

Gertrude Chandler Warner's

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

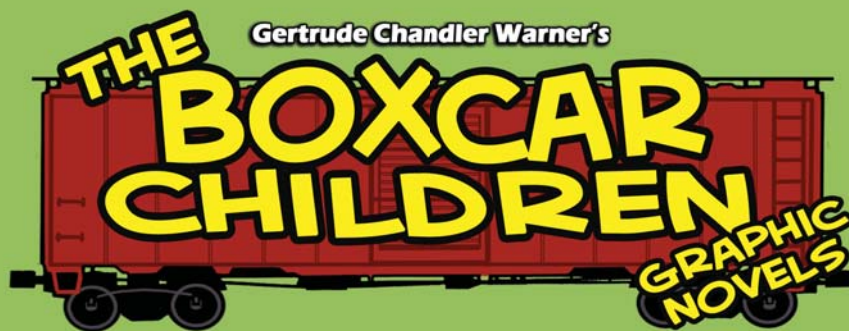
GRAPHIC NOVELS

SURPRISE ISLAND



Rob M. Worley

Mike Dubisch



BOOK TWO SURPRISE ISLAND

The Alden children are living happily with their grandfather now, but their adventures are just beginning!

Their first surprise is that they'll be spending summer vacation on their own private island. The island is full of surprises, including a kind stranger named Joe. Joe is always happy to help the children, but their new friend has a secret!

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

GRAPHIC NOVELS

1. THE BOXCAR CHILDREN
2. SURPRISE ISLAND
3. THE YELLOW HOUSE MYSTERY
4. MYSTERY RANCH
5. MIKE'S MYSTERY
6. BLUE BAY MYSTERY

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THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

SURPRISE ISLAND

Adapted by Rob M. Worley

Illustrated by Mike Dubisch



Henry Alden



Jessie Alden



Watch



Violet Alden



Benny Alden



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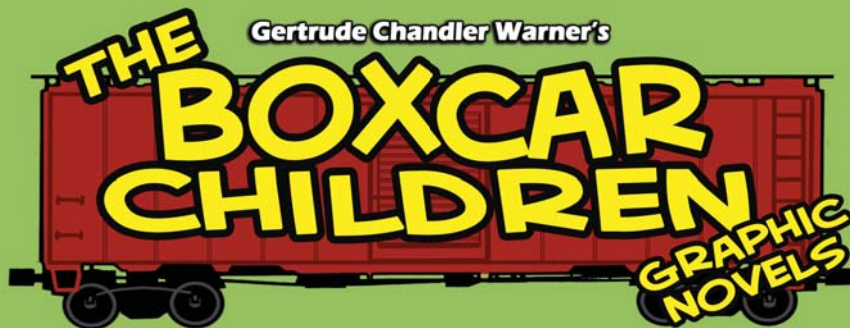
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BOOK TWO
SURPRISE ISLAND

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THE FIRST SURPRISE

The four Alden children, Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny ran all the way home. Their grandfather, Mr. Alden, had promised them a surprise.

School is out for the whole summer!

Was this the day I said I'd tell you?

You said you'd tell us the minute school was out.

Once upon a time, my father bought an island.

He bought one!

Mr. Alden drove them to the ocean. Dr. Moore and his mother came along to enjoy the fun.

Captain Daniel will take us in the motorboat across to the island.

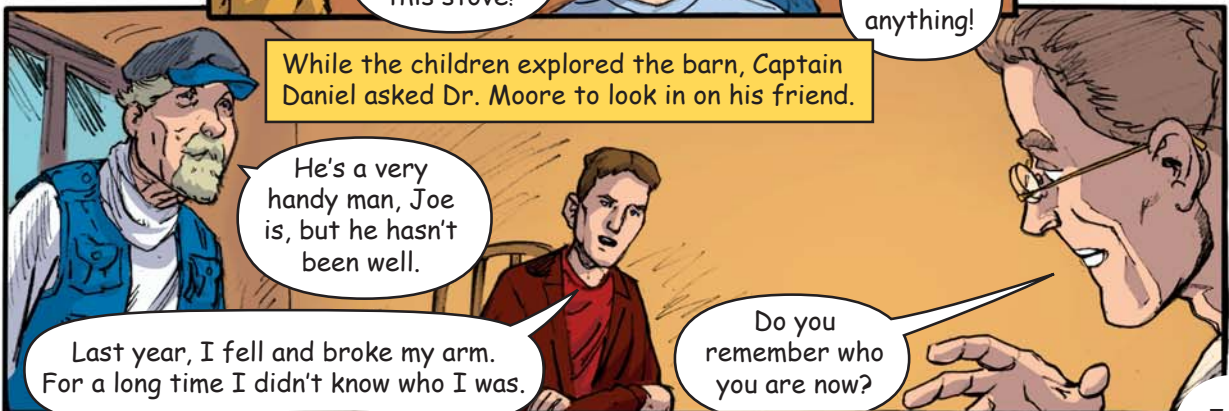
Yes. A small one. If you want to stay there all summer you may.

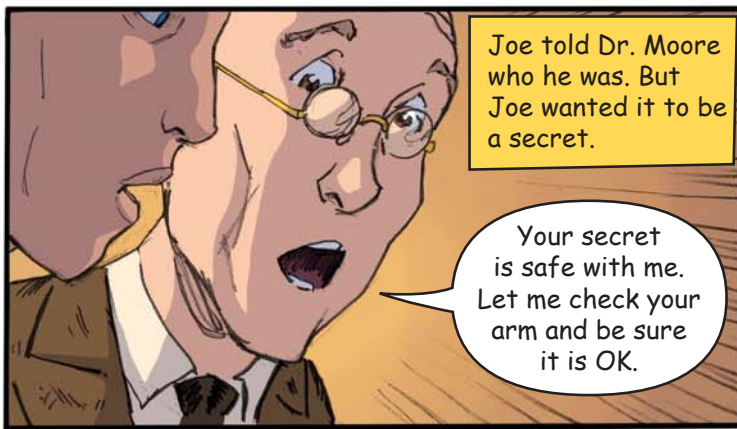


As soon as they landed, the children ran straight to the barn.



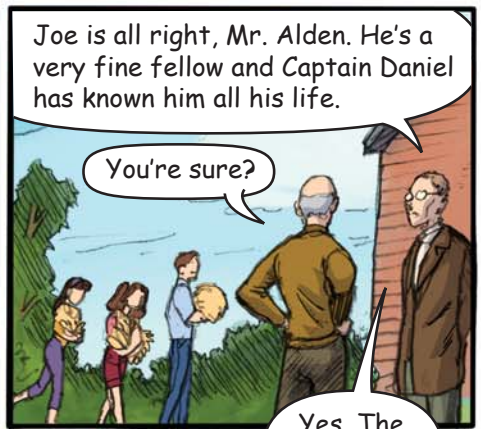
While the children explored the barn, Captain Daniel asked Dr. Moore to look in on his friend.





Joe told Dr. Moore who he was. But Joe wanted it to be a secret.

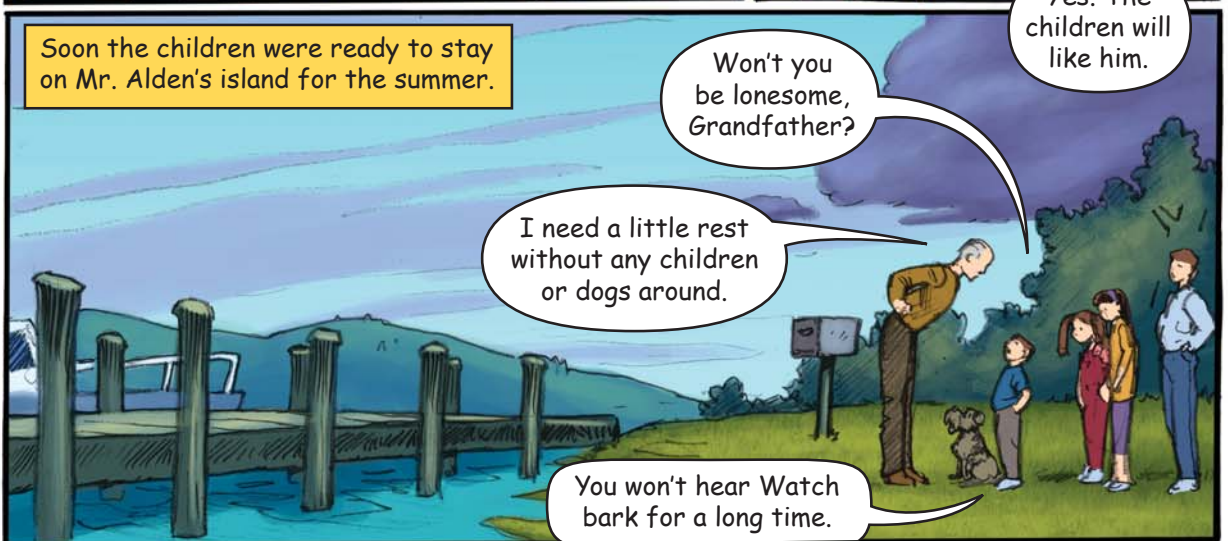
Your secret is safe with me. Let me check your arm and be sure it is OK.



Joe is all right, Mr. Alden. He's a very fine fellow and Captain Daniel has known him all his life.

You're sure?

Yes. The children will like him.



Soon the children were ready to stay on Mr. Alden's island for the summer.

Won't you be lonesome, Grandfather?

I need a little rest without any children or dogs around.

You won't hear Watch bark for a long time.



After taking Mr. Alden back home, Captain Daniel returned with supplies.

SUMMER PLAN

That night, the children ate dinner on the table that Henry had built. They washed their dishes in the spring outside. Then they went to bed.

Henry was the first to wake. He and Watch took a walk and were surprised by what they found nearby.

I wonder if this garden belongs to Captain Daniel.

How do you like your garden?

Our garden?

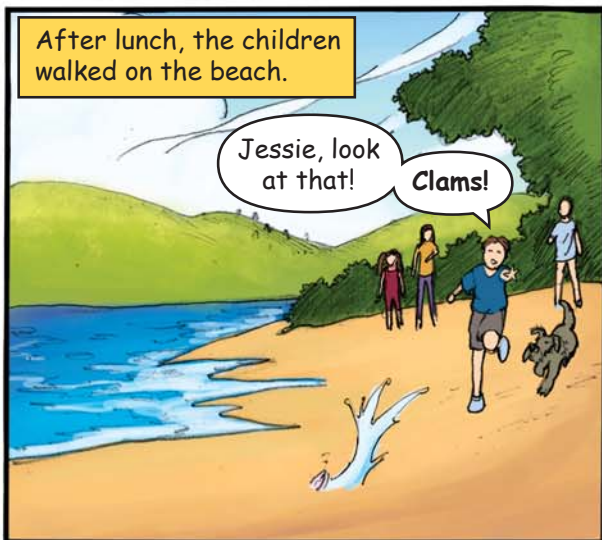
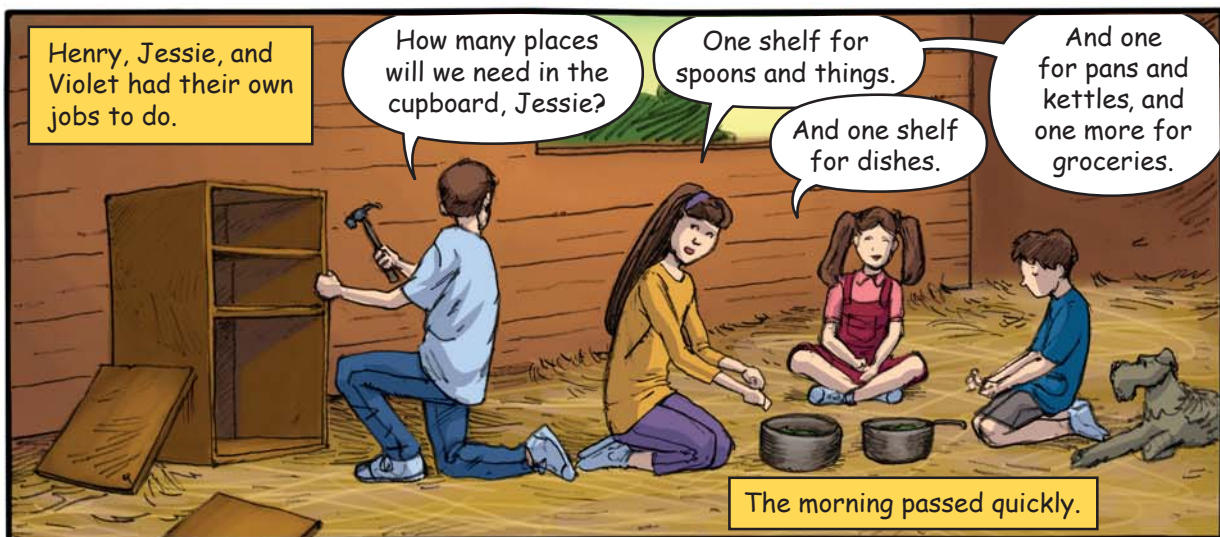
My name is Joe. I'm the handyman. Your grandfather had me plant it for you.

Look! We can have peas for dinner!

Henry, Jessie, and Violet picked peas. Joe had an important job for Benny.

Captain Daniel goes to the mainland every day. If you need anything, leave your order in this box.

This will be my job. I like to open the little door!





THE MUSEUM

Later, the children gathered the flowers, shells, seaweed, and driftwood they collected. Violet made a list for the museum.



A few hours later, Joe arrived with books from the library.

Won't you stay for dinner, Joe?

You'll be our first guest, but you'll have to wash your own dishes.

Now show us
the books, Joe!

Joe and the children studied the new books. Joe seemed just as interested as they were.

How did you ever learn all this?

Oh, I just
picked it up.

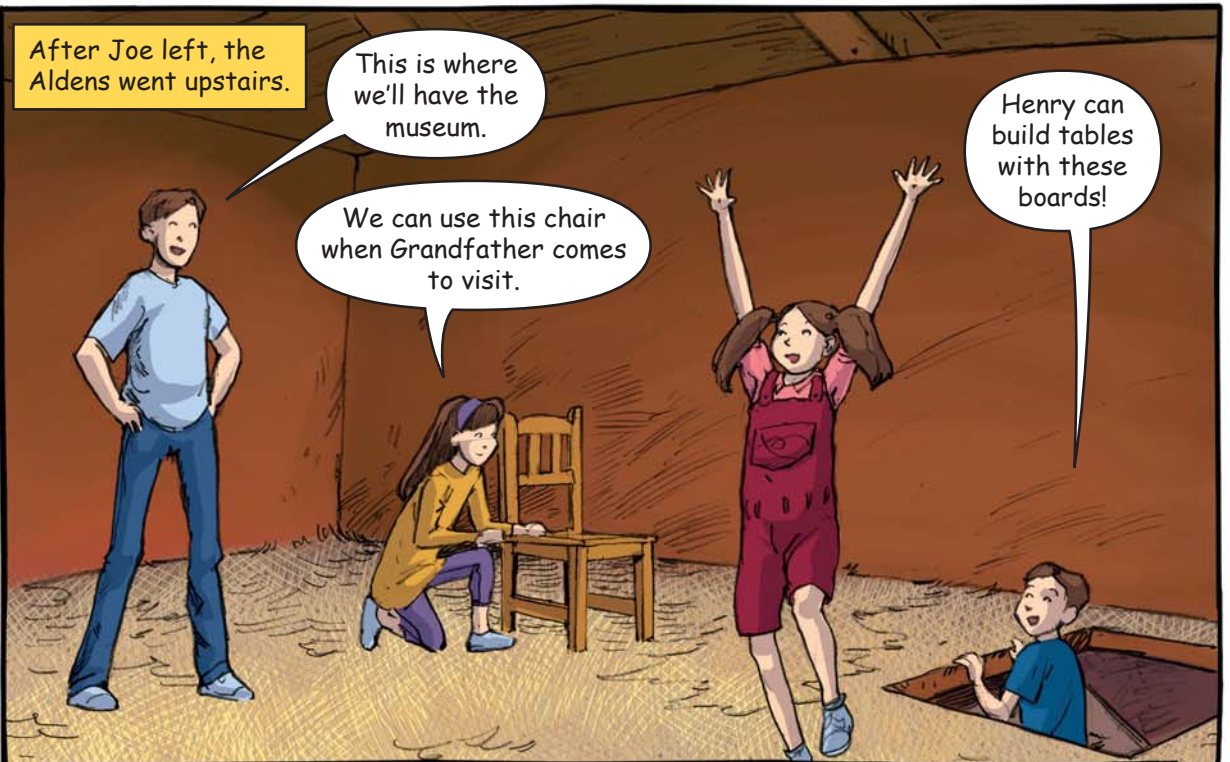
Joe sure knows a lot about nature.

After Joe left, the Aldens went upstairs.

This is where we'll have the museum.

We can use this chair when Grandfather comes to visit.

Henry can build tables with these boards!



The next day, work on the museum began.

Joe gave me newspapers. And there was a box from Grandfather.

He sent sweaters!

Grandfather thinks it's going to get cold!



Now smooth the paper over the flower, like I learned in school.

We'll put the board over the paper, and the rock too. That way the flowers will be pressed flat as they dry.

What about the board?

Later it started raining. They spent the next day setting up the museum.



INDIAN POINT

The next day was warm again. The children went exploring.

What a big pile of shells!

It's taller than Benny!

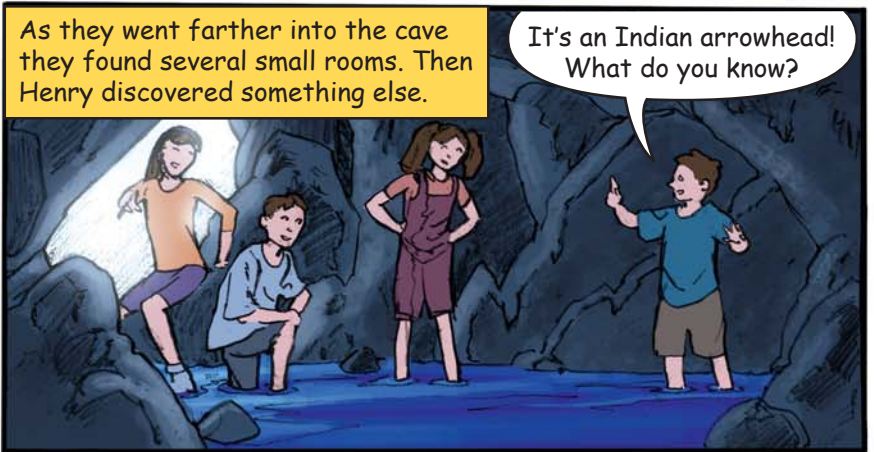


Look, a little cave!
Let's go in!



As they went farther into the cave they found several small rooms. Then Henry discovered something else.

It's an Indian arrowhead!
What do you know?

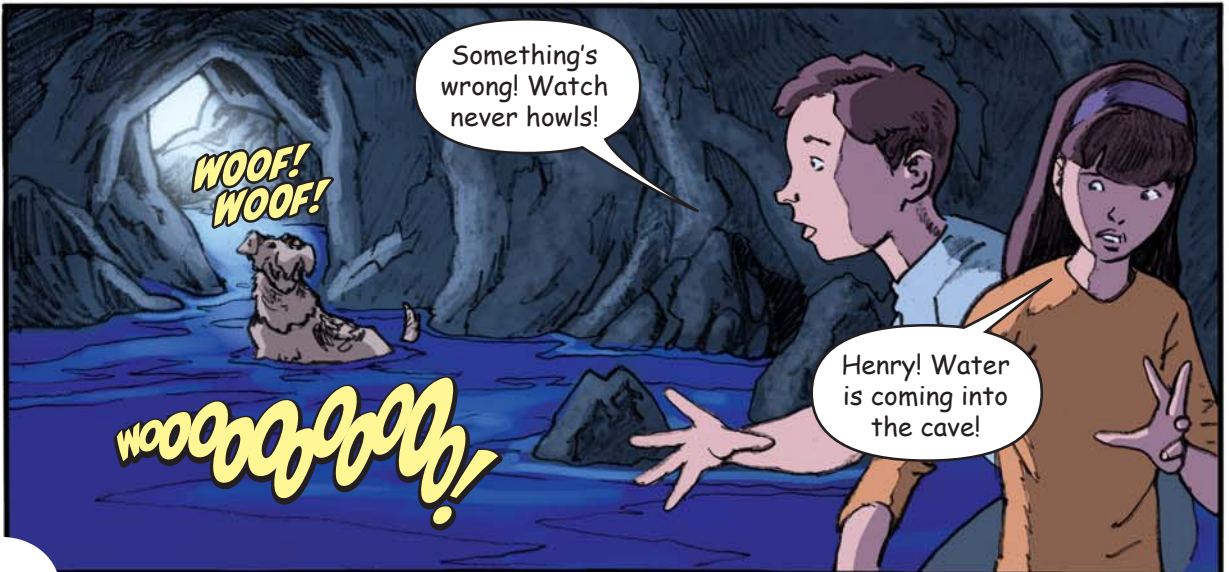


Something's wrong! Watch never howls!

WOOF!
WOOF!

wooooooobbb!

Henry! Water is coming into the cave!



The tide was coming in and filling the cave with water.

I'm scared of that old cave.

We're out, thanks to Watch!

Well I ought to have watched the tide. That cave is perfectly safe when the tide is out.

The children passed Captain Daniel's hut on their way to the barn.

Everything all right?

No! We're all scared and almost dead!

Captain Daniel has just made a big kettle of stew. Why don't you eat with us.

The Aldens told Joe about the the cave and the arrowhead and the waves. Joe was fascinated.

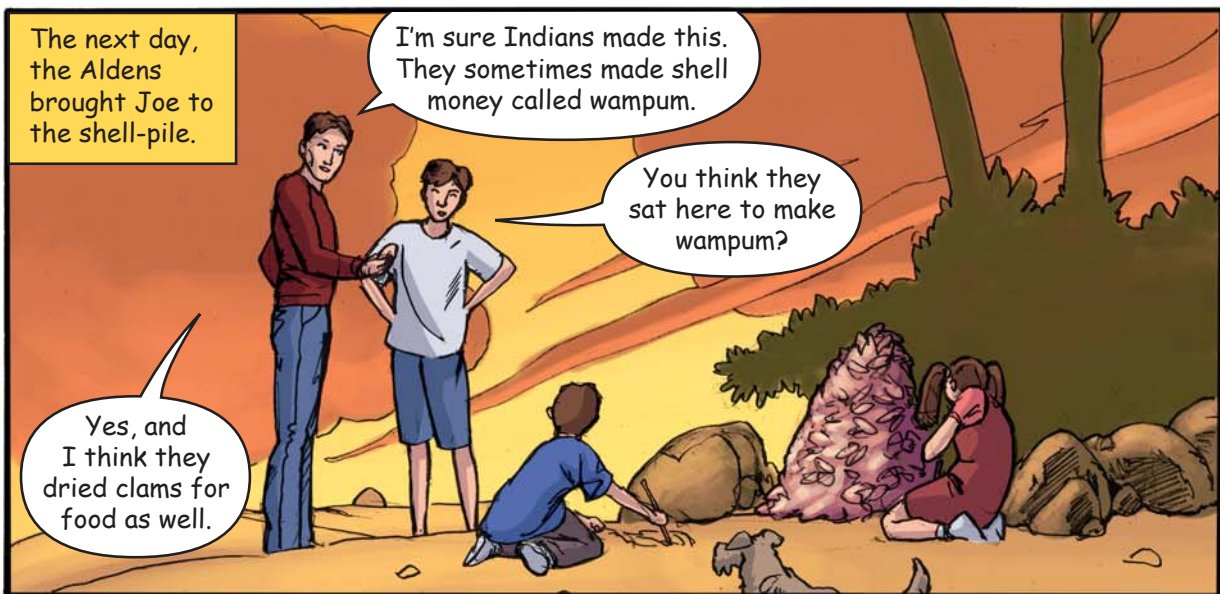
An Indian Arrowhead!

I thought it was, but you seem to be sure.

If you ever want to go back to the cave, I could come with you.

That would be great! There's a big pile of shells near the cave too!

What! A shell-pile? Then I will certainly go with you. I must!

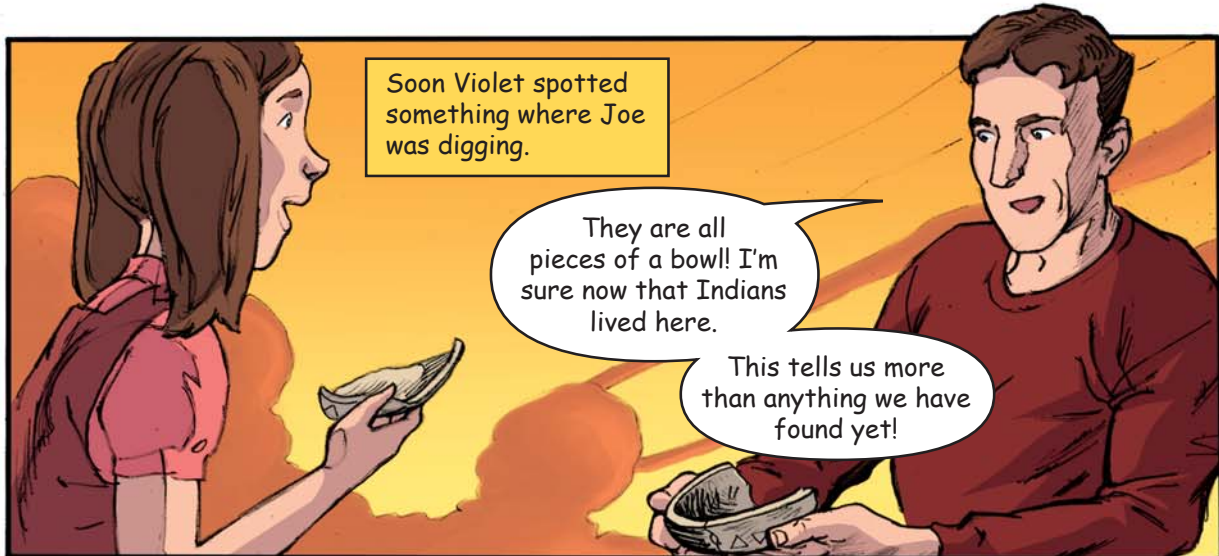


Joe, Henry, and Jessie went back for digging supplies. Benny and Violet were too tired, so they stayed at the shell-pile.



When Joe, Henry, and Jessie returned they had some clam hooks, a shovel, and a camera.





VIOLINS AND VISITORS

After supper a few nights later, the children had another surprise. Violet heard music, and the children discovered Joe playing a violin.

Oh, **please** play it again! When did you learn to play? Could I hold it just a minute?



That night, Jessie woke to hear Violet crying.

Violet, what's the matter?

I want to learn to play the violin. But, I know it's selfish to want to be away from everyone to practice!

Violet, you couldn't be selfish if you tried.

Joe saw how much Violet loved the violin. He got Captain Daniel to ask Mr. Alden to buy one for her.

You mean it? My very own violin!



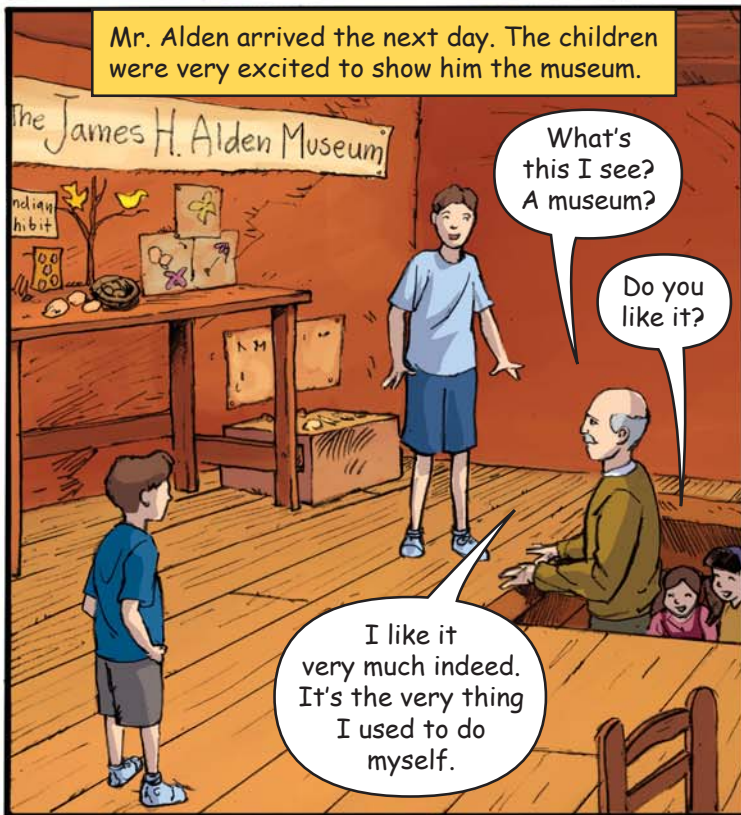
Yes. Let's take it to the hut, and I'll give you your first lesson.

Benny wanted to go with Joe and Violet, but Henry had a better idea.

Just think, Benny, we've been here by the ocean four weeks and we haven't had a single fishing trip yet.



Oh, boy! Fishing!



Grandfather joined the children for one of Jessie's meals.

What else do you have to show me?

I want you to see Joe. He's my best friend in all the world.

Well, after dinner I want to take you on a trip.

Have we left the island for good, Grandfather?

No, Benny. This won't take long. I want to show you something.

It's a museum! Look, Jessie!

THE ALDEN MUSEUM

My goodness! Is that named for you, Grandfather?

I suppose it is. It has been here a long time.

You gave them the money to build it!

The next morning it was very cold. But the children were excited about the museum Grandfather had shown them.

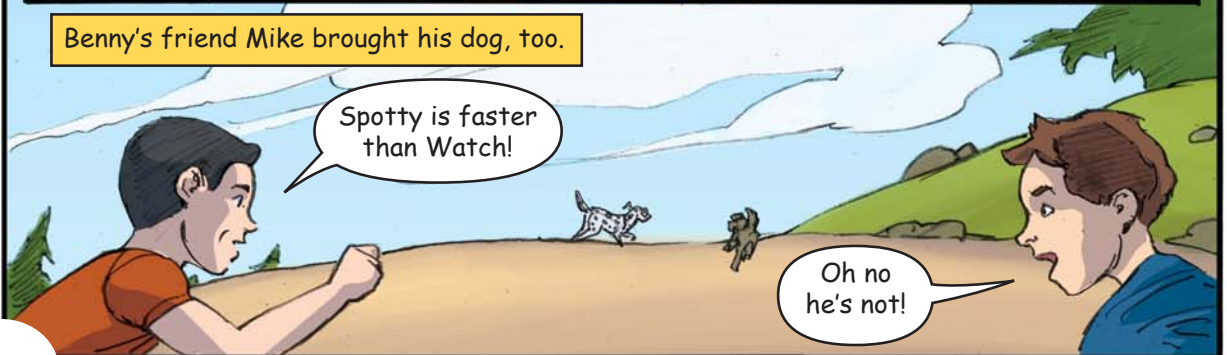
It's so cold today. Let's stay inside and paint our birds in our museum.

APPLE PIE





Benny's friend Mike brought his dog, too.



Joe had returned much earlier than Captain Daniel had said. He made a fire so they could cook clam chowder for everyone.

Keep on eye on Benny and Mike, Henry.

They went over by those rocks.

We should check on them.



Look what we found!

I found it!

There's a paper inside the bottle. Let's take it out?

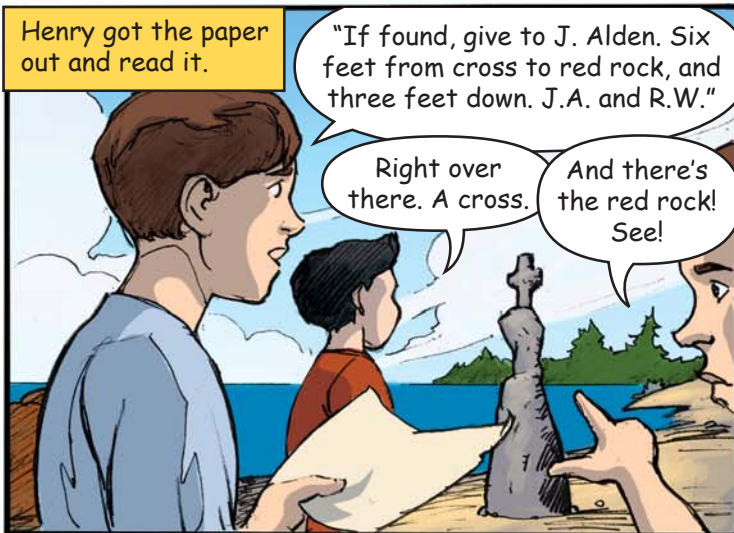


Henry got the paper out and read it.

"If found, give to J. Alden. Six feet from cross to red rock, and three feet down. J.A. and R.W."

Right over there. A cross.

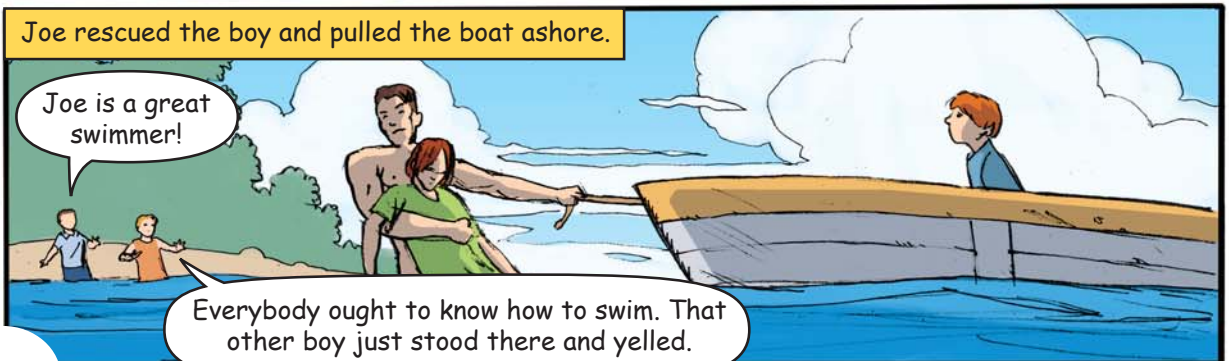
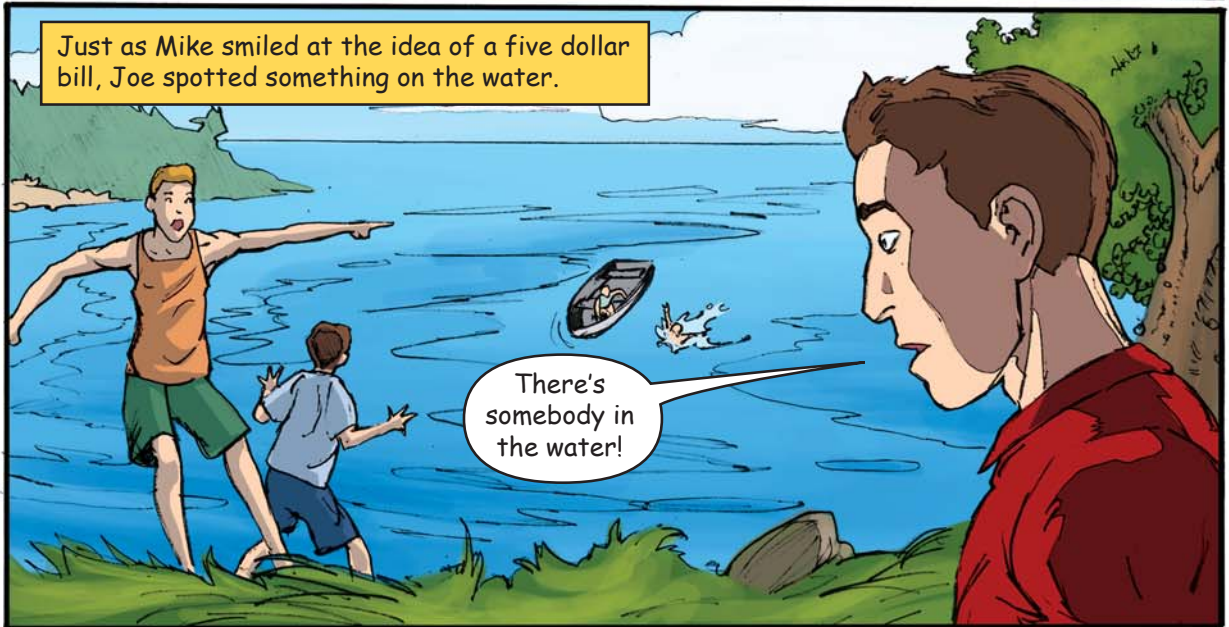
And there's the red rock! See!

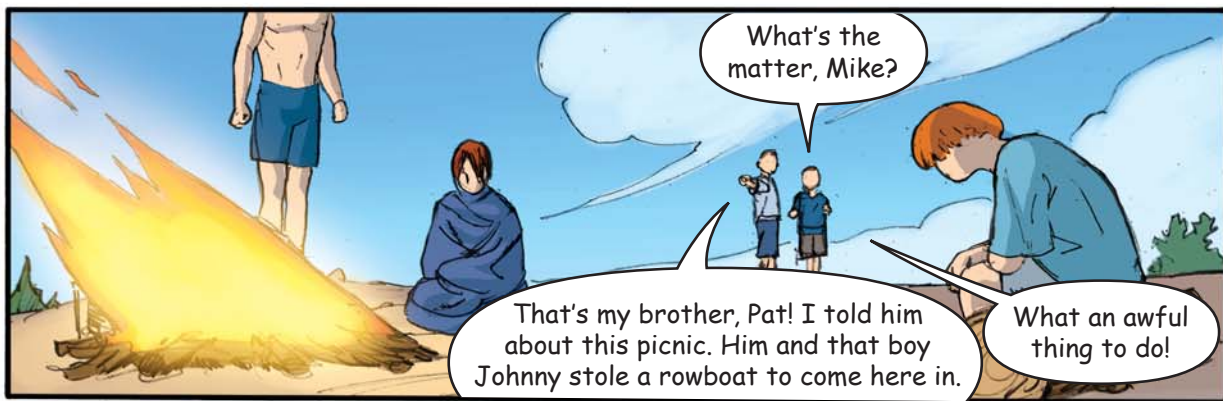


This will be easy. Joe said this string is six feet long.

Then this is the spot on the map. We should dig down three feet.



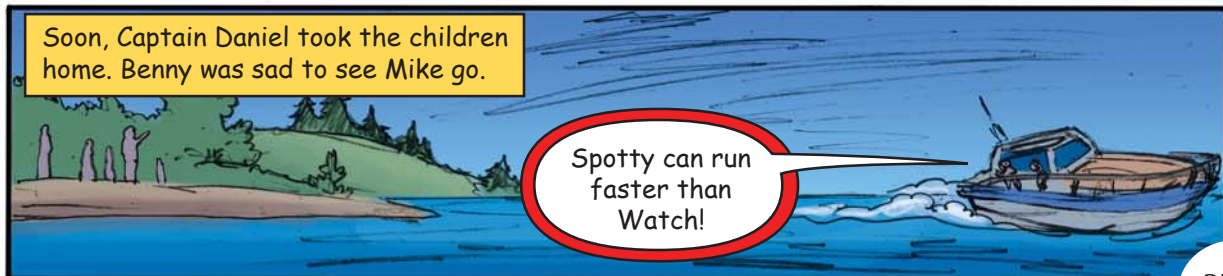




Pat and Johnny felt better after they ate. Everybody's spirits were up and they decided to play some ball.



Soon, Captain Daniel took the children home. Benny was sad to see Mike go.



THE BEST SURPRISE



Later Joe and Violet played their violins. It was the first time the children had heard Violet play since her lessons started.



Mr. Browning had returned, and he recognized Joe but he called him...

Mr. Browning!

JOHN!

I'm really glad to see you. Everything is all right again.

I wasn't well for a long time. Now I'm ready to go back to the museum.

He is the head of the Alden Museum!

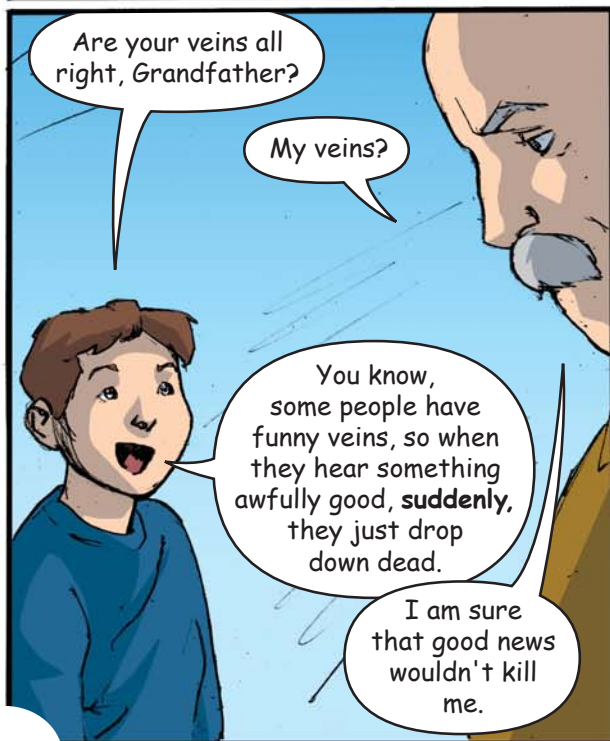
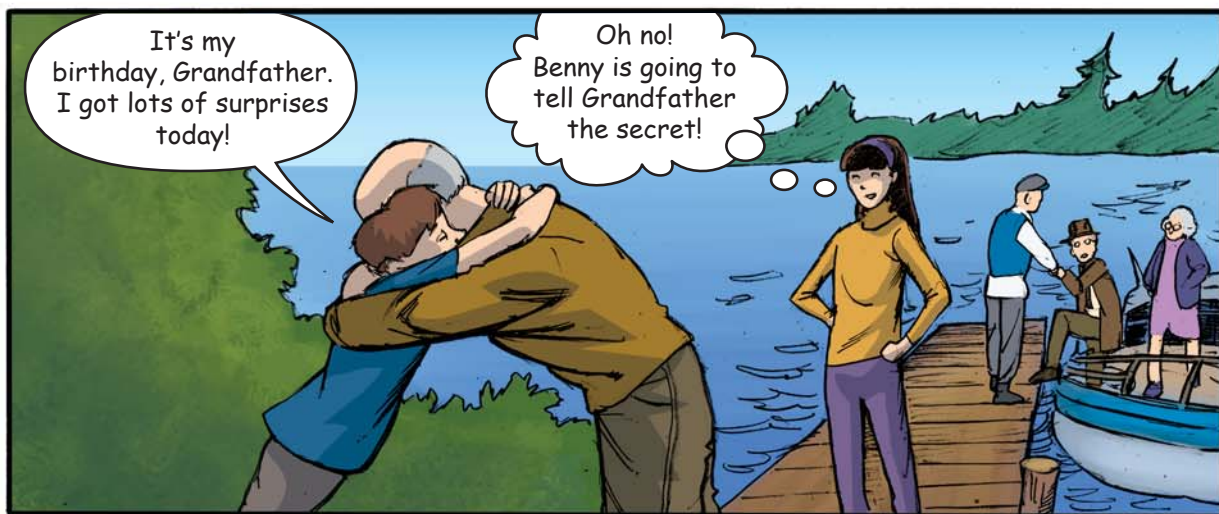
My name is John Joseph Alden. I'm your cousin! I should like to come home with you and Uncle James if you'll have me.

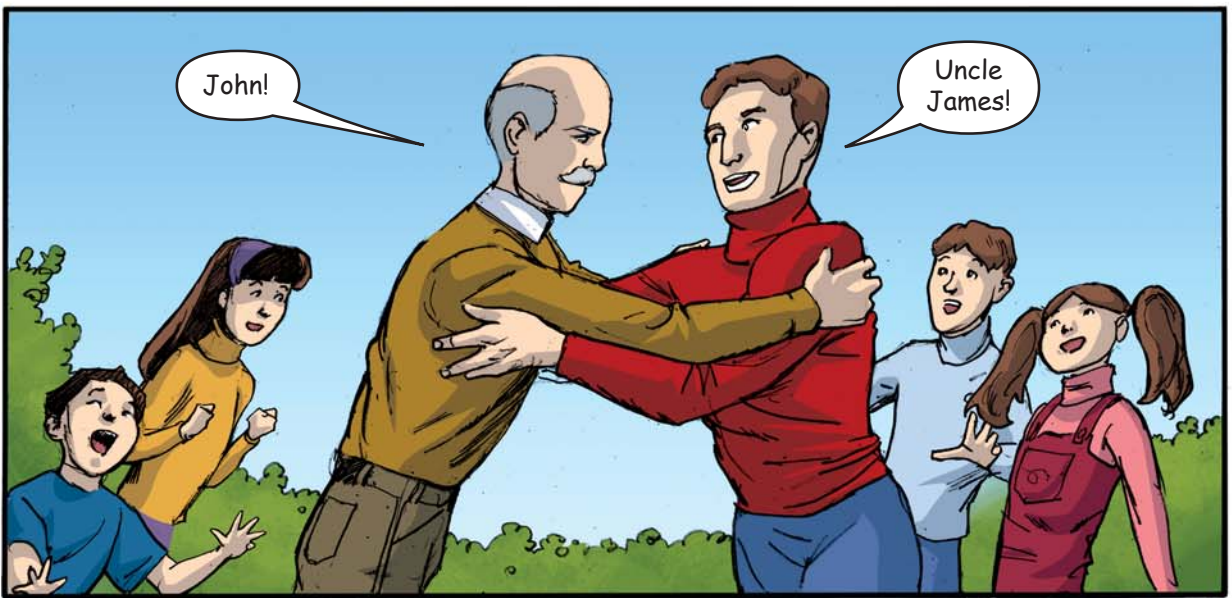
Oh, Joe! I'd rather have you live with us than even Watch!

Benny called Grandfather and told him to come to the island. He didn't tell him why.

I don't think Mr. Alden had better see you suddenly, John.

Let Jessie fix it. I will stay in the hut until you tell me it's all right.





GOOD-BYE SUMMER

Before they knew it, it was late summer.

We have to go home tonight.

I don't mind going home. I miss Grandfather.

I want to tell you something. I hope you won't feel bad about it.

I know you found the Indian things in the cave. But somebody ought to dig there who understands it.

Your Grandfather is letting a lot of men work with me here. Some days you'll be able to come and watch.

This sounded good to the children, especially Henry.

At their farewell dinner, Joe talked more about digging in the cave.

You found some wonderful things that will have to go to a museum even bigger than your Grandfather's.

I'd like to have this for my work, too! Can you teach me?

Yes, Henry. I'd like to.

Good-bye, Barn!

I am not going to cry.

Good for you, Benny! Just keep thinking how lonesome Grandfather has been.

Captain Daniel took the children to the mainland. When they saw their grandfather waiting, they ran to him.

Thank you for our summer on the island.



I'm glad you are all home. I shall even be glad to hear Watch bark tomorrow.

Soon they were ready to sleep in their regular beds again.

Joe is going to live with us, and he's my best friend in all the world.

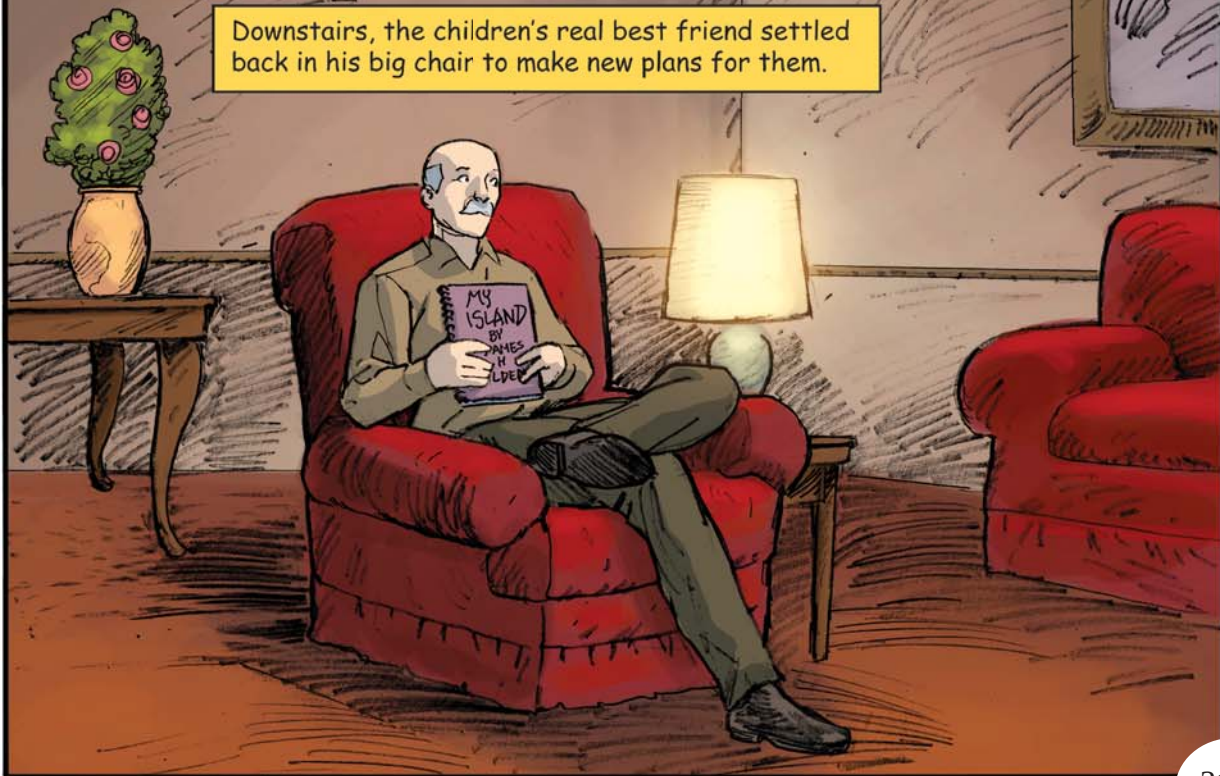
I mean all but you, and Violet, and Henry--

And Watch?

Yes, of course Watch, and Grandfather--



Downstairs, the children's real best friend settled back in his big chair to make new plans for them.



ABOUT THE CREATOR

Gertrude Chandler Warner was born on April 16, 1890, in Putnam, Connecticut. In 1918, Warner began teaching at Israel Putnam School. As a teacher, she discovered that many readers who liked an exciting story could not find books that were both easy and fun to read. She decided to try to meet this need. In 1942, *The Boxcar Children* was published for these readers.

Warner drew on her own experience to write *The Boxcar Children*. As a child she spent hours watching trains go by on the tracks near her family home. She often dreamed about what it would be like to live in a caboose or freight car—just as the Alden children do.

When readers asked for more Alden adventures, Warner began additional stories. While the mystery element is central to each of the books, she never thought of them as strictly juvenile mysteries. She liked to stress the Aldens' independence. Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny go about most of their adventures with as little adult supervision as possible—something that delights young readers.

During her lifetime, Warner received hundreds of letters from fans as she continued the Aldens' adventures, writing nineteen Boxcar Children books in all. After her death in 1979, her publisher, Albert Whitman and Company, carried on Warner's vision. Today, the Boxcar Children series has more than 100 books.

