





Talk About It

What would it be like to live in the Caribbean?
What makes island culture different from mainland culture?



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THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS

Johanna in Jamaica

by Katy Morales

Vocabulary

forbidden	elegant
reluctant	blared
gossiped	mischievous
irresistible	hesitation

Word Parts

Suffixes are word parts that are added to the end of a base word or root to change its meaning. For example, the suffix *-ous* means “full of” so *mischievous* means “full of mischief.”

e-mail



TO: Ron@example.com

Subject: The Jamaican Festival

Hi Ron:

Mama and Papa have not yet decided that I can go to the Mermaid Festival in Jamaica when I'm there this summer visiting my grandparents. My parents have always refused to let me go. They said it was **forbidden** for me to go until I could swim well.

Last month when I started asking Papa if I could go, he was **reluctant** to answer me. He was unwilling to make a decision. Mama said that I should show him that I was a strong swimmer. She also said I should prove to him that I was responsible enough to go.

Here's what I did. Last Sunday at the pool, I showed my father that I could swim ten laps in a row. Then when he was relaxing on the deck, I didn't interrupt him once.

What a long afternoon that was! Everyone in my family **gossiped** about who was going to be the Queen Mermaid at the festival. I heard so many rumors!

e-mail

Mama said maybe one day I would be chosen. All hail Queen Johanna!

I wanted to join in the noisy conversation. Chatting with my sisters about being queen one day was very tempting, almost **irresistible**. I wanted to describe how **elegant** I would look, dressed in a shimmering costume and glittering crown. I stayed quiet because I knew I'd get too excited and the noise might wake my father, who had fallen asleep.

Do you remember how the music **blared** from speakers on the beach during the festival last year? We could hear it all the way in town. With my eyes closed I pretended that I was on the beach celebrating with everyone. I'm excited that this year I might actually take part in the festivities.

Today Mama warned me to stay on my best behavior. If I'm **mischievous** or naughty Papa will not let me go. I will follow her advice without **hesitation** because I am so anxious to go. Wish me luck!

Hope to see you at the festival,
Johanna

Reread for Comprehension



Summarize
Problem and Solution

A Story Map helps you summarize information about the problems and solutions that characters encounter. Use your Story Map as you reread "Johanna in Jamaica" to identify the problems and solutions in the story.

