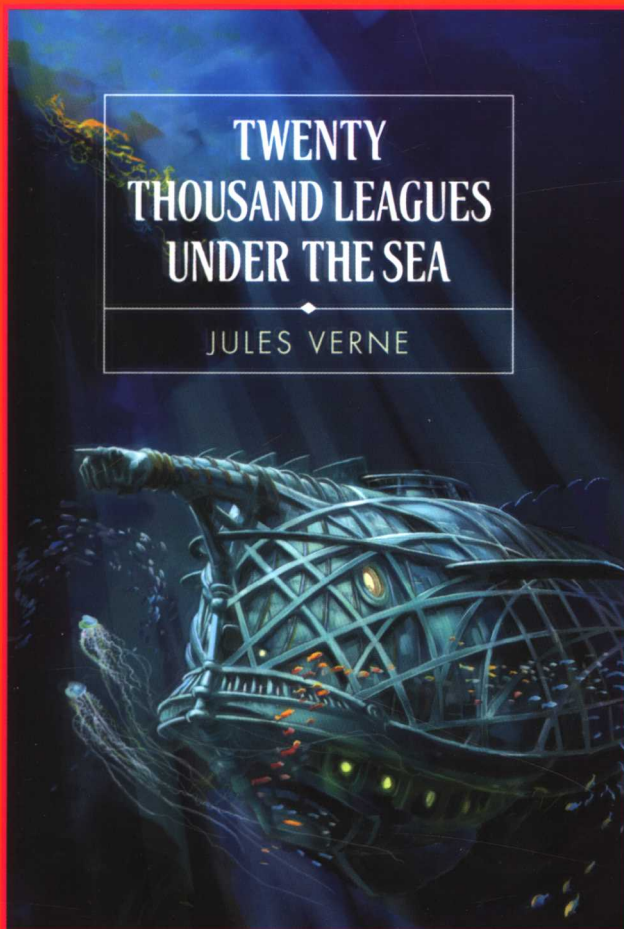




企鵝英語簡易讀物精選

海底兩萬里



世界圖書出版公司

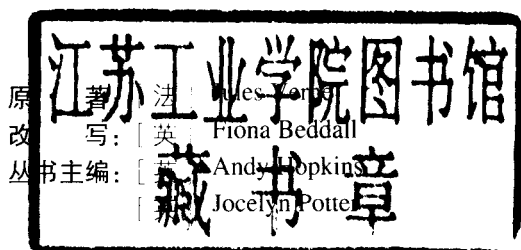




企鹅英语简易读物精选 (初二学生)

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

海底两万里



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世界图书出版公司



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大量阅读简易读物 打好英语基础（代序）

北京外国语大学英语系历来都十分重视简易读物的阅读。我们要求学生在一、二年级至少要阅读几十本经过改写的、适合自己水平的英语读物。教学实践证明，凡是大量阅读了简易读物的学生，基础一般都打得比较扎实，英语实践能力都比较强，过渡到阅读英文原著困难也都比较小。这是我们几十年来屡试不爽的一条经验。

为什么强调在阅读英文原著之前必须阅读大量的简易读物呢？原因之一是简易读物词汇量有控制，内容比较浅易，而原著一般来说词汇量大，内容比较艰深。在打基础阶段，学生的词汇量比较小，阅读原著会遇到许多困难。在这种情况下，要保证足够的阅读量只能要求学生阅读简易读物。其次，简易读物使用的是常用词汇、短语和语法结构，大量阅读这类读物可以反复接触这些基本词语和语法，有助于他们打好基础，培养他们的英语语感。第三，简易读物大部分是文学名著改写而成，尽管情节和人物都大为简化，但依旧保留了文学名著的部分精华，仍不失为优秀读物。大量阅读这些读物对于拓宽学生视野、提高他们的人文素养大有帮助。

在这里我们还可以援引美国教学法家克拉申（Stephen Krashen）的一个著名观点。他认为，学生吸收外语有一个前提，即语言材料只能稍稍高于他们的语言理解水平，如果提供的语言材料难度大大超过学生的水平，就会劳而无功。这是克拉申关于外语学习的一个总的看法，但我们不妨把这个道理运用到阅读上。若要阅读有成效，必须严格控制阅读材料的难易度。目前学生阅读的英语材料往往过于艰深，词汇量过大，学生花了很多时间，而阅读量却仍然很小，进展缓慢，其结果是扼杀了学生的阅读兴趣，影响了他们的自信心。解决这个问题的关键是向学生提供适合他们水平的、词汇量有控制的、能够引起他们兴趣的英语读物。“企鹅英语简易读物精选”是专门为初、中级学习者编写的简易读物。这是一套充分考虑到学生的水平和需要，为他们设计的有梯度的读物，学生可以循序渐进，逐步提高阅读难度和扩大阅读量，从而提高自己的英语水平。

应该如何做才能取得最佳效果呢？首先，要选择难易度适当的读物。如果一页书上生词过多，读起来很吃力，进展十分缓慢，很可能选的材料太难了。不妨换一本容易些的。总的原则是宁易毋难。一般来说，学生选择的材料往往偏难，而不是过于浅易。其次，要尽可能读得快一些，不要一句一句地分析，更不要逐句翻译。读故事要尽快读进去，进入故事的情节，就像阅读中文小说一样。不必担心是否记住了新词语。阅读量大，阅读速度适当，就会自然而然地记住一些词语。这是自然吸收语言的过程。再次，阅读时可以做一些笔记，但不必做太多的笔记；可以做一些配合阅读的练习，但不要在练习上花过多时间。主要任务还是阅读。好的读物不妨再读一遍，甚至再读两遍。你会发现在读第二遍时有一种如鱼得水的感觉。

青年朋友们，赶快开始你们的阅读之旅吧！它会把你们带进一个奇妙的世界，在那里你们可以获得一种全新的感受，观察世界也会有一种新的眼光。与此同时，你们的英语水平也会随之迅速提高。

Introduction

'Where are we?' I asked.

'On the back of the giant whale,' Ned said. Then he smiled. 'But it's not a whale.'

It is 1866. A French scientist, Mr Aronnax, wants to find a giant whale. But with his servant, Conseil, and a whaler, Ned Land, he finds a submarine – not a whale. For 20,000 leagues, the three friends stay on the submarine with its captain, Nemo, and visit many interesting places on the sea floor.

But who is Captain Nemo? Why does he want to live underwater? And how are the three friends going to escape from the submarine and go home?

Jules Verne (1828–1905) was French. His mother came from a family of boat builders and sea captains, and he always loved the sea. At twelve years old, he wanted to work on a boat in the West Indies, but his mother and father stopped him. Many years later, he had a boat and visited a lot of places in Europe on it.

Verne was the writer of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and *From the Earth to the Moon*. His books *The Mysterious Island* (also about Captain Nemo) and *Around the World in Eighty Days* are Penguin Readers, too.

There were no submarines or films in those days, and there was no television. But these things were all in Verne's stories. Scientists in the 1800s wanted to build submarines, but their underwater boats didn't work very well. Verne's submarine, the *Nautilus*, had answers to the scientists' problems. In 1958, an American submarine with the name *Nautilus* was the first boat at the North Pole – but this was ninety-one years after Verne's *Nautilus* went to the South Pole in *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

Chapter 1 The Giant Whale

In the year 1866, a new boat came back from sea every week with the same story. 'A giant whale, a hundred metres long, came near our boat,' the men said. The story was in the newspapers and a lot of people talked about it.

'It wasn't a whale,' scientists said. 'A big blue whale is only twenty-seven metres long. Perhaps it was a coral reef.'

'But a coral reef can't send water fifty metres into the air,' the seamen answered. 'This animal can.'

It went near one boat in Australian waters. Three days later, it was seven hundred leagues away in the Pacific.

'Whales can't swim seven hundred leagues in three days,' the scientists said. 'Perhaps it's a submarine.'

But only a country with a lot of money can build a submarine, and the same answer came back from every country: 'We haven't got a submarine!'

One day a British boat, the *Scotia*, was in the Atlantic. Suddenly, water started to come into the boat. The captain looked for the problem. There was a big hole in the boat. 'The *Scotia* is very strong,' he said. 'I don't understand this hole. Is it the work of the giant whale?'

To me, a French scientist, the stories of the whale were, of course, very interesting. In 1867 I visited New York, and newspapermen there asked me questions.

'You're famous for your book about sea animals, Mr Aronnax,' they said. 'What do you think about this giant whale?'

'The sea's very big,' I answered, 'and it's the home of many thousands of animals. Scientists don't know about all of them. But one small whale has a long spear on its head. Perhaps there's a

giant whale with a spear, too. And perhaps this animal's spear can make a hole in a boat.'

A week later, a letter arrived at my hotel. It said:

You know, of course, about the giant whale. One day this whale is going to kill people. But we are going to kill it first. Please come and look for it with us. Our boat, the *Abraham Lincoln*, is waiting for you.

I wanted to see this interesting animal. I went quickly to the *Abraham Lincoln* with my Belgian servant, Conseil.

From New York, we went down the Atlantic coast of North and South America and into the Pacific. Week after week, all day and all night, the seamen watched the water. Conseil and I watched with them. But we didn't see the giant whale.

Only one man on the boat didn't watch the water. His name was Ned Land. Ned was a big, strong Canadian, about forty years old, and he was a very good whaler.

'You're never going to find this whale,' he said. 'It was near Japan in May, but it's now July. Where is it today? The Mediterranean? The Arctic? Who knows?'

For five long months we looked for the whale. Then the men started to say, 'Perhaps Ned is right.'

'When can we go home?' they asked their captain.

But suddenly, one day, Ned said, 'There it is! I can see the giant whale!'

The animal moved very quickly in the water. It came near our boat.

'We don't want a hole in the *Abraham Lincoln*,' the captain said. 'Let's move away.'

But our boat was slow. We watched the whale. 'It's going to hit us!' we said. But it didn't. It went under the boat, not into it.

All day we went after the whale, but it stayed in front of us.



'There it is! I can see the giant whale!'

'We're never going to kill this animal,' the men said. 'It's playing games with us.'

But at night the whale didn't move. 'Perhaps it's sleeping,' Ned Land said. 'Let's get near. Be very quiet!'

Suddenly, water from the whale's back went up into the air and rained down on our boat. Then I was in the sea.

Chapter 2 The Nautilus

I'm not a young man, and I can't swim well. I started to go underwater. But then there was a strong hand on my back. I looked behind me. My servant was there!

'Conseil! Why are you in the water?' I asked.

'You were in the sea and I wanted to stay with you. That's my job, Mr Aronnax,' Conseil said. 'There's a problem with the *Abraham Lincoln*. It can't come back for us. Let's swim, and wait for morning.'

Before morning, my legs stopped working. 'Go, Conseil,' I said. 'I'm a dead man, but you're young and strong. You can find a boat ...' Then water came into my mouth, and my eyes closed.

They opened a short time later. I was with Conseil, and Ned Land too.

'I don't understand. We're not swimming. Where are we?' I asked.

'On the back of the giant whale,' Ned said. Then he smiled. 'But it's not a whale.'

I looked, and he was right. We were on a submarine!

'You and I went into the sea at the same time, Mr Aronnax,' Ned said. 'After that, I waited here. We're OK now, but this boat can go underwater. What are we going to do then?'

Suddenly, the submarine started to move. 'Quickly!' I said. 'Make some noise. Hit the boat with your hands.'

A door opened and eight men came out. We went with them into the submarine.

'Where are you taking us?' we asked the men, but they didn't answer. We arrived in a dark room. The men went away and closed the door behind them. Ned tried the door, but it didn't open. 'We're never going to escape!' he said. 'Those men are going to kill us!'

We waited for a long time in the dark room. Then the lights came on and a man walked into the room. Perhaps he was thirty-five, or perhaps fifty. He was tall, with black eyes and an interesting, open face.

In French, I said our names and asked for food and drink. He listened quietly, but he didn't answer.

'He doesn't understand French,' I said. 'You try, Ned. Perhaps he understands English.'

Ned talked in English. Then Conseil tried in German. But they had the same problem.

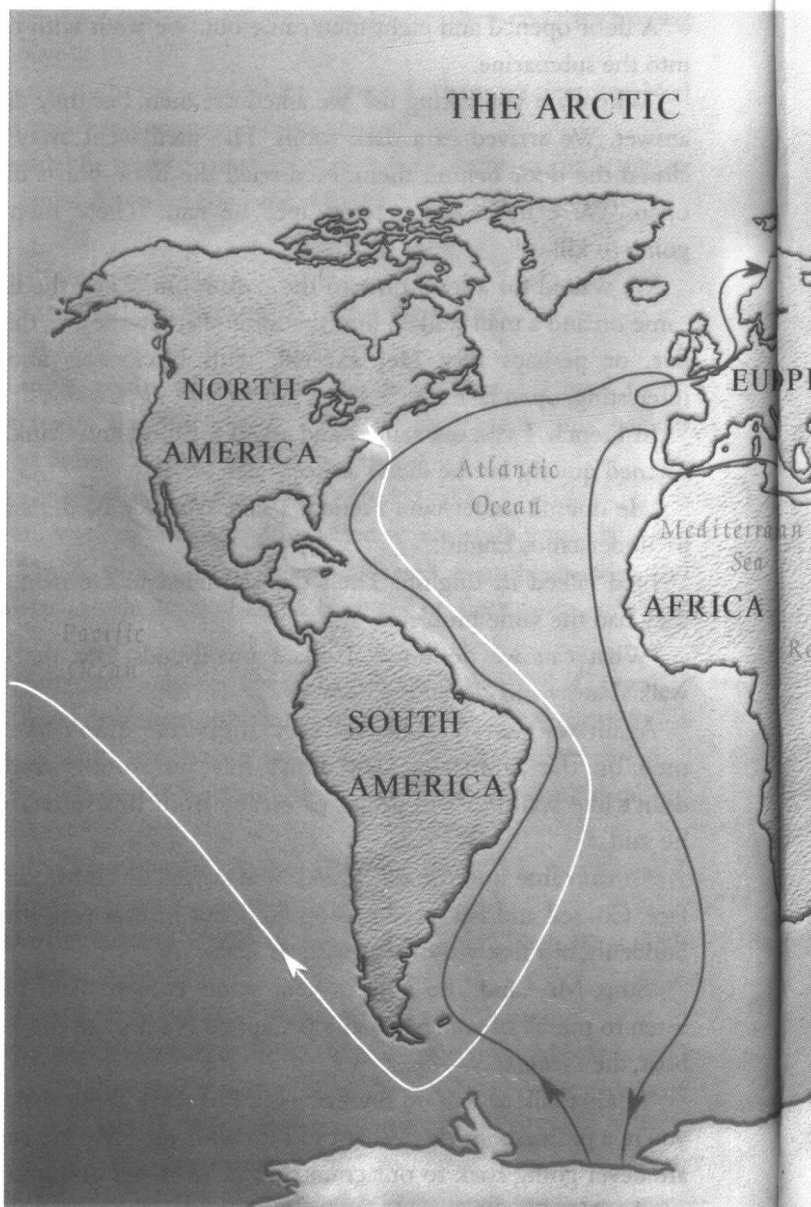
'What can we do now?' I asked my friends. But the man walked away and closed the door.

Again we waited. Ned was very angry. He didn't like the men on the submarine. He didn't like our room. And he didn't like waiting. 'I'm going to escape from this submarine,' he said.

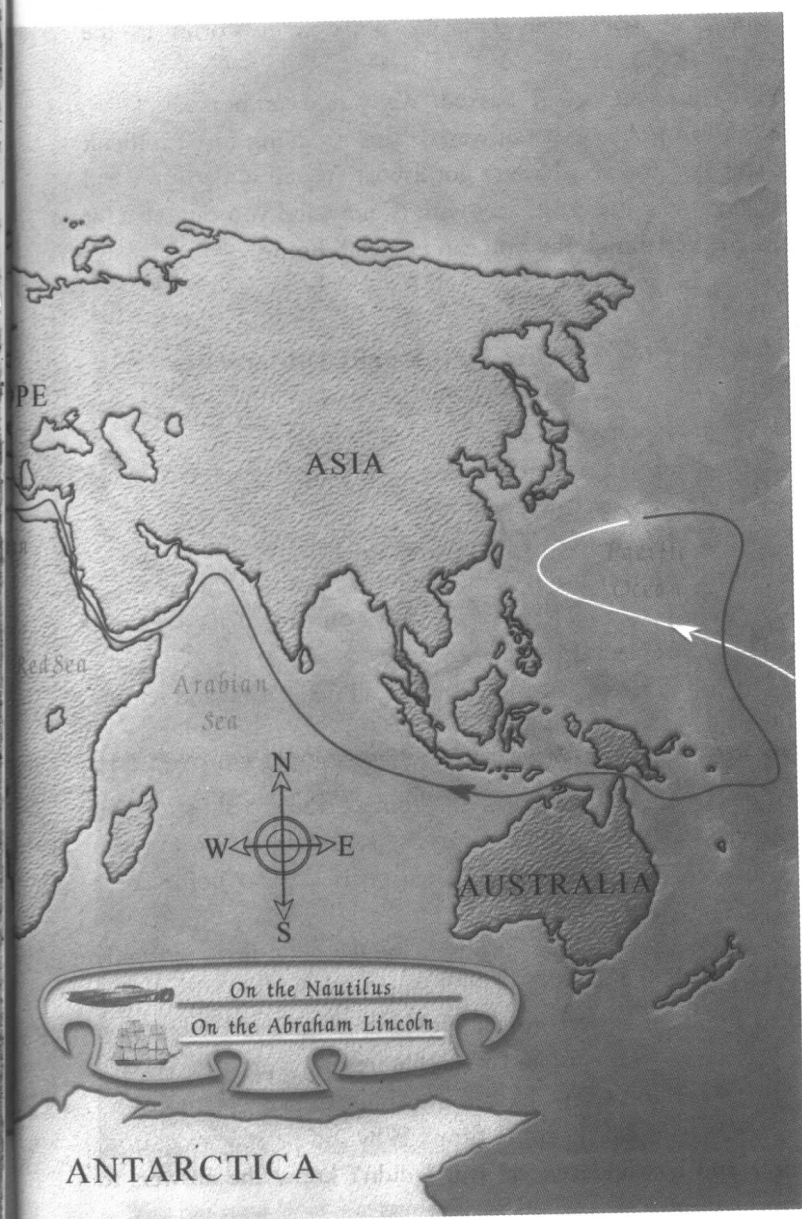
A man came into the room, and Ned started to hit him in the face. Conseil and I wanted to stop Ned, but he was very strong. Suddenly, our first visitor was with us again.

'Stop, Mr Land!' he said, in very good French. 'And please listen to me, all of you. My name is Captain Nemo, and this is my boat, the *Nautilus*.

'I didn't talk to you on my first visit. I'm sorry about that. But you're a problem for me. What can I do with you? My men and I are never going back to our countries; we're always going to live on the *Nautilus*. You can live with us, too, but you can't go back



At sea on the Abraham Lincoln and the Nautilus



to your countries after that. We don't want stories in the newspapers about us.'

'What are you saying?' I asked. 'We want to go home.'

'You can go now,' he answered. 'But it's going to be difficult for you, because you haven't got a boat. You're underwater and you aren't near the coast. Stay with us now, and you can see a lot of interesting things. But you can never go home.'

Chapter 3 Our First Weeks Underwater

We stayed, of course.

We walked with Nemo's men to our new bedrooms. Then I had some food with the captain.

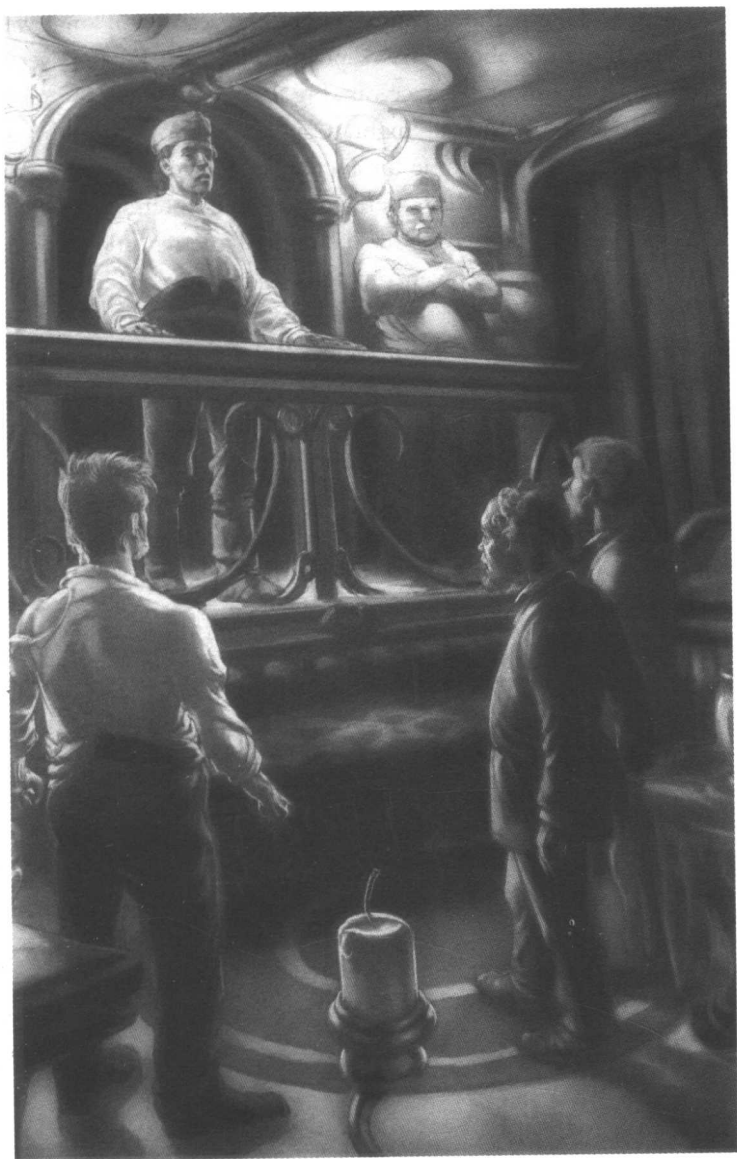
'Our food comes from the sea,' he said, 'and we eat very well. Our shirts, our shoes, our beds, our pens – we make all of them from sea animals, too. I love the sea! It's our only friend. People can't make problems for us here.'

'But you don't want to listen to me all day. Come and see my submarine.'

We went into a room with thousands of books. 'I often read your book about sea animals, Mr Aronnax,' the captain said. 'You write very well. But your time on the *Nautilus* is going to teach you a lot of new things. A submarine is a good home for a scientist.'

I visited every room on the *Nautilus*, the first and only submarine in the seas. Captain Nemo was its builder, and he talked about his answers to the problems of an underwater boat. He was a clever scientist and a very interesting man.

Later, Ned and Conseil asked me about Captain Nemo. Who was he? Where did he come from? Why did he stay away from people and live underwater? But I didn't know the answers to their questions.



'You can see a lot of interesting things. But you can never go home.'

Then, suddenly, the *Nautilus's* sea lights came on and we stopped thinking about the captain. The sea looked very beautiful, with fish of every colour, big and small. We didn't take our eyes from the sea all night. Captain Nemo was right: a submarine was a good home for a scientist.

The weeks after that were quiet but interesting. The submarine usually stayed about a hundred metres underwater. But every morning we went up for air, and my friends and I looked across the blue waters of the Pacific.

We didn't often see Captain Nemo. But Conseil and I looked at his books, and at the fish in the sea. Only Ned was unhappy. He wasn't a scientist and he didn't like reading. And he didn't like eating fish every day.

One day Captain Nemo said, 'There are a lot of animals in the Trees of Crespo. They make good food. Do you want to look for some with me?'

'Trees?' I asked. 'Are we near the coast?'

'They're underwater trees,' he answered.

Ned didn't want to come. But Conseil and I dressed in diving suits and walked on the sea floor with the captain and his men. It wasn't difficult. On a boat, diving suits are heavy, but they are light in the water. There was only one problem: I wanted to talk about the tall trees and beautiful fish with Conseil, but you can't hear people in a diving suit.

Captain Nemo and his men killed some big animals, and we went back to the *Nautilus* with a lot of good food.

Chapter 4 Papuan Spears

After two months on the *Nautilus*, we were near the coast of Australia. Captain Nemo wanted to take us to Asia, but the seas in front of us were very difficult. The coral reefs are famous



Conseil and I dressed in diving suits and walked on the sea floor.

because they are beautiful. But they are famous, too, because boats often hit them. There are a lot of dead seamen in those waters.

We went slowly, and looked for coral reefs under the water in front of us. For a long time we didn't have any problems. Then, suddenly, there was a big noise. The *Nautilus* stopped.

'What's wrong?' I asked the captain.

'The *Nautilus* is sitting on a coral reef. It can't move,' he answered quietly. 'But it's not a problem. After five days, the sea's going to take us away from here.'

The sea goes up and down every day, of course, and it goes up and down every month, too. Was Captain Nemo right?

Ned didn't want to wait and see. 'We can escape from the *Nautilus* today,' he said. 'The coast is near. Let's go!'

'No, Ned,' I answered. 'The Papuans live on that coast. Papuans often kill and eat their visitors.'

Every day, Ned looked across the water at the beautiful coast. 'Perhaps we can go there and look for food,' he said.

We asked the captain. 'Of course you can go,' he said, with a smile. 'Take the little boat, but be back here before night-time.'

Ned, Conseil and I arrived on the coast, and for a long time we didn't stop eating. There was a lot of fruit on the trees, and it was very good. Conseil and I looked at the beautiful animals. Ned looked at the animals, too, but he wanted them for food. He worked quickly, and that evening we had a lot of dead animals, and fruit, for the *Nautilus's* kitchen.

We started to put things in the little boat. But suddenly Conseil said, 'Ow! What was that on my hand?'

'Look!' Ned said. 'There are men in the trees. They've got spears. They're going to kill us!'

Conseil and I were quickly in the boat, but Ned wanted to get the food first. A rain of small spears came from the trees, then one hundred men started to run to our boat. We went quickly