Penguin Readers Factsheets

Teacher’s Notes

Maisie and the Dolphin
by Stephen Rabley

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.

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 moon over piece pool pop (music) rope sad sell side speak stones thick thousands wood word
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 ______ s.
(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.

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?