

# Read, Play, Imagine!

## Max and his Big Imagination: The Beach

By Chrissy Metge

Published by Duckling Publishing

### About the Book

*Max and his Big Imagination* – a new series for children, encouraging them to use their imagination in everyday situations!

Today Mother and Max are going to the beach to build a sand dragon, and soon Max finds himself flying with the dragon over the sea and making new friends.

Made from durable pages, they are great for little fingers as they explore books.

The *Max and His Big Imagination* series is loved by many, with Max's adventures true to the real world of kids as they discover it.



### About the Author

Chrissy Metge is author of the *Max and His Big Imagination* books and also the *Amy's Dreaming Adventures* books. Chrissy also works in the animation film and TV industry and has just completed her 14<sup>th</sup> movie, a feature film for Disney.

*Max and his Big Imagination* was inspired by Chrissy's love for her nephew and the way kids see the world. As a new mother, one of her most favourite things is getting to see all the little things in life, all over again. Chrissy currently lives in London.

### Illustrations

The illustrations are by Dmitry Chizhov, who lives in Russia. The illustrations are colourful and fun, allowing children to use their imagination while reading the book.



## Writing Style

The story is written in third-person point of view prose in a 12-page picture book. Mother decides to take Max to the beach. Max gets out his bucket and spade to make a sandcastle. But bucket by bucket, Mother and Max make something much bigger – a sand dragon – who suddenly comes to life. They fly up in the air, and then down to the sea below where Max meets a whale who wants to play. His blowhole spurts water high into the air causing Max to fall back on to the beach and off the sand dragon's back. Max waves goodbye to the whale as he leaves the beach with his Mother. It has been a great adventure!

This is a book that encourages children to use their imagination in everyday settings – this time, a day at the beach turns into a thrilling adventure. The language used is vivid and immediate, with lots of excitement. *With a mighty leap, the dragon jumps upwards into the air...Flip, Flop, Splash...an enormous wave races towards them...*

The book is suitable for children 2 to 5 years, but older and younger children may also enjoy the story.

## Shared Learning and Discussion Points

### ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

- Look at the cover. What do you think the tone of the story might be?
- How has the author set the scene at the start of the story?
- Imagine you are going to the beach, what are you looking forward to doing?
- What things would you take with you to the beach? Togs? Towel? Sunscreen?
- What do you think of the characters of Mother and Max?
- Imagine the part of the story when the sand dragon comes alive. Describe how it would feel to climb on his back and fly into the air.
- Next up, the sand dragon dives down into the sea below. Can you describe how it would feel to be in the sea next to a whale?

## Activities



### ACTIVITY 1: SAND IMAGINATION

There are many creatures you can make out of sand. Draw an imaginary sand creature and tell a story of what happens when it comes to life.

### ACTIVITY 2: BEACH IMAGINATION

There are many things at the beach. Make a list of things you might find if you go exploring. It might be things like seashells, crabs, beach towels, umbrellas. Then make up a story using some of the things you might find.