

2.5 Reading for pleasure

Kidnapped



- 1 Look at the pictures and the title of the story. Predict the type of story you are going to read. Circle the correct answer.
 - 1 a romantic love story
 - 2 a crime story set in modern times
 - 3 a historical adventure story
 - 4 a true story about a rebellion
- 2 Read an extract from *Kidnapped*, a famous novel set in Scotland in the eighteenth century.
- 3 What do you think happens next to David in the story? How do you know that he didn't die?

Kidnapped

The story so far

After the death of his parents, young David Balfour has gone to live with his uncle at the great House of Shaws in Cramond, near Edinburgh. One day, his uncle takes him to the port at Queensferry. It is there that David makes a surprising discovery – his uncle was younger than his father, so the great House of Shaws should really belong to David.

I had thought that my father was the *younger* brother, and now I understood why my uncle had lied to me, and wanted to kill me. The house of Shaws had belonged to my father, not my uncle, and now I had inherited it. The poor country boy who had walked from Essendean was the owner of a fine house and farmland! My head was full of the wonderful things that I could do in my life, as I looked, unseeing, at the sea.

Just then my uncle and the captain came out of the public house. The captain smiled in a friendly way as he spoke to me. 'Sir,' he said, 'Mr Balfour has told me a lot about ye. I'm only sorry I haven't time to get to know ye better. But I'd like ye to come on to my ship for half an hour, before we sail, and have a drink with me.'

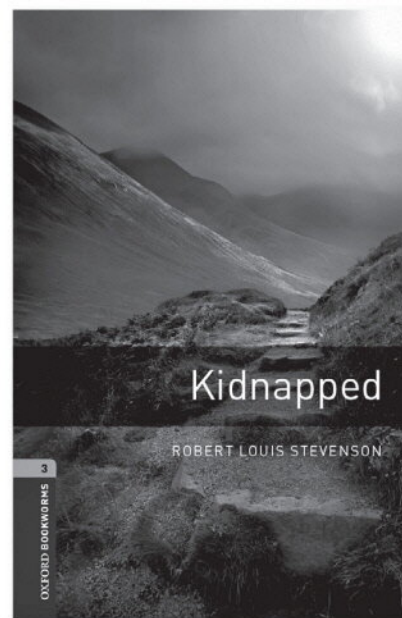
Now, more than anything in the world, I wanted to see the inside of a ship, but I remembered that I had to be careful. 'My uncle and I have to see the lawyer, sir,' I replied, 'so I'm afraid we may not have enough time.'

'Aye, aye,' he answered, 'I know, but ye see, the ship's boat can put ye both down near Rankeillor's house, after ye've seen the ship, so ye won't lose any time.' Suddenly he said quietly in my ear, 'Watch out for the old man – he wants to hurt ye. Come and talk about it.' Putting his arm in mine, he said loudly, 'What can I bring ye back from my travels? A friend of Mr Balfour's is a friend of mine!'

By this time we were on the beach, and he was helping my uncle and me into the boat. I thought that I had found a good friend and helper, and I was very excited as we came closer to the great ship, full of busy, noisy sailors. The captain and I were the first to climb up the ship's side, and at the top the captain immediately put his arm through mine and began to talk about the ship.

'But where is my uncle?' I asked suddenly. I pulled myself away from the captain's arm, and ran to the side of the ship. Sure enough, there was the boat returning to Queensferry, with my uncle sitting in it. I screamed, 'Help, help! Murder!' and my uncle slowly turned to look at me.

I did not see any more. Already strong hands were pulling me away. Then something hit my head; I saw a great flash of fire, and fell to the ground.



Old English words
ye = you; aye = yes

Text extract from *Oxford Bookworms Library Stage 3: Kidnapped*

Review: Units 1 and 2

Grammar

- Complete the sentences about two internet shopping giants with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.
 - Amazon and eBay, two of the most important online shopping sites, started in the same year: 1995. (start)
 - Since then, both companies _____ enormously. (grow)
 - Pierre Omidyar had the idea for eBay while he _____ dinner with his girlfriend. (have)
 - Jeff Bezos started Amazon in a garage, with money he _____ from his parents. (borrow)
 - All Amazon employees _____ two days every two years working at the customer service desk, even the directors. (spend)
 - eBay _____ new solutions for quicker deliveries. They have recently created eBay Now, with same-day delivery. (constantly/develop)
- Complete the comments from a magazine column with one word or phrase from each of the boxes below.

as soon as by the time
during meanwhile until

agree hate own prefer
want

YOUR SAY:

Web vs High Street

Do you prefer shopping in stores or online? We asked some of our readers, and this is what they said.

- ✓ I like shops, but I ¹ prefer buying online because I can compare prices. I tried to do that in stores once, but ² by the time I finished, all the shops had closed!
- ✓ I ³ _____ a food trailer selling burgers and hot dogs, and I work ⁴ _____ very late, so I do my shopping online. The internet never closes!
- ✓ If I'm buying clothes, I ⁵ _____ to take the item home ⁶ _____ I buy it. I don't want to wait to have it delivered!
- ✓ I started shopping online ⁷ _____ my pregnancy and never stopped. I ⁸ _____ all the queues in the supermarket, and having to load and unload the car afterwards.
- ✓ My husband likes shopping in stores, and I ⁹ _____ with him. He takes the kids to the supermarket on Saturday afternoons. ¹⁰ _____, I put my feet up for a couple of hours and relax!

Vocabulary

- Read this true story about friendship. Complete it by adding one suitable word from the box in each space. There are some words you do not need to use.

admitted believes common expect gets keeps
meet out realize reminds told touch up

A 'chocolate bar' friendship

Seven-year-old Dylan Siegel ¹ gets on really well with his friend Jonah. They have a lot in ² _____, and when they ³ _____ up, they have a great time. Well, most of the time, because Jonah has a serious liver disease which makes his life very difficult.

Jonah's illness is also very rare, and when Dylan found out that researchers needed money to continue studying it, he decided to help them ⁴ _____. He wrote a book called *Chocolate Bar*, which has raised more than \$750,000 in just over a year!

Researcher Dr David Weinstein ⁵ _____ that he had initially thought David's desire to help was 'cute', and he didn't ⁶ _____ a big donation from it. How wrong he was. As he says: 'He's raised more money for this disease than all the medical foundations combined. Ever.'

He also ⁷ _____ that, with Dylan's donation and all the media attention the story has received, a cure might be found.

Dylan uses the phrase 'chocolate bar' to describe something 'awesome'. He ⁸ _____ our reporter that helping his friend Jonah was 'the biggest chocolate bar ever'.

Speaking

- Complete the conversations with one word in each gap.
 - A ¹ How do you feel about social networking?

B A waste of time, if you ² _____ me.

A Really? Don't you ³ _____ it brings people together?

B Definitely not! Just look at the people in this room: everybody's on their mobile phone!
 - A How do you ⁴ _____ about having more special offers next month?

B Well, according ⁵ _____ our research, price isn't the problem, so why make our products cheaper?