



# KONG

THE 8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD™



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# Contents

	Activities 1	iv
Chapter 1	A Job for Ann Darrow	1
	Activities 2	10
Chapter 2	Skull Island	12
	Activities 3	16
Chapter 3	The Wall	18
	Activities 4	26
Chapter 4	A Past World	28
	Activities 5	34
Chapter 5	Kong Saves Ann	36
	Activities 6	46
Chapter 6	Kong in New York City	48
	Talk about it	56
	Write about it	57
	Project: Famous Movie Giants	58

## What's the book about?

- 1 Look at the picture on the front of this book. Talk to another student. Do you know anything about the 2005 movie *King Kong*? Did you see it or would you like to see it? What kind of story do you think it is?
- 2 Which six of these words describe Kong, do you think? Write them next to his picture.

giant   black   angry   white   strong   gorilla  
short   dangerous   pretty



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## 1.2 What happens first?

On page 1 read the name of Chapter 1 and the sentences in *italics* under it. Then look at the pictures in this chapter. Write answers to these questions. What do you think?

- 1 How many women are in this story? .....
- 2 Does Ann Darrow get a job or a husband? .....
- 3 Does Ann think she is in a story about affection or hate? .....
- 4 Does Jack think she is right? .....
- 5 Do you see Jack on page 2 or 8? .....

## A Job for Ann Darrow

*“Mr. Denham, I have a question about this story. What kind of story is it?” Ann said.  
“It’s not a story about affection.” Jack said, a little too quickly.*

When the Lyric Theater closed its doors for the last time, Ann Darrow had no work and no money. In New York City in 1933, a lot of people were hungry. Ann was hungry, too. She was an **actor** and she had to find a new job quickly.

Carl Denham had work, but his bosses weren’t happy with him. They gave him money and he made movies. But when they didn’t like a movie, they stopped the money.

With his helper, Preston, Carl showed them the beginning of his new movie and waited.

They didn’t like it.

“Where are Bruce Baxter and Maureen McKenzie?” they asked.

“Everybody likes them!”

“Maureen wasn’t ready,” Carl told them angrily. “But I’m changing the story. The actors are coming with me on the ship now.”

“What ship?” the bankers asked. “We’re not paying for a ship!”

But Carl and Preston were out the door.

“Get the actors and workers on the ship. We’re **sailing** tonight,” Carl said. He had an old map of a strange **island** and now he wanted to make a very different kind of movie. And he didn’t want to wait another day.

A taxi stopped for the two men and they quickly jumped in.

“Carl, Maureen isn’t coming. She doesn’t want to be in this movie,” Preston said.

“Maureen isn’t coming?” Carl shouted. “Now I have to find another woman—and the ship sails in three hours!”

**actor** /'æktə/ (n) An actor works in the theater or in movies.

**sail** /seil/ (v) A boat or ship sails in water from one place to another. Sailors work on a ship.

**island** /'aɪlənd/ (n) An island is a place in the ocean or a river with water all around it. Islanders live on an island.



Preston started to ask, “Where’s the ship going?” But the taxi stopped and Carl jumped out.

A fruit seller in the street in front of Carl turned his head away from his fruit for a minute and a young woman quickly took some. But the fruit seller’s hand was on her arm before she could run.

“Excuse me,” Carl said to the young woman. “I think this fell out of your hand.” He gave her money for the fruit. Then he looked at her. “You’re hungry,” he said. “Let’s go to a restaurant.”

In the restaurant Ann told Carl about her life in the theater and Carl told her about his movie.

“The two young people grow fond of each other on the ship,” he said. “And then, in the middle of the ocean, they see something ...”

“What?” Ann asked. Now she was interested.

“I don’t know,” he said slowly. “Jack Driscoll’s the writer and he’s working on it now.”





“Jack Driscoll?” Ann’s eyes shone. “He’s a wonderful writer. I know his work for the theater, and I love it! I’d like to be in his movie.”

When their conversation ended, Carl gave her Maureen McKenzie’s job on his new movie.

Later that evening, on the ship, Ann looked out at the lights of New York City and said goodbye to her home.



Jack Driscoll found a table and chair for his dark, dirty room and started to work on the new

story. He was on the ship only because Carl was his friend. He didn’t want to be there, but you couldn’t say no to Carl.

Jack’s room was the worst because it usually had animals in it. The ship’s boss, Englehorn, and his sailors caught wild animals and sold them for a lot of money. They used **chloroform** because they didn’t want to kill the animals. So there were a lot of bottles of chloroform in Jack’s room.

Jack wasn’t happy about Maureen. Who was this Ann Darrow? Bruce Baxter, the famous movie actor, was unhappy about Ann, too. He only worked with the best actors. But Carl wasn’t interested. He had bigger problems. He had to finish this movie and make a lot of money.

In Jack’s room, Carl and Jack discussed the story.

“Bruce Baxter is really expensive,” Carl told his friend. “And I want us to get rich from this movie!”

**chloroform** /ˈklɒrəˌfɔːrm/ (n) Doctors use *chloroform* when they want people, or animals, to sleep.

