

# Contents

## Story 1:

Zane the splashing fish ..... 2

---



## Story 2:

Blitz! It's lightning ..... 12

---



## Story 3:

The lost dolphin ..... 22

---



# Zane the splashing fish

## Pre-reading question

When you read the story, say: “Be careful, Zane!” whenever you think Zane is in danger.

New words

**Narrow** – Narrow is the opposite of wide. A narrow road can only fit one car.

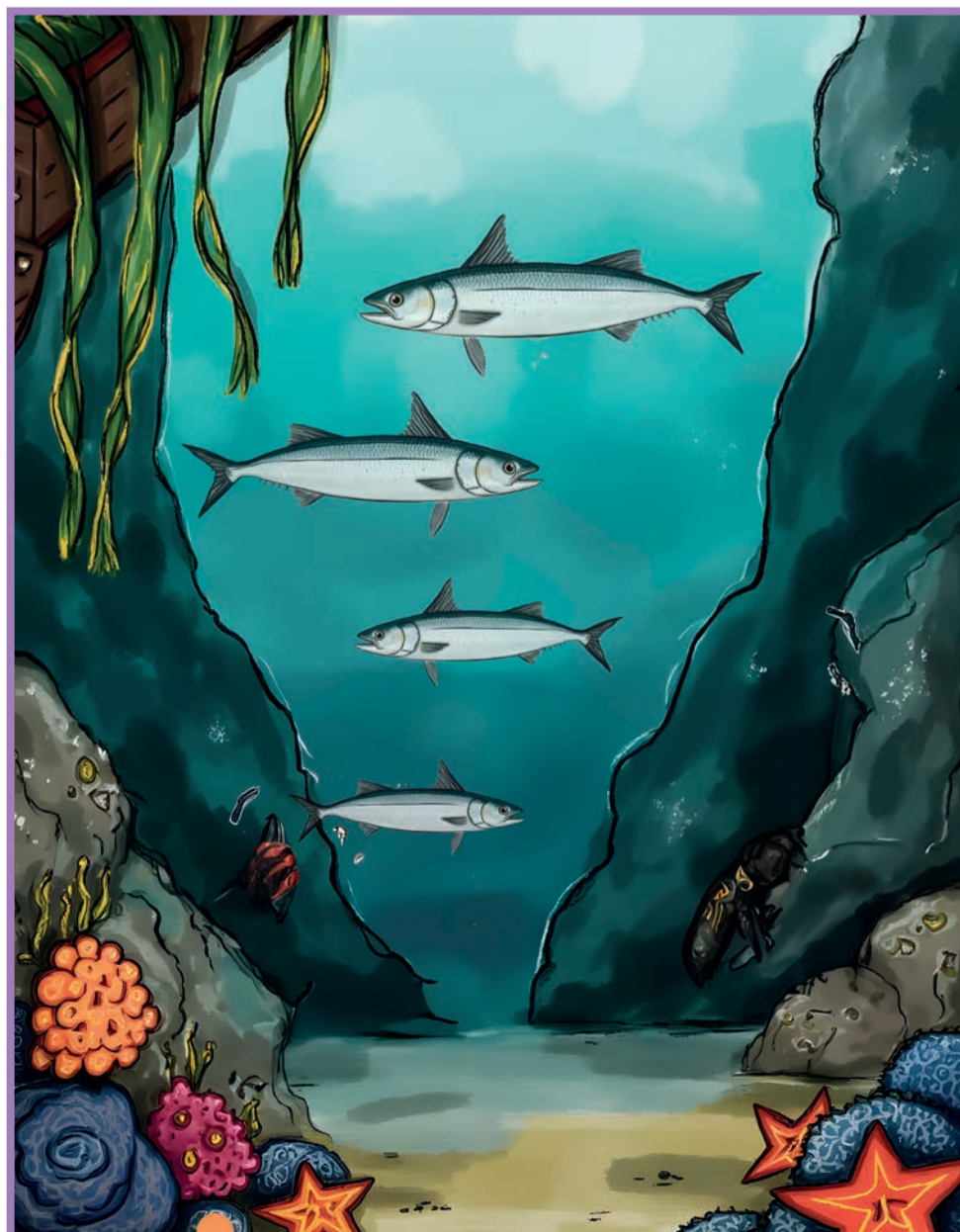
**Shipwreck** – A shipwreck is a ship that has sunk and sits on the bottom of the ocean.

**Vicious** – Be careful of the vicious dog. It will bite you.

**Sailors** – Sailors are people who work on boats.

**Panic** – When Mpho saw the vicious dog, he panicked with fright and ran away before it could bite him.

Zane was a dark blue fish with a long, narrow body and a pale belly. He had a strong mouth and large, sharp teeth. He grew up feeling safe as he lived with his big fish family in the cold, salty ocean water.



Zane loved to swim around, looking under rocks and inside shipwrecks. He loved adventure and did not always listen to his mother.

Zane and his friend, Freckle, sometimes swam close to the shore. There they watched the fishing boats go out to sea. Alex and her dad were on one of these

boats. The name of the boat, *The Sea Lily*, was painted on its side.

Alex loved the salty, fresh smell of the ocean. She sat in the boat, looking at the sea wondering where it ended.

**o-e:**

close  
shore



Zane and Freckle watched *The Sea Lily* sail to deeper water. They saw the nets cast out to catch fish.

Zane said, “They will never catch me in those nets. I am too clever for them.”

Freckle said, “But I have seen many fish caught in those nets, Zane. It is not always easy to get away in time.”

Zane thought Freckle was just scared.



Zane said, “Let’s swim closer!”  
“No. Too dangerous, Zane! I am not going with you,” said Freckle, swimming away. Alex leant over the side of the boat, staring into the water. Alex’s dad was busy with his nets. Alex saw a beautiful blue fish shining in the sun. She watched it come closer. Zane swam fast past the boat and splashed water onto Alex’s face.



Zane visited *The Sea Lily* whenever the boat was out at sea.

He asked Alex why they came fishing every day.

“My dad catches fish to sell for money to buy food,” replied Alex.

“I read that snoek like you are vicious,” said Alex.

“No,” said Zane, “we don’t eat people! We just don’t want to get caught and put into boxes on boats.”



At home, Zane's mom called him.

"Where were you today?" she asked.

"I went to look at a fishing boat, Mom. I have a new friend. She comes fishing with her dad. He sells the fish," Zane told her.

His mom was not happy.

"It is dangerous swimming close to the boats, Zane," she scolded.

"If you get caught in the nets, we will not see you again."

**Say this word**

dan-ger-ous



“When the boats come to catch snoek, they don’t use nets. They use fishing rods with bait on big hooks. You think its food and eat the bait and then the hook gets stuck in your mouth. They pull you out of the water and put you in a box. People love eating snoek with tomatoes and onions. If you are not careful you will be someone’s supper,” she warned.



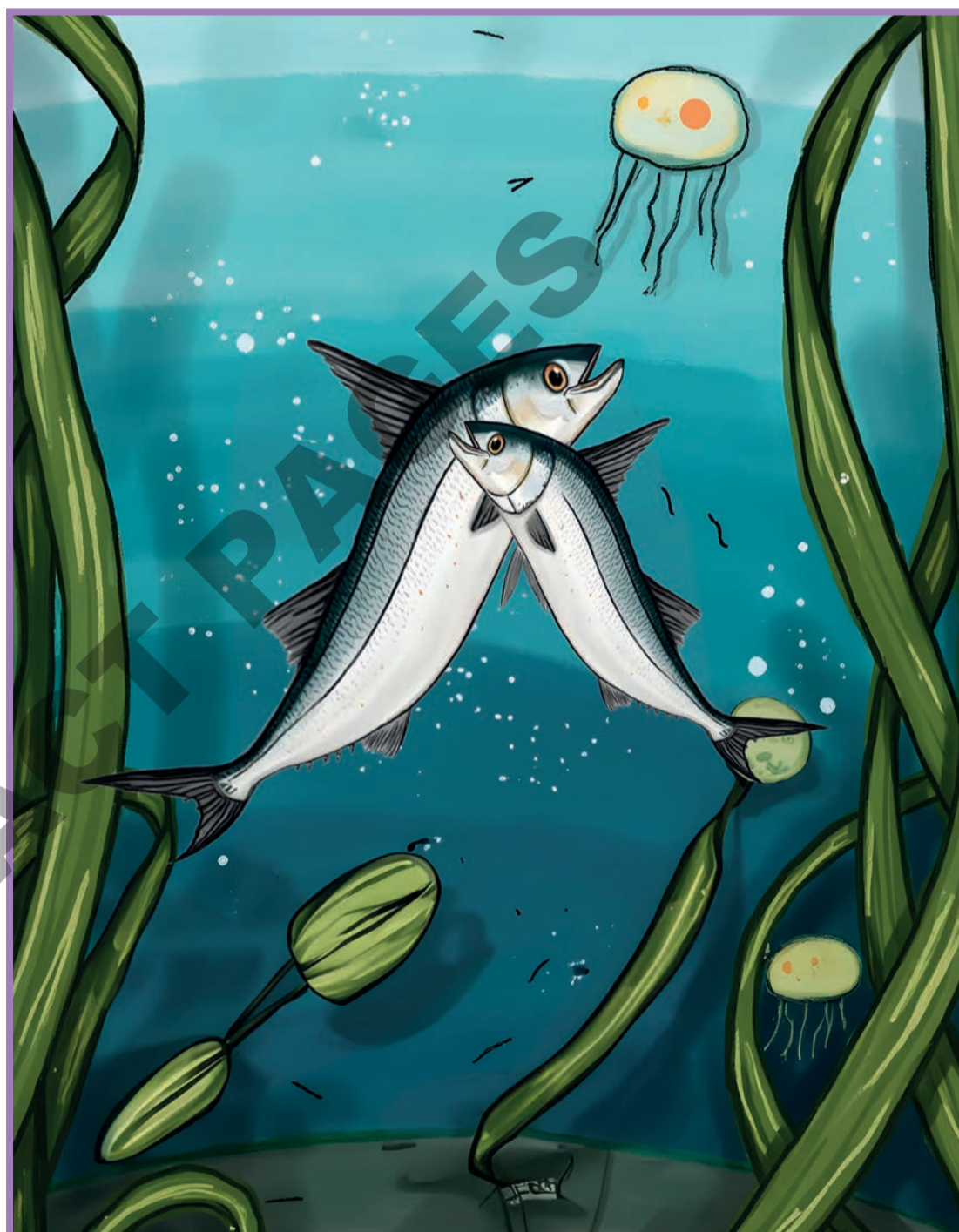
The next morning, Freckle said to Zane, “My dad said we need to stay home because it is snoek fishing time.” “I won’t get caught,” called Zane, swimming off. He was looking for *The Sea Lily* and did not notice the bigger boats with fishing rods and lines in the water. These sailors were hoping to catch fresh snoek to cook for supper over the fire.



Zane suddenly noticed all the fishing lines around him and realised that he was far too close to the big boats. In a panic he quickly dived deep under the boats and swam back to the safety of the rocks. Zane knew that he had almost been caught! He remembered that Freckle had warned him about snoek season. He had nearly become someone's supper.



Zane swam to his mother and hugged her tightly. He was still a curious fish but decided to put safety first. He stayed at home where he could see his mom. They invited Freckle over for supper. Freckle was happy to have his friend back again. The two snoek played happily close to home and never wandered off to dangerous waters again.



### Post-reading questions

1. What was Zane and what did he look like?
2. What did Zane's mother warn him about?
3. What lesson did Zane learn about safety in this story?