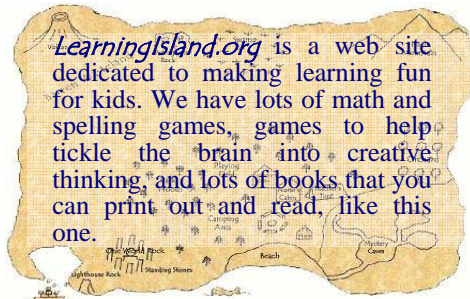




I am a retired captain of the upper sea, that is to say, a balloonist. Naturally it is a hazardous profession, and naturally I have had many thrilling experiences. The most thrilling, or at least the most nerve-racking, is the one I am about to tell you.

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