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‘Does the sea frighten you? Your boat is very small. Do you know your friends well? Are they good at sailing?’

Jack, his wife Tonya, and his friends Max and Sasha want to sail from England to Australia. They have a lot of money and they don’t want to work any more – they want an exciting life.

And it is exciting for them. And at first everything is easy. But an exciting life can also be a dangerous life. The sea is not always a friendly place – and when you need help, you need good friends and a lot of luck.

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PHILLIP BURROWS AND MARK FOSTER

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1 Let's do it!

Jack Griggs stands on his boat. The wind is strong and his boat moves quickly over the sea. A big, white bird goes past and makes a noise. 'Keyaaaa', it cries.

Jack smiles and says: 'Hello, bird. How are you, today?'

Jack's friends laugh and give some fish to the bird.

'Ah,' says Jack. 'Hungry, I see.' Jack's friends are Max and Sasha, and his wife's name is Tonya.

'I am hungry, too,' says Jack. 'Sandwiches and drinks everybody? Tonya. Can you steer?'



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Half an hour later they are eating. 'What are we going to do now?' asks Jack.

'Oh, I am going to read my book. Then I'm going to sleep,' says Tonya.

'No – what about tomorrow? ... Next month? ... Next year?' Jack looks at everyone. 'We have lots of money from our old business, but ...'

'We can start another business,' says Max.

'A sailing business?' says Sasha.

'I don't want to work any more,' says Tonya. 'We don't need to work.'

'OK, listen to me,' says Jack. 'I am thinking about sailing around the world.'

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Max, Tonya and Sasha look at Jack. 'What? From here to Australia?' says Tonya.

'Of course,' says Jack. He is getting very excited now. 'Max, what do you think?'

'I think we must talk about it,' says Max.

They talk for hours. It is night when Max, Sasha and Tonya say excitedly: 'OK. Let's do it!'



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They have to do a lot before they leave. Jack talks to a man who knows about sailing around the world. He tells Jack that it is hard work.

‘Does the sea frighten you? Your boat is very small. Do you know your friends well? Are they good at sailing?’ he asks.

‘We know each other well. They are the best people in the world,’ says Jack.

The four friends look at lots of maps. Sasha wants to see a whale. Max wants to see Africa. ‘I want to sit in the sun and catch fish to eat,’ laughs Tonya.

It is exciting for all of them. And at first everything is easy.

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The big day arrives – they are leaving. Some of their friends and family come to watch. Their friends stand by the water and say goodbye.

‘Good luck,’ one of them says.

‘Don’t forget us!’ says Sasha’s sister.

‘Write to me every day,’ says Tonya’s friend. ‘Give the letters to a bird.’

Sasha begins to cry. ‘What are we doing? Do I really want to go?’ she thinks. Max takes her hand. All of them are quiet, excited, and a little unhappy.

‘Bye,’ says Jack quietly.



YOU HAVE REACHED THE END OF THE SAMPLE.

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