



Part 1: Comprehension

Narrative

Read the text.

Rescue!

“I need you to join me on the boat today,” Nico’s father called. Reluctantly, Nico turned away from the clear, turquoise water. He’d been about to dive into the sea for his morning swim. Instead, he helped prepare the small fishing-boat. The sun burned bright and white onto the tiny Greek island and the sky was a deep blue. There was just enough breeze to fill the sail and soon the boat was bobbing on the open sea.

Nico scanned the waves, trying to spot an almost-tame dolphin that had taken to swimming near the shore. Nico had named the dolphin Milo. Sometimes he swam alongside it.

“Stop thinking about that dolphin and get to work!” Nico’s father ordered. Confidently, Nico helped cast the nets and by early afternoon, father and son had a good catch.

“You’ve brought us luck today ... but the weather’s changing,” said Nico’s father, glancing at threatening purple clouds. The air was now oppressive and sticky. Before long, the storm arrived in full force. Fierce winds whipped the sail, rain battered the deck and the little boat was tossed in rolling waves.

“Don’t worry ...” Nico’s father began – but at that moment a huge gust of wind caught the sail. The boom swung across the boat and Nico’s dad was sent sprawling onto the deck. He tried to sit up but his head was bleeding from a deep cut.

“Don’t bother about me!” he yelled, seeing his son’s panic-stricken face. “The boat!”

Nico battled against the wind but he struggled to get the sail under control. “We’re going to capsize,” he thought, terrified. Just then, he felt a light bump at the back of the boat. As if by magic, the boat turned towards the shore. Nico peered into the water – and there, to his amazement, was Milo and a group of dolphins, all pushing the boat to safety.

“I’ve heard of dolphins helping people but I’ve never seen it with my own eyes,” said Nico’s father, later. “You can have a day off to play with your dolphins tomorrow.”

Nico smiled.

A. Tick the correct answers.

1. What was Nico's father's job?

- farmer
 sailor
 fisherman
 shopkeeper

2. Why was Nico reluctant to help his father?

- He wanted to play with dolphins.
 He was about to swim.
 He wasn't good at fishing.
 He knew there would be a storm.

B. Answer the questions.

1. Why did Nico's father say Nico had brought them luck?

2. What **two** signs were there that a storm was about to happen?

3. How did Nico feel just after his father was injured?

4. Why was it important for Nico not to worry too much about his father?

5. How did Nico's mood change throughout the story?

a
b c

Part 2: Vocabulary

Tick the word nearest in meaning to the underlined word.

1. Jasmine was confident she would win.
 - nervous
 - sure
 - optimistic
 - uncertain
2. The bird's wings were immense.
 - wide
 - striking
 - enormous
 - tiny
3. Lucy was contrite about taking Seán's sweets.
 - sorrowful
 - dismissive
 - unrepentant
 - sorry
4. Our garden is approximately 50 metres long.
 - measured
 - roughly
 - over
 - exactly
5. Karen was astonished to see a fox in the kitchen.
 - amazed
 - delighted
 - uninterested
 - enchanted
6. The principal observed the new teacher's lesson.
 - liked
 - watched
 - taught
 - enjoyed
7. The train is departing in three minutes.
 - running
 - leaving
 - arriving
 - terminating
8. The mask Ciara made was grotesque.
 - monstrous
 - attractive
 - amazing
 - interesting



Part 3: Word study and Phonics

Choose the correct words or letters to complete the sentences.

1. A broken ankle is very pain_____. (-less, -ful, -able)
2. Josh was care_____ when he broke the glass. (-less, -ful, -able)
3. The magic cloak made him invis_____. (-able, -ible)
4. Your story is unbeliev_____. (-able, -ible)
5. They drove towards the dist_____ mountains. (-ant, -ent)
6. The accused man was actually innoc_____ (-ant, -ent)
7. A synonym for 'nice' is _____. (nasty, pleasant, new)
8. A homophone for 'through' is _____. (between, threw, thought)

