

Help Our Baby!

The crystal water was clear and blue. Caitlyn kicked slowly and the big rubber fins on her feet pushed her gently forward. She took in a deep breath of air from her scuba tank. She smiled as she watched millions of bubbles float upward when she let her breath go.

Caitlyn loved to dive. Her parents had let her take lessons last year. This year was her first trip to the ocean. She had been so excited! For three days, her family explored the coral reef. Caitlyn had already seen many beautiful things. Yesterday she saw a school of colorful parrotfish. She liked the delicate pink of the coral. There was no telling what she might see today.

Caitlyn waved at her parents, who were swimming nearby. They raised their hands, giving the OK sign. Then Dad put up both hands with fingers outstretched. Ten minutes more, Caitlyn thought. She nodded.

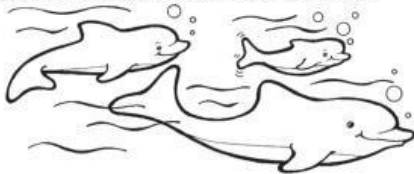
At that moment, Caitlyn saw a dark shadow pass over her in the water. She froze. Shark! she thought. She floated very still. More shadows approached. Caitlyn felt her heart pound. Then one shape swam right past her. They were dolphins! Caitlyn was so relieved that she let out her breath with a whoosh.

There were three dolphins. One was a baby. The two adult dolphins swam on either side of the baby. Caitlyn smiled. Then she noticed that the baby was bleeding. Caitlyn looked closely. A huge fishhook was stuck in the baby dolphin's side.

Slowly the two adult dolphins nosed the baby toward Caitlyn. "What do they want?" she thought. Then she understood. They want me to help their baby!

Carefully, Caitlyn took the hook out of the baby's side. She pressed her hand against the wound to stop the bleeding. Soon the baby wiggled out of her hands and swam back to its parents. The two adult dolphins looked at the place where the hook had been. Caitlyn heard the dolphins make high-pitched clicking noises at each other.

The biggest dolphin turned and swam toward Caitlyn. The dolphin nudged her gently with his nose. Caitlyn suddenly realized, "He's saying thank you!" Then the three dolphins disappeared into the blue water as silently as they had come.



Help Our Baby! (cont.)

Reading Comprehension Questions

After reading the story, answer the questions. Circle the correct answer.

- Why is Caitlyn underwater?
 - She fell off a boat.
 - She is scuba diving with her parents.
 - She wants to rescue dolphins.
 - She is learning how to swim.
- The first paragraph answers which of the following questions?
 - Why does Caitlyn's dad tell her that she has ten more minutes?
 - When did Caitlyn learn to dive?
 - Why does the baby dolphin have a fishhook in its side?
 - Where is Caitlyn when the story begins?
- How did Caitlyn probably feel at the end of the story?
 - Scared that the dolphins will hurt her.
 - Puzzled about what the dolphins were doing.
 - Eager to stop diving.
 - Glad that she was able to help the baby dolphin.
- What is the main idea of this story?
 - Caitlyn helps a baby dolphin.
 - Caitlyn's parents are diving.
 - Caitlyn thinks that it is beautiful underwater.
 - Baby dolphins are cute and helpless.
- A good way to find out more about scuba diving is to—
 - watch a television show about dolphins.
 - ask somebody named Caitlyn.
 - look up information about it on the Internet.
 - learn how to fish without hurting dolphins.