

Springboard into Comprehension

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Identifying Detail **Finding Father**

Main Idea Are You There?

Sequencing How Photography Changed the World

Compare and Contrast Leading the Way

Fact and Opinion April Fools' Day

Cause and Effect Big Ted and the Mystery
of the Black Barn



Finding Father



Written by Jack Gabolinscy
Illustrated by Lachlan Creagh

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I waited for my father's ship to come home, but it never arrived.

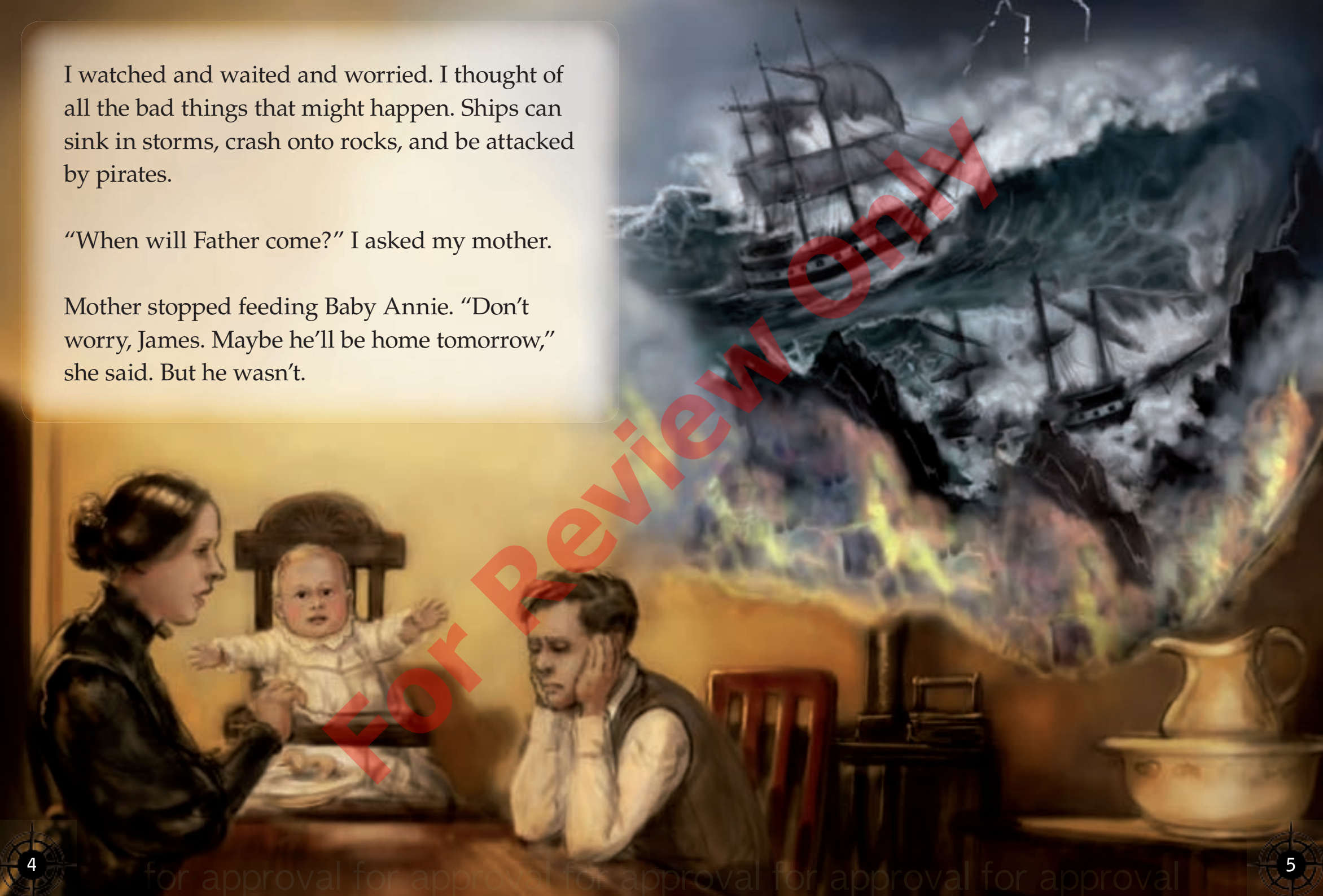
Many ships came, but not the *Sun Queen*. She was a barque, with three masts and large square sails. She left for Australia on January 9, 1852. She should have been home in August. Now it was September. I missed Father so much. I thought about him every day.



I watched and waited and worried. I thought of all the bad things that might happen. Ships can sink in storms, crash onto rocks, and be attacked by pirates.

“When will Father come?” I asked my mother.

Mother stopped feeding Baby Annie. “Don’t worry, James. Maybe he’ll be home tomorrow,” she said. But he wasn’t.



September passed and October came. The sun left and the bitter cold arrived. I wore boots and a long coat to keep warm. Every day, I listened for the sound of Father's heavy footfall on the wooden steps outside.

I asked my brother, William, "When will Father come home?"

William looked worried, but he said, "I'm sure Father will be home soon."

