

e-future PYP Readers

LEVEL 5-8

Mermaid



Edward Zrudlo

A Match the words to the correct definitions.

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| 1. mermaid | • | • | a. maybe |
| 2. perhaps | • | • | b. for a very short time |
| 3. momentarily | • | • | c. calm, kind, or soft |
| 4. relief | • | • | d. to send air out of your lungs |
| 5. exhale | • | • | e. an imaginary creature with the upper body of a woman and the tail of a fish |
| 6. gentle | • | • | f. a feeling of happiness that something bad has not happened or has ended |

B Write the words next to their definitions.

superior marvel coastal movement submarine tip (over)

1. _____ : a change in physical position; the act of moving
2. _____ : to show or feel great surprise or admiration
3. _____ : to fall or cause something to fall over onto one side
4. _____ : better
5. _____ : on or relating to the coast
6. _____ : a ship that can travel underwater

C Write the correct word to complete the sentence.

down to out of out across

1. They all screamed as a huge head **rose** _____ the water.
2. "What about that one?" asked Chantal, **pointing** _____ a bright orange butterfly.
3. They soon **calmed** _____ and became aware that Juan Luis was gently splashing the water with his hand.
4. Just let the butterflies **fly** _____ your vision
5. Mpho took a handful of leaves and **held** it _____ to the manatee.

D Write sentences using the same pattern.

Present Participle Phrases

Present participle phrases describe nouns or pronouns. They are made up of an *-ing* verb form plus its object and/or other words that go with it.

- "Do you want to feed her?" asked Juan Luis, **bringing out a cardboard banana box.** *[describing Juan Luis]*
- "She's incredible," he marveled, **stretching out his hand.** *[describing he]*

1. I walked home slowly. I looked at the cherry blossoms.
→ I walked home slowly, looking at the cherry blossoms.
2. They sat quietly at their desks. They were reading their textbooks.
→ _____
3. "It's gorgeous," he said. He admired the butterfly.
→ _____
4. "Here I go!" Alicia shouted. She jumped into the canal.
→ _____

A Answer the questions. (pp. 2-5)

1. **What were the students doing?**
 - a. Walking through a rainforest
 - b. Catching butterflies in a national park
 - c. Canoeing along a natural canal
 - d. Visiting a butterfly farm

2. **Which is NOT true about the butterflies of Costa Rica?**
 - a. There are over half a million species.
 - b. Juan Luis knows all of the species.
 - c. Two of the species are zebra longwings and Julias.

3. **What do oropendolas' nests look like?** _____ .

4. **Why does Chantal know what the word "pendant" means?**
 Because _____ .

B Circle T for true or F for false. (pp. 6-11)

1. The students thought the manatee was a monster at first. T / F
2. Juan Luis had never seen that particular manatee before. T / F
3. In the past, sailors thought that manatees were whales. T / F
4. The manatee did not want to be touched. T / F
5. Mpho fed the manatee. T / F
6. Manatees can move their tails like an elephant's trunk. T / F

C Fill in the chart with the correct people and/or things.

Who or What?

1. **She** looked like a living submarine. _____
2. **He** made the manatee come by splashing the water. _____
3. **He** was the first student to realize what the manatee was. _____
4. **It** can be used by a manatee like a monkey's tail. _____
5. One of the students fed **them** to the manatee. _____
6. **It** tipped over. _____

D Complete the summary with the correct words.

people nests women butterflies warm manatee canal

As they travel along in two canoes, the students, their teacher, and their guide see lots of 1. _____. The guide, Juan Luis, tells them about some of the Costa Rican species. He says that their colors show better along the 2. _____ than on butterfly farms. They also see the hanging 3. _____ of birds called oropendolas. Then the children notice a huge shape moving under the water. They're scared until they see Juan Luis petting the creature, which he calls "my mermaid." It's a 4. _____. Sailors used to think manatees were 5. _____, and that's how the story of mermaids began. Juan Luis says that the manatee likes 6. _____, so the kids can touch and feed her. He also tells them how manatees use their lip to grab things. Suddenly, the canoe tips over. Juan Luis and three kids fall into the water, but the water is 7. _____, and they play with the manatee.