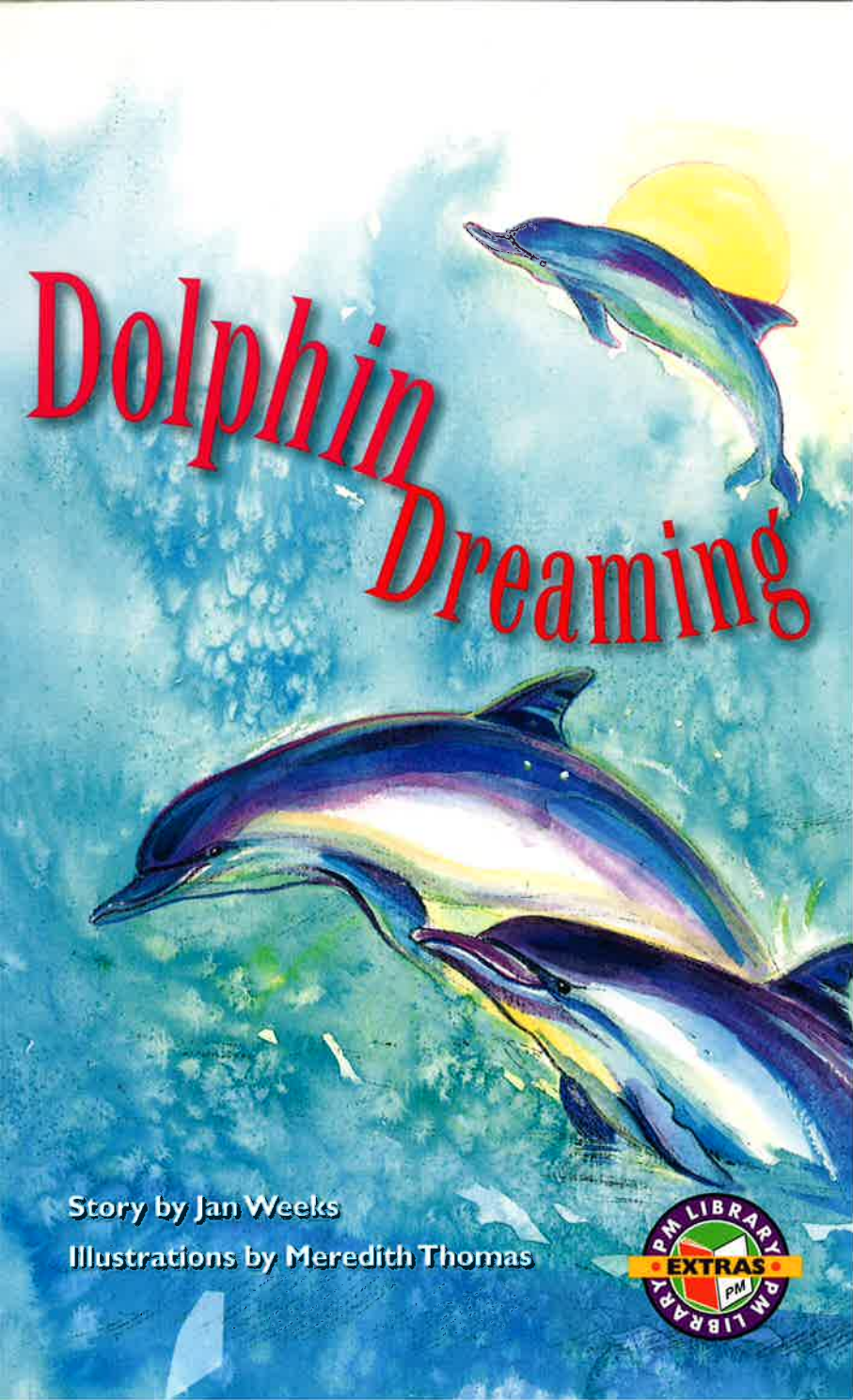

Dolphin Dreaming
Story by Jan Weeks
Illustrations by Meredith Thomas
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Dolphin Dreaming

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Key vocabulary

dreading, absorbed, imaginations, pretending, bay, solution, platform, outcrop, ledge, dangerous, sheer, moss, statue, dolphin, aerobics, mustered

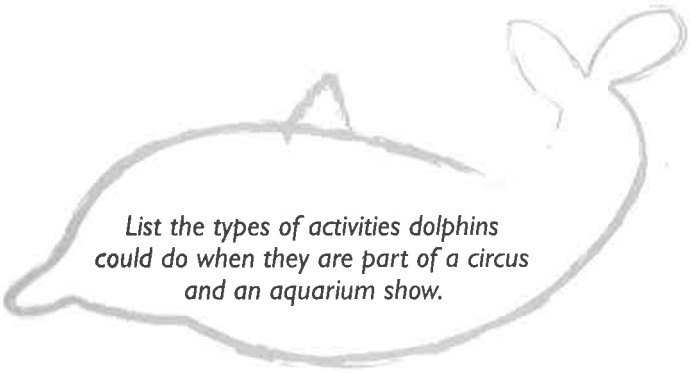
Grammatical conventions

- Adjectives: sparkling, swirling, jagged
- Adverbs: gingerly
- Action verbs: stirred, scampered, tossing

Spelling

- Contractions: didn't, don't, we're, we'll
- Word origins: acrobatics
- Doubling the consonant after a short vowel before adding 'ing': swimming, sitting, whipping, getting
- 'Ph' (f) sound in 'dolphin'

Creative thinking task – Knowledge



List the types of activities dolphins could do when they are part of a circus and an aquarium show.

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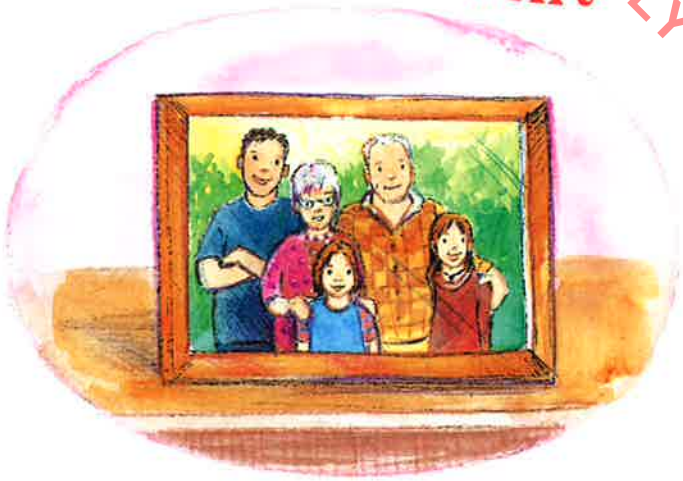
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CHAPTER 1

Mermaid Point



When Dad had to go overseas, he asked my grandparents if Jess and I could stay with them. Mum died when I was a baby and Dad's job takes him away a lot. We spend lots of time with Grandma and Grandpa Ellis. Dad often asks them to look after us. It's an easy solution to the 'what to do with the girls' problem.

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Not that we're ever any trouble. We love staying with our grandparents and they like having us. Mum had been their only child, and we're the only family they have left.



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This time our stay was going to be different. Grandma and Grandpa Ellis had decided to rent a house for the summer in a little village down the south coast. It was called Mermaid Point. Jess and I had never been there but even its name stirred our imaginations. Our heads were filled with pictures of white sand, sparkling blue water and ships passing by, far out to sea.



"It's going to be so much fun, Tegan," Jess said as she hugged me. "We'll be able to go swimming every day. And we'll get to ride the bodyboards Dad bought us as a going away present. Won't that be fantastic?"

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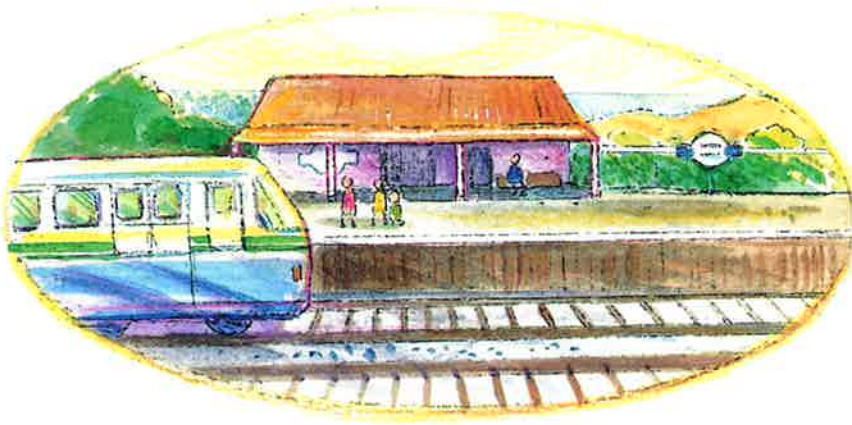


"Great," I answered, not sure I was feeling quite so confident. Jess is two years older than me and she isn't afraid of anything. Jess was born deaf and needs to wear a hearing aid. I was doing my best to be brave like her, but it wasn't easy pretending to be brave when I knew I wasn't. Just about everything scared me.

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There was a railway station in a town not far from Mermaid Point. Grandma and Grandpa Ellis had arranged to meet us there. They had come down the week before. It was the first time Jess and I had travelled such a long way by train and we loved it. It made us feel grown up to know that Dad trusted us enough to let us make the trip by ourselves.

As we drew near the station, I began to wonder if it had been such a good idea. "What are we going to do if they are not there to meet us, Jess?" I asked. "What will we do then?"



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"You have to stop worrying about everything, Tegan," Jess answered. "They'll be there."

And Jess was right. As the train pulled in, I could see Grandma and Grandpa Ellis standing on the platform, waving to us.

"I told you there was no need to worry," Jess said.

