

CHAPTER 1

Tom stood by his uncle's **grave**. He felt very sad.

“Goodbye, Uncle,” said Tom. His uncle was Tom's only family. Because Tom's brother James went to sea many years before, now Tom was alone. He left the grave. Tom was going to begin a new life.

Later, Tom **arrived** at an old **inn** on some **cliffs**. This was Tom's new home.

As Tom walked up to the dark door, he heard shouting and laughing. A **lantern** shone above the door. Inside, there was a fire at one end of the room. A group of men sat at wooden tables. They were talking and drinking, but they went silent as Tom came in. Behind the wooden bar, there was a big man with a beard.

“Are you Ned?” said Tom.

“Who wants to know?” said the man.

“My name is Tom. I am here to work,” said Tom.

The man smiled.

grave (noun) the place in the ground for burying a dead body

arrive (verb) to reach a place; to get to a place

inn (noun) a small hotel

cliff (noun) a very steep area of rock

lantern (noun) a lamp that you can carry



*Tom stood by his uncle's grave.
"Goodbye, Uncle," said Tom.*

“Welcome to the Seagull Inn, Tom. I am Ned,” said the man and then he looked over his shoulder.

“Meg!” shouted Ned.

A young woman came into the room. She **stared** at Tom.

“Who is this?” she said.

“This is Tom. Take him to his room. Then give him some food,” said Ned.

Tom looked around. The men by the fire stared at him. They did not smile.

“Come on then!” said Meg.

Meg **led** Tom up some stairs. She showed him a room with a bed. There was a small window with a view of the sea.

“Put your things here, then come down to the kitchen and get something to eat,” said Meg.

“Thank you,” said Tom. He smiled at Meg. Meg looked at him, then smiled. She did not look like she smiled often.

Tom stared out of the little window. He could see a ship out at sea.

stare (verb) to look at something/somebody directly and with wide-open eyes

lead (verb) to show the way to someone

CHAPTER 2

Tom sat by the kitchen fire. Meg gave him some hot food. It tasted good. Tom was hungry. Meg was cutting up vegetables at the kitchen table.

“Is the Seagull a good place to work?” asked Tom.

Meg looked at him.

“I am **glad** to have a home and food to eat,” said Meg. She looked at the kitchen door, then she closed it.

“Ned is not a bad man, but there are rules in this inn,” Meg spoke **quietly**.

“What rules?” asked Tom.

“You have to do your work and do not ask questions,” said Meg.

Suddenly, the door opened. It was Ned.

“Tom, we need another barrel from the **cellar**,” said Ned.

Tom followed Ned down into the cellar.

“Bring a barrel upstairs, then you can help me in the bar,” said Ned.

glad (adjective) pleased and happy

quietly (adverb) without making too much noise

cellar (noun) basement; an underground room

“Yes, Ned,” said Tom.

Ned went back upstairs. Tom looked around the cellar. There were a few lanterns, but the cellar was dark. As he moved the barrel to the stairs, he felt cold air on his face. It was coming from under a door at one end of the cellar. Tom picked up a lantern and went to look. Tom tried the door. It was locked. The floor in front of the door was wet.

“What are you doing over there?” came a **loud** voice. Ned was coming down the stairs.

“Just looking,” said Tom.

“Well, come away. That door does not go anywhere. Hurry up with that barrel,” said Ned.

Ned’s voice was hard and angry. Tom did not understand why. It was only a door.

“Sorry, sir,” said Tom. He picked up the barrel and followed Ned upstairs.

In the bar, Tom served the customers. He gave them their drinks and took their money. Meg cooked in the kitchen and gave the customers their food. The customers drank and talked until late at night. Ned laughed and talked with them.

loud (adjective) making a lot of noise



In the bar, Tom served the customers.

VOCABULARY QUIZZES

Quiz-1

Complete the sentences with the words below.

shipwrecks lamp delivers hurried dreams
trap lying rolling wide freezing

1. The postman post to our house every morning.
2. Donna turned on her to read in the dark.
3. I to my class because I was late.
4. “Don’t touch that!” said the mouse. “It’s a!”
5. A lighthouse is there to prevent
6. I love having about flying.
7. I am water into ice cubes for my drink.
8. The path gets narrow and then again.
9. Kids really enjoy down grassy slopes.
10. “Are youto me?” said the judge.

Quiz-2

Choose the correct answer.

- When our dog died, we dug a
a) box b) funeral c) grave
- We had a great view of the whole sunset from the
a) cliffs b) cellar c) grave
- Tom took me to the to get a cocktail.
a) library b) bar c) park
- Grandad put Tyler on his so he could see better.
a) shoulders b) floor c) glasses
- The meal really good.
a) walked b) listened c) tasted
- John brought another barrel of beer up from the
a) attic b) cellar c) roof
- “Please close the door,” said Dad. “There’s a cold”
a) kitchen b) draught c) soup
- “You can up your coats over there,” said the teacher.
a) drop b) hang c) poke
- The nervous parents out of the sleeping baby’s room.
a) opened b) scared c) tiptoed
- Have you for the test tomorrow?
a) prevented b) pretended c) prepared