

Contents:

Animals

Ducknapped	2
Elephant Girl	4

Bullying

Useless	7
The Threat	10
The Last Laugh	12
Jake's Last Stand	14

Caring for Others

A Sweet Tale	16
King of the Castle	18
Singing in the Rain	20

Christmas

A Carol for Shelley	22
Not Just for Christmas	26
Penny's Angel	29
The Silver Pig	32
Lost and Found	35

New Year

Too Valuable to Lose	37
----------------------	----

Courage

Impossible	40
Making the Most of It	43
The Gardener's Daughter	45
Big Feet	48
Why Not?	50

Cultural Understanding

When the Wind Blows	52
The Enemy	56

Drugs and Alcohol

The Winner	59
Swimming for Frank	62
The Vampire	65

Easter		
	The Magic Stone	68
Environment		
	The Beast of Bodmin Moor	72
	Jumping for Joy	75
	A Voyage of Discovery	77
	Gone Fishing	79
	E.T.	82
	Buried Treasure	84
Fear of Change		
	A New Beginning	86
	Return to Paradise	88
	A New Island Adventure	90
Responsibility		
	Scatter Brain	93
	Red Head	96
	Seal Island	98
	Consequences	101
	Barnacle's Bad Day	104
	Don't Touch	107
Safety		
	Taming Billy	109
	The Crash	112
	The Boy Who Danced	114
	Owning Up	117
	Following the Crowd	119
Thinking Clearly		
	The Challenge	122
	Even the Greatest	125
	The Unstoppable	128
Wisdom		
	The Last Bark	131

Thoughtless behaviour landed the boys in this story in more trouble than they expected!

A Voyage of Discovery ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ———

Reflected in the water, even the old chemical factory didn't look so ugly. The sun was shining and there wasn't a cloud in the sky.

On the riverbank, a boy with ginger hair and freckles got to his feet and yawned.

'So what shall we do now then?'

His friend tilted his head back and drank thirstily. Then he tossed the empty can into the river and searched around for a stone to throw at it.

The splash startled a family of ducks. Complaining noisily, they paddled quickly away.

'This'll really scare them,' cried Ginger.

He picked up an old brick, took a deep breath and heaved. It spun slowly through the air before plummeting down. A rowing boat was moored close by. He hadn't intended to hit it and was quite surprised when he heard the loud thud.

'Good shot!' laughed Bruce.

They raced along the bank to have a look. The brick hadn't caused any damage but the old boat certainly needed a coat of paint. Ginger gazed at it thoughtfully, then turned to his friend.

'It's just rotting away. No one's used it for years,' he said. 'So why not?'

As he scrambled into the boat, he grabbed Bruce's arm to steady himself.

'What you waiting for?' he asked, looking up. 'Scared?'

Bruce glared fiercely. Without saying a word he put one foot into the boat. Immediately, he lost his balance and fell heavily.

'Idiot! You'll tip us over!' Ginger shouted.

Then he noticed the riverbank. It was suddenly out of reach. The gap was widening rapidly. They were being carried away, caught in the grip of a strong current.

'What are we going to do? There's only one oar,' Bruce cried as he peered over the side.

'Just pass it to me,' Ginger snapped irritably.

But the oar was long and heavy. As he struggled with it, he almost let go. The blade plunged deeply into the water. He heaved and the boat swung round. The more he tried to control it, the faster it spun.

Round ... and round ... and round.

'It's no good. Stop rowing,' begged Bruce. 'I'm feeling sick.'

He helped to get the oar back into the boat. Then they sat glumly staring at the river as they drifted away.

'Mum will kill me,' Bruce said. 'I should have been home by now.'

Ginger sighed.

'Me too,' he said. 'My mum thinks I'm at the library.'

He suddenly pointed ahead.

'Look at that swan. Something's wrong with it.'

They watched it flapping its wings violently and hooting. It was struggling frantically to free its leg from a rusting supermarket trolley, dumped in the water. The boys stared at it until a bend in the river hid it from view.

They turned to look ahead and saw a small motorboat racing towards them.

'You need help?' shouted a man as he came closer.

He stood up, swinging a coil of rope.

'Catch it. I'll give you a tow,' he commanded.

By the time they reached a small landing stage, it was getting dark. They scrambled out as fast as they could.

There would be some explaining to do when they got home.

'You were lucky,' the man said. 'The boat looks so old, I'm amazed it didn't sink!'

They thanked him for his help and were about to dash away. Ginger hesitated.

'Could you phone the RSPCA?' he asked.

'Someone dumped a supermarket trolley in the river and a swan's caught its leg in it.'

'I'll phone them now,' said the man. 'Some people just don't think - and look at the trouble they cause!'

The boys nodded sheepishly. Then they ran like the wind.



Thought for the day:

It's easier to see other people's faults than our own.



What's your opinion?

Why do you think the story is called 'A Voyage of Discovery'?