

Family
and
Friends 5

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Grace Darling



By Tim Vicary

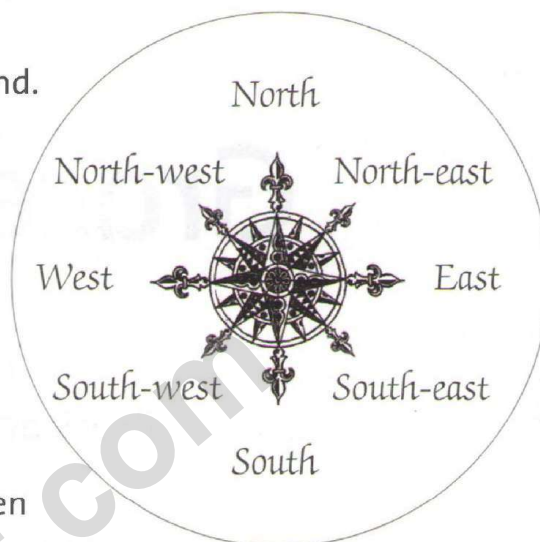
Illustrated by Ashley Mims

OXFORD

Activities

Before reading

It was 1838, off the north-east coast of England. In a little wooden boat Grace Darling and her father were on an angry sea in the dark night, with huge waves all around them. The wind was screaming in their ears. They were trying to reach a rock. On the rock were cold, wet people, who were crying for help and fighting to stay alive. Their ship, the *Forfarshire*, was broken in two. Could Grace and her father save them? This is the true story of Grace Darling – a girl who became famous for being so brave on that stormy night.



1 Read the introduction to the story. Then tick the correct boxes.

- 1 The story is true.
- 2 Grace Darling was a young man.
- 3 The story happened in 1838.
- 4 The *Forfarshire* was a ship.
- 5 The story happened off the north-east coast of Scotland.
- 6 It was a hot, dry night.
- 7 Grace and her father were in a wooden boat.
- 8 Some people were very cold on a rock.
- 9 Grace Darling became famous.

Yes No

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CHAPTER 1 The *Forfarshire*

The Times

London, 19th September 1838

On the afternoon of 6th September the steamship *Forfarshire* started its journey from Hull to Dundee, in Scotland. There were sixty people on the *Forfarshire*, which was a comfortable, modern ship. There was a strong, north-east wind that afternoon, but at first no one was afraid...

Daniel Donovan was a passenger on the *Forfarshire*. He was a young man, about thirty years old. He stood on the deck of the ship and looked at the sea. It was difficult to stand on the deck, because the wind was so strong. The ship was moving up and down uncomfortably and Daniel felt ill. Then a big wave hit the side of the ship, and salt water flew into his face.

'The wind is getting stronger,' said a passenger beside him, called Mr Robb. 'And it's getting darker, too.' He was a tall, dark man with a black coat. He didn't like being at sea very much, and he looked worried.

'Yes,' said Daniel. 'I can't see the land now.' He looked to the west, but he could see no land and no lights. Only water – big grey waves with white tops, which went up and down, up and down.

'But the *Forfarshire* is a good modern ship,' said Mr Robb. 'Nothing can happen to a new ship like this. Listen to those fine strong engines!'

Daniel looked down at the big paddle wheel on the side of the ship. It went round and round, down under

deck the floor on a ship

wave (*n*) how the sea moves; a 'hill of water' in the sea

dark a colour that is not light, like black

land (*n*) the part of the world that is not the sea

engine a machine that makes a ship, car, etc. move

paddle wheel a large wheel on the side of a ship that moves through the water

smoke grey or black clouds from a fire

funnel a 'pipe' on top of a ship; smoke from the engine comes out of it

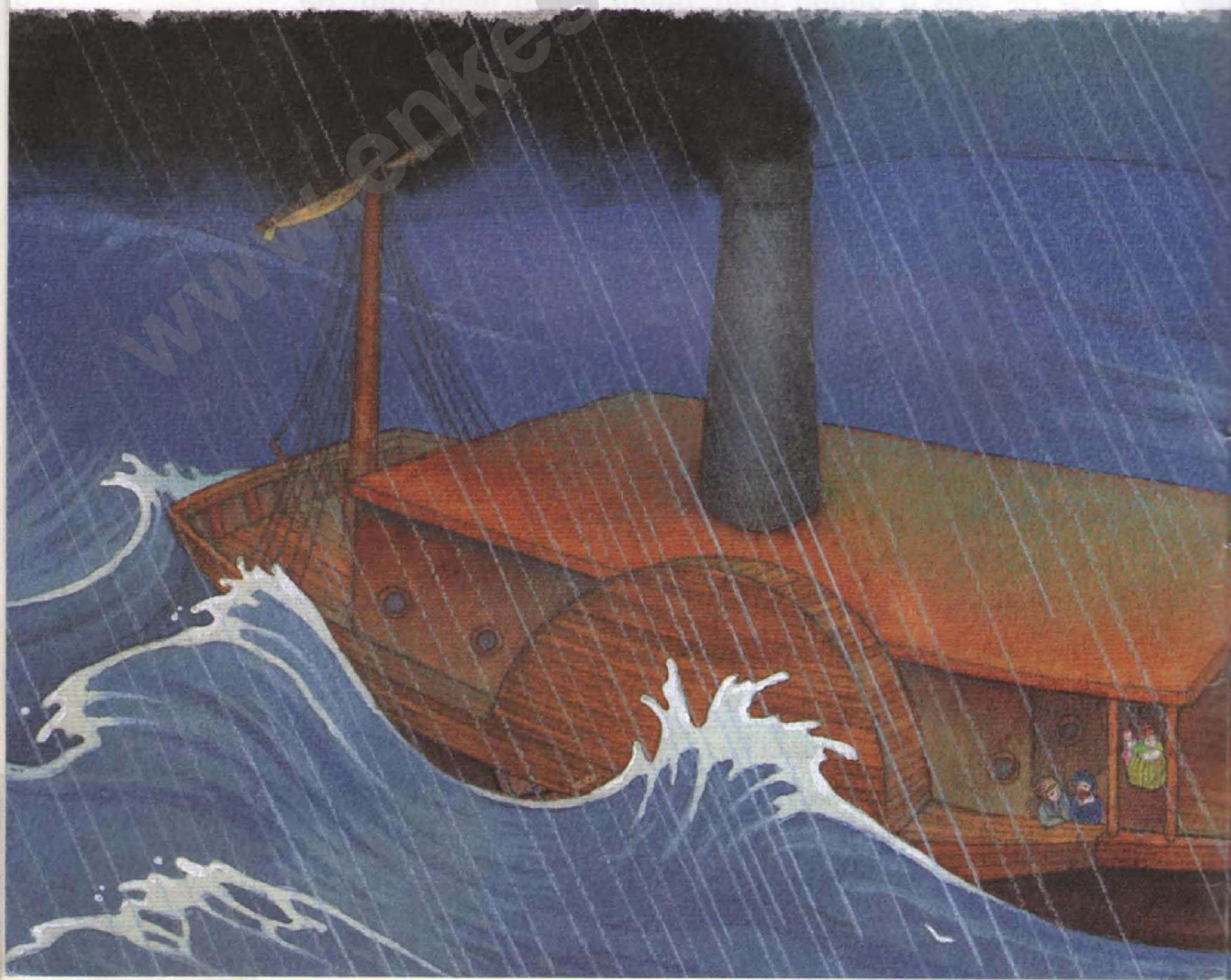
noise a loud sound

crash a loud noise when something hits something else

the white water and up again . . . under the water and up. Then he looked up at the black smoke that came from the *Forfarshire's* funnel.

'Yes,' he said. 'They're good, strong engines.' But he was not really sure. He was an engineer, so he knew about engines. Sometimes the *Forfarshire's* engines made strange noises, and the paddle wheels went round slowly. Then there was a crash, and they went quickly again. Daniel was not happy.

A sea bird flew low across the white tops of the big, grey waves. Daniel watched it and felt wind and rain on his face. Then a door opened behind him, and a woman screamed.



‘Simon, come back! Come back at once!’

Daniel looked behind him and saw a small boy. He was running across the deck. He was only five years old, and the wind was much too strong for him. He fell over on the deck and started to cry. Then another big wave hit the side of the ship. The white water came onto the ship and carried the boy along the deck.

‘Help!’ the woman screamed. ‘Save my child!’

Daniel put out his hand and caught the boy’s coat. Then he carried him quickly back to his mother.

‘Quick! Get back inside, out of the wind!’ he shouted. He hurried through the door and closed it with a crash. ‘It’s too dangerous for children out there!’

fall over (*past fell over*) to go down suddenly

save to take someone out of danger





'Yes, I know,' the woman said. 'Come here, Simon!' She sat down and held the boy with one arm. She had another child next to her – a little girl, about seven years old. 'Thank you, sir,' she said.

The ship moved up and down very quickly, and Daniel sat down beside the woman. She smiled at him, but she looked very white and ill.

'I'm Daniel Donovan,' he said. 'What's your name?'

'Mary Dawson,' she said. 'This is my son Simon and my daughter Sarah.'

'Isn't your husband with you?'

'No,' she said. 'He's in Scotland. We're going home to see him. It's good we're in a strong, modern ship.'

'Yes,' said Daniel. Then for a few seconds he said nothing. It was quiet in this room. Much quieter than outside.

sir a polite word for a man when you speak to him