

# Stranded!

*Tim and his Dad are stranded on a sailing boat, waiting for the wind to gather speed. However, they soon find that they are not alone ...*

Tim could see the gleaming body of the whale pushing its way through the water just beside their boat. He could just make out the faint bubbling of water, like the sound of a gentle mountain stream flowing through pebbles. And then it stopped. All at once and without warning.

“It might have gone,” his dad said, looking up at their limp sail. “We’ll wait a little longer. See if the wind begins to pick up.”

Tim felt his heart start to race. Not because of the whale just to the side of them. It was certainly still there. There was something else. A dark streamlined shape, coming towards the boat. A shark! Tim’s heart beat faster. This time he really was frightened.

“There’s a bit of a breeze now,” said his dad, who had not yet spotted the shark. “Come on.”

“No!” yelled Tim, without moving. “Keep still!”

But it was too late. A dull thud rocked the hull followed by another ... and another.

Dad saw at once what it was. “Don’t move!” he said. “Just don’t move.”

“I’m not!” shouted Tim. “I’m not moving!”

The boat began to rock wildly from side to side. Water was spilling over the bow. The shark was attacking their boat.

Tim’s stomach was churning so much that he thought he was going to be sick. And as for his heart, it was beating fast enough for it to burst right out of his chest. He stared into his father’s face. It was white – white and full of terror.

A wave of water crashed into the boat. Tim covered his face. And, in less time than it had taken him to blink, his dad disappeared, swept overboard by the rush of water.

“Dad!” Tim screamed. “Dad!”

The thudding and banging stopped. Tim scrambled to the side. The sea was still – dead still. Tim wanted to cry. He wanted to scream. His eyes combed the still

water for life. But there was nothing – not a thing. The sea had fallen silent. The only thing Tim could hear was his own heart pounding inside his chest.

“Tim!” A voice suddenly yelled from behind him. “Over here!”

“Dad!” Tim cried.

Tim turned round and held out one hand to his father frantically splashing about in the water. But it was no good. He couldn’t reach him.

“Help! Pull me up! Quick!”

“I’m trying, Dad, I’m trying!” Tim screamed helplessly. “I’m trying.”

Then suddenly, on that last scream, a jet of water shot high into the air. Tim stared in amazement as his dad began to rise slowly out of the water. He was moving upwards, almost as if he was being lifted by someone – or something.



Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

**1** In the opening paragraph, what does Tim see in the water beside their boat? Tick **one**.

- bubbling water
- a stream flowing through pebbles
- a whale
- his dad

**2** What did Tim see coming towards the boat that made him really frightened?

.....

**3** Read the paragraph beginning “*Tim felt his heart ...*” to “*... heart beat faster.*”  
Explain what this tells you about how Tim was feeling.

.....

**4** “*A dull thud rocked the hull followed by another ... and another.*”  
Explain what this tells you about what the shark was doing.

.....

**5** Read the section from “*Tim’s stomach was churning ...*” to “*... rush of water.*”  
Using information from the text, tick **one** box in each row to show whether each statement is **True** or **False**.

	True	False
Tim was so scared that he thought he was going to be sick.		
Tim’s heart burst out of his chest.		
Tim’s dad was swept overboard.		

**6** How do you know that everything went quiet after the shark attacked the boat?  
Write down **three** pieces of evidence.

.....

.....

**7** How did Tim try to help his dad out of the sea?

.....

**8** *“I’m trying, Dad, I’m trying!” Tim screamed helplessly. “I’m trying.”*

Write down **one** word that tells you Tim felt that he couldn’t help his dad.

.....

**9** Who or what do you think lifted Tim’s dad out of the water?

.....

**10** Below are some summaries of different events in this passage. Number them 1–7 to show the order in which they appear in the passage.

The first one has been done for you.

Tim tried to rescue his dad.

Dad was swept overboard.

Tim spotted a shark coming towards the boat.

Dad disappeared and everything went quiet.

The shark started attacking the boat.

Dad was lifted out of the sea on a jet of water.

Tim saw a whale near the boat.