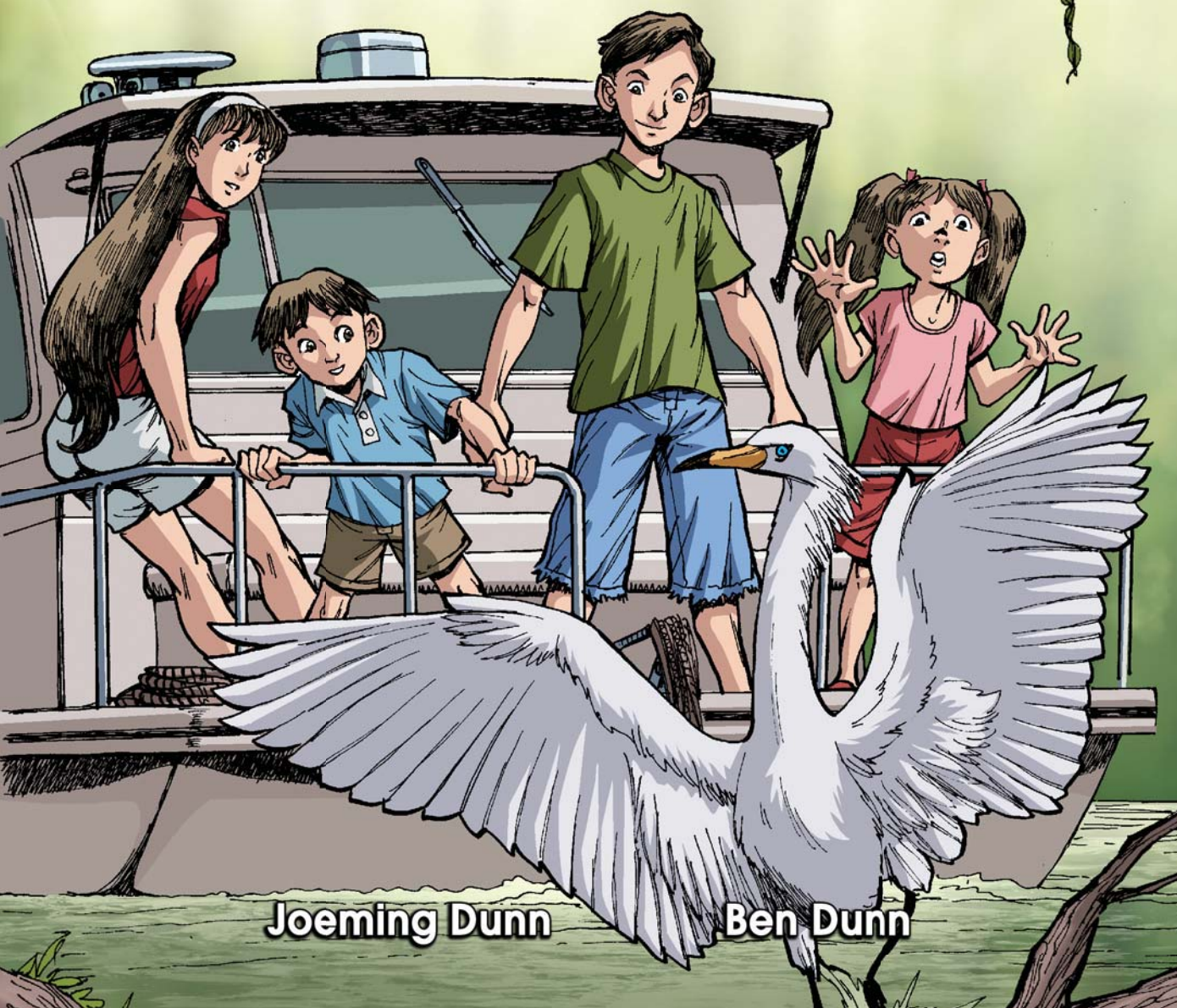


Gertrude Chandler Warner's

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN

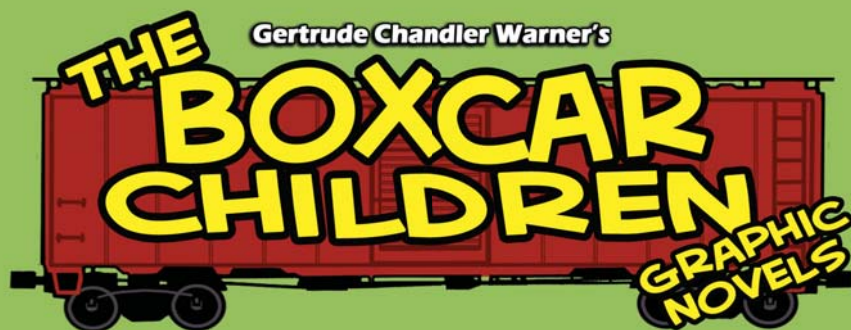
GRAPHIC NOVELS

HOUSEBOAT MYSTERY



Joeming Dunn

Ben Dunn



BOOK SIXTEEN HOUSEBOAT MYSTERY

Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden are spending a week on a houseboat! Throughout the journey, the children have the feeling they are being watched—and they are. Someone wants something on their boat, and he'll stop at nothing to get it. Can the Boxcar Children figure out who is out there before its too late?

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
7. SNOWBOUND MYSTERY
8. TREE HOUSE MYSTERY
9. THE HAUNTED CABIN MYSTERY
10. THE AMUSEMENT PARK MYSTERY
11. THE PIZZA MYSTERY
12. THE CASTLE MYSTERY
13. THE WOODSHED MYSTERY
14. THE LIGHTHOUSE MYSTERY
15. MOUNTAIN TOP MYSTERY
16. HOUSEBOAT MYSTERY
17. BICYCLE MYSTERY
18. MYSTERY IN THE SAND

Gertrude Chandler Warner's
THE BOXCAR CHILDREN
HOUSEBOAT MYSTERY

Adapted by Joeming Dunn
Illustrated by Ben Dunn



Henry Alden



Jessie Alden



Watch



Violet Alden



Benny Alden



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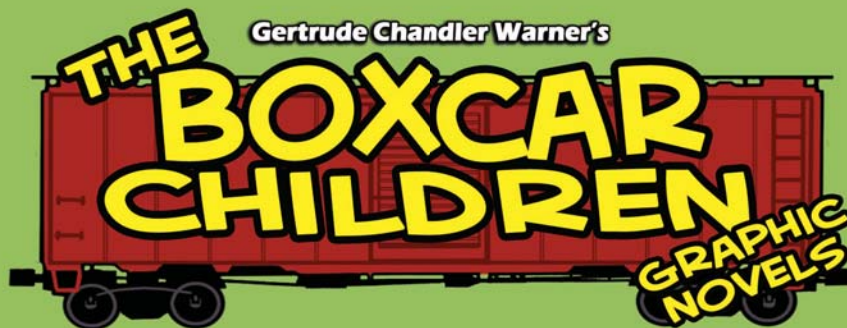
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BOOK SIXTEEN
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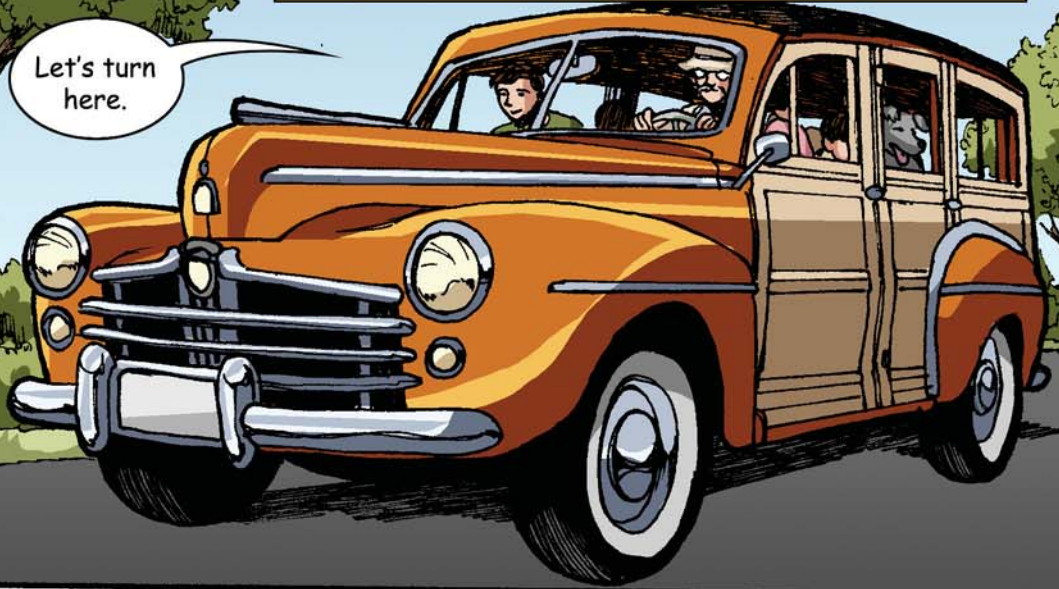
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HOUSEBOAT FOR RENT

On a hot day in July, the four Alden children and their grandfather took a drive through the country to cool off.

Let's turn here.

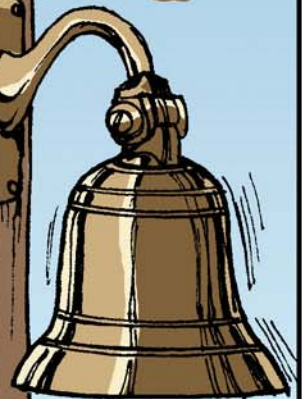


Soon they saw the river.

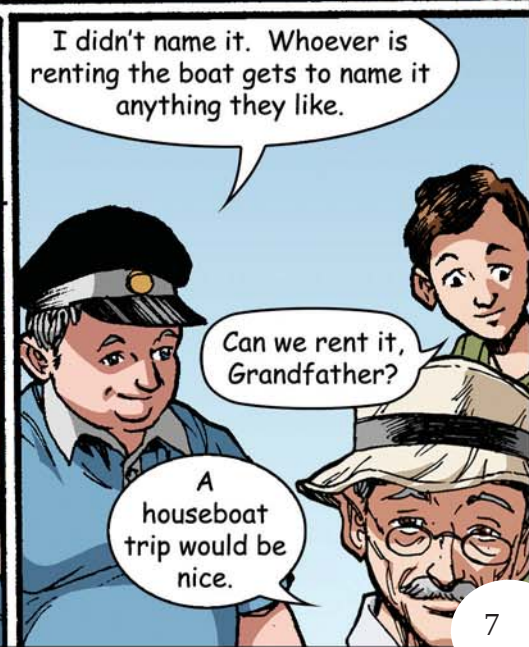
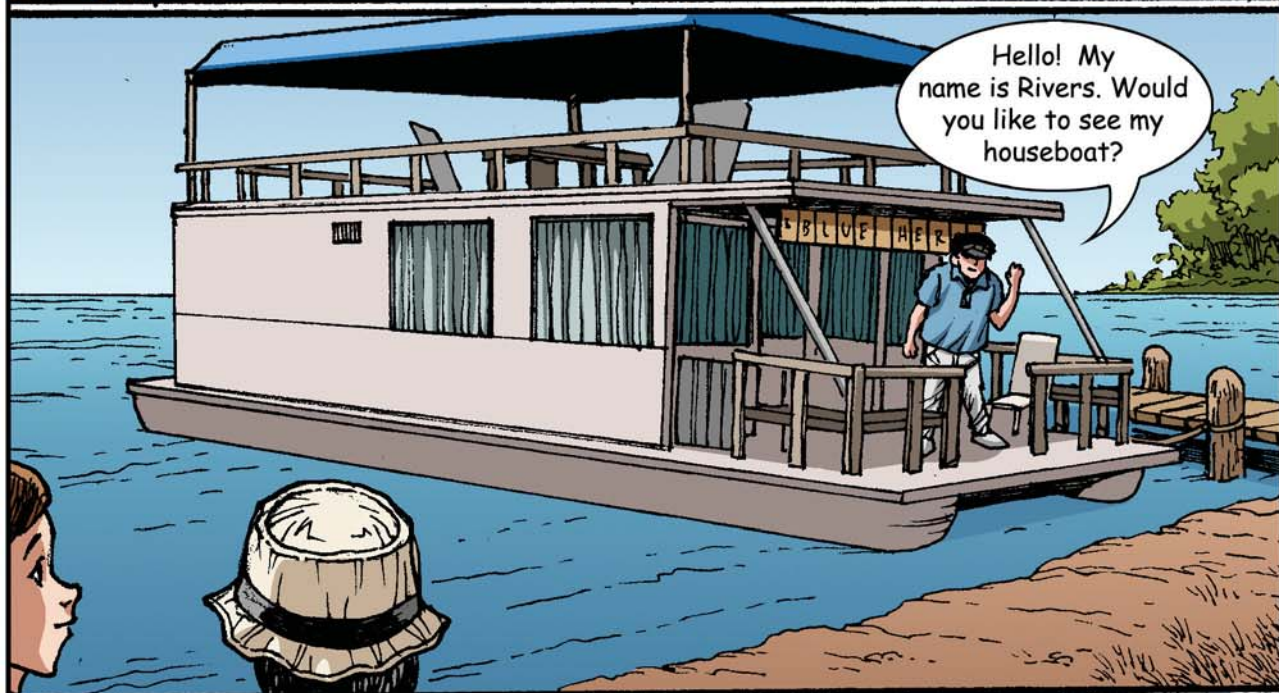
What is that thing?



DING



DING



Mr. Rivers showed them around.

A houseboat has to be small and in shipshape. Here are the beds.

Here's a fire pail and a box of sand to put out fires. The houseboat has everything you need to be safe.

We'll be here at ten o'clock tomorrow.

Here's the key. Lock up at night. The windows lock themselves when you shut them.

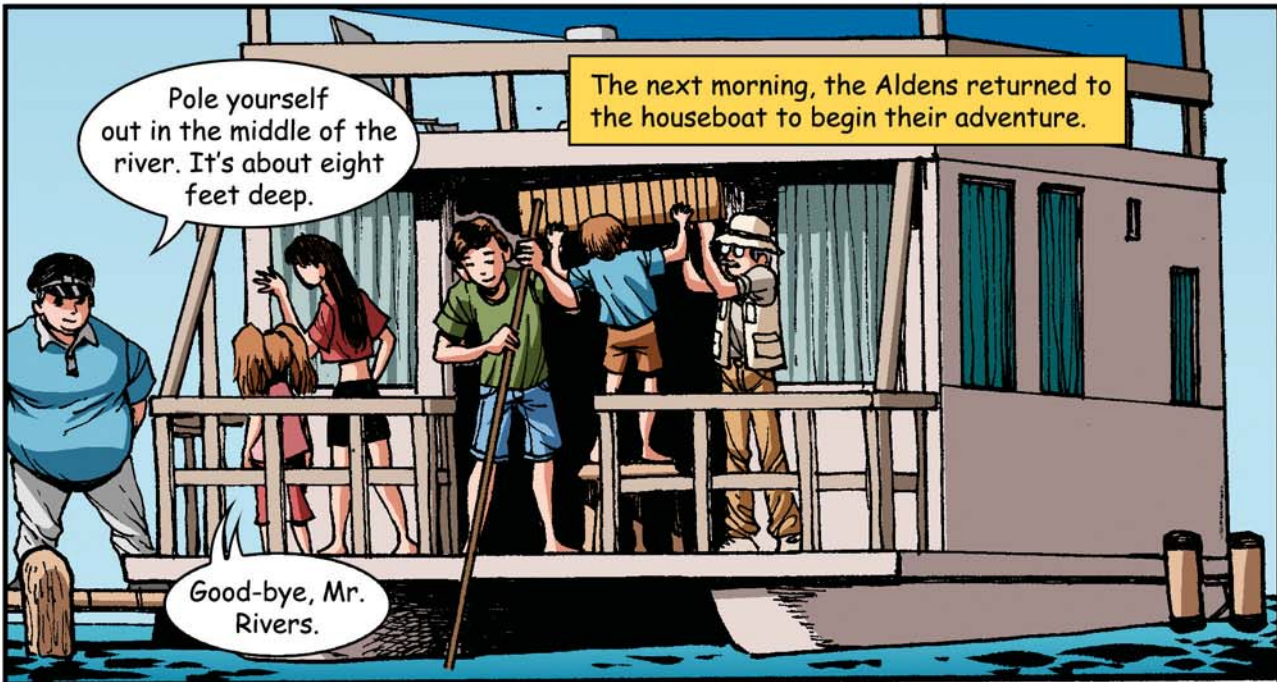
The Aldens headed home to pack for their adventure on the houseboat.

We won't need many clothes. We can all just live in swimsuits.

Suddenly, a car whizzed by!

HEY!

Whew! I hope we won't see them ever again.



Pole yourself out in the middle of the river. It's about eight feet deep.

The next morning, the Aldens returned to the houseboat to begin their adventure.

Good-bye, Mr. Rivers.



This is so exciting!



The Aldens put everything away so they could enjoy their adventure.



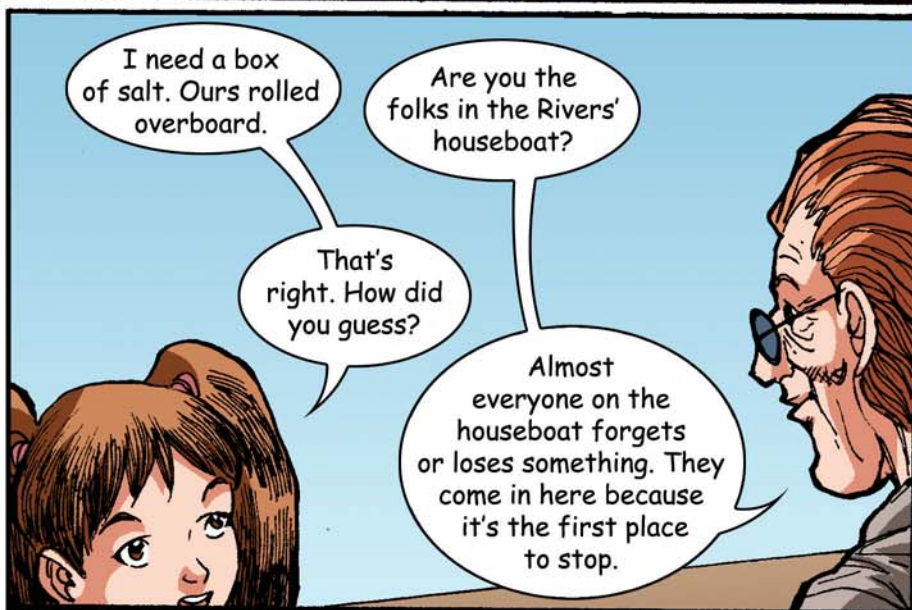
After traveling for some time...

There it is. That must be Second Landing.



Did you lock up?

Yes, and I made sure the boat was tied up safely and the anchor dropped.



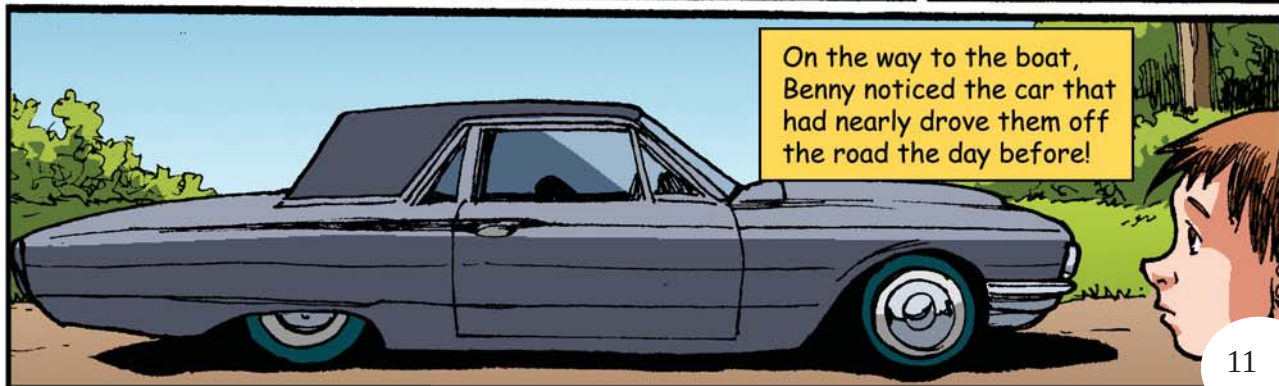
I need a box of salt. Ours rolled overboard.

Are you the folks in the Rivers' houseboat?

That's right. How did you guess?

Almost everyone on the houseboat forgets or loses something. They come in here because it's the first place to stop.

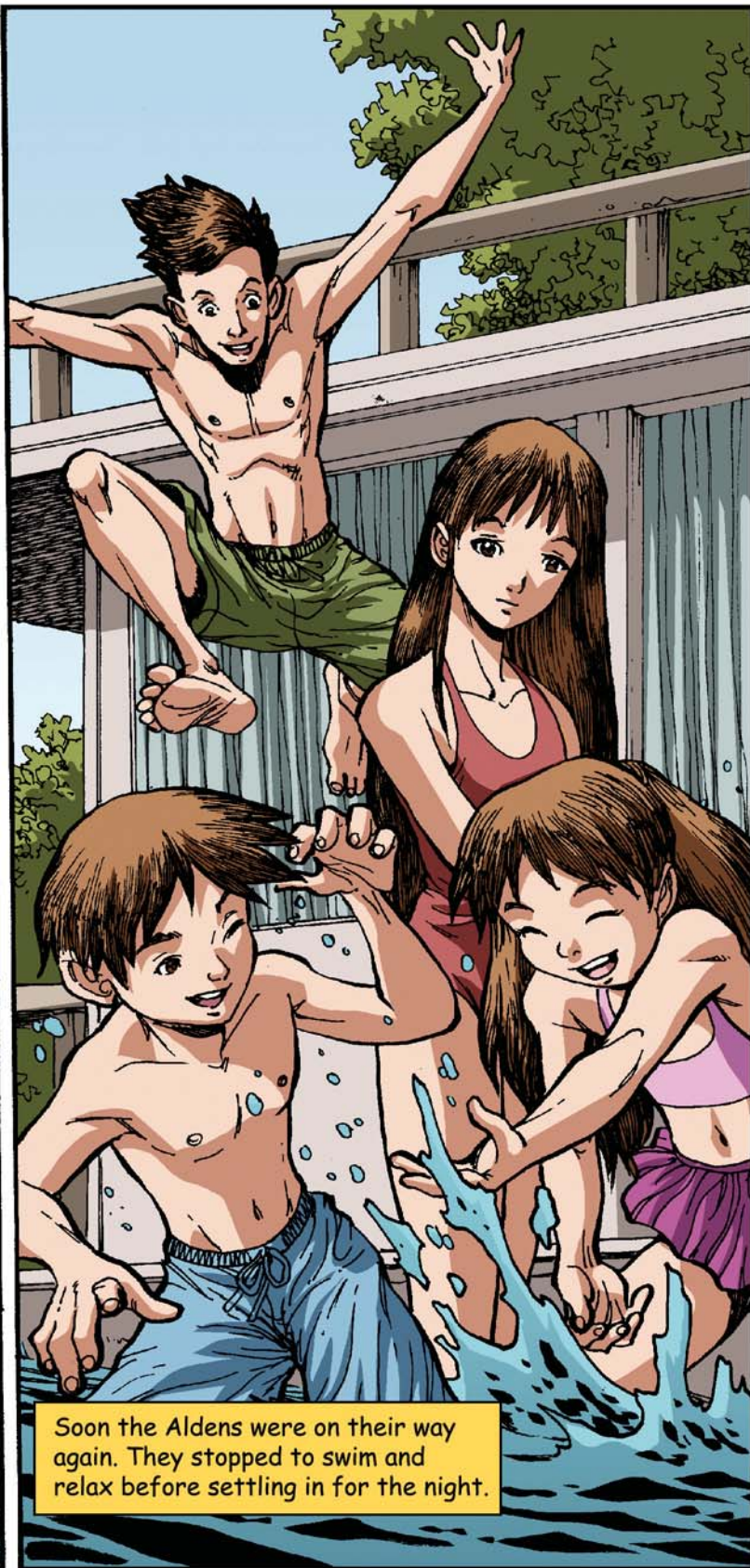
After paying for their groceries, the Aldens headed back to the houseboat.



On the way to the boat, Benny noticed the car that had nearly drove them off the road the day before!



The houseboat seems like home already.



Soon the Aldens were on their way again. They stopped to swim and relax before settling in for the night.

The next morning...



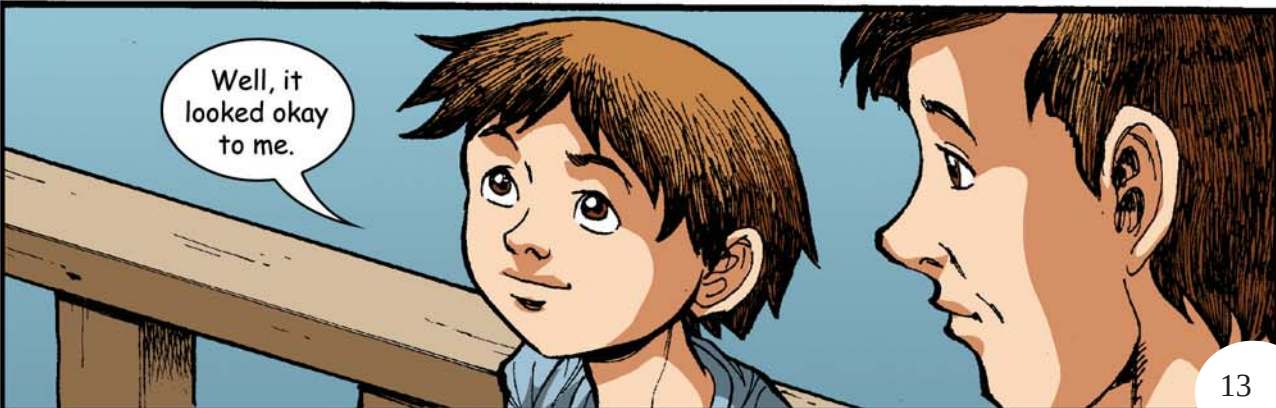
The boat
is all yours,
Captain.



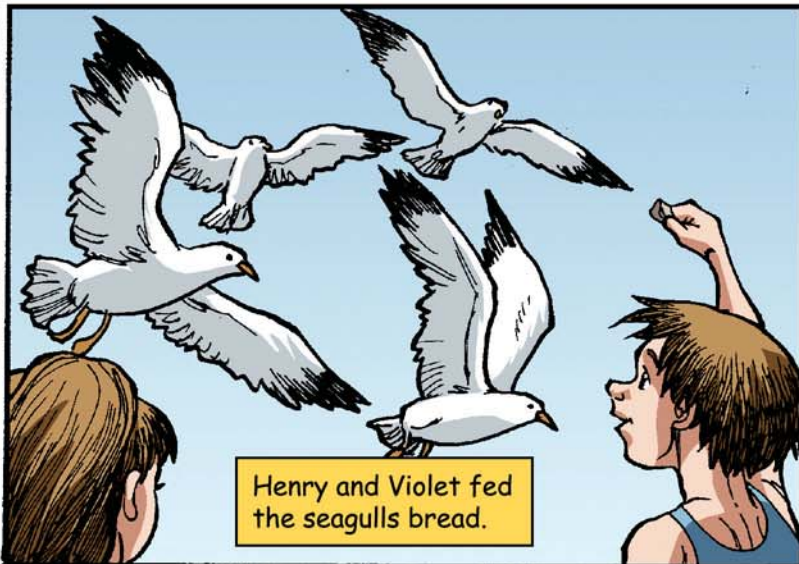
You
did well, mate.
Come and see for
yourself.



Well, it
looked okay
to me.



The Aldens spent the morning fishing. They eventually caught a large bass.



Henry and Violet fed the seagulls bread.

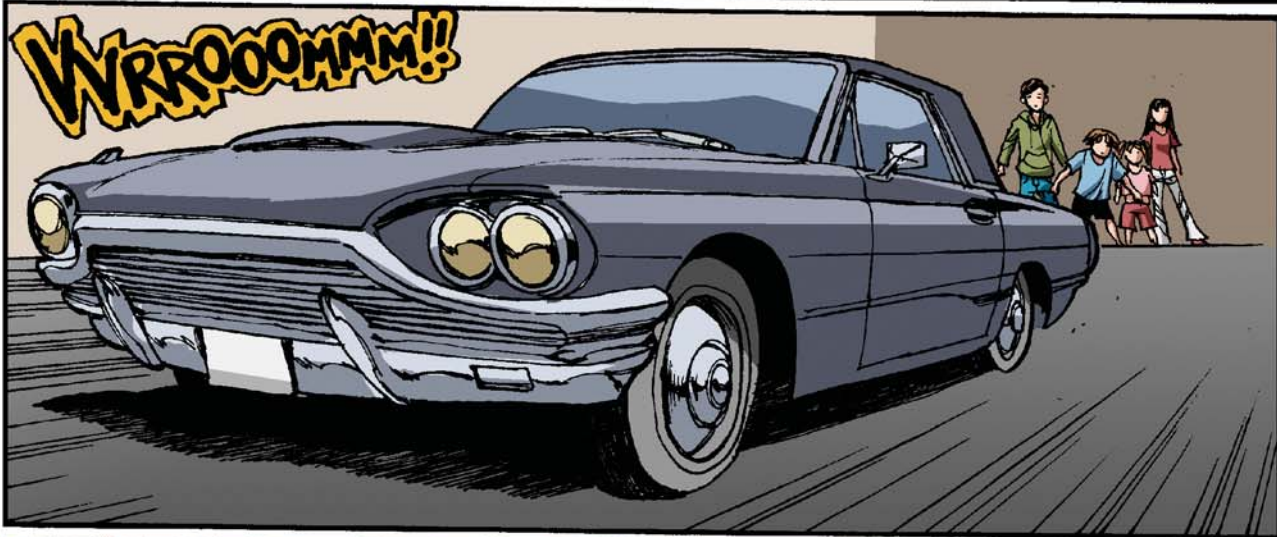


We'll have to stop again for ice and milk.



Pomfret Landing!

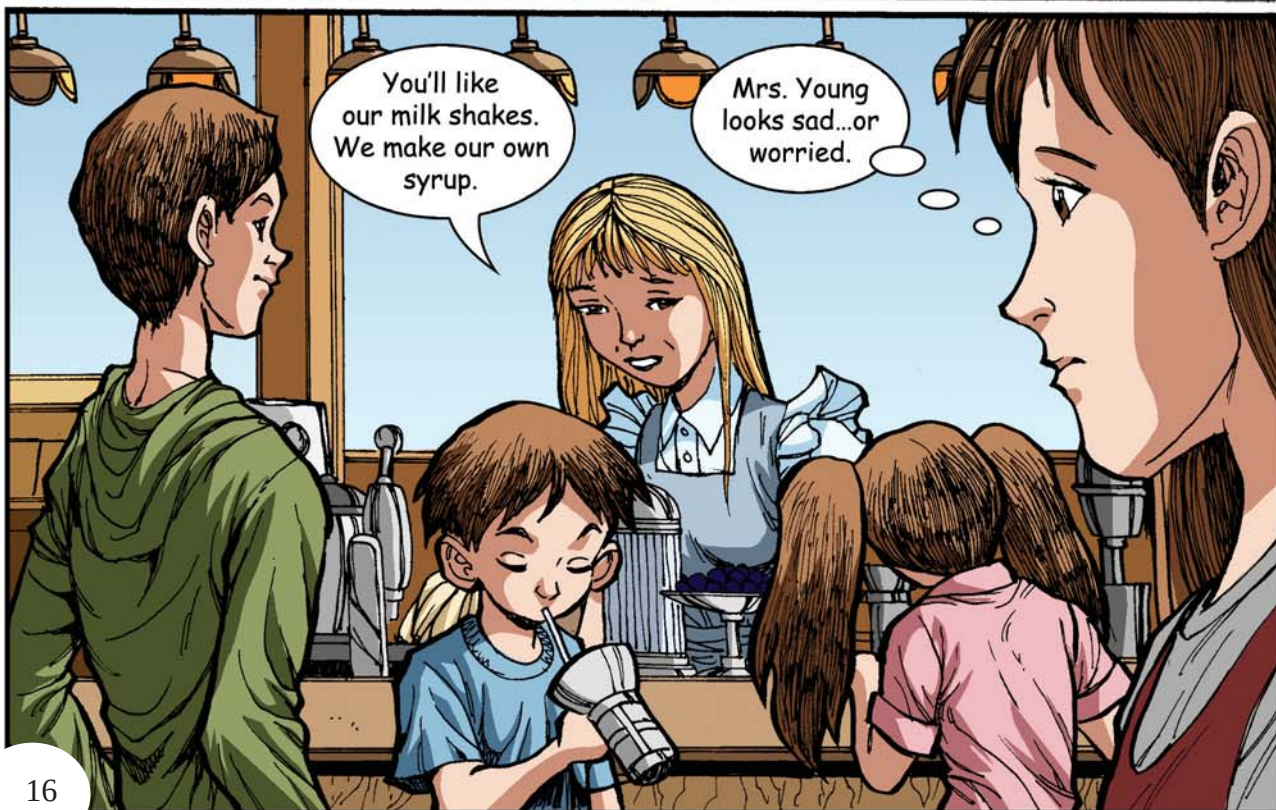
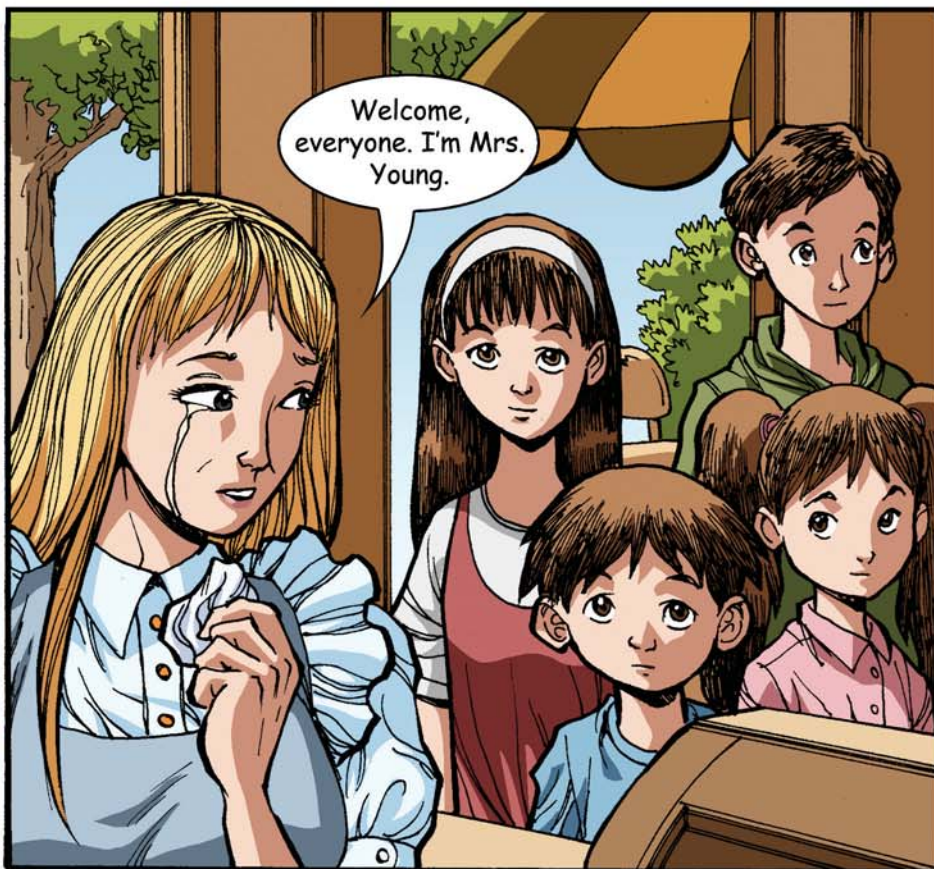
WELCOME
TO
Pomfret
Landing

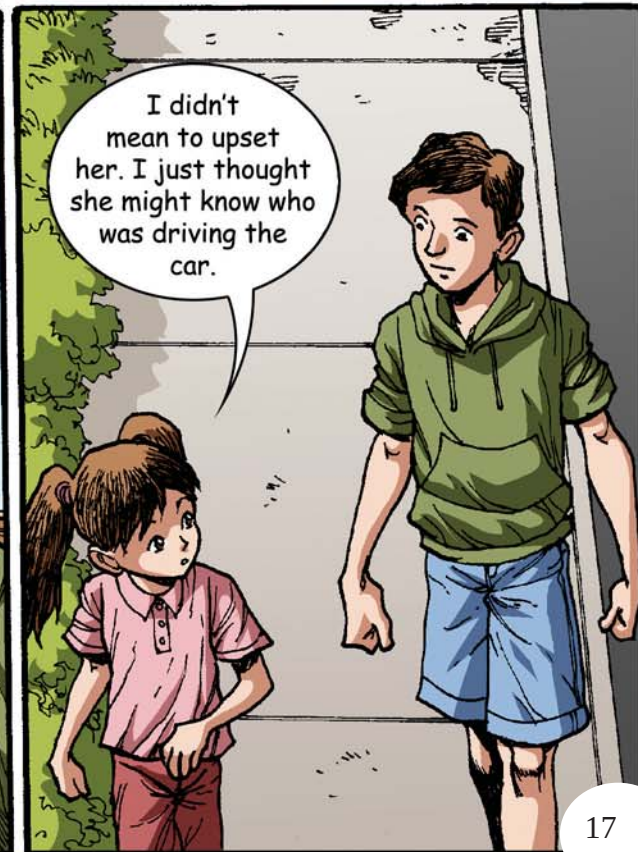


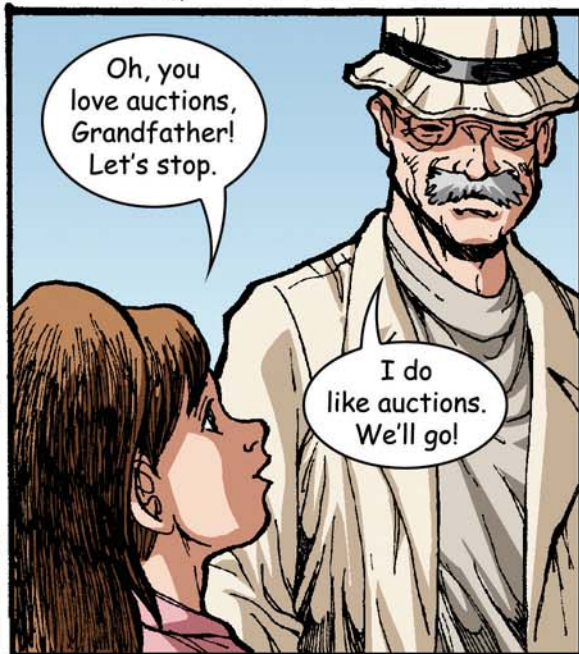
THE AUCTION



After walking around town, the Aldens decided to stop at a candy store...









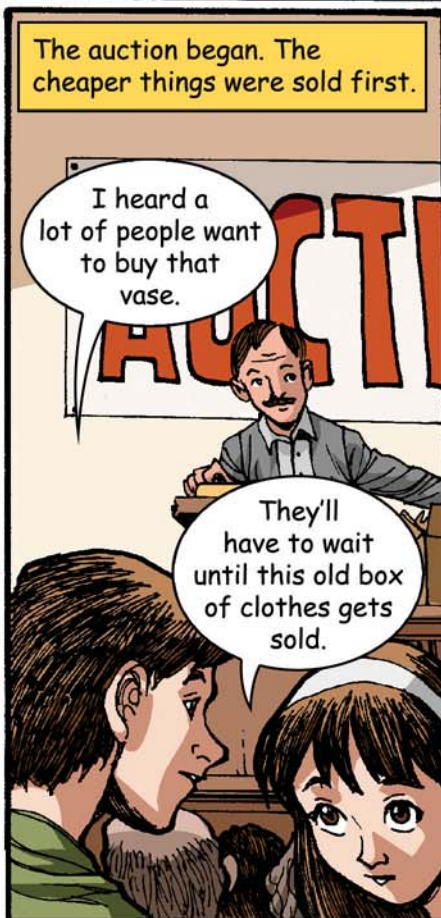
The Aldens docked and locked their boat. Then, they went to the building where the auction was held.



That little vase looks like it's worth a lot.



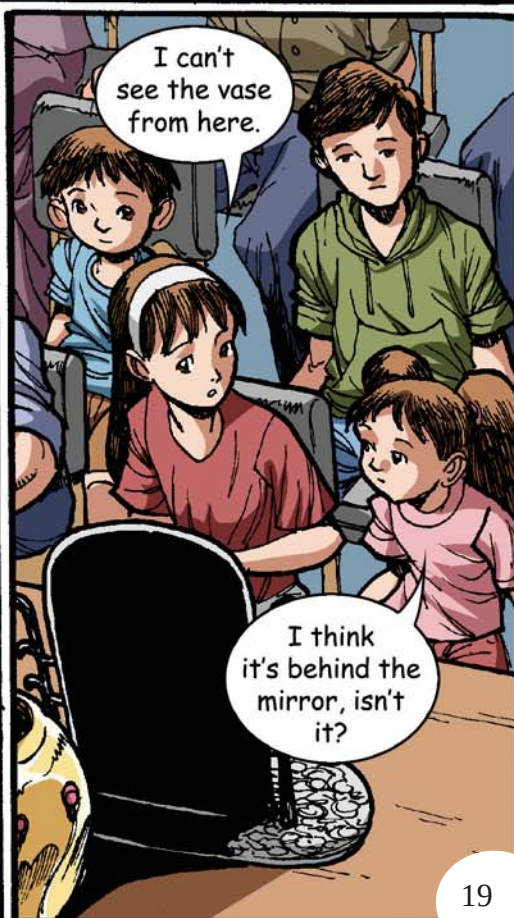
The auction is beginning! The auction is beginning!



The auction began. The cheaper things were sold first.

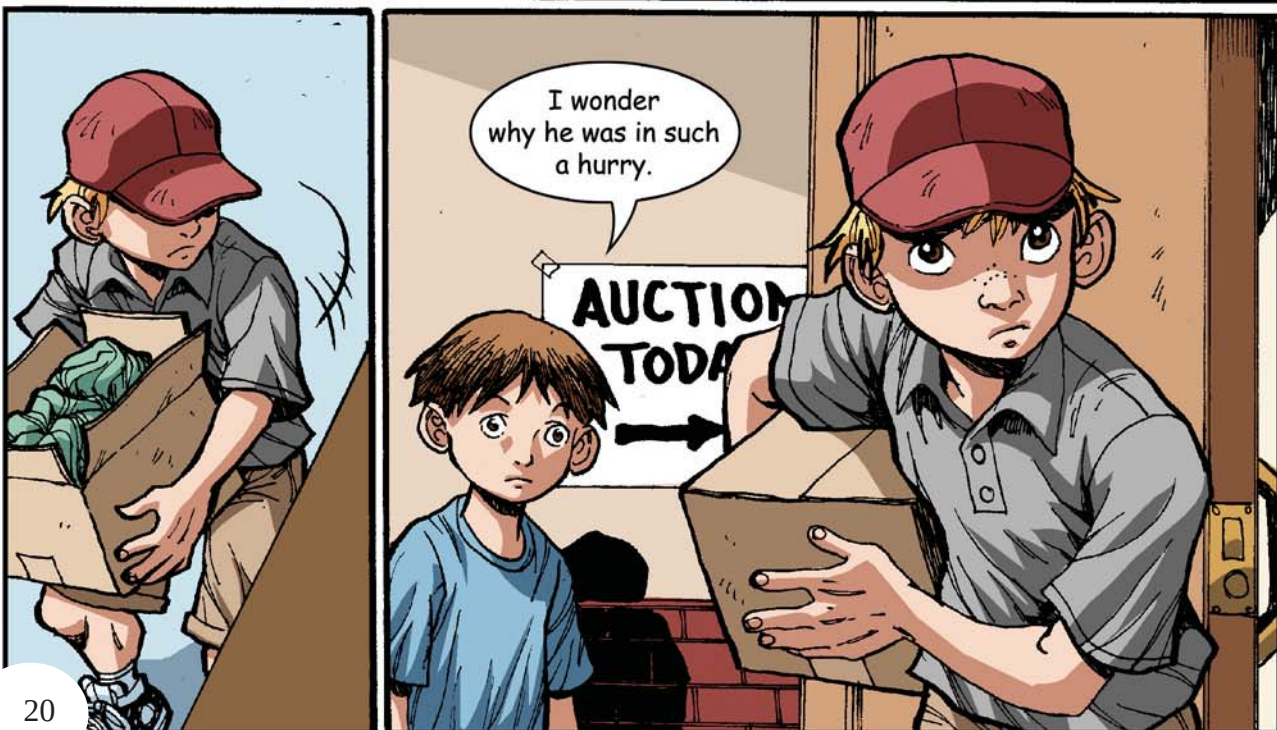
I heard a lot of people want to buy that vase.

They'll have to wait until this old box of clothes gets sold.



I can't see the vase from here.

I think it's behind the mirror, isn't it?

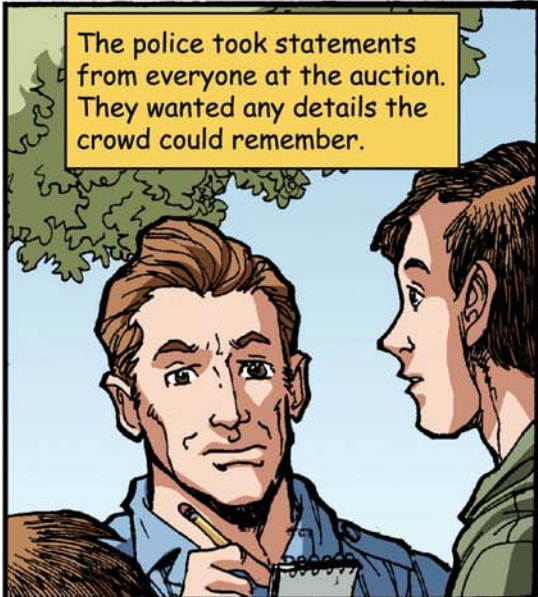




The auctioneer called the police to investigate.



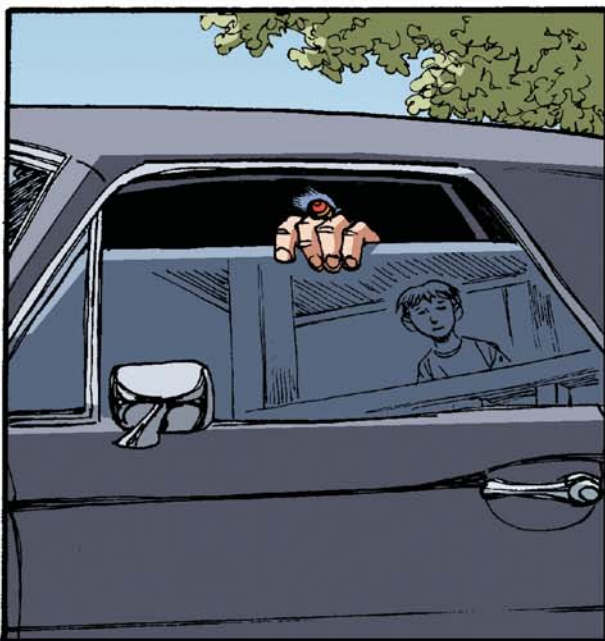
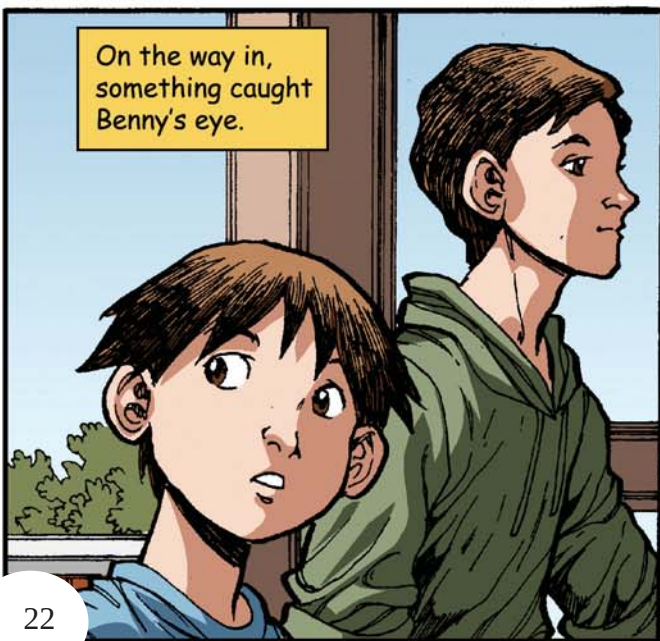
The police took statements from everyone at the auction. They wanted any details the crowd could remember.

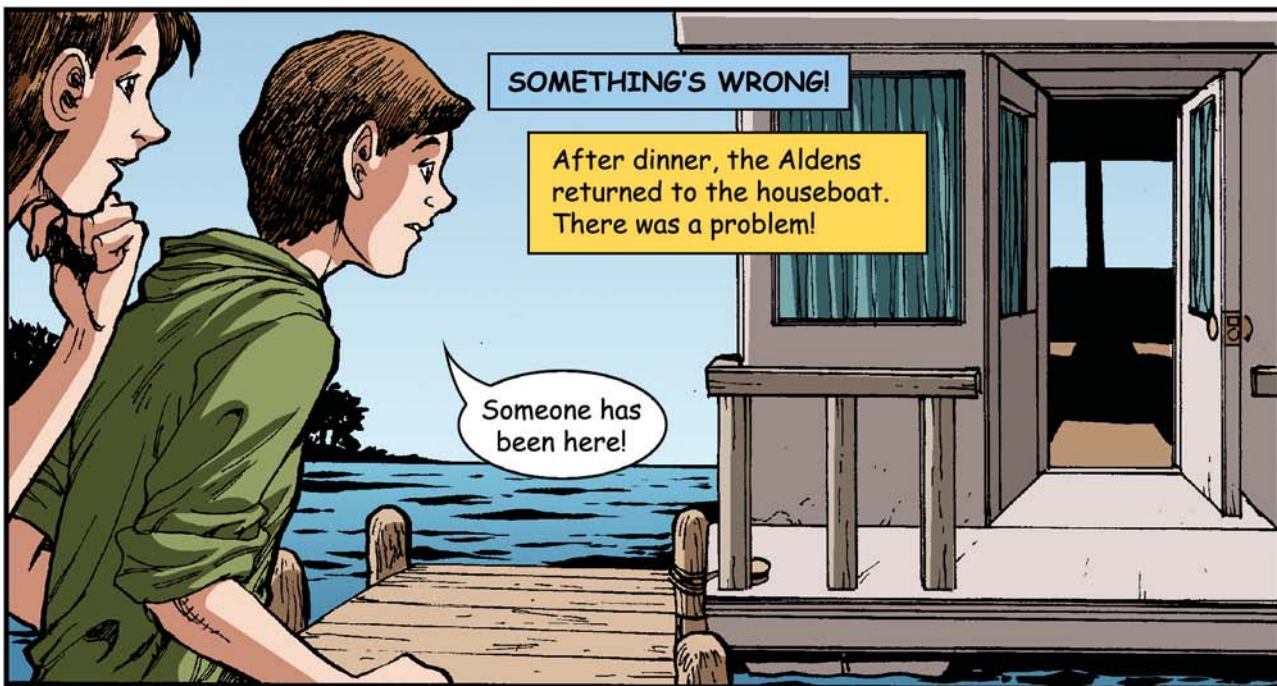


After talking to the police, the Aldens decided to go to a restaurant called The Elm Tree Inn.



On the way in, something caught Benny's eye.





SOMETHING'S WRONG!

After dinner, the Aldens returned to the houseboat. There was a problem!

Someone has been here!



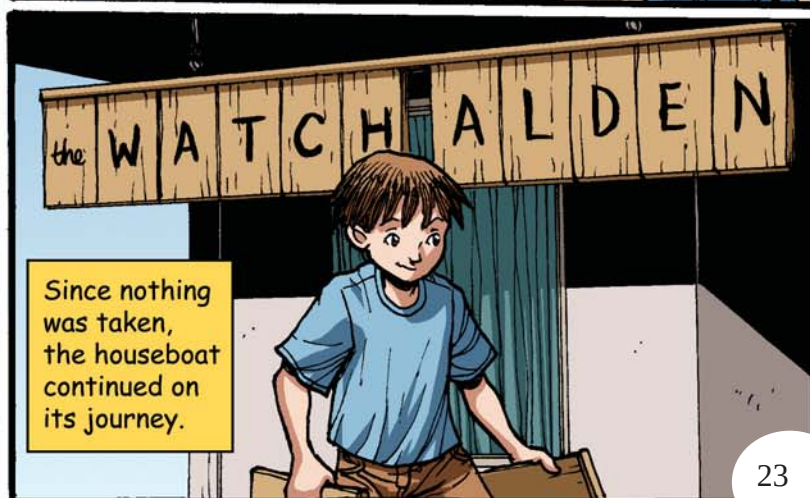
But both doors were locked. How did someone get in?

I think someone has a key.

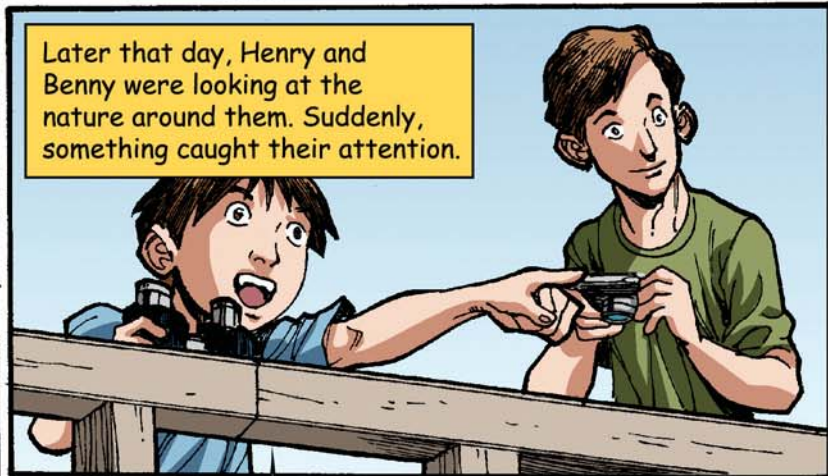


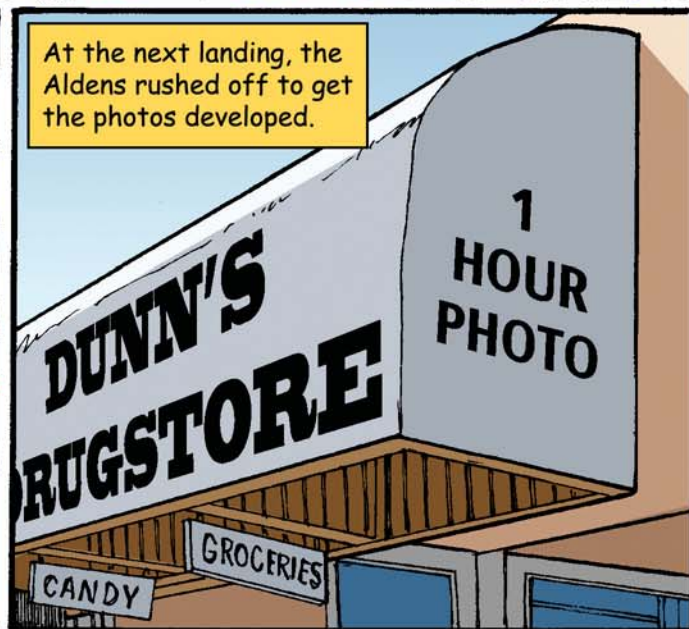
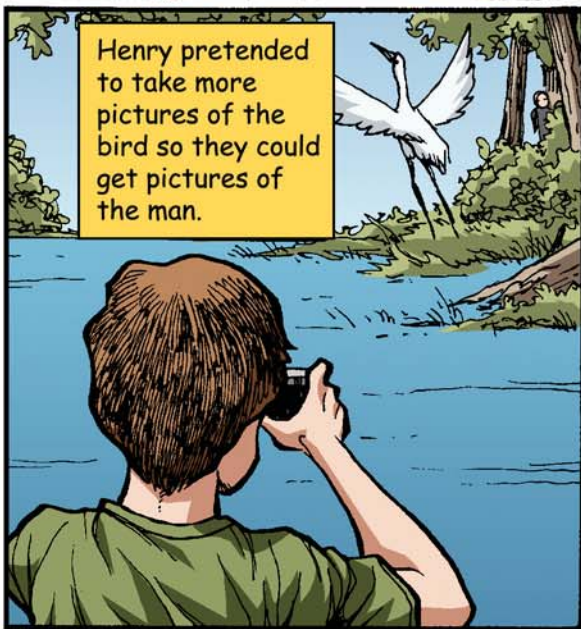
Quick, look around and see if anything is missing!

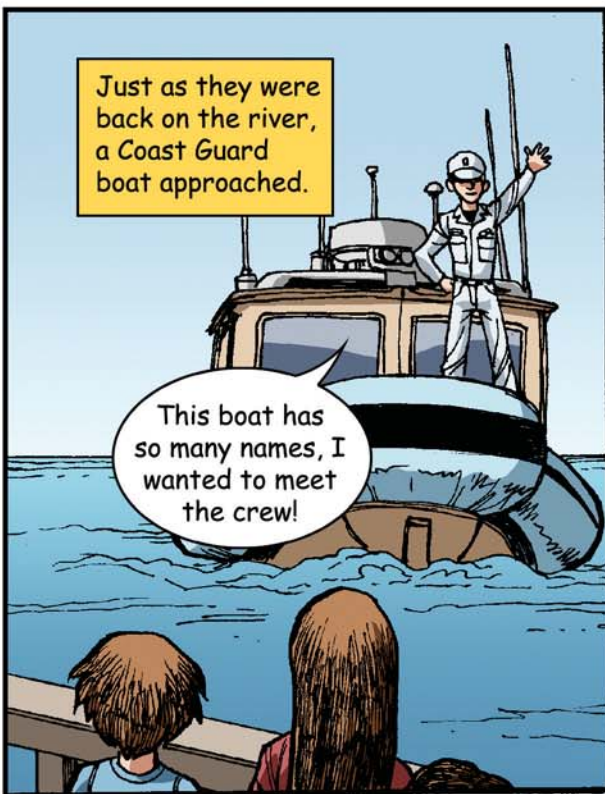
Fortunately, nothing seemed to have been taken.



Since nothing was taken, the houseboat continued on its journey.

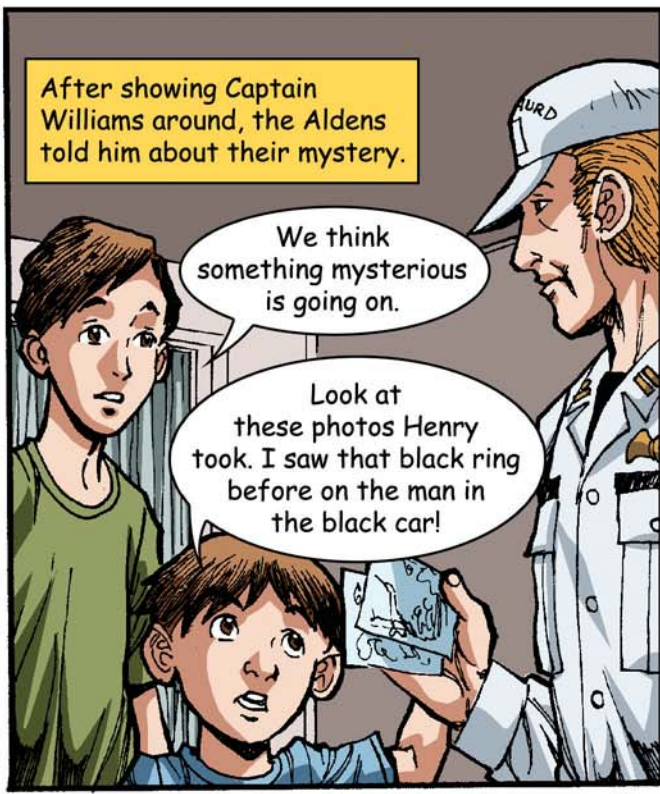






Just as they were back on the river, a Coast Guard boat approached.

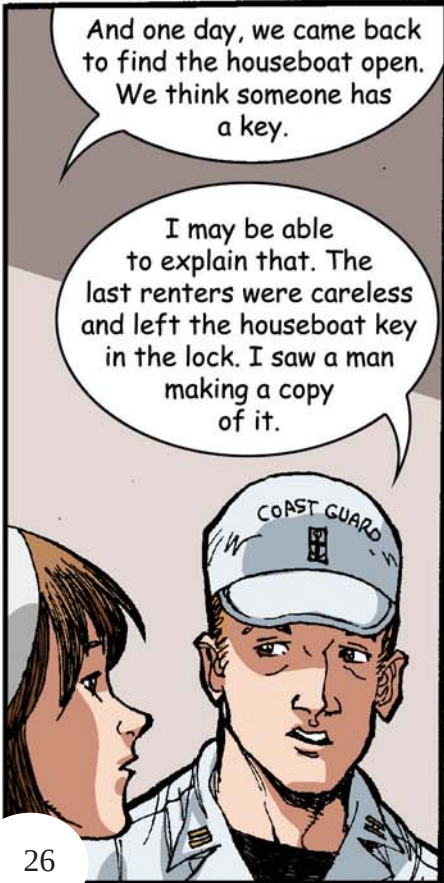
This boat has so many names, I wanted to meet the crew!



After showing Captain Williams around, the Aldens told him about their mystery.

We think something mysterious is going on.

Look at these photos Henry took. I saw that black ring before on the man in the black car!



And one day, we came back to find the houseboat open. We think someone has a key.

I may be able to explain that. The last renters were careless and left the houseboat key in the lock. I saw a man making a copy of it.



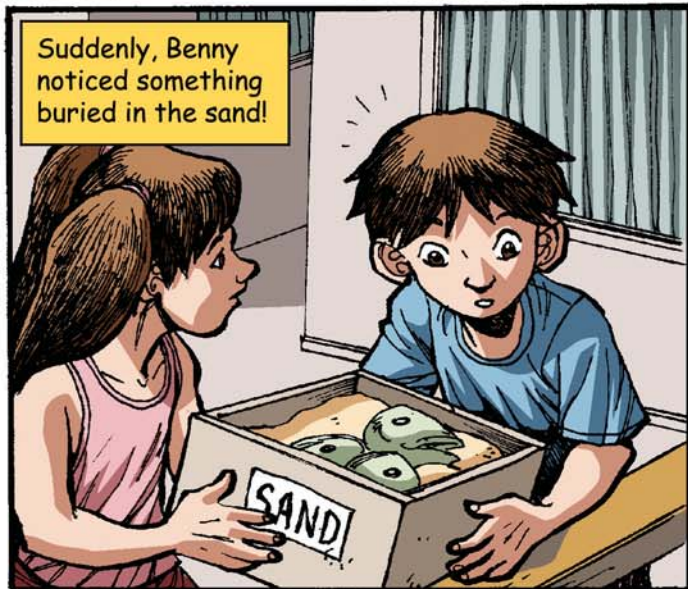
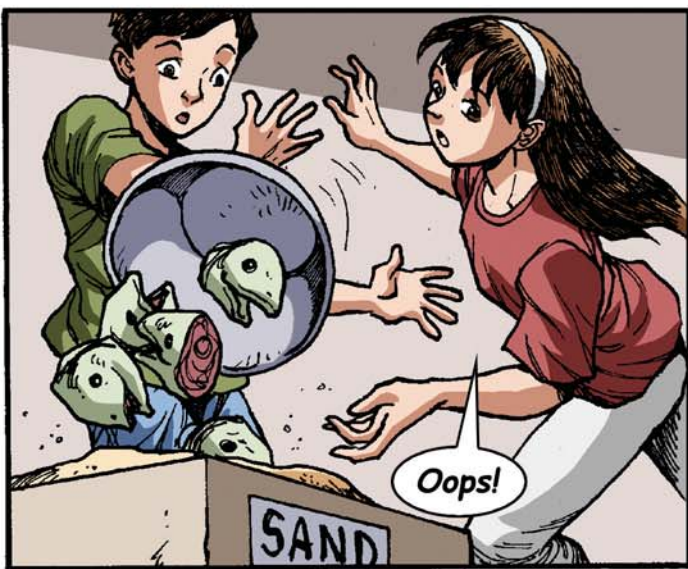
Mrs. Young at the candy shop seemed very worried about her son.

Yes, she is worried. Her son is the boy in the red cap from the auction.

He came home with a lot of money and wouldn't tell her where he got it.



Thank you for telling me all you know. If you will let me have one of those pictures, I'll pass it along to the police.



TRAPPED!

Who knows you found the vase?

Nobody.

The Aldens turned the houseboat around and made their way to the auction landing. Then, they found a policeman, Captain De Rosa, and told him the whole story.

I think two men are involved and one of them hid the vase in the box of old clothes.

Then they hired the boy to buy the box and give it to them.

They had to hide the vase somewhere, and your houseboat was just the place.

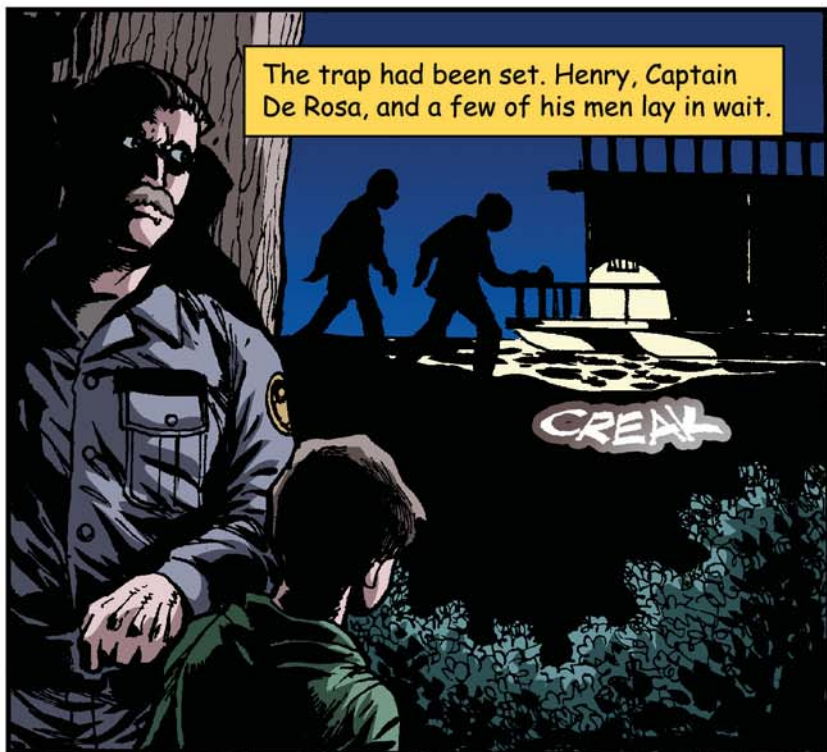
That's why the man was following us.

We could trap them. We'll just let everybody in town know that we are going to spend the evening on land. Then, the men will go to the houseboat and try to get the vase back.

When they get aboard, you can be in the cabin to catch them.

That's quite a plan.

So the Aldens went to dinner and a movie, letting everyone in town know where they were going to spend the evening.



The trap had been set. Henry, Captain De Rosa, and a few of his men lay in wait.



They moved the sandbox.

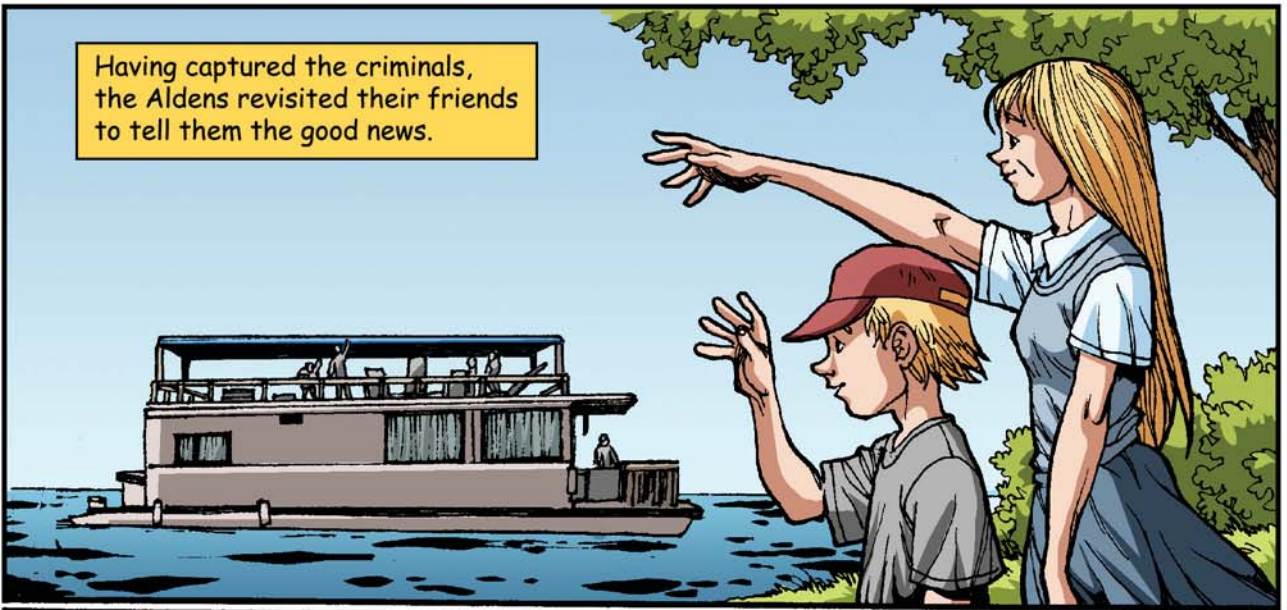


Hold it!

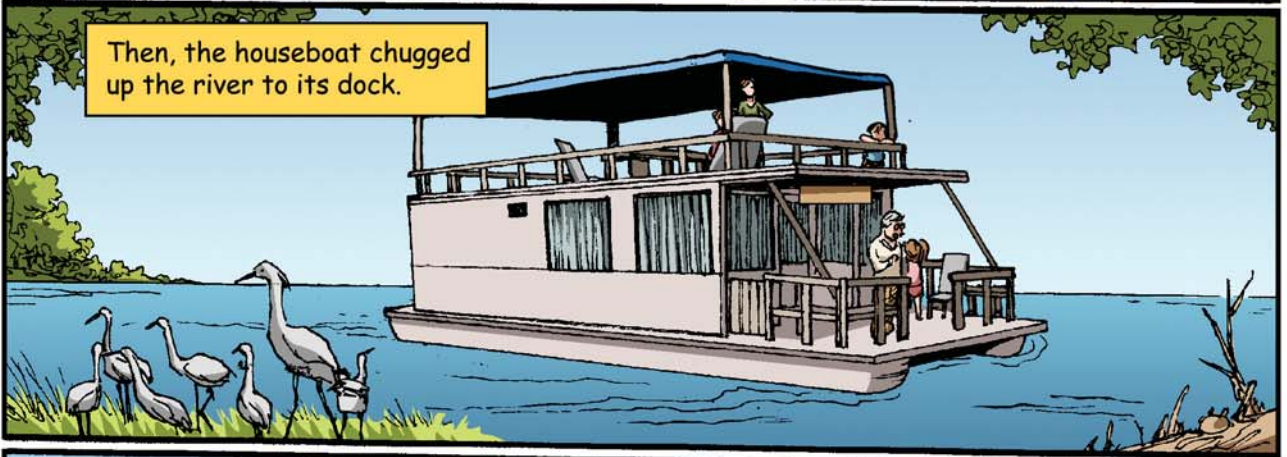


I told you it was a bad idea to steal that vase.

Having captured the criminals,
the Aldens revisited their friends
to tell them the good news.



Then, the houseboat chugged
up the river to its dock.



Everybody is
talking about your trip and
how it was spoiled.

Oh, it
wasn't spoiled!
We always have some
excitement. I even
renamed the
boat.



CAPTAIN KIDD



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.

