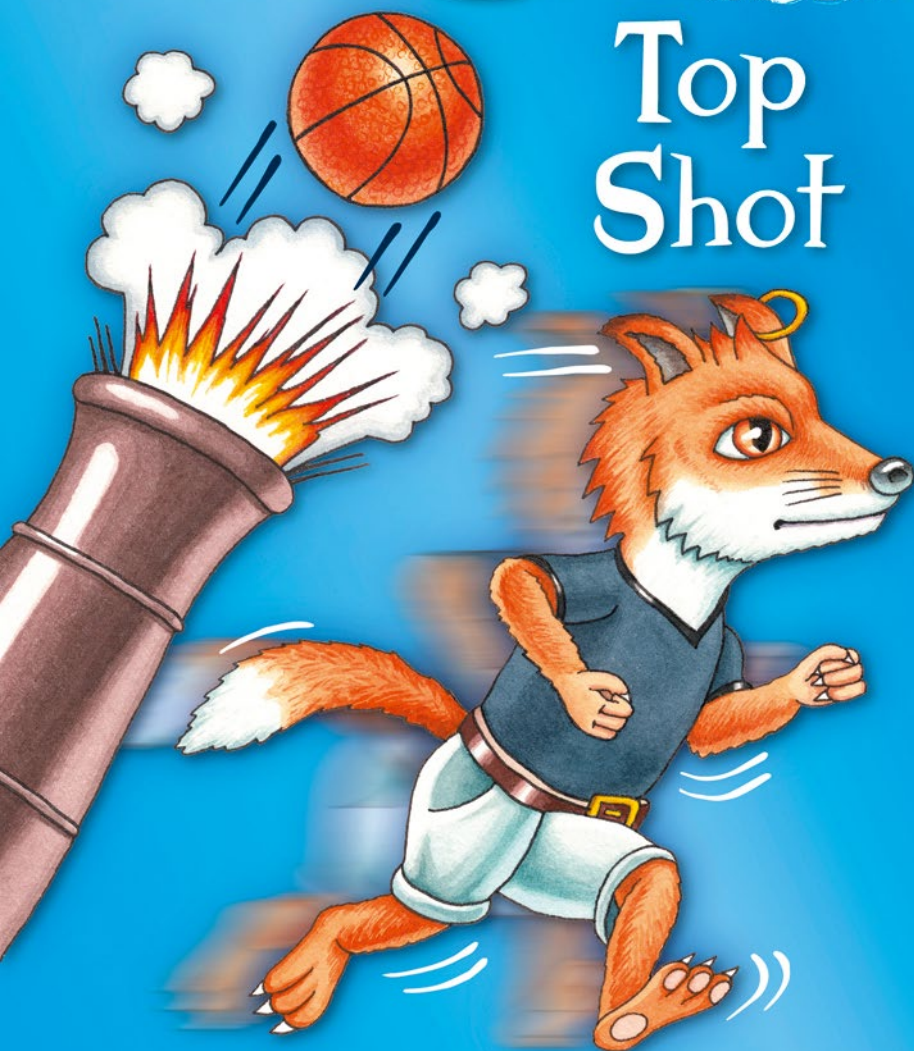


SOS

Top Shot



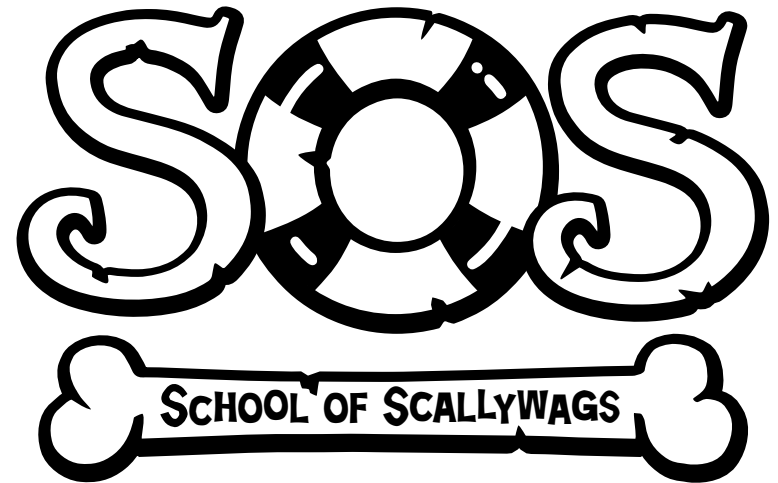
Cameron Stelzer

Welcome to the
School of Scallywags,
a boarding school for
young pirates.

At SOS, students live
at school during the
term and go home for
the holidays.

Each night is one big
sleepover with their
friends!

Each new day is an
adventure waiting to
happen ...



Top Shot

Excerpt

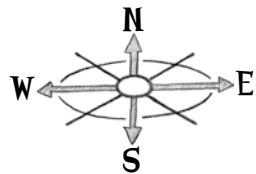
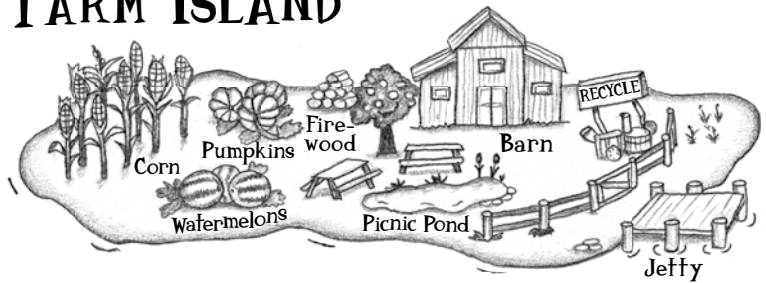
Written and illustrated by
Cameron Stelzer

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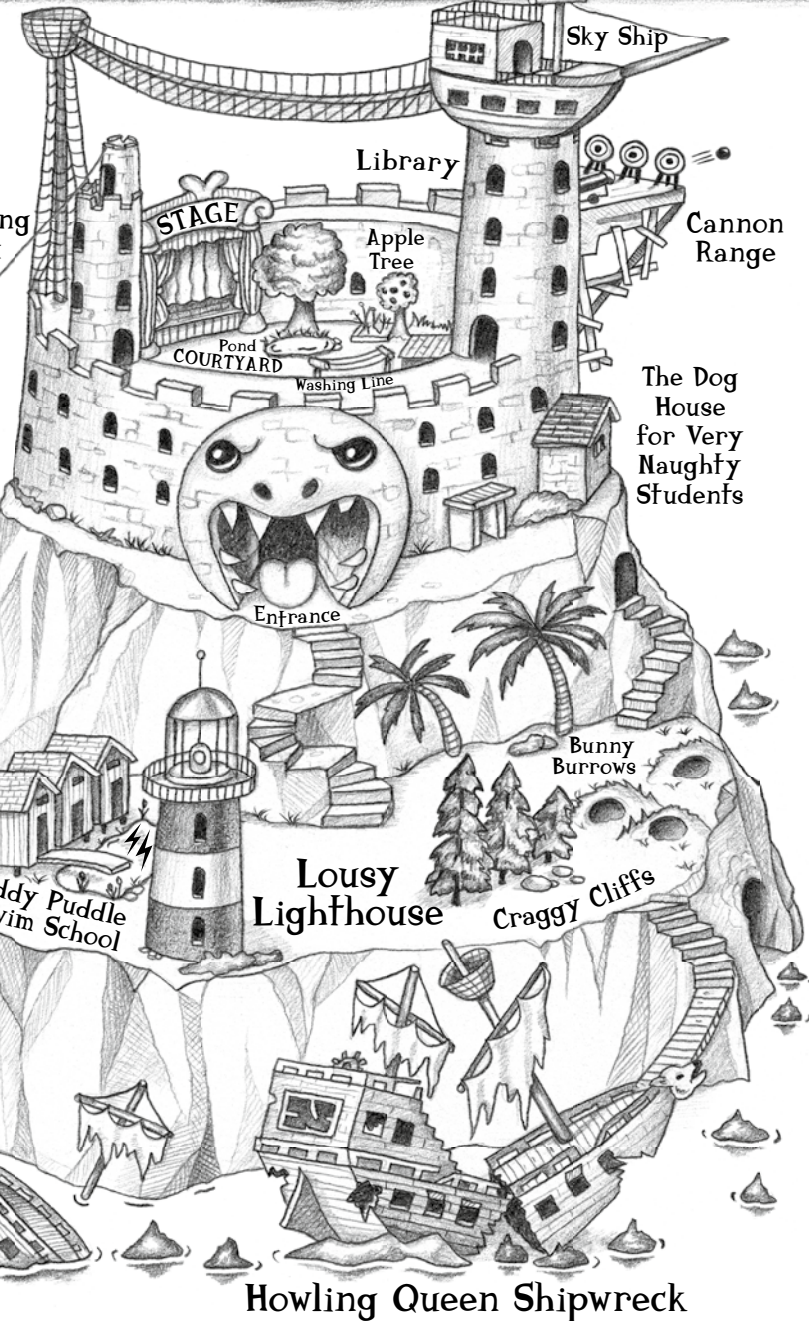
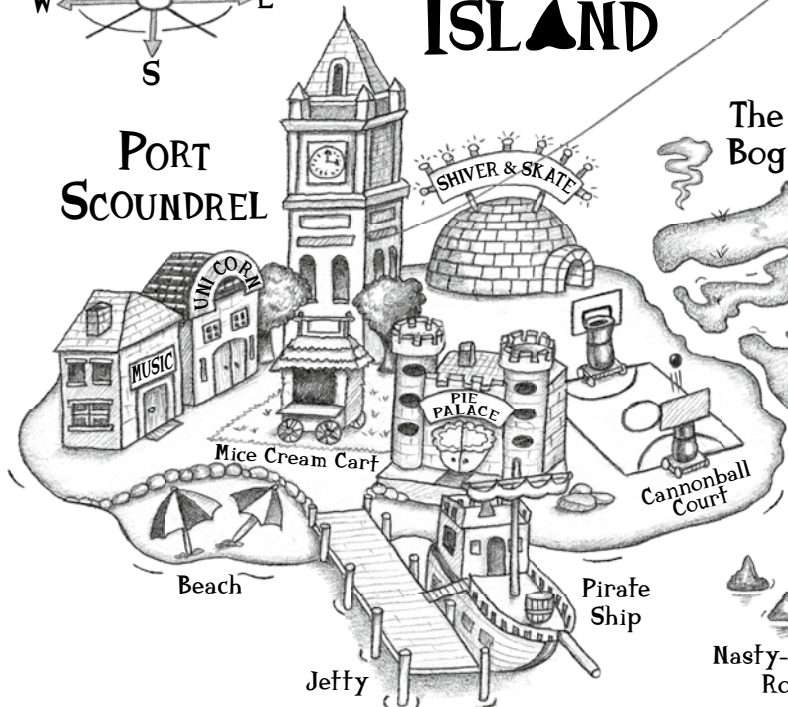


FARM ISLAND



SHARK TOOTH ISLAND

PORT SCOUNDREL



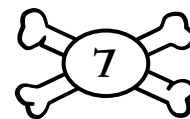


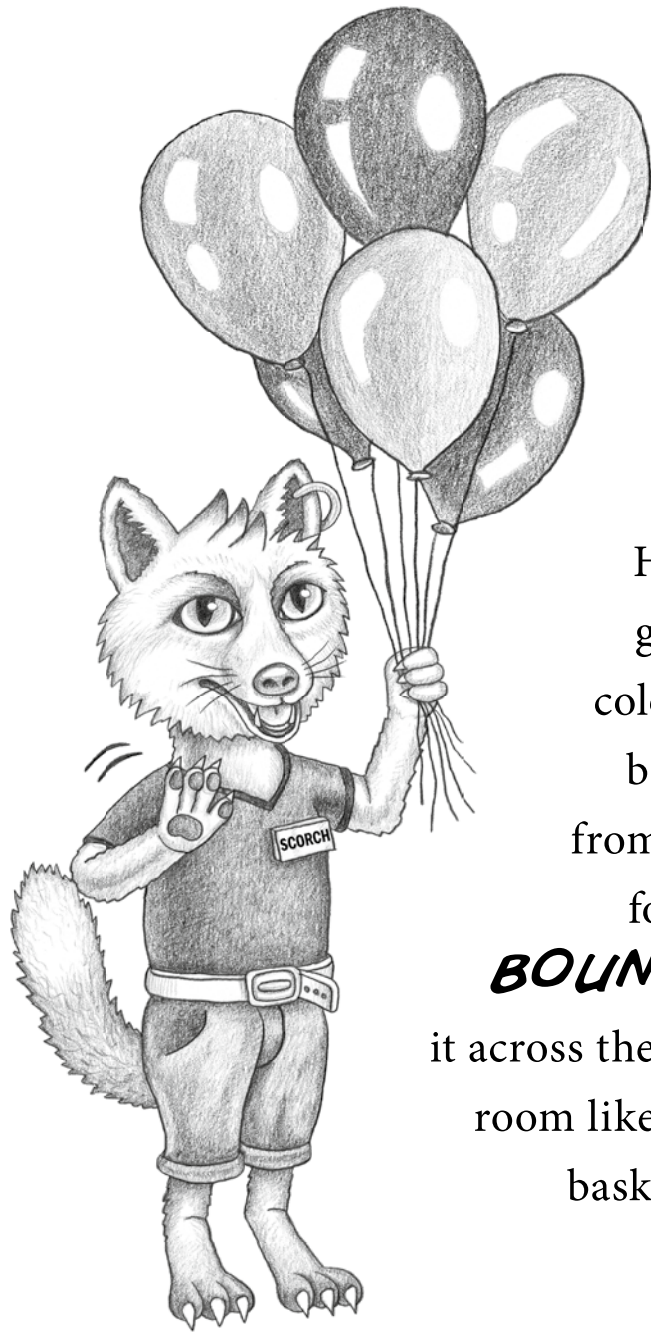
Party Games

‘He bounces! He shoots! He scores!
The crowd goes **wild!**’

Hook Hand Horace **LEAPS**
into the air. He waves to an
imaginary crowd and blows kisses to
the empty chairs.

‘Thank you, thank you,’ he cries.
‘This calls for a victory lap!’





Horace
grabs a
colourful
balloon
from a red
fox and
BOUNCES
it across the party
room like it is a
basketball.

The little rat **dances** around
chairs and ducks under table legs,
singing at the top of his lungs.

♪ *Oh yeah, oh yeah!* ♪
♪ *The Pie Rat is the champ!* ♪



Suddenly there is a loud **POP**
as Horace bursts the balloon with
his hook hand.

‘Rotten pies
to cheap
balloons,’
he mutters.

The red
fox gives
him a grin.

‘Great
performance,
Horace,’ he says.

‘You should get a job here.
As a **clown!**’

‘Very funny, Scorch,’ mumbles

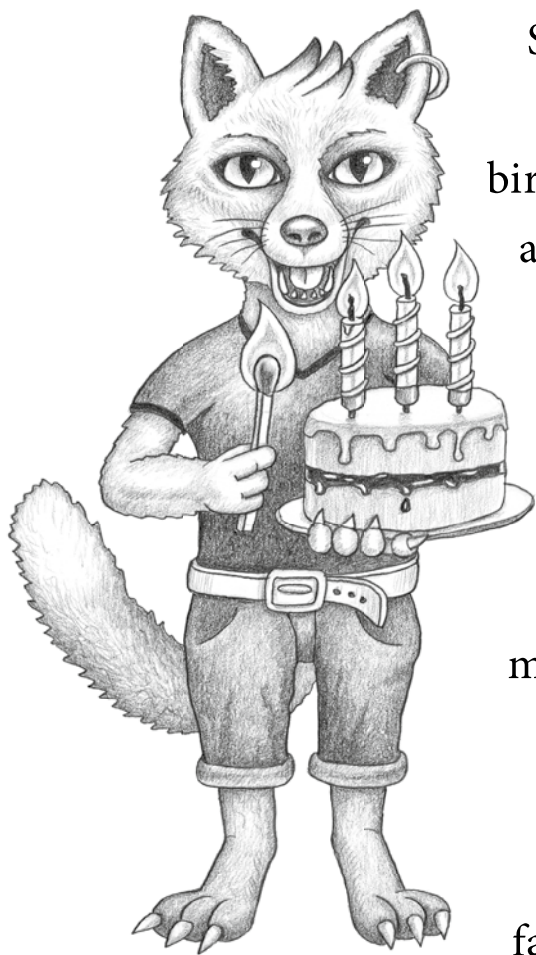


Horace. ‘You know I only come
here for the pies. And to see you, of
course.’

Scorch’s grin widens.

‘There is never a dull moment
with you, Horace,’ he says. ‘You can
visit me anytime. But remember to
pick up the popped balloons. Mum
wants this place **spotless** for the
next party.’

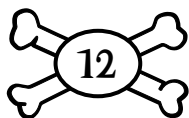
Scorch’s mother owns Pandora’s
Pie Palace. Scorch helps in the party
room when he is not doing his
schoolwork. He is home-schooled,
but sometimes he wishes he went to
pirate school with Horace.



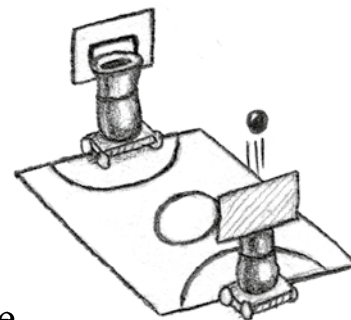
Scorch is great
at lighting
birthday candles
and organising
party games.

‘Did I tell
you about
the big
Cannonball
match, Scorch?’
asks Horace.
Cannonball
is Horace’s
favourite sport.

Imagine a basketball court with
three-point arcs at either end. But



instead of baskets
for scoring, there
are upturned
cannons! Balls are
FIRED out of the

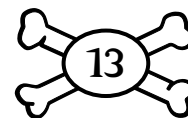


cannons after every goal, so they
are made from extra strong rubber.

‘SOS is versing the Captains
College in the **Cannonball Cup**,’
explains Horace. ‘The team tryouts
are this afternoon. I have been
practising every chance I get.’

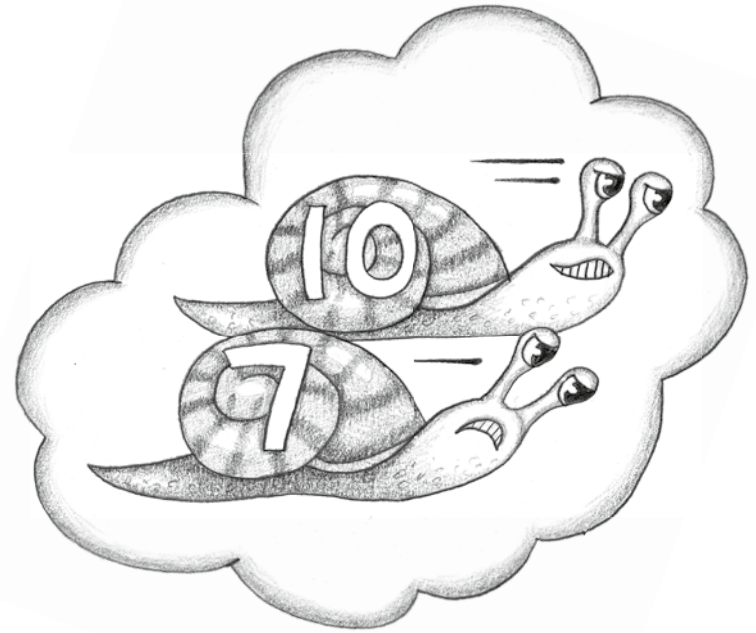
‘Even in the party room,’ jokes
Scorch.

Horace smiles. ‘It would be a dream
come true to make the school team.’



‘I’m sure you’ll do great,’ says Scorch.

He is happy for Horace, but he wishes he could be part of a team. Any team. SOS has the only sporting teams on Shark Tooth Island, except for the snail racing team, but Scorch is **not** a snail.



‘Hey, I have an idea,’ says Horace. ‘Why don’t you come and watch the tryouts? Old Fetch could use your help lighting the cannons. He always burns his fingers.’

Scorch’s eyes grow bright.

‘Sure,’ he says. ‘I’ll be there with my **best** box of matches.’