

JAMES & THE TIME MACHINE

Written & Illustrated by
Monty Rook



JAMES & THE TIME MACHINE

Written & illustrated by

Monty Rook

Published by Saronti Ltd

Facilitated by Clare Ford at the Switched On Academy

All rights reserved
©2024 Monty Rook

The right of Monty Rook to be identified as author of this work has been asserted in accordance with section 77 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

No part of this work may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, recorded or mechanical without permission of the author,

FIRST PUBLISHED AUGUST 2024

Printed and bound in the UK

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Clare, Charlie and my mum, Karina, for helping my dream of writing a book come true!

Dedications

I would like to dedicate this book to Mrs Leydon and the class of 4A (2023-24).

Chapter 1: The Orphan

In a mucky street, a dirty orphan sat, asking people walking by if they wanted their shoes shined. He was cold and hungry. The people walking by barely noticed him.



He was growing ever more worried that he would never be warm again. The orphanage that the boy lived in had a fireplace, but the fire was never lit, it was cold and damp and with creaky floorboards, and some of the panels had fallen off.

A tall man with a white coat and tall hat came walking by. He kindly asked the boy if he could scrub his boots.

“Of course Sir,” said James eagerly. “You look well-dressed, Sir” he remarked as he looked at the white coat.

The man explained that he was a scientist going by the name of Professor Goldheart. He then asked the boy his name - who by the way is James - so I'll use his name instead of 'boy' from now on.

James explained that he loved inventions. His dad had worked on the railways before his tragic accident.

“I'm sorry to hear that,” said the Professor. He asked James if he would like to see inside his laboratory. James did. So after James had shined Professor Goldheart's brown boots, they walked to a much cleaner part of London.

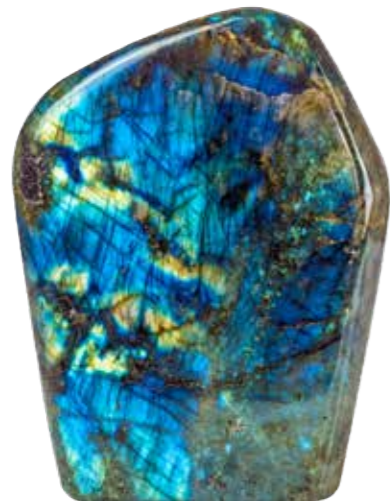
Chapter 2 – Professor Goldheart’s Place

James asked how Professor Goldheart became a scientist.

“It was a long time ago, my family was poor. I walked in a factory then one day a businessman asked if he could have one child to go on his expeditions. I got picked. The man explained that he was a scientist and an explorer. I went on many trips to Africa, India and then Australia and China.”



They were now at the building where Professor Goldheart lived. It was a nice place and James liked the cat and dog who were curled up by the fire. “Oh! A lit fire!” James rushed to the open fire but stopped in his tracks. He saw a sparkling rock the size of his head, on the Professor’s dining table. Inside he could see a wind whipping up a stormy sea. It was magnificent.



The professor saw James’ amazement...
“Ahh! That. I wasn’t going to show you that so quickly... but seeing as you’ve noticed it already... It powers my time travelling machine.”

“Wow! Can I see it?”

“If you’re so keen, why yes.” the professor replied.

Chapter 3 - Time Travel

They went down into the cellar. James saw a silver and bronze cabinet with a clock above it. There were cables sticking out of the top and sides.

The professor asked if James would like to see it in action. He did.

“Where in time would you like to go?” he asked James.

“Can we see the Queen’s coronation?”

The professor carefully put the crystal he’d brought from the table into the cabinet. Everything started to shake. There was a big white light, a big BOOOOM! and then there was dead silence.

“I’m sorry James, you got knocked out; we both got knocked out. But you know what this means? It means my time machine works! It really works! James, welcome to the Coronation.”

James looked around and saw they were next to Westminster Abbey. There were lots and lots of roses around the door.

“I’m afraid we can’t stay too long - I just wanted to prove it worked!” said Prof Goldheart.

They took a quick walk through the crowds of cheering citizens. James felt happy he was seeing this special moment.

Chapter 4 - Travelling Back



While all this was happening, the mad Old McGoffin was snooping around in Prof Goldheart's laboratory. Using a crowbar to wedge open the window so he could get in.

He had remembered which was the right window from when he had visited Goldheart when they were both young. They were also the best of friends back then.

He was looking for the crystal. He of course didn't find it. But he did find Prof Goldheart's Invisibility Ray instead.

"What luck!" he thought.

Then he heard a big bang.

The time machine with Prof Goldheart and James had returned back to the lab.

Old McGoffin zapped himself with the Invisibility Ray just in time, and before Prof Goldheart arrived back in his lab.

James was so excited.

"Let's do that again!" Prof Goldheart smiled but asked James to return to the orphanage, and come back tomorrow at precisely 7am.

Chapter 5 – A New Adventure Awaits

The next day, James hurried as fast as he could to Prof Goldheart’s home. His heart was beating loudly in his chest as he ran along the streets. James was late. Professor Goldheart was getting worried, so he waited for James beside the lamp post outside his building.

“You’re late!”

“Sorry, sir! Where are we going today?”

“Not where, but when, James.”

James followed Prof Goldheart into his lab. They hopped into the time machine, but little did they know that Old McGoffin was lying in wait, made invisible by the Invisibility Ray.

James eagerly climbed into the time machine, and Prof Goldheart did his final checks; they were then ready. Prof Goldheart had set the coordinates and fired up the time machine. They were headed to Ancient Greece. As it started to launch, Old McGoffin, with perfect timing, stole the crystal from the machine!

James and Prof Goldheart's time travel was abruptly interrupted...

Chapter 6 - The Island



Zaaappppp!

Everything went black.

“Oh no! There must be a power outage,” said Professor Goldheart. Instead of Ancient Greece they arrived on a deserted Caribbean island in 1787.

“Are those waves I can hear?” wondered James. They opened the door and they heard:

“Wwwwwhhhhh Aaaaahhhh Www”

“It is I, the Mad Old McGoffin and I have the crystal! Take that Goldheart!” said McGoffin.

“But why? We were friends...” whispered Goldheart.

“You may think that, but you were always the popular one. I was always invisible when you were around.”

Then McGoffin jumped down from the top of the time machine with wild eyes.

“When I had an idea, no-one listened!” shouted McGoffin, panting and spitting as he spoke.

Goldheart stepped in front of James, as McGoffin exclaimed, “I see you have a child!”

“I am his protector,” Goldheart said proudly.

“Phuff! Enough of this sentimentality. I really must be getting back to London and to conquering the world with my Doomsday Device!”

And with that, McGoffin put the crystal back in the time machine and the coordinates set to Victorian London.

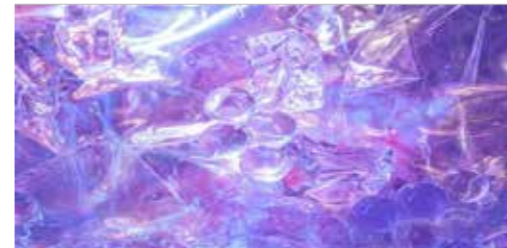
Chapter 7 – Survival

“So, we’re going to live out our days here?” said James gloomily.

“Don’t be so hard on yourself James. This is the Island where I first found the crystal for my Time Machine. All we need now are some vines, bits of shipwrecks and parts of your shoe-shining kit.” declared Prof Goldheart.

Then they got to work on making a new time machine. They searched all over the island for bits and pieces they could use. James found vines and driftwood. He used the vines to tie the wood together whilst Prof Goldheart was down in the caves looking for a crystal.

After hours of searching, Prof Goldheart found a perfect crystal - the right size for a time machine. This crystal was pink with thunderstorms raging inside.



“James, catch!” shouted Prof Goldheart. James leapt to catch the pink crystal that Prof Goldheart had found in the cave.

“Overpower the Doomsday Device!” yelled Prof Goldheart.

With a shove, James forced the pink crystal into the Doomsday Device alongside the crystal McGoffin had stolen from Prof Goldheart’s original Time Machine.

“No!” cried the Old McGoffin as he realised what was about to happen.

Then after a day of hard work, they finally finished the Time Machine.

Whilst that was going on the Mad Old McGoffin was finishing his doomsday device then suddenly James and Goldheart showed up on time the Mad Old McGoffin was just starting to power up his Doomsday Device.

Two crystals were simply too much power for his device.

With a big ‘KABOOOM!’ And a flash of bright, white light, the Doomsday Device was no more.

McGoffin was in a state of shock. Possibly from the explosion. Possibly from seeing his evil plans come to a dramatic end.

Not wasting any time, Prof Goldheart grabbed a vine from the island Time Machine. He tied the Mad Old McGoffin up so that he couldn’t escape.

James ran out of the building and called out. Fog was crawling across the darkening street. It was nearly night time.

Two Peelers (Police officers to you and me) heard James. Blowing their whistles they ran towards his voice.

“Allo ‘Allo! What seems to be the matter then?” One whiskered Peeler asked James.

“There’s a mad scientist in here who is trying to destroy London.”

The Mad Old McGoffin was led away. He would be locked up for the rest of his days.

Chapter 8 - The End ... And A Beginning

As James and Prof Goldheart watched the Mad Old McGoffin be led away, it dawned on them that their time travelling adventures were over. Both crystals had been destroyed.

James felt good that he and Prof Goldheart had stopped McGoffin's plans. But he also felt sad because he would be going back to the orphanage to be a shoe-shiner for the rest of his life.

“Come on, help me clear this mess up,” said Prof Goldheart.

“I've got something to ask you afterwards,” he told James.

There was so much debris it took several hours to get everything clean and tidy again.

With a heavy heart, James turned to Prof Goldheart
“What did you want to ask me?”

“James, how would you like it, if I adopted you?”

“Really!? That would be great!” James couldn't hide his happiness.

“Well, let's start the process tonight. I'll walk you back to the orphanage and I can speak to whoever's in charge.”

James ran to the door and down the steps as fast as he could. Prof Goldheart smiled and as he locked the front door, he placed the key in his pocket. Doing so, he felt something small, cold and hard in his pocket.

It was a crystal from the Caribbean cave.

We hope that you and your family and friends enjoy the book that you have created.

This project was co-ordinated and facilitated by Clare Ford, Founder of Switched ON! the global online academy which is re-defining education beyond academic success.

Find out more at: www.switchedonglobal.com and register for your next exciting course.

Publish your book at www.saronti.com/switchedon

Need another copy of this book?
Go to www.saronti.com/switchedon
Your book reference is Sar2980

Do you like to write stories?
Ever fancied publishing one of them?

It's easy with Saronti.

Get in touch to find out more about
our publishing packages for young authors.

www.saronti.com

saronti



SWITCHED ON!

Join James on his amazing adventure through time as he saves the day from the Mad Old McGuffin.

Would YOU dare to go back in time to courageously tackle the unknown?