

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud.

Vocabulary:

Far From Home

- 1. Coast Guard (kohst gahrd)** *noun*; The U.S. Coast Guard is a branch of the military. The Coast Guard's purpose is to protect people, the environment, business, and the security of the U.S. on seas, lakes, and rivers. Members of the Coast Guard perform many duties, from rescuing people and patrolling harbors to working with environmental groups to protect ocean animals.
- 2. document (DOK-yuh-ment)** *noun or verb*; A document is a piece of paper that gives information about or proof of something. *Document* can also refer to a computer file containing text or other data.

As a verb, *document* means "to record the details of." You can document an event in different ways—through writing, photography, or video, for example. If a truck backs into your mom's car, she might document what happened by taking photos at the scene of the accident.
- 3. fiber (FAHY-ber)** *noun*; A fiber is a thread or something like a thread. Cloth is made out of fibers that have been woven together.

Fiber can also refer to parts of plants that cannot be digested but move easily through your digestive tract and help you digest other foods. Foods that are high in fiber include legumes like lentils and black beans; whole grains; and many fruits and vegetables.
- 4. ingest (in-JEST)** *verb*; To ingest something is take it into your body, either by swallowing it or absorbing it. You need to ingest enough calories to have energy for your daily activities. If you accidentally ingest something harmful, call a doctor right away.
- 5. maneuver (muh-N00-ver)** *noun or verb*; A maneuver is an action performed with skill and care, as in "Jake performed a series of impressive maneuvers on his skateboard." A maneuver can also be a movement of military troops or ships.

As a verb, *maneuver* means "to guide someone or something in a careful, skillful way."

6. solemnly (SOL-uhm-lee) *adverb*; The adjective *solemn* means “very serious or formal.”

Something that is done solemnly is done in a very serious, thoughtful, formal way. When people give evidence in court, they are asked to “solemnly swear” to tell the truth—in other words, to promise in a very serious and sincere way to tell the truth.

7. sulk (suhlk) *verb or noun*; To sulk is to be angry, upset, or gloomy about something and refuse to talk about it. To say that someone is sulking is to imply that they are behaving childishly. You wouldn't say that a girl who is sad that her best friend is moving away is sulking, but a little girl who is pouting because her parents won't let her wear her pajamas to school? *She* is sulking.

As a noun, *sulk* refers to a sulky mood, as in, “Noah is in a sulk.”

Directions: In the space below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the primary meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.

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Close-Reading Questions

Far From Home

1. Why might the author have included the GPS directions in Scene 1? (setting, author's craft)

2. In Scene 1, how does Marco feel about moving to Florida? How do you know? (character)

3. What do the characters of Dr. Hayes and Megan contribute to the play? (text structure)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

Far From Home

1. Why should people care about sea turtles?
2. What skills and traits do you think would be important for someone who works in a place like the Turtle Hospital?
3. Consider the sidebar “How to Help Sea Turtles.” Why might the author have chosen to include this information?

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Preparing to Write: The Amazing Turtle Rescue

Read the play *Far From Home*. Then follow the directions in the boxes below to help you gather the details you will use in your response to the writing prompt on page 16:

Imagine that you are a journalist. Write a news article or create a podcast about Elmar's rescue and release. Incorporate quotes from characters in the play.

One-sentence summary

Write a sentence about what happened with Elmar and BRIEFLY explain why it is important.

People

Who were the people involved in the event? List their names and brief descriptions of their roles.

Places

What places play an important part in this story? List them along with short notes about their roles.

Dates

What are the key dates to report? List them and briefly note why each is important. (The play does not give specific dates, so you will need to make them up—just be sure they make sense with the timeline of events in the play.)

Quotes

OK, you can't interview fictional characters. But you can imagine interviewing the characters and invent quotes for them.

Other important details

What other key facts or numbers might you want to include in your news story or podcast?

Turn to the next page for some tips on putting it all together.

News Story Outline

Now that you've gathered your information, it's time to start crafting your article or podcast. Here's an idea of how you might organize your article.

1

HEADLINE/TITLE

This should tell your readers or listeners in just a few words what your article is about.

2

BYLINE

This is the name of the journalist or journalists reporting the story.
In this case, that's you. Be sure to give your name!

3

LEAD

Your first paragraph should give a preview of the whole story. In other words, it should be a brief summary of everything you are going to write/talk about in this article or podcast. From just this paragraph, a reader/listener should know all of the most important information: What happened, why it happened, when it happened, where it happened, and who was involved.

4

BODY PARAGRAPHS

Here's where you go into detail. Give some background information (what happened in the Keys before Elmar was released) and more information on what you said in your lead. Be descriptive and clear so that your audience understands and can picture the events you are describing.

5

CONCLUSION

Find a way to sum it all up. One idea is to use a quote. Another idea is to tell what might happen next.

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Far From Home

Character Thinking Tool

The questions in this activity are about the character of
Marco

1. A. Consider Scene 1. How does Marco feel about moving to Florida? How do you know?

B. Have you ever moved to a new place or new school, or have you ever been homesick? How did the experience affect you? What advice would you now give to someone else in the same situation?

2. How does Marco's relationship with Mel change over the course of the play? Why does it change?

3. Consider Scene 6. Why is Marco so upset? Do you ever feel this way? Explain.

4. Name one of Marco's character traits. Use details from the play to support your answer.

5. Imagine you are Marco sitting at home on the night of Elmar's release. A friend from your hockey team in Detroit texts, "What's up Marco? How is Florida?"

On the back of this page or on your own paper, write out the text conversation that occurs between you and your friend.

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Far From Home Quiz

Directions: Read *Far From Home*. Then answer the questions below.

1. Why is Marco in Florida?

- (A) His mom got a new job in the Florida Keys.
- (B) His mom wants to be closer to family.
- (C) He and his mom are taking a vacation from Detroit's cold weather.
- (D) Marco is volunteering at a sea turtle hospital for the summer.

2. In Scene 5, SD3 says of Elmar, "The turtle is still emaciated but swimming slowly." Which lines illustrate the meaning of *emaciated*?

- (A) "Its legs and neck are shriveled, its eyes sunken" and "Poor guy looks close to starving."
- (B) "Wait. What happened to that one?" and "That's Mojo. She was hit by a boat."
- (C) "We should name him Marco. You saw him first" and "What if we combine our names?"
- (D) "Go on. Look inside" and "Marco looks into one tank and sees turtles the size of baseballs swimming around."

3. Why is Lita's character important to the play?

- (A) She shares her wisdom with Marco.
- (B) She helps release Elmar back into the sea.
- (C) She helps Marco become a volunteer at the Turtle Hospital.
- (D) She introduces Marco and Mel.

4. Later in Scene 5, Megan tells Marco that "turtles are resilient creatures." Marco is also resilient—how? (Choose TWO answers.)

- (A) He is upset about leaving his friends in Detroit.
- (B) He feels overwhelmed by Elmar's sickness.
- (C) He copes with his sadness about sea animals and decides that he can make a difference.
- (D) He makes a new friend and adjusts to his new home in Florida.

5. Choose the best summary of the play.

- (A) A teen leaves his home in Detroit for a new life in the Florida Keys.
- (B) A group of veterinarians and conservationists work tirelessly to treat endangered sea turtles.
- (C) A teen's outlook on his new home changes after he and a new friend save a dying sea turtle.
- (D) A teen goes out for a boat ride with his new neighbors and finds a sick sea turtle.

6. Which idea is NOT developed in the play?

- (A) We can accomplish a lot by working together.
- (B) It's always best to tell the truth.
- (C) Small steps can make a big difference.
- (D) Sometimes a situation can turn out better than you expected.

Constructed-Response Questions



Directions: Write your answers in a well-organized response.

7. How and why do Marco's feelings about Florida change over the course of the play? Use text evidence to support your answer.

8. In Scene 6, Lita says to Marco, "Each of us is only a drop of water. But put them all together, and you get a mighty sea." What does she mean? How is this idea developed in the play and text features?

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Far From Home Quiz

Directions: Read *Far From Home*. Then answer the questions below.

1. Scene 1 reveals that Marco and his mom are moving to Florida
 - (A) for his mom's new job.
 - (B) to be closer to family.
 - (C) to escape Detroit's cold winters.
 - (D) to volunteer at a sea turtle hospital.
2. In Scene 5, SD3 says of Elmar, "The turtle is still emaciated but swimming slowly." Which line illustrates the meaning of *emaciated*?
 - (A) "Poor guy looks close to starving." (p. 13)
 - (B) "They set him down and he immediately glides into the water." (p. 16)
 - (C) "What if we combine our names?" (p. 13)
 - (D) "Marco looks into one tank and sees turtles the size of baseballs swimming around." (p. 14)
3. Which phrase BEST describes Lita's character?
 - (A) wise and caring
 - (B) strict but fair
 - (C) anxious and troubled
 - (D) humorous and fun-loving
4. Scene 9 is important to the play because it reveals _____. (Choose TWO answers.)
 - (A) why Marco and Teresa moved to Florida
 - (B) why sea turtles are in crisis
 - (C) that Elmar is going to be OK
 - (D) Marco's new attitude about Florida
5. Which detail would be LEAST important to include in a summary of the play?
 - (A) Marco and Mel find a sick sea turtle.
 - (B) Marco is sad about moving to Florida.
 - (C) Mel enjoys taking Polaroid photographs.
 - (D) Elmar makes a full recovery.
6. Which is NOT an idea developed in the play?
 - (A) We can accomplish a lot by working together.
 - (B) It's always best to tell the truth.
 - (C) Small steps can make a big difference.
 - (D) Sometimes a situation can turn out better than you expected.

Constructed-Response Questions



Directions: Write your answers in a well-organized response.

7. How does rescuing Elmar change Marco's outlook on his new home in Florida? Use text evidence to support your answer.
8. In Scene 6, Lita says to Marco, "Each of us is only a drop of water. But put them all together, and you get a mighty sea." What does she mean? Why does she say something similar in the play's final line?

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Making Inferences

Making an inference means using clues from the text to figure out something the author doesn't tell you directly.

Directions: Answer the questions or follow the directions that appear in italics to fill in the chart. We completed the first row for you.

Clues	Inference
<p>1. Consider these exchanges between Marco and his mom in Scene 1:</p> <p>Marco: Uuuugh. We've been driving for a week. Teresa: It's been two days. And we're almost there. SD2: Marco pulls his baseball cap low over his face.</p> <p>Teresa: Isn't it breathtaking? Marco: I guess.</p> <p>Teresa: Lita's neighbor Freddy has a daughter about your age. They want to take you out on their boat tomorrow. Marco: Yay. I can't wait to sail in shark-infested waters.</p>	<p><i>How does Marco feel about moving to Florida? Explain.</i></p> <p>Marco is upset about moving to Florida. You can tell by the short, unenthusiastic, and sarcastic responses he gives to his mom. These responses, as well as his body language, show that he cannot see the positive aspects of his new home—and he wants his mom to know it.</p>
<p>2. <i>Find lines in the play that support the inference on the right.</i></p>	<p>Marco is annoyed by Mel at first.</p>
<p>3. In Scene 5, Megan talks to Marco at the Turtle Hospital:</p> <p>Megan: Well, he's eating on his own. Turns out he loves cucumbers. But the impaction hasn't moved. SD2: Marco bites his lip.</p>	<p><i>How do you think Marco is feeling about Elmar?</i></p>

Clues	Inference
<p>4. Find lines in the play that support the inference on the right.</p>	<p>Marco's feelings about Mel have changed since the start of the story; he sees her as a friend now.</p>
<p>5. Consider what Marco says to Mel in Scene 9:</p> <p>Marco: Well, if I hadn't moved here, then we wouldn't have been out on the boat, you wouldn't have taken my picture, I wouldn't have lost my hat, we wouldn't have turned back to look for it, and—</p>	<p><i>How does Marco feel about his move to Florida?</i></p>

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file. If you are e-mailing a video or audio entry, please either attach the file or use a file-sharing platform such as Dropbox.

Sea Turtle Contest

Imagine that you are a journalist. Write a news article or create a podcast about Elmar's rescue and release.

Incorporate quotes from characters in the play.

Five winners will each get *Song for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ a clearly stated central idea
- ⇒ good organization and transitions
- ⇒ use of supporting text evidence
- ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name: _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this form with your entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
or mail them to: Sea Turtle Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 20, 2020!