

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. Alistair recognizes that Sadie is really strong at sailing. What's one thing you are really good at? Now think about one of your friends. Pick one thing you admire about your friend that they are good at and tell them!

2. Ben doesn't like being on the water, but he kept agreeing to go out in boats to help his friends and the merpeople. Think about a time you did something you didn't want to do and it helped others. How did you feel afterwards? Would you do it again?

3. Chief Jo explains how we can communicate with animals (see page 120). She says it's not with words, but by watching their patterns and actions. How do you communicate with animals (for example, your pet)? How can you talk to the people around you without using words?

4. Ben's Kiju, his grandmother, plays an important role in the story. Do you have someone in your life that you look up to as a role model? Explain.

5. When Alistair first heard the story of the merpeople and how they were being attacked by the explorers, he wondered what he would have done in the same situation (see page 145). What would you do if you saw someone being hurt?

6. Alistair says on page 159 that he has never considered himself brave. Yet he knew he had to pretend he was brave. How does pretending to be brave help to overcome your fear?

### *Writing Exercise*

According to the author, she found it challenging to come up with original ways to describe a merperson because she hadn't actually met one in person (yet). Imagine you are playing in the ocean and you meet a merperson. Describe the scene.

- What were you thinking?
- How do you react?
- What details do you notice about the merperson?
- Do they talk? If so, how do they sound?