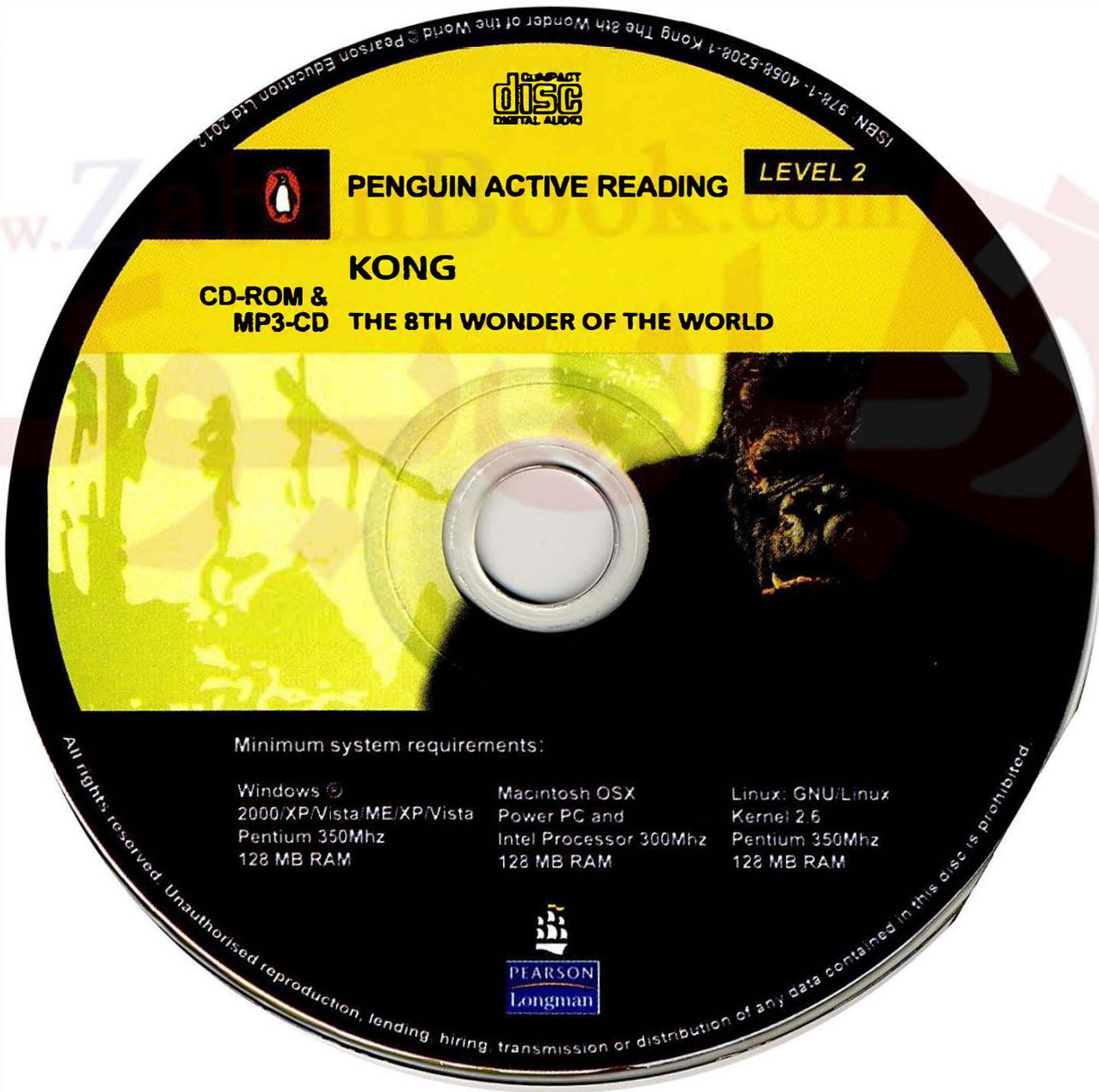




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KONG

THE 8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD™



compact disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

ISBN 978-1-4058-5208-1 Kong The 8th Wonder of the World © Pearson Education Ltd 2012



PENGUIN ACTIVE READING **LEVEL 2**

CD-ROM & MP3-CD
KONG
THE 8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD

Minimum system requirements:

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PEARSON
Longman

Kong

The 8th Wonder of the World

Fran Walsh & Philippa Boyens & Peter Jackson

Based on a Story by Merian C. Cooper and Edgar Wallace

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Level 2

Retold by Coleen Degan-Veness

Series Editors: Andy Hopkins and Jocelyn Potter

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A Job for Ann Darrow

*“Mr. Denham, I have a question about this love story,” Ann said.
“It’s not a love story,” Jack said, a little too quickly.*

When the Lyric Theater closed its doors for the last time, Ann Darrow had no work and no money. In New York City in 1933, a lot of people were hungry. Ann was hungry, too. She was an **actor** and she had to find a new job quickly.

Carl Denham had work, but his bosses weren’t happy with him. They gave him money and he made movies. But when they didn’t like a movie, they stopped the money.

With his helper, Preston, Carl showed them the beginning of his new movie and waited.

They didn’t like it.

“Where are Bruce Baxter and Maureen McKenzie?” they asked.

“Everybody loves them!”

“Maureen wasn’t ready,” Carl told them angrily. “But I’m changing the story. The actors are coming with me on the ship now.”

“What ship?” the bankers asked. “We’re not paying for a ship!”

But Carl and Preston were out the door.

“Get the actors and workers on the ship. We’re **sailing** tonight,” Carl said. He had an old map of a strange **island** and now he wanted to make a very different kind of movie. And he didn’t want to wait another day.

A taxi stopped for the two men and they quickly jumped in.

“Carl, Maureen isn’t coming. She doesn’t want to be in this movie,” Preston said.

“Maureen isn’t coming?” Carl shouted. “Now I have to find another beautiful woman—and the ship sails in three hours!”

actor /'æktə/ (n) An actor works in the theater or in movies.

sail /seil/ (v) A boat or ship *sails* in water from one place to another. *Sailors* work on a ship.

island /'aɪlənd/ (n) An *island* is a place in the ocean or a river with water all around it.

Islanders live on an *island*.

Preston started to ask, "Where's the ship going?" But the taxi stopped and Carl jumped out.

A fruit seller in the street in front of Carl turned his head away from his fruit for a minute and a beautiful young woman quickly took some. But the fruit seller's hand was on her arm before she could run.

"Excuse me," Carl said to the young woman. "I think this fell out of your hand." He gave her money for the fruit. Then he looked at her and smiled. "You're hungry," he said. "Let's go to a restaurant."

In the restaurant Ann told Carl about her life in the theater and Carl told her about his movie.

"The two young people fall in love on the ship," he said. "And then, in the middle of the ocean, they see something ..."

"What?" Ann asked. Now she was interested.

"I don't know," he said slowly. "Jack Driscoll's the writer and he's working on it now."





“Jack Driscoll?” Ann’s eyes shone. “He’s a wonderful writer. I know his work for the theater, and I love it! I’d like to be in his movie.”

When their conversation ended, Carl gave her Maureen McKenzie’s job on his new movie.

Later that evening, on the ship, Ann looked out at the lights of New York City and said goodbye to her home.

Jack Driscoll found a table and chair for his dark, dirty room and started to work on the new

story. He was on the ship only because Carl was his friend. He didn’t want to be there, but you couldn’t say no to Carl.

Jack’s room was the worst because it usually had animals in it. The ship’s boss, Englehorn, and his sailors caught wild animals and sold them for a lot of money. They used **chloroform** because they didn’t want to kill the animals. So there were a lot of bottles of chloroform in Jack’s room.

Jack wasn’t happy about Maureen. Who was this Ann Darrow? Bruce Baxter, the famous movie actor, was unhappy about Ann, too. He only worked with the best actors. But Carl wasn’t interested. He had bigger problems. He had to finish this movie and make a lot of money.

In Jack’s room, Carl and Jack discussed the story.

“Bruce Baxter is really expensive,” Carl told his friend. “And I want us to get rich from this movie!”

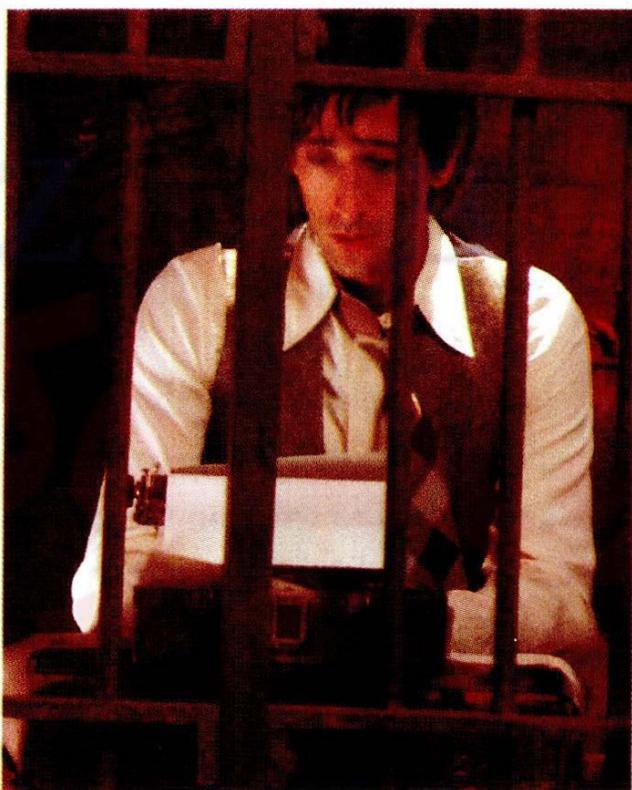
chloroform /'klɒrə,fɔːrm/ (n) Doctors use *chloroform* when they want people, or animals, to sleep.

“Where are we going?” Jack asked. “Tell me—I have to know. I’m writing the story.”

“OK, but don’t tell *anybody*. The men on this ship won’t like it. We’re going to **Skull** Island, Jack.”

The door opened and Jimmy, the youngest sailor on the ship, came in with some breakfast for the two men. They didn’t look up.

“Skull Island...” Jack said quietly. Then he saw Jimmy and stopped talking.



Jimmy’s face didn’t change. He put down the food and left. The sky was blue and the sun shone every day of the trip.

Ben Hayes, Englehorn’s smartest and best sailor, thought, “This trip is starting very well, but I don’t like it. Something is going to happen.” He looked at his map. Suddenly and angrily, he threw it down. “This isn’t the right way,” he thought.

Quickly, he went to

Englehorn.

Englehorn listened to Hayes. Then he said, “We’re going a different way this time.”

“But it’s dangerous this way,” Hayes said angrily. “It’s famous for bad weather—you know that!”

“Life on a ship is dangerous,” Englehorn answered.

“How much did Denham pay you?” Hayes asked angrily. “Where are we *really* going?”

Later that day, Bruce and Ann were in front of the camera. Carl was behind it with Herb, his cameraman, next to him. Jack watched Ann and he liked her work. Bruce was a very good actor, too, but he knew it.

“Mr. Denham, I have a question about this love story,” Ann said.

“It’s not a love story,” Jack said, a little too quickly.

Ann didn’t look at him. He was the writer, but she spoke to her boss. She knew him better than Jack Driscoll. She could talk to Carl more easily.

“The man’s interested in her, but he doesn’t want her on the ship with him. Why not?” she asked Carl.

“He likes her, but ... he doesn’t want to show it,” Carl answered.

She turned to Jack. “Is that right, Mr. Driscoll?” she asked.

“No ... OK, yes,” Jack said. “He *is* interested. She’s very ... beautiful and ...” He looked for the right words but couldn’t find them.

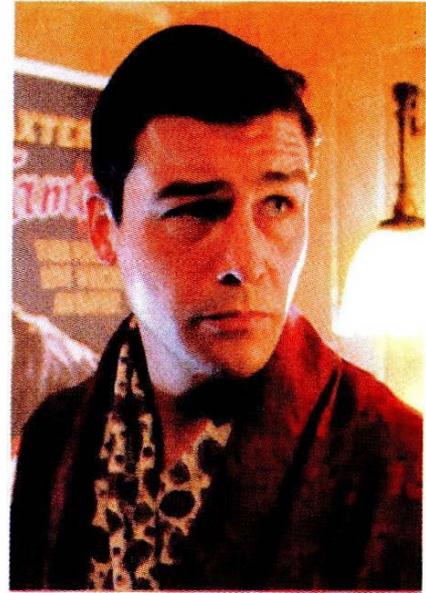
“Yes, she’s beautiful, but she’s more than that. She’s ... But maybe I read it wrong,” Ann said.

“This is a smart girl with good ideas,” Jack thought. “No,” he answered quietly. “I think you’re right. I wrote it wrong.” He thought, “Ann is beautiful, too.”

Women were often a problem for Jack. He couldn’t find the right words when he was with them. They didn’t understand him because he didn’t say much. Ann wanted to like him but he was difficult.

Carl shouted, “Preston, I want the other camera from my room. Go and get it.”

Preston ran to Carl’s room and looked inside a very large box. He couldn’t find the camera, but he found an old map of an island with some writing on the back. He tried to read the words. Suddenly, he understood. His mouth and eyes opened wide.





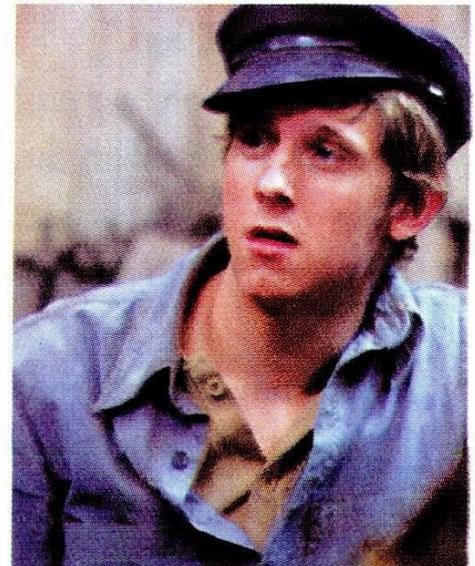
The door opened and Preston quickly put the map under his shirt. Carl walked in.

“Can’t you find it? Look, here it is!” he said. He took the camera off the shelf over his bed and left.

Preston stood and thought. “What’s happening? Is Carl taking us to this island?” he thought.

After that morning in Jack’s room, Jimmy had to tell somebody about Skull Island. He went to Hayes because he was almost a father to Jimmy. Two days later, Hayes saw Carl with a map on the table in the dining-room, so he went in. Jimmy and Preston didn’t look up from their breakfast.

Hayes spoke to the cook. “Lumpy, do you think we’re on our way to Sumatra?” he asked.





“Of course not. We turned southwest,” Lumpy answered.

“Listen, men, I’m not looking for problems,” Carl said.

“No, but you’re looking for something,” Jimmy said quietly.

“Yes, that’s right, Jimmy,” Carl said. He had to tell them now. “Skull Island. We’re going to find it and film it. Then we’ll show it to the world.”

Lumpy said, “In 1926 Mr. Hayes and I met a man on an island out in the ocean. He almost died on Skull Island. He talked about a great wall, one hundred meters high.”

“Why did people build the wall?” asked Carl.

“Kong is the answer,” said Hayes.

“That’s a crazy old story,” said Carl. “There was never *really* a **giant** on the island!”

“That man talked about a giant, angry **gorilla**,” Lumpy said. “And the next day we found that man dead with his knife in him.”

Preston’s face went white. Jimmy’s face was white, too.

“You only see giant gorillas in movies,” Carl said.

“Take your camera and your men to that island,” said Hayes, “and you’ll never come back.”



Jack couldn’t stop thinking about Ann and he wanted to give her something. So he started work on another movie and he wrote it for her.

giant /'dʒaɪənt/ (n/adj) A *giant* animal is a very large animal.

gorilla /gə'ɪrɪlə/ (n) A *gorilla* is a large animal. It has hands and can walk on two legs.

- 1 Why do people like the story of *King Kong*? Work with other students and write notes.

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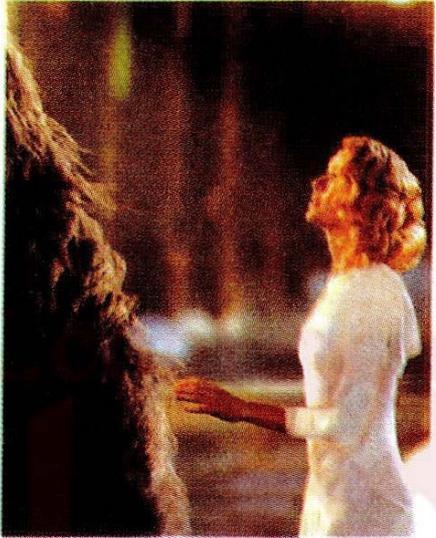
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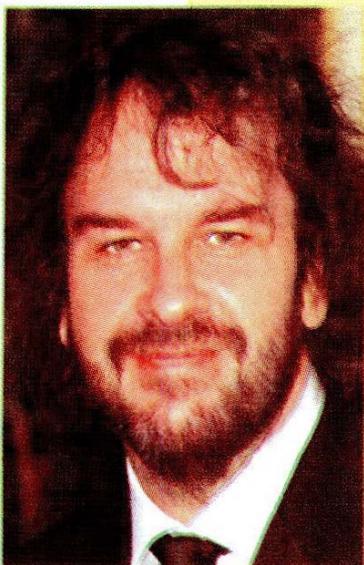
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- 2 Read about the famous moviemaker from New Zealand, Peter Jackson. Why did he make *King Kong* (2005)?

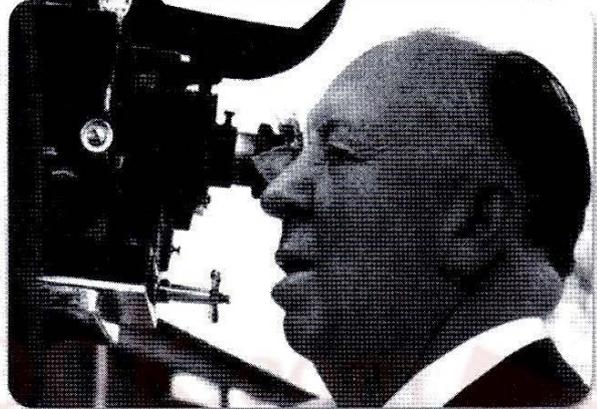
Use the Internet and learn more about him. Then work with one or two other students and think about a conversation between Peter Jackson and his bankers. When Jackson asked them for \$200,000,000, what questions did the bankers ask Jackson? What were his answers? What do you think? Have the conversation.



When Peter Jackson was nine years old, he saw the movie *King Kong* (1933) on TV. He loved the movie and that giant gorilla. He cried when Kong fell off the Empire State Building. Jackson got his first movie camera when he was eight years old. He had a lot of good ideas for his short movies and he used light and sound in exciting ways. He thought, "I want to make a new King Kong movie some day." So in 1996 he started writing his movie. Jackson is now as famous as his old friend King Kong.

3 Do you know these famous men?

Which is Steven Spielberg? Alfred Hitchcock? Stanley Kubrick? George Lucas? What movies did they make? Find answers on the Internet. Discuss their movies and the actors in them. Then write about one of the men below.



I like

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**American English
Contemporary**

Ann Darrow is an actor with no work and no money. Carl Denham wants to make a movie—but not in the United States. A long, long way from New York there is an island. And on that island lives the giant King Kong. When Carl, Ann, and the other actors arrive, Kong gets very, very angry. Who will live—and who will die?

**Level 2
600 headwords
Elementary**

Number of words (excluding activities): 11,277

Series Editors: Jocelyn Potter and Andy Hopkins

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Easystarts	200 headwords	
Level 1	300 headwords	<i>Beginner</i>
Level 2	600 headwords	Elementary
Level 3	1200 headwords	<i>Pre-intermediate</i>
Level 4	1700 headwords	<i>Intermediate</i>

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