



# KEY HUNTERS

***THE  
TITANIC TREASURE***

by Eric Luper

Illustrated by Lisa K. Weber

**SCHOLASTIC INC.**

*For Frank Hodge, champion of children's  
books and amazing guide to my journey*

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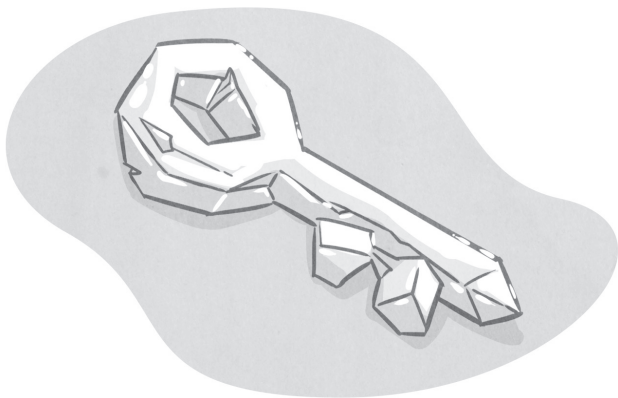
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## **CHAPTER 1**

When Evan opened his eyes, Cleo was beside him. They were lying on long wooden chairs, facing a railing that looked out on the sparkling night sky. The floor rocked gently as water rushed below them. The breeze chilled their cheeks, and Evan longed for the warm, welcoming fire of the magical library he and Cleo had found under their school.

But the last thing he remembered happening in the library was terrible, actually. Two

trolls, Gary and Glen, had followed their master, George Locke, out of the last book he and Cleo had traveled into. The trolls had stolen their crystal key and given it to Mr. Locke. Then Locke had jammed the key into a new book, and everyone in the library had disappeared into its pages. Evan was growing used to the magic of the library, but the fact they were able to travel into actual books still amazed him. It frightened him, too. If they didn't finish the story in a book, they'd be trapped in it forever. But Evan and Cleo knew Mr. Locke was up to no good. Whatever he had planned, they couldn't let him win.

Cleo wore a dark dress under a frilly white apron. Evan looked down at himself. He had on a crisp white shirt and vest with a black bow tie.

“Where are we?” Cleo asked.