

## ***Beach Days - Share the Waves***

The following is a transcript for the comic book Beach Days – Share the Waves. This comic is available at the Shark Lab's [Beach Safety Comic Book Program](#).

### **Page # 1**

Panel 1: Nick's mom is driving along the coast on the way to their new home. The beach is visible at the left side of the road and a beach town is visible in the distance. Nick's mom smiling says *"We're almost there!"*

Panel 2: Nick is sitting on the back seat of the car playing on his phone. He looks angry. His mom says to him *"Isn't the ocean beautiful Nicky? I still can't believe we got a house so close to the shore."*

Panel 3: Nick looks at his mom, still angry. His mom smiling says to him *"Are you excited honey? I bet you can't wait to get in the water!"*

Panel 4: Nick who still has a grumpy face, responds *"I could swim back in Chicago. I don't care about the stupid ocean."*

Panel 5: Nick's mom, worried about the disappointed reaction of her son, says *"Oh Nick... I know you miss Chicago and your swim team friends, but there was nothing I could do."*

Panel 6: Nick feeling irritated avoids the conversation by looking at the car's window. The mom trying to cheer him up keeps talking *"We had to move. Otherwise I would have lost my job... Besides... I'm sure you'll learn to love the ocean..."*

Panel 7: The car is still driving by the ocean and finally reaching Surf City. Nick's mom says *"Just think of it like a really big pool!"*

### **Page # 2**

Panel 1: There's a beautiful view of the beach. The water looks clear from afar, the sky is bright blue, birds are flying and two surfers sitting on their surfboards are visible from a distance. Nick decides to walk to the shore.

Panel 2: Nick is walking at the beach. He sees a lot of people, some guys are playing volleyball, a woman is sunbathing, and a kid is building castles in the sand. He talks to himself and says *"This is the beach?"*

Panel 3: Nick is walking barefoot at the beach, while holding his red sneaker with his left hand. He feels uncomfortable and says *"It is so crowded!"*

Panel 4: Nick places his green backpack and red sneakers on the sand.

Panel 5: Nick walks to the shore and says *"The water looks so different..."*

Panel 6: Nick has a serious face. He's not impressed by the beach and says *"I don't get it. What's so great about the ocean?"*

Panel 7: Nick dips his toes in the water.

### **Page # 3**

Panel 1: Nick gets chills after touching the cold water.

Panel 2: Nick jumps out of the water and screams *"COLD!!"*

Panel 3: While jumping away from the water, Nick harshly stumbles upon a guy named Chad.

Panel 4: Chad gets upset and yells at Nick *"Hey! Watch it twerp! You ruined our game!"*

Panel 5: Nick fell on the sand. He's rubbing the back of his head, while he apologizes *"Sorry! I didn't mean to! I was just surprised by the water..."*

Panel 6: Chad, still mad at Nick, asks confused *"Surprised by the water?"*

Panel 7: Nick, a little embarrassed, responds *"Yeah... I've never been to the beach before. I didn't expect the water to be so cold! It kinda scared me a little."*

Panel 8: Chad and his two friends are confused by Nick's answer. Chad asks Nick *"It SCARED you?"*

### **Page # 4**

Panel 1: Chad and his friends start laughing out loud and he makes fun of Nick saying *"Oh my gosh! What a loser! HA HA HA!"*

Panel 2: Nick is embarrassed. He's sweating and his face turns red. He shouts *"Hey! Shut up! I'm not a loser. I bet I could out swim any of you meatheads!"*

Panel 3: Chad and his friends stopped laughing. They smirk looking at Nick.

Panel 4: The guy smiles with irony and says *"You think so kid?"*

Panel 5: Nick says *"I know so"*

Panel 6: Both are facing the ocean. Chad says to Nick *"Alright! First one to swim out to that buoy over there wins."* Nick confidently replies *"You're on"*

Panel 7: Nick is already in the water. One of the guys counts down *"On your mark... Get set.. GO!"* And Nick starts swimming.

Panel 8: Nick is swimming as hard as he can. All the guys are still on the beach laughing at him while he swims away. Nick has been tricked. Chad is laughing: *"HA!! Look at the little nerd go!!"*

## **Page # 5**

Panel 1: Nick reaches the buoy. He says *"I win! HA HA! See, I told you I —"*

Panel 2: Nick realizes he's been tricked and the other guy didn't even get into the water. Nick can hear them from a far saying *"I can't believe he fell for it! HA HA HA! What a dork!"*

Panel 3: Nick can't believe he's been tricked.

Panel 4: Nick is swimming back to the shore thinking *"I was right to hate it here. The ocean sucks, the people suck..."*

Panel 5: Nick has been swimming nonstop for a while and he starts wondering: *"Shouldn't I be back by now?"*

Panel 6: Nick stops swimming to check how close to the shore he is. He says to himself *"GASP! My arms are so tired! Why is this taking so long?!"*

Panel 7: Nick notices that he's still at the buoy and he's in shock! He says *"What?! I'm back at the buoy! How?!"*

Panel 8: Nick starts swimming again, now he is kicking as hard as he can. He's tired and desperate. He says *"Noo! I - I can make it to shore! I've just gotta swim fast!"*

Panel 9: Nick is still swimming but not moving forward. It is visible he's trapped in a sort of current.

Panel 10: Nick is tired and has no energy to keep going. He says *"Huff, Huff... I can't make it. I need... help... please... H-Help! HELP!"*

Panel 11: Three kids sitting on their surfboards in the water notice Nick is struggling.

Panel 12: Nick is drowning... He, exhausted, thinks: *"Help..."*

## Page # 6

Panel 1: Nick's submerged in the darkness of the ocean. He is trying to reach the surface by extending his hand, but he has no energy to keep swimming. While he sinks beneath the surface, he's thinking *"Why? - Why did we have to move here?"*

Panel 2: Nick only can see bubbles in the darkness of the water before he passes out. Nick thinks *"I want to go home"*

Panel 3: Minutes later, Nick opens his eyes. A girl who is in front of him asks *"Can you hear me?"*

Panel 4: Nick has come back to his senses, but still confused asks *"Wha- what's going on?"*

Panel 5: Many people are surrounding him. A lifeguard who is wearing a red bathing suit says to him *"Oh thank goodness you're ok!"*

Panel 6: Nick still on the sand and dazed asks *"What happened?"*

Panel 7: Three soaked kids are in front of him. A girl wearing a blue bathing suit, another girl wearing purple and a boy wearing green shorts. One of the girls says: *"You almost drowned in a rip current."*

Panel 8: Nick is on his feet now after the lifeguard helped him to stand up. Nick asks the little girl: *"um... okay. Who are you?"*

Panel 9: The lifeguard replies to Nick introducing the three kids to him *"This is Catalina, Ashley, and Kai! They saved you from the rip current."*

Panel 10: Nick is now annoyed and frustrated because he cannot understand what they keep on repeating. He says *"Okay, everyone keeps saying rip current! What is a rip current?!"*

## Page # 7

Panel 1: Catalina, the girl wearing blue, raises her hand and starts explaining to Nick *"A rip current is a strong narrow current that flows quickly away from the shore"* - Catalina is still explaining *"Rip currents flow at 1-2 feet per second, but sometimes they can be as fast as 8 feet per second! This makes them very dangerous to even the best swimmers."* [Learn more about rip currents.](#)

Panel 2: Kai now says *“If you find yourself stuck in a rip current, don’t try to swim straight back to shore or you’ll just tire yourself out. Instead, swim parallel to the beach until you’re out of the current. Then you can swim back to shore with the waves. If you can’t get out, don’t panic! Just keep treading water and signal for help by waving your arms.”*

Panel 3: Now Ashley, the girl wearing purple, says *“The best way to avoid rip currents is to know how to spot them. Look for gaps between the waves. They will usually be darker in color” - “Because the gaps look calmer than the choppy waves around them, people often think they are safer to swim in. They can end up getting pulled out to sea in a rip, just like you.”*

## **Page # 8**

Panel 1: The lifeguard smiling says *“Couldn’t have said it better myself!”* Nick is behind her with a serious face.

Panel 2: The lifeguard turns to Nick and says *“Now then, we should get a hold of your parents”*. Nick gets nervous and starts sweating.

Panel 3: Nick scared responds *“No, no! I’m fine! We don’t need to call anyone!”*

Panel 4: The lifeguard worried by his answer says *“Honey, you almost drowned. I really think we should call your parents and let them know that-...”*

Panel 5: Nick, stressed, says out loud *“I said I’M FINE.”*

Panel 6: Nick turns his back to them and starts walking away, saying *“I’m going home...”*

## **Page # 9**

Panel 1: The next day, the sky is blue and lots of people are walking near the beach.

Panel 2: Nick is sitting on a bench on the pier.

Panel 3: Nick is texting to a friend from Chicago who’s asking how he is liking Surf City. Suddenly, a girl’s voice says to him *“I had a feeling I’d run into you today.”*

Panel 4: The girl’s voice came from Catalina. She sits on the bench next to Nick. Nick looks at her surprised.

Panel 5: Nick, a little annoyed by her presence, says *“Where are your friends?”*

Panel 6: Catalina smiles and responds *“They’re busy today. Besides, I like making new friends.”*

Panel 7: Catalina, still smiling, says to Nick *"You know, I never got your name yesterday."* Nick with his face down, replies *"It's Nick"*

Panel 8: Catalina stands up and says *"Well Nick, it seems too nice of a day to spend it sitting around. How about you meet me down at the beach in 20 minutes?"* Nick opens his eyes and blushes. He says *"Uh no that's--"*.

Panel 9: Catalina starts walking away from the bench and says to Nick *"Don't forget your swimsuit! See you there."* Nick stays on the bench confused by what just happened.

## **Page # 10**

Panel 1: Nick arrives at the beach. He can see Catalina standing by the water with two surfing boards next to her. Nick thinks *"Why did I come?"*

Panel 2: Nick doesn't want to be there and he notices that she hasn't seen him yet!

Panel 3: Nick turns back and thinks he can walk away. But it's too late, Catalina sees him and calls his name *"Nick!!"*

Panel 4: Catalina says *"Glad you made it! So are you ready to learn the best part of living near the beach?"* Nick clueless asks *"What's that?"*

Panel 5: Catalina grabs one of her boards and says *"Surfing!", "I even brought you my old board to use!"*

Panel 6: Nick is worried and says *"Surfing?! I don't think I--"* Catalina stops him before he finishes the sentence and says *"But before we get into the water, I have to teach you the stingray shuffle!"*

Panel 7: Nick confused says *"You're gonna teach me how to dance?"*

Panel 8: Catalina starts laughing and says *"No! The stingray shuffle isn't a dance"*. Nick doesn't understand what's going on and says *"Okay. Then what is it?"*

Panel 9: Catalina and Nick walk towards the water holding their surfing boards. Catalina starts explaining to him *"Well, you see how calm the ocean is today?"* Nick says *"Yes"*. Catalina continues *"And you feel how hot it is today?"* and Nick replies *"Yeah..."*

## **Page # 11**

Panel 1: Catalina explains *"On days with bigger waves, stingrays stay farther out to sea."* - *"This isn't a problem for surfers or swimmers because the stingrays are so deep in the water."*

Panel 2: Catalina is still explaining *“On hotter days when the ocean is calmer, stingrays will move closer to the shore, where they are more likely to be a problem for beach goers. Especially because people think it's safer when the water is calmer.”*

Panel 3: Catalina continues *“The stingrays like to bury themselves in the sand, making them hard to see.”*

Panel 4: Catalina keeps explaining *“If you walk through shallow water on these days you might step on them. They may become scared and sting you.”*

Panel 5: Catalina says *“When moving through the shallows you shuffle your feet across the ocean floor. This safely nudges the stingray away without scaring them.”* [Learn more about sting rays.](#)

Panel 6: Catalina finishes her lecture by saying *“If you do happen to get stung, you should find a lifeguard. They deal with this sort of thing often and will be able to help you.”*

## **Page # 12**

Panel 1: Nick and Catalina are in the water, holding their surfing boards. Nick, confused, says to Catalina *“If there are stingrays in the water, then why are we surfing?”* Catalina answers *“Because, these baby waves are perfect for beginner surfers like you.”*

Panel 2: Catalina raises her finger to emphasize *“Besides, stingrays aren't a problem if you do the stingray shuffle”* - *“Now! No more stalling! Time to surf!”*

Panel 3: Nick is laying on his surfboard frustrated while Catalina is sitting on her surfboard next to him. Nick complaints out loud *“This is IMPOSSIBLE!”*

Panel 4: Catalina smiles at him and says *“Aww. Don't give up, you were close that time”*.

Panel 5: Nick still laying on his board covers his eyes and says *“You said that every time! Face it, I'm never going to be able to stand up on the board.”*

Panel 6: Nick is now sitting on his board and is pulling his hair with frustration while saying *“I don't get it! I was captain of my swim team in Chicago. I've always been a natural in the water!”*

Panel 7: Catalina smiles and to cheer him up she says *“The ocean isn't like a pool Nick. It's unpredictable. It has a mind of its own. You can't control it, you can't fight it. You have to move and flow with it.”*

Panel 8: Catalina continues *“Come on. Just give it one more try.”*

Panel 9: Nick tries one more time to stand on his surfboard.

## Page # 13

Panel 1: Finally, Nick is standing on his board and gets to catch a wave! He can't believe it! There is a splash. Nick has fallen but he thinks "*I.. I did it!*"

Panel 2: Nick turns to where Catalina is and says "*I did it!*". Catalina is a few feet away from him and says "*That was awesome.*"

Panel 3: Nick sits on his surfboard with his feet underwater and a lot of jellyfish are hanging out near him. All of a sudden, Nick screams "*Ouch!*"

Panel 4: Catalina hears him and says "*What's wrong?*" Nick brings his feet up on his board and he says to Catalina "*I don't know. My foot feels like it's burning.*"

Panel 5: Nick's foot is wet and covered on broken tentacles. Catalina says "*Looks like a jellyfish sting.*"

Panel 6: Catalina says "*Come on. Let's get you back to shore and to a lifeguard.*" Catalina and Nick start paddling back to shore.

## Page # 14

Panel 1: Catalina and Nick are at a lifeguard tower. The lifeguard says to Catalina "*You did the right thing bringing him to me.*" The lifeguard is holding Nick's foot to check it out.

Panel 2: Nick's foot is covered on weird jelly-tentacles. The lifeguard says to Nick while inspecting his foot "*It's definitely a jellyfish sting. You can see there are some detached tentacles still on your foot.*"

Panel 3: The lifeguard continues explaining "*Jellyfish tentacles have stinging cells that they use to catch and stun their food. Jellyfish don't sting you on purpose, it can happen by accident simply as they drift by. Jellyfish sometimes wash-up on shore. Even if they are dead you should not touch them because they might still sting you.*"

Panel 4: The lifeguard is pouring vinegar on Nick's foot. She says "*First thing you want to do is rinse the area with white vinegar. Vinegar is a weak acid and can stop any remaining stingers from firing.*"

Panel 5: The lifeguard starts pulling the tentacles from Nick's foot. While doing so she explains "*Next, use tweezers to carefully remove any remaining tentacles attached to your skin.*"



Panel 6: Nick places his foot in a bucket filled up with hot water. The lifeguard finishes her lecture by saying "*Finally, you soak the injury in hot water to help ease the pain*". [Watch video about jellyfish stings.](#)

Panel 7: The lifeguard looks at Nick with a big smile and says "*You're all set! Now, this time we are going to call your parents, okay?*" Nick, a little embarrassed, agrees and says "*Okay*". Catalina starts laughing: "*HA HA*."

## Page # 15

Panel 1: A few days later, Nick gets back to the beach carrying his surfboard and ready to surf again. Catalina, also carrying her surfboard, meets Nick at the lifeguard tower. She sees him and asks "*How's your foot doing?*" and he briskly replies "*It's a lot better.*"

Panel 2: They both look down at Nick's foot which is covered by a large bandage. Nick tells Cat "*It's basically healed but my mom insisted I put a waterproof bandage over it.*"

Panel 3: Kai and Ashley come along with their surfboards too, both look excited, and hurry towards the shore. Kai sees Nick and Cat and yells "*Hurry up you guys, the waves are perfect today!*"

Panel 4: When the lifeguard sees the kids rushing to the water, she calls them saying "*Whoa! Hold up there, guys! Come here for a second!*"

Panel 5: The kids approach her wondering what's going on. The lifeguard smiling says "*I just wanted to let you all know, a baby white shark was spotted nearby a few days ago*"

Panel 6: Nick, with a terrified face, yells "*What!? There are sharks here!?*"

Panel 7: The lifeguard, smiling, very calm responds to Nick "*Sharks are a normal part of any ocean, Nick. It's nothing to be scared of.*"

Panel 8: Kai holds Nick from his shoulder and calmly reassures him, saying "*Yeah, and we'll all stick together ok?*"

## Page # 16

Panel 1: Kids having fun, riding a nice wave.

Panel 2: Suddenly, Nick sees a fin at about 30 feet away from where he is. He freaks out and yells "*There's a shark!!*"

Panel 3: Kai calmly responds to him "*Calm down dude, that's just a dolphin*". Nick confused replies to Kai "*How do you know?*"

Panel 4: Kai explains to Nick what's the difference between a dolphin's and shark's fin. *"Dolphin fins have a distinct curved trailing edge"*, while *"Shark fins, on the other hand, have a straight trailing edge and are more triangle shaped."* [Learn more about sharks.](#)

## Page # 17

Panel 1: Nearby a dolphin sticks its head out of the water. Kai says *"See, just a dolphin."*

Panel 2: Nick looks at Kai and says *"Okay. Well, what do you do if you see an actual shark?"*

Panel 3: Ashley, raising her hand, enthusiastically replies to Nick *"I can answer that!"*

Panel 4: Ashley explains *"Most sharks along the beaches are small and eat crabs, worms, and clams. Even larger sharks don't purposely attack humans. If they do, it's usually because they mistake them for a seal or sea lion."* - She pauses and continues *"When you're surfing you should stay in a group if you can. Sharks tend to avoid crowds."* - She continues *"On the rare occasion you see a shark, keep your eyes on it and track it by pointing your board towards it as it follows you. If you lose track of it check behind you. The most important thing is to stay calm and focused."*

Panel 5: Ashley continues explaining *"After you track it with your board, it will figure out that you're watching it and take off."*

Panel 6: Ashley highlights *"You should then make your way back to shore. As you do, keep an eye on the shark."*

Panel 7: Ashley finishes her lecture saying *"Lastly, be sure to tell a lifeguard about the shark so they can warn other beachgoers."*

Panel 8: Nick looks at his friends while they all float on their surfboards together in the water. Nick laughing tells them *"Okay, okay! I get it you guys. Information overload."*

Panel 9: While the kids swim back to the shore, Nick tells his friends *"I swear, sometimes hanging out with you guys is like being in an episode of The Magic School Bus!"* – they all start laughing out loud: *"Ha ha ha ha!"*

## Page # 18

Panel 1: Nick is standing on the pier and looking with surprise to a group of seagulls diving into the water.

Panel 2: The birds are landing in the water and some of them are catching fish at the surface and flying away with the fish in their beaks.

Panel 3: There's a big group of bait fish tightly together, swimming in circles forming a swirl. A seagull flies up from the swirl with a fish in its beak.

Panel 4: Nick stares at the bird and fish.

Panel 5: Nick, turns back toward his friends and pointing the fish swirl in the water, asks *"Hey, what's that weird thing in the water that the seagulls are attacking?"*

Panel 6: Catalina, Ashley, and Kai look at the big school of fish in the water, swirling ball.

Panel 7: Ashley with a big smile eagerly says *"Oh cool! It's a bait ball"*

Panel 8: Nick with a confused expression, replies *"What's a bait ball?"*

## **Page # 19**

Panel 1: Ashley smiling explains *"A bait ball is a collection of smaller fish."* She pauses and then continues explaining *"The fish gather into a large ball-like group when predators are nearby as a way of protecting themselves. This formation exposes the least number of fish to danger"*. She adds *"Fish do this when they don't have anything to hide away in, like coral or rock formations."*

Panel 2: Suddenly, a noise in the background calls the attention of Nick and Ashley.

Panel 3: Chad and a friend are floating on their surfboards, right above the bait ball, and shooing away the seagulls by splashing water on them.

Panel 4: The four kids stare at Chad and his friend with a disappointed expression. Catalina says *"Oh geez, it's Chad and one of his buddies. They should know better than to go near a bait ball."*

Panel 5: Nick looks at Catalina confused and asks *"Why? Is that bad?"*

Panel 6: Catalina says *"It can be."*

Panel 7: Catalina explains *"Bait balls are a sign that predators are nearby. You shouldn't approach bait balls because fish will use you and your board to hide under, which may draw any predator nearby to you."*

Panel 8: Catalina continues *"It's the same when seals or sea lions hop onto surf boards or boats. It's not because they want to be your friends, but because they are hiding from predators. If this happens you should shoo the animal away and head to shore."* [Learn more about shark prey.](#)

## Page # 20

Panel 1: Catalina, disappointed, says *"He's just trying to show off for his friends... Typical."*

Panel 2: Nick upset says *"He challenged me to a swimming race the day you guys rescued me... but it was just a trick."*

Panel 3: Catalina's surprised by what Nick just said, asks him *"Is that why you almost drowned in the rip current!?"* Nick answered ashamed *"Yeah..."*

Panel 4: Catalina, Ashley and Kai look at each other with an expression of concern.

Panel 5: Kai holds Nick's shoulder to comfort him.

Panel 6: Catalina reaches an ice cream to Nick, saying *"Here – Nothing ever seems as bad after Lulu's famous ice cream. Best in the world!"*

Panel 7: Kai kindly says to Nick *"Forget Chad. Look how awesome you're getting at surfing! You are gonna be a master in no time!"*. Ashley smilingly adds: *"Totally! You're a full-fledged surfer now!"*

Panel 8: Nick smiling replies *"Thanks guys..."*

Panel 9: Nick amazed says to Catalina *"Oh my gosh! This is the best ice cream I've ever had!"*. Cat laughing replies *"I told you!"*

## Page # 21

Panel 1: A week later, Nick leaves his house saying out loud *"I'm going to the beach to surf! Be back later mom!"*

Panel 2: Nick is surfing a nice wave and says to himself *"I think I'm starting to like the beach. I've gotten a lot better at surfing. I don't even fall off the board anymore!"*

Panel 3: Nick falls off his surfboard in a big splash. Nick meanwhile thinks *"Well, most of the time..."*

Panel 4: Nick gets out of the water while he holds his surfboard tightly and he hears someone yell from the surf lineup.

Panel 5: Chad, who saw everything, laughing says *"Nice wipe-out! – I see you're still completely hopeless in the water."*

Panel 6: Nick holding on his board and with an ashamed expression replies *“Leave me alone, Chad.”*

Panel 7: Chad answers with hostility *“What’s wrong? Can’t handle the truth?”*

Panel 8: Nick turns his face towards Chad and with an angry expression says *“Look Chad why don’t you...”*, when he, suddenly, sees something swimming nearby.

## **Page # 22**

Panel 1: Nick sees a shark’s fin breaking the surface of the water, about 30 feet behind Chad.

Panel 2: Chad is getting angry by Nick’s reaction and says *“What are you staring at?”*

Panel 3: Nick with a frightened face replies *“Dude, turn around.”*

Panel 4: Chad smiles and continues trying to make fun of Nick. Chad says *“Pshh, you think I’m gonna fall for that? You must really be stu-”*... he stops.

Panel 5: Nick responds *“Chad for ONCE in your life can you PLEASE listen to someone other than yourself!?”*

Panel 6: Chad’s face turns red.

Panel 7: Chad responds *“Geez, fine. I don’t know what you’re up to but-”*

Panel 8: Nick and Chad turn around to look at the shark which is swimming towards them.

## **Page # 23**

Panel 1: Chad freaks out and yells *“SH-SHARK!”*

Panel 2: Nick paddles towards Chad and says *“Chad, don’t freak out! We need to stay calm.”*

Panel 3: Nick and Chad stare at the shark at the surface 15 feet away from them. Chad, alarmed, says *“What!? How? Shouldn’t we be swimming away, like as fast as we can??”* Nick responds calmly *“Stay close, it’s better if we’re in a group.”* [Watch video about shark safety.](#)

Panel 4: Chad, looking scared asks *“Why?”*. Nick responds *“No, trust me. Just angle your board towards the shark as it moves. – The shark will eventually figure out we are*

*watching it and take off.*" Nick and Chad look at the shark while pointing their surfboards towards it.

Panel 5: Nick, expressing surprise, says *"Look! It's swimming away!"*. Chad also surprised replies: *"Wow, it worked!"*

Panel 6: Nick pointing to the shore says *"Come on. Let's head back to the shore."* Chad, confused, says: *"but wh-"*. Nick quickly replies: *"Don't worry, we'll keep an eye on the shark as we paddle back."*

## **Page # 24**

Panel 1: Chad and Nick coming out of the water.

Panel 2: Nick says to Chad *"We should tell a lifeguard about the shark."* Chad replies *"Yeah"*

Panel 3: Chad, with a guilty expression, looks at Nick and says *"Hey!!"*

Panel 4: Chad asks Nick *"Why did you help me?"* Nick replies: *"What do you mean?"*

Panel 5: Chad, reflecting on what just happened, responds *"Look... I'm aware that I'm not the most... friendly guy. I've got a bit of a temper and I've been kind of a jerk to you ever since you accidentally bumped into me that day on the beach. So... why would you help me?"* Chad adds *"Don't you hate me?"*

Panel 6: Nick looks at Chad quietly.

Panel 7: Nick smiles and says *"I mean... yeah I guess I kinda do. Or did..."* He adds, *"My first day here I hated everything about the beach. The people, the water, and yes, you."*

Panel 8: Nick continues *"But, then I met some really weird and nerdy people, who despite all my resisting... taught me a lot about the ocean and became some of the best friends I've ever had."*

Panel 9: Nick laughs and adds *"Besides, if I left you to be shark bait then I'd never get to challenge you to a rematch."*

## **Page # 25**

Panel 1: Chad reacts with surprise to Nick's answer, but then he starts laughing *"Ha ha ha!"*

Panel 2: Nick and Chad shake hands as a signal of friendship, while Chad says *“You’re on!”* In that moment they hear some faint yelling in the background.

Panel 3: Chad and Nick turn around and see a large group of people at a distance. Nick says *“What’s going on over there?”*

Panel 4: A crowd is murmuring at a distance *“Wow”*... *“so cool”*... *“adorable”*.

Panel 5: Catalina, with an expression of concern, yells from the middle of the crowd *“Please don’t come closer!”*

Panel 6: Nick recognizes Catalina’s voice and calls her out loud *“Cat?”*, while he starts running towards the crowd.

Panel 7: Nick pushing his way through the crowd, saying *“Watch-out! Comin’ through!”*

Panel 8: Catalina stretching her arms tries to make distance. She says out loud: *“Everyone please, you need to leave the sea lion alone!”*. She adds *“I know it’s cute, but you can’t get any closer!”*

## **Page # 26**

Panel 1: Catalina turns around to Nick’s call *“Hey, Cat!”*

Panel 2: Nick asks *“What’s going on?”*. She replies *“It’s this sea lion. – We think it might be sick or something.”*

Panel 3: The sea lion is weak and looks sick, laying on the sand.

Panel 4: Nick looks worried and stares at the sea lion.

Panel 5: Catalina explains to Nick *“People always get super excited to see sea lions and seals on the beach. They think they’re cute, so they don’t see the danger in approaching them.”*

Panel 6: Catalina adds *“What people don’t realize is sea lions are predators and no matter how cute they seem. They can still be dangerous. They may become scared and attack if they feel threatened, especially if they are sick or injured.”*

Panel 7: Ashley and Kai approach Catalina. Ashley says to Catalina *“Hey, people are starting to clear out. Kai and I are going to get a lifeguard.”*

Panel 8: Two guys come to the scene. One of them pushes Catalina aside, making her fall on the sand, and he says out loud *“Check it out, bro! – It’s a sea lion!”*

Panel 9: Catalina falls on the sand and yells at the guy that pushed her *“Leave it alone!!”*

Panel 10: The rude guy says *“Ha! Look what we have here. It’s that loser kid who thinks he’s some sort of Michael Phelps!”*

Panel 11: He continues teasing Nick, saying *“Who’s this? Your loser girlfriend?”* Meanwhile, Nick is helping Catalina get up.

Panel 12: Suddenly, Nick and Cat hear a threatening voice in the background saying *“Leave them alone!”*.

## **Page # 27**

Panel 1: Chad comes to the scene and boldly tells the rude guys *“I’m serious guys. Back off”*.

Panel 2: The rude guys look at each other confused. One of them asks *“Chad?”*, while the other one angry says *“What’s gotten into you? You sick or something?”*

Panel 3: Chad confronts the rude guys. He says *“Yeah, I’m sick of acting like we’re somehow better than everyone else. Just leave the kids and sea lion alone.”*

Panel 4: One of the rude guys laughs and says *“Pfft- What? Are you friends with these nerds now?”*

Panel 5: Chad standing in front of Nick and Catalina replies *“As a matter of a fact... Yes, I am.”* Catalina holds Nick on his shoulder and smiles at him with surprise.

Panel 6: Chad, raising his voice, says to the rude guys *“Now, I think it’s time for you both to leave.”*

Panel 7: The rude guys laugh out loud and challenge Chad *“HA! Oh yeah? What are you gonna do if we don’t?”*

Panel 8: Suddenly, Chad and the rude guys hear a strong voice in the background that stops their conversation *“I’ll call the police!”*

Panel 9: The lifeguard appears in the scene. She adds *“And get you both arrested for disturbing protected wildlife.”*

Panel 10: The lifeguard says *“So, I suggest you take his advice and leave. Now!”* The angry rude guys leave the scene. One of them says out loud *“Geez fine! Who cares about a stupid sea lion anyway! We’re leaving.”* While the other guy adds *“Oh, and Chad... Don’t even think about trying to hang out with us again. Loser!”*



Panel 11: Chad confidently stares at the two guys while they leave the scene.

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Panel 1: Chad embarrassed says *“I can’t believe I was friends with those jerks…”*

Panel 2: The lifeguard holds Chad’s shoulder and says *“Nice job, Chad!”*

Panel 3: Ashley, Kai, and Catalina cheer Chad for his brave act. Ashley says *“Yeah! That was awesome!”*, while Kai adds *“Very brave dude, nice one!”*. Cat laughingly says *“Guess you’re one of the nerds now, huh?”*

Panel 4: Chad shyly responds *“Wha-! No, I’m just…”*

Panel 5: Nick with a big smile in his face says to Chad *“Don’t try to fight it Chad. These guys won’t give up until you’re friends. Trust me.”*

Panel 6: Meanwhile, the sea lion still laying on the sand makes a sudden grunting noise.

Panel 7: Catalina, scared, turns towards the sea lion and says *“Oh! I almost forgot about the sea lion!”*

Panel 8: The lifeguard and the kids look at the sea lion from a distance. Nick asks *“Is it… okay? It looks sick.”* The lifeguard, with a sad expression, replies *“I agree. Unfortunately, this can happen often. We should call for help and post signs for people to keep their distance.”* **To be continued…** [Learn more about Pacific Marine Mammal Center.](#)

**End of the comic book and set up for the sequel “Beach Days – Save the Waves.”**