



THE CASE OF THE MISSING LUNCH BOXES

Chapter 2

“What do you think it opens?” Kimmy asked. They were back at the caravans and enjoying an ice cream, courtesy of Edward’s dad.

“Definitely some sort of treasure chest,” Mo said eagerly, his voice muffled by a mouthful of vanilla ice cream.

“It might just be from an old cupboard or something,” Ola said, spoiling the fun. “It might even be a prop from an old theatre or something like that.”

“I dunno, it seems pretty piratey,” Edward added. He had finished his ice cream in three mouthfuls and was now looking at the others with envy.

“You lot make me laugh,” Edward’s mum said, handing out napkins for them to wipe their hands. “It’s all about secrets and mysteries with you guys.”

“We are the Summer Holidays Detective Agency,” Edward said, feeling a little bit hurt.

“You are indeed. You were so helpful last year with the mysterious art!”

The four detectives had found some mysterious art the summer before and come to the conclusion that it was a top-secret spy mission. They’d been very wrong, and their parents hadn’t let them live it down.

After Edward’s mum had left them alone, Ola spoke again. “Whatever it is, I think we need to investigate. There might be other hidden things down at the beach.”

“There were a few caves in the cliffs,” Mo said. “I could see them when I was out in the sea.”

“Let’s go and have a look,” Kimmy chipped in.

Mo shook his head. “The water was too high. It was blocking the entrances. We need to wait until the tide goes out. My mum said it should go out at about 2 o’clock this



afternoon.”

They all looked at their watch. They had two hours to kill. “We could go and play Frisbee on the beach whilst we wait?” Edward offered.

The others loved the idea. Mo raced to his caravan to grab his Frisbee. They raced each other down to the beach and were soon out of breath and rolling around on the sand. The tide was still high, but Mo pointed out the caves to the others.

“They look suitably mysterious,” Ola said approvingly.

Even though it would be a while before the sea retreated, they kept a close eye on the caves as they threw the Frisbee around. None of them were paying attention when Edward launched an enormous throw. The plastic disc floated over all of their heads before disappearing behind a pile of jagged rocks and rockpools.

Mo set off at a jog to recover it. The rocks were so tall that the others could only see his head bobbing as he ran, and even that disappeared after a while. Suddenly, he shouted out. His voice echoed and sounded strange. “You’ve got to see this!”

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Which phrase tells you that Edward’s dad bought the ice creams?
2. Which word in the text means “jealousy”?
3. Find and copy a word that tells you Ola agrees with something.
4. Which word means “backed away” or “went away”?
5. Find and copy a word that means “get something back”.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

P Which phrase tells you that Edward’s dad bought the ice creams?

R What were they playing on the beach?

S How were they going to clean up after eating ice cream?

I Why might they be growing impatient?

R What time was it when they set off to the beach?