

Reading Booklet 2

Under the Sea

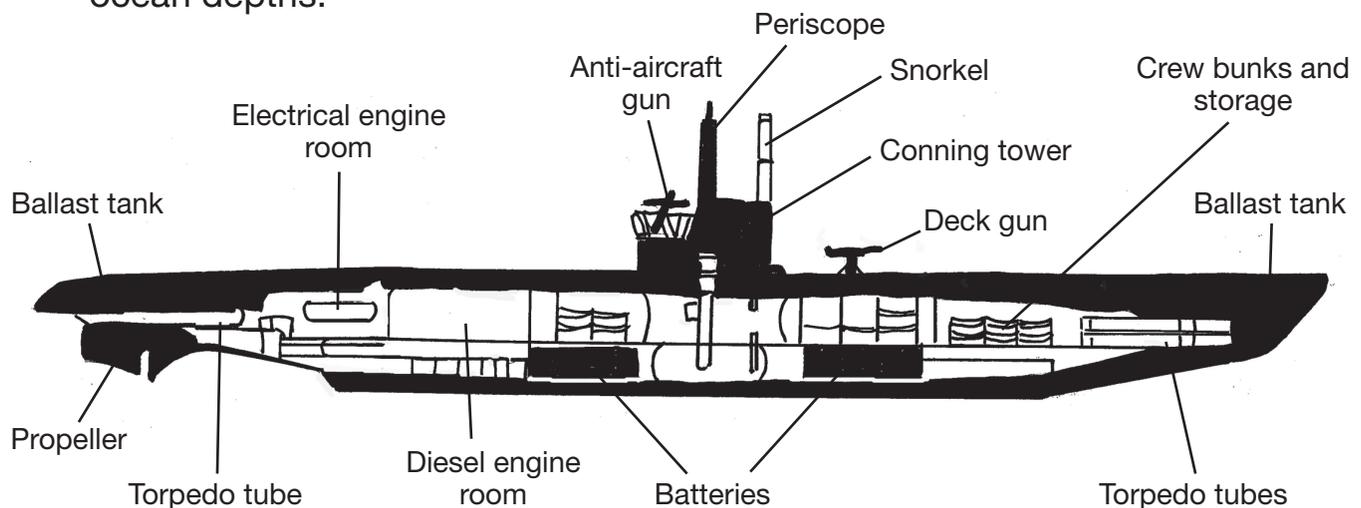
Submarines are ocean-going vessels which are designed to be watertight so they can operate with stealth under water. It is sometimes said that they are wolves of the sea.

Submarines look like a smooth caterpillar with a long rounded hull which is made up of two sections that have been welded together.

The first section, the inner chamber, is designed to protect the submarine and those on board from the extreme pressures found deep in the ocean. Without a pressure hull, the submarine would be crushed like a tin can. The second section, the outer chamber, contains the ballast tanks, without which, the submarine would be unable to sink or rise up through the ocean depths.

Each ballast tank has small doors attached which open to let in water. The more water taken into the ballast tanks, the deeper the submarine will sink. In order to resurface, compressed air, stored in tanks along the inside of the submarine's hull, is forced into the ballast tanks. This expels the water out into the ocean so the submarine can begin to rise.

Protruding from the top of the hull is a tall structure known as the conning tower. Here you will find the periscope and other navigational instruments. On each side of the conning tower are small manoeuvrable rudders which alter their angles to ensure that the submarine does not become unstable when descending through the ocean depths.



Reading Booklet 2

Sugar and Me

Rated: G

Running time: 1 hr 50 mins

Rating : ★★☆☆☆

Just in time for the school holiday crowds, this movie is perfectly timed with something for everyone.

A creative and vibrant advertising campaign has made sure that the first impressions of this new movie grab you by the heartstrings. *Sugar and Me* which is reminiscent of *My Friend Flicker* is good old-fashioned entertainment, despite being a predictable family film.

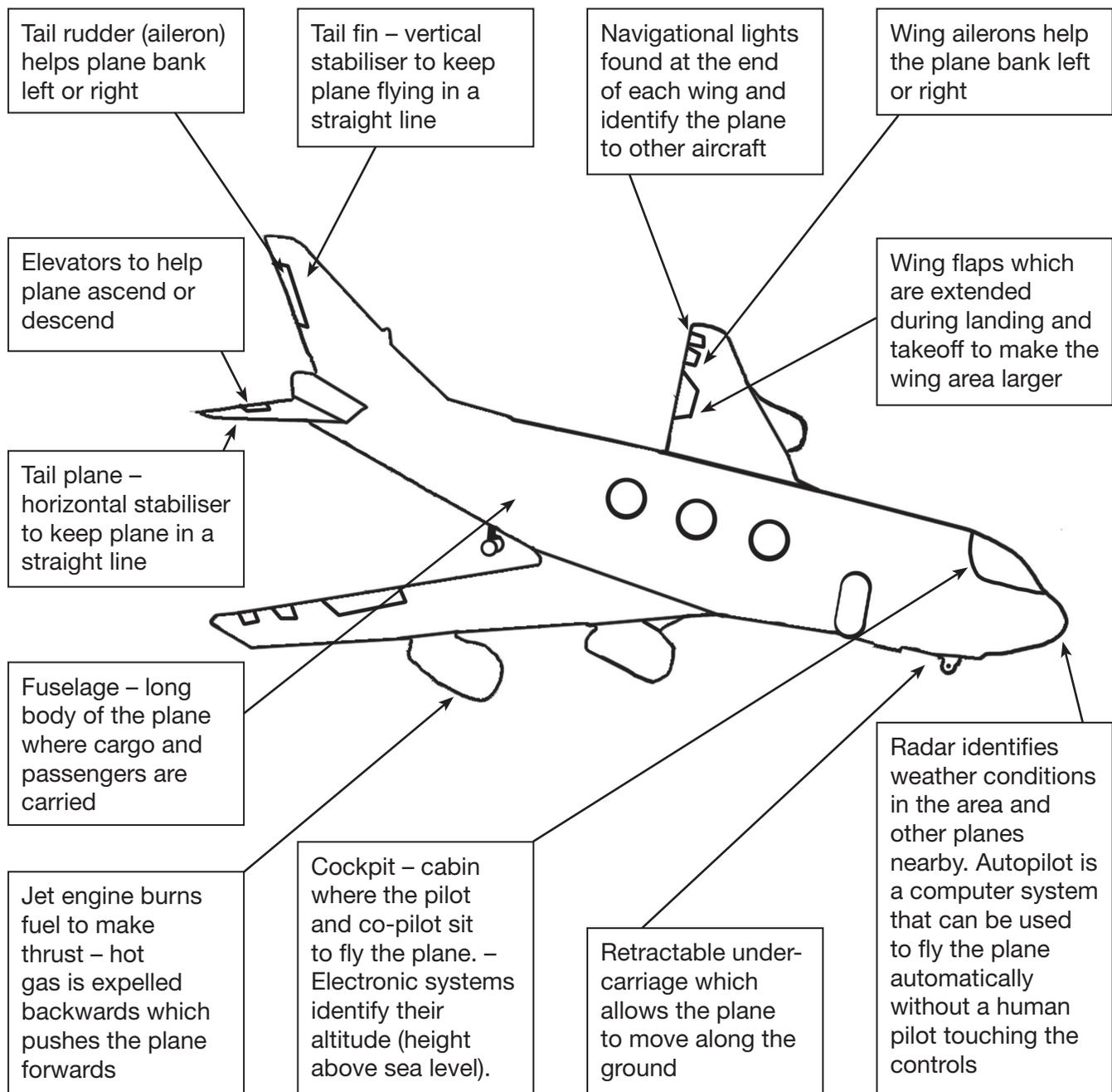
Farm girl Penny has a love of all things horsy. When she and her family are forced to move to the suburbs, life for Penny is not all roses. During one of her darker moments, Sugar, an old grey mare, comes into Penny's life. Once used by the local fair for children's rides, Sugar has reached the end of her useful life. The two team up and Penny and Sugar delight the audience with their comical adventures in the suburbs as they work to save each other.



There are some overworked clichés in the dialogue and the ending is a bit cheesy for seasoned movie goers, but not much will stand in the way to your enjoyment of this delightful holiday fun.

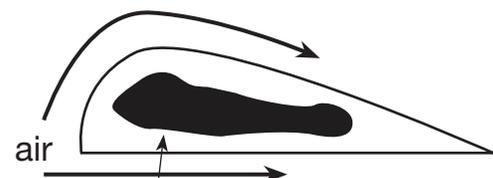
Reading Booklet 2

Up in the Air



Wing cross-section

An aeroplane's wing is a shape known as an aerofoil. It has a rounded front, a thick centre and is pointed at the rear. Air flows faster over the top of the wing than it does on the underneath edge which creates lift. It has the opposite function to a racing car spoiler. The slower the plane moves, the less lift it creates, so for takeoffs and landings, the wings are made larger temporarily by extensions known as flaps.



Fuel tanks on large jet aircraft are often inside each wing.

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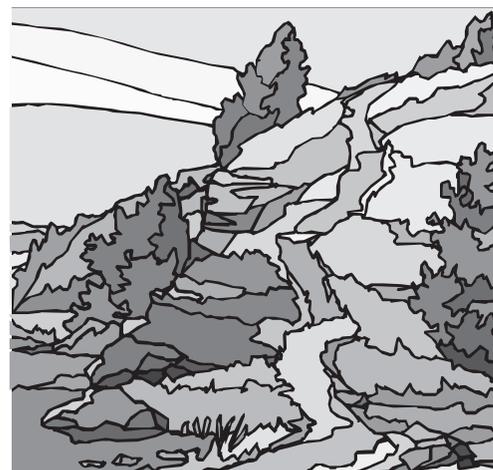
The First Step

Many years ago, in the tiny mountainous province of Jizhou, there lived a poor farming family. The wife blamed herself for her husband's lowly position within the village since the only child she had managed to bear was a daughter, Ming Ming.

To make matters even worse, Ming Ming was a renowned daydreamer. Instead of spending her time completing her daily chores, Ming Ming would take herself to a secluded spot by the river and pretend to be an oriental princess. Secretly Ming Ming's mother indulged her only daughter for, despite her faults, she had a good and caring heart.

One day however there was an important job for Ming Ming. It was her parents' turn to host the village council meeting. Her mother required some special tasty herbs that were only found high in the mountain passes, so Ming Ming was sent to collect them. Before she left, her mother warned the girl to pay close attention for the mountain passes were winding and treacherous.

Full of enthusiasm, Ming Ming set off on her journey up to the mountain. She soon forgot her mother's warnings and began daydreaming. This time she was a famous general, leading her victorious army through her conquered territories. Busy fighting back a band of renegades, she tripped over a log and sprawled across the ground. When Ming Ming recovered, she was dismayed to discover that the carry basket her mother had entrusted to her was broken. What was she to do?



As Ming Ming sat weeping on the path, she looked up and saw a strange carving on a tree. She moved closer to read it: "The longest journey starts with a single step." Ming Ming wiped her face and made a decision. Her mother was relying on her. She did not want her family to lose face. She must find a solution. Searching the nearby area, she found some hollow seed pods and used them to carry the herbs that she needed.

When Ming Ming finally made it back to the village, her mother was anxiously waiting. Quickly Ming Ming recounted her story. Her father overheard the story and his heart swelled with pride. He praised his daughter for her clever thinking and she was treated as a special guest during the evening meal.

Reading Booklet 2

You Have Email

Dear Asmira,

Roll on the end of the Christmas holidays! I am sick of listening to my brother whinging about missing his girlfriend. It's so painful! You're so lucky you don't have to put up with annoying brothers and sisters.

It's really boring not having you around the corner to play with. I hope you're having fun at your Aunt's place. By the way, I did get those cute pink pumps for Christmas. Katrina will be so jealous!

Love Jane

Dear Jane,

It was great to get your email. My Aunt's place is so dreary. It's in the middle of nowhere and you feel like an ostrich with your head in the sand. I haven't heard from anyone else at school for almost a month.

Mum and Dad aren't here much. Aunt Sasha says they are trying to work out their differences. So I've been left pretty much on my own. I don't mind as I love exploring the old shearing sheds out the back and looking after the baby animals.

I'm green with envy over your new pumps – no such luck for me this year. Can't wait to see Katrina's face – priceless!

Love Asmira

Dear Asmira,

What's happening? William says he was cruising past your place on his way to pick up his girlfriend (at least now he's not whinging) and he saw a "For Rent" sign outside your place. Why didn't you mention anything?

Everyone at school has been asking where you are, but all I could tell them was that I was totally in the dark. Please let me know what is going on.

Love Jane

Dear Jane,

It's dreadful! Mum and Dad have decided to go their separate ways, so I'm stuck at my Aunt's place until they work out the custody arrangements.

I've started school here too. It's like being back in kindy again. I'm sure everyone else here thinks I'm an absolute nerd. How I miss you and all my friends at Newton PS. Stay in touch.

Love Asmira

Dear Asmira,

You know you don't have to ask – best friends never give up on each other.

I was talking to my parents about your situation and they said that if you're still at your Aunt's place at Easter, we could borrow my Grandma's caravan and meet up with you for the holidays. Won't that be fun! We could even camp out in the annexe.

Let me know what happens.

Love Jane

Reading Booklet 2

Whales

Whales come from the family known as cetaceans which includes whales, dolphins and porpoises. Despite what many people may think, even though whales live in the sea, they are not fish. In fact they are warm-blooded, air-breathing mammals. Whales breathe through a blowhole at the top of their head. It is covered by a flap of muscle to keep it watertight. Most whales live in the icy waters of the Arctic and Antarctic and use their thick layers of fatty blubber to keep warm.

There are two types of cetaceans – toothed and baleen. Most whales are toothed whales, although the largest of the species are baleen whales.

Toothed Whales

Cetaceans such as dolphins and sperm whales are known as odontocetes and can have anywhere from 2 to 250 teeth depending upon the species. They use their teeth to grip their food such as fish, squid and marine mammals, rather than chew them.

Their prey is located by the whales using echolocation. Like bats, the whales send sound signals out into the water through a fatty organ (a melon) on the front of their heads. The signals bounce off objects and return to the whale through their hollow lower jaw.

Toothed whales live in larger more social groups, known as pods, than their baleen cousins. Each pod usually contains one male with many females and their calves.

Baleen Whales

Unlike their toothed relations, baleen whales such as the blue whales, humpback whales and grey whales, have two blowholes, not just one. They also live in smaller family-based groups and have only one mate.

Baleen whales do not have teeth. Instead they have a series of baleen plates, also called whalebone. These plates are made of keratin just like our hair and fingernails and hang down from the whale's upper jaw. They act like a sieve, straining out the food such as baitfish, plankton and krill, from the water. This is why they are known as filter feeders. The whalebone grows continuously as the lower parts wear off over time.

Baleen whales feed during the summer months and then migrate to warmer waters to breed.

Killer whale (orca)

