

# A Fearful Tale

By Sheila Clark-Edmands

Illustrated by George Ulrich



Specialized Program Individualizing Reading Excellence

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## Table of Contents

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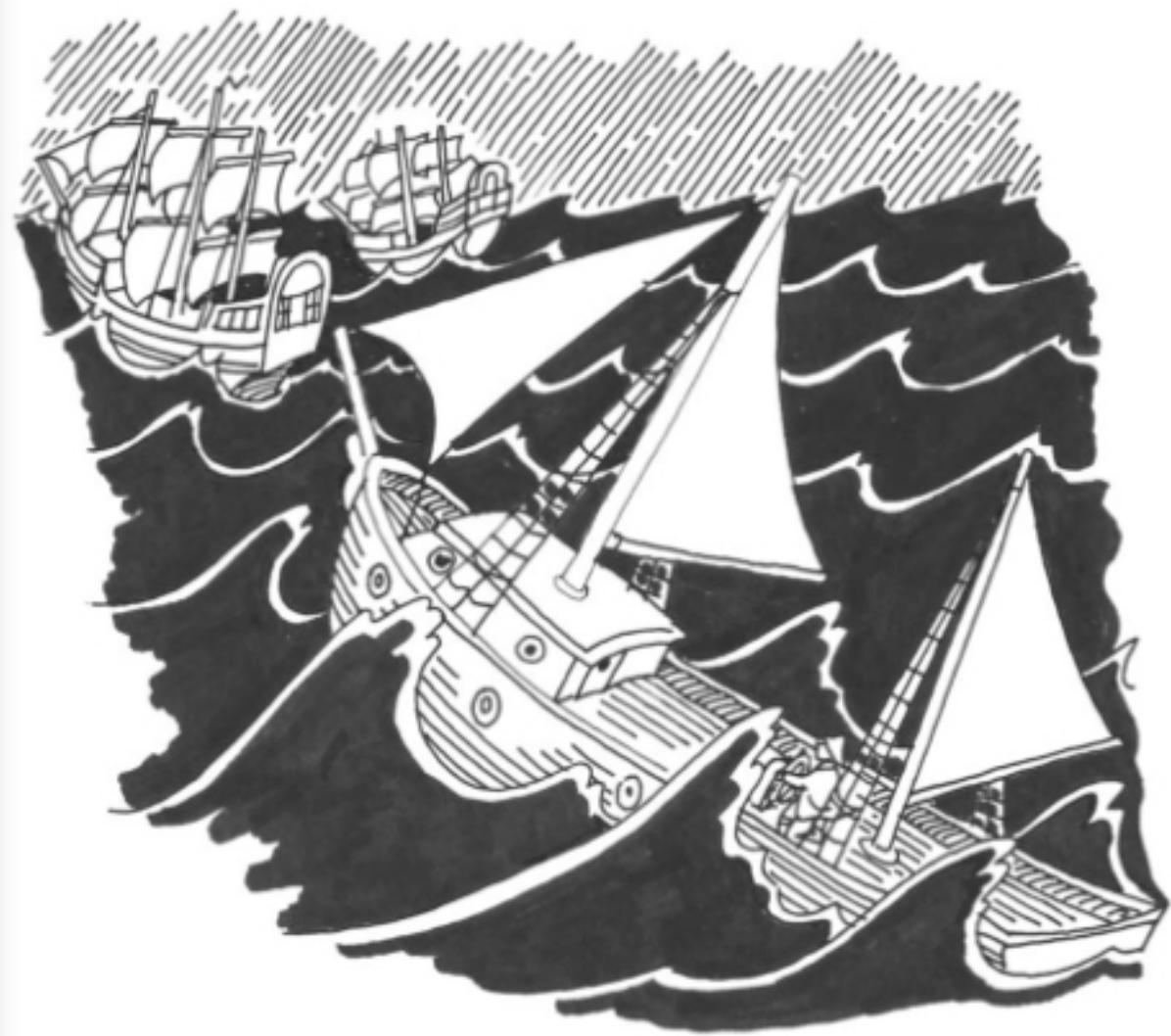
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[A Fearful Tale](#)

[Note to Teachers and Parents](#)

[Focus Concept](#)

[Previously Taught Skills](#)



A ketch was sailing with a fleet of ships when a great gust of wind came up. The sea became black and choppy, tossing the big ships as if they were beanbags.



The skipper sat up in his bunk. He felt the rolling of the sea and could hear the screeching wind. He rang the bell calling all the mates to the upper deck. Then he quickly dressed and climbed the deck ladder.

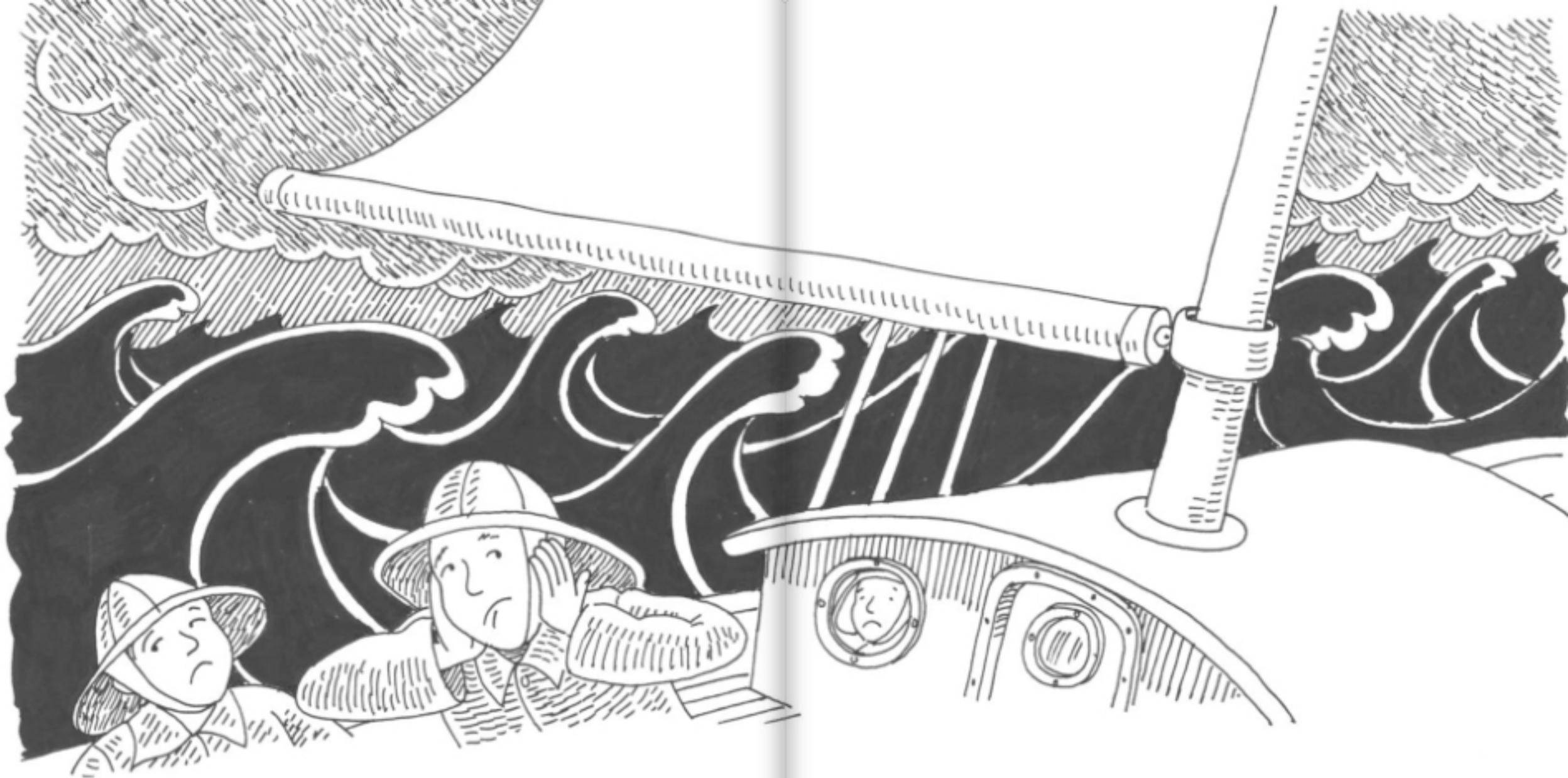


When the skipper came on deck, the wind and rain tore into him. Hail beat against his cheek. He could barely see the other ships in the fleet.



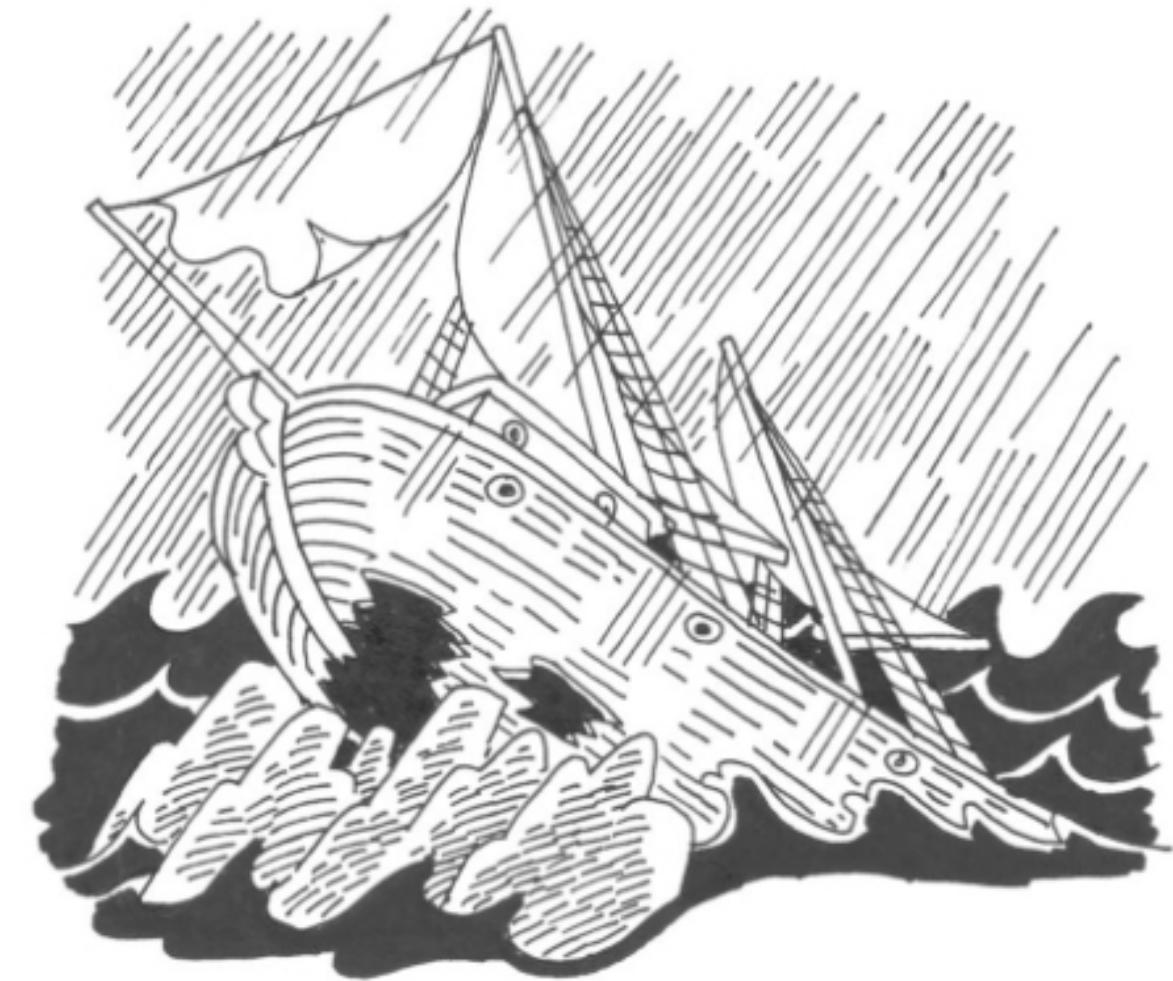
He grabbed the ropes as the ketch swung from side to side under the big sea swells. Waves crashed on the deck, and the planks creaked from the strain.

Each mate was squinting to see the skipper. They were speechless with fear as they strained to hear him speak.

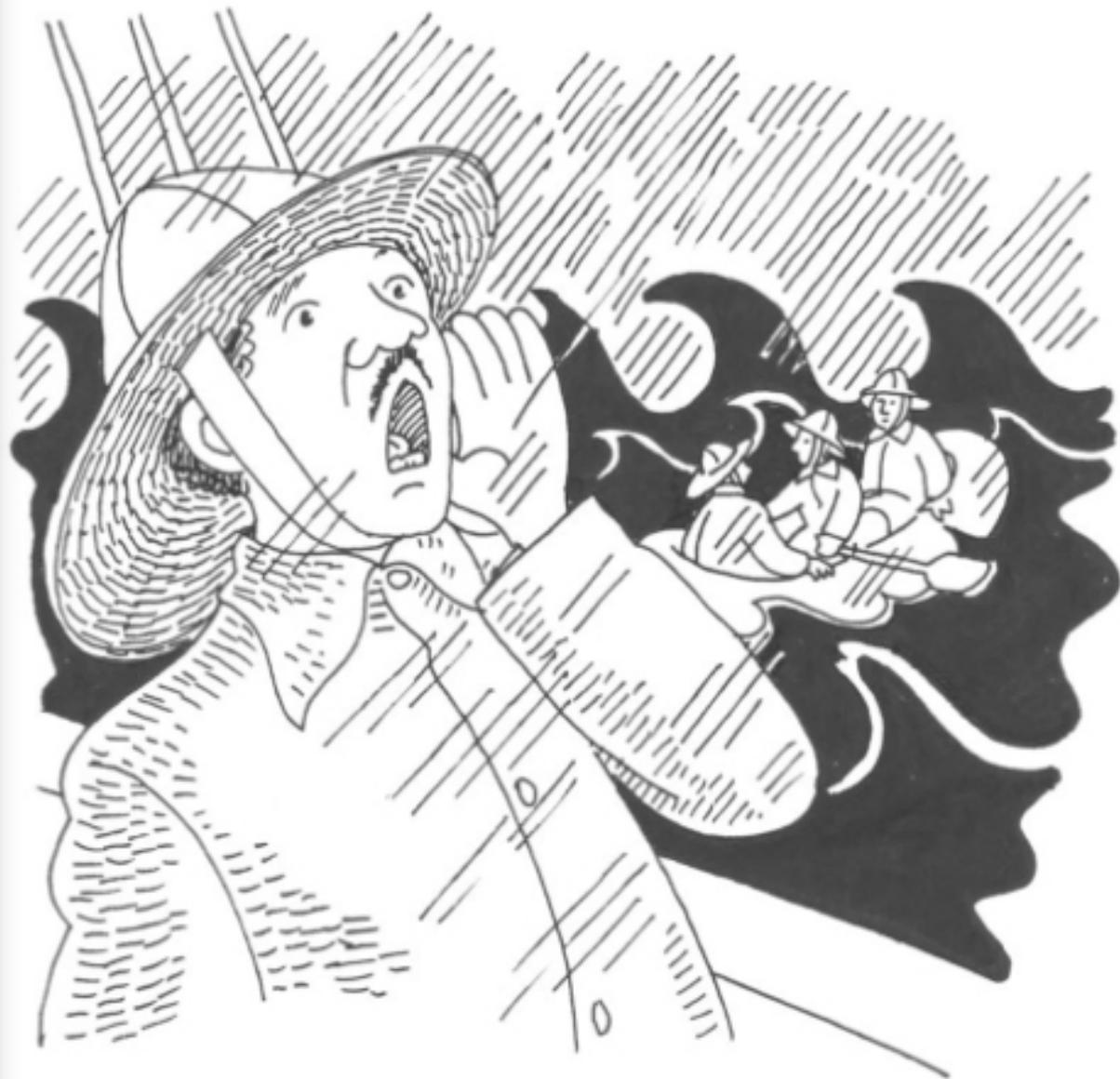


Deep inside, they were fearful. No one had seen such a wild sea before. Thick black clouds hung in the sky, waiting to dump more rain and hail on the rolling ketch.

The men all wondered if the sea would sweep them off the decks to a death at sea. Each man was thinking of home and wishing he could be there, safe and sound.



As the skipper began to speak, a swell lifted up the ketch and swept it on top of some rocks near the coast. The hull was split, and the sea came gushing in.



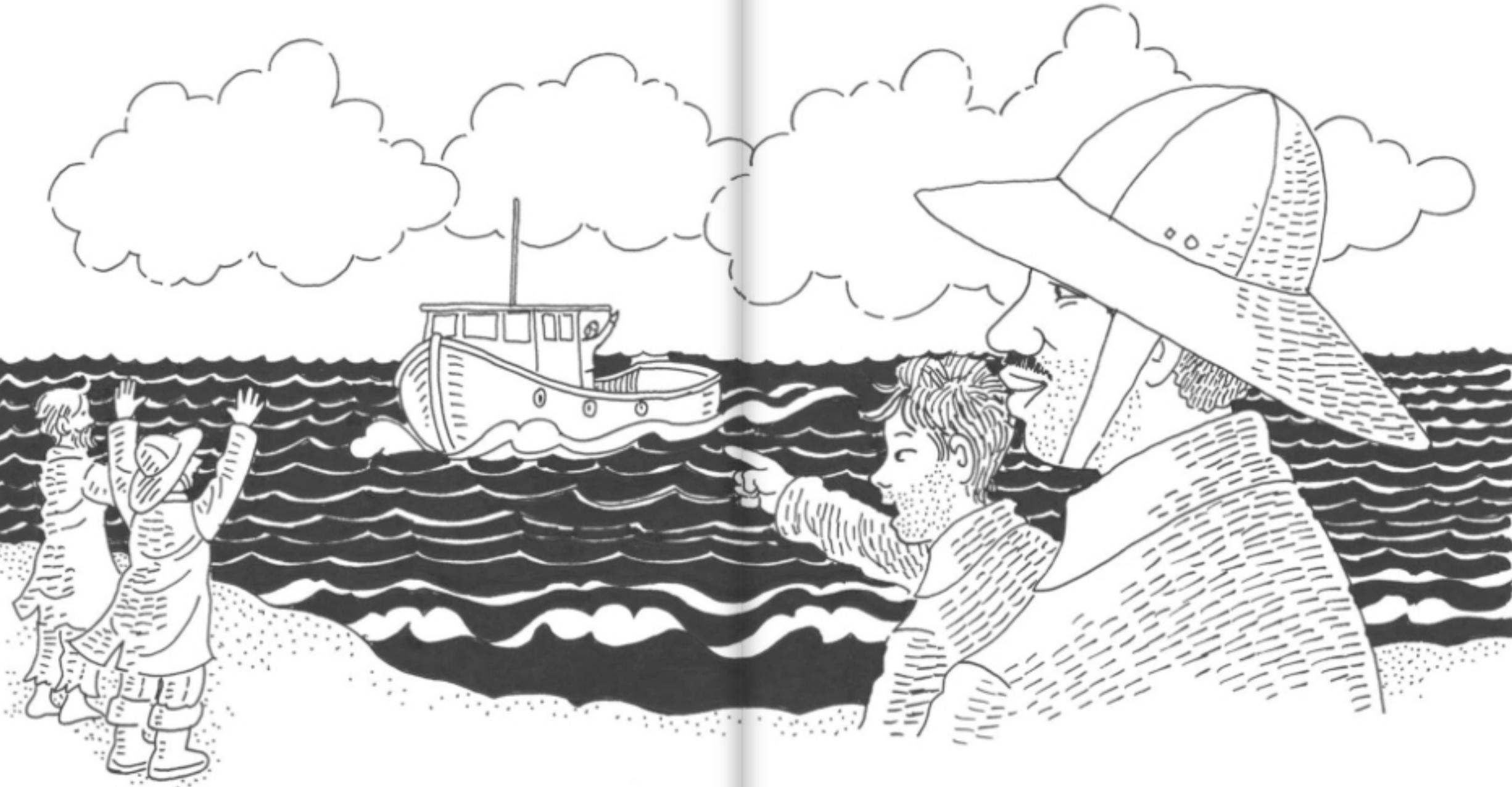
The skipper yelled, "Get to the life rafts!" The men jumped into the roaring black sea. They reached out and clung to life rafts that were already floating on the crashing waves.



They were a lucky bunch. Each man held onto the life raft until he was close enough to drag himself to shore.

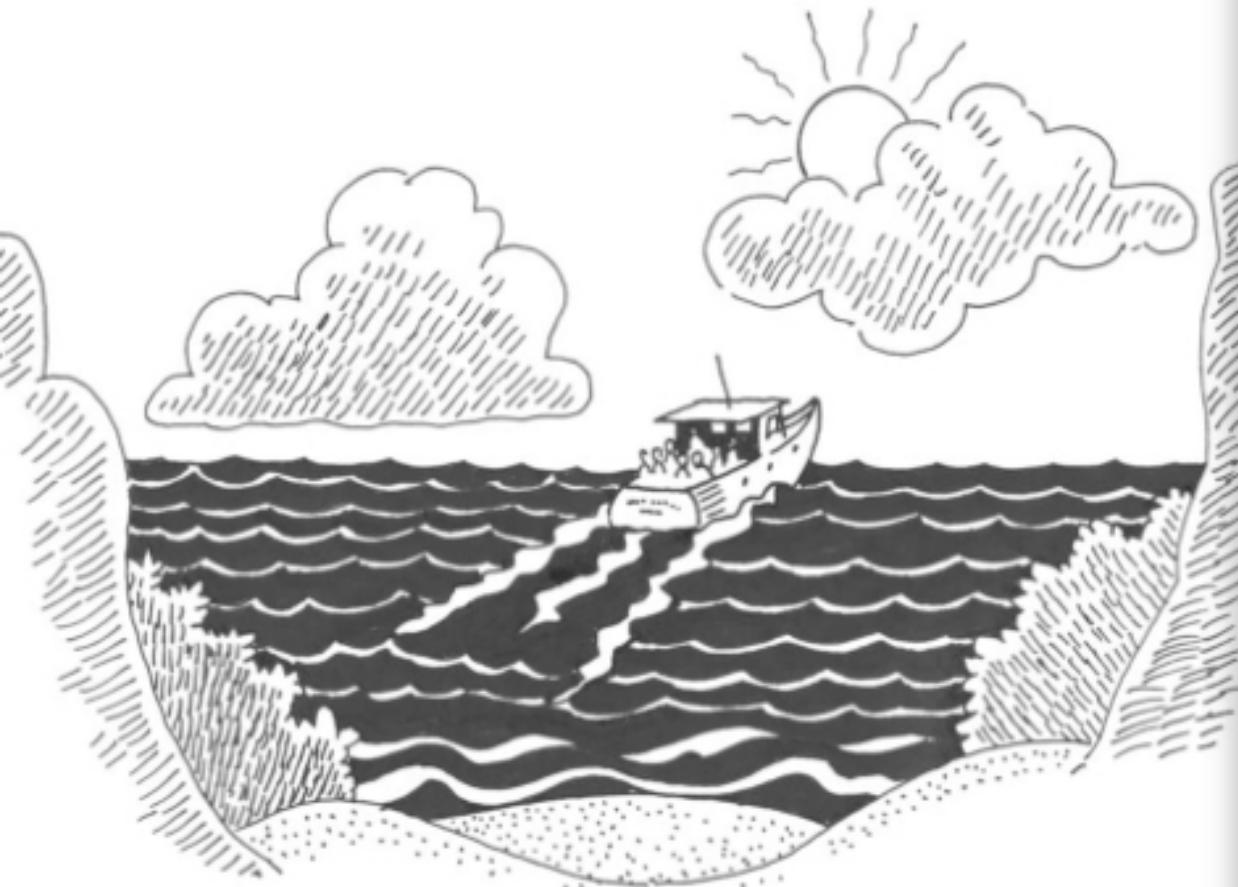


Then the men began to seek shelter from the rain. Some went to huddle under trees, and some lay under rock cliffs. Others found a small cave and kept safe there.



They all were picked up after three days.  
They needed a hot meal and dry clothes,  
but were happy to have cheated death.

As the skipper will tell you, the sea  
can be your best friend. But it can also  
be mean and greedy, wanting to grab  
and keep those who ride its waves.



## Note to Teachers and Parents

All children should have the opportunity to experience success when reading. The decodable ebooks in this engaging series begin with simple words and sentences and increase in difficulty from level to level. Children may begin reading anywhere in the series, depending on their reading ability. The focus concept and sight words for this title, as well as a list of phonics skills children may already be familiar with, can be found at the end of this book.

This decodable ebook is perfect for independent reading. Encourage children to find a quiet spot to read, away from distractions. Help children build confidence by having them read aloud to you or to a friend or sibling.

Before beginning, you may wish to have children read the list of focus concept and sight words. When children have finished the story, encourage them to find these words on each page. To extend children's experience with these phonics concepts, encourage them to name or write down other words that follow the same phonics pattern. For example, if the focus concept is short o, they might write *log*, *pot*, and *frog*.

The presentation of phonics concepts in this series of ebooks was developed for the S.P.I.R.E.® reading program, a product of Educators Publishing Service.

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This time, though, the greedy sea lost.

cheek  
deep  
fleet  
greedy  
keep  
needed  
screeching  
see  
seek  
seen  
speechless  
sweep  
three  
trees

**Consonant Sounds**

all consonants  
sh (ship)  
ch (chin)  
th (this, thin)  
wh (whisk)  
ck (clock)  
tch (catch)

ff (cliff)  
ll (will)  
ss (miss)  
qu (quilt)

vse

**Welded Sounds**

ang (sang)  
ing (ring)  
ong (strong)  
ung (stung)  
ank (bank)  
ink (wink)  
onk (honk)  
unk (trunk)

**Syllable Patterns**

open single syllables (so, he, fly)  
closed syllable exceptions  
(child, cold, find, post, roll)  
twin-consonant syllable division  
nontwin-consonant syllable division  
consonant-le

**Vowel Sounds**

a (ax)  
i (hit)  
o (ox)  
u (up)  
e (bed)  
ai (ball)  
wa (wasp)  
a (lake)  
i (bike)  
o (rode)  
u (tune)  
e (Pete)

ay (spray)  
ou (mound, cousin, doughnut, you)  
ea (eat, bread, steak)  
oa (goat)  
ai (paint)

**Affixes**

suffix -ed (melted, smelled, winked)  
suffixes -s, -es, -ing, -er, -est, -en,  
-ish, -ly, -y, -ful, -ness, -less  
suffix -age (package)  
prefix a- (alike)

**Sight Words\***

a, against, clothes, could, friend, have, his, into,  
of, one, other, some, the, The, there, they, though,  
to, was, were, who, would, you, your



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**Basketball Dreams**

ea (eat, bread, steak)

**A Great Mess**

Consonant-le

**Rob's Wish**

oo (goat)

**Just Like Old Times**

ai (paint)

**A Fearful Tale**

ee (sheep)

**Live Your Dream**

ee (sheep)

**Shooting Hoops**

oo (food, cook)

**Goofy Zoo**

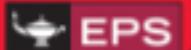
oo (food, cook)

**Light**

igh (light)

**The Oak and the Reeds**

ie (pie, chief)



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