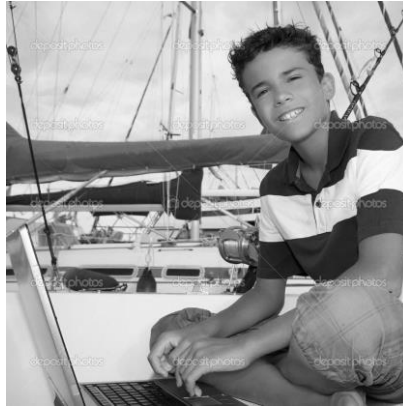


BOY OVERBOARD!

By Sharon Hart

In a dramatic series of events last night, a young boy fell overboard from his family's boat into the stormy water of the Coral Sea (off the east coast of Australia). Thankfully, he was recovered by rescue boats in the early hours of this morning.



Michael on board Peggy Sue

Michael Finnegan (12 years old today) was enjoying a round-the-world trip with his family when it is believed he tragically lost his footing and fell into the deep ocean.

The Finnegan family set sail from Southampton on September 10th 1987 in their small boat, the Peggy Sue. Travelling with Michael were his mother (Sue) and his father (John), as well as the family pet dog, Stella.

So far on their journey, they have visited

Spain, Cape Verde, Brazil, Cape Town, Perth and Sydney. John, whose idea it was to set off on the trip, said that the journey was the trip of a lifetime and that so far it had been an amazing adventure.

According to the Finnegans, the evening of the incident had been largely uneventful, although Mrs Finnegan had been taken ill with stomach cramps.

John and Sue went to bed at around 10pm on

July 29th 1988

the night of the incident, leaving Michael steering the boat on deck (the self-steering had broken). It is thought that Stella the dog had been wandering around and possibly playing with Michael's football, because when John awoke in the middle of the night, all three had disappeared.

Speaking to BBC news this morning, Sue said tearfully, "We were so worried about our boy. He was all alone and could have been anywhere by now. We can't express our thanks enough to those that found him!"

The coast guards in the area were amazed at how quickly they found Michael, safe and well. They have issued another warning about the importance of not leaving minors unattended.

Success Criteria:

- Headline
- 5 W's (who, what, when, where, how)
- Chronological order
- Past tense
- Direct speech
- Reported speech
- Dramatic word choices