

Diana Goes to the Beach

by Elizabeth Trach

Diana was bored. She was tired of all her books and toys. Her brother Carl was taking a nap. Her parents were busy cleaning the house.

"I wish I could go to the beach," Diana said. She kicked the floor with her toe.

"Why don't you outside to the sand box with your bucket and shovel? You can pretend you're at the beach instead," Mom said.

"I don't think that will be the same," Diana said, but she went outside anyway.

Diana's sand box was under a tall tree. As she walked closer, she saw a green string on the ground.

"My balloon!" cried Diana. "I must have left it outside!" Diana grabbed her green balloon and smiled. "Now I can go to the beach for real!"

Diana's green balloon was full of air, but it was lying on the ground. It bounced up and down as she pulled it towards her.

"Take me to the beach, balloon!" Diana commanded.

The green balloon did as it was told and floated up above the tree. Diana held tight to the string. She was flying over her house!

Diana watched the ground as she flew over her town. She could see the top of her school and her favorite park. She also saw the highway that her family usually took to the beach when they drove in the car.

There were fields with black and white cows. Diana also saw a farm with six yellow haystacks. Soon the green corn fields began to change to open spaces with tall grasses. Diana could smell the ocean on the breeze. She also saw a white sea gull flying nearby.

"Hello, gull!" Diana said.

The gull screeched and flew away. The green balloon was floating to the ground in a sandy spot. Diana landed softly just as a wave crashed up towards her feet. She jumped back so her shoes wouldn't get wet.

Diana walked along the shore and collected some pretty seashells and sea glass. She knew she couldn't stay long because her parents would miss her. She put her shells and sea glass in her pocket to keep as a memory of her first trip to the beach by herself.

"Okay, balloon. Let's go home."

And they did.

Questions

1. What does the word *commanded* mean here: "Take me to the beach, balloon!" Diana commanded"?
2. What are two things Diana sees on the way to the beach?
3. What does Diana collect at the beach?
4. Why do you think the seagull flew away from Diana?

This passage includes words that students should learn to recognize on sight. We've highlighted 12 of these words below, from the Dolch sight word list for Pre-K through 1st, 2nd and/or 3rd grade. Tip: Read through the passage once with your student. Read a second time, but pause on the sight word and ask your student to say the word.

Sight Word List

1. away
2. down
3. jump
4. under
5. white
6. think
7. clean
8. hold
9. keep
10. six
11. car
12. cow

Print and cut-out the flash cards below. Show each sight word to your student and ask them to say the word.

away

down

jump

under

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six

car

cow