

Things were not going too well for Button the ship's boy. He was trapped in sticky webbing, unable to move, and six hungry eyes, eight spindly legs and a mouth full of spiky fangs were heading in his direction.

Mr Dregby had finally caught the young Pocket Pirate in his trap and it was time for dinner. Mr Dregby slowly lowered himself towards Button, dangling from his silk. He stretched out four of his eight legs, reaching for the little pirate.

Button wriggled as hard as he could, desperately trying to free himself, and then—

THUMP!

He fell out of his hammock and woke up.

"Sufferin' lobster lumps," he gasped, rubbing his eyes and getting to his feet. "That was a horrible dream."

Button decided it would be a sensible idea to climb out of the ship in a bottle and take a good look around the shelf. He needed to be sure Mr Dregby was safely tucked away in his corner, and not on the look-out for a Pocket Pirate-sized snack.



Comprehension and vocabulary

1. What type of animal do you think Mr Dregby is? Why do you think this? Explain your answer fully, using evidence from the text.
2. What evidence is there in the text (not the picture!) that Button the ship's boy is much smaller than a normal human?

Techniques and effect

3. Do you think this is an effective opening to a story? Why do you think this? Explain your answer fully.

Extended writing

4. Imagine that you wake up one morning to find that you have shrunk! Write a description of the journey you take out of bed, out of your room and around your house. Don't forget to write detailed description of your surroundings from your new perspective.