

EXTRaORDINARY TRavELLERS

THE LITTLE MUSEUM



Karen Beddow is an award-winning blogger. ***The Little Museum*** is her first children's story in the new Extraordinary Travellers series. ***The Little Museum*** is a story about an extraordinary family who race across France to find Athena Strong's missing invention.

It was a sunny day with no clouds in the sky, but Athena's face and lips prickled as the cold wind snapped against her skin. She pulled her black trench coat around her closely to keep out the chill.

Athena Strong lived in a higgledy-piggledy fisherman's cottage in a town by the sea. Her favourite place was the long blonde sandy beach at the end of her road. She could escape the noise of the four brothers and three sisters – and baby Aristotle – Grandpa, two grandmas and Mum and Dad, that she shared a house with there.

She could taste the salt in the air. Waves broke over the shells. The seawater fizzed as it sunk into the sand, washing away the footsteps made by Athena's tall brown boots.

Athena was a scientist and an inventor. To tell you the truth, she was an extra special inventor of incredible things. She collected the flotsam and jetsam* she found washed up on the beach. So far, she had invented a watch that could stop time and a hat that could make you disappear. She was a genius.

Athena looked around to make sure no one was watching her from behind the sand dunes or on the fishing boats out at sea. She was alone.

Athena wanted to travel. Not to the beach at the end of the road. She wanted to see the world.

Athena pointed at a spot on the map and whispered something that no one else could hear.

The map started to glow. A light shone out from the soft paper, casting a rainbow of reflections of the sea across her face.

Athena smiled. It was the smile of someone who knew they had got something right. She gripped the paper so hard that her fingers started to tingle.

Then she closed her eyes and vanished.

* Do you know what flotsam and jetsam are? No, me neither. Athena did. *Flotsam* is the wreckage of sunken ships which is found washed up on the seashore. *Jetsam* is the stuff that's thrown overboard – sometimes to make the boat lighter. You could find amazing stuff on the beach. Athena knew that one person's rubbish was another's treasure. Weirdly, the words flotsam and jetsam are very rarely found apart – they're almost always written together, a bit like fish and chips.



1. Where does Athena Strong live?

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2. How do you think Athena feels as she looks out to sea?

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3. Athena is described as an inventor. What inventions are described in the chapter?

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4. Do you think the description of the seawater fizzing on the sand is effective? Explain your answer.

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5. In your own words, describe flotsam and jetsam.

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6. Can you think of two words that often appear together, like 'flotsam and jetsam' or 'fish and chips'?

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