Whirlpool Rescue

Agent Dali: Hello! Welcome to Stories by the Sea. Young art detectives from Beechcroft Primary wrote stories inspired by this mural, which is called Life Beneath the Waves. Take it away, agents!

Instructor: That oxygen canister is working fine, you've got a good seal on your goggles, flippers firmly fixed, I think you're good to go.

Harley: Thanks.

Instructor: Enjoy your dive!

(sounds of diving in and underwater ambience)

Seal: Hey, Octopus, we've got another visitor!

Octopus: I don't know why you get so excited, Seal. It's just a scuba diver.

Seal: Well I like having visitors. I'm going to go show her my latest tricks.

Octopus: Whatever, Seal. I'll be napping in the seaweed.

Harley: Oh wow, that's amazing. Look how close this seal is! Such shiny dark eyes! Wish I had a camera!

Seal: So I can swim upside down, I can go really fast in circles, and I can chase the air bubbles!

Harley: This is better than any TV documentary! I'm so glad I came!

Seal: Give me a high five! Here's my flipper look, it's right there.

Harley: No way! This is incredible!

Seal: Oh, wait, a fish. Hungry now. Must dash.

(sounds of swimming away)

Harley: Oh, it's gone. I'll never forget that. Look at this coral. It's like alien flowers. Maybe I'll try to paint a picture of it when I get back to the surface. Remember it that way.

Seal: Hey, Octopus! You there?

Octopus: Do you mind? I was sleeping?

Seal: I got you a fish.

Octopus: Oh, alright then. Thanks.

Seal: Guess what guess what?

Octopus: What?

Seal: The diver gave me a high five! On my flipper! How cool is that?

Octopus: They would never want to high five me.

Seal: How do you know?

Octopus: I mean, which tentacle would I use? It's complicated. And I think I'd scare them. I probably look like an alien to them. You look a bit like a swimming dog or something. It's easier for you.

Seal: You never know until you try. Why don't we go find this diver. She seemed really friendly.

Octopus: I'm not sure.

Seal: There's no need to be scared. Let's go find her. If you don't want the diver to see you then just change colour. Blend in with the coral.

Octopus: Alright, I'll try.

(sounds of swimming, then sounds of seashells being knocked together)

Harley: The shells down here are incredible colours. Look at this one, shimmery white and pink inside. And this one, speckled like a leopard. It fits in my hand perfectly. Oh, and this one, so spiky and green! Wonder what sea creature lived in that? This underwater world is fascinating!

Seal**:** Over there look, inspecting the shells.

Octopus: Hmmm, she looks friendly enough.

Seal: She is. Come on, I bet she'd love to meet you.

Octopus: You go first. Give me a wave if you think it's safe.

Seal: Alright. Wait there.

(swimming noises)

Harley: Oh, it's you again! Hello! Do you want me to pat your head? Oh gosh, you do!

Seal: You like shells? I like shells! I can stir them up with my nose, look!

Harley: So cute!

Seal: I can juggle this one with my flippers, look!

Harley: This is beautiful!

Seal: I can swim round you really fast, look, watch me go!

Octopus: Uh oh, what's that? My tentacles are telling me something.

Seal: Round and round and round and round

Octopus: No! Danger! Seal! Seal! Stop! Come away!

Seal: Round and round and

Octopus: That daft seadog isn't listening! Seal! Whirlpool! Whirlpool!

Seal: Round and ...wait, I can't stop...no...

Harley: What's happening? Kick flippers hard...no, it's not working, I'm getting dizzy...oh no...

Octopus: It's dragging both of them in! It's no good, I'll have to save them.

(swim noises)

Octopus: Seal! Grab a tentacle!

Seal: Heeeeeelp!

Octopus: Quick, Seal. I'll pull you free!

Seal: Saaave the humaaaan toooo!

Harley: I can't see straight, so dizzy! Don't panic Harley, remember your training...what was the training?

Octopus: I've got you both. Now PUUUUUUULLLLL

(effort noises)

Octopus: PUUUUUULLL!

(more effort noises)

Octopus: PULLLLLL!

(release noises)

Octopus: Seal! Seal! Are you ok?

Seal: Need to go up for air.

Octopus: Take the human with you. I don't know much about humans but I don't think their faces are supposed to be green.

Harley: I feel so sick right now.

Seal: Come on, swim up, swim up!

(sounds of surfacing and gasping)

Seal: Oh, that's better. Bit of sunlight.

Harley: Need to take off facemask.

(gasping noises)

Harley: Just float on your back, Harley. Get your breath. It was scary but you're ok now. You're ok.

Seal: I must thank Octopus!

(diving noises)

Seal: Octopus! You saved her! And me. Come meet her.

Octopus: Those whirlpools are dangerous, Seal. If you hadn't been so busy showing off all your tricks you might have noticed it sooner.

Seal: I got carried away.

Octopus: You nearly did, yes.

Seal: Come say hello to the human, Octopus. Look she's just there, floating on the surface. Come on. She's got no reason to hurt you.

Octopus: I suppose. Alright then.

(swimming noise)

Harley: What's that? Seaweed? No way, it's...an octopus! Incredible!

Seal: See, she's friendly!

Harley: She's not scared of me!

Seal: Change colour, Octopus! She'd love to see that!

Octopus: Alright

Harley: Whoa! You were purple, but now you're orange, now green, now pale blue... this is insane! You're so beautiful! Did you help me? Did you help me, Octopus? I think you did! Thank you! Thank you so much.

Octopus: I'm going to do it! I'm going to give her a high five!

Seal: Why hold back! Give her a high eight!

Octopus: I will! I will!

Harley: Oh wow, look at these delicate suckers! Your arms are beautiful! Each one is beautiful!

Instructor: Hey! Hey! Are you ok?

Harley: Oh, hi, yes I'm ok now thanks.

Instructor: What happened?

Harley: Got dragged into a whirlpool

Instructor: Ah, that's bad. I think you should come to shore so I can check you over.

Harley: Ok, guess you're right. I don't want to leave you, but I guess I should.

Seal: I think she's saying goodbye, Octopus.

Octopus: So soon?

Octopus: Did I do something wrong?

Seal: No, you did everything right, Octopus. But I can see another human on the shore. They're going to help her I expect. Whirlpools are bad for people as well as seals.

Octopus: You should go take a rest on that rock, Seal. You always say how much you enjoy basking in the sun.

Seal: I think I will. Thanks Octopus.

Octopus: What are friends for? I'm diving down again. Got a spot of gardening to be getting on with.

Seal: See you soon, Octopus!

Octopus: Bye!

Sounds of underwater bubbles

Harley: And this seal was so close to me, it was just incredible!

Instructor: They're so friendly round here.

Harley: And the octopus! Changing colour like a kaleidoscope.

Instructor: You were lucky to see one. They are quite shy usually.

Harley: I'll never forget today.

Octopus: I'll never forget today.

The Greedy Shark

Eel: Come on! Who's for another lap around the coral reef? It's electrifying!

Seahorse: Not me, my fins are tired. I've been carrying my babies around all morning. A seahorse dad's work is never done.

Octopus: Not me neither. My tentacles are all tangled.

Eel: You lot are no fun. You've totally lost your spark.

Seahorse: No need to be rude, electric eel.

Octopus: We're just a bit hungry.

Seahorse: Yeah, we'll play chase again once we've found something to eat.

Eel: Now you mention it, I'm hungry too.

Seahorse: There's been slim pickings round here recently.

Octopus: I've noticed that too. It's a mystery.

Seal: Look at me go! Do you like my new trick?

Crab: Whatever.

Seal: You're not even looking.

Crab: I was.

Seal: You weren't. You've been so crabby lately.

Crab: Don't get your flippers in a twist, Seal I'm just hungry.

Seal: Oh.

Crab: And of course I'm crabby. I'm a crab.

Seal: I've not found any fish to eat for ages now. I think Shark is back.

Crab: Oh no, this is getting serious! I might have to go on land if it gets much worse.

Seal: Where would you go?

Crab: To the market. I've heard the humans sell baskets and baskets of fish there. Or failing that there's always McDonalds.

Seal: I'd come with you but I think I'd slow you down.

Crab: Yeah, seals aren't really built for speed.

Seal: Hey! I'm faster than you when I'm underwater.

Crab: Sure, but I can skitter sideways much faster than you on land.

Seal: If you make it to the market will you bring me back a fish? Or some chicken nuggets?

Crab: Absolutely.

(sounds of babies crying)

Octopus: There there, let me give those babies a hug. I've got eight tentacles. I give great hugs.

Seahorse: Thanks, Octopus, my babies are just so hungry.

Eel: We all are. I'm usually buzzing and charged to the max but today I feel like a flat battery.

Seal: Hey everyone!

Octopus: Hi Seal. Do you want a hug too?

Seal: I do, actually, Octopus. I'm starving.

Seahorse: Same here.

Eel: Why is there no fish to eat?

Seal: I think it's you know who?

Eel: No, I don't know who.

Seal: I spotted her fin when I was basking on a rock the other day. Big black triangle cutting through the waves.

Seahorse: No!

Seal: Afraid so.

Seahorse: We must hide! Especially my babies! Quick, help me hide my babies!

Octopus: There, there, Seahorse, don't panic. I have a lovely garden several fathoms from here. They'll be safe there. And I have a few emergency snacks hidden under the pebbles.Hop on my back, I'll have you all there in a jiffy.

Seahorse: Thanks, Octopus. Good luck everyone!

Everyone says goodbye to Seahorse and Octopus.

Eel: This is a shocking state of affairs.

Seal: It's always the same when Shark comes sniffing round here. Everyone else goes hungry.

Eel: It isn't fair.

Seal: It's not. But how do we get her to go away? She's enormous.

Eel: I'm so hungry I just can't think straight.

Crab: Hey!

Seal: Crab! What you got!

Crab: Couple of kippers from the market.

Seal: That's better than nothing. Thanks, friend.

Crab: McDonalds had sold out of everything.

Seal: That's unusual.

Crab: I thought so too. Here you go Seal. You have one kipper. Eel and I can share the other one. We're smaller than you.

Seal: Thanks, Crab. *(Sound of pincers snapping)* Ow!

Crab: Sorry, didn't mean to nip you with my claw.

(Eating sounds)

Seal: I feel better now.

Eel: Same. I feel fully recharged.

Seal: Now, we have to do something about shark.

Crab: Agreed.

Eel: I feel strong enough to give her a really good shock, that might scare her away for good.

Crab: We need to set a trap so you can get close enough to shock him.

Seal: But we have nothing for bait.

Octopus: What about this?

Crab: Octopus! You're back!

Octopus: Seahorse and his babies are safe in my garden. I had a few shrimp hidden there. I brought them with me in case anyone was hungry.

Crab: We've all had kipper. I nipped a couple from the market when the humans weren't looking.

Octopus: Well then, let's use this shrimp for shark bait. I take you're planning on tricking the shark?

Eel: Exactly. I love it when a plan comes together!

Seal: Shh! Stand by. I see her!

Octopus: Bait is in position!

Eel: I'm buzzing!

Crab: Hold it… hold it…

(sound of electric shock buzz)

Shark: Ow! That really hurt mate!

Eel: I'm not your mate, greedy guts!

Seal: Stop eating all the food, shark!

Shark: I'm the biggest! It's only fair I get the most.

Crab: It's not fair at all.

Eel: It's shocking, that's what it is. Shocking.

(Buzz sound)

Shark: Ow! Will you stop?

Eel: I will not!

Octopus: If the shocks won't convince you to leave, then come over here. I've put on all eight of my boxing gloves and I'm not afraid to use them!

Shark: Ow! Quit pinching me.

Crab: I won't.

(Buzz sound)

Shark: Ow!

(punch sound)

Shark: Ow!

(pinch sound)

Shark: Ow!

(buzz sound)

Shark: Ow!

(punch)

Shark: That's it, I've had enough. I'm off!

Seal: I think she got the message! Nice work everyone!

Octopus: Everyone back to mine for a garden party!

(*underwater bubbles)*

Crab: and I kept pinching her

Eel: and i kept shocking her

Octopus: and i kept punching her

Seal: until she turned tail and swam off!

Seahorse: Brilliant! This reef is a safe place once again for all my babies! Thanks everyone. Now who's for some more shrimp?

Everyone celebrates.

Agent Dali: You've been listening to Stories by the Sea. Remember, there's nine listening stations in this sound walk. Where might you go next?