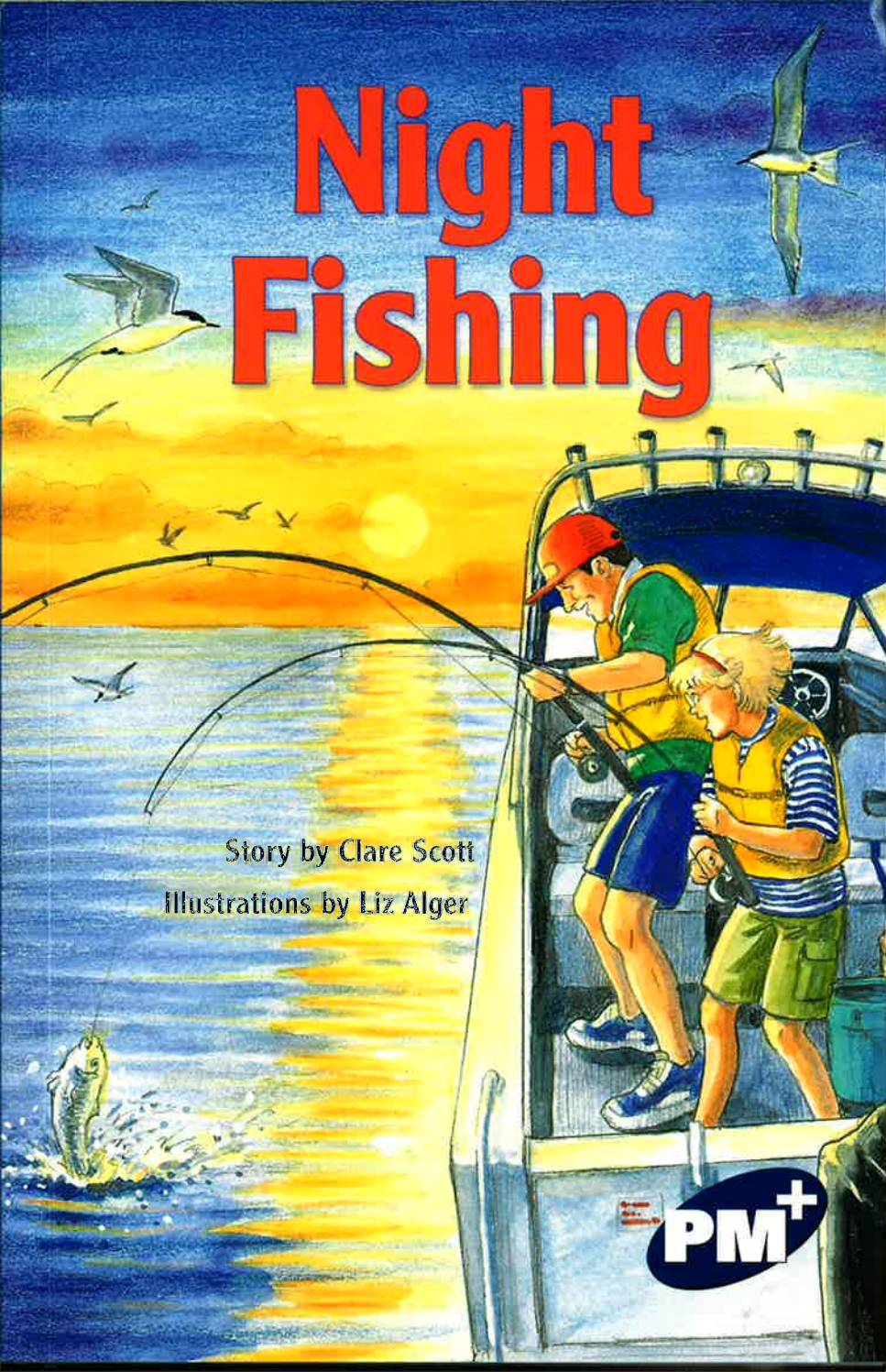

Night Fishing
Story by Clare Scott
Illustrations by Liz Alger
PM+

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For teachers' inspection ONLY

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Chapter 1

Markita Leaves Harbour

"Is that everything, Nat?" Dad called as he stowed the fishing rods in the bow of their sturdy cabin boat, *Markita*. Nat and her father were preparing for a night's fishing.

"I think so," she answered. "Life jackets, spare clothes, towels, sleeping bags, bait, torch and, best of all, lots of food and drink!"

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Nat and her father often went out together on the boat, sometimes with friends, sometimes just the two of them, but they were always very careful.

"Always respect the sea," Dad would say. "It makes a great master but a terrible servant!" He would never go out without first checking the tides and weather forecast or testing the motor.

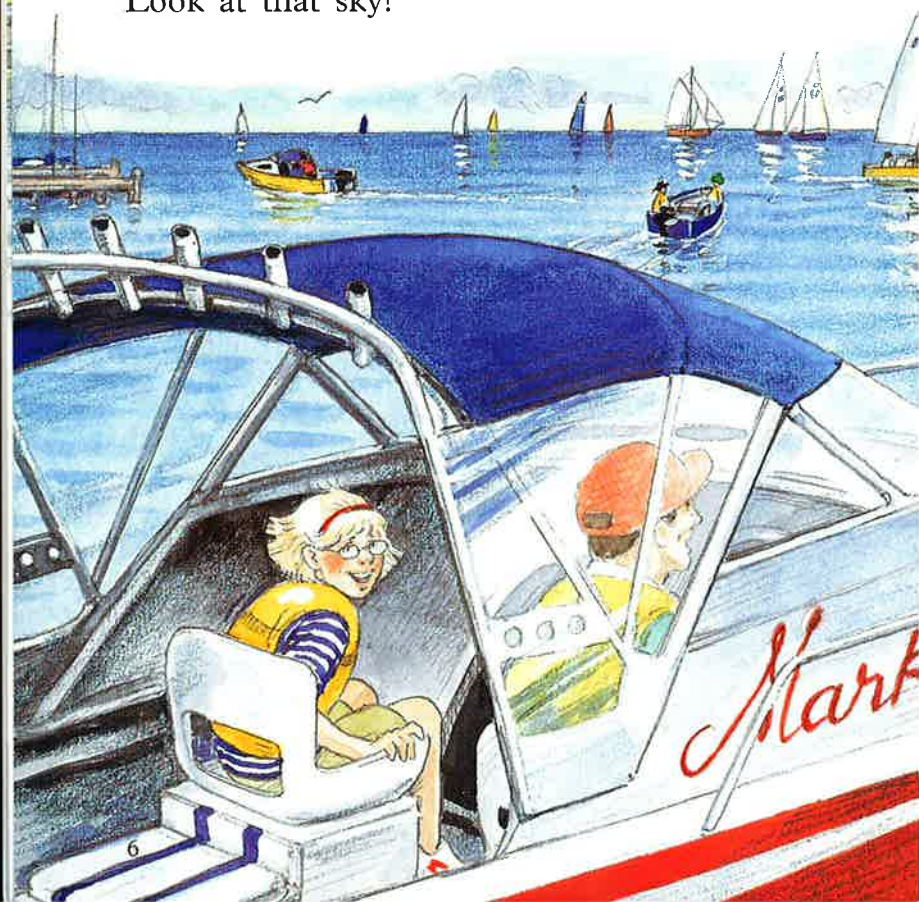
"Right! Flares, anchor, radio, full tank of petrol, oars, charts and bailer – all present and correct, Captain!" said Dad, pretending to salute. "I think that's it then. We're off to feed the fishes!"



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The sea was glassy calm as they eased Markita away from the mooring. The sun was still burning hot despite it being early evening. Sparkles danced on the rippling water, the sky was a vivid blue with scatterings of fluffy clouds.

"Perfect!" said Dad with a satisfied grin. "This will be a great night. Look at that sea! Look at that sky!"

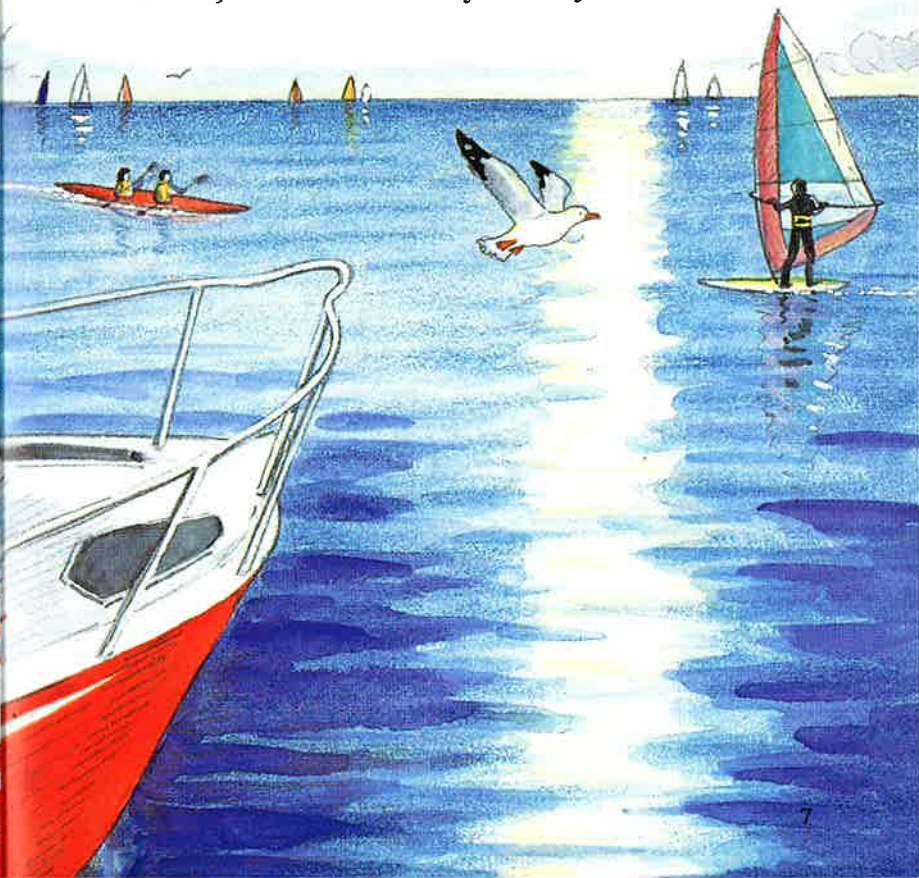


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"Look at those boats!" said Nat, amazed. The ocean was alive with every variety of motor or sail boat, with large and small launches and yachts. They passed several kayaks and jet-skis on their way out of the marina.

"Life jacket on?" asked Dad. "Ready for action?"

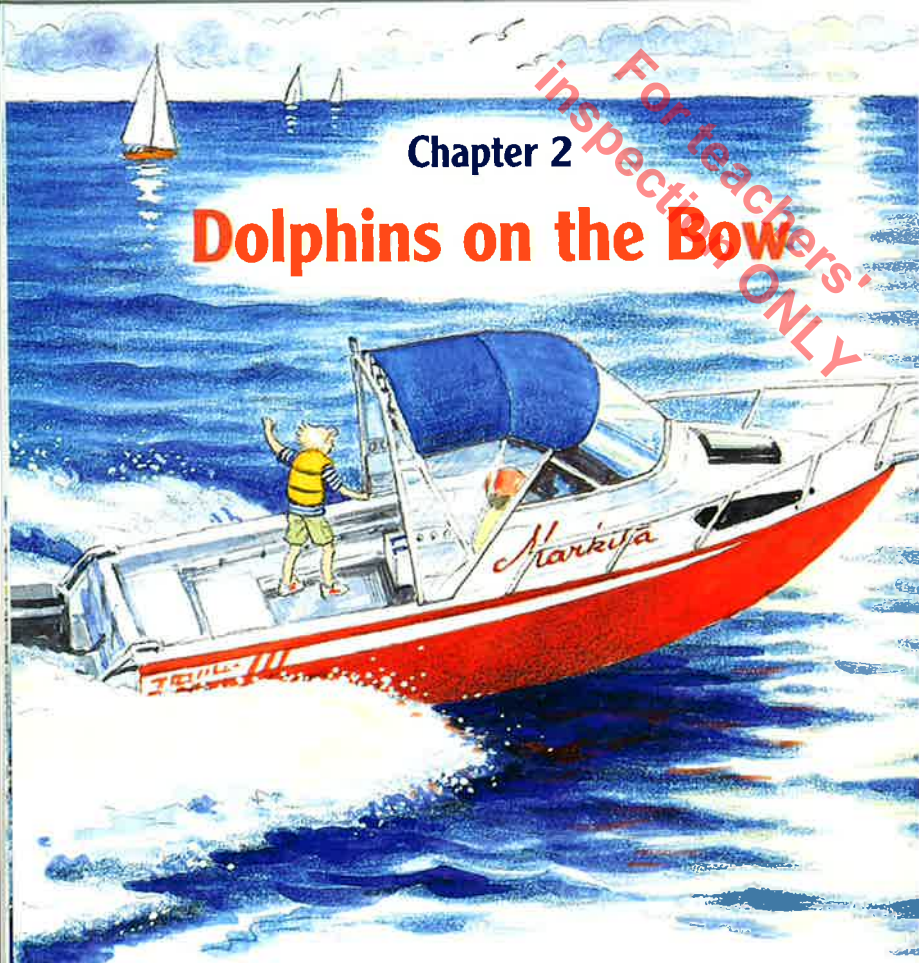
Nat smiled, gripping the seat tightly. "You know me, Dad. I'm always ready for action!"



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Chapter 2

Dolphins on the Bow



Dad gradually increased the throttle and the big outboard burst into life. The bow of the boat rose as it skipped over the waves, churning a frothy white trail.

"Yeehaa!" yelled Nat, grinning from ear-to-ear. She loved the feeling of the tugging sea-breeze and the salty spray on her face.