

The Diary of:

Jasper Curnow

By Bea Meakin
(Aged 8 years, 2 ½ months)
May 2020

500 words

‘Ello, my name is Jasper Curnow, and this is the story of me strange life in the mines..... I’m a Cornish mining boy you see. I get awful lonely ‘cos I ‘ardley see me Dad (it’s so dark in the mines) but mostly me Mum, *she* ain’t going down the mines with us boys!

Now, our story starts on a wet and rainy day when me and the lads were walking the long way to the mine, our croust bags hanging beside us, and a glum look on all our faces. It was obvious the boys didn’t want to go down the mines any more than I did, but we knew we ‘ad to do it.

I was coughing and spluttering as I made me way down into the hot, dark and dirty mine. When I got down there, I saw a shimmer of light. I thought it was a candle at first but it turned out to be a small, pointy eared and friendly looking chap. “‘ello me ‘ansome” it squeaked, “who are you?”. “I’m Jasper Curnow” I replied “and who are you?”. “I’m Gumpie, the knocker of Wheal Fortune mine, pleased to meet you young sir”. I was shocked. I had never been called “young sir” before!

“What are ‘ee doin’ down ‘ere?” I asked. “Well Jasper, I’m ‘ere to keep all of you miners working ‘ard and feeling ‘appy!”. “Let me give you a little tip, try over there, no to the left, now to the right, yea, down a bit no, no, up a bit and, there”. I gasped, in front of me was the most copper I’d ever seen! “How, how did you find this?”, “Just a little touch of Cornish magic!” exclaimed Gumpie, feeling proud of himself.

At croust time, I took out me pasty and started munching, offering some to Gumpie. I wondered if Gumpie could help all the miners? You wouldn’t believe it but over the next few months we all found loads more copper. No wonder our mine is called *Wheal Fortune*!

Unfortunately, the Captain thought that they needed more, more, more. So Gumpie's next idea was to mix a potion and asked me to get the ingredients. This potion was goin' to make 'um stop us mining (we *do* have enough copper). I agreed immediately and put Gumpie's plan into action, so off I went to pick an apple, a fern leaf, some gorse prickles and a spec of dirt from the mine.

We spread the potion around the mine and as I climbed back up the slippery ladder, the air got cooler, I could hear the doves cooing and I knew I was nearly at the top. I hoped I was nearly at the end of me and the lads' time in the mines.

The next morning, I found that me Dad wasn't in his usual mining clothes but in beautiful rich ones, and me Mother too! At that moment I 'new that me & Gumpie's plan had worked!