

## Journey to the River Sea - Eva Ibbotson

### Lesson 2

#### Chapter 13

##### Read the extract below:

*The twins, in their flesh-pink party frocks and satin shoes, had run out into the street. They panted across the square, turned down a side road, and as they ran they quarrelled.*

*'We can't go and see those men without Mummy,' said Gwendolyn.*

*'Yes we can. I know where the Pension Maria is; it's quite near.'*

*'But it's down by the docks. There are awful men there. I'm not going without Mummy,' said Gwendolyn obstinately.*

*'All right then, we'll get her. But don't blame me if she tries to get half the reward.'*

*'She won't. We wouldn't let her. It's for us and no one else.'*

*A man came out of his house and stood by his garden gate.*

*'You see, he wants us for the White Slave Traffic,' said Gwendolyn, and tried to run faster.*

*The man, who had come out to walk his dog, crossed the road but the twins did not stop till they reached the club where their mother was playing bridge.*

*'Right, that's it,' said Mr Trapwood. He shut the lid of his suitcase. 'In another couple of hours we can go on board.'*

*He looked longingly at the lighted ship, ready for her start at dawn. She looked so clean, so nice, so British...*

*Mr Low came to stand beside him. 'Decent bunks, decent food, people speaking English. You can't believe it.'*

*But in spite of the relief of being on the way home, the crows were broken men. Mr Low was still feverish, Mr Trapwood's insect bites had spread in an infected mass over his face and neck, and neither of them could keep down their food.*

*It wasn't being ill, though, that worried them the most. It was a failure. They would go back with an empty berth in their cabin and a sad story to tell Sir Aubrey.*

*'He'll probably hire some other detectives and send them out. He won't give up so easily.'*

*'It's The Blood,' said Mr Trapwood gloomily. 'The aristos are like that when it's The Blood they're dealing with.'*

*Down below the pension bell pealed loudly. Then the maid came up and knocked on the door.*

*'There's three ladies to see you,' she said.*

*And before the crows could ask any more, the door was thrown open and Beatrice and Gwendolyn, followed by their mother, came excitedly into the room.*

*'We know where he is! We know where the Taverner boy is hiding!'*

*'We know for sure!'*

*The crows, who had been lying weakly on the bed, sat up. Their eyes glinted. They were changed men.*

## **Comprehension**

**Use the extract above to help you to answer the following questions:**

1. What are the twins wearing?
2. Why does Gwendolyn not want to go to the docks by herself?
3. How does Mr Trapwood feel when he looks at the ship?
4. In what ways are Mr Low and Mr Trapwood 'broken men'?
5. What worries the men most?
6. Why are Beatrice, Gwendolyn and their mother so excited?
7. What is the effect of exclamation marks in this extract?
8. How is excitement created in this extract?
9. What is the effect of the ellipsis after 'so British...'
10. What do you feel towards Mr Low and Mr Trapwood in these chapters.

## **Vocabulary**

1. Obstinate
2. Fetch
3. Coil
4. Chisel
5. Various
6. Accompany
7. Warning
8. Dignity
9. Initial
10. Duration
11. Exquisite
12. Grubby
13. Quarrel
14. Matinée
15. Distinct
16. Native
17. Outstretched
18. Duty
19. Occur
20. Merchant

## **HOMEWORK**

Using the **work we did today as inspiration**, imagine you have **run away** and write a **diary entry** about your experience.

**OR**

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.