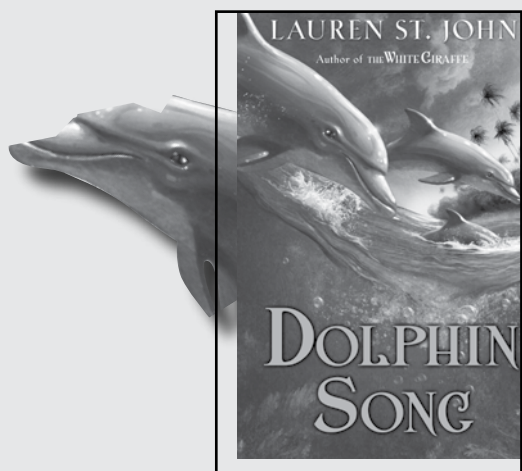


ABOUT *DOLPHIN SONG* BY LAUREN ST. JOHN, AUTHOR OF THE ACCLAIMED NOVEL *THE WHITE GIRAFFE*

In a gripping tale of courage, friendship, and survival, *Dolphin Song* continues where the thrilling adventure of *The White Giraffe* left off. Just as she's beginning to settle into life at the wildlife game reserve, Martine must leave on a school trip off the coast of South Africa. What begins as an exciting sea adventure quickly turns perilous when Martine and five of her classmates are thrown overboard into shark-infested waters. They are miraculously saved by a pod of dolphins only to end up marooned on a desert island. The castaways, at odds with one another, must figure out not only how to survive, but how to save the dolphins when a terrible danger threatens them. Just as she did in *The White Giraffe*, Martine uses her healing gift to help humans and animals alike in this exciting tale.



9780803732148 (HC)
\$16.99 • Ages 9–11 • Grades 4–6



A NOTE FROM AUTHOR LAUREN ST. JOHN

“One evening I was sitting alone on the beach when a fishing boat came in, followed by a mother dolphin and her calf. Well, I didn’t hesitate. I dived into the sea in my shorts and a T-shirt and swum out a little distance from them. That moment was unforgettable. I borrowed from it for the scene in *Dolphin Song* where Martine first swims with Little Storm.”

“Writing this book and being able to spend months immersed in the world of dolphins was one of the best experiences of my life. In *Dolphin Song*, Martine’s gift allows her and her friends to help twenty-one beached dolphins. In real life, dolphins and whales rely on marine welfare organizations and ordinary people like you and me to take an interest in them and try to protect them. We only have one planet. Let’s do our best to care for it.”

—Lauren St. John

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DIAL BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS, WALDEN MEDIA, & THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Dial Books for Young Readers, Walden Media, and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) are pleased to provide you with this educational poster. We hope it will serve as a motivational springboard for you and your students to help wildlife and wild places near you. For 70 years the NWF has been connecting people of all ages with nature through award-winning education programs and resources.

With your class, read *Dolphin Song*, an “eco-adventure” printed on recycled paper. Then, check out the related activities and projects that are included, many of which are designed to encourage cross-curricular study. With Lauren St. John’s two eco-friendly novels, you’ll find that it is often impossible to tell where great storytelling ends and passionate scientific inquiry begins.

THE WHITE GIRAFFE—NOW IN PAPERBACK

Read more about Martine and her special gift in *Dolphin Song's* companion novel, *The White Giraffe*.



9780142411520 (PB) • \$6.99
9780803732117 (HC) • \$16.99
Ages 9-11 • Grades 4-6

ABOUT THE BOOK

The night Martine Allen turns eleven years old is the night her life changes completely. That night, Martine's parents are killed in a fire, and she leaves her home in England to live on a wildlife reserve in Africa with a grandmother she never knew she had.

As soon as Martine arrives at the reserve, she hears whisperings of a mythical animal living there — a white giraffe. No one has ever seen the animal, but it leaves footprints behind. Her grandmother insists that the white giraffe is just a legend, but then, one stormy night, Martine looks out her bedroom window straight into the eyes of the tall and silvery animal. The white giraffe is real!

But why is everyone keeping the white giraffe's existence a secret? Does it have anything to do with the rash of poaching going on at the reserve? To find out, Martine will use all of her courage and smarts, and an emerging gift for healing, in a daring adventure to save her new friend.

A NOTE FROM AUTHOR

LAUREN ST. JOHN

"When I was Martine's age, I was fortunate enough to live on a farm, which was part game reserve, in Zimbabwe, which borders South Africa. Apart from our giraffe, Jenny, we had two cantankerous ostriches, a wildebeest, a herd of fifty or sixty impala, antelope, and a troop of monkeys.

My hope for *The White Giraffe* is that it is as enjoyable to read as it was to write. If it encourages even one person to want to help wildlife or to visit or want to know more about Africa, that would make me incredibly happy."

—Lauren St. John

For more information about
The White Giraffe, including
giraffe facts, an author interview, and a
downloadable educational poster, visit
www.walden.com/thewhitegiraffe.



PRE-READING: MOZAMBIQUE & THE BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO

MOZAMBIQUE & THE BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO

Although *Dolphin Song* is fiction, it makes use of two very real places in Africa: Mozambique and the Bazaruto Archipelago. It often helps to understand the setting of a story as you read, so that you can get a better image in your head of the atmosphere and the behavior of creatures in their habitats. Read on to learn more about the environments featured in *Dolphin Song*. Visit www.walden.com/dolphinsong to view a color map and a gallery of photographs of Mozambique and the Bazaruto Archipelago.

MOZAMBIQUE

The country of Mozambique lies in southeast Africa. It is home to the mighty Zambezi River, which flows down from the Inyanga Mountains in the west to the beaches of the Indian Ocean in the east. As the world's 35th-largest country, Mozambique has a population of over 20 million people.

THE BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO

Situated just off the mainland of Mozambique are the five islands making up the Bazaruto Archipelago. They are Bazaruto, Benguera, Magaruque, Santa Carolina, and tiny Bangué. (Lauren St. John made up a sixth island of the archipelago, which she named Dugong Island.) Animals that live on these islands include freshwater crocodiles, samango monkeys, 40 different species of butterflies, and 200 species of offshore fish! The Bazaruto Archipelago is also home to the largest dugong (a sea cow related to the manatee) population along the eastern African coast. Did you know that the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park is one of the largest in the Indian Ocean? The fact that it is now a national park is an important victory in the battle for marine conservation around the world.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- While reading *Dolphin Song*, students should make a list of references to the Bazaruto Archipelago, its islands, and what the novel says about them. Further research Mozambique and the Bazaruto Archipelago.
- Have students make a list of animals that live in Mozambique and the Bazaruto Archipelago with which they are not familiar. They can become “zoologists” and research animals of their choosing. Have them present short reports about the animals’ lifestyles, behavioral tendencies, diets, and habitats.
- Invite interested students to research more dolphin facts, habitat vocabulary, and endangered African species.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take a look at the cover of the book. What moment in the story is the artwork illustrating? What mood does it convey, and what about the cover tells you that?
- Gwyn Thomas tells Martine that she cannot ride Jemmy, the white giraffe, because it is too dangerous for her to go out at night. Why does Martine go anyway?
- At the beginning of the story Martine does not want to go on the sea voyage. Why not? How do her feelings change by the end of the trip?
- How does Martine use her special gift to save Norm from the shark? In what ways are Martine and Ben alike? In what ways are they different?
- What happens to Martine after she falls overboard? What memories come back to her? How is she rescued?
- Describe the conflict on the island. How do Martine and Ben feel when their classmates tell them that they are not allowed to camp out with them on the island? How might you react if something similar happened to you?
- What is a “bluebottle?” Why is it important to the story? Why is it dangerous?
- What does Martine have in her survival kit? Which item do you think is the most important for her survival on the island? Why? What would you keep in your kit if you were on the island with Martine?
- What makes Claudius want to rescue the dolphins?
- What does Martine say she would do differently if she could do everything all over again? What has she learned about the importance of family and friends?
- What surprise does Martine find in the cave drawing after she returns from her trip?
- Discuss the themes of environment, responsibility, and conservation found in the novel.

FACTS ABOUT DOLPHINS

There are 36 kinds of dolphins in the world. And guess what? All of them are really whales. Scientists think dolphins are also related to cows, giraffes, hippos, and camels.

- Dolphins are known to sleep with one eye open.
- Dolphins live in small groups called pods. Pods work together to protect one another from enemies, such as sharks. Sometimes the mothers in the pod form a safe “playpen” by swimming together around their babies.
- Sea mammals like dolphins are warm-blooded and must keep a constant body temperature. They do this by storing a layer of fat, called blubber, just under their skin as insulation.
- A dolphin’s eyes are covered with thick outer layers. They also have a special gland that bathes the outside of their eyes with an oily liquid. The layers and the liquid protect the dolphin’s eyes so that the salty seawater won’t make them sting.
- Dolphins make lots of sounds, including chirps, clicks, and whistles. Scientists have recorded more than 100 kinds of dolphin whistles! Dolphins can make thousands of high-pitched clicks a second. The sounds bounce off objects in the sea, and the dolphins listen to the sounds as they echo back. The echoes tell the dolphins the distance, size, and shape of the objects the sounds bounce off of. This is called “echolocation.” A dolphin can locate an object the size of a pea from up to 656 feet away—that’s the length of two football fields!

Adapted from National Wildlife Federation’s *Ranger Rick* magazine. Check out www.nwf.org/kidsmagazines/rangerrick.cfm for more information.