**Nim’s Island Chapter 1 Vocabulary Worksheet Name:**

* Ripe- adj- (of fruit or grain) developed to the point of readiness for harvesting and eating. Also: (of a smell or flavor) rich, intense, or pungent.

“So she threw four **ripe** coconuts *thump!* Into the sand and climbed down after them.”

* Tricky- adj- (of a task, problem, or situation) requiring care and skill because difficult or awkward. Also: (of a person or act) deceitful, crafty, or skillful.

“Coconuts are **tricky** to open, but Nim was an expert.”

* Investigate- verb- carry out research or study into (a subject, typically one in a scientific or academic field) so as to discover facts or information. Also: make inquiries as to the character, activities, or background of (someone).

“But one day, her mother had gone to **investigate** the contents of a blue whale’s stomach”

* Frond- noun- the leaf or leaflike part of a palm, fern, or similar plant.

“He made sleeping mats stuffed with rustling palm **fronds**, a table and two stools, a desk, bookcases and shelves for his science stuff, coconut-shell bowls, and seashell plates.”

* Barometer- noun- an instrument measuring atmospheric pressure, used especially in forecasting the weather and determining altitude.

“They read what the **barometer** said, measured how much rain fell every day and how strong the winds were, how high the high tides reached and how low the low tides fell, and then they marked the measurements on a clean white chart with a dark blue marker.

* Reef- noun- a ridge of jagged rock, coral, or sand just above or below the surface of the sea.

“It was too big to weave its way through the **reef**, so Jack and Nim always sailed out to meet it, and the ship’s captain never saw just how beautiful the island was.