

illustrated

READERS

JULES VERNE



THE  
**MYSTERIOUS**  
ISLAND

retold by Virginia Evans – Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing



# Jules Verne

Jules Verne was born in Nantes, France on 8 February 1828. He was the oldest of five children. His father was a lawyer and his mother came from a family that owned a shipbuilding business. Young Jules Verne loved the sea. When he was twelve years old, he ran away and hid on a ship going to the West Indies, but he was found and sent back home.

In 1847, his father sent him to Paris to study law. While in Paris, Verne became fascinated with the theatre and began to write plays. He passed his

law degree in 1849, but continued to write for the theatre. In 1857, he married Honorine Morel and took a job as a stockbroker. In 1863, his first novel, *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, was published. It was a great success and made him rich. Verne wrote many other adventure books such as *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *Around the World in Eighty Days* and *From the Earth to the Moon*.

Jules Verne died in Amiens, France on 24 March 1905. In his books, he predicted many future events and discoveries that have since come true.

Read Jules Verne's biography and answer the following questions.

- 1 Where and when was Jules Verne born?  
.....
- 2 Where did he try to go when he was twelve years old?  
.....
- 3 Where did he study law?  
.....
- 4 What was the title of his first novel?  
.....
- 5 Where and when did Jules Verne die?  
.....

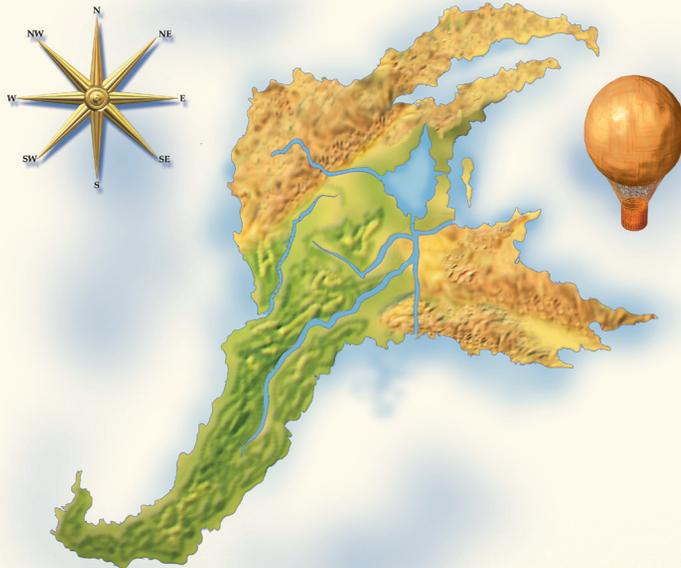


# The Mysterious Island

First published in 1875, *The Mysterious Island* is one of Jules Verne's most popular adventure stories.

The story begins during the American Civil War. Four men, a boy and a dog escape from an enemy town in a hot-air balloon. They land on a strange island where they have many adventures and mysterious things happen.

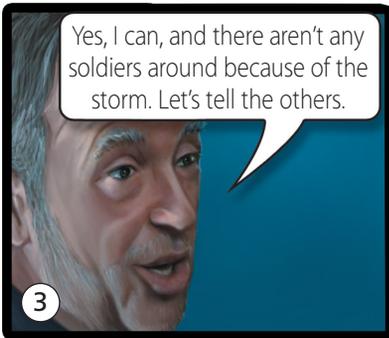
*The Mysterious Island* is the third part in a trilogy which includes *In Search of the Castaways* and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. It has been adapted and filmed many times and, in 1995, it was made into a (22-part) series for television.



# 1. THE ESCAPE

In 1865, during the American Civil War, four men and a boy are prisoners of war in an enemy town.

One stormy night ...



That night four men, a boy and a dog escape in the balloon.



4

The storm is terrible and the wind carries them far out over the sea.





That's better. We're all right now.

No, Neb, we're still too heavy. We'll fall soon.

6

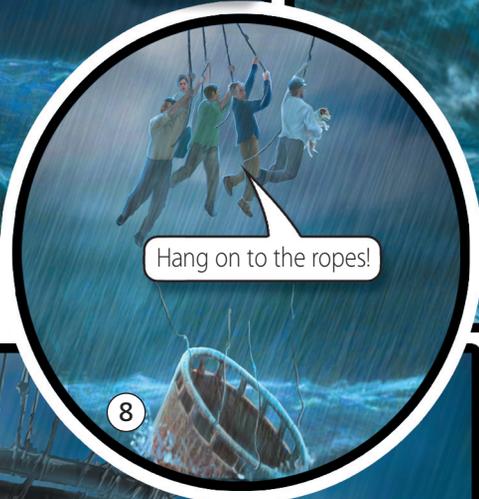


A few hours later, the balloon begins to drop again.

Oh, no! We're falling into the sea.

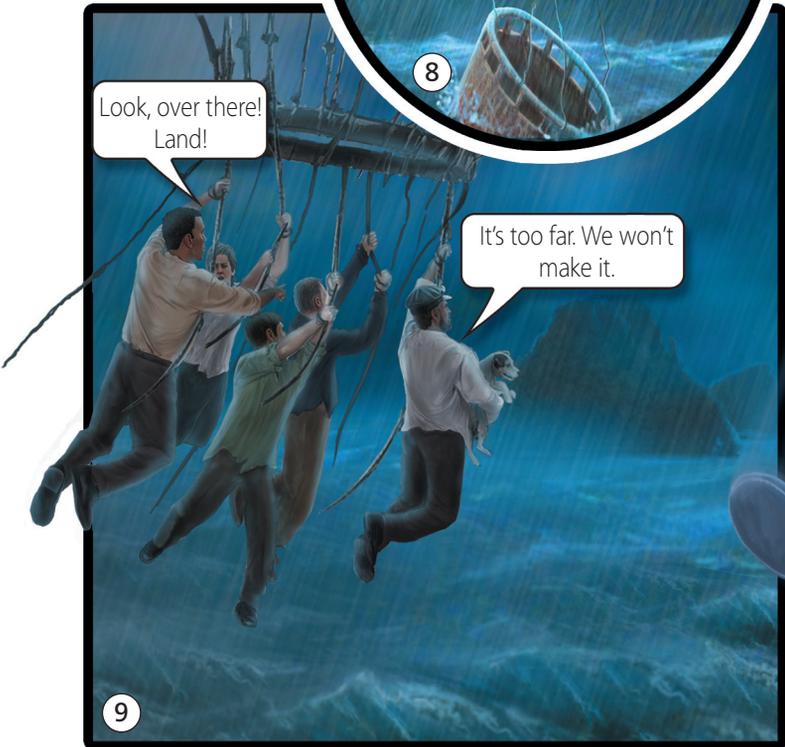
Cut the ropes! Drop the basket!

7



Hang on to the ropes!

8



Look, over there! Land!

It's too far. We won't make it.

9



10

Cyrus! Cyrus!

Aagh!

Suddenly, a huge wave crashes into the men and Cyrus falls into the sea.

9



# 7.

## A GIFT AND A LETTER

### activities



#### *Before Reading*

- 1 Look at the title of the episode. What do you think the gift is?
- 2 Look at pictures 1 and 5. How is Herbert different in the two pictures? What do you think happened?



#### *While Reading*

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and correct the words in bold.
  - 1 The men take turns caring for **Pencroff**.
  - 2 I found this **glass** next to Herbert's bed.
  - 3 The **fresh water** works.
  - 4 I think **Herbert** wants us to follow him.
  - 5 Go down the **rope** at the back of your cave.
  - 6 We're going to meet our **new** helper.
- 4 Read or listen to the episode and put the events in the correct order.
  - .... The medicine works and Herbert gets better.
  - .... They follow Top to a small cave.
  - .... Pencroff says it is medicine.
  - .... They find a letter from the mysterious helper.
  - .... Neb finds a bottle on the table.
  - !.. The men take care of Herbert.



#### *After Reading*

- 5 Read and listen again, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 In pairs, discuss how you think the mysterious helper put the medicine on the table.
- 7 What do you think will happen in the next episode?





### Before Reading

- 1 Look at the title and pictures in this episode. What kind of journey do the men go on? Have you ever travelled underground? How?



### While Reading

- 2 Read or listen to the episode and say who/what the words in bold refer to.

- 1 I'll shout up to **you**.
- 2 Are **you** all right?
- 3 I can see something ahead.
- 4 What is **that**?

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and then answer the questions.

- 1 How do the men get to the bottom of the shaft?
- 2 What do they find at the bottom of the shaft?
- 3 What happens to Cyrus in picture 4? Why doesn't he get hurt?
- 4 Where is the bright light coming from?
- 5 Who do you think they will find there?

- 4 Read or listen again and find words which mean the same as the phrases below.

- 1 below the earth = \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 middle part of your body = \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 speak loudly = \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 use oars = \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 ship that travels underwater = \_\_\_\_\_



### After Reading

- 5 Read and listen again, then take roles and act out the episode.
- 6 Would you like to travel by submarine? What do you think it would be like? Discuss with the class.
- 7 What do you think will happen in the next episode?



# THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND

One night, four men and a boy, who are prisoners of war, escape in a hot-air balloon. They travel for five days in a dangerous storm and then crash on a very strange island. During their adventures on the island, they realise that someone is watching them. Who is this unknown person? And will they ever escape from the Mysterious Island?

#### Components:

- Reader
- Audio CD



Level 1   Level 2   Level 3   Level 4   Level 5

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