

Just Think...

5: GREEN BEARD'S TREASURE... OR WHY ARE WE HERE?

BY ALEX GANLEY

- NARRATOR** We're on the high seas aboard the pirate ship the 'Black Pool' on a quest for treasure. At the helm is Pirate Moll, the bestest pirate there ever was...
- MOLL** Avast, me hearties, shiver me timbers and a yo ho ho to you who who!
- NARRATOR** As well as being the bestest pirate there ever was, Moll was also the cleverest pirate there ever was. Well, cleverer anyway than her crew of scallywag nincompoops, Scampi Pete...
- PETE** Let me out! Help, I can't get out!
- NARRATOR** And Scoggins...
- SCOGGINS** Moll, can you help Scampi Pete? He's got himself locked in the toilet again!
- NARRATOR** The adventure had begun when Moll found a message in a bottle washed upon the shore one day. Inside was a map to a mysterious island far, far out to sea. And the map was marked with an X. The pirates knew that meant only one thing.
- ALL** Treasure!
- NARRATOR** Treasure is what pirates dream of. It's what they live for. Moll and her friends had waited for this moment their whole lives. Naturally, they had followed the map's directions with great urgency and were now racing against the weather to reach the island before the storm caught them.
- SCOGGINS** Land ahoy!
- MOLL** Thank you Scoggins. Set a course for it. Let's get there before this storm sinks us.





- SCOGGINS Scampi, did you get out of that toilet yet? We need the main-sail lashing to the mast.
- PETE There should be a warning on those doors, Scoggins...
- SCOGGINS Scampi, we've been through this. You just got to remember not to pull when it says push.
- PETE Why is it always me who gets stuck in the toilet?
- MOLL I don't know, Scampi. Why's the sky blue?
- PETE Huh? What's that mean?
- SCOGGINS It's a saying, Scampi. When someone asks you a particular kind of question – one that's impossible to answer. People say 'I dunno...why's the sky blue?' It's like saying 'Why ask why?...it just is!' Ain't that right, Moll?
- PETE Er? Which one's the sky again? I'm always confusing it with that other one.
- SCOGGINS Which other one?
- PETE The other, with the fishes in it.
- SCOGGINS The sea?
- PETE That's it!
- MOLL Well it's not quite an impossible question, is it, Scoggins? The sky is blue because of a number of factors: the colours in sunlight, the way our eyes perceive colour.
- PETE Where d'you learn that?
- MOLL I read it in a book.
- PETE Ppphhh, books, you start reading and things like that and where's it going to end? I'll tell you where - you end up with your brain exploding.
- SCOGGINS What are you talking about, Scampi?



- PETE Happened to a fella I knew. Or, actually no, come to think of it I think I might be mistaking that with something else. Think it might be a balloon I once saw.
- MOLL Nonsense, Scampi. If I'd never read a book, I probably wouldn't even be a pirate. Once I'd learned about the legendary Captain Green Beard and his adventures, there was no looking back. Anyway, no such thing as an impossible question. There's an answer to pretty much everything. Mankind's managed to explain most mysteries by now.
- PETE Right, then what about buttered toast?
- MOLL What about it?
- PETE One of the great mysteries of life.
- MOLL What?
- PETE Well, whenever you drop a piece of toast it always ends up with the buttered side face down on the floor? Explain that!
- SCOGGINS Not sure that's classed as one of the great mysteries of life, Scampi.
- PETE No? So how do you explain it then. Aliens? Anyway, Moll...when's it lunchtime?
- MOLL Hopefully right after we've managed to get safely to shore, Scampi.
- PETE Hey, Moll, the sky's not looking very blue right now. In fact, it's looking very dark indeed.
- SCOGGINS Uh-oh!
- MOLL That's not the sky, Scampi. That's the sea! Hold on tight!
- NARRATOR Approaching the ship was the biggest wave any of them had ever seen, a gi-normous wall of water towering above them...





- NARRATOR When Moll and the crew came round the 'Black Pool' was stranded on the middle of a beach, far from water of any description...and the crew were shaken.
- PETE Whoah! I'm alive! Are you alive? Scoggins? Moll?
- NARRATOR Scoggins and Moll nodded uncertainly. Bumped and bruised, the crew collected themselves and looked around. By the boat, stuck roughly into the sand was a sign: 'Hidden treasure: this way...' It pointed towards a large mountain in the distance.
- MOLL I've waited for this moment my whole life.
- SCOGGINS It's every pirate's dream.
- PETE When will it be lunchtime, guys? I'm starving.
- MOLL As soon as we reach the treasure, Scampi. Shouldn't be long now.
- NARRATOR The sun beat down on them as they walked along the beach. Walked... and walked...and walked. But no sign of treasure. Still they continued to walk...looking for signs of treasure everywhere they went and finding none.
- NARRATOR Suddenly, Scampi Pete sat down on the ground and refused to budge.
- PETE That's it. I'm not going any further.
- MOLL Come on, Scampi, the mountain's not far now. We're nearly there. Nearly at the treasure!
- PETE I'm so tired and so hungry, Moll, that I don't even know what we're doing here anymore.
- SCOGGINS We're looking for treasure, Scampi.
- PETE But why?
- MOLL Why are we looking for treasure? Why is the sky blue, Scampi? We're pirates! It's what we do?



Have you never asked yourself why, though? Why we can't just do something else instead? Like go home and have some lunch and a lie down?



- SCOGGINS He's got a point Moll. Why are we pirates always looking for treasure? I've always just done it. I've never really stopped to think why.
- NARRATOR Before Moll had chance to answer, the pirates found themselves quite suddenly right in front of the mountain. The mountain had a huge doorway cut into it. And blocking the doorway was a gigantic boulder..Behind which they knew must be only one thing: treasure!
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- NARRATOR The pirates knew instantly that they had found the hidden treasure. They stood and gaped. And that's when they saw him: a curious little figure, which approached slowly from the side of the mountain. It was an old man with a long grey beard and he was wearing the ragged remains of very old clothes. Moll recognised him instantly...
- MOLL Green Beard!
- GREEN B Ahoy, me hearties! Green Beard, I am, although I've gone a bit grey now. Who are you and what brings you here? Please tell me you've come to rescue me?
- PETE We have come...in search of lunch.
- MOLL We were hoping you could help us, Mr Green Beard. We have come in search of treasure.
- PETE And lunch.
- GREEN B Well there's no lunch here. And I've been marooned on this island forty years, trying to get to that treasure. It's impossible! You might as well scoot. Go on, scoot! Unless, that is, you happen to know the answer.
- MOLL The answer to what?
- GREEN B A question you have to answer before you can get to the treasure. It's locked up in that there magical mountain, you see. Legend has it that if you can answer the question – properly answer it – that boulder there will just roll away and the treasure will be yours.
- PETE Can't you just move the boulder away yourself?
- GREEN B Have you seen the size of it? I've been trying both – to push the boulder...to answer the question...for years... and years. But go ahead, if you think you can manage it.





- PETE Thanks! I will! Now, 'push,' you say...
- MOLL So what's the question, Captain Green Beard?
- GREEN B Why are we here?
- SCOGGINS Eh? Why are we here? That's easy! We're looking for treasure!
- PETE And lunch!
- GREEN B Don't you think I've tried that one already? It's not the answer. It's an impossible question. A trick!
- MOLL Hmm. Not necessarily. Maybe we just need to look at it a different way. Maybe it doesn't mean, why are we here here, but why are we here? Like, what's the point? What's our purpose in life...
- SCAMPI I get you, Moll. We're here because the sky is blue!
- SCOGGINS I don't think that's what Moll means, Scampi. And are you trying to pull that boulder because I don't think that will work...
- SCAMPI 'Pull', 'push' – it's all the same to me, Scoggins! I think I feel some movement...
- GREEN B I'd be very surprised...
- NARRATOR As Scampi Pete pulled at the enormous boulder under the blazing heat, everyone tried to think of an answer to the question: why are we here?
- MOLL To make the world a better place...
- SCOGGINS To have fun...
- NARRATOR After each answer, they waited hopefully for some sign of movement from the boulder, but there was none. Scampi Pete continued with his pulling...
- SCOGGINS We are here...to be good to one another..?
- SCAMPI Why we are here...is because we are...not there.



MOLL We are here to look after and protect the planet for the next generation...



- SCOGGINS None of these is working. It's one of those questions where the answer's different depending on who you ask.
- PETE Umph. I'm fed up of pulling now. I thought I felt it move a minute ago, but it must be my imagination – it's not going to budge.
- GREEN B Listen you lot. I've tried all this! I've been here forty years! It's an impossible boulder to move. And an impossible question to answer. It's all just a trick. There's no answer. And no treasure.
- MOLL What's that?
- GREEN B I didn't hear anything. We've wasted enough time on this stupid mountain and its stupid trick question.
- SCOGGINS I think you're right, Green Beard. And Scampi Pete – I think you were right about the exploding brain thing. I feel like mine's going to go any minute.
- NARRATOR A low rumble could be heard from within the mountain, loose rocks and sand started to fall from around the boulder and if you looked very closely, the boulder seemed to be moving...but nobody noticed. Green Beard was ready to abandon his forty-year quest for the hidden treasure. And Scoggins and Scampi Pete were ready to join him. But Pirate Moll was not...
- MOLL Just because there's no answer doesn't mean it's not worth asking the question. Does it? Why are we here? It's a good question to ask! Come back guys! We can't just give up! And anyway, it's not an impossible question. I know why I'm here. I'm here because I'm a pirate! And I want to be the best pirate I can possibly be! Just think about it guys – what it means to be a pirate. We get to sail boats across vast seas, see the most amazing sights: dolphins racing through the surf, sunsets more stunning than any artist could imagine. We get to marvel at skies with infinite stars shining down on us. And yes, we get to spend our lives looking for treasure! Shiver me timbers, what better life could there be?!
- NARRATOR The other pirates stopped, turned and stared. They were listening to Moll, but there was something else...
- PETE Is it just me or is that boulder rolling away from the doorway in the mountain?





- NARRATOR Whether the mountain had now heard enough answers to its question, finally, and was ready to stop asking...whether somehow within Pirate Moll's impassioned speech was the correct answer...or whether it was Pete's pulling of a boulder that had only ever been pushed...we'll never know. But the boulder blocking the doorway to the magic mountain was moving and as it did, out came tumbling...loads...and loads...and loads of...
- ALL Treasure!
- NARRATOR Treasure beyond their wildest dreams! And their quest was finally over!
- PETE Hang on a minute!
- NARRATOR Oh...perhaps not...
- MOLL Go on Scampi, what is it?
- PETE Moll...if we're pirates and – just like the sky is blue – what we do is look for treasure...well, we've found it, Moll. More treasure than we'll ever know what to do with. So now what do we do?
- MOLL I dunno, Scampi. How do you feel about lunch?

THE END

