

## CHAPTER 10

WHEN WE RETURNED TO ENGLAND, WE WERE ASKED TO talk about our experiences at a meeting at the Zoological Institute. The meeting was scheduled for 7 November, the day after we got back from South America. When we arrived at the hall, we were surprised to find it packed with journalists, scientists and members of the public.

At seven o'clock, the Duke of Durham stepped on to the stage and addressed the crowd. 'Good evening everyone. I'm sure you are all very eager to hear about the expedition to South America. Professor Summerlee will now tell us about the group's adventures in the Amazon.'

Professor Summerlee stood up and the audience applauded enthusiastically.

'I would like to begin by apologising to Professor Challenger for doubting his word,' began Summerlee. 'Professor Challenger is a brave and gifted scientist, and we all owe him an apology for calling him a liar.'

The professor then went on to describe the horrors and attractions of the lost world: he talked about the journey to the cliffs; the loss of our bridge; and the new species of plants and animals we discovered. Of course, he also talked about the dinosaurs, the Indians and the battle with the apemen.

The audience gasped, but not everyone believed the story. Dr James Illingworth, a well-known scientist, raised his hand. 'Professor,' he said, 'we've heard your remarkable story, but do you have any proof?'

Summerlee shook his head. 'Our cameras and film were destroyed by the apemen when they attacked our camp. But we do have some insect specimens that we found on the plateau.'

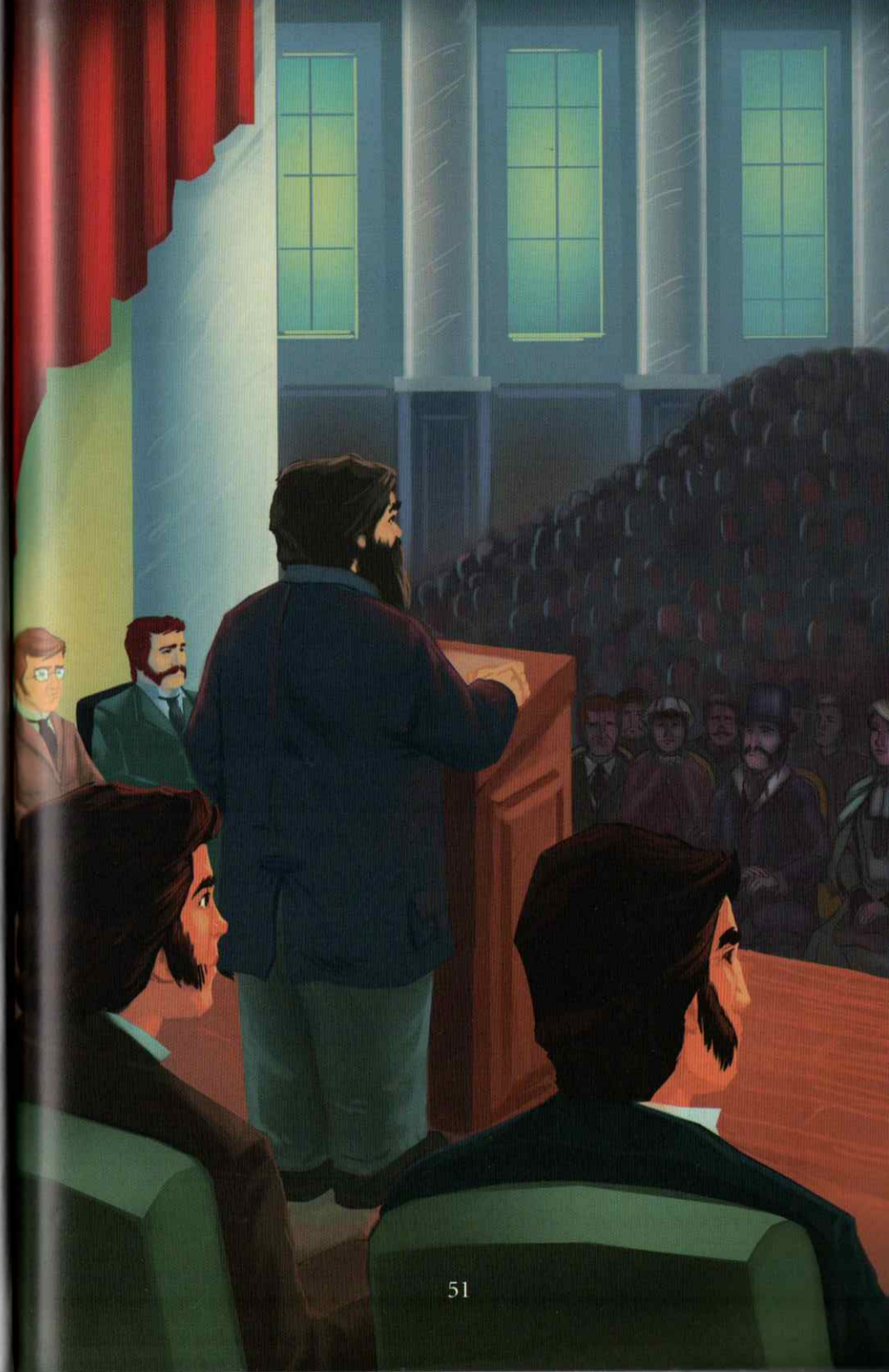
'You could have found those anywhere,' said Dr Illingworth.

Professor Challenger stood up. 'We do have some pictures,' he said. 'One of them is of a pterodactyl.'

Dr Illingworth shook his head. 'A picture isn't enough to convince me,' he said.

'So you want to see the real thing?' asked Challenger.

'Yes, I do,' said Dr Illingworth.







Challenger waved his hand and Zambo walked on to the stage carrying an enormous square box. He placed the box in front of the professor's chair and then walked off. A hush fell over the audience. The professor removed the lid of the box and clicked his fingers. There was a loud scratching sound and, a moment later, a creature perched itself on the side of the box – it was a pterodactyl!

The audience gasped; someone screamed, and two ladies fainted in their chairs. Challenger threw up his hands to calm the audience, but his movements alarmed the creature. The pterodactyl flew up into the air, flapping its dry, leathery wings. Challenger tried to grab its legs, but missed. The audience began to scream, and the creature flew around the room, beating its wings against the walls and the lights.

'Close the window!' shouted Challenger.



But it was too late; the creature saw the open window and flew out. Challenger fell back in his chair and buried his face in his hands. Suddenly, the crowd jumped up and began cheering and applauding. Professor Challenger had finally given the scientific community the proof they wanted, and we had become heroes.

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After that night, the pterodactyl was spotted in various London parks before it finally disappeared somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean. And Gladys! Oh my Gladys! I had sent Gladys many letters during the year that I was away, but she hadn't responded to any of them. The night after the talk, I went to Gladys' house to see her. I knocked on the door, pushed passed the staring maid, and ran into the sitting room where Gladys was reading on the couch. I crossed the room quickly and took her hands in mine.

'Gladys!' I cried. 'I have returned!'



Gladys looked at me in surprise.

'What do you mean?' she said, drawing back her hands.

'Gladys? What's the matter? It's me, Edward,' I said.

Gladys was quiet for moment. 'Edward, I'm married now; this is my husband.'

A small red-haired man rose from a nearby chair and shook my hand.

'Your husband?' I repeated.

Gladys nodded. 'Yes, this is William Potts.'

I stared at Gladys in shock. 'Didn't you get my letters?'

'No,' said Gladys. 'Anyway, Edward, if you truly loved me, you wouldn't have gone away for a whole year, would you? I've told William all about you... You're not upset that I'm married are you?'

'No, no... not at all,' I stammered. 'I think I'm going to go now... But I do have a question for your husband...' I turned to look at Mr Potts. 'How did you persuade Gladys to marry you? Are you an adventurer? A hero?'

Mr Potts looked confused. 'Uh, no... I'm a clerk, I work at a bank,' he said.

'I see,' I said. 'Goodnight, both of you.' With that, I walked out into the moonless night. I was overwhelmed with sadness and anger; I felt as if my heart had been ripped from my chest. How strange life is!

A week later, I had dinner with my travelling companions at Lord John's house. Once we'd eaten, Lord John took an old box out of a cupboard and placed it on a table before us. 'I have something to show you,' he said. 'I found these near the pterodactyl pit...'

Lord John turned over the box and poured out about twenty or thirty diamonds, the size of small chestnuts.

We gasped in shock. 'I took the stones to a jeweller,' said Lord John. 'He says they're worth two hundred thousand pounds. I think it's only fair that we divide the money equally between us.'

'I can't believe my eyes!' said Challenger.

'We're each going to get fifty thousand pounds – what will you do with your money, Challenger?' asked Lord John.

'I'm going to open a museum,' replied Professor Challenger.

'And you, Summerlee?'

'I'm going to retire from teaching and study fossils,' said



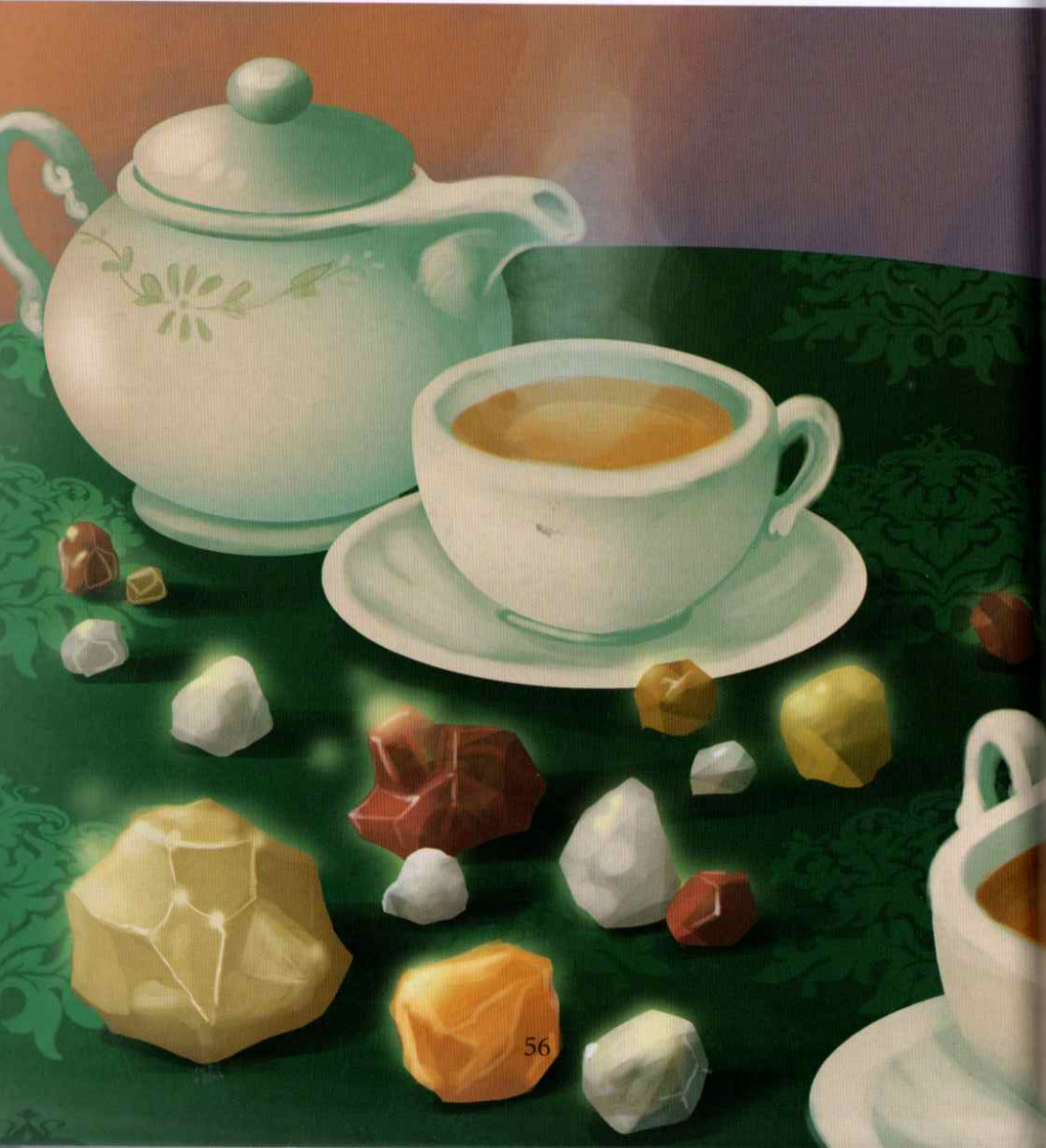


Summerlee.

'And I'm going to go on another expedition to the Amazon,' said Lord John. 'What about you, Edward? Will you use the money to get married?'

'Not just yet,' I said. 'I think I'd rather go back to the Amazon with you.'

Lord John smiled and shook my hand. 'Well then, I look forward to our next adventure!' he said.



# Activity Section

## CHAPTER 10

### Reading Comprehension

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

1. Challenger and his team returned from South America on the 5 November. ☐
2. Summerlee began describing their adventures at the Zoological Institute meeting. ☐
3. The pterodactyl made everyone finally believe Challenger's story. ☐
4. Edward wasn't at all surprised that Gladys was married. ☐
5. Lord John had brought some diamonds back from the lost world. ☐
6. Summerlee intended to use the money to start teaching people about fossils. ☐
7. Edward planned to use his money to get married in the Amazon. ☐

#### 2 Complete the following paragraph with sentences a-e.

- a. When they opened it, a pterodactyl flew out, to everybody's surprise!
- b. Challenger and his friends were surprised to find the hall full of people waiting to hear about their adventures.
- c. Professor Challenger was in despair, but his reputation had been saved.
- d. He also told them about the dinosaurs and the battle between the apemen and the Indians.
- e. First, he apologised for not believing Professor Challenger's story.

The team got back from the Amazon early in November and soon a meeting was scheduled for them at the Zoological Institute.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ Professor Summerlee started speaking to the audience.  
 (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Then he narrated all the adventures the team had had in South America. He told the crowd about the journey and the discovery of the lost world. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ The people seemed to doubt his claims and asked for proof. Just then, Professor Challenger asked Zambo to bring a box on stage. (4) \_\_\_\_\_ Unfortunately, the creature escaped through an open window and all proof was lost. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Everybody now believed him, and he and his team had become heroes.

### Vocabulary

#### 3 Match the two columns to make expressions.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. owe somebody | a. fingers     |
| 2. it's only    | b. in my hands |
| 3. What's the   | c. an apology  |
| 4. click my     | d. fair        |
| 5. bury my face | e. matter?     |

#### 4 Complete the paragraph with words from the box.

pounds husband clerk married adventurer diamonds

After the meeting at the Zoological Institute, Edward went to see Gladys and found out that she was (1) \_\_\_\_\_. He was upset when he discovered that her new (2) \_\_\_\_\_ was not a(n) (3) \_\_\_\_\_ at all, but a simple bank (4) \_\_\_\_\_. A week later, Lord John invited all the men for dinner and told them that he had found some (5) \_\_\_\_\_ in the lost world, and that they could each have 50,000 (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to spend as they wanted.

### Follow-up activities

#### 5 Discuss.

1. How do you think the men felt when, after they had gone through so many adventures, many people still didn't believe them? Have you ever found yourself in a situation where nobody believed you about something, even though it was true?
2. The pterodactyl flew out of the box and escaped through the window. What do you think made the animal react that way? What do you suppose happened to it?
3. Were you surprised that Gladys got married to another man? How do you think that made Edward feel, and what was his biggest disappointment? What would you do if you were him?
4. Lord John shares the diamonds he found with his friends. What do you think about this? What does it show about him? What would you do if it were you who found the diamonds?
5. How does each of the companions decide to spend the newfound money from the diamonds? What would you do if you had so much money?

#### 6 Imagine that you are Edward. Write a short article to be printed in the *Daily Gazette* about your adventures in the lost world. OR Write a goodbye letter to Gladys. (100-120 words)