

# Activities



LEVEL 1

## Mayflower Stowaways

by Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler

Genre Historical

Values Friendship, initiative, solidarity, overcoming adversity, bravery

## Chapter 5. A New Life

John Howland is struggling in the stormy sea, and the children face the anger of Tobias. What can save them now?

### Skills addressed



Language and literacy



Digital skills and behaviour



Critical thinking and resilience



Maths, science and technology skills



Cultural awareness and understanding



Personal, social and health awareness and citizenship



Organisation and evaluation skills

## CONTENTS

You can tick off the activities that you are working on in class.



### READ

#### Reading lab



*Obtain and interpret information within the text*

- Guided reading notes
- Reading comprehension questions



### WRITE

#### Writing workshop



*Develop the art of creative writing*

- Inspire words
- Plan a sequel
- Using apostrophes



### TALK

#### Space for debate



*Reflect and construct your opinion, individually and working in a group*

- Storytelling activity



### EXPLORE

#### Creative studio



*Dig deeper into the content in a fun way, using different methods of research*

- Mayflower* true or false?

## ANSWERS

Exercise answers and suggestions for the teacher

**READ**

Reading lab

## Guided reading notes

Here you can find some tips to help you in your reading sessions.

1

Remember the events at the end of chapter 4. (Tobias is about to push Alice into the water; Howland has been pushed overboard into the stormy sea.) Read the first section. What saves Alice? (The flash of lightning distracts Tobias long enough for Alice to get a pot and knock him out.)

2

Which words show how dangerous the sea is for John Howland? (*raging*, *churning*) Which word tells you that John Howland is having problems staying afloat? (*flailing*) Why can't Alice and William pull John out? (The rope and John are heavy; it's hard to pull something up a long way.)

3

Read the next section. Why does Tobias hope the captain won't believe Alice and William? (They are stowaways, so they have broken the law.) Who backs them up? (first John Howland and then Ezra, who is trying to clear his name) Imagine the conversation between Ezra and Tobias in the brig.

4

Why doesn't the captain want to turn the ship around? (He knows that the passengers will be able to fix the mainmast because they have already fixed the beam.) What does the captain mean by *I pray it's not too late*? (He hopes that John Howland isn't going to die.) Read to the end.

5

Why are Alice and William in the crow's nest? (to look out for land far away) What does the land look like when they see it? (*a faint shimmer*) Why does this make Alice's heart beat faster? (She is excited.) How does the story end happily for Alice and William? (They get a new home.)

6

Did you like the story? What was your favourite part? The *Mayflower* was a real ship that left Plymouth 400 years ago in 1620, and John Howland was a real person. He really was washed overboard – but he was rescued and lived to be 80. Find out more online about the *Mayflower* and its pilgrims.



**READ**

Reading lab

Name: .....

## Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions about the chapter and explain your answers.

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1 How does the lightning help Alice?

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2 What does the word *flailing* tell you about John Howland?

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3 How does Ezra help Alice and William?

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**READ**

Reading lab

Name: .....

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4 What does the captain mean by *I pray it's not too late*?

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5 How do we know that Alice is excited when she sees land?

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6 What was your favourite part of *Mayflower Stowaways* by Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler?

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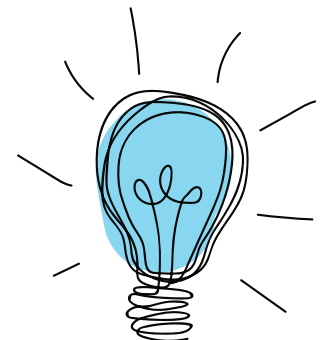
**WRITE**

Writing workshop

Name: .....

**Inspire words**

Find these words in the story. Look at how they are used. Cut up the words and put them in a bag. Take them out and make up a sentence for each word.

**flailing****gabbled****grateful****hailed****seized****staggered**

 **WRITE**  
Writing workshop

Name: .....

## Plan a sequel

This story looks at a real event and tells a fictional adventure around it. Use the template to plan a sequel to this story, when Alice and William settle in the New World.

<b>Beginning</b>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<b>Problems</b>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<b>Resolution</b>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

Main characters:

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Main settings:

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 **WRITE**  
Writing workshop

Name: .....

## Using apostrophes

Write the sentences again, adding apostrophes to show missing letters and possession.

1 The children ran to the ships rail and saw John Howlands flailing arm in the water far below.

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2 "Lets use this rope!" said Alice.

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3 "Weve lost him!" cried William.

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4 "It wasnt my idea, it was Tobiass," gabbled Ezra.

.....  
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5 Alice looked through Williams spyglass and shouted, "Its the New World!"

.....  
.....



**TALK**

Space for debate

Name: .....

## Storytelling activity

Can you remember the story of what happened in the book *Mayflower Stowaways*?

Use these questions to help you:

- Who are the main characters?
- Where is the story set?
- What happened at the beginning of the story?
- What problems did the characters have?
- How did the characters solve the problems?
- What happened at the end?

Now try to tell the story to someone who has not heard it before.





Name: .....

## Mayflower true or false?

Use books and the Internet to find out whether these statements are true or false.

The people on the *Mayflower* are now called the Pilgrim Fathers.



There were 202 passengers on board when the ship set sail from Plymouth.



The *Mayflower* took 30 days to reach the New World.



People on the *Mayflower* were the first colonists in the United States.



Many of the people from the ship died in the first winter.



Thanksgiving was first celebrated by people from the *Mayflower* and the Native tribes.



## ANSWERS

*Document for the teacher*

### Reading comprehension (pp. 4–5)

For example:

1. It makes Tobias look around, so she is able to get the pot and knock him out.
2. He is struggling to keep above the water.
3. He agrees that Tobias has been trying to get the ship to turn around; he backs up their story.
4. He hopes that John Howland isn't going to die.
5. Her heart beats faster.
6. children's own ideas

### Using apostrophes (p. 8)

1. The children ran to the ship's rail and saw John Howland's flailing arm in the water far below.
2. "Let's use this rope!" said Alice.
3. "We've lost him!" cried William.
4. "It wasn't my idea, it was Tobias's," gabbled Ezra.
5. Alice looked through William's spyglass and shouted, "It's the New World!"

### Mayflower true or false? (p. 10)

The people on the *Mayflower* are now called the Pilgrim Fathers.

TRUE – many of the people on board ship were leaving Europe because of their religion.

There were 202 passengers on board when the ship set sail from Plymouth.

FALSE – there were 102 passengers on board, and it is said that 30 million people can trace their family back to these people!

The *Mayflower* took 30 days to reach the New World.

FALSE – the ship left Europe very late in the year, and the voyage took far longer than it should have – 66 days – as big storms held them back

People on the *Mayflower* were the first colonists in the United States.

FALSE – there had already been many Europeans who settled in the New World, bringing diseases which were deadly for the Native tribes who lived there.

Many of the people from the ship died in the first winter.

TRUE – the first winter was extremely cold and there were many illnesses.

Thanksgiving was first celebrated by people from the *Mayflower* and the Native tribes.

TRUE – this celebration was held to give thanks for the harvest, which the Native tribes had helped them to grow.