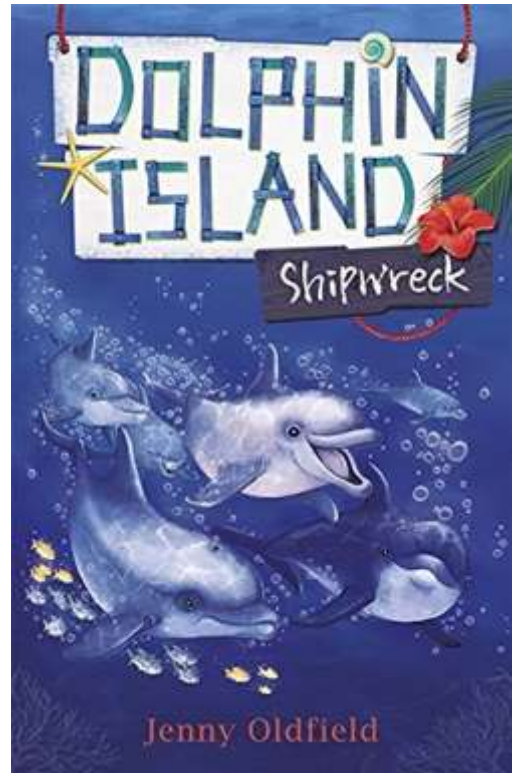


A Survival Story

A family marooned on an island finds loveable dolphins to help them survive!

Shipwrecked near a tiny island in a vast ocean, the Fisher family are guided to safety by a small pod of dolphins. Fleur, Alfie, Mia and their parents must learn to build shelter, find fresh water and hunt for food.

Each of the children forms a special bond with one of the family of dolphins. Fleur adores the fun-loving, tail-walking Jazz. Mia names her dark-grey dolphin friend Stormy. And Alfie is saved from the shipwreck by Pearl, who always looks out for him.



Character Profile

Eleven-year old Alfie Fisher loves touch-screens and numbers, and anything to do with technology. On their sailing trip, he could use their boat's echo-sounders and electric compass better than anyone else in the family. He uses his knowledge of science and technology to help his family survive on the deserted island – making fire, building a safer shelter and constructing a raft.

We pick up the story just after the boat *Merlin* has crashed onto jagged rocks during a typhoon ...

In the eye of the storm, Alfie had been flung from the boat. He hit the water and sank, closing his eyes and holding his breath until he thought his lungs would burst. Then his life vest bobbed him back to the surface. He gasped and lunged towards *Merlin*, who was on her side and letting in water fast. His fingertips almost touched her smooth white hull, but the strong current swept him away among flotsam from the stricken boat – plastic bottles, cushions, a fire extinguisher, and coils of rope. Alfie kept his head clear of the water and tried in vain to swim back to her.

It was no good. Though he kicked with all his might, he made no progress. In fact, it was the opposite – the current was dragging him further and further away from *Merlin*. The sea foamed and swirled. Alfie cried out for help.

His call was answered. A dolphin appeared out of nowhere, her nose nudging him gently away from the boat into a thick mist. She had a small head and a pink belly, and the curve of her mouth made her look as if she was smiling at Alfie and telling him not to be afraid.

‘You!’ he gasped. ‘You’re the pearl dolphin.’

The dolphin nudged him again and ducked underneath, soon rising to let him take hold of her curved dorsal fin, so he could sit astride her broad body.

Hope rose inside Alfie’s chest. His pearl-pink dolphin would keep him safe and head for the nearest shore. All he had to do was cling on.

And sure enough, with a flick of her strong tail she swam through the dying storm and clear of fatal currents, between volcanic rocks and above coral reefs, with a sure sense of direction, until Alfie, riding on her back, could see a way ahead.

There was a wide bay with a beach. There were palm trees and dark rocky headlands ... and two small figures standing hand in hand, looking out to sea.

‘Alfie!’ Mia saw him first. He was sitting astride the smiley dolphin from earlier. ‘Look, Fleur!’

Fleur let go of Mia's hand and ran into the sea, calling Alfie's name. She held her arms above her head and waved.

The young dolphin came close to the shore, then stopped. 'Thank you,' Alfie murmured as he slid from her back and splashed down on to his hands and knees. 'You saved my life.' Then he felt Fleur's hands pull him to his feet.

'You made it!' she cried, hugging him tight, then leading him to dry land.

Her job done, Alfie's pearl dolphin turned back out to sea.

Adapted from World English Learner's Book 6

Worksheet 1

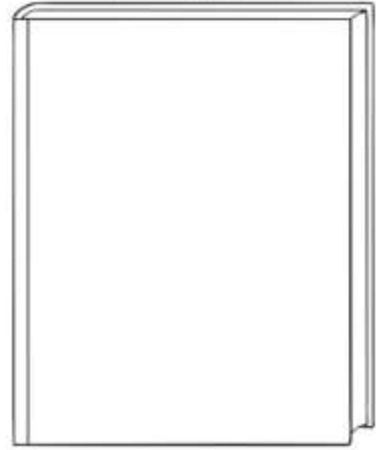
1. Look at the cover of the book.

a. Do you think the title is appropriate for the book? _____

Why? _____

b. Think of an alternative title. Design its front cover.

Book title:



2. From the section, 'Character profile', list **TWO** facts you learned about Alfie.

a. _____

b. _____







3. What is Alfie's problem in the story?

4. How is Alfie's problem resolved?

5. What do you think happens next?

Worksheet 2 - Visualising

Read the parts of the story. Write your own description. Draw what you visualise.

Text	Personal Description	Visualised Image
<p>'Then his life vest bobbed him back to the surface. He gasped and lunged towards <i>Merlin</i>.'</p>		
<p>'...but the current swept him away among flotsam from the stricken boat – plastic bottles, cushions, a fire extinguisher and coils of rope.'</p>		
<p>'She had a small head and a pink belly and the curve of her mouth made her look as if she was smiling at Alfie and telling him not to be afraid.'</p>		
<p>'There was a wide bay with a beach. There were palm trees and dark rocky headlands ... and two small figures standing hand in hand, looking out to sea.'</p>	