

Theme: Mystery

The Mysterious Creature

Benjamin and his sister, Melinda, stared out at the sea. The waves were lapping lazily against the shore and sunlight bounced off the water, glittering like a sea of diamonds. It was a picturesque moment and anyone would easily feel as though he was in paradise. Only Benjamin and Melinda shuddered as they thought of the day they had seen the water equally tranquil but with that intriguing black object floating in it.

The children had just spent a long day at the beach and were packing to return home. It was at that moment that Melinda noticed a black object floating in the water. Curious, the children waited for the waves to toss the object onto the shore. It was not long before it landed at their feet. It was a small black box. Using a twig, Benjamin fiddled with the lock and finally managed to open it. The children opened the box with a mixture of apprehension and excitement. To their horror, they saw a skull and crossbones lying in the middle of the box. It was a pirate symbol! What did it mean? Did a pirate drop the box into the sea? Picking it up, Benjamin noticed that the skull seemed to sparkle in the sunlight. It looked as though there was something in it. He shook it hard and finally, a tiny silver creature popped out and leapt onto Benjamin's arm. It stuck out a shockingly long tongue and stung Benjamin's wrist before leaping onto the ground and crawling away.

Benjamin hardly felt the prick but he could feel a burning sensation. Almost at once, his wrist turned dark red and patches of small maroon spots appeared on his upper arm. Melinda was alarmed. She wondered if the creature had done something to her brother.

"I cannot breathe," Benjamin whispered.

Shocked, Melinda called for the ambulance. The ambulance arrived in the nick of time and Benjamin was whisked away to the hospital. At the hospital, the children learnt that Benjamin had been infected with a strange virus. Pirates in the nineteenth century were plagued by this kind of virus and many of them died because of this. Fortunately for Benjamin, he survived. When he was better, he and Melinda examined the box again. At the bottom of it was a chilling note that said 'May the pirate curse befall you'.

After that incident, Benjamin and Melinda could not stop thinking of the mysterious creature they had encountered but they were glad that nothing unusual happened in the sea that day.