

Malamander

Nobody visits Eerie-on-Sea in the winter. Especially not when darkness falls and the wind howls around Maw Rocks and the wreck of the battleship Leviathan, where even now some swear they have seen the unctuous Malamander creep... Herbert Lemon, Lost-and-Founder at the Grand Nautilus Hotel, knows that returning lost things to their rightful owners is not easy — especially when the lost thing is not a thing at all, but a girl. No one knows what happened to Violet Parma's parents twelve years ago, and when she engages Herbie to help her find them, the pair discover that their disappearance might have something to do with the legendary sea-monster, the Malamander. Eerie-on-Sea has always been a mysteriously chilling place, where strange stories seem to wash up. And it just got stranger...



Author-

Thomas Taylor is an award-winning author-illustrator for children. He illustrated the cover for the very first Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and has since gone on to write and illustrate several picture books and young novels; most recently he illustrated Scarlett Hart: Monster Hunter, written by Marcus Sedgwick. Malamander is his first middle grade novel, which was published to huge acclaim in 2019. He lives on the south coast of England and can be found on Facebook and Twitter: @ThomasHTaylor



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Extract

"SO, DO YOU REALLY THINK you've been attacked by the malamander, Mrs F?" I say, settling down on an upturned fishing crate beside her. "Oh, Herbie, I really don't know," says Mrs Fossil, wincing as she tries to move her bandaged arm. "I always said I believed in the old stories, but honestly, I was just saying that to amuse people. You know, the tourists we get in the summer? This is our Loch Ness Monster, after all. They come in the shop and ask if I've seen anything. So of course I tell them yes — glimpses in the sea mist, that sort of thing. It makes them more inclined to buy something. I never actually took the legend that seriously. But now..." "What is the malamander legend, exactly?" says Vi. "I mean, the one everyone knows. The one the tourists ask you about."

Key vocabulary:

Sodden: Saturated or Soaking

Crestfallen: Disappointed

Devoured: Eating food hungrily or quickly

Lair: A place where a wild animal, often dangerous, lives.

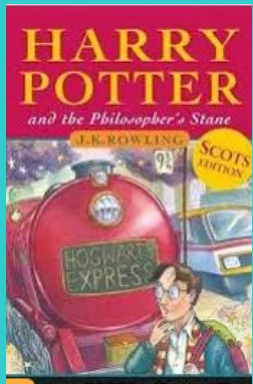
Promenade: A wide path that is walked on, next to the sea or a lake.

Invincible: Too powerful to be defeated or overcome

Contorted: Twisted or bent out of the normal shape

Disintegrate: Break into small parts as a result of decay

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