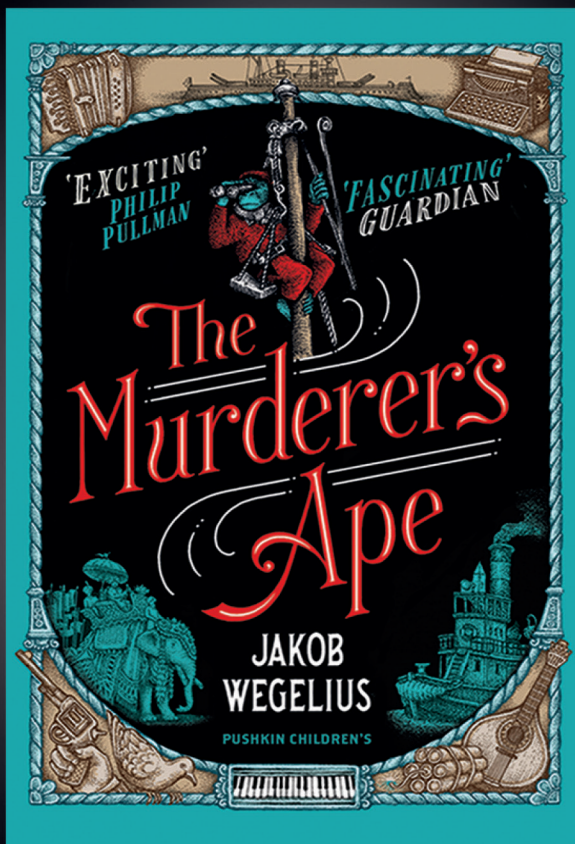


The Murderer's Ape

JAKOB WEGELIUS

EDUCATOR GUIDE



ABOUT THE BOOK

Sally Jones is an extraordinary gorilla and a brilliant ship's engineer who sails the high seas on *The Hudson Queen* with her loyal friend the Chief. One day the shipmates are offered a mysterious job that promises to pay big bucks, but then disaster strikes, the job goes wrong and the Chief is falsely convicted of murder.

For Sally Jones this is the start of a grand adventure and a desperate quest to clear her friend's name.

By freighter, steam train and bi-plane the intrepid ape journeys from Lisbon to Bombay and beyond in search of the truth. But powerful forces are working against her, and they will do anything to protect their own secrets...

'I don't know when I last read a book with such pleasure. It's ingenious, it's moving, it's charming, it's beautiful, it's exciting, and most importantly the characters are people I feel I know like old friends'

PHILIP PULLMAN

QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES

Look at the character portraits at the front of the book and pick your favourite one. Now, look at it again – what do you think it tells you about the character and why? Why is it your favourite?



FRIENDSHIP

Read Chapter 1 –
Me, the Chief and the
Hudson Queen

1. Sally Jones says 'the chief isn't the sort to want to own others. He and I are comrades. And friends.' What is the difference between the chief being Sally Jones' owner and being her friend?
2. Why do you think Sally Jones goes to such lengths to free The Chief from prison throughout the story?

3. Part Two of *The Murderer's Ape* tells about Sally Jones' adventures in India. When she first meets the Maharajah, he seems like an enemy. By the time they say goodbye, do you think Sally sees him as a friend? Why?



HAPPINESS & SADNESS

Read Chapter 14 – Days
and Nights

1. Sally Jones is so sad that she doesn't move from the sofa in Ana's flat for days. When she feels so bad, why doesn't she give up?



Read Chapter 15 – A Little Red Accordion

2. Sally Jones says of Ana 'I noticed that she tried to choose happy songs, presumably to stop me from feeling unhappy. It was kind of her, but happy songs made me feel more sad than sad songs. I don't know why.' Why do you think happy songs made Sally Jones more sad than sad songs?
3. Sally Jones seems to love mending things: socks, typewriters, accordions, machinery... Why do you think she enjoys it?

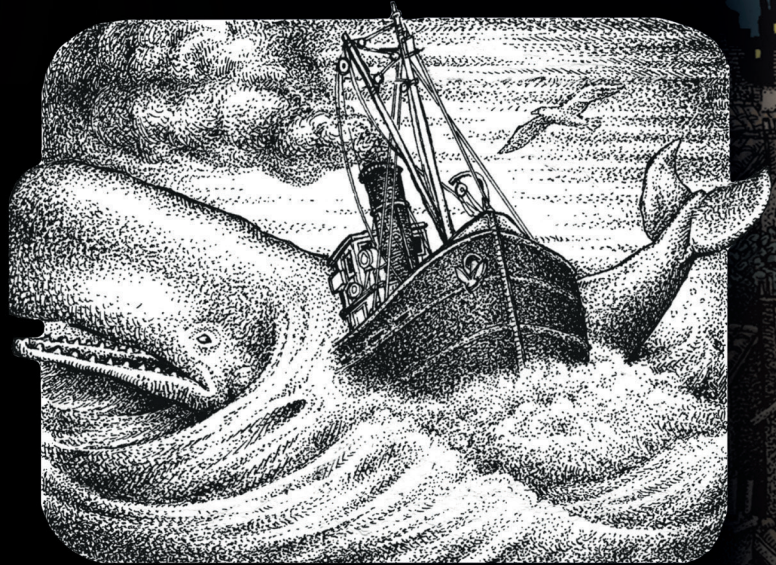


Read Chapter 79 –
Dynamite

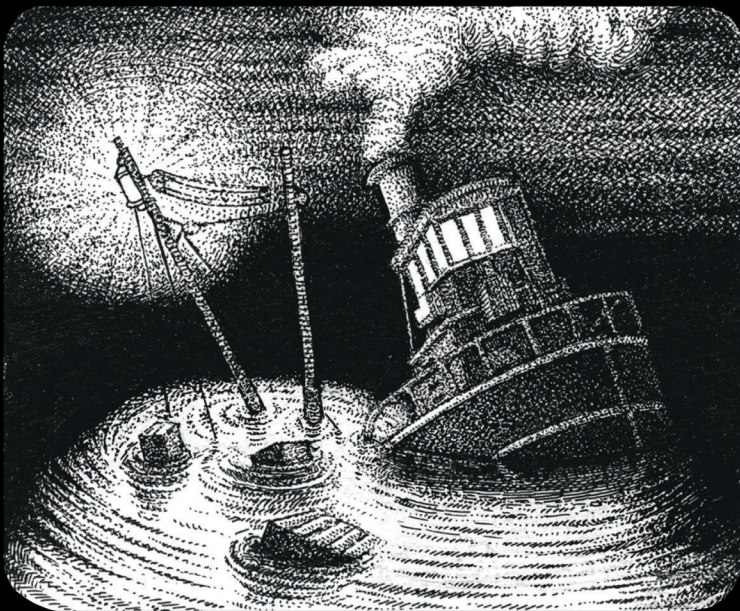
4. Sally Jones and the Chief seem happy to be setting off to sea again. Why do you think that is?

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

1. Sally Jones travels across the world by sailing boat, steam ship, steam train and bi-plane. How do you think travel is different in the modern world from in Sally Jones' time? Which is better? And which is more exciting?



2. *The Murderer's Ape* is an exciting adventure story for the reader. Do you think Sally Jones felt like she'd had an adventure by the end of the story? Have you ever had an adventure of your own?



3. Which of the places that Sally Jones visits is your favourite and why?

4. Where do you think Sally Jones' adventures might take her next?

Sally Jones returns in the thrilling sequel to *The Murderer's Ape*!

