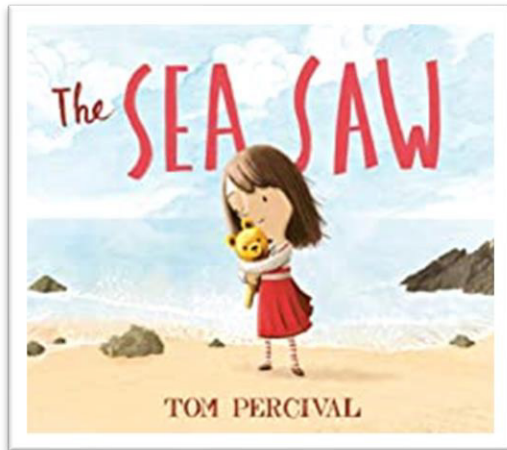


Read for Pleasure

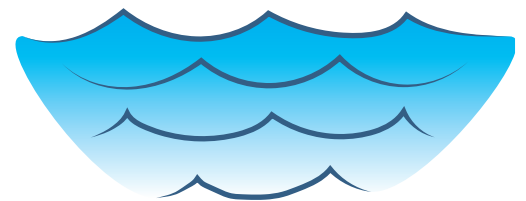
The Sea Saw

By Tom Percival



When Sofia loses her beloved bear at the beach, nobody sees but the sea.

A moving and heart-warming story which shows that nothing is ever truly lost if you keep it in your heart.



Title Talk

The title of this story is: The Sea Saw.

- Notice that this title is made up of three words, not two. If the title of this book was The Seesaw, it would probably be set in a local park. However, this book's title is The Sea Saw. Where do you think this story will take place?
- What do you think the sea might see?

Cover Chat

Now look at the cover of this picture book.

- Here we see the book's main character, Sofia, stood on the beach by the sea. What is she doing?
- How tightly is she hugging her teddy bear?
- What does this suggest about how important this teddy bear is to her? Why might this be?
- How would Sofia feel if she were to lose her much-loved teddy?
- What might this suggest about how this story will A] start, B] develop and C] end?

Page 1-2

- Who first owned Sofia's teddy bear?
- Can you spot him as a child in the black and white photograph hanging on the wall on page 2?
- Who did Sofia's grandad give his teddy bear to?
- When is he likely to have done this?
- Can you spot Sofia's mum in the other photograph hanging on the wall on page 2?
- Why is Sofia not in this photograph? Why do you think Sofia's mum is holding her teddy and smiling?
- When was Sofia given her teddy bear and by who?
- In the main picture, we only see Sofia, her teddy and her dad. Where do you think Sofia's mum is?
- With this in mind, how important is the final sentence on page 2?

"He was less like a toy and more of a friend." Discuss.

Page 3-4

- How well-loved and treasured was Sofia's teddy? Why would this be?
- On page 4, we are told that Sofia and her dad go to the seaside. Was this an easy journey to take?
- If this journey took so long and they needed to catch a train, a boat and a bus to get there, why do you think going to this beach was so important to them? Discuss.

Page 5-6

- How does Sofia describe the beach?
- What do you notice about the word AMAZING?
- Why do you think Sofia enjoyed the beach so much?
- Look at page 6. Above the picture of Sofia playing with her bear and her dad relaxing having just eaten fish and chips and an ice-cream, we are told this day is PERFECT. Do you think this was the right word to use when describing this day? Discuss.
- Beneath the same picture, at the foot of page 6, we read that STORM CLOUDS rolled in. What would this mean with regards to their perfect day?



Remember: storm clouds are often used as a symbol of difficult times ahead, a time filled with sadness, of uncertainty and emotional turbulence. What do you think the rolling in of storm clouds might suggest will happen next? Share your predictions with your group.

Page 7-8

- How bad a storm arrived at the beach that day?
- How is this depicted on page 7?
- What is the colour that dominates page 8? Why do you think this colour was chosen to be the main background when telling us of this event?
- Why do you think neither Sofia nor her dad noticed Sofia's bear tumbling out of dad's bag as they ran to catch the last bus home?

Page 9-10

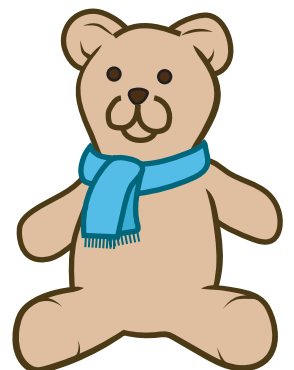
- When the storm passes, who is it that sits on the beach all alone?
- Who is it that notices this? Might this be significant?
- How does the illustrator depict this sense of loneliness? Discuss.
- Thinking back to the book's title, what do you think will happen next?

Page 11-12

- What does a seagull do to Sofia's bear? Why might it have done this?
- Why do you think the sea does NOT like this one little bit? Discuss.
- Why do you think the sea decides to help Sofia? What do you think it will do to help her?
- How important are the words: '*I will take you home...*'
- How does the author emphasise these words?

Page 13-14

- When Sofia realised her bear was missing, where did she look? Use the illustration on page 13 to help you?
- Who did dad telephone to try and find Sofia's bear?
- Why do you think they returned to the beach as soon as they could? Discuss.



Page 15-16

- Why do you think Sofia's dad bought her more bears for her to love?
- Why do you think Sofia could not love them in the same way she had loved her old bear?
- The only thing she has left of her old bear is the bear's small, blue scarf. What does she do with this and why? Discuss.
- Despite this, Sofia still finds coping with the loss of her bear very hard. Why might this be?

Page 17-20

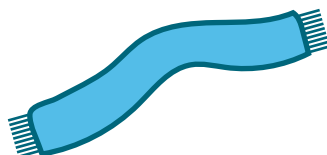
- How difficult a task was it for the sea to return Sofia's bear to her?
- Who helped the sea with this task? How does the illustrator depict this?
- Was this journey easy or difficult? Why would this be?

Page 21-24

- What did the sea do when the wind grew cross and the waters grew too cold?
- On page 23 that the sea became concerned. Why would this be? Discuss.
- Beyond the sea, where else did the search for Sofia continue?
- Where does Sofia's bear eventually end up gently drifting one sunny afternoon?
- What do the words GENTLY DRIFTING tell us about the sea and the care it has given to Sofia's bear?
- What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this?

Page 25-26

- Who do you think the little girl is that finds Sofia's bear floating in the shallow waters?
- When she finds the bear, who does she call out to?
- Who do you think this grandmother might be?



Page 27-28

- Who is it that steps out of her house?

Remember: look back at page 16. What colour dress is Sofia wearing? What else is she wearing around her neck? Why is she wearing this? Now look at the old woman on page 28. Who do you think this old woman is?

- What does this tell us about...

A] How long a journey the bear has been on?

B] How determined the sea has been in its effort to return Sofia's bear?

- Why do you think Sofia stopped and stared SILENTLY when she first glimpsed her bear?
- What might she have been thinking at this time?
- Why do you think Sofia then rushed forward and scooped up the bear?
- How happy would Sofia have been at this time? How is this depicted on page 28?
- Read the last sentence and discuss its meaning.
'You see, nothing is ever truly lost if you keep it in your heart.'
- Why do you think TRULY is written in italics? Discuss.

Page 29

- The very next day, Sofia takes her granddaughter to the beach, the same beach she had visited with her dad all those years ago. Why do you think she does this? Discuss.

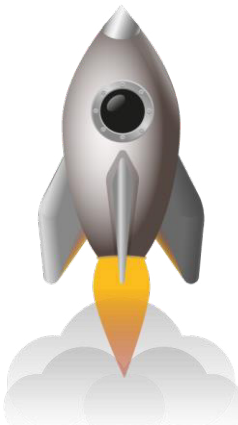
Think about the book as a whole

This story is about loss. Think back to the sentence we considered when reading page 28.

'You see, nothing is ever truly lost if you keep it in your heart.'

Where else have we seen these words?

Why do you think they were placed on the book's back cover? Discuss.



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