

## **FUMC ESL 10-30-2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson**

**Today we will begin with a couple of slide shows about Halloween. Then we'll read part 2 of The Mystery.**

### **The Mystery, Part 2**

**Students read one paragraph at a time and explain what happened in the paragraph. Give as many details as you remember. Then the teacher should read the paragraph. Ask about any words you don't know or pronunciation.**

I spent the afternoon leaning against the mast I was handcuffed to. It was uncomfortable and hot, but it was better than the dark. My guards grilled some fish that evening and stuck a couple of bites of it in my mouth, so at least I didn't starve. They had a bottle of whiskey on board and drank heavily all afternoon. Eventually they got very drunk.

I had been working all day on those handcuffs. They had un-cuffed me once to let me relieve myself overboard. When they put them back on, they left them a little looser than before. My hands were sweaty and slippery. Working carefully while they were drinking and eating, I was able to slide my hands partially out. I sat and bided my time, hoping for a chance to escape.

My opportunity came a few hours later. It was getting dark. The whiskey had done its job. The snores from the men told me they were in a deep sleep. I waited another hour until it was pitch black, then slipped my hands out of the cuffs and stole to the front of the boat. There, I let myself quietly down into the water. I hung by the anchor chain waiting to see if I woke them. Assured that all was quiet, I swam toward shore.

The swim exhausted me as I hadn't had much food or water in over a day. But the exhilaration from knowing I had escaped, gave me renewed stamina. I stumbled into the woods, having no idea which direction I should go. All I could think is that I needed to get as far away from that boat as possible.

The trees were thick and the undergrowth was dense. With every step, I had to push through bushes and avoid vines that grabbed at my ankles. I stumbled and fought my way through but it was slow going. After a few miserable hours, I realized it was getting light. I hadn't made much progress, so I looked for a place I would be safely out of sight. I found a small cave. It wasn't deep, but if I stood back in the shadows, I wouldn't be seen.

At dawn, I heard shouting from the boat. They had discovered I was gone. An outdoor motor started up. They were coming to shore in the dinghy. I moved back deeper into the shadows. I laid low and listened as the boat moved slowly along the shoreline. After an hour, they returned to the big boat and made a phone call. I was too far away to hear the conversation, but whoever they were talking to must have told them to call off the search, because the next sound I heard was the diesel engine on the sailboat roar to life. I peeped out of my hiding place and was rewarded with the sight of the sailboat motoring away.

I had escaped. I was free. But I had no idea where I was and the forest surrounding me was too thick to see through. How in the world was I to find my way back to civilization?