

Seal Surfer

One day in early spring an old man and his grandson, Ben, carefully climb down to a rocky beach. They were looking for mussels.	11 21 24
As Ben searched he noticed a slight movement among the rocks. Then he saw the seal. It was difficult to see her body against the rocks, except for a smudge of red on her belly.	33 46 58 59
"Look, Granddad!" Ben cried. "The seal is injured."	67
"Don't get too close," warned Granddad. They watched the seal from a distance.	75 80
The seal looked quite calm, lying still in the morning sun, and after a while Ben started hunting for mussels again. When he next looked up at the seal, he saw a flash of white. A newly born seal pup nuzzled her mother.	91 101 115 123
"Quick, Granddad," whispered Ben. "Let's get some fish for the seals."	131 134
As the spring days lengthened, Ben and his granddad often watched the seal family from the cliff top. The pup's white coat molted and she become the color of the rocks. Sometimes she moved to the water's edge to watch her mother fish. As she basked in the warm sun, she kept an eye on Ben and his granddad.	143 154 165 175 188 193
In early summer Ben watched as the mother seal pushed her pup off the rocks and into the sea. The shock of the cold water made the young seal panic. The water closed over her head. She pushed upward with her tail and flippers until her head burst through the surface.	202 215 226 237 244