

Chapter One – Peggy Sue

1. Why has Michael finally decided to tell all about what happened?
He's had time to think, gone to college, doesn't want to tell lies any more. He also wants the world to know about Kensuke as a good person.
2. What was his early life like, what did he used to do every day?
Down the road to school, off down the rec' for football after school.
3. Why were Sundays special?
Went dinghy sailing as a family on the reservoir.
4. Where did his parents work?
At the brickworks.
5. Why did they like sailing so much?
Fresh air, clean air.
6. What sort of weather stopped them sailing?
Nothing stopped them
7. What was he better at than his parents?
Fishing
8. What was the big upset that happened one day?
The brickworks were going to close, a letter came.
9. Why didn't they go sailing anymore?
Upset about losing their jobs, life wasn't fun anymore as they were looking for other jobs, even sailing wasn't enough to cheer them up
10. Why was his father so upset before he left?
He was upset that it was his son, Michael who was bringing in the only money, had nothing to be proud about, had lost his place in the household as the breadwinner.
11. Who is Peggy Sue?
A boat
12. Why did his Dad make his decision?
Knew they all loved sailing, had some money saved up, decided to do something special, make a new life
13. How long did they intend to be away?
18 months, as long as the money lasted
14. What did Gran want to do when she came to wave them off?
Go with them to see koalas in the wild
15. Why did Michael think Stella felt quiet as they sailed past the Isle of Wight?
She sensed there was no turning back

Chapter Three – Ship's Log

1. Why had Barnacle Bill warned them about the Bay of Biscay?
Because it would be bad storms, bad weather
2. Why did they spend so long in Recife, Brazil?
Repairs to the boat
3. Why was Michael so happy after his stay in Recife?
He played football in Brazil!
4. Did Stella like the Brazilians? How do you know?
No, she growled and bared her teeth and had to be shut in the cabin
5. What did they do on Christmas Day?
Had crackers and Christmas Pudding
6. What was Michael given?
A knife and a coin for luck when you get given a knife.
7. Why did the sea feel very empty after they'd seen the other yacht?
Made them realise how far away they were from anywhere and anyone
8. What were they going to do in Africa?
Stay for a couple of weeks, go to see elephants and lions in the wild
9. What was Michael doing up on deck?
Navigation lessons, taking bearings with the sextant
10. What was the drill for 'Man overboard'?
Shout and point, sails down, engine on
11. Why did Dad get a huge telling off from Mum?
For not wearing his safety harness
12. What was the rule that Mum laid down from now on?
Stella must not go out on deck again without a safety harness on
13. What animals etc did he see in Australia?
Copperhead snake, possums, wombats, kangaroos, cockatoos
14. What was it like after they left Sydney?
Terrible, one storm after another, the rudder cable snapped, Mum was ill
15. How did they know where they were?
They didn't! Mum was too ill to work it out and M and Dad hadn't done a good job on working out where they were
16. Why did he have Eddie's football with him on watch?
Needed the good luck it seemed to bring
17. How do you think Michael felt? Why?
Worried, scared, panicky
18. What went wrong first?
Stella was out without her harness
19. What did Michael do?
Go forward to try and tempt Stella back with the ball
20. How did Michael fall in?
He was holding Stella, the boat moved awkwardly (tilted over) and he had his hands full.