

1 万能图书管理员

杰克从厨房的窗子看出去，太阳还没出来，但天已经开始亮起来了。

杰克已经醒着呆了好一会儿。他在想刚才做的梦——有关摩根·拉菲的梦。在梦里摩根说：“树屋回来了，我在等你。”

杰克真希望梦是真的，他想念摩根的神奇树屋。

“杰克，”他的小妹妹安妮来到门口对他说，“我们现在得马上去树林！”

“为什么？”杰克问。

“我做了个关于摩根的梦！”安妮激动地说，“梦里摩根对我说树屋回来了，而且她在那儿等我们！”

“我也做了个这样的梦。”杰克说。

“真的吗？”安妮问，“她也告诉你了？那么说她一定有什么要紧事。”

“但是梦不是真的，”杰克说。

“有些梦不是真的，但这个是。我感觉它一定是真的，”安妮说。她打开后门，说：“我们一会儿见！”

“等等，我来了！”杰克说。他一边跑上楼梯一边想，做一样的梦一定有其道理。

他抓起背包把他的笔记本和铅笔塞了进去，然后跑下楼梯。

“我们一会儿就回来，妈妈！”杰克朝客厅喊道。

“这么早你们要上哪儿去啊？”爸爸问。

“就去散会儿步！”杰克回答道。

“昨天晚上下了雨，”妈妈大声说，“别把鞋弄湿了。”

“不会的！”杰克答道。

杰克溜出门，安妮已经在那儿等他。

“我们走吧！”她说。

天空是灰白色的，空气仿佛刚洗过似的。杰克和安妮穿过寂静的街道，朝蛙溪树林跑去。他们在树木间穿行，很快来到树林中那棵最高的橡树跟前，高高的树顶上果然有个木屋。

“树屋真的回来了！”杰克小声说。

这时，有人从树屋的窗子里往外张望。是一位可爱的，留着白色长发的老妇人——摩根·拉菲。

“上来呀！”这位有魔法的图书管理员喊道。

杰克和安妮攀着绳梯爬进树屋。

在晨曦中他们注视着摩根·拉菲，只见她穿一件红色的天鹅绒长袍，显得十分漂亮。

杰克将眼镜扶正，情不自禁地笑了。

“我们都梦见你了！”安妮说。

“我知道。”摩根回答。

“你知道？”

“是啊，是我托梦给你们。”摩根说，“因为我需要你们的帮助。”

“怎样的帮助？”杰克问。

“巫师梅林又开始施展巫术了。”摩根说，“所以我没时间为卡米洛特王国的图书馆收集书籍了。”

“我们能帮你收集吗？”安妮问。

“可以。但是为了能在不同时空中穿梭去收集图书，你们必须成为万能图书管理员。”摩根

说。

“唉，那就不好办了。”安妮难过地说。

“你们是可以成为万能图书管理员的，只要你们能通过考试。”摩根说。

“真的吗？”安妮问。

“是什么样的考试呢？”杰克也问道。

“你们必须展示你们的探究能力，知道怎样去找到解决难题的答案。”

“我们要怎样做呢？”安妮问。

“只需找到四个谜底就可以了。”摩根说。她将手伸进袍子的褶里，拿出一个纸卷。

“第一个谜语写在这个古纸卷里。”摩根说，“这本书将帮你们找到谜底。”

她取出一本书，书的封面上写着“海洋向导”几个字。

“这就是你们要去的地方。”摩根说。

“海洋！噢，天哪！”安妮指着书的封面说，“我希望我们……”

“停一下！”杰克抓住安妮的手说。“我们怎么知道是不是找到了正确的谜底呢？”他问摩根。

“你们会知道的。”摩根神秘地说，“我保证你们到时候就知道了。”

杰克松开安妮的手，于是她又可以指着封面说完她的希望了：“我希望我们能去那里。”风吹了起来。

“你会和我们一起去吗，摩根？”杰克问。

摩根还来不及回答，树屋就开始打转。

杰克将眼睛闭紧。

树屋转得越来越快。

然后一切都平静了。

绝对的平静。

杰克睁开双眼，发现摩根已经不见了，只留下那个古纸卷和那本关于海洋的书。

1 Master Librarians

Jack stared out the kitchen window.

The sun was not up yet. But the sky was growing lighter.

Jack had been awake for a long time. He had been thinking about the dream he'd had—the dream about Morgan le Fay.

The tree house is back, Morgan had said. I'm waiting.

Jack wished that dreams were real. He missed Morgan's magic tree house.

“Jack!” His little sister Annie appeared in the doorway. “We have to go to the woods now!” she said.

“Why?” Jack asked.

“I had a dream about Morgan!” exclaimed Annie. “She said the tree house is back and she's waiting for us!”

“That was my dream,” said Jack.

“Oh, wow,” said Annie. “She told you, too? So it must be important.”

“But dreams aren't real,” said Jack.

“Some dreams aren't. But this one is,” said Annie. “I can just feel it.” She opened the back door. “I'll see you later!”

“Wait—wait. I'm coming!” said Jack.

He raced up the stairs. Having the same dream must mean something, he thought. He grabbed his backpack and threw his notebook and pencil into it. Then he ran downstairs.

"We'll be back soon, Mom!" Jack called into the living room.

"Where you going so early?" his dad called.

"Just for a quick walk!" said Jack.

"It rained last night," called his mom. "Don't get your shoes wet."

"We won't!"

Jack slipped out the door. Annie was waiting for him.

"Let's go!" she said.

The sky was pale gray. The air felt freshly washed.

Jack and Annie ran up their quiet street to the Frog Creek woods.

They headed between the trees. Soon they came to the tallest oak in the woods.

There was a wooden house high in the treetop.

"It is back!" whispered Jack.

Someone looked out the window of the tree house—a lovely old woman with long white hair. Morgan le Fay.

"Come up," called the magical librarian.

Jack and Annie climbed up the rope ladder and into the tree house.

In the dawn light, they stared at Morgan le Fay. She looked beautiful in a red velvet robe.

Jack pushed his glasses into place. He couldn't stop smiling.

"We both had dreams about you!" said Annie.

"I know," said Morgan.

"You do?"

"Yes, I sent them to you," said Morgan, "because I need your help."

"What kind of help?" said Jack.

"Merlin the Magician has been up to his tricks again," said Morgan.

"So I haven't had any time to collect books for Camelot's library."

"Can we collect them for you?" asked Annie.

"Yes, but in order to gather books through time you must be Master Librarians," said Morgan.

"Oh, well," Annie said sadly.

"But you can become Master Librarians," said Morgan, "if you pass the test."

"Really?" said Annie.

"What kind of test?" Jack asked.

"You must show that you know how to do research," said Morgan, "and show that you can find answers to hard questions."

"How?" said Annie.

"By solving four riddles," said Morgan. She reached into the folds of her robe and pulled out a rolled-up paper.

"The first riddle is written on this ancient scroll," she said. "This book

will help you find the answer.”

She held out a book. On the cover were the words Ocean Guide.

“This is where you have to go,” said Morgan.

“The ocean! Oh, boy!” said Annie. She pointed at the cover. “I wish we—”

“Stop!” Jack grabbed Annie’s hand. “How will we know if we’ve found the right answer to the riddle?” he asked Morgan.

“You will know,” Morgan said mysteriously. “I promise you will know.”

Jack let go of Annie’s hand. She pointed again at the cover and finished her wish: “I wish we could go there.”

The wind started to blow.

“Are you coming with us, Morgan?” Jack said.

Before Morgan could answer, the tree house started to spin.

Jack squeezed his eyes shut.

The tree house spun faster and faster.

Then everything was still.

Absolutely still.

Jack opened his eyes.

Morgan le Fay was gone.

Only the ancient scroll and the ocean book were left in her place.

2 礁石

一阵微风吹过窗子，海鸥叫着，波涛拍打着海岸。

安妮捡起写有谜语的纸卷，将它展开，与杰克一起读起来：

像岩石一样灰暗而粗糙，

朴素得不能再朴素，

可深藏在我体内，

却有惊人之美，

我是什么？

“让我们去寻找答案吧。”安妮说。

她和杰克往窗外一望，树屋竟然不在树上，而是在地上。

“地怎么变成粉红色的了？”杰克问。

“我不知道啊。”安妮说，“但我要出去看看。”

“我得先研究一下再说。”杰克说。

安妮爬出树屋。

杰克捡起那本有关海洋的书翻了起来。他发现里面有一张被海水环绕的粉红色岛屿的图片，他读道：

这是一座珊瑚礁。珊瑚是微小的海洋动物，它们死了以后，尸骨会留下来。随着时间的推移，成堆的珊瑚尸骨会形成礁石。

“噢，天哪，微小的尸骨。”杰克说。他拿出笔记本写道：

数以百万的珊瑚尸骨。

“杰克，杰克！快来看呀！”安妮喊道。

“看什么呀？”

“我也不知道。总之你会喜欢的！”安妮说。

杰克将笔记本和那本海洋书扔进背包，爬出窗户。

“它是谜底吗？”杰克问。

“我看不是，它看上去可不一般。”安妮说。

安妮站在水边，她的旁边是一台外形奇怪的机器。

杰克快速越过崎岖不平的珊瑚礁，想看得更清楚一点。

那台机器一半在礁石上，一半在清澈蓝色的海水里。它看起来就像一个有着一扇大窗户的白色大气包。

“这是一种特别的船吗？”安妮问。

杰克在那本海洋书中找到了一幅这种机器的图片，他读道：

研究海洋的科学家被称作海洋学家。为了研究海底世界，他们有时会乘坐一种可以潜入水中的小船，即微型潜水艇。

“这是一艘微型潜水艇。”杰克说，并拿出他的笔记本。

“我们进去吧。”安妮说。

“不行！”杰克制止道。其实他也想看看里面是什么样子，但他还是摇着头说，“我们不能进去，因为它不是我们的。”

“就看一眼吧。”安妮说，“这也许可以帮我们找到谜底呢！”

杰克叹了口气说，“那好吧。但我们一定得小心，不能碰任何东西。”

“别担心。”安妮说。

“而且要把鞋脱下来，以免弄湿了。”杰克说。

杰克和安妮将鞋袜脱下，扔到树屋那儿，然后小心地走过扎脚的珊瑚礁。

安妮转动微型潜水艇舱口的把手，门开了。

她和杰克刚爬进去，舱门就砰地关闭了。

这个潜水艇真小，里面对着窗子有两个座位，座位前面是控制板，里面嵌入了一台计算机。

安妮坐下来。杰克打开那本书，又读了一些有关微型潜水艇的内容：

微型潜水艇有着十分坚实的耐压壳体，可以包住空气，并抵抗强大的水压从而保护艇内的乘客。它可以通过电脑控制在海洋中航行。

“糟了。”安妮说。

“出什么事了？”杰克抬头问道。

安妮在电脑前摆着手，这时屏幕上出现一个地图。“到底怎么啦？”杰克问。

“我刚才动了几个按键——”安妮说。

“什么？我说过不能动任何东西的！”杰克说。

这时一个螺旋桨转了起来，小潜艇也猛地往后一倒。

“快出去！”杰克叫道。

他和安妮竞相扑向舱门，杰克已经抓到了门把手。但是，一切都太迟了。小潜艇滑下礁石，然后无声地朝海底驶去。

2 The Reef

A breeze blew through the window. Sea gulls cried. Waves lapped the shore.

Annie picked up the riddle scroll. She unrolled it. Together she and Jack read the riddle:

Rough and gray as rock,

I' m plain as plain can be.

But hidden deep inside

There' s great beauty in me.

What am I?

“Let' s go find the answer.” said Annie.

She and Jack looked out the window. The tree house wasn' t in a tree.

It was on the ground.

“Why is the ground pink?” said Jack.

“I don' t know, ” said Annie. “But I' m going out there.”

“I' m going to do a little research first, ” said Jack.

Annie climbed out of the tree house.

Jack picked up the ocean book and flipped through it.

He found a picture of a pink island surrounded by water. He read:

This is a coral reef. Corals are tiny seaanimals. After they die, their skeletonsremain. Over time, the reef builds up from stacks of coral skeletons.

“Oh, man, tiny skeletons, ” said Jack. He pulled out his notebook and wrote: Millions of coral skeletons

“Jack!Jack!Come look at this, ” cried Annie.

“What is it?”

“I don' t know. But you' ll love it!” she said.

Jack threw his notebook and the ocean book into his pack. He climbed out the window.

“Is it the answer to the riddle?” he called.

“I don' t think so. It doesn' t look very plain, ” said Annie.

She was standing at the edge of the water. Beside her was a strange-looking machine.

Jack hurried over the bumpy coral to get a better look.

The machine was half on the reef and half in the clear blue water. It looked like a huge white bubble with a big window.

“Is it a special kind of boat?” asked Annie.

Jack found a picture of the machine in the ocean book. He read:

Scientists who study the ocean arecalled oceanographers. Sometimes they travel in small diving vessels called submersibles, or “mini-subs, ” to study the ocean floor.

“It' s a mini-sub, ” said Jack. He pulled out his notebook.

“Let' s get inside it, ” said Annie.

“No!” said Jack. Actually, he did want to see what the sub looked like inside. But he shook his head. “We can' t. It' s not ours.”

“Just a teeny peek, ” said Annie. “It might help us figure out the riddle.”

Jack sighed. “Okay. But we have to be careful. Don' t touch anything, ” he said.

“Don' t worry, ” said Annie.

“And take off your shoes so they won' t get wet, ” said Jack.

He and Annie slipped off their shoes and socks and threw them toward the tree house.

Then they stepped carefully over the sharp coral.

Annie turned the handle on the hatch of the mini-sub. It opened.

She and Jack climbed inside. The hatch slammed shut.

The mini-sub was tiny. Two seats faced the big window. In front of the seats was

a computer built into a control panel.

Annie sat down.

Jack opened the ocean book and read more on the mini-sub page:

Mini-sub has strong hulls to keep air in and protect those aboard from waterpressure. Computers are used to guide the mini-sub through the ocean.

“Oops,” said Annie.

“What’s wrong?” Jack looked up.

Annie was waving her hands in front of the computer. Now the screen showed a map.

“What’s going on?” said Jack.

“I just pressed a few keys—” said Annie.

“What? I said not to touch anything!” said Jack.

An air blower came on. The mini-sub jerked backward.

“Get out!” said Jack.

He and Annie scrambled for the hatch. Jack grabbed the handle.

But they were too late.

The mini-sub slid off the reef.

Then it dove silently down into the deep.

3 微型潜水艇

“你真的闯祸了，安妮！”杰克说。

“对不起！但是你看窗外。”安妮说，“快看啊！”

“还有什么好看的！咱们得先把潜水艇控制住！”杰克注视着电脑，他看到屏幕上方的
一组图标。

“你动了什么？”他问安妮。

“我刚才按了‘开始’键。”安妮说，“屏幕亮了以后我又按了那个海星图标。”

“那一定是让潜艇往海底开的键。”杰克说。

“对！接着地图就在屏幕上出现了。”安妮说。

“知道了，地图上显示出了那块礁石。”杰克说，“看，小潜艇也在地图上，而且它正在驶离那块礁石。”

“这就像电子游戏似的。”安妮说，“我想我知道该做什么了。”

安妮按了一下上面有向右箭头的键，屏幕上的小潜艇就向右移动，他们坐的潜艇也真的向右行驶起来。

“太好了！”杰克舒了口气，“你可以通过这些标有箭头的键驾驶这艘小潜艇，那么现在我们可以回去了。”

“不嘛，不要现在就走。”安妮说，“这海底下好美噢！”

“我们必须返回礁石。”杰克的眼睛仍然盯着屏幕，说，“要是潜艇的主人发现它不见了怎么办呢？”

“你看窗外，”安妮说，“就看一眼。”

杰克叹了口气，他推了推眼镜，抬起头来。“噢，天哪！”他轻声说。

窗外是流光溢彩的奇妙世界，就仿佛是另一个星球。小潜艇正驶过红的、黄的、蓝的珊瑚，驶过小小的珊瑚山、珊瑚谷、珊瑚洞，驶过大小、颜色各异的鱼儿。

“咱们不能逗留一会儿吗？摩根的谜底一定在这里呢！”安妮说。

杰克缓缓点了点头。他觉得她也许是对的，况且，像这样的地方他们何时才能再来呢？

3 Mini-Sub

“You’ ve really done it now, Annie!” said Jack.

“Sorry, sorry. But look out the window!” Annie said. “Look!”

“Forget it!We have to figure this out!” Jack stared at the computer.

He saw a row of pictures at the top of the screen.

“What did you do?” he asked.

“I just pressed the ON button, ” said Annie. “The screen lit up. And I pressed the starfish.”

“That must be the command to go under the water, ” said Jack.

“Yeah. Then the map came on, ” said Annie.

“Okay, okay.The map shows the reef, ” said Jack. “Look!There’ s the mini-sub on the map!It’ s moving away from the reef.”

“It’ s like a video game, ” said Annie. “I bet I know what to do.”

Annie pressed a key with an arrow pointing right. The mini-sub on the screen moved right. The real mini-sub turned to the right, also.

“Great!” said Jack with relief. “You press the arrows to steer the mini-sub. So now we can go back.”

“Oh, no, not right away, ” said Annie. “It’ s so beautiful down here.”

“We have to get back to the reef, ” said Jack. His eyes were still glued to the computer screen. “What if the owners find it gone?”

“Look out the window, ” said Annie. “Just for one teeny second.”

Jack sighed. He pushed his glasses into place and looked up. “Oh, man, ” he said softly.

Outside the glass was a strange world of bright moving color.

It looked like another planet.

The mini-sub was moving past red, yellow, and blue coral—past little coral mountains, valleys, and caves—past fishes of every color and size.

“Can’ t we stay a little while?The answer to Morgan’ s riddle must be here, ” said Annie.

Jack nodded slowly. She might be right, he thought. Besides, when would they ever get to visit a place like this again?

4 鱼城

到处都是鱼：它们或漂浮在摇曳的海草上，或在白沙覆盖的海底进食，或从珊瑚洞里往外窥探。

有些珊瑚看起来就像蓝色的手指或蕾丝状的扇子，另一些则像鹿角、莴苣叶、蘑菇或树木。

杰克继续读书：

珊瑚礁只在温暖的热带海域出现。在太平洋和印度洋，有近 5 000 个不同品种鱼类生活在珊瑚礁周围。

杰克拿出他的铅笔和笔记本，依次列出：

有关珊瑚礁的调查

温暖水域

5 000 多种鱼类

“看！”安妮说。

只见小潜艇缓缓经过一只巨大的海星，然后是一只粉红色的水母，接下来是蓝色的海马。杰克接着列出：

海星

水母

海马

“那是什么？”安妮问。

杰克看见外面是一种像长了一根长尾巴的巨大薄饼一样的生物。

“是刺！”杰克说。他把这个也记了下来。

“那个呢？”安妮指着一个巨大的壳状物问。

这是杰克见过的最大的壳状物了，它足有小凳子那么大！

“我得查一查。”杰克说。他翻看着那本有关海洋的书，当翻到蛤那页时，他读道：珊瑚礁的巨蛤有 3 英尺宽，重达 200 磅。[注]

“天哪！”安妮惊叹道。

“是真的。”杰克说。他随即将“巨蛤”也记了下来。

“海豚！”安妮喊道。

杰克抬头一看，只见两只海豚正往窗里窥探，并用鼻子拍打着窗子。它们的眼睛亮晶晶的，仿佛在向它们微笑。

杰克大笑着说：“怎么我们倒像是进了鱼缸，在供鱼儿们观赏！”

“这两只海豚叫苏琪和山姆。”安妮说，“它们是兄妹俩。”

“你又说什么傻话呢！”杰克说。

“亲你一下，苏琪！”安妮说。她将嘴唇按在窗玻璃上，仿佛在亲吻海豚的鼻子。

“噢，我算服了你了。”杰克说。

但那只海豚却张开嘴巴，甩着脑袋，开心地笑了。

“嘿，我知道谜底了——是海豚！”安妮说。“海豚外表灰色、不起眼，但却有着美好的心灵。”

“你忘了吗？还有‘像岩石一样粗糙’呢！”杰克说，“海豚的皮肤却很光滑啊。”

“嗯，你说的也对。”安妮说。

海豚晃动着它们的尾巴，朝淡蓝色的海水中游去。

“等等！别走！”安妮喊道，“苏琪！”

但海豚很快看不见了。

“我们也该走了。”杰克说。他担心有人找这艘小潜艇。

“但我们还没找到谜底呢。”安妮说。

杰克仔细看了看绚丽的水底世界。

“我看不出哪儿有谜底。”他说，“外面没一样是朴素和不起眼的。”

“那么也许答案在小潜艇里。”安妮说。

他们于是环视起这个小小的船舱。

“我用电脑来查一下。”杰克说。他研究了一下屏幕上方的一条图标，然后按了一下画着书本的那个图标，立刻，屏幕上出现了“航行日志”几个字。

4 Fish City

There were fish everywhere: floating over the swaying sea grass, eating on the white sandy bottom, peeping out of coral caves.

Some kinds of coral looked like blue fingers or lacy fans. Others looked like deer antlers or lettuce leaves or mushrooms or trees.

Jack read in the book:

Coral reefs are only found in warm, tropical waters. Nearly 5 000 different species of fish live around coral reefs in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Jack pulled out his pencil and notebook.

He started to write a list.

Coral Reef Research

warm water

over 5 000 kinds of fish

“Look!” said Annie.

The sub floated past a huge starfish. Then a pink jellyfish. Then a blue sea horse.

Jack added to his list:

starfish

jellyfish

sea horses

“What is that?” said Annie.

Jack saw a creature that looked like a giant pancake with a long tail.

“A stingray!” said Jack. He put that on his list as well.

“And that?” said Annie.

She pointed at the biggest shell Jack had ever seen. It was as big as a footstool.

“I’ ll have to check on that one, ” said Jack. He turned the pages of the ocean book. When he got to the page about clams, he read aloud:

The giant clam of the coral reef isthree feet wide and weighs up to200 pounds.

“Wow, ” said Annie.

“No kidding, ” said Jack. He added “giant clam” to his list.

“Dolphins!” cried Annie.

Jack looked up. Two dolphins were peering in the window. They tapped their noses against the glass.

Their eyes were bright. They seemed to be smiling.

Jack laughed. “It’ s like we’ re in a fish tank—and they’ re looking at us, ” he said.

“Their names are Sukie and Sam, ” said Annie. “Sister and brother. ”

“You’ re nuts, ” said Jack.

“Here’ s a kiss for you, Sukie, ” Annie said. She pressed her lips to the glass as if she were kissing the dolphin’ s nose.

“Oh, brother, ” said Jack.

But the dolphin opened her mouth and tossed her head. She seemed to be laughing.

“Hey, I know the answer to the riddle—dolphins!” said Annie. “They’ re gray and plain. But they have great beauty inside.”

“You forgot the ‘rough as a rock’ part, ” said Jack. “Dolphin skin looks smooth and slippery.”

“Oh, right,” said Annie.

The dolphins flipped their tails. They swam off into the light blue water.

“Wait! Don’t go!” called Annie. “Sukie!”

But the dolphins were gone.

“It’s time for us to go, too,” said Jack. He was afraid someone might be looking for the mini-sub.

“But we haven’t solved the riddle,” said Annie.

Jack studied the bright underwater world.

“I don’t see the answer,” he said. “There’s nothing plain at all out there.”

“Then maybe the answer’s in the mini-sub,” said Annie.

They looked around the tiny space.

“I’ll check the computer,” said Jack. He studied the row of pictures at the top of the screen.

He pressed the book picture.

The words SHIP’S LOG flashed onto the screen.

5 两只眼睛

“航行日志是什么呀？”安妮问。

“是航海时记的日记。”杰克回答。

他瞟了一眼电脑屏幕，读了一条记录：

7月5日，星期一

“哎，那就是上个礼拜啊！”杰克说。他继续道：

收集岩石和贝壳类动物标本

绘制海底地图

发现壳体有细微裂缝

“这真像是你做的笔记。”安妮说。

“是啊，海洋学家也是在电脑上记笔记。”杰克说。

杰克和安妮继续读道：

7月6日，星期二

裂缝变大了

必须马上返回礁石

“裂缝，在哪儿？”安妮问。

“我不知道。”杰克说。他继续读着：

7月7日，星期三

出现更多裂缝

无法修复

今天开始返回礁石

“哎呀，好像情况不妙啊！”杰克说，他接着往下读：

7月8日，星期四

潜水艇出问题

返回礁石

等待由直升机送往废品厂

“‘出问题’是指坏了对吧？”安妮问。

“对。”杰克回答。

“那么这是只坏了的潜水艇了？”安妮问。

“是啊。”杰克说，“而且它正等着被直升机送往废品厂报废呢！”

“呀！那我们该怎么办呢？”安妮说。

“现在我们真的要回去了。”杰克说。

“我们来试试这个上面有波浪的图标吧。”安妮说，并将那个键按了下去。小潜艇随之开始缓缓上升。

“太好了。”杰克说。

潜艇经过一座小珊瑚山，一群又一群的鱼，还有在水中摇曳的植物。

“哎呀！”安妮倒吸了一口凉气。

杰克也惊得屏住了呼吸。

只见从一株巨大的海洋植物后面探出了两只眼睛，它们很像人眼，但却有高尔夫球那么大。

小潜艇驶过了那株巨大的植物，杰克长舒了一口气。

“什么东西？谁的眼睛？”安妮语无伦次地说。

“别问了。”杰克说。

他们回头又看了眼那株植物，可就在这时，从植物后面伸出了一只长手臂，紧接着又伸出来另外一只，然后是第三只、第四只……

杰克和安妮惊骇地发现那竟然是一只巨大的章鱼！

“它正跟着我们。”安妮说。

只见那只章鱼缓缓在水里爬着，然后伸出它的八只手臂扑向小潜艇。

5 Two Eyes

“What’s a ship’s log?” said Annie.

“It’s a diary of an ocean trip,” said Jack.

He peered at the computer screen and read a log entry:

MONDAY, JULY 5

“Hey, that was just last week,” said Jack. He read further:

COLLECTED ROCK AND SHELL SAMPLES

MAPPED OCEAN FLOOR

FOUND TINY CRACK IN HULL

“This is like your notebook,” said Annie.

“Yeah, the oceanographer was writing notes on the computer,” said Jack.

Jack and Annie read further:

TUESDAY, JULY 6

CRACK HAS WIDENED

MUST RETURN TO REEF SOON

“A crack where?” said Annie.

“I don’t know,” said Jack. He read further:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

MORE TINY CRACKS

CANNOT BE FIXED

HEADING BACK TO REEF TODAY

“Uh-oh. This doesn’t sound good,” said Jack. He read further: THURSDAY, JULY 8

DEFECTIVE SUB

RETURN TO REEF

LEAVE FOR HELICOPTER TO TRANSPORT TO JUNKYARD

“ ‘Defective’ means broken, right?” said Annie.

“Yep, ” said Jack.

“So this sub is broken, right?” said Annie.

“Yep, ” said Jack. “And it was waiting to be taken away by a helicopter. To a junkyard. ”

“Yikes, ” said Annie.

“Now we really have to get back, ” said Jack.

“Let’ s try pressing the waves picture, ” said Annie.

She pressed the waves picture on the computer screen.

The mini-sub began to rise slowly.

“Oh, good, ” said Jack.

The sub went past a small coral mountain. It went past schools of fish and waving plants.

“Oh!” gasped Annie.

Jack gasped, too.

Two eyes were staring out from behind a giant sea plant. They looked human—except they were as big as golf balls.

The sub moved past the giant plant. Jack breathed a sigh of relief.

“What—?Whose—?” sputtered Annie.

“Don’ t ask, ” said Jack.

They stared back at the plant.

Just then, a long arm came out from behind it.

Then another arm came out.

Then another—and another—and another—and another—and another—and another!

Jack and Annie stared in horror at a giant octopus.

“It’ s coming after us, ” said Annie.

Slowly, the octopus crept through the water. Its eight arms reached for the mini-sub.

6 裂缝

章鱼抱住了小潜艇，它的每只手臂上均有两排吸盘，吸盘吸住了窗户，小潜艇停了下来。

章鱼用它那酷似人眼的大眼睛注视着杰克和安妮。

“我不认为它想伤害我们。”安妮小声说。“它只是好奇而已。”

“我，我来研究一下。”杰克说，他翻书的手在颤抖。

他找到有章鱼图片的那页读道：

章鱼的本性温柔、腼腆，但有时好奇心占了上风，让它的胆子也大了起来。

“你看，我说吧，它真的很害羞呢！”安妮说。接着她对章鱼喊道：“你好！我是安妮！他叫杰克！”

“噢，拜托。”杰克抱怨道。他继续往下读：

但是章鱼力大无比，它的每一只手臂，或称触角上均有许多吸盘，这些吸盘像橡胶吸杯

一样，物体一旦被它抓住就别想逃脱它的手心。

“唉，这下完了。”杰克说，“我们永远摆脱不了这东西了！”

这时，杰克感到胳膊上滴了滴什么东西，是水。他抬头看了看天花板。

“哎呀！”安妮说。

只见天花板上有一条细长的裂缝，裂缝两边又伸出许多更小的裂纹。

水顺着这些裂缝在往下滴。

“我们找到裂缝了。”安妮说。

“在整个天花板裂开之前，这只章鱼最好能松手！”杰克说。

“请松手吧！求你了！”安妮朝章鱼喊道。

章鱼眨了眨眼睛，好像在尽力弄明白安妮的意思。

“求你了，求你了，快放手啊！”安妮喊着。

“算了吧，安妮。”杰克说，“它才不管你是不是彬彬有礼呢！”

章鱼又对杰克眨了眨眼。

“快离开这儿！快！走开！滚！”杰克对它吼道。

章鱼往水中喷了一团黑色的液体，随即拖着长长的触角，消失在那团黑雾中去了。

小潜艇又开始缓缓上升。

“你伤了它的心。”安妮说。

“我看未必……”杰克突然觉得有些不安。他又翻看起那本海洋书，默读道：

章鱼喷射墨汁是为了逃避敌人。章鱼主要的天敌之一是鲨鱼。

“噢，天哪！”杰克说。

“出什么事了？”安妮问。

杰克看出窗外，只见海水又清澈起来，一个模糊的影子在朝小潜艇移动。

“那是什么呀？”安妮小声问。

只见那东西比海豚大多了，而且长着个奇异的脑袋。

杰克觉得自己的心都要不跳了。

“是一只锤头鲨。”他喘了口气说，“现在我们真遇到大麻烦了！”

6 C-R-A-C-K

The octopus hugged the mini-sub. Each of its eight arms had two rows of suckers.
The suckers stuck to the window.

The mini-sub stopped.

The octopus stared at Jack and Annie with huge, human-like eyes.

“I don’ t think it wants to hurt us, ” whispered Annie. “It’ s just curious.”

“I—I’ m going to research it, ” said Jack.

His hands shook as he flipped through the pages of the ocean book.

He found a picture of an octopus and read aloud:

The octopus tends to be a gentle , shy creature. Sometimes, though, curiosity gets the best of it and it comes out of hiding.

“Aw. See, I told you, he’ s shy, ” said Annie. She yelled to the octopus,
“Hi! I’ m Annie! He’ s Jack!”

“Oh, brother, ” moaned Jack. He read further:

But the octopus has huge strength.

Each of its arms, or tentacles, has many suckers, which act like rubber suction

cups. It is nearly impossible to free an object from their grasp.

“Oh, great,” said Jack. “We’ ll never get rid of this thing.”

Just then, Jack felt a drop hit his arm. Water. He looked up at the ceiling.

“Uh-oh,” said Annie.

A thin crack ran along the ceiling. Smaller cracks branched out from it.

Water dripped from the cracks.

“We found the cracks,” said Annie.

“The octopus better let go! Before the whole ceiling breaks!” said Jack.

“Let go, please. Please!” Annie shouted at the octopus.

The creature blinked, as if trying to understand her.

“Please! Please! Please!” she shouted.

“Come on, Annie,” said Jack. “It doesn’ t care if you’ re polite.”

The octopus blinked at Jack.

“Get out of here!” Jack yelled at it. “Now! Beat it ! Scram! Go!”

The octopus shot a cloud of black liquid into the water and disappeared into the dark cloud. Its long tentacles trailed through the water.

The mini-sub started to rise slowly again.

“You hurt his feelings,” Annie said.

“I don’ t think so...” Something bothered Jack.

He looked back at the ocean book. He read to himself:

The octopus squirts black ink to escape its enemies. One of its main enemies is the shark.

“Oh, no,” said Jack.

“What’ s wrong?” asked Annie.

Jack looked out the window. The water was growing clear again.

A shadowy figure moved toward the mini-sub.

“What is that?” whispered Annie.

The fish was way bigger than the dolphins. And it had a very weird head.

Jack could feel his heart nearly stop.

“A hammerhead shark,” he breathed. “We’ re really in trouble now.”

7 保持镇定

那只鲨鱼游到珊瑚后面去了。

“它游到哪儿去了？”安妮一边问一边偷偷地往窗外看。

“管它呢。”杰克说，“反正我们得赶快上去。”

“进来的水越来越多了。”安妮说。

“是啊，我知道。快啊，快啊，再快一点！”杰克命令小潜艇。

“水更多了。”安妮说，“比刚才多多了！”

杰克往上一看，现在水不是在滴，而是在往里灌。

“一会儿就好，一会儿就好了。”杰克说。

突然，小潜艇冲出水面，像只软木塞似地上下颠簸，周围水光闪烁。

“这下可安全了！”安妮喊道。

杰克感到自己光着的双脚浸在了水里。“别高兴得太早……”他说。

“天哪。”安妮说，“一定是章鱼把小潜艇的底部也弄裂了！”

现在水漫到了他们的脚踝。

杰克往外看，发现了远处的礁石。

“礁石离这儿好像并不太远，小潜艇会把我们带到那儿的。”

“快点，快点，快点。”安妮说，她按了一个方向键。

突然，屏幕一片空白了。

“怎么回事？”杰克问。

安妮又按了一下那个键，杰克也按了其他几个键，但都没有反应。

“死机了。”安妮说。

“好嘛！”杰克说。

现在的水已到他们的膝盖了。

“我想咱们得游过去了。”杰克说。他深吸了一口气。

“好。”安妮说，“多亏咱们今年夏天上了游泳课！”

“是啊。”杰克说，“但刚才看见鲨鱼可不妙。”

杰克快速找到书中有鲨鱼图片的那张，读道：

如果你在水中遇到了鲨鱼，不要拍打着水游，要镇定地游开。

杰克把书关上。安妮说：“我们最好选择蛙泳，这样我们就不会溅起水花了。”

“对，而且我们之间要保持近距离。”杰克说。

“很近才行。”安妮说。她的眼睛睁得很大，但看起来很镇定。

杰克深吸了一口气，他也试图保持镇定。他镇定地取下眼镜，并将它同书一起放入背包，然后，又镇定地把包背起来。

安妮打开舱门。

“沉住气。”安妮说，然后溜出潜艇。

“帮我一把。”杰克镇定地说，然后捏住鼻子，镇定地屈身滑入水里。

7 Remain Calm

The shark swam behind the coral.

“Where did it go?” said Annie, peering out the window.

“It doesn’ t matter, ” said Jack. “We have to get to the top.”

“More water’ s coming in, ” said Annie.

“Yeah, I know. Come on...come on...faster!” Jack ordered the mini-sub.

“Even more water’ s coming in, ” said Annie, “lots more!”

Jack looked up. The water wasn’ t dripping now—it was spurting.

“A few seconds, a few seconds, ” said Jack.

Suddenly, the mini-sub burst out of the water. It bobbed on the waves like a cork. The ocean sparkled all around it.

“Safe!” shouted Annie.

Jack felt the water rising around his bare feet.

“Uh—not really...” he said.

“Oops, ” said Annie. “The octopus must have made cracks in the bottom, too.”

The water was up to their ankles now.

Jack looked out. He saw the reef in the distance.

“The sub can make it. It doesn’ t look that far, ” he said.

“Go, go, go.” said Annie.

She pressed one of the steering keys.

Suddenly, the screen went blank.

“What’s happening?” said Jack.

Annie pressed the key again. Then Jack pressed the other pictures. Nothing happened.

“It’s dead,” said Annie.

“Oh, great,” said Jack.

Now the water was up to their knees.

“I guess we’ll have to swim,” said Jack. He took a deep breath.

“Right,” said Annie. “It’s a good thing we had swimming lessons this summer.”

“Right,” said Jack. “And it’s a bad thing we just saw a shark.”

Jack quickly found the picture of the shark in the book.

He read aloud:

If you ever see a shark in the water, don’t splash. Swim calmly away.

Jack closed the book.

“We better do the breast stroke,” said Annie. “So we won’t splash.”

“Yep, and stay close,” said Jack.

“Very close,” said Annie. Her eyes were wide. But she seemed very calm.

Jack took a deep breath. He tried to be calm, too. He calmly took off his glasses.

He calmly put them and the book into his pack. He calmly put his pack on his back.

Annie opened the hatch.

“Be calm,” Annie said. She slipped out of the mini-sub.

“Help,” Jack said calmly. He held his nose.

Then he calmly lowered himself into the ocean.

8 拼命地游

杰克缓缓移动着手臂和双腿，蛙泳时轻柔地推开面前的水。

“镇定，要镇定。”他提醒着自己。

安妮在他身边，他们一同朝礁石游去。

一切平静。

突然，杰克用眼角的余光发现，一个黑乎乎的鱼鳍在水中扭动着，正朝他们冲过来。

杰克情不自禁地想大喊，想不管不顾地拍打着水快游，但是他想起了那两个字——镇定。

“我不能告诉安妮。”他想，“她知道了会惊慌失措的。”

他加快了速度，快点，再快点。安妮也越游越快了。

他们两个都尽可能地保持镇定，并全速前进。有时候安妮游得甚至比杰克还快，然后杰克又追了上去，超过安妮。

极度惊恐使杰克忘记了疲惫，他这么游是在逃命，也是在救安妮的命。

他没有回头去看鲨鱼是不是还在，他不想知道。他只是用眼睛牢牢盯住前面的树屋，最后一鼓作气地游过去。

杰克和安妮游啊游，但是他们游了半天才靠近树屋一点点。

杰克意识到礁石比他想像的远得多。

他虽然坚持在往前游，但却感到胳膊和双腿越来越沉。安妮也开始在水中挣扎。

“漂浮！”她说，“让我们漂浮在水面上！”

杰克和安妮背朝着水面，像他们在游泳课学的那样在水中漂浮起来。

“我们只是歇口气。”杰克想，“一会儿我们就会继续游的。”

然而杰克在水面上越漂越觉得累，很快就连漂都漂不动了，而是开始下沉。

这时他感到什么东西在水里推他，杰克觉得自己的心都要停跳了，这东西滑溜溜的，还是个活物，是锤头鲨追上来了吗？他闭上眼睛，等待着最坏的结果。他等啊，等啊，终于，他张开双眼。

在他面前是个发亮的灰色脑袋——一只海豚的头！

海豚用鼻子推着杰克，并发出快乐的叫声。

“太棒了！”安妮叫道。

杰克看过去，只见她紧紧抱着另一只海豚的鳍，任由海豚在水里游着！

杰克也用手抓住他那只海豚的鳍。

两只海豚平稳地在水中游着，带着杰克和安妮奔向礁石。

8 Swim for Your Life!

Jack moved his arms slowly. He moved his legs slowly. He gently pushed the water out of his way as he did the breast stroke.

Calm, calm, he told himself.

Annie swam beside him. They headed for the reef.

All was calm.

Then Jack saw something out of the corner of his eye.

A dark fin was zigzagging through the water. It was heading toward them.

Jack wanted to splash. He wanted to yell. But he remembered: calm.

I better not tell Annie, he thought. She'll stay calmer if she doesn't know.

He began to swim faster—then faster. Annie went faster, too.

They both swam as fast, and as calmly, as they could.

Sometimes Annie went even faster than Jack, which made him swim faster. And faster.

Jack was so scared that he wasn't tired at all. He was swimming for his life—and for Annie's life, too.

He didn't look back to see if the shark was still there. He didn't want to know.

He just kept his eye on the tree house in the distance. And he kept swimming.

Jack and Annie swam and swam and swam.

It took forever for the tree house to get just a little closer.

Jack realized the reef was farther away than he had thought.

He kept swimming, but his arms and legs felt heavy.

Annie was struggling, too.

“Float!” she said. “Float!”

Jack and Annie turned onto their backs. They floated the way they had learned in swimming class.

We'll just rest for a minute, Jack thought. Then we'll keep going.

But the more Jack floated, the more tired he felt. Soon he was too tired even to float. He started to sink.

Then he felt something.

His heart stopped. Something pushed at him in the water.

It was slippery and alive.

Had the hammerhead caught up with them?

Jack shut his eyes and waited for the worst. He waited and waited. Finally, he opened his eyes.

In front of him was a shiny gray head—a dolphin's head!

The dolphin pushed Jack with its nose. It made happy clicking sounds.

“Hooray!” cried Annie.

Jack looked over at her.

She was clinging to the fin of another dolphin! Her dolphin was moving through the water.

Jack grabbed the fin of his dolphin.

Then the two dolphins swam smoothly through the water, pulling Jack and Annie toward the reef.

9 哎哟!

太阳照耀着海面，发出钻石一样璀璨的光芒。

杰克现在放心了，他的海豚会很好地照顾他的。

快到礁石的时候海豚放慢了速度。

杰克放下双脚，感到脚下是崎岖不平的珊瑚。他放开海豚的鳍，站到水里。

安妮也站到了水里，然后她张开双臂，搂住她那只海豚，给了她一个大大的拥抱。

“谢谢你，苏琪！”她大声说，并吻了吻苏琪的鼻子。

苏琪摇摆着脑袋，并冲着安妮发出欢快的哒哒声。

“你也吻一下山姆吧！”安妮对杰克说。

“你别傻了。”杰克说。

但山姆蹭了蹭杰克的脑袋，然后用鳍搂住杰克的脖子。

杰克无法抗拒，于是也用胳膊抱住海豚，飞快地吻了它一下。

山姆点了点头，哒哒地叫着，仿佛在笑，然后转向苏琪。

两只海豚在一起嘀咕了一阵，然后朝杰克和安妮点了点头，优雅地游开了。

“再见，苏琪！再见，山姆！”安妮大声喊道。

“谢谢了！”杰克也喊道。

海豚向空中高高跃起，然后一个猛子扎向水里，水花四溅！

杰克和安妮大笑，杰克说：“我们也能那样游就好了。”他们注视着海豚，直到它们从视线中消失。

“我现在就开始想念它们了。”安妮轻声说。

“我也是。”杰克说。

他一屁股坐在浅水里，说：“我真累死了！”

安妮在他身边坐下，说：“我也是。”

温暖的海水拍打着他们的短裤和T恤衫。

杰克把背包从身上取下来，从里面拿出眼镜戴上，发现眼镜上因为有水而模糊不清了。

“你猜怎么着？”安妮说。

“怎么啦？”杰克说。

“我们在水里游的时候我看见鲨鱼了。”安妮说，“但我没告诉你，我不想让你惊慌。”

杰克看着她说：“我也看见了，然后我就赶快游，这样你也会游得快点。”

“是我游得快你才跟着游快的。”安妮说。

“那好吧，咱俩都游得很快。”杰克说，然后摇了摇头，感到有点不可思议。

“现在干什么？”安妮问。

“我们回家。”杰克说。

“但我们还没找到摩根的谜底呢！”安妮说。

杰克叹了口气。

他从背包里抽出笔记本，只见本子全浸湿了。他又拿出海洋书，发现书也是湿的。

“我们完了。”他说，“我的研究成果全泡汤了，我们成不了万能图书管理员了！”

杰克把东西一放，难过地说：“我们走吧。”

他站起身，开始越过粉红色礁石，朝树屋走去，安妮跟在他后面。

“哎哟！”安妮叫道。

“出什么事了？”杰克回头问。

“我踩到什么东西了。”安妮弯腰揉着她的脚。

“是什么？”杰克问，“贝壳吗？”

“对，这……”安妮捡起一个灰色的大贝壳，说，“对呀，这东西不是很粗糙吗？像岩石一样灰暗而粗糙！”

“而且朴素得不能再朴素！”杰克小声说。他们找到谜底了。

这个贝壳看起来像只蛤蜊，只是比蛤蜊大一点，而且壳上有更多隆起的纹路。

“这只丑陋的贝壳怎么会是谜底呢？”安妮说，“那谜面上‘可深藏在我体内却有惊人之美’在哪儿呢？”

“别急，要研究一下嘛。”杰克说。他打开那本浸湿的海洋书。书页都粘到一起了，但他还是可以翻动几页。

他找到有着灰色贝壳图片的那页读道：

潜水员在深海找寻牡蛎，但牡蛎有时会被冲到礁石或海滩上。有的牡蛎里藏着一颗珍珠，珍珠的天然美丽使它成为一件珍宝。

“这个贝壳里一定藏有一颗珍珠！”杰克说。

安妮从两片贝壳中的缝隙往里看着，说：“我什么也看不见。珍珠怎么会跑到这里面去呢？”

杰克照着打湿的书页大声读道：

有时，一粒沙子会跑到牡蛎壳和它的皮肤之间，这会让牡蛎十分难受，于是它会产生一种珍珠一样的物质把沙粒包裹起来。若干年后，一颗珍珠就这样形成了。

“我不知道里面有没有珍珠。”安妮说。

“也许我们应该把它往石头上砸。”杰克说。

“那样做会使牡蛎真的难受的！”安妮说。

“也是。”

“也许我们应该让它自个儿呆着。”安妮说。

她小心地将牡蛎放回海水里。

“那我们怎么知道牡蛎就是正确的谜底呢？”杰克问。

“摩根说我们会知道的。”安妮说，“走吧。”

杰克推了推眼镜，然后和安妮一起捡起他们的鞋袜。

他们爬进树屋的窗子。只见摩根的纸卷摊开在地上。

“看哪！”安妮说。

她和杰克惊愕地发现，纸卷上的谜语不见了！取而代之的是闪烁着银光的两个字：

牡蛎

“摩根的魔法。”安妮小声说。

杰克长舒了一口气，说：“我们猜对了！”

“这是宾夕法尼亚书。”安妮说，“我们回家吧。”

她打开书，指着蛙溪树林说：“我希望我们能去那儿！”

风吹了起来。

树屋开始打转。

风越刮越大。

然后一切都平静了。

绝对的平静。

9 Ouch!

The sun shone on the ocean. It sparkled like a diamond.

Jack felt safe now. His dolphin was taking good care of him.

The dolphins slowed down as they neared the reef.

Jack lowered his feet. He felt the bumpy coral. He let go of the dolphin's fin and stood up in the water.

Annie stood, too.

Then she threw her arms around her dolphin and gave her a big hug.

“Thank you, Sukie!” she cried. And she kissed the dolphin's nose.

Sukie tossed her head and clicked at Annie.

“Kiss Sam now!” Annie said to Jack.

“You're nuts,” said Jack.

But Sam nuzzled Jack's head. Then he put his flippers around Jack's neck.

Jack couldn't resist. He threw his arms around the dolphin and gave him a quick kiss.

Sam nodded and made clicking sounds like laughter. Then he turned to Sukie.

The two dolphins chattered to each other for a moment. They nodded at Jack and Annie and swam gracefully away.

“Bye, Sukie! Bye, Sam!” Annie shouted.

“Thanks!” Jack shouted.

The dolphins leapt high into the air. Then they dove back into the water with a SPLASH!

Jack and Annie laughed. “I wish we could swim like that,” said Jack.

Jack and Annie watched the dolphins until they disappeared.

“I miss them already,” Annie said softly.

“Me too,” said Jack.

He sat down in the shallow water.

“I'm really tired,” he said.

Annie sat beside him.

“Me too,” she said.

The warm water lapped around their shorts and T-shirts.

Jack pulled off his pack. He took out his glasses and put them on. They were blurry

with water.

“Guess what, ” said Annie.

“What?” said Jack.

“I saw the shark when we were swimming, ” Annie said. “But I didn’ t tell you. I wanted you to stay calm.”

Jack stared at her. “I saw it, too. I just swam faster so you would swim faster.”

“And I swam faster so you would swim faster, ” said Annie.

“I guess we swam double-fast then, ” Jack said. He shook his head with wonder.

“What now?” said Annie.

“We go home, ” said Jack.

“But we haven’ t solved Morgan’ s riddle yet, ” said Annie.

Jack sighed.

He pulled his notebook out of his pack. It was soaked.

He pulled out the ocean book. It was soaked, too.

“We’ ve failed, ” he said. “My research is all wet. We’ ll never be Master Librarians now.”

Jack put everything away. “Let’ s go, ” he said sadly.

He stood up. Then he started across the pink reef toward the tree house. Annie followed him.

“Ouch!” Annie said.

“What’ s wrong?” Jack looked back.

“I stepped on something.” Annie bent down to rub her foot.

“What?” said Jack. “A shell?”

“Yeah, this...” She picked up a large gray shell. “Boy, is it rough. Rough and gray as a rock—”

“And plain as plain can be!” whispered Jack. They had found the answer.

The shell looked like a clamshell—only bigger and with more ridges.

“How could this ugly shell be the answer to the riddle?” said Annie.

“What about the part that says, ‘There’ s great beauty in me’ ?”

“Wait—research, ” said Jack. He opened the soaked ocean book.

The pages were stuck together. But he was able to turn a few.

He found a picture of the gray shell. He read:

Divers search for oysters in deepwater. But sometimes oysters wash up on reefs or beaches. Inside some oysters you can find a pearl. The pearl’ s natural beauty makes it a treasure.

“It must have a pearl inside it!” said Jack.

Annie peered into the crack between the two halves of the shell. “I can’ t see anything, ” she said. “How does a pearl get in there, anyway?”

Jack read aloud from the wet page:

Sometimes a grain of sand will get between the oyster’ s shell and its skin. This irritates the oyster. So it makes a pearly material to surround the grain of sand. In this way, over a few years, a pearl is formed.

“I can't tell if there's a pearl in there or not,” said Annie.

“Maybe we should bang it against a rock,” said Jack.

“Now that would really irritate the oyster,” said Annie.

“Yeah.”

“Maybe we should just leave it alone,” said Annie.

She gently put the oyster back in the water.

“But how will we know if oyster is the right answer to the riddle?”
said Jack.

“Morgan said we'll know,” said Annie. “Come on.”

Jack pushed his glasses into place. Then he and Annie picked up their shoes and socks.

They climbed through the window of the tree house.

Morgan's scroll was lying on the floor.

It was open.

“Look!” said Annie.

She and Jack stared at the scroll. The riddle had faded away.

In its place was one shimmering silver word:

OYSTER

“Morgan's magic,” whispered Annie.

Jack let out a huge sigh. “We got it right,” he said.

“And here's the Pennsylvania book,” said Annie. “Let's go home.”

She opened the book. She pointed to a picture of the Frog Creek woods.

“I wish we could go there!” she said.

The wind started to blow.

The tree house started to spin.

The wind blew harder and harder.

Then everything was still.

Absolutely still.

10 真正的珍珠

黎明的曙光斜照进树屋。

自从他们离开以后时间就好像停住了，现在天刚亮。

杰克把古纸卷卷起来，放在角落里，说，“我们找到了第一个谜语的谜底，但还有三个谜底在等着我们呢！”

“我没发现还有其他的纸卷呀。”安妮说，“也许明天我们会拿到另一个谜语吧。”

“那样也好。”杰克说，“我想我也需要休息一下，把身上弄干了。”

他的T恤衫和短裤还是湿漉漉的，背包也是一样。只有他的鞋袜是干的。

“这个也需要晾干。”安妮说。她把浸湿的海洋书放在阳光下。

然后，杰克和安妮一起爬下梯子。

他们穿过树荫和阳光交错的树林，来到街上。

“知道吗，我们本来一开始就能发现谜底的。”杰克说，“牡蛎一直在礁石上。”

“是啊，但如果我们一下子就找到了谜底，那就不会有那么多有趣的经历了。”

安妮说。

“有趣吗？”杰克说，“你认为被章鱼捏死和被鲨鱼穷追有趣吗？”

“别忘了还有海豚呢。”安妮回了一句。

杰克笑了，说，“是啊，海豚使一切都变得值得了。它们的确有趣。”

“我觉得它们就像牡蛎里真正的珍珠一样。”安妮说。

“没错。”杰克说，“不知道山姆现在在干什么？”

“山姆？”安妮咧嘴冲杰克一笑，说，“你别傻了！”

他们走上楼梯，进了家门。

“我们回来了！”安妮大声喊道。

“你们没把鞋弄湿吧？”妈妈大声问。

“一点都没湿。”杰克喊道，然后与安妮一起溜回自己的房间，换衣服去了。

10 The True Pearl

Dawn light slanted into the tree house.

No time at all had passed since they'd left. Day was breaking.

Jack rolled up the ancient scroll. He tucked it into the corner.

“We solved the first riddle,” he said. “Three more to go.”

“I don't see another scroll,” said Annie. “Maybe tomorrow we'll get the next riddle.”

“That's okay,” said Jack. “I think I need to rest—and dry out.”

His T-shirt and shorts were still soaked. His backpack, too. Only his shoes and socks were dry.

“And this needs to dry out, too,” said Annie. She put the wet ocean book in a patch of sunlight.

Then Jack and Annie climbed down the ladder.

They walked through the woods, through leafy shadows and golden light.

They left the woods and started down their street.

“You know, we should have found the answer to the riddle right away,” said Jack. “The oyster was on the reef all along.”

“I know, but we wouldn't have had so much fun,” said Annie.

“Fun?” said Jack. “You call being squeezed by an octopus and chased by a shark fun?”

“Don't forget the dolphins,” Annie said simply.

Jack smiled. “Right,” he said. The dolphins made up for everything.

They were fun.

“I guess they were the true pearl in the oyster,” said Annie.

“Yep...” said Jack. “I wonder what Sam is doing right now.”

“Sam?” Annie grinned at him. “You're nuts,” she said.

They climbed their steps and went into their house.

“We're back!” Annie shouted.

“Did you get your shoes wet?” their mom called.

“Not one bit,” called Jack. Then he and Annie slipped up the stairs to change their clothes.