

We Didn't Mean to

# Go on a Voyage!

By  
Kirsty Holmes

Illustrated by  
Brandon Mattless



# We Didn't Mean to Go on a Voyage!

Level 9 – Gold

# Helpful Hints for Reading at Home

The focus phonemes (units of sound) used throughout this series are in line with the order in which your child is taught at school. This offers a consistent approach to learning whether reading at home or in the classroom.

## HERE ARE SOME COMMON WORDS THAT YOUR CHILD MIGHT FIND TRICKY:

water	where	would	know	thought	through	couldn't
laughed	eyes	once	we're	school	can't	our

## TOP TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD TO READ:

- Encourage your child to read aloud as well as silently to themselves.
- Allow your child time to absorb the text and make comments.
- Ask simple questions about the text to assess understanding.
- Encourage your child to clarify the meaning of new vocabulary.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a gold level 9 book band.

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# Chapter One

## A Sailing Trip



## Day 1. Wednesday Night.

It is Dad's birthday today. I am on holiday with Mum and Dad, my brother Lloyd and my baby sister, Lucy-May. Dad loves to sail, so we are here at Coyne Bay to go on a trip on a sailing ship!

It is quite windy at Coyne Bay, but Dad says we can go sailing anyway. He says it will be even more fun that way!

We are staying in a guest house called The Royal Maypole. Our room is small and bright, and I get to sleep on a daybed! I like going on holiday. There is no school and I can play all day.



Day 2. Thursday  
Morning.

This morning we met  
Captain Joy.

"Welcome to the  
Oyster! I'm Captain  
Mayday Joy. You can  
call me Captain Joy for  
short!"

Captain Joy is big and jolly. Her ship, the Oyster,  
is a sailing boat. She says the Oyster is called the  
Oyster because she's a real pearl.

Captain Joy says we all have to listen to her and do  
what she says.

"Aye, Captain Joy!" I said.

"Aye!" said Lucy-May.

"Hooray!" said Captain Joy. "We're going to have a  
lot of fun today!"



Captain Joy steered the ship until we were out of Coyne Bay. It was strange watching the land slowly move away, but it was exciting, so it was okay. My hair was damp from the sea spray as the Oyster cut through the waves.

Now Mum is putting our stuff away. Dad and Lloyd say she has too many bags, but Mum says you never know what could happen. Dad says it is mayhem in our cabin, but Mum says she is just planning for a rainy day.





Day 2 (again). Thursday night.

It is very late. I am writing this in my bunk. Captain Joy told us a story tonight...

### The Tale of Big Wayne

Big Wayne is a whale as old as the bay,  
Both royals and fishermen's wives used to say,  
If ever a pirate was seen here to stray,  
Along came Big Wayne to see them away!

Captain Joy says Big Wayne is the biggest whale ever, and that he lives in the seas around Coyne Bay! I want to see him, but she says only pirates get to see Big Wayne.





There are books next to my bed. I found one called 'Far, Far Away'. It is all about how sailors find their way using the stars. Lloyd is reading it while I write this.

The Oyster rocks and sways at night. It makes me sleepy...





# Chapter Two

## The Storm


Day 3. Friday Morning.

This morning when we got up, Captain Joy was not as joyful as yesterday. She said there were grey clouds over Coyne Bay, and we should have a short trip. We set out across the bay.

All of a sudden, it got dark.

"Lloyd, take Lucy-May and Taylor downstairs please," said Dad, as salty sea spray crashed up the side of the Oyster. "The storm is coming in fast."





The Oyster was swaying from side to side through the storm.

Lloyd said we had turned away from the bay and were heading out to sea!

"It'll be okay," he said. "Don't cry, Lucy-May. Captain Joy will keep us safe."

When the Oyster stopped swaying, we headed up to the top deck.

"Where is Coyne Bay?" I asked. It had disappeared. We must have been a long, long way from the bay.

"We don't know," said Dad. "The storm swept us away."

"I'm hungry!" said Lucy-May.

We were very glad then that Mum had packed so much food.

"The Oyster is not a sea vessel," said Captain Joy.

"She never leaves the bay. I don't have anything to find our way."



Suddenly, I remembered. 'Far, Far Away'!

I ran to grab the book and gave it to Dad.

"Maybe we can find our way back to the bay the old-fashioned way!" I said. "We can let the stars light our way!"

"Clever Taylor," said Dad.

"Hooray!" said Captain Joy.







## Day 3 (again). Friday Night.

This afternoon we saw a group of huge manta rays! They were so playful! They swam around the Oyster for a while, and for a moment we all forgot we were lost and far away from the bay.

Then they disappeared.

"Where did they go?" asked Lloyd. "They just suddenly went away!"

Captain Joy said something must have made them swim away.

I wonder what it could be...





# Chapter Three

## Big Wayne

Day 4. Saturday Morning.

Captain Joy thinks she knows the way to land. She says watching the Sun can tell you which way to go, too.

I don't want to tell anyone that I actually like being away from the bay. I wonder what we'll see today. On deck, Captain Joy has been looking at 'Far, Far Away'.





## Day 4 (again). Saturday Afternoon.

Later on, I asked Captain Joy if we might see Big Wayne out at sea. She smiled at me, and then she told me about her grandmother, Captain Caraway Joy. "She saw it once, Taylor," said Captain Joy. "She saw Big Wayne."

Just then, the Oyster gave a shudder.

"What was that?" asked Dad.

"I don't know," said Captain Joy.





There was a long pause.  
Then there was a long, low sound.

Something was bumping the Oyster... from below!

I looked at Captain Joy in dismay.

"Is it... Big Wayne?" I asked.

"Mayday!" said Lloyd. "Help!"

"Hold on tight!" said Dad.

I grabbed Captain Joy, who held on to Lucy-May.

Lloyd, Mum and Dad grabbed the mast, and we held on to the wheel.







Then, suddenly, the Oyster flew into the air!  
"Hooray!" said Lucy-May.  
"Hold on tight, Taylor!" cried Mum.  
"We're going to be destroyed!" shouted Lloyd.  
"Not while I'm Captain!" boomed Captain Joy.  
"Is everyone okay?" called Dad.  
Then we all realised at once...

"WHALE AHOY!" we all cried.

It was Big Wayne!







There was another low, rumbling sound. The whale was so big that the sound made the Oyster rock and sway.

"Mayday!" shouted Lloyd again.

"Hang on!" cried Mum. "Is he trying to say something?"

Mum reached over and grabbed the picnic basket, then threw some food over the side.

"I think he's trying to say he's hungry!" she said.

"Poor boy."

Thank goodness Mum brought enough food for a voyage! We threw the rest of the food we had to Big Wayne.

Big Wayne ate all our cakes and sandwiches. Then he slowly slipped away into the inky-black sea.

"Wayne gone away," said Lucy-May. "Bye, Wayne."

Lucy-May waved to Wayne. Big Wayne gave a huge, playful flick of his giant tail.

"Hold on!" shouted Mum. "It looks like we're going to ride a wave!"

"Hooray!" we all cried.

"Look!" shouted Lloyd. "LAND AHOY!"

"It is, my boy!" cried Captain Joy, looking through her telescope. "Land ahoy indeed!"

And we all jumped with joy.





# Chapter Four

## Dry Land

Day 5. Sunday Morning.

The Oyster had landed ashore in a place called Runaway Bay.

Everyone wanted to know how we had crossed the whole sea in the Oyster!

"It was meant to be a day trip," said Dad. "We didn't mean to go on a voyage!"

"Wayne!" said Lucy-May.

Captain Joy was enjoying telling the tale of 'Big Wayne and the Accidental Voyage' so much that she even got to go on television!

"And it was all thanks to Big Wayne," she said.

Having my photo in the newspaper was okay, but all I really wanted was to go sailing again.

"Can we go again, Dad?" I asked.

"Maybe," said Dad. "But now it's time for another holiday..."



# We Didn't Mean to Go on a Voyage!

1. What was the weather like at Coyne Bay?
2. On which day did the family meet Captain Joy?
3. How did Taylor describe Captain Joy?
  - (a) Big and jolly
  - (b) Small and happy
  - (c) Big and grumpy
4. Why did Lloyd have to take Lucy-May and Taylor to the downstairs of the boat?
5. How would you have felt if you were aboard the Oyster?  
Would you want to go sailing again?

## An Introduction to BookLife Readers...

Our Readers have been specifically created in line with the London Institute of Education's approach to book banding and are phonetically decodable and ordered to support each phase of the Letters and Sounds document.

Each book has been created to provide the best possible reading and learning experience. Our aim is to share our love of books with children, providing both emerging readers and prolific page-turners with beautiful books that are guaranteed to provoke interest and learning, regardless of ability.

**BOOK BAND GRADED** using the Institute of Education's approach to levelling.

**PHONETICALLY DECODABLE** supporting each phase of Letters and Sounds.

**EXERCISES AND QUESTIONS** to offer reinforcement and to ascertain comprehension.

**BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED** to inspire and provoke engagement, providing a variety of styles for the reader to enjoy whilst reading through the series.

### AUTHOR INSIGHT: **KIRSTY HOLMES**

Kirsty Holmes, holder of a BA, PGCE, and an MA, was born in Norfolk, England. She has written over 60 books for BookLife Publishing, and her stories are full of imagination, creativity and fun.

This book focuses on developing independence, fluency and comprehension. It is a gold level 9 book band.





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Taylor's family are going sailing for the day... at least, that's what they think...

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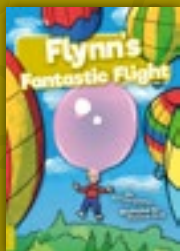
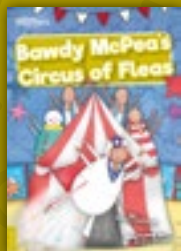
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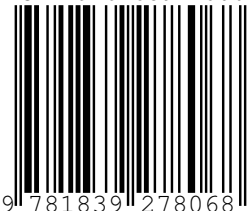
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