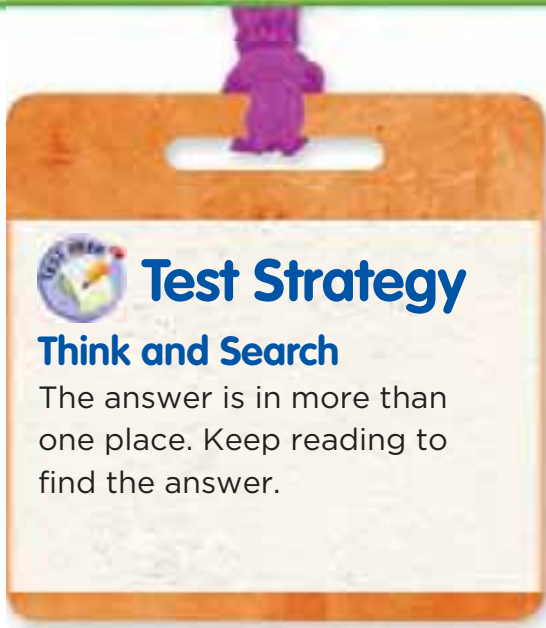


# Answer Questions



## A Walk on the Beach

by Doreen Beauregard

### CHARACTERS:

JENNY

JENNY'S DAD

DEREK

JENNY'S MOM

*Setting: The kitchen of Jenny's house*

**JENNY:** You've never been to the beach? You've never seen the ocean? Are you kidding me, Derek?

**DEREK:** No, I've never seen it.

**JENNY'S DAD:** Derek lives in New Mexico, Jen. Look it up on the map. It's nowhere near the ocean. That's one of the reasons your cousin's visiting. Right, Derek? You came to see the Pacific?

**DEREK:** Right. Hey, when was the last time you saw a desert?

**JENNY:** I've never seen a desert.

**DEREK:** (*Imitating Jenny*) What? You've never seen a desert? Are you kidding me?

**JENNY'S DAD:** *(Smiling)* Okay, you two. Finish your juice, then put your sneakers on. Mom's taking you on a beach walk.

*(On the beach, near the dunes)*

**DEREK:** Wow! The ocean really is huge! The waves are amazing!

**JENNY'S MOM:** Beautiful, isn't it?

**JENNY:** Check out the dunes. They're beautiful, too.

**DEREK:** How can all those plants grow in the sand?

**JENNY'S MOM:** They have their ways. Some have leaves with a waxy coating or little hairs to keep the water inside.

**DEREK:** Desert plants do that, too!

**JENNY:** Hey, it's low tide. We can look in the tide pools. There's lots of fun stuff living in the tide pools. C'mon.

**JENNY'S MOM:** Tide pools are fragile. Walk carefully so you don't harm anything.

**DEREK:** What's that weird plant near the rock?

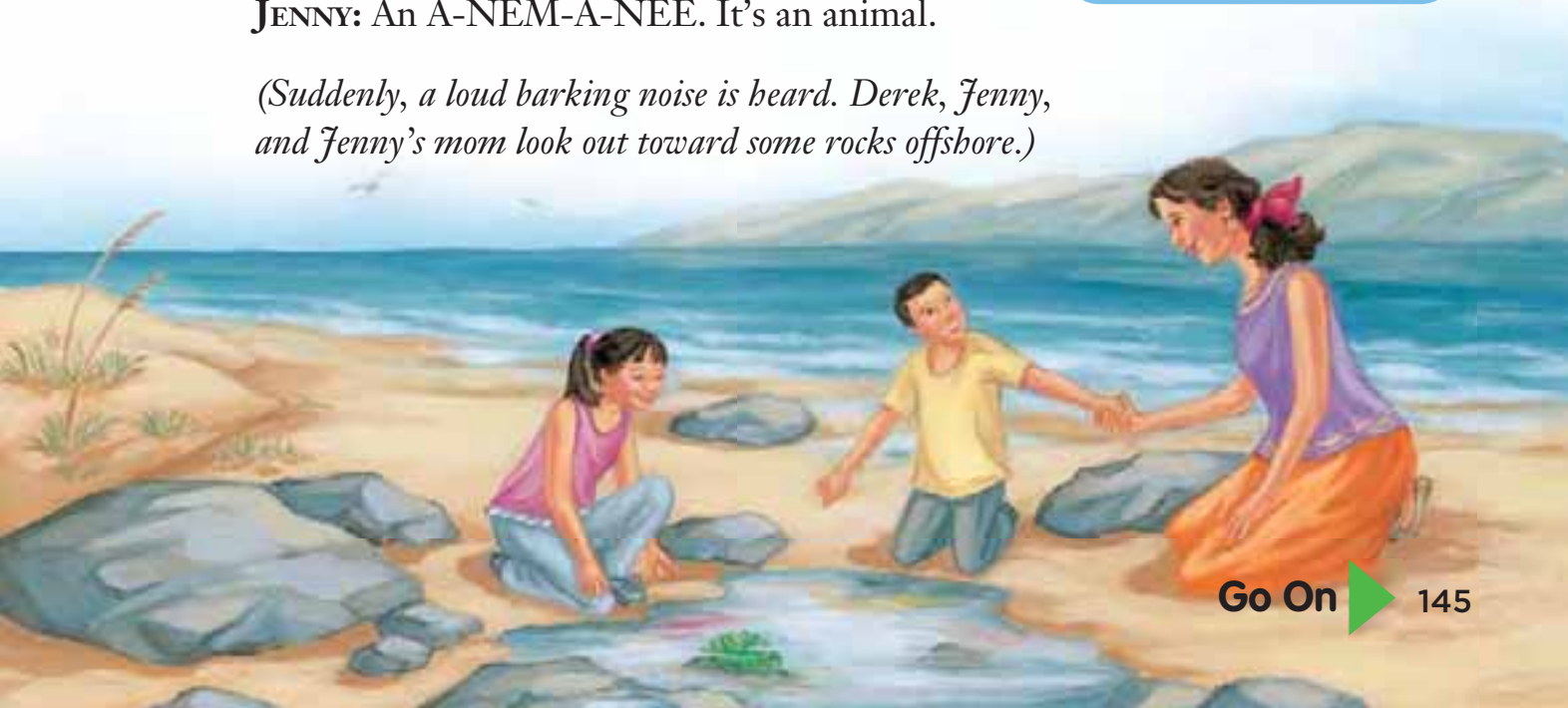
**JENNY:** That's not a plant. It's an anemone.

**DEREK:** An enemy?

**JENNY:** An A-NEM-A-NEE. It's an animal.

*(Suddenly, a loud barking noise is heard. Derek, Jenny, and Jenny's mom look out toward some rocks offshore.)*

green sea anemone



## Answer Questions

**DEREK:** Wow! Those are seals out there! They're pretty loud.

**JENNY'S MOM:** Those are sea lions actually.

**DEREK:** Hey, what's that thing on the sand? Is that seaweed?

**JENNY:** Yep. It's kelp. These round things are called gas bladders.

**JENNY'S MOM:** There's a big kelp forest out there.

**DEREK:** Are these the roots?

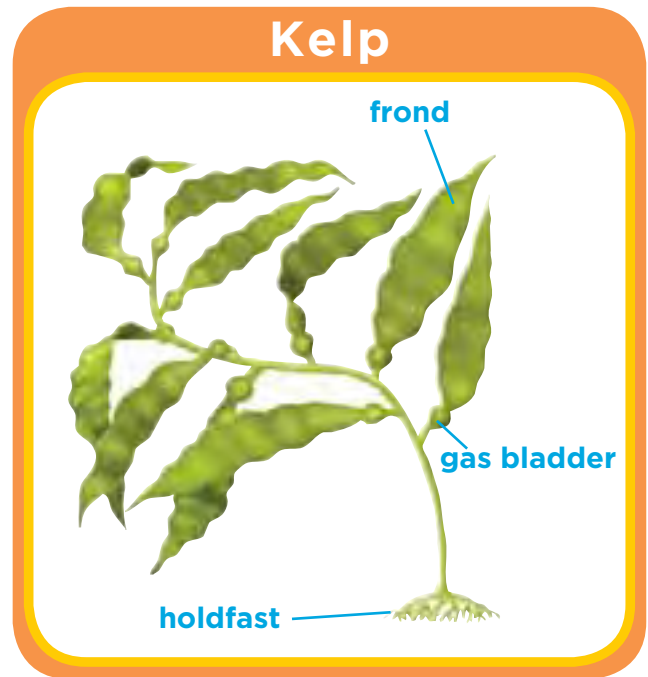
**JENNY'S MOM:** Not roots, exactly—that's the kelp's holdfast.

**DEREK:** *(Laughing and waving the kelp around)* Not any more! So what other fun stuff is out there?

**JENNY:** Ummm . . . there are white shrimp that look like ghosts. There are shovelnose guitarfish—

**DEREK:** Cool! What songs do they play?

**JENNY'S MOM:** *(Laughing)* We'll go to the aquarium on Saturday to see all these things. Now let's go back and get some lunch.



**Tip**

Keep reading. The answer may be in more than one place.

**Directions: Answer the questions.****1. What are tide pools?**

- A pools of water surrounded by plants
- B pools of water filled with delicate living things
- C pools of deep water
- D waves caused by high tides

**2. Based on the play and the diagram of the kelp, what is the purpose of the holdfast?**

- A to keep the plant green
- B to help the plant breathe
- C to anchor the plant to the ocean floor
- D to keep sand away from the water

**3. Which of these statements BEST describes Derek's character?**

- A He dislikes the beach and ocean.
- B He is curious and excited about new things.
- C He is afraid of new places.
- D He does not like to ask questions.

**4. Describe the plot of the play.****5. What is Derek's problem in this play? What does he do to help solve his problem?****Writing Prompt**

Think of a place you love to visit. Why is it special? Write a letter home, about three paragraphs long, describing this place.