

“Hurry up!”, shouted Joe as he climbed over the rocks. Carefully, Rahul followed. The boys stopped at a rock pool to search for shells.

“Hey, what’s this?” question Joe. In the rock pool was a small, black box wrapped in plastic. What was inside? Joe pressed the silver catch and the lid popped open. Inside were sparkling jewels!

At that moment, a scruffy old man shouted at them and his hairy dog barked loudly. Joe snapped the box shut, grabbed it and the boys scrambled over the rocks.

“Quick! Let’s hide in here,” said Joe, rushing into a dark, damp cave. Rahul’s heart pounded like a drum. All at once, the man appeared at the cave mouth, shining his torch. The boys ducked down, but the dog sensed them and crept closer. Rahul gripped Joe’s arm. They could smell its wet fur and hot breath.

Then a distant shout rang out. “Here, Dog!” the man hissed, dragging it away. “Those boys have got away.”

When the sounds faded, Joe and Rahul ran home as fast as they could. Mum didn’t believe them at first, until Joe opened the box. She called the police, who said a nearby house had been burgled the night before. Joe shut his eyes and imagined the headline: *“Priceless Jewels Found by Schoolboy Detectives.”*