

Trouble at Marsh Harbor
by Susan Sharpe
Teacher Key

Chapter 1 (pp. 1-15)

1. Why do you think the author used that bird on page 1?
2. Draw a picture of where you think that this story takes place.
3. What were Ben's parents jobs?
(father=waterman, mother=owned bed and breakfast)
4. Compare Ben feel about school to how you feel about it? (dislikes)
5. Tell about Ben's fathers job? (crabbing)
6. Which of Ben's parents jobs would you choose and why?
7. Why was the Warren house full of people in the month of June? (height of tourist season)
8. What interesting things where in Matt's yard? (Tire swing, Ford truck, rabbit hutch)
9. How did Ben's mother get the money to buy the bed and breakfast house?
(Grandpa Marsch died and left her the boat)
10. What was the project that Ben and Matt were working on? (boat=skiff)
11. Why did Ben hate waiting on guests? (asked occupation)
12. How does Ben feel about going to college like his older brother? (no way)
13. What didn't Ben tell his mother about the sheet when he was cleaning up?
(ripped).
14. Why was Ben's friend Matt saving rocks? (Rare in the 21st century)
15. Why are Ben and Matt fixing up the old boat? (crabbing)

Figurative language:

A could be seen in the dim light@? (hull) P. 3

A low watery rumble, away off on the bay@? (Mary=boat) P. 3

Alike honey on a warm biscuit@? (mother's hair) p. 6

A beamed onto the table@? (morning light) P. 6

A hundreds of greeny-blue, pouring all over the deck of the Mary@ ? (crabs) p. 4

A trickle in by twos and threes, staying overnight to take advantage of Marsh Harbor's spring fishing@? (tourists) p. 5

Chapter 2 (pp. 16-32)

1. How do you know that Ben's father was as tired as Ben? (cranky)
2. Tell about at least two changes that happened to the town of Marsh Harbor. (marina, inn)
3. How was the young man that Ben waited on last different than other guests? (ordered oysters, waterman's boy)
4. How did Ben tell the young man his father was doing at catching crabs? (not too good)
5. Describe the young man that Ben met at the bed and breakfast. (good-looking, Indiana Jones type, pants and denim shirt)
6. What did the young man mean when he said he was going to collect plankton? (Take plant and animal samples)
7. Why did Ben's sister Barbara say that Ben was going to catch it? (torn sheet)
8. How did Ben's new friend help Ben out? (said he ripped the sheet)
9. What do people say the reason there are so few crabs caught this summer? (pollution, hard winter, hot summer)
10. Why do softshell crabs bring more money? (people eat the whole thing)
11. Why doesn't Ben's father like Ben's new scientist friend? (scientists help make laws to regulate harvests)
12. Why doesn't Ben's father want Ben to be a waterman like him? (no future in it)

Chapter 3 (pp. 33-45)

1. Why do people pour into Marsh Harbor on the Fourth of July? (crab festival)
2. Why were Ben and Matt racing to get their boat done by festival time? (crab race)
3. How was Mrs. Warren going to win the crab recipe contest? (Vegetable Crab Souffle)
4. How did Ben and Matt solve their problem launching the boat? (made runway out of cordgrass)
5. Why couldn't the boys go crabbing even after they launched their boat? (it sunk)
6. How did Dave Watchman come to Ben's rescue once again? (took them crabbing)
7. How does Dave Watchman get plankton? (uses a plankton net)
8. Why won't Ben and Matt give Dave the biggest crab they catch? (need for crab race)
9. Why doesn't Dave like what he sees when he pulls up his plankton net? (oil)
10. What is a good title for Chapter 3?

Figurative language:

As big and twice as beautiful, blue and breezy and sparkling? p. 40 (water)

As clung to the waving fronds of grass? p. 42 (snails and shrimp)

As the loveliest, biggest jimmy in the whole north half of the Chesapeake? p. 43 (crab)

Chapter 4 (pp. 45-61)

1. How do you know that Ben and Matt are sure that they will win the crab race? (painted Champ on crab)
2. Why did Ben and Matt check out Mrs. Mallock's stand first? (first in line for the corn boil)
3. Why weren't the boys successful at the penny-toss game? (hard to land on a square)
4. Why did Ben stick his tongue out at Barbara and her boyfriend Lennie? (pointing at him)
5. How do you know Champ was Ararin= to go@ when the crab race started? (snapped a claw at Ben)
6. How did Champ do in the crab race? (Another crab won it)
7. How did the little boy's little crab win the race? (backed over the finish line)
8. What are the new winter catch-limit rules for waterman? (one day a week on Tuesday)
9. Why does David Watchman tell the waterman they need government help to solve their problems? (one person can't solve it; it'll take everyone working together)
10. Why does Ben's father say oil is so bad? (kills birds, fish, the marsh)
11. What was Mrs. Warren's surprise? (won first place)

Figurative language:

Adawned bright and clear@? P. 45 (Fourth of July)

A tucked him in a secret spot in the shade@ ?p. 46 (Champ)

A a little wisp of steam just curling off the ends@? p. 49 (corn)

A now I have really run ashore@? p. 50 (tired)

A I'll give them an earful@ p. 55 (tell them)

Chapter 5 (pp. 62-72)

1. Why did Matt go see his Grandmother in Baltimore? (slow season)
2. How did Ben get home from the gas station on the highway? (Matt's dad)
3. Why do crabs come into the marsh when they molt? (hide from predators and mate)
4. What are the odds that a baby crab (larvae) will become an adult crab? (1/1,000,000)
5. What is one reason David told Ben that there weren't enough crabs? (overfishing, loss of spawning grounds)
6. Why does David tell Ben that he checks the water temperature? (balance of salt, Ph, and dissolved oxygen at different depths)
7. What were some of the signs that the bay is unhealthy? (fewer rockfish, oysters, clams)
8. If people want to make a living on the water, what does David say they must do? (regulate it)

Figurative language:

Adisappointed, they made scolding sounds and flew off@ P. 68 (gulls)

A swatted angrily at a fly, he snapped@ p. 72 (Ben)

Chapter 6 (pp. 73-90)

1. What impressed Matt most about his trip to Baltimore? (aquarium)
2. Why does Ben's father finally decide to take Matt and him on the boat? (good crabbing and needs a culler)
3. What kind of hot breakfast did Mrs. Warren give Matt and Ben? (oatmeal and honey)
4. How did Duke Warren know his crab pots from all the crab pots in the bay? (colors)
5. Why couldn't Ben haul in the crab pots? (not strong enough)
6. How do the boys cull the crabs? (sooks on left, jimmies on right, and peelers in bucket)
7. What did Mr. Warren save for Matt's mom to eat? (bluefish)
8. Why were the crews hopes of getting crabs at Smith Island wrong? (brown algae)
9. Why was every crab in the 50 pots dead? (killed by algae)
10. Why are the birds (osprey) back in the bay? (stopped DDT)

Figurative language:

Apopped above the horizon, it sent a beam of red over the dark, smooth water@

p. 78 (sun)

Aturn the trees and the water blue with golden sparkles, as if it were a giant painter?@

p. 78 (sun)

Aleaving a tumbling wake of white water behing@ p. 79 (Mary)

Chapter 7 (pp. 91-100)

1. Why were Ben's arms and back tired, and even his eyes were heavy? (hauling in crabs)
2. What was the sharp stinging pain that Ben felt across his face? (sea nettle)
3. How did Ben's father treat the sting? (meat tenderizer)
4. Why did the Mary lurch violently in the opposite direction? (squall)
5. What did Mr. Warren push at the boys while he grabbing the Mary's wheel? (life preservers)
6. Why did Ben and Matt hide under the table? (lightning)
7. Why didn't Mr. Warren have a life jacket? (only two on the boat)
8. Why did the boys double over with laughter? (they were going home)
9. Do the boys still want to be waterman at the day's end? (Ben=yes, Matt=no)
10. Ben smelled the hamburger and carrots, but what did he see when he closed his eyes? (crabs)

Figurative language:

A dark and boiling with clouds@ p. 95 (sky)

Aglistened everywhere as the sun came out stronger and stronger@ p. 97 (droplets)

A they about chopped you up to mincemeat out there@ p. 99 (Ben)

A brought home the bacon@ p. 100 (crabs)

Chapter 8 (pp. 101-111)

1. How do you know that Ben's father was proud of the boys? (bragged they were big help and good company)
2. Why does Ben say he wants to leave school when he's sixteen? (help dad with winter tonging)
3. How does Ben's father react to Ben quitting school? (says he'll finish high school)
4. How do Mr. and Mrs. Warren say the town is changing? (T-shirt shop, planning condos)
5. Who was Mary Warren talking to in the front hall? (David Watchman)
6. Why was Ben uncomfortable that David was eating Sunday supper with his family? (didn't want his dad to know he'd seen David a second time)
7. What does David say he does with the water samples? (Takes to U of Maryland)
8. Does David ever think the oysters will come back in the bay? (not in the same numbers)
9. How does David answer Duke Warren's question 'How come biologists can't do anything about it?' (depends what the problem is)
10. What is point source pollution? (pollution coming from one place)
11. Give an example of point source and non-point source pollution (paper mill or chemical factory/agriculture run off)
12. Why don't people get sick eating out of the Chesapeake? (nature cleans itself)
13. Why do the boys decide to get crabs and clams and mussels? (sell at a seafood stand and buy a canoe)

Chapter 9 (pp. 112-125)

1. Why was Ben balancing a rake across the handlebars of his bike? (going clamming at the marsh)
2. How did Ben know that Matt got to the marsh first? (his bike)
3. What had Matt found in the marsh? (fiberglass boat)
4. How did the boys plan to use Matt's find? (to find oysters, crabs, clams)
5. Why did Matt wish he could catch crabs like the egret? (just stuck his head in the muck)
6. Why don't people harvest oysters in summer? (against the law)
7. Why did Ben wish he had brought a net? (catch scallops)
8. What was the boys' solution to being lost in the marsh? (choose a gut and head up it)
9. Why must the boys tell David Watchman about this part of the marsh? (dead)
10. Why wouldn't the boat move when they tried to get to the tree? (oil barrels)
11. How did the boys finally get to the tree? (walked in the marsh)
12. Why are Ben and Matt going to catch it when they get home? (late)

Figurative language:

Apushed on the end of the rake and threw his weight forward? P. 115 (Ben poling)

Awatched the reflection of the puffy white clouds overhead? P. 117 (Ben)

Aits long neck poised and still? P. 117 (egret)

A spread an enormous pair of wings and flew off? P. 117 (egret)

Aa clump of dark rocks growing off the bottom of the creek@? P. 117 (oysters)

A headed for a nest on one of the channel markers@ p. 119 (osprey)

Chapter 10 (pp. 126-136)

1. Why did Ben remove his sneakers and pants before entering his house? (oil)
2. Why were Ben=s parents Aworried sick@? (1-1/2 hours late)
3. What was Ben=s punishment? (bed without supper and grounded for one week)
4. Why did Ben Atalk back@ to his father? (his father wouldn=t listen to his excuse)
5. What was Ben=s bad dream? (egret caught in oil slick)
6. Why did Ben sneak up to room four? (tell David Watchman about the oil)
7. How did Ben plan to show David the oily marsh, if he was grounded? (sneak out after breakfast)
8. Why did David describe the oil situation as Aan operation@? (not just one person dumping)
9. Why doesn=t David want to Astake out@ the oil pollution site? (too dangerous)
10. Why did David give Ben his telephone number? (filing a report, and gone for a week)

Figurative language:

Alike a mouse he knocked on the door@ p. 130 (Ben)

Chapter 11 (pp. 137-145)

1. Why did Ben reason a Afull moon@ was perfect? (dumpers would come)
2. What plan did Ben share with his friend Matt? (stake out the dead marsh)
3. Why didn=t the boys tell the police about the dumpers? (helpless)
4. Why did Matt go back inside his house before going to the marsh? (get supplies)
5. Why could the boys see better once they got beyond the town? (on/off pattern of lights)
6. What did the boys use a landmark, so they wouldn=t get lost? (oak tree)
7. What will happen to the boys if their parents catch them sneaking out? (take bikes)
8. How did the boys know a truck was coming to the marsh? (heard and saw it)
9. What evidence did the boys get from the dumpers? (license number and Ben recognized the driver)
10. What did Ben do with the information he got from the dumpers? (called David)

Figurative language:

Asound of shifting gears@ p. 142 (truck)

Atwo sharp bands of brightness over the marsh@ (truck)

Abeating so loud he could hear it@ p. 142 (Ben=s heart)

Aquick as a cat whisked up the stairs= p. 144 (Ben)

Chapter 12 (pp. 146-162)

1. Why doesn=t David want Ben to say a workd about the dumpers? (won=t skip town)
2. Why did Ben=s mother say that she would talk to his father about ungrounding

him? (helping around the house)

3. Why Ben's mother say that the police had called his house? (about the marsh)

4. Why isn't Ben's mother mad at him? (Ben's done a fine thing)

5. How did Ben know his father was mad at him when he entered the police station? (he smiled)

6. How did Ben feel about talking to the trooper? (scared)

7. Why did the trooper give Ben a little lecture? (disobeyed parents, and did dangerous things)

8. How did the policeman say the dumper racket worked? (gas station took in waste from a couple dozen stions around the country)

9. What did the trooper say would probably happen to the dumpers? (fined and clean-up site)

10. How would the new ordinance affect Marsh Harbor? (for 10 years Marsh Harbor couldn't enlarge its sewer system)

11. Why did Ben say A it is the boy that matters@? (no waterman without life)

Figurative language:

Awhite as the driven snow@p. 147 (egret)

Ahas a head on his shoulders@ p. 154 (David Watchman)

A I gave this boy a drink of water, and look at the thanks I get@ p. 156 (dumper)

Ahe was like a boring teacher@ p. 157 (mayor)

Chapter 13 (pp. 163-170)

1. Why does Ben think there were no guests at the bed and breakfast? (hot weather drove them to the ocean)

2. What did the note say that Ben's family was doing that morning? (church)

3. Why did Ben think that his last name Warren sounded like Awarn@? (warned town about oil dumpers)

4. Who mostly wanted Marsh Harbor to grow? (outside developers)

5. Why did Duke Warren say that he respected David Watchman? (knows the bay)

6. What do the initials DNR stand for? (Department of Natural Resources)

7. What was the result of the meeting? (citizens committee to study expansion effects)

8. How had Duke Warren's attitude toward the goverment changed? (part of citizen's committee; part of the solution - not part of the problem)

9. How did Ben feel about his father wanting him to become a waterman? (happy)

10. How had Ben's attitude toward becoming a waterman change? (scientist)

Figurative language:

Awould be just around the corner@? P. 164 (school)

Aslapped against the dock@ p. 164 (water)

Acreaked and moaned@ p. 164 (wooden pilings)

Abobbed up and down, up and down@ p. 164 (dredge's arms)

Asail in trailing its long legs@ p. 165 (egret)

Astreaming through the white lace curtains@ p. 165 (sun)

Trouble at Marsh Harbor

Student Study Guide

Chapter 1 (pp. 1-15)

1. Why do you think the author used that bird on page 1?
2. Draw a picture of where you think that this story takes place.
3. What were Ben's parents jobs?
4. Compare Ben feel about school to how you feel about it?
5. Tell about Ben's fathers job?
6. Which of Ben's parents jobs would you choose and why?
7. Why was the Warren house full of people in the month of June?
8. What interesting things where in Matt's yard?
9. How did Ben's mother get the money to buy the bed and breakfast house?
10. What was the project that Ben and Matt were working on?
11. Why did Ben hate waiting on guests?
12. How does Ben feel about going to college like his older brother?
13. What didn't Ben tell his mother about the sheet when he was cleaning up?
14. Why was Ben's friend Matt saving rocks?
15. Why are Ben and Matt fixing up the old boat?

Figurative language:

A could be seen in the dim light? P. 3

A low watery rumble, away off on the bay? P. 3

Alike honey on a warm biscuit? p. 6

A beamed onto the table? P. 6

A hundreds of greeny-blue, pouring all over the deck of the Mary? ?p. 4

A trickle in by twos and threes, staying overnight to take advantage of Marsh Harbor's spring fishing? p. 5

Chapter 2 (pp. 16-32)

1. How do you know that Ben's father was as tired as Ben?
2. Tell about at least two changes that happened to the town of Marsh Harbor.
3. How was the young man that Ben waited on last different than other guests?
4. How did Ben tell the young man his father was doing at catching crabs?
5. Describe the young man that Ben met at the bed and breakfast.
6. What did the young man mean when he said he was going to collect plankton?
7. Why did Ben's sister Barbara say that Ben was A going to catch it?@
8. How did Ben's new friend help Ben out?
9. What do people say the reason there are so few crabs caught this summer?
10. Why do softshell crabs bring more money?
11. Why doesn't Ben's father like Ben's new scientist friend?
12. Why doesn't Ben's father want Ben to be a waterman like him?

Chapter 3 (pp. 33-61)

1. Why do people pour into Marsh Harbor on the Fourth of July?
2. Why were Ben and Matt racing to get their boat done by festival time?

3. How was Mrs. Warren going to win the crab recipe contest?
4. How did Ben and Matt solve their problem launching the boat?
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As big and twice as beautiful, blue and breezy and sparkling? p. 40

As long to the waving fronds of grass? p. 42

As the loveliest, biggest jimmy in the whole north half of the Chesapeake? p. 43

Chapter 4 (pp. 45-61)

1. How do you know that Ben and Matt are sure that they will win the crab race?
2. Why did Ben and Matt check out Mrs. Mallock's stand first?
3. Why weren't the boys successful at the penny-toss game?
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As dawned bright and clear? P. 45

As tucked him in a secret spot in the shade? p. 46

As a little wisp of steam just curling off the ends? p. 49

As now I have really run ashore? p. 50

As I'll give them an earful? p. 55

Chapter 5 (pp. 62-72)

1. Why did Matt go see his Grandmother in Baltimore?
2. How did Ben get home from the gas station on the highway?
3. Why do crabs come into the marsh when they molt?
4. What are the odds that a baby crab (larvae) will become an adult crab??
5. What is one reason David told Ben that there weren't enough crabs?
6. Why does David tell Ben that he checks the water temperature?
7. What were some of the signs that the bay is unhealthy?
8. If people want to make a living on the water, what does David say they must do?

Figurative language:

As disappointed, they made scolding sounds and flew off? P. 68

As swatted angrily at a fly, he snapped? p. 72

Chapter 6 (pp. 73-90)

1. What impressed Matt most about his trip to Baltimore?
2. Why does Ben's father finally decide to take Matt and him on the boat?
3. What kind of hot breakfast did Mrs. Warren give Matt and Ben?
4. How did Duke Warren know his crab pots from all the crab pots in the bay?
5. Why couldn't Ben haul in the crab pots?
6. How do the boys cull the crabs?
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8. Why were the crew's hopes of getting crabs at Smith Island wrong?
9. Why was every crab in the 50 pots dead?
10. Why are the birds (osprey) back in the bay?

Figurative language:

Apopped above the horizon, it sent a beam of red over the dark, smooth water@
p. 78

Aturn the trees and the water blue with golden sparkles, as if it were a giant painter?@
p. 78

Aleaving a tumbling wake of white water behind@ p. 79

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3. How did Ben's father treat the sting?
4. Why did the Mary lurch violently in the opposite direction?
5. What did Mr. Warren push at the boys while he grabbing the Mary's wheel? (life preservers)
6. Why did Ben and Matt hide under the table?
7. Why didn't Mr. Warren have a life jacket?
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9. Do the boys still want to be waterman at the day's end?
10. Ben smelled the hamburger and carrots, but what did he see when he closed his eyes?

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Adark and boiling with clouds@ p. 95

Aglistened everywhere as the sun came out stronger and stronger@ p. 97

Athey about chopped you up to mincemeat out there@ p. 99

A brought home the bacon@ p. 100

Chapter 8 (pp. 101-111)

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2. Why does Ben say he wants to leave school when he's sixteen?
3. How does Ben's father react to Ben quitting school?
4. How do Mr. and Mrs. Warren say the town is changing?

5. Who was Mary Warren talking to in the front hall?
6. Why was Ben uncomfortable that David was eating Sunday supper with his family?
7. What does David say he does with the water samples?
8. Does David ever think the oysters will come back in the bay?
9. How does David answer Duke Warren's question 'How come biologists can't do anything about it?'
10. What is point source pollution?
11. Give an example of point source and non-point source pollution?
12. Why don't people get sick eating out of the Chesapeake?
13. Why do the boys decide to get crabs and clams and mussels?

Chapter 9 (pp. 112-125)

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2. How did Ben know that Matt got to the marsh first?
3. What had Matt found in the marsh?
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7. Why did Ben wish he had brought a net?
8. What was the boys' solution to being lost in the marsh?
9. Why must the boys tell David Watchman about this part of the marsh?
10. Why wouldn't the boat move when they tried to get to the tree?
11. How did the boys finally get to the tree?
12. Why are Ben and Matt going to catch it when they get home?

Figurative language:

As he pushed on the end of the rake and threw his weight forward? P. 115

As he watched the reflection of the puffy white clouds overhead? P. 117

As its long neck poised and still? P. 117

As he spread an enormous pair of wings and flew off? P. 117

As a clump of dark rocks growing off the bottom of the creek? P. 117

As he headed for a nest on one of the channel markers? p. 119

Chapter 10 (pp. 126-136)

1. Why did Ben remove his sneakers and pants before entering his house?
2. Why were Ben's parents worried sick?
3. What was Ben's punishment?
4. Why did Ben talk back to his father?
5. What was Ben's bad dream?
6. Why did Ben sneak up to room four?
7. How did Ben plan to show David the oily marsh, if he was grounded?
8. Why did David describe the oil situation as 'an operation'?
9. Why doesn't David want to 'stake out' the oil pollution site?
10. Why did David give Ben his telephone number?

Figurative language:

Alike a mouse he knocked on the door@ p. 130

Chapter 11 (pp. 137-145)

1. Why did Ben reason a full moon was perfect?
2. What plan did Ben share with his friend Matt?
3. Why didn't the boys tell the police about the dumpers?
4. Why did Matt go back inside his house before going to the marsh?
5. Why could the boys see better once they got beyond the town?
6. What did the boys use as a landmark, so they wouldn't get lost?
7. What will happen to the boys if their parents catch them sneaking out?
8. How did the boys know a truck was coming to the marsh?
9. What evidence did the boys get from the dumpers?
10. What did Ben do with the information he got from the dumpers?

Figurative language:

A sound of shifting gears@ p. 142

Two sharp bands of brightness over the marsh@ p. 142

Beating so loud he could hear it@ p. 142

As quick as a cat whisked up the stairs= p. 144

Chapter 12 (pp. 146-162)

1. Why doesn't David want Ben to say a word about the dumpers?
2. Why did Ben's mother say that she would talk to his father about ungrounding him?
3. Why did Ben's mother say that the police had called his house?
4. Why isn't Ben's mother mad at him?
5. How did Ben know his father was mad at him when he entered the police station?
6. How did Ben feel about talking to the trooper?
7. Why did the trooper give Ben a little lecture?
8. How did the policeman say the dumper racket worked?
9. What did the trooper say would probably happen to the dumpers?
10. How would the new ordinance affect Marsh Harbor?
11. Why did Ben say "It is the boy that matters"?

Figurative language:

As white as the driven snow@ p. 147

As has a head on his shoulders@ p. 154

As I gave this boy a drink of water, and look at the thanks I get@ p. 156

As he was like a boring teacher@ p. 157

Chapter 13 (pp. 163-170)

1. Why does Ben think there were no guests at the bed and breakfast?
2. What did the note say that Ben's family was doing that morning?
3. Why did Ben think that his last name Warren sounded like "warn"?
4. Who mostly wanted Marsh Harbor to grow?

5. Why did Duke Warren say that he respected David Watchman?
6. What do the initials DNR stand for?
7. What was the result of the meeting?
8. How had Duke Warren's attitude toward the government changed?
9. How did Ben feel about his father wanting him to become a waterman?
10. How had Ben's attitude toward becoming a waterman change?

Figurative language:

As would be just around the corner@ P. 164

Aslapped against the dock@ p. 164

Ascreaked and moaned@ p. 164

Asbobbed up and down, up and down@ p. 164

Asail in trailing its long legs@ p. 165

Asstreaming through the white lace curtains@ p. 165