



Children of the New Forest
CAPTAIN MARRYAT R.N.

PRONUNCIATION OF THE CHIEF NAMES OF PERSONS AND PLACES

THE pronunciation given in brackets is the system used in *The New Method Dictionary*, followed by the pronunciation in The International Phonetic Symbols.

Armitage	(44·1·1)	'aamitidʒ
Arnwood	(44·7)	'aanwud
Barnet	(44·1)	'baanit
Benjamin	(2·9·1)	'bendʒəmin
Bolton	(67·9)	'bouldən
Captain Marryat	(3·1-3·19)	'kæptin 'mærɪət
Chaloner	(3·9·9)	'tʃælənə
Clara	(29·9)	'kleərə
Colonel Beverley	(77·9-2·9·1)	'kæənəl 'bevəli
Corbould	(55·67)	'kɔɔbould
Cromwell	(5·9)	kɹɔmwəl
Cunningham	(8·1·9)	'kʌnɪŋhəm
(Lord) Derby	(44·1)	'daabi
Grenville	(2·1)	'grenvil
Heatherstone	(2·9·67)	'heðstoun
Holland	(5·9)	'hələnd
Humphrey	(8·1)	'hʌmfri
Hurst	(99)	hæst
(The) Intendant	(1·2·9)	in'tendənt
Isle of Wight	(41-9-w41t)	ail əv wait
Jacob (Armitage)	(21·9)	'dʒeɪkəb
James Southwold	(21-47·67)	'dʒeɪmz 'sauθwəuld
Judith Villiers	(77·1-1·19)	'dʒu:dið 'vɪliəz
Lambert	(3·9)	'læmbət
Langton	(3·9)	'læŋtən
Lymington	(1·1·9)	'lɪmɪŋtən
Middleton	(1·9)	'mɪdltən
Naseby	(21zbr)	'neɪzbi
Oswald Partridge	(5zwɔld 44·1)	'ɔzwəld 'paatridʒ
Patience (Heatherstone)	(p21shɔns)	'peɪʃəns
Portlake	(55·21)	'pɔtleɪk
Ratcliff	(3·1)	'rætklɪf
Samson	(3·9)	'sæmsən
Spain	(21)	speɪn
Warrington	(5·1·9)	'wɔrɪŋtən
Wigan	(1·9)	'wɪɡən
Worcester	(w7stɔ)	'wʊstə
York	(155k)	ɪɔk

H 319.4
E 6020

000846
0862

CHILDREN OF THE NEW FOREST

by

CAPTAIN MARRYAT R.N.

*Simplified and brought within the
vocabulary of New Method Reader 3 by*

MICHAEL WEST M.A., D. PHIL.



Illustrated by Geoffrey Whittan



暨南大学外语系资料室



LONGMAN

LONGMAN GROUP LIMITED
London

*Associated companies, branches and representatives
throughout the world*

© Longman Group Ltd (formerly
Longmans, Green & Co Ltd) 1937

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Copyright owner.

First published in this edition 1937

Second edition (reset and re-illustrated, twenty-fourth printing) 1962

*New impressions *1963; *April, *May, *September 1964;*

*1966; *July 1967; *February, *September 1968;*

**March 1969; *January 1970;*

**May 1971*

ISBN 0 582 53450 X

This book is written within the 1,000 word vocabulary of New Method Reader 3 Alternative Edition. All extra words are explained either in a footnote or in a picture where they first appear.

*Printed in Hong Kong by
Peninsula Press Ltd*

Illustrations

	<i>page</i>
Frontispiece	4
One of the deer lifted its head	23
“I have brought Edward Armitage to see you.” . . .	42
Ben was standing by the window with a pistol in his hand	61
It was a very happy party that set out across the forest	78
Late that night they arrived at Portlake	99
“So those are the sisters of whom you have spoken.” .	116

暨南大学外语系资料室



Ladder



Forester



Clerk



Secretary



Sword



Pistol



Highwayman



Gallop



Deer

One

THE KING ESCAPES

A. Nearly three hundred years ago, the people of England rose and fought against their king, Charles the First. In the end they won a great battle at Naseby, made him a prisoner, and formed a new government.

Among the friends of King Charles who died fighting bravely at Naseby was a certain *Colonel*¹ Beverley. His home was at Arnwood, in the New Forest, in the South of England. When poor Mrs. Beverley heard that her husband was dead, she became so sad and ill that she also died very soon after him. Colonel Beverley and his wife had four children, Edward, Humphrey, Alice and Edith. Edward was fourteen years of age, Humphrey twelve, Alice eleven, and Edith eight.

B. England was then not a happy place for the friends of the King who had fought on his side. Their lands and houses and riches were taken from them. Many of them left their homes and went over the sea to other countries. Thus when their mother died, the four children were left without anyone to take care of them, except an old servant, Jacob Armitage. Most of Colonel Beverley's other

¹ Colonel = A man who commands about a thousand men in the army.

servants had followed him to fight for the King; some were killed at Naseby, the others were prisoners.

Jacob lived in a little house about a mile and a half from Arnwood. When his master went to join the King's army, he asked the old man to go and live at the great house and guard the four children and their mother. But Jacob had lived all his life in the forest, and although he loved his master he felt that he could not leave it in his old age. He promised to go every day to Arnwood and do everything he could to help the children. He kept his promise. Day after day he went to the great house and did whatever was needed to help his master's family. When Mrs. Beverley died, worn out with sadness, Jacob felt that it was his duty to take the place of both father and mother to the four children. Thus they lived at Arnwood when King Charles escaped from his prison near London.

C. As soon as the escape of the King became known, bands of horse-soldiers were sent to follow him and bring him back to prison. It was soon known that the King had gone towards the New Forest. His enemies thought that he meant to sail across the sea from some town on the South Coast, and that he would first hide in the forest until a ship was ready for him. Small bands of horsemen therefore rode through the forest, to try to stop him before he reached the coast.

It was evening. Jacob was returning to his own house in the forest. Then he saw some soldiers

riding between the trees. He knew by their clothes that they were the King's enemies, and that he was in danger. Very quietly he stood behind a thick tree and watched them get down from their horses in order to give them a rest. One man, the captain, stood with his hand upon his horse's neck. "Is there any man here who knows the forest well?" he asked. "We cannot stay here long, and we have a great deal of work to do."

"Yes, sir," replied another man. "I am James Southwold. I was born in the forest, and have worked here all my life."

D. Jacob looked at the man who had just spoken, and remembered his face. He was one of the men from a village near Arnwood who had joined the King's army when the war started. Jacob had thought that James Southwold was an honourable, true-hearted young man, and he was surprised and sad to find that he had now joined the King's enemies.

"If you were born in the forest, you must know all its paths," said the leader. "Are there any secret places in it where a man can be hidden?"

"I know one place, between two low hills, where a band of soldiers with their horses could be hidden from everybody's eyes," replied Southwold. "It is near Arnwood."

"We will ride there, then," replied the captain. "Is not Arnwood the house of Beverley, who was killed at Naseby?"

"Yes, and I have eaten many good meals there,"

said Southwold. "Perhaps the King may be hidden there."

E. "Well, we will ride first to this place between the hills," replied the captain. "If we do not find him there, we will go on to Arnwood at night. These old houses are full of secret rooms and passages, but fire will drive forth any man who may be hiding in them. To horse!"

The soldiers sprang to their horses, and rode through the trees; Southwold showed them the way. Jacob stood behind the tree until they were out of sight. "And so the King has escaped," he thought. "He may be at Arnwood. Even if he is not there, the children will be in danger. These soldiers will set fire to the house, and the children will be burnt to death. I must hurry to the house and help them to escape." In less than an hour he had returned to Arnwood.

Two

FIRE AT ARNWOOD

A. Miss Judith Villiers was sitting in the great hall at Arnwood. A servant came in. "Old Jacob wishes to see you," he said.

Mrs. Beverley, mother of the four children, of whom we spoke in the first chapter, was dead.

Just before her death she asked her sister, Miss Judith Villiers, to come to Arnwood, to take care of the house, and rule the few servants who remained.

Old Jacob was one of the old servants and he did most of the work.

“What is it, Jacob?” asked Miss Villiers.

“I must first tell you that King Charles has escaped from prison. People think that he is hidden in the forest near Arnwood, or even in the house itself. Only an hour ago I saw a party of soldiers riding through the forest-paths. I heard them talking, and discovered that they were coming here to seek for the King. They said that they would set fire to the house even if they did not find him.”

B. “And what do you wish me to do?” asked Miss Judith.

“My lady, I think that you and the children should leave Arnwood and come to my little house in the forest. It is only a poor place, and is not fit for you, but you will be in great danger if you remain here.”

“No, Jacob. No enemy of King Charles can make me afraid, or drive me out of my own home. Whatever happens, I shall remain.”

“But, my lady, the children cannot stay. I will not leave them here. I promised my master——”

“Will the children be in greater danger than I?” replied the lady angrily. “These soldiers will treat me as a lady should be treated. They will never dare to hurt me.”

"I am afraid that they will dare to do anything they wish, my lady. The children will be afraid of them. For one night at least they will be safer if they come with me," replied Jacob.

"Well then; take them to your house."

C. Jacob knew that the proud Miss Judith would never give way to his wishes, nor leave the house in fear of the soldiers. He therefore went to look for the children. He found them playing in the garden. He called the two boys to him and told them to follow him. "Now, Edward," he said, "your father was a brave man. The time has come when you must be as brave as he was. We must leave this house at once."

"But why, Jacob? Tell me why," answered Edward.

"Because the soldiers will burn it down to-night," said Jacob.

"Burn it down! The house is mine. Who dares to burn down this house?"

"They will dare, and they will do it, too."

"But we will fight them, Jacob."

"And what can you and I do against twenty horsemen?" asked Jacob with a smile. "Remember your sisters. Do you wish to see them shot or burnt to death? No, Edward, you must do as I say. You must all come with me to the little house in the forest. Get whatever clothes you need, load them onto the horse, and come at once."

D. "That will be fine," cried Humphrey. But

Edward would not at first give way. Now that his father was dead, he felt that he was the head of the family. He wished to stay and guard Arnwood against the King's enemies, but at last Jacob made him understand that the danger to his little sisters was too great. Hurriedly they gathered together the things that they needed. They were almost ready to go, and were calling the little girls to go with them, when Edward asked suddenly, "Is Aunt¹ Judith coming with us?"

"She will not leave the house," replied Jacob; "she means to stay and speak to the soldiers."

"And so an old woman remains to guard the house, while I run away!" said Edward. "No! I will not go."

"Well, do as you wish," replied Jacob. "But we cannot leave your sisters here. They and Humphrey must come with me, and I cannot bring them if you do not help me. Come with us. The house is not far away, and you can return in a very short time."

"Yes, I will do that," replied Edward.

E. The horse was soon loaded, and the little girls, who were still playing in the garden, were called in by Humphrey. They were told that they were going to Jacob's house for the night, and they were delighted.

"Now, Edward," said Jacob, "will you take your sisters by the hand and lead them to my house? Here is the key of the door; Humphrey

¹ Aunt = The sister of a father or mother; the wife of an uncle.

can lead the horse." He then took Edward aside. "I must tell you one thing that I do not wish your brother and sisters to know. King Charles has escaped. The New Forest is full of soldiers looking for him, and so you must not leave them until I return. Shut the house-door with the iron bar as soon as it is dark. You will find a lamp in the kitchen; my gun is loaded, and is hanging over the fire-place. If the soldiers try to come in, you must do your best to keep them out. But you must promise me not to leave the house until I come back. I shall stay here to see what happens. When I come back, we can decide upon the best plan."

F. Edward promised that he would not leave his sisters. Just before darkness fell, the little party passed through the gateway of Arnwood. Jacob returned to the great hall, where Miss Judith was still sitting.

"I wish, my lady," he said, "that you would leave this house. I am sure it is dangerous to stay here."

"Jacob Armitage, I would not leave this house, even if it were filled with soldiers. Leave me, and never return. Do as I order. Send my servant-girl to me."

"My lady, I have just seen all the servants leaving the house. When I go, you will be alone."

"Have they dared to leave?" shouted the lady.

"My lady, they dared not stay," said Jacob.

"Then leave me too," answered the proud old lady. "And shut the door when you go out."

When Jacob found that he could not get Miss Judith to leave the house, he went out as he was ordered, and followed the children along the road.

G. About a mile away from Arnwood there was a small *inn* at the side of the road. When Jacob came near, he found it filled with the soldiers whom he had seen in the forest. Their horses were tied to the trees outside the inn, while the soldiers drank inside. Jacob entered, with the thought that he might find out whether the soldiers really meant to set fire to Arnwood. James Southwold was sitting at a table. As soon as he saw Jacob, whom he had known for many years, he asked many questions about the family at Arnwood. Jacob answered him, and then suddenly thought of a plan to save Miss Judith.

"You are going to Arnwood," he said, "and I have heard what you are looking for. Well, if you meet an old lady, or something that looks like an old lady, take her on your horse and ride away as fast as you can. I dare not say any more, but I am sure you understand."

"Yes," replied Southwold in a low voice. "The lady is not a lady, but——" He had no time to finish his words, for the order was given to get on their horses, and the soldiers rode away. Jacob followed them unseen. They soon arrived at the great house, got off their horses, and entered. From where Jacob was standing, a little distance away, he could see lights moving from room to room. In a few minutes fire broke out from the

lower windows, and soon the whole house was burning.

H. Jacob turned to go back to his house, when he heard the sound of a horse's feet, and a loud cry of anger. A minute afterwards James Southwold passed him; behind him was tied Miss Judith; she was kicking and fighting to get free. Jacob smiled. He knew that his little plan had saved Miss Judith's life, for it was plain that Southwold thought that his prisoner was King Charles dressed as an old lady. In half an hour Jacob reached his house. By this time the fire at Arnwood was throwing its light all round the country. Jacob stood at the door and called softly. Edward opened it.

"Come out, Edward," said Jacob, "and look." Edward saw the great fire lighting the sky. He was silent.

"I told you that this would happen," Jacob said. "You would all have been burnt in your beds. The soldiers did not look to see who was in the house; they set fire to it as soon as they reached it."

I. "But what has happened to my aunt?" cried Edward.

"She is quite safe. By this time she must be far away from the fire," replied Jacob. "But we are still in danger. The King's enemies must not discover that the children of Colonel Beverley have escaped. I shall go into Lymington to-morrow. The soldiers are staying there, and I must find out

what they mean to do, and what has happened to Miss Judith. You must remain here, and take care of your sisters until I return. Look, the fire is not so bright as it was."

"No," replied Edward. "But it is my house that is destroyed."

"It was your house, Edward, but I am afraid that the new government will take it away from you, with all the lands around it. They have done this with the lands of other officers who fought for the King. But come in; it is very late, and the night is cold."

Edward slowly followed Jacob into the house. His heart was full of anger. These men had killed his father. They had burnt his house and stolen his land. He lay down on the bed. For a long time he could not sleep. Wild plans passed through his mind; but at last he slept. Strange dreams came to him, and he often called loudly in his sleep, and woke his brothers and sisters.

Three

THE CHILDREN IN THE FOREST

A. The next morning Jacob gave the children their breakfast; then he set off towards Arnwood. The house was almost completely destroyed by the fire. A few men and women stood near, drawn there by