

but it was very difficult. My feet came down on the sea floor, but the sea floor moved with me. What was under my feet?

For a long time we didn't stop walking, and then I had the answer to my question. There were old houses on the sea floor! But why were there buildings here in the Atlantic, under three hundred metres of water?

The sea floor went up. Captain Nemo stopped walking and started to write with his hand in the water: 'ATLANTIS'.

Atlantis! There were many stories about this underwater country, but for many people they were only stories. I looked down. There was a big town on the sea floor. For a long time, I didn't move. I was one of the first people in Atlantis for hundreds of years. I wanted to remember it.

After our visit to Atlantis, the *Nautilus* didn't stop. For many weeks, the sun was very strong. Then the air started to get cold and there was ice in the sea. We were in the seas of the Antarctic.

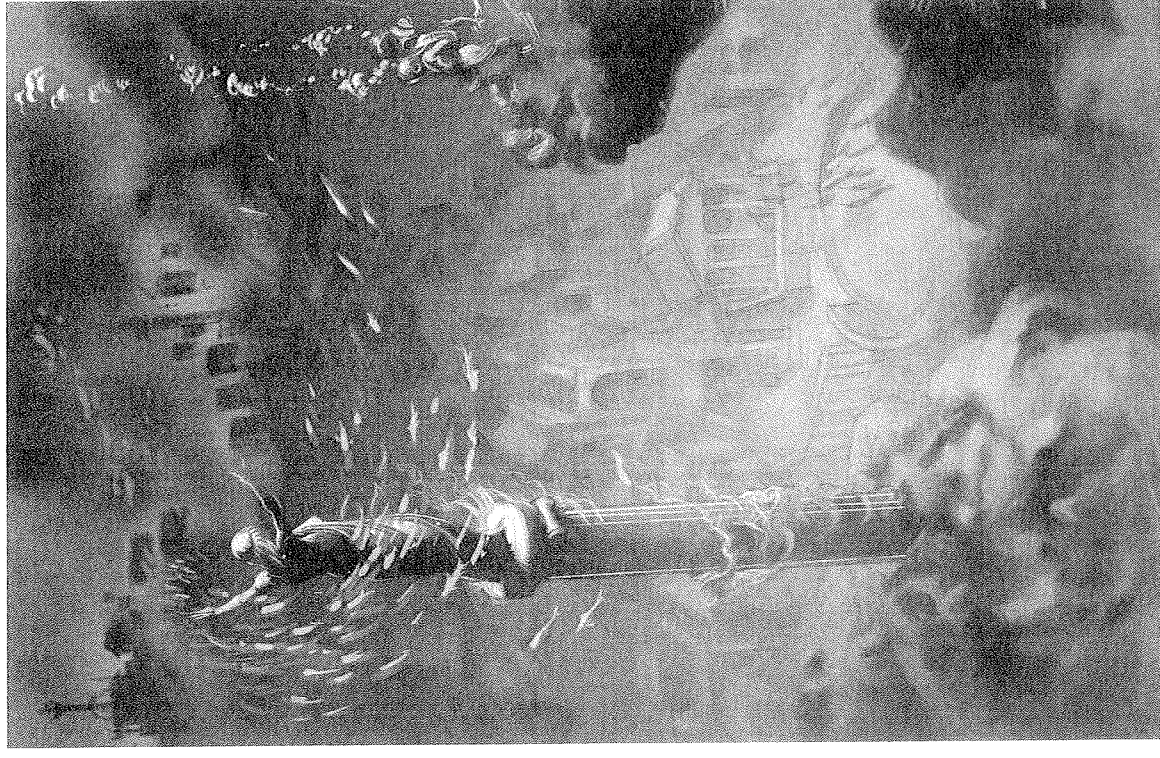
Four days after the first ice, the *Nautilus* stopped. There was ice in front of us and ice behind us.

'We can't move,' Ned said to Conseil and me. 'How are we going to escape from the ice?'

But Captain Nemo came to us and said, 'We're going to be the first people at the South Pole. We can get there in a submarine, because there's water under this ice. There's only one problem: we can't come up for air.'

The *Nautilus* went down and down. At three hundred metres, we were under the ice and there was water in front of us again. We started to move quickly to the South Pole. After a day, we were under a thousand metres of ice. But the morning after that, there were only fifty metres of ice ... then twenty ... ten ... five ... And then the *Nautilus* came up into the air and the open sea. We were at the South Pole!

It wasn't very cold – perhaps 3°C. We stayed there for three



*I looked down. There was a big town on the sea floor.*

happy days and looked at a lot of interesting animals and fish. Then we went under the ice again.

That night, there was a big noise. Captain Nemo said, 'The ice moved at the wrong time, and now we've got a problem. We're under three hundred metres of ice, but there's ice under us, too, and on our left and right. We're in a tunnel. But in front of us there's water, and it's going to take us up to the air.'

The *Nautilus* moved quickly in the tunnel, but then there was a noise again. There was now ice in front of us, too. The *Nautilus* started to go back. The same noise. Ice behind us.

'We're all dead!' Ned Land said.

'We've got air for two days,' Captain Nemo answered. 'After that, who knows? But there are only ten metres of ice under the *Nautilus*; under that, there's water again. We can make a hole in the ice with knives and spears, and the *Nautilus* can escape from the tunnel into open water.'

We dressed in diving suits and started to work with the knives and spears. But it was a big job – perhaps four or five days' work. And we didn't have five days ...

After three days, we were all ill because there wasn't any new air. But we didn't stop working.

Captain Nemo worked with us. Then he said, 'Into the submarine, all of you! There are only two metres of ice under us now. The *Nautilus* is going to do our work for us.'

The *Nautilus* was strong and heavy. It went down into our hole again and again. The ice started to move, and suddenly we were in open water.

But there wasn't any air on the boat, and we were all very ill. The *Nautilus* moved under the ice. We waited and waited. I closed my eyes and started to sleep. Or was I dead?

Then, suddenly, my eyes opened. What was that noise?

'The *Nautilus* is hitting ice again, but this ice is thin,' Conseil said. 'Perhaps we're going to be OK.'



*We started to work with the knives and spears.*

The *Nautilus* tried again and again. First there were small holes in the ice. Then, suddenly, there was one big hole. The *Nautilus* went up into it. We weren't dead! We had air!

## Chapter 7 Goodbye to the *Nautilus*

After our visit to the Antarctic, we didn't see Captain Nemo very often. The *Nautilus* went up the coast of South and North America. We wanted to escape, but every night there was a problem: we weren't near the coast, or the sea was difficult.

Then we went across the Atlantic to Europe and arrived in British waters.

Suddenly, there was a big noise: *Boom!* We looked across the sea. There was a big boat three leagues away.

'It was that boat!' Ned said. 'It wants to hit the *Nautilus* and kill us all.'

'Which country is it from?' I asked.

'I can't see,' Ned answered.

*Boom!* Water went up into the air only five metres from the *Nautilus*.

Captain Nemo arrived. He was very angry, and he didn't look at us. He looked at the boat across the water and said, 'First you take my country and my family, and now you want to kill me too. But can you find me underwater? No! The *Nautilus* is going to hit your boat and kill you all.'

I wanted to stop the captain, but he didn't listen to me. The *Nautilus* moved away from the coast, and the boat came after us. Then we went underwater. For a short time it was quiet. Then we started to move very quickly. Suddenly, the boat was in front of us. The *Nautilus* went into it.

There was a big hole in the boat now. A lot of water went in,

and the boat started to go down slowly under the sea. There were hundreds of men in the water. Captain Nemo watched them quietly. In a short time, they were all dead.

Nemo went back to his bedroom. I looked at him from the door. He was on the floor, and in his hands there was a photograph of a beautiful young woman and two small children. His dead family!

After that unhappy day, we went up the coasts of Britain and Norway and into the seas of the Arctic. For a week, Ned, Conseil and I didn't see Captain Nemo and his men.

Then one day Ned said, 'I can see the coast. It isn't near, but I can't stay on the *Nautilus*. I want to be home – or dead in the sea.'

I wanted to be away from the submarine, too. 'You're right, Ned,' I answered. 'Let's escape this evening.'

'I'm going to put food in the little boat. Be there at ten,' he said.

At ten o'clock, I went to the little boat. Ned and Conseil were there before me.

'OK, put the boat in the water,' Ned said.

But suddenly, there were noises from Nemo's men. Did they know about our escape?

'The Maelstrom, the Maelstrom!' the men said.

This was a big problem. All seamen know about the Maelstrom. Some of the seas of the Arctic move very quickly, and in one place, two of those seas meet. There, a giant hole opens in the water. Boats and whales ten leagues away can't escape it. The Maelstrom takes them all down to the sea floor.

The Maelstrom now wanted the *Nautilus*. We looked at the big hole in the sea in front of us. 'The Maelstrom's going to kill us!' we said.

There was a noise, and our little boat went into the sea. I went in, too. My head went under the water. Then my eyes closed . . .



I opened my eyes. Ned and Conseil were there. We were in the house of a Norwegian seaman.

How did we get here? We don't remember. But in a short time, we can go home. Every day we talk about the *Nautilus*. We have a lot of questions, but perhaps we are never going to know the answers. Where did Captain Nemo come from? Who killed his family? Did he and his men escape from the Maelstrom? And where is he now?

## ACTIVITIES

### Chapters 1–2

*Before you read*

- 1 Look at the Word List at the back of the book. Talk about these questions.
  - a What do you know about *whales*? Can you see whales near the coast in your country?
  - b What do you know about boats in the 1800s? Were there any *submarines* at that time?
  - c What can make *holes* in boats?
  - d What is a *scientist's* job? Name two famous scientists.
- 2 Look at the pictures in this book. What can you see? Is this a happy or an unhappy story? Why? What do you think?

*While you read*

- 3 Who says:
  - a 'It wasn't a whale.'
  - b 'I don't understand this hole.'
  - c 'You're famous for your books about sea animals.'
  - d 'One small whale has a long spear on its head.'
  - e 'You're never going to find this whale.'
  - f 'Let's swim, and wait for morning.'
  - g 'I'm going to escape from this submarine.'
  - h 'What can I do with you?'

*After you read*

- 4 Why are these people on the *Abraham Lincoln*?  
Mr Aronnax    Conseil    Ned Land
- 5 Talk about these boats. What do we know about them?  
the *Scotia*    the *Abraham Lincoln*    the *Nautilus*

- 6 Work with two friends. You are Mr Aronnax, Conseil and Ned Land. You are on the *Nautilus* and you want to go home. What are you going to do?

### Chapters 3–5

*Before you read*

- 7 Look at the picture on pages 6–7. Where is the *Nautilus* now? Where is it going? What do you know about these places?

*While you read*

- 8 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗)?
- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a Captain Nemo gets food from the sea.                    | ..... |
| b The submarine is a good home for a scientist.           | ..... |
| c Ned is happy on the <i>Nautilus</i> .                   | ..... |
| d The men eat the animals in the Trees of Crespo.         | ..... |
| e The Papuans give food to Ned.                           | ..... |
| f The <i>Nautilus</i> stays on the coral reef for a week. | ..... |
| g The <i>Nautilus</i> goes to Egypt, then to Crete.       | ..... |
| h The gold is for Captain Nemo and his men.               | ..... |

*After you read*

- 9 Work with a friend. Ask and answer questions.

Who are these people?

- a They make shirts and shoes from sea animals.
- b He was the builder of the *Nautilus*.
- c He doesn't like eating a lot of fish.
- d They sometimes eat people.
- e They want to be Greek.
- f He gives gold to unhappy people in many countries.

- 10 Work with a friend. Look at a picture on pages 6–7. Where was the coral reef? Where is the *Nautilus* now? Where is the submarine going to go?

### Chapters 6–7

*Before you read*

- 11 The *Nautilus* is going to visit these places. What do you know about them?

Atlantis      the Antarctic      Norway

- 12 Are Mr Aronnax, Conseil and Ned Land going to escape from the *Nautilus*? How? Is Captain Nemo going to stay on the *Nautilus*? What do you think?

*While you read*

- 13 What happens first? Number these sentences, 1–6.

- a They go to the South Pole. ....
- b They visit an underwater town. ....
- c They see the Maelstrom. ....
- d Captain Nemo kills a lot of people. ....
- e Mr Aronnax and his friends are in a house in Norway. ....
- f There is no air in the submarine. ....

*After you read*

- 14 You are one of these people. Talk about your problems.

- a Captain Nemo. The *Nautilus* isn't moving in the ice.
- b Mr Aronnax. There is a big boat near the *Nautilus*.
- c Ned Land. You can see the Maelstrom.

### Writing

- 15 Look at the first picture in the book. You are the newspaperman in the tall hat. Write a story for your newspaper.

- 16 You are one of Captain Nemo's men. Write a letter to your family from the *Nautilus*, before the Maelstrom. Do you like working on the *Nautilus*? Is Captain Nemo a good man? Do you want to stay on the submarine? Why (not)?

- 17 You are a friend of Mr Aronnax. You are going to visit him in Norway. What are you going to ask him? Write five questions and Mr Aronnax's answers.

- 18** You are Ned. Write a letter to your sister in Canada. How are you? How did you arrive in Norway? Who are you with? When are you going to see your sister again?
- 19** Where are Captain Nemo and his men? Where is the *Nautilus* going? Who – or what – are they going to meet? Write a new story about the *Nautilus*.
- 20** Mr Aronmax is going to visit your country. He wants to know about interesting and beautiful places. You are going to telephone him. What are you going to say? Write ten sentences.

## WORD LIST with example sentences

air (n) Fish can't live for a long time in the *air*.  
 captain (n) The *captain* went to sea with fifty men on his boat.  
 coast (n) I love the sea, and I have a holiday on the *coast* every year.  
 coral reef (n) Some beautiful fish live in the *coral reef*, only four or five metres under the sea.  
 diving suit (n) In a *diving suit*, you can stay underwater for a long time.  
 escape (n/v) We can't *escape* from this room, because there are no windows.  
 fish (n) We eat a lot of *fish*, because we live near the sea.  
 giant (adj) It was a *giant* shoe, perhaps two metres long.  
 gold (n) You can't take that *gold* from the bank in a bag! It's very heavy.  
 hole (n) My shoes are very old. They've got *holes* in them.  
 ice (n) After rain and a cold night, there was *ice* on the roads.  
 kill (v) He's dead, of course. But what *killed* him?  
 league (n) The boat's a *league* away – about 5,000 metres.  
 metre (n) He's two *metres* tall.  
 scientist (n) Einstein was a German *scientist*.  
 servant (n) My *servants* do my housework for me.  
 spear (n) A *spear* can kill a man from twenty metres away.  
 submarine (n) I work underwater, on a *submarine*.  
 tunnel (n) There's a *tunnel* under the sea from England to France.  
 whale (n) There aren't many *whales* in our seas now. *Whalers* kill them, because they can make a lot of money from dead whales.

