



PENGUIN READERS EASYSTARTS

The year is 1798, and Jenny and her father, Sam Tinker, are working in the market. Sam gets mistaken for a thief and finds himself on a ship full of criminals. They are on their way to Australia. Jenny has her own plans to rescue him.

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Series Editors: Andy Hopkins and Jocelyn Potter

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Published and distributed by
Pearson Education Limited

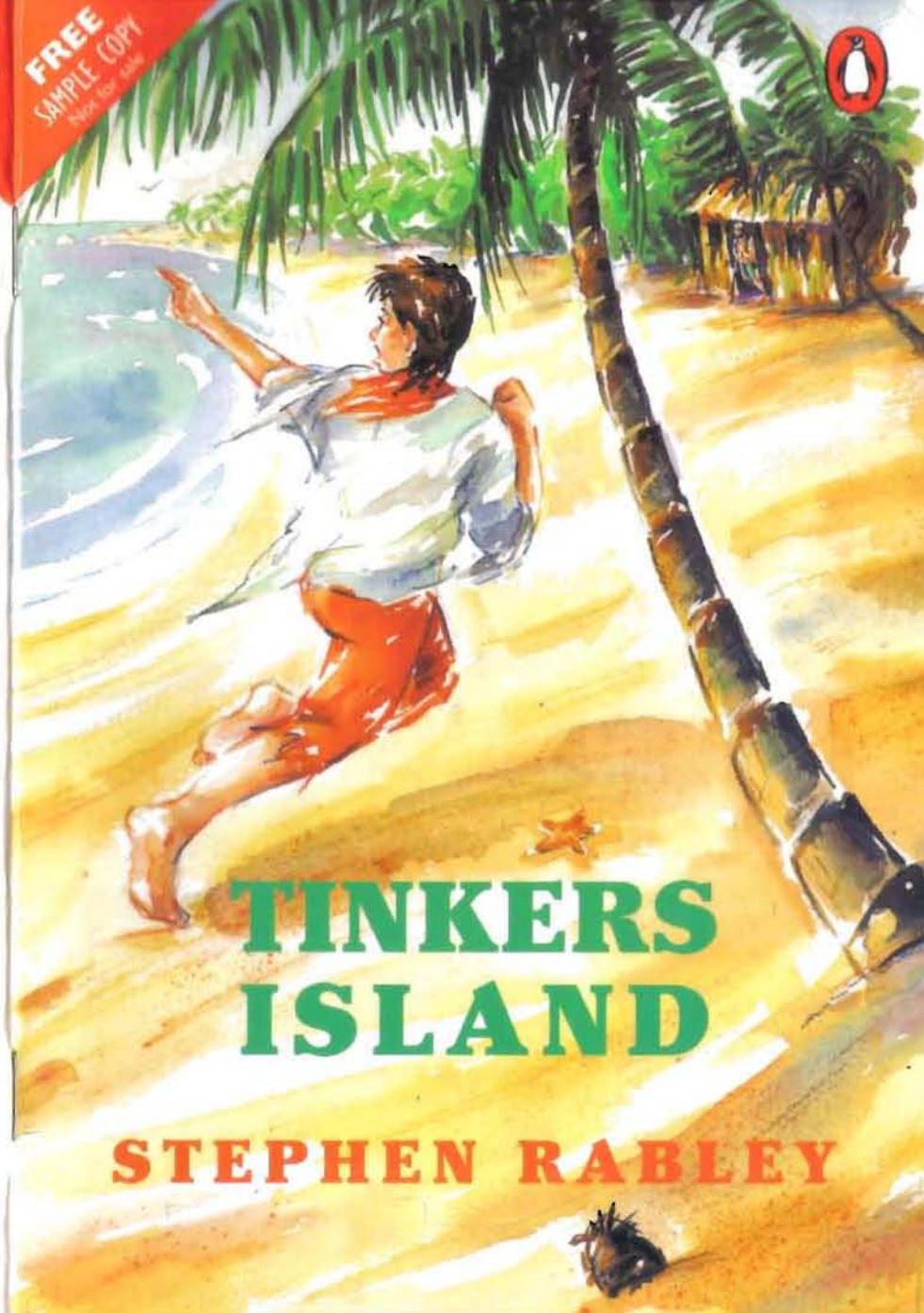
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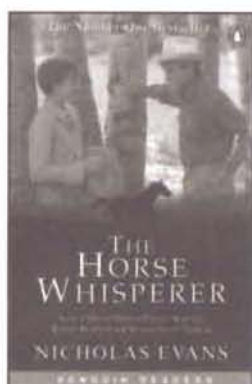
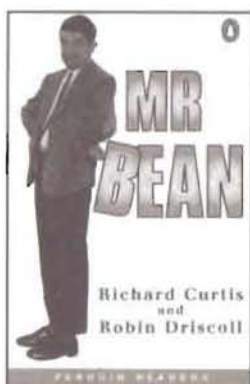
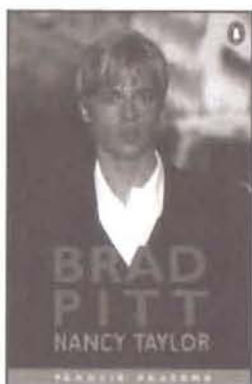
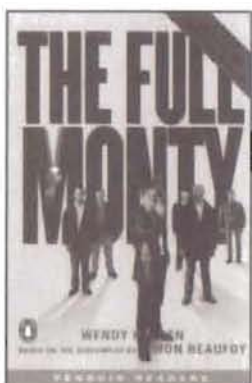
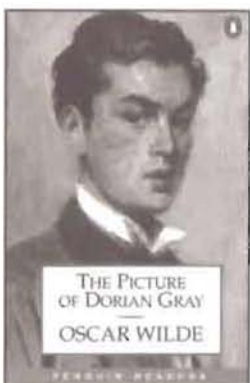
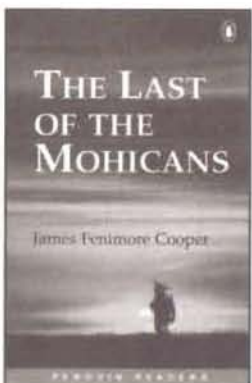
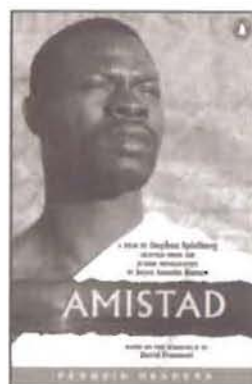
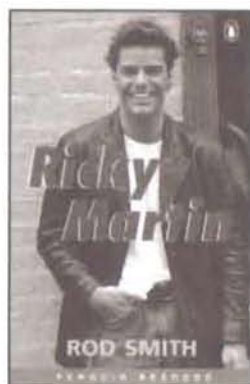
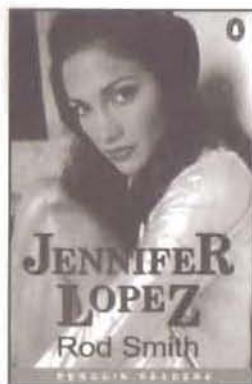
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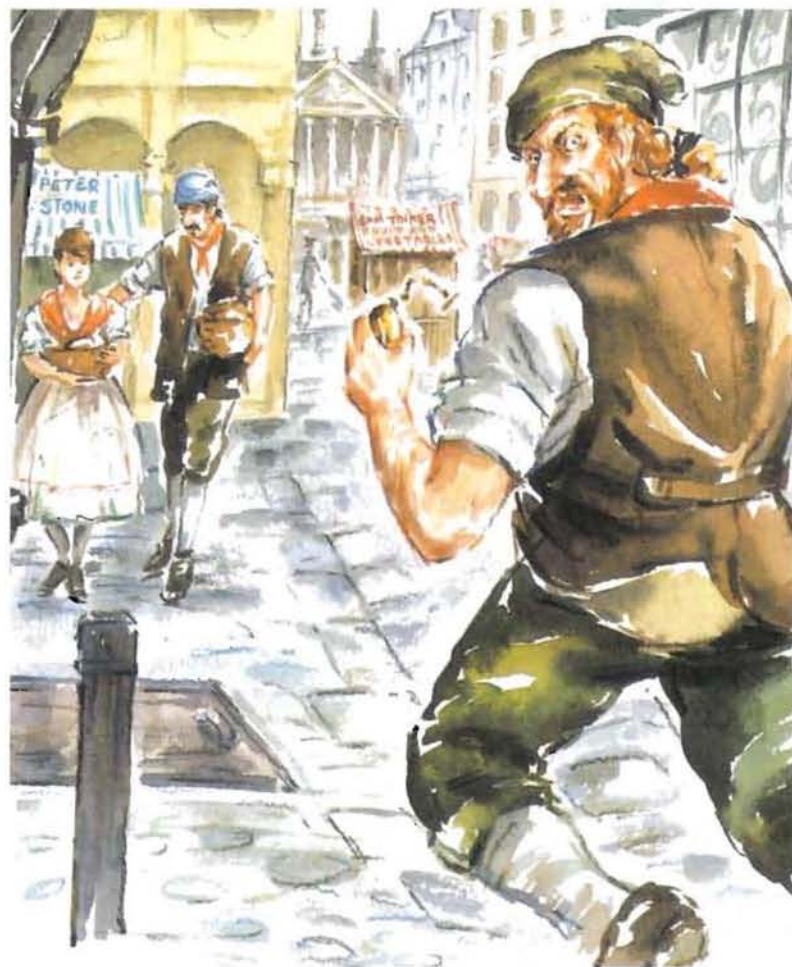
TINKERS ISLAND

STEPHEN RABLEY

PENGUIN READERS



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London, November 1798

Jenny Tinker is fourteen. She and her father, Sam, work in Covent Garden market. They sell fruit and vegetables. The Tinkers get up early every morning and work very hard.

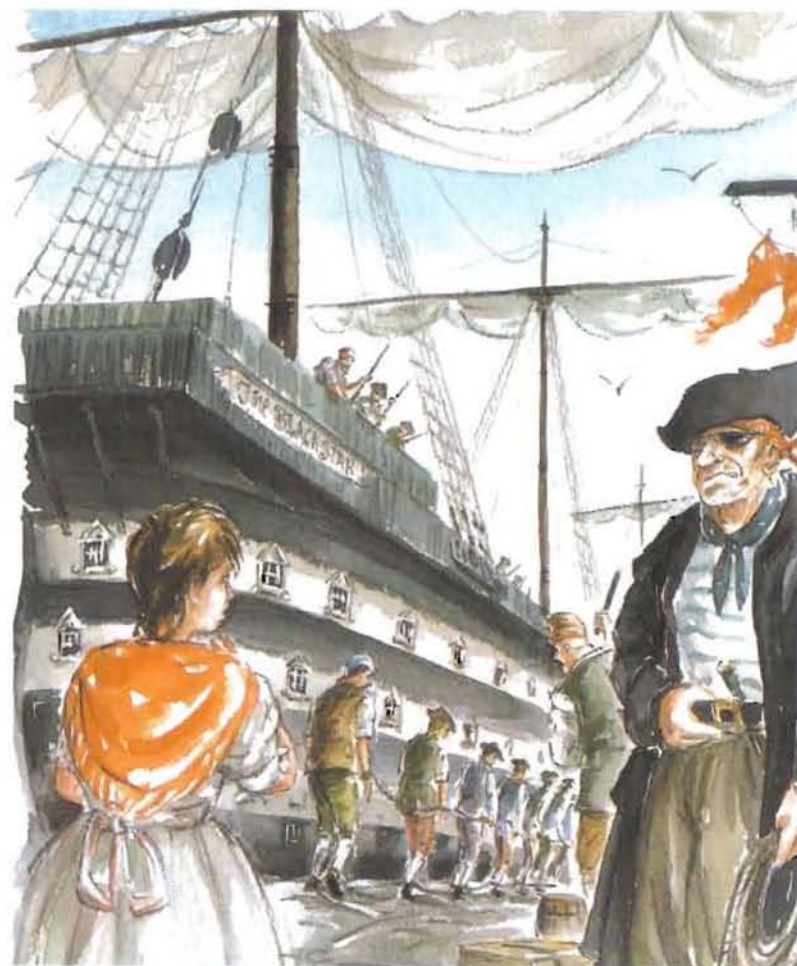
One day after work Jenny sees a man. He is running and he has got a watch in his hand.



“Here – take this,” he says, and gives Sam the watch. Five seconds later a lot of angry people run down the street after Sam.

“There’s the thief! He’s got my watch – stop him!” says an old man.

“You’re coming with us,” two policemen say to Sam. They do not listen to Jenny’s story.



Jenny does not have a mother or any brothers and sisters. Who can she talk to? She goes to Peter Stone’s house. Peter works in the market.

“What’s going to happen?” asks Jenny. Peter looks sad. “They send thieves to Australia,” he says. Peter is right. A week later Jenny watches a big ship – the *Black Star* – on the River Thames. One of the men on it is her father.



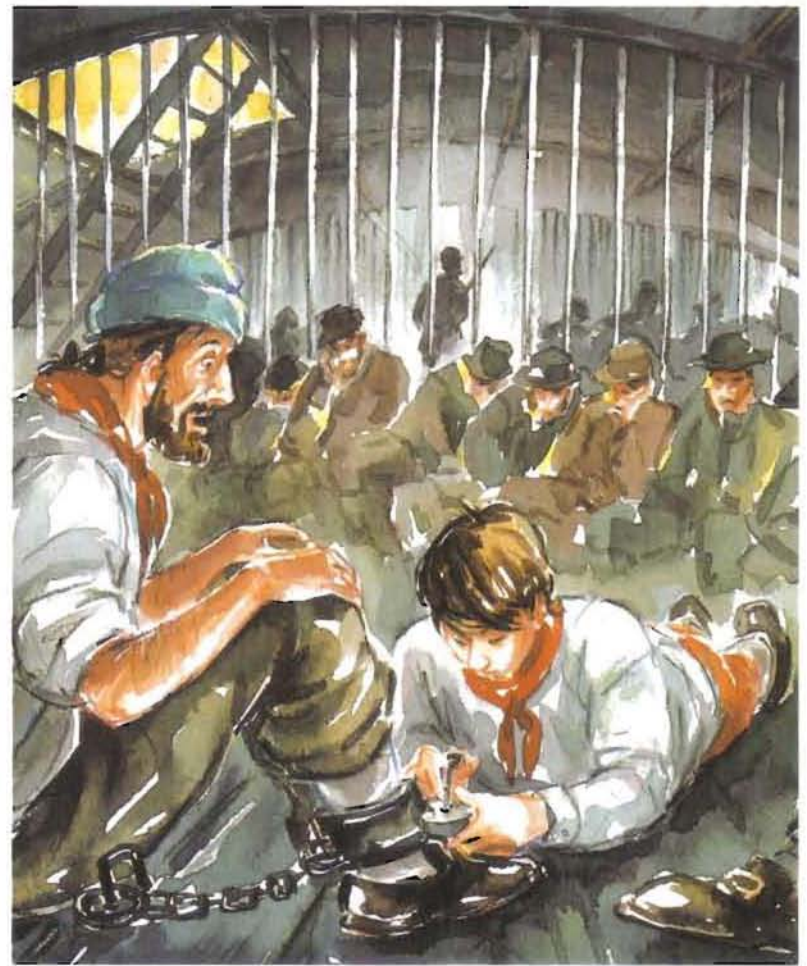
“How can I help him?” thinks Jenny. Then she sees a pair of trousers and a shirt on a line above the street.

“Yes,” she says. “That’s it!”

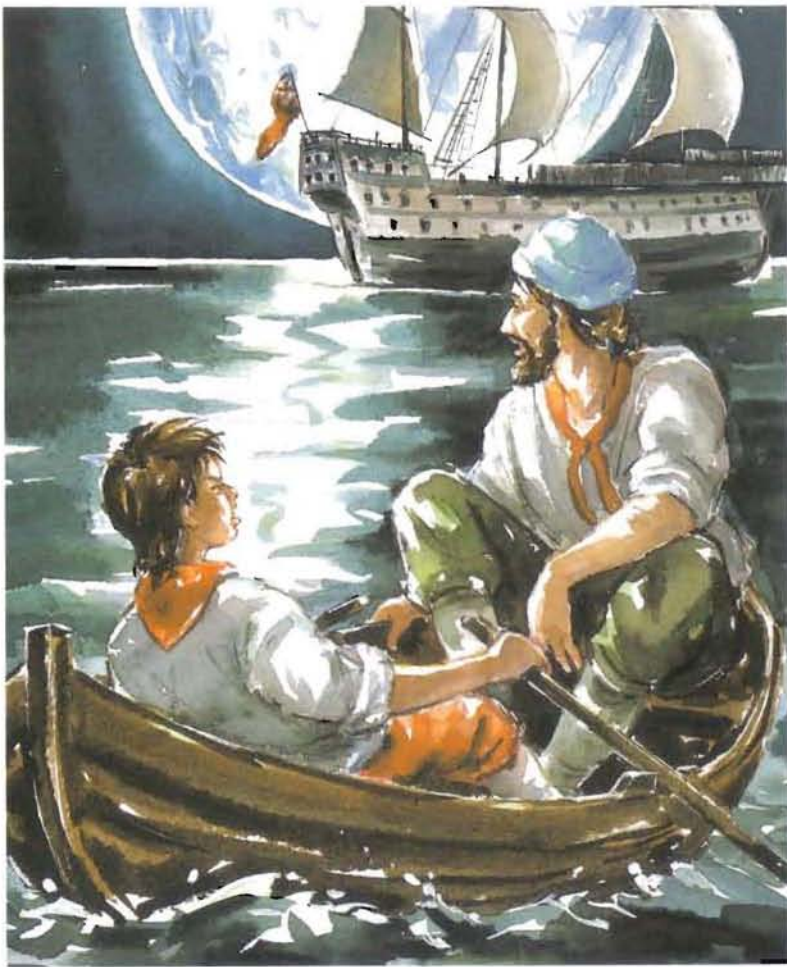
Five minutes later she talks to the ship’s captain.

“I want a job,” she says. “My name’s Ned Bell.”

“Well . . . why not,” says the captain. “OK, Ned – you can help the cook.”



For six weeks Jenny works very hard on the *Black Star*. Then one night she goes to the captain’s room. Usually his keys are next to the bed. Tonight they are on the table. Jenny takes them and goes down to the bottom of the ship. There she finds her father. “Jenny!” he says. “But how . . .?” “Sssshh – don’t ask questions,” says Jenny. “Come with me.”



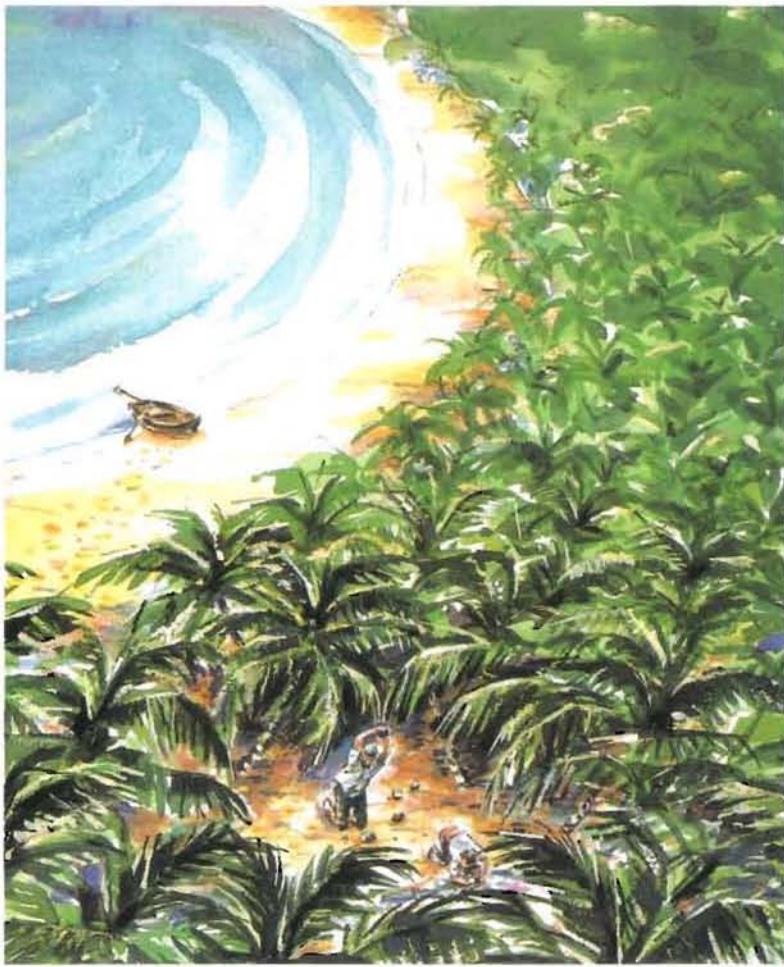
Fifteen minutes later the Tinkers are in a small boat. The *Black Star* is behind them. They can hear nothing but the sea and the wind. It is a beautiful night and there is a big moon. It shines on Sam Tinker's thin, tired face. Jenny looks at her father.

"Oh, Dad," she says. "You're *free*!" Then she tells him her story.



After three days Sam and Jenny are very hungry and thirsty. Then, after five days Jenny sees a big white bird. It is carrying some grass. "Look Dad," she says. "Do you think there's an island near here?"

Sam Tinker stands up in the small boat. He puts one hand across his eyes. "Yes, Jenny, you're right! I can see it. There *is* an island!!"



The island is big and has lots of tall, thick trees. First Sam and Jenny look for food and water. They find a small river. The water is cold and clean. They drink and drink and drink. There are coconuts on the island, too. The Tinkers know coconuts from Covent Garden market. Sam opens two of them and gives the first one to Jenny.



That night Sam and Jenny sleep on the beach. They are very tired. In the morning they start to make a small house with grass and wood. They work very hard. After four days they finish. Then Sam makes a flag with his shirt and puts it on the roof. He and Jenny look up at the flag. "This is 'Tinkers Island' now," Sam says. "It's our new home and we're going to be happy here."



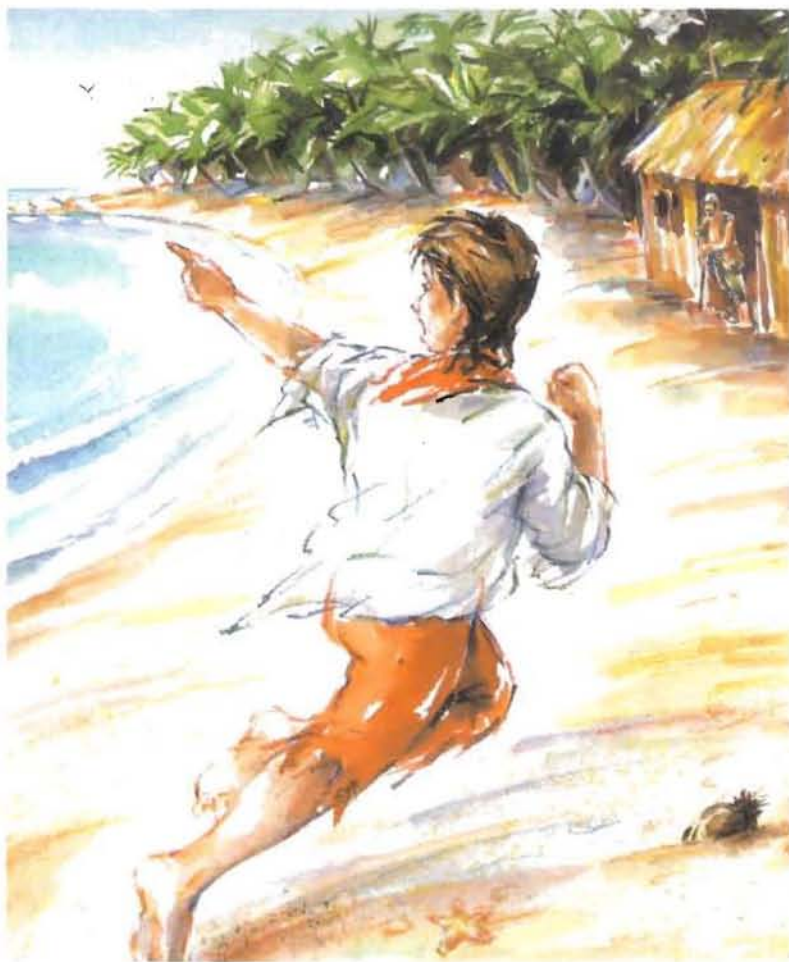
Sam and Jenny are *very* happy for the first year. Every day they work, talk, eat and swim. They like their new home. It is quiet and beautiful.

Then one day something happens. It is early in the morning. Jenny is fishing. Sam is looking for coconuts. He does not see a long, thick snake on the ground. He puts his foot on the snake and it bites him.



Two hours later Jenny finds her father on the ground. He cannot walk. She pulls him along the beach to the house. After that there is nothing she can do. Sam is very, very weak. He cannot eat or drink.

Jenny sits next to his bed for three days and nights. Then Sam opens his eyes. "Jenny?" he asks. "Jenny – is that you?"



After ten days Sam is well again, but not very strong. He sleeps a lot and Jenny does all the work. She catches fish, finds coconuts, makes fires and cooks.

Then, one morning, she sees something. It is a ship and it is coming to the island. She runs to the house to find her father.

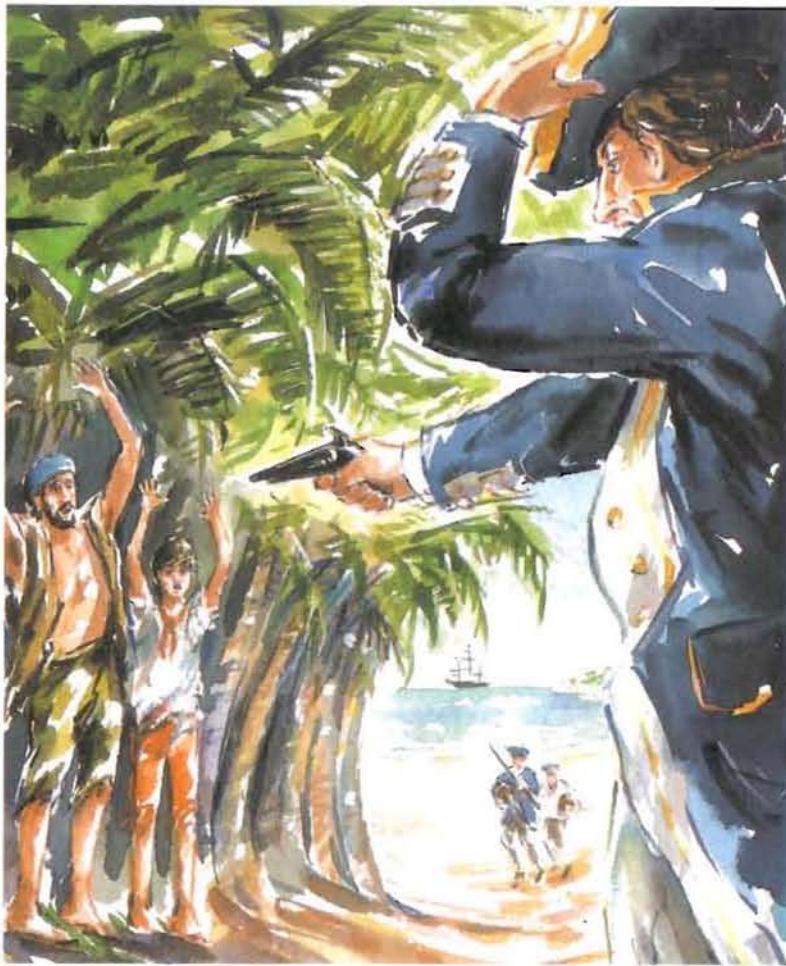
"Dad, Dad!" she says. "Come and look!"



Sam walks to the door of the small house. "Do you think it's the *Black Star*?" he asks. "I don't know," Jenny answers.

Sam looks at the ship. He can see three men. They are putting a boat in the water.

"I don't like this," he says. "I don't like this at all. Come on." He starts to run and Jenny helps him.



Twenty minutes later the three men are on Tinkers Island. Sam and Jenny stand behind a big tree and look at them. "It's OK, Dad," says Jenny. "They're not from the *Black Star*." At that moment one of the men turns and says, "Who's there?" He has got a gun. "P-please don't k-kill us," says Jenny. The man looks at her and his mouth opens. "You're *English*!!" he says.



That evening one of the men says to the Tinkers, "Our ship, the *Red Rose*, is going to America. Come with us. You can start a new life there." The next day is January 1st, 1800. Sam and Jenny are on the *Red Rose*. They are happy, but sad, too. The island is very small now. "Goodbye, Tinkers Island," they say. "Goodbye. Goodbye."

Questions

- 1 Where do Sam and Jenny Tinker work? (page 1)
- 2 Why does the man with the watch give it to Sam? (page 2)
- 3 Where do they usually send thieves? (page 3)
- 4 What job does Jenny get on the Black Star? (page 4)
- 5 How does she free her father? (page 5)
- 6 Who sees the island first – Sam or Jenny? (page 7)
- 7 How do they make a flag and where do they put it? (page 9)
- 8 What happens after Sam puts his foot on a snake? (page 10)
- 9 Where are the Tinkers going at the end of the story? (page 15)

Puzzle

How many English words can you make from the letters in TINKERS ISLAND? Here are four to help you start:

dark / tea / real / train

Ideas

- 1 At the end of *Tinkers Island* Sam and Jenny go to America. There, they start a new life. Write a letter (from Sam or Jenny) to Peter Stone in London.
- 2 Draw or paint a picture of
 - a) a fruit and vegetable market
 - b) the kitchen on the *Black Star*
 - c) Tinkers Island
- 3 Find these islands in an atlas:
Hawaii / Minorca / Crete / Fiji / Jersey / Tasmania

Pearson Education Limited
Edinburgh Gate, Harlow,
Essex CM20 2JE, England
and Associated Companies throughout the world.

ISBN 0 582 46830 2

First published in Great Britain by Chatto and Windus, one of the
publishers in Random House UK Ltd 1996
Published by Addison Wesley Longman Limited and Penguin Books Ltd. 1998
This edition first published 2000

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Typeset by Digital Type, London
Set in 11/14pt Bembo
Printed in Spain by Mateu Cromo, S. A. Pinto (Madrid)

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Published by Pearson Education Limited in association with
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Tinkers Island

Stephen Rabley



Summary

Tinkers Island is a fictional story, set in 1798, and revolves around a teenage girl with her father who is falsely accused of theft. It shows how she reacts and survives the incidents that occur to them one after another.

Pages 1–7: It was 1798 in London. A thief ran into Sam Tinker and passed a watch to him. The police thought Sam was the thief and arrested him. This was the era of convict transportation; thieves were sent to Australia in big ships. Jenny, Sam’s daughter, pretended to be a boy and got work on the ship where her father was a prisoner. Six weeks later Jenny rescued Sam, and they escaped in a small boat. After five days they found an island.

Pages 8–15: Jenny and Sam made their new house on the island. They called the island ‘Tinkers Island.’ For the first year they were very happy, but then Sam was bitten by a snake and became weak. One day a big ship came to the island. Jenny and Sam got on this ship to start a new life, saying goodbye to Tinkers Island.

Background and themes

Convict transportation to Australia: Between 1787 and 1868, the British government sent their criminals to Australia. Transportation was seen as a more humane alternative to the death penalty. Initially it was mainly to America, but the British government had to look for somewhere else because of the War of Independence.

Problems of justice: There are innocent people being convicted of crimes they didn’t commit. In recent years DNA evidence has been used to clear many people falsely convicted. However, the possibility of executions of some who are wrongfully convicted is one of the arguments presented by the opponents of capital punishment.

Resourcefulness: Jenny shows the quality of being able to cope with difficult situations.

Discussion activities

Pages 1–7

Before reading

- Discuss:** Talk about the book cover.
Have students look at the cover. Elicit the answers to the following questions:
Where is this?
What can you see in this picture?
Is this a boy or a girl?
What do you think this person is pointing to?
While reading
- Role play:** Stop reading at the end of page 2. Have students work in pairs to figure out what exactly Jenny said. *Imagine that you are Jenny. Discuss and decide what exactly she is saying.*
- Pair work:** Ask students to look at the first sentence on page 5: For six weeks Jenny works very hard on the *Black Star*. *Why do you think she works very hard for six weeks? Do you think six weeks are too long?*

After reading

- Guess:** Have students work in pairs/groups and predict what happens next. Have them share their ideas. *Now they see an island. What do you think happens next?*

Pages 8–15

After reading

- Check:** Check whether the students’ predictions from Activity 4 were correct. Go over the story by asking yes-no questions based on the students’ predictions.
- Discuss:** Talk about the imaginary life on the island. Have students work in groups. Say, *Imagine you are on this island alone. You can bring three things with you. What are they? Why do you want them?* Have each group share their ideas with the rest of the class.
- Class survey:** Draw a table for a survey on the board and have students copy it. *Which part of the story do you like best?*
Example:

part	number of people
Ned gets a job.	4

- Work in groups of 5. You are Jenny, Sam and three men from the *Red Rose*. Act out the scenes on page 14.**

Vocabulary activities

For the Word List and vocabulary activities, go to www.penguinreaders.com.

Tinkers Island

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While reading

Pages 1–7

1 Choose the right name to complete the sentences.

thief policemen Jenny

Peter Stone Ned Bell Sam

- a is Jenny's father.
- b Ned Bell is
- c The *Black Star*'s captain gives a job.
- d A gives Sam a watch.
- e Two do not listen to Jenny's story.
- f Jenny asks, 'What's going to happen?'

2 Answer the questions.

- a Read page 1. What has a man got in his hand?
- b Read page 2. Does Jenny have a brother?
- c Read page 4. What does Jenny see on a line above the street?
- d Read page 5. Where does Jenny find Sam on the *Black Star*?
- e Read page 6. Does Sam look tired?

3 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 1 The Tinkers sell fruit and vegetables ... ☐
- 2 Jenny helps the cook ... ☐
- 3 The captain's keys are usually ... ☐
- 4 The Tinkers can hear nothing but the sea and wind ... ☐
 - a next to the bed.
 - b in a small boat.
 - c in the market.
 - d on the *Black Star*.

Pages 8–15

4 Look at the pictures in the book. Circle the words that you can see in the pictures.

beach snake free coconuts bite ship
cook bird island trousers fish

5 Are the sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Sam and Jenny first look for food and water on the island. ☐
- b On the first night on the island the Tinkers sleep near a river. ☐
- c The Tinkers make their new house on the island. ☐

6 Read the sentences. One word in every sentence is wrong. Underline the wrong word and write the right word.

- a The Tinkers make a new house with grass and coconuts.
- b Sam put a flag on the tree.
- c On the island they work, talk, eat and dance every day.
- d A snake bites Sam and Jenny finds him on the ground three hours later.
- e Sam cannot walk. Jenny pulls him along the beach to the sea.
- f After three days Sam is well again, but not very strong.

7 Look at the picture on page 13. Answer the questions.

- a Is there a big ship?
- b How many men are in a small boat?
- c Do you think the Tinkers are scared?
- d Why does Jenny help Sam to run?
.....

8 Look at page 15. Complete the sentences.

- a One of the men says to the Tinkers, 'Our ship is going to Come with us.'
- b The next day is January 1,
- c They are happy, but, too.
- d 'Goodbye, Tinkers, ' they say.

After reading

9 Work with another student and answer the questions.

- a What do you say if someone says you are a thief?
- b Do you like Jenny? Why/Why not?
- c Do you like being on a big ship? Why/Why not?
- d Do you think you can be on a small boat in the sea for five days?
- e You are on the Tinkers Island. What do you want to do first?
- f What do you think of the Tinkers' life?

10 Work in groups. What do you think happens to the Tinkers when they go to America? Write your ideas.

11 Write a letter to Jenny or Sam. Start your letter like this.

Dear Jenny/Sam,
Now I know the story of Tinkers Island. I think you are ...



Tinkers Island

Photocopiable

1 Circle YES or NO.

- | | | | |
|---|--|-----|----|
| a | Is Jenny fourteen? | YES | NO |
| b | Is Sam a thief? | YES | NO |
| c | Does Jenny work hard? | YES | NO |
| d | Is Peter a captain? | YES | NO |
| e | Does Ned get a job? | YES | NO |
| f | Does the cook help Sam? | YES | NO |
| g | Do the Tinkers find an island? | YES | NO |
| h | Does a snake bite Jenny? | YES | NO |
| i | Does the <i>Black Star</i> come to the island? | YES | NO |
| j | Are Jenny and Sam going to America? | YES | NO |

2 Circle the correct answer.

- 1 Where are Jenny and Sam in November 1798?
- a London
b Australia
c America
- 2 What do Jenny and Sam sell in the market?
- a watches
b trousers
c fruit and vegetables

3 How many weeks does Jenny work on the *Black Star*?

- a two weeks
b four weeks
c six weeks

4 How many days are Jenny and Sam on the small boat?

- a three days
b four days
c five days

5 What do they make their new house with?

- a coconuts and fish
b grass and wood
c coconuts and shirts

3 Put the words in the right places.

- snake bird life market ship
thief ground coconuts fish keys
- a Jenny and Sam work in Covent Garden
- b The policemen think Sam is a
- c The *Black Star* is a big
- d Jenny takes the from the captain's room.
- e Jenny and Sam see a from a small boat.
- f The Tinkers eat coconuts and on the island.
- g The Tinkers know from Covent Garden market.

h One morning a bites Sam.

i A snake was on the

j The Tinkers think they can have a new in America.

4 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a A thief gives a watch to Sam. ☐
- b They send thieves to Australia. ☐
- c Ned Bell is Jenny's brother. ☐
- d There is a river on the island. ☐
- e The Tinkers eat birds on the island. ☐
- f Jenny finds a house on the beach. ☐
- g Sam makes a flag with his shirt. ☐
- h The Tinkers are very happy for the first year on the island. ☐
- i Jenny catches fish, finds coconuts, makes fires and cooks on the island. ☐
- j The *Red Rose* is a big ship. ☐

5 Put the sentences in order. Write the numbers 1–5.

- a Jenny and Sam are on the island. ☐
- b Jenny and Sam are on a small boat. ☐
- c Jenny and Sam are on the *Red Rose*. ☐
- d Jenny and Sam are on the *Black Star*. ☐
- e Jenny and Sam are in London. ☐

6 Who says what? Choose the right person to complete the sentences. You can use the same person more than once.

One of the men from the *Red Rose*

Peter Stone

Sam

Jenny

The captain of the *Black Star*

- a says, 'Do you think there's an island near here?'
- b says, 'My name's Ned Bell.'
- c says, 'Come with us.'
- d says, 'They send thieves to Australia.'
- e says, 'This is 'Tinkers Island' now.'
- f says, 'You can help the cook.'
- g says, 'Jenny – is that you?'
- h says, 'You're free.'
- i says, 'You're *English*!'
- j says, 'I don't like this at all.'



Tinkers Island

Book key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 **a** He works in a market.
b A watch.
c It's a ship.
d They're in a small boat on the sea.
- 3 **a** ✓ **b** ✗ **c** ✓ **d** ✗ **e** ✗ **f** ✗ **g** ✓
- 4 Open answers
- 5 Open answers
- 6 **a** They're on an island.
b He puts his foot on a snake.
c They can see a big ship near the island and three men in a small boat.
d No, they're not.
- 7 **a** 4 **b** 2 **c** 8 **d** 1 **e** 9 **f** 7 **g** 3 **h** 6 **i** 5
- 8 They are with friendly people, and they are going to a new life in America. But they like Tinkers Island, and they are saying goodbye to it.
- 9 Open answers
- 10 Open answers

Discussion activities key

- 1 Possible answers:
 - *It's an island.*
 - *Beach, sea, person, palm trees, coconuts, starfish, hut/ house, etc.*
 - *It is a girl/boy. It might be a boy/girl.*
 - *I think s/he is pointing to a bird/cloud/plane/ship.*
- 2 Possible answers:
My father is not a thief! There is a man. He says, 'Take this' and he gives the watch to my father. It's true! Please listen to me!
- 3 Possible answers:
 - *I think she works very hard for six weeks because she wants the captain and the cook to trust her. Six weeks are long, but it takes a long time to make someone trust you.*
 - *I think it takes a long time to get used to the boat and to find out where things are.*
 - *I think six weeks are too long, but you need to wait for a chance.*
- 4 Possible answers:
 - *I think they are going to meet some people on the island.*
 - *I think they are going to get sick.*
 - *I think they are going to find a treasure.*

- 5 Possible yes-no questions:
 - *Do they meet some people on the island?*
 - *Do they get sick?*
 - *Do they find a treasure?*
- 6 Possible answers:
I want to bring a notebook, pencils and matches. I want matches to make fires. A notebook and pencils are for writing a diary.
- 7 Possible answers:
 - *I like the part when Ned gets a job.*
 - *I like the part when Jenny says, 'Dad, you're free!'*
 - *My favourite part is when the Tinkers see a big white bird from a small boat.*
- 8 Act out the scenes
(Sam and Jenny are hiding behind a big tree.)
(Three men get off the small boat and look around, coming towards the tree.)
Jenny: It's OK, Dad. They're not from the *Black Star*.
(One of the men turns and points the gun towards the tree.)
Man: Who's there?
Jenny: P-please don't k-kill us.
(The man looks at Jenny, looking quite surprised.)
Man: You're *English!*

Activity worksheet key

- 1 **a** Sam
b Jenny
c Ned Bell
d thief
e policemen
f Peter Stone
- 2 **a** He has got a watch.
b No, she doesn't.
c She sees a pair of trousers and a shirt.
d She finds him at the bottom of the ship.
e Yes, he does.
- 3 **1** c
2 d
3 a
4 b
- 4 beach
snake
coconuts
ship
island
bird
trousers



Tinkers Island

- 5 a ✓
b ✗
c ✓
- 6 a coconuts: wood
b tree: roof
c dance: swim
d three: two
e sea: house
f three: ten
- 7 a Yes, there is.
b Three men.
c Yes, they are.
d Because Sam is not very strong after a snake bites him.
- 8 a America
b 1800
c sad
d Island
- 9 Possible answers:
a That's not true! I am not!
b Yes, I do. I like her because she is brave.
c No, I don't. I get sea sick.
d No, I don't think so. I get hungry and tired. I get scared, too.
e I want to sleep on the beach.
f I think it's adventurous. It's not fair that they have a life like this because Sam is not a thief.
- 10 Possible answers:
They will be rich.
They have a happy life.
They make new friends.
They meet Native Americans.
- 11 Open answers
- Progress test key**
- 1 a Yes
b No
c Yes
d No
e Yes
f No
g Yes
h No
i No
j Yes
- 2 1 a
2 c
3 c
4 c
5 b
- 3 a market
b thief
c ship
d keys
e bird
f fish
g coconuts
h snake
i ground
j life
- 4 a ✓
b ✓
c ✗
d ✓
e ✗
f ✗
g ✓
h ✓
i ✓
j ✓
- 5 a 4
b 3
c 5
d 2
e 1
- 6 a Jenny
b Jenny
c One of the men from the *Red Rose*
d Peter Stone
e Sam
f The captain of the *Black Star*
g Sam
h Jenny
i One of the men from the *Red Rose*
j Sam