

## The Mysterious Shipwreck

*An activity of "Underwater mysteries"*

Read "**Underwater mysteries: exploring shipwrecks** (page 12–13, *What's Up* April 2021). This centerspread has striking photographs of underwater shipwrecks. Let's use these images as springboards for storytelling. Work in pairs on this activity.

1. Take a second look at the photos on page 12–13. Select one photo that both of you like the most. Jot down in point form your responses to the photo in the table below.

<i>Our favourite photo:</i>
<i>Some interesting details about the wreck's setting:</i>
<i>What is unusual about the way the wreck is captured in the photo:</i>
<i>How this photo makes each of us feel:</i>

2. Based on the photo, compose a very short story titled "The Mysterious Shipwreck". You may use the words and phrases you have written above.

Here are some tips for story writing:

- **Show, don't tell**

e.g. Show: "*The ship's huge, rusty anchor was encrusted with generations of fossilised shells.*"  
Instead of tell: "*The shipwreck looked quite old.*"

- **Use sensory details** (sight, smell, touch, hearing, taste)

e.g. "*I pulled back my hand as it grazed the sharp edges of a hundred barnacles. Their razor-like beaks drew blood.*"

- **Include your impressions**

e.g. "*It was so dark that opening or closing my eyes made no difference. I felt like a prisoner, held captive not by cage bars but by a fence of darkness and my own morbid imagination.*"

- **Use figures of speech** (such as similes and metaphors)

e.g. "*From the ocean floor, I could see far above me the distant glow of warm sunlight filtering through cool water. I felt like a tourist in a foreign land, with all luggage lost.*"

3. Present your story to the whole class.