

Karen Beddow is an award-winning blogger and **Lyndsay Macaulay** is an acclaimed educational consultant. *The Clock Thief* is their second children's story in the Extraordinary Travellers series. *The Clock Thief* is a story about an extraordinary family who race across Spain to find Athena Strong's missing invention.



EXTRAORDINARY TRAVELLERS

THE CLOCK THIEF

Athena Strong paused.

She could feel the bustle. The air smelt different, warmer, almost closer. So different to her sleepy seaside town.

She opened her eyes to take in her new surroundings. A beautiful wide, elegant tree-lined avenue filled with busy people rushing to and fro. In the background a market seller yelled her wares for the day. Grand women hushed neat children out of the way of men in dark suits and bowler hats. Horse drawn carriages cantered past.

Her wish had become reality. Athena wanted to travel. She loved her hometown, but she needed to see the

world. And with her invention, she realised, she could. Minutes ago, she was watching the tide roll out over the long blonde beach at the end of her road. The world was now her oyster.

She rolled up the map, packed her compass and magnifying glass back into her satchel. Just saying the word 'Barcelona' to her map had brought her here. La Rambla was a hive of activity in the heart of Barcelona. The boulevard spilled over with artists, street performers and building works. A city on the start of something magical. She trembled with excitement.

The busy street seemed so modern, so very cosmopolitan. Athena felt excited. She felt inspired. She glanced at the windows of cafés steamed with hot coffee and shops selling the latest essentials. She pressed her face up against a shop window to get a closer look.



On a bed of soft red velvet lay a row of beautiful wrist watches. Glamorous women's watches with small sparkling faces and gold bracelets, men's watches with strong black leather straps and shining clock faces. Athena couldn't look away. She could feel she was at the edge of a new idea.

It was time for a new adventure.

1. What does Athena Strong mean when she says *'The world was now her oyster'*

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2. If you were Athena how would you feel if you arrived in a city like she did?

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3. Do you know what a compass is and what it is used for?

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4. Do you think the description of the Avenue is effective? Explain your answer.

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5. In your own words, describe what adventure you think might now happen.

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6. Circle the two words that can mean the same as a Street (look in the text for help)

Boulevard Cosmopolitan Avenue Bustle Market