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Chapter 2

Be Careful What You Say

It's one thing for tough explorers to go off into the unknown, but what about little kids?

That's why the 1620 voyage of the *Mayflower* was special. A ship full of Pilgrim families sailed across the Atlantic, from England to America. It was a hard trip. There were heavy storms, and almost every pilgrim on board got seasick. Even the poor kids!

One young sailor thought this was really funny. Barfing Pilgrims—what a laugh! So the sailor made fun of the seasick passengers, saying half of them would die before reaching the New World. Not only that, he said he hoped to throw the dead overboard.

Of course, this really scared the kids.

Many Pilgrims and even the other sailors tried to get this jerk to stop. But he wouldn't! The young sailor just kept making the miserable people afraid of dying. Then he joked and laughed about it.

The *Mayflower* finished its voyage after more than nine weeks at sea. Fortunately, there had been only two deaths on the way across. One of these was a Pilgrim who died just before land was sighted.

The other was a sailor who became ill halfway across the Atlantic.

Can you guess *which* sailor was so unlucky? Of course you can. This just goes to show that people should be careful what they say.

Stop, Thief!

In 1768, James Cook sailed a ship from England to the South Pacific. It was a voyage of discovery. He and his crew were to help England control the seas by making maps and scientific observations. His first destination was the island of Tahiti.

When Cook reached Tahiti, things went smoothly at first. The local people were very friendly. The English were also surprised to see the islanders surfing the waves on surfboards. No European had ever seen surfing before!

There were two problems, however. First, the people of Tahiti believed that a person's property should be shared. Second, there was no metal on the island of Tahiti. The English, in contrast, used metal for everything. They had metal tools, metal money, even metal clothing, such as belt buckles.

Because of these two problems, the local people sometimes took things like fishhooks and hammers from the English. Once, a ship's officer brought a pair of "opera glasses" to the island. These are small binoculars used to watch fancy performances from seats that are too far back to see what's happening onstage.

When the officer's opera glasses disappeared, he was very angry. Now