

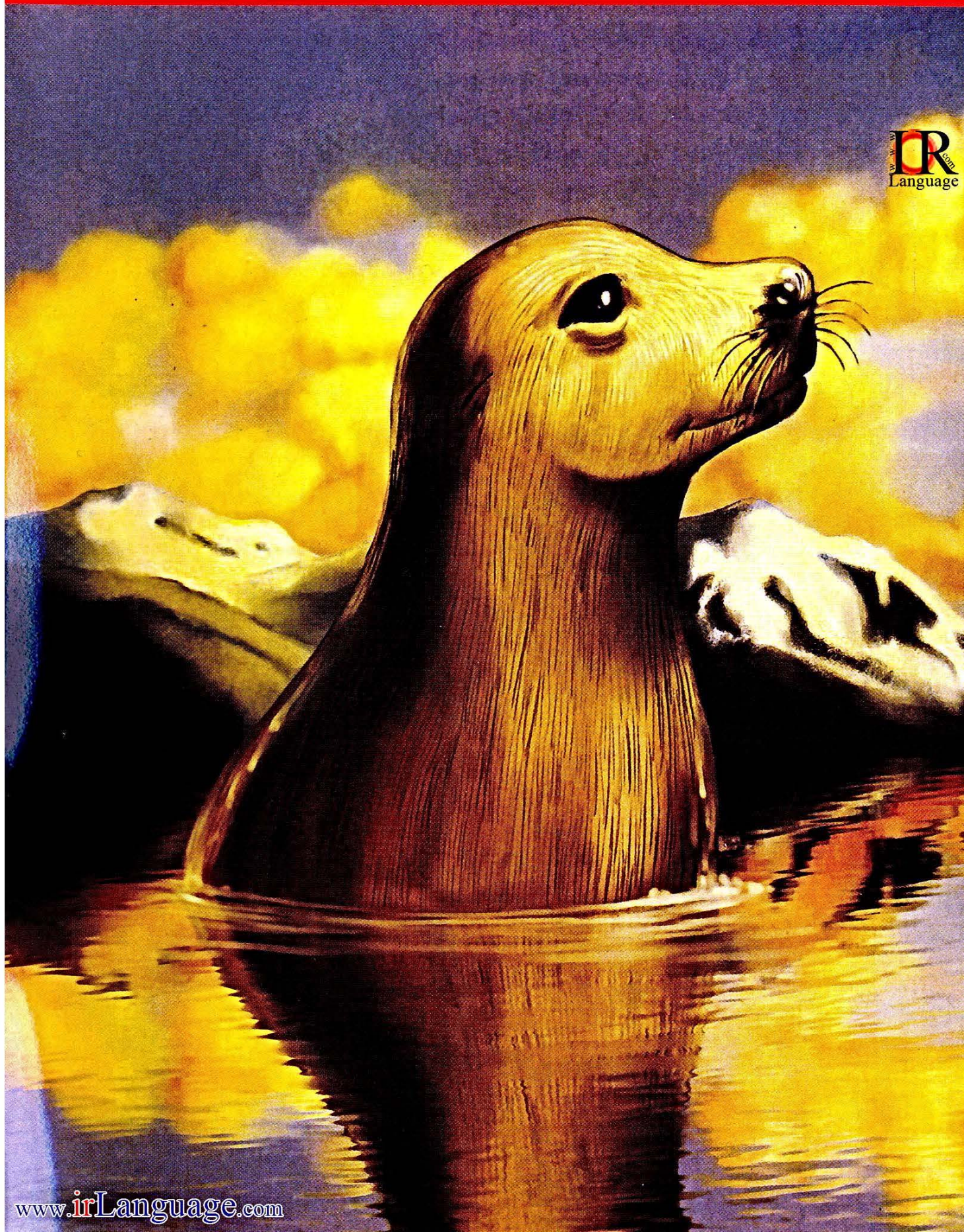


PENGUIN ACTIVE READING

LEVEL 1

# The Golden Seal

James Vance Marshall



# The Golden Seal

James Vance Marshall

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Level 1

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Retold by Chris Rice

Series Editors: Andy Hopkins and Jocelyn Potter

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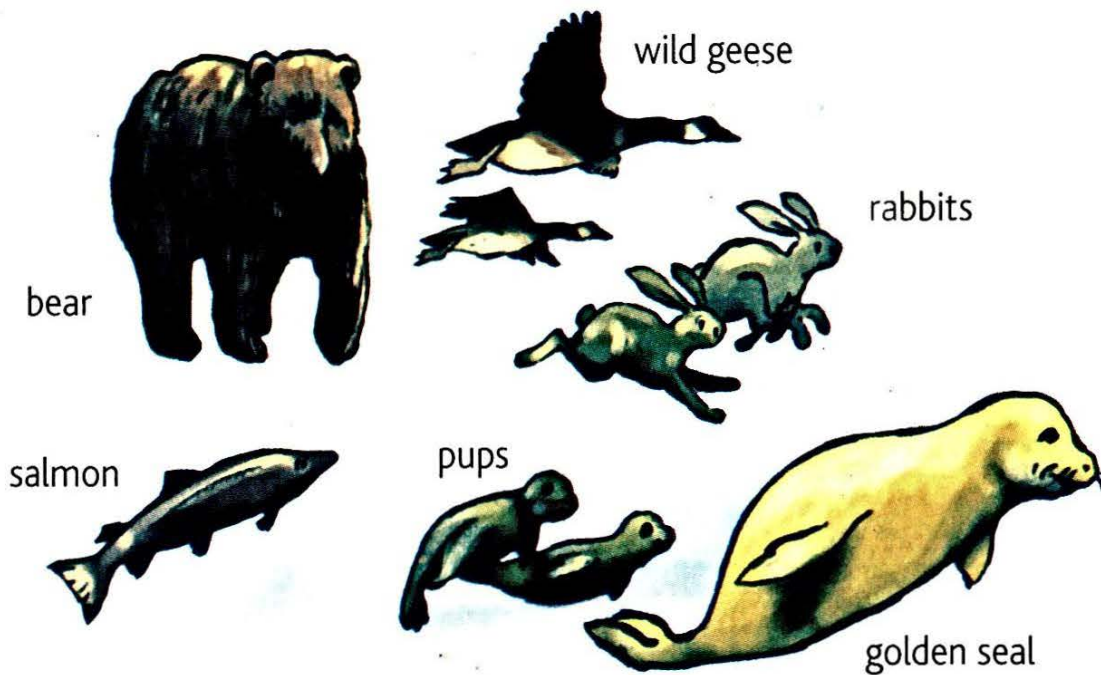
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**1.1 What's the book about?**

Talk about the animals in these pictures. What do you think?

- 1 What are their names in your language?
- 2 What do you know about these animals? Where can you find them?

**1.2 What happens first?**

Look at the pictures on pages 1 and 2 and at the words in bold. Then put the right words in these sentences.

- 1 Unimak is .....  
a person / an animal / a place
- 2 The story starts in .....  
the morning / the afternoon / the evening
- 3 The man works .....  
on an island / in a town / at an airport
- 4 The man and the woman live in .....  
an apartment / a big house / a small house
- 5 The man and the woman are .....  
happy / frightened / angry

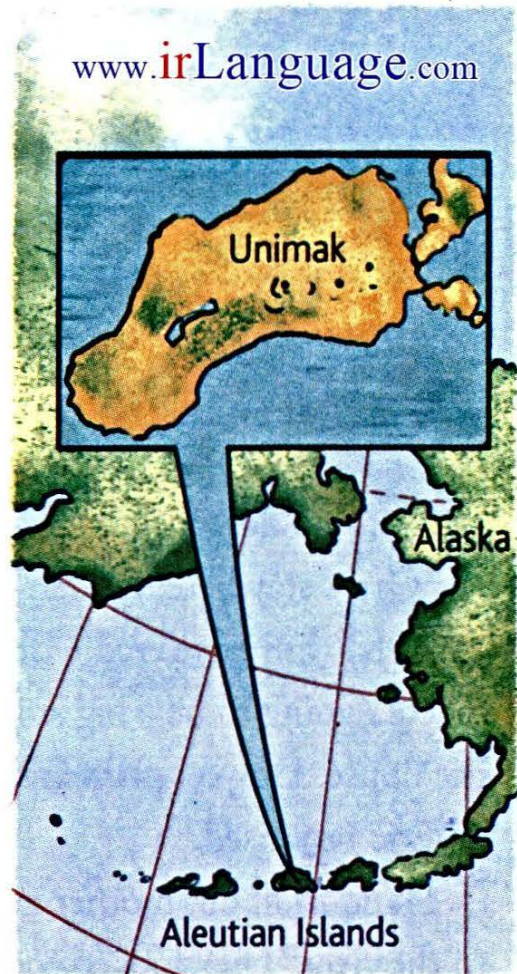
# A Big Storm

*Tania put her face in her hands. “Oh, no. No. No.”*

*With a noise like a big, angry animal, the storm arrived.*

**U**nimak is one of the Aleutian **I**slands, near Alaska. It is a small, cold island—a difficult place for people. For many years there were no people there.

Then, one day, an American man and a young Aleutian woman moved to the island and called it home. They **shot** rabbits and bears for food. There were salmon in the rivers, too. A little boy arrived and the family was happy. The three of them all watched for an animal from Aleutian stories—the beautiful golden seal. They looked every day for a golden seal, but they didn't see one.



One late summer evening, Jim Lee walked down to the **beach**. At this time of day, rabbits usually played in the **sand dunes** and there were wild geese in the sky. But this evening the island was very quiet. There were no rabbits in the sand dunes and no geese in the **sky**.

**island** /'aɪlənd/ (n) We stayed for two weeks on an *island* in the Pacific Ocean.

**shot** /ʃɒt/ (v, past of **shoot**) He is at the police station because he *shot* a man.

**beach** /bi:tʃ/ (n) Let's go to the *beach* and swim in the ocean.

**sand dune** /'sænd dʌn/ (n) Let's play in the sand. Behind the beach there are tall *sand dunes*.

**sky** /skaɪ/ (n) Look at the airplane, up in the *sky*!



*A big storm is coming, Jim thought.*

He quickly went back to his small house.

“There’s going to be a big storm,” he said to Tania and their eight-year-old son, Eric.

They closed the door and the windows, and waited for the storm.

Aleutian summers weren’t usually hot, but that night it was very hot. Tania was **frightened**. Aleuts didn’t like storms. In

old Aleutian stories, no good came from them. Tania didn’t sleep all night. She **sat** at the open door and watched the ocean.



In the morning, the ocean was a dark green color.

“Let’s go down to the river and look for salmon,” Jim said.

“Can I stay here, Father?” Eric asked. “I want to play.”

“OK,” Jim answered. “But listen, Eric. There’s going to be a big storm. Stay near the house. Do you **promise**?”

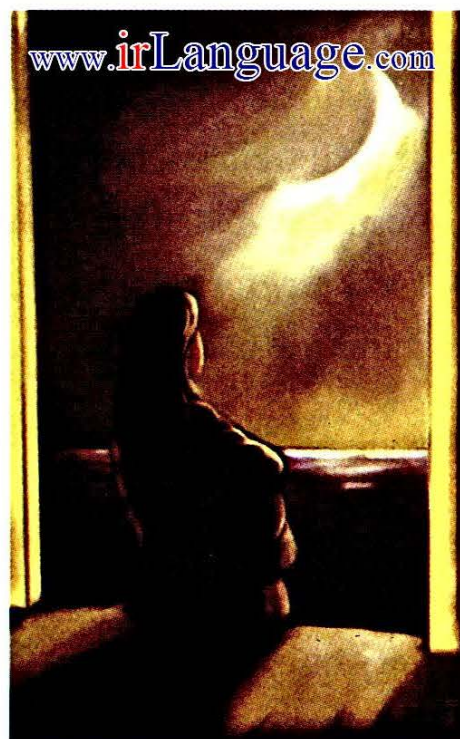
Eric promised.

Hand in hand, mother and father went to the river. They looked for salmon all morning, but they didn’t find any.

Early in the afternoon, the sky went very dark.

“Quick,” Jim said. “Let’s go.”

Hand in hand again, Jim and Tania started to run back home.



**storm** /stɔ:rm/ (n) In a *storm*, there is a lot of noise and the rain is very heavy.

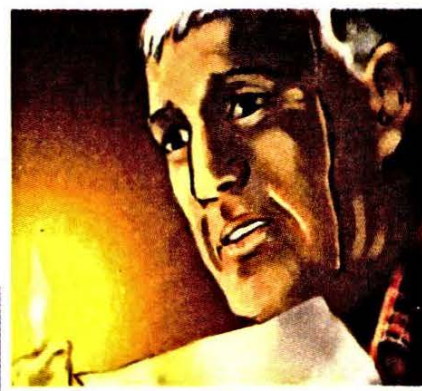
**thought** /θɔ:t/ (v, past of **think**) I *thought* about the question for a long time.

**frightened** /'fraɪtnd/ (adj) I don't swim because I'm *frightened* of water.

**sat** /sæt/ (v, past of **sit**) She *sat* down and watched TV.

**promise** /'prɒmɪs/ (v/n) I *promise* to give your money to you tomorrow.

The sky was now black. Suddenly, there was a strong **wind**. Behind them, the dark green water of the ocean started to move up the beach.



At their house, Tania called, “Eric! Eric!”

But there was no answer and Tania was very frightened.

There was a letter from Eric on the table. It said:

*“I’m going up the sand dunes. I want to find a golden seal. Don’t be frightened. I love you. Eric.”*

Tania **put** her face in her hands. “Oh, no. No. No.”

With a noise like a big, angry animal, the storm arrived.

“Don’t be frightened,” Jim said to Tania. “Eric’s a good boy. Maybe he’s in one of the little buildings on the sand dunes.”

“But that’s not a place for a small boy in a big storm!” Tania said.

“OK,” Jim said. “I’m going to the sand dunes now. You stay here.”

He opened the door and walked out into the storm. But the wind was very strong and it was very difficult. After a short time, he **fell** down, with his face in the sand. He looked up at the sand dunes. No Eric. Then the wind came again and Jim stopped moving.

**wind** /wind/ (n) Many trees came down in the strong *wind*.

**put** /put/ (v, past of **put**) I *put* my bag under the table, but now it isn’t there!

**fell** /fel/ (v, past of **fall**) He can’t walk very well and yesterday he *fell* in the street.





Tania **saw** this and went out into the storm. Jim was heavy, but she **managed** to bring him back into the house. He slowly opened his eyes, with a small smile on his face.

“Eric’s OK,” he said quietly. “I didn’t see him in the dunes.”

Jim sat quietly on the bed and listened to the storm. Night came and it was suddenly very cold.

**saw** /sɔː/ (v, past of see) I saw a good movie on TV yesterday evening.

**manage** /ˈmænɪdʒ/ (v) She was very unhappy, but she *managed* to smile.

Tania walked up and down the room. Suddenly, she stopped moving.

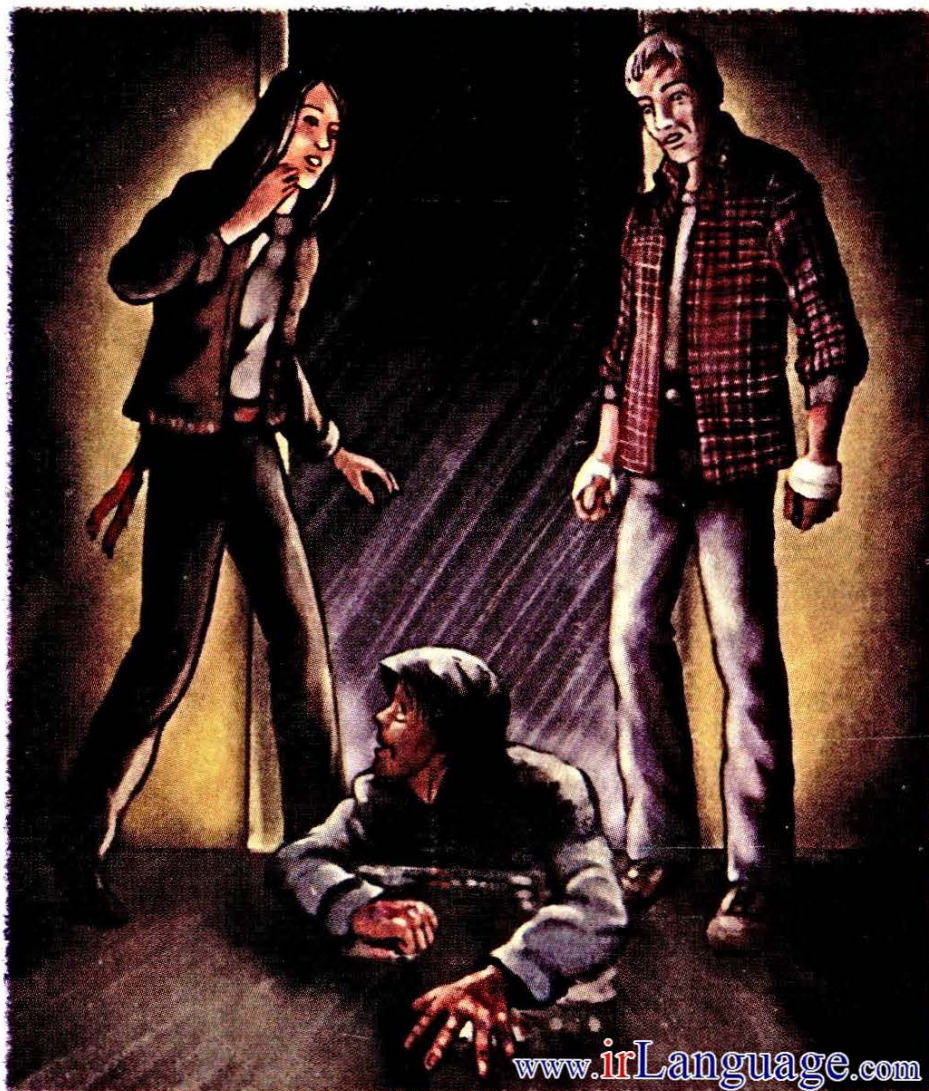
“What’s that noise?” she said.

Jim listened. There was a small noise at the front door of their house. It wasn’t the wind.

“Eric!” Jim said, and moved quickly off the bed.

“No!” Tania said. Who was it? *What* was it? “No. It’s not Eric. Don’t open the door.”

Jim didn’t listen to her. He opened the door and a man fell into the room. His hands were blue with cold, and his face was red with **blood**. He fell at Tania’s feet and didn’t move.



**blood** /blʌd/ (n) *Blood* came from the dead animal's mouth.

**2.1 Were you right?**

Look at your answers to Activity 1.2 on page iv. Then look at these sentences. One word is wrong in every sentence. Underline the wrong word. Write the right word.

- 1 Jim is an Aleut. .....Tania.....
- 2 Aleutians don't like animals. .....
- 3 Tania doesn't eat all night. .....
- 4 Eric promises to stay near the beach. .....
- 5 The sky is black and there is a light wind. .....
- 6 Jim and Tania can't find their house. .....
- 7 Jim reads a letter from his brother. .....
- 8 There is a noise at the door and Jim is frightened. .....

**2.2 What more did you learn?**

Write the right letters in the sentences.



- 1  and  are from the Aleutian Islands.
- 2  is very frightened of storms.
- 3  doesn't want to look for salmon.
- 4  looks for a golden seal.
- 5  falls down in a strong wind.
- 6  opens the door to a man with blood on his face.

**2.3 Language in use**

Read the sentences in Box A.  
Then finish these sentences with  
some of the words from Box B,  
in the past tense.

**A**

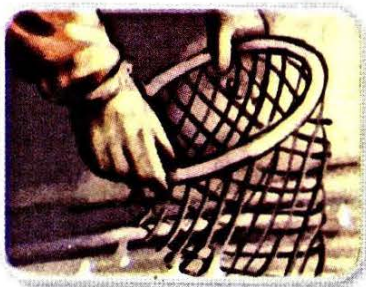
Jim Lee **walked** down to the beach.

They **closed** the doors and the windows.

**B**

stop eat fall wait look put

1 Tania ..... for the storm.



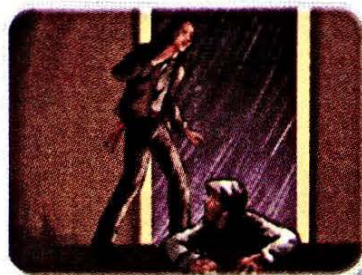
2 Jim and Tania ..... for salmon.

3 Tania ..... her face in her hands.



4 Jim ..... moving in the storm.

5 A man ..... at Tania's feet.



**2.4 What happens next?**

Look at the pictures and the words in *italics* on page 8. Talk about these questions. *What do you think?*

- 1 Where is Eric?
- 2 What is he doing in the storm?
- 3 What does he find in the storm?

# The Golden Seal

What is it? *Eric thought.* Maybe it's a bear! *He started to move to the door.*  
*He wanted to get out. But then he remembered the storm.*

---



**E**ric went across the river and up the sand dunes. Then he looked down at the ocean.

The water was very green today, and the sky was very dark. But he didn't see that. He only wanted to see one thing—a golden seal.

Suddenly, there was a lot of noise. The ocean started to move up the beach.

Eric was quickly up on his feet. He looked up at the angry, black sky. Then there was a strong wind and he fell down. For a long time Eric didn't move. He was frightened.

*I have a big problem,* he thought. *I can't run home in this storm. What can I do? I know—I can go to one of the little buildings on the sand dunes. They're near here. My father has food, lights, and coats in them. The storm can't catch me there.*

Eric started to walk slowly across the sand. The wind was strong and he fell down many times.

*I can't stop,* he thought.

Then he saw a little building in front of him. Very slowly, he moved across the sand and opened the door. He went in and closed the door behind him. The little building had no windows and it was

dark. There was a strong **smell**, too. Eric didn't like it.

There was a small noise, and two little red lights moved up from the floor in front of him. Eric moved back. He was very frightened. There was an animal in there with him.

*What is it?* Eric thought. *Maybe it's a bear!* He started to move to the door. He wanted to get out. But then he remembered the storm.

He closed his eyes and waited. But the animal didn't move. Slowly, Eric opened his eyes again. He looked at the small, red lights of the animal's eyes and, suddenly, he wasn't frightened. The eyes were friendly, not the angry eyes of a bear.

In the dark, Eric managed to find a light. Then he looked at the animal for a long time. It was a beautiful golden seal! And with her, on the floor, there were two small pups.



**smell** /smel/ (n/v) There is a strong *smell* of coffee in this room.

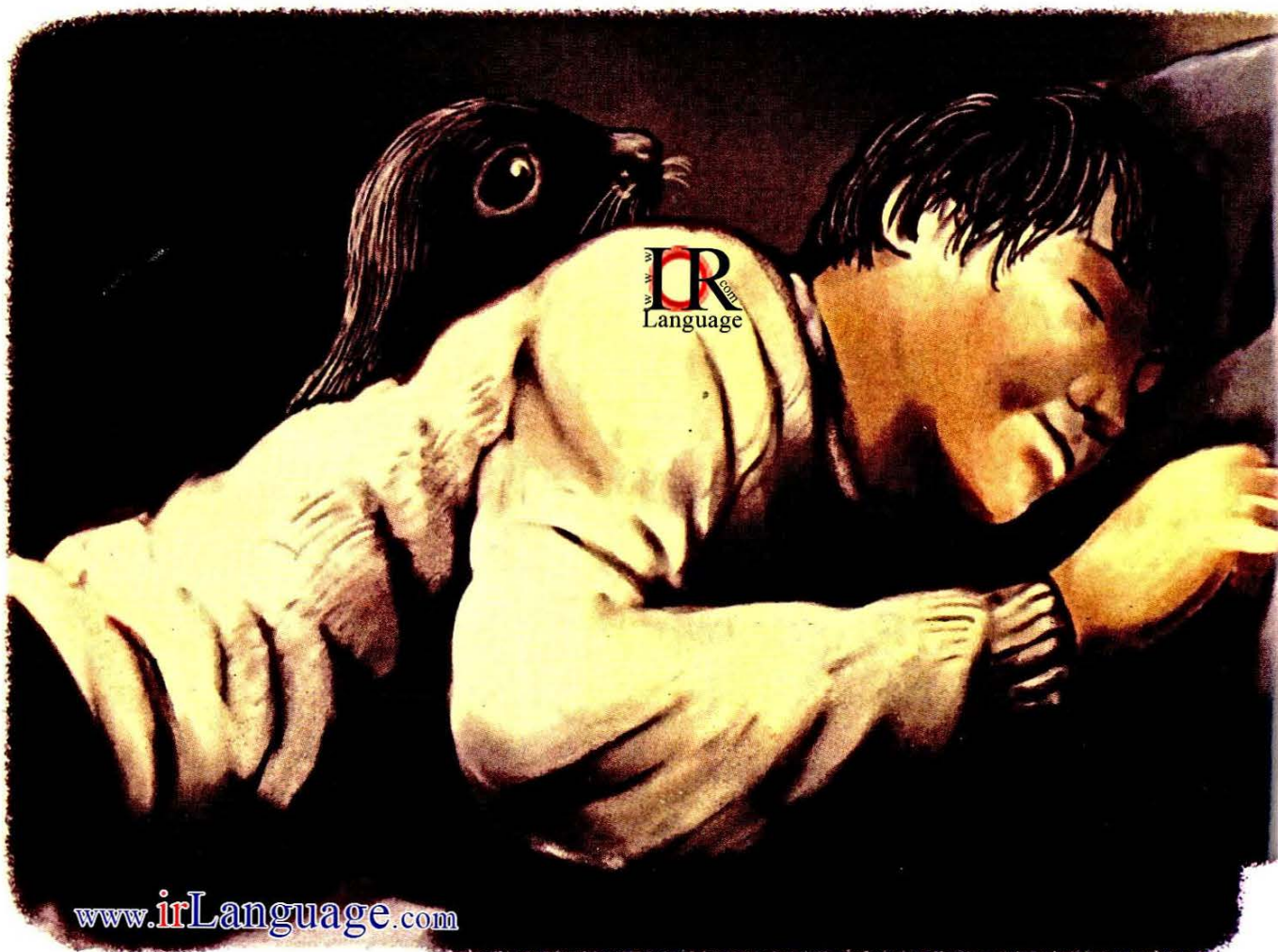
“Ooooh!” Eric said quietly. “You’re beautiful. And your pups. Do you want some food? Let’s find some.”

He managed to find some food. He put some salmon on the floor in front of the seal and waited. The seal didn’t move. She watched Eric quietly. Then, after a long time, she opened her mouth and started to eat.

Night came and it was very cold now. Eric put a big coat on the seal and her pups. Then he sat down and closed his eyes. But he didn’t manage to sleep. He moved across the floor and put his head on the seal’s back. He closed his eyes again. Sleep wasn’t a problem now!



In the morning, Eric opened the door. It was very cold. He looked back at the golden seal.



*The storm's going away, he thought. Now my mother and father are going to look for me. My father always has a **gun** with him. He often talks about golden seals. He wants to find one and shoot it. People give a lot of money for the **fur** of a golden seal. But he isn't going to shoot this seal. She's my friend.*

Eric thought about this problem for a long time. Then he had the answer: *My father isn't going to find this golden seal. I'm going to find my father and talk to him first.*

Eric put some salmon on the floor in front of the seal. Then he looked into her eyes. "Don't be frightened," he said. "My father isn't going to shoot you. I promise."

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**gun** /gʌn/ (n) He shot the rabbit with his *gun*.

**fur** /fɜː/ (n) Bears don't get cold in winter because they have a lot of *fur*



**3.1 Were you right?**

Look at your answers to Activity 2.4. Then look at these pictures. What is wrong with them, and with the sentences? Make the sentences right.



1 Eric sees a golden seal in the ocean.

.....  
 .....



2 There is a bear in the small building.

.....  
 .....



3 Eric puts on a big coat.

.....  
 .....



4 In the morning, it is very hot.

.....  
 .....

**3.2 What more did you learn?**

Answer these questions.

1 Why doesn't Eric go home?

Because .....

2 Why is Eric frightened in the small building?

Because .....

3 Why does Eric sleep with his head on the golden seal?

Because .....

4 Why does Eric's father want to shoot the golden seal?

Because .....

### 3.3 Language in use

Read the sentence in Box A. Then finish these sentences with some of the words from Box B.

**A** Eric went **across** the river and **up** the sand dunes.

The ocean moved **up** the beach.

**B**

across    into    about    on    up    in front of    behind

- 1 Eric started to walk slowly across the sand.
- 2 He went in and closed the door ..... him.
- 3 He put some salmon on the floor ..... the seal.
- 4 Eric put a big coat ..... the seal and her pups.
- 5 My father often talks ..... golden seals.
- 6 Eric looked ..... the seal's eyes.

### 3.4 What happens next?

Look at the pictures on pages 14, 15 and 16.

- 1 What are you going to read about on these pages?
- 2 What are you going to read about after that? Check (✓) the right picture.



# The Promise

*“I’m going to swim across the river,” Jim answered.*

*“No, Jim!” Tania said. “Don’t do it!”*

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**F**rom the boat, Howard Crawford saw the golden seal in the ocean near the island. The seal was very fat.

*She’s going to have pups, he thought. She wants to find a quiet place on the island, away from bears and men with guns. But I’m going to catch her! I want the money for her fur!*

He went after her in his small boat. But the golden seal moved quickly and his boat was slow. Suddenly, the sky went very dark.

“There’s going to be a storm,” a man on the big boat, behind him, said. “Come back!”

But Crawford didn’t listen. He wanted to catch the golden seal. Suddenly, there was a strong wind and Crawford fell into the water. But he was a strong swimmer. He managed to swim to the beach.

The storm was very bad now and Crawford was frightened.



Then he saw the lights of a small house.

*I can't move in this storm, he thought—but I'm going to try.*

He moved slowly up the beach. There was sand in his eyes and mouth, but he didn't stop moving. After a long time, he arrived at the small house. He managed to stand up. Then he put his hands on the door.



The door opened and he saw two people in front of him—a fifty-year-old man and a young woman with frightened eyes. Then the room went dark and he fell on the floor at the woman's feet.



Jim closed the door and he and Tania put Crawford on the bed.

“He’s a seal catcher,” Jim said.

Tania didn’t answer. She looked at the man on the bed. She wasn’t frightened now. The man was young. He had dark hair and he didn’t have a bad face. She washed the blood and sand from his eyes and mouth.

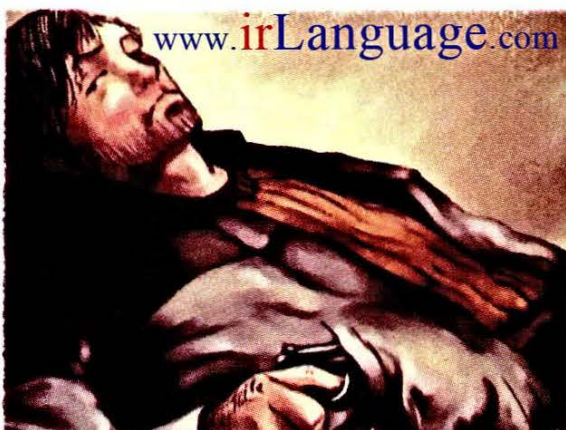
A short time later, Crawford opened his eyes and looked up at her.

“He’s opening his eyes,” Tania called.

Jim went to the bed. But Crawford didn’t want to talk. The young man closed his eyes again. He wanted to think.

*Maybe this man knows about the golden seal, he thought. Maybe he wants to catch her, too. But I want to find her first.*

Jim and Tania sat down and talked quietly about their son. Crawford waited. Then he slowly put his hand into his coat. *Good*, he thought with a smile. *The gun’s here.* He stayed quietly on the bed. He didn’t want to close his eyes. But it was difficult ...



◆  
In the morning, Crawford opened his eyes. He looked up and saw Jim and Tania in big fur coats.

“Are you OK?” Tania asked him.

“Yes,” Crawford said. “But where are you two going?”

“We’re going to find our son. He was out in the storm yesterday and he didn’t come back.”

*No!* Crawford thought. *They know about the golden seal. They’re going to look for her.* “I want to come with you,” he said.

Jim and Tania didn’t want him with them. “Stay in bed,” they said. “You’re sick.”

But he didn’t listen.

The two men and the woman walked out into the cold. A short time later, they arrived at the river and stopped. Before the storm, the river was quiet. Now, after the storm, the river moved very quickly, with a lot of noise.

Suddenly, across the river, a small boy came down from the sand dunes.

“Look!” Jim called.

“Eric!” Tania said, with a big smile.



Eric danced up and down and called to his mother and father. But Jim, Tania, and Crawford didn't hear him because of the noise of the river.

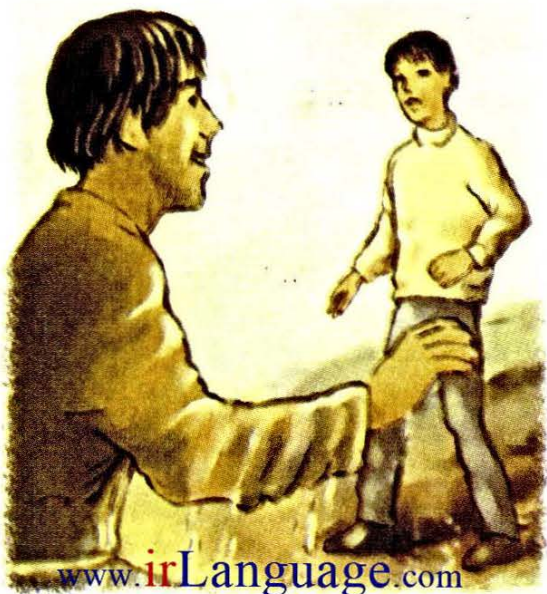
Crawford looked at the angry water. "What are you going to do?" he asked Jim and Tania.

"I'm going to swim across the river," Jim answered.

"No, Jim!" Tania said. "Don't do it! Not after yesterday. You're not strong. You can't!"

*No, I'm going to swim across it, Crawford thought. Then they're going to be very happy. And happy fathers don't think about golden seals!* "I'm going," he said.

Crawford went into the river. The water moved very quickly, but he was a strong swimmer. He arrived with no problem and said to Eric, "Hi, young man. My name's Howard. I'm going to take you back across the river to your mother and father."



Eric was frightened. "Why didn't my father come?" he asked.

"Your father isn't strong. He had a bad time in the storm yesterday."

Eric saw the blood on Crawford's face. "Did *you* have a bad time in the storm, too?"

"Yes, but your mother and father were very good to me."

Eric wasn't frightened now, because the man was very friendly.

"I had an *interesting* time in the storm," he said.

"What did you do?"

"It's a **secret**."

"Did you find a bag of money?"

Eric danced up and down with a big smile on his face. “No, you’re wrong.”

“Did you play in the sand?”

“Wrong again!”

*Maybe he managed to find the golden seal?* Crawford suddenly thought. *No! How can a small boy find a golden seal?*

“Let’s go,” he said. “I’m going to take you back.”

“Aren’t you going to ask me about my secret?” Eric said.

“Later,” Crawford said. “Now get on my back.”

Eric was heavy and the water was cold. But Crawford was very strong. A short time later, Eric was with his mother and father.

“Thank you!” Jim and Tania said to Howard Crawford. “You’re a good man!”

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Slowly, they all walked home. Eric talked quietly to his father.

“Father, please make a promise,” he said.

Jim was angry. “Why?” he asked. “You promised to stay near the house, but you didn’t.”

“I’m sorry, Father. I’m not going to do that again.”

“Good,” Jim said, “because promises are very important.”

They walked quietly for a short time, and then Eric said, “I’m a bad boy, I know. But please make a promise. I have a secret.”

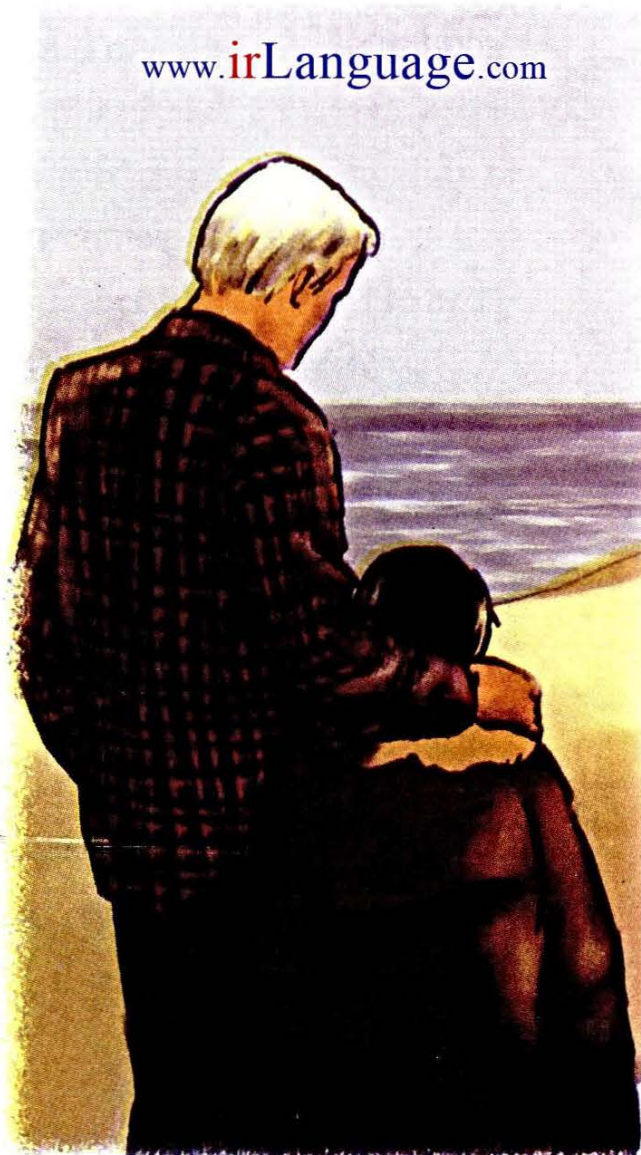
“What is your secret?”

“I have a new friend. I stayed with her in the storm. She can be your friend, too, but you can’t take her from me. Promise—please!”

“OK, I promise. Who is your new friend?”

“She’s beautiful. Her fur is golden.” Eric talked very quickly. “She has two beautiful little pups. And she’s mine. She’s going to stay with me ...”

Jim suddenly stopped walking. He looked down at his son. “Say that again—slowly,” he said.



“She’s a golden seal, Father. And she’s my friend.”

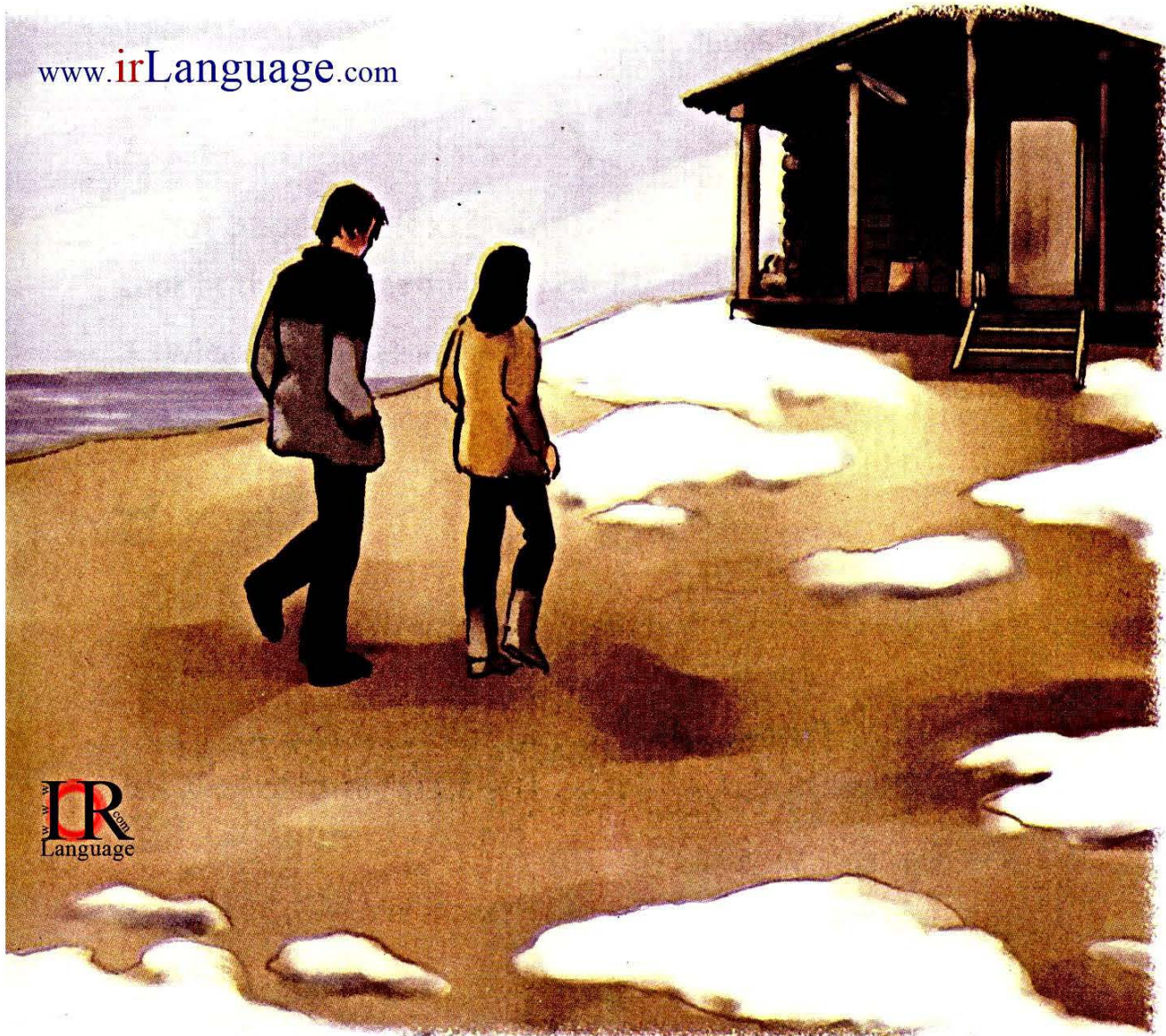
*Oh, no, Jim thought. I always wanted to catch a golden seal. I want the money for her fur. How can I promise to be her friend?* “Listen to me, Eric,” he said. “A golden seal isn’t a friendly animal. It’s big and strong. She can never be your friend. I’m sorry, son.”

Eric didn’t talk for a long time. Then he said, “OK, Father, maybe she can’t be my friend. But you can’t shoot her. You promised.”

“OK,” Jim said slowly. “But the seal is our secret—yours, mine, and Mother’s. Do you understand?”

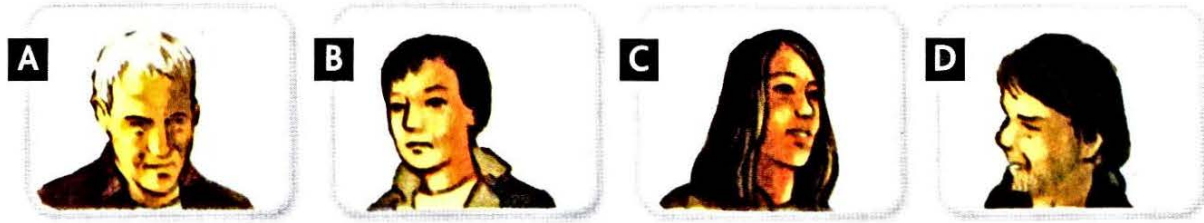
“Can’t I talk to Howard about it?” Eric asked.

“No, not to Howard,” Jim answered.



**4.1 Were you right?**

Think about your answers to Activity 3.4. Then look at these sentences. Who is thinking? Who are they thinking about? Write the names.



- 1 "I'm not frightened of him now."  
..... is thinking about .....
- 2 "Maybe he wants to catch the seal, too."  
..... is thinking about .....
- 3 "They know about the golden seal."  
..... is thinking about ..... and .....
- 4 "Who is he?"  
..... is thinking about .....
- 5 "What's his secret?"  
..... is thinking about .....
- 6 "Why did I make that promise to him?"  
..... is thinking about .....

**4.2 What more did you learn?**

What comes first for Crawford? And then? Write the numbers 1–7.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a <input type="checkbox"/> He hears about a secret.                  | e <input type="checkbox"/> He meets Eric.                      |
| b <input type="checkbox"/> He swims across a river.                  | f <input type="checkbox"/> He doesn't listen to Tania and Jim. |
| c <input type="checkbox"/> Jim and Tania put him to bed.             | g <input type="checkbox"/> He falls into the ocean.            |
| d <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Crawford sees a golden seal. |  |

**4.3 Language in use**

Look at the sentences in Box A.  
Then finish these sentences.  
Take words from Box B.

**A** Crawford was **very strong**.  
The sky went **very dark**.

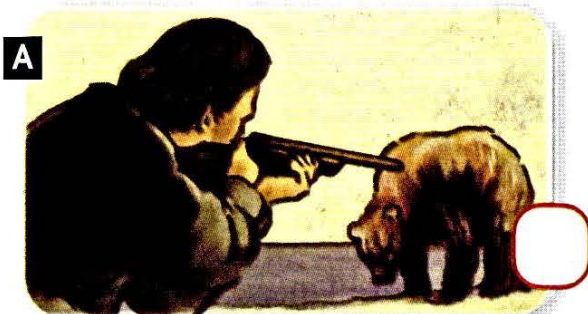
**B**  
strong   fat   dark   happy   angry   slow   young

- 1 Crawford *was very young* .....
- 2 Crawford's boat .....
- 3 Crawford's hair .....
- 4 The wind .....
- 5 The golden seal .....
- 6 Jim and Tania .....
- 7 Jim .....

**4.4 What happens next?**

Look at the pictures on pages 24–27.

- 1 What can you see in the pictures?
- 2 What are you going to read about after that? Check (✓) the right picture.



# The Bear

*Suddenly, the sun came out and Jim saw the bear.*

*It was very near them. Jim didn't make a noise.*

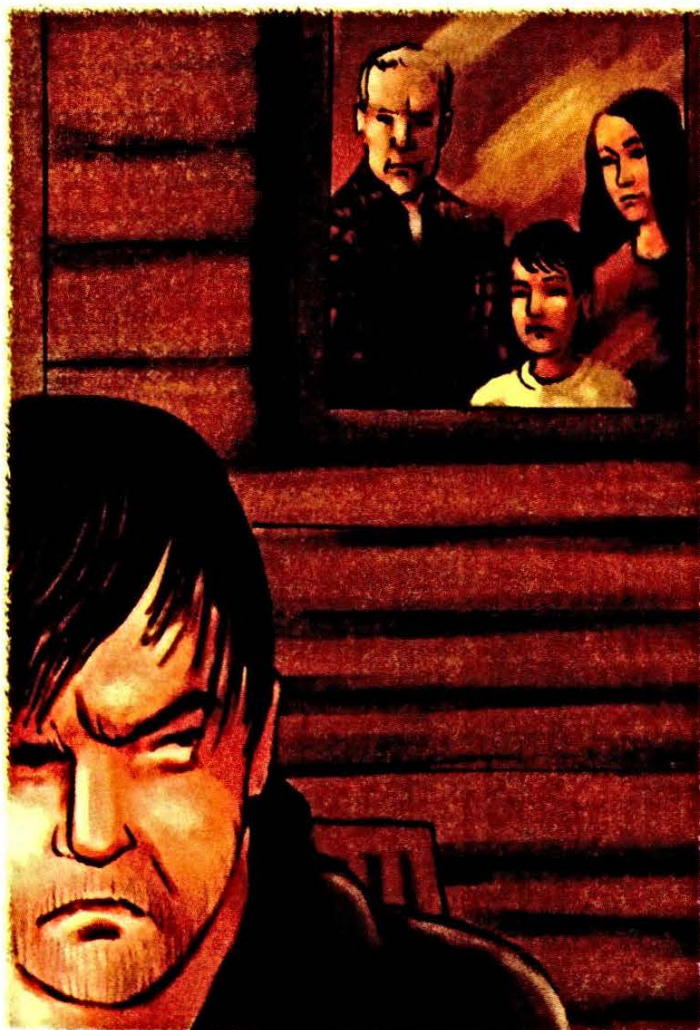
Jim, Tania, and Eric sat down at the table for some food, but Crawford didn't want any.

"I'm going for a walk," he said.

He walked to the beach and the family watched him from the window.

"I don't understand," Tania said. "What's he looking for?"

Jim talked to her about Eric and the golden seal. "Howard's a seal catcher," he said. "He saw the golden seal before the storm. Now he wants to find it."



"How can we stop him?" Tania wanted to know.

"The seal was in one of the little buildings in the sand dunes," Eric said. "Howard doesn't know that. We can find her first."

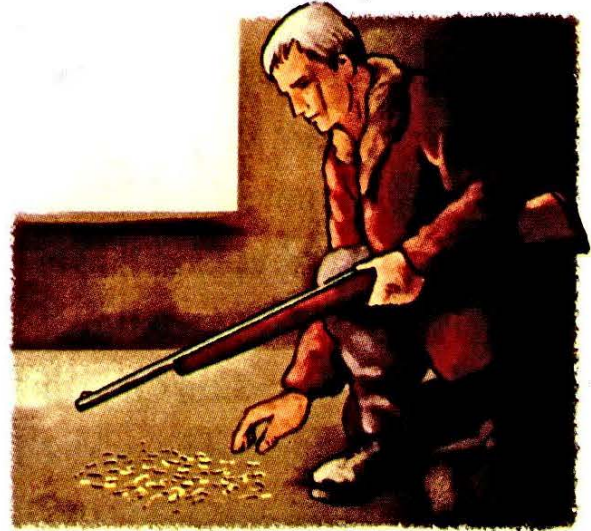
With some food for the golden seal, Jim and Eric went to the little building in the sand dunes.

"Let's be quick, Father," Eric said. "Run!"

Jim had his gun in his hands.

“Listen, Eric,” he said. “This golden seal knows you, but she doesn’t know me. She’s not my friend.”

Slowly, quietly, Eric opened the door of the little building, but the golden seal wasn’t there!



*Maybe there never was a golden seal, Jim thought. Then he saw some fur on the floor of the little building. Mm, he thought, maybe Crawford managed to find her before us. But I didn’t hear the noise of a gun. And Crawford was on the beach, not in the sand dunes.*

“Where is she, Father?” Eric asked.

“Maybe she’s on the beach,” his father answered.

They looked for her there all afternoon, but they didn’t find her.

Eric sat down quietly in the sand. “Oh, Father, where is she? Did she go back into the ocean?”

“Not with two young pups,” Jim answered.

They didn’t talk for a long time. Then, suddenly, Eric was on his feet. “I know a place with water in the sand dunes. Maybe she went there.”

“OK,” Jim said. “Let’s look there.”

Eric arrived at the place first. Suddenly, he stopped. There, near the water, was the golden seal.

She was frightened of the noise. She moved away into the water with her pups behind her.

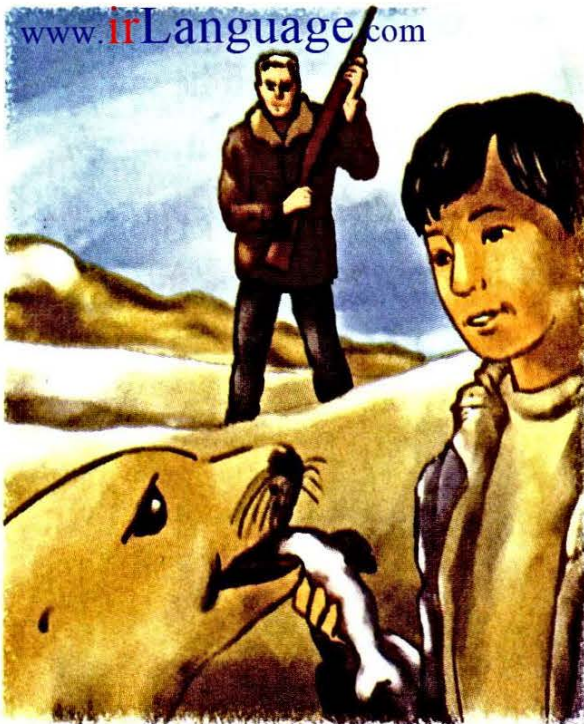
Eric sat down in the sand. “Don’t be frightened,” he said to her quietly. “It’s only me.”

Jim was behind him. He had his gun in his hand now. “Don’t go near her,” he said. “She’s an animal and she’s with her pups.”

“It’s OK. She knows me.” Eric put some salmon in the water for the seal.

The seal moved quickly. Suddenly, the salmon was in her mouth. Eric danced up and down. “Come here!” he called. “I have a lot of salmon for you.”

This time he didn’t put the food in the water. He had the salmon in his open hand. The golden seal came to him and opened her mouth for the salmon.

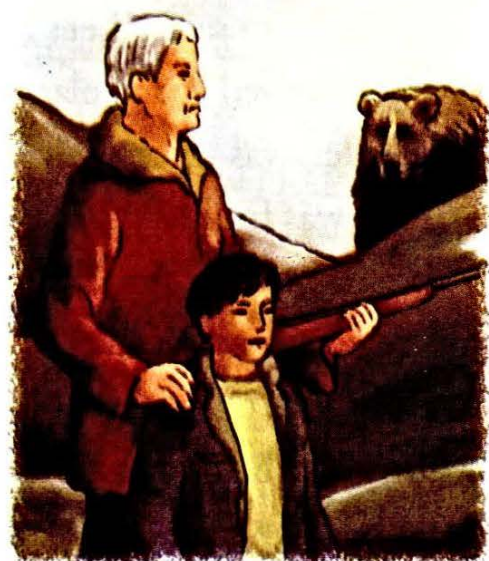


*I can shoot the golden seal now, Jim thought. Then I can take the fur into town and get a lot of money for it. But what can I say to Eric? I know—I was frightened for him, with the seal. But then Jim saw the big smile on his son’s face and he put his gun back in his coat. I promised my son, Jim thought. I can never, never, never shoot that seal.*



The bear was old. He had a bad leg and his eyes weren’t good. But he was strong and he wanted food. There weren’t any rabbits because they were all in their homes, under the sand. They were frightened of the storm. But the bear smelled the man and boy. He walked quietly to the water and waited behind a sand dune.

Suddenly, the sun came out and Jim



saw the bear. It was very near them. His gun was in his hand again.

Jim didn't make a noise. He put Eric's hand in his and slowly started to take him away from the sand dune.

The bear didn't see them. But he managed to hear and smell them.

He walked down the sand dune after them, and onto the beach.

On the beach, Jim and Eric waited quietly. They didn't move. The bear didn't see them or hear them. And now he didn't smell them because of the strong smell of the ocean. After a long time, with an angry noise, the bear moved away.

Jim and Eric smiled and moved away, too. Then, suddenly, there was the noise of a gun.

"Tania!"

"Mother!"

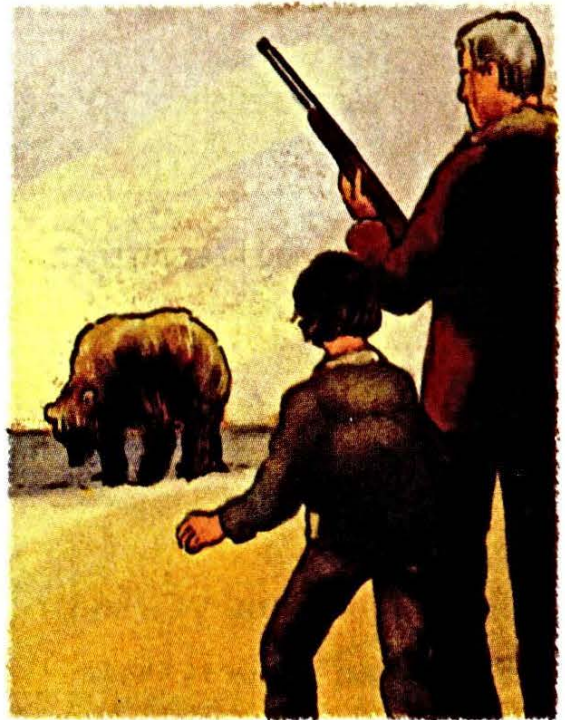
They started to run home. They had the same picture in their heads: the bear, its mouth red with blood, and Tania on the floor. But then they saw Tania with a gun in her hand, near the front door of the house. She was OK, and there was no bear near her.

"Is the bear dead?" Jim asked Tania.

"No, but it's very frightened."

In the house, they talked about the storm, the golden seal, Howard Crawford, and the bear. Then, after a hot drink, Eric sat in the evening sunlight and looked at the ocean. Suddenly, he looked up at the sand dunes and saw Crawford.

*He's coming back here, Eric thought. What does he want now?*





**5.1 Were you right?**

Look at your answers to Activity 4.4. Then answer these questions.

- 1 Who is a seal catcher?.....  
.....
- 2 Who looks for a seal in the little building? .....  
.....
- 3 Who finds the golden seal?.....  
.....
- 4 Who can never shoot the seal? .....  
.....
- 5 Who sees the bear first? .....  
.....
- 6 Who sends the bear away? .....  
.....

**5.2 What more did you learn?**

Read about the bear. Underline eight wrong words and write the right words.

The bear is young. He walks quickly and he has good eyes. But he is strong and he is looking for water. He sees Jim and Eric. Jim sees him. The father and son walk slowly to the river. The bear goes after them. The bear can't find them because of the noise of the ocean. He goes to their home and he finds Crawford.



- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1 ..... | 2 ..... |
| 3 ..... | 4 ..... |
| 5 ..... | 6 ..... |
| 7 ..... | 8 ..... |

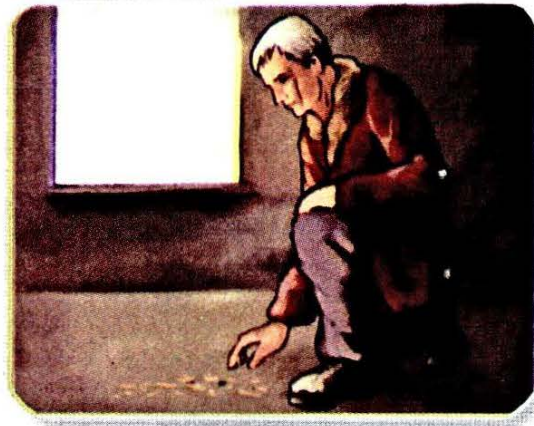
**5.3 Language in use**

Read the questions in the box.  
Then look at these pictures. Finish  
the questions and answers.

What's he looking for?  
Where is she?



1 What ..... doing?  
He is ..... the seals.



2 ..... looking at?  
He ..... some fur.



3 ..... the seals?  
..... in the water.



4 Who ..... salmon to  
the seals?  
..... food to them.

**5.4 What happens next?**

Look at the picture on page 31. What are Eric and Crawford going to talk about? Why? What do you think? Write *yes* or *no*.

- |                   |       |                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| 1 the golden seal | ..... | 2 the bear        | ..... |
| 3 the river       | ..... | 4 Crawford's boat | ..... |
| 5 the storm       | ..... | 6 Jim and Tania   | ..... |

## A Little Boy's Game

*"And you promise not to shoot her?"*

*"I promise." Crawford smiled.*

Crawford looked for the golden seal on the beach and in the sand dunes, but he didn't find it. He was angry. Then there was the noise of a gun.

*Oh, no, he thought. The man and his Aleut woman managed to find the golden seal before me! But then he smiled. It's not important, he thought. Maybe they managed to find the seal first. But I can take the seal's fur!*

He walked slowly back to the small house and saw the boy near the front door.

Crawford smiled at him. "Hi, young man," he said. "How are you?"

"OK," the boy answered.

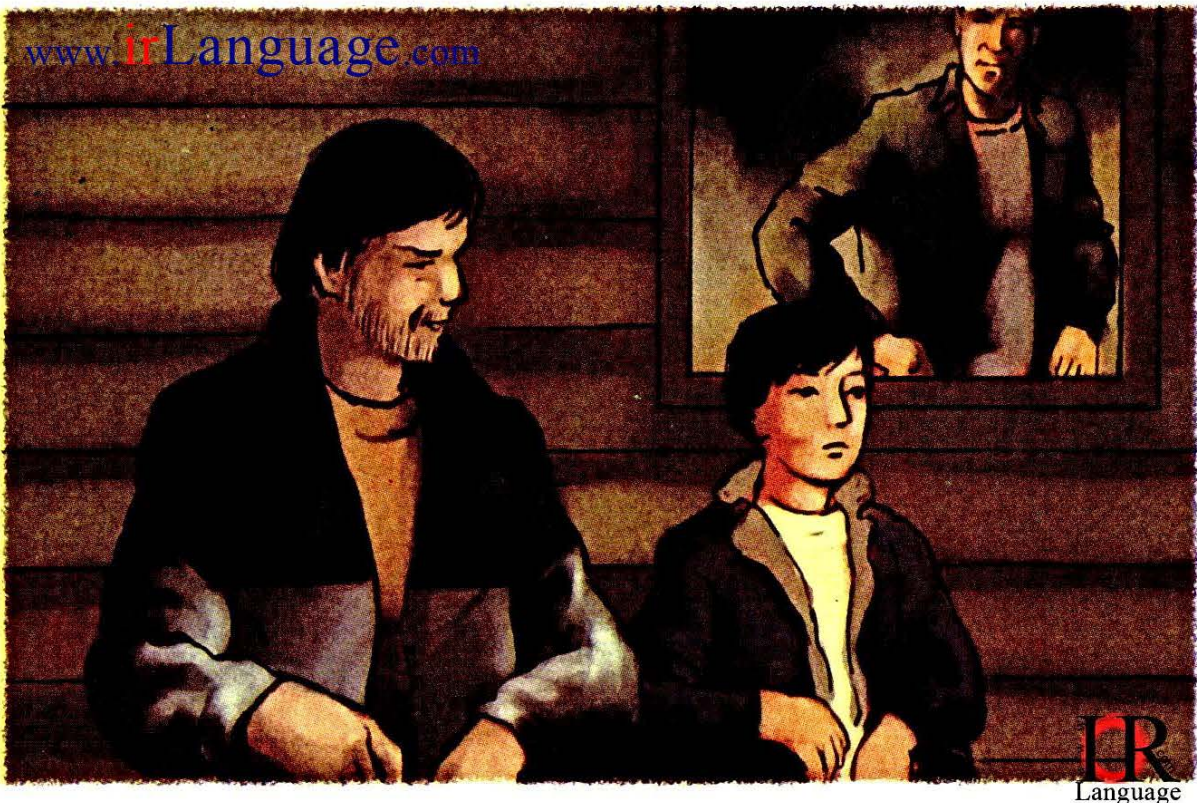
Crawford sat down near him and Jim came out of the house.



“Bedtime, Eric,” Jim said.

“Not now, Father,” Eric answered. “Please!”

Jim looked at Crawford. *I don’t like my son near the seal catcher, he thought. But maybe Crawford only wants to be friendly.* “OK,” he said to Eric. “You can stay out here with Howard for a short time.” Then he went back into the house, but he didn’t close the door.



“Do you remember yesterday, at the river?” Crawford asked Eric. “You had an interesting time in the storm—but you didn’t say why. I know your secret now.”

Eric smiled. “What is it?”

Crawford put his hands across his eyes. “I’m closing my eyes,” he said. “In my head I can see a picture of an animal—a big animal with a lot of golden fur. And she has two—or three?—pups with her.”

“She has two,” Eric said. “But what is she?”

Crawford moved his hands away from his eyes and looked at Eric. “She’s a golden seal. Am I right?”

“Yes,” Eric said, with a big smile. He liked this game!

“Where’s the golden seal now?” Crawford asked, with a big, friendly smile on his face.

The smile went from Eric’s face. He didn’t answer. He suddenly remembered his promise to his father. The seal was a secret.

“Where did you put the fur?” Crawford wanted to know.

“Her fur? But she’s not dead!”

“Your father didn’t shoot her?” Crawford said, secretly happy.

“That’s right,” Eric said slowly. “He promised not to shoot her because she’s my friend!”

“OK. I promise not to shoot her, too. Now are you going to take me to her?”

Eric looked at Crawford with big, frightened eyes. “Why do you want to see her?” he asked.

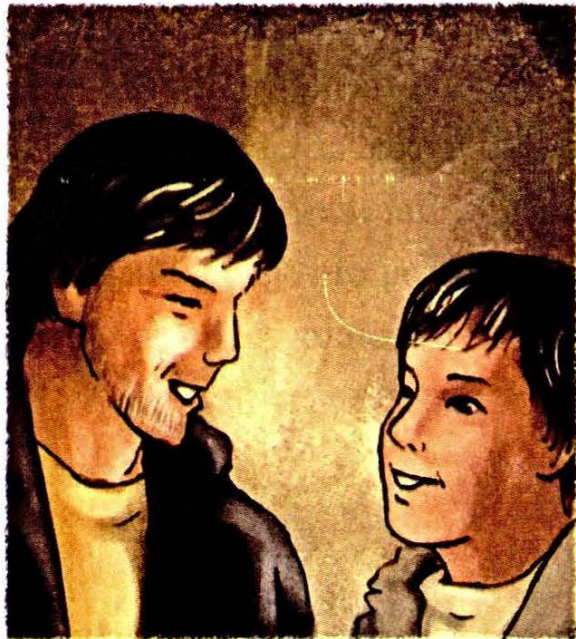
The seal catcher smiled. “In my years on the ocean, I never saw a golden seal. They’re beautiful, I know. But I never managed to find one.”

“You only want to look at her?”

“That’s right.”

“And you promise not to shoot her?”

“I promise.” Crawford smiled. *But this promise isn’t important, he thought. It’s only a*



*little boy’s game.*

Happy with the seal catcher’s promise, Eric walked away from the house.

“Look!” he said to Crawford.

Crawford moved near the boy and looked up at the dunes.

“There’s a secret place with water in the sand dunes,” Eric said. “Only I know about it. I can’t go there now because it’s my bedtime. But tomorrow I’m going to take you there. Then you’re going to see your first golden seal!”



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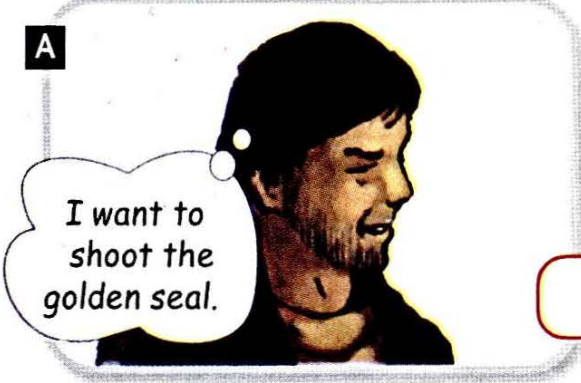
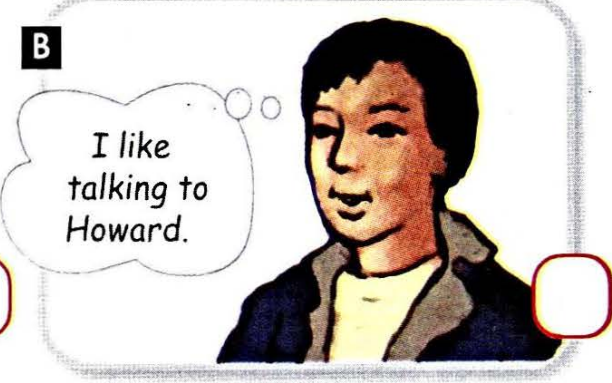
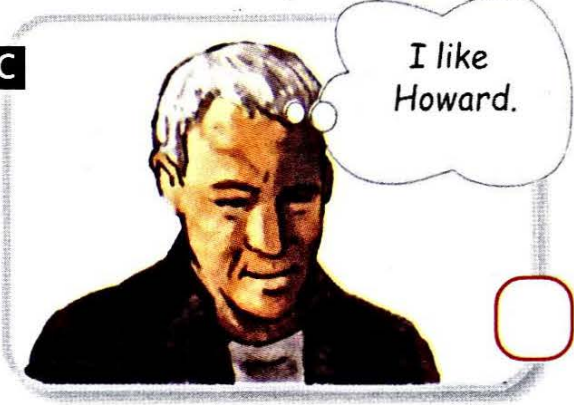
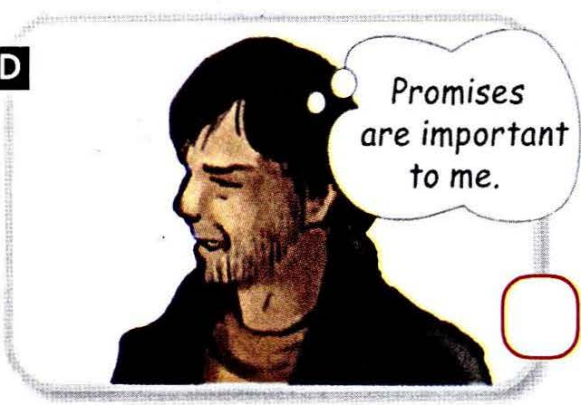
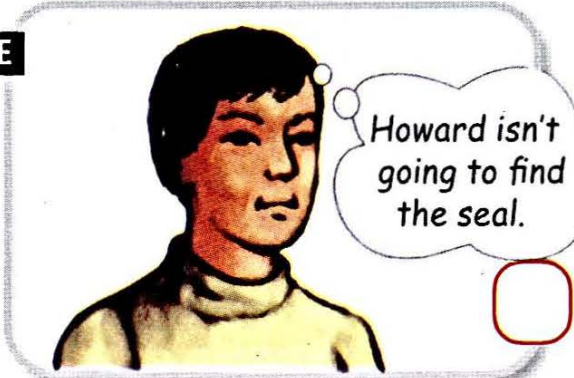

### 6.1 Were you right?

Look at your answers to Activity 5.4. Then underline the right words in these sentences.

- 1 Crawford looks for the golden seal in the *river / sand dunes*.
- 2 Crawford is *friendly to / angry with* Eric.
- 3 Eric promises to *take Crawford to the golden seal / be Crawford's friend*.
- 4 Crawford *knows / doesn't know* about the secret place.
- 5 Crawford promises *not to shoot the seal / to give the seal's fur to Jim*.

### 6.2 What more did you learn?

Are these pictures right or wrong? Check (✓) the right pictures.

<p><b>A</b></p> 	<p><b>B</b></p> 
<p><b>C</b></p> 	<p><b>D</b></p> 
<p><b>E</b></p> 	<p><b>F</b></p> 

### 6.3 Language in use

Read the sentences in the box.

Then make these sentences negative, with *not/n't*.

I **don't like** my son near the seal catcher.

He **didn't close** the door.

1 Crawford saw the seal on the beach.

.....

2 I want to answer all of Crawford's questions.

.....

3 Jim shot the seal and her pups.

.....

4 Crawford wants to be the seal's friend.

.....

5 Eric is going to take Crawford to the secret place this evening.

.....




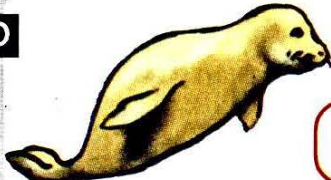

.....

### 6.4 What happens next?

Read these words from Chapter 6. Who or what are Tania and Jim talking about? What do you think? Check (✓) the right pictures.

"Are they dead?" Tania asked quietly.

"Yes," Jim answered.

<b>A</b>		<b>B</b>		<b>C</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>D</b>			<b>E</b>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

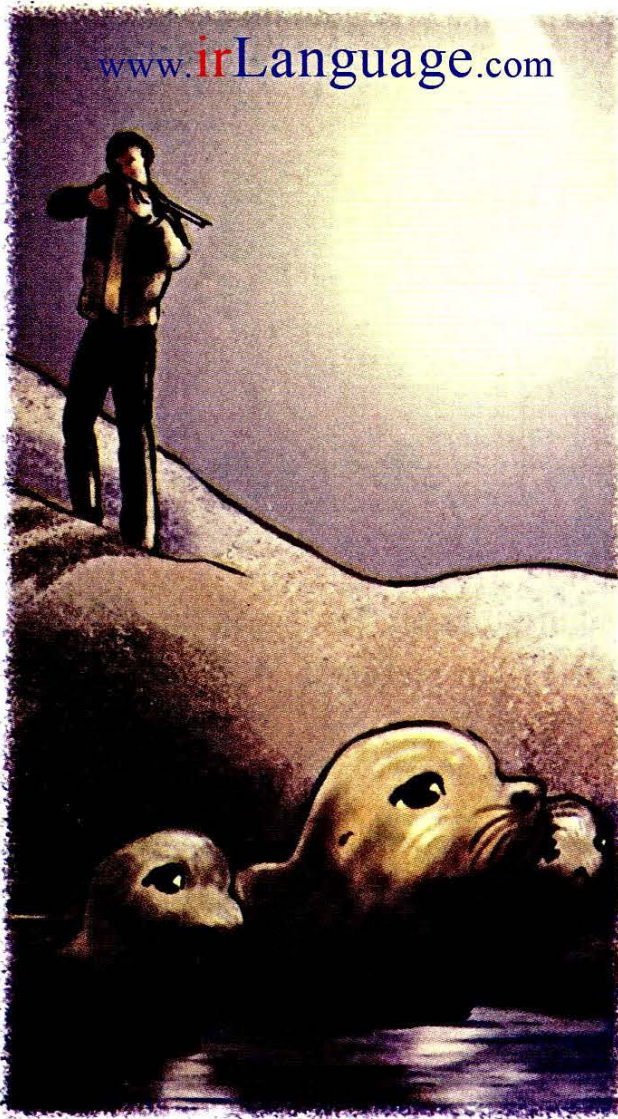


## Back to the Ocean

*“Are they dead?” Tania asked quietly.*

*“Yes,” Jim answered.*

That night, Howard Crawford didn't sleep. He didn't want to wait for the morning. He wanted to find the secret place—and the golden seal—now! He managed to get up very slowly, with no noise.



*I'm going to take Jim's gun, he thought. My gun's very small. His big gun is a good gun for this job.*

With Jim's gun, he quietly went out of the house and into the sand dunes.

After the storm, the island was quiet and beautiful. But that wasn't important to Crawford. He only wanted to find the golden seal. After a short time, he arrived at the water. There he saw a beautiful yellow light. It was the golden seal. Behind her, her two pups played in the water, too.

Crawford moved quietly, with the gun in his hand. *Now,*

*he thought, I can shoot the seal. And that beautiful golden fur is mine!*

Behind him, there was a small noise. Crawford was suddenly frightened. He looked back, but it was only a white rabbit. Crawford looked at the seal again. He put the gun to his eye.

*Now!* he thought. *Goodbye, golden seal.*

He didn't see the big, dark animal



behind him in the sand. But he did hear a noise—the noise of a big, angry bear!

Crawford moved his gun quickly and shot at the bear. But the bear was on him.

A big, frightened noise came out of Crawford's mouth. He saw the bear's big, open mouth near his face. He put up his hands, but the bear was strong. One of Crawford's hands went into the bear's



mouth and there was blood—a lot of blood. Crawford's blood!

But Crawford was strong, too. He wanted to live! He put one hand in his coat. *Where's my small gun?* he thought. *Oh, no. It isn't here! But what's this? Yes, it's a knife!* He managed to take the knife from his coat. Crawford's face was now in the bear's mouth. But, at the same time, his knife was in the bear's head.

The bear fell back dead. But Crawford was dead, too. The white sand was dark with their blood.



In the early morning light, Jim, Tania, and Eric looked down at the bear and the seal catcher.

"Are they dead?" Tania asked quietly.

"Yes," Jim answered.

They put the seal catcher under the sand. Then they started to walk back to the house.

"The seal wasn't in the water," Eric said. "Did Howard shoot her?"

"No," Jim answered. "I didn't see a dead seal near him."

"Is she here, on the island?"

Jim started to answer, but suddenly he saw some sunlight on golden fur down on the beach. "Look!" he said.

They watched the seal and her two pups. She moved slowly across the beach to the open ocean and her pups went after her. They went

into the water and started to swim away. Suddenly, in the water, they moved quickly and beautifully.

The family watched them for a long time. The seals were now very small, out in the ocean.

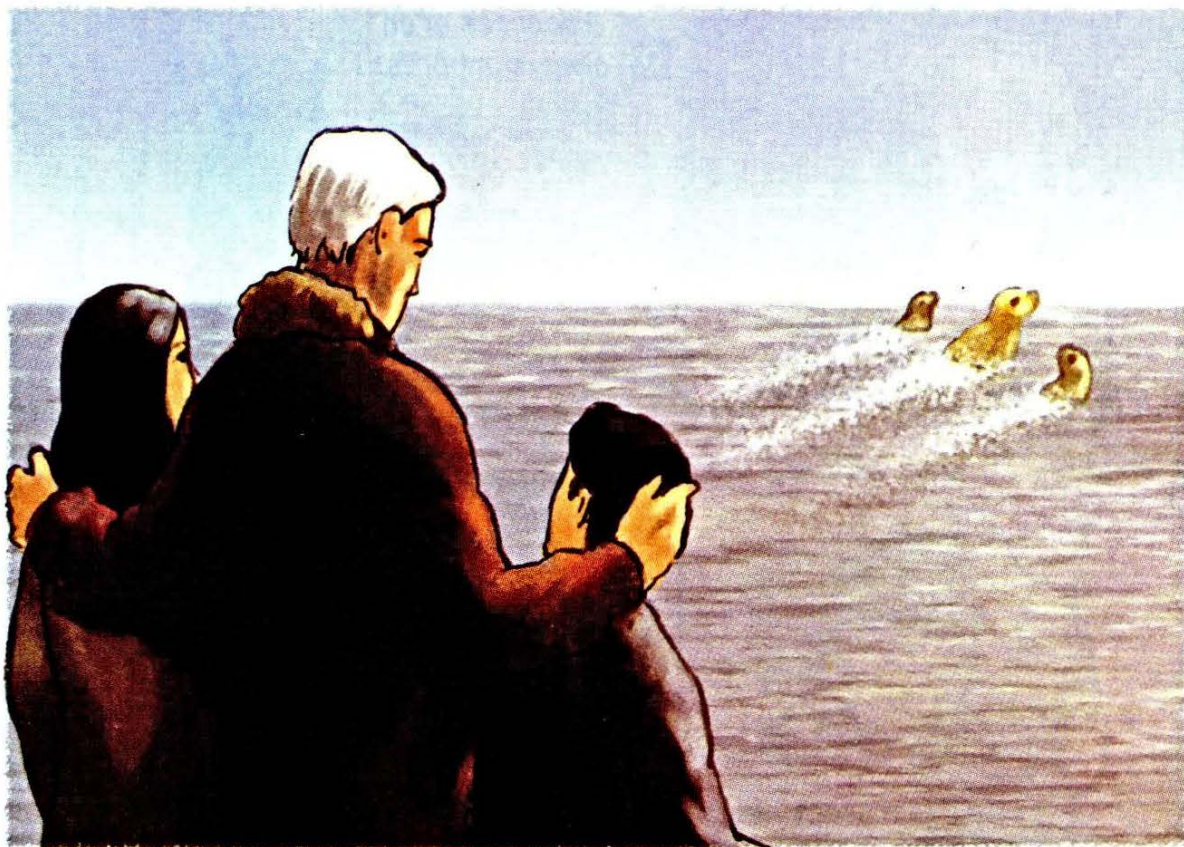
Tania looked at Jim and moved near him.

“Are you very unhappy?” she asked him. “You always wanted to catch a golden seal. She was here on the island. But now she’s out in the ocean. Now you can never get any money for her golden fur.”

Jim smiled and put her hand in his.

“No, I’m happy. The money isn’t important. I have a happy family—*that’s* important.” He looked at his son. “And you?” he asked. “The seal was your friend. Now she isn’t here.”

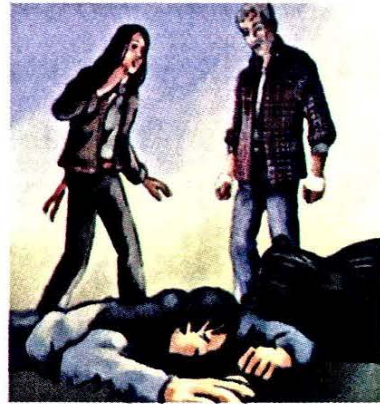
Eric thought about the night in the little building with the seal and her pups. He remembered his head on her golden fur, and her beautiful, friendly eyes. But their homes were not the same. *He* liked living in a small house on an island. *She* liked living in the ocean.



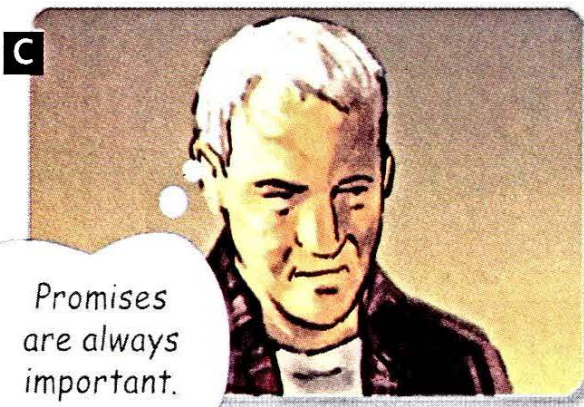
**1** Look at the picture and then talk about Howard Crawford.

**Student A** You are Jim. You never liked Crawford. He is dead and you are not unhappy about that. Why?

**Student B** You are Tania. Crawford did some bad things, but he was not a bad man. Now he is dead and you are unhappy. Why?

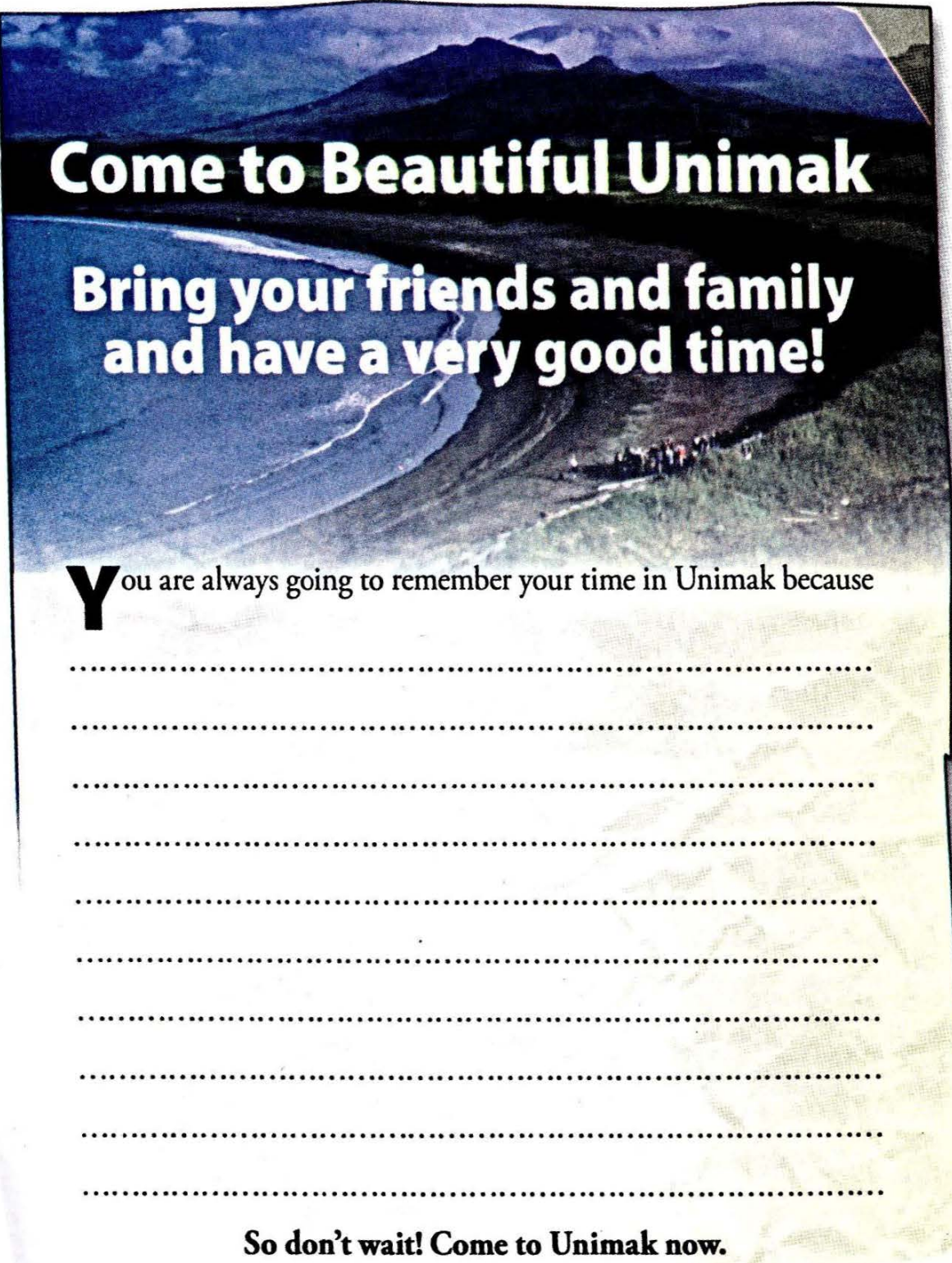


**2** Look at the pictures. Who is right? Why? What do you think? Talk to a friend.



You have a hotel in Unimak, in the Aleutian Islands. You want visitors at your hotel in the summer vacation. What do people like? Think about the animals, the beaches, the rivers and the ocean, and the food. Then write about the island for a newspaper.

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**Come to Beautiful Unimak**

**Bring your friends and family and have a very good time!**

**Y**ou are always going to remember your time in Unimak because

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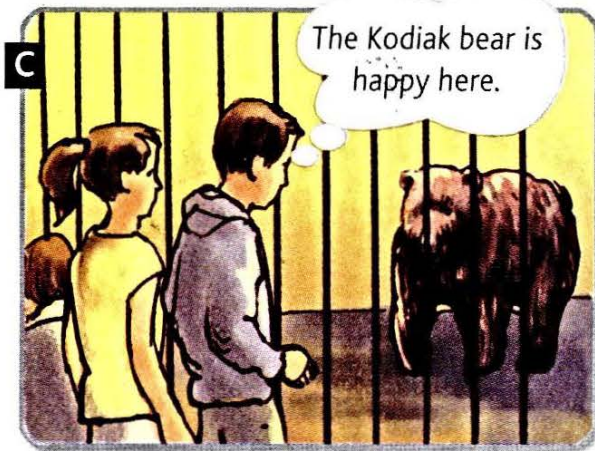
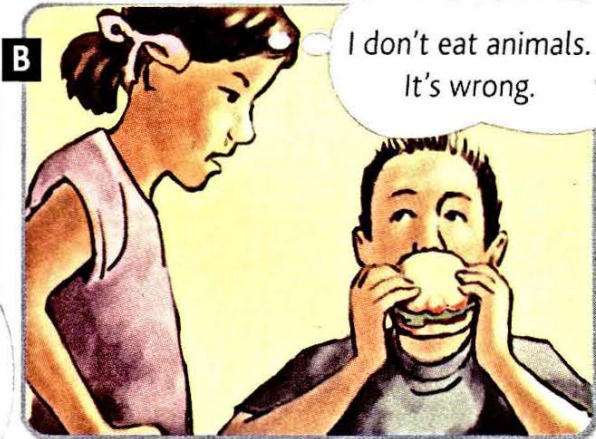
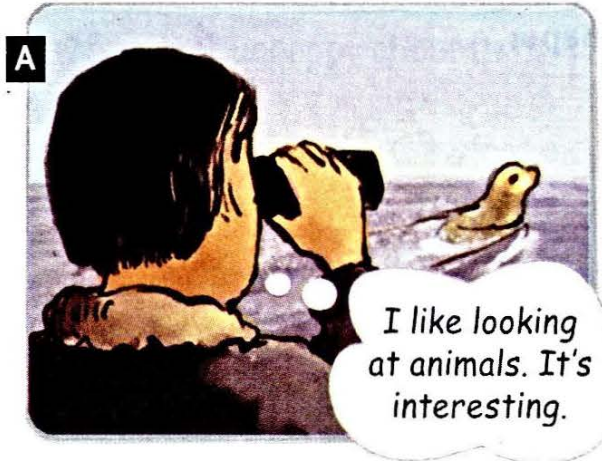
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**So don't wait! Come to Unimak now.**

1 Right or wrong?

Talk about these pictures with a friend. What do you think? Why?



2 I want a rabbit!

Look at this picture and work with your friend. Talk about this problem.

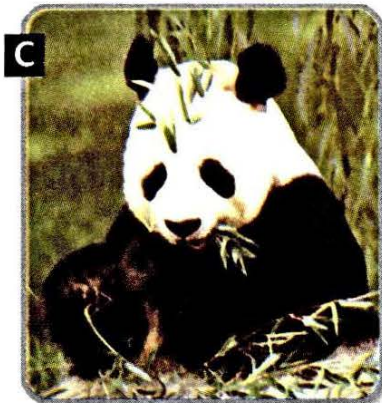
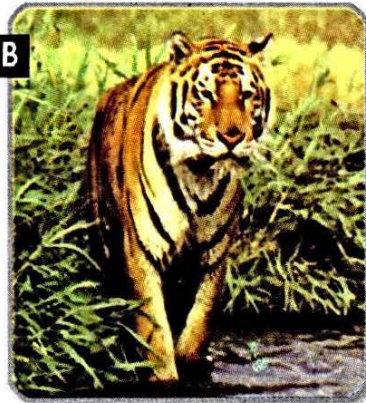
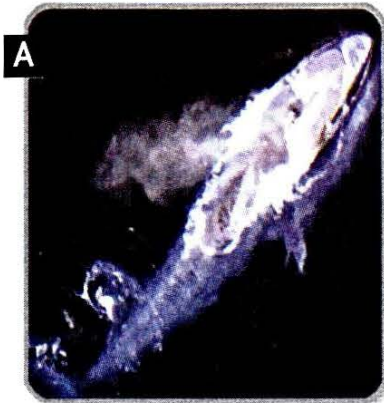
**Student A** You are the girl. You want a small white rabbit in your house. Why do you want it? Talk about it with your mother.

**Student B** You are the girl's mother. You don't want a white rabbit in the house. Why don't you want it? Talk about the problems with your daughter.



**3 Animals with a big problem**

Look at these pictures of animals. They all have the same problem: there are not many of them. In fifty years, there aren't going to be any of them! With your friend, look in your dictionaries and on the Internet and answer the questions about them.



	A	B	C
<b>a</b> What is its name?	..... .....	..... .....	..... .....
<b>b</b> Which country does it come from?	..... .....	..... .....	..... .....
<b>c</b> What does it eat?	..... .....	..... .....	..... .....
<b>d</b> Where does it sleep?	..... .....	..... .....	..... .....
<b>e</b> How long does it live?	..... .....	..... .....	..... .....
<b>f</b> How big is it?	..... .....	..... .....	..... .....
<b>g</b> How heavy is it?	..... .....	..... .....	..... .....
<b>h</b> Why are there not many of them?	..... .....	..... .....	..... .....



**4 Money for the animals.**

a Look at this sentence about the animals in Activity 3.

*"In fifty years, there aren't going to be any of them."*

Is this important? Why (not)? Talk about it.

b You and your friends are going to give money for one of the animals. Which animal do *you* want to give money for? Why? Which animal do your friends want to give money for? Ask them, and write your answers.

	Name of student	Which animal?	Why?
1	(you)		
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

c What did people say? Write about their answers. Start with: *A lot of / some / One or two / No (students)*. Write the name of the animal, and finish the sentences.

..... students want to give money for..... because

.....

..... students want to give money for..... because

.....

..... students want to give money for..... because

.....

d Which animal are you and your friends going to give money for?

.....

# The Golden Seal

James Vance Marshall

American English

*Contemporary*

One night, away from his family, Eric finds a golden seal. A lot of men want to shoot golden seals for their beautiful fur. Eric's father is one of those men. And then Howard Crawford arrives in a boat. What does he want? Eric loves the seal. He wants her to live. But what can he do?

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Number of words (excluding activities): 4,691

Series Editors: Jocelyn Potter and Andy Hopkins

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