

# THE DOLPHIN MYSTERY – 1

## Read the mystery.

‘This is the worst holiday I’ve ever been on’, Hamish sighed, kicking at the sand.

Ingrid nodded. ‘It was nice of Uncle Ray to let us stay at his beach house. But I can’t stop thinking about Dad being out of work. There’s not going to be much money around for a while.’ She bit her lip and felt for her dolphin necklace. She had bought it at the fair that morning with her last bit of pocket money, from a gypsy woman with black, liquid eyes. It wasn’t the sort of jewellery Ingrid normally liked, but somehow the woman had made her feel that she just had to own it.

‘Look at that!’

Ingrid glanced up and saw Hamish pointing out to sea. There was a dolphin, swimming straight towards them. Ingrid scrambled to her feet and waded into the water. To her surprise, the dolphin glided up to her, its head bumping against her legs. Its skin was shimmering in the sun so brightly that Ingrid shut her eyes. Then she heard Hamish gasp and she opened them again. Her heart skipped a beat. The dolphin had vanished and in its place was a woman, with grey silky clothes and long tangled hair.

Ingrid shivered. ‘Who ... who are you?’

The woman uttered soft squeaks and clicks. Her gaze was fixed on something behind Ingrid.

‘Do you w-want to go up there?’ asked Ingrid. Her mouth was dry.

The woman nodded and looked down at the water. Ingrid could see that she didn’t have legs or feet—she had the tail of a dolphin.

‘We have to help her’, said Ingrid. She prodded her brother, who seemed to be frozen to the spot. ‘Come on, Hamish.’

Ingrid put her arm around the woman’s waist and waited for Hamish to do the same. She steeled her muscles for a heavy weight, but the woman was surprisingly light. Ingrid and Hamish dragged her over the seaweed and up the deserted beach. Suddenly, she began to squeak excitedly, pointing at the sand.

‘I don’t understand’, said Ingrid. She looked into the woman’s black, liquid eyes.

‘She wants us to dig’, said Hamish. ‘Don’t you?’

The woman nodded. She wriggled and Hamish and Ingrid set her gently on the ground. Hamish crouched down and scrabbled in the sand but Ingrid stared at the woman. Who was she? What did she want? Ingrid knew she ought to feel scared, but instead she was filled with a sense of calm.

‘There’s something here!’ Hamish said. He reached into the hole he’d made and pulled up a leather sack. Ingrid held her breath as her brother untied the silk cord. Her mouth fell open. The sack was full of gold coins.

‘We’re rich!’ yelled Hamish.



He scooped up some of the coins and threw them into the air, whooping for joy. Then he stared past Ingrid. ‘She’s gone’, he said.

Ingrid whipped her head around and then jumped to her feet, scanning the sea. A dolphin was leaping in the air, far in the distance. Ingrid felt for her necklace and swallowed. What had happened? She had to go back to the fair to find out.

# THE DOLPHIN MYSTERY – 2

Use the text to answer the questions.

## 1 Literal

- (a) What had happened to Ingrid and Hamish's dad?

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- (b) Complete these sentences.

- (i) *Ingrid shut her eyes because* \_\_\_\_\_

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- (ii) *Hamish* \_\_\_\_\_

*in the sand and found* \_\_\_\_\_

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- (iii) *The woman was wearing* \_\_\_\_\_

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*and had* \_\_\_\_\_

*instead of legs and feet.*

## 2 Deductive

- (a) List words to describe how Ingrid felt when:

- (i) *she first saw the woman in the water.*

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- (ii) *she saw the dolphin leaping in the air.*

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- (b) Why do you think Hamish was 'frozen to the spot'?

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## 3 Evaluative

If you were Ingrid, what would you have done with the dolphin necklace until you got back to the fair?

☐

kept wearing it

☐

thrown it away

☐

put it in your pocket

☐

other \_\_\_\_\_

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Write reasons for your answer.

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# THE DOLPHIN MYSTERY – 3

Use the text on page 23 to help you complete this activity.

- 1 Imagine you are Ingrid. Complete a diary entry that summarises the events of the day described in the story. Use the facts that are given as well as your own ideas.

Dear Diary

This morning, I went to the fair ... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This afternoon, Hamish and I went to the beach ... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2 Ingrid has decided to go back to the fair to talk to the gypsy woman. Write six questions you think she should ask to help her solve the mystery.


- 3 Circle one of the questions. Answer it as if you were the gypsy woman. You can be as mysterious as you like.
- .....
- .....
- .....