

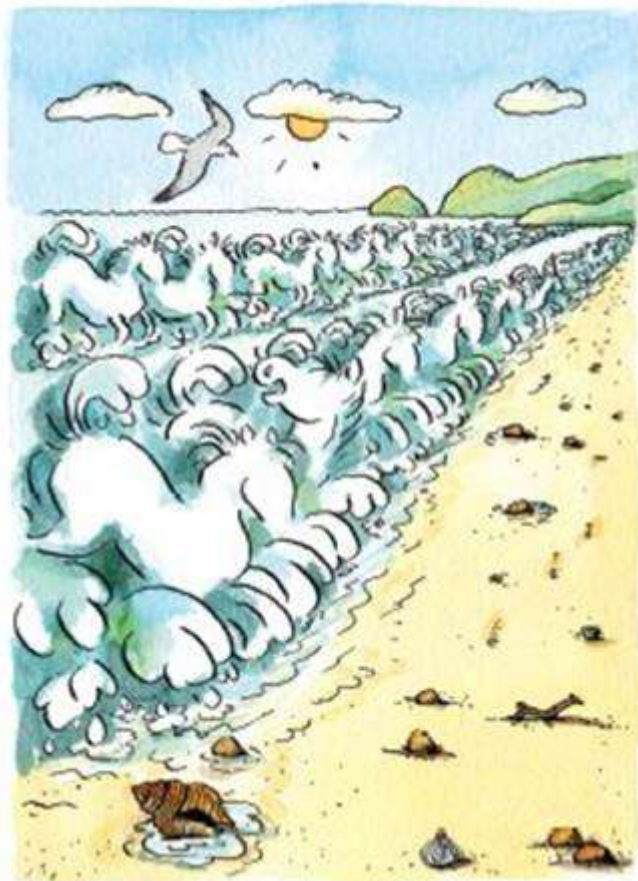
The Sand Horse

Once there was an artist who lived in St Ives. He lived with his wife and baby in a house by the sea.

Sometimes the artist worked in his studio, but on fine days in summer he went to the beach and made animals in the sand. He could make dogs and cats and seals and dolphins, but mostly he made horses, because horses, he said, were the most beautiful animals of all.

One morning the artist woke to a brisk blue day with a choppy sea and white crests on the waves.

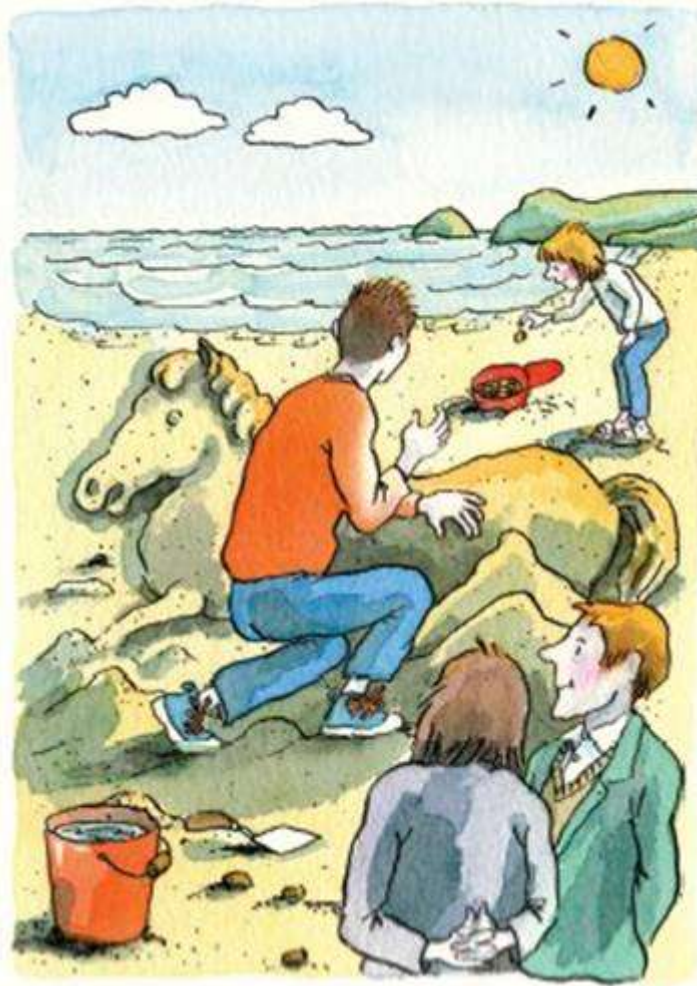
“Look! White horses!” said his wife. When the sea is rough and the waves have white tops people call them white horses. The artist saw them: far out in the bay, plunging and galloping, tossing spray from their manes.



“Today I shall make a horse,” he said. He went to the beach, put his hat down on the sand, and started work.

First he fetched water from the sea. He splashed some onto the dry sand. He patted and moulded the sand.

The horse began to appear: muscles and hooves, raised head and rippling mane.



The beach filled up with people. They stopped and admired the sand horse. They threw money, and the coins chinked in the artist's hat.

The horse grew. He was a galloping horse, galloping forever on his side.

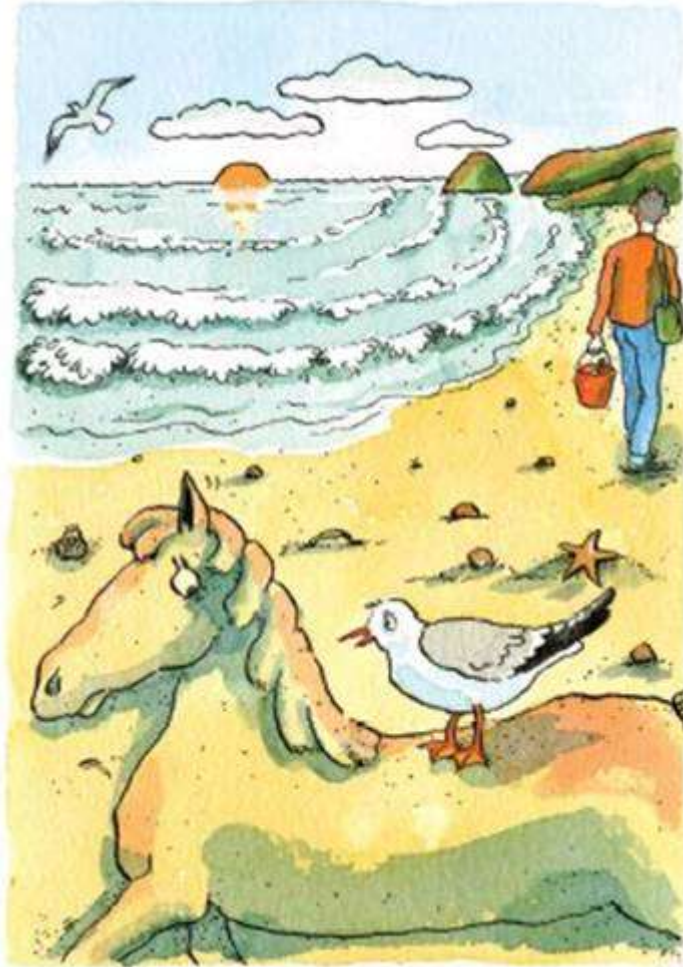
All day the artist worked on his horse, shaping the muscles of his legs and neck, twisting each curl of his mane.

He worked until the sun set and the beach grew cold. Families began leaving. They folded their deck-chairs and shook sand from their clothes. The artist scooped up the coins in his hat and went home.

The sand horse woke up.

He was alive, but he could not move. He opened his one eye, but all he saw was clouds. He listened with his one ear. He heard seagulls. He heard the boom and hiss of the sea. And faintly, in the crash of waves, he heard neighing.

A seagull landed on his back, and walked about, jabbing the air with his sharp beak. "Seagull," said the sand horse, "what's that neighing I hear?" "That's the white horses," said the seagull, "out in the bay." "What are they doing?" "They are prancing and frisking and flicking their tails." "Where are they going?" "Everywhere!" said the seagull. "I want to go with them!" cried the sand horse.



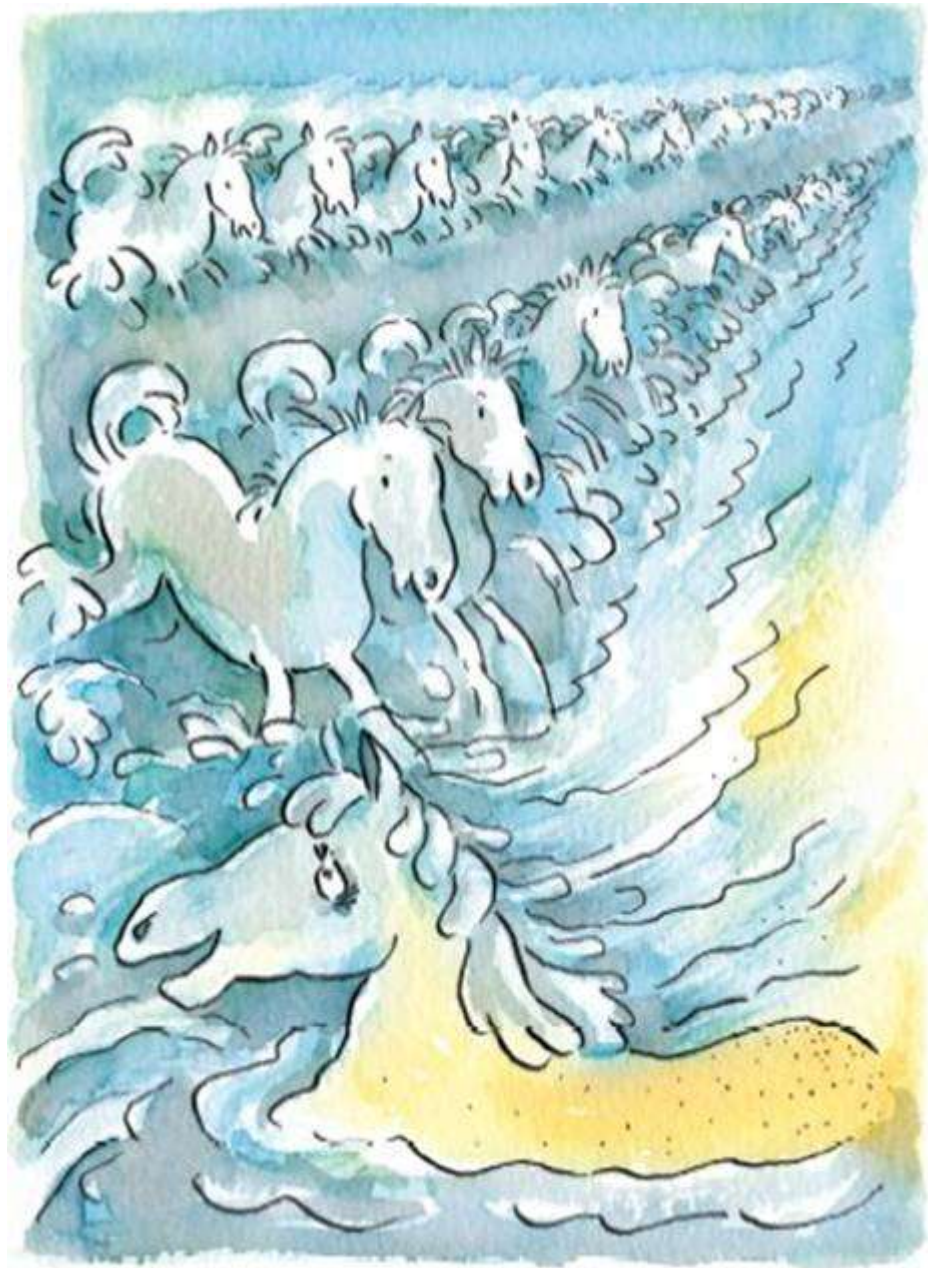
“You!” The seagull wheeled up in the air, laughing, and all his friends joined in. He swooped down again and said, “You! You are only a sand horse. You can’t go with them.”

The sand horse tried to move. He was a galloping horse, but he was fixed in the sand. He could not go with them.

The sky darkened. The seagulls flew away. The boom of the sea was louder.

Much closer now, the sand horse heard the white horses neighing. “Come with us!” they called. The sea crashed on the shore, flinging spray over the sand horse. “Come with us!” The sea crashed again, and the sand horse was soaked with spray. “Come with us!” called the white horses. A wave broke and flooded the sand horse, drenching his head and mane. “I’m coming!” he called. “Wait for me!”

Another wave broke, and the sea ran foaming all around the outline of the sand horse, filling every space. The sea sucked and pulled. It was pulling him down the beach. “I’m coming! I’m coming!” he cried.



A huge wave rolled up the beach. It reared, curled over, and smashed down upon the sand horse, washing away his mane, his head, his legs, and his body. It went hissing back down to the sea, dragging the sand horse with it.

The sand horse felt waves buoying him up. Amongst the waves white horses were prancing. He neighed and tossed his mane.

His hooves struck spray from the sea. "I can move!" he cried, "I can gallop!"

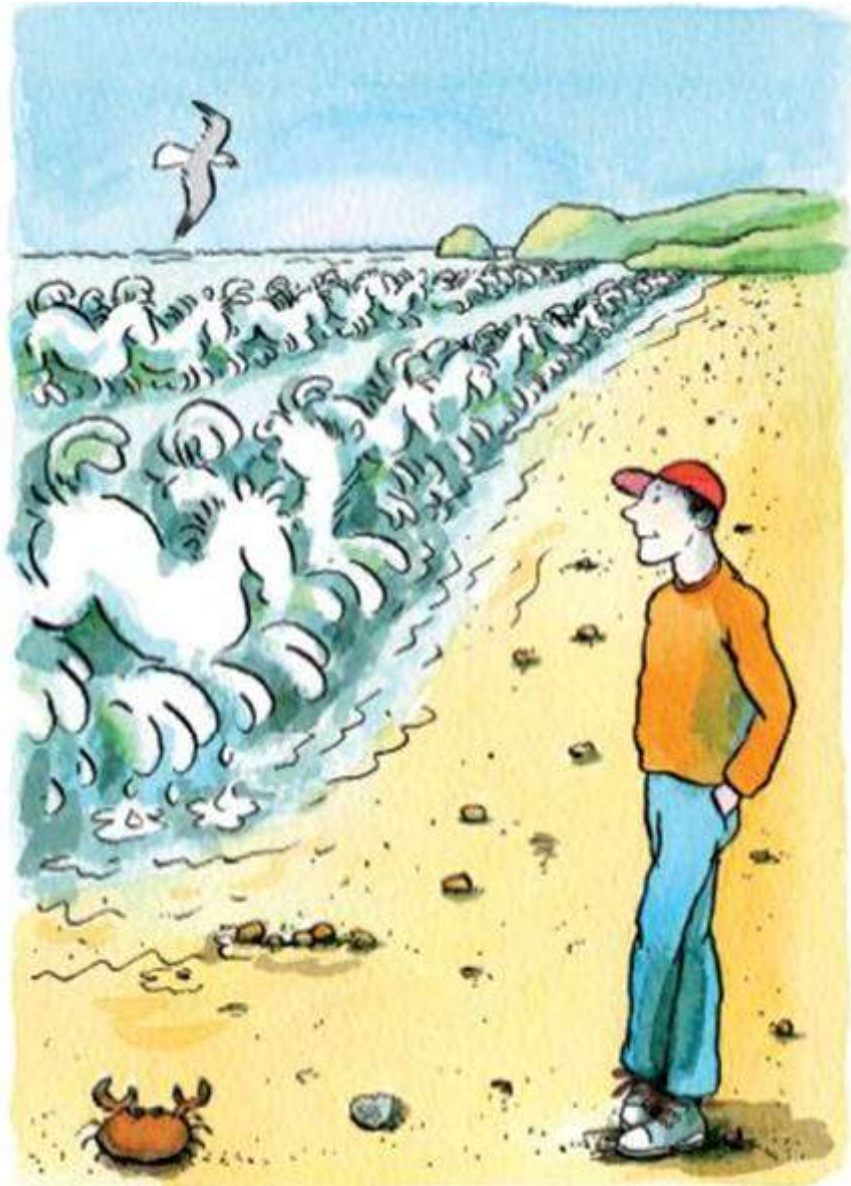
He frisked and galloped. He swished his white tail.

All around him the white horses plunged and jumped the waves.

They galloped away, and the sand horse went with them.

Next morning, when the artist came down to the beach, people looked at the smooth sand and said, "It's a shame. All that work washed away."

But the artist smiled. He knew where his sand horse had gone.



1. Circle the correct option to complete each sentence below.

(a) This story is about an artist who lived

by a river.

by the sea.

on a hill.

in a city.

1 mark

(b) One day he went down to the beach and started to make a horse out of sand. He worked until

sunrise.

sunset.

midnight.

midday.

1 mark

(c) The artist went home and the sand horse

fell asleep.

moved away.

went home.

woke up.

1 mark

(d) The sand horse could not

listen.

eat.

move.

speak.

1 mark

(e) The sand horse could hear neighing. He found out that it was the white horses

out in the bay.

on the beach.

in the sand.

up in the sky.

1 mark

(f) The sand horse wanted

to go back home.

to go straight to sleep.

to go with the white horses.

to go to the artist's house.

1 mark

2. His wish came true. The next morning the people said that it was a shame that the horse had gone, but the artist just

laughed.

cried.

shouted.

smiled.

1 mark

3. Which animals did the artist make?

Tick **one**.

cats

whales

horses

seals

rabbits

fish

1 mark

4. The artist woke on a *brisk blue* day.

What do these words tell you about the weather on that day?

1 mark

5. Why did the artist decide to make a horse that day?

1 mark

6. Why did people give the artist money?

1 mark

7. Why did the sand horse want to go with the white horses?

1 mark

8. In the text words like *prancing*, *plunging* and *galloping* are used to describe the waves.

What does this tell you about them?

2 marks

9. How did the sand horse finally get into the sea?

10. Put the following events in the order that they happen in the story. The first one has been done for you.

- The sand horse wakes up and hears neighing.
- The artist returns to the beach and the sand horse has gone.
- The tide comes in and the sand horse joins the white horses.
- The artist makes a sand horse.
- The seagull tells the sand horse about the white horses.

2 marks

11. At the end of the story, in what ways was the sand horse like the white horses?

1 mark

12. Explain why the artist smiled when he saw that his sand horse had gone.

2 marks

13. *It's a shame.*

In this sentence, the word *shame* is closest in meaning to:

Tick **one**.

- well-known
- embarrassed
- pity
- small

1 mark

Mark schemes

Q2.

1. Award **1 mark** for each correctly identified option.
Do not award a mark if a child has circled more than one option.

(a) by a river. by the sea. on a hill. in a city. 1 mark

(b) sunrise. sunset. midnight. midday. 1 mark

(c) fell asleep. moved away. went home. woke up. 1 mark

(d) listen. eat. move. speak. 1 mark

(e) out in the bay. on the beach. in the sand. up in the sky. 1 mark

(f) to go back home. to go straight to sleep. to go with the white horses. to go to the artist's house. 1 mark

(g) laughed. cried. shouted. smiled. 1 mark

2. Award **1 mark** if all three animals have been ticked.

cats
whales
horses

- seals
- rabbits
- fish

1 mark

3. Award **1 mark** for references to any of the following:

- blue / clear sky;
- sunshine / sunny;
- summer's / bright day;
- wind.

Do not accept:

- nice / beautiful / hot day.

1 mark

4. Award **1 mark** for answers which refer to the white horse waves, eg:

- the waves looked like white horses;
- there were white horses in the sea / he saw white horses in the bay;
- the waves made him think of horses;
- he said / thought that horses were the most beautiful animals.

Do not accept:

- horses were the most beautiful animals;
- *he likes horses;*
or reference to his wife seeing the horses.

1 mark

5. Award **1 mark** for reference to people's admiration for him / his work, eg:

- people thought his horse was brilliant;
- people liked the horse;
- they thought he was a good artist;
- his work was good.

Do not accept:

- to see the horse.

1 mark

6. Award **1 mark** for answers that refer to the sand horse's longing for movement / freedom / company, eg:

- because it must have been boring;
- so he wouldn't be alone / to be with his kind;
- to have some fun.

Do not accept:

- the white horses called him.

1 mark

7. Award **2 marks** for answers which refer to the similarity between the action / appearance of horses and the movement of the sea / waves, eg:

- the waves are moving like horses running about;
- the waves reminded the writer of what horses looked like.

Award **1 mark** for answers which suggest that the sea is moving / fast / rough / choppy / splashing or unexplained reference to horses, eg:

- they are like horses.

up to 2 marks

8. Award **1 mark** for reference to the fact that the sea washed it in, eg:

- because the sea helped him;
- the waves /white horses pulled him in;
- the tide came in;
- the sea washed him away

1 mark

9.

The sand horse wakes up and hears neighing.

2

The artist returns to the beach and the sand horse has gone.

5

The tide comes in and the sand horse joins the white horses.

4

The artist makes a sand horse.

1

The seagull tells the sand horse about the white horses.

3

Award **2 marks** for numbering all stages correctly.

Award **1 mark** for numbering 2–3 stages correctly.

Award **0 marks** for numbering 0–1 stages correctly.

up to 2 marks

10. Award **1 mark** for answers that refer to some aspect of the sand horse's ability to move or being in the sea with the other horses, eg:

- he could move /was free;
- could swish his tail / toss his mane;
- could frisk / gallop;
- he was in the water / sea with the others.

1 mark

11. Award **2 marks** for answers that infer from or reinterpret the last line of the story, eg:

- he knew the sand horse was happy / free / with the other horses;
- he wasn't sorry about the horse because he could make another one.

Award **1 mark** for lifting the answer from the last line of the story, eg:

- he knew where the sand horse had gone.

Do not accept:

- *he was happy / wasn't sad* (without appropriate justification).

up to 2 marks

12. Pity.

1 mark