

Level 4



The Little Helper

By Chrisward Cyrus

Illustrated by Fariza Dzatalin Nurtsani



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“Mum, is it good to be kind to everyone?” I asked.

“Yes, of course, Karah,” my mum answered. “Why do you ask?”

“What if it’s an animal. Is it still good to be kind?” I continued.

Mum nodded.

I finished my breakfast and headed off to the beach. I was excited to swim today, especially now that I knew being kind to animals was good. I wanted to give the fish some food.





While swimming away from the shore, something caught my attention.

There was something angular sticking out of the water. A shark fin!

I scrambled to get back to shore, forgetting about my plan to feed the fish.

I ran all the way home and told Mum and Dad exactly what had happened.

“Don’t swim out so far again,” Dad ordered. “You might get hurt.”

“But that’s where the fish live!” I cried. “I wanted to help them. I even had some food.”





I couldn't stop thinking about the hungry fish out in the water, even though Dad had told me not to go swimming there again. I wanted to make sure the fish got some food!

I went to sleep and forgot all about the shark fin.

The next day, I swam out far again, but this time I found piles of plastic bags, water bottles, and fishing nets floating around me. The fish had swum away from the rubbish, too.





That's when I saw the fin again. It was sticking up between some bottles and a net. I swam back to the shore even faster than yesterday, but when I turned back to look, the fin hadn't moved.

Curious now, I carefully swam back out. I got closer... and closer... and dived underwater, trying to look at the shark.





But it was a dolphin! The fin wasn't a shark at all. It was a dolphin that had become stuck in one of the fish nets.

It was really weak after being stuck for so long.

I went back up to get some more air, then dived back down. I untangled the net from the dolphin, and it wiggled happily, swimming around me a few times before taking off into the deep.





Helping the dolphin felt even better than feeding the fish! I ran back home to tell my mum and dad what had happened.

“That small act of kindness probably saved the dolphin’s life,” Mum said. “I’m so proud of you.”

**You can use these questions
to talk about this book with
your family, friends and
teachers.**



Why did Karah originally want to go swimming?



Why was it kind of Karah to help the dolphin?



How else could rubbish hurt animals?

Have you ever helped an animal?



Try doing something nice for someone around you!

About the author

Chrisward Cyrus was born in Luganville and currently lives in Port Vila. He loves going for picnics with friends and family because it's fun and adventurous. He wants to inspire children's imaginations through his stories.

As a child, he loved the book *Pawpaw for Lunch*.



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Original illustrations by Fariza Dzatalin Nurtsani

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Cyrus, Chrisward

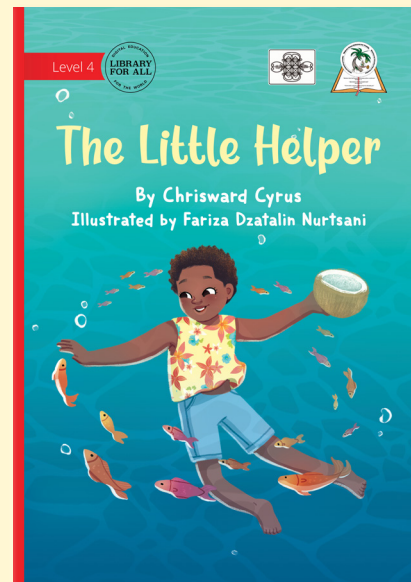
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Karah wants to help feed some fish at the beach where she swims, but instead she encounters a trapped dolphin!



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