

Fleydo English School

The Lost Penguin

A Fleydo English School Story

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A1 Level • Teens (11–16) • Reading

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Chapter 1

A Strange Visitor

Mia and Leo find something very unusual in the park

It is a very hot day in July. The **temperature** is 35 degrees. Mia and her brother Leo are in the park. They sit under a big tree because they want **shade**.

“It is so hot today!” Mia says. She is thirteen years old. She has long brown hair and green eyes. She likes animals very much.

“I know,” Leo says. He is fifteen. He is tall and has short black hair. “I want ice cream.”

Then they hear a strange sound. It comes from behind the **fountain**. It sounds like a bird, but different.

“What is that?” Mia asks. They walk to the fountain. Behind it, they see something black and white. It is small. It has a yellow beak and little wings. It is a **penguin**!

“Is that... a penguin?” Leo says. His eyes are very big.

“Yes!” Mia says. “But penguins don’t live here! Penguins live in **Antarctica**. It is **freezing** there. How is this penguin here?”

The little penguin looks at them. It looks very hot and very tired.



Chapter 2

Too Hot!

The children try to help the penguin stay cool

Mia picks up the penguin carefully. It is very soft. On its foot, there is a small tag. The tag says: “Pip — Antarctic Research Station 7.”

“His name is Pip,” Mia says. “He comes from a research station in Antarctica.”

“But how does a penguin travel from Antarctica to here?” Leo asks.

Mia thinks. “Maybe he falls asleep on a **ship**. Ships go from Antarctica to the **harbour** in our city. Maybe Pip is on a ship and he doesn’t know!”

“Poor Pip,” Leo says. “He is so hot. Penguins like cold weather. The temperature in Antarctica is minus 20 degrees. Here it is 35 degrees! That is **boiling** for a penguin.”

They need to help Pip. First, Leo runs to the fountain and gets water. He puts the water on Pip. The penguin makes a happy sound.

“We need a **towel**,” Mia says. “A cold, wet towel. And we need ice.”

“Where do we get ice?” Leo asks.

“The **ice cream** shop!” Mia says. “It is next to the park. They have lots of ice there. Let’s go!”

Mia carries Pip. They walk to the ice cream shop. It is called “Sunny Scoops.” A woman stands behind the counter. Her name is Mrs Demir.

“Hello, children! What would you — ” Mrs Demir stops talking. She looks at Pip. “Is that a penguin?”

“Yes,” Mia says. “His name is Pip. He is lost. He comes from Antarctica. Can we have some ice, please? He is very hot.”

Mrs Demir gives them a big bowl of ice. Pip jumps into the bowl immediately. He looks so happy! He sits in the ice and makes funny sounds.

“He loves it!” Leo laughs.

Mrs Demir also gives them two free ice creams. “For the penguin helpers,” she says with a smile.

But they have a problem. The ice melts fast in the hot sun. They cannot keep Pip cool forever. They need to take him home — to Antarctica.

“How do we send a penguin to Antarctica?” Leo asks.

Mia takes out her phone and looks at a **map**. “The harbour,” she says. “There are ships there. Maybe one goes **south**.”



Chapter 3

The Ice Cream Shop

Pip causes some funny trouble

Before they go to the harbour, something funny happens. Pip jumps out of the ice bowl. He walks behind the counter of the ice cream shop. Mrs Demir is not there — she is in the back room.

Pip sees the ice cream freezer. It is open. He is **excited**. He jumps into the freezer!

“Pip, no!” Mia says. But it is too late. Pip sits in the freezer with the ice cream. He is very happy. The freezer is cold — just like home!

Leo laughs. “He thinks it is Antarctica!”

Pip walks on the ice cream tubs. Chocolate, vanilla, strawberry — he walks on all of them. His little feet leave penguin footprints in the ice cream.

“Oh no,” Mia says. “Mrs Demir is not going to be happy.”

Mrs Demir comes back. She sees Pip in the freezer. She sees the penguin footprints in the ice cream.

“My ice cream!” she says. But then she starts to laugh. “A penguin in my freezer! Nobody is going to believe this!”

Mia picks up Pip from the freezer. “I’m sorry, Mrs Demir,” she says.

“It’s okay,” Mrs Demir says. She takes a photo of the penguin footprints with her phone. “This is the best thing that happens in my shop all year! But please, take the penguin home before he eats all my ice cream.”

She gives them a cool bag with ice inside. “Put the penguin in this. It keeps him cold for two hours.”

“Thank you!” the children say.

Pip sits in the cool bag. He looks comfortable. Mia carries the bag carefully.

“Now, the harbour,” Leo says. “Which **direction**?”

Mia looks at the map on her phone. “Go straight on this street. Then turn left at the big church. The harbour is about two kilometres from here.”

“Let’s go,” Leo says. “We need to find a ship before it gets dark.”



Chapter 4

Finding Help

The children go to the harbour to find a ship

Mia and Leo walk to the harbour with Pip in the cool bag. It is a long walk. They pass a school, a hospital, and a big supermarket. Leo asks people for directions.

“Excuse me, where is the harbour?” he asks an old man.

“Go straight, then turn right at the traffic lights,” the man says. “It is about ten minutes from here.”

“Thank you!” Leo says.

They walk and walk. Finally, they see the sea. The harbour is big. There are many ships — big ones and small ones. Some ships carry food. Some ships carry cars. And some ships carry people.

“We need a ship that goes south,” Mia says. “Antarctica is very far south from here.”

They walk along the harbour. They read the names on the ships. One ship is called “The Northern Star.” That goes **north** — wrong direction! Another ship is called “Eastern Wind.” That goes east — also wrong.

Then Leo sees a big blue ship. Its name is “The Southern Cross.” There is a flag on it — a flag with a penguin!

“That one!” Leo says. “It has a penguin on the flag! It must go to Antarctica!”

They run to The Southern Cross. A woman stands at the bottom of the gangway. She wears a blue uniform and a white hat. She looks strong and kind.

“Excuse me,” Mia says. “Does this ship go to Antarctica?”

The woman looks at them. Then she looks at the cool bag. Pip sticks his head out.

“Is that a penguin?” the woman asks.

“Yes,” Leo says. “His name is Pip. He is lost. We think he falls asleep on a ship and comes to our city by mistake. We want to take him home.”

The woman smiles. “I am **Captain** Rosa. This ship goes to Antarctica every month. We carry supplies to the research stations there.”

“Research Station 7?” Mia asks, remembering the tag on Pip’s foot.

“Yes! Station 7 is one of our stops. I know this penguin!” Captain Rosa says. She takes Pip from the bag and holds him gently. “We call him ‘Pip the Explorer’ because he always walks around the ship. He must have fallen asleep in a warm corner and nobody noticed.”

Mia and Leo feel happy but also a little sad. They like Pip. But Pip needs to go home.



Chapter 5

Captain Rosa

A kind captain tells them about Pip’s journey

Captain Rosa invites Mia and Leo onto the ship. It is very big inside. There are rooms for sleeping, a kitchen, and a special cold room.

“This is where we keep the temperature at minus 5 degrees,” Captain Rosa says. “The scientists need it for their samples. And Pip loves it here.”

She puts Pip in the cold room. Pip walks around happily. He makes loud, happy sounds.

“He is home!” Mia says.

“Almost,” Captain Rosa says. “We leave tomorrow morning. In three weeks, Pip is back at Station 7.”

“Three weeks?” Leo says. “Antarctica is very far!”

“Yes. The **journey** is about 15,000 kilometres. We go south through the Atlantic Ocean. It gets colder and colder. By the time we arrive, the temperature is minus 20 degrees.”

“Pip is going to be so happy,” Mia says. But she feels a little **lonely**. She likes Pip very much.



Chapter 6

Goodbye, Pip!

Pip goes home to Antarctica

The next morning, Mia and Leo go to the harbour early. The sun is just coming up. The sky is pink and orange. The Southern Cross is ready to leave.

Captain Rosa brings Pip out so the children can say goodbye. Pip looks at Mia with his little black eyes. He makes a soft sound.

“I think he is saying thank you,” Leo says.

Mia holds Pip one last time. He is cold and soft. His little heart beats fast.

“Goodbye, Pip,” she says. “Go home. Be happy. And don’t fall asleep on any more ships!”

Pip makes a sound that sounds like a laugh.

Captain Rosa takes Pip back to the cold room. She gives Mia and Leo a special **postcard**. The picture shows Antarctica — white ice, blue sea, and hundreds of penguins.

“I send you a message when Pip arrives safely,” Captain Rosa says. “I promise.”

The big ship starts to move. Slowly, it leaves the harbour. Mia and Leo wave. They cannot see Pip, but they know he is there, in the cold room, happy and comfortable.

“He is going home,” Mia says.

“Yes,” Leo says. “And we helped him.”

They watch the ship until it is very, very small on the blue sea.



Chapter 7

A Postcard from the Ice

Pip sends a special message

Three weeks pass. Mia checks the post every day. Every day, there is nothing from Antarctica.

“Maybe the postcard gets lost,” Leo says.

“Or maybe it is slow,” Mia says. “Antarctica is very far away.”

Then, one Tuesday morning, there is a postcard in the letterbox. The picture shows penguins standing on white ice under a blue sky. On the back, Captain Rosa writes:

*“Dear Mia and Leo,
Pip is home! When we arrive at Station 7,
he runs out and his penguin friends come
to meet him. The scientists are very happy.
Thank you for helping our little explorer.
You are real heroes.
With love from the ice,
Captain Rosa*

P.S. Pip sends you a fish. I do not post it.

Mia laughs at the P.S. She can imagine Pip trying to put a fish in an envelope.

Mia puts the postcard on her bedroom wall. Every morning, she looks at it and thinks about Pip. She thinks about him walking on the ice with his penguin friends. She thinks about the freezing wind and the white snow and the big, blue Antarctic sky.

“It is funny,” she tells Leo. “Pip’s home is freezing cold. Our home is warm. But we are both happy in our homes.”

“That’s true,” Leo says. “Home is where you belong.”

That summer, Mia does a school project about penguins. She learns many things. She learns that penguins can swim very fast — up to 35 kilometres per hour. She learns that penguins cannot fly, but they are excellent swimmers. She learns that there are 18 different types of penguins in the world.

And she tells everyone the story of Pip — the little penguin who gets lost in a hot city and finds his way home, thanks to two children, a kind ice cream shop owner, and a captain called Rosa.

*“Home is not always close.
But kind people can help you find it.”
— Pip the Penguin (probably)*



Key Themes

- Kindness and helping others
- Weather and temperature
- Giving and following directions
 - Animals and their habitats
 - Home and belonging

Vocabulary List

20 key words from the story

Penguin	A black and white bird that lives in very cold places and cannot fly	Antarctica	The very cold continent at the South Pole, where many penguins live
Harbour	A place where ships stop and park near the coast	Ship	A very large boat that travels across the sea
Temperature	How hot or cold it is (e.g. 35°C)	Freezing	Very, very cold (below 0°C)
Boiling	Very, very hot	Shade	A dark, cool area away from the sun
Direction	The way you go to get to a place (north, south, east, west)	North	The direction towards the North Pole; the opposite of south
South	The direction towards the South Pole; the opposite of north	Captain	The person who controls and leads a ship
Map	A picture that shows where places are and how to go from one place to another	Journey	A long trip from one place to another
Ice cream	A sweet, cold food made from milk, sugar, and different flavours	Fountain	A structure that pushes water up into the air in a park or garden
Towel	A soft piece of cloth you use to dry your body	Postcard	A card with a picture on one side that you send to someone by post
Excited	Feeling very happy and full of energy about something	Lonely	Feeling sad because you are alone or you miss someone

Grammar Points

Key grammar structures from the story

Present simple for facts

Penguins live in Antarctica. It is very cold there.

There is / there are

There is a fountain in the park. There are many ships in the harbour.

Prepositions of place

The penguin is under the tree. The ice cream shop is next to the park.

Imperatives for directions

Turn left. Go straight. Walk to the harbour.

Can / can't for ability

Penguins can swim. Pip can't fly.

Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word from the word bank

Antarctica • captain • excited • freezing • map • penguin • postcard • shade • south • temperature

1. A _____ is a bird that lives in Antarctica and cannot fly.
2. The _____ today is 35 degrees. It is very hot!
3. Pip comes from _____. It is very cold there.
4. The children sit under a tree because they want _____.
5. The weather is _____. It is minus 20 degrees!
6. Mia looks at the _____ on her phone to find the harbour.
7. The _____ of the ship is called Captain Rosa.
8. Antarctica is very far _____ from here.
9. Pip is _____ when he sees the ice cream freezer.
10. Captain Rosa sends Mia a _____ from Antarctica.

Comprehension Quiz

Choose the best answer for each question

1. Where do Mia and Leo find Pip?

- A) At school
- B) In the park behind a fountain
- C) At the harbour
- D) In an ice cream shop

2. Where does Pip come from?

- A) Africa
- B) The North Pole
- C) Antarctica
- D) Australia

3. Why is Pip in the city?

- A) He wants a holiday
- B) He falls asleep on a ship
- C) He can fly
- D) He walks from Antarctica

4. What is the temperature in the city?

- A) 10 degrees
- B) 25 degrees
- C) 35 degrees
- D) 0 degrees

5. What does Pip do in the ice cream shop?

- A) He eats all the ice cream
- B) He jumps into the freezer and walks on the ice cream
- C) He breaks the window
- D) He falls asleep

6. Who is Mrs Demir?

- A) The ship captain
- B) A teacher
- C) The ice cream shop owner
- D) Mia's mother

7. What is the name of the ship that goes to Antarctica?

- A) The Northern Star
- B) The Eastern Wind
- C) The Southern Cross
- D) The Ice Bird

8. Who is Captain Rosa?

- A) A scientist at the research station

- B) The captain of The Southern Cross
- C) The children's teacher
- D) Pip's owner

9. How long is the journey from the city to Antarctica?

- A) One week
- B) Two weeks
- C) Three weeks
- D) One month

10. What does Captain Rosa send to Mia and Leo?

- A) A penguin toy
- B) A fish
- C) Money
- D) A postcard from Antarctica

Answer Key

Fill in the Blanks — Answers

1. penguin
2. temperature
3. Antarctica
4. shade
5. freezing
6. map
7. captain
8. south
9. excited
10. postcard

Comprehension Quiz — Answers

1. B) In the park behind a fountain
2. C) Antarctica
3. B) He falls asleep on a ship
4. C) 35 degrees
5. B) He jumps into the freezer and walks on the ice cream
6. C) The ice cream shop owner
7. C) The Southern Cross
8. B) The captain of The Southern Cross
9. C) Three weeks
10. D) A postcard from Antarctica

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