SHIPWRECKED!



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PM

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Shipwrecked!

Level 28

Running Words 4431 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)

Curriculum Area Humanities – History

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the story in his or her own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 What were the living conditions like below deck?
2 How did John know so much about animals?
3 Why did John tether the goat near the horse?

Inferential

4 Why was the doctor kind to John?
5 Why did the convicts have to wear chains on board the ship?
6 What did the quartermaster mean when he said that saving the turkey helped ensure there would be food in the new settlement?
7 Why were so many different kinds of animals brought on board the ship?
8 Why did John's heart race when the captain was angry with him?
9 What did the captain mean when he roared, *"ALL HANDS ON DECK."*?
10 Why was John given the job of animal keeper in the new settlement?

Applied Knowledge

11 Why were convicts, rather than tradespeople, transported to Australia?
12 Why was a new settlement being built?
13 Why were convicts as young as John transported so far away?

Vocabulary

Replace the verb 'linger' in this sentence:
"Please don't linger with this young convict"

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 28 Book Narrative *Wildfire*

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Chapter 1

On Board a Convict Ship



The *clink clink* of wrist chains sounded every time John moved his broom across the deck.

"Sweep faster, boy!" the marine shouted, giving him a firm shove. "Weren't you a chimney sweep before you took to stealin'? Sweepin' is sweepin'. Get on with it!"

John put his head down, concentrating on his work.

He was grateful to be up here, out in the fresh sea air, instead of below deck with the adult convicts. It was dirty, dark and overcrowded down there. The doctor had felt sorry for the boy, because John was so young, and he had asked the captain to grant John permission to work on deck.

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This would be a much shorter sea journey than the one John had needed to take when he was first transported from England to Botany Bay. John and the other convicts would be building a new settlement further down the coast.

John scrubbed the salt-crusted wood of the deck, his eyes drawn to the ocean past the railing. He could see fish leaping in the distance and some dolphins swimming alongside the ship. High in the sky were sea birds circling the leaping fish. He had never seen anything like this before. There were no flying fish or dolphins back home in London.

A screech startled him out of his thoughts.



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He looked towards the sound. At first he couldn't see anything. Then he spotted some feathers poking out from under a canvas cloth.

Maybe it's a seabird that's caught on something, he thought.

A flurry of feathers flew past him, and the screeching turned into a *gobble gobble.*

"Oh!" John cried. "It's a turkey!"

"Catch that bird, boy!" ordered the quartermaster. "We can't afford to lose it!"

John approached the turkey quietly, searching his pockets until he found some leftover breadcrumbs. He gently scattered them in front of the turkey.



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While it pecked at the crumbs, John crept up from behind and threw the dangling chain between his wrists over the turkey, pulling the bird close enough to grab.

"Well done!" the doctor said.

"Yes," added the quartermaster, rushing to help cage the bird. "Saving this turkey helps ensure we will have food in the new settlement."

"Turkeys are horrid," came a girl's voice, from behind the doctor.

"Well, my dear daughter," the doctor replied, turning to look at her, "this turkey will have other turkeys, so that we don't starve in our new home."

John was surprised to see a girl on the ship who was not a convict. She was about his age, but she was wearing fine clothes. He quickly looked down. Sometimes ladies and gentlemen got angry that a dirty convict was looking at them.

"Take those irons off the boy. I believe he's earned it," the doctor said to the marine.

The quartermaster agreed, but added, "There's one condition, lad. You will need to take care of all the animals on board this ship. If any of them escape or go missing, you will be put back in irons and sent below deck until we land. Is that clear?"


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John nodded. He couldn't believe his luck. No chains! No more being crammed in with all the loud, unhappy convicts below deck.

"Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. I will do my very best," John replied, rubbing the skin of his wrists where the chains had been. He had bruises there.

"Now, Sarah, I need to go and tend to the ill," the doctor said to his daughter. "Please don't linger with this young convict."

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John knows that he's lucky to be working up on deck, in the fresh air. He's still a convict boy, but at least he's not chained in the ship's hold, with all the adult convicts. He feels even luckier when he is put in charge of looking after all of the animals on board.

But when the convict ship strikes a reef under the water, John doesn't know if he'll even be able to keep himself safe – let alone all of the animals.



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Narrative (Imaginative)

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