THE SEA IS MY FRIEND

BY HILTON AYREY

Jane loved swimming. She loved to splash around in her swimming pool at home. She always looked forward to swimming lessons at school. But best of all she loved swimming in the sea. She liked the way the waves crashed against her legs. She wasn't at all frightened when they knocked her over and her head went under the waves. The sea was her friend and the waves were her playmates.

For her birthday her father gave her a rubber raft and she pestered him every day during the holidays to take her to the beach. Now she could ride over the top of the waves.
"Don't go out too far!" her father would warn her as she ran down the beach dragging her bouncing raft along behind her. Jane laughed and shouted over her shoulder, "Don't worry. The sea is my friend!"

One day the sea was very calm so she climbed into her raft and paddled out past the gentle breakers. The sun was shining down and there was not a cloud in the sky. For just a moment she lay back in her raft and closed her eyes.

Suddenly she sat up. Had she fallen asleep? Something had changed. The sun had gone behind a cloud and the wind was blowing. Why was it so quiet? She looked over her shoulder. The beach was a long way away. The people on the beach were like toys in the distance. She could feel her raft moving quickly now, further out to sea. It was like giant hands where dragging her away from safety. The sea didn't seem so friendly and playful anymore. Jane was frightened. She waved and yelled but there was no one to hear her. What could she do!

Just then she heard the sound of a boat in the distance, getting louder and louder, coming closer. Soon she could see the lifeguards from the beach and there, in the back of the boat, looking very worried, was her dad.

Safely back on the beach, Jane turned her back on the sea. That was enough for one day. And maybe it would be a long time before she trusted her friend again.

Notes on Story Structure

Characters

Setting

Problem

Feelings

Action

Outcome

Theme(s)