

Making Waves

Author: Linley Jones

Synopsis

Jazzy's behaviour is beginning to worry her parents. She has started hanging around with a new group of kids and, among other things, has been brought home by the police because one of them was caught shoplifting. No big deal, Jazzy thinks. So imagine her surprise when her mother informs her that the whole family is taking the year off to sail around the Pacific. Jazzy is gutted. What about her friends? What about Josh, the boy she likes? What about netball? The thought of drifting aimlessly around the ocean with only her mum, dad and younger brother Ryan seems less than appealing.

Once Skyebird sets sail Jazzy is determined to show her parents her displeasure at being forced to accompany them on the journey. She remains surly and uncooperative for a while but soon the fun and adventure of the voyage makes her forget her grievances. She loves swimming, sailing and snorkelling and soon makes friends with some other kids whose parents are sailing in the Pacific. Things start to look even more promising when Jazzy meets Matt, a good looking older guy who is sailing on a large ship called Rags with his friend Ben.

But soon Jazzy, Ryan and their friend Chloe start to have suspicions about Matt and Ben and what they are doing in the Islands. There is a strange smell on their boat and Jazzy sees what she thinks is black coral on board. As the trio continues their investigation into Matt and Ben's activities Jazzy finds herself in a situation where her very life is threatened. Will Jazzy be able to escape from her captor or will Matt successfully silence her forever?

Text Type

Making Waves is a fast-paced adventure story with broad appeal for boys and girls. Written by New Zealand author Linley Jones the main storyline of the novel involves Jazzy and her family's voyage around the Pacific on their boat. The story is set in New Zealand and around the Islands of Tonga. A map of this area is provided for readers at the front of the novel. An interesting sub-plot introduced by the author is Matt and Ben's illegal drug smuggling activities and Jazzy's investigations into their behaviour. This storyline adds conflict and excitement to this highly readable novel.

Although the novel is told from third person point of view Making Waves is very much Jazzy's story. Jazzy is a strong willed and determined 13-year old who is just beginning to spread her wings by hanging out with new people and becoming interested in boys. Initially she is angry and upset with her parents for forcing her to accompany them on their journey. The idea of leaving her school, friends and sport seems too much to contemplate. However, Jazzy is a naturally adventurous girl and soon the lure of the Islands overcomes her and she begins snorkelling and swimming, as well as making new friends.

Jazzy is surprised at how much fun she has during the journey and her relationship with her parents and brother Ryan is strengthened by the experience. Jazzy faces a number of challenging situations during the journey and shows courage and perseverance to overcome them. She cannot rely on her father as much as she is used to because he is resting a lot and not his usual self. At first she thinks he is just being lazy and in holiday mode, but she is later shocked to find out that he is ill. Through this, Jazzy has to learn to be more independent. During the dramatic climax to the story Jazzy shows bravery and resourcefulness as she struggles to escape from Matt.

Themes include family, friendship, sailing, smuggling and the importance of conserving the delicate environment in the Pacific.

Sharing the Novel

The novel has been divided up as follows: Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 5- 20), Chapters 3- 14 (pp. 21- 108) and Chapters 15- 27 (pp. 109- 183).

During the shared sessions encourage students to discuss their ideas and ask questions to clarify their understanding of words and issues presented in the story. Have them make inferences and predict what is going to happen next in the story. Wherever possible, have students relate Jazzy's adventures to their own experiences and broader knowledge. Students should analyse the main character and look at her actions, motivations and how she develops and changes as the story progresses. They should be able to identify important themes and ideas raised in the story.

Introducing the Novel

Have students study the front cover of the novel and read the blurb.

- Who is the main character in the novel?

- How does the main character feel about her parents' idea of living on a yacht for a year? How would you feel if your parents suggested this to you? What would you miss the most about your life?
- What does "idyllic" mean?
- Why do you think that "the trip of a lifetime" turns into a "hideous nightmare"?

Teacher reads Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 5- 20) aloud. Students follow along in their books.

Comprehension Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 5- 20)

- How does Jazzy feel about her parents' plan to sail to Tonga? How does Ryan feel about it? What objections does Jazzy raise? How do her parents counter these objections?
- Why are Jazzy's parents convinced that taking Jazzy away from her new friends is a good idea?
- Who is Josh? Why does Jazzy admire him so much?
- Why is Jazzy taken home by the police? How do her parents react to the situation? Why do you think Jazzy doesn't bring these new friends home to meet her parents?
- Why does the school Principal ring Jazzy's parents? How does Jazzy's mum react when she hears what Jazzy has done? How does her father react?
- What things will Jazzy miss out on when she leaves with her family?
- What is the name of the boat that Jazzy and her family will be travelling on?
- What do Jazzy's friends do when they come to see Jazzy off at the pier? How does Jazzy know that her parents disapprove of their behaviour?
- How does Josh react when Jazzy asks him to write to her? Why does he react like this? Who is Nerida? Why doesn't Jazzy like her?
- What does Miss Foster drop off for Jazzy to take on the trip? Why does Jazzy think that she is an "ace" teacher?
- What suggestion does Mr Bagshaw come up with for an assignment for Jazzy to complete while she is away?
- Who comes to see Jazzy and her family off on their voyage? Why does Jazzy feel guilty when she sees Alice and Kate? Who doesn't come back to say goodbye? How does this make Jazzy feel?

Discussion

- Have you ever had friends that your parents don't approve of? What sort of people would your parents consider unsuitable to hang around with? Do you believe that parents have the right to stop their children from seeing certain people? Why/why not?
- What do we learn about Jazzy and her family in these two chapters?
- Make a prediction about what will happen next in the story.

Students read Chapters 3- 14 (pp. 21- 108) independently before the next shared session.

Comprehension Chapters 3- 14 (pp. 21- 108)

- How does Ryan get injured? What rule does Jim remind him of? What does Jazzy mean when she talks about getting her "sea legs"?
- What does Jim ask Jazzy to help with? Why is she secretly pleased by the request?
- Who is Cyril?
- How does Jazzy know that bad weather is coming?
- What are the lee cloths for?
- How long is Kate seasick for?
- What does Jazzy have to do with the boat so that her father can adjust the sails? Why doesn't she like steering the boat into the wind? What happens to Jazzy's dad when he comes back down?
- Why does Jazzy have mixed feelings when her father leaves her alone to steer the boat? What other duties does she have to do?
- Why does Jazzy begin to feel sorry for her mother? What does she give her to try and make her feel better?
- How does Jazzy feel when she has her first swim of the voyage? Why does she need to hold onto the rope?
- What does Jim mean when he says they'll be "stuck in quarantine"? What flags does Jim raise when they arrive in Nuku'alofa? Why does Kate have to give the officials the onion skins?
- Why does Jazzy feel like her family has become part of a community when they are in Nuku'alofa? In what ways do the yachts help each other?
- Who are Chloe and Sammy? What is the name of their boat? Describe Chloe.
- Who are the guys that arrive on Rags? What does Jazzy find appealing about them?
- What does Matt do that surprises Jazzy? What does Chloe suggest that she and Jazzy bring over to Matt and Ben on Rags?

- What is Project Pacific Aqua? Why does Jazzy find the project so fascinating?
- What fish does Jazzy mistake for a shark? How does she feel when she thinks she's swimming with a shark?
- Why are Jazzy and Ryan so dismayed when they find Rag's anchor? What do they notice about the yacht that suggests Matt and Ben aren't careful sailors?
- What article does Jim find in the yachting magazine that he thinks will interest Jazzy and Ryan?
- How does Ben react when Chloe, Ryan and Jazzy turn up with the book? How does Matt react?
- Why doesn't Jazzy think that Matt is taking the issue with the anchor seriously enough?
- What does Ryan find under the canvas on the foredeck? What does Jazzy think that she sees in the glass lockers?
- Why does Jazzy think that Matt is coming onto her? How does this make her feel?
- Why does Ryan think that there is something funny about Matt and Ben? How do Chloe and Ryan react when Jazzy tells them about the black coral? What do they find out about black coral on the internet?
- Where does Jazzy's family go when they leave Nuku'alofa?
- What changes does Jazzy notice in her mother since they have been on the boat? How has her father changed?
- What happens when Ryan is supposed to be keeping watch over where Skyebird is going? What part does each family member play in averting disaster? Why does Jazzy believe that "in a real emergency there are no obstacles"?
- How does Jazzy make Ryan feel better about his inattention?
- Why is Jazzy so impressed with her brother while she watches him catch the fish?
- Why is Jazzy disappointed when Chloe gives her the mail?
- What does Chloe tell Ryan and Jazzy about the old man at the pier?
- What does Ryan think the smell on board Rags is?
- How do Jazzy and Chloe create a diversion so Ryan can sneak a look under the tarpaulin? What does Ryan see under there? How does the old man react when he catches him?
- What information do the kids find out when they visit the vanilla plantation? Who is old Mali? Why are they shocked when the guide empties the crate?

Discussion

- What clues are provided in this section of the book that suggest Jim might be sick? What do you think is wrong with him? Why do you think he wanted to bring his family away despite his ill-health?
- Chloe and Sammy have been sailing around with their parents for years. What would be the positive aspects of this lifestyle? What are some of the negatives?
- What aspects of Island life does Jazzy enjoy? What does she miss about home?
- Jazzy is conducting a research assignment on the coral in the Pacific and why is it dying out. What part are humans playing in this environmental disaster? What are some things that we can do to help improve the environment?
- Describe Jazzy's relationship with her brother. What qualities does Ryan possess that Jazzy admires? Why does she feel like Ryan is "becoming like a friend, not just a brother"?
- Do you think Jazzy makes the right choice when she decides not to tell her parents about her suspicions? Why/why not?
- What do you think is going to happen next in the story?

Students read 15- 27 (pp. 109- 183) independently before the next shared session.

Comprehension Chapters 15- 27 (pp. 109- 183)

- Why is water so precious to the yachties?
- What do Ryan and Jazzy overhear the other yachties saying as they wander through the crowds on the wharf? Why do they think that they are talking about Ben and Matt?
- What presents does Jazzy receive for her birthday? Why is she so pleased with what Ryan gives her?
- Where does Jazzy's family go to with Chloe's family? Why do you think Jim doesn't want to snorkel with Jazzy? How does this make Jazzy feel? Who convinces Jazzy that she can do it without her father?
- Why does Jazzy start to panic while she is swimming through the tunnel? Who helps her get to the end? What does she see when she looks around Mariners' Cave? What "special effects" does she see? Why does Jazzy feel so much more confident when she swims back through the cave?
- What happens to Jim when he tries to tie up the dinghy? Why does Jazzy refuse to walk around the market with her parents?
- What does the man at the market tell Jazzy about Mr Blake's vanilla?

- Why is Jazzy a little reluctant to find out whether Matt is involved in something illegal? What excuse does Ryan come up with for visiting them on their boat? Who suggests that Jazzy stay behind while the others go back to collect the fish?
- What does Jazzy notice when she goes down below with Matt? How does she react when she thinks that Matt is coming onto her? Why does Jazzy think that Matt is lying to her? What does she see when she opens the cabin door? What proposition does Matt have for Jazzy? Why doesn't Matt go for the idea of Chloe fixing his computer? What sudden realisation does Jazzy come to about Matt? Where's Ben?
- How does Matt react when Jazzy asks him about the vanilla beans? What does Matt use the vanilla beans for?
- What feelings does Jazzy experience when she realises how dangerous Matt is? What does he do to her when she tries to escape?
- What does Chloe discover when she does an internet search back on the boat? How do her parents react when she tells them what she knows about Matt and Ben? Why is everyone so horrified when Rags starts motoring away?
- How does Jazzy manage to escape from the cabin? What do her actions suggest about her character? Why does Jazzy decide to leap overboard? What does she see when she resurfaces?
- What happens to Rags? Why do you think Matt decides to jump overboard?
- How does Jazzy feel as she climbs aboard Audacious?
- Who is at the police station when Jazzy and the others arrive there? What information does Ben give the police? How did he get tangled up with Matt in the first place?
- How does Jazzy's experience affect her?
- How does Professor Zimmerman plan to help Matt?
- What does Professor Zimmerman write in his email? Why doesn't Jazzy feel comfortable accepting a reward?
- Why does Jazzy's family have to return home? How does Jazzy react to this announcement? What is wrong with her father? What surgery does he require?
- What does Jazzy talk about with her father when she goes to relieve his watch? What does he mean when he says "welcome back Jazzy"?

Discussion

- Jazzy "feels the fear and does it anyway" when she snorkels into Mariner's Cave. How does she feel when she overcomes this fear? Why is it important to face your fears?

- What qualities and attributes does Jazzy possess? How does her character develop and change during the story? What do you think she learns from her experiences?
- Matt can't read and Jazzy suspects that Josh can't either. Why is it so important to be literate? How would being illiterate impact on your life?
- Identify the climax of the story. Why is this event important?
- What is the main theme or author's message? How is this developed in the story?

Activities

Research - Conduct a research assignment similar to Jazzy's one on coral in the Pacific and what is causing it to die. Formulate 3 focussing questions to guide your research. Use a range of oral, visual and written sources to gather your information and record your research process. Present your findings as a poster or an essay.

Newspaper Article - Write a newspaper article about Jazzy's abduction and Matt and Ben's criminal activities. Remember to use the inverted pyramid style of writing where the most important information is presented in the first two paragraphs. Include quotes from people involved.

Plot Graph - Complete a plot graph for Making Waves. Label the vertical axis "Level of Excitement". Label the horizontal axis "Events" and list 10 important events from the story in the order that they occur. Plot each event on the graph according to its level of excitement.

Review - Write a book review for Making Waves. Include a brief summary of the events that occur in the story, discuss the setting, the characters and the themes. Don't give too much away though or no one will want to read the book! Remember to include your personal opinion about the novel.

Writing - Imagine that you are Jazzy. Write a diary entry for her the night after her ordeal with Matt. Include information about her ordeal and her thoughts and feelings about what has happened.

Character - Choose 5 items that are important to Jazzy and explain why she couldn't do without them.

Static Image - Design a web page advertising Making Waves. Include a brief summary of what the story is about, a description of the main character and comment on the main themes of the story. Illustrate your web page with images from the text. You may like to include links to other pages such as additional information about the author and environmental information.

Character - Describe Jazzy's actions and behaviour in a particular situation that occurs in the story. Justify or criticise her motives in this situation.

Drama - Choose an exciting event that occurs in the novel and write a script for it. Remember to include a cast list and stage directions. Practise your scene and present it to the class.

Notes written by Vicki Williams