

READING & TRAINING

Jerome K. Jerome

Three Men in a Boat



AUDIO CD



Editor: Michela Bruzzo
Design and art direction: Nadia Maestri
Computer graphics: Emilia Coari
Picture research: Laura Lagomarsino

© 2002 Black Cat Publishing,
an imprint of Cideb Editrice, Genoa, Canterbury

Revised edition

© 2007 Black Cat Publishing,
an imprint of Cideb Editrice, Genoa, Canterbury

Picture credits:

Getty Images: 4; © Private Collection/Photo © Christie's Images/The Bridgeman Art Library: 5; Cideb Archive: 16; © Private Collection/The Stapleton Collection/The Bridgeman Art Library: 17; By kind permission of the Marquess of Tavistock and Trustees of Bedford Estate: 50-51; © Adam Woolflit/CORBIS: 53; © Brigitte Bott/Robert Harding World Imagery/CORBIS: 54; Mary Evans Picture Library: 64; The Granger Collection, New York: 65; © World History Archive/TopFoto.co.uk: 75; © Chris Andrews; Chris Andrews Publications/CORBIS: 105; REUTERS/Toby Melville: 107.

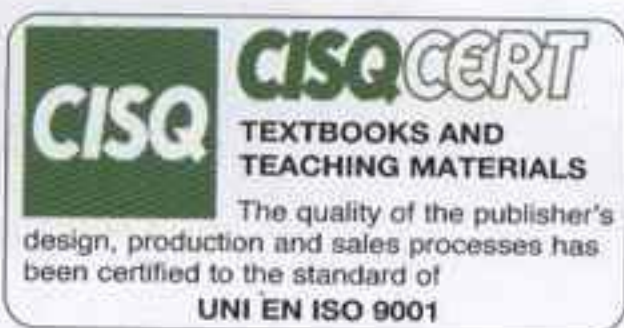
All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the publisher.

We would be happy to receive your comments and suggestions, and give you any other information concerning our material.

editorial@blackcat-cideb.com

www.blackcat-cideb.com

www.cideb.it



ISBN 978-88-530-0764-3 Book

ISBN 978-88-530-0763-6 Book + audio CD

Printed in Italy by Litoprint, Genoa



Contents



	A Note on Jerome Klapka Jerome	4
	The Victorian Age	5
CHAPTER 1	Health Problems	8
CHAPTER 2	Planning the Trip	18
CHAPTER 3	Packing	25
CHAPTER 4	Ready for the Trip	34
CHAPTER 5	First Day on the Boat	42
CHAPTER 6	Harris Makes Scrambled Eggs	56
CHAPTER 7	The Laughing Tin	67
CHAPTER 8	Montmorency Meets a Cat	76
CHAPTER 9	Fighting Swans	87
CHAPTER 10	Three Men out of a Boat	95
Dossiers	Fox-Terriers	16
	Queen Elizabeth I	50
	Life on the River	53
	Preserving Food	64
	The Magna Carta	74
	Famous People and Places on the Thames	84
	Oxford	105
INTERNET PROJECTS		33, 40, 66, 86, 108
ACTIVITIES		6, 14, 17, 22, 31, 39, 48, 52, 55, 61, 65, 75, 81, 86, 92, 102, 108
EXIT TEST		109
KEY TO EXIT TEST		111
PET	Cambridge ESOL PET-style activities	14, 22, 24, 31, 32, 39, 55, 61, 62, 63, 72, 81, 92, 102, 104, 109
T: GRADES 5/6	Trinity-style activities	32, 104

The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.





Jerome Klapka *Jerome*

Jerome Klapka Jerome was born in the town of Walsall in central England in 1859. His strange second name is a version of his father's second name, Clapp. He left school at the age of fourteen and started working for a railway company. He later worked as a teacher, an actor and a journalist.

In 1888, he published his first book, *On Stage and Off*, and the next year he had

A photo of **Jerome K Jerome** taken in 1890, a year after the publication of *Three Men in a Boat*.

success with *The Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow* and *Three Men in a Boat*. Jerome wrote *Three Men in a Boat* as soon as he finished his honeymoon, which he and his wife had spent on the River Thames. The book was so popular that the following year the number of boats registered on the River Thames went up by fifty percent.

In 1892, he was one of the founders of *The Idler*, an illustrated monthly magazine. He also founded a weekly newspaper, *Today*.

His other writing includes *Three Men on the Bummel*, another humorous novel in which the three main characters of *Three Men in a Boat* go on holiday in Germany and have a series of comic adventures, several plays, of which the most successful was *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* (1908), and a book of essays and memories, *My Life and Times* (1926).

He died in 1927 and was buried near the River Thames.

The Victorian Age

Three Men in a Boat was written in 1889, towards the end of the nineteenth-century and towards the end of the Victorian age, so called because from 1837 till 1901 Queen Victoria was the British queen. She had nine children from her marriage with Prince Albert, her German husband, but after the early death of Albert in 1861 she never remarried and had little to do with public life. She was very popular, however, and hers was the longest reign in British history. During her reign Britain became a very rich country and the British Empire became the biggest in the world: Victoria was declared empress of India in 1876.



An Omnibus Ride to Picadilly Circus (1885) by Alfred Morgan. Middle-class passengers share an early version of a bus, which was pulled by horses.

There were great changes in the way of life for almost everybody. Most people now lived in towns and cities and worked in industry, making products in factories, or in commerce, buying and selling things.

The rich and middle classes had a good quality of life, but many of the workers lived and worked in very bad conditions. Some writers, particularly Charles Dickens (1812-70), protested against these social problems in their writing.

Life was hard, too, for workers in the country, but most British people who lived in the towns and cities liked the idea of country life, and the three men in this story who decide to take a holiday on the river show the typical middle-class Victorian attraction to country life.

1 Comprehension check

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <i>Three Men in a Boat</i> was written in the twentieth-century. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Queen Victoria was married to an English prince. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Queen Victoria was the head of the biggest empire in the world. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Most people lived in the country in the Victorian age. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 In the towns and cities, everybody lived and worked in very bad conditions. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Discussion

In your country in the nineteenth-century, what did people think about life in the cities and towns and life in the country?

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Look at these illnesses:

- If you feel *dizzy* it feels as if your head is going around and that you might fall over.
- *Housemaid's knee* is very painful. Fluid collects on your knees: it hurts!
- A *liver disease* affects your *liver*, a large organ in your body which cleans your blood.

Which of the above are the least and most dangerous, do you think?

2 Reading pictures

Look at the picture on page 11 of the three men in our story (not forgetting Montmorency, the dog).

- Do they seem to have any of the illnesses described in activity 1?
- Do they seem to have a healthy way of living?

3 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter One and decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

- 1 The four friends were in the kitchen.
- 2 They were discussing their favourite restaurant.
- 3 Montmorency felt dizzy.
- 4 J visited the library at the British Museum.
- 5 J has known the doctor for a long time.
- 6 The doctor gave J a medical dictionary to read.
- 7 The chemist did not have the medicines J needed.
- 8 George had liver problems.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Health Problems

There were four of us – George, William Samuel Harris, myself (my friends call me J), and Montmorency. We were sitting in my room and were smoking and talking about our bad health.

We were all feeling very ill, and we were unhappy about it. Harris said he felt dizzy sometimes. George felt dizzy, too.

My big problem was my liver. I knew I had a bad liver. I had read about all the symptoms of liver disease in a book. I had every symptom that was written.

Every time I read about an illness, I realise that I have it.

One day, I had a little health problem. I went to the British Museum Library to read about it. After some time, I began reading about another illness. I don't remember the name now, but it was something terrible. I knew I had that terrible illness, too.

I began reading the book from the letter 'a' to the letter 'z'. I had the symptoms of all the diseases in the book, except for one!

Health Problems

I didn't have housemaid's knee. This made me a bit unhappy. Why didn't I have housemaid's knee, too?

With all the diseases I had, I knew my life was short. I tried to examine myself. I tried to feel my heart. I tried to look at my tongue. When I had walked into the library, I had been a happy, healthy man. When I left it, I was a very ill man.

I went to see my doctor. He is an old friend. Whenever I think I am ill, he examines me and says I am fine. A doctor really must have practice! This time, I thought, he will get more practice with me than with a thousand normal patients. After all, normal patients have only one or two diseases each.

'Well, what's wrong with you?' he asked.

I said, 'If I tell you what is wrong with me, you will die before I finish. Life is too short! I'll tell you what is not wrong with me... I don't have housemaid's knee. But I have everything else.'

I told him about what I had read at the library.

He looked at me carefully. He listened to my heart and looked at my tongue. After that, he wrote a prescription¹ and gave it to me. I put it in my pocket and went out.

I didn't read the prescription. I took it to the chemist's and gave it to him. He read it and gave it back to me. He said, 'I don't have the things on the prescription.'

'But you're a chemist, aren't you?' I asked.

He said, 'You're right, sir. I'm a chemist. I don't have a shop and a hotel.'

1. **prescription** : written order for medicine.

Three Men in a Boat

I read the prescription. It said:

Every six hours: 1 lb¹ of good, fresh meat

1 pint of beer

Every morning: 1 ten-mile walk

Go to bed no later than 11 o'clock each night and don't read books about things you don't understand.

I followed the doctor's prescription. It saved my life. I now feel rather well, except for my liver problem. The main symptom of liver disease is 'a general feeling of sleepiness² and no interest in working.'

I have suffered from this illness ever since I was a boy. Medical science was not advanced in those days. Doctors did not know that I had liver illness. They thought I was lazy. People called me 'a lazy little devil', and said, 'go and do your work.' They did not know I was ill with liver disease. Instead of giving me liver pills, they gave me blows³ on the head. Those blows were good for me, because after each blow I went to do my work. That old remedy worked better than a box of modern pills.

That evening, George, William Harris and I sat in my room. We described our illnesses. I explained to George and William Harris how I felt in the morning. William Harris told us how he felt when he went to bed. Then George stood up, and told us how he felt at night.

1. **lb** : written abbreviation for pound. It is equal to 0.454 kilograms.

2. **sleepiness** : desire to sleep.

3. **blows** : hard hits with the hand or object.



Three Men in a Boat

George always thinks he is ill, but there is really nothing wrong with him.



At that moment, Mrs Poppets, the housekeeper, ¹ served our dinner. We were not hungry. We ate some meat, onions and cake. We had no interest in food.

We began talking about our illnesses again. We all knew that our illnesses were caused by too much work.

‘We need a rest,’ said Harris.

‘A rest and a change,’ George added. ‘Our minds are tired from too much work. We must rest our minds.’

‘Let’s go to the countryside!’ I said. ‘We’ll find a nice, quiet place, with no people.’

Harris said, ‘Oh, how boring! In the country everyone goes to bed at eight o’clock. You can’t even find a newspaper! If you want a rest and a change, then the best place is the sea.’

‘What a terrible idea!’ I said. ‘A sea trip gives you seasickness. ² Who wants a whole week of seasickness? You leave on Monday and you’re feeling well. On Tuesday you feel worse. Then on Wednesday you’re really sick. On Thursday and Friday you’re almost dead. On Saturday you can finally drink a few teaspoons of tea. On Sunday you can walk again and eat some food. Then on Monday you’re happy, because it’s time to get off the boat.’

So George said, ‘Let’s go up the river. We’ll have fresh air and quiet on the river. The hard work on the boat will make us hungry, so we’ll enjoy our food. We’ll be so tired at the end of the day, that we’ll sleep well.’

1. **housekeeper** : person who cooks and cares for the house.

2. **seasickness** : feeling sick in the stomach because of the movement of a boat on water.

Health Problems

Harris said, 'You don't have any trouble sleeping, George. There are only twenty-four hours in the day, and you sleep most of that time. If you sleep any more, you're dead! However, I like your idea of a holiday on the River Thames.'

I liked it too. George was surprised that we both liked his idea. The only one who didn't like the idea was Montmorency, my fox-terrier.¹ He looked at us with his big eyes.

'You like the idea, but I don't,' his face said. 'On the river there's nothing for me to do. I don't like looking at the trees. I certainly don't smoke. If I see a rat, you won't stop the boat so I can run after it. When I'm asleep, you'll probably rock² the boat, and I'll fall into the river. The whole idea is stupid.'

We were three to one. So we decided to go on the river trip.

1. **fox-terrier** : a type of dog (see picture on page 11).

2. **rock** : move from side to side, forward and backward.

The text and **beyond**

PET 1 Comprehension check

For each question choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

- 1 What is the person telling the story called?

A <input type="checkbox"/> Montmorency	B <input type="checkbox"/> George
C <input type="checkbox"/> J	D <input type="checkbox"/> William Samuel Harris
- 2 Why did J go to the British Museum Library?

A <input type="checkbox"/>	to get some information on health
B <input type="checkbox"/>	to talk to his doctor
C <input type="checkbox"/>	to meet Harris and George
D <input type="checkbox"/>	to read his favourite books
- 3 What did the chemist give J?

A <input type="checkbox"/>	the medicine
B <input type="checkbox"/>	the prescription
C <input type="checkbox"/>	some advice
D <input type="checkbox"/>	some meat
- 4 What does liver disease cause?

A <input type="checkbox"/>	tiredness
B <input type="checkbox"/>	hunger
C <input type="checkbox"/>	anger
D <input type="checkbox"/>	thirst
- 5 George, Harris and J had their dinner

A <input type="checkbox"/>	but they were not interested in food.
B <input type="checkbox"/>	but they did not like it because it was cold.
C <input type="checkbox"/>	and they ate a lot.
D <input type="checkbox"/>	in Mrs Poppets's kitchen.
- 6 Harris wanted to go to the sea

A <input type="checkbox"/>	because he had a sailing boat.
B <input type="checkbox"/>	because he didn't suffer from seasickness.
C <input type="checkbox"/>	because he liked sitting on the beach.
D <input type="checkbox"/>	but J didn't like the idea.

7 What did Montmorency like doing?

- A ☐ swimming in the river
- B ☐ chasing rats
- C ☐ smoking
- D ☐ sleeping on the boat

2 Vocabulary

Do you remember the new words from Chapter One? Read the definitions below and write the correct letters in the gaps to make a word.

- 1 a person who doesn't like working is: _ _ _ _
- 2 medicines are sold here: _ _ _ _ _
- 3 a written order for medicine:
_ _ _ _ _
- 4 a large organ of the body which cleans blood: _ _ _ _
- 5 not well in health: _ _ _
- 6 a desire to sleep: _ _ _ _ _
- 7 a person who looks after your house:
_ _ _ _ _
- 8 a short journey: _ _ _ _
- 9 an illness: _ _ _ _ _

What's your score?/9

Now write your own sentence using at least two words from the word puzzle.

3 Discussion

The three men in Chapter One are worried about their health. They think they have all kinds of illnesses, but there is nothing really wrong with them. This kind of person is called a hypochondriac. Do you know anyone who is a hypochondriac? What is he/she always worried about? How could you help this person?

Fox-Terriers

Dogs have been the companions of people for more than 7,000 years. It is believed that today's dog comes from the wolf,¹ and today there are about 225 types of dogs in the world.

Fox-terriers are of British origin and they were present in the days of the Roman Empire.

Fox-Terriers are brave, aggressive dogs and they have always been used to hunt² foxes and rats. They are very good at finding and killing rats and in the nineteenth-century there were rat-killing competitions: people bought tickets to watch fights between fox-terriers and rats. A terrier called Billy, who weighed about 26 pounds (11 kilos), killed 100 rats in 6 minutes 25 seconds in a competition held in Westminster, London, on 13 October 1822.

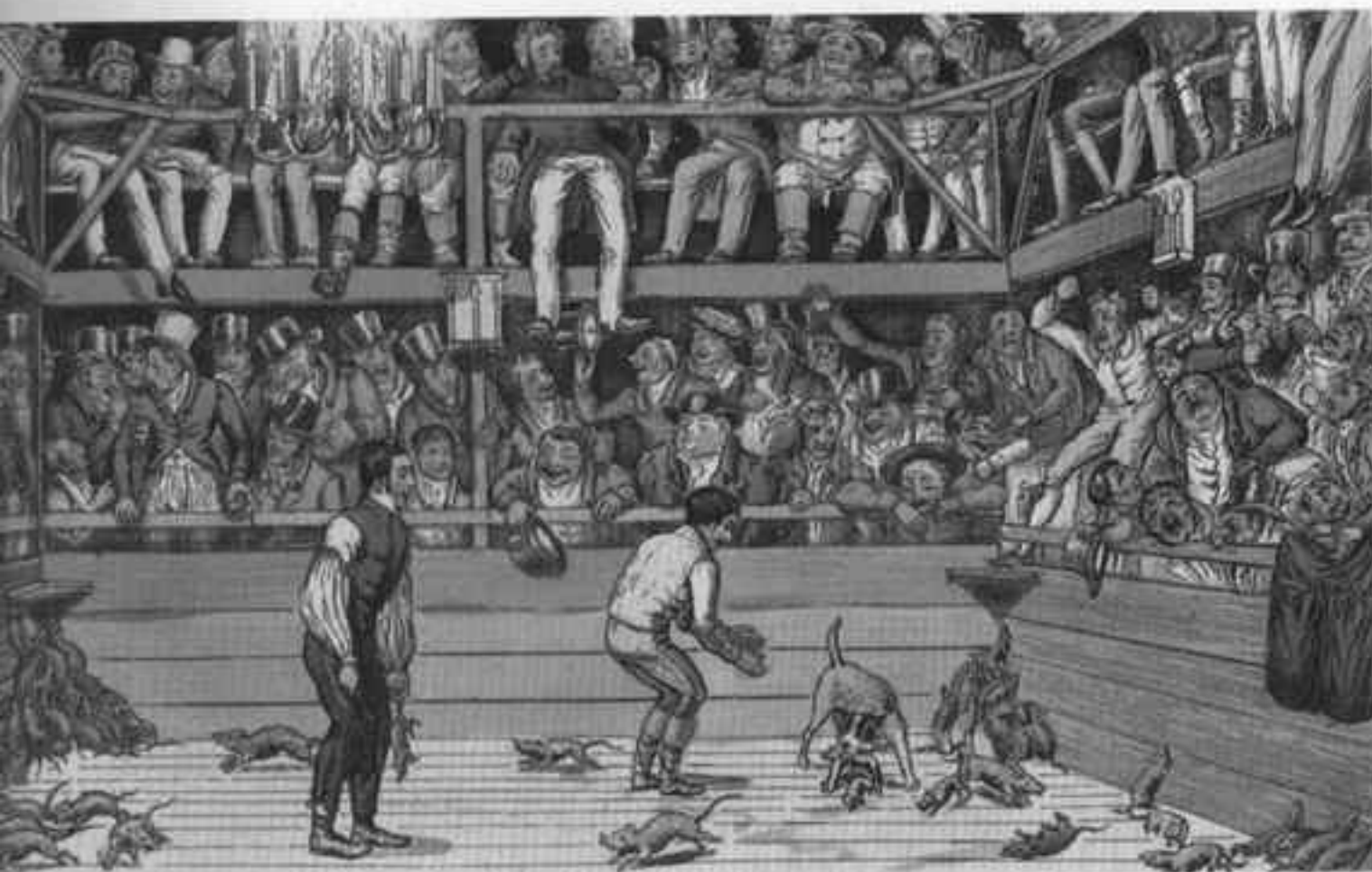
In literature, fox-terriers are mentioned as early as 1359. Even then,

they were used as hunting dogs.

Today there are about 22 kinds of terriers. The larger ones are used as guard dogs or police dogs.



1. **wolf** : a wild animal which looks like a big dog.
2. **hunt** : to run after in order to catch and kill.



The celebrated Dog Billy Killing 100 Rats at the Westminster Pit (1825), a print by Pierce Egan. Such competitions were popular, and spectators bet money on the time taken.

1 Speaking

What kind of dog do you like, and why? Prepare a short talk.

2 Vocabulary

Do this crossword puzzle.

Across

3



6 opposite of beautiful

7 we use it to smell

9 large terriers are used as...

11 run after in order to catch, kill

Down

1 terrier who killed many rats

2 friend

4

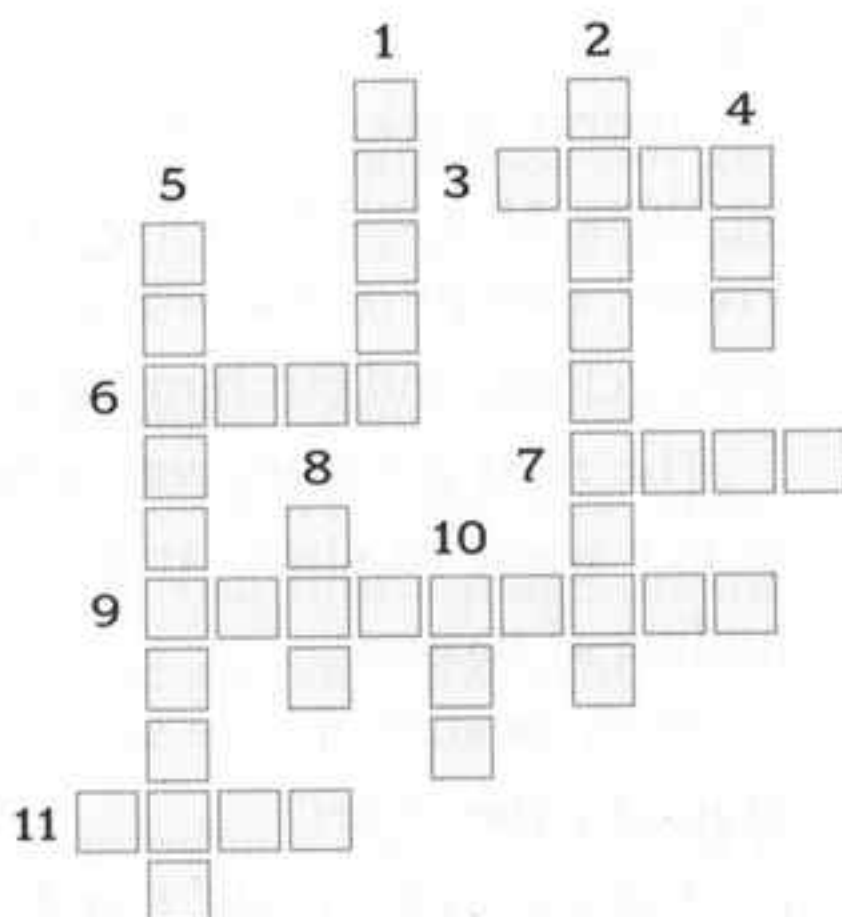


5 brave

8



10 a terrier is a kind of ...





Planning the Trip

We looked at the maps and we discussed plans. We decided to start from Kingston the following Saturday.

‘Harris, you and I will go to get the boat at Kingston,’ I said. ‘Then we’ll take it up the river to Chertsey,¹ where we’ll meet George.’

George works in the City² until the afternoon. (George goes to sleep at a bank from ten o’clock to four o’clock, Monday to Friday, except on Saturdays. On Saturdays, they wake him up at two o’clock, and put him outside the door.)

The next problem was where to sleep at night. George and I didn’t want to sleep at inns.³ We wanted to camp out in the middle of nature.

‘How beautiful,’ we said, ‘sleeping in the country, under the stars, by the river!’

‘I can imagine it all!’ I said. ‘There is a golden sunset. The river

1. **Kingston, Chertsey** : towns on the River Thames.

2. **the City** : financial centre of London.

3. **inns** : small hotels.

Planning the Trip

is moving along quietly. The forest is full of trees and birds. The grass around us is green, and little flowers grow here and there.

'Soon it is dark. We row¹ our boat into a quiet corner on the river. We put up our tent and cook a simple, healthy meal. We all sit around a warm fire and eat our meal.

'We look up and see the moon and the stars. Then we sit in silence. How wonderful this is! We go to bed, and then we dream under the stars! We dream that the world is young again.'

As we all sat there dreaming, Harris said, 'What happens if it rains?'

There is nothing poetic about Harris. He is not romantic at all. If Harris ever has tears in his eyes, he is eating raw onions. If you stand by the sea with Harris and say, 'Listen to the sounds of the sea. Can you hear spirits singing sad songs — the songs of those who died in these waters?' he will take you by the arm and say, 'I understand, my friend. You're not feeling well. Now, come with me. I know a place around the corner here, where you can get some good whisky. You'll feel better soon.' Harris always knows where you can find a good whisky.

Harris was right about camping out when it rains. It's not nice at all. Just imagine: it is evening. You are all wet. There is water in the boat and all your things are wet. You find a place on the river bank. You get out of the boat and pull out the tent. Now two of you try to put it up.

The tent is wet and very heavy. It is raining hard. The wind is blowing. The wet tent flies about. It falls on your head and makes you angry. It is difficult to put up a tent in good weather. It is impossible to do so in wet weather. The other man is of no

1. **row** : move a boat through water using oars.



Three Men in a Boat

help at all. He is a complete fool!

The wind continues to blow and the rain continues to fall. You look at the other man and say, 'What are you doing with your side of the tent?'

'What are you doing?' he answers.

'Don't pull on your side!' you shout.

'I didn't pull. You pulled!' he shouts.

'You're doing everything wrong!' you shout.

'What?' he shouts, 'I can't hear you.'

'You don't know how to put up a tent! We'll never put up this tent,' you say.

At this point, the third man has pulled the boat out of the water. He is completely wet. He wants to know why the tent isn't up yet. Everyone is wet and angry.

Harris was right. Camping out in rainy weather is not a good idea. We decided to camp out in good weather and sleep at an inn or a hotel in bad weather. Montmorency agreed with this decision. He likes inns and hotels.

Montmorency doesn't like the quiet life. He prefers noise and confusion. He looks like a good, well-behaved dog. But he's not. When you look at Montmorency, you see an angel from paradise, in the form of a small fox-terrier. You think he is a sweet, gentle little dog. When old ladies and gentlemen look at him, tears come to their eyes.

When he killed twelve chickens, and I paid for them, I changed my opinion of Montmorency. In one year, he had one hundred and fourteen street fights with other dogs. An angry woman brought me her dead cat and called me a murderer. Montmorency loves to join the worst dogs. He then takes them around town to fight other dogs. This is his idea of a happy life.



The text and **beyond**

PET 1 Fill in the gaps

Read the passage below and choose the correct word A, B, C or D, for each space.

J, Harris and George looked at maps and discussed plans for their trip. They wanted to begin the trip (1) Saturday. They decided to meet George in Chertsey. George worked at a bank in the City. The three men liked nature and wanted to sleep in the country (2) the stars, but they were worried (3) the rain. In bad (4) they decided to sleep at an inn or hotel. They (5) it was difficult to put (6) a tent, especially when it rained and the wind blew. Montmorency agreed with them because he liked hotels and inns. Montmorency looks (7) a calm, gentle fox-terrier, but he (8) He is (9) than many other dogs and has had over a hundred fights. He once killed twelve chickens and J paid (10) them. He even killed a cat and J was called a murderer. He likes joining the worst dogs and taking them around town to fight other dogs.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 A at | B in | C on | D of |
| 2 A under | B over | C behind | D above |
| 3 A for | B from | C by | D about |
| 4 A weather | B climate | C atmosphere | D seasons |
| 5 A dreamt | B studied | C knew | D hope |
| 6 A up | B in | C on | D by |
| 7 A at | B for | C into | D like |
| 8 A doesn't | B isn't | C wasn't | D hasn't |
| 9 A worse | B worst | C bad | D best |
| 10 A for | B at | C some | D all |

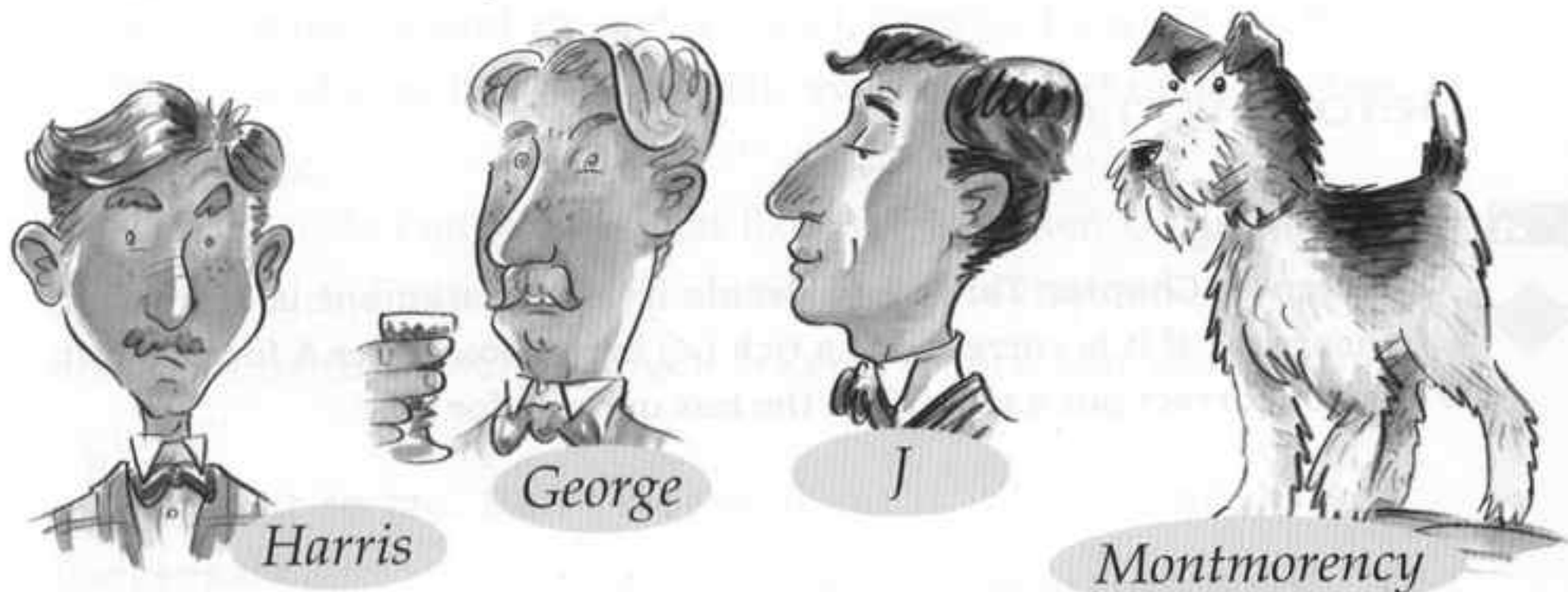
2 Past simple

The past simple is often used to write a story. Put the verbs in brackets in the past simple tense.

The tent (1) (be) very heavy but George (2) (try) to put it up. He (3) (think) it was easy. The tent (4) (fall) on his head three times and this (5) (make) him angry. The wind (6) (blow) all day and all night, so George (7) (sleep) in the boat. But the boat (8) (rock) a lot. The next morning he (9) (feel) very tired. For breakfast he (10) (drink) some hot tea and (11) (eat) some bread, butter and jam. He (12) (want) to go home!

3 Characters

At this point in the story you know more about the characters. Write a short description of about 30 words for each one. Use the information in Chapters One and Two to help you.



George works in a

Harris is not

J's health problem is

Montmorency doesn't like

4 Opposites

Match the words below with their opposites and then write five sentences using some of the words.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 start | A <input type="checkbox"/> quiet |
| 2 full | B <input type="checkbox"/> push |
| 3 noisy | C <input type="checkbox"/> best |
| 4 young | D <input type="checkbox"/> easy |
| 5 cooked | E <input type="checkbox"/> light |
| 6 wet | F <input type="checkbox"/> take down |
| 7 difficult | G <input type="checkbox"/> right |
| 8 worst | H <input type="checkbox"/> finish |
| 9 heavy | I <input type="checkbox"/> dry |
| 10 put up | J <input type="checkbox"/> old |
| 11 pull | K <input type="checkbox"/> empty |
| 12 wrong | L <input type="checkbox"/> raw |

Before you read

1 Listening


PET

Listen to Chapter Three and decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct put a tick (✓) in the box under A for yes. If it is not correct put a tick (✓) in the box under B for no.

- | | A
YES | B
NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 George told J to get something to write on. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Harris reminded J of old Uncle Podger. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Whenever Uncle Podger did something other people helped him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Aunt Podger was pleased with her husband's work and thanked him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 George, Harris and J did not take cheese with them because no one liked it. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Harris's and George's toothbrushes were in J's suitcase. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Packing

The following evening we met again to discuss our plans.  Harris said, 'Now, we must decide what to take with us. You get a piece of paper, J, and you get a pencil, George. I'll write the list.'

Harris is always like this. He tells everyone what to do, and he does nothing.

My old Uncle Podger was just like Harris. When Uncle Podger did a job, everybody in the house helped. One day, Uncle Podger bought a picture. Aunt Podger asked, 'Where can we put this picture?'

'Leave it to me. Don't worry about it. I'll do it all,' Uncle Podger said.

He sent one of the girls to buy the nails. Then he sent one of the boys to tell her the size of the nails. He sent Bill to get the hammer, and he sent Tom to get the ruler.

'Now get me a kitchen chair, Jim. I need two people to hold the chair. Maria, come here and hold the light. Tom, come here and give me the nail.'

He finally had the nail in his hand, but it fell on the floor.

Three Men in a Boat

Everyone looked everywhere for the nail. When someone finally found it, Uncle Podger lost the hammer.

‘Where’s the hammer? Where did I put the hammer? Help me find the hammer!’

When we found the hammer, he lost the place on the wall to put the picture. So each one of us climbed up on the chair to look for the place. Each one thought it was a different place. When Uncle Podger climbed up on the chair, he fell on the piano. Aunt Podger was very angry. She said, ‘The next time you put a picture on the wall, please tell me. I’ll go and spend a week with my mother!’

Uncle Podger tried again and again. At midnight, the picture was on the wall. However, it was not straight. The wall was dirty. Everyone was tired and unhappy. Uncle Podger looked at the picture and said, ‘It was such an easy job!’

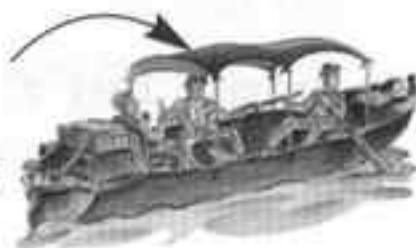
I told Harris, ‘You get the paper and pencil. George will write the list, and I’ll do the work.’

The first list was too long. We threw it away. We started another list.

‘In order to travel to the north part of the River Thames, we need a small boat,’ George said. ‘With a small boat, we can carry only necessary things. We won’t take a heavy tent. We can put a canvas cover¹ over the boat at night. It will be like a little house, warm and comfortable.’

We made a list of all the clothes we needed. George said he knew everything about the right clothes for a trip. We discovered later that this wasn’t true.

1. canvas cover :



Packing

We talked about food next. George said, 'Let's continue with breakfast. For breakfast we'll need a frying pan.'

'That's quite difficult to eat,' Harris said, smiling.

'Stop being stupid, Harris,' I said.

'Let's continue,' said George. 'We'll need tea, sugar, eggs, bacon, bread, butter and jam. For lunch, we can take biscuits, cold meat, and fruit — but no cheese. The smell of cheese is too strong. After a day or two, everything will smell of cheese.'

'For dinner, we can take meat pies, fruit pies, tomatoes and green vegetables. This good food will keep us healthy,' George said.

We didn't take wine or beer, because they both make you sleep.

George continued, 'We'll also need a teapot, a pan and a camping stove.¹ We don't want a paraffin oil stove.'²

'Oh, no, not a paraffin oil stove!' I said. We once took a paraffin oil stove. It was horrible. The smell of paraffin oil was everywhere. The river smelled of paraffin. The wind smelled of paraffin. Even the sunset smelled of paraffin. When we visited the town of Marlow, it smelled of paraffin, too! Even the church of Marlow smelled of paraffin. The countryside for miles around smelled of paraffin. We decided never to take a paraffin oil stove again.

The next day we bought everything we needed. We met in the evening to pack our suitcases. We got a large suitcase for the clothes, and two large hampers³ for the food and utensils.

1. camping stove :



2. paraffin oil stove : uses a special oil to make fire.

3. hampers :







Three Men in a Boat

I am very good at packing. Packing is one of those things that I do best.

‘I’ll organise the packing,’ I said to George and Harris. They agreed. George sat in the armchair and Harris put his feet up on the table.

This was not what I had intended. I wanted to organise the packing — not do it! I wanted George and Harris to do all the work. However, I didn’t say anything. I started packing the clothes. It took a long time, but I finally finished. I sat on the big suitcase to close it. George and Harris watched me.

‘Aren’t you putting the boots in?’ asked Harris.

I had forgotten them!

‘Why didn’t you tell me before?’ I said. Harris said nothing. George laughed. I was furious. I opened the suitcase again, and packed the boots. Then an awful idea came to me. Did I pack my toothbrush?

I started looking for it. I took everything out of the suitcase. I found George’s toothbrush. I found Harris’s toothbrush. But I didn’t find mine. In the end, I found it inside a boot. I packed everything again.

When I finished, George asked me, ‘Is the soap in the suitcase?’

‘I don’t care about the soap,’ I answered. I sat on the big suitcase again to close it. Then I remembered that my cigarettes were in the suitcase. I opened it again and finally closed it at 10:50 p.m.

There were still the two hampers to pack. Harris and George decided to pack them. I sat down to watch.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

For each question choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

- 1 J, George and Harris met in the evening
 - A ☐ to have dinner.
 - B ☐ to go to the theatre.
 - C ☐ to buy a picture for the living room.
 - D ☐ to discuss their plans.
- 2 Old Uncle Podger was
 - A ☐ just like Harris.
 - B ☐ Harris's favourite uncle.
 - C ☐ a great painter.
 - D ☐ very rich and famous.
- 3 Bill was sent to get the hammer
 - A ☐ but he refused to go.
 - B ☐ and Aunt Podger was sent to get the nails.
 - C ☐ and Tom was sent to get the ruler.
 - D ☐ and Maria was sent to get the kitchen chair.
- 4 The three men decided to
 - A ☐ take a heavy tent with them.
 - B ☐ buy a big boat for the trip.
 - C ☐ travel to the north part of the River Thames.
 - D ☐ leave Montmorency at home.
- 5 They did not take cheese with them
 - A ☐ because its smell was too strong.
 - B ☐ and Harris got angry.
 - C ☐ because no one liked it.
 - D ☐ because they forgot to buy it.
- 6 The two hampers were packed
 - A ☐ by J and Harris.
 - B ☐ by Harris and George.
 - C ☐ by J and Aunt Podger.
 - D ☐ at midnight.



2 Sentence transformation

For each question complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use no more than three words. There's an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 There are only a few paraffin oil stoves in the shop.
There aren't many paraffin oil stoves in the shop.
- 1 George prefers sleeping to working at the bank.
George likes sleeping working at the bank.
- 2 Uncle Podger is just like Harris.
Uncle Podger and Harris
- 3 The black boots at the shop on the square did not cost as much as the brown ones.
The black boots at the shop on the square the brown ones.
- 4 George's list was longer than Harris's.
Harris's list George's.
- 5 Aunt Podger was the only person in the kitchen.
There was in the kitchen except Aunt Podger.

T: GRADE 6

3 Speaking: health

The three men in the story decide to take fruit pies, tomatoes and green vegetables because good food will keep them healthy. What do you do to keep healthy? Talk to your partner about it. Use these questions to help you.

- 1 What healthy food do you eat?
- 2 What unhealthy food do you eat?
- 3 Why do you eat them?
- 4 Do you follow a special diet? If so, which diet and why?
- 5 How often do you do sport or go to the gym?
- 6 Why do you think it is important to see a doctor once a year for a check-up?

INTERNET PROJECT

Go to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page to *Three Men in a Boat*. Click on the Internet project link. Scroll down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

LET'S FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HEALTHY FOOD!

To be healthy you need the right amount of protein, carbohydrates and fats in your daily diet. Divide the class into three groups and each group can write a brief report on protein, carbohydrates and fats. Then create a healthy menu for a week: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Present your report to the class and compare menus.

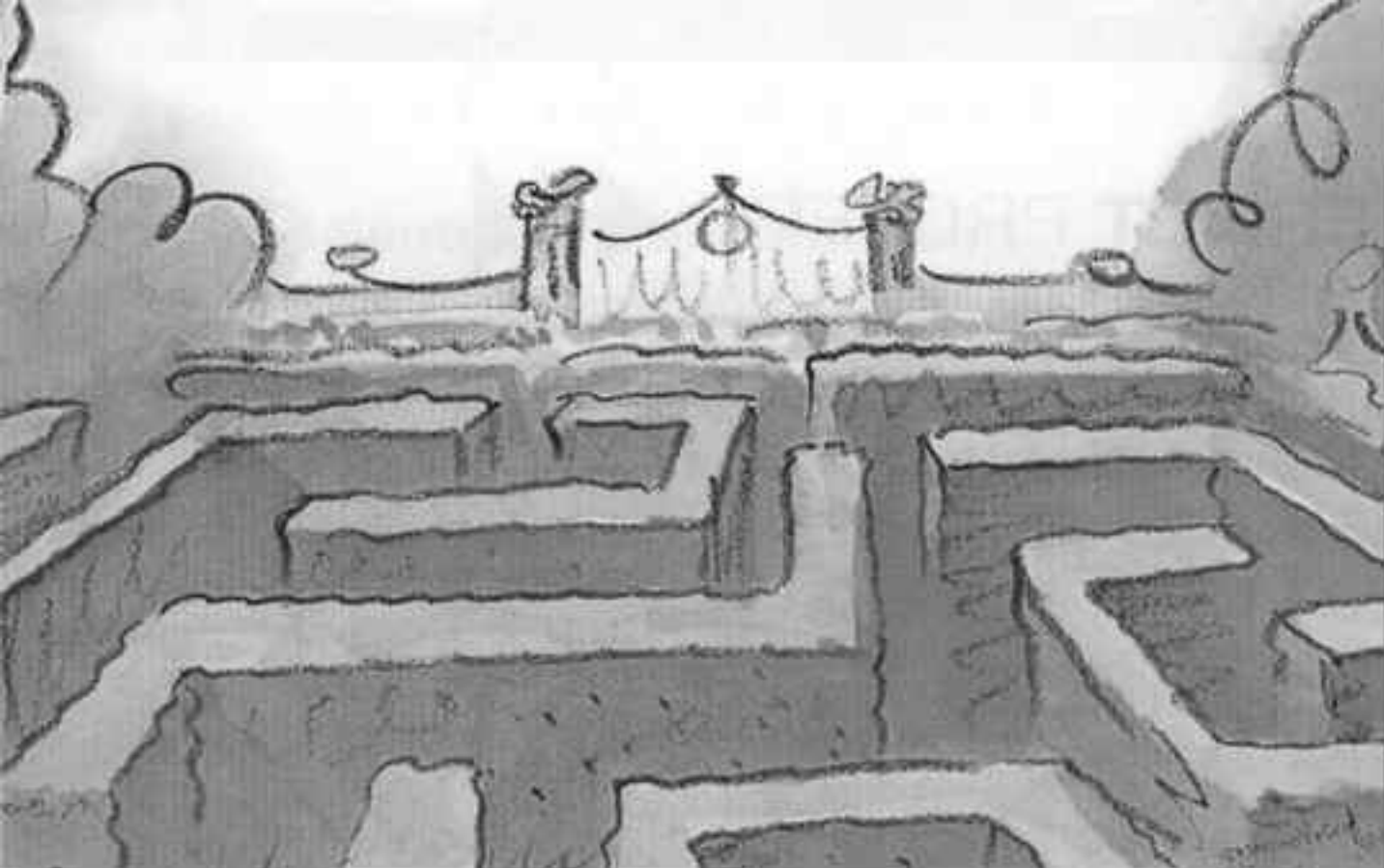


Before you read

1 Reading pictures

Look at the picture on page 37 and answer these questions.

- 1 Where do you think these people are?
- 2 Why are they in a queue?
- 3 Who is the man in the front and what is he reading?
- 4 Why do some of the people seem angry?
- 5 Why are some ladies carrying umbrellas?



Ready for the Trip

There were dishes, cups, bottles, pans, tomatoes, cakes and many other things to pack in the hampers.

As soon as George and Harris started packing, they broke a cup. And, this was just the beginning! George is the worst packer in the world. When George dies, Harris will be the worst packer in the world.

They walked on things and broke them. Harris put a big jar of jam on top of a tomato and crushed¹ it. George stepped on a big packet of butter, and Harris sat on it. Soon there was butter everywhere. They packed the pies in the hamper. Then they put heavy things on top of them. The pies were crushed, just like the tomato.

In the middle of all of this, there was Montmorency, of course. He put his leg in the sugar, and soon there was sugar everywhere. He ran away with the teaspoons. He pretended²

1. **crushed** : destroyed the natural shape.

2. **pretended** : made believe.

Ready for the Trip

that the lemons were rats, and killed three of them! This was Montmorency's idea of fun.

At one in the morning, the packing was finished. We were ready for bed.

George said, 'What time shall I wake you up?'

Harris said, 'Seven o'clock.'

I said, 'Six o'clock.'

'Wake us up at half past six, George,' we said.

It was Mrs Poppets who woke me up the next morning. 'Do you know that it's nearly nine o'clock?'

'What!' I shouted, as I jumped out of bed. I woke up Harris and George. We began to get ready, and we remembered that we had packed our toothbrushes. So we went to get them out of the suitcase. This was not an easy job.

At last, we were ready to eat breakfast. While we ate breakfast, George read the newspaper. He told us about the people killed on the river, and about the bad weather report.

George went to work, and Harris and I finished our breakfast. That morning, Montmorency invited two of his friends to the house. They fought most of the time.

When we were finally ready, we carried our luggage to the road. We waited twenty minutes for a taxi. Taxis usually come every three minutes.

A crowd of people was watching us. They looked at us, at Montmorency, and at Montmorency's friends. They looked at all our luggage: a big suitcase, a small bag, two big hampers, some pans, some umbrellas, five coats and raincoats.

At Waterloo Station,¹ we took the 11:05 train to Kingston. At

1. **Waterloo Station** : train station in London.

Three Men in a Boat

Kingston, our boat was waiting for us below the bridge. Harris and I put our luggage in it. We got on the boat happily, but Montmorency was worried. Harris took the oars and we started our two-week trip on the River Thames.

Harris was wearing a red and orange blazer.¹ It was a beautiful, sunny day. We were enjoying the first moments of our holiday.

When we passed Hampton Court Palace,² Harris asked, 'Have you ever visited the maze³ here?' He said he had gone into the maze once to show a friend. He studied a map of the maze before going in. He knew it was very easy to get out again.

Harris said to his friend, 'We'll go in and walk around for ten minutes. Then we'll come out and have lunch. It's very easy. Take the first turn to the right each time.'

In the maze, they met some people who had been there for forty-five minutes. They wanted to get out because they were lost. Harris said, 'Follow me! I'm going out in ten minutes.' The people thanked him and started following him. Other people began following Harris, too. Some of them were worried and afraid. He continued turning to the right, but he was still in the maze.

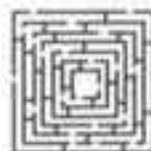
Harris got lost! The people were angry with him. They all started calling for help. A young keeper⁴ heard them and came to help. But, he got lost, too! Finally, the old keeper came back from lunch. He let the people out. Everyone was tired and angry.

1. **blazer** :



2. **Hampton Court Palace** : see Internet project on page 40.

3. **maze** :



4. **keeper** : person who takes care of a place.



Three Men in a Boat

Harris said, 'Let's ask George to try the maze, on our return trip.'

'Not a bad idea,' I said.

When we passed Molesey Lock,¹ we were the only boat in the big lock. Usually, the lock is a very busy place. On Sundays, there are boats everywhere. People like the river and the sun. It's such a beautiful picture — the river, the trees, the flowers and the people, in their colourful clothes.

At Hampton, Harris wanted to stop the boat and have a look at the church. I don't like visiting churches, but Harris loves it.

'I came on the trip only because I wanted to visit Hampton Church. You know, I love churches, churchyards and tombs. The idea of not seeing Hampton Church, with Mrs Thomas's tomb, makes me angry.'

'Who is Mrs Thomas?' I asked.

'I don't know, but she has a strange tomb.'

I said, 'We must be at Shepperton at five o'clock to meet George.'

Harris said, 'George! Why can't George be here to do some work? Why doesn't he help us with this heavy boat? What does he do at the bank? He sits behind a piece of glass all day and does nothing. I work! Why doesn't he work? I'm going to have a drink!'

'There are no pubs near here. The nearest pub is far away,' I said.

'What! We'll all die of thirst. No pubs!'

'If you're thirsty, we have water in the boat.' I said.

'Water! Water makes people ill!' he said. 'However, I am very thirsty and I must drink something.' So he took the bottle and drank some water.

1. **Lock** : stretch of water closed off by gates, especially on a canal.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

What happened in Chapter Four? Answer the following questions.

- 1 When will Harris become the worst packer in the world?
- 2 Why did Montmorency kill three lemons?
- 3 What did George read in the newspaper?
- 4 Where did they start their river trip?
- 5 Why were the people in the maze angry with Harris?
- 6 How did the people in the maze finally get out?
- 7 What did Harris want to see at Hampton Church?
- 8 When and where will J and Harris meet George?

2 Notices

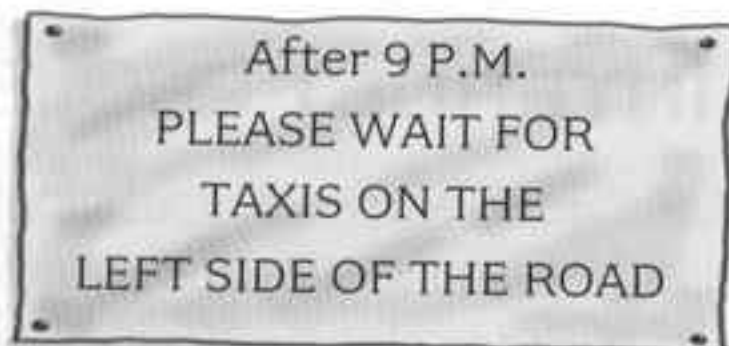
Look at the text in each question. What does it say? Mark the correct letter – A, B or C.

1



- A ☐ When it rains catch the train on platform 2.
- B ☐ When it's sunny catch the train on platform 8.
- C ☐ Trains for Kingston leave from platform 8 when it rains.

2



- A ☐ If you need a taxi after 9 p.m., queue up on the left side of the road.
- B ☐ If you need a taxi before 9 p.m. queue up on the right side of the road.
- C ☐ Taxis must not stop on the left side of the road after 9 p.m..

3

ROYAL MAZE OPEN
FROM 10:00 to 4:30
EXCEPT MONDAYS

- A ☐ The maze opens at 4:30 except Mondays.
B ☐ The maze is open from 10:00 to 4:30 only on Mondays.
C ☐ The maze is closed on Mondays.

4

DURING VISITS TO THE ROYAL MAZE
CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12
MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

- A ☐ Children who are not 12 cannot visit the maze alone.
B ☐ All adults must take a child under the age of 12 with them.
C ☐ Children who are 12 can visit the maze free of charge.

5

SPECIAL SUMMER SALE!
15% OFF ALL
PICNIC HAMPERS!

- A ☐ Fifteen picnic hampers are on sale.
B ☐ Fifteen percent of all the picnic hampers are on sale.
C ☐ During the summer all picnic hampers cost fifteen percent less.



INTERNET PROJECT



Go to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page to *Three Men in a Boat*. Click on the Internet project link. Scroll down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

LET'S FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HAMPTON COURT PALACE!

Look at 'Palace Highlights'. Divide the class into five groups and each group can write a brief report on one of the following:

- ▶ The Maze
- ▶ Henry VIII's Great Hall
- ▶ The Privy Garden
- ▶ Charles I escapes
- ▶ Catherine Howard is accused of adultery

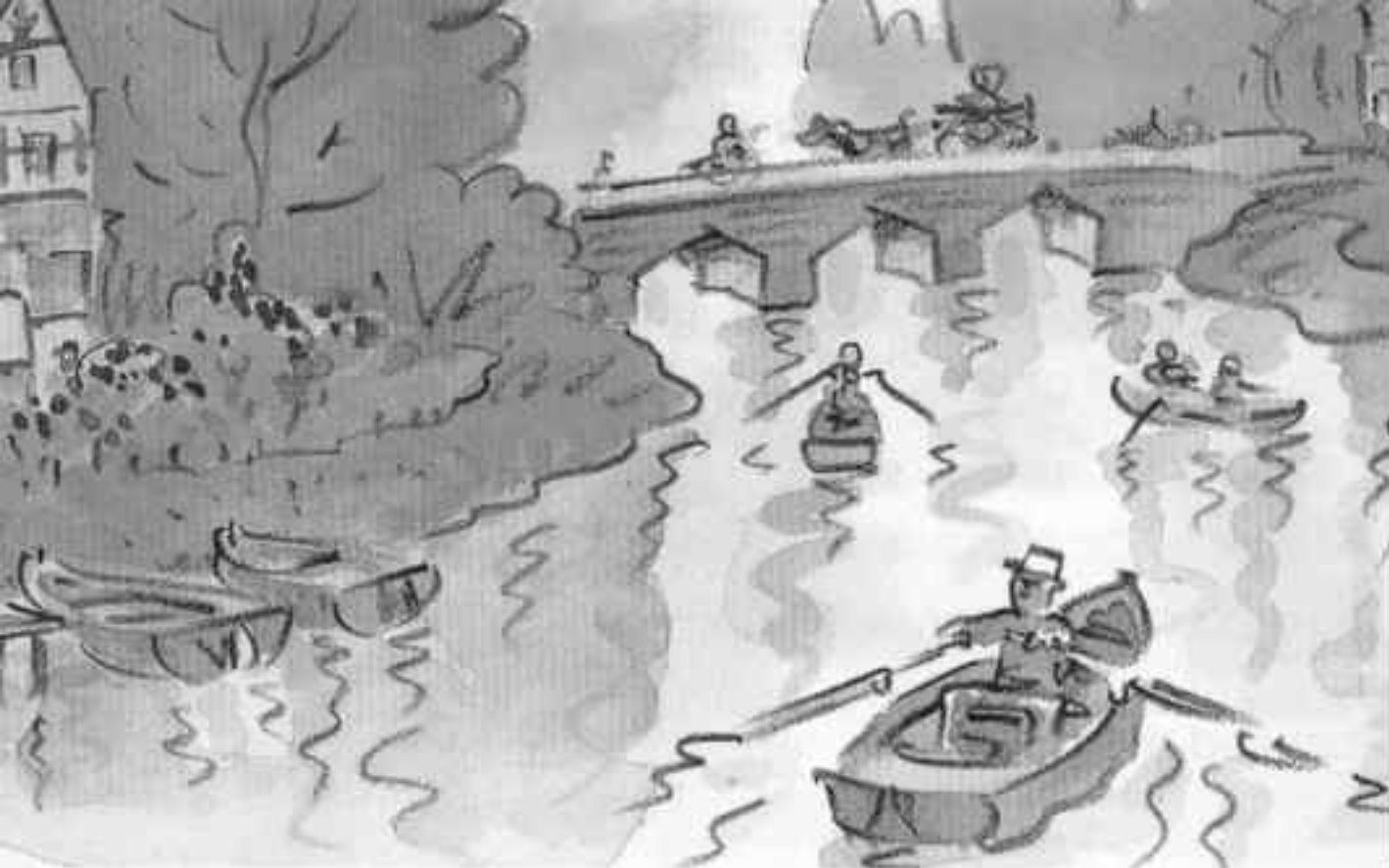


Before you read

1 Reading pictures

Look at the picture on pages 46-7.

- Harris, in the middle, has two metal rods in his hands, while J, on the left, has one metal rod.
- Describe the rest of the picture in as much detail as you can.
- What do you think the three men are trying to do, and why?
- How do you think this scene will finish?



First Day on the Boat

We stopped at Kempton Park and had lunch under the trees. Good food always calms Harris.

We reached Sunbury Lock at half past three. We then went to Walton, which is a historical town. Julius Caesar stayed there with his soldiers. Queen Elizabeth I stayed there, too. You can never escape from that woman. She was everywhere!

Next we came to Halliford and Shepperton. There is a tomb in the Shepperton churchyard with a poem on it. I was afraid Harris wanted to stop and visit it. I saw him looking at the church, as we passed near it, so I moved the boat suddenly, and Harris's cap fell into the water. He pulled it out and was angry with me. Fortunately, he was worried about his wet cap and forgot about the church.

As we came to Weybridge, the first thing we saw was a coloured blazer. When we got closer, we saw that George was inside the blazer. Montmorency started barking¹ furiously.

1. **barking** : the loud sound dogs make.

First Day on the Boat

Harris and I shouted loudly. George waved his cap and shouted, too. The lock-keeper¹ ran out, because he thought someone had fallen into the water. When he saw that no one was in the water, he returned to his work.

Now that George was on the boat, we decided to make him work. He did not want to work, of course.

'I had a bad day at the bank,' George said.

Harris, who is a little cruel, said, 'Now you're going to have a bad day on the river. A change is good for you. It's healthy! Come on! Get out of the boat and TOW!' ²

George didn't know what to say. After a moment, he said, 'It's better if I stay here and prepare tea. It's very difficult to prepare tea, and you look tired.'

We didn't answer. We gave him the rope. He started walking and pulling the boat.

I remember that George once saw a young couple who were walking by the side of the river. They were pulling a rope behind them, and they were talking. They didn't notice that there was no boat at the end of the rope. They had probably had a boat at the end of the rope when they started. But they had lost it.

When George saw this, he took the rope out of the water. Then he tied it to his own boat. So, the young couple towed George and his three fat friends up to Marlow. When they looked back, they saw that they were towing a boat that was not theirs. The young man was surprised and angry. The young lady said, 'Oh, Henry, where is Aunt Mary?'

No one knew what happened to Aunt Mary.

1. **lock-keeper** : person who opens and shuts the lock gates on a river.

2. **tow** : pull with a rope.

Three Men in a Boat

The most exciting thing is to let girls tow your boat. You always need three girls. Two of them hold the rope. The third one runs around and laughs all the time.

When they are finally ready to pull, they start running. They pull the boat too fast, and they are soon tired. They sit down on the grass to rest and laugh. While they rest, your boat goes out into the middle of the river. 'Oh, look,' they say, 'the boat's gone to the middle of the river!'

They laugh, jump up and start pulling it again. Then one of them decides to stop, because she needs her hat. Then another wants her red shawl.¹ Now one of them needs a comb for her hair. The other wants her handkerchief. This goes on for most of the afternoon. It is never boring when three girls tow a boat.

George towed us to Penton Hook. We stopped there and decided to spend the night on the boat. We found a pretty place. We tied our boat to a big tree.

We were all hungry and we wanted to eat. However, George said, 'No, let's put the canvas cover on the boat first. It will only take a few minutes.'

It looked simple, but it wasn't. There were five metal rods. You put them into special holes in the side of the boat. I didn't think this was dangerous work, but it was. I'm surprised that we are still alive to tell the story.

First of all, the metal rods did not go into their holes. We jumped on them, kicked them and pushed them. When the rods were in their holes, we tried to put the canvas cover on the boat.

1. **shawl** : piece of material you put over your shoulders to keep you warm.

First Day on the Boat

George took one part of the cover. He tied it at the front of the boat. Harris stood in the middle to help George with the cover. George did his job well, but Harris was completely confused.

After ten minutes of hard work, Harris was inside the cover! He was fighting to get out. He accidentally knocked George down. Now George was inside the cover, too. They fought with the cover. I heard some very bad words. I thought the job must be very difficult.

I didn't understand what was happening. George and Harris had told Montmorency and me to stand at the back of the boat. We did exactly that. We waited quietly. We saw the cover moving violently, but we thought this was the correct method.

After a long time, we heard George shout, 'We can't breathe under here! Why don't you help us, you idiot!'

When someone calls for help, I always answer. I went to help them. Poor Harris, his face was almost black.





The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

Answer the following questions.

- 1 Which two historical figures stayed at Walton?
- 2 Why did J move the boat suddenly?
- 3 Who was waiting for J and Harris at Weybridge?
- 4 Why did George want to prepare tea?
- 5 Who towed George and his three fat friends to Marlow?
- 6 What happens when three girls row a boat?
- 7 What problems did the three men have when they put the canvas cover on the boat?
- 8 Who stood at the back of the boat and why?
- 9 What happened when George asked for help?

We saw the cover moving violently.

Adverbs describe verbs, other adverbs or adjectives. Adverbs answer questions such as: *how? when? where?*

The form of many adverbs is like this:

ADJECTIVE + -LY	ADVERBS
slow	slowly
safe	safely
dangerous	dangerously

REMEMBER, not all adverbs end in *-ly*, for example: *fast, hard, late, often*

Look at these examples:

*I walk **quickly** (**quickly** describes how I walk)*

*He arrived **yesterday** (**yesterday** describes when he arrived)*

*She stopped **here** (**here** describes where she stopped)*

2 Adverbs

Now fill in the gaps with the correct adverb from the box below.

everywhere violently suddenly yesterday
furiously accidentally slowly loudly lazily there

- 1 J moved the boat and Harris's cap fell into the river
- 2 During a dog fight Montmorency and his friends barked and ran
- 3 The two friends shouted when they saw George at the lock.
- 4 George was tired, and towed the boat and
- 5 Harris and George moved inside the boat cover.
- 6 He worked all day at the bank
- 7 They stopped the boat near the bridge over

3 Summary

Let's make a summary of the story so far. Put the events in chronological order. The first is done for you.

- A ☐ J packed the big suitcase, and George and Harris packed the hampers.
- B ☐ At Hampton, Harris wanted to stop to visit the church, and Mrs Thomas's tomb.
- C ☐ After a lot of problems, they put up the canvas cover.
- D ☒ 1 George, Harris and J had health problems.
- E ☐ They started their trip on Saturday morning, at Kingston.
- F ☐ The three men decided to take a trip on the river.
- G ☐ George met his friends at Weybridge, and he began to tow the boat.

Queen *Elizabeth I*

Elizabeth became Queen of England in 1558, when she was 25 years old. Like her father, Henry VIII, she was a Protestant, and in her reign she completely ended the Catholic Pope's authority over the English Church.

In 1588, the Catholic King Philip II of Spain sent an enormous fleet,¹ known as the Armada, to invade England. The strategies of the smaller English fleet together with bad weather contributed to the defeat of the Armada, and only half of the 130 ships returned to Spain.

Colonization² of the New World began in Elizabeth's reign. Sir Francis Drake, who fought against the Spanish Armada, was an expert navigator and a great explorer. He explored many parts of the New World in his ship, The Golden Hind, and between 1577 and 1580 he became the first Englishman to sail around the world. Sir Walter Raleigh was another great explorer of this time. He sailed to the south-east coast of North America, where he set up an English

1. **fleet** : big group of ships, usually warships.

2. **Colonization** : going to live in and taking control of another country.

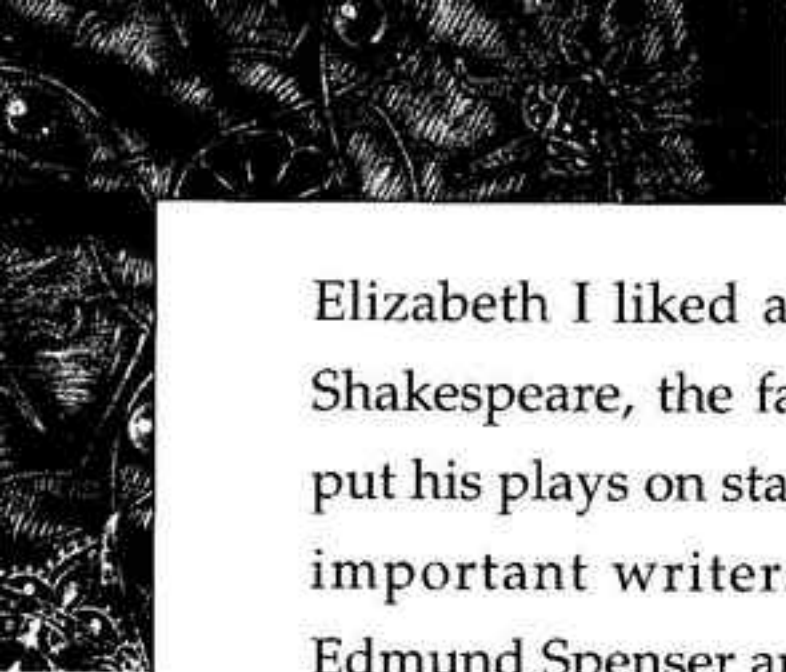




The Armada Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I (c.1588) by George Gower.

At top left the Spanish Armada sails towards Britain, but at top right it is destroyed by bad weather. With her right hand the Queen touches Virginia. Her power is also shown by her clothes and jewels.

colony and named it Virginia, in honour of Elizabeth I, the virgin queen. At the time a 'virgin' was an unmarried woman, and Elizabeth never married. Virginia is now a state of the United States.



Elizabeth I liked and supported the theatre and the arts. William Shakespeare, the famous English poet and playwright,¹ wrote and put his plays on stage in London during Elizabeth's time. Some other important writers of this period were Christopher Marlowe, Edmund Spenser and Francis Bacon.

When Elizabeth I died in 1603, England was the most important Protestant power in Europe.

1 Comprehension check

Who did what? Match the people with the information below. Put the numbers 1-6 in the correct boxes. You may use the same number more than once. Try to do it from memory!

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Queen Elizabeth I | 4 Henry VIII |
| 2 Sir Francis Drake | 5 Sir Walter Raleigh |
| 3 William Shakespeare | 6 Marlowe, Spenser and Bacon |
-
- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| A | <input type="checkbox"/> | wrote famous poems and plays |
| B | <input type="checkbox"/> | was Queen Elizabeth's father |
| C | <input type="checkbox"/> | first Englishman to sail around the world |
| D | <input type="checkbox"/> | important writers of this period |
| E | <input type="checkbox"/> | sailed to the south-east coast of North America |
| F | <input type="checkbox"/> | fought against the Spanish Armada |
| G | <input type="checkbox"/> | ended the Catholic Pope's authority over the English Church |
| H | <input type="checkbox"/> | set up an English colony named Virginia |
| I | <input type="checkbox"/> | never married |
| J | <input type="checkbox"/> | sailed on The Golden Hind |
| K | <input type="checkbox"/> | liked and supported the theatre and arts |

1. **playwright** : person who writes plays.

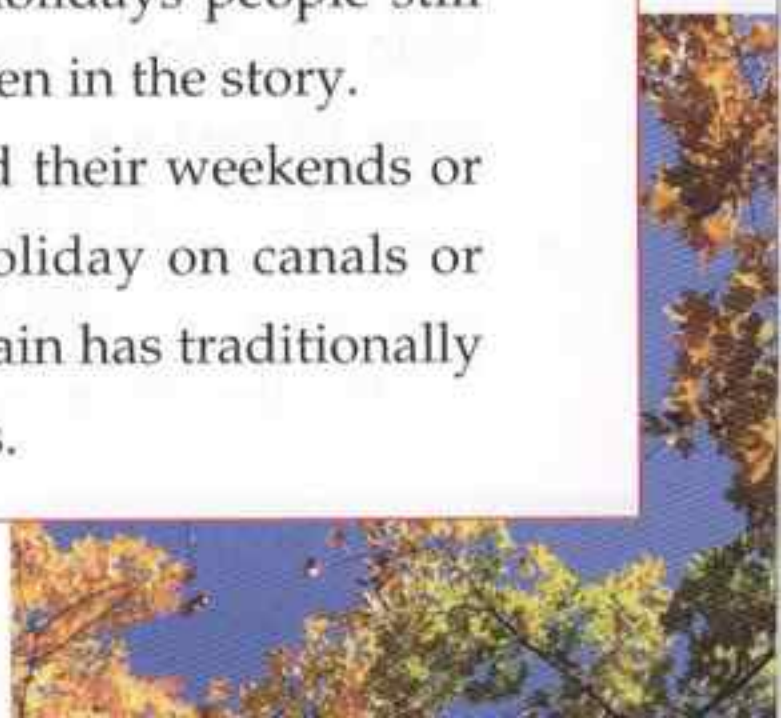
Life on the River



A **houseboat** on the River Thames with **Windsor Castle** in the background.

The Thames is Britain's longest river, but there are many other rivers, both big and small. At weekends or on holidays people still enjoy rowing boats on rivers, just like the three men in the story.

A few people own houseboats, where they spend their weekends or holidays. You can also rent houseboats for a holiday on canals or rivers. Rowing as a sport is popular, too, and Britain has traditionally always had a strong rowing team at the Olympics.



Most of Britain's important cities are found on rivers. London, the biggest port in Britain, is on the River Thames; Liverpool is on the River Mersey; Cardiff is on the River Taff; Newcastle is on the River Tyne; Glasgow is on the River Clyde. Rivers and canals have always been very important for the British economy because they made it easy to transport goods. Rivers also provide water for the farm lands. During the Industrial Revolution a great many canals were built.

Navigation on British canals is helped by locks. A lock is an enclosed part of a canal in which the water level can be changed by opening and closing gates. It allows boats to transfer between sections of a canal which have different water levels. For example, a boat enters a lock from a section of a canal with a lower level of water. A gate closes behind it, and the lock fills up with water from the section with a higher level of water. There is a lock-keeper at each lock, who opens and shuts the gates of the lock.

The gates of a **lock**
on the River Thames at Goring,
16 miles (25 km) south of Oxford.



1 Comprehension check

Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
1 A lot of people in Britain live in houseboats all year long.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 London is the biggest port in Britain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Few people practise rowing as a sport in Britain.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Goods are transported on rivers and canals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Locks make it possible for boats to change between sections of a canal with different water levels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 The lock-keeper drives the boat through the canal.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Before you read

7 1 Listening

Listen to Chapter Six and decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct put a tick (✓) in the box under A for yes. If it is not correct put a tick (✓) in the box under B for no.

	A	B
	YES	NO
1 The three men stared at the water on the stove.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 When the water gets angry it will not boil.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 The three men ate for thirty-five minutes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 When the three men were working in London they never woke up early.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Waking Harris up was difficult.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 After falling into the river J put on some dry clothes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 J and George had never heard of scrambled eggs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Harris Makes Scrambled Eggs

As soon as the cover was in place, we started to prepare supper.¹ We wanted some hot water to make tea. We put the tea kettle on the stove. We pretended that we were not interested in the water. We wanted the water to think that we did not care about it. We began to prepare supper.

This was the only way to make the water boil on a boat. If the water knows you are waiting for it, it will never get hot. You must not look at it. It's a good idea to shout, 'I don't want any tea. Do you, George?'

George shouts back, 'Oh, no. I don't like tea. I'll have milk.'

'And you, Harris?'

'Tea is terrible. I never drink it. I'll have lemonade.'

This makes the water very angry. At this point, the water will boil!

We really wanted that supper. We needed that supper. For thirty-five minutes nobody spoke. We just ate and ate. Finally,

1. **supper** : dinner.

Harris Makes Scrambled Eggs

we all had full stomachs, and we were happy. A full stomach makes you feel kind and generous. We sat and smiled at each other. We smiled at Montmorency, too. We started smoking our pipes and began to talk.

We went to bed at ten o'clock. I didn't sleep well. I wasn't comfortable in the boat. I woke up at six o'clock the next morning, and George did, too. There was no reason to wake up so early. We were on holiday. Why did we wake up so early? It never happens to us when we're working.

We decided to wake up Harris. This was hard work. We used an oar to help us. Harris moved a bit and said, 'I'll be downstairs in a minute. Get my best boots ready, please.'

We tried again with a boat hook.¹ Harris sat up suddenly and Montmorency fell off the bed. We pulled up the canvas cover and all four of us looked out at the river. We were very cold. We had planned to go swimming, but the water looked so cold and wet.

'Well, who's going swimming first?' asked Harris.

No one wanted to be first. George decided to get dressed. Montmorency barked with horror at the idea. Harris went to look for his trousers.

I decided to go to the river bank and throw some water on myself.

I held on to the branch of a tree as I moved to the water. It was very cold and I decided not to go in. I wanted to go back to the boat. But suddenly, the branch of the tree broke! I fell into the river along with my towel. I also drank about a bottle of Thames water.

1. **boat hook** : a curved piece of metal used for catching things or holding things.

Three Men in a Boat

‘Good heavens! Old J is in the water!’ Harris said.

‘How’s the water?’ George asked.

‘It’s lovely!’ I answered. ‘Why don’t you come in?’

Nobody wanted to try the water. When I got back to the boat, I was very cold. I wanted to put on my shirt, but it fell into the river. This made me angry. George started laughing.

‘I don’t see anything to laugh at,’ I said.

George laughed even more. I never saw a man laugh so much. I was cold and furious. I was trying to get my shirt out of the river. George was laughing louder and louder.

‘Stop laughing, you stupid idiot!’ I shouted.

When I finally pulled the shirt out of the river, I saw that it wasn’t mine — it was George’s shirt! I started laughing too. I laughed so much that I dropped the shirt into the river again.

‘Aren’t you going to get it out?’ said George, who continued laughing.

I didn’t answer him for a while, because I was laughing so much. At last I said, ‘It isn’t my shirt. It’s yours!’

I never saw a man’s face change so quickly.

‘What!’ he shouted. ‘You donkey! ¹ Why can’t you be careful with things? Why don’t you go and get dressed on the river bank? People like you don’t know how to live on a boat!’

I tried to tell him how funny it was, but he didn’t understand. George is a little slow at understanding a joke sometimes.

Harris said, ‘I’m cooking scrambled eggs ² for breakfast this

1. donkey :



2. **scrambled eggs** : mixture of the yellow and white parts of the egg cooked in a pan.



Three Men in a Boat

morning. Once people try my scrambled eggs, they always want them.'

He was quite famous for his scrambled eggs. George and I got the stove and the frying pan ready. Then we looked for the eggs that weren't broken. We found only six of them.

'Now you can start,' we said.

Breaking the eggs was difficult for Harris. The eggs got on his trousers and went up his arms. He put six eggs into the frying pan. Then he sat down by the stove and mixed them with a fork.

George and I saw that it was difficult work. Harris often burnt his fingers. Then he danced around the stove. He waved his hands in the air and shouted. George and I thought that this was an important part of his cooking method.

We didn't know what scrambled eggs were. We thought they were some sort of Red Indian food, and, to cook them correctly, it was necessary to do special dances with magic words.

Montmorency went to put his nose over the frying pan once, and burnt himself. He, too, began dancing around and barking. It was interesting and exciting to watch this show. George and I were sorry when it was finished.

When the scrambled eggs were ready, there was very little to eat. Six eggs had gone into the pan. But, all that came out was a teaspoon full of burnt eggs.

'The problem is the frying pan,' Harris said. 'I need another type of pan and another stove.'

We decided not to try scrambled eggs again, until Harris had the right pan and stove.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

For each question choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

1 What was the only way to get water to boil on a boat?

- A ☐ pretend you don't care about the water
- B ☐ boil it before supper
- C ☐ wait patiently for it to boil
- D ☐ never use river water

2 What did J, Harris and George do for 35 minutes?

- A ☐ they read the newspaper
- B ☐ they didn't speak
- C ☐ they visited an old church
- D ☐ they smoked their pipes

3 Who was uncomfortable on the boat?

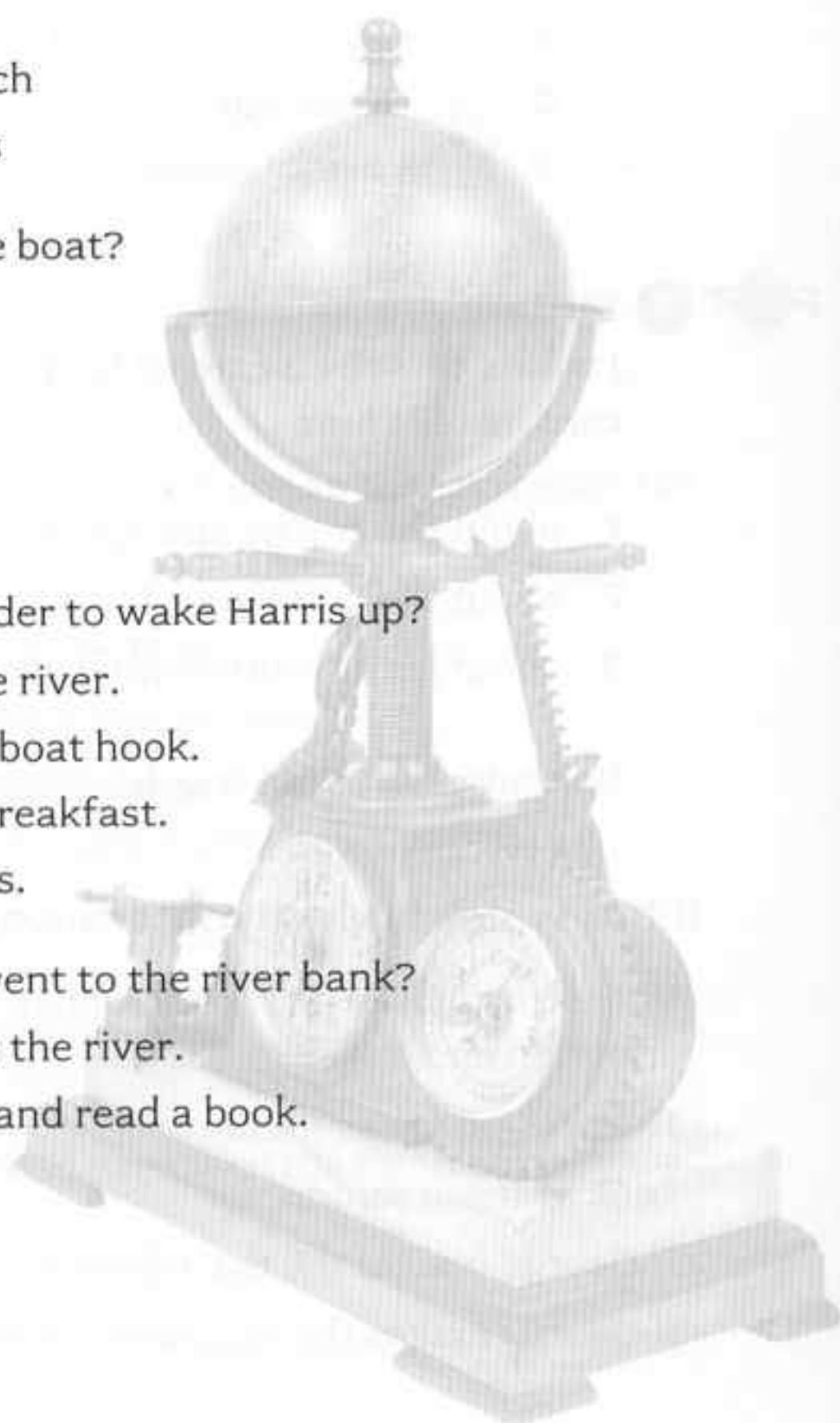
- A ☐ George
- B ☐ Harris
- C ☐ J
- D ☐ Montmorency

4 What did J and George do in order to wake Harris up?

- A ☐ They threw him into the river.
- B ☐ They used an oar and a boat hook.
- C ☐ They cooked a special breakfast.
- D ☐ They smoked their pipes.

5 What happened to J when he went to the river bank?

- A ☐ He accidentally fell into the river.
- B ☐ He decided to sit there and read a book.
- C ☐ He met a young lady.
- D ☐ He lost his towel.



- A C I V T E S
- 6 George laughed very loudly because
A ☐ his shirt fell into the river.
B ☐ Harris lost his trousers.
C ☐ J's shirt fell into the river.
D ☐ J could not find his shirt.
- 7 Montmorency burnt himself because
A ☐ he danced around the stove.
B ☐ he jumped inside the frying pan.
C ☐ he ate the hot scrambled eggs.
D ☐ he put his nose over the frying pan.
- 8 What would Harris need to make better scrambled eggs?
A ☐ a cookbook
B ☐ a different pan and stove
C ☐ bigger eggs
D ☐ a pair of glasses

PET 2 Writing

J wants to write a card to his friend Martin who lives in London. In his card he tells him:

- 1 about the trip he and his friends planned
- 2 about the problems of living on a small boat
- 3 about his adventure when he fell into the cold river

Use between 35-45 words.

If the water knows you are waiting for it, it will never get hot.

We use **if clauses** (first conditional) to talk about a possible future situation and its results.

IF + present tense + will

Look at these sentences:

If George (make) the tea, Harris (cook) the eggs.

If George **makes** the tea, Harris **will cook** the eggs.

3 If clauses (first conditional)

Complete the following sentences:

- 1 If it (rain), we (go) to the pub.
- 2 If Mrs Poppets (pack) our suitcase, we (read) the newspaper.
- 3 Their trip (be) fun, if the weather (improve).
- 4 If Montmorency (bark) loudly, he (wake up) everyone in the house.
- 5 She (take) a long trip, if she (have) enough money.
- 6 If the water (not be) too cold, I (swim) in the river.
- 7 If Harris (remember) his umbrella, he (not get wet).
- 8 Uncle Podger (help) you if he (have) time.

ET 4 Sentence transformation

For each question complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using no more than three words.

- 0 Perhaps George can buy a tent at the shop.
George may be able to buy a tent at the shop.
- 1 'This is the last time I cook scrambled eggs!' said Harris angrily.
'I'll eggs again,' said Harris angrily.
- 2 'What can I do for you?' said the man at the bank.
'How you?' said the man at the bank.
- 3 Harris had never seen the tomb at the Shepperton churchyard before.
This was he had ever seen the tomb at the Shepperton churchyard.
- 4 The old housekeeper lived alone.
The old housekeeper with anyone.

Preserving¹ food

The three men in our story like eating, and they soon get tired of eating the same things. They have brought some tinned food with them to add variety to their diet. Tinned food was already common at the time of the story, but let's look at some other ways of preserving food.

In the past, meat and fish were covered with salt to preserve them. Sometimes they were put in the sun to dry, and fruit was often put in the sun to dry, too. Other food was kept in cold, dark cellars to preserve it.



Tinned and bottled foods
in a Victorian photograph from 1897.

In 1809 a Frenchman named Nicolas Appert put some food in glass jars and closed them tightly. He then heated the jars in boiling water. He discovered that this was an excellent way to preserve food.

A year later he used tins instead of glass jars. Preserving food with the use of tins became an important industry, and the eating habits of most of the world changed.

1. **preserving** : keeping in good condition, protecting from going bad.

In 1925 Clarence Birdseye, an American inventor, who developed a way of freezing¹ food, and in 1929 the General Foods Corporation began producing frozen food. Birdseye had the idea after observing the way local people in the north-east of Canada preserved their food.



An advert from an American magazine of 1957. **Birds Eye frozen foods** were named after Clarence Birdseye.

1 Comprehension check

Match these sentences.

- 1 The three men in our story
- 2 During the Victorian Age
- 3 Cold, dark cellars
- 4 Nicholas Appert, a Frenchman,
- 5 He put food in glass jars
- 6 The tinned food industry
- 7 The first frozen foods

- A ☐ were used to preserve food.
- B ☐ were produced in 1929 by the General Foods Corporation.
- C ☐ got tired of eating the same things.
- D ☐ discovered a new way of preserving food.
- E ☐ tinned food was already common.
- F ☐ and then heated them in boiling water.
- G ☐ changed the way most of the world eats.

2 Discussion

What kind of food do you use at home: tinned food, frozen food or fresh food? What kind do you prefer and why?

1. **freezing** : (here) bringing food to a below-zero temperature.





INTERNET PROJECT

Go to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page to *Three Men in a Boat*. Click on the Internet project link. Scroll down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

LET'S FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CLARENCE BIRDSEYE!

Divide the class into three groups and each one can answer one of these questions:

- 1 Find out more about his observation of native Americans.
- 2 What method did he use to freeze food in the 1900s?
- 3 What innovations did he make in marketing and distribution?

The screenshot shows a website titled "The History of Frozen Foods - Clarence Birdseye". The page features a header with navigation links like "HOME", "ABOUT", "BIOGRAPHY", "INVENTION", "MARKETING", and "DISTRIBUTION". The main content area is titled "Inventor of the Week Archive" and highlights Clarence Birdseye (1896-1954) as the "Retail Frozen Foods" inventor. A portrait of Birdseye is shown next to a text block detailing his life and work. Below the text is a patent diagram labeled "Fig. 1" showing a mechanical freezing process. The diagram includes labels for "FISH", "ICE", "PRESSURE", and "TEMPERATURE". The text explains that Birdseye's company began leasing refrigerated boxcars to transport frozen foods by rail nationwide, making national distribution a reality.



The Laughing Tin

When we finished breakfast, the sun was up and it was a warm morning. I sat on the river bank near Runnymede. I thought about King John, who signed the Magna Carta at Runnymede, in 1215. What a great moment in English history! I imagined the scene!

George came over and said, 'When you finish resting and dreaming, please help me wash the dishes and other things.'

I cleaned the frying pan with some grass and with George's wet shirt.

Later on, we went to Magna Carta Island. We saw the stone where the Magna Carta was signed. In this area, King Henry VIII met with his sweetheart,¹ Anne Boleyn. I am certain that King Henry VIII met Anne Boleyn in several other places, too.

We continued slowly up the river, and stopped for lunch near Monkey Island. We had cold meat for lunch.

'Where's the mustard?'² I asked.

'The mustard?' Harris said.

We had forgotten to bring the mustard. At that moment, we all wanted mustard more than anything in the world.

1. **sweetheart** : a person you love.

2. **mustard** : hot-tasting yellow sauce.

Three Men in a Boat

'How boring life is without mustard!' said George.

We ate our cold meat in silence. We thought about the happy days of childhood when there was lots of mustard on the table. The adult world can be a cruel place.

All three of us loved tinned fruit. George brought out a tin of pineapple.¹ This was perfect to make us forget the mustard. We felt that life was smiling at us again.

'Look at the picture on the tin!' said Harris.

'Ah, I can't wait!' I said.

'I'm dreaming about the sweet juice,' George said.

Harris got a spoon ready.

Then we looked for the tin-opener. We took everything out of the two hampers. We took everything out of the bag. We looked in every corner of the boat. There was no tin-opener.

Harris tried to open the tin with a little knife, and he cut himself. George tried to open it with a pair of scissors. The scissors flew up and almost cut his eye. I tried to open it with a piece of metal. I did something wrong, because I fell into the river. The tin flew away and broke a teacup.

Then we all got angry. I started hitting the tin with a piece of wood. Harris hit the tin, and so did George. We changed its shape. We made it square. We made it round. Then we made it flat. But, we still couldn't open it.

The tin looked at us and seemed to be laughing. It was ugly and it frightened us. I threw it in the river! Then we rowed away and didn't stop until we reached Maidenhead.

It was evening and a strong wind started blowing. The wind was behind us and we put up the sail quickly. The wind blew and the boat flew up the river.

1. pineapple :



The Laughing Tin

I was steering¹ the boat, and George and Harris were enjoying the trip. Sailing is exciting. It's almost like flying. You feel that you are part of nature. We were alone and we flew along the river. Far in the distance, we saw a small fishing boat. There were three fishermen in it.

The sun was going down, and there was a red light on the water. The river seemed magic. It was like a dream. We felt that we were sailing into a strange land.

We did not sail into a strange land. We sailed straight into the fishing boat with the three old fishermen! At first, we didn't know what was happening. But, when we heard the bad words that came from the other boat, we knew we were near people. We also knew that those people were not happy.

The three old fishermen fell off their seats. There were fish all over them. They slowly tried to get up. As they did this, they cursed² us. They didn't curse us with common curses. They used long, special curses. They also cursed our parents, families, friends, neighbours, pets and jobs. These curses were for the present and the future.

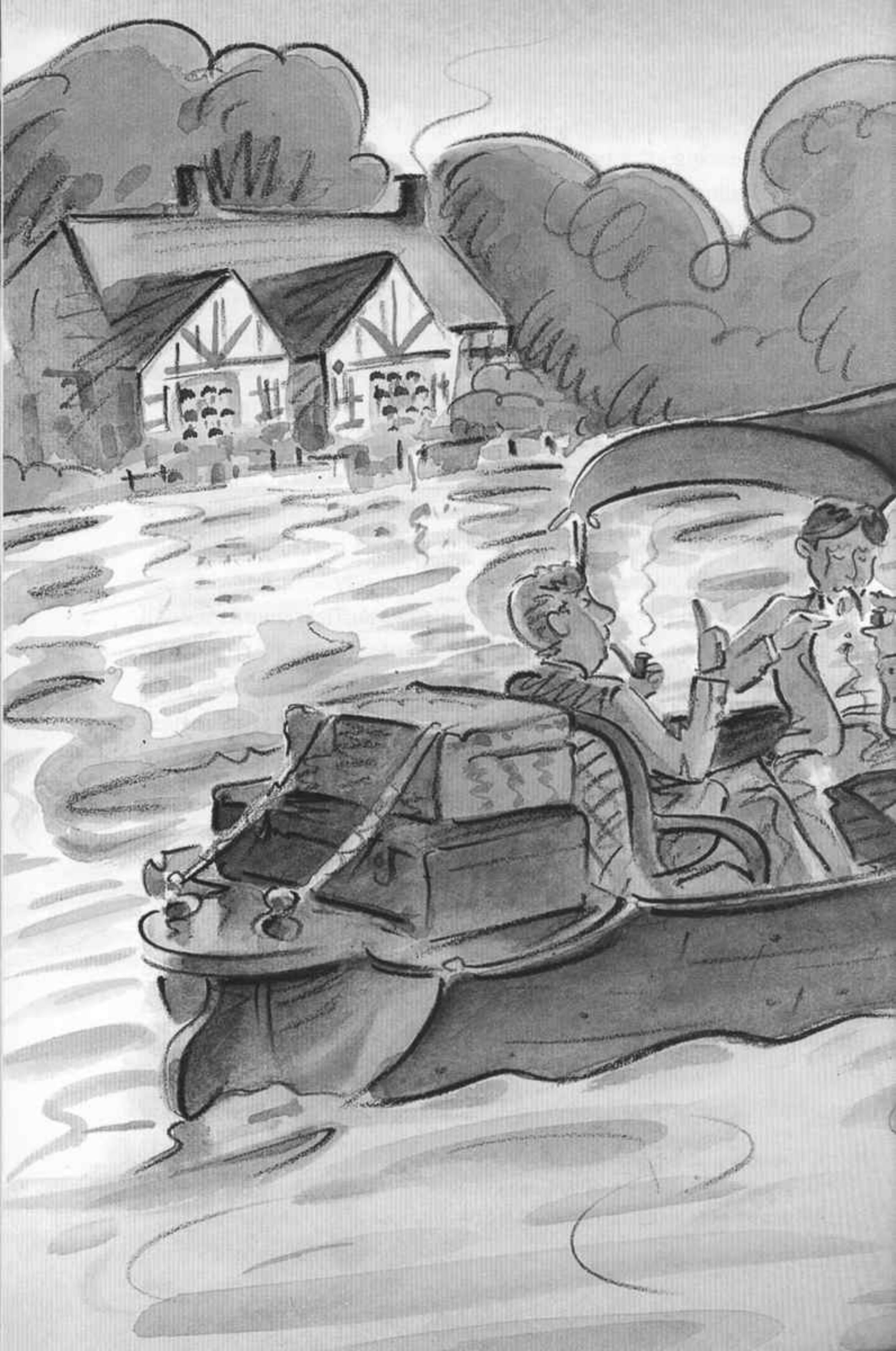
Harris stood up and said, 'Be thankful for a bit of excitement in your lives! Your lives must be so boring, just sitting and fishing all day. My friends and I are very unhappy to hear men of your age use such bad words.' The three old men did not agree with Harris.

'I'll steer the boat now, J,' said George. 'An intelligent man like you must do better things. Leave the steering to me, before we all drown.'³

1. **steering** : driving, guiding.

2. **cursed** : used very bad language.

3. **drown** : die by being under water for a long time.





The text and **beyond**

PET 1 Comprehension check

Read the passage below and choose the correct word A, B, C or D for each space.

J sat (0)^{on}..... the river bank and thought (1) the Magna Carta. After (2) the dishes the three friends visited Magna Carta Island and saw the place (3) King John signed the Magna Carta.

This was the area where King Henry VIII (4) his sweetheart Anne Boleyn.

(5) midday the three friends stopped for lunch near Monkey Island. They were hungry but since there was (6) mustard their lunch was boring.

They all liked pineapple so they decided to open a tin. But they could not find the tin-opener. They looked (7) for it. Then J got angry and threw the tin (8) the river.

In the evening the wind started blowing and it blew the boat up the river. At sunset the three men had a (9) adventure with three old fishermen (10) cursed them. Harris did not like the bad words the old fishermen used.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 0 A in | B on | C next | D to |
| 1 A in | B at | C for | D about |
| 2 A washing | B washed | C washes | D wash |
| 3 A were | B which | C where | D that |
| 4 A met | B watched | C looked | D stared |
| 5 A On | B In | C At | D For |
| 6 A not | B none | C any | D no |
| 7 A anywhere | B nowhere | C somewhere | D everywhere |
| 8 A at | B in | C out | D on |
| 9 A wrong | B worse | C bad | D worst |
| 10 A whom | B who | C which | D they |

2 Vocabulary

Read the definitions and write the correct letters in the boxes to make a word.

- 1 form of an object: H
- 2 drive a boat: R
- 3 very bad word: U
- 4 a hot-tasting yellow sauce: T
- 5 a large oval fruit: N P
- 6 person you love: W H
- 7 used to cut food: F
- 8 liquid part of fruit: J
- 9 you open tins with it: N -



3 Listening

Listen to the letter that J wrote to his friend in London during another boat trip. Then answer the true (T) and false (F) statements. Correct the false ones.

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Montmorency stayed at home with Uncle Podger. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The weather was wet. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Harris liked visiting pubs. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 George liked visiting churches. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 J preferred sleeping late. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 At Kingston, George bought a new cap. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Harris bought a blue blazer. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 J will meet his friend at the Orange Horse Pub. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



The Magna Carta

When King Richard I (known as the Lionheart) died, his brother John became king in 1199. King John was not popular: he lost most of the lands England had in France, he increased the taxes that the noblemen had to pay and he attacked the rights of the Church.

The noblemen and Church leaders were angry, and created a charter¹ which they forced King John to sign.

This famous charter was called the Magna Carta (Latin for 'great charter') and was signed at Runnymede on the Thames on 15 June 1215.

The Magna Carta limited the King's power and gave more power to the Great Council, which was composed of noblemen, abbots and bishops.²

Some of the most important rules of the Magna Carta were:

1. The King cannot collect taxes without the agreement of the Great Council.
2. A free man cannot be put in prison without a trial by a jury.³ The jury must be composed of other free men.
3. If the King does not obey the laws, then a group of twenty-five noblemen will force him to do so.

The Magna Carta is seen as the first important step towards democracy because it introduced the idea that King is not above the law.

1. **charter** : written, signed document from a government or a king, giving rights to the people.
2. **abbots and bishops** : men who are religious leaders.
3. **trial by a jury** : a person is judged in a court of law, by other honest people.



A colour print from the Victorian age (1864) showing King John signing the **Magna Carta** in the presence of noblemen and Church leaders.

1 Comprehension check

Match the correct parts of the sentences.

- 1 King John was not popular
 - 2 The noblemen forced the king
 - 3 The Magna Carta
 - 4 It limited the King's power, made him follow the laws and
 - 5 An important rule of the Magna Carta was that
 - 6 This famous charter
- A ☐ a free man cannot be put in prison without a trial by jury.
 - B ☐ gave more power to the Great Council.
 - C ☐ was signed at Runnymede on 15 June 1215.
 - D ☐ was a first step towards democracy.
 - E ☐ because he increased taxes and lost most of England's lands in France.
 - F ☐ to sign a charter that they created.



Montmorency Meets a Cat

At Marlow, we left our boat by the bridge. We spent the night at the Crown Hotel. The next morning we went swimming before breakfast.

On the way back, Montmorency met a cat. Montmorency and I don't agree on cats. I like cats. Montmorency doesn't. When I meet a cat, I stop and say hello. I pet¹ it gently. The cat is happy, and I am too. When Montmorency meets a cat, the whole street knows about it. A lot of bad words fly through the air.

As soon as Montmorency saw the cat, he barked with happiness. The cat was walking slowly across the street. Montmorency ran after the cat. But the cat didn't run. He didn't understand that his life was in danger.

This cat was big and black. It had half a tail, half a nose and only one ear. It was a clever street cat.

1. pet : touch kindly with the hands.

Montmorency Meets a Cat

Montmorency is a courageous dog, but the cold eyes of that cat terrified him. The cat stopped in the middle of the road and looked at Montmorency.

Neither spoke, but the conversation was probably like this:

Cat: Yes! You want me? Can I do anything for you?

Montmorency: No, no thanks.

Cat: If you really want something, please tell me.

Montmorency: (walking backwards) Oh, no, not at all. Don't disturb yourself. I'm afraid I made a mistake. I thought I knew you. Sorry I disturbed you.

Cat: Not at all. It's a pleasure. Are you sure you don't want anything now?

Montmorency: (still walking backwards) No, thanks. Nothing at all, thanks. Very kind of you. Good morning.

Cat: Good morning.

The cat got up and walked away. Montmorency came back and followed us quietly. He was silent all day long.

To this day, if you say the word 'Cats!' to Montmorency, he'll stop walking. Then he'll look up at you, as if to say: 'Please don't!'

After this, we did our shopping, returned to the boat and continued our trip up the river.

At Hambledon Lock, we discovered that we had no water. We went to the lock-keeper to ask for some. George spoke for us. With a friendly smile he asked, 'May we have some water, please.'

'Certainly,' said the old lock-keeper. 'Take as much as you want, and leave the rest.'

'Thank you very much,' said George, looking around. 'Where is the water?'

Three Men in a Boat

'It's where it always is,' said the lock-keeper. 'It's behind you.'

George turned around and looked. 'I don't see it.'

'What! Where are your eyes?' the lock-keeper said. He took George's arm and turned him around.

'Oh!' George said. 'But we can't drink the river!'

'No, but you can drink some of it,' said the lock-keeper. 'I've drunk river water for the past fifteen years.'

'Well, sir, I don't think you look very healthy, after drinking all that river water. But thank you anyway,' George said.

We left the lock-keeper's place and we found some water at another house.

We towed the boat past Henley and stopped near Wargrave for lunch. We were sitting in a green field near the river. Harris was cutting a meat pie. George and I were waiting with our dishes.

'I need a spoon,' said Harris.

The hamper was behind us. George and I both turned around to get a spoon. In five seconds, we had the spoon. When we turned back, Harris and the meat pie were gone! Disappeared!

It was a wide open field. There were no trees nearby. Harris did not fall into the river, because the river was far from us. George and I looked all around. Then we looked at each other.

'Has he gone up to heaven?' ¹ I asked.

'Angels don't take meat pies to heaven,' George said.

'You're right!' I agreed.

'Then there has been an earthquake,' ² George said. 'I'm sorry he had the meat pie with him.'

1. **heaven** : paradise.

2. **earthquake** : violent movement of the Earth's surface.



Three Men in a Boat

Sadly, we looked at the place where Harris and the meat pie were sitting. Then, with horror, we saw Harris's head — only his head. It was in the grass! His face was red and furious.

George was the first to speak. 'Say something! Are you dead or alive? Where is your body?'

'Oh, don't be an idiot!' Harris shouted. 'I think you made this happen. You told me to sit there. It's your stupid joke! Here, take the pie.'

Harris didn't know it, but he had been sitting next to a big hole. The long grass covered it. He fell into the deep hole without knowing anything. At first, he thought that it was the end of the world.

Harris still thinks that George and I planned it all.



The text and **beyond**

RET 1 Comprehension check

For each question choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

- 1 When the three men got to Marlow
 - A ☐ they did not spend the night on the boat.
 - B ☐ they had dinner at the Crown Hotel.
 - C ☐ they visited the old bridge.
 - D ☐ Montmorency went swimming in the river.
- 2 After the adventure with the clever street cat
 - A ☐ J took Montmorency to the park in Marlow.
 - B ☐ Montmorency made friends with a big dog.
 - C ☐ Montmorency barked all day long.
 - D ☐ the three friends and Montmorency continued their trip up the river.
- 3 The lock-keeper told George
 - A ☐ that he must pay for the water.
 - B ☐ that he could take only one glass of water.
 - C ☐ that the water of the river was healthy.
 - D ☐ that he could drink as much as he wanted.
- 4 George and J were sitting in a green field near Wargrave
 - A ☐ while Harris talked to the lock-keeper.
 - B ☐ while Harris cut some meat for lunch.
 - C ☐ and it started raining.
 - D ☐ and Harris suddenly disappeared with the meat pie.
- 5 Harris disappeared because
 - A ☐ he wanted to play a joke on his friends.
 - B ☐ he wanted to eat all the meat pie himself.
 - C ☐ there was a hole next to him.
 - D ☐ George and J played a joke on him.
- 6 Harris was furious and his face was red
 - A ☐ so he started cursing.
 - B ☐ because he had fallen into a deep hole.
 - C ☐ because he lost the meat pie.
 - D ☐ so he decided to go back to London.

I've drunk river water for the past fifteen years.

We often use the **present perfect** tense with **for** and **since**:

I have lived in London *for* eight years.

She has lived in London *since* February.

We use **for** when we mention the length of a period of time:

For two weeks....for six monthsfor an hour

We use **since** when we mention the beginning of a period in the past:

Since April 22ndsince I was thirteen years oldsince last summer

2 Present perfect tense with *for* and *since*

Complete these sentences with *for* or *since*.

- 1 Mrs Poppets has been the housekeeper five years.
- 2 George has owned a houseboat on the river June.
- 3 Harris has worked at the London Bank he was twenty years old.
- 4 The three friends have visited the museum three hours.
- 5 Montmorency has lived with J Christmas.
- 6 Aunt and Uncle Podger have been on holiday six weeks.
- 7 George has not studied French last year.
- 8 They have not rowed a boat a long time.

3 Writing

One day Montmorency told his friends about the clever street cat he met at Marlow.

Write what you think Montmorency told his friends about the black cat. Use about 50 words.

Start with this sentence:

I was in Marlow one morning and suddenly I saw a big black cat walking across the street. ...

4 Nouns and adjectives

Fill in the table with the missing noun or adjective.

	Noun	Adjective
1	happiness	.....
2	.....	silent
3	courage	.....
4	fury	.....
5	.....	friendly
6	.....	healthy
7	stupidity	.....
8	cleverness	.....
9	ugliness	.....
10	.....	beautiful
11	.....	cruel

Now write five sentences using the nouns or adjectives in the table.

Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to part of Chapter Nine and fill in the gaps with the words you hear.

We worked hard for (1) an hour, but we (2) only four potatoes. We (3) to continue.

'Well, just put the potatoes in (4) peeling them. Let's add some (5) and other (6) Look in the

(7) and take out all the (8) of old food.

We'll put them in the stew. You can put (9) in a stew.'

We found half a pork (10), a tin of fish and a few

(11) eggs. We (12) these to the stew.

Montmorency (13) us carefully and then left. After a

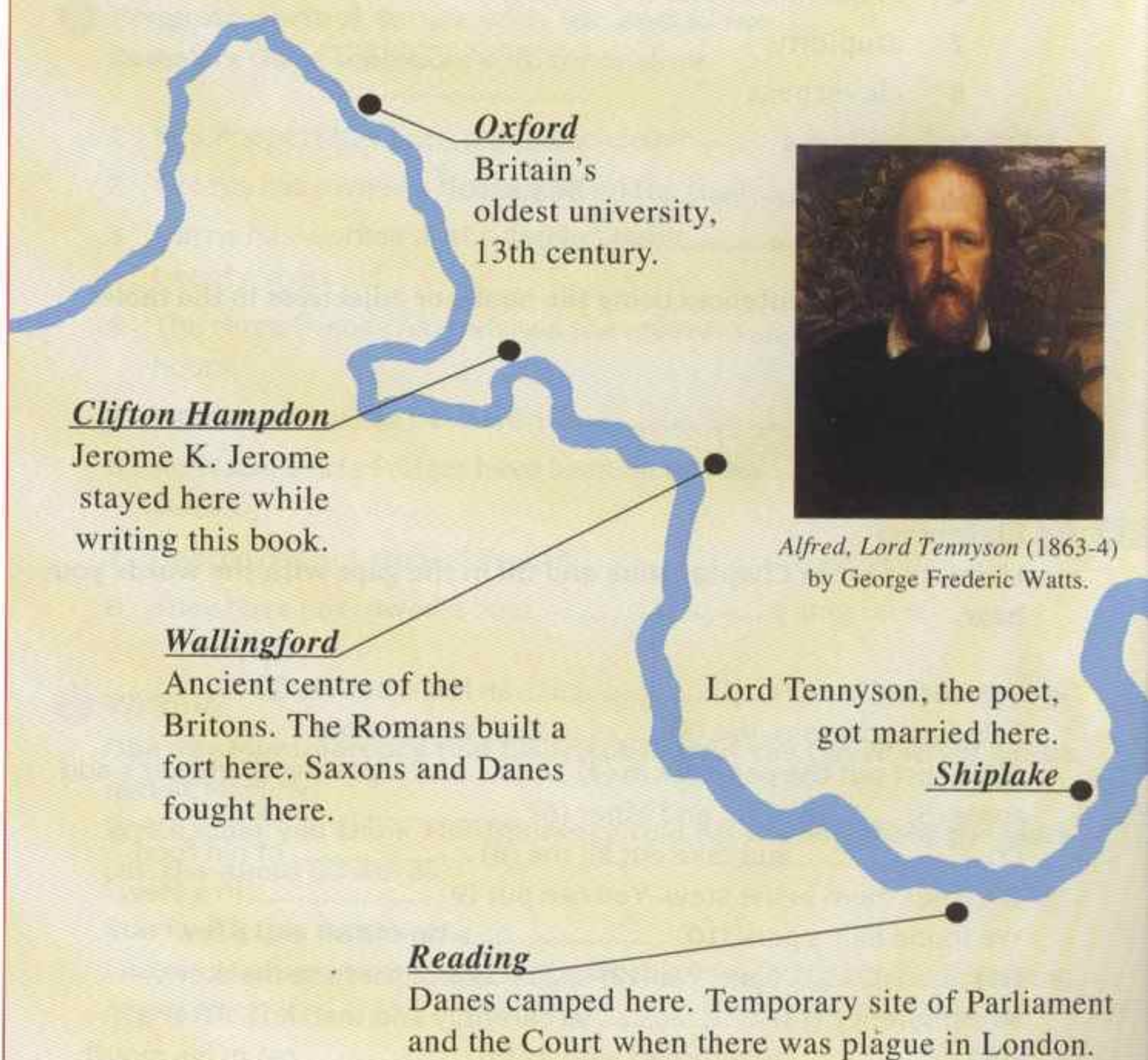
(14) he returned with a (15) rat in his mouth.

He wanted to add something to the stew, too. We (16) it first.



Famous People and Places *on the Thames*

A lot of famous people and places are mentioned in this book. As you can see from the map, there is a lot of history on the River Thames from Kingston to Oxford.





Percy Bysshe Shelley
(1819) by Amelia Curran.



The *Bayeux Tapestry*, showing William the Conqueror.

Windsor

Main residence of English kings and queens, since William the Conqueror.

Marlow

Percy Bysshe Shelley, the poet, lived here.

Hampton Court

Palace of the Tudor and Stuart kings and queens.

Kingston

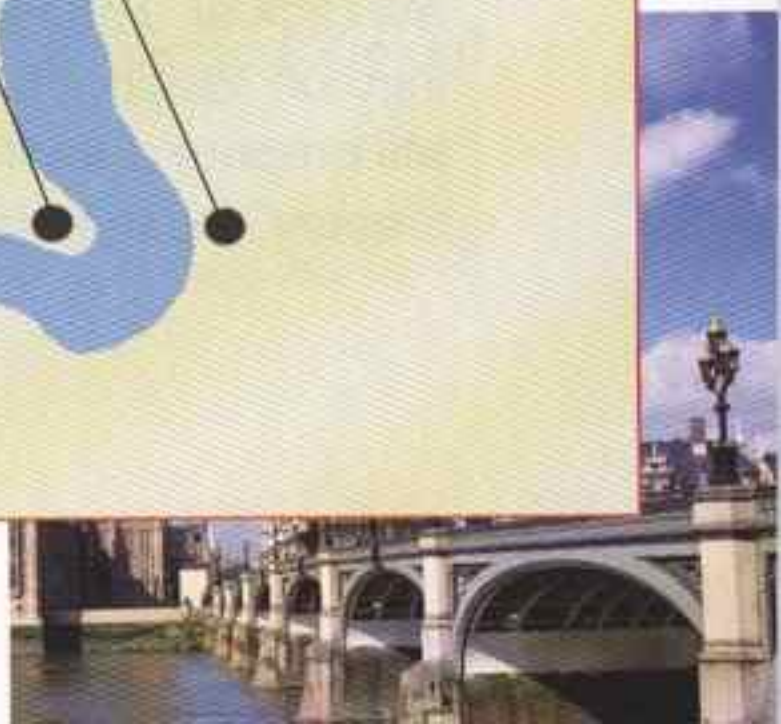
Old name: Kynningestum. Saxon kings crowned here. Julius Caesar crossed the river here.

Walton

Julius Caesar fought a battle here.

Runnymede

Magna Carta was signed here.
Henry VIII met Anne Boleyn here.



1 Comprehension check

Fill in the gaps with the information from the map.

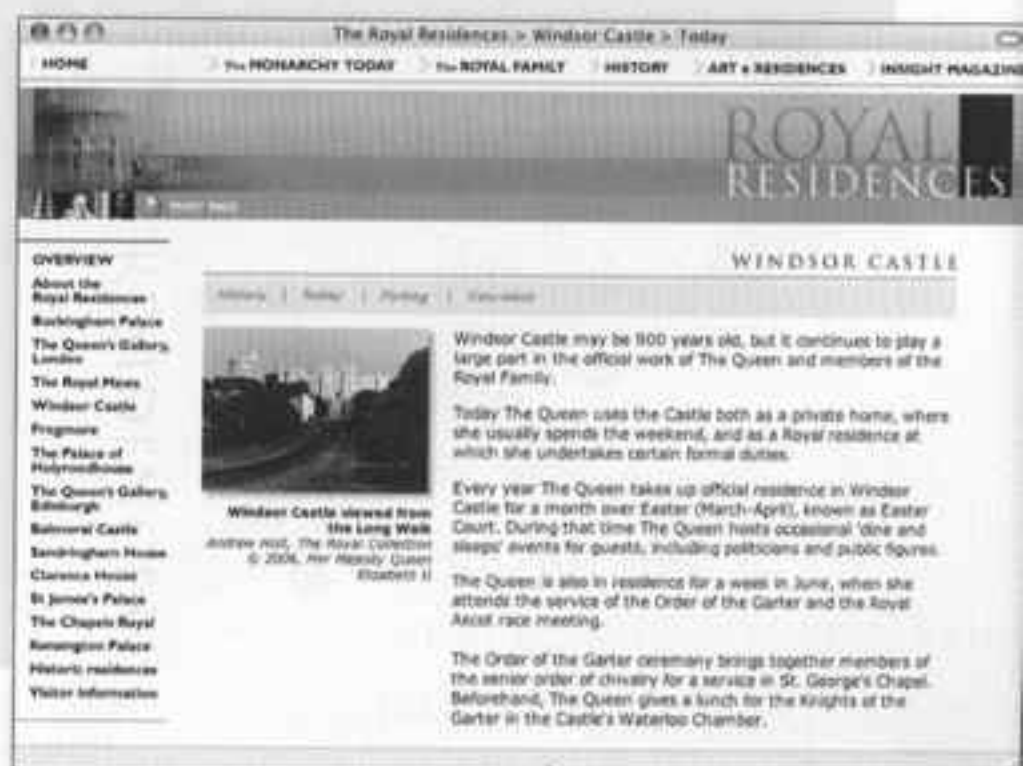
- 1 Lord Tennyson, the poet, got married in
- 2 Britain's oldest university is in
- 3 was the ancient centre of the Britons.
- 4 Henry VIII met his sweetheart, Anne Boleyn, in
- 5 Julius Caesar crossed the Thames at
- 6 is the main residence of English kings and queens.
- 7 The poet Shelley lived in
- 8 stayed at Clifton Hampdon while writing *Three Men in a Boat*.
- 9 The palace of the Tudors and the Stuarts is at

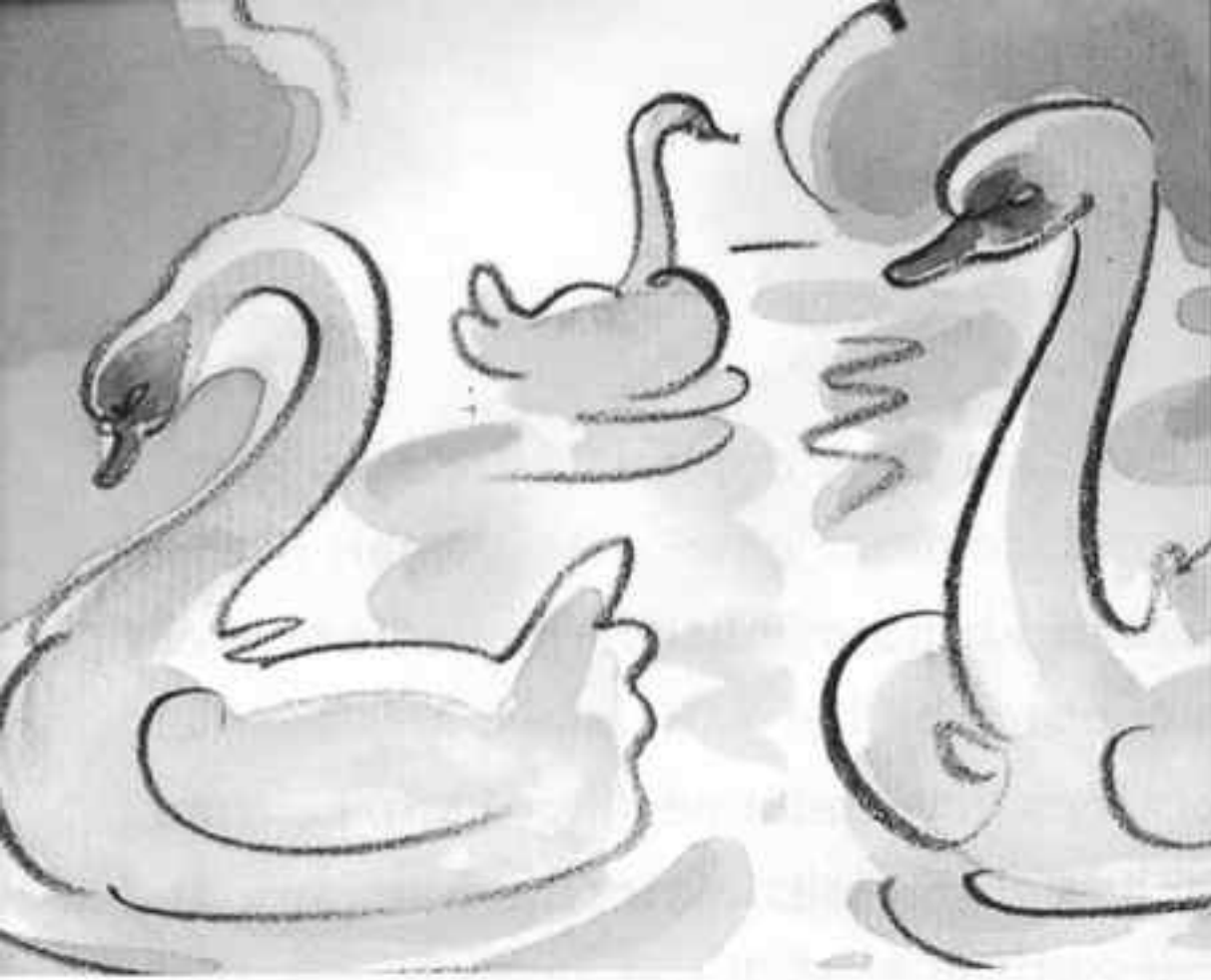
INTERNET PROJECT

Go to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page to *Three Men in a Boat*. Click on the Internet project link. Scroll down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the relevant link for this project.

LET'S FIND OUT ABOUT WINDSOR CASTLE!

Divide the class into three groups. The first group will click on History, the second will click on Today and the third on Visiting. Each group will prepare a brief report and present it to the class.





Fighting Swans¹

After lunch, a gentle wind pushed us up the river past **Wargrave and Shiplake**. We got out of the boat at Sonning and walked around the village. Sonning is a lovely village. Everything is clean and beautiful. Each house is covered with roses. We decided to return to one of the Shiplake islands to spend the night. 11

George said, 'Let's have a special supper tonight. Let's make an Irish stew.² We can put everything into one big pan.'

'What a wonderful idea!' Harris and I said.

'I'll get the wood and make a fire,' George said. 'You two can peel the potatoes.'

This was a very big job. We were happy and excited. But when we peeled our first potato, we understood that this was not exciting — it was hard work. The first potato we peeled looked like a pea.



1. Swans :

2. stew : meat and vegetables cooked together.

Three Men in a Boat

George looked at it and said, 'No, no, no! There's no potato left. Do it like this.'

We worked hard for half an hour, but we peeled only four potatoes. We refused to continue.

'Well, just put the potatoes in without peeling them. Let's add some carrots and other vegetables. Look in the hampers and take out all the pieces of old food. We'll put them in the stew. You can put anything in a stew.'

We found half a pork pie, a tin of fish and a few broken eggs. We added these to the stew. Montmorency watched us carefully and then left. After a while, he returned with a dead rat in his mouth. He wanted to add something to the stew, too. We discussed it first.

Harris said, 'It's all right to add the dead rat. It will be mixed with the other things. A stew needs many ingredients.'

George said, 'Well, I don't want to try anything new. Maybe next time. I'm sorry, Montmorency.'

Harris said, 'If you never try anything new, you'll never discover things. It's men like you, George, who slow down the progress of our world.'

George didn't listen to Harris.

The stew was a great success. It was delicious — excellent in every way. We all really enjoyed it.

After the Irish stew, George and I decided to go to Henley for an evening walk. Harris wanted to stay on the boat and drink a whisky.

When we returned to the boat, Harris was sad and confused.

'What happened to you, Harris?'

'Swans!' he said.

END

Fighting Swans

We had left the boat near a swan's nest.¹ When George and I were in Henley, Mrs Swan came back to the nest. She started to shout at Harris. Harris frightened her away. She went to get her husband, Mr Swan. Harris had a terrible fight with these two swans. Harris finally won the fight.

However, half an hour later, Mr and Mrs Swan returned with eighteen other swans. There was a horrible fight. The swans attacked Harris and tried to pull him off the boat. They wanted to drown Harris and Montmorency!

Harris fought with courage for four hours. In the end, the swans slowly swam away to die.

'How many swans were there?' George asked.

'Thirty-two,' said Harris, who was sleepy.

'But you said eighteen before,' George said.

'No, I didn't. I said twelve. Do you think I can't count?'

We never discovered the truth about the swans. We asked Harris about it the next morning. He said, 'What swans?' He thought that George and I were dreaming.

That night Harris had trouble sleeping. He woke me up about twelve times during the night. He was looking for his clothes. George woke up, too.

'Why do you need your trousers? It's the middle of the night!' George said.

Later, Harris was looking for his shoes. Then he asked for his socks and his umbrella.

We woke up late the next morning. We had a small breakfast and we were ready to go.

1. nest :



Three Men in a Boat

We agreed that we would row the boat, and not tow it. Harris said, 'George, you and J can row. I'll steer.'

I didn't like this idea, and I said, 'No, Harris. You and George row, so that I can rest.'

I was doing too much work on this trip. I always think that I work too much. It's not because I don't like work. I love it! I find it very interesting. I can sit and look at it for hours. You can't give me too much work. I like collecting it. My office is full of it.

I'm very careful with my work, too. Some of the work in my office has been there for years. It is in perfect condition. It isn't dirty or anything. That's because I take good care of it.

Harris said, 'On this boat, I'm the only one who works.'

George said, 'You do nothing but eat and sleep, Harris. I'm the only one who works. You and J are very lazy people.'

Harris laughed and said, 'George! Work! Have you ever seen George work?'

I agreed with Harris, George never worked.

'How do you know if I work, Harris? You're always sleeping, except at meal times. Have you ever seen Harris awake, except at meal times?' George asked me.

I agreed with George. Harris worked very little on the boat.

'Oh, please! I do more work than old J,' Harris said.

'Well, it's difficult to do less work than old J,' George added.

'Old J thinks he's a passenger and doesn't need to work,' Harris said.

After this discussion, I said to Harris, 'You and George row the boat up to Reading. At Reading I'll tow it.'



The text and **beyond**

PET 1 Comprehension check

Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, mark A; if it is not correct, mark B.

	A	B
1 The three men liked the village of Sonning because it was near the river.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 George decided to prepare an Irish stew for supper.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Harris and J had fun peeling potatoes all afternoon.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The three men found only peas and potatoes in the hampers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Montmorency wanted to help with the stew.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 George and Harris agreed to add the rat to the stew.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Harris stayed on the boat and fought against some swans on the river.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Harris did not remember anything about the swans.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 George spent most of the night looking for his clothes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 J liked collecting work and his office was full of it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Harris decided to tow the boat at Reading.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Questions

Write suitable questions for the following answers.

- What?
Harris does nothing but eat and sleep all day long.
- Why?
J doesn't do any work because he thinks he is a passenger.
- Where?
The three men spent the night at one of the Shiplake islands.
- Who?
Montmorency wanted to add a rat to the stew.
- When?
J and George went to take a walk in the village after supper.

12

3 Listening

We all need to eat different kinds of food to be healthy. Foods are divided into groups: meat, vegetables, fruit, milk products, fats and sweets.

Listen carefully to the names of the different types of food and then write their names in the correct group. One is done for you.

MEAT

FATS

VEGETABLES

FRUIT

MILK PRODUCTS

butter

SWEETS

4 Word square

A Can you find six places that the three men saw during their trip on the Thames? Circle them in red.

G	P	Z	I	N	S	W	A	Q	U	N	F	X	R
O	H	A	M	P	T	O	N	C	O	U	R	T	U
K	E	P	A	T	O	V	B	T	J	U	G	M	N
S	I	R	J	P	Y	I	L	G	D	M	I	Z	N
V	X	N	L	I	J	A	C	K	E	A	K	G	Y
B	C	V	G	Z	W	N	E	L	T	R	D	P	M
D	H	L	M	S	W	S	H	I	P	L	A	K	E
M	O	U	E	G	T	C	N	H	U	O	P	O	D
N	W	I	N	D	S	O	R	V	A	W	X	S	E
E	U	Y	Q	B	Z	H	N	P	S	H	J	M	R

B Now write six sentences describing these places.

Before you read

13 1 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Ten and decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The three men stayed at Streatley for two weeks. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The laundry woman was surprised because the men's clothes were very dirty. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The river near Streatley and Goring is an excellent swimming area. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The fish in the river like eating bread. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Dorchester and Wallingford are ancient Roman towns. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 The three men spent the night at Reading. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Three Men Out of a Boat

We reached Reading at about 11 o'clock. The river here is very dirty, so we moved on to Streatley. We stayed at Streatley for two days. We took our clothes to a laundry woman. We had tried to wash them in the river, as George told us. The river was so dirty that our clothes collected all the dirt from the water. The river became cleaner, but our clothes became dirtier.

The laundry woman was very surprised to see such dirty clothes. She looked at them and said, 'This will cost you three times the usual price.'

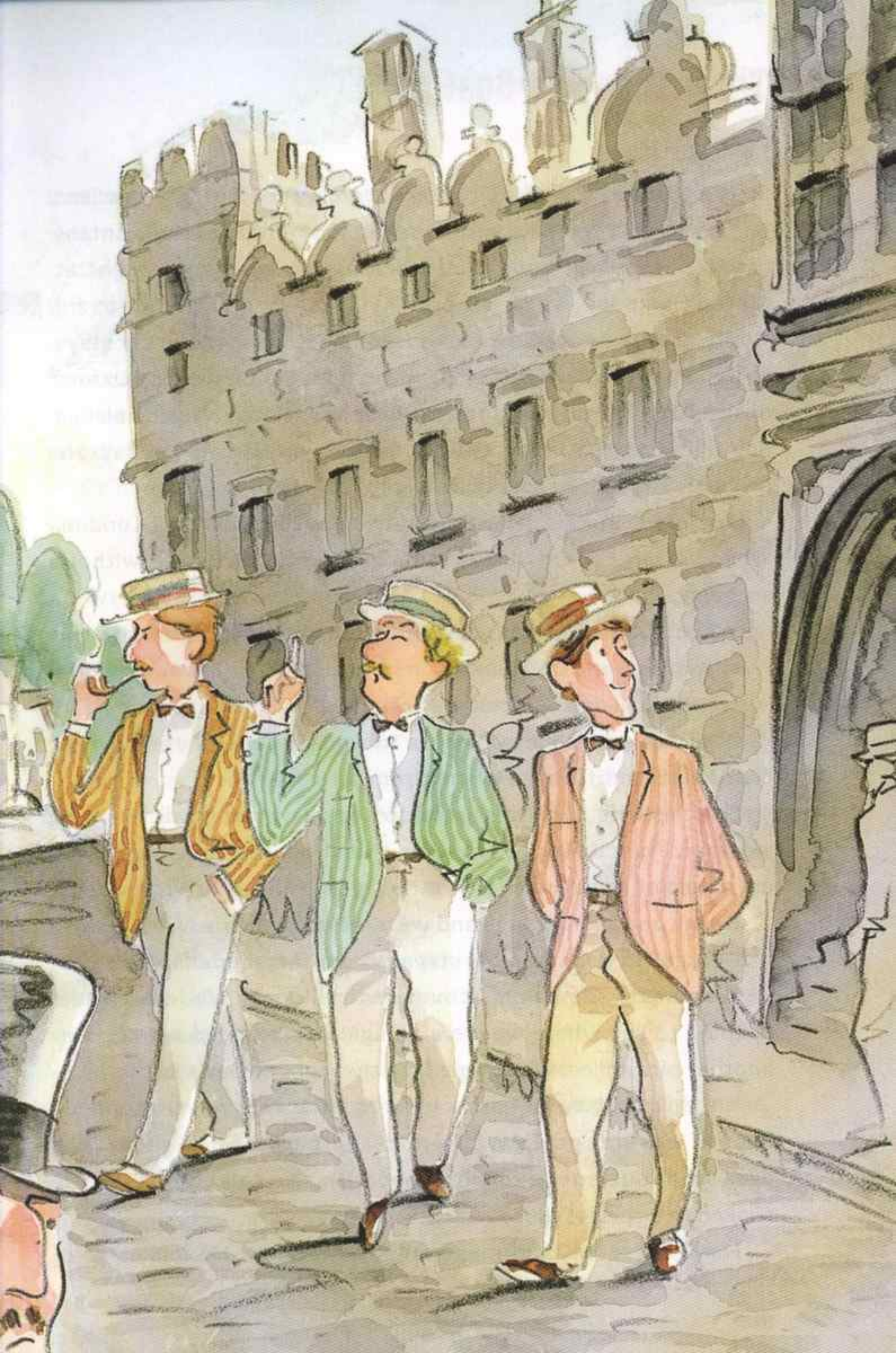
We agreed and paid her.

The river near Streatley and Goring is excellent for fishing. It is full of different types of fish. Some people sit and fish there all day. However, they never catch any fish. The local fisherman's guide book doesn't say anything about catching fish. It only says that the place is a good fishing area. And it is!

You can see many fish swim past, but you can't catch them.

When you go for a walk by the river, you can see hundreds of fish. They come and stand half out of the water. Their mouths are open for bread. If you go swimming, they come to look at you and disturb you. You cannot catch them, however.





Three Men in a Boat

We passed by Wallingford and Dorchester. Both are ancient British towns. In the days of the Roman Empire, the Romans camped here and built fortifications. We spent the night at Clifton Hampdon, which is a pretty village.

END

We finally arrived at Oxford and spent two excellent days there. Oxford is a beautiful town with its old university. Oxford is also full of dogs. Montmorency was very happy. He had eleven dog fights on the first day and fourteen on the second day. He probably thought he was in heaven.

We left Oxford on the third day, to return home to London. When we left Oxford, it was raining. The rain continued without stopping.

When it's sunny, the river is a dream. But when it's rainy, the river is brown and unfriendly.

It rained all day. At first, we pretended to enjoy it.

'Well, this is a nice change. Too much sunshine is boring. Nature is beautiful even when it rains,' I said.

'Yes,' Harris said, 'it's good to see the river in all kinds of weather. The rain is good for you. I can't understand people who are afraid of a little rain.'

Harris and I sang songs and we were quite happy.

George did not agree. He stayed under the umbrella.

We put up the canvas cover before lunch. We left a little opening to see where we were going. We continued our trip for another nine miles. We stopped for the night at Day's Lock.

We did not have a happy evening. The rain never stopped. Supper was not good. We were really tired of cold meat. We dreamt about our favourite foods. Harris talked about fish cooked in a special sauce.

Harris gave his cold meat to Montmorency. He looked at it

Three Men Out of a Boat

and turned his head. He seemed insulted by Harris's offer. He went to sit at the other side of the boat, alone.

George said, 'Please don't talk about good food, until I finish this cold meat.'

We played cards after supper. After that, we had some hot water and whisky. George told us about a man he knew. This man had slept on the river in a wet boat, like ours. He got very ill and died ten days later.

Of course, we began talking about other illnesses. After a while,¹ Harris said, 'I've got an awful headache. It must be the rain.'

'Well, I've got a bad backache,' I said.

To make us feel happier, George sang to us. That made Harris and I cry, and it made Montmorency howl.²

There was nothing else to do, so we went to bed. We didn't sleep well at all. We were awake at five o'clock the next morning.

Our second rainy day was the same as the first. It rained all day. We moved slowly along the river. We agreed to continue our trip, even if it killed us.

'It's only two more days,' Harris said. 'We're young and healthy. Maybe we'll be all right.'

We talked about our evening. 'With this weather, we can have dinner and take a walk in the rain. Or, we can have dinner and spend an hour in a pub,' I said.

'That's not very exciting,' said George.

'It's much more interesting to go to the Alhambra Theatre in London,' said Harris.

1. **while** : a period of time.

2. **howl** : give a long, loud cry.

Three Men in a Boat

'And then have supper at that little French restaurant,' I added.

'But we have decided to stay and die on this boat,' said George. 'However, there's a train that leaves Pangbourne after five o'clock. It gets to London in time to eat something, and then go to the theatre.'

Everyone was silent. We didn't say one word. We looked at one another. Then, we got out the big bag and got our clothes ready.

Twenty minutes later, three men and a dog were going to the railway station.

We lied to the boatman at Pangbourne. We didn't have the courage to tell him the truth: we were running away from the rain!

We asked him to take care of the boat until the next morning. 'If something happens, we'll write to you,' we said, telling him a *big lie*.

We reached Paddington Station at seven o'clock. We went directly to the restaurant and had a small meal. Montmorency stayed at the restaurant, while we went to the theatre.

'We'll return at half past ten for the dog and for a good supper,' I told the restaurant owner.

The man at the ticket office of the theatre said, 'Oh, you're the famous acrobats from the Himalaya Mountains. You're late for the performance. Please use the side door.'

We explained to him that we were not acrobats. He understood and sold us three tickets. Our clothes probably looked a bit old and strange.

At the Alhambra Theatre everyone looked at our clothes and smiled. Some people laughed.

After the theatre, we went back to the restaurant.

We enjoyed our delicious supper. After ten days of eating cold



meat, we were thankful for this supper. We ate it without speaking. Then we sat back and felt happy and kind.

Harris, who was sitting next to the window, pulled back the curtain. He looked at the wet street. It was rainy and dark. The wind was blowing. A few people walked past under their umbrellas.

Harris took his glass and said, 'Well, we had a good trip, and I say thank you to Old Father Thames. But, I think we were right to come back when we did. Here's to Three Men well out of a boat!'¹

Montmorency stood on his back legs in front of the window. He looked at the wet night and gave a short bark of agreement.

1. **well out of a boat** : no longer on the boat and happy to be home.

The text and **beyond**

PET 1 Comprehension check

Read the passage below and choose the correct word (A, B, C or D) for each space.

J, George and Harris washed their (0) clothes..... in a dirty river, and they became dirtier. So they gave them to a laundry woman who (1) to wash them again.

There were a lot of fish at Streatley and Goring but it was very difficult to catch (2)

The three men spent two days in the beautiful university

(3) of Oxford. Montmorency enjoyed himself

(4) he had twenty-five dog fights in two days.

On the way home to London it started (5) The rain

(6) stopped and the three men did not want to

(7) on the river anymore. Harris had a headache and J had a backache.

They decided to run away (8) the rain and returned to London (9) train.

When they got to London they had a small meal in a restaurant. Then they went to the Alhambra Theatre (10) everyone looked at their clothes and smiled.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------------|
| 0 A robes | B dresses | C costumes | D clothes |
| 1 A agreed | B agree | C agreeing | D agreement |
| 2 A they | B them | C it | D him |
| 3 A tower | B college | C town | D country |
| 4 A because | B why | C how | D even |
| 5 A rained | B raining | C rain | D rains |
| 6 A ever | B not | C no | D never |
| 7 A stand | B rest | C stay | D live |
| 8 A at | B to | C by | D from |
| 9 A by | B in | C with | D on |
| 10 A while | B where | C so | D however |

14 2 Listening – at the restaurant

George, Harris and J are at the restaurant. With your partner try and fill in the gaps using the words from the box. Then listen to the conversation and check your answers.

sorry twenty take order fruit pie tomato
dessert milk cream bring me what some
of course green chicken carrots drink

Waitress: Good evening! Do you want to (1) your supper now?

George: Yes, please. I'll have some meat cooked in (2) sauce, and some potatoes.

Waitress: Do you want any (3)?

George: Oh, of course! Please (4) a dish of ice-cream.

Waitress: (5) do you want to drink?

George: Well, I'll have (6) water. Oh, please bring us some bread and butter.

Waitress: And what about you, sir? What can I bring you?

Harris: Do you still make fish cooked in white (7) sauce?

Waitress: (8) we do!

Harris: Good! Then I'll have the fish cooked in white cream sauce, and I'll have some (9) vegetables.

Waitress: Any dessert for you, sir?

Harris : Yes! I'll have a big (10), and a cup of tea with lemon.

Waitress: Excellent! — And you, sir?

J: Well, please bring me the (11) cooked in green sauce with fried spinach.

Waitress: Oh, I'm (12) sir, but we don't have chicken cooked in green sauce today. Instead, we have a delicious pork pie.

J: Good! I'll (13) the pork pie with cooked (14) Please bring me a red apple for dessert.

Waitress: What do you want to (15) ?

J: I'll have a big glass of cold (16)

Waitress: Thank you! Your supper will be ready in (17) minutes.

PET 3 Sentence transformation

For each question complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use no more than three words. There's an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 George and Harris searched the boat for the tin-opener.
George and Harris *looked everywhere* for the tin-opener.
- 1 It was very hot on the boat and Montmorency could not sleep.
Montmorency could not sleep so hot on the boat.
- 2 The play at the Alhambra Theatre lasted three hours.
The play at the Alhambra Theatre after three hours.
- 3 This is the last time I'll take a holiday on the river.
I'll a holiday on the river again.
- 4 Harris had never fought against swans before.
This was Harris had ever fought against swans.
- 5 George put on his best orange blazer.
An orange blazer George.

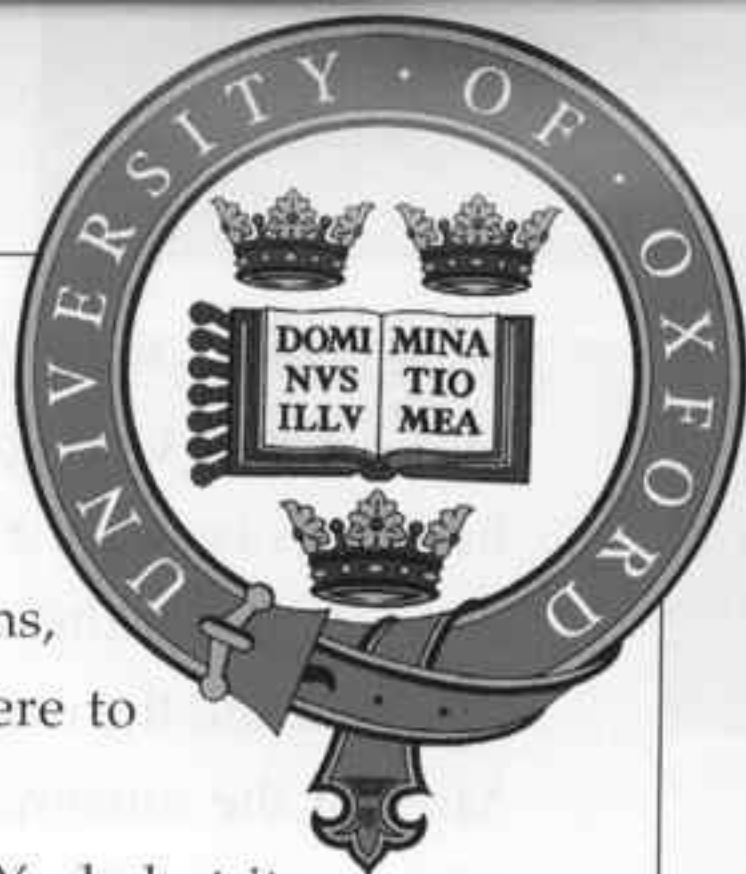
T: GRADE 5

4 Speaking: travel

J, George and Harris had an exciting holiday on the Thames, but they were glad to be back home. Do you like travelling and taking exciting holidays? Tell the class about it and use the questions below to help you.

- 1 Where did you go on your most exciting holiday?
- 2 Who did you go with?
- 3 How long did you stay?
- 4 What did you do that was exciting?

Oxford



Oxford is one of Britain's major tourist attractions, and around two million tourists a year go there to visit the colleges, parks and museums.

Oxford is not as old as London, Cambridge or York, but it became an important market town in the tenth-century. By the thirteenth-century the town was a rich centre that sold cloth and wool. During this time scholars were attracted to Oxford and built



Roofs of **Oxford colleges**. In the foreground is Brasenose College (1509); the tall church spire in the background is part of Exeter College (1314).

three colleges there: University College (1249), Balliol College (1263-8) and Merton College (1264). These colleges looked like religious buildings because at that time religion and education were closely connected. By the end of the thirteenth-century there were 1,500 students and the university became famous all over Europe.

Most of the university's buildings were built between the 15th and 17th centuries. The first two women's colleges, Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville, opened in 1879. At that time women could not receive a university degree, but in 1920 the first woman got her degree at Oxford.

Today there are thirty-nine colleges and around more than 23,000 students. Many famous people have studied here: twenty-two British prime ministers, ex-President of the USA Bill Clinton, Oscar Wilde and Lewis Carroll are only a few. C. S. Lewis, author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* and J. R. Tolkien, author of *The Lord of the Rings*, were both professors of English at Oxford, and they were also good friends.

The Bodleian Library is one of the most important historical and academic buildings in Oxford. It opened in 1602 and was the first national library of England. It receives a copy of every book published in Britain. In 1946 the New Bodleian, with a capacity of five million books, was added to the Bodleian.

Oxford has some interesting museums, too. The Ashmolean Museum (1687) has important works of art and archaeological finds and was the first museum in Britain to be open to the public.

Rowing is an important sport at Oxford. 'Eights Week' - so called because there are eight rowers in the crews of the rowing boats - takes place in May on the Isis, which is what the Thames is called as it passes through Oxford. The colleges compete against each other to become the 'head of the river', as the winner is called.



The Cambridge team winning the 150th **boat race** in 2004.
The bridge is Hammersmith Bridge.

The universities of Oxford and Cambridge compete against each other at many sports. The team colour of Oxford is dark blue and Cambridge teams wear light blue. The annual Boat Race between the two universities takes place in the Easter vacation. The tradition of the Boat Race began in March 1829, when Cambridge sent a challenge to Oxford. The two teams race on the River Thames in south-west London, between Putney and Mortlake, over a distance of 6.8 kilometres.

1 Comprehension check

Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

	T	F
1 Oxford was an important university town in the tenth-century.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Three colleges were built in Oxford around the thirteenth-century.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 One of the most important historical monument in Oxford is the Bodleian Library.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Two British prime ministers studied at Oxford.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 The Ashmolean Museum has archaeological finds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 The winner of the 'Eights Week' is called 'the head of the river'.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 The Boat Race tradition began in March 1929.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 The Boat Race takes place between Oxford and London.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INTERNET PROJECT

LET'S FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE BOAT RACE!

Work with a partner and find out:

- A** the date of the next boat race

B who the crew members are this year

C who won the race last year

D how the crew trains by clicking on Gallery
- plan a trip to the boat race by clicking on Watching the Race

A decide where you want to go to watch the race

B use the map to help you decide
- Which team are you cheering for and why? Write a brief report about the boat race and your trip, and present it to the class.

For instructions see page 33.



PET 1 Comprehension check

For each question choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

- 1 The three men decided to go on holiday because
 - A ☐ they all had liver problems.
 - B ☐ it was summer.
 - C ☐ they needed a rest.
 - D ☐ they wanted to visit their friends.
- 2 When they were ready to leave, they took
 - A ☐ the 11:05 train at Kingston.
 - B ☐ the 11:05 train at Waterloo Station.
 - C ☐ the 11:50 train at Waterloo Station.
 - D ☐ the 11:00 train at Paddington Station.
- 3 What happened when Harris tried to cook scrambled eggs?
 - A ☐ Montmorency ate them.
 - B ☐ Harris didn't have the ingredients.
 - C ☐ Harris forgot the cooking method.
 - D ☐ Harris burnt them.
- 4 What happened at Runnymede?
 - A ☐ King Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn.
 - B ☐ Queen Elizabeth met her cousin.
 - C ☐ King John signed the Magna Carta.
 - D ☐ King John fought an important battle.
- 5 The three old fishermen were furious because
 - A ☐ the three men sailed straight into their boat.
 - B ☐ it was too windy.
 - C ☐ they didn't catch any fish.
 - D ☐ the three men cursed them.
- 6 What did George ask the lock-keeper at Hambledon Lock for?
 - A ☐ some water
 - B ☐ some mustard
 - C ☐ some food
 - D ☐ a tin-opener

- 7 What happened when the three men were getting ready for lunch?
- A ☐ Harris fell into the river.
 - B ☐ Harris disappeared.
 - C ☐ Harris ran away with the meat pie.
 - D ☐ Harris ate the meat pie.
- 8 What did Harris and J have difficulty doing?
- A ☐ finding peas for the stew
 - B ☐ peeling potatoes for the stew
 - C ☐ finding old food in the hampers
 - D ☐ cooking the stew
- 9 What did the swans want to do?
- A ☐ live in the boat
 - B ☐ swim down the river
 - C ☐ return to their nest
 - D ☐ attack Harris and Montmorency
- 10 Montmorency had fun in Oxford because
- A ☐ he had a fight with a black cat.
 - B ☐ he met a friendly dog.
 - C ☐ he had twenty-five dog fights.
 - D ☐ he killed eleven chickens.
- 11 They decided to return to London because
- A ☐ it was too hot on the river.
 - B ☐ they were bored.
 - C ☐ George wanted to go back to work.
 - D ☐ they were tired of the rain.
- 12 What did they ask the boatman at Pangbourne?
- A ☐ for three umbrellas
 - B ☐ to take care of the boat
 - C ☐ to put a new cover on the boat
 - D ☐ the name of the train station
- 13 What happened at the Alhambra Theatre?
- A ☐ The people looked at the three men's clothes and smiled.
 - B ☐ The three men fell asleep.
 - C ☐ The play was very boring.
 - D ☐ The three men had supper.

2 Characters

Match each description with a character. You can use the name of some of the characters more than once.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| A Harris | E Mrs Poppets |
| B Montmorency | F King John |
| C J | G Three old fishermen |
| D George | |

- 1 ☐ He took the doctor's prescription to the chemist's.
- 2 ☐ She looks after J's house.
- 3 ☐ He did not like the idea of a holiday on the River Thames.
- 4 ☐ He works in the City at a bank.
- 5 ☐ He is not romantic at all.
- 6 ☐ He killed twelve chickens.
- 7 ☐ He always knows where to find a good whisky.
- 8 ☐ He is the worst packer in the world.
- 9 ☐ He is just like Uncle Podger.
- 10 ☐ He has a coloured blazer.
- 11 ☐ He got lost in the maze at Hampton Court.
- 12 ☐ He signed the Magna Carta.
- 13 ☐ He fell into the cold river.
- 14 ☐ He made scrambled eggs.
- 15 ☐ They cursed J, Harris and George.
- 16 ☐ He wanted to add a dead rat to the stew.

Key to Exit Test

1 1 C; 2 B; 3 D; 4 C; 5 A; 6 A; 7 B; 8 B; 9 D; 10 C; 11 D; 12 B; 13 A.

2 1 C; 2 E; 3 B; 4 D; 5 A; 6 B; 7 A; 8 D; 9 A; 10 D; 11 A; 12 F; 13 C; 14 A; 15 G; 16 B.

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it.

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

Step Three B1.2

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: unfinished past with *for* or *since* (duration form)

Past Perfect Simple: narrative

Verb forms and patterns

Regular verbs and all irregular verbs in current English

Causative: *have / get* + object + past participle

Reported questions and orders with *ask* and *tell*

Modal verbs

Would: hypothesis

Would rather: preference

Should (present and future reference):
moral obligation

Ought to (present and future reference):
moral obligation

Used to: past habits and states

Types of clause

2nd Conditional: *if* + past, *would(n't)*

Zero, 1st and 2nd conditionals with *unless*

Non-defining relative clauses with *who*
and *where*

Clauses of result: *so*; *so ... that*; *such ... that*

Clauses of concession: *although*, *though*

Other

Comparison: *(not) as / so ... as*; *(not) ... enough to*; *too ... to*

Available at **Step Three**:

- **The £1,000,000 Banknote** Mark Twain
- **The Canterville Ghost** Oscar Wilde
- **Classic Detective Stories**
- **The Diamond as Big as The Ritz**
F. Scott Fitzgerald
- **Great Mysteries of Our World**
Gina D. B. Clemen
- **Gulliver's Travels** Jonathan Swift
- **The Hound of the Baskervilles**
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Jane Eyre** Charlotte Brontë
- **Julius Caesar** William Shakespeare
- **Kim** Rudyard Kipling
- **Lord Arthur Savile's Crime
and Other Stories** Oscar Wilde
- **Moonfleet** John Meade Falkner
- **Of Mice and Men** John Steinbeck
- **The Pearl** John Steinbeck
- **The Phantom of the Opera** Gaston Leroux
- **The Prisoner of Zenda** Anthony Hope
- **The Return of Sherlock Holmes**
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Romeo and Juliet** William Shakespeare
- **The Scarlet Pimpernel** Baroness Orczy
- **Sherlock Holmes Investigates**
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Stories of Suspense** Nathaniel Hawthorne
- **The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**
Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Tales of the Supernatural**
- **Three Men in a Boat** Jerome K. Jerome
- **Treasure Island** Robert Louis Stevenson
- **True Adventure Stories** Peter Foreman
- **Twelfth Night** William Shakespeare

R&T *Discovery*

- **American Cities** Gina D. B. Clemen



Three Men in a Boat

What can possibly happen to three friends and their dog when they take a peaceful boat trip on the River Thames? Well, just about anything!

Their adventures as they visit historical sites on the beautiful River Thames make the reader laugh!

Read how they get lost in the gardens of a royal palace, are attacked by angry birds, cook the strangest meal in history, and much more!

- Wide range of activities practising the four skills
- PET-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grades 5/6)
- Dossiers: *Fox-Terriers, Life on the River, Oxford* and others.
- Internet projects
- Text recorded in full
- Exit test with answer key



Step One	■	CEFR A2	Exam Level KET
Step Two	■	CEFR B1.1	Exam Preparation PET
Step Three	■	CEFR B1.2	Exam Level PET
Step Four	■	CEFR B2.1	Exam Preparation FCE
Step Five	■	CEFR B2.2	Exam Level FCE
Step Six	■	CEFR C1	Exam Preparation CAE

Jerome K. Jerome
THREE MEN IN A BOAT
ISBN 978-88-530-0763-6
BLACK CAT PUBLISHING
CIDEB

This volume without the side coupon is to be considered a sample copy not for sale.

ISBN 978-88-530-0763-6



Book + CD