



2 THE GREAT RIVER

2 This time, when he opened his eyes, Liam thought he was back in his own world, in his own time.

The sun was setting and the water was red like the sky. For a moment, he thought that he was looking at the sea near his house. But then he realised that he could see the dark shapes of trees on the other side of the water. So this definitely wasn't the sea. It was a lake or a big river. Where was he?

He suddenly felt anxious. Where was Rose? Was she still with him? Was she OK? He turned... and there she was, near him, looking at the shining water. The light was glowing on her face.

'Where do you think we are?' he asked.

'I don't know,' she said. 'I mean that's a huge river.'

'Maybe it's a lake.'

'No way,' said Rose, 'Look now for it goes in both directions. And the water's moving. This is a river. I don't know much about the geography of the world. Do you have any rivers this big?'

Liam shook his head.

'We could be anywhere in the world,' he said.

They stood on the edge of the great river, thinking.

As the minute passed, they heard the croaking of frogs and toads, the buzzing of mosquitoes, the squeaking of bats. There were other sounds, too. Strange animal sounds they couldn't identify.

GLOSSARY

- **anxious:** worried; nervous
- **bats:** small flying mammals
- **glowing:** shining
- **huge:** very big
- **identify:** name; recognise
- **mosquitoes:** small insects
- **setting:** going down
- **toads:**





Musterseite
www.helpfor.com

Liam spoke first.

'I can't see any signs of people. No houses, no lights.'

'There's no sign of any planes either,' said Rose.

'Maybe we're in the middle of nowhere.'

'Or maybe we're a long, long way in the past.'

'How long?' asked Liam.

'I don't know. Prehistoric times. The age of the dinosaurs.'

'Do you think that's possible?'

'Everything is possible, Liam.'

They didn't admit it but they both felt scared. Rose changed the subject.

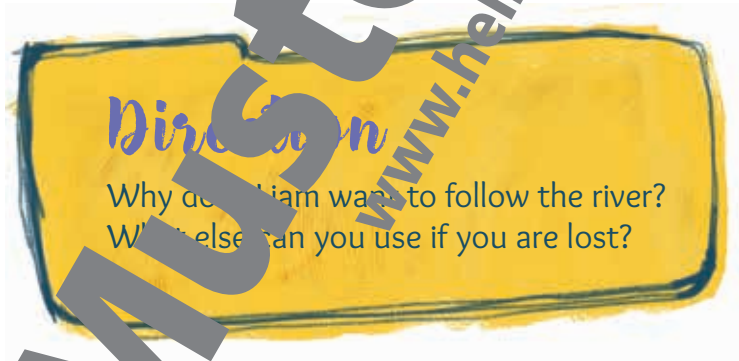
'I don't know about you but I'm starving.'

'Me too! Let's see if we can find something to eat.'

'Which way do you want to go,' asked Rose.

'Well, the river's flowing in that direction. Let's follow the water,' Liam suggested.

They started walking.



GLOSSARY

- **admit:** (here) say; confirm
- **flowing:** (here) moving
- **signs:** (here) things that show something was there
- **starving:** very hungry



Musterseite
www.helbling.com

They walked through tall trees that were growing on the water's edge. The top branches were glowing in the light of the setting sun. It was getting dark. Sometimes they heard birds calling out or saw them flying from branch to branch. Sometimes they heard the noises of small animals. All the time they were thinking about other animals, bigger animals, animals with scaly skin and long tails and sharp pointed teeth.

Then Rose said, 'Stop.'

'What is it?' Liam asked.

Rose didn't answer. She was listening.

'I can hear something,' Rose said. 'Something big.'

'Where?' asked Liam, looking around and examining the shadows.

'It's coming from the water.'

And now Liam could hear it, and it was the sound of loud splashing, again and again. Something was moving through the water. Was it some gigantic prehistoric animal? Then he also heard a mechanical noise.

Noise

How many different noises can Liam and Rose hear? Find them in the text.

What other noises can you hear in a forest?

GLOSSARY

- **mechanical:** made by machines
- **scaly:** covered with scales like fish or snakes

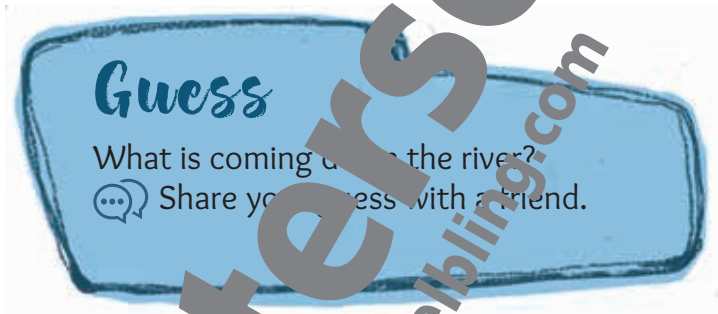
- **shadows:**



- **splashing:** sound in water

They nervously walked down to the bank of the river. The sound was much louder here. The thing was getting closer. But still they couldn't see anything.

Then suddenly they saw red, yellow and white lights on the river. The lights floated high up in the air and reflected in the water. Behind the lights, they could see a large dark shape. And on its side moved a ghostly white thing, like a wing, or a wheel...



-
- **floated:** moved lightly over water or in air
 - **ghostly:** like a ghost
 - **reflected:** showed a mirror image

And then, at the same time, they cried out, 'It's a steamboat!'





- 1 Work with a friend. Find the following animals in the picture.

frog snake mole alligator
toad bat bear deer eagle

- 2 Go to Helbling e-zone to listen to the animals and find out more about them.

- 3 Go to Helbling e-zone to do the steamboat activity.

e-ZONE ONLINE ACTIVITIES
Poster Page

Their terrifying vision of a prehistoric monster disappeared as the steamboat moved past them. It was very large and had three decks. The big white wheel turned around and around, pushing it forward.

'It could be a tourist boat,' said Rose excitedly. 'Maybe we are back in our own time. And, I think this might be the Mississippi River.'

Rivers of the world

Label the five longest rivers in the world on the map.
Which countries do they flow through?



- a Mississippi
- b Amazon
- c Yangtze
- d Nile
- e Yenisei

Did you know? Scientists cannot agree on which is the longest river in the world: the Nile or the Amazon. This is because rivers are always changing and they are very hard to measure. Think. How can you measure a river?



3 A WALK IN THE DARK

‘This is the Mississippi River. I’m sure of it,’ said Rose.
‘The Mississippi,’ repeated Liam. It sounded so romantic and exciting. ‘I read about it at school. It’s one of the longest rivers in the world.’

‘Yeah, and it flows through ten states.’

‘Wow, that’s amazing.’

Rose pointed at the coloured lights. They were moving away into the distance.

‘The boat’s going in our direction,’ she said. ‘That’s good news because it’s definitely heading for a town. We can eat something when we get there.’

They set off again, following the steam boat. While they were walking, Liam remembered another fact about the great river.

‘Erm, the Mississippi...’ he said. ‘Is it safe? Are there alligators in it?’

‘That’s right,’ said Rose. ‘And there are poisonous snakes, too, so watch where you put your feet.’

They laughed, but Liam felt uneasy. Alligators and snakes weren’t dinosaurs, but they were dangerous!

‘Hey Liam,’ said Rose, ‘what are you going to eat when we get to town?’

‘Oh, a burger I think. A really big one.’

‘I’m going to have a pizza with all the toppings,’ said Rose.

‘And I’m going to have a big plate of chips,’ added Liam.

‘Chips, yeah, mes. Me too.’

‘We’ve just got one problem,’ said Liam. ‘No money. How are we going to pay for our dinner?’

‘Let’s worry about that when we get there. Come on. Hurry up!’

GLOSSARY

- **poisonous:** that have poison (substance that can make you ill or kill you)
- **states:** (here) regions
- **toppings:** extra food on top (here olives, salami, cheese etc.)
- **uneasy:** nervous; worried