A Close Shave

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

There I stood, surrounded by nearly a hundred fierce savages, armed only with a handful of spent rifle shells and a copy of Largent's "How to Get Out of Trouble on Pennies a Day."

5 3 3 4 3

Absurd Local Customs

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

Along with their bizarre and freakish courting rituals, I was also amused to witness a traditional local marriage ceremony. I shall never regard a kumquat in the same light again.

5 7 5

Chased by a Bear

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

The bears of the area are the most fierce in all the world. Natural man-killers, they learn from an early age how to hunt, trap, and confuse even the most educated of adventurers.

4 11 2

Tale of Icy Death

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

Freezing to Death is a harsh mistress.

9 8

Terrible Storm

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

I do not remember whether we were at sea or on land, in warm weather or cold, or even if we were on the top or the bottom of the world. But we then encountered a terrible storm.

3 5 2 4 4

Troubled Train Ride

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

I am not sure whether it is logistically impossible to build a satisfactory rail system in this Godforsaken place, or whether circumstances have merely conspired against the better intentions of Man.

10 5 2

Fossilized Fern

Artifact (Antique Shop)

This rock, bearing a fossilized fern leaf, comes from a sacred burial place in the heart of the wilderness. Those who rob it are said to be smitten with a contagious itchy rash.

3 2 2 2 5

Frozen Mammoth

Artifact (Antique Shop)

We saw a young mammoth frozen deep in a block of ice. Unable to extricate it, we returned with only this scrap of hair, indistinguishable from the fur of a wet dog.

8 6

Furry Hat

Artifact (Antique Shop)

There's nothing more alluring than a well-made furry hat.

2 5 2 4 2

Kayak

Artifact (Antique Shop)

The kayak is the official watercraft of all primitive peoples, including the Beebaw of Corto Lopez, the Black Jaw of Beezel Munroe, and the Hendersons of South Camberwell.

2 8 4

Hilarious Misadventure

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

The first sign of trouble should have been when our navigator misplaced his spyglass. Several hours later, after our capture by hostile spies, I was the first to appreciate the irony.

3 3 5 3 4

Meeting With Ape Man

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

He stands more than nine feet tall, covered from head to toe in wooly hair. I could not discern whether he was the missing link between man and beast, or the orphaned child of affluent explorers.

6 11

Midnight Raiding Party

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

Brigands hit our camp for supplies, food, arms, and equipment. It was only through my articulate negotiation with local peasants that we reacquired the spoils at a bargain price.

4 6 3 5

Calligraphy Kit

Artifact (Antique Shop)

The artisans of the place from which I returned recently with this actual real calligraphy kit were keen to educate me in its use. Sadly, the open road called before I got the knack.

5 9

Cannon Balls

Artifact (Antique Shop)

When Napoleon campaigned in the lands from which I have recently returned, he abandoned cannon balls in his wake when they proved too bulky for his troops to carry home.

4 7 3

Cavalry Saber

Artifact (Antique Shop)

I discovered this rusted antique blade thrust between the ribs of a fierce wild animal, no doubt abandoned by an adventurer very much like myself, though clearly less intrepid and brave.

10 4

Giant Leech

Artifact (Antique Shop)

The adventure continued when upon returning to London I was discovered to have a six-pound leech affixed to my lower back. This neatly explained my slurred speech and blackouts.

5 1 8

Exotic Plant

Artifact (Antique Shop)

Boil the leaves of this exotic plant and add sage and barley for a lovely sage, barley, and exotic plant soup, which also serves as an aphrodisiac and surefire baldness cure.

2 4 1 5 3

Ice Pick

Artifact (Antique Shop)

When you are climbing or navigating frozen things, such as mountains or the glaciers of the South Pole, you need a handy item like this pick.

7

8

Mysterious Medicine

Artifact (Antique Shop)

This rare medicine is so arcane that the diseases which it treats have yet to migrate to our shores.

2

12

Narrow Escape

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

You have never seen men or beasts as vicious and dangerous as whatever it was that we narrowly escaped on our third month abroad, almost but narrowly not without our lives.

2

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Proof of God

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

While its logic is inescapable, and the details (including sarcasm and the abundance of snails) are sharp in my mind, the complete language of the proof sadly eludes my recollection.

4

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Swallowed by a Whale

Anecdote (Gymnasium)

Our journey by sea was not without terrors of its own. Just when we believed ourselves safely homeward bound, our vessel and all aboard were devoured by a monstrous whale.

12

5

Dangerous Game

Artifact (Antique Shop)

The population of whatever place I was visiting play a fascinating death-sport using this mallet and ball, and a pot of boiling oil. This game I will now enthusiastically demonstrate.

2

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8

Tray of Ice

Artifact (Antique Shop)

The history of untold centuries is preserved in layers of grime in this actual unmelted sample of foreign ice.

6

8

Foreign Money

Artifact (Antique Shop)

It is nearly unfathomable that in the primitive lands I have visited, people use strings of beads and farm animals as currency! I challenge anyone to make change for a string of chickens !

7

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Immortal Snail

Artifact (Antique Shop)

Observe this fascinating gastropod all day and night, as long as you like, and it will never die. It survived the voyage here from its native land, so how can this be far from the truth?

4

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2

Irritating Rash

Artifact (Antique Shop)

Any explorer who probes the nether regions of the globe often risks his own health and welfare. Anyone dubious of my claims is welcome to probe a nether region of my selection.

10 2 2

Ivory Chess Set

Artifact (Antique Shop)

During untold hours waiting for a break in the harsh weather of the place, I resolved to carve this ivory Chess set and occupied my mind by beating the men.

2 11 1

Ragged Long Johns

Artifact (Antique Shop)

Each rend and mottle in these beloved undergarments has a history. Here I was attacked by a bear. Here I was set ablaze and driven away by enraged peasant folk. Here I spilled soup.

9 5

Juicy Mummy

Artifact (Antique Shop)

Whether this poor soul is a long-deceased king or another ill-fated explorer remains a mystery. An even more confounding mystery, now that only his pinkie remains.

7 2 5

Miniature Tree

Artifact (Antique Shop)

A tree this small can only be the product of a harsh environment, such as one might find atop the world's tallest mountain or in the entry of any Japanese farmhouse.

8 6

Shark Teeth

Artifact (Antique Shop)

These were recovered from my own flesh after a vicious and almost tragic shark attack. They were then strung with a collection of beads which we had brought along for this purpose.

2 5 7

Sherpa

Artifact (Antique Shop)

He speaks no English. Please do not offer him any alcohol. Though he may have adopted our modern dress and is terrified of heights, I guarantee the authenticity of this real Sherpa.

2 12

Shrunken Head

Artifact (Antique Shop)

Had circumstances been but slightly different, a gust of wind changed, a feather landing on another man's nose, this gentleman would surely be displaying my shrunken head to you.

5 3 6

Fear is the Mind Killer

Fact (News Stand)

Being attacked by wild animals in an ancient arena while onlookers throw stones and make wagers and the heat of a thousand suns pounds on your head like a drum is a harsh mistress.

8 2 2 4

Goats Eat Anything

Fact (News Stand)

How else could they survive in such harsh environments? On my journey I witnessed goats who ate a hat, a pair of trousers, and five hundred English pounds, and left me naked in an alley.

3 4 3 2 5

I Can See My House

Fact (News Stand)

One need only wait for a clear day, gaze across the Himalayas, and look slightly to the left, and one will see in great detail the city of London and all its inhabitants and road signs.

16

Polaris is Useless

Fact (News Stand)

Stupid North Star. Stupid Equator.

10 6

Rats are Tasty

Fact (News Stand)

There's boiled rat, fried rat, rat on a stick, rat sausage and spam, rat creole, barbequed rat, rat kebabs, three rat soup, rat chips, rat cooked like duck, rat cooked like rat, and pumpkin rat pie.

7 6 1 2 1

Plum Duck Sauce

Artifact (Antique Shop)

Leave it to whomever I relieved of this delicious plum sauce to perfect a way to make duck taste even better than it naturally would.

2 12

Poison Dart Gun

Artifact (Antique Shop)

The poison for these deadly darts is made from the skin of a rare and beautiful tree frog. Rumored to have psychotropic powers, no frogs or darts survived our return trip.

6 8

Strange Vegetable

Artifact (Antique Shop)

The natives shred this vegetable and use it in soup. It can also be roasted and decorated with marbles for Christmas, or it can be boiled and applied as caulk in drafty windows.

2 5 7

Three Snake Wine

Artifact (Antique Shop)

Along with this wine I discovered a talking monkey and a herd of golden dragons. The monkey and dragons I was forced to resell to procure my release from the local constable.

2 10 2

Unattractive Scar

Artifact (Antique Shop)

You don't get a whopper like this chasing the nightlife in Billingsgate.

2 6 1 2 3

Ignorance is Bliss

Fact (News Stand)

My journeys have taught me that the happiest peoples in the world are the most stupid. And I was happier knowing nothing about them. But mostly, they have taught me to love.

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Lions Hunt at Night

Fact (News Stand)

Lions can see better in pitch darkness than a man can see in the day. By night, they sprout wings and swoop down upon their prey like giant eagles, carrying zebras off like rats.

12
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Love is Blind

Fact (News Stand)

Nothing could prepare me for the joy of falling in love with that special someone, with whom such a tryst once seemed not only impractical but in fact genuinely repulsive.

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Warts are Contagious

Fact (News Stand)

Suddenly and without warning, the same warts which had afflicted my first mate afflicted my second mate as well. Before long it seemed that all my mates were afflicted with warts.

2
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9

We Are Doomed

Fact (News Stand)

I believe I speak from an educated point of view when I tell you that nothing we ever create or strive for will last until the end of the summer.

2
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Recipe for Squash

Artifact (Antique Shop)

Every time I convince myself that there is no better way to prepare squash, a grizzly old crone in a mud-walled hut teaches me the error of my ways. So far this has happened once.

2
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Salty Pork

Artifact (Antique Shop)

You gaze upon either what remains of our stock of nearly inedible dried goods from a year-long trek into the frozen wastes or a subtle and unique delicacy of the Orient.

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Angels Love Cheese

Fact (News Stand)

Specifically, the Seraphim are partial to Greek feta, the Powers and Thrones prefer a hearty Gouda or Edam, and the Principalities are never without a fresh stock of Wensleydale.

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Birds Are Different

Fact (News Stand)

Nothing occupies my memory like the amazing and amusing diversity of birds I witnessed in the far reaches of the globe. Some have blue feathers, others green, and some green and blue!

5
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4

Cheese Lasts Forever

Fact (News Stand)

We will not be here forever, but our cheese will.

3
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11

Mermaids Exist

Fact (News Stand)

After three months at sea, nearly dead from fatigue and malnutrition, I encountered real mermaids who sang blissfully to my crew and offered us their food and alcohol.

8
9

Noodles are Yummy

Fact (News Stand)

Mmm. Noodles.

2
2
12

Oxygen is Good

Fact (News Stand)

Mmm. Oxygen.

2
14

Buster the Dog

Hero (Hall of Records)

He was the kind of dog who would give anything to save a friend. A good dog. A dead dog.

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Fluffy the Cat

Hero (Hall of Records)

She was the kind of cat who would do nothing at all and still earn the love and admiration of her shipmates. A good cat. A dead cat.

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The Coriolis Effect

Fact (News Stand)

To read in any scientific journal that an object or fluid moving on the surface of a sphere tends to accelerate in a direction perpendicular both to the rotation of the sphere and to its own movement is one thing. But to observe it is another entirely.

9
7

Mad Gertie Hayes

Hero (Hall of Records)

Mad Gertie Hayes thought herself at times to be either a steam train or a decorative napkin holder, which came in handy on particularly tedious legs of our journey.

10
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Major Geersch

Hero (Hall of Records)

Major Geersch was a brave and self-sacrificing individual, not at all the staggering drunkard portrayed in the biased and unreliable texts of public record.

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Miguel Santiago

Hero (Hall of Records)

Having singlehandedly saved our crew from the wrath of the mad pirate Gherkin, Santiago wished his loved ones well and sank blissfully into a cold and welcoming sea.

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A Monkey Hunter

Photograph (Gift Shop)

The monkey hunters of the region track their prey with the most astounding array of weapons, noise-makers, and hilarious costumes.

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Boarding the Vessel

Photograph (Gift Shop)

Here you see myself and my crew preparing for the terrifying voyage that awaits us by loading every conceivable variety of commercially available gadgetry on board.

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Champion Horse

Photograph (Gift Shop)

This proud and domesticated beast was the champion horse of the region, having out-horsed several slightly less well-groomed and capable horses moments before this picture was shot.

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Michael Eats a Chicken

Photograph (Gift Shop)

While others in the group found it repugnant, Michael subsisted in large part on the offerings of the local cuisine. Here he entertains the men by eating what the natives call a chicken.

9
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Mister Parker Swims

Photograph (Gift Shop)

Mister Parker is not one to suddenly rip off his undergarments and plunge headfirst into a leech-infested lake. Unless it is particularly hot, or unless he has eaten fifteen brandied beets.

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Misty Lake

Photograph (Gift Shop)

White sky above, white mist below, and white sky reflected in calm lake. Were it not for almost completely blank images like this I would have no clear memories of my travels.

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Whales Speak French

Fact (News Stand)

This fact one cannot establish with a simple trip to the local news vendor. I know this to be true, having listened night after lonely night through the creaking planks in my hull.

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Mister Keel

Hero (Hall of Records)

Mister Keel, thought to have died locally in a tavern brawl, was in fact a member of my crew. He perished at sea from a pernicious rash acquired in a local tavern brawl.

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Nickie Dickerson

Hero (Hall of Records)

Nickie Dickerson was a terrible liar and a danger to my safety as well as that of my crew. None among us was as distressed as I at her untimely death by their hands.

2
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Pride Mallory

Hero (Hall of Records)

Pride Mallory was our navigator until he suffered an heroic aneurism in the tiny hamlet of Con Queso Real. He will be remembered for his bravery as much as for his final dazed ramblings.

1
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9

Dangerous Crevasse

Photograph (Gift Shop)

Nothing puts a crimp in your day like tumbling into a deep, rocky crevasse. Luckily, a seasoned explorer always makes time for such misadventures.

4
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Frosty Morning Air

Photograph (Gift Shop)

The air outside was frosty and cold. See how little detail of the countryside makes its way through the fog.

8
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2

Giant Snake

Photograph (Gift Shop)

Do not be confounded by the scale implied in this photograph. This snake was nearly a hundred feet long. It is also common for the pencils of the region to weigh nearly a ton.

4
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10

My Room

Photograph (Gift Shop)

It was in these conditions that I slept, ate, and carried out other necessary functions for more than six months, all the while remembering that I was here for the betterment of mankind.

2
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2

Our Climbing Gear

Photograph (Gift Shop)

It was with these picks, rakes, ropes, crampons, round hooky things, pastry knives, bonnets, sacks of flour, pins, gadgets, and so on that we scaled the icy cliffs and returned to tell the tale.

4
12

Stormy Seas

Photograph (Gift Shop)

No more heroic act was performed on our quest than the act of setting up a camera on deck to capture this faint but discernible image of our vessel in the throes of a terrible storm at sea.

2
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Lester Moore

Hero (Hall of Records)

The story that Moore died locally in an hilarious gambling accident is of course a clever ruse intended to conceal his role as First Mate on my adventure to wherever I went.

6
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4

Robert W. Herman

Hero (Hall of Records)

"Chief" Robert W. Herman was an enigmatic adventurer and a spinner of wild and exotic tales. He disappeared shortly after we left Soy Gordo, and has not been seen since.

5 4 4 3 4

The Pike Twins

Hero (Hall of Records)

Though indistinguishable by sight, the elder twin had a rasping, high-pitched laugh that sounded as if he were choking. At that fateful breakfast, we heard the same laugh emanate from both men.

10 7 2

Tobias Weatherbee

Hero (Hall of Records)

A master of languages, rock climbing, off-track sports wagering, and the identification of rare exotic birds, Tobias Weatherbee died in a tragic fashion peppered with gory detail.

2 5 9 5

Ice Caves

Photograph (Gift Shop)

They are caves, and they are in ice. When you visit one, you will be as thrilled as I was to witness one for yourself.

10 6

Jerry Freaks Out

Photograph (Gift Shop)

As you can see, the horrors of exploring the corners of the globe can render even the most well-tempered man incapable of social propriety. Jerry, as is plainly evident, has had enough.

5 1 10

Fran Frozen to Death

Photograph (Gift Shop)

Our man Fran was no fool, but his insistence on drinking iced tea even in the eternal winter in which we found ourselves proved more than even a man who is not a fool can handle.

9 8

The Cooking Fire

Photograph (Gift Shop)

Here you see my fellow adventurers gathered around the cooking fire on our adventure to the great unknown. Note the lean bodies, the bowls of beans, the grim satisfaction of the road.

3 4 2 5 2

The Colorful Natives

Photograph (Gift Shop)

For only a handful of glass beads the fun-loving people of the region were happy to sit with us for photographs, as well as treat us to a draft of a charmingly distinct liqueur.

5 6 5

The View from the Top

Photograph (Gift Shop)

Here, on the "top of the world," as it is called, one can glimpse the very nature of creation, reach out, and touch the Face of God. He is sadly concealed by my thumb in this photo.

2 4 10