

Activity Pack - Chapter One

NIGHT ZOO KEEPER

The *Sea Lion* of
Endless Ocean



Joshua
Davidson

Prologue

When Will accidentally creates a mysterious portal during a trip to the zoo, he's transported into the world of the Night Zoo, and thrust into an incredible adventure.

Bestowed with a zookeeper's uniform, a glowing orb, and a powerful magical torch, he's tasked with protecting the Zoo's inhabitants from the fearsome Voids - the army of robotic spiders who are terrorising the animals that live there.

Does Will, with the help of his friends Riya and Sam, have the bravery and the imagination to lead the creatures of the Night Zoo to victory?





Will Riya and Sam the Spying Giraffe stepped through the portal from the Flying Mountain into a new, welcoming landscape. The three friends found themselves on a long beach next to the Endless Ocean. A pleasant sea breeze ruffled the brown mane on the back of Sam's neck.

'Ahh! That's better,' he sighed. 'Warmth at last!' He wiggled his hooves in the soft sand with delight.

Gentle green waves were lapping at the sandy shoreline. Will looked out over the ocean: the calm water, sparkling with millions of jewels of silvery moonlight, stretched away to the horizon. For a moment, Will let the breeze and mellow rhythm of the waves wash over him. It was good to be somewhere less cold and forbidding. After the battles on the flying mountain and at Tusk Temple, it was also nice to be somewhere not swarming with Voids! Will felt his mind and body relax.

'Wow, I've never seen rocks like those before,' remarked Riya. Will turned to look at the cliffs behind him. Huge rocks, shaped and smoothed by the sea, stood out of the sand and seaweed. Each rock had vertical black-and-white stripes.

'Oh, we must be on Zebra Beach!' said Sam excitedly. 'Hey, what's black and white and black and white and black and white and yellow?'

'I dunno, Sam,' said Will. 'Go on, what's black and white and black and white and black and white and yellow?'

'Three zebras fighting over a banana!' said the giraffe. 'Hahaha! Geddit? and white

and . . . hahaha!

Riya slapped her forehead. ‘Will, open the portal back to the mountain for me, please.’ They all laughed. ‘On second thoughts, I like it here,’ she announced. ‘It’s beautiful, isn’t it?’

Will nodded. He wondered why Florence the Flamingo had sent them here. What trouble could there be in a peaceful place like this?

Riya must have been thinking the same thing. ‘I can’t see anyone else anywhere. Who was it who asked for help again, Will?’

Suddenly, the air was filled with a lusty barking noise. ‘URT! URT! URT!’

Sam stood bolt upright, his long neck as straight as a pole. ‘What on URT is that?’ he said.

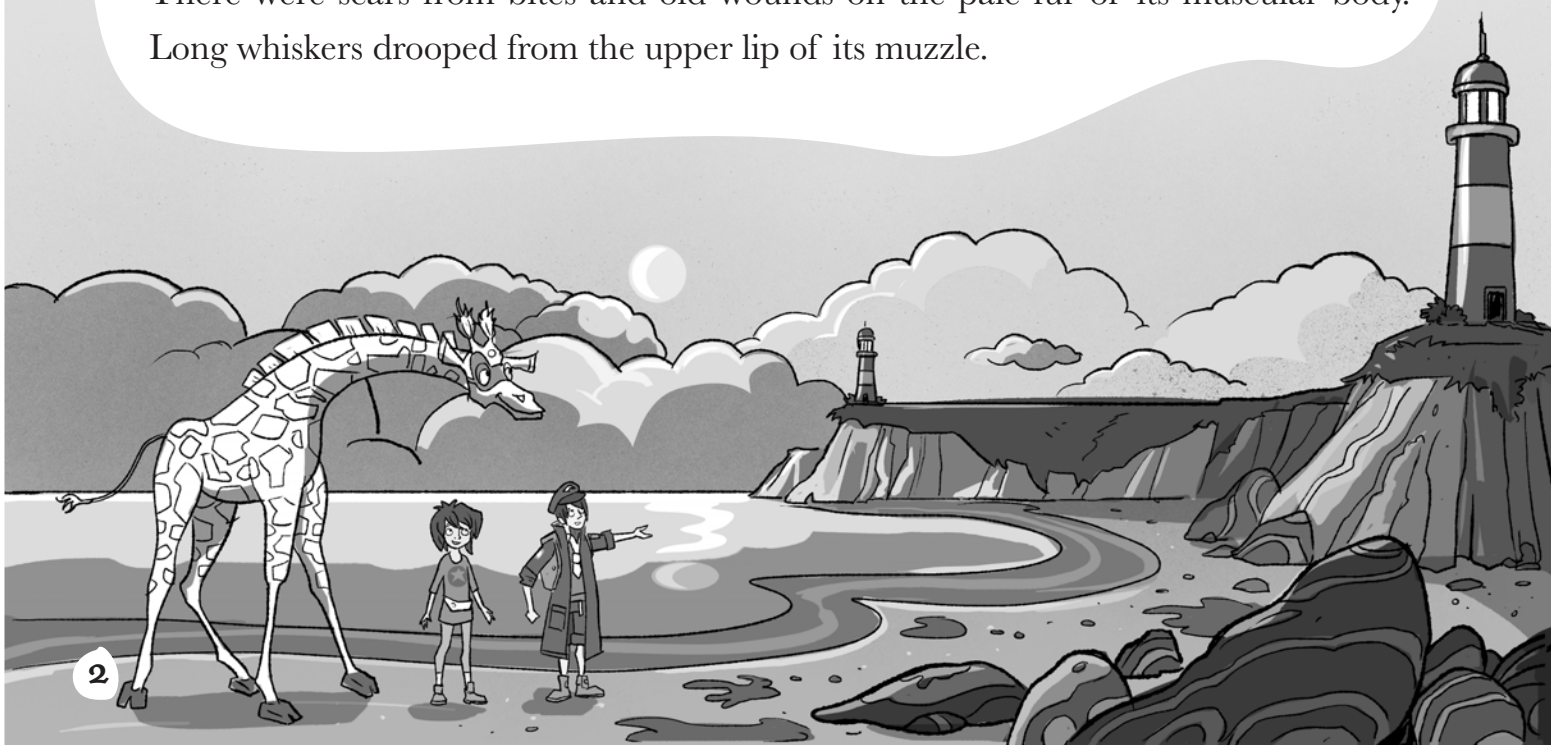
‘YOU there! Fall in, fall in! Attennnnn-TION!’ came a booming voice.

‘Sam, your ossicones. Should we be worried?’ asked Will.

Sam scrunched up his eyes for a second. ‘Ummm . . . no. All clear. Whoever is making that racket isn’t an enemy.’

‘URT! URT! URT! Eyes FRONT!’

A huge creature waddled out from behind one of the zebra-striped rocks. Walking on two leathery flippers, it had a massive head which rested on a thick, hairy neck. There were scars from bites and old wounds on the pale fur of its muscular body. Long whiskers drooped from the upper lip of its muzzle.



‘Wow!’ sighed Sam. ‘That is one magnificent moustache!’

‘RELOAD the Gibberish! READY the Nonsense Cannon! ODD will never surrender!’ boomed the sea lion.

‘Err, what is he talking about?’ said Riya under her breath.

The sea lion came to a lumbering halt, towering above Will. He raised his nose to the sky, puffed out his enormous chest and gave them a rigid salute with his flipper. ‘Right then, you school of scrawny sprats, IDENTIFY yourselves!’ he ordered, peering down at Will.

Will wasn’t quite sure what to do. He gave the Old Sea Lion General a little salute and replied, ‘Hi, I mean, hello. I am Will – William – and this is Riya and Sam.’

‘RANK?’

‘Rank? Oh, I see . . . well, I guess, my rank is . . . err . . . Night Zookeeper.’

‘EXCELLENT!’ thundered the Old Sea Lion General. His thick whiskers quivered. ‘Now, answer me this, Night Zookeeper William: there were three men in a boat. It sank but only two of them got their hair wet. Why?’

‘Huh?’ said Will.

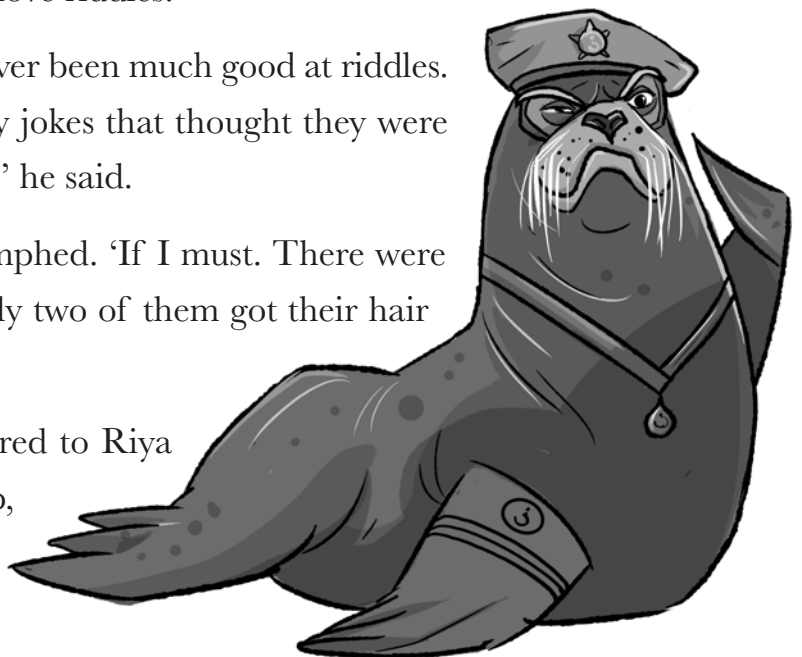
‘Riddle, Diddle, Gibberish, Bilge and Bosh! Come on, DOUBLE TIME, it’s a riddle. What’s the answer?’

‘Ooo, a riddle!’ exclaimed Sam. ‘I love riddles!’

Will groaned internally. He had never been much good at riddles. In fact, he thought they were just silly jokes that thought they were clever. ‘Err, sorry, could you repeat it?’ he said.

The Old Sea Lion General harrumphed. ‘If I must. There were three men in a BOAT. It sank but only two of them got their hair wet. EXPLAIN!’

Will’s mind was blank. He whispered to Riya out of the corner of his mouth, ‘Help, please. Any ideas?’



Sam's big dark eyes flew open. 'I know, I know,' he said excitedly.

'QUIET!' boomed the General. 'This riddle is for William. The last Night Zookeeper was FANTASTIC at this sort of thing.' He glanced at Will. 'WELL?'

Will felt his cheeks turning red. 'I . . . I don't know, sorry,' he mumbled.

The General's huge moustache bristled. 'URT!' he barked. 'Oh dear, oh dear, you're nowhere near! I fear you cannot hear what is clear with your ear!'

'Huh?' said Will again.

Sam was almost jumping up and down with excitement. 'Please, General,' he begged. 'I know the answer!'

'CARRY ON!' said the General.

'Huh?' said Sam.

'He means, go on, tell him the answer,' said Riya.

Sam grinned and spluttered, 'Only two got their hair wet because the other one was bald!'

'URT! URT! URT! CORRECT!' barked the General. He gave Sam a look of appreciation. 'My, my, I am IMPRESSED. I like the cut of your jib, giraffe!'

Sam had no idea what the cut of his jib was, but he beamed from ossicone to ossicone. 'If it's okay, I've got a riddle for you, General,' he said. 'It's about boats too!'

Will suddenly felt a flash of annoyance. Florence Flamingo had sent them to this beach for an important reason, not to waste time with riddles. 'Hang on, Sam,' he said. 'Can't this wait till later? We—'

'Balderdash, blarney, blather and BALONEY!' interrupted the General. 'There is always time for nonsense! Carry on, SAMUEL!'

'There were two boats,' said Sam. 'One red and one blue. They collided. What happened next?'

'COLLIDED, you say?' The General's eyes narrowed. 'VERY careless, but no matter. What happened next, eh? Hmmm.'

‘We are so wasting time here,’ Will grumbled to Riya.

‘I think I know the answer,’ said Riya brightly.

‘Oh no, not you too,’ said Will. He blew out his cheeks and shook his head.

‘General?’ asked Sam. ‘Have you got it yet?’

‘Hmmm,’ answered the sea lion, scratching his chin with a flipper. ‘Red and blue. Hmmm.’

‘Hey, what about me, Captain Clumsy?’ Riya said to Sam. ‘Don’t I get a go?’ Sam ignored her.

‘URT! You’ve got me there,’ announced the General. ‘I don’t know. I’m as flummoxed as a flamingo who’s fallen into a burrow of baffled badgers!’

‘Speaking of flamingos,’ said Will. ‘We were sent—’

This time, Sam cut him off. ‘Do you want to hear it again?’ he asked the General eagerly.

‘No, I have NO IDEA,’ said the General. ‘But it seems your friend might know – NOT Night Zookeeper William, of course, the other one.’

Reluctantly, Sam turned to Riya. ‘Well, what happened when the red ship and the blue ship collided?’

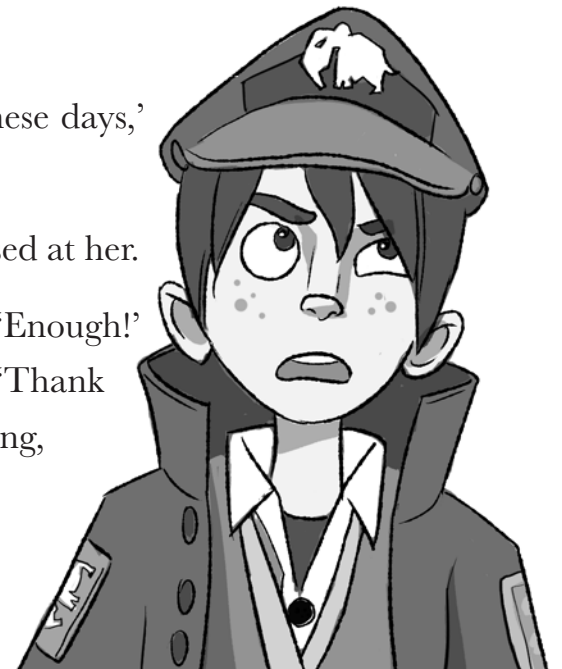
‘Were all the sailors marooned?’ she replied.

‘URT! URT! Marooned! Yes, OF COURSE! Wonderful!’ exclaimed the sea lion. ‘A most riddley-diddely-fiddley-tiddley riddle! URT!’

Riya smiled. ‘Seems I can crack your silly jokes these days,’ she said with satisfaction.

‘You should have let the General answer,’ Sam hissed at her.

‘Guys, PLEASE!’ shouted Will suddenly. ‘Enough!’ Surprised, the others stopped and looked at him. ‘Thank you!’ he said. ‘General, I know this is fun and everything, but I really need to ask you some questions.’



‘Questions? Are they RIDDLES? I do hope so,’ replied the sea lion.

‘No, not riddles, questions!’ said Will in exasperation. ‘Serious questions.’

The Old Sea Lion General looked down his snout at Will with a frown. ‘Serious, you say? How serious? Seriously serious or deliriously, furiously, seriously serious?’

Sam snorted with laughter.

Will pressed on. ‘General, Florence Flamingo sent us here for a reason. She said you sent a message asking for urgent help. What’s happening here?’

The Old Sea Lion General looked surprised. ‘Here? Nothing! Why do you ask?’

‘Because you sent a message!’

‘I did? Err, perhaps.’

Will was growing more confused by the second. ‘So, there’s no trouble here? No sign of the Lord of Nulth or any Voids?’

‘Oh yes!’ said the General. ‘We get one of those robot spiders now and then, but they’re no danger. We scare them off with the NONSENSE CANNON! Would you like a demonstration?’ The sea lion didn’t wait for an answer and pulled out a megaphone with a conch shell attached to it.

‘URT! Traffic cone, horse, bubba heffa STUMP!’ he barked through the megaphone.

Will and the others jumped at a loud bang from up on the cliffs. A ball of multi-coloured light shot up and over their heads. As it landed on the beach, there was another bang as the ball exploded. In its place was a galloping green horse with a traffic cone on its head.

‘Woah!’ said Sam.

The horse charged around the beach for a few seconds before disappearing in a shower of pretty sparkles.

Will looked up at the cliffs and caught sight of where the light ball had come from. He could see the muzzle and barrel of a cannon. Except this one wasn’t made of iron. It was shiny and quivering and Will realised with a shock that it was made of jelly.

‘URT! Kiwi, dress, flibble flabble FLOP!’ barked the General.

Bang! Another light ball flew over their heads and exploded on the beach. A giant kiwi fruit emerged wearing a long dress covered in sequins. The strange fruit walked up and down the beach like a model on a catwalk.

A few seconds later, the kiwi strode into the sea and promptly dissolved.

Will rubbed his eyes. ‘What is going on?’ he said.

Riya was laughing. ‘That’s so funny!’ she said.

‘More!’ urged Sam. ‘Fire another one!’

‘URT! Armadillo, pizza, tootle snootle PLING!’ shouted the sea lion.

Fiiiiizzzzz . . . pop! This time there was no cannonball of light. A few wisps of colourful smoke rose from the barrel of the Nonsense Cannon.

Sam’s ears drooped in disappointment. ‘Oh, what happened?’ he asked.

‘Technical problems, I’m afraid,’ grumbled the Old Sea Lion General. ‘Sometimes the waffle catches on the claptrap causing a guff in the gobbledygook.’

Will looked at the General in astonishment. ‘General, are you saying that . . . that misfiring jelly pea-shooter that seems to be powered by your . . . your gibberish is all you have to protect this beach?’

Suddenly another voice said, ‘It’s more powerful than you think, Night Zookeeper. When it’s working, of course.’ A young seagull had flown down and landed next to the General.

‘AH! There you are,’ said the sea lion. ‘Let me introduce you. This is Secret Service Seagull Sally. I’m the ODD leader and Sally is my wing-woman.’

‘Secret Service,’ Sam whispered to Will excitedly. ‘That sounds seriously cool. I wonder if I could join?’

‘It all sounds seriously ODD if you ask me,’ Will replied.

‘Stop it, Will. They’re cool. I like them,’ Riya whispered back.

‘ODD. Ocean Defence Division,’ explained Sally. ‘We protect these shores.’

‘We?’ said Will with relief. ‘You mean there’s lots of you? That’s great!’

‘URT! Well, ODD is a little low on troops at the MOMENT!’ said the General.

Will’s heart sank again. ‘It’s just you two, isn’t it?’ he said. ‘You’re ODD. You’re all that stands between the Night Zoo and Nulth.’

The General frowned at Will. ‘We have managed just fine so far, thank YOU,’ he said.

‘Then why did you ask me to come?’ Will ploughed on. ‘Listen, General, we’ve fought the Voids in a few battles now. Fighting them is a serious business, you know? Your cannon might help a bit, but it could never stop an army. There is no way a bunch of stupid gibberish and a fancy light show can stop the Lord of Nulth, prancing catwalk-kiwi or not!’

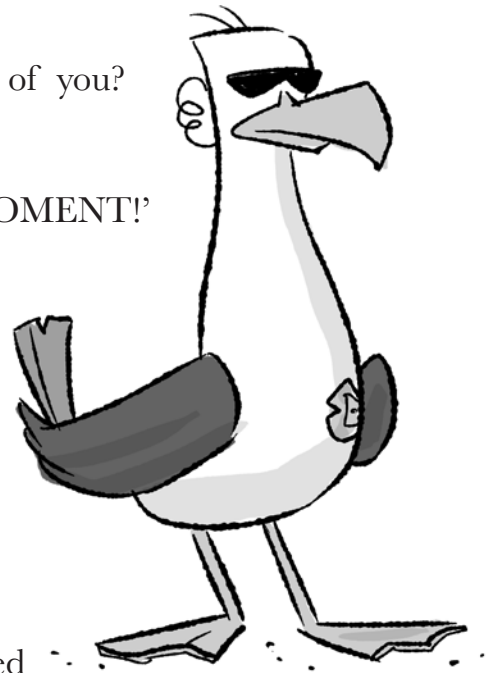
Will felt Sam’s breath on the back of his neck. ‘Will, what are you doing?’ whispered the young giraffe. ‘You’re being really rude.’

‘This is SERIOUS, Sam,’ he snapped back.

The Old Sea Lion General puffed his chest out and glared down at Will. ‘Night Zookeeper William, permit me to be SERIOUS for a moment,’ he said. ‘I’ve been fighting battles and holding these defences WAY before you came along, and the Zookeeper before you and the one before THAT! How do you think I got this?’ The sea lion shifted so that his rear flippers were showing. One of the flippers was horribly scarred, with tattered webbing. ‘I was an admiral, you know?’ he said sadly. ‘Until this happened.’

There was an awkward silence. Riya shot a disapproving look at Will. ‘General,’ she said. ‘Can you tell me and Sam more about your amazing cannon?’

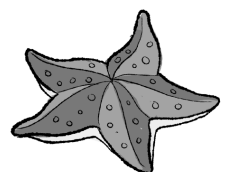
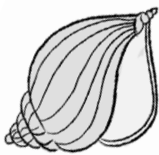
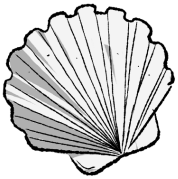
‘With PLEASURE!’ barked the sea lion, and Riya and Sam fell in step with him as he waddled along the beach. Will deliberately fell behind.



‘It was me that sent the message to Florence Flamingo,’ said Sally, walking beside him. ‘You are right to be concerned about our defences, Night Zookeeper. Just don’t be too hard on the General. Since his injury, he hasn’t been back in the ocean.’

Will felt a pang of guilt. ‘I’m sorry,’ he said quietly. ‘It’s all been so weird and silly. I’m the Night Zookeeper. It’s my duty to take things seriously, isn’t it? To be grown up about things?’

‘Perhaps,’ said Sally, ‘but it’s my turn to be serious now.’ Will stopped and faced the seagull. ‘During my patrols,’ she continued, ‘I noticed some strange activity at sea. I’ve spotted more Voids than normal, floating on the surface. They seem to be dropping something deep into the ocean, but I haven’t seen what. I tell you, Night Zookeeper, something bad is brewing and I’m not talking about the General’s sandy tea!’



What do you remember from Chapter One?

Circle the correct answers to the questions below!

1. What pattern does Riya notice on the rocks at Zebra Beach?

- A) black-and-white spots B) black-and-white stripes
C) black-and-white zig zags D) black-and-white squares

2. What does the Sea Lion General really enjoy?

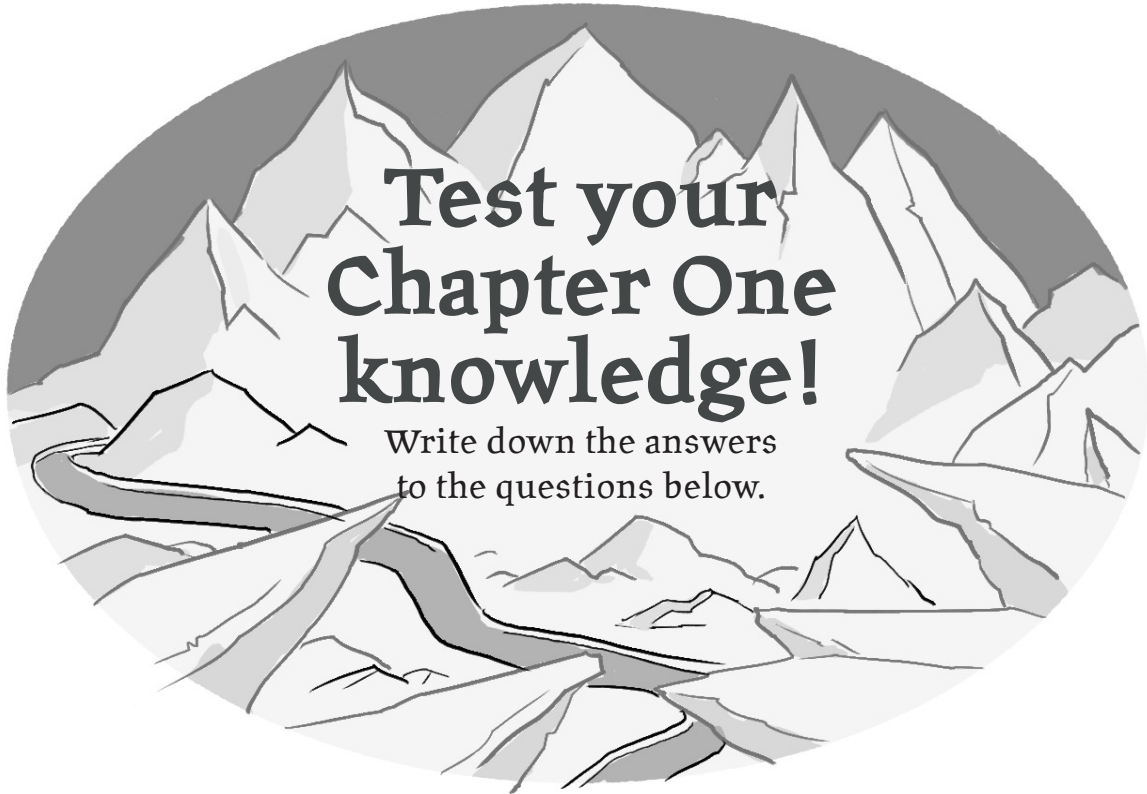
- A) notes and reading B) names and rhymes
C) nonsense and riddles D) numbers and reasons

3. What type of fruit walks up and down the beach in Chapter One?

- A) apple B) pear C) pineapple D) kiwi

4. What does ODD stand for?

- A) Ocean Defence Division B) Other Defence Department
C) Off Dune Diversions D) Only Dive Deep



1. Why does Will feel frustrated in Chapter One?

2. Why is Will worried about the Sea Lion General's defences?

3. What happens to the creations that come out of the Nonsense Cannon?

4. What strange activity has Secret Service Seagull Sally seen at sea?

Peculiar Place Names!

Will and his friends have arrived at Zebra Beach by the Endless Ocean. The beach gets its name from its zebra-striped rocks.

Can you draw your own magical beach and give it a peculiar name.



The Sea Lion General

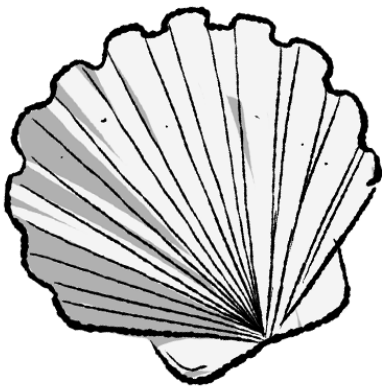
In Chapter One we meet the Sea Lion General. When he is speaking, his words are often written in capital letters. Look!

Suddenly, the air was filled with a lusty barking noise. “URT! URT! URT!”

“URT! URT! URT! Eyes FRONT!”

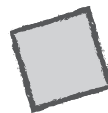
“RELOAD the Gibberish! READY the Nonsense Cannon! ODD will never surrender!” boomed the sea lion.

What does using capital letters show about the way the Sea Lion General is speaking?

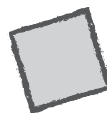


It shows he is angry.

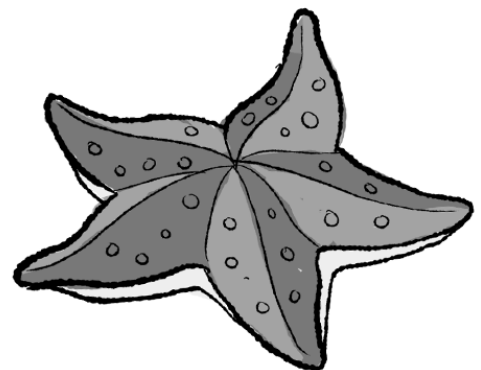
It shows he is happy.



It shows he is speaking loudly.



It shows he is speaking quietly.



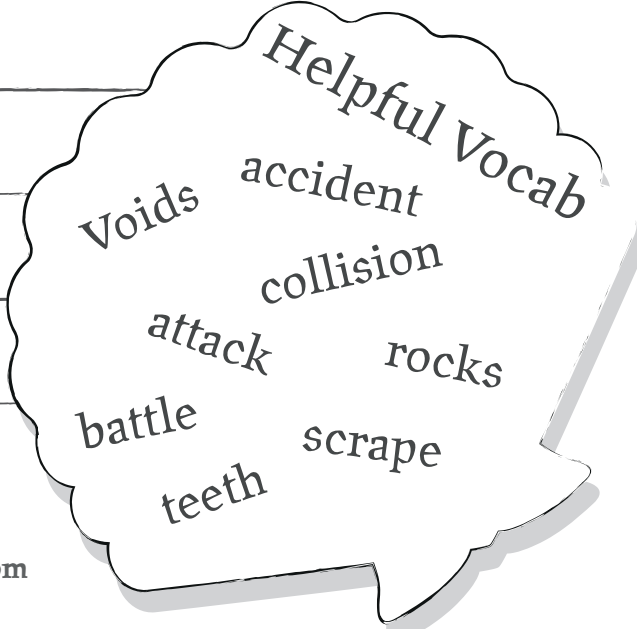
Endless Ocean Battles

Read the description of the Sea Lion General below.

Walking on two leathery flippers, it had a massive head which rested on a thick, hairy neck. There were scars from bites and old wounds on the pale fur of its muscular body. Long whiskers drooped from the upper lip of its muzzle.

How do you think the Sea Lion General got the scars and wounds on his body?

Write a paragraph below explaining what you think happened to cause the sea lion's injuries.



Speech Verbs

Speech verbs tell us how a character is speaking in a story. The Sea Lion General has lots to say in Chapter One!

Can you match the sea lion speech verbs with the definitions?

Declared something so everyone knew

Gave a command to do something

Stopped someone speaking by speaking over them

harrumphed
interrupted
ordered
announced
barked

Spoke in a grumpy way that showed disapproval

Gave a command in a sharp, abrupt way





Fire the Nonsense Cannon

In Chapter One, the Sea Lion General fires his Nonsense Cannon for Will, Riya, and Sam. He shouts some nonsense words which cause an original, bright, and funny creation to explode from the cannon!

Share your FIVE best nonsense words and draw the creative explosion they cause!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Draw your nonsense above!

READING COMPREHENSION ANSWER SHEET

Multiple Choice Questions

1. **What pattern does Riya notice on the rocks at Zebra Beach?**

Answer: B) black-and-white stripes

2. **What does the Sea Lion General really enjoy?**

Answer: C) nonsense and riddles

3. **What type of fruit walks up and down the beach in Chapter One?**

Answer: D) kiwi

4. **What does ODD stand for?**

Answer: A) Ocean Defence Division

Short Answer Questions

1. **Why does Will feel frustrated in Chapter One?**

Answer: He feels frustrated because he thinks everybody is wasting time with nonsense and riddles.

2. **Why is Will worried about the Sea Lion General's defences?**

Answer: He doesn't believe the Sea Lion General's Nonsense Cannon is enough to stop the Lord of Nulth.

3. **What happens to the creations that come out of the Nonsense Cannon?**

Answer: They fly out of the cannon as balls of light then explode into life before dissolving.

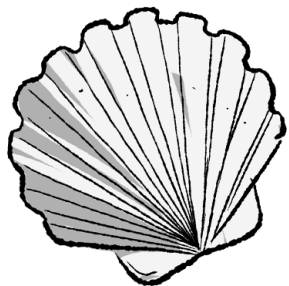
4. **What strange activity has Secret Service Seagull Sally seen at sea?**

Answer: She has seen Voids floating on the surface and dropping something deep into the ocean.

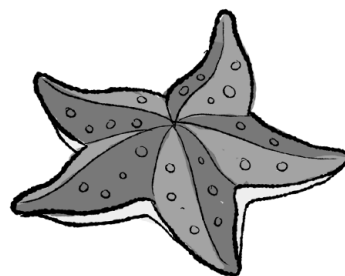
ANSWER SHEET

The Sea Lion of Endless Ocean Activity Pack - Chapter One

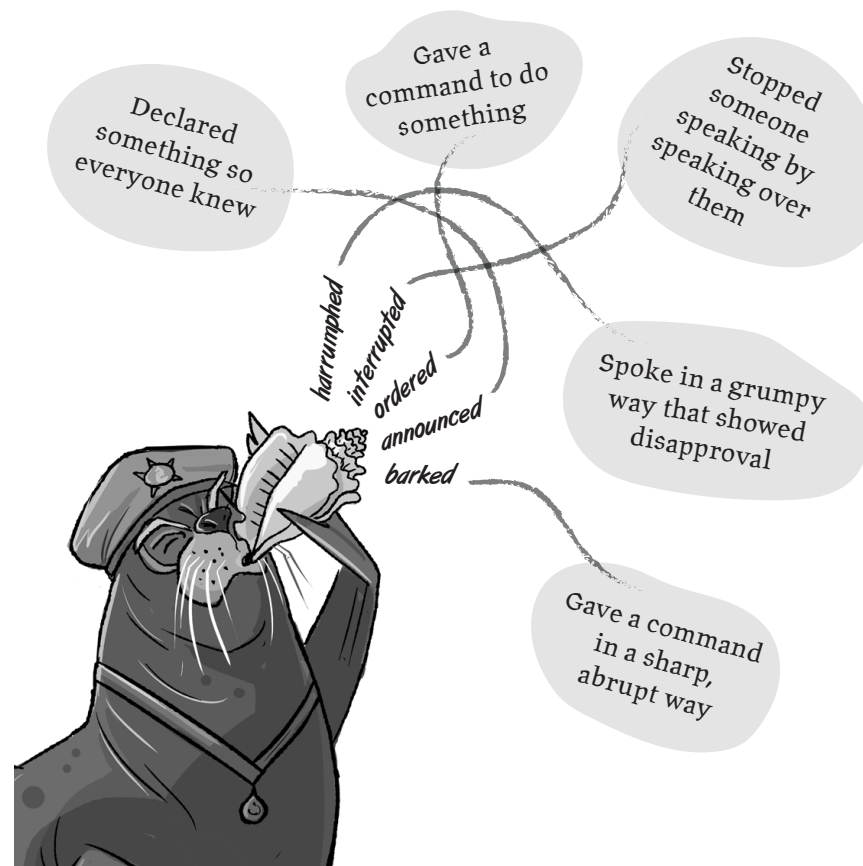
The Sea Lion General



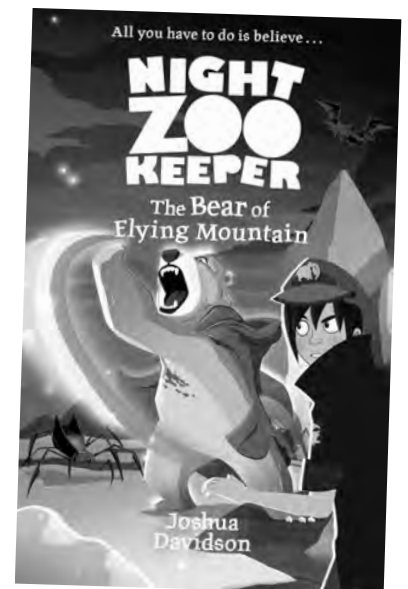
- It shows he is angry.
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Speech Verbs



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