

SAIL AWAY IN A STORY

Story Starters

Choose a story starter that interests you and continue telling the story.

Justin Somper

When I drew back my curtains, the last thing I expected to see in our small back garden was a boat. Or rather, it would be more accurate to say... a ship! What on earth was it doing there?

Could it be Dad's latest crazy restoration project – inspired by too many episodes of The Repair Shop? Stepping barefoot across the dewy grass toward the ship, I felt a vague sense of unease. I stood, rooted to the ground in front of it, chills spreading through my body. I heard a voice call my name. At first I thought it was Mum, calling me back inside. Then it came again.

It wasn't Mum... Or Dad... Or any voice that I recognised. Nonetheless, this voice knew my name. And it was coming from inside the newly-arrived ship...

Anthony Burt

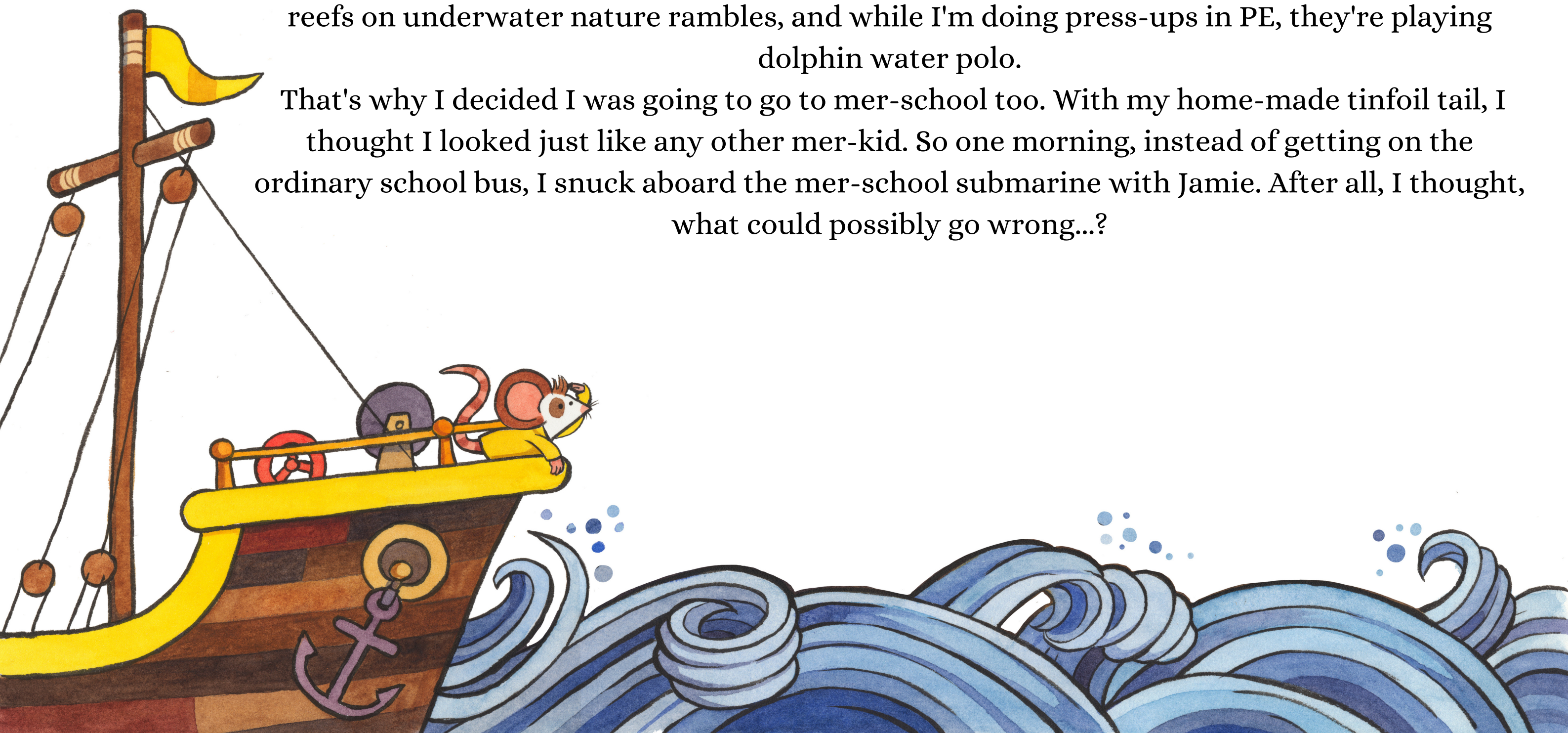
The storm raged around the tiny trawler. The boat flew into the air, off the crest of a huge wave, and hammered back down into the water with a roar. From where David sat, in the boat's cabin, the sea looked like a wild white-blue rug. One that a giant was flicking up and down.

David gripped the old notebook in his hand. This was the place. He could feel it. And, as Lucy stumbled across the cabin, her wet hair covering her face, David glanced down at the last words his father had written in the notebook before he disappeared...

Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre

Having a mermaid for a twin isn't easy. We're not identical twins. Jamie has a fish tail and all I got was a bit of webbing behind my ears. I go to school on land, but Jamie's at mer-school. While I'm stuck at my desk in the classroom, Jamie's class are swimming around the coral reefs on underwater nature rambles, and while I'm doing press-ups in PE, they're playing dolphin water polo.

That's why I decided I was going to go to mer-school too. With my home-made tinfoil tail, I thought I looked just like any other mer-kid. So one morning, instead of getting on the ordinary school bus, I snuck aboard the mer-school submarine with Jamie. After all, I thought, what could possibly go wrong...?



Terms and Conditions

Competition is open to all UK children aged 5 and up.

Entries can be submitted via email to nssm@fcbg.org or via post to NSSM, 54 Alexandra Road, Ipswich, IP4 2RN.

Stories should be no more than 1000 words and must begin with one of the story starters provided.

The entrant's name, age, school or book group should be clearly printed on their entry, plus an adult contact name and email address.

If submitted via email please ensure text is high quality and legible.

Entries must be received by 1 June 2023.

**Shortlisting will be done by a FCBG group.
Guest judges will choose winners in each category.**

**Prizes will be awarded in the following categories
5-8, 9-12 and 13+**

Prizes of bundles of books will be awarded to the three category winners. The overall winner (representing a school or book group) will also receive either a virtual or an in-person visit by Julia Green, by arrangement and subject to circumstances.