

Starfishers to the Rescue

培生
英语阅读

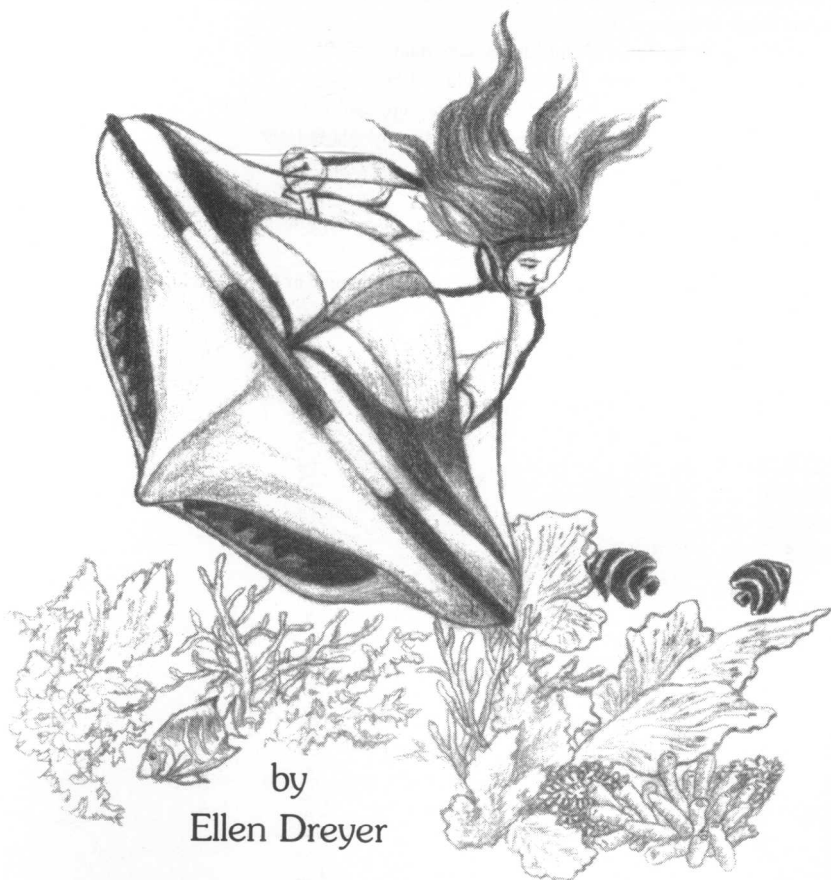
海星人救援记

Starfishers to the Rescue

◆ 埃伦·德雷尔 著

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STARFISHERS to the Rescue



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**For Mom and Dad,
who also love the sea.**

Chapter 1

A Home in the Sea



“Wait up!” Ana Ramirez called to Daniel Fisher and Laura Marks. The three were riding their underwater scubaboards near a **coral reef**. Daniel had spotted some **dolphins** playing nearby and sped off with Laura. Ana, who was looking at some angelfish, was left behind.

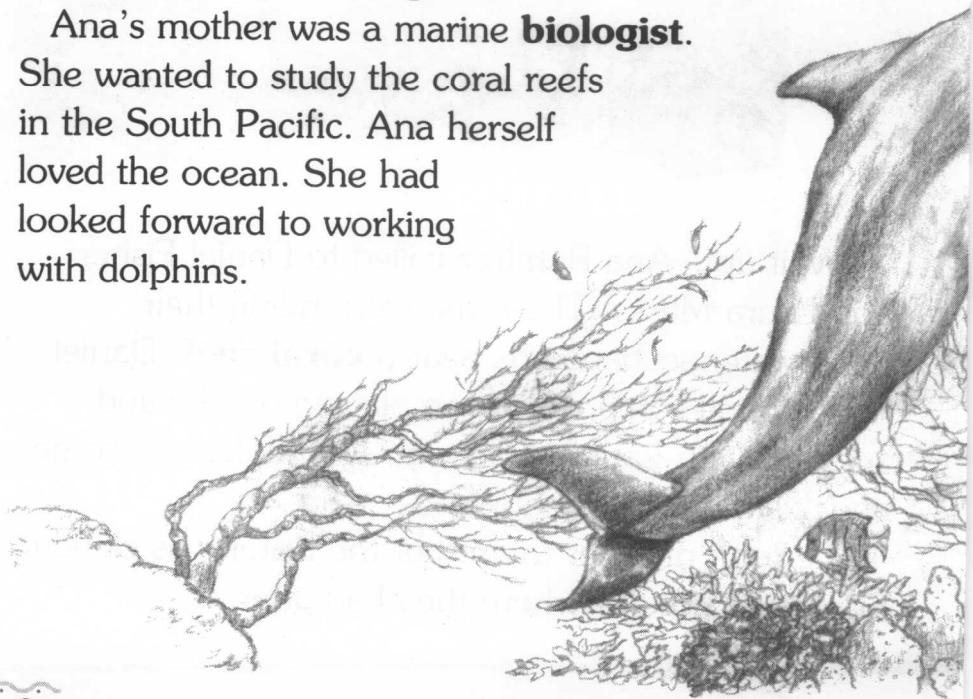
She took off after them, but the water was cloudy. She could not see where they had gone.

She thought about pressing the HOME button. The computer inside her scubaboard would then take her back to the **Starfish**.

The Starfish was a science research station. It sat on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean not far from the Hawaiian Islands. It was called the Starfish because it had been built with five arms around a center. It looked a lot like a starfish from above.

Several families had lived and worked on the Starfish since 2051. It was like a small town underwater. **Seaweed** and fish farms were nearby. Special machines changed **saltwater** into **freshwater** for drinking.

Ana's mother was a marine **biologist**. She wanted to study the coral reefs in the South Pacific. Ana herself loved the ocean. She had looked forward to working with dolphins.



Ana was finding it hard to **get used to** living in the Starfish. It was so different from living on the **mainland**. She was beginning to wonder if she would ever be a Starfisher. She had to remember that she had moved to the Starfish only two weeks ago.

Just then she felt a **nudge** at her elbow. A bottlenose dolphin bumped her **playfully**.

“Hey, stop that!” she said, laughing.

nudge

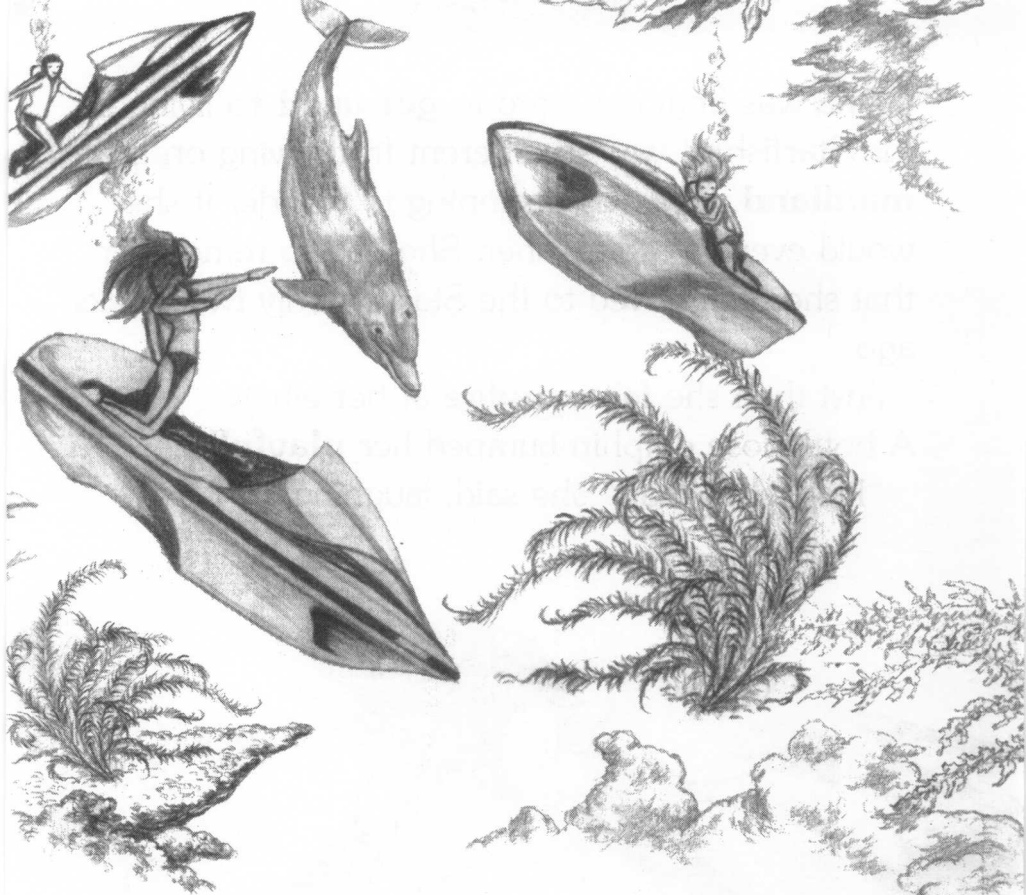
A. pain

B. bite

C. push



Key: C



Through her **helmet** speaker, Ana heard the dolphin's sounds. Ana knew a lot about dolphins. Her friends had always wondered at how well she understood their language.

Then she heard voices in her helmet speaker. She saw the other scubaboards coming back.

"Sorry," Laura said. "We thought you were right behind us."

"It's OK," Ana replied.

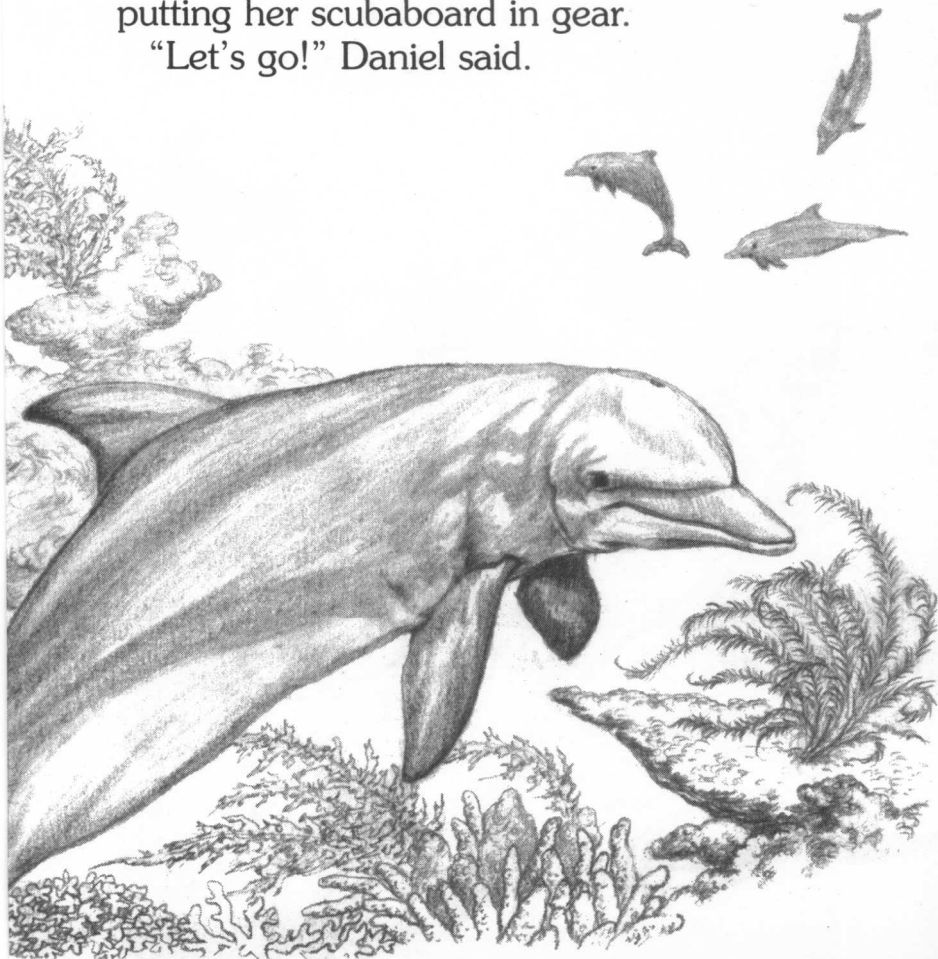
"We couldn't **catch up with** the dolphins," said Daniel.

"But it looks **as if** one caught up with you," Laura noted.

Suddenly, the dolphin began to move its head up and down. It swam off a little ways. Then it stopped and looked back at the children.

"I think it wants us to come along," Ana said, putting her scubaboard in gear.

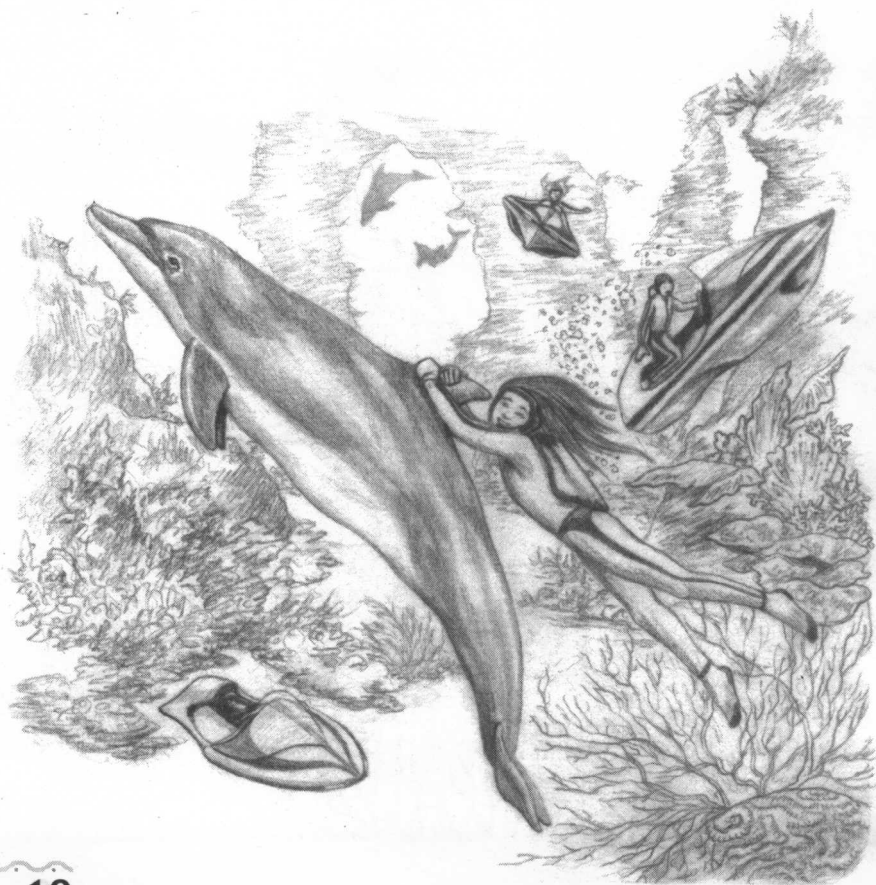
"Let's go!" Daniel said.

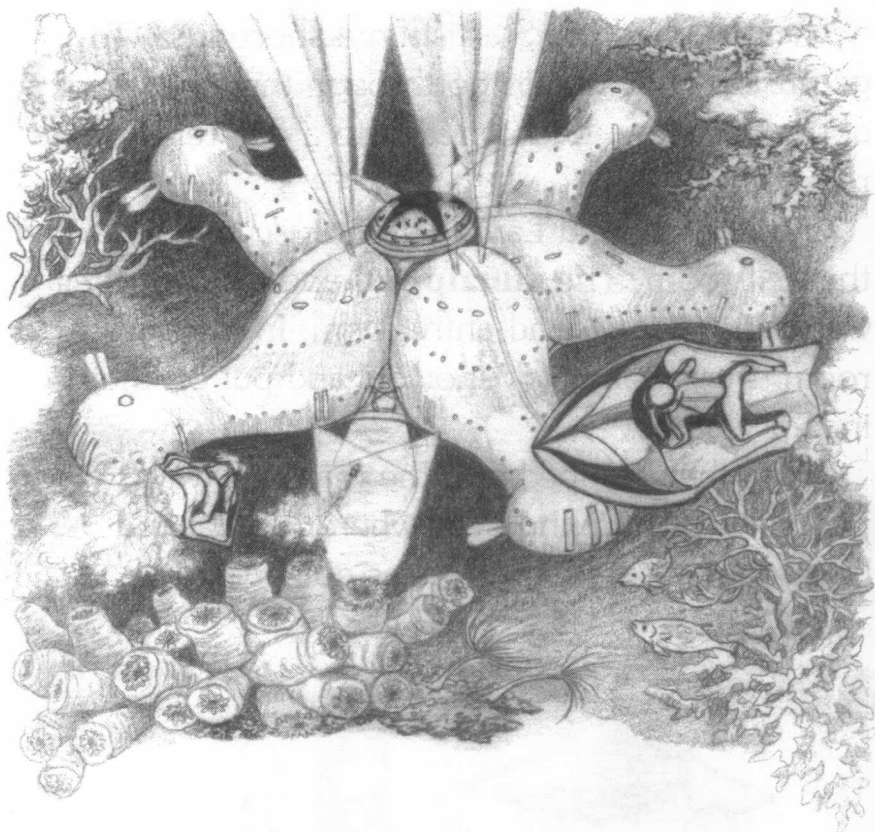


The children followed the dolphin. Soon they were met by a big group of dolphins. These dolphins swam around the scubaboards.

Ana pulled her scubaboard onto the sandy sea bottom. She waited for a dolphin to come close to her. Then she gently held on to its dorsal, or back, fin. She **grinned** as the dolphin pulled her along.

"Wow!" Daniel and Laura said together.





Suddenly, their fun was stopped by the sound of a low voice in their helmet speakers.

“Attention! All scubaboarders please return to the Starfish at once!”

“We’d better get back. Something important must have happened,” said Daniel.

Sadly, the three children said goodbye to the dolphins. They pushed the HOME key on their boards and sped away.

What happened to the Starfish? Did they meet any danger on their way back?

They reached the Starfish in a short time. To get inside, they had to go through three ports, or doors, in a row. Each one led to a different **entry** room.

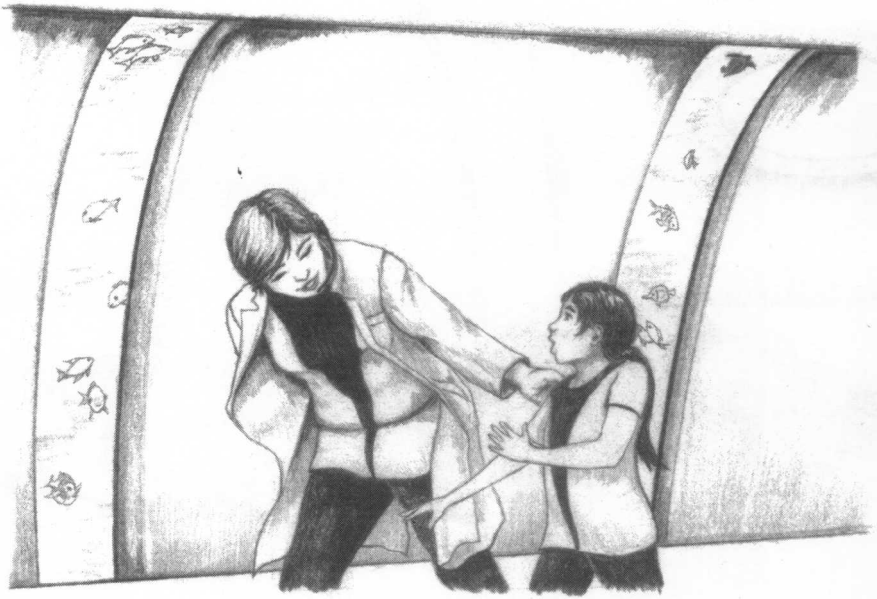
Ana, Daniel, and Laura left their scubaboards in the first room. They **unzipped** and took off their wetsuits in the second entry room. In the third room, they took quick showers and put on their indoor clothes.

When they stepped into the main hallway, people were hurrying everywhere. Daniel had been right. Something big was going on.



Chapter 2

Starfish on Alert!



As the children started to follow the crowd, Ana saw her mom. Dr. Ramirez hurried over to give Ana a **hug**. “Dr. Tan has called a meeting in the dining room,” she said.

As they walked toward the dining room, Ana told her mom about the dolphins. “Do you feel a little better about the Starfish now that you have found dolphins?” Ana’s mother asked.

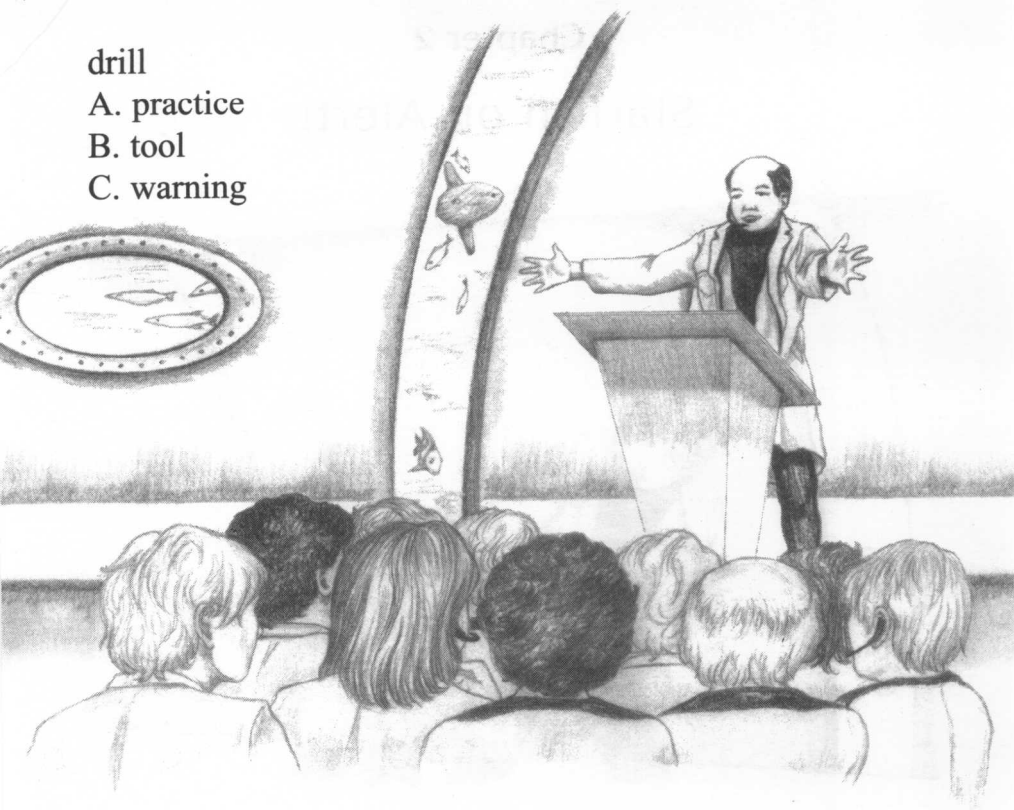
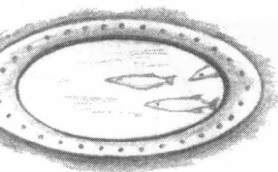
“I think so,” Ana replied. “But I still don’t know if I can become a real Starfisher. Daniel called me a landlubber.”

drill

A. practice

B. tool

C. warning



The dining room was crowded and noisy. Dr. Tan, the head scientist on the Starfish, called for attention.

“Our instruments on the sea floor show that an undersea earthquake will probably happen some time tomorrow. I want to have an earthquake **drill** today. Then the station will be **on alert** through tomorrow,” Dr. Tan said.

Everyone started talking at once. Ana felt a little worried. An earthquake! she thought. Would the Starfish be in danger?

Ana hurried over to where Daniel and Laura were sitting. They were excited.

"What happens if there's an earthquake?" Ana asked. "What's an earthquake drill?"

"Don't worry, Ana. We'll show you what to do," Laura said. "We've had **a couple of** earthquakes while I've been on the Starfish. No one has been hurt. That's why we have the drills. And the Starfish is well built."



"I hope so," Daniel smiled. "But **what if** we got hit with a tsunami?"

"What's a tsunami?" Ana asked.

"Stop **teasing** her," Laura said to Daniel.

"Tsunami means 'harbor wave' in Japanese. You say it like this: tsoo NAH mee. An undersea earthquake can start a tsunami. The wave travels very fast. It's not that **noticeable** out in the ocean. But when it gets close to land, it slows and grows. Then it becomes a tall, giant wave that can wash away everything on a coast."

"A tsunami wouldn't be a problem down here on the Starfish," Daniel explained.

"Besides, we can put up special **screens** around the Starfish and around our underwater farms. The screens have lots of holes in them. Strong water currents are slowed down when they pass through the holes."

"Come on, Ana," Laura said, "I'll show you what to do for the drill."

