Chapter 4 Reading Comprehension - ANSWERS

1. Michael describes the ‘impenetrable darkness’ of the sea.

What does this mean? p46

Impenetrable means that you can’t pass through it and so it means you that you can’t escape the darkness.

Is it an effective choice of phrase?

Yes, because it gives a feeling of hopelessness.

1. What song did Michael keep singing in the darkness? p47

The song was ‘Ten Green Bottles’.

1. What were Michael’s initial thoughts on the island? p48 &p50

His initial thoughts were that he was rescued and he was back on the Peggy Sue but it was a dream.

1. Why does Michael feel on the island? Use evidence to support your answer. p50

Michael was feeling elated because he had survived / was alive and the place was beautiful.

1. What does he feel about his surroundings? p52

Michael feels frightened because he felt like he was being watched by ‘a thousand inquisitive eyes.’ He was also comforted by the island.

1. Why does he have trouble sleeping? p59

He had trouble because the jungle ‘droned and cackled and croaked’ and the mosquitoes were at Michael and ‘wined’ in his ears.

1. What eventually helps him sleep? p59

He remembered it was his birthday and then thinks about his last birthday.

1. When he woke up and noticed Stella was missing, what do you imagine his first thoughts were? p60

She had run off, she had hurt herself, she had been attacked.

1. Who left the food/drink? p67-68

The orang-utan (man).

1. Would you eat it? p67-68 Your answer with supporting evidence from the text.

Yes, I would eat because I had to eat to stay alive.

No, I would not eat it because I do not know this man and I do not know whether he means to harm me.