



Once a year, Rhona goes out for the day with her uncle Allister. Rhona thinks he's a little odd, but also a lot of fun. He lives in a small house by Loch Ness, a very big lake in Scotland.



Uncle Allister has a small, old fishing boat.

“Hi, Uncle Allister!” waves Rhona.

“Hi, Rhona! Come on board!” Uncle Allister calls out. He’s busy with spoons, pans, and bowls.

“What are we doing today?” Rhona asks, curious.

Uncle Allister loosens the rope and starts the engine of his little boat, which leaves slowly. “Today . . . we’re going to catch a monster,” he says, serious.

“A monster?” Rhona looks at him in astonishment.

“Not just any monster. The famous Loch Ness monster! We call it Nessie here.”

Rhona has heard about it before.

“But monsters aren’t real, are they?”

“Sure they are!”

“And why do you want to catch the monster?”

Uncle Allister scratches his head. “Then I’ll be in the newspaper, and I’ll get rich. Then I’ll be someone!”

“But you’re already someone. You’re my Uncle Allister!”

Uncle Allister is speechless for a moment.

