

*Founding Editor:* John Milne

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

#### Level control

Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

#### The number of words at each level:

Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

#### Vocabulary

Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...<sup>3</sup>. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

SARAH AXTEN

## Blue Fins



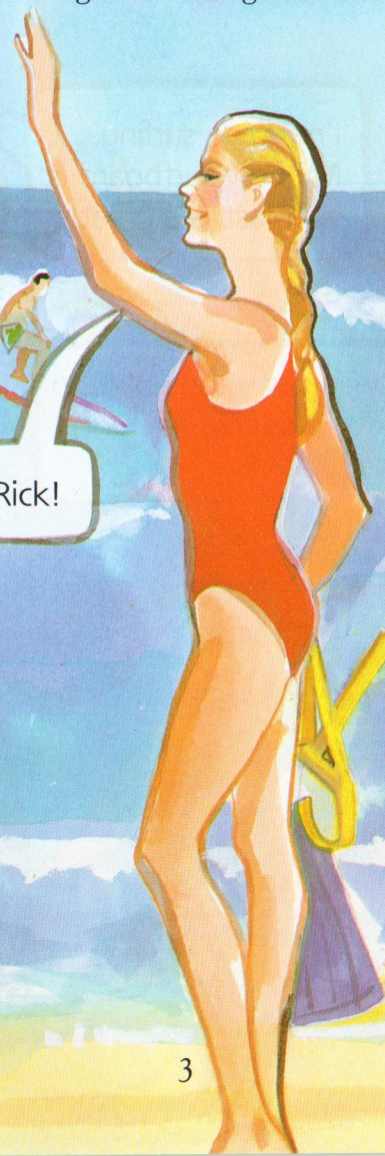
It's hot. The sun is shining. The sky is blue.  
The hot sun is shining in the blue sky.

Jen lives in Australia. Jen and her friends  
are not at college today. It is the weekend.


Jen is on the beach.  
She's standing on the hot sand.  
She's waving to her boyfriend, Rick.  
Rick and Jen's friends are in the sea.  
They are swimming and surfing.



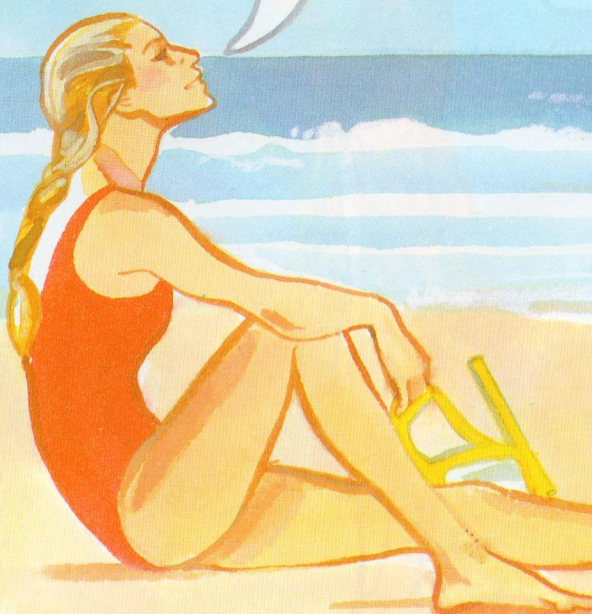
Hi, Rick!



Rick is very happy. He has a new surfboard.  
The surfboard is red and white.  
Rick's favourite sport is surfing.

A young man with dark hair, wearing yellow patterned shorts, stands on a sandy beach. He is holding a large surfboard that is red on the top half and white on the bottom half. He has a happy expression.

I'm going surfing.  
My new surfboard is  
very fast. It's great!


A young woman with blonde hair in a braid, wearing a red one-piece swimsuit, sits on the sand. She is looking up at Rick. She has yellow snorkel fins on her feet.

I'm going swimming. I'm going to  
look at the fish underwater.  
See you later!

Jen walks along the beach. She sits on some rocks.  
Jen puts her blue rubber fins on her feet.  
She puts the yellow mask and snorkel on her face.

The water is warm. Her blue fins splash loudly.





Jen takes a big breath. She dives under the water. She moves her blue fins and swims very quickly. She goes down and down.

She can see fish and plants. She can see fish and plants through her yellow mask. The fish and plants are very beautiful.

The fish swim all round her. Jen can see yellow fish. She can see blue fish. There are green, red and white fish.

Jen looks at the plants. They grow on the rocks. There are tall plants. There are small plants.

Jen touches the plants. Some plants are soft. Some plants are hard. Fish live in the plants and rocks.

Jen sees a sea-urchin. She doesn't touch the sea-urchin. It's dangerous. It has sharp spines.

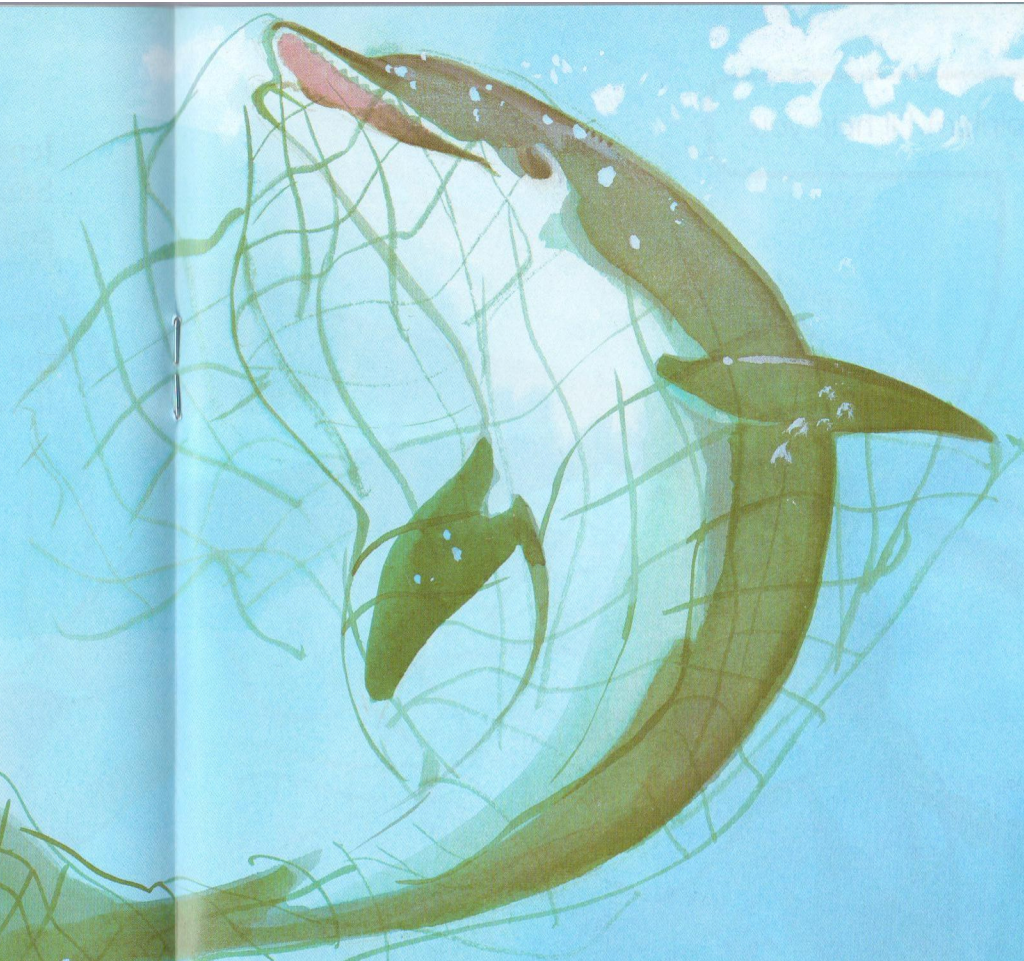


Jen swims up to get air. Her snorkel comes out of the water. Jen takes a big breath. She dives down under the water again.

Jen swims past a large rock. Suddenly she stops. She sees a dolphin. It cannot swim. The dolphin is in a net.



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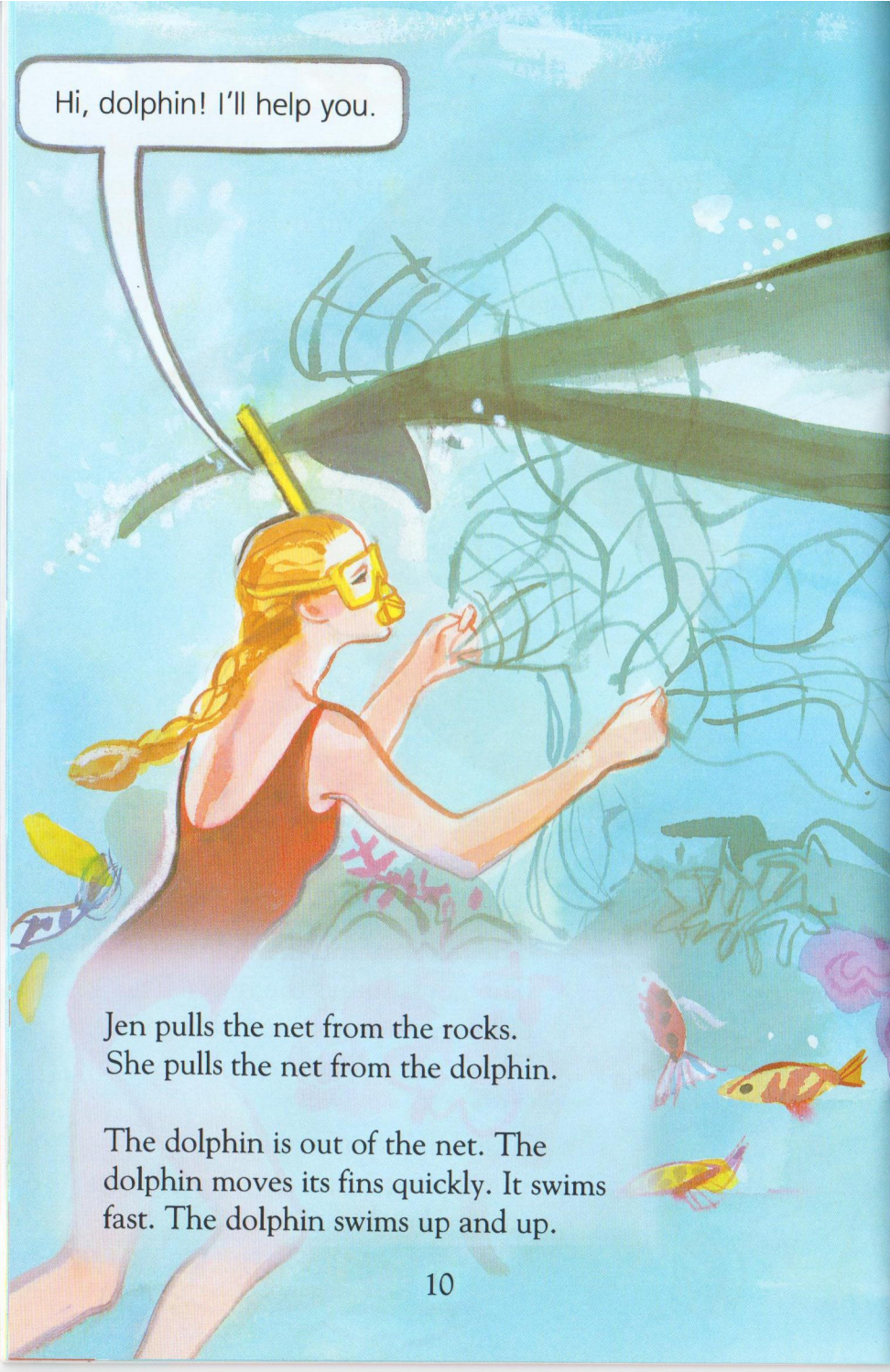


The net is round the dolphin's body. The net is round the rocks. The dolphin cannot swim up to get air. The beautiful, blue dolphin is dying.

The dolphin moves its fins slowly. But the net is strong. The dolphin cannot break the net.

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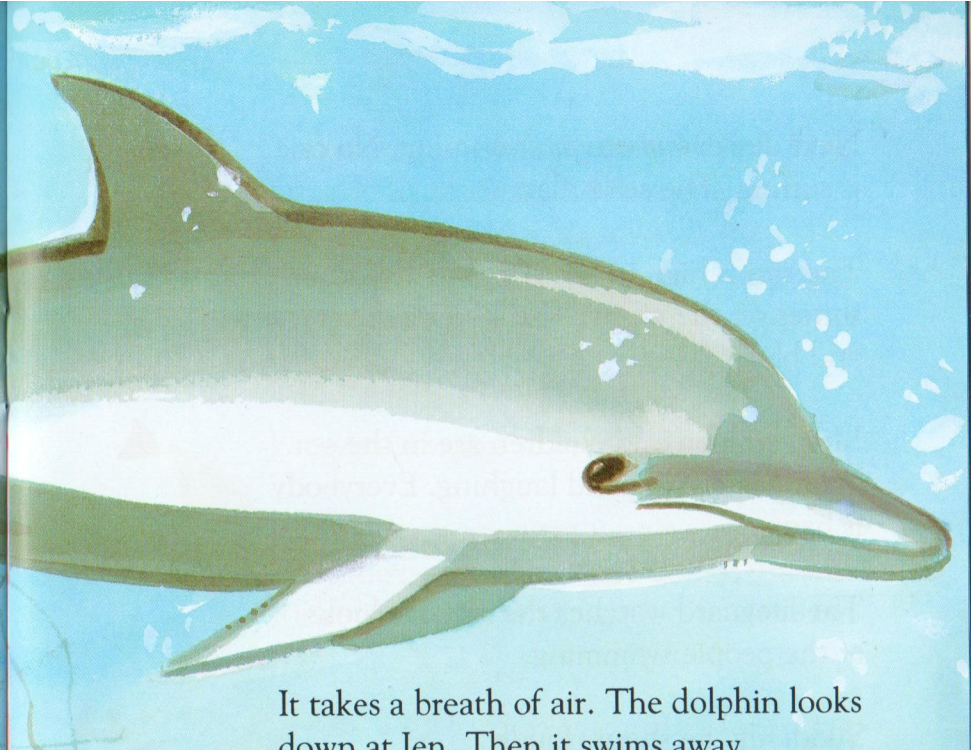




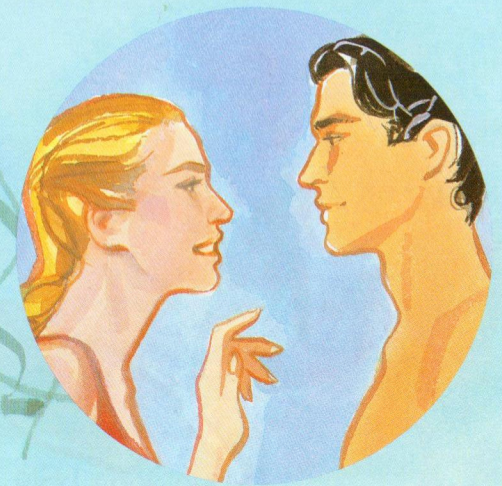
Hi, dolphin! I'll help you.

Jen pulls the net from the rocks.  
She pulls the net from the dolphin.

The dolphin is out of the net. The  
dolphin moves its fins quickly. It swims  
fast. The dolphin swims up and up.



It takes a breath of air. The dolphin looks  
down at Jen. Then it swims away.



Jen is happy. She tells Rick about  
the dolphin.

Next day everybody is swimming. No one is surfing. The sea is flat.

The sun is high in the sky. The hot sun shines on the water. The water is silver and blue.

Men, women and children are in the sea. They are playing and laughing. Everybody is happy.

The lifeguard watches the sea. He looks at the people swimming.

Suddenly, he shouts loudly.



Shark! Quick! Get out of the water!

The shark is swimming quickly. It is hungry. Its black fin is above the water. The shark is swimming towards the people. Everybody is frightened. Sharks are dangerous. They have long, sharp teeth.

Everybody swims towards the beach.

Jen and Rick are swimming a long way from the beach. The shark comes towards Rick. Jen is very frightened. She shouts at Rick.



Rick! Look out!

Rick sees the shark's black fin above the water. The shark is thirty metres away.

Jen and Rick swim towards the beach. Now the shark is fifteen metres away. Jen can see the shark's sharp, white teeth.

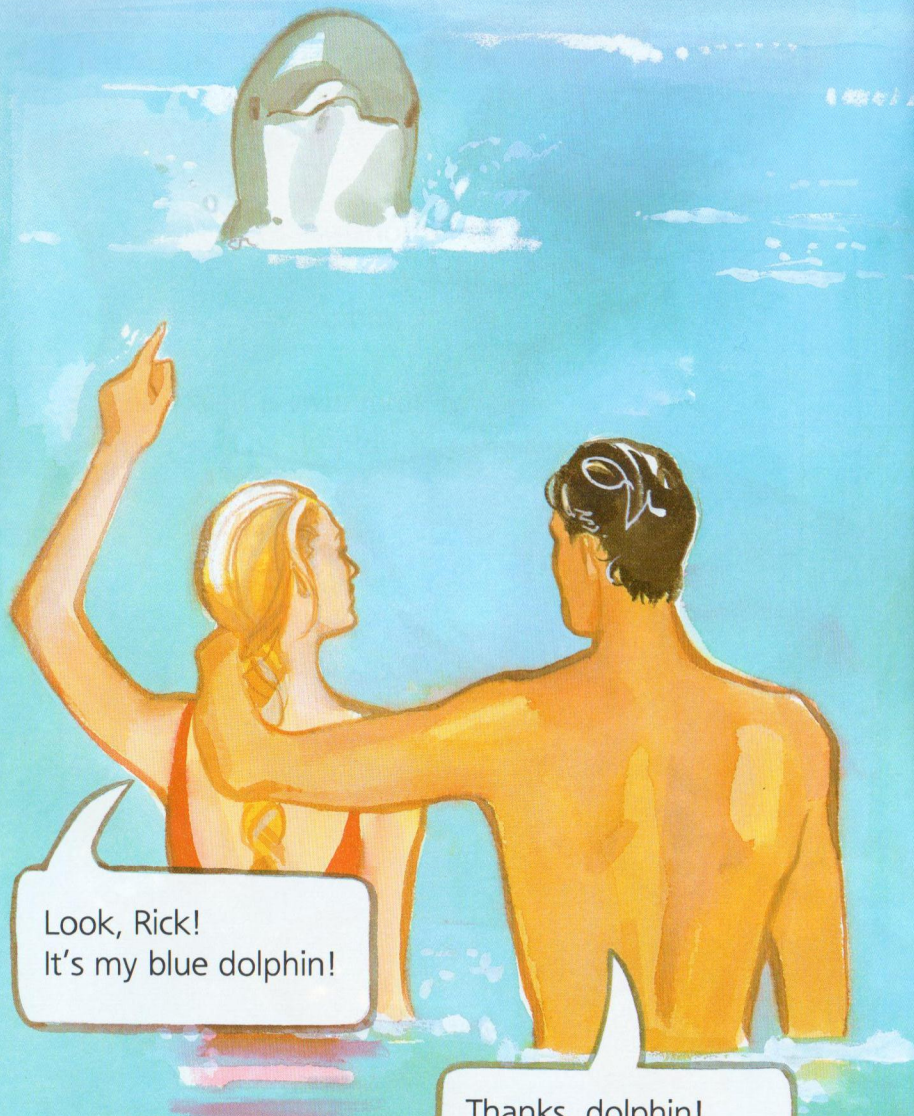
Suddenly, they see another fin in the water. A blue fin. It is a dolphin! It is the beautiful, blue dolphin.

The dolphin is swimming towards the shark. The dolphin hits the shark.





The dolphin hits the shark again and again.  
The shark swims away. Rick and Jen are safe.



Look, Rick!  
It's my blue dolphin!

Thanks, dolphin!  
Thanks for saving us!



Printed in Thailand

2011 2010 2009 2008 2007  
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