

LESSON PLAN

3/4

THREE MEN IN A BOAT

Worksheet

Chapter 1 – Our Bad Health

George, Harris and J can't agree on where to go on their two-week holiday. They talk about several different places but they can't decide.

1. Before you read – Match these words from the text to their definition.

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|---------------------|---|
| 1. seasickness | a. a very big mouse |
| 2. fox-terrier | b. a complex system of paths between walls, designed to confuse people who try to find their way out; a labyrinth |
| 3. rat | c. feeling sick in the stomach because of the movement of a boat on water |
| 4. Waterloo Station | d. a kind of dog |
| 5. keeper (here) | e. an important train station in London |
| 6. maze | f. a person who looks after a property or a park |

2. Read the first part of the extract.

'Let's go to the countryside,' I said, 'We'll find a nice, quiet place with no people.'
'Oh, how boring!' exclaimed Harris. 'In the country everyone goes to bed at eight o'clock. You can't even find a newspaper. If you want a rest and a change, then the best place is the sea.'

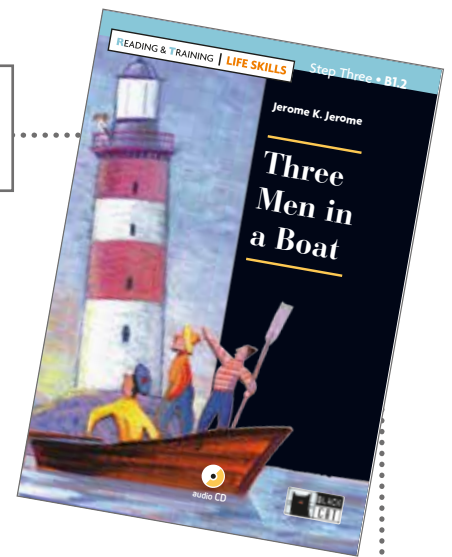
'What a terrible idea!' I said. 'A sea trip gives you seasickness. Who wants a whole week of seasickness?'

George thought for a while and said, 'Let's go up the river. We'll have fresh air and quiet on the river. The hard work on the boat will make us hungry, so we'll enjoy our meals. We'll be so tired at the end of the day that we'll sleep well.'

Harris looked at George and said, 'You don't have any trouble sleeping. There are only twenty-four hours in the day, and you sleep most of that time. If you sleep any more, you're dead! However, I like your idea of a holiday on the River Thames.'

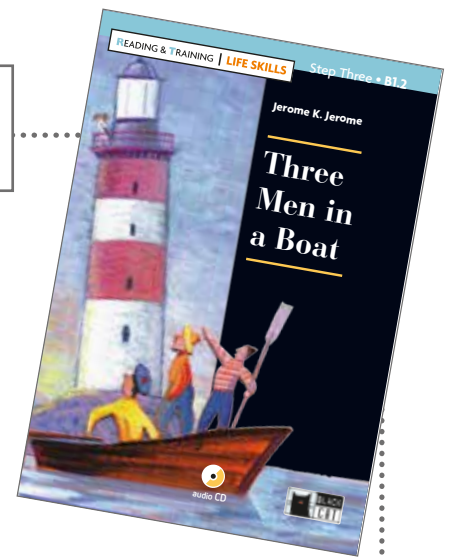
I liked it too. George was surprised that we both liked his idea. The only one who didn't like the idea was Montmorency, my fox-terrier. He looked at us with his big eyes.

'You like the idea, but I don't' his face said. 'On the river there's nothing for me to do. I don't like looking at the trees. If I see a rat, you won't stop the boat so I can run after it. The whole idea is stupid.'



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3. Chapter Three – Hampton Court Maze

The three friends finish packing, which is a very amusing experience. They are finally ready to go on their holiday on the River Thames, with all its interesting historical sites. Harris and J go to get the boat and they agree to pick up George after work.

At Waterloo Station we took the 11.05 train. At Kingston our boat was waiting for us below the bridge. Harris and I put our luggage in it and got on, but Montmorency was worried. It was a beautiful day and Harris took the oars; we started our two-week trip on the River Thames.

When we passed Hampton Court Palace, Harris asked, 'Have you ever visited the maze here?' He said he had gone into the maze once to show a friend. He studied a map of the maze before going. He knew it was very easy to get out again.

Harris said to his friend, 'We'll go in and walk around for ten minutes. Then we'll come out and have lunch. It's very easy. Take the first turn to the right each time.'

In the maze they met some people who had been there for forty-five minutes. They wanted to get out because they were lost. Harris said, 'Follow me! I'm going out in ten minutes.' The people thanked him and started following him. Other people began following Harris, too. Some of them were worried and afraid. He continued turning to the right, but he was still in the maze.

Harris got lost and the people were angry with him. They all started calling for help. A young keeper heard them and came to help. But he got lost, too!

4. Look at this sentence: *Harris got lost and the people were angry with him. They all started calling for help.*

In pairs or small groups, comment on this sentence. Harris said he knew how to get out of the maze, but this was not true. Now he was in trouble, because many people, young and old, trusted him and followed him. What is your impression of Harris?

5. What do you think will happen next? Will Harris and the other people find their way out of the maze? Even the young keeper got lost! How do you think this holiday on the River Thames will turn out?

