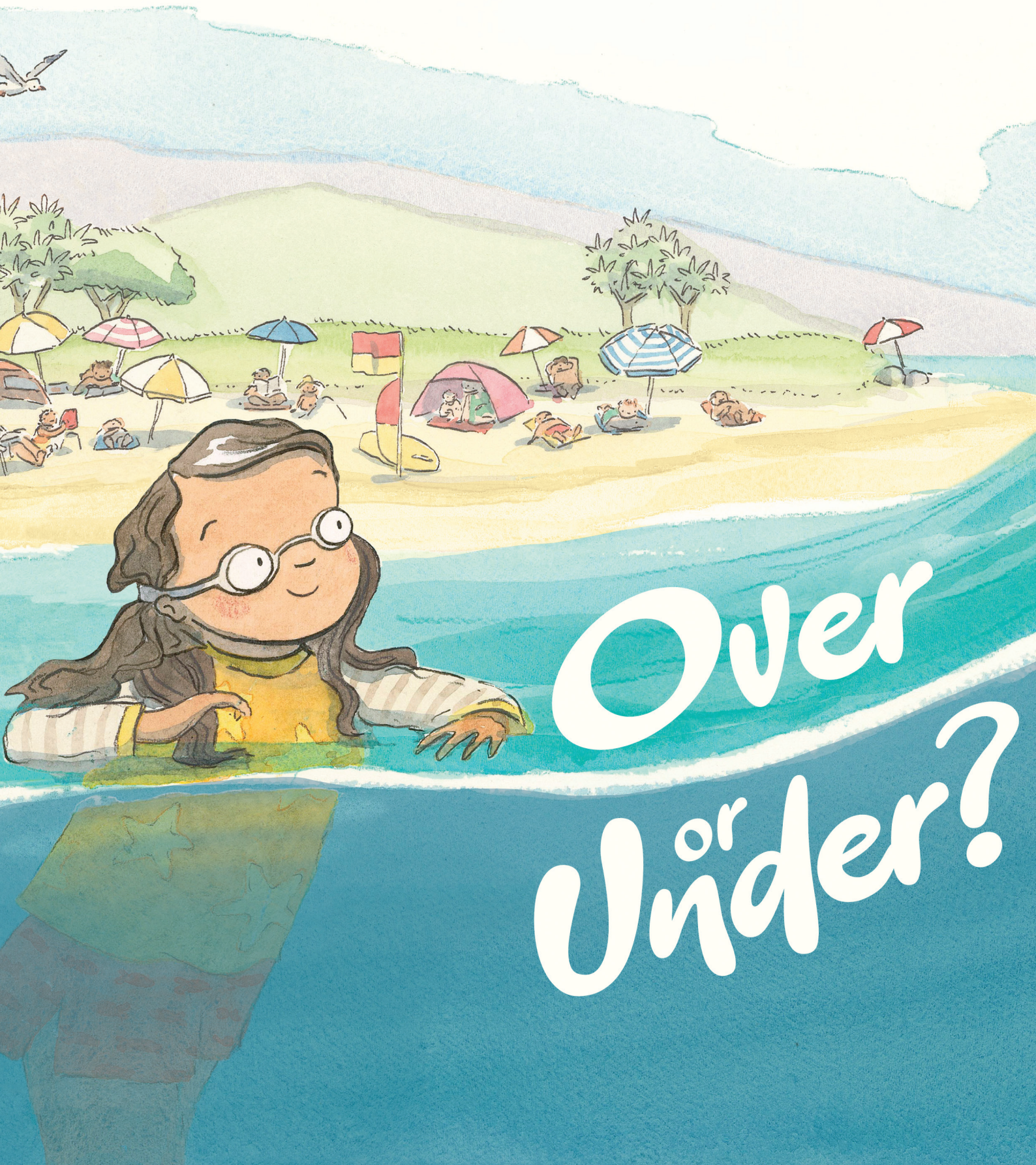


PIP HARRY & HILARY JEAN TAPPER



Over or Under?

TEACHERS RESOURCES

Over or Under?

PIP HARRY & HILARY JEAN TAPPER

Teachers Resources by Robyn Sheahan-Bright

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INTRODUCTION

I'm jumping waves at the beach with Dad.

If they're small I can leap over their frothy peaks.

Easy!

But further out, when they're big, you have to duck dive under.

Maisie is learning about ocean swimming at the beach. The small waves are easy, but how will she know when to dive under the bigger ones? And will she be brave enough to try? She is very lucky that Dad is there to help her.

This is a beautiful picture book from acclaimed author Pip Harry and award-winning illustrator Hilary Jean Tapper.

THEMES & CURRICULUM TOPICS

Several themes are covered in this book which might be related to the Australian Curriculum, including:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS)

<<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/humanities-and-social-sciences/hass/>>

BEACH

Discussion Point: Invite students to discuss swimming at the beach and the enjoyment involved in 'braving' waves.

Discussion Point: Discuss safety at the beach, referring to the page of beach safety tips included in this book.

Discussion Point: How important is it to have an adult nearby when you are swimming, as Maisie does with her dad?

Discussion Point: What else do your students like to do at the beach? For example, making sandcastles, playing games, collecting shells, fossicking for 'treasures', people-watching, reading, sunbathing, etc.

Discussion Point: What objects or possessions do students take to the beach when they go there?

Discussion Point: What objects do students find on the beach?

Discussion Point: How are waves created? Research this topic. [See **Bibliography**.]

CONFIDENCE

Discussion Point: Acquiring new skills like swimming and diving and surfing takes confidence. Discuss your students' feelings about the water. How did they first learn to 'brave a wave'? Do they still feel trepidation when entering the water or has excitement become their major emotional response?

Discussion Point: Having a good teacher like Maisie's dad is important. We each learn by experience but having someone to teach swimming and surfing skills is also essential. For example, one of the lessons Maisie learns is to assess when to dive under and when to leap over a wave. What other skills does her dad teach Maisie?

FAMILY

Discussion Point: This book explores the relationship between a child and her father. Enjoying simple pursuits like swimming or surfing is one of the ways in which bonds between parents and children are forged and cemented. Invite students to share the pursuits they enjoy with parents, grandparents or adult carers.

Discussion Point: In this family Maisie has a baby brother named Ollie. How is the family unit depicted in this book? Are they a close family?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERACY

<<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/english/>>

The text of this book might be studied in relation to the following aspects:

Discussion Point: This story is told from the first person present tense narrative point of view of Maisie. Imagine if her dad had written the story. How might you rewrite the first few sentences of this text in his voice?

Activity: Observe the use of literary devices in this text, for example:

Simile: *Dad says waves are like a kiss from the wind, blown from the middle of the ocean.*

I collect all my courage, like shells in a bucket.

Personification: *This wave is playful; an excited puppy trying to lick my nose. 'Over, Maisie!' shouts Dad. I float over the wave, the water lifts me off my feet – it feels like flying!*

The next wave is a gruff, barking stray that snarls and spits.

The wave shoves me backwards, snatching my goggles, wrenching my hand away from Dad's.

Today, the waves aren't shy. They're out to play.

The wave rumbles over my head, the last flick of its tail tickling the soles of my feet ... a trail of wash gurgling behind.

This wave is a loyal Labrador. Its strong, sure paws wrap around me.

Invite students to describe a day at the beach using literary devices in this way. Write your own short story about braving the waves.

Discussion Point: There are several ‘doing’ words used to describe beach swimming in this book. What other words might have been used? [See **Worksheet 2.**]

Activity: Test your students’ **comprehension** by asking them questions about the written and visual text. [See also **Author’s Notes** below.]

VISUAL LITERACY

<<https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/the-arts/visual-arts/>>

The visual text of a book combines with the written text to tell the story using the various parts of the book’s design and illustrations, as explored below:

Activity: The **cover** of a book is an important part of its message. This cover foregrounds the young swimmer happily and confidently swimming against the background of a beach covered in people. They are engaged in various activities, as the scene is a colourful assemblage of brightly coloured beach umbrellas, with children playing, building sandcastles and parents reading and sunbathing. Maisie’s self-assurance is the message conveyed. The book shows how she gains this confidence. Design a different cover for this book, after you have read it.

Activity: The **endpapers** are a gorgeous series of repeated images of people on a beach. What other activities might they be engaged in? Draw an image of that activity.

Discussion Point: The **title page** depicts the young swimmer in her goggles, taken from a side view as she faces a wave advancing towards her. This provides an apt summary of the central question posed in the book. Discuss how in using a side view, the illustrator has created a more dynamic image than if the image was a portrait of Maisie looking at the reader.

Discussion Point: Why does the landscape **format** of the book suit the action depicted so well?

Discussion Point: Observe the way **movement is conveyed** in the double page spread depicting Maisie being dumped by the wave. The illustrator depicts her characters in a variety of poses and conveys action in a realistic and very active way. Invite students to draw an image of a child being dumped by a wave using a series of images in this way.

Discussion Point: The **images vary in format**, from pages which include a number of images depicting people engaged in beach activities, to double page spreads dramatically depicting Maisie’s brave encounters with the waves. How does this varied layout of the storyboard influence your reading of meaning in this story?

Activity: Creating characters entails not only **drawing facial expressions but also depicting ‘body language’**. Examine the spread depicting Maisie on the beach after she’s been dumped by the wave. What do the images convey about her feelings?

Activity: The **medium or style** employed is watercolour, ink and pencil in warm pastel **colours**. Examine this and other books illustrated by Hilary Jean Tapper. Then try to create an image in a similar style.

Discussion Point: The final frame depicts Maisie wrapped in her beach towel looking out to the sea. Her parents and baby brother Ollie are watching her from a few paces away. The bird that has been circling overhead is standing on the beach with Maisie. What feelings does this image convey?

Activity: Draw some of the things you find at the beach.

Activity: Invite students to draw, paint, or collage a scene to accompany the story you wrote

above. Create a classroom mural using all the images. [See also **Worksheet 1** below.]

Activity: Create a graphic novel/comic version of a scene in this book. [See **Bibliography.**] [See also **Worksheet 4.**]

CREATIVE ARTS

There are many creative activities suggested by this text:

- 1. Create a Classroom Mural of a beach scene.** Invite each student to depict themselves on a beach enjoying some activity, then collate the images by gluing them onto a larger drawing of a beach landscape.
- 2. Make a Beach-Inspired Mobile.** Draw some of the objects you can see in this book. Colour them in using crayons, texta pens or coloured pencils. Glue to craft paper and then cut them out. Use fishing line to secure each object to a clothes hanger. Then hang up your mobile!
- 3. Create a Diorama depicting Maisie and her dad in the waves.** [See **Bibliography.**]
- 4. Create a poster** to advertise this book.
- 5. Create a Book Trailer** to promote this book. [See **Bibliography.**]

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

Activity: Research the beach as a topic online. [See **Bibliography.**]

MATHEMATICS

Activity: Have fun counting things in this text. [See **Worksheet 3** below for mathematics activities.]

FURTHER TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH

- Research the work of Pip Harry. Compare this to her other books.
- Research the work of Hilary Jean Tapper. Compare this to her other books.
- Students might research this book in comparison to reading other picture books such as those listed in the **Bibliography.**

CONCLUSION

This delightful book explores a child's acquisition of skills, together with overcoming her fears. It also demonstrates the bond between father and child in learning these new skills. Hilary Jean Tapper's whimsical and delicate drawings in watercolour are perfectly attuned to Pip Harry's warm and loving evocation of a child's first experiences, and of a family sharing in those feelings.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

Over or Under? is a love letter to Australian beaches and all the kids who learn to swim there each year – through our amazing SLSC Nippers programs or with their families and carers. I wrote it at North Curl Curl Beach in Sydney after I'd had a swim in the ocean with my daughter. She'd been badly dumped by a wave in rough conditions and was shaken by the experience. Her reaction reminded me that kids need so much courage and resilience to brave Australia's unpredictable surf conditions. I'd also been hearing young swimmers shout 'over!' and 'under!' that day; a common cry used to decide when to duck dive under a wave or float over the top of it. As an experienced ocean swimmer myself, I felt uniquely placed to tell this story authentically. I love, respect and fear the ocean in equal measures. I sent the original sea-salty draft to my publisher Jeanmarie Morosin at Hachette. She was immediately excited that the book focused on a girl (Maisie) learning about swimming in the ocean with her father, and that she must overcome being dumped by a wave for the first time. The story is very Australian but also universal in themes – it's about trying new things, getting knocked down, but having the strength to get back up again. I like to imagine that Maisie goes on to become a strong ocean swimmer or surfer and it's that special, triumphant day on the beach that ignites a lifetime of connection to the coast.

I couldn't have imagined a better pairing for the text than gifted New Zealand illustrator Hilary Jean Tapper, whose whimsical, gentle watercolour artworks add so much to the story and evoke an Australian summer at the coast so beautifully.

ILLUSTRATOR'S NOTES

Illustrating for *Over or Under?* was a wonderful challenge that taught me a lot! With every new book comes a series of new challenges. For example, I hadn't painted pictures of the ocean much before, and I needed to fill a whole book with pictures of the ocean! To prepare for this book, I spent a lot of time looking at the ocean, looking at the way waves crash and rise, and taking swims in the ocean. All of this information helped me to understand how to draw and paint the illustrations for *Over or Under?* One of the biggest challenges with painting this book was finding three distinct blue tones to represent the sky, the top of the water, and underneath the water. I also wanted Maisie to stand out from the water, so she is painted in colours very different from blue hues. Something I love about these pictures is that 'water' colour is representing the water of the ocean! This is a lovely detail that I find quite satisfying. As with my other picture books, I began with creating storyboards, then sketches, then eventually the final colour versions. At each stage, I add more detail to the pictures. They begin very rough, and by the end are as you see them in the printed book.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pip Harry is an Australian author, copywriter and journalist who lives on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Her acclaimed verse novel *The Little Wave* won the 2020 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Award for Younger Readers. In 2023, her middle grade novel *August & Jones* won the CBCA Shadow Judging Book of the Year for Younger Readers and was shortlisted for the 2024 YABBA Awards. *Over or Under?* is her first picture book, inspired by a lifetime of ocean swimming and occasionally getting dumped by big waves.

See also: www.pipharry.com

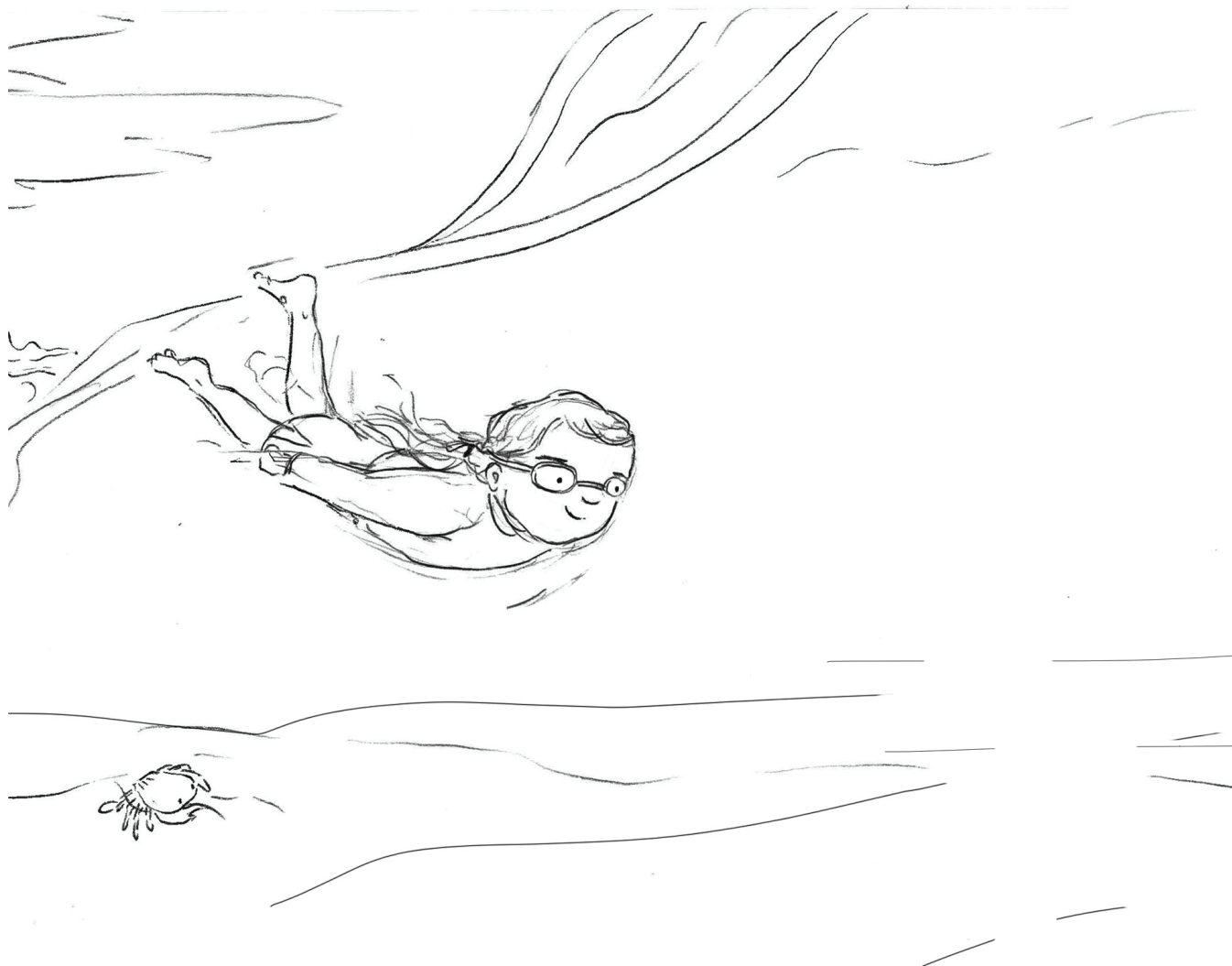
ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Hilary Jean Tapper is an international award-winning illustrator based in New Zealand. She is winner of the ABIA (Australian Book Industry Awards) Children's Picture Book of the Year for 2023 and Forevability Book Awards 2022 (forevability.org). For Hachette she has illustrated and published *What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do* and *What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say* both written by Davina Bell and *A Stick and a Stone* written by Sarina Dickson. Connect with Hilary on Facebook or Instagram: [@hilaryjeantapper](https://www.instagram.com/hilaryjeantapper).

WORKSHEETS

WORKSHEET 1. COLLAGE THIS IMAGE

Collage the image by Hilary Jean Tapper below.



WORKSHEET 2. WORDS FOR THE BEACH

These are words that appear in this book, relating to swimming at the beach. Write a sentence using each word.

Duck Dive	
Jumping	
Leap	
Float	
Push	
Tumble	
Turn	
Crash	
Bodysurfing	

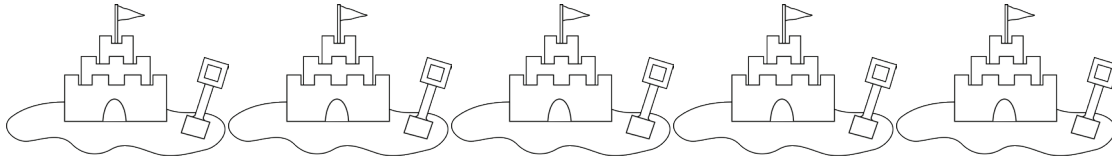
What other 'doing' words might you use to describe swimming and braving the waves?



WORKSHEET 3. MATHS



How many shells do you see above?



How many sandcastles would you have if you multiplied those above by three?



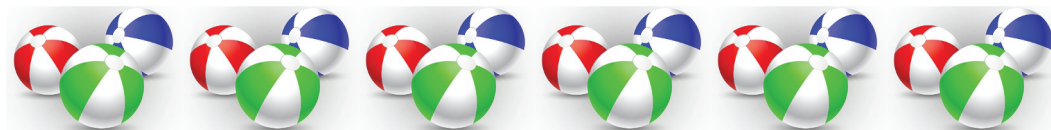
Take five bucket and spade sets away from the line above and how many would be left?



If you divided these beach umbrellas above by 2 how many would you have?



Add another six beach towels to those above and how many would you have?



How many beach balls can you see above?

How many blue and white beach balls can you see above?



How many swimming shorts would you have if you multiplied those above by four?

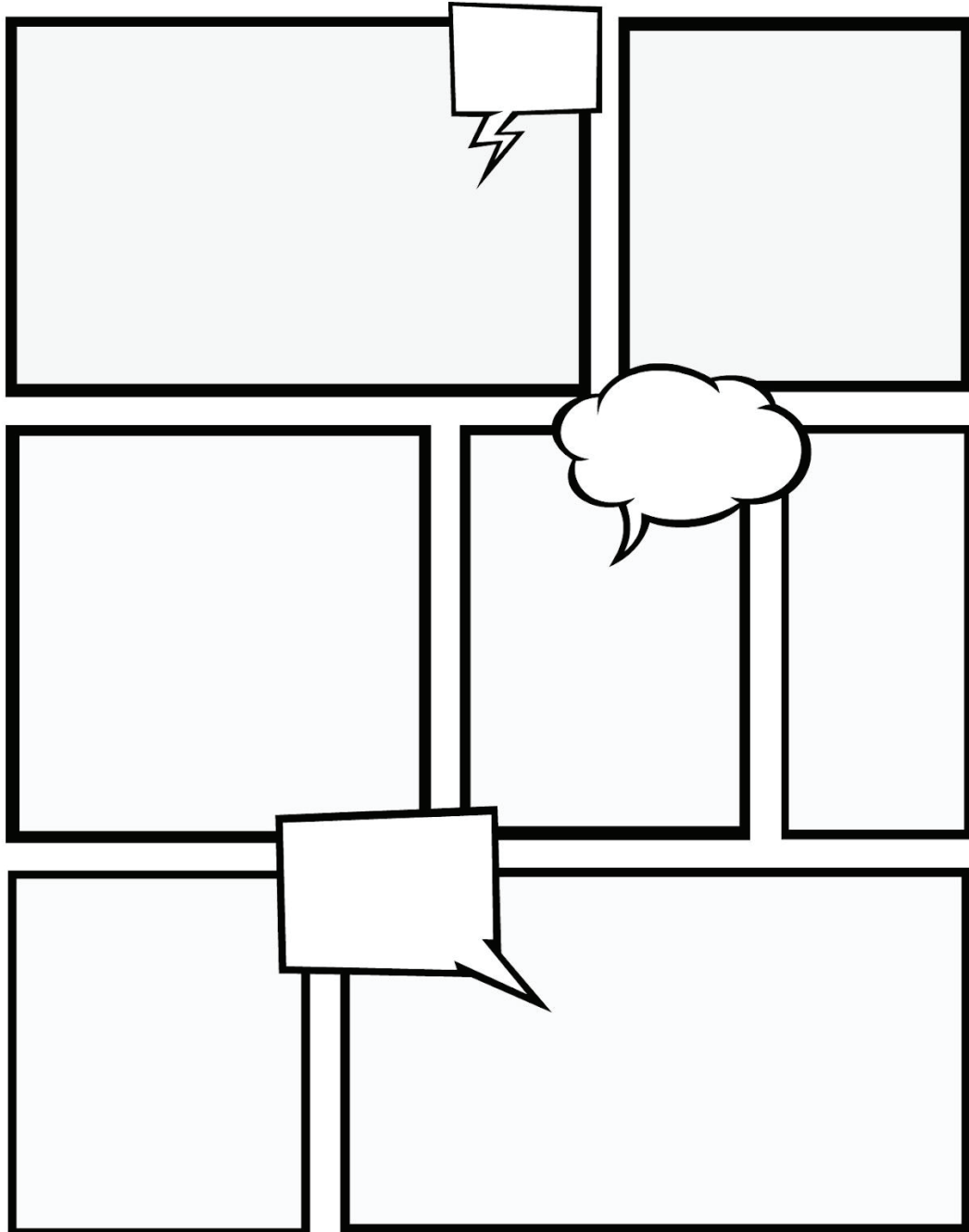
How many swimming shorts would you have if you divided those above by four?

Take one pair of swimming shorts away from the line above and how many would be left?

ANSWERS: 1. Nine. 2. Fifteen. 3. Three. 4. Four. 5. Eleven. 6. Eighteen. 7. Six. 8. Thirty-two. 9. Two. 10. Seven.

WORKSHEET 4. GRAPHIC STORYTELLING

Create a graphic novel/comic interpretation of one of the scenes in this book. Use the layout below as the storyboard for your comic. Enlarge on a photocopier to give you more space.



Comic Book Template viewed at: <http://www.pinterest.com/pin/365706432212821426/>

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THE NOTES

Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright AM operates justified text writing and publishing consultancy services, and is widely published on children's literature, publishing history and Australian fiction. In 2011 she was the recipient of the CBCA (Qld Branch) Dame Annabelle Rankin Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in Queensland, in 2012 the CBCA Nan Chauncy Award for Distinguished Services to Children's Literature in Australia, and in 2014, the QWC's Johnno Award. In 2021 she was appointed a member of the Order of Australia.

