

# The Signal from the Lighthouse

*A Fleydo English School Story*



A2 Level | Teens (11–16) | Reading | Mystery | 14 Pages

Milo is a fifteen-year-old boy who moves to a quiet coastal village with his mother. When he notices mysterious flashing lights from the old lighthouse at night, he starts investigating. By learning Morse code and exploring the cliffs, Milo uncovers the story of Iris — a girl who disappeared seventy years ago — and finds something she left behind for the right person to discover.

## Learning Objectives

- Read and understand an A2-level mystery story (14 pages)
- Learn 15 new vocabulary words in context
- Practise vocabulary with matching and fill-in-the-blank exercises
- Test reading comprehension with 10 multiple-choice questions
- Discuss themes: persistence, curiosity, and connection across time

# 1 Read the Story

## Chapter 1: The Edge of Nowhere

*Milo arrives and feels lost*

The bus stopped at the end of a narrow road. Milo stepped out and looked around. There was a row of small stone houses, a shop with a faded sign, a tiny **harbour** with a few fishing boats, and the sea. Grey, cold, endless sea.

“Welcome to Stonecliff,” his mother said, smiling. She was carrying two suitcases and trying to look cheerful. “Isn’t the air wonderful?”

“It smells like fish,” Milo said.

He was fifteen. Three weeks ago, his mother had told him they were leaving the city and moving to this **remote** village on the coast because she had got a job at the marine research station. Milo had argued, complained, and even refused to pack — but here he was.

Their new house was at the top of the village, a white cottage with blue shutters and a view of the **cliffs**. It was small but clean. His bedroom window looked straight out at the ocean, and far to the right, standing alone on a rocky point, was the old **lighthouse**.

“That lighthouse hasn’t been used for forty years,” his mother said when she saw him looking at it. “It’s **abandoned**. The villagers say it’s not safe to go near it.”

“Cool,” Milo said, but he didn’t mean it. Nothing about this place felt cool. His friends were back in Manchester, playing football and going to the cinema. He was stuck in a village with no phone signal and no Wi-Fi for the first two days.

That night, Milo couldn’t sleep. The wind was loud, and the waves crashed against the rocks below the cliffs. He lay in bed and stared at the ceiling.

Then he saw it.

Through his window, a light. Not steady — **flickering**. Short flashes, then long flashes, then short again. It was coming from the lighthouse.

Milo sat up. The lighthouse was supposed to be abandoned. There was no electricity. So who — or what — was making those lights?

He watched for five minutes. The pattern repeated: short-short-long, pause, long-short-short, pause, short-long. Then darkness.

Milo lay back down. His heart was beating fast. For the first time since arriving in Stonecliff, he felt something other than boredom. He felt curious.



## Chapter 2: The Light in the Dark

*Milo starts to investigate*

The next morning, Milo walked down to the village shop. The shopkeeper was an old woman called Mrs. Pryce, who knew everything about everyone.

“Excuse me,” Milo said. “Does anyone live in the old lighthouse?”

Mrs. Pryce looked at him carefully. “Nobody has been inside that lighthouse for years. The door is locked and the path is dangerous. Why do you ask?”

“I saw lights last night. Flashing lights. From the top.”

Mrs. Pryce shook her head slowly. “You’re not the first to say that. People have seen lights for years. Some say it’s just the moonlight on the glass. Others say...” She paused. “Others say it’s the ghost of Iris.”

“Who’s Iris?”

“A girl who **disappeared** from this village seventy years ago. She was seventeen. Some people think she fell from the cliffs. Others think she ran away. Nobody ever found out the truth.”

Milo felt a shiver run down his back. A girl who disappeared. A lighthouse with strange lights. This was a real mystery.

That afternoon, he went to the tiny village library. He typed “Morse code” into the search engine.

Morse code was a system of dots and dashes used to send messages. Short flashes meant dots. Long flashes meant dashes. Each pattern represented a letter.

Milo printed the Morse code alphabet and took it home. That night, he sat by his window with a notebook and a pen, waiting.

At exactly 11:47 pm, the lights started again. Milo wrote down every flash, carefully separating the short ones (dots) and long ones (dashes). When the lights stopped, he checked his paper.

He needed to **investigate** more carefully tomorrow night.



## Chapter 3: Dots and Dashes

### *Milo cracks the code*

For three more nights, Milo sat at his window and recorded every flash from the lighthouse. He wrote pages of dots and dashes. He was tired at breakfast, and his mother noticed.

“Are you sleeping well?” she asked.

“Fine,” he lied.

On the fourth night, he finally had enough data. He sat at his desk with his Morse code chart and **decoded** the full message. Letter by letter, the words appeared:

**FIND THE TIN BOX — WEST CAVE — LOW TIDE**

Milo stared at the message. Someone — or something — was sending a message from the lighthouse. It wasn’t random. It wasn’t moonlight. It was a real **signal**.

He knew there were **caves** at the bottom of the western cliffs. But the path down was steep and rocky, and the caves were only accessible when the **tide** was low.

The next morning, Milo checked the tide table at the harbour. Low tide was at 6:15 am. He set his alarm for 5:30.

He packed a torch, a bottle of water, his phone, and the decoded message. He also packed a rope, just in case.



## Chapter 4: The Cliff Path

### *Milo finds the cave*

The cliff path was narrow and wet. Small stones slipped under Milo's feet, and the wind pushed against him. Below, the sea was calm and grey, pulling slowly back from the rocks.

Milo followed the path down, holding onto rocks and bushes. Twice he nearly slipped. His heart was beating fast, but he kept going. He had **courage** — or maybe just stubbornness.

At the bottom of the cliff, the rocks were dark and covered in seaweed. The western cave was the largest.

Milo turned on his torch and stepped inside. The cave was cold and damp. The walls were smooth and grey, shaped by thousands of years of waves.

He walked deeper. The passage narrowed. Then, behind a large flat rock near the back wall, he saw it.

A **waterproof** tin box. Old, green, with rust around the edges. It was wedged behind the rock, above the waterline, where the sea would never reach it.

Milo pulled it out carefully. It was heavier than he expected. He sat down on the cave floor and opened the lid.



## Chapter 5: The Tin Box

### *A voice from the past*

Inside the tin box were three things: a small leather **diary**, a bundle of letters tied with a ribbon, and a folded piece of paper.

Milo opened the diary first. The handwriting was neat and small, written in faded blue ink. The first page said:

*“The Diary of Iris Morrow. Stonecliff, 1955. If you are reading this, you found my signal. Thank you.”*

Milo's hands trembled. Iris. The girl who disappeared seventy years ago. She had left this box here — and somehow, the lighthouse was still sending her message.

He read the diary slowly. Iris wrote about her life in Stonecliff. She loved the sea, the birds, and the lighthouse — her father had been the last lighthouse keeper. She wrote about learning Morse code from him when she was ten.

“They say girls should stay home and be quiet,” she wrote. “But I want to study the ocean. I want to travel. I want to understand the world.”



## Chapter 6: Iris

### *Milo discovers the truth*

The folded piece of paper inside the box was a letter from Iris:

*“Dear Finder, I am leaving Stonecliff tonight. I have been accepted at a university in Edinburgh to study marine biology, but my family will not let me go. So I am going anyway. I set the lighthouse lamp on a timer before I left. It will flash my message every night until the mechanism breaks. — Iris Morrow, 14 September 1955.”*

Milo sat in the cave for a long time. Iris hadn’t fallen from the cliffs. She hadn’t drowned. She had run away to follow her dream.

The lighthouse — with its mechanical timer — had been sending her Morse code message every night for seventy years.

The bundle of letters were from a university in Edinburgh. Acceptance letters. Exam results. A photograph of a young woman in a graduation gown. On the back: *“Iris Morrow, BSc Marine Biology, 1959.”*

“She did it,” Milo whispered. “She actually did it.”

At home, his mother searched online. “Dr. Iris Morrow. She became a professor. She studied ocean currents for forty years. She died in 2018, aged eighty.”



## Chapter 7: The Last Signal

*Milo finds his place*

Milo took the tin box to Mrs. Pryce. When she read the letter, tears ran down her face.

Within a week, the whole village knew the story. The local newspaper wrote about it. The village council decided to repair the lighthouse and turn it into a small museum about Iris Morrow.

Milo spent the rest of the summer working on the museum. He made friends with the local fishermen, with Mrs. Pryce, and with a girl called Nia who was just as curious about the world as he was.

On his last evening before school started, Milo climbed the cliff path one more time. The lighthouse stood silent now — the old timer had finally stopped.

Milo took out his torch and flashed a message in Morse code:

**MESSAGE RECEIVED. THANK YOU, IRIS.**

He looked at Stonecliff below him — the small houses, the harbour, the fishing boats. It wasn’t Manchester. But it had the sea, the cliffs, the caves, and stories hidden everywhere.

Milo smiled. For the first time, Stonecliff felt like home.



**The End**

*“Every signal finds the right person, eventually.”*

## 2 Key Vocabulary

These words from the story will help you improve your English.

Word	Type	Definition	Example
<b>signal</b>	noun	a light, sound, or action that sends a message	<i>The lighthouse sent a signal every night.</i>
<b>lighthouse</b>	noun	a tall tower with a bright light to guide ships	<i>The old lighthouse stood on the rocky point.</i>
<b>cliff</b>	noun	a high, steep rock face at the edge of the sea	<i>The path along the cliff was narrow and dangerous.</i>
<b>tide</b>	noun	the regular rise and fall of the sea level	<i>The cave was only accessible at low tide.</i>
<b>investigate</b>	verb	to examine something carefully to find the truth	<i>Milo decided to investigate the strange lights.</i>
<b>abandoned</b>	adj	left empty and no longer used or cared for	<i>The lighthouse had been abandoned for forty years.</i>
<b>flickering</b>	adj	shining with a light that keeps going on and off	<i>Milo saw a flickering light through his window.</i>
<b>decoded</b>	verb	changed a coded message into understandable language	<i>Milo decoded the Morse code message carefully.</i>
<b>cave</b>	noun	a large natural hole in the side of a cliff	<i>The tin box was hidden deep inside the cave.</i>
<b>waterproof</b>	adj	not letting water pass through	<i>The waterproof box kept the diary dry for decades.</i>
<b>diary</b>	noun	a book where someone writes about daily experiences	<i>Iris wrote about her dreams in her diary.</i>
<b>disappeared</b>	verb	went away suddenly and could not be found	<i>Iris disappeared from the village seventy years ago.</i>
<b>courage</b>	noun	the ability to do something dangerous or frightening	<i>Milo needed courage to climb down the cliff path.</i>
<b>remote</b>	adj	far away from cities and towns; isolated	<i>Stonecliff was a remote village on the coast.</i>
<b>harbour</b>	noun	a sheltered area of water where boats are kept	<i>The tiny harbour had only a few fishing boats.</i>

### 3 Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. The old \_\_\_ stood on the rocky point, dark and silent.
2. Milo saw a \_\_\_ light from his bedroom window late at night.
3. The lighthouse had been \_\_\_ for forty years with no electricity.
4. Milo decided to \_\_\_ the strange lights he saw every night.
5. He \_\_\_ the Morse code message using a chart from the internet.
6. The \_\_\_ was only accessible when the sea level was low.
7. Inside the cave, Milo found a \_\_\_ tin box behind a rock.
8. Iris wrote about her dreams and daily life in a small leather \_\_\_.
9. Iris \_\_\_ from the village in 1955 and nobody knew where she went.
10. Milo needed \_\_\_ to climb down the steep cliff path alone.

**Answer Key:**

1. lighthouse
2. flickering
3. abandoned
4. investigate
5. decoded
6. cave
7. waterproof
8. diary
9. disappeared
10. courage

## 4 Comprehension Quiz

Choose the correct answer for each question.

**Question 1. Why did Milo move to Stonecliff?**

- A. His parents got divorced
- B. His mother got a job at the marine research station
- C. He wanted to study lighthouses
- D. He was sent to live with his grandparents

**Question 2. What did Milo see from his bedroom window at night?**

- A. A ghost on the cliffs
- B. A ship in trouble
- C. Flickering lights from the old lighthouse
- D. A fire on the beach

**Question 3. Who told Milo about Iris?**

- A. His mother
- B. The village librarian
- C. Mrs. Pryce at the shop
- D. A fisherman

**Question 4. How did Milo decode the lighthouse signal?**

- A. He used a special machine
- B. He asked a teacher
- C. He learned Morse code and wrote down the flashes
- D. He found a book in the cave

**Question 5. What did the decoded message say?**

- A. Help me, I am trapped
- B. Find the tin box — west cave — low tide
- C. Come to the lighthouse at midnight
- D. The treasure is under the rock

**Question 6. What was inside the tin box?**

- A. Gold coins and a map
- B. A diary, letters, and a folded letter from Iris
- C. Old photographs of the village
- D. A Morse code machine

**Question 7. Why did Iris leave Stonecliff?**

- A. She was afraid of the sea
- B. She was accepted at university but her family wouldn't let her go
- C. She wanted to become a lighthouse keeper
- D. She had a fight with Mrs. Pryce

**Question 8. What happened to Iris after she left?**

- A. She became a marine biology professor
- B. She came back to Stonecliff
- C. She became a ship captain
- D. Nobody ever found out

**Question 9. What did the village decide to do with the lighthouse?**

- A. Destroy it

- B. Sell it to a hotel company
- C. Turn it into a museum about Iris
- D. Use it as a research station

**Question 10. What is the main message of the story?**

- A. Lighthouses are important for ships
- B. Old villages are boring places to live
- C. Every signal finds the right person eventually
- D. Morse code is easy to learn

## 5 Quiz Answer Key

Q	Correct Answer
1	B. His mother got a job at the marine research station
2	C. Flickering lights from the old lighthouse
3	C. Mrs. Pryce at the shop
4	C. He learned Morse code and wrote down the flashes
5	B. Find the tin box — west cave — low tide
6	B. A diary, letters, and a folded letter from Iris
7	B. She was accepted at university but her family wouldn't let her go
8	A. She became a marine biology professor
9	C. Turn it into a museum about Iris
10	C. Every signal finds the right person eventually