Maisie and the Dolphin

Stephen Rabley

Summary

Maisie and the Dolphin is a fictional story about a girl who lives with her family. They run an animal hospital which is not doing well and Mary's father is thinking of selling it. Mary saves a dolphin and the dolphin takes her to a big treasure. They use the treasure to save their house and the hospital.

Pages 1–7: 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 to their hospital. The person who hit the dolphin asks Maisie's father if he would like to sell their home and the hospital. He wants to build a big hotel on the land which upsets Maisie. When Ben, the dolphin, gets better she feels she is losing her home *and* Ben.

Pages 8–15: Maisie and her grandfather 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 to the box from the beginning of the story. The key opens the box and inside the box there are many gold coins. Maisie's story is in the local newspaper and her family don't need to sell their home.

Background and themes

Human and animal friendship: Can humans and animals understand each other? Is this important?

The important things in life: Are memories more important than money?

Greed/Selfishness: The man in the boat only notices things that can benefit him.

Discussion activities

Pages 1–7

Before reading

1 **Predict:** Ask students to look at the cover and the title.
What can you see? What's the girl's name? How old is she? Where is she? Is the dolphin her friend? Is this a happy story?
Have students take down notes of their predictions so that they can go back to them once they finish reading.

2 **Research: Dolphins**
Have students look up information to answer these two questions: *Do dolphins live in cold or hot water? Do they live in the sea or in rivers?*

While reading

3 **Guess**
Have students look at the picture on page 1 and answer the following questions:
Who can you see? What does the man do? What about the woman? What about the girl? Is she the woman's daughter? What is she doing?

4 **Read carefully**
Ask students to look up information about Maisie and start a web diagram. As students go on reading, they add more words and phrases to the web.

5 **Guess**
Ask students to stop at page 3 and think of possible words for M N A.

Pages 8–15

Before reading

6 **Predict:** Get students to look at the picture on page 9 and answer these questions:
Who can you see? How's Maisie feeling? What about her grandfather?
Have students take down notes of their predictions.

After reading

7 **Check:** Have students go back to their predictions in activity 1. Were they right?

8 **Write:** Ask students to make a list of important words in the story and then write the story in no more than 100 words.

9 **The end**
Have students change the ending. What changes do they need to make?

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