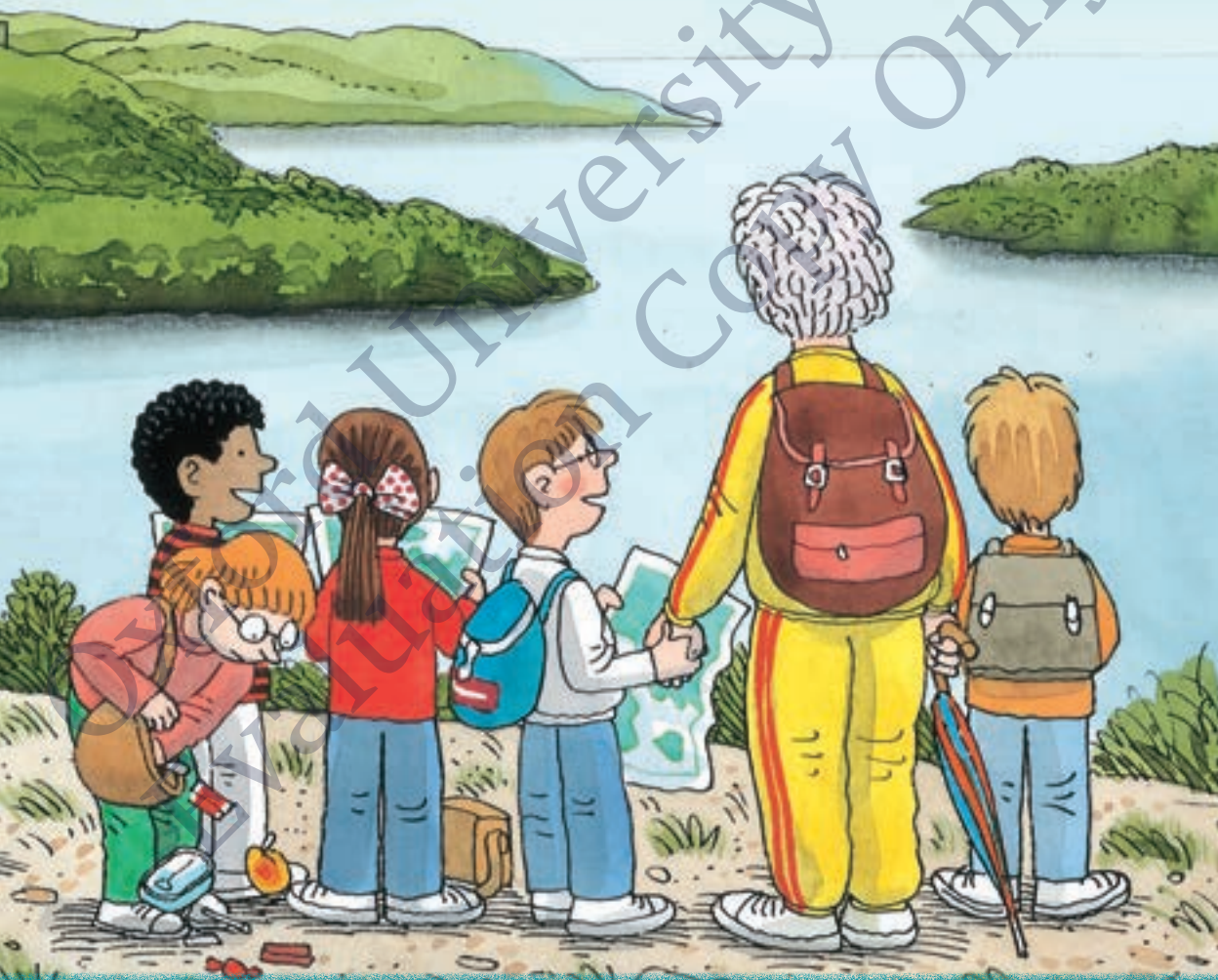


Green Island





Written by Roderick Hunt
Illustrated by Alex Brychta

BEFORE READING

Talk together

- Look at the title and cover picture. Ask:
What do you think might happen in this story?
- Talk about times your child has been to the sea or to a small island.
- Look through the book and talk about the pictures.

About the words in this book

- Your child will probably be able to read most of the words in this book. Encourage your child to sound out and blend any challenging words, such as those below. If necessary, model the blending or read the words for your child.

famous guitar
dangerous caught
island

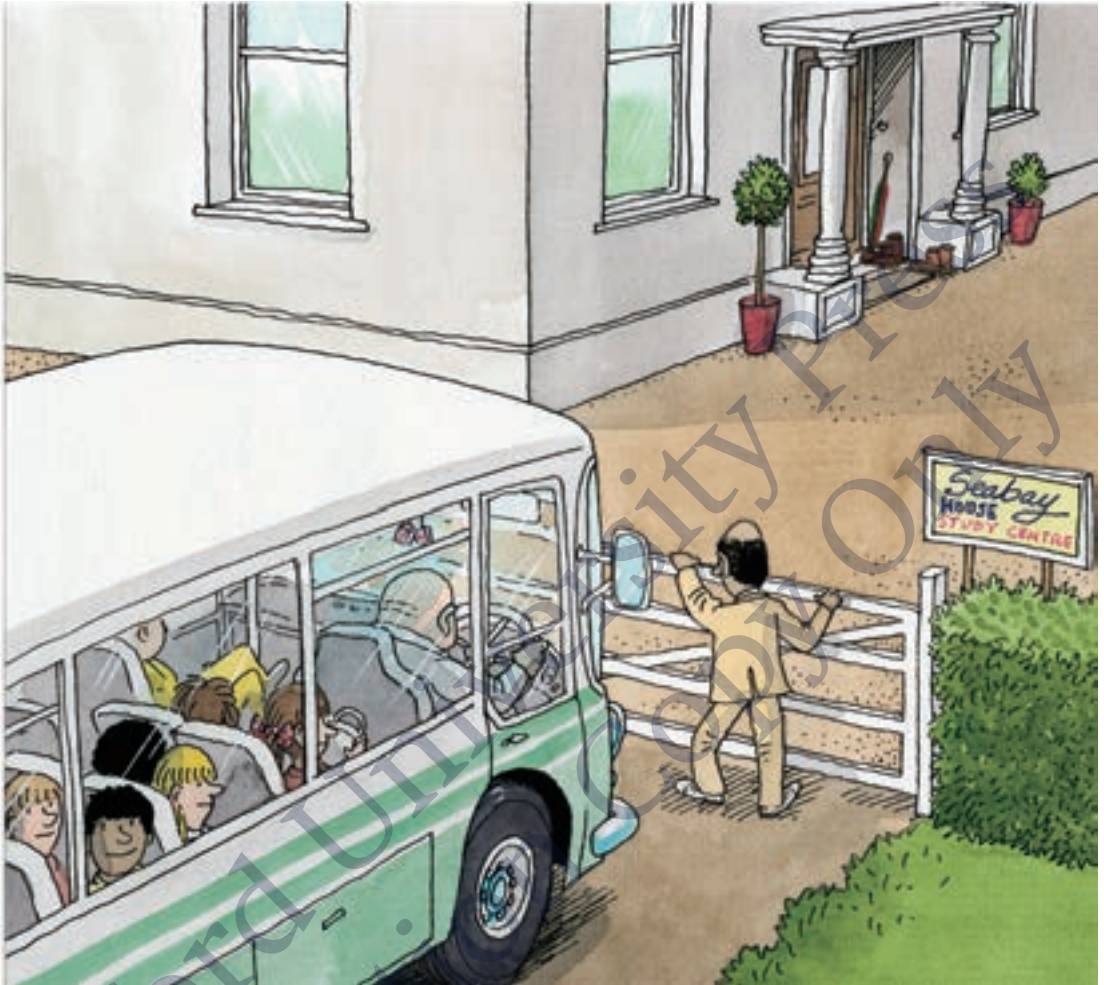
DURING READING

Enjoy the story together.
If your child needs support to read the story:

- Break unfamiliar words into chunks or syllables to work them out (e.g. *e-nor-mous*).
- Remind your child to blend unfamiliar words from left to right.
- If a word is still too tricky, simply say the whole word for your child.
- Re-read sentences to focus on their meaning where necessary.



See the inside back cover
for more ideas.



Mr Johnson took his class away for the week. They went to a big house called Seabay House. Mrs May went too.

The children were excited. Seabay House was near the sea and there were lots of interesting things to do.



Everyone unloaded the bus.

“Some of these bags and cases are heavy,” said Mr Johnson. “We’re only here for a week.”

Mrs May found a toothbrush. “Whose toothbrush is this?” she asked.

“Oh dear,” said Biff. “I think it’s mine.”



Mr Johnson showed the boys their room.

“You’ll be sleeping in here,” he said.

“I want the top bunk,” shouted Chip.

“No, I want the top bunk,” shouted Wilf.

Mr Johnson tossed a coin.

“Heads or tails?” he said.



Mr Johnson gave the children a map. Then he took the children for a long walk. After a while they stopped for a rest.

The children looked at their maps. Mr Johnson showed them the places they could see.

“Your map’s upside down, Biff,” said Wilf.



Nadim pointed to a little island out at sea.

“What’s that island called?” he asked.

“Look on your maps,” said Mr Johnson.

“Who can tell me what the island is called?”

Chip and Anneena knew.

“It’s called Green Island,” they said.



Everyone was hungry after the long walk.
When they got back it was time for supper.

The children served the food, and then they
helped wash up.

“I don’t like washing up at home,” said Wilf,
“but it’s fun washing up here.”



That night the children were tired but they couldn't sleep. Chip kept telling jokes and making silly noises.

In the end, Mr Johnson came in. He was cross with Chip.

"I'll send you to bed at six o'clock tomorrow, if I hear any more noise."



The next day, the children did a beach study. Some children worked with Mr Johnson. They made squares on the beach and looked at everything in each square.

Biff found a shell with a crab inside it.

“It’s called a hermit crab,” she said.



Some children worked with Mrs May. They looked carefully in all the rock pools.

Nadim and Wilf caught a large crab.

“Look at this,” they called.

Mrs May showed them how to hold the crab.

“We’ll look at it, then we’ll let it go,” she said.



Chip and Anneena found a seagull. It couldn't fly.

"Oh dear!" said Mr Johnson. "It can't fly because it has oil on its feathers. Oil is hard to get off, so be careful, everyone. Mind you don't get oil on you."

"How do we get the oil off the seagull?" asked Chip.



Mr Johnson took the children to see Mrs Honey.

“If anyone can help the seagull, Mrs Honey can,” said Mr Johnson.

“This poor old gull needs a clean,” said Mrs Honey. She looked at Anneena and Chip. “And so do you,” she said.



“Oil is terrible stuff,” said Mrs Honey. “You can see what it does to animals and birds if it spills into the sea.”

“It is terrible,” said Mrs May. “I’m having trouble getting it off Chip and Anneena.”

“I feel really sorry for the seagull,” said Chip.



“What will happen to the seagull?” asked Wilf.

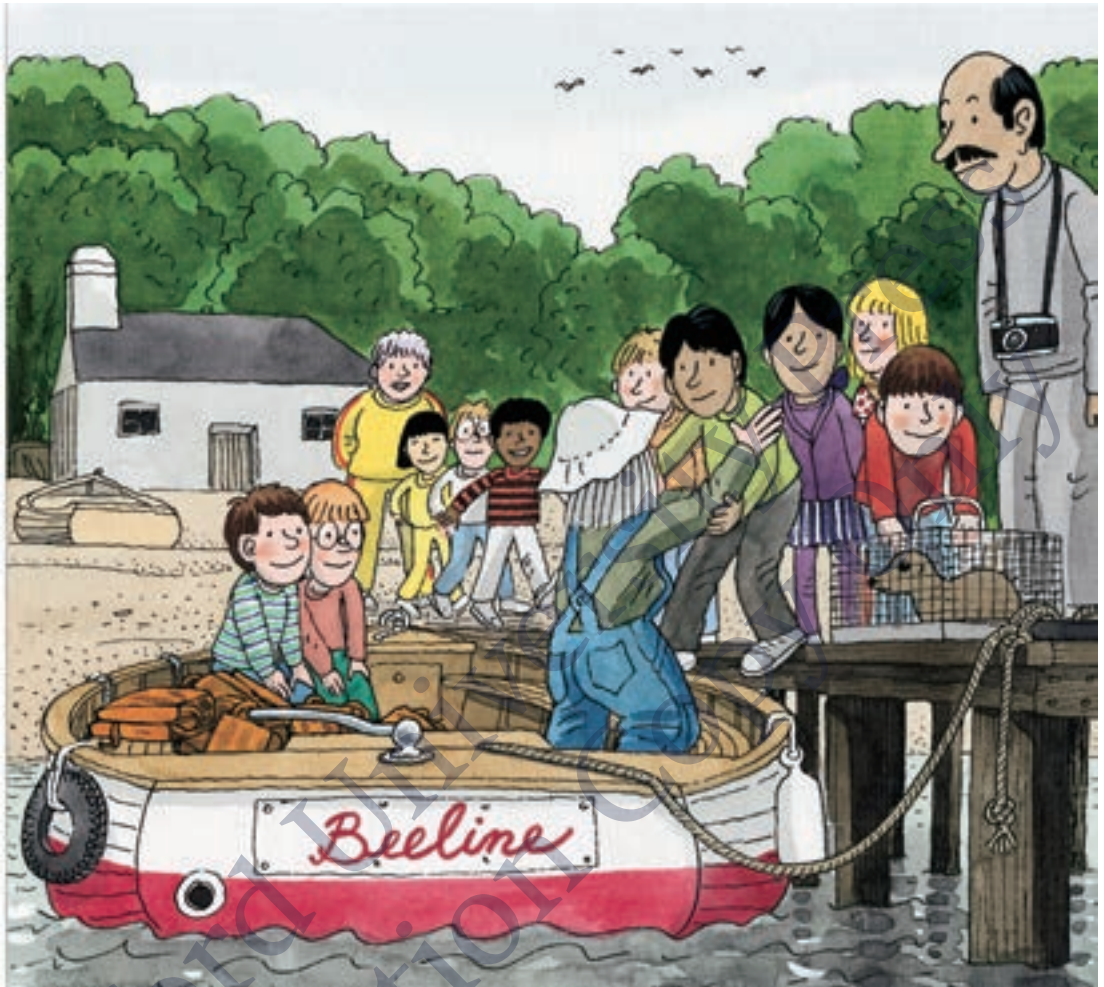
“Its feathers will be damaged,” said Mrs Honey.

“So first we’ll clean the oil off. Then we’ll look after it for a week or two. It has to get strong again, and its feathers have to get better. Then we’ll let it go.”



Mrs Honey looked after all kinds of animals. She showed the children an otter. Then she gave it some fish.

“She’s a sea-otter,” she said. “I call her Fiona. She was hurt by a boat. Now she’s better, I’m going to let her go.”



“Sea-otters live on Green Island,” said Mrs Honey. “If you like, you can come to the island with me and watch me let Fiona go.”

Mrs Honey had a boat.

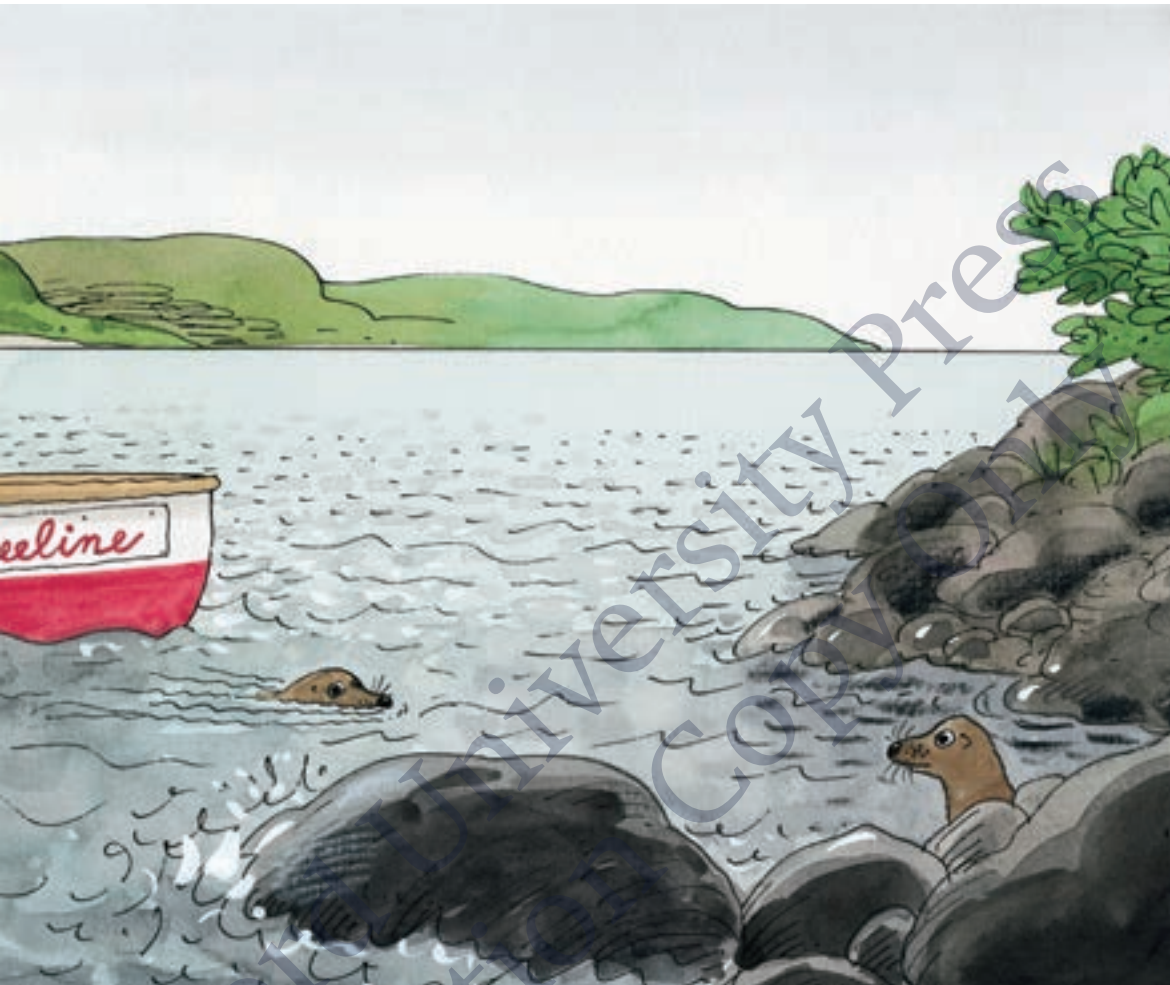
“There’s room for everyone,” she said. “If we’re lucky, we may see some more sea-otters.”



The children went across to Green Island in the boat. Mrs Honey stopped a little way from the island.

The children looked carefully. Suddenly Anneena pointed to some rocks.

“I can see another otter,” she said. “Look, everyone.”

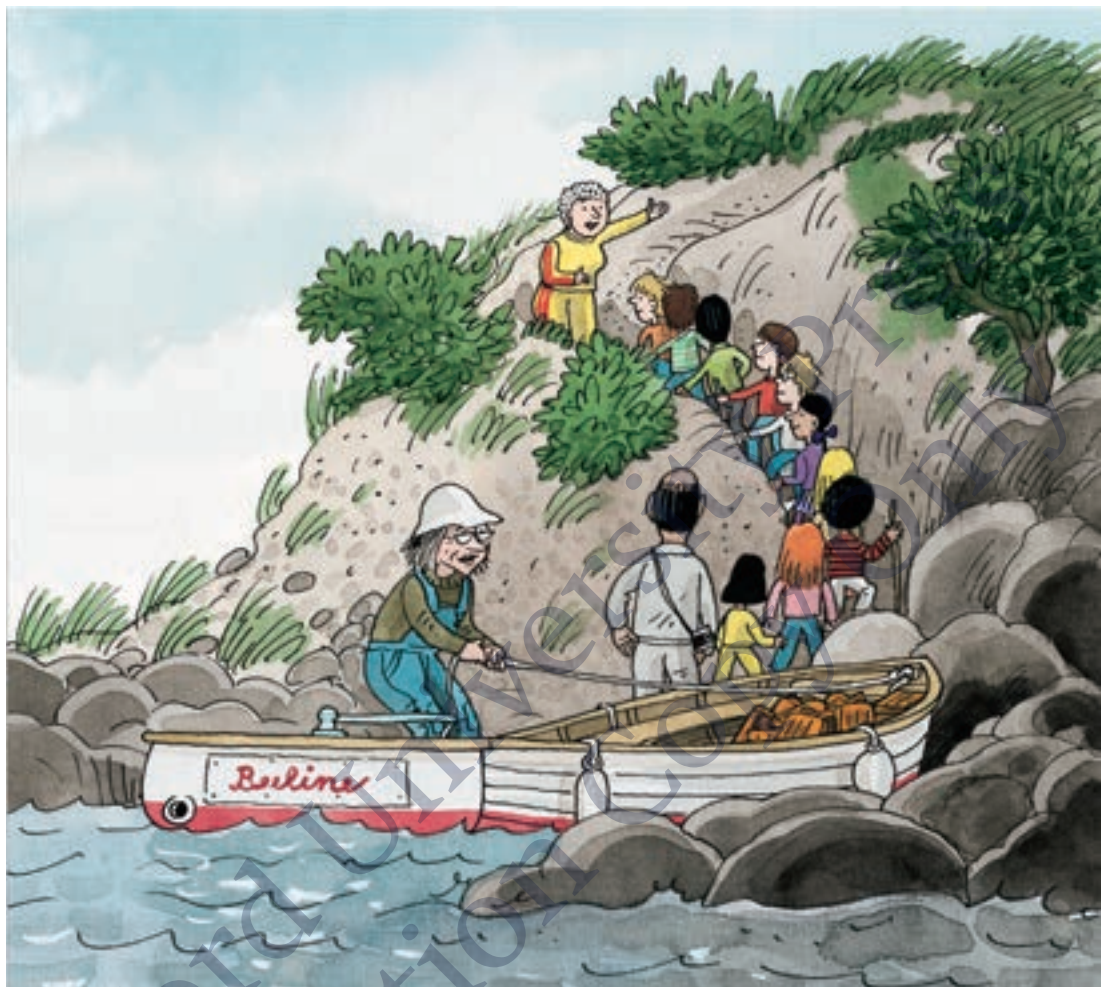


“There aren’t many sea-otters left!” said Mrs May. “So that was a wonderful thing to see.”

Mrs Honey let Fiona go. The otter dived into the sea and swam towards the rocks.

“Will Fiona be all right now?” asked Wilf.

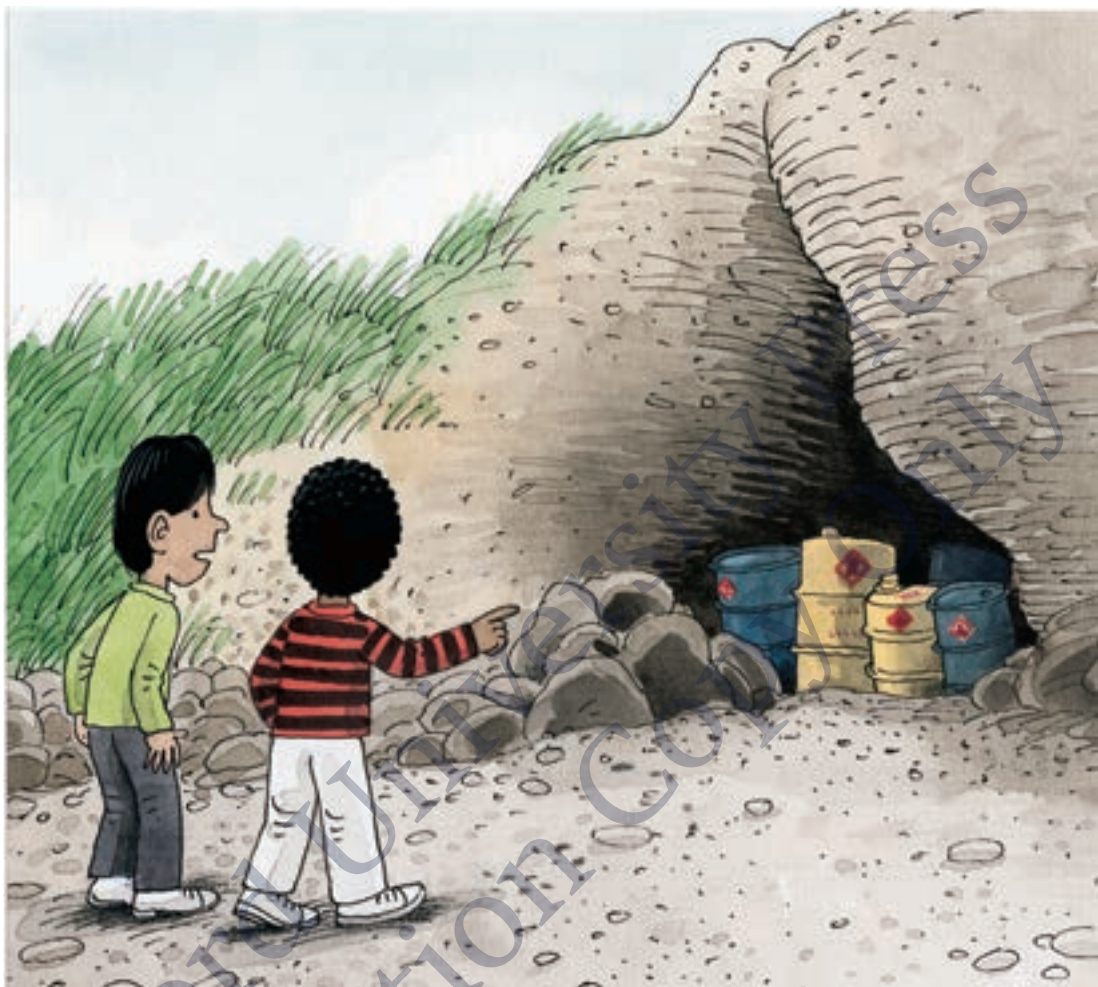
“I hope so,” said Mrs Honey.



Mrs Honey took the boat to the other side of the island.

“You can get out, and explore,” she said.
“If you keep quiet, you will see all kinds of interesting sea birds.”

The children jumped out of the boat and went to look around the island.



The children saw a small cave. They ran to see it.

“I wonder if it has treasure in it,” called Wilf.

“Maybe it’s a secret tunnel,” said Nadim.

“Maybe it leads to a secret computer base.”

But when they got to the cave, they found something else. In the cave were some drums.



“I don’t like the look of this,” said Mrs Honey.
“These drums have been dumped on Green Island.
They are full of toxic waste.”

“Keep away from them, everyone,” said Mr
Johnson.

“Why would anyone want to dump them here?”
asked Biff.



“It’s hard to get rid of toxic waste,” said Mrs May. “It costs a lot of money to do it safely. So people dump it.”

“We should tell the police,” said Mr Johnson.

“These drums can’t stay here,” said Mrs Honey.
“They could do a lot of harm to the wildlife.”



Suddenly, Chip and Wilf ran up to Mr Johnson.

“There’s a boat coming to the island,” said Chip. “There are four people in it.”

“I don’t like the sound of this,” said Mr Johnson.

“Keep out of sight, everyone,” said Mrs Honey.

“I want to see what these people are doing.”



The boat stopped at the island and four people got out. They lifted some drums out of the boat and began to carry them towards the cave.

“They’re dumping more waste on the island,” said Mrs Honey. “I want everyone to run back to my boat. Don’t make a sound. I have an idea.”



The children did what Mrs Honey told them. They ran to the boat with Mrs May and climbed in.

“I hope the boat will start,” said Mrs May. “If it doesn’t, I don’t know what we shall do.”

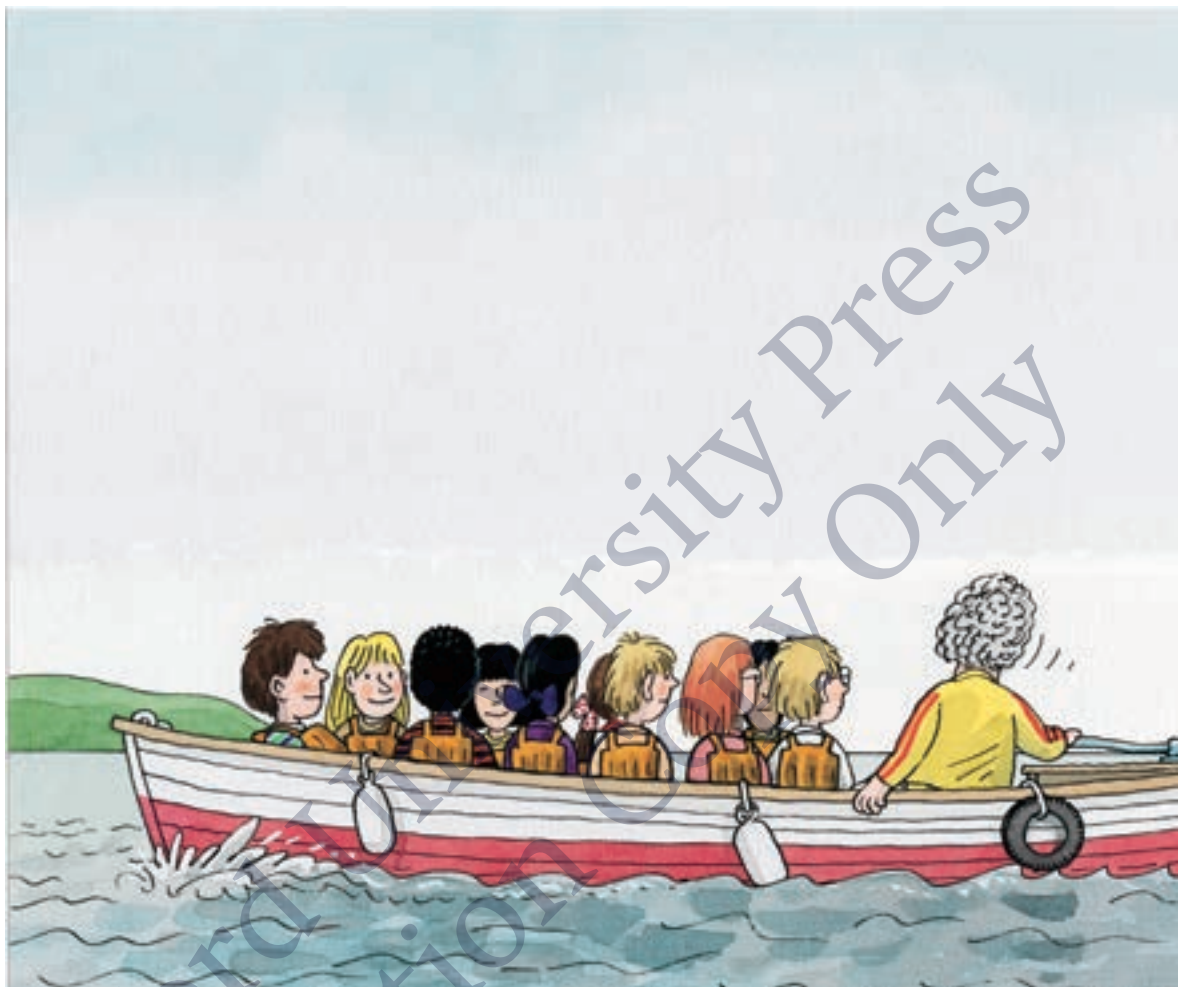
“Do you think those people are dangerous?” asked Chip.



Wilf and Chip pushed the boat out with the oars and Mrs May started the engine.

“So far, so good,” said Mrs May. “Let’s hope Mrs Honey’s idea works.”

“I hope Mrs Honey and Mr Johnson will be all right,” said Wilf.



Mrs Honey's idea worked. She and Mr Johnson had taken the other boat. The other people couldn't get off the island without it.

"Hooray!" shouted the children. "They won't get off Green Island unless they swim all the way back!"



“What are you doing with our boat?” shouted a man. “Bring it back!”

“I’ll get the police to bring it back,” shouted Mrs Honey. “You can tell them why you’ve dumped toxic waste on Green Island.”

“Grrr!” said the man.



The police took the people off the island.
“Taking their boat was a brilliant idea,” said Mr Johnson.
“I’m glad we caught them,” said Mrs Honey.
“And I’m glad you were with me. I couldn’t have taken their boat by myself.”



“What an adventure!” said Mrs May.

“Look at those drums of toxic waste,” said Wilf.

“I can’t think why people would dump them where they could do so much harm.”

“I’m glad the otters will be safe on the island now,” said Anneena.



At the end of the week, there was a party. Mrs May played her guitar and everyone sang songs.

Mrs Honey came. She told the children stories about some of the animals she had looked after.

“But you have the best story to tell,” she said. “It isn’t every school trip that becomes famous!”



A photographer came. She made everyone stand in a group. Then she took a photograph.

“We’re going to be in the newspaper,” said Wilf.
“We *are* going to be famous.”

“I’ve never been famous before,” said Chip.
“I wonder what it feels like.”

Barking Echo

THURSDAY, 13 September

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Kids save island from toxic time bomb

By Max Darby
Environment Correspondent

Quick thinking by animal-lover Harriet Honey and teacher Neville Johnson, with a group of primary school children, led to the dramatic arrest of four people found dumping drums of toxic waste on Green Island yesterday.

Mr Johnson, 39, with a group of fifteen children from the Ortree Primary School, Dagenham, had gone to the island to watch the release of a sea-otter looked after by Mrs Honey, 62, in her animal sanctuary near Pebble Bank.

The drums began when the children discovered the drums of industrial waste in a cave on Green Island. Shortly afterwards, four people arrived on the island to dispose of more drums of waste.

In a commando-style operation, the children were taken safely off the island while their teachers confiscated the polluters' boat.

One of the children, Chip Robinson, 7, said, "It was exciting, but a bit scary. We had to be really quiet while we got away from the island."



New engagement for Barking orchestra

By Amanda Harvey

It was revealed yesterday, that the Barking Symphony Orchestra has signed an agreement with Dagenham Borough Council to stage a series of outdoor concerts in the summer of next year. The borough's entertainment officer, Mr McArthur-Christie,

Ronnie Barker opens school fête

By Aaron Jansen
Education Correspondent

The well known comedian and actor Ronnie Barker, 61, officially opened this year's Garden Fête in the grounds of Ortree Primary School last Saturday. Among the celebrities attending were Rod Hunt, 45, the famous author and Alex Brychta, a popular children's book illustrator.

During their visit, the pair entertained children by writing and illustrating a book, which will be on permanent display at the school.

Before departing, Mr Hunt said, "We've had a wonderful time. I feel as if I've known these children all my life."

Barking woman wins at dog show

By Pat Pilgrin

The Dagenham Dog and Cat Show raffle was won by Miss Emily Bell of 22 Winstot Drive, Barking. The prize, a year's supply of doggie choc drops, was donated by the Barking Kennel Club. Miss Bell, 18, a former pupil of Ortree Comprehensive School said, "I only came along with my boyfriend and a dog."

New home for Barking dogs

By Lauren Cassidy

Dagenham Borough Council has approved plans to build a new headquarters for the Barking Kennel Club. The two-storey structure will be located at the north-west corner of Dagenham Common, which will provide excellent walking facilities for the dogs. The plans propose a double number of lamp posts in neighbouring streets.

Man hooks 3 fish in garden pond

By Felix Schom

His neighbours he was crazy, but fisherman George Vivore he saw a fish garden pond, that was a metre long, and he proved his point by the creature, a piranha.

Mr Dovodil, lives in Collar At the fish ate scraps threw into the pond his house.

A marmoset identified the fish as South American piranha, which jumped in the

The next day the story of Green Island was in the newspaper. The children were excited.

"I'm going to buy three newspapers," said Chip.

"One for me, one for Mum and Dad, and one for Gran."

"Now I'm famous I don't feel any different," said Wilf.

AFTER READING

- Ask: *Why did the men choose Green Island to dump the toxic waste on?*
- Talk about why being in a newspaper will make the children famous. Ask: *Which photograph should have gone into the paper, the one of everyone or the one with just Wilf, Chip, Nadim, Mrs May and Mrs Honey?*
- Discuss what it might feel like to be famous and look again at page 32. Ask: *Do you think Wilf is disappointed he doesn't feel any different or pleased he feels the same?*

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Green Island

Can Mrs May and the children save the otters and the sea life when some men dump toxic waste on Green Island?



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