

Blue Moon Beach

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Summer days

I'm sitting and watching birds. I'm at Blue Moon Beach. I think it is the best beach in the world. The water is warm and blue. The sand is very white. Blue Moon Beach is my beach. I've lived here all my life. Other people come here for a week or two. They swim at the beach. They come to see the fish too. There are many fish in the water at Blue Moon Beach.

My name is Samuel Martin. At home I am called 'Sammy'. At school I am 'Sam'. I like the name Sam. I think I'm too old to be Sammy now. I am fifteen.

I live with my mother and father in our hotel – Blue Moon Hotel. When I was little I loved all the rooms and the stairs. I loved the big kitchen and all the food. I liked the people who came to stay. I played with lots of children who came with their families.

What I like now are the animals and birds that live near our hotel. I like the sea eagles best. I want to write a book about them one day. They are big, strong birds. Sea eagles are the kings of all the birds. They fly over the water to look for food.

When I was little there were lots of sea eagles at Blue Moon Beach. This year there are only two sea eagles. Why? Because there are not many trees now. Sea eagles need trees. Now there are lots of houses. It makes me angry. I don't want the birds to leave Blue Moon Beach.

Today is the first day of summer – no school for five weeks! Five weeks to swim and watch the sea eagles. I'm lying on the sand. I'm watching one sea eagle. It is on the

rocks at the end of the beach. I haven't seen the other sea eagle today.

Two men are walking along the beach. I don't think they are here to swim. They are wearing dark clothes. They are wearing shoes and socks. People never wear shoes and socks at Blue Moon Beach. The men stop near me. They look at the rocks. They must be looking at the sea eagle. They talk quietly. Who are they? They see me looking at them and then they walk away.

I go for a swim. I love swimming. There are a lot of people in the water today but not many of them swim out in the deep water. I swim out a long way. There are a lot of fish swimming below me. I lie in the water and look up. I see the sea eagle flying above me. I love being out in the water at Blue Moon Beach.

The sun is high in the sky. It's time for lunch and I'm hungry. I swim back to the beach and then I walk back to the hotel.

'Sammy,' Mum calls from her office. It is at the front of the hotel.

'Yes, Mum?' I say.

'Dad needs your help in the kitchen after lunch,' she says.

'Today? But it's the first day of summer, Mum. I want to go swimming again this afternoon. And the birds...'

'I want to go swimming too,' says Mum. 'But we all have to work. We have a lot of visitors.' She looks tired. She works very hard.

'Okay, Mum.'

Mum smiles at me. 'Thank you, Sammy,' she says.

'Sam, Mum, not Sammy. I'm not a little boy now. I'm fifteen.'



And the men are both bigger and stronger than me. What can I do to stop them? *It's best to leave this to the police, I think. Constable Carter will know what to do.*

I move quietly behind a tree.

'What's that?' says the smaller man. He looks towards me. It is very dark. Can he see me? I am really scared. I close my eyes.

'What's what?' says the other one.

'Over there. I saw...'

'Come on, Mac. It's dark. You can't see a thing. Stop worrying. We're nearly at the truck.'

The truck – Tim! The men walk on. They are carrying the birds. The birds are making a lot of noise. *Has Tim heard the men and the birds?*

I follow the men quietly. I hear some noise, then I hear the truck start. I run. The truck isn't there any more.

'Tim? Tim!' I call. 'Tim!'

Where is Tim? Did the smugglers see him? Is Tim in the truck with the birds? Is he hurt?

'Tim! Tim!'

There's no answer.

The men see us

I'm standing at the back of the truck. The bigger man gets out of the truck. He is talking on his mobile phone again. He is angry.

'No, we can't wait,' he says. 'You must come and get us now.'

Suddenly he sees me.

'I know who you are!' I scream at him. 'You're a bird smuggler. You have sea eagles in your truck. I'm going to get the police!' I start running away from the truck.

'Hey!' He puts his mobile phone away. 'You! Stop!' He shouts to the other smuggler, 'Mac! Come here, quickly. I've found a boy. He knows about the birds.'

I hear the truck door opening. Mac shouts, 'Stop!' too. They both run after me. I look back at them. The bigger man is holding his knife! I am very scared.

I jump over some ropes on the road.

'Now, Tim, now!' I shout.

Tim is standing on the other side of the road. He is holding onto the ropes. He pulls them. Suddenly there are nets and ropes in front of the smugglers. Both men run into the nets. The bigger man drops his knife. He puts his hands up to try to get out of the nets. Tim pulls the ropes. I help him. The men are shouting. Tim and I are screaming. We sit on the smugglers but the men are very strong and very angry. We can't hold them for very long. Will they get out of the nets?

'Help! Help!' I shout.

'Get off me!' shouts the bigger man.

A car drives up and stops.

‘Is that you, Sam?’ It’s the police officer, Constable Carter. He is getting out of his car.

‘Sam? Are you okay? I had a phone call from the people down the road. They said they heard a lot of people shouting. Who are these men?’

‘Oh, Constable Carter – it’s so good to see you. These men are bird smugglers! They put the sea eagles in the back of their truck.’

The men try to get away from us. But Constable Carter soon has them in the back of the police car. He calls on his radio for more police. He sees the knife on the ground.

‘Sam! These men had knives!’

‘I know. Tim and I had to help the sea eagles, Constable Carter,’ I say quietly. ‘Can we look in the truck now? I need to know the birds are okay.’

I look into the boxes. The birds are not hurt. Best of all, the eggs are in one of the boxes.

Constable Carter looks at the birds and the eggs. ‘Well done, boys!’

‘What will Mum say?’ says Tim.

We both smile.

Activities

Chapter 1

Before you read

A. Look at the title of Chapter 1 and circle the correct answers.

1. What do people usually do at the beach during summer?
a. study b. swim c. work
2. Which of these animals are you most likely to see at a beach?
a. birds b. cows c. cats

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

rock deep pot nest

1. Look into that bird's _____ . You may see some eggs.
2. Jerry sat on a big _____ on the beach and read his book.
3. Don't play near the water. It is very _____ .
4. I need a big _____ to cook all of this rice.

C. Listen to Track 3 on the CD and answer these questions.

1. How many people are speaking?
a. two b. three
2. What is their relationship?
a. mother and son b. father and son
3. What does the boy want to do after lunch?
a. help his father b. go swimming

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. How long has Sam lived at Blue Moon Beach?
a. five weeks b. all summer c. all his life
2. What meal does Sam have when he goes back to the hotel?
a. breakfast b. lunch c. dinner
3. What does Sam do while his father washes the floor?
a. He cooks dinner. b. He eats dinner. c. He washes the pots.
4. What do Sam's mother and father usually call him?
a. Sam b. Samuel c. Sammy

Glossary

adj. adjective; *n.* noun; *v.* verb

beach /bi:tʃ/ <i>n.</i>	(Sand)Strand
catch /kætʃ/ <i>v.</i>	eingefangen
caught /kɔ:t/ <i>v.</i>	fang (<i>past tense</i> von <i>catch</i>)
climb /klaɪm/ <i>v.</i>	klettern
engine /'endʒɪn/ <i>n.</i>	Motor
fall /fɔ:l/ <i>v.</i>	(herunter)fallen
hero /'hɪərəʊ/ <i>n.</i>	Held
last /lɑ:st/ <i>adj.</i>	letzte/r/s
nest /nest/ <i>n.</i>	Nest
net /net/ <i>n.</i>	(Fang)Netz
petrol /'petrəl/ <i>n.</i>	Benzin
pull /pʊl/ <i>v.</i>	ziehen
rope /rəʊp/ <i>n.</i>	Seil
save /seɪv/ <i>v.</i>	retten
scare /skeə/ <i>v.</i>	verängstigen
scared /skeəd/ <i>adj.</i>	verängstigt
sea eagle /si: 'i:gl/ <i>n.</i>	Seeadler
smuggler /'smʌglə/ <i>n.</i>	Schmuggler
stairs /steəz/ <i>n.</i>	Treppe
stick /stɪk/ <i>n.</i>	Stock
teach /ti:tʃ/ <i>v.</i>	jdm. etw. beibringen
wash /wɒʃ/ <i>v.</i>	waschen
worried /'wʌrɪd/ <i>adj.</i>	besorgt
worry /'wʌrɪ/ <i>v.</i>	sich Sorgen machen