

Neil Gunn Writing Competition 2016/17: Primary schools section

Second prize: Alexander Koprulu, Croy Primary

LOST

He was wakened by a loud knocking at the door.

Nico jumped out of bed, grabbed his dressing gown, rushed down the steep stairs and opened the door to find his Father standing there, his arms full of papers and a grave look on his face. "Move aside boy," he said, "it's freezing outside; there's a storm coming!"

His Father had returned to their Scottish house by the sea from a business trip to London. His next trip was to Greece. A ship's passage had been booked as he didn't like flying – Nico's mother was going too but Nico would stay home and go to school.

On the departure day Nico's parents were just about to board when a middle aged man wearing goggles and a lab coat approached them. The man walked towards Nico waving wildly. Nico saw the man's face and realised it was his Uncle George. Uncle George was a scientist who invented new sources of power. After the ship set sail in a blare of noise, the pair walked home in silence.

When they got home Uncle George locked himself in the basement to invent! Nico went to his room and started to draw. He didn't know what he was drawing until he saw it finished – it was a sinking ship with only one lifeboat! In the lifeboat there were two people. With a sense of foreboding Nico went to sleep.

Nico woke up, got dressed and went downstairs. He found his Uncle George with a telegram in his hand, he was crying. "What's wrong Uncle?" asked Nico. "Your p-parents ship s-sunk l-last night t-there were o-only two s-survivors, and t-there was only o-one lifeboat!" and with that Nico's Uncle began wailing and sobbing loudly. Nico sat and cried too – suddenly a thought washed over him....last night he had drawn the exact same thing.....This was Nico's worst nightmare....his drawing had become reality! Nico rushed upstairs, seized his picture and sat down on his bed to look at the lifeboat – he tried to identify the people in it, but it just wasn't clear enough.

It had been weeks since his parents had gone missing, every time somebody mentioned them, tears would well up in Nico's eyes. One day when he got back from school Nico found his Uncle beaming in the kitchen, he said "Guess what Nico? I've found a way to power electricity using banana skins – it's fantastic!!! I'm just going to add the finishing touches." Nico wasn't very interested – all he wanted to do was lock himself in his room. He went upstairs and fell asleep whilst thinking about his parents.

He was wakened by a loud knocking at the door, Nico jumped out of bed and ran downstairs. He opened the door to find his very own parents standing there – looking awful! Nico was flabbergasted, he ran to give them both a huge hug.

But where had they been?