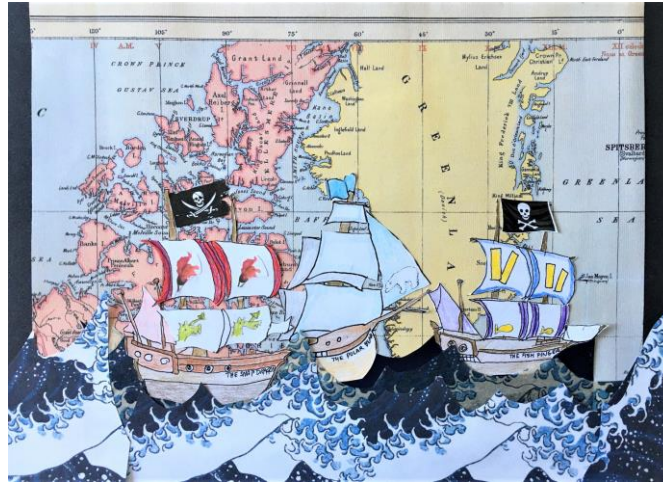


TEN WORD TALES No. 9

The Voyage of the Polar Bear

by The Story Spinner

CHAPTER 4



Life on board quickly settled into a routine. Zac was always up early and in bed early and very busy in between. A cabin boy tends to do all the jobs no one else wants to and is usually the lightest member of the crew so he can climb the rigging very easily and is often the look-out with a telescope looking for land or whales or pirates or icebergs when everyone else is relaxing. Zac had expected this as both Pen and Peg had done the job when they were Zac's age and had told him all their adventures.

He was allowed to help the scientists and he learned things about maps, animals, birds and weather. They began by travelling north to the islands of Greenland and Canada. Zac particularly enjoyed sighting his first polar bear family.

After three months in the north they turned south to patrol for pirates. Red Peg was looking for two in particular: David Daniels and his ship, The Snap Dragon, and Daniel Davis and his ship, The Fish Finger. For years Peg had been trying to get the two pirates to stop being pirates. She told Zac all about it as they stood on deck. “Any ideas?” she asked.

“But what *are* they supposed to be?” Zac asked back. “Of course they must stop being bad, but maybe they need some new suggestions for jobs, something they would like to be more than pirates?”

“Brilliant!” said Peg, full of praise for his good question. “I’ve just been telling them off all these years. You are quite right. And we need to think up some good ideas at once because I can see The Snap Dragon coming this way on the starboard side and The Fish Finger on the port side. This could be ticklish.”

Watch out for the final chapter tomorrow!