

running down their cheeks.

"Well done, Rosie," said Allnutt. "You did a fine job."

Later, Allnutt went ashore to collect wood, while Rose pumped water out of the boat. The gorge was cool and pleasant; there were no insects to bother them, and no danger of being discovered by the Germans. When Allnutt returned, the pair ate their dinner and drank several cups of tea. They talked and laughed for hours – the difficulties they had faced had clearly made their friendship stronger and it seemed that they both enjoyed each other's company very much. After dinner, Rose and Allnutt fell asleep under the starry African sky.



## CHAPTER 5

**T**HE JOURNEY DOWN THE ULANGA RIVER CONTINUED THE following morning. Rose had learnt a great deal in the short time she had spent on the river, and was now able to navigate the boat through the rapids with surprising ease. In fact, Rose was beginning to enjoy the challenge of steering the little steamboat through some of the most dangerous waters in Africa.

When the river started to widen, Rose and Allnutt tied the boat in a calm stretch of water. Once again, Allnutt went ashore to collect wood, leaving Rose to admire the scenery for the first time since their journey had begun. The water was a clear, green colour; the riverbank was covered in blue and yellow flowers, and a rainbow danced in a distant waterfall. Rose smiled. She was truly content and extremely proud of how far she and Allnutt had come.

An hour or so later, Rose saw Allnutt coming towards the boat. He was limping.

"Would you mind looking at my foot, please Rose?" he asked as he climbed into the boat. "I think there's a splinter in it."

"Of course I wouldn't mind," said Rose.

Allnutt sat down and Rose examined his foot. She then removed the splinter carefully with her fingernails.

"It's out now," said Rose.

"Thank you," said Allnutt.



Rose smiled at the mechanic. He seemed so helpless sometimes, she thought, like a child who needed to be protected. Rose was starting to fall in love with Allnutt, although she was unaware of it at that moment.

The pair spent the rest of the evening chatting and drinking tea, before finally falling asleep.

\*\*\*\*\*

After breakfast the next morning, Rose and Allnutt set sail down the river. Their journey was peaceful until they reached rough waters. With waves crashing all around them, Rose and Allnutt realised, too late, that they had entered a very narrow channel which was filled with obstructions. Suddenly, Rose heard a loud noise and the African Queen shook violently. Rose panicked – she felt that something was very wrong and she frantically searched for a place to stop. Allnutt shouted something at her, but she couldn't hear him. Finally, Rose found a suitable place to stop the boat and Allnutt shut down the engine.

"What was that noise?" asked Rose nervously. Her cheeks were red and she was out of breath.

"I don't know," replied Allnutt. "But it seems there's something wrong with the propeller. I'll have to go down and take a look."

Allnutt jumped into the water and came up a few minutes later.

"Did you see anything?" asked Rose anxiously.

Allnutt climbed back into the boat with a sigh. "Yes. The propeller is damaged. One of the blades has broken off. We must have hit a rock."

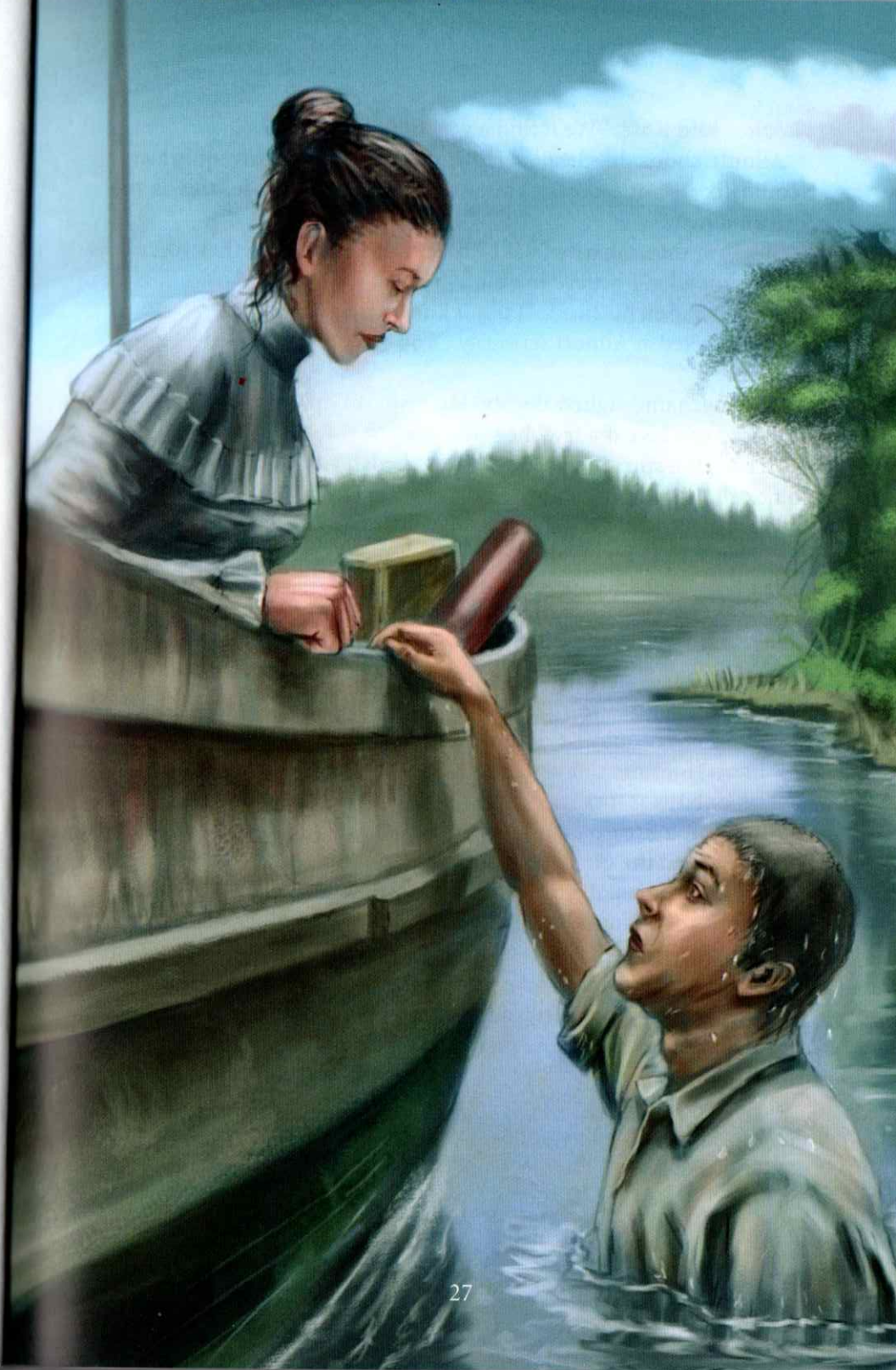
"Then we'll just have to fix it," said Rose.

"Fix it?" repeated Allnutt. "How on earth do you expect me to fix it out here? It's impossible. No, Rose, this is it. Our journey down the river is over."

But Rose, who was the more optimistic of the two, wouldn't let Allnutt give up so easily.

"It's not the end yet," she said. "All you have to do is make another blade with some scrap metal. There's plenty of it on board."

"And then what?" asked Allnutt. "Tie it on with string?"





"No," said Rose. "We'll find a way to fix it."

Allnutt shook his head. "How? If I had the right equipment, I could fix it, but I don't. This isn't a workshop, Rose, this is the African jungle!"

"I know, that, Charlie," said Rose. "But I also know that you can fix the propeller. I believe in you."

Allnutt shook his head. "I don't know..." he mumbled.

Rose looked at Allnutt seriously. "You can do this, Charlie, I know you can."

The mechanic sighed deeply. He just couldn't say no to her. "I suppose I can give it a try," he said.

"That's the spirit!" said Rose with a broad smile. "So what do we do next?"

"I'll have to remove the propeller and bring it up to check the damage," answered Allnutt.

It took a great deal of effort to remove the propeller and bring it back up. Every time Allnutt dived into the dark waters, Rose's heart beat fast with worry. Once on board, the mechanic examined the propeller, and realised that only half of the blade had broken off. It was possible, in theory, to make a new blade out of scrap metal. But the metal would have to be softened first, so that it could be hammered into the shape of a propeller blade.

The only way to soften the metal was with heat, so, Rose and Allnutt built a fire on a nearby bank. Rose kept the fire going, while Allnutt shaped the metal with a hammer.

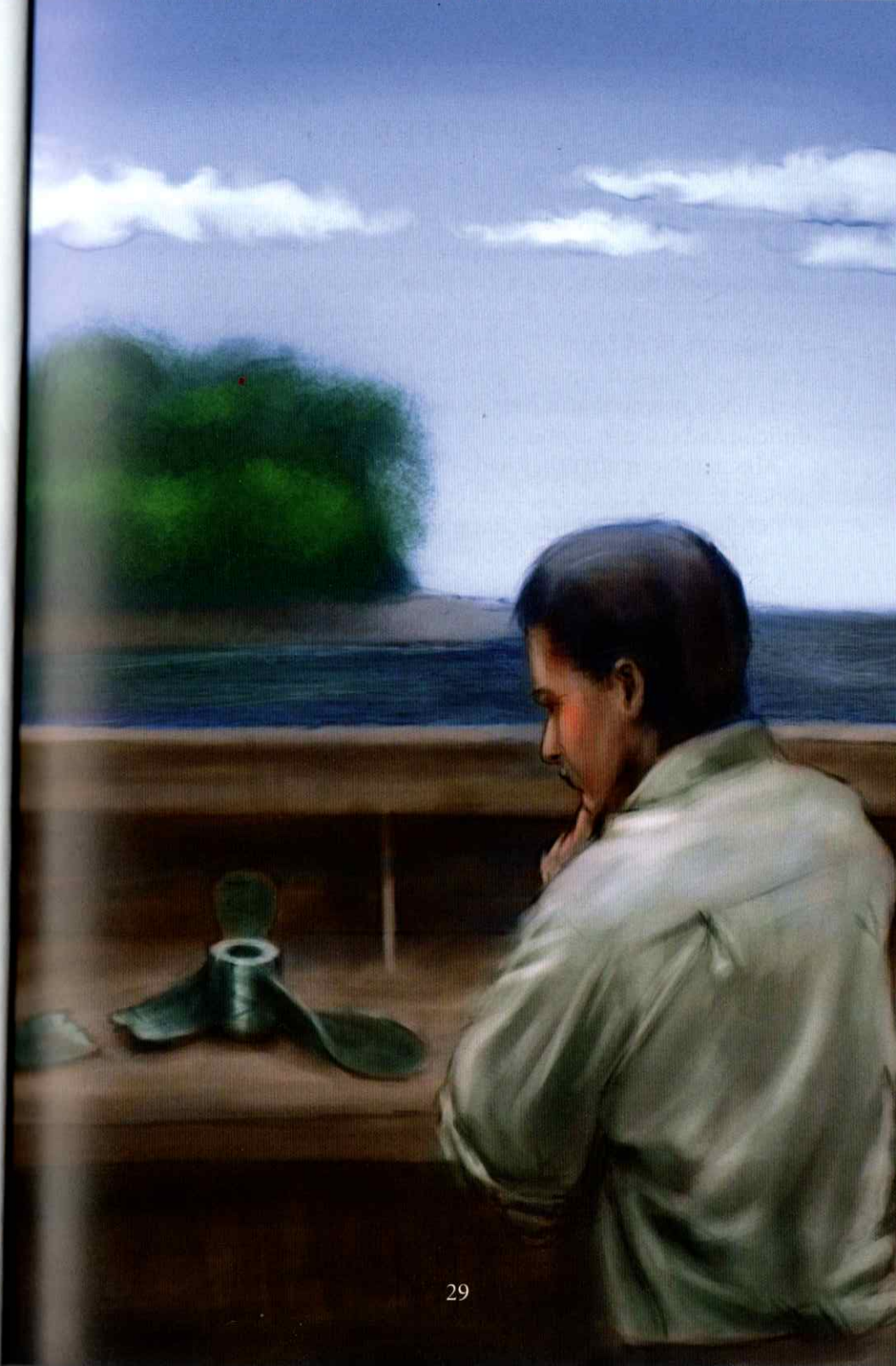
All in all, the repairs took about three days. It was tiring work for both Rose and Allnutt, but they enjoyed it. They spent most of the time talking and laughing – Charlie enjoyed her company and Rose hadn't laughed so much in her whole life.

When the new propeller blade was finally ready, Allnutt hammered it to the broken one. Then, he tied the three blades together with a thick piece of wire.

"That should do it," said Allnutt.

Rose smiled. "You've done a wonderful job, Charlie."

"I hope so," said the mechanic. "I suppose we'll find out in the morning."





## CHAPTER 5

### Comprehension

#### 1 Put the sentences in the correct order. Write 1 – 7 in the boxes.

- Rose successfully removed a splinter from Allnutt's foot.
- The propeller was damaged.
- Rose and Allnutt built a fire on a bank.
- Allnutt used wire to keep the three blades together.
- Rose felt confident that she knew how to steer the boat.
- The mechanic realised that only half of the blade had broken off.
- The boat entered a very narrow channel.


#### 2 Match the names with the phrases a-d.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. The Ulanga        | a. was very happy with the way things were going.                      |
| 2. Rose              | b. had a part of it damaged and later repaired.                        |
| 3. Allnutt           | c. had a small accident while gathering wood.                          |
| 4. The African Queen | d. had some rough parts and other parts which were easier to navigate. |

### Vocabulary

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

content    blade    wire    frantically    seriously

- 'The computer screen has gone black!' 'You should check the \_\_\_\_\_ at the back.'
- My grandparents are very \_\_\_\_\_ with their lives. They never complain about anything.
- He was \_\_\_\_\_ looking for his wallet all afternoon, but he didn't manage to find it.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of the knife needs to be sharpened.
- Luckily, Pat wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ hurt in the accident.

#### 4 Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the words in capitals.

- After the shipwreck two survivors managed to swim \_\_\_\_\_ to safety. **SHORE**
- My sister is waiting \_\_\_\_\_ to see if she \_\_\_\_\_ has been accepted at London University. **ANXIOUS**
- After his wife's death, Mark felt completely \_\_\_\_\_. **HELP**
- Heat the butter to \_\_\_\_\_ it and then beat in \_\_\_\_\_ the eggs. **SOFT**
- They lived in a \_\_\_\_\_ village in the mountains. **PEACE**
- It was \_\_\_\_\_ that they won the game after \_\_\_\_\_ so many defeats. **SURPRISE**

### Follow-up activities

#### 5 Discuss.

- When the African Queen's propeller was damaged, Allnutt was able to repair it. Is it important to learn how to fix things yourself? Who can teach you? School? Family? Friends?
- It took three days to complete the repairs. Do you think Rose ever doubted that Allnutt would fix the propeller? Why? / Why not?
- Rose and Allnutt could have taken the small boat ashore and walked through the jungle to look for help. Why didn't they try to do that? Do you think their decision was right?
- What do you think will happen when the African Queen sets out on its next stage of the adventure?

#### 6 Your teacher has asked you to write an essay on the advantages and disadvantages of working with others as part of a group or team. (100 - 120 words)