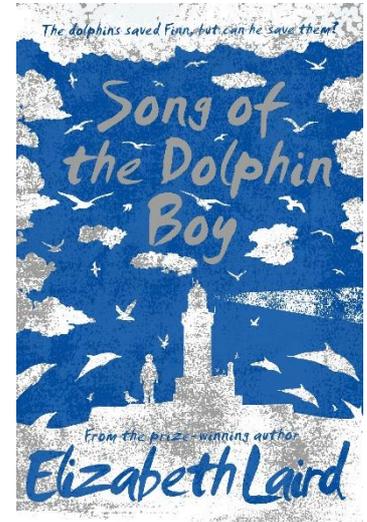
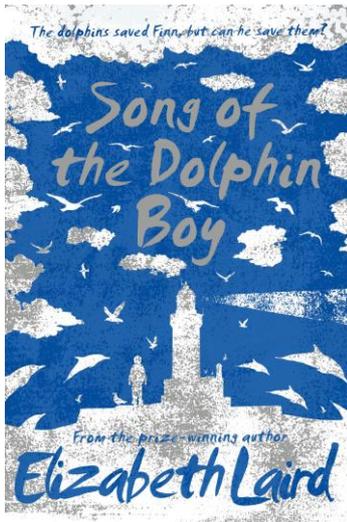


Song of the Dolphin Boy by Elizabeth Laird – Discussion Notes

1. **He [Finn] didn't quite fit in with anyone.** Examine the ways in which Finn could be described as an outsider. Do you think he's really as different as he feels?
2. **The swell washed round him softly as if it was welcoming him. It seemed almost to hold him in an embrace.** Discuss the language and imagery used by the author to describe the sea.
3. Why do you think the author chose to set her story in this village setting?
4. Jas and Finn have both grown up without a mother - how do their experiences compare?
5. Examine the character of Charlie. Do you understand why he and Finn have such difficult interactions?
6. Compare and contrast the friendships Finn makes throughout the story - with both the dolphins and the children from school.
7. **Finn had brought himself up without much help from his dad.** Discuss Finn's relationship with his father. How does it change throughout the story?
8. Do you understand Mr McKee's reasons for keeping his son away from the sea, despite knowing that he was the son of a selkie?
9. **And then, with the greatest joy he had ever known, he stopped wondering about what was happening, and gave himself up to the sea. He felt as if he had come home.** Is there anything that makes you feel as happy as Finn does in the sea? Perhaps a hobby or sport?
10. **Then he saw that the balloon's string was caught in the dolphin's teeth. She was twisting herself round to get rid of it, but only succeeded in tangling it over one of her flippers.** Have the environmental elements of this story made you think about how we treat our planet? What do you think can we do to be greener?
11. Finn and his friends campaign to save the dolphins and other sealife. Have you ever campaigned for an issue that you believe in, or would you consider doing so in the future? If so, which issues do you feel passionately about?
12. If you could meet one famous person, like Tom Henderson in the story, who would it be and why? What would you say to them?





About the Book

Finn has always been different, and in the tiny fishing village of Stromhead he sticks out like a sore thumb. Always told to keep away from the water, he's felt that something was missing until one day he dives in and finds that, swimming with the dolphins, he feels completely at home.

But his new friends are in danger of being injured by the rubbish that floats out into the water - and now a supermarket is going to release thousands of balloons that could drift out to sea and cause even more damage. Desperate to help the dolphins, Finn goes to the Lighthouse Crew, a group of kids who have always left Finn out. Will they be able to set aside their differences to save the dolphins? And what will Finn discover about his past along the way?

About the Author

Elizabeth Laird is the multi-award-winning author of several much-loved children's books, including *The Garbage King*, *The Prince Who Walked with Lions* and *The Fastest Boy in the World*. She has been shortlisted for the prestigious CILIP Carnegie Medal six times. She lives in Britain now, but still likes to travel as much as she can.



Find out more about *Song of the Dolphin Boy* by Elizabeth Laird at <https://www.panmacmillan.com/authors/elizabeth-laird/song-of-the-dolphin-boy>