

The *Alastor* moved silently across the water...

6



... into the shadow of the *Invincible*.



... no one could hear Captain Jack's voice above him.

Mad Jack was still the same. He was still a monster.



Aye aye, Captain!

Wash the deck, you dogs, or I'll throw you to the sharks!

Daniel took his knife and cut into the rope. The rope was strong...



... but Daniel was stronger. The blade of his knife cut the rope in two!



## David and the Black Corsair

The *Invincible* started to move on the waves.



Captain Jack looked over the side of his ship...



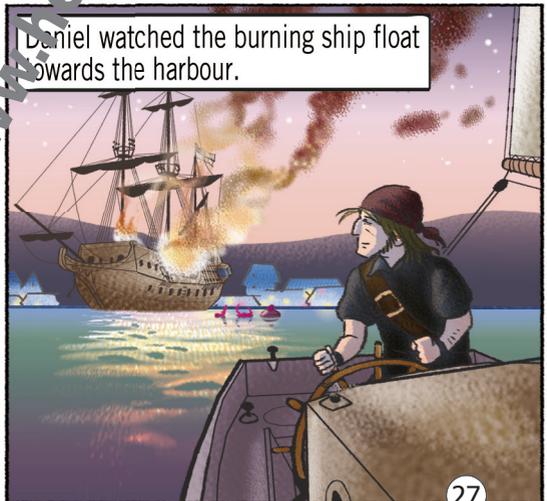
Daniel threw something onto the deck. There was a flame burning at one end. Gun powder!

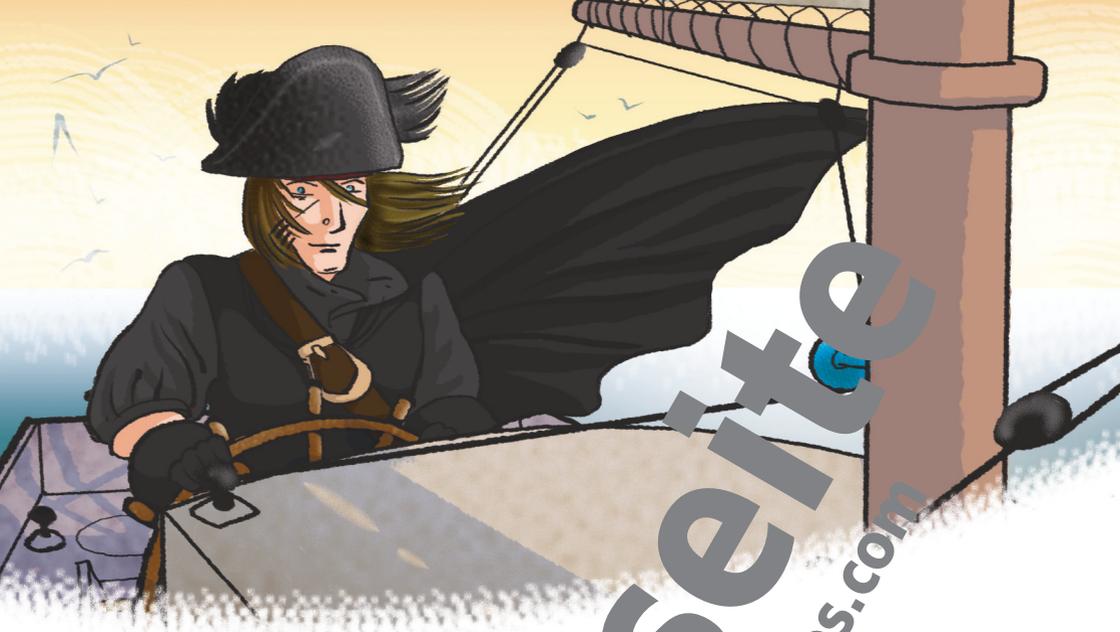


Three men jumped into the sea as the bomb exploded.



Daniel watched the burning ship float towards the harbour.





7 This was the first of Daniel's great adventures. And so began his years of fame. He became more famous every year.

The Black Corsair was the most adventurous sailor on the high seas. But he wasn't a pirate like all the others. He attacked his enemies, but he didn't kill them.

When a ship of the royal navy sank...  
when poor people were looking for food and money...  
when prisoners from the revolution escaped from their cells...  
everybody knew that the Black Corsair was responsible.

And Daniel sailed across the waters of the world.  
He lived on his own.  
He spoke to nobody.  
He had no friends. He never saw his family.  
The king and queen, the lords and ladies, and all the rich men and women hated him.  
But children drew pictures of him.  
Teenagers dreamt about him.  
And everyone loved him.

David walked into the crowded classroom. His classmates were talking and laughing. They had still had five more minutes of freedom before the first lesson began.

'Are you alright?' Ricky asked.

David nodded.

'Have you had an accident or something?'

'Why?' asked David.

Ricky pointed and David looked down. There was a hole on the knee of his trousers. He could see a spot of blood on his knee, too. His mother would be really upset. He imagined her voice, 'Oh David, why don't you look where you're going! How can we afford a new pair of trousers this month?'

He looked angrily at Jack.

At that moment Mr Craig the science teacher walked in.

He was carrying a pile of exercise books.

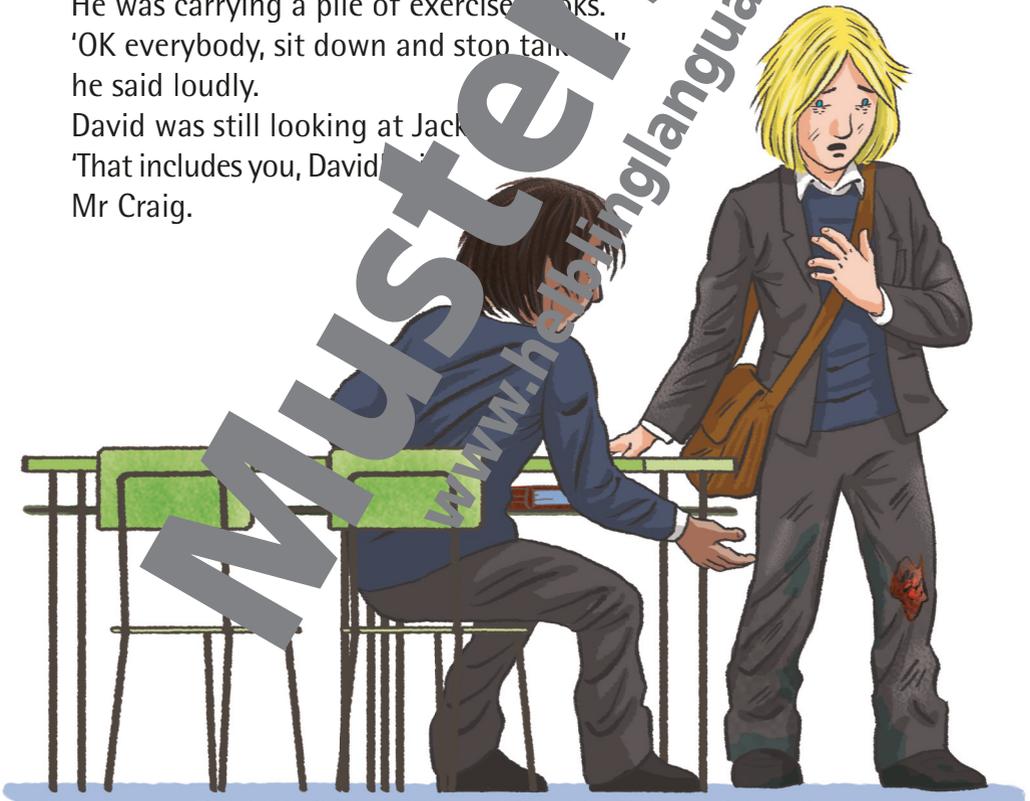
'OK everybody, sit down and stop talking!'

he said loudly.

David was still looking at Jack.

'That includes you, David!'

Mr Craig.





David sat down and Mr Craig started returning the exercise books. 'I've marked your homework,' he said, 'and on the whole it was quite good!'

He gave Ricky his book.

'Excellent as usual, Ricky,' said Mr Craig with a smile. Then he turned to David.

'But you, David, I'm afraid you got it all wrong. Do you ever listen to me during my lessons?'

David looked at Mr Craig then stared down at his desk. He could feel Jack's eyes watching him and he could hear his silent laughter.

It was a bad start. And David's morning didn't improve after that.

Geography was boring.

IT was irritating.

And maths was impossible!

Time passed very slowly.

But finally Mr Johnson the maths teacher turned off the interactive white board and said, 'See you again on Friday. Have a nice lunch.' David put his books into his rucksack then looked for his sandwiches. He couldn't find them. Then he remembered his mother's phone call. His sandwiches were still in the fridge. He had nothing to eat! He searched all his pockets and found two coins. He didn't even have enough money for a bag of crisps!

He stood up and walked towards the door.

'Where are you going?' asked Ricky.

'I want to get some fresh air,' said David.

Then he left the room and walked along the corridor to the exit.

It was sunny again outside. He decided to go for a walk around the playing field. He wanted to be on his own.

His stomach made an empty noise.

