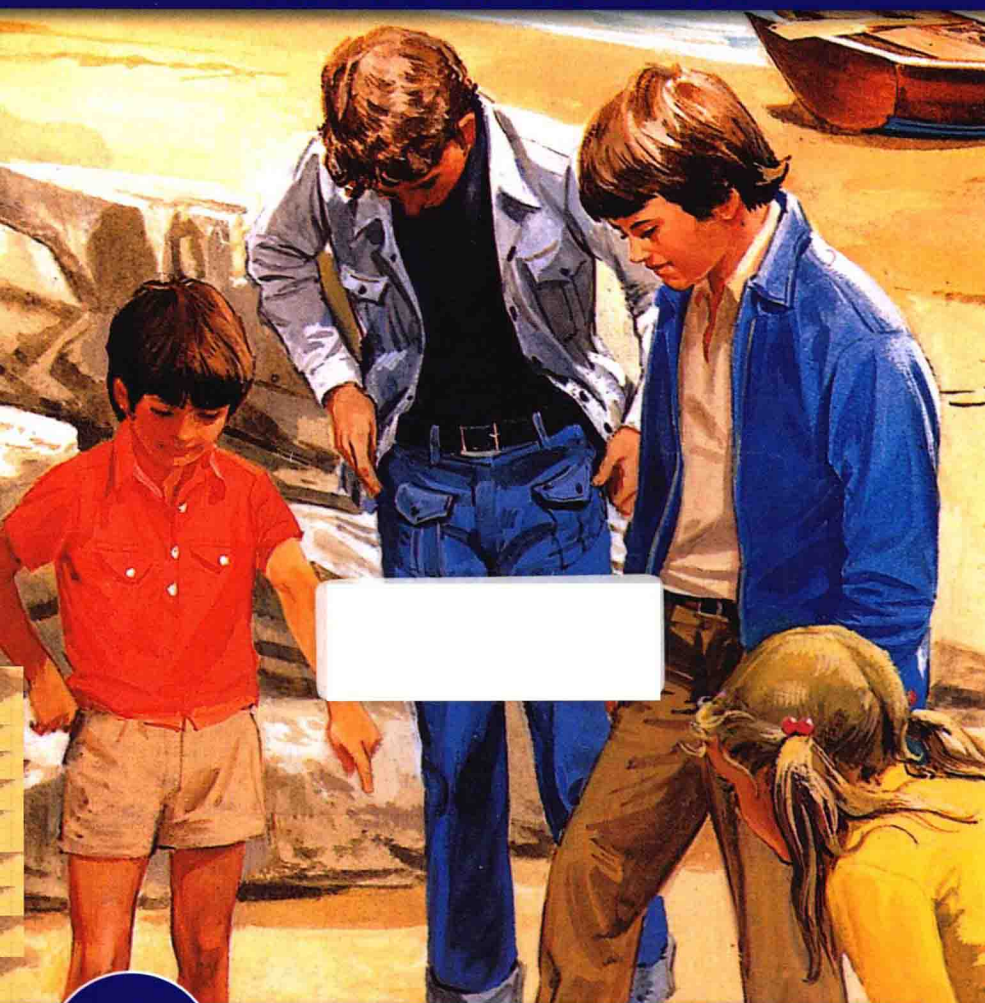


# Key Words

with Peter and Jane



11a

小島之謎

Mystery on the island



北京师范大学出版集团  
北京师范大学出版社

[英] W. 默瑞 / 著 [英] M. 艾奇逊 / 绘 张帆 / 译 马欣 / 审校

Written by W. Murray illustrated by M. Aitchison



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快乐瓢虫双语童书

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BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING GROUP  
北京师范大学出版社

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English language version first published in Great Britain by Ladybird Books Ltd  
80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL

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## 图书在版编目 ( CIP ) 数据

快乐瓢虫双语童书·Key Words (7~12级) / (英)W.默瑞著; (英)J.H.威格菲尔  
德, (英)M.艾奇逊绘; 张桢译; 马欣审校. —北京: 北京师范大学出版社, 2015.1  
(快乐瓢虫双语童书)  
ISBN 978-7-303-17889-6

I. ①快… II. ①默… ②威… ③艾… ④张… ⑤马… III. ①英语—儿童读物 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2014) 第184950号

北京市版权局著作权合同登记号: 01-2013-3835, 01-2013-3836, 01-2013-3838

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北 师 大 少 儿 出 版 公 众 微 信	京师少儿阅读

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## KUAILE PIAOCHONG SHUANGYU TONGSHU

出版发行: 北京师范大学出版社 [www.bnup.com](http://www.bnup.com)

北京新街口外大街19号

邮政编码: 100875

印 刷: 北京强华印刷厂

经 销: 全国新华书店

开 本: 140mm × 210mm

印 张: 40.25

字 数: 1006千字

版 次: 2015年1月第1版

印 次: 2015年1月第1次印刷

定 价: 298.00元 (全18册)

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策划编辑: 尹莉莉

特约编辑: 苗 辉

装帧设计: 三彩童书

责任校对: 李 蕊

营销编辑: 杨 雪

责任编辑: 尹莉莉

美术编辑: 袁 麟

包装设计: 千里马工作室

责任印制: 马 洁

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As Peter and Jane walked through the village they saw a policeman they knew. He came over to ask them if they had seen a boy he wanted to find.

“His name is Ron Dare,” he said. “He’s fourteen years old and he has red hair. You may know him as he used to stay near this village for his holidays.”

Peter and Jane said that they did not know the boy and had not seen him. Peter asked the policeman why he wanted to find him.

“He’s run away,” he answered. “He hasn’t been seen for a week. A little motor boat is missing from his father’s holiday house near here, and I think the boy may have it.”

After they had left the policeman, the brother and sister walked on towards the beach. They were going to help their cousins John and Simon to paint their motor boat. On the way they talked about the missing boy. “I’d like to help him,” said Jane. “He can’t be happy if he’s run away like that. He won’t be able to live on his own for very long if he’s only fourteen.”

“As he has red hair he should be found quite easily,” said Peter.





John and Simon had just started work on their motor boat. It had been pulled away from the water's edge so that they could walk round it as they worked. Both the boys wore old clothes. They were glad to see their cousins arrive.

Peter and Jane also wore old clothes as they knew they would get dirty. It didn't worry them that they had to do some dirty work. They liked to help their cousins and work on the boat. They knew that they would soon go out to sea in it again.

Peter told his cousins about the policeman, the missing boy and the boat. Both John and Simon said that they hadn't seen the red haired boy or the boat. "I hope that he's not had an accident," said Simon.

After working for some time they stopped for a rest and to have the food and drink they had brought.

As they sat looking out to sea they saw some smoke a long way out. "What's that smoke?" asked Jane.

"It seems to come from the island," said Simon, "but nobody should be there. I think there's someone on the island."







As soon as the paint on the motor boat and dinghy had dried, Peter, Jane and their two cousins went to the island. They wanted to see if anyone was there. They had no news of the missing boy and they thought he might be hiding on the island.

After they had pulled their dinghy up the beach, they looked around. At first they could see no sign that anyone had come to the island. Then they walked along the beach looking for signs of a boat, or footprints in the sand.

“Come over here!” Simon called to the others. “Come and look at this!” They all ran across to Simon, who was by some rocks.

“A footprint!” said John. “I don’t think it’s one of ours.” Then each of them made a footprint by the one Simon had found. “Not one of them is the same,” said John. “Ours are too small or too big.”

“This footprint looks as if it might have been made by the boy who is missing,” said Simon.

“First smoke and now the footprint,” said John. “Let’s look for a boat. If it’s here it will mean that the boy is hiding on the island now.”



Before they started to search for the boat, the four talked together.

“Could a boy pull a boat out of the water and hide it by himself?” asked John.

“Not a big boat,” answered Simon. Then he asked, “How big is the missing boat?”

“The policeman said it was a very small dinghy with an outboard engine,” said Peter.

“Then it could be done,” said Simon. “Come on, everyone, let’s start. Search the sands first for signs where the boat came out of the water.”

Although they looked for some time they didn’t find the boat. Simon called the others together and said, “I know what the boy has done. He’s made the sand smooth again after the boat made marks on it.”

“Yes,” agreed John, “he may have smoothed out the marks, so that nobody would know he was here. Search further away from the water!”

After a few minutes the others heard Peter call. He was by some trees not far from the water. “Here it is,” he said. “I’ve found the boat!”

They stood round and looked down at the boat. “Just as we thought,” said Simon. “A very small dinghy with an outboard engine.”





"We don't really know whose boat it is," said John. "Is there a name-plate on it? Sometimes a dinghy has a name-plate which tells you the owner's name. Let's have a careful look."

Simon and John looked round the outside of the boat, but no name-plate and no owner's name could be found. Then John looked inside the little dinghy.

"Here we are," he said. "I can see an envelope under the seat and it has a name on it." He picked up the envelope and looked in it. There was no letter inside. He turned the envelope over and read out the name "Ron Dare".

"That's the name the policeman gave," said Peter. "Ron Dare is the name of the missing boy."

"I can't read any more because part of the envelope is wet," said John.

"It's enough," said Simon. "It's enough to tell us that this is the missing boat, and that Ron Dare is on the island."

They decided to make a search of the island for the boy. When they found him they would tell him that they wanted to help him. They agreed that it would be best to search the summer house first.







"Keep a careful look-out," said Simon to the others, as they started to walk up the hill towards the summer house.

"Yes," said John. "The boy doesn't know that we want to be friends with him. If he sees us he may be frightened and hide or run away. How can we let him know that we want to be friendly?"

"We could call out when we see him," said Jane. "We could call his name and say we are friends."

"That may not stop him running away if he's frightened," said Simon. "Perhaps we could leave a message in writing somewhere. We could leave one in his boat."

Then they decided to go back to the little dinghy and leave a message in it. They were afraid that the boy might get to the boat before they were able to talk to him.

John wrote a message on a piece of paper. It said "To Ron Dare. We are friends. We want to help you. Come to the summer house on the hill. Simon, John, Jane, Peter."

They pinned the paper to the seat of the dinghy and then they all started off up the hill again.



When they arrived at the summer house they made a quick search of all the rooms. However, there seemed to be no sign of Ron Dare.

One of the windows was open, but Jane remembered they had left it open the last time they were there.

They all went to talk things over in the room with the big window. Then they decided to make a more careful search of the house. "I don't think the boy is in the house now," said Simon, "but we ought to know if he's been here. Let's look in each room very carefully."

John went to look round the outside of the house. He soon appeared outside the window which had been left open. "There's a footprint out here below the window," he said. "It looks like the one we found on the beach. Perhaps Ron Dare got into the house by this open window."

They heard Jane calling from the kitchen and they went in to see her. "Some tins of food are missing," she told them.

"Are you sure?" Simon asked.

"Oh yes," Jane answered. "I remember that I counted fourteen tins when we were here last time, and now there are only nine."