

Hueber Lektüren

Death at Hadrian's Wall

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VORSCHAU

The challenge

Jack's mobile phone rang. It was his friend Mitchell.

'Where are you?' asked Mitchell.

'I'm at Pem's.'

'Is he standing on his head again?'

Jack looked at his grandfather. Pem's head was down on the floor. His legs were up the wall.

'Yes.'

Mitchell laughed. He knew Jack's grandfather well. Pem was nearly seventy but he was not an 'old man'. He ran a mile every morning and rode his bicycle to the shops. And every day he stood on his head for ten minutes.

'Do you want to meet me at Pem's?' asked Jack. 'We can go to the computer shop from here.'

Mitchell answered but Jack couldn't hear him well.

'I can't hear you,' Jack shouted.

His phone made a noise. Then it went dead.

'I've lost him,' said Jack.

He quickly sent a text message to Mitchell: *Meet at Pem's?*

Mitchell sent a text back to him: *C U in 20.*

'Mitchell will be here in twenty minutes,' Jack said to Pem. 'We're going to buy a new computer game – *Roman Wars.*'

Pem brought his feet to the ground and slowly stood up.

'You two boys!' he said. 'You're always sending a text or sitting in front of the computer.'

Jack sent another text to Mitchell: *Pem is complaining about us again.*



‘You can “walk the wall”,’ said Pem with a smile.

‘What?’ said Jack.

‘Hadrian’s Wall. Look.’ Pem pointed at the map. ‘You can follow Hadrian’s Wall from east to west – all the way across the country.’

Jack looked at the map. ‘Hadrian’s Wall. We learned about it at school. The Roman army built it, didn’t they?’

‘Yes. In the year 122, Hadrian was the Roman emperor. People from the north attacked the Romans in the south. Hadrian wanted to stop them. So his men built a big, long wall. It was nearly ten feet wide and twenty feet high. A lot of it is gone now, but some of it is still there. And there are good ruins to see here and here.’ Pem pointed to two places on the map. ‘Chesters and Housesteads were Roman forts.’

Mitchell arrived and came in the back door.

‘Ah, Mitchell! You wanted a challenge,’ said Pem. ‘Here it is!’ He showed the map to Mitchell.

‘What’s this? Hadrian’s Wall?’ said Mitchell.

‘He wants us to walk all the way along the wall, from start to finish,’ said Jack.

‘That’s the challenge,’ smiled Pem.

‘What?’ said Mitchell. ‘But I was only joking!’

‘Oh. Can’t you do it?’ asked Pem.

‘We *can*,’ said Mitchell. ‘We can do it easily. But we don’t *want* to do it.’

‘Oh,’ said Pem. ‘Oh. I see. Yes. I understand. You’re scared.’ He put the map down. ‘Yes, maybe you’re right. Maybe it’s dangerous. You’re not very strong.’

‘Hey!’ said Jack.

‘I can walk all day!’ said Mitchell.

‘But you don’t walk very much at home,’ said Pem.

‘Maybe you can’t do it.’

‘Yes, we can,’ said Jack quickly. ‘We’ll prove it to you, won’t we, Mitchell?’

‘Oh yes, it’ll be easy,’ said Mitchell. ‘Easy. We’ll just follow this path.’ He pointed at a line on the map.

‘So...you’ll do it?’ asked Pem.

‘We’ll do it,’ said the boys.

‘Without technology?’

‘Without technology.’

Jack looked at the map again. He smiled at Mitchell. ‘We’re going to “walk the wall”,’ he said. Then he said to Pem, ‘How long is it?’

‘Seventy-three miles,’ said Pem. ‘You’ll have to walk for eight days.’ He hit Mitchell on the back. ‘Easy!’



‘And cook some dinner,’ said Jack. ‘I’m hungry.’

‘Me too.’

But both the boys just sat there. They didn’t move.

‘I can’t move my legs,’ said Jack.

‘I just want to go to sleep...’ Mitchell lay down on the grass. ‘And I want a mobile phone...Then we can get some pizza.’

Jack looked at the sky and slowly stood up. ‘Come on. We have to put up the tent now. The light will be gone soon.’

He took the tent off his backpack and spread it on the ground. Mitchell helped him to put it up. They put some noodles in a pot on the stove and ate a quick dinner. Then they lay down in their sleeping bags in the dark tent.

‘Maybe Pem was right,’ said Jack. ‘Maybe we can’t do it.’

The next morning they woke early.

‘Oh, my back,’ complained Jack. ‘It’s really sore.’

‘My legs are sore too,’ said Mitchell. ‘Can we go home now?’

Jack didn’t answer him. He spread the map out on the floor of the tent. ‘Look, we only have to walk ten miles today.’

‘Ten!’

‘To the campsite at Chollerford. Then we can visit the Roman fort at Chesters this afternoon. Come on, we have to try. Do you really want to go home? And see *Pem*? He’ll never stop laughing. We have to finish this walk.’

‘Oh, all right,’ said Mitchell. He slowly crawled out of his sleeping bag.

The boys had breakfast, packed up and went back onto the path.

They walked for two or three miles.

Then Jack said, 'You know, my back isn't sore now.'

'My legs are okay too,' said Mitchell.

It was a nice spring day and the boys started to enjoy the walk. They met a lot of other hikers on the path, and smiled and said hello.

And suddenly, there was the wall. It ran beside the path and across the fields into the distance. On a small hill, the boys stopped to look at it.

'That wall has been here for nearly two thousand years,' said Jack quietly.

The boys arrived at the campsite at Chollerford at half past two. They quickly put up their tent and left their backpacks there.

'Now, let's go to the fort at Chesters,' said Jack.

'How far is it?'

'Only half a mile.'

'Without the backpacks, that'll be easy!'

After a quarter of an hour, they came to the fort.

The woman in the little shop there said, 'You'll like these ruins. There's a lot to see. We have the best Roman bath house along the wall.'

The boys went through the ruins. They found the bath house.

'It's big, isn't it?' said Jack.

'Yes. And look – there's another room here, and another one over there.'

'The Romans liked their baths, didn't they?' Jack jumped up on the ruins and sat down. 'Maybe they sat here with their feet in the bath and looked at that river down there.'

Over the wall!

‘Over the wall!’ cried Jack and the boys ran.

But the man ran too, and suddenly he was very quick. He nearly grabbed the back of Jack’s coat. Jack threw his torch into the man’s face and jumped over the wall. Mitchell was already on the other side. They ran to hide in the ruins and Mitchell turned off his torch.

The man came over the wall. He had Jack’s torch now and he shone it slowly from side to side. ‘You’re here,’ he said. ‘I can hear you.’ He stopped and listened. Then he moved slowly towards the boys. ‘You can run but you can’t hide. I’ll find you. Just give me the coin and I’ll go away. Give me the coin and you’ll be safe.’

Jack took the coin out of his pocket and put it into Mitchell’s hand. Then he put his mouth next to Mitchell’s ear. Very softly, he said, ‘Give me thirty seconds. Then throw the coin on the ground in front of him.’

Mitchell closed his hand over the coin. He was very scared. In his head, he started to count. *1...2...3...*

Jack ran quickly back towards the wall. The man heard him and pointed the torch towards him. But Jack hid behind some other ruins. The man couldn’t see him.

‘You can run but I’ll find you,’ said the man and moved towards Jack.

Mitchell made a noise and the man looked towards him.

‘Oh, you’re over there now, are you?’

He moved towards Mitchell. Behind the man, Jack quickly ran over to the wall and looked for their sleeping bags on the ground.

Mitchell counted in his head. 27...28...

Jack found a sleeping bag.

Mitchell counted, 29...30. He threw the coin towards the man and shouted, 'Here's the coin!'

The man saw the coin fall on the grass in front of him. He shone his torch on it and quickly moved to get it. Jack ran at him from behind. He pushed him, and the man fell to the ground.

Jack put the sleeping bag over the man's head and shouted, 'Help me, Mitchell!'

Mitchell ran to help. They pulled the sleeping bag down over the man's body. He couldn't move his arms or stand up. Jack sat on him. The man rolled around on the ground and tried to throw Jack off. He was strong.

'Quick! Get the ropes!' cried Jack.

Mitchell grabbed a rope and they tied it around and around the sleeping bag. He grabbed another rope and, again, they tied it around and around the bag.

Mitchell jumped to his feet. 'I'm not staying here,' he said. 'Let's go!' He grabbed his torch and walked quickly back to the wall.

'But it's dangerous,' called Jack. 'It's dark, and the path –'
'Dangerous?!' shouted Mitchell, and he jumped up onto the wall. '*This* is dangerous!' He pointed at the man, and then at the woman on the other side. '*They* are dangerous! I'm not staying!' He jumped down onto the path on the other side of the wall.

Jack looked into the dark night.

'Wait!' he called and ran to the wall.

'I'll get you!' shouted the man in the bag.

Jack jumped over the wall and followed the light from Mitchell's torch. The boys stumbled into the dark night.

Death at Hadrian's Wall Killers wanted rare coin

On Tuesday night, hikers at Hadrian's Wall caught two killers. The hikers also stopped the two from getting a rare Roman coin.

On 21st March, a farmer, Ross Gow (39), found a coin on his farm near the Northumberland National Park. The rare coin is from the time of the Emperor Hadrian.

'A man phoned Ross,' said Gow's wife, Lucy. 'He pretended to be from the British Museum. He wanted to buy the coin. He came to the farm with a woman.'

Gow found the coin near a stream. 'They asked Ross to take them there,' said Mrs Gow. 'They wanted to see the place.'

On 2nd April, Gow took Eddie Unwin (43) and Irene Hunter (41) to the stream. He never returned.

'They went to the stream,' said the police. 'Then it started to rain. The weather was very bad. Gow wanted to go back to the house but Unwin and Hunter stopped him. They hit him and he fell into the stream. The stream carried him away and they



The £1.5m Roman coin

couldn't find him.'

Two hikers, Jack Foster (15) and Mitchell Brown (15), found Gow's body the next day. They also found the coin. A terrifying night followed.

More on page 2



Jack Foster and Mitchell Brown used only their tent and sleeping bags to capture Unwin and Hunter.

Chapter 5

Before you read

A. Answer these questions about the story so far.

1. Who were the man and the woman watching?
a. Pem b. Jack and Mitchell c. other hikers
2. Why did the boys camp beside the wall?
a. Because they didn't want to walk in the dark.
b. Because they really liked the wall.
c. Because they wanted to meet the man and the woman again.

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

rare capture value rope

1. Do you know the _____ of this old painting?
2. We used a _____ to pull the cow out of the lake.
3. The police want to _____ the men who took the money.
4. This plant is very _____. This forest is the only place in the world where it grows.

C. Listen to Track 5 on the CD and answer these questions.

1. Where did the boys put up their tent?
a. under a tree near the wall b. by a stream
2. Where did they put their plates and cups after dinner?
a. in Jack's backpack b. in a corner of the tent
3. What did Jack find in a pocket of his backpack?
a. his souvenir Roman coin b. a cup

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. What did Jack pull out of a pocket of his trousers?
a. a map b. binoculars c. a coin
2. What did the boys decide to do to the man and the woman?
a. capture them b. kill them c. talk to them
3. On the other side of the wall, what did Jack hold?
a. the hammer b. the ropes c. the tent
4. On the other side of the wall, what did Mitchell hold?
a. the hammer b. the ropes c. the tent

B. Circle T for true or F for false for these sentences.

1. The boys had dinner with the man and the woman. T / F
2. Jack read about the second coin in his book. T / F
3. The book said the coin was very rare. T / F
4. The man and the woman really wanted to get the coin. T / F

C. Complete these sentences.

1. On one side of the coin was Hadrian's _____.
2. On the other side, Hadrian was talking to the Roman _____.
3. There was another of the rare coins in the British _____.
4. The woman called the man _____.

D. Write short answers to these questions.

1. What was the value of the Roman coin?

2. What did Mitchell really want to have and to use?

3. What did Jack and Mitchell put on their faces?

4. Who got trapped inside the tent?

LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

A. Write **to** or **for** in these sentences.

1. Maybe they've stopped _____ the night.
2. Jack ran _____ help Mitchell.
3. They killed Ross Gow _____ get the coin.
4. They're waiting _____ us to go to sleep.

B. Write the past tense of these verbs.

1. fall _____
2. shine _____
3. take _____
4. hear _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The woman says, 'Get them!' What do you think happens next in the story?
