

LEN AND THE RIVER MOB

by ROY BROWN



Write your name here.

This is _____'s book.



The illustrations are by James Hunt

Look and Read BBC-1

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1

A job in the docks

Len Tanner stood on the docks and looked at the river. He saw the tall cranes swing. He saw the smoke from the ships. He liked the docks. He liked the big river.

Len had come to London to look for a job. He lived with Mrs Green and Pat in a flat near the river. He was cutting a toy boat from a bit of wood. The boat was for Pat.

Suddenly, Len felt a licking on his hand. He looked down. It was Flash, the police dog, and there was Bill the policeman. Bill was Pat's uncle. Bill, too, liked the big river. He had always worked near the docks.

Bill said, 'Have you found a job yet, Len?'

'No,' said Len. 'Not yet.'

'If you like the river,' said Bill, 'why don't you get a job in the docks?'

'In the docks?' said Len. 'I would like that. I shall start looking in the morning.'

'Good,' said Bill. 'Let us go home to tea.'

So Len went home with Bill and Flash. Pat ran out to meet them.

'Hello Uncle Bill, hello Len, hello Flash!' she called.

'Come on,' said Len. 'Let us run home to tea.'

So Pat and Flash and Len all ran home.

Next morning, Len set out to look for a job in the docks. All morning he looked. No-one wanted to give Len a job.

At last, Len came to an old wharf. There was a big shed at one end of it and a big motor boat in the water. He pushed open the gate and went in.

Someone shouted: 'What are you doing?'

Len said, 'I am sorry. I came in here to look for a job.'

'A job?' said the boy. 'You would be no good in the docks. You have to be strong to get a job in the docks.'

'I am strong,' said Len.

The boy said, 'If you are strong, I can get you a job. You come with me.' He led Len to an office inside the shed.

A man was sitting at a desk.

'Boss,' said the boy. 'You need a new boy for the big job this week. I think I have found him.'

'You would like to be one of my boys, would you?' asked the man.

'Oh, yes,' said Len.

'Can you work hard? Can you do what you are told?'

'Yes,' said Len. He wanted the job.

'Right!' said the man. 'What is your name, boy?'

'Len Tanner.'

'My name is Mr Moon. This is Micky, my right-hand

boy. He will take you out on the wharf and tell you what to do.'

'You are one of Mr Moon's boys now,' said Micky.



On the wharf were lots of boxes and crates. Len pushed some boxes into the shed. There did not seem to be much work to do, so Len and Micky sat on the wharf.

'We do not do much work,' said Len.

'You wait!' said Micky. Then he jumped up. 'There is the boat we have been waiting for.'

A tug came alongside the wharf. A man stood in the tug.

'We are Mr Moon's boys,' said Micky. 'Have you got two sacks for us?'



The boys jumped into the tug. 'Hurry up,' said Micky.

'Why the hurry?' said Len. Micky did not tell him why.

The boys lifted the sacks on to the wharf and the man took the tug away. Then the boys put the sacks into the big shed.

Mr Moon came out. 'Good boys,' he said. 'That is all for today. Here is your pay.'

One, two, three pounds. It was very good pay.

'Has Len Tanner worked hard?' asked Mr Moon.

'Oh, yes,' said Micky. 'I think he will do well.'

Len did not see Micky wink at Mr Moon! Len was thinking: 'Oh, this is a fine job. I am glad I am one of Mr Moon's boys.'

l a. e. i. o. u.?

L n d g t_g y__s

B__ll P__t j__b m__n

2

The Dutch doll

'Three pounds!' said Mrs Green. 'That is a lot of money.'

'It seems too much for one day's work,' said Bill. But they were very glad Len had found a job.

Len said: 'I want to get you all a present now that I have some pay.'

'Oh no,' said Mrs Green. 'You keep your pay, Len. Get a small present for Pat. I know something she would like. There are some fine Dutch dolls in the shop along the street. Pat would like one of those.'

'I will get one,' said Len.

Next morning Len went to the shop. There were always lots of toys and dolls in the window, but when Len got to the shop he saw that the window was broken and the door was open. He went inside. There were broken toys all over the floor. Len saw a Dutch doll. He picked it up, but it was broken too.

Suddenly someone came from the back of the shop. It was Bill the policeman.

'What has happened?' asked Len.

The shop has been robbed,' said Bill. 'Everything has been taken.'

'Who would want to steal a lot of toys?' asked Len.

'They were good toys,' said Bill.

Poor Pat. She would not have a Dutch doll from this shop. Len left the shop and went to the docks.



That day Micky and Len worked on the wharf. An old van came into the wharf. 'Here is Dave,' said Micky.

'Who is Dave?' asked Len.

'Dave is one of Mr Moon's boys too. Come and meet him,' said Micky.

A fat boy sat in the van. Micky opened the back of the van. It was full of wooden boxes.

Micky called out, 'Dave! Come and help us unload!'

'Not me,' said Dave, 'I am not very well.'

But in the end Dave helped to unload the boxes. He was not a fast worker. Soon he came to a stop.



'I am puffed out,' he said. 'Let us stop.'

'What did you say?' said Micky. He flung a box at Dave. Dave was not looking. Len went to help, but too late. The box fell on the floor.

'Now look what has happened. You did that,' said Dave to Len. Len began to think he did not like Dave very much.

'Get it into the shed,' said Micky. 'Moon will be cross if he sees it!'

It was dark in the shed. Len looked at the broken box.

Suddenly, Len saw something gleam. There were two gleams, like cat's eyes.

Len went nearer the broken box. Now he could see what was inside.



Toys! Toy planes, toy boats, toy cars. And, looking out of the broken box, were a doll's eyes!

She was a fine Dutch doll. Was it one of the stolen toys?

1 Look for names beginning with these letters:

B L P M D

Write them down in your notebook.

2 Draw a picture of the toyshop before the toys were stolen.

Write down the names of the toys in your picture.

3

The missing crate

Len looked at the doll. Was it one of the stolen toys? Len did not know what to think. Were Micky and Mr Moon robbers?

'Here,' said Micky. 'Push that to the back before Mr Moon sees it.'

Len put the box at the back of the shed.

Mr Moon came out of the office. 'All right, boys?' he asked. 'Have you packed all the boxes away?'

'Yes,' said Micky, 'everything is fine, boss.'

'Yes,' said Dave, 'everything is fine, boss.'

Len did not speak.

'That is all for today, boys,' said Mr Moon. 'Here is your pay.'

Again he gave Len three pounds. Bill was right. It was a lot of money for one day's work. Len hoped this job was all right.

On his way home, Len met Bill and Pat.

'Found those robbers for me?' asked Bill.

'No,' said Len. Should he tell Bill about the toys in Mr Moon's shed? No, Mr Moon could not be a thief.

'Do you know who stole the toys?' asked Len.

'There is a gang on the docks,' said Bill. 'We call them the River Mob. Perhaps they did it, but we have no proof. A lot of things have been stolen in the docks, not just toys. Last week something big was stolen.'

'Oh, tell us, Uncle Bill!' said Pat.

'Well, it is a secret,' said Bill, 'but perhaps Len can help us, so I will tell you. Last week,' he said, 'an engine was stolen out of the docks.'

'An engine?' said Pat.

'Yes,' said Bill. 'A secret one. It was packed in a big crate with a mark on it. You could keep your eyes open for it, Len.'

'Oh yes,' said Pat. 'Len will find the crate with the mark on it.'



'Well, he can try.' Bill took out a sheet of paper. "This is a message that was sent round to all police stations. It is about the secret engine.' This was what it said:

POLICE NOTE

crate mark 996/HO

missing from Sheen's Dock

stolen Sunday

'There,' he said to Len, 'put that away in your pocket. Do not tell anyone, but keep looking for that mark.'

'I will,' said Len. 'Trust me, Bill.'

Next day, when Len got to the wharf, Mr Moon was waiting for them. He waved a sheet of paper and told Micky, 'I have a big job to see to. Dave has got a load of boxes. I want you to unload them before I get back.'

He flung the paper on to his desk and went off.

Dave did not want to work. After they had unloaded some boxes, he said: 'I am puffed out. Let us stop.'

'Let us make a cup of tea in the office,' said Micky.

'Let us look for something to eat,' said Dave.

'What will the boss say?' said Len.

'I am the boss now,' said Micky. The boys went into Mr Moon's office. Dave found some buns and Micky found a box of knives. They were fine, big penknives with two blades. Dave and Micky took a knife.

'Don't they belong to Mr Moon?' asked Len.

Micky winked at Dave. 'Mr Moon did not pay much for these.'

What was Micky saying? Were the knives stolen?

Micky had taken the bit of paper from Mr Moon's desk. He folded it into a paper plane and let it fly. Dave said: 'Watch me shoot down your paper plane!' He started flinging buns at the plane.



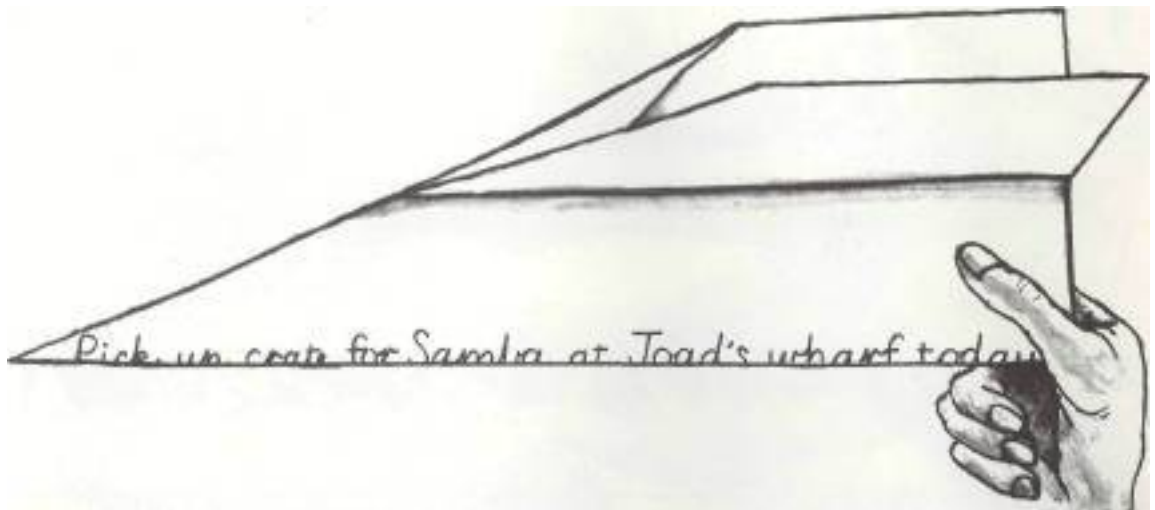
Len said: 'Stop! Mr Moon will be back soon.'

But they did not stop. Suddenly, the office door opened. There was Mr Moon. A bun hit him on the nose.

'What are you doing in here?' he shouted. 'What a mess!'

Dave and Micky ran to pick up the buns. Len ran to pick up the paper plane. As he picked it up, Len saw there were some words on it. The sheet had been folded and Len could see only the tops of the words.

This was all he could see:



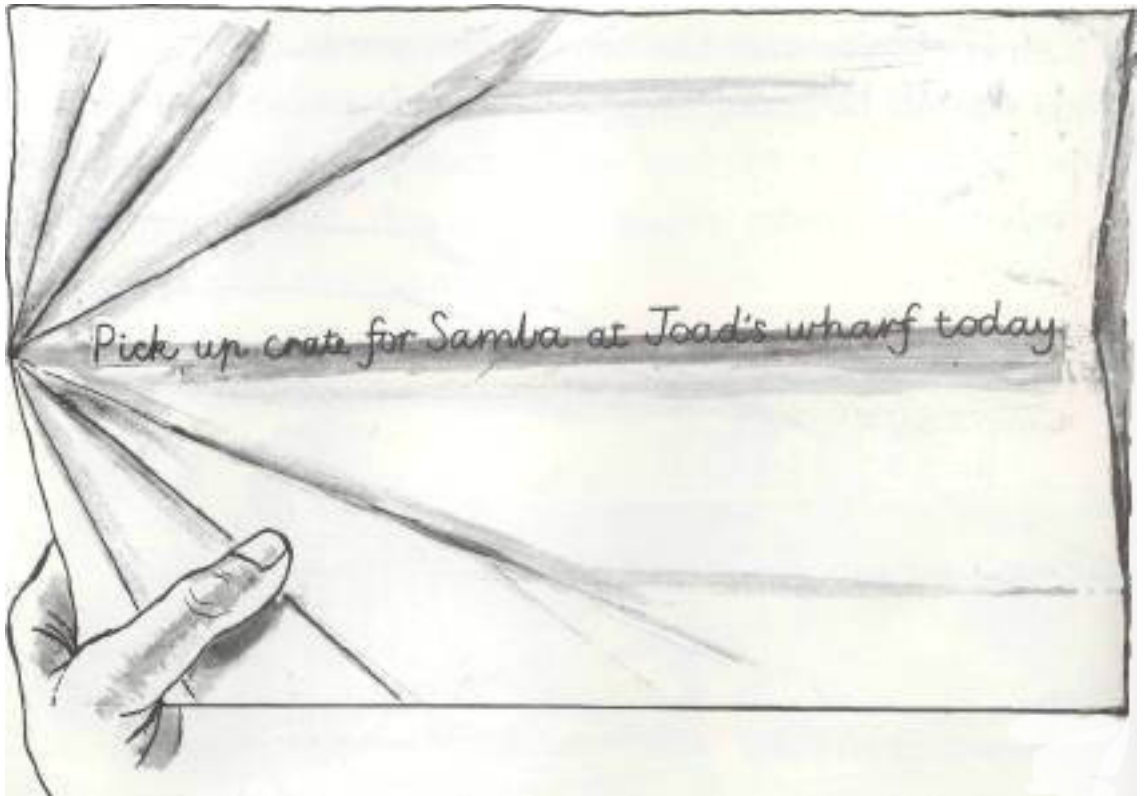
Can you read it?

- 1 Look for ten words ending in ed.
- 2 Micky made a paper plane. First write a message on a piece of paper, then make it into a plane.

4

The big job

Len opened the folded paper. He read:



Could this be the stolen crate that Bill the policeman was looking for? And who was this man Samba?

Suddenly a hand took the paper from him. It was Mr Moon's hand. 'What are you looking at?'

'N-nothing, Mr Moon,' said Len. 'I was only picking it up for you.'

'I do not like nose boys,' said Mr Moon.

'I will speak to you all later. Let us get into the boat. We have a job to do.'

The boat set off down the big river. They could see Tower Bridge. They could see the cranes swinging. Soon they came to a small wharf. Hidden under some sacking was a big crate.



Mr Moon stopped the boat by the wharf. Len got down out of sight, by the crate. He got out his knife and cut

away at the sacking. He was going to have a look at that crate. He pushed back the sacking and saw a mark:

OH/966

Was this the mark on the stolen crate?



Len looked at the paper Bill had given him. No, that was not the mark on the stolen crate. This was not the stolen engine.

Len was glad. Perhaps Mr Moon and his boys were not robbers after all. Perhaps they had not stolen the toys or the penknives or anything at all. He was glad that Micky was not a thief.

They lifted the crate into the motor boat. Then they drove up the river, back to the wharf.

'Do we put the crate in the van?' asked Micky.

'Not this one,' said Mr Moon.

'Then it can stay in the boat,' said Micky.

'Not this crate!' said Mr Moon. 'We will put it away in the shed.'

'Where is it going to, boss?' asked Micky.

'Shut up. You are all too nose! Get it into the shed!'

They all pushed and at last they lifted the crate up on to the wharf. Mr Moon did not speak until the crate was in the shed.

Later that day a big ship came up the river. She came under Tower Bridge. The roadway of Tower Bridge lifted to let her in. A tug helped her to dock.

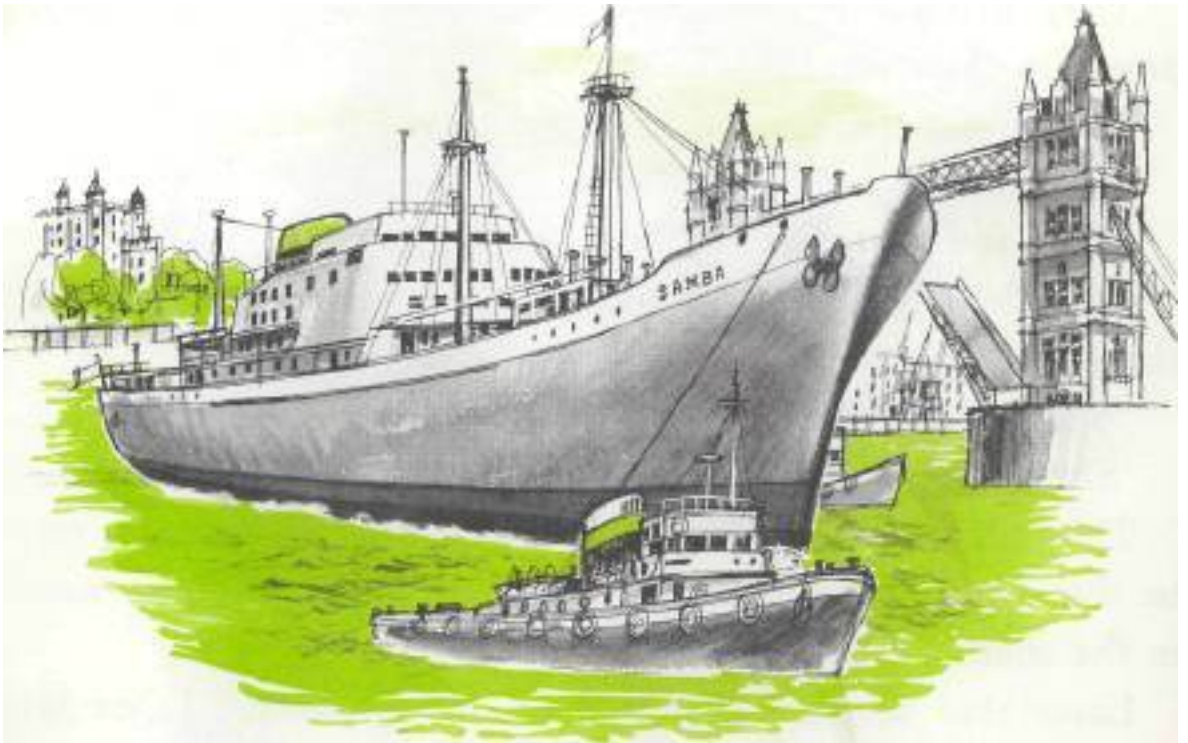
Len left Mr Moon's wharf. He kept thinking about that crate. What could be inside it? He went down to the river to think.

Pat came running up to him. 'You are late, Len,' she

said. 'Why have you not come home for tea?'

'I am sorry, Pat,' said Len, 'I want to look for that missing crate.'

They began walking along the docks. Soon they came to the big ship in dock. They looked at the name. s.s. *Samba*, 'I know that name,' said Len. 'I have seen it before.'



1 Draw a crate and write on it a mark which makes another mark when it is upside down.

Look at the map on page 24. Draw one like it and put in:

Tower Bridge tug river s.s. *SAMBBA* wharf

5

Captain Grenko

They could hear someone singing in the ship. They stopped. Suddenly some water was flung over the side of the ship. It nearly hit Pat.

'Watch out!' called Len.

A sailor looked over the side. 'Sorry,' he said. He came down the gang-plank. 'Did the water hit you? I do not think when I am singing.'

'Oh, you must not mind Len,' said Pat. 'He is cross. He cannot find the stolen crate.'

'A secret engine has been stolen in the docks . . . ' began Pat.

Len said: 'You must not tell anyone about that it is a secret!'

'I will not tell anyone,' said the sailor. 'I do not talk to anyone on this ship.'

'Why not?' asked Len.

The sailor shook his head sadly. 'It is not a happy ship, but never mind.' He began singing his song again.

'What is your name?' said Pat.

'Roy,' said the sailor, and they gave him their names.

'I like your singing,' said Pat. 'I like your song very much.'

Suddenly Len looked up and saw a man watching them from the deck. Roy saw him, too. 'That is Captain Grenko,' he said. Roy did not look happy.

Captain Grenko came down the gang-plank. He looked at them, then he went off along the dock. Roy would not sing again. 'I must go,' he said, and he went back on deck.



Pat and Len began walking home to Mrs Green's,

On the way they went by Mr Moon's wharf. Len saw that the wharf door was open. He looked in. There was a light in Mr Moon's shed. 'Sh!' said Len. They hid by some sacks.

Mr Moon came out of the shed. A man was with him. It was too dark to see who he was.

'Look, Moon,' said the man. 'See that no-one finds out. There must be no slips.'

'There will be no slips,' said Mr Moon. 'You can trust me and my boys.'

'Perhaps - but I do not trust your old boat. I shall send a fast boat and one of my men to help you. Make sure you are on time.'

The man came to the wharf door. Len and Pat were well hidden. As the man came out of the door Len saw him by the street light.

It was Captain Grenko of the s.s. *Samba*.

What was he doing at Mr Moon's?

Samba. That was the name in Mr Moon's message.



Yes or No?

Was the sailor singing? _____

Is the s.s. SAMBA a happy ship? _____

Did Mr Moon see Len and Pat? _____

Was Captain Grenko with Mr Moon? _____



LONDON

THE RIVER AND THE DOCKS



6

Is Len a thief?

Len wanted to think. Pat wanted to talk.

Len said, 'Pat, go home, will you? It is late. I will come home soon.'

'Why not now?' said Pat.

'I have a job to do,' said Len.

Len waited till Pat was out of sight, then he went on to the wharf and hid behind one of the sacks. Len was going to have a look at that crate.

Soon Mr Moon came out of the shed and left the wharf. Len ran to the shed. There was the crate. He took out his penknife. He cut the wood. It was very, very hard. Len felt hot, but he was not going to give in. He got the blade between two of the planks. 'Now!' he said to himself, 'now I can do it!'

The wharf door was open. Bill and Rover were on their rounds, making sure all was safe in the docks. The door should have been shut. Bill looked in. He did not see anything. He did not hear anything. Then, suddenly snap! What was that? It was Len's knife. The blade had snapped. The knife fell with a clatter on to the stone floor.



'Who is that?' shouted Bill.

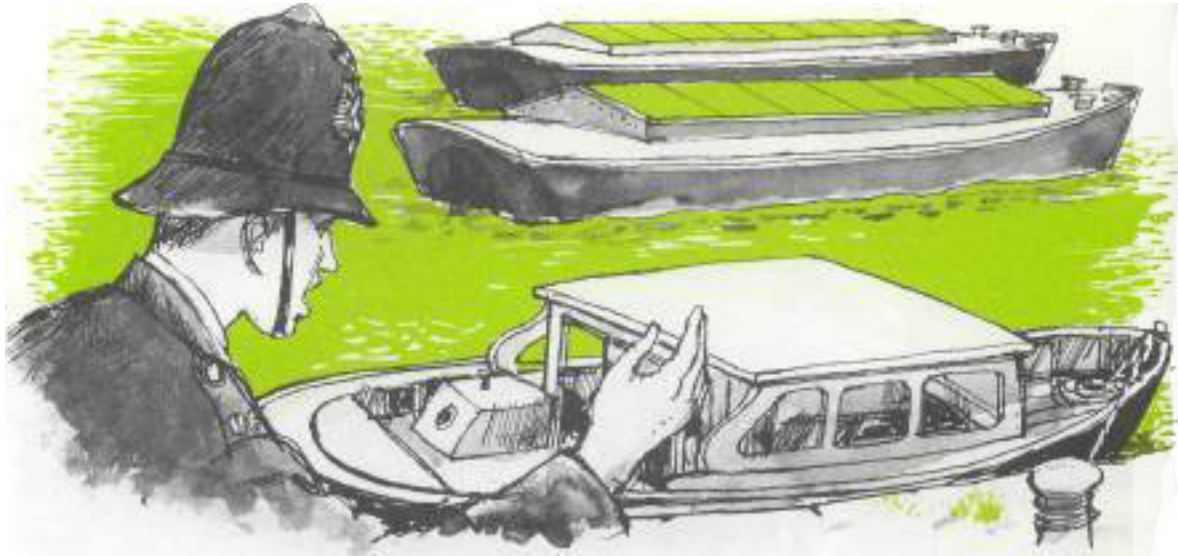
Len did not shout back. He ran out on to the wharf and jumped on to a barge.

'Go on! Flash!' said Bill. 'Get him!'

Flash ran. He jumped on to the barge too. Len ran along the barges to the next wharf, but Flash was after him. The police dog jumped from barge to barge.

Len ran fast, but Flash got him.

Then Flash knew it was Len. He liked Len. He wagged his tail. He licked Len's hand. Then he ran back to Bill.



'Why did you not catch the thief?' Flash hung his head. He did not know why Bill was cross. 'What is that?' said Bill. Something gleamed on the dark floor of the shed.

'A knife,' said Bill. 'A broken penknife! Now where have I seen that before?'

Then he knew. It was Len's knife.

Bill went home with the knife. 'Look what I have found,' he said to Mrs Green and Pat.

'Len's knife,' said Mrs Green.

'Where did you find it?' asked Pat.

'I found it in Moon's shed,' Bill said. 'A thief dropped it.'

'But Len is not a thief,' said Pat. 'Len told me he had a job to do in the wharf. He would not steal.'

'But it is Len's knife,' said Mrs Green, sadly.

'And why did he run away?' asked Bill.



'Len has been making a lot of money,' said Mrs Green.

'Len is not a thief, he is not!' shouted Pat.

Then in came Len. He looked upset.

'Len,' said Bill, 'was it you that Flash and I saw down at the docks?'

Len did not know what to say. He still had no proof that Mr Moon and Micky were robbers.

Bill gave him the broken penknife. 'This is your knife, Len. What was it doing in Moon's shed?'

Pat and Mrs Green looked very upset. 'Tell him, Len,' said Pat. But Len would not tell Bill anything.

'I am going to bed,' said Len, and off he went.

What fell on to the stone floor? _____

Who barked? _____

7

This way up

On the way to the wharf next morning, Len met Micky. 'Come along,' said Micky, 'we shall be late. We have to take the big crate away today. Moon wants us at the wharf on time.'

'Go away,' said Len.

He felt sad. He was thinking how sad Mrs Green and Pat had looked when he had left the flat that morning.

He walked on with his head down. He went under a bridge. On the bridge was Bill.

'Hello, Len,' called Bill. 'Are you going to tell me about last night?'

Len looked up. Micky looked up. He did not like policemen.

'Look, Len,' said Bill, 'if you tell me what it is perhaps I can help you. Now, for the last time, will you tell me?'

But Len did not speak. Micky was watching him.

'All right, Len,' said Bill, and he walked away over the bridge.

'What was that policeman talking about?' asked Micky.

'Nothing,' said Len.

'You are a spy,' said Micky. 'Wait till Moon hears.' He pushed Len along.

At last Len was sure Mr Moon and his boys were robbers. He wished he had told Bill about them. Now it was too late.

In the office, Micky told Mr Moon what had happened. 'Then we shall have to keep an eye on you, Len boy,' said Mr Moon. 'But we have no time for that now. When this job is over you can say what you like. Right, Micky?'

'Where is the job?' said Micky.

'Sh!' said Mr Moon. He was looking out of the office window. 'Here comes the man I have been waiting for. Now we can get to work.'

There was a tap on the door, and in came . . . Roy, the sailor from the big ship.



'The boat is waiting at the end of the wharf,' he said.
'Roy!' said Len.

'Len. What are you doing here?'

Len said to himself: 'Is Roy one of the gang too?'

Mr Moon led them to the crate. Now Len knew. The crate was to be put on the s.s. *Samba*. Len could see why Captain Grenko had sent Roy. He was so strong. He pushed the crate on to the wharf without much help. Mr Moon did not work. He just stood there, saying: 'Get on with it! Hurry up!'

At last the crate was in the motor boat. The sacking fell open where Len had cut it. There was a mark on the crate: OH/966. Then Len saw some words on the crate:

THIS WAY UP

- 1 Draw a boat with the crate in it and Mr Moon with his boys. Write a sentence about what is happening.
- 2 Find six words with three letters in them. Write them down.
- 3 Look at the map on page 24. Can you see any names from the story? Write them in your notebook.



8

Tied and gagged

Mr Moon saw the words too. He shouted at Roy: 'You have got the crate upside down.'

'Sorry Mr Moon,' said Roy. He pushed the crate over, and there was a new mark. Now it was:

996/HO



Len looked at his bit of paper. Yes, it was the mark Bill was looking for. This was the stolen crate. The engine must be in it. Micky, Dave and Mr Moon were the River Mob. He must tell Bill.

He must get away. He looked round. Mr Moon was watching the crate. No-one was watching Len.

He took one step back. No-one saw him. Mr Moon was still watching the crate.

Len took another step. Could he run for it? Suddenly, Dave came in at the gate.

'Where are you off to?' Dave said.

Len started to run.

'Come back!' shouted Mr Moon.

Len fell. Mr Moon was on him, and so were Micky and Dave.

'What is that in his hand?' said Mr Moon.

Len still had his bit of paper. Mr Moon took it.

'You are for it, Len,' he said. 'We will soon stop you from talking. Tie him up, boys. Shut him up in the shed.'



'Don't tie him up!' said Roy.

'Don't be noseey,' said Mr Moon, 'or we shall tie you up with him!'

Micky and Dave tied Len up. They gagged him too. Then they took him up into the top of the shed. Micky pushed the police note into Len's pocket. 'Take that to your policeman if you can.'

'He will not get out of here in a hurry,' said Mr Moon. 'Come on.'



The doors shut with a clang. The motor boat started up. The gang were getting away, and Len could not stop them.

It was dark in the shed. There was one small window. If Len could get to that window.

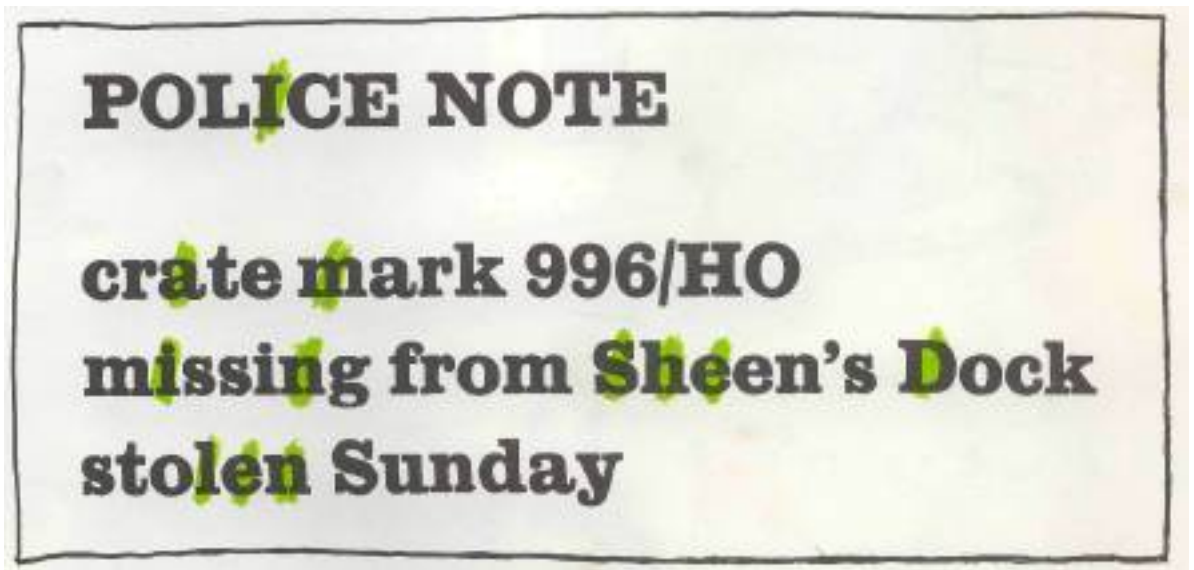
He tried to take off his gag and at last it fell off. He was tied up but he could still jump. He jumped to the window, and shouted: 'Help!'

Poor Len. There were so many sounds in the docks. No-one could hear him. He shouted again and again.

Then he saw Bill and Flash coming down the street.

'Bill! Bill!' he shouted. Bill could not hear. Len looked round. He must let Bill know where he was. Suddenly he saw a bit of paper on the floor. It was the police note. It had dropped out of his jacket. Len looked at the note. He had his broken penknife in his pocket.

As fast as he could, Len made up his message. He put the police note round the knife. Then he pushed them out of the window. Bill did not see them, but Flash did. He ran to get the paper and knife. Bill saw that it was Len's knife, and the police note he had given Len was with it. He looked at the note:



Len had marked some of the letters with his knife. He had tried to send a message to Bill.

Can you read the message?

Bill knew that the message said:

I AM IN SHED LEN

Bill did not know where the paper and knife had come from. He could see into the shed but he could not see Len.



Bill said: 'Len should not have left the police note here. Come on, Flash.'

Len watched them walking away. He shouted and waved his tied hands. No, they could not hear, they could not see.

'I must get out,' said Len. If he could hang on with his tied hands, perhaps he could get down. He began to let himself down bit by bit. Suddenly, he could not hang on. He fell. He hit the floor and was still.

He was very still.

1 Was it the same mark Bill was looking for?

2 IAMINSHEDLEN

Write this message as it should be.



9

Find the s.s. *SAMBA*

Bill walked home. He was upset. Pat came along the street.

'Uncle Bill, have you seen Len? He has not come home for his dinner,' said Pat.

'I think he must have run off with a gang,' said Bill.

'No, no,' she said, 'Len has not run off. Something must have happened to him.'

'We will go to the police station, if you like,' said Bill, 'to find out if there is any news of him.'

On the motor boat, Roy was thinking about Len. He was upset.

'You must go back and let him out,' he shouted to Mr Moon. 'He cannot be left tied up like that.'

'Shut up!' said Mr Moon. He was keeping a look-out for police boats.

'I want to get off this boat,' Roy shouted. 'What is in that crate, Mr Moon?'

Mr Moon would not speak to Roy. 'Faster! Faster!' he shouted.

Dave came along the deck. 'A message has come from the *Samba*, boss,' he said. 'They are waiting for us.'

'Good,' said Mr Moon, 'tell Micky to radio that we will be there soon.'

'I am puffed out!' said Dave. 'Send Roy.'

Mr Moon was cross with Dave. But he wrote a message and gave it to Roy. 'Take this to Micky,' he shouted.

As Roy went along the deck, he said, 'I must help Len!' He looked at the message. What did it say?

GOT ENGINE. BE WITH YOU SOON

Engine! The stolen engine! Roy knew what he was going to do.

Micky was sitting at the radio. Roy said, 'Mr Moon told me to send a message to Captain Grenko.'

'You?' said Micky. 'I work the radio.'

'Yes, but Mr Moon wants you on deck.'

Micky went off. Roy said, 'I must get a message to the Radio Control Station.' He started to tap out the message. This was the message he sent:

HE LPS O SLENTANN ERI SINMO ON SS HEDS
ECRETEN GIN EISG OI NGTOS SSA MBA OFFGRAVES..

Do you know what it said?

At the Radio Control Station one of the men worked out the message. It said:



The man sent the message to the police.

Bill and Pat were at the police station when the message came in.

'Here,' said the Inspector to Bill, 'look at this.'

They drove to Mr Moon's shed.

'Len! Len! Are you in there?' shouted Bill.

'Open the door!' shouted the Inspector.

They pushed. The door fell open. There was Len on the floor. They ran to him.

'How are you, lad?' asked the Inspector.

'Not too bad,' said Len. But he had no time to think about himself. 'The engine . . .'

'We know, lad. We have been sent a message. Who is this man Offgraves?'

'Offgraves?' Len did not know anyone called Offgraves.

'We must find this s.s. *Samba*!' said the Inspector.

'I know where she is!' said Len.

'Good lad! You show us,' said the Inspector.

They drove as fast as they could to the dock where Len had last seen the s.s. *Samba*. But there was nothing in the dock.

'The s.s. *Samba*?' said a man on the dock. 'The s.s. *Samba* sailed on the midnight tide.'



1 Read this code. Le nha dno tcom ehom efo rhi stea.

And this one. Ro ysai d Imus thel plen.

2 Make up a code message and send it to your friend.

After them!

The Inspector and Bill looked at Len. The Inspector was very upset.

'The engine must be on some other ship,' he said. 'This message was not right.'

Len looked at the message. He shook his head.

'Engine going to s.s. *Samba*.' Yes, it did say that. And Len felt sure that Captain Grenko knew about this. He looked again. Offgraves. Who was 'Offgraves'? Then Len gave a shout.

'That is not a man's name! There is no end to the message. I think Roy sent this message. He must have been stopped. The message is: "Engine going to s.s. *Samba* off Graves- "something.'

'Gravesend!' shouted the Inspector. 'The lad is right. They are waiting off Gravesend. We must stop Moon before he gets to the *Samba* at Gravesend. Moon must be stopped!'

'Come on,' said the Inspector to Len and Pat. 'Get in the car. We need you. You know what Moon's boat looks like. Tell the River Police. As fast as you can,' he shouted.

Mr Moon and his boys had been fighting Roy. They had got him down and he was still.


'They will be after us now,' said Moon. 'This has messed up everything!'

'No, boss,' said Dave. 'He did not have time to send all the message. It will be all right.'

'You shut up,' shouted Mr Moon. 'If it had not been for you we would not be in this mess.'

'Let us get to Gravesend. Get this motor boat going. As fast as we can.'

The motor boat shot away down the river. Faster and faster it went.



The police car went very fast along the road to Gravesend. Its light flashed on and off, off and on. The Inspector took a radio message. 'The River Police cannot find the motor boat,' he said, 'but they are still looking for it and are making for Gravesend.'

'I always knew you were not a thief,' said Pat.

'No,' said Bill, 'but you should have told us about them, Len, from the start.'

'Yes, I am sorry, Bill,' said Len, 'I felt I had to find some proof before I told you.'

They were at Gravesend. They all ran down to the wharf. A police boat was there. There were many boats down on the river, but Len knew what to look for. 'There

is Mr Moon's boat!' he shouted.

'There is the boat we all want. After it!' shouted the Inspector.

Mr Moon was making for the open sea. He was a long way off. Could they catch him?

Mr Moon had seen them 'Faster, faster!' he was shouting.

Suddenly, Mr Moon's boat went out of control. Roy had got up and taken the wheel. Mr Moon and his boys jumped



on him, but he hung on to the wheel. Now the River Police came. Could they catch Moon? A fast boat was soon alongside. There were too many policemen for the River Mob. Soon the fight was over. But Len and Pat could not see Roy.

Then suddenly Pat said, 'Can you hear singing?'

Yes, there was Roy. He was singing his song.

'Roy! Roy!' Len and Pat called to him. Roy waved. His happy song rang out over the water.



