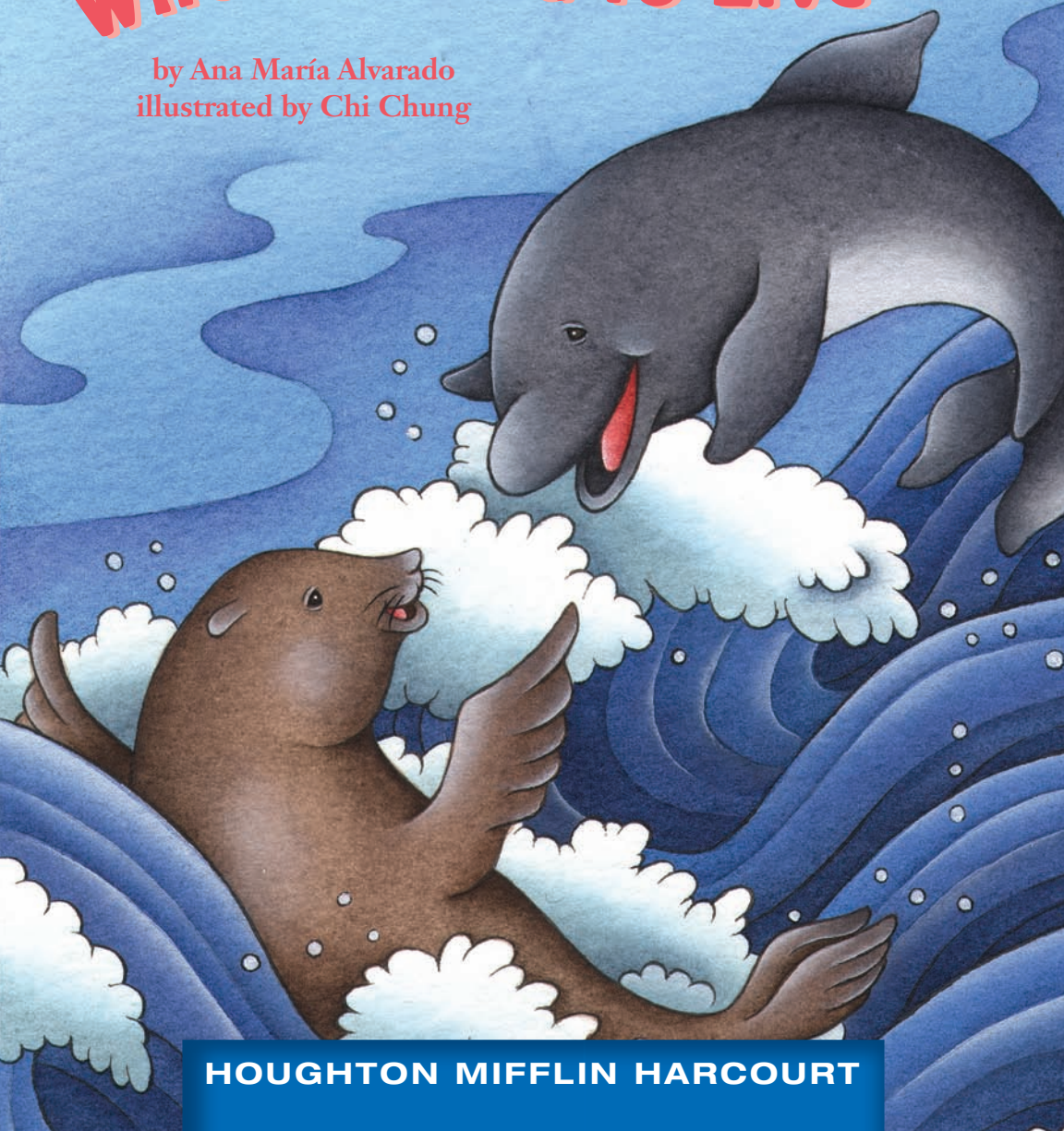


The Seal Who Wanted to Live

by Ana María Alvarado
illustrated by Chi Chung



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

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School Publishers

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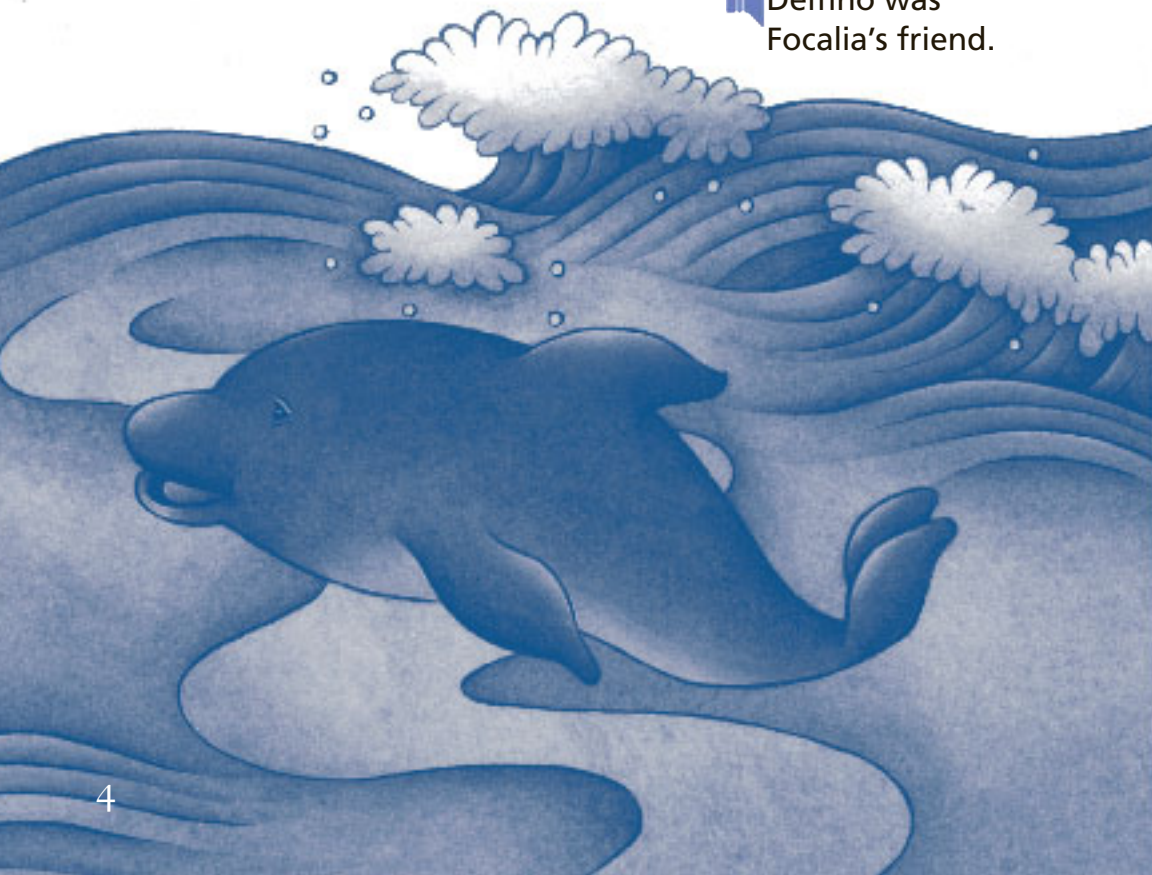
Seals like to play.

Adventures

Focalia was a friendly, playful seal. She lived in a beautiful, pleasant environment. How she loved to jump with her friends of different **species**. She was always looking for adventure. For this reason, she often got into trouble with her mother and father.


🔊 This playful seal had many friends. Delfino the dolphin was the one who played with Focalia the most. Delfino was fond of adventure, too, so he felt happy when he was swimming with Focalia. Delfino was a fast swimmer and could travel a long way in a short time. He was a very nice dolphin.


🔊 Delfino was Focalia's friend.



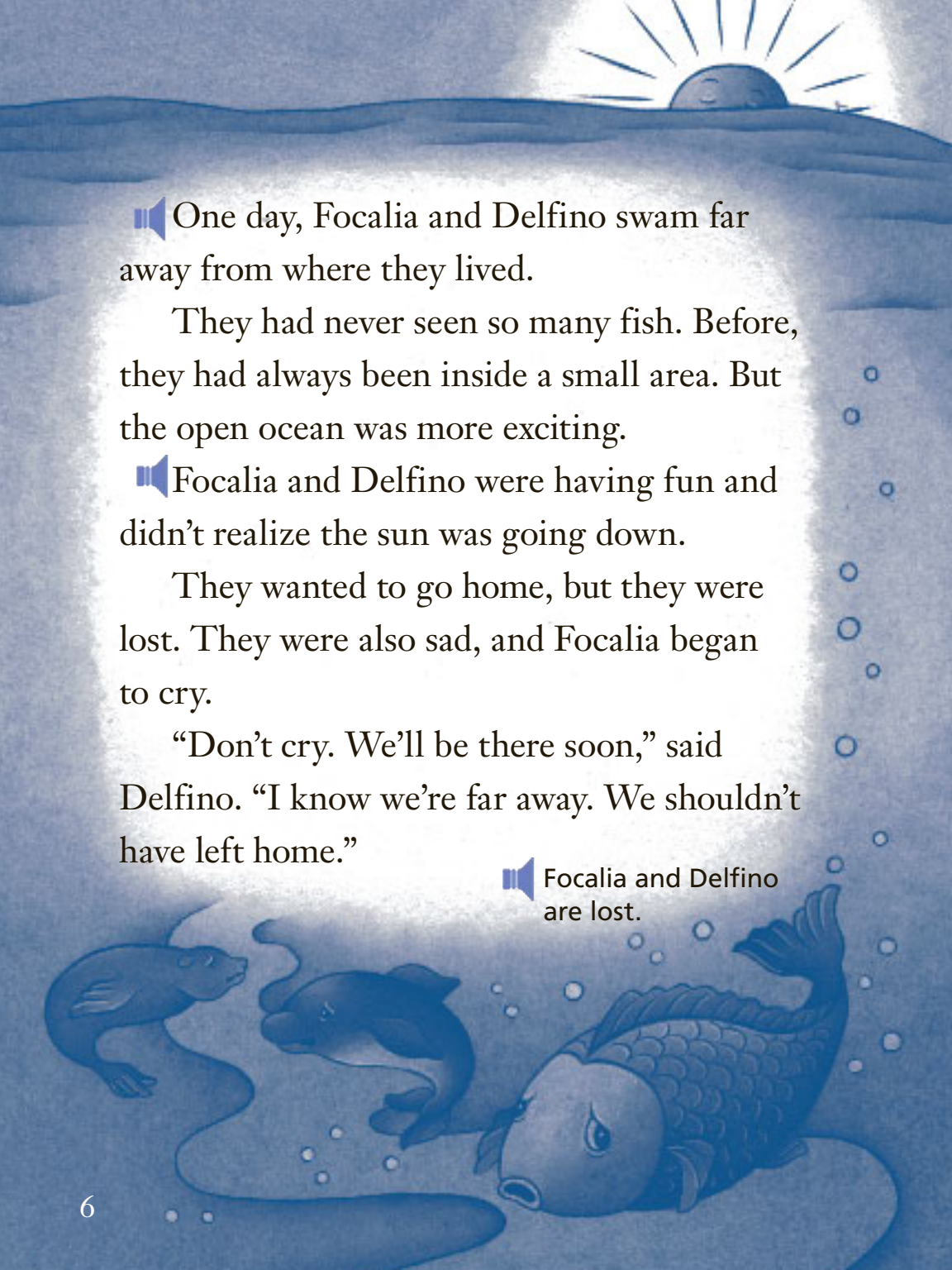


 Focalia and Delfino play with friends.

 On very sunny days, when the sea was blue and quiet, the friends would get together **directly** off a beach near where they liked to play.

 On those days, Focalia and Delfino swam, they went off, they came back, they jumped and were happy. What they and their friends liked best of all was the beautiful, clean ocean.

Their life was safe and secure.



One day, Focalia and Delfino swam far away from where they lived.

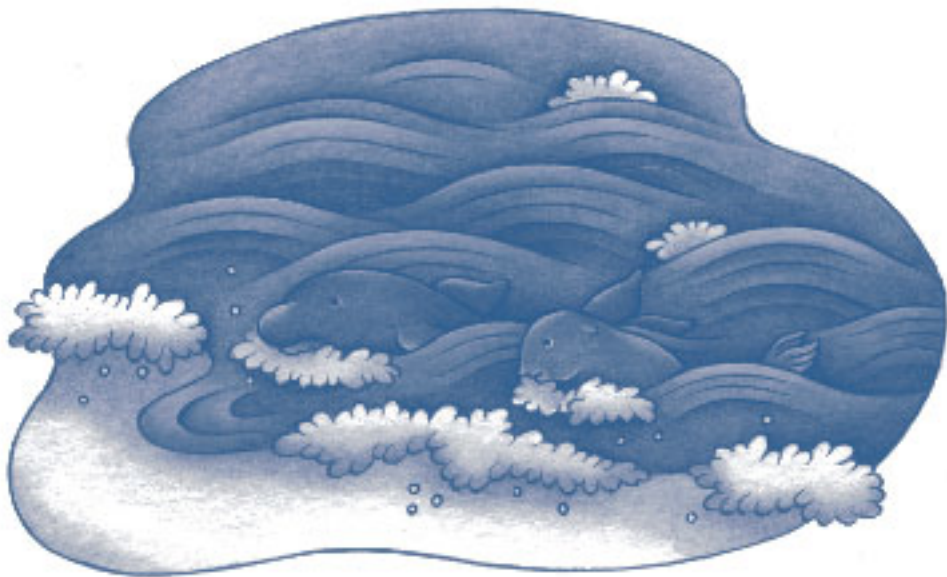
They had never seen so many fish. Before, they had always been inside a small area. But the open ocean was more exciting.


Focalia and Delfino were having fun and didn't realize the sun was going down.

They wanted to go home, but they were lost. They were also sad, and Focalia began to cry.

"Don't cry. We'll be there soon," said Delfino. "I know we're far away. We shouldn't have left home."

Focalia and Delfino are lost.



 The two friends have trouble sleeping.


The Beach and the Trash


Focalia and Delfino were in a place where everything was dark.

They stayed still near the sand, but they were afraid and could hardly sleep. When morning came and the sun shone, the two friends went up close to the shore. They saw the fine sand and liked it very much, but they wanted to go back home. They were hungry, and there was nothing to eat in that place.




 New friends

 Focalia and Delfino play with the children.

 Some children came up to them. They were amazed to see a seal and a dolphin at the beach.

“Do you want to play with us?” a girl asked.

Focalia and Delfino came closer to shore and played. They had never seen children before. They were glad to find new friends.

 Focalia and Delfino said goodbye. They started to swim. They wanted to get home. They saw a large ship. Trash was being thrown from the ship into the sea.



🔊 Focalia and Delfino were sickened by the bad smell from the trash. They tried to swim away from the ship, but they felt weak.

Seeing fish that were sick made them sad.

🔊 They swam down deep and saw plants that had died from the pollution. These plants also suffered because they were so deep that they received only **traces** of **radiation** from the sun.

🔊 Fish get sick from the trash.

🔊 The destruction they saw made Focalia cry.

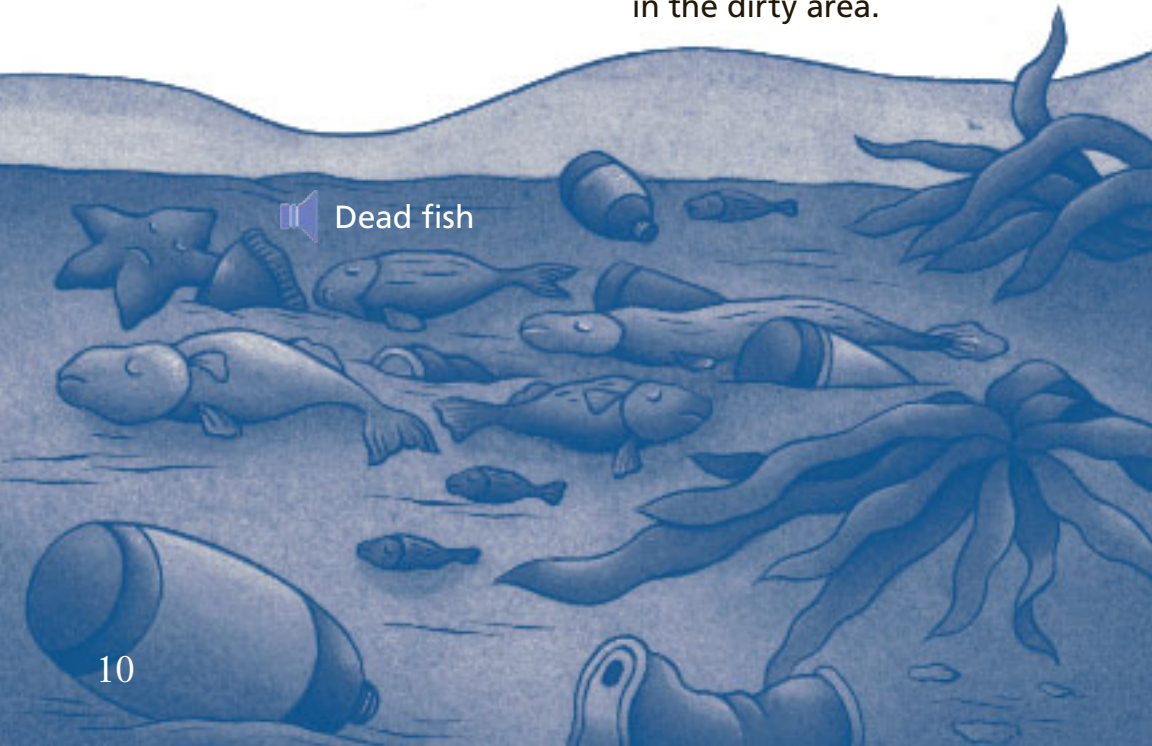
“We have to do something to protect the sea,” she said. “It’s our home, and no one should destroy ocean **habitats**. What can we do, Delfino?”

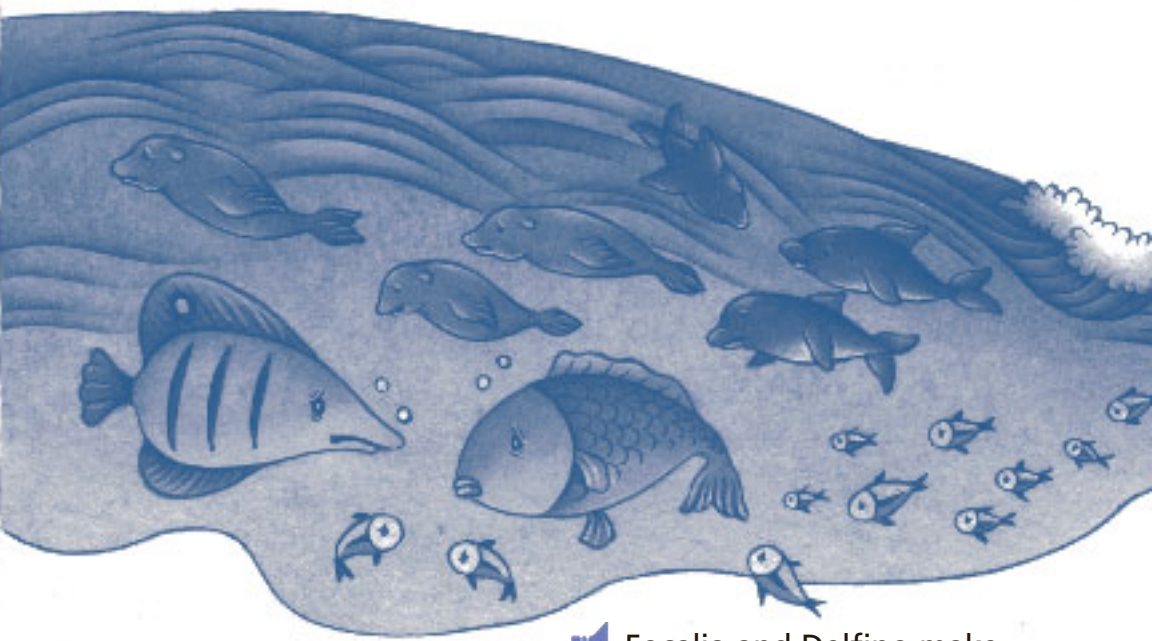
🔊 “I don’t know. We’ve got to get home. Where we live, the sea is clean,” said Delfino.

They left the dirty area. They began to see fish who were their friends. They were getting close to home!

🔊 There is a lot of destruction in the dirty area.

🔊 Dead fish





Focalia and Delfino make their way home.

Home Again

The two friends knew they were almost home. They couldn't wait to see everyone and tell them about the **variety** of things they had seen. They would also tell about how trash **affects** the health of sea life.

How glad they felt! They were home!

The others welcomed them back joyfully. Everyone said they had been very sad because they thought they'd lost Focalia and Delfino forever.

🔊 What joy to see their mothers! Mother Seal and Mother Dolphin kissed them. They also gave them a scolding for going so far.

“Never go far away from home again. You have the sea and your friends here to play with,” said Mother Seal.

🔊 “I was very scared, but now I’m happy. We will make sure you stay close,” said Mother Dolphin.


“Focalia and I have a lot of things to tell you about,” said Delfino.


Focalia spoke up: “We saw the sea as we’d never seen it before. It’s even more beautiful than this one.”

🔊 Their mothers give them a talking to.






 Focalia and Delfino tell what they saw.

 “Then we saw fine sand and clearer sea water,” said Delfino. “It’s a beautiful and pleasant place.”

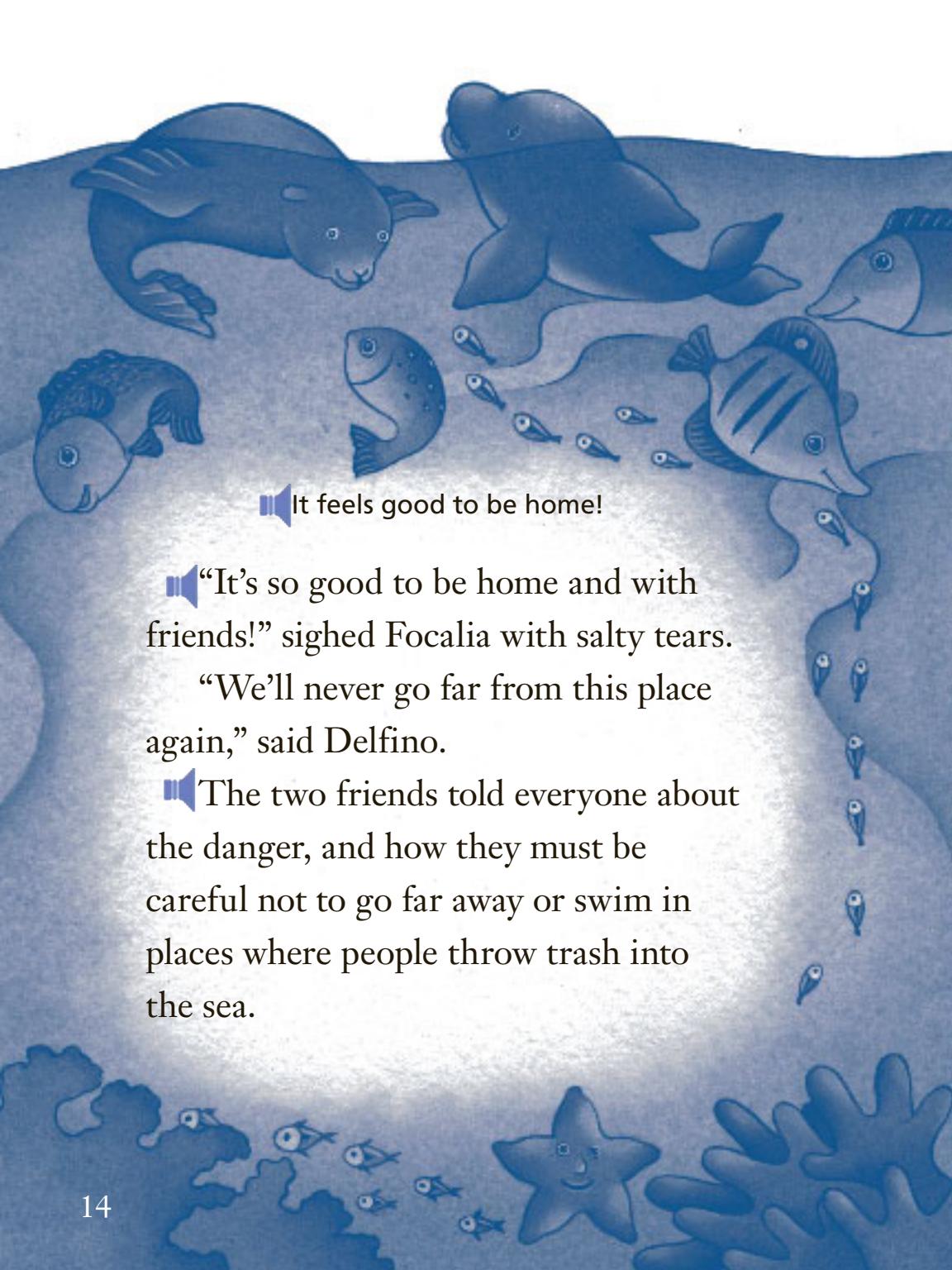
The others listened carefully. They had never seen such things.

 Focalia and Delfino told their parents what they had seen. They told about the ship.

“It was a big, nice ship,” said Delfino.

“We saw them throwing trash into the sea,” added Focalia. Throwing trash into the sea should be **banned**,” added Focalia.

“It was sad to see sick fish and other **organisms**,” said Delfino. “Will we lose our sea one day?”



It feels good to be home!

“It’s so good to be home and with friends!” sighed Focalia with salty tears.

“We’ll never go far from this place again,” said Delfino.

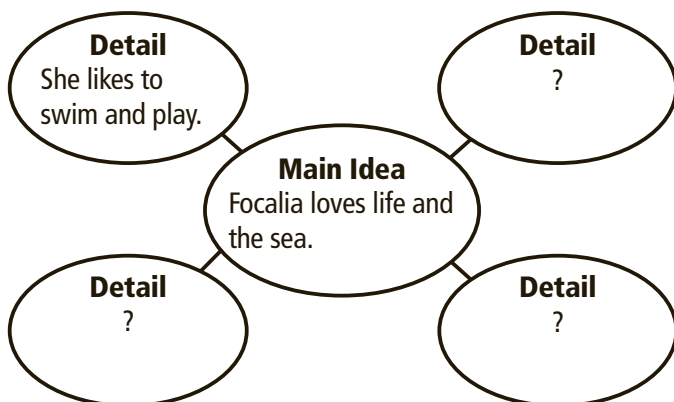
The two friends told everyone about the danger, and how they must be careful not to go far away or swim in places where people throw trash into the sea.

Responding



TARGET SKILL Main Ideas and Details

What is the main idea of the story? What details support this idea? Copy and complete the chart below.



Write About It

Text to World Pollution is a big problem in the world today. How can pollution be reduced? Make a list of ten things people can do in their everyday lives to reduce pollution.



TARGET VOCABULARY

affect
banned
directly
habitats
organisms

radiation
species
traces
variety
vast



TARGET SKILL

Main Ideas and Details Name a topic's key ideas and supporting details.



TARGET STRATEGY

Monitor/Clarify Notice what is confusing as you read. Find ways to understand it.



GENRE

A **fantasy** is a story with details that could not happen but seem real.

Level: O

DRA: 38

Genre:

Fantasy

Strategy:

Monitor/Clarify

Skill:

Main Idea and Details

Word Count: 846

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