

## The Shipwreck

Read the fable, adapted from Aesop.

Then follow the instructions in the Text-Marking box.

Long ago, when dolphins were friendly towards humans, shipwrecked sailors often told of being rescued by holding onto a dolphin's fin to get back to shore. Also at that time, ships commonly carried animal mascots, like monkeys, who were known to be clever, entertaining companions, and good at mimicking the sailors.

One stormy night near Athens, Greece, a ship broke apart, dumping its sailors into the sea. Struggling, they grabbed onto anything they could to stay afloat. Emulating them, the monkey clung to an oar.

A dolphin swimming past, mistaking the monkey for a sailor, invited him to climb onto her back and grasp her tightly while she carried him to land. She politely asked, "Are you from Greece?"

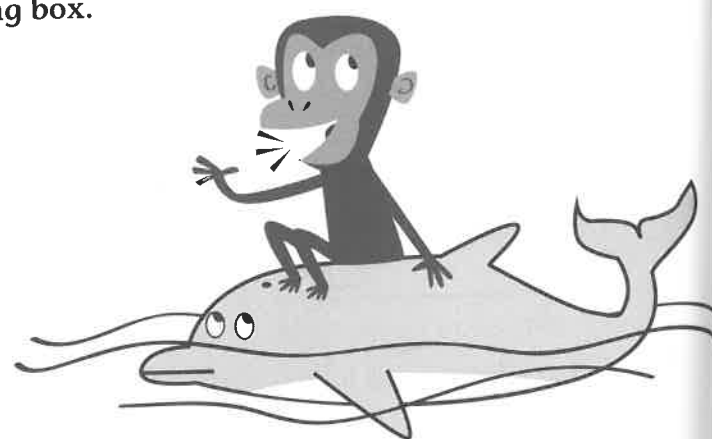
"Yes, my family is from Athens," replied the monkey.

"You sound like a well-educated person," said the dolphin respectfully. So the monkey began to regale her with fantastical tales; but all were lies. Soon the dolphin interrupted the monkey's yammering to indicate land on the horizon.

"As an Athenian," the dolphin said, "you must surely know Piraeus."

"Naturally!" the monkey replied. "Piraeus is my father's first cousin, whom we visit often because he is our favourite relative."

Knowing that Piraeus was the port nearest Athens, the dolphin realised the monkey was an imposter. So she dived under the waves, letting the monkey swim on his own, and sought an honest man to save.



### Text Marking

Use context clues to unlock meaning.



Circle the words:  
**mascots, emulating,  
regale and yammering.**



Underline context clues  
for each.

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► Answer each question. Give details from the fable.

1 Which word is a synonym for **mimicking** (paragraph 1)?

- A realising    ► B emulating    ► C yammering    ► D entertaining

What helped you answer? \_\_\_\_\_

2 Which is the most appropriate moral for this fable?

- A Look before you leap.    ► C A liar deceives no one but himself.  
► B The memory of a good deed lives.    ► D A friend in need is a friend indeed.

What helped you answer? \_\_\_\_\_

3 According to this fable, why did sailors bring animals aboard ship?

4 Why did the dolphin dive under the waves at the end?