

Rescue



“Kiki, you’re here!” Manu peered into the clear green water, delighted to see the friendly dolphin. The boy never knew when Kiki would appear, but when she did they played together near the reef. But something was wrong.

Behind Kiki was another shape, but this wasn’t a dolphin. As the two shapes got closer, Manu could see that the newcomer was a huge shark. It was chasing Kiki! Its enormous mouth opened as it got close to her, displaying rows of razor-sharp teeth.

“No!” cried Manu, watching anxiously from his boat as dolphin and shark dived back under water.

The two shadows came closer. Kiki burst out of the waves in a great curling leap, hung in the air for a moment and then crashed down. Then the huge shark leaped, its cruel mouth twisting through the air a split-second after Kiki.

With a sudden lunge, Kiki burst forward and headed straight towards the boat. The shark followed, and Manu’s jaw tensed. The shark raced alongside the boat and Manu screamed. He grabbed an old fishing spear and thrust it at the shark, missing by millimetres.

The predator twisted around. Manu reached down, searching for something else to throw. At least he had given Kiki a few seconds to escape, Manu thought. If he was lucky, the shark would give up the fight and slink off. The seconds passed slowly as Manu stood with another spear in his hand, scanning the water for tell-tale shadows. There were none.

When the shark struck, it struck from below. Manu never saw it coming. One minute he was standing in the boat, legs braced, spear raised. Then something smashed into the hull, the boat tipped over and Manu plunged into the ocean. Instinct took over and Manu gulped in a lungful of air on the way down. He twisted around to see the shark racing towards him, skimming along just beneath the surface of the water.



Manu grasped his spear with both hands and jabbed at the shark's nose. Again the shark twisted away, but the spear fell from Manu's hands and sank into the depths. Manu's hopes sank with it. The shark looped around and sped towards Manu one final time. Manu closed his eyes and waited.

He opened his eyes and the air exploded out of his mouth in huge bubbles. He shot to the surface and heaved in more air, unable to believe what was happening. Allowing himself to sink down into the water a little, he looked around him. A few metres away, a big group of dolphins were thrashing around him in a circle, keeping themselves between the shark and him.

Seconds later, the shark twisted away and fled.

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

1 Look at the sentence beginning: *Manu peered into the clear green water ...*
What does the word 'peered' mean? Tick **one** box.

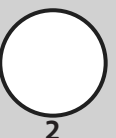
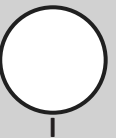
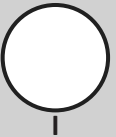
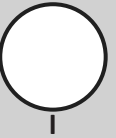
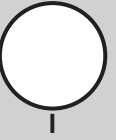
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2 Find **two** pieces of evidence that Manu and Kiki are friends.

3 In the second paragraph, how does the author make the shark seem scary? Give **two** pieces of evidence.

4 Look at the paragraph beginning: *The two shadows came closer.*
Why are Kiki and the shark described as 'shadows'?

5 Describe **in your own words** what is happening in the fourth paragraph.



6

Look at the paragraph beginning: *With a sudden lunge ...*
Find and copy **two** examples from the text that tell you that Manu is getting more anxious.

7

Look at the paragraph beginning: *The predator twisted around.*
Who is the predator?

8

Look at the paragraph beginning: *The predator twisted around.*
Decide whether the statements are True or False.
Tick **one** box for each statement.

	True	False
The shark had given up the fight.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Although Manu had missed with his spear, he had distracted the shark from Kiki.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manu stared into the water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manu could not find anything else to throw.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9

Look at the paragraph beginning: *When the shark struck ...*
How does the author help us picture how Manu was standing before the shark attacked the boat? Find and copy **two** descriptions.

10

Imagine you are Manu. **In your own words**, write about how you felt when the shark attacked the boat. Use evidence from the text to support your writing.



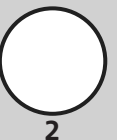
11

Re-read the text on page 1 of the story. What clues are there about what happens to Manu at the end of the story? Write **two** clues.



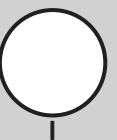
12

Look at this sentence on page 2: *The shark looped around and sped towards Manu one final time.*
What **two** things might the author mean when he says 'one final time'?



13

Look at the paragraph beginning: *He opened his eyes ...*
What might the author mean by the word 'thrashing'?



14

Look back over the whole story. Which of the following statements are facts, and which are opinions? Tick **one** box for each statement.

	Fact	Opinion
The shark had sharp teeth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kiki is Manu's best friend.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manu survived because he was lucky.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kiki saved Manu.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15

Look at the sentence: *At least he had given Kiki a few seconds to escape.* Why does the author not tell us more about what Kiki is doing after this?

For teacher use

Your mark	_____ out of 20
What went well	
How to improve	