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.

Maisie 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.

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 moon over piece pool pop (music) rope sad sell sell side speak stones thick thousands wood word
ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK


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?
   (f) Ben has a very big key in his mouth.

Pages 8–11

1. Write the correct word in the sentences below:
   - rope
   - lose
   - speak
   - forget
   - thick
   - minute
   - beside
   (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?
Maisie and the dolphin. Upcoming SlideShare. Loading in 5 minutes.

Maisie And The Dolphin book. Read 6 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Original / British English Maisie King lives in the Bahamas. ... Her mother and father work at an Animal Hospital. Maisie has a new friend. His name is Ben and he's a dolphin. Ben is very ill. Maisie helps him. Maisie lives in the Caribbean. She is sad because her parents haven't got enough money to keep their animal hospital going, but her friendship with a dolphin leads to a discovery which changes everything. "Penguin Readers" is a series of simplified novels, film novelizations and original titles that introduce students at all levels to the pleasures of reading in English. Originally designed for teaching English as a foreign language, the series' combination of high interest level and low reading age makes it suitable for both English-speaking teenagers with limited reading skills. @inproceedings{Rabley1998MaisieAT, title={Maisie and the Dolphin}, author={Stephen Rabley}, year={1998} }. 