

Reprinted from the U. S. Lighthouse Society's The Keeper's Log - Spring 2021  
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# Lighthouse Fun 4 Kids



Featuring:  
*Cape Fear Lighthouse  
Protected Lives  
During a Hurricane!*

*Issue #5*

Feeling creative?

Email your colored in version of the Cape Fear lighthouse, featured on the cover, or the picture on the back page, along with your mailing address to [info@uslhs.org](mailto:info@uslhs.org), and we'll send you an "I love lighthouses" bumper sticker!

# Lighthouse Fun 4 Kids



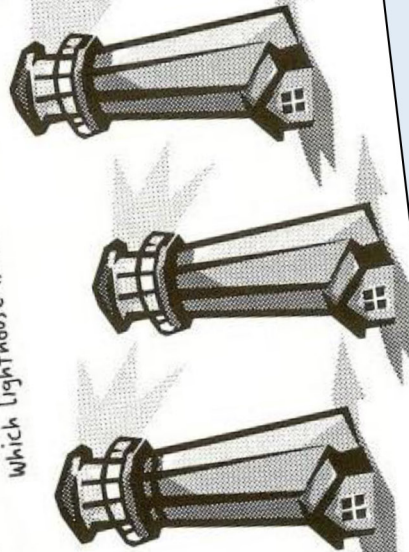
## Paint a Friendship Rock!

If you've been hiking lately, you might have noticed painted rocks left along trails. This is a gesture of friendship! You can be a friend too. Paint a rock and leave it along a trail for someone...a stranger perhaps. If you find a rock left by someone else, take it and leave your rock in its place. Play "Swap a Rock" whenever you hike. Be a friend to all hikers!

What did the pirate say when he saw the lighthouse?  
"Thar she glows!"



Which lighthouse is different?



Was it me?



Get a pencil and finish this story—

My friend went with me to visit

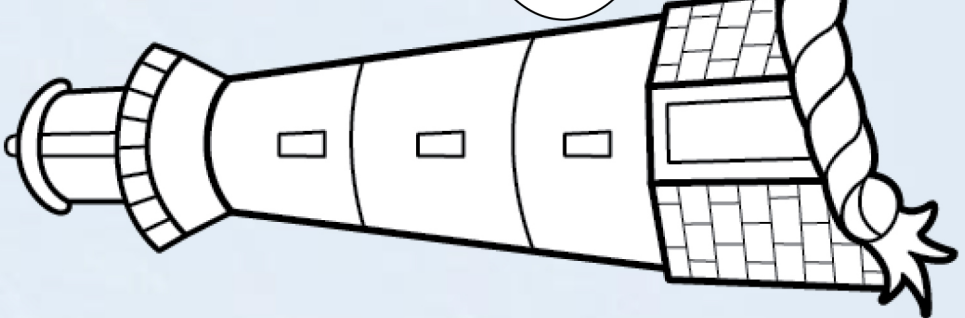
\_\_\_\_\_ Lighthouse. We climbed to the top of the tower. As we looked out to sea, we saw the most surprising thing....

Can You Find your Way?

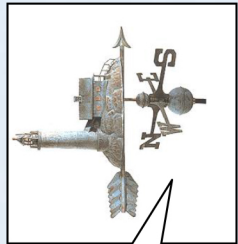


What did the ocean say to the lighthouse?  
Nothing. It just waved!

Color the lighthouse below. Then use the letters in the word "lighthouse" to make other words. Do you see the word "house"? Find others and list them below. Can you find ten words?



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



**Word Hint**  
Which way do I point?

LIGHTHOUSE

# Cape Fear Lighthouse Protected Lives During a Hurricane

A true read-along story with some surprises

By Cheryl Shelton-Roberts  
Graphic Design By Richard Gales



Lighthouses love wind; after all, it is natural to earth. It tests a lighthouse's strength, helps pollinate plants that give us food and flowers, gives us a cool breeze on a hot summer's day, and it gives lift to a bird's or an airplane's wings. It is caused by air in earth's atmosphere being warmed unevenly over land and water. When warm air rises and meets cooler air, it falls to earth again. This dance between warm and cool air creates wind all around the globe and causes huge waves. When the wind reaches a steady 74 mph, it is named a...**Hurricane!**

Hurricane Hazel hit Bald Head Island during a high lunar tide and created an 18-foot storm surge of water in 1954. It created winds up to 150 mph (miles per hour) on the coast of North Carolina. A U.S. Coast Guard family, living in one of the three keepers' houses at the 1903 Cape Fear Lighthouse on Bald Head Island, survived this hurricane by taking shelter in the lighthouse. Clara Evans Pierce told the story.

"My husband, Curtis, was stationed on Bald Head Island and took care of the lighthouse. We married in 1947 and moved to the island in 1951. The Atlantic Ocean is on one side of the island with the Cape Fear River on the other. There was only one other family on the island, and it was lonely. In March 1952, I returned across the river to our permanent home on Oak Island to have my son Roger. We loved that little house near the Coast Guard station."



*Satellite view of Hurricane Isabel*

“Charlie Swan was retired keeper of the Cape Fear Light. It once stood high on a sand dune on Bald Head Island. Cap’n Charlie took us back and forth from Oak Island to the lighthouse when necessary. Later, we used the Coast Guard boat once a month to get to Oak Island where somebody would meet us with a car and take us



*The Cape Fear Lighthouse stood tall on Bald Head Island for many years. A keeper's family found safety inside during Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Three oceanfront keepers' houses sit a short distance below the light's original site. Photograph courtesy of the US Coast Guard*

to Southport to get groceries. On Bald Head, we gathered oysters, clams, and shrimp—some of the biggest shrimp I’ve ever seen—from the marshy creeks on the island, and we fished, of course. A gas-powered generator at the lighthouse ran the light in the lantern room and lights in the houses; otherwise, we had no other electricity on the island. Curtis kept this generator and the one at Old Baldy Lighthouse in good condition even though the old lighthouse was not in use at that time.



“During the week of October 15, I was with Curtis at the Cape Fear Lighthouse. Our son, Roger, was almost three years old; he loved to play in the sand near the ocean—we made sandcastles and forts together, hunted for seashells—he loved it.

“The four of us on the island, Curtis, little Roger, Coast Guardsman Luther Hooper, and I had been forewarned of approaching bad weather and braced as well as we could. Curtis and Keeper Hooper decided it was best for us to stay in our houses since they were on higher ground than the lighthouse; we were to wait until the water threatened to come in too close. Moving to the lighthouse would have been safer, but we couldn’t watch how fast the water was rising up the hill from the ocean. And once the wind began to blow a gale, we would not be safe going up into the tower—we would be stuck in the house, and if the wind got too strong, it could flood or blow our house over. It was a nervous game of wait and see. Curtis and Keeper Hooper made several trips to the top of the tower to keep watch on the worsening storm.



“The weather was really stormy, and we could see ocean water coming up fast at the light station. That water was so angry! When it got halfway between the beach and the house, we decided it was now or never to get in the lighthouse. There was little time to think! They brought the jeep right up to the house to get Roger and me. We made it into the lighthouse and stayed on the ground level. We could hear that wind. I prayed a lot, and we grew more nervous each time the wind rattled the lighthouse. The eye of the storm went over—things got calm. I wanted to go back to the

house, but the men decided that we should stay in the lighthouse. Then the wind picked up again.

“I’m glad that we did because it saved our lives. We all stayed huddled at the bottom of the spiral stairs while powerful winds ripped at the tower. We felt that we were staring death in the face. Fortunately, there is no safer place on the island than where the lighthouse sat. Then, something almost unbelievable happened after the hurricane had passed.



“The sun came out and the men went to see what had washed up—anybody who lives on the coast loves to go treasure hunting after a big storm. There is no telling what you’ll find washed up.

“The men brought back a couple of interesting shells and a drawer with some clothing inside and a leatherlike folder they had found farther down the beach. They laid them on my kitchen table at our keeper’s house.

“I thought the things looked familiar, but it shocked me. The drawer came from our house on Oak Island—nine miles across the Cape Fear River! The men thought they’d maybe found money in the folder but no, it was our life insurance policies! But I also knew at that moment that our home on Oak Island had been destroyed by the hurricane.

“The storm knocked out all communication for days and the road to Southport was washed away; the Coast Guard couldn’t reach us, not even by radio, and we had no phone. Our worried families had to wait three days to know that we had survived the storm. We lost nearly everything, even our first car that

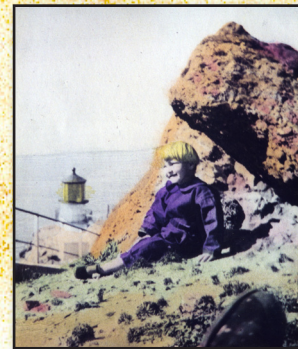


was buried in sand. I had left our housing allowance check from the Coast Guard under my mattress and it was gone; we had no money, so I filed an insurance claim. The Red Cross was good to us, they gave us money and we went to Sears and

bought living room and bedroom furniture, a crib for Roger, and things to replace the kitchen. But, of all the scary things about that hurricane, I will never forget the beautiful evening after Hazel passed and the many times that I helped Curtis polish brass in the lantern room and that big Fresnel lens—just beautiful. No one can forget a lighthouse after it saves you and your family's life.”

#### *Kids on the Rocks at Point Reyes*

Alice Jaehne (pronounced Jay-nee) lived with her family at Point Reyes Light Station in California long ago. When old enough, she and her brother Herman took turns washing dishes after supper. Point Reyes is known as the windiest light station in the United States. Their keeper's house sat high up a hill from the lighthouse below—the same distance as climbing a 30-story building! The kitchen



*Alice Jaehne at Point Reyes Light Station*



window sat flush at the top of the rocky hill with a steep drop down to the Pacific Ocean.

Alice had just put the pots and pans that she washed on the windowsill to dry—there

*Alice Jaehne and her brothers grew up on a rocky island at Point Reyes, California. The four children played outside a lot but always had to be careful not to be blown off the cliffs by wind. Photographs courtesy of the Keeper Gerhard Jaehne family taken in 1926*



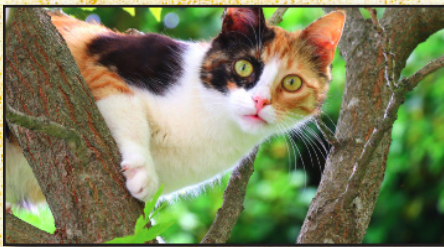
were no dishwashing machines during the 1920s—and a gust of wind came through the house when Herman opened the front door. WHOOSH! The dishes flew out the window and banged and clanged all the way down the rocky ledge. Do you think they recovered the pans?

*Cabana the Calico and Hurricane Isabel (2003)*

Cabana the calico cat lived on Hatteras Island on the coast of North Carolina at her owner's realty business. The multicolored cat always loved to greet guests checking in for their vacations at the cabanas (small cabins) by the sea for her owner, Nancy. But when Hurricane Isabel hit at over 100 mph, wind-driven ocean waves engulfed the island. Nancy was assured



*This 1893 photograph shows what happened when the light station flooded at Cape Hatteras after a strong storm. Floods were particularly hard on animals in the area. Photograph by Herbert Bamber is from the John Havel collection*



that Cabana would find an elevated place to wait out the storm. But two friends had gone past the office and told Nancy that it had been washed to the other side of the road. Nancy panicked. Neighbors told her there was absolutely no way Cabana could have survived.

Nancy made her way through debris and piled sand to what was left of the office and called for her cat, knowing that if she were there, Cabana would recognize her voice. But there was only silence after Nancy called, “Cabana! Cabana, where are you?!”



Then, she heard a soft “meow.” Nancy’s heart leapt. She called again. Another faint “meeeowwww.” On top of the key drop-box, the only part of the office left standing, sat a wet and frightened Cabana. Nancy took her into her arms, placed her under her coat, and reassured her that everything was okay. Soon, Cabana had a new office where she greeted beach visitors and a new key drop-box on which to perch.



#### *A hurricane’s surprise gift*

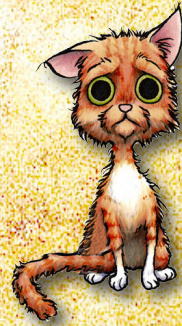


*Photograph of MissIsabel  
by Carolyn Mason,  
Foundation for  
Shackleford Banks Horses*

Meanwhile, to the south, on Shackleford Banks near Cape Lookout, the storm had caused a lot of flooding. Some of the wild horses on the mainland near Beaufort did not make it as they were swept into Core Sound by storm surge waters. Dozens of sea turtle nests were washed away. Yet, as nature both takes, it also gives. An unexpected foal was born to a Shackleford Banks wild horse, Marilyn. “MissIsabel” came into the world within 48 hours following the destructive storm.

#### *A kitten learns to ring for her dinner*

At Cape Hatteras, the keeper’s son went outside after a storm to look for treasures. As he returned to the keeper’s house, something bumped his boot. There, at his feet, was a half-drowned kitten. He picked up the small, furry castaway and took care of her. “Emily” learned to jump, grab the rope at the front door to the keeper’s house, and ring the bell to let everyone know that she was hungry!



### *A drafty playground*

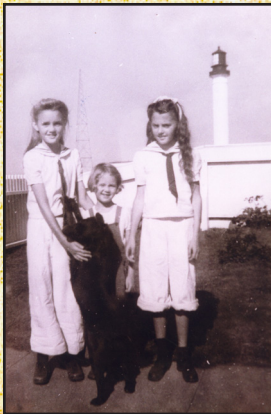
On Passage Island, Upper Peninsula of Michigan, one keeper's daughter had the responsibility in 1938 to make sure her toddler sister was tethered to the clothesline so she wouldn't blow away. And, if the wind started to howl too forcefully while they were playing outside, the big sister, Annie, was to put her weight on her little sister to keep her from blowing off the steep, rocky drop to Lake Superior!



*Passage Island in Lake Superior where two keepers' daughters played carefully on the rocky slopes.*

*Photograph by Bruce Roberts*

### *Wind-ruffled pet Pal*



At Point Arena, California, a wind came up suddenly and was so strong that it blew the family's dog off a cliff! The keeper got a friend to help lower a rope tied to his car, put the dog into a blanket like a hammock, and hoisted him back to safety. Can't you just hear the stories that dog told his furry friends?!

*Point Arena sits on steep cliffs on the California coast where keepers' kids lived and played with dog Pal.*

*Photographs courtesy of the Keeper Owens family, 1944*

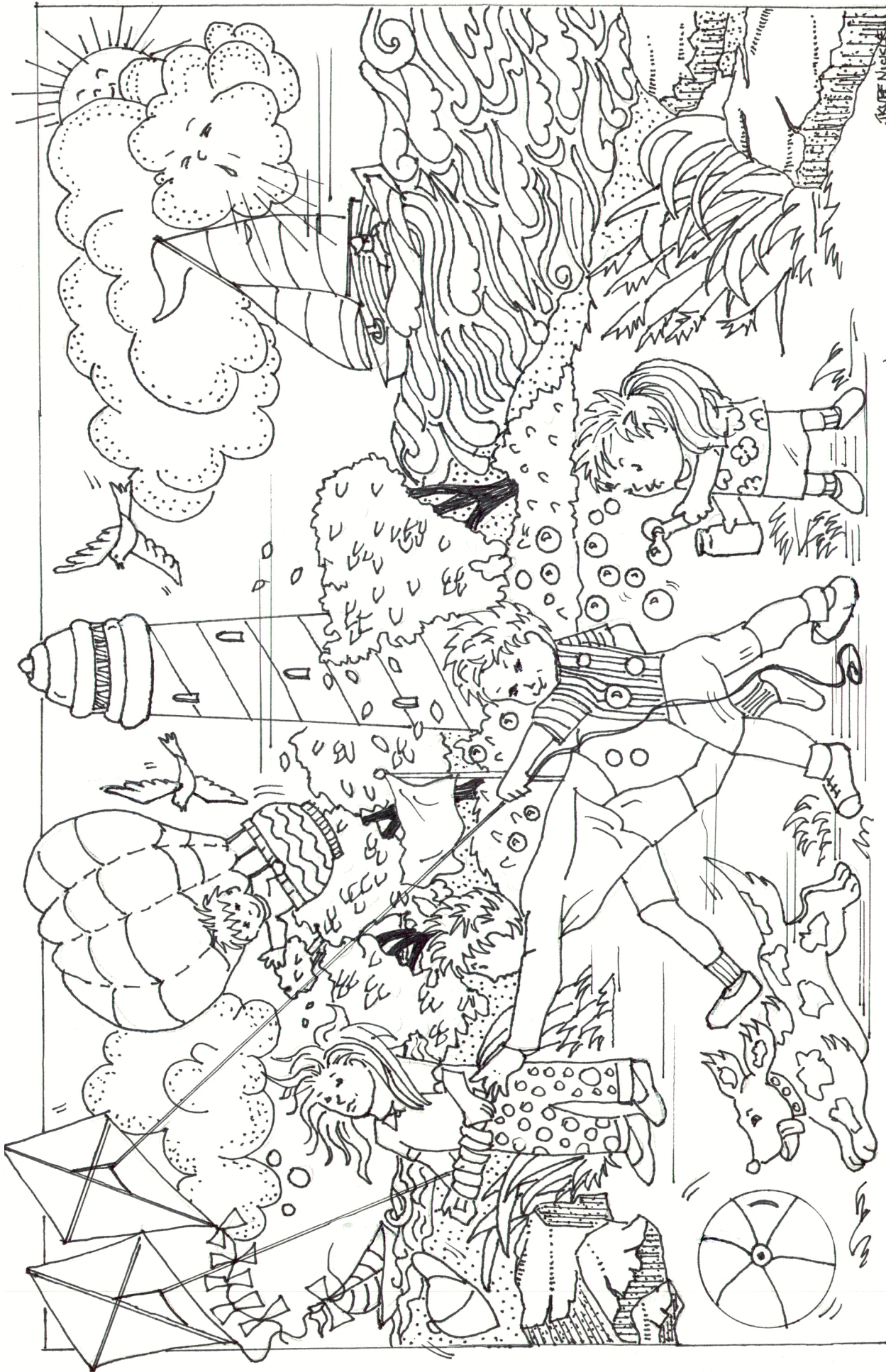
### *Who Has Seen the Wind?*

By Christina Rossetti

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither I nor you:  
But when the leaves hang trembling,  
The wind is passing through.

Who has seen the wind?  
Neither you nor I:  
But when the trees bow down their heads,  
The wind is passing by."

*The Golden Book of Poetry (1947)*



In this drawing, see if you can color the wind! And look for these and other things happening--can you name more?

1. Flag blowing in the wind in front of the lighthouse
2. Kites flying in the wind
3. Bubbles blowing in the wind
4. A happy dog chasing a ball blown down the beach
5. A keeper's son chasing his windblown hat
6. A keeper's daughter's hair in the wind
7. Grass bending over in the wind
8. Sailboats being pushed by wind
9. Big windblown waves
10. Trees around the lighthouse bending in the wind

Artwork by Janet Nickle