

Mike, and his best friend Giz, were exploring in the attic when Mike discovered a folded, yellowed piece of parchment. "Hey Giz, check this out. It looks like an old treasure map."

"Wow!" said Giz, "Look Mike, here's a list of four booby traps."

"Can you make it out Giz?"

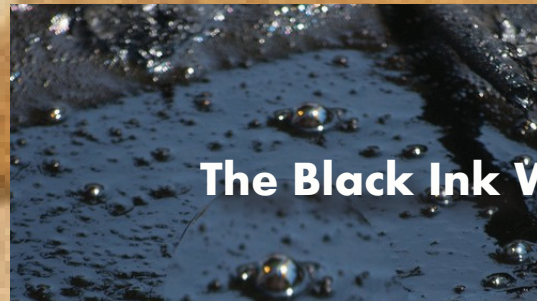
"I think it says,

- **The Black Ink Well: only the pure in heart shall pass.**
- **The Ball & Chain: only the unencumbered shall pass.**
- **The Endless Staircase: only the perfect achiever shall pass.**
- **The Mirror of Vanity: only the Ken and Barbie shall pass."**

A cold shiver went down Giz's back. "Sounds kinda dangerous," he said. "Whadda ya think we should do?"

"Sure it's dangerous!" replied Mike, "but if we get past these four booby traps, the path will lead us into a Kingdom of untold riches. Let's get started."

The two boys raced downstairs and headed out the front door with map in hand. Just then Alison came into the yard.



**The Black Ink Well**



**The Ball & Chain**

Giz groaned, "All we need now is some mushy-cushy-lovie girl to ruin our adventure."

"Hi Mike," said Alison, sweetly.

"Hi Alison," replied Mike, with a slight smile.

Giz jumped in quickly, "Come on Mike, we gotta go."

"Where ya going?" inquired Alison.

"Just going," said Mike.

"Excuse us Alison, we've gotta keep movin'. Come on Mike," Giz interrupted.

"Can I come?" asked Alison.

"No way," replied Giz. "You're a girl and this is guys' stuff."

"O come on Mike!" Alison pleaded. "I won't cause any trouble." Mike smiled and relented.

Heaving a big sigh, Giz replied. "We found this treasure map and we plan to follow it." Giz attempted to frighten Alison off. "There's booby traps."

"Booby traps?" Alison's eyes widened. "What kind of booby traps?"

Giz spoke in hushed tones, trying to sound scary, "**The Black Ink Well: only the pure in heart shall pass. The Ball & Chain: only the unencumbered shall pass. The Endless Staircase: only the perfect achiever shall pass. The Mirror of Vanity: only the Ken & Barbie shall pass.**"

**The Endless Staircase**

Without hesitation, Alison chimed, "Cool, let's go."

Giz, reluctantly giving up, clicked the GPS app on his iPad. "Okay guys, it's this way through that cave over there."

The trio ducked and entered a dark, damp cave. A pathway took them around winding corners, low ceilings and through sticky cobwebs. Alison moved close to Mike, holding onto his arm. "This place gives me the creeps. Mike, you're sooo brave." Giz rolled his eyes.

Suddenly, they saw a dark figure dressed in black at the next turn in the cave. Alison squeezed Mike's arm tightly.

Mike, trying to be brave, whispered, "That looks like the first booby trap, The Black Well. What was that first clue Giz?"

**"The Black Ink Well: only the pure in heart shall pass."**

An imposing figure guarded a large pool of what appeared to be black ink. "**Wait right there you failures.** You'll never reach the great Kingdom. Look at you. You're like black ink wells from inside out. **Admit it.**"

"You, Mike, weren't you the cause of your parents' divorce?"

"And you, Giz, you like others to think you're so smart but didn't you fail grade 5?"

"And then there's Alison. Didn't your own father say you were a failure and should have been a boy? Did you think for one moment that the Great King would let a bunch of losers into His Kingdom?"

Alison shivered as she held tightly to Mike. "How are we going to get past, Mike? He's right, we've all messed up, we'll never make it."

Giz touched the Bible Concordance app on the screen of his iPad and typed, 'Theme Search: God's love and forgiveness.'



**The Mirror of Vanity**

Alison, peeking over Giz's shoulder read: "But God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8."

Giz read the next passage.

**“For in Him we have redemption, even the forgiveness of sins.  
Colossians 1:14”**

Mike stepped forward and bravely shouted, “Move aside Black Ink Well. Only the pure in heart shall pass, and we are by God’s grace and Christ’s death made pure in heart.

**Let’s go gang.”**

The trio walked across a slippery log, over the black pool, to another curve in the cave. “One booby trap down, three to go,” said Giz victoriously.

Complete and mail this Lesson in promptly to receive the next lesson and discover the clues to the three remaining booby traps and find out what happens next to the MGA trio.

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### SUMMER LESSON Ages 10-12 QUESTIONS

1. What did the boys find in the attic?  
a. A treasure map   
b. A rocking horse
2. What was the first booby trap?  
a. A giant spider   
b. The Black Ink Well
3. What was the first clue?  
a. Only the pure in heart shall pass   
b. Only the strong & tall will pass
4. What did the Black Ink Well figure accuse the trio of?  
a. Being too sinful to enter into the Kingdom   
b. Being too fat to enter the Kingdom
5. What iPad app did Giz use to find an answer to the clue?  
a. An electronic compass   
b. A Bible Concordance
6. Read Romans 5:8 in our story. How did God show His love for us?  
a. A watch for Christmas   
b. By sending His Son, Jesus, to die for us
7. Read 1 Peter 3:18 in your story. Why did Jesus die for our sins?  
a. To bring us into a relationship with God   
b. He didn’t really die
8. Have you ever thanked Jesus for forgiving your sins and making it possible for you to know God?  
a. Yes   
b. No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov \_\_\_\_\_

PC \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Camp/Club \_\_\_\_\_

#### What to do with this Lesson

1. Read the story.
2. Answer the questions.
3. Send the completed lesson to the address below.

We will grade this lesson and return it to you with your next lesson.

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