

# Max and the Pirates of Puddleton Bay



Sam stopped and turned around, (thinking it was Max). But there, standing in front of him with a wooden leg and a hook for a hand, was Captain Chips the Puddleton Pirate! Sam dropped the shell and stood very still.

“Captain Chips, what are you doing here?” shouted Sam, so scared that he could hardly move. “Are you going to make us walk the plank, or take us out to sea?” His voice was wobbly and shaky.

“What?” said Captain Chips, looking very upset. “No... no... no... you called for me! You rubbed the purple shell to wake me up and now we are all here to help you!”

Sam looked very surprised. He’d had no idea that the purple shell was used to wake up the pirates. That was one story that Max hadn’t told them!

“Are there more of you?” asked Sam, wondering what was going to happen next.

As he looked up, on one side of the harbour, he could see pirates running out of the caves and down the cliffs towards the beach, and on the other side of the harbour, he spotted Max and his friends running towards him.

Max was leading the way, but he didn’t look very brave anymore. Suddenly, he stopped and stood very still. “It’s OK, Sam. We have come to rescue you,” he called, but he wasn’t really sure what to do next.



Captain Chips just smiled and started to laugh. “All those stories you have heard about pirates, Max, weren’t really true. We are the good pirates of Puddleton Bay,” he said.

Then Captain Chips told the children his story. How the pirates used to help the villagers, how they lived in the caves in the cliffs and how the purple shell was used by the villagers when they needed any help.

Rubbing the purple shell sent a musical note (which only the pirates could hear) high into the cliffs and the caves. But the shell could only be used if there was a ship stuck on the sandbank and the villagers needed help.

“Over many years all the stories about the good pirates have been forgotten. Everyone seems to make up their own stories



about bad pirates because these are more exciting to listen to,” said Captain Chips.

Max took a big gulp and looked down at his feet. Oh dear, that’s just what I’ve been doing, he thought.

There was no time to worry about that now, though. The children had to act fast! If they didn’t let everyone on the beach know that Captain Chips and his shipmates were good pirates, they would run away from the bay and there would be no more help.

Max ran to find his dad as fast as he could and told him all about the pirates and the shell.

At first his dad thought that it was just another one of Max’s

pirate stories. But when he looked across the bay, he saw the pirates standing in a great crowd on the beach, with Captain Chips and the children standing right at the front.

But it was too late; everyone else on the beach had seen the pirates and were running as fast as they could... away from Puddleton Bay.