

Let's read Chapter 9 and see what is happening to Raven Boy and Elf Girl!

'My, you're a good climber,' said Elf Girl.  
'I'm impressed. Not bad for a boy.'

Raven Boy bowed solemnly.

'That's what happens when you live in trees.'

'Now what?' asked Elf Girl.

'Now, we get off. They must have a jolly boat for going ashore in. Let's find it, and set ourselves free!'

'Wait! We have to find my bow first.'

'Elf Girl! We don't have time. They could wake up at any moment!'

'I'm not going without it,' Elf Girl said, and her ears started to glow in the darkness.

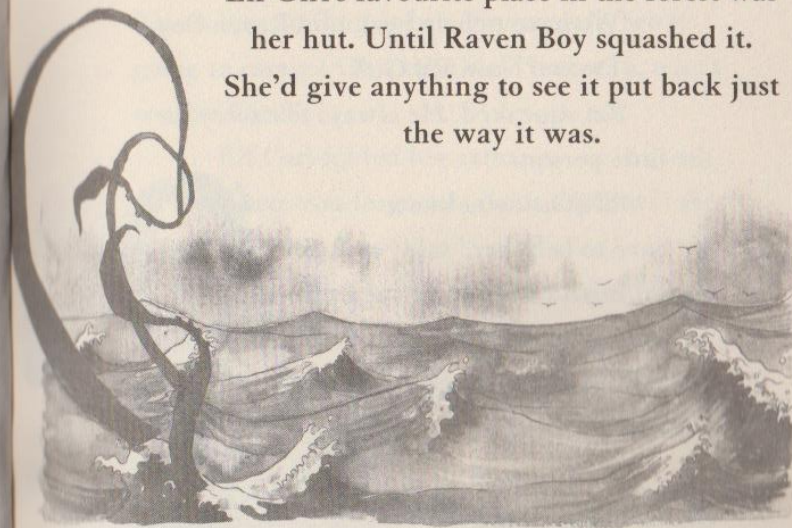
Raven Boy sighed. He knew there was no point in arguing.

'We'll have to hurry,' he said.

They were about to start looking when, suddenly, they heard a voice.

## NINE

Elf Girl's favourite place in the forest was her hut. Until Raven Boy squashed it. She'd give anything to see it put back just the way it was.



From just a way down the deck, someone was calling to them.

They could tell straight away that it wasn't a pirate, or even a pig, or a parrot.

For one thing, it was the voice of a young girl, and for another thing, what it had said was, 'Help!'

Raven Boy and Elf Girl were halfway towards the captain's cabin when they saw who



it was: the new prisoner the pirates had been so delighted to capture.

'We have to help her!' said Raven Boy.

'Do we?' said Elf Girl.

Rat squeaked. He always felt sorry for the little person.

'Elf Girl, you know we have to help her,' said Raven Boy. 'That's our job, isn't it?'

'Yes, I know,' said Elf Girl. 'Sorry.'

They tiptoed over to the girl. She was tiny, and thin, even tinier and thinner than Elf Girl, and she was wearing a very tatty dress. If they hadn't known better, they would have sworn it was made from seaweed.

'Oh, please help me!'



said the girl. 'They're going to sell me!'

'They were going to sell us, too,' said Raven Boy, smiling at her. 'But actually we're going to escape! Of course we'll help you, won't we, Elf Girl?'

Elf Girl folded her arms.

'Have you forgotten about my bow?' she hissed at Raven Boy.

'Please get me out of these chains,' said the girl. 'Please? I want to go home.'

'Yes,' said Raven Boy, 'but how? They're locked with a padlock and we can't cut through chains.'

'The captain has the key!' whispered the girl. 'Please! Hurry!'

'And he has your bow too,' said Raven Boy, and Elf Girl unfolded her arms.

They crept towards the captain's cabin, pulling the door open as quietly as they could.

Rat stayed with the girl, and decided she might feel better if he sat on her head, so he did. Her tangled hair was rather salty, he decided, but otherwise quite comfortable.

Elf Girl and Raven Boy found the captain,



fast asleep, and snoring, but sitting upright in his chair. Poking out of his pocket was a key, and cradled in his arms was Elf Girl's bow.

'The pig!' cried Elf Girl.

'Shh!' hushed Raven Boy. 'You'll wake him up!'

Elf Girl nodded, and they tiptoed over very carefully indeed.

At close range, his snoring was deafening, but Raven Boy reached out one hand and slowly pulled the key from Scrim's pocket.

He held it up, grinning at Elf Girl, who started to try and pull her bow from the captain's arms.

'No!' whispered Raven Boy as loud as he dared. 'No! Don't!'

Raven Boy could see Elf Girl wasn't going to stop, and hurried back out of the cabin, running over the captive girl.

Holding his breath, Raven Boy tried the key.

It fitted! Within moments, she was free. Rat jumped off her head and back into Raven Boy's pocket.

'Oh, thank you!' she said, happily.

'Right,' said Raven Boy. 'Let's get out of here. Help me lower that rowing boat, would you?'

He pointed at the pirate's jolly boat, which needed winding down on a winch to the sea.

They wound the handles as fast as they could, and the little boat was just about to touch the water, when suddenly they heard a noise like a rhinoceros sneezing. That was followed by shouts and

the sound of running feet; pointy boots and pirate boots. Elf Girl emerged from the captain's cabin, closely followed by the captain himself, waving her bow and looking furious.





'Go!' shouted Elf Girl. 'Go! Into the boat!'

Raven Boy didn't need telling twice, and clambered into the boat in a flash. He could hear the other pirates waking up and more angry shouting and fuss.

He grabbed the oars and though he didn't really know what he was doing, he managed to start the boat moving, just as Elf Girl reached the railings, and flung herself into the boat, where she landed with a bump.

'Where's that girl you were so keen on rescuing?' she asked.

Raven Boy shrugged, then Rat squeaked loudly, and they both saw her.

'Look!'

The girl was standing on the rail of the deck, and it looked as if she was about to be grabbed by a dozen pirates, when she dived neatly off the side of the ship and into the water, barely making a splash.

'Wow!' said Raven Boy. 'Cool!'

'Shut up and row, Raven Face,' said Elf Girl. 'They're coming!'

'Elf Girl, are you jealous?' asked Raven Boy.

She was, it was true, and it was also true that the pirates were coming after them, but were so sleepy that they didn't really know what was going on.

They were running around in all directions, the captain was waving the bow above his head shouting 'Garr!', and a couple of pigs leapt from the ship into the water.

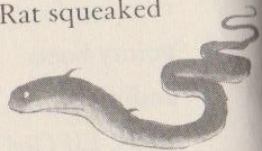
'Row!' cried Elf Girl, and Raven Boy did his best. After a while, Elf Girl pointed out he was facing the wrong way, and then they took one oar each, and soon put some distance between the pirate ship and themselves.

'Where's that girl gone?' shouted Raven Boy.

'Here I am!' she said, and popped her head over the back end of the boat.

She turned and laughed at the pirates, watching as one of them tripped over a pig and fell overboard.

'Quick,' cried Raven Boy, as even Elf Girl made a space for her. 'Get into the boat and let's get out of here. We won't have to go far and they won't be able to see us in the dark.'





'Thanks,' said the girl, 'but I'm happier in the water. It was nice of you to rescue me, by the way. My name's Molo. What's yours?'

'That's a funny name,' said Raven Boy.

'He's called Raven Boy and I'm Elf Girl,' said Elf Girl.

'And you think my name's funny?' said Molo. 'Anyway, thank you Raven Boy, thank you Elf Girl. Without you I'd have been sold for sure.'

'And so would we,' said Elf Girl. 'But not for as much as you. Why are you worth so much more than us anyway?'

Molo shrugged.

'Listen, I'm going now.'

'You're going? But where? There's nowhere to go.'

'Yes there is,' Molo said, 'but if I were you, I'd row that way.'

She pointed towards the moon.

'Don't go that way either,' she added, pointing north. 'That's the way to Blackheart Isle. And keep well away from Scream Sea too.'

She bobbed about in the water, pointing this way and that.

'But I want you to know,' she went on, 'that if you ever need any help, just blow through this, and I'll come. With my friends.'

She fished around her neck and pulled a tiny silvery chain off, handing it to Raven Boy. On it was a small shell with a hole through it. It sparkled like shimmering fish scales in the starlight. Raven Boy put it to his lips.

'Don't!' cried Molo. 'Only once, when you need it. And we'll come.'

'What do you mean?' asked Raven Boy, sounding confused.

'Who'll come?' asked Elf Girl, feeling just as puzzled.

'We will!' cried Molo, laughing, and with that, she ducked away from the boat, taking a swoop underwater, and then, as she surfaced and ducked under again, they saw something that made them both stop rowing and their mouths fall open.



'Did you see that?' asked Raven Boy.  
'No, I didn't,' said Elf Girl. 'No way.'  
'You did! I know you did,' said Raven Boy.  
'Yes, all right,' said Elf Girl. 'I did see it,  
but I must be crazy in the head.'

Raven Boy said nothing, because just  
then, they got a last glimpse of Molo as she  
swam away. There, where her legs should have  
been, they caught sight of a long and glistening  
fish's tail.

'Mermaid,' whispered Raven Boy.

'Wow,' whispered Elf Girl.

Raven Boy looked at the shell whistle,  
and tucked it in his pocket, next to Rat.

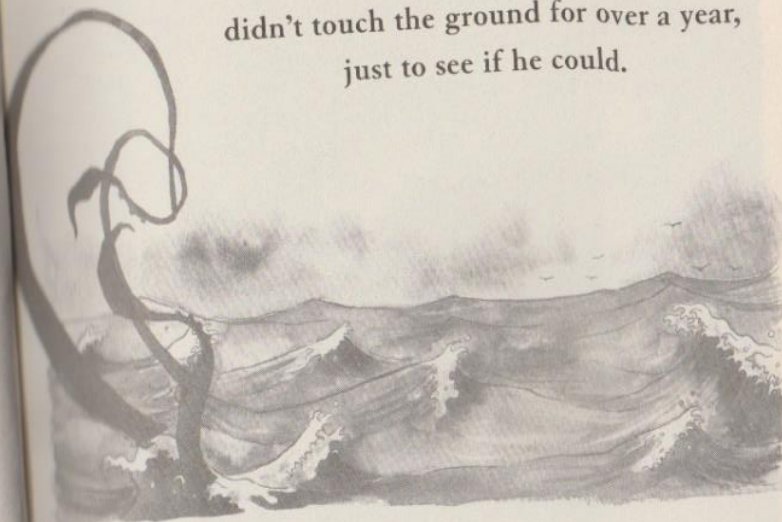
The shouts  
of angry pirates  
floated across the  
water.

'Come  
on, Elf Girl, we  
need to row some  
more.'



## TEN

Raven Boy lives in the treetops, and once  
didn't touch the ground for over a year,  
just to see if he could.



It didn't take them long to put the pirate ship  
out of sight. It was dark and they were very  
small. And the pirates had drunk an awful lot  
of rum.

'So that's why she was worth so much,'  
said Elf Girl, as they kept rowing. 'She was a  
mermaid. She didn't have a tail when she was  
on the ship though.'

'Maybe because she was out of the water.'



## Reading Vipers

**V**ocabulary

**I**nfer

**P**redict

**E**xplain

**R**etrieve

**S**ummarise



**V** What does the 'tangled' mean?

**I** Why did Molo give Raven Boy the chain?

**P** Do you think we will see Molo again in the story? Explain your answer.

**E** Explain why you think Elf Girl was jealous.

**R** Why were the pirates running around in all directions?

**S** Summarise this chapter in 3 points.



# VOCABULARY LABORATORY

Explain meaning / Definition:

Use in a sentence (add picture too):

Modifications:

Modify to past tense, present, plural singular, add prefix or suffix etc.  
How many forms can you think of?

happy

Word Class:

Word Class:

Synonyms

Antonyms

happier

@VocabularyNinja

'Words unlock the doors to a world of understanding...'



The word I  
want you to  
investigate is  
  
happy