



PENGUIN READERS EASYSTARTS

Maisie lives in the Caribbean. She is unhappy because her parents haven't got enough money to keep their animal hospital open. However, Maisie's friendship with a dolphin leads to a discovery which changes everything.

Penguin Readers are simplified texts designed in association with Longman, the world famous educational publisher, to provide a step-by-step approach to the joys of reading for pleasure. Each book has an introduction and extensive activity material. They are published at seven levels from Easystarts (200 words) to Advanced (3000 words).

Series Editors: Andy Hopkins and Jocelyn Potter

NEW EDITION

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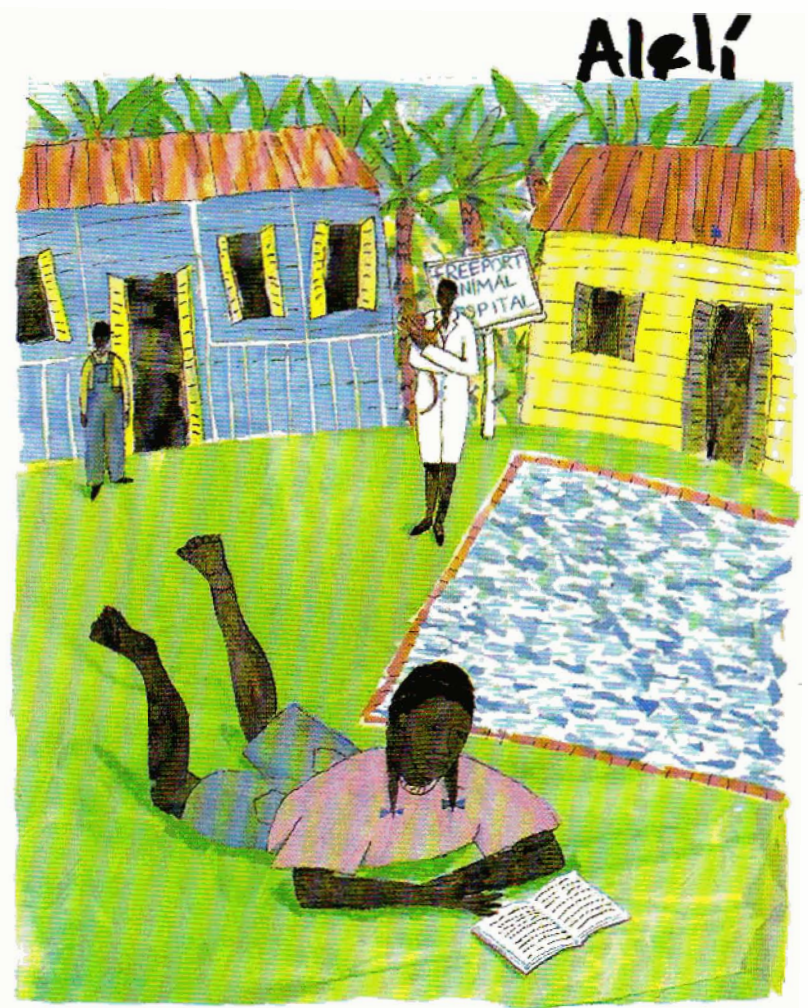


MAISIE AND THE DOLPHIN

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PENGUIN READERS

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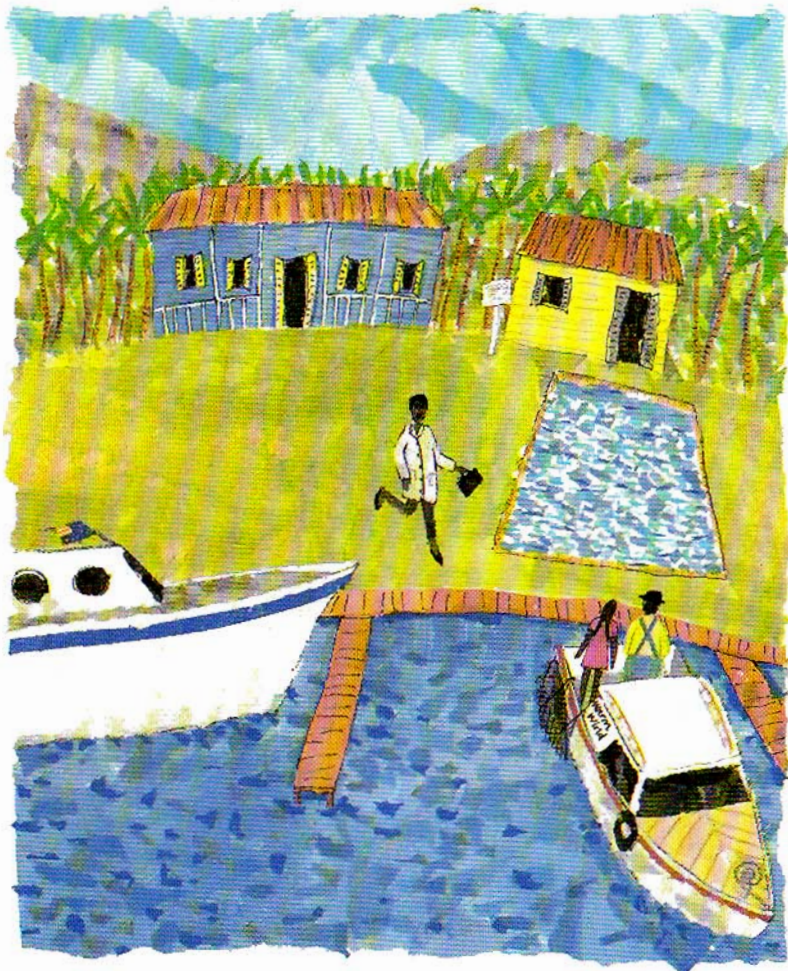
Maisie King lives in the Bahamas. She is thirteen years old and likes pop music, reading and swimming. Her mother and father are doctors. They work at the Freeport Animal Hospital. The hospital is next to their home – a blue house by the sea. It is very old, but it is beautiful, and Maisie loves it. Her grandfather loves it, too. He lives with the family.



On Saturdays Maisie and her grandfather often go out in his boat – the *Warm Wind*. Maisie likes to swim underwater and look at all the beautiful fish. One day she sees something – it is a piece of wood. There are some letters on it: “M..N...A”. “What can that be?” Maisie thinks. “I know! I can ask Grandad.”



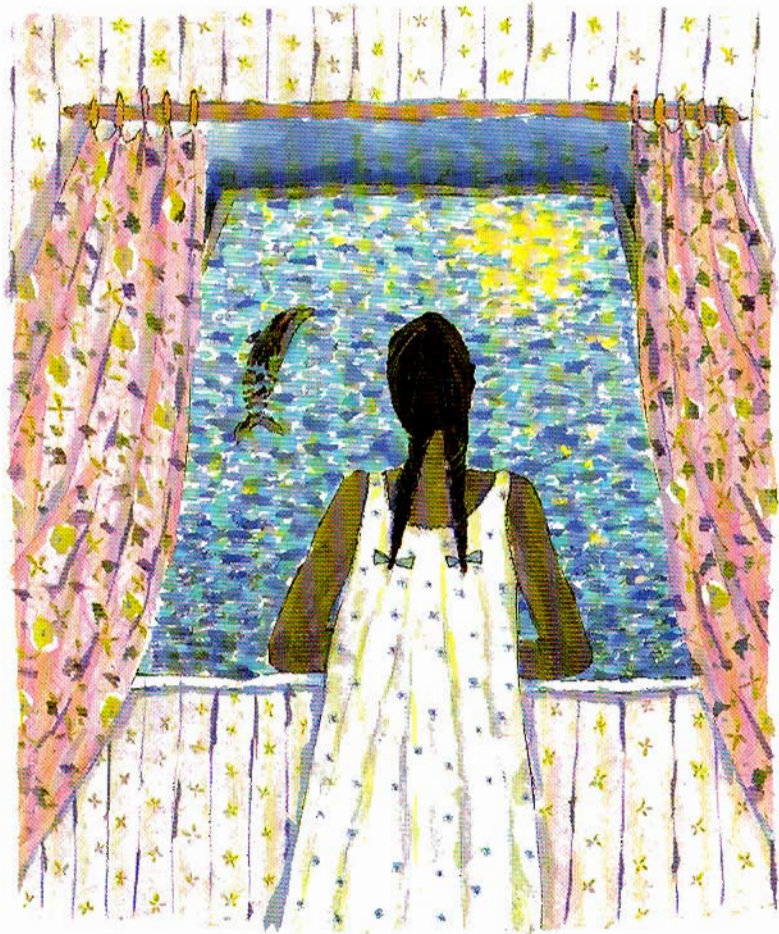
She swims back to the *Warm Wind*. “Grandad! There’s a big piece of wo...” But her grandfather is not listening. He is watching a big, expensive American boat and a dolphin. “Oh no,” he says. “That boat’s going too fast. The driver can’t see the dolphin. Hey! Stop!!” But it is too late. The boat hits the dolphin and drives away.



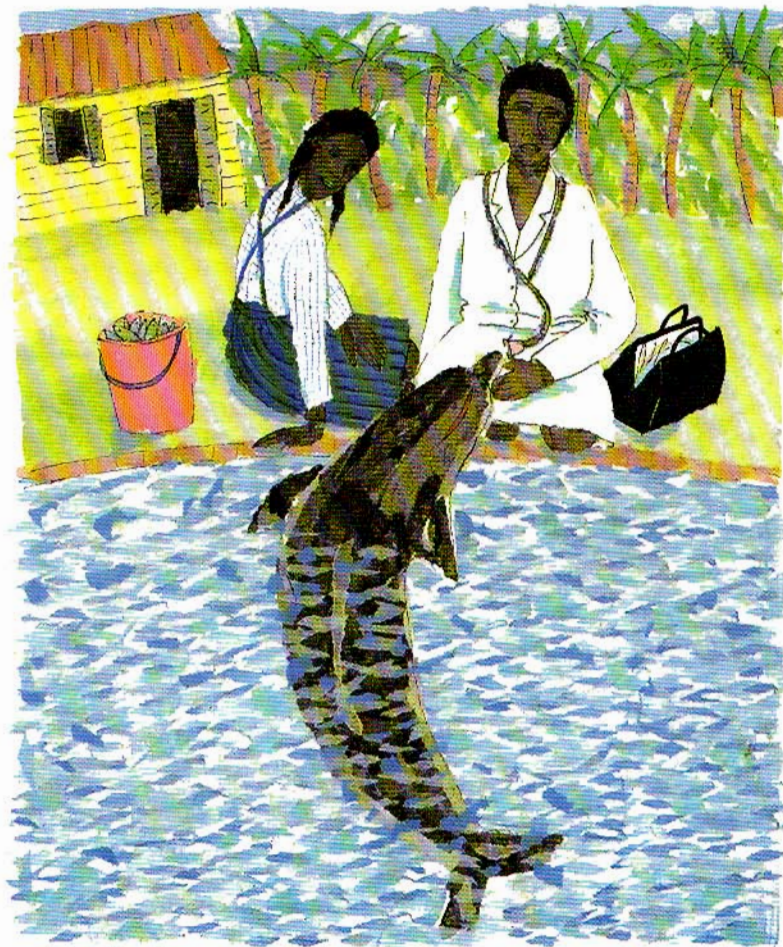
Maisie is very angry. She and her grandfather take the dolphin back to Freeport. Her mother is in the garden. She says, "What have you got there? A dolphin?!" Maisie says, "Yes. Can you and Dad help him?" Then she sees the big American boat. "Why is *that* here?" she asks. Her mother says, "There's an American in the house with Dad – Carl Flint. I think it's *his* boat."



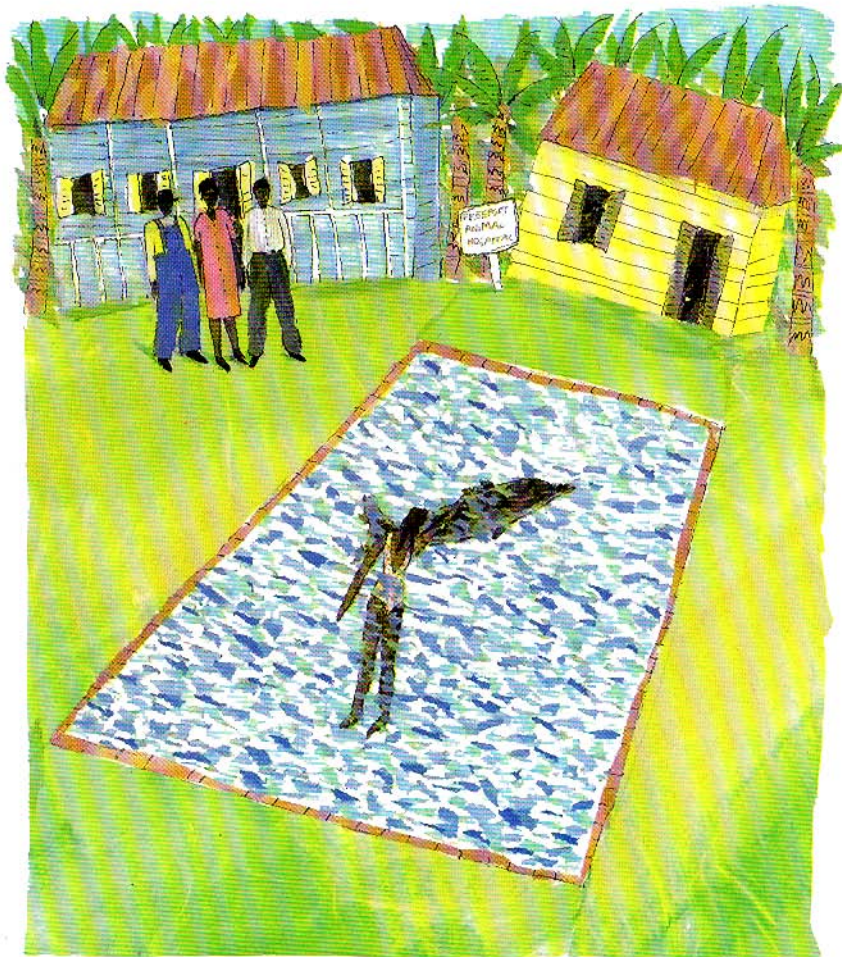
Maisie runs into the house. She can hear her father. He is saying, "You want to give me \$200,000 for the hospital and this house?!" Carl Flint says, "Yes. I want to build a big hotel here." Maisie's father thinks for a moment. "Well, the hospital isn't doing very well, but... I need a little time." Carl Flint says to him, "OK – you've got four weeks."



That night Maisie looks out of her bedroom window. She can see the dolphin in a big pool next to the hospital. She thinks, "He needs a name. I know! Ben!!" Then she looks at the moon. She says, "Carl Flint *can't* buy this house. It's our *home!*" She feels very sad. Then she looks at the dolphin again, says "Goodnight Ben", and closes her window.



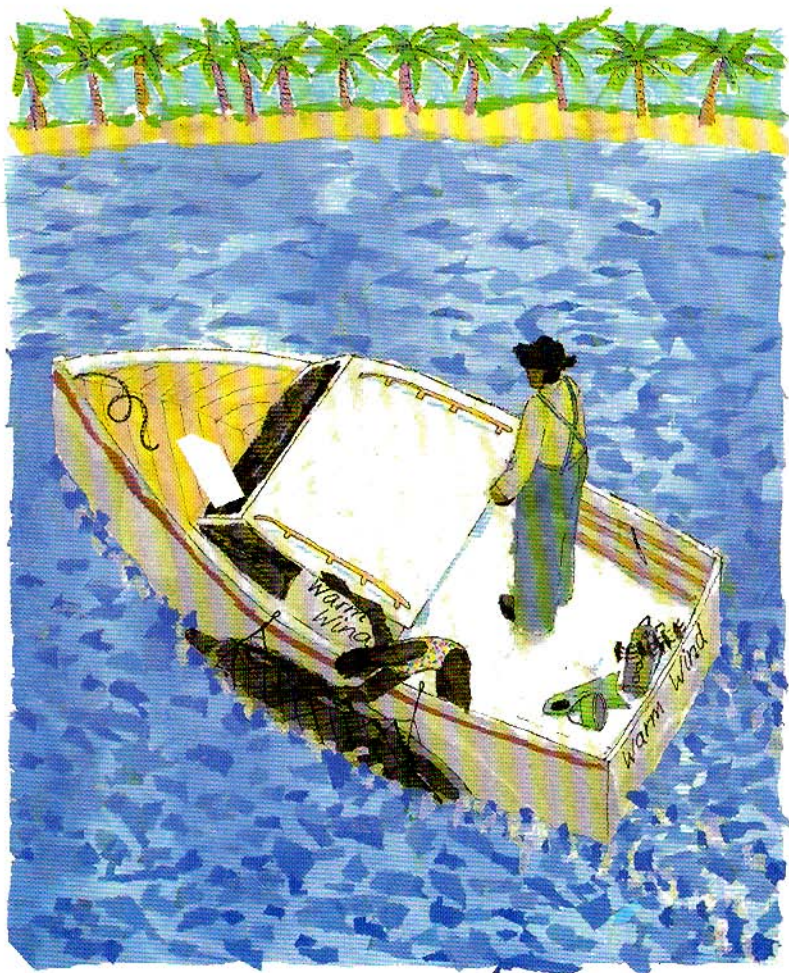
The next day Maisie goes to see Ben after school. She asks her mother, "How is he?" Mrs King looks at the long red line on the dolphin's head. "He isn't eating," she says. There are a lot of fish in a bucket next to the pool. Maisie takes one out and says, "This is for you, Ben." The dolphin eats the fish. Maisie's mother is very happy. She says, "That's good! He likes you."



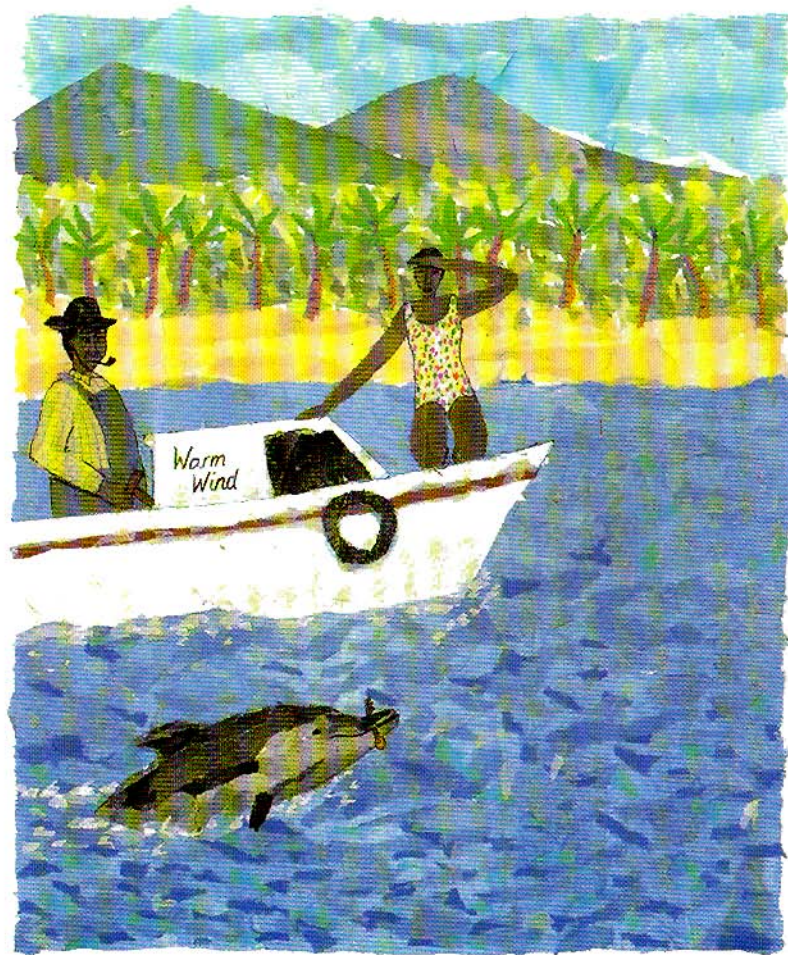
Three weeks later Ben is strong and well again. He and Maisie are friends. She plays games and swims with him every day. One evening Mrs King says, "Oh John, I don't want to make Maisie unhappy, but..." John King looks at her. "I know," he says, "Ben's well now. His home's back in the sea." Maisie's grandfather says, "It's OK – let me talk to her."



Later Maisie and her grandfather watch the sun go down. "Tomorrow?" Maisie's eyes are very sad. "But Grandad, Ben's my friend. Can't I...?" "I'm sorry, Maisie," her grandfather says. "But your dolphin's well again. It's time for him to go home." "I'm losing everything," Maisie thinks, "... first my home, now Ben."



The next day Maisie and her grandfather take Ben out to sea. At half-past ten Grandad stops the *Warm Wind*. At the side of the boat Maisie puts one hand on the dolphin's head. "Goodbye," she says. "Please don't forget me." Then she cuts two thick ropes and Ben swims away. "OK?" Grandad asks. For a moment Maisie cannot speak. Then she answers, "Yes, OK."



They start to go home. Maisie is very sad and does not say anything.

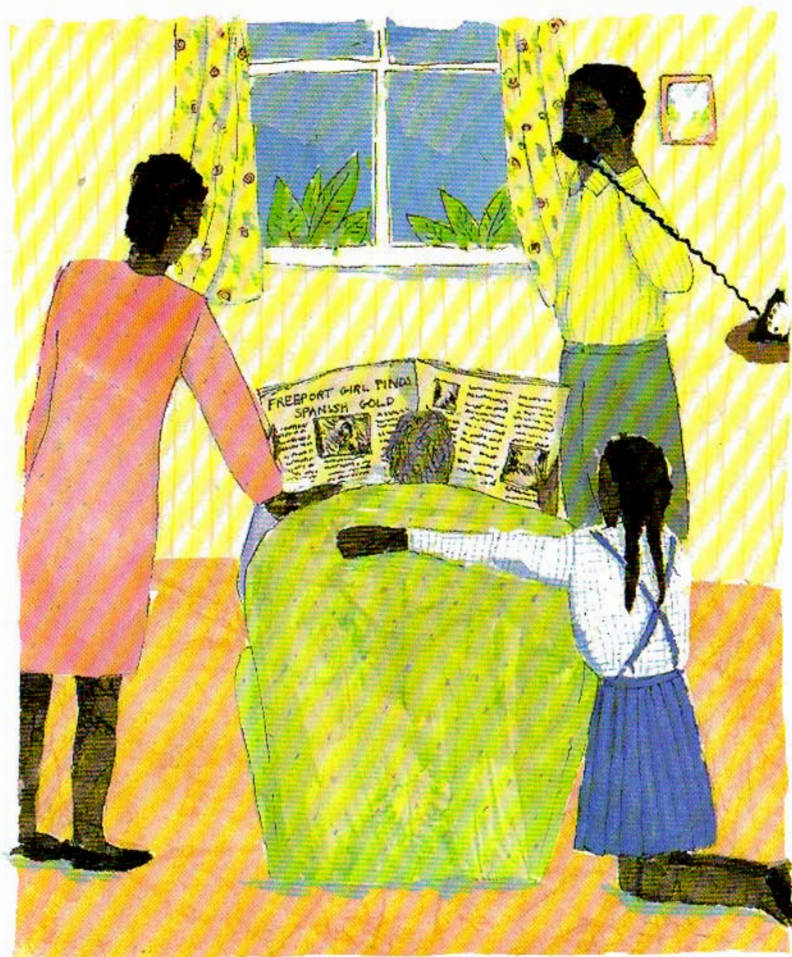
Then, two minutes later she stands up. "Stop! Grandad, stop the boat!!" She can see a dolphin beside them in the water. It is Ben and he has got something in his mouth. "What's he got there?" Grandad asks. Maisie says, "I can't see. It's not very big. Is it an old key?"



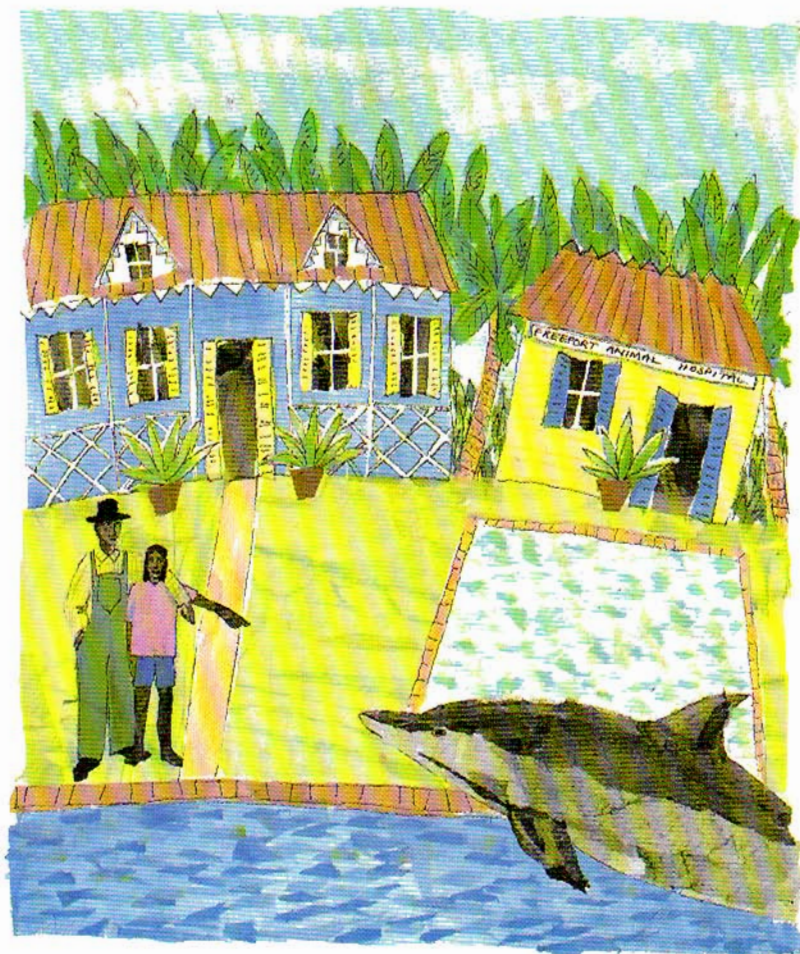
Grandad stops the *Warm Wind*. Now Ben is jumping out of the water. “Why’s he doing that?” Grandad asks. Maisie says, “I think he wants me to follow him. Please – *can* I?” The old man looks at her. “You two and your games,” he says. “OK – but only for five minutes.” “Oh Grandad – thank you!” says Maisie. Five minutes later she jumps over the side of the *Warm Wind*.



Under the water Maisie sees a piece of wood with the letters “M..N...A” on it. “I remember this!” she thinks. But Ben does not stop there. He swims between two big stones. Then they come to a box. It has the word “MONTTOYA” on the top. Maisie takes the key from Ben’s mouth and opens the box. There are lots of gold coins in it. Thousands of them!!



The next morning Maisie's name is in the newspaper. The story says "FREEPORT GIRL FINDS SPANISH GOLD". Mr King telephones Carl Flint in New York. "Ah, hello," says Carl Flint. "Do you have an answer for me?" "Yes, I do," says Maisie's father, "...and it's 'no'. We don't want to sell the house or the hospital. Goodbye, Mr Flint."



With the money from the Montoya coins, Maisie's mother and father build a new hospital. They are very happy. Maisie is happy, too. "Oh Grandad," she says one evening in the garden, "now we can *always* live here because of..." At that moment Ben jumps out of the sea. "...*BEN!!*" The old man and the girl laugh. Then the sun goes down and they walk back to the house.

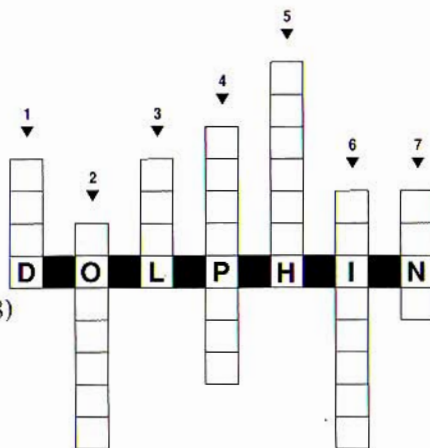
Questions

- 1 Where do Maisie's parents work? (page 1)
- 2 What do she and her grandfather often do on Saturdays? (page 2)
- 3 Why does Carl Flint want to buy the hospital? (page 5)
- 4 Why doesn't Maisie want Ben to leave the Animal Hospital? (page 9)
- 5 Why does she tell her grandfather to stop the boat? (page 11)
- 6 What does she find under the water? (page 13)
- 7 When John King phones Carl Flint, what does he say? (page 14)
- 8 What do Maisie's parents do with the Montoya coins? (page 15)

Puzzle

Clues

- 1 The Warm (4)
- 2 Maisie finds this old ship (7)
- 3 Flint (4)
- 4 The Animal Hospital (8)
- 5 "FREEPORT GIRL FINDS GOLD" (7)
- 6 Maisie likes pop music, reading and (8)
- 7 Maisie (4)



Ideas

- 1 Write a letter to Maisie. Tell her about your school, family, home and pets. Ask lots of questions about *her* life, too.
- 2 Write and draw a short cartoon story. Use lots of the words in *Maisie and the Dolphin*. Call it *The Story of the Montoya*.

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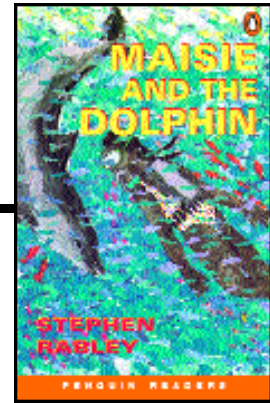
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Penguin Readers Factsheets

Teacher's Notes

Maisie and the Dolphin

by Stephen Rabley



Easystarts Maisie and the Dolphin

About Easystarts

Easystarts are Penguin Readers written to the lowest level in the Penguin Readers series. They are specially written originals, using 200 headwords and the simplest grammatical structures.

There are more than twenty titles to choose from across a range of styles and subject matter. All titles are in full colour, with carefully selected photos and/or artwork which helps to guide early learners of English. There is one page of activities at the back of each book.

Penguin Readers Easystarts provide pleasurable reading for all tastes at an appropriate level of difficulty.

Summary

Maisie and the Dolphin is a fictional story about a young girl who lives with her family. They run an animal hospital in the Bahamas. At the beginning of the story Maisie and her grandfather are in a boat. Maisie is snorkelling and sees something that looks like a box on the seabed. She goes to tell her grandfather but at that moment a dolphin is hit by a big boat. The boat driver sees nothing and speeds away.

Maisie and her grandfather take the dolphin back to the hospital. The person who hit the dolphin is asking Maisie's father if he would like to sell their home and the hospital. He wants to build a big hotel on the land. Maisie is very upset about this. When Ben (the dolphin) gets better she feels she is losing her home *and* Ben.

She goes with her grandfather to take Ben back out to sea. Ben swims away but soon swims back. He has a key in his mouth and he wants Maisie to follow him. Ben takes her to the box that Maisie saw at the beginning of the story. The key opens the box and inside the box are many gold coins. Maisie's story is in the local newspaper and her family don't have to sell their home. They build a new hospital and stay there to live happily.

Background and themes

Human and animal friendships: Maisie and Ben can communicate with each other. Do you think humans and animals can understand each other? Why is this important?

The important things in life: Maisie's family almost lose their home and living. They are tempted because they are offered a lot of money. What do you think about this? Is it worth selling the place which contains many happy memories? What would you do?

Greed/Selfishness: The man in the boat is not aware of things that cause pain to others. He seems to only notice things that can benefit him. He doesn't notice the dolphin and sees instead Maisie's home (money). What do you think of this person?

Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the Reader.

BEFORE YOU READ

- 1 Students look at the front cover of the book. Ask them the following questions:
What do you know about dolphins? Where do they live (in what parts of the world)?
What sport is the girl on the cover doing? What do you know about it?
- 2 Look at the picture on page 1. Maisie is the girl reading a book. What can you say about Maisie's life from looking at this picture?

AFTER YOU READ

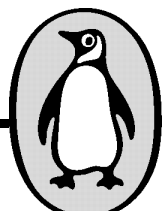
Show students the following pictures and ask questions:

- Page 5 - how are Maisie and her father feeling?
- Page 12 - how is Maisie's grandfather feeling?
- Page 14 - who is Mr King speaking to? What is he saying?
- Page 15 - why is Maisie's home different?

Extra words

There are some extra words, in addition to the 200 headwords, used in *Maisie and the Dolphin*. They are:

beside between box bucket coin dolphin fish follow
forget gold grandfather/grandad hospital jump key
laugh line lose minute moment moon over piece
pool pop (music) rope sad sell side speak stones
thick thousands wood word



Penguin Readers Factsheets

Student's activities

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

- 1 Work in pairs. Look at the cover of the book. Make your own 'Maisie and the Dolphin' story. Who is Maisie? What happens in the story?

ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK

Pages 1–3

- 1 Write the correct word in the sentences below:
wood dolphin piece hospital fish pop
(a) In hot countries you can see many beautiful _____ in the sea.
(b) _____ comes from trees.
(c) Maisie likes _____ music, swimming and reading.
(d) A _____ is a gray animal with a long nose. It lives in the sea.
(e) My grandfather is very ill. He is in _____.
(f) Can I have a _____ of cake?
- 2 Answer the questions:
(a) What job do Maisie's mother and father do?
(b) What is the name of Maisie's grandfather's boat?
(c) When do Maisie and her grandfather go out in his boat?
(d) What does Maisie see when she is swimming underwater?
(e) When Maisie tells her grandfather about the wood, why is he not listening?
(f) What do Maisie and her grandfather see?

Pages 4–7

- 1 Write the correct word in the sentences below:
moment bucket sad moon pool line
(a) I don't like swimming in the sea. I like swimming in _____.
(b) A _____ is a very short piece of time.
(c) At night you can see the _____ in the sky.
(d) Maisie's mother puts the fish in a red _____.
(e) There is a long _____ of people by the bus stop.
(f) I am not happy. I am very _____.
- 2 Answer the questions:
(a) Maisie and her grandfather take the dolphin back to the hospital. What do they see?
(b) Why does Carl Flint want to buy the King family home?
(c) How long can Mr King think about his answer?
(d) What name does Maisie give the dolphin?
(e) Why is Maisie's mother unhappy?

Pages 8–11

- 1 Write the correct word in the sentences below:
rope lose speak forget thick minute beside key

- (a) The time is 10:00. Two _____s later it is 10:02.
- (b) Maisie is sad. 'Please don't _____ me', she says.
- (c) Maisie sees the dolphin _____ the boat.
- (d) I cannot _____ my house _____.
- (e) Maisie cuts two _____s and Ben swims away.
- (f) _____ quietly! My grandfather doesn't like noise.

- 2 Are the sentences right or wrong?:
(a) Maisie plays games and swims with Ben on Saturdays.
(b) Ben is well again. It is time for him to go home.
(c) Grandad and grandfather are the same.
(d) Maisie cuts the ropes and Ben swims away.
(e) Maisie can see the dolphin in front of the boat.
(f) Ben has a very big key in his mouth.

Pages 12–15

- 1 Put the sentences from the two lists together:
(a) Maisie jumps over
(b) Maisie follows Ben
(c) Under the water, she sees a piece of wood.
(d) Ben swims between two stones
(e) Maisie opens the box with the key.
(f) The box has the word 'MONTROYA'
(i) It is a box.
(ii) to the box.
(iii) on the top.
(iv) She sees thousands of gold coins.
(v) the side of the boat.
(vi) under the water.
- 2 Answer the questions:
(a) What is Ben doing when Maisie's grandad stops the boat?
(b) What does Maisie think when she see the piece of wood?
(c) What does the story in the newspaper say?
(d) Does Maisie's father want to sell the house and the hospital?
(e) What do Mr and Mrs King do with the money from the coins?
(f) Ben jumps out of the water. What do Maisie and her grandad do?

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

- 1 Work in pairs. Student A: you are Maisie. Your father wants to sell your home to Carl Flint. What do you say? Student B: You are Mr King. Why do you want to sell the house? Talk to Maisie about it.
- 2 You find a box under the sea. The box has lots of gold coins in it. Thousands of them. What do you do?

