



## THE CASE OF THE MISSING LUNCH BOXES

### Chapter 3

Mo waited patiently whilst his friends caught up with him. He knew how slippery the rocks were, and he didn't want them to rush and fall over. They had too many exciting things to do all of a sudden.

"What is it?" Edward shouted from one of the rocks. "These rocks are a nightmare!"

"Take your time," Mo replied. "It will be worth it."

It took them another few minutes to finally make it round the bed and back onto the sand, where Mo greeted them with a wide grin.

"Another cave?" Ola asked, taking in the large cavern in front of them.

"This one's not blocked off by the water, and it looks deep!" Mo said eagerly.

"Have you been inside?" Kimmy asked.

Mo nodded. "Only a little bit. I wanted to explore with you guys."

"Because you're terrified," Edward said with a grin.

"Maybe!" Mo laughed.

None of them had thought to bring a torch in the middle of the day, but Kimmy had an old mobile phone that she used in emergencies. She turned on the torch and held it out in front of them. Shadows bounced off the walls, which glistened with moisture.

"Just think," Mo said, "pirates once used this as a secret hideout and place to drink grog!"

Ola shook her head. "You and your pirates."

The cave twisted and turned. Sometimes, the tunnels became very narrow, and the Summer Holidays Detective Agency had to breathe in to squeeze through. There were tunnels that snaked off in different directions, but they always made sure to travel in pairs and not stray too far from each other.

After ten minutes, they emerged into a larger cavern. The ceiling seemed to stretch far above them. When they spoke, their voices echoed and seemed to get louder.



“How big do you think it is?” Mo asked.

“I’d say about ten metres across,” Ola said. The others looked at her with wide eyes. “Well, we’re about a meter tall, maybe a bit more. I think it’s probably ten of me wide. It might be eleven or twelve. It’s simple maths.”

“Do you think there’s anything in here?” Edward asked.

“How on Earth would we know?” Kimmy said. “We’ve only just got here as well.”

Kimmy placed her phone on a rock in the middle of the cavern. The light bloomed out, just about reaching the sides. “There’s not much battery left,” she said. “We’ve got to be quick.”

“There’s some old crates over here,” Mo said. He kicked one of them, and it fell into pieces.

“There’s not much in them.”

“There’s another tunnel over here,” Kimmy said. The others rushed over to her. “We’ve not got time to explore it now, but we could come back later or tomorrow.”

Just as they were about to leave, they heard a noise from the new tunnel. At first, it was quiet and sounded like a soft ticking. It quickly got louder and sounded more like somebody hammering against the rocks.

None of them needed to say a word. Kimmy snatched up her phone, and they fled back to the beach as quickly as possible.

## VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Which word means “excitedly”?
2. Find and copy a phrase that tells you Edward isn’t enjoying walking on the rocks.
3. Find and copy a phrase that describes Ola as “looking at” something.
4. What impression do you get of something from the phrase “glistened with moisture”?
5. Which word means “move aimlessly” or “wander off”?

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**I**

What gives you the impression that Ola doesn’t agree with Mo about pirates?

**S**

How did Ola work out how big the cavern was?

**I**

Why do you think they fled the cavern?

**R**

Who discovered the old crates?

**P**

What do you think was making the noise?