Kensuke’s Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

# Chapter Three – Ship’s Log

Page 25

* Why wouldn’t Michaels’ parents let him take the watch through the Channel?

(it was full of tankers, dozens of them going up and down)

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* Why had Barnacle Bill warned them about the Bay of Biscay?

(because it would be bad (storms, bad weather)

* How does his Dad react to Mum being a bit snappy? (just winks at Michael, and they get on with it)
* What do his parents do together? (play chess)
* And who’s winning? (Dad)
* How has Mum reacted? (says she’s not bothered)

Page 27

* What disappeared off the Peggy Sue? (his blue shorts)
* What is Michael sick of already? (baked beans)
* How are they passing Africa? (going down the west coast)

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* What will be the problem if they sail off course? (they’ll get stuck in the Doldrums, where there is no wind)
* Who does Michael take after with tanning? (his Mum, just turns nutty brown)
* What did M have to write and draw about even though he hadn’t seen it? (basking shark)
* What do basking sharks eat? (plankton and fish)

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* What does Stella love to do? (chase the football around the cabin and pounce on it)
* And the problem? (one day she’ll puncture it)
* Why did they spend so long in Recife? (repairs to the boat)
* Why was Michael so happy after his stay in Recife? He should have been worried because of the repairs to the boat. (he played football in Brazil!)
* What did he call his side when they played on the beach? (Mudlarks)

Page 30

* Did Stella like the Brazilians? (no, she growled and bared her teeth and had to be shut in the cabin)
* What were the only English the Brazilians knew? (goal & Manchester United)
* How did Mum’s photos come out? (well)

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* Which one did Michael take? (his Dad asleep, sunbathing and Mum about to pour suntan lotion on his tummy)
* What did they do on Christmas Day? (had crackers and Christmas Pudding)
* What was Michael given? (a knife)
* Why did he give his parents a coin? (for luck when you get given a knife)
* What did they do while in Rio? (scrub the Peggy Sue down)

Page 32

* What was so special about the island of St Helena?

(where Napoleon was exiled (explanation if needed))

* What schoolwork did he have to do then? (look him up in the encyclopaedia and write about him)

Page 33

* Why did Stella sulk on his bunk? (perhaps because no-one gave her a present)
* Why did the sea feel very empty after they’d seen the other yacht?

(made them realise how far away they were from anywhere and anyone)

* How is Mum doing in chess now? (is ahead by one game 21-20)
* What were they going to do in Africa? (stay for a couple of weeks, go to see elephants and lions in the wild)

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* How did his parents behave when they told him about this? (were like a couple of kids, all laughing and happy)
* Why did Michael think his Mum was having stomach cramps? (all the baked beans)
* Why was running out of beans a problem for Michael though? (he had to eat sardines instead)
* What terrible thing happened to Stella when they had left Africa? (she fell in the water)
* What was Michael doing up on deck? (navigation lessons, taking bearings with the sextant)
* What was the drill for ‘Man overboard’? (shout and point, sails down, engine on)

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* How many times did the boat go by before she was picked up? (4)
* Why did Dad get a huge rollicking from Mum? (for not wearing his safety harness)
* What was the rule that Mum laid down from now on?

(Stella must not go out on deck again without a safety harness on)

* What did he still dream of? (the elephants, they were slow and thoughtful)

Page 37

* Who would M see in Australia? (his Uncle John (only a distant uncle))
* How do they behave when they see land?

(like they’re the 1st sailors to see it, hugging and jumping up and down)

Page 39

* How long did they stay in Australia? (six weeks)
* Why was he happy to get back on board? (missed Peggy Sue, like he missed Eddie)
* What animals etc did he see in Australia? (Copperhead snake, possums, wombats, kangaroos, cockatoos)

Page 40

* What was it like after they left Sydney? (terrible, one storm after another, the rudder cable snapped, Mum was ill)

Page 41

* How did they know where they were? (they didn’t! Mum was too ill to work it out and M and Dad hadn’t done a good job on working out where they were)
* Why did he have Eddie’s football with him on watch? (needed the good luck it seemed to bring)
* How do you think Michael felt? (worried, scared, panicky)

Page 42

* What started everything happening? (Stella was out without her harness)
* What did M do? (go forward to try and tempt Stella back with the ball)

Page 43

* What had Stella been barking at? (singing)
* How did he feel about losing his football? (had lost the last link to home back in England and when Eddie was there and his friend)
* How did he fall in? (was holding Stella, the boat moved awkwardly (tilted over) and he had his hands full)