marry?

3. Where does Edward go when he leaves Gladys' home?

4. Who does Mr McArdle suggest that Edward interview?

5. Why did Professor Challenger punch a journalist from *The Telegraph*?

6. When does Edward want to meet the professor?

2 Read the sentences and decide if they are True or False. Write T or F in the boxes.

1. Gladys just wanted to stay friends with Edward. ☐
2. Mr McArdle wanted to send Mr Malone on a mission. ☐
3. Edward works for *The Telegraph*. ☐
4. Professor Challenger went on an expedition to North America. ☐
5. Many people think that the professor is a liar. ☐
6. Edward spent the rest of the night reading about Professor Challenger. ☐

Vocabulary

3 Complete the following sentences using the words in the box.

information change immediately proud latest
explain knocked

1. Last night Laura spent many hours looking for _____ about dinosaurs for her school project.
2. Susan is very _____ of her sons; they are both doing very well at school and want to become doctors.

3. Our new maths teacher is very good and can _____ difficult maths problems very well to us.
4. The children came home from school and _____ went to wash their hands for lunch.
5. She _____ on the door and then waited a few moments before she entered the office.
6. My father reads the _____ news in the newspaper every morning.
7. I need to go to the shoe shop on Saturday and _____ these shoes, because they are too small.

4 Match the two columns to make expressions.

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| 1. pay | a. my life |
| 2. lose | b. the truth |
| 3. tell | c. an eyebrow |
| 4. shake | d. someone a visit |
| 5. raise | e. in mind |
| 6. have | f. my head |

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

1. Do you think that it was a good idea for Gladys to ask Edward to change? Do you think that Edward will change? Why / Why not?
2. Edward works for a newspaper. Do you think that he has an easy job? Would you like to do this kind of job? Why / Why not?
3. Do you think it is a good idea for Edward to go on a dangerous adventure? Where do you think he will go? What kind of adventures would you like to go on?
4. Professor Challenger is a zoologist. What do zoologists do? What qualities would a good zoologist need? Would you like to become one?
5. Do you think that the professor will agree to meet Edward? What do you think Edward will ask him if they meet? What questions would you ask Professor Challenger if you were interviewing him?

6 Imagine you are Edward. Write a short letter to Professor Challenger. Tell him who you are and ask him politely to meet with you next Wednesday. (100-120 words)

CHAPTER 2

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, I ARRIVED AT MY OFFICE AND found a letter from Professor Challenger on my desk. He had agreed to be interviewed at his house at ten o'clock. I quickly gathered my notes and took a cab to the professor's house in Enmore Park. When I arrived, I knocked on the door and the professor's butler answered it.

'Do you have an appointment?' he asked.

'I have a letter,' I said, as I handed it to him.

The butler nodded and showed me in. I followed him to the end of a passage; he tapped lightly on a door and I heard the professor shout from inside. The butler pushed open the door and there was Professor Challenger, sitting behind a large table covered with books, maps and diagrams. His appearance made me gasp: he had a red face and a black beard, and his blue-grey eyes were framed by thick black eyebrows. He was a large man with broad shoulders and a wide chest, and his enormous hands were covered in long black hairs.

'Well?' he said. 'What is it?'

I cleared my throat nervously. 'Good morning, Professor Challenger, I'm Edward Malone from the *Daily Gazette*.'

Challenger nodded. 'Yes, yes... Sit down.'

I did as I was told. 'Thank you for agreeing to see me today,' I said.

Challenger put on his spectacles. 'I presume you want to talk about my trip to South America?'

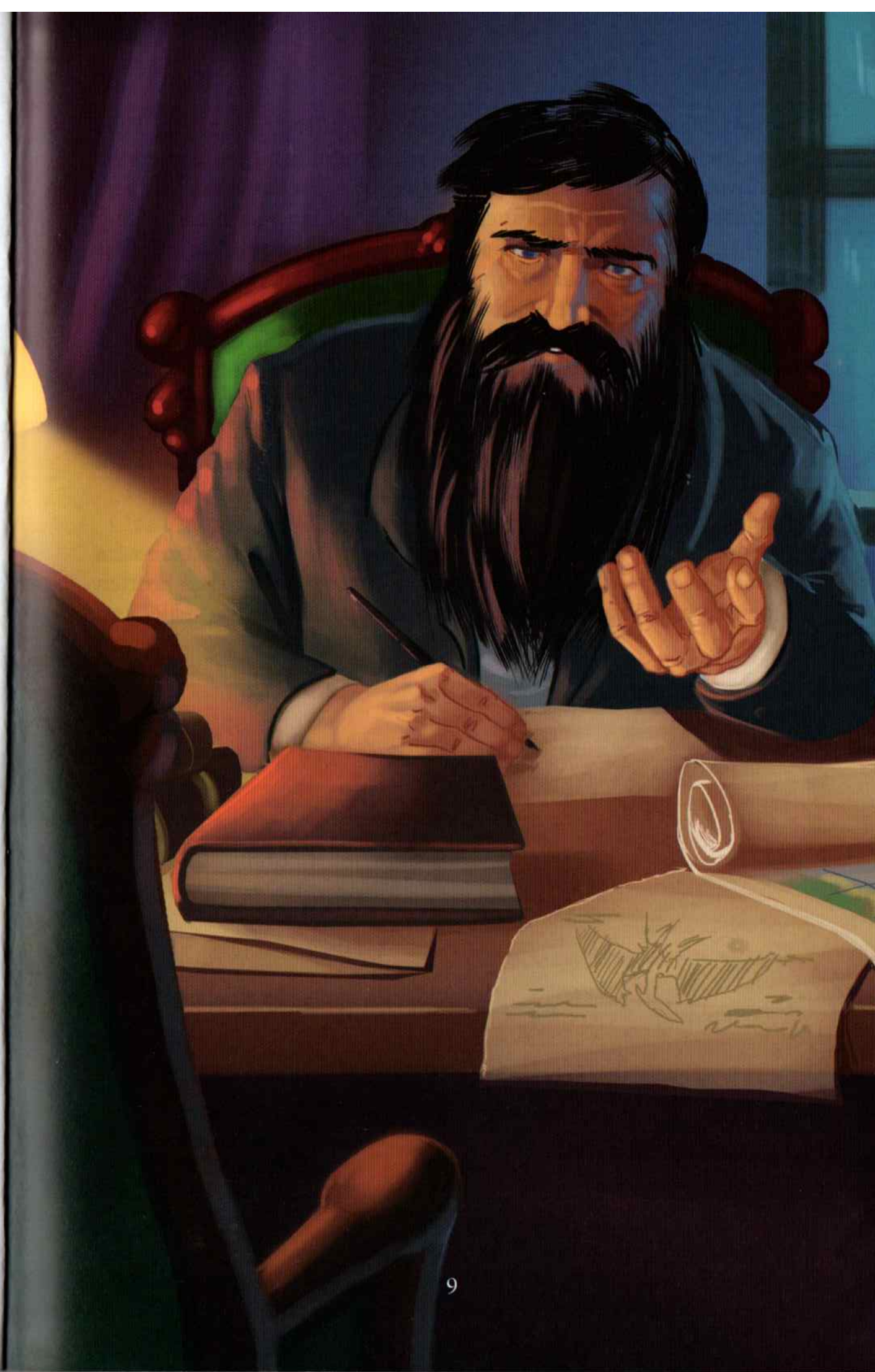
I nodded.

'First, let me say this: the only reason I agreed to do this interview is because I like your newspaper. If you dare call me a liar, I'll punch you like I did the other fellow – am I making myself clear?'

I nodded. 'Yes, sir.'

I removed a notepad and a pencil from my pocket, and began my interview with Professor Challenger. 'Why did you travel to South America?' I asked.

'I went to South America to study the animals of the Amazon. After many months of research, I made my way back down the river, and spent a night at a small Indian village inhabited by Cucama



“The man’s knapsack was lying on the bed and I opened it and looked inside. There was a name written on the tab: Maple White, Lake Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. The knapsack contained pictures of a river, chalk, paint, paintbrushes, a bone, a gun and a few cartridges. The bag also contained this...” Professor Challenger removed a sketchbook from his desk drawer and placed it on the table.

I opened the sketchbook: on the first page was a picture of a fat man in a green jacket – the name 'Jimmy Colver' was written underneath it. The book contained drawings of Indians, turtles and

Challenger shook his head. 'This bone belongs to a dinosaur.'



'I'm afraid I'm going to need more proof, Professor,' I said.

'All right,' said Challenger, 'then I'll continue with my story. Once I'd seen Maple White's dinosaur sketch, I decided to explore the area further. I asked two of the Indians to guide me to the red cliffs that Maple White had drawn in his book. They were reluctant at first; the Indians believe that evil spirits called *Curupuri* haunt the cliffs, but I persuaded them to help me. After a long and difficult journey up the river and through the forest, we finally arrived at the red cliffs.'

Challenger removed a photograph from his desk drawer and placed it on the desk. The photograph was badly damaged, but I could still see the outline of the red cliffs.

'Unfortunately, our boat overturned on the return journey, and my camera and film were ruined so I don't have much proof of what I saw,' he explained. 'I only have a couple of damaged photos, but everyone thinks they're fake.'

Challenger showed me another photo, this one of a strange bird in an enormous tree.

'What is that?' I asked. 'A bird?'

The professor shook his head. 'No, it isn't a bird. I shot it so that I would have proof of my experiences.'

'You have it here then?' I asked.

'I had it,' said Challenger. 'Unfortunately it was lost in the same boat accident that ruined my photos... All I have left is part of its wing...'

Challenger reached into a leather bag and pulled out the upper part of what looked like the wing of a large bat.

'That's a bat wing!' I exclaimed.

The professor looked at me squarely. 'This wing belongs to a pterodactyl, a flying reptile of the Jurassic period.'

Challenger opened a book and showed me an illustration of a pterodactyl. The wing looked exactly like the wing that was on the desk.

Suddenly, there was no doubt in my mind that the professor was telling the truth about what he'd seen. I told him that I believed him and he leaned back in his chair and smiled warmly.

'But where did Maple White see the dinosaur?' I asked.

'I think he managed to climb to the top of the cliffs... I didn't



have time to do that,' said Challenger.

'But Professor, this wing is proof of your encounter – why won't anyone believe you?' I asked.

Challenger shrugged. 'I don't know,' he said. 'People are either stupid or jealous. Tonight, I'm going to the Zoological Institute to give a talk about my experiences in the Amazon. The talk starts at eight o'clock – you're very welcome to come.'

'Thank you, Professor,' I said. 'I will.'

With that, the interview ended and I quickly made my way back to the office.



CHAPTER 3

WHEN I RETURNED TO THE OFFICE, McARDLE WAS AT HIS desk. 'Well,' he asked, 'how did it go?'
'Better than I expected,' I said.

McArdle leaned back in his chair. 'So, do you believe the professor's nonsense about discovering dinosaurs?'

'Actually,' I said, 'I think Challenger might be telling the truth about what he saw in South America.'

McArdle's jaw dropped open. 'You can't be serious?' he said. 'Does he have any proof?'

I shook my head. 'His camera and most of his films were destroyed, so he doesn't have much proof. He did, however, show me a wing which he says belonged to a pterodactyl.'

McArdle twisted his moustache thoughtfully. 'Malone, people don't make enormous discoveries and then lose the evidence. I'm convinced he's lying.'

'Well, the professor is going to discuss his findings at the Zoological Institute tonight,' I said. 'He's invited me to go. Perhaps you should come too?'

'All right,' said McArdle, 'I will.'



CHAPTER 2

Reading Comprehension

1 Match the two halves of the sentences.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Professor Challenger was a large man | a. on the last page of Maple White's sketchbook. |
| 2. The professor went to South America | b. at the village in a state of exhaustion. |
| 3. Maple White had arrived | c. give a talk at eight o'clock that night. |
| 4. A sketch of a very strange animal was | d. the professor is telling the truth. |
| 5. The professor showed Edward | e. the wing of a flying reptile of the Jurassic period. |
| 6. Edward believes that | f. with enormous hands which were covered in long black hairs. |
| 7. Professor Challenger was going to | g. to study the animals of the Amazon. |

2 Complete the following sentences with the names in the box.

Professor Challenger	Edward Malone	Maple White
The Indians	The Indian chief	The professor's butler

- _____ found a letter from the professor on his desk.
- _____ took the professor to a hut to help a sick man.
- _____ opened the door at the professor's house to let Edward in.
- _____ was dressed in rags when he died.
- _____ guided the professor to the red cliffs.
- _____ showed Edward a photo of a strange bird in an enormous tree.

Vocabulary

3 Choose a, b or c to complete the sentences below.

- Her new shoes were quite expensive, but they were made of the finest _____.
a. chalk b. leather c. paint
- The zoologists are _____ the birds' eggs that they found in the forest.
a. inhabiting b. exploring c. examining
- You can borrow my paintbrushes, but please do not _____ them.
a. damage b. identify c. persuade

- I _____ with you, Mum; I must study harder next year if I want to get into medical school.

a. gather b. continue c. agree

- I really love chocolate cake, but the piece she gave me was _____; I couldn't eat it all.

a. wide b. enormous c. broad

- My father is a big man with broad _____ and large hands and feet.

a. chest b. collarbones c. shoulders

- I found this mobile phone in the gym. Does it _____ to you, Shelly?

a. belong b. cover c. remove

4 Find words in Chapter 2 which mean the same as:

- Moved the head up and down as a sign of understanding _____ (page 8)
- Another word for glasses _____ (page 8)
- Pieces of old and/or torn cloth _____ (page 10)
- A bag that you carry on your back _____ (page 10)
- A person _____ (page 11)
- Evidence to support the truth of a statement, theory, etc. _____ (page 12)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- How do you think Edward felt on his way to the professor's house? How would you feel? Why?
- What do you think about Professor Challenger's appearance? Would you be as surprised as Edward if you met him?
- Do you think that Maple White really did see a dinosaur? Do you think that it is possible for dinosaurs to exist? Why / Why not?
- The Indians believed there were evil spirits haunting the cliffs. Do you believe in the supernatural? Why / Why not?
- Why do you think that people did not believe Professor Challenger? Are you surprised that Edward believed him? What do you think about the proof he has to support his claim? Is it enough or not?

6 Imagine that you are Edward and you are keeping a diary. Write a page about your interview with Professor Challenger. (100-120 words)

have time to do that,' said Challenger.

'But Professor, this wing is proof of your encounter – why won't anyone believe you?' I asked.

Challenger shrugged. 'I don't know,' he said. 'People are either stupid or jealous. Tonight, I'm going to the Zoological Institute to give a talk about my experiences in the Amazon. The talk starts at eight o'clock – you're very welcome to come.'

'Thank you, Professor,' I said. 'I will.'

With that, the interview ended and I quickly made my way back to the office.



CHAPTER 3

WHEN I RETURNED TO THE OFFICE, McARDLE WAS AT HIS desk. 'Well,' he asked, 'how did it go?'
'Better than I expected,' I said.

McArdle leaned back in his chair. 'So, do you believe the professor's nonsense about discovering dinosaurs?'

'Actually,' I said, 'I think Challenger might be telling the truth about what he saw in South America.'

McArdle's jaw dropped open. 'You can't be serious?' he said. 'Does he have any proof?'

I shook my head. 'His camera and most of his films were destroyed, so he doesn't have much proof. He did, however, show me a wing which he says belonged to a pterodactyl.'

McArdle twisted his moustache thoughtfully. 'Malone, people don't make enormous discoveries and then lose the evidence. I'm convinced he's lying.'

'Well, the professor is going to discuss his findings at the Zoological Institute tonight,' I said. 'He's invited me to go. Perhaps you should come too?'

'All right,' said McArdle, 'I will.'

When we arrived at the Zoological Institute Hall, we found it full of professors, medical students and members of the public who were eager to hear Professor Challenger speak.

Shortly before eight o'clock, the chairman of the Zoological Institute, the Duke of Durham, introduced Professor Challenger and invited him to the stage.

'Ladies and gentlemen,' said Challenger, 'I know you have come here today to hear about my journey to South America, so I will get right to the point: during my travels through the Amazon, I discovered a forgotten world where dinosaurs still exist.'

'Liar!' shouted someone from the audience.

'Prove it!' shouted another.

Challenger's face turned red. 'Liar?' he repeated. 'You dare call me that?'

Some members of the audience began to boo.

'All right then,' said the Professor, 'there's only one way I can prove to you that I am telling the truth: someone in this room must travel to South America with me to confirm my story.'

The audience was silent. Mr Summerlee, a professor of anatomy, stood up. 'I will volunteer for this mission,' he said.

The audience gasped.

'Any other volunteers?' asked Professor Challenger.

I immediately thought of Gladys – this was exactly the kind of adventure she would want me to go on. Without any hesitation, I jumped to my feet. 'My name is Edward Malone and I am a journalist at the *Daily Gazette* – I, too, will volunteer to go on this trip.'

Then another man stood up. 'My name is Lord John Roxton,' he said. 'I have already travelled to the Amazon and I know the area well – I also want to go on this trip.'

The chairman rose to his feet. 'Thank you, gentlemen,' he said. He turned to Professor Challenger: 'Professor, these three men will go with you to South America to investigate your claims.'

Professor Challenger nodded, the audience cheered and the meeting ended.

'It was very brave of you to volunteer for the mission,' said McArdle, as we stepped out into the cool night air. 'I look forward to reading your article when you return.'



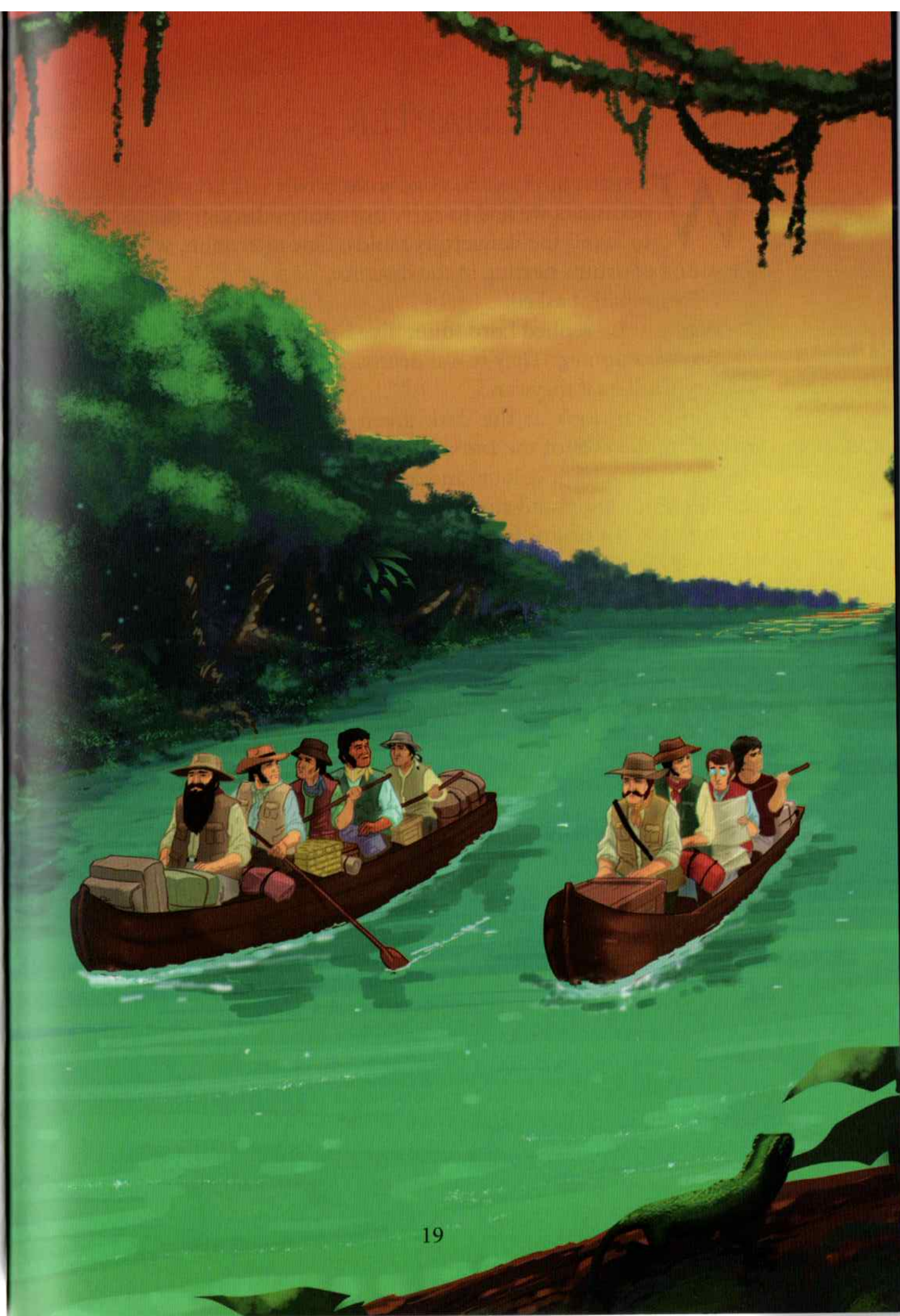
Suddenly, I was filled with a feeling of dread. 'I hope I haven't made a terrible mistake,' I muttered to myself.

On a wet and foggy morning, a few weeks later, Professor Summerlee, Lord Roxton and I boarded a ship to South America. We had made arrangements to meet Professor Challenger at a town on the Amazon river called Manaus. I won't bore you with details of our journey, except to say that we arrived safely in Manaus, and met with Professor Challenger at a small hotel in town.

This is probably a good time to tell you a bit more about my travelling companions: Professor Summerlee was tall and thin, in his mid-sixties with the energy of a man half his age. Lord John Roxton was in his forties; he too was a thin man with blue eyes and a gentle voice. Lord John was a famous hunter and explorer, and had travelled to South America many times. He was also fluent in the local languages.

Professor Challenger had employed some men to help us travel through the Amazon: the party included a large African man named Zambo; two local guides named Gomez and Manuel, and three Mojo Indians from Bolivia who were expert fishermen. Their names were Mojo, José and Fernando.

Lord John hired a steamship, the *Esmeralda*, to take us down the river. We travelled for six days, and when the river began to narrow, we filled two canoes with all our possessions and continued our journey into the unknown.



CHAPTER 3

Reading Comprehension

1 Put the following events in the order which they happened. Write 1-6 in the boxes.

- The professor asked the audience for volunteers to go on a mission to South America. ☐
- Members of the audience began to boo Professor Challenger. ☐
- Professor Summerlee, Lord Roxton and Edward Malone arrived in Manaus. ☐
- Edward and Mr McArdle went to the Zoological Institute Hall. ☐
- The men set off on their voyage on a steamship called the *Esmeralda*. ☐
- Edward Malone volunteered to go on the trip. ☐

2 Read the sentences and decide if they are True or False. Write T or F in the boxes.

- McArdle was surprised when Edward said he believed Professor Challenger's story. ☐
- Professor Challenger introduced the Duke of Durham and asked him to come on stage. ☐
- Challenger became angry when the chairman of the institute called him a liar. ☐
- Edward Malone was thinking about Gladys when he volunteered to go on the mission. ☐
- Lord John had often travelled to South America, and knew many of the languages spoken in the area. ☐
- A total of eight men boarded The *Esmeralda* on the first stage of their journey down the river. ☐

Vocabulary

3 Choose the correct word.

- Tom was very ill yesterday so I don't **expect** / **exist** that he will be at school today.

- Barbara looked at me **thoughtfully** / **safely** before answering my question.
- The **public** / **chairman** decided to stop the meeting because everybody in the room was shouting instead of talking.
- Please take a seat, Mr Summers, and the doctor will be with you **suddenly** / **shortly**.
- The scientist is convinced that his team will **prove** / **include** their claims about the existence of life on other planets.
- Would you please **volunteer** / **confirm** that my table has been booked for eight o'clock this evening?

4 Match the two columns to make expressions.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. get to | a. the truth |
| 2. jump | b. my head |
| 3. tell | c. eager to |
| 4. shake | d. the point |
| 5. be | e. to my feet |

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- Do you think that Edward was right to believe Challenger? Would you? Why / Why not?
- Many people attended the professor's talk at the Zoological Institute. Have you ever been to a talk or a scientific presentation? Would you like to? What would you like to learn more about?
- Edward soon begins to wonder if he has made a mistake in volunteering for the mission. Do you think that he is being brave or foolish? Would you have volunteered if you were Edward? Why / Why not?
- The men began their journey into the unknown by steamship. Do you think it will be easy or difficult? Which means of transport do you prefer, and why?

6 Imagine that you are Edward. Write a letter to Gladys describing your voyage to South America, including information about your travelling companions. (100-120 words)

CHAPTER 4

WE SPENT SEVERAL DAYS ROWING DOWN THE RIVER; ON TWO occasions we had to carry our canoes through the woods to avoid the dangerous rapids. One afternoon, we heard the sound of drums beating in the distance.

'What is that?' I asked.

'War drums,' replied Lord John. 'I've heard them before.'

'Yes,' said Gomez. 'They're war drums... The Indians are watching us; they'll kill us if they can.'

I turned to look at the dark green trees that surrounded us, imagining the eyes of the Indians upon us. The river was as still as glass and emerald in colour, and as we moved slowly along it, our paddles sent a thousand ripples across its shiny surface. Eventually, the sound of the drums faded away.

'No Indians here,' said Gomez. 'They're afraid of *Curupuri*.'

'That's the evil spirit of the cliffs,' explained Lord John.

I nodded, remembering my first conversation with Professor Challenger.

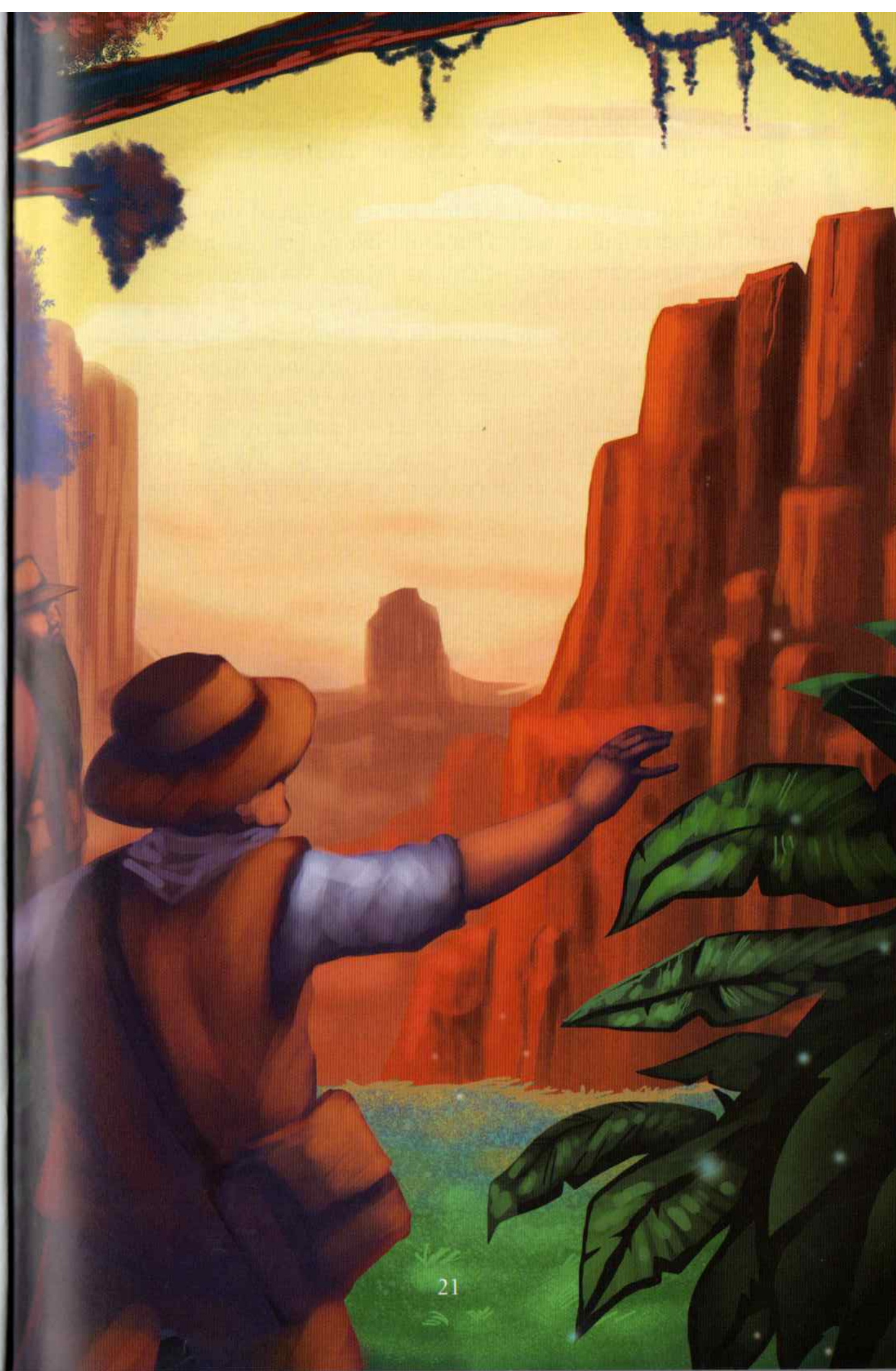
In time, the river became too shallow to navigate, so we hid our canoes in the bushes and continued the rest of our journey on foot. We filled our backpacks with guns, ammunition, blankets, food and other provisions, and made our way north. Two days later, we arrived at an open plain – the red cliffs were clearly visible in the distance.

'There are the cliffs!' I said.

Professor Challenger smiled and said nothing. As we approached the cliffs, we saw trees and bushes on the summit, but no other signs of life. Exhausted from our journey, we set up camp at the foot of the cliffs, and went to sleep.

The next morning, we discussed how we were going to climb to the plateau at the top of the cliffs. 'This side is too steep to climb,' said Challenger, peering up at the cliffs. 'We need to walk around the cliffs and look for a way up.'

The ground at the foot of the cliffs was rocky and broken, and the going was slow and difficult. At around midday, we made a surprising discovery: an old, abandoned campsite. We found empty meat tins and bottles and a newspaper, the *Chicago Democrat*.



Professor Challenger's eyes lit up when he saw the newspaper. 'This must be Maple White's campsite! This proves we're on the right track!'

Lord John glanced at a nearby tree and noticed that a piece of wood had been nailed to it. 'That looks like a signpost,' he said.

Challenger examined the signpost. 'Maple White knew someone would come looking for this place, so he left a clue.'

Further down from the campsite, we came across a thick patch of bamboo. The stems were twenty feet high and extremely sharp, and looked very much like spears. As we passed along the edge of the bamboo, I noticed a white object inside it. I poked my head between the stems and, to my horror, saw a human skull. The skeleton was also there, lying a short distance away. I gasped and my companions crowded around me curiously.

'Let's clear away the bamboo and get a closer look,' said Summerlee.

The skeleton's clothes were torn, but its boots were still on its bony feet. A pen and a gold watch lay near the bones. The initials 'JC' were engraved on the watch.

'Who can he be?' asked Lord John. 'Poor man, every bone in his body seems to be broken.'

'I think I know who he is,' said Challenger. 'Maple White was travelling with an American named James Colver - 'JC'.'

'He either fell into this bamboo patch or someone threw him off the edge of the cliff,' said Lord John. 'How else could all his bones have been broken?'

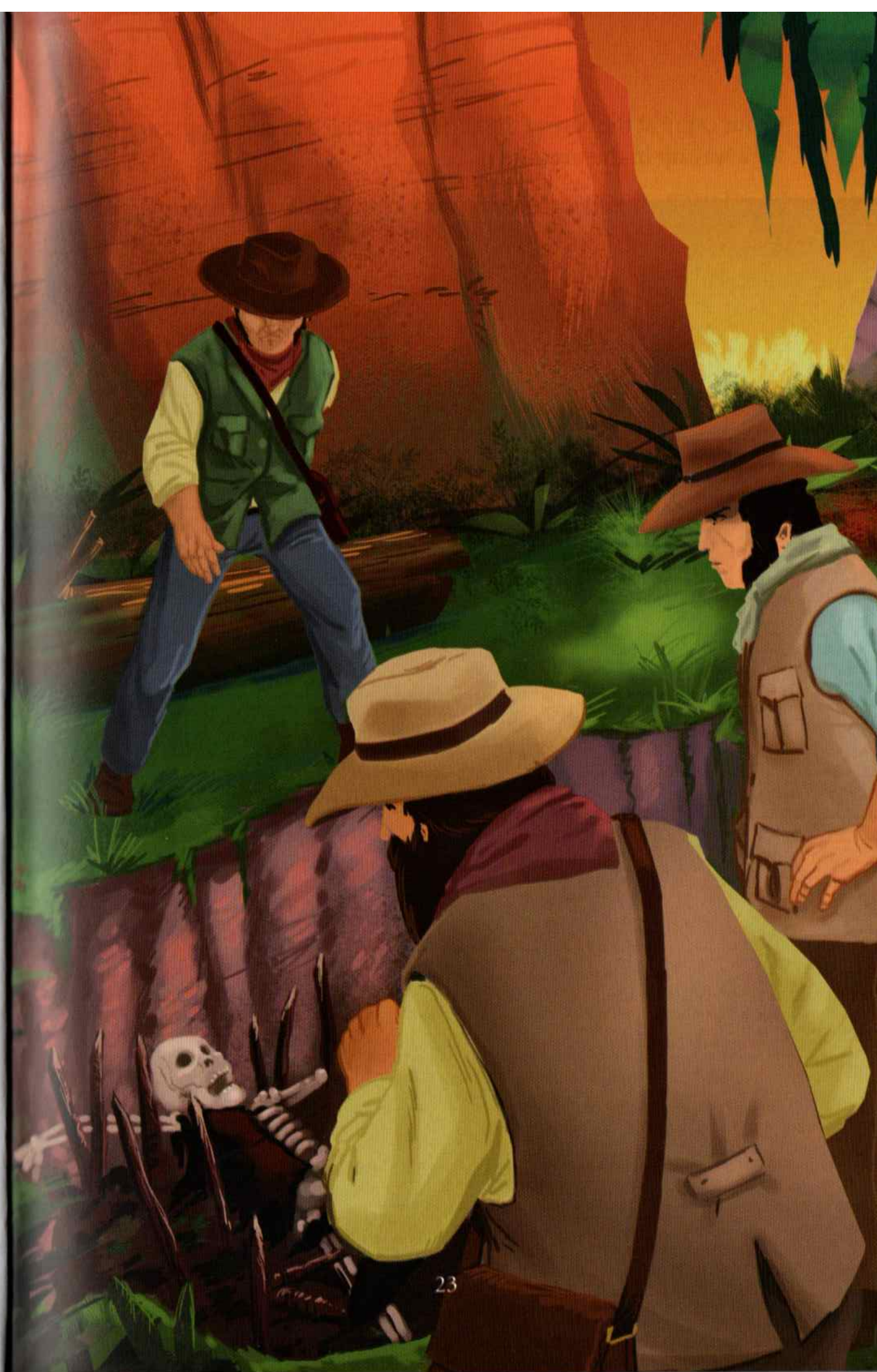
There was no doubt the man had fallen from above. But was it an accident or not?

We continued our journey in silence. An hour later, we found a chalk-drawn arrow on a rock, pointing westward.

'Another clue from Maple White,' said Challenger.

Five miles later, there was another chalk-drawn arrow which led to a cave. We entered the cave and found a very long and steep tunnel. 'Maple White must have used this tunnel to climb to the top of the cliffs!' said Professor Challenger.

We made our way through the tunnel, but, to our dismay, discovered that part of it had been blocked by a rock fall. We returned



to our camp at the base of the cliff, and decided to continue searching for a way up in the morning.



CHAPTER 5

IT TOOK US SIX DAYS TO WALK AROUND THE CLIFFS. FINALLY, WE had to admit that there was no way to climb to the top. That night, we gathered around the campfire gloomily and ate our dinner in silence. Challenger spent most of the evening with his head in his hands; he seemed to be in deep thought.

The following morning, the professor was in much better spirits. 'Gentlemen!' he cried, once we'd all woken up, 'I have found a way up!'

'You have?' said Lord John.

'I think so,' said the professor.

He pointed to a large column of rock to the right of where we stood – the rock was separated from the cliffs by a huge chasm. 'All we have to do is climb to the top of this rock, then we'll cross the chasm and get to the plateau.'

'How will we cross the chasm?' I asked.

'I'll tell you how when we've reached the top,' said Challenger.

With our ropes, clamps and other devices, we began the difficult climb to the top of the rock. An hour later, we'd reached the summit. The view from the top was spectacular; we could see the entire plain as well as a line of green forest stretching into the distance.

I was still admiring the view when Professor Challenger's heavy hand fell upon my shoulder.

'This way,' he said.

I followed him to an enormous beech tree.

'By George!' cried Lord John. 'We're going to make a bridge!'

'Exactly,' said Challenger. 'The tree is at least sixty feet high; if it falls the right way, we can easily cross the chasm.'

Challenger handed me an axe. 'Now my young friend, please cut down the tree,' he said.

After an hour of chopping, we heard a loud crack – the tree swayed to one side, then crashed to the ground. The trunk rolled to the edge of the platform, and there was our bridge to the unknown.

'Now I will cross the bridge first,' said Challenger.

Lord John looked alarmed. 'Wait,' he said, 'I can't allow that; there could be cannibals waiting for us on the other side. Malone and I will go down, collect the rifles and some provisions and bring

CHAPTER 4

Reading Comprehension

1 Answer the following questions.

- Why did the men have to carry their canoes along the river twice?

- What did Edward think when he was looking at the dark green trees?

- Why had Maple White nailed a piece of wood to a tree?

- What did Edward see in between the stems of the bamboo?

- Who was James Colver?

- Why couldn't the men go through the tunnel?

2 Match the two halves of the sentences.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. One afternoon, the men heard | a. with guns, ammunition, blankets and food. |
| 2. The men filled their backpacks | b. that a piece of wood was nailed to it. |
| 3. Lord John looked at a tree and saw | c. by his pen and watch. |
| 4. Professor Challenger realised that | d. the sound of drums beating in the distance. |
| 5. James Colver was recognised | e. Maple White had left clues. |

Vocabulary

3 Choose a, b or c to complete the sentences below.

- I can't find my house keys anywhere, please help me _____ for them.
a. peer b. search c. glance
- I'm telling you I didn't eat that last piece of chocolate cake, and you can't _____ that I did.
a. avoid b. seem c. prove

- As I was swimming, I noticed some brightly coloured fish swimming just below the _____ of the water.
a. surface b. ground c. edge
- The water at our local swimming pool is far too _____ to dive into.
a. steep b. shallow c. rocky
- He _____ the classroom, apologised to his teacher for being late, and sat down quietly to begin his test.
a. entered b. navigated c. poked
- That man over there _____ my old maths teacher – do you think that I should go and speak to him?
a. comes across b. looks like c. clears away

4 Find words in Chapter 4 which mean the same as:

- bright green in colour _____ (page 20)
- bullets for guns and weapons _____ (page 20)
- someone or something that can be seen _____ (page 20)
- long, pointy weapons made of wood and/or metal _____ (page 22)
- the bone of a person's or animal's head _____ (page 22)
- a feeling of unhappiness or uneasiness _____ (page 22)

Follow-up activities

5 Discuss.

- How do you think the men felt when they heard the drum beating? How would you feel in their place?
- Why do you think that Maple White nailed the piece of wood to the tree?
- How do you think Edward felt when he discovered the skeleton? What would be your thoughts at such a sight?
- What do you think happened to James Colver?
- Have you ever walked through a tunnel or a cave? Do you consider the idea exciting or frightening?

6 Imagine that you are Edward. Write a letter to your editor, Mr McArdle about your adventures and your thoughts so far. (100-120 words)