

2 | Sliding Glasses

Emma, Alex and Sarah sat down under a tree to eat their lunch. They'd had a pretty active morning with Physical Education, and later a special soccer lesson with a famous player who had been to the school and run a coaching clinic. So now they just wanted to sit and talk.

"What did you do on the weekend, Sarah?" asked Alex.

"Oh, mum and dad have bought a boat and we went out for a sail," she replied.

"Wow! They must have a lot of money," commented Emma. "Or is it just a little dinghy?"

"No, they don't have heaps of money, but it isn't a dinghy either," answered Sarah. "It's one of those little trailer-sailers. You know, they have a keel like a big yacht, but they're not really that big – just a little cabin below deck."

"What was it like?" Alex wanted to know. "There was a bit of a swell on Friday night when I went surfing. Did you get seasick?"

"It was a bit up and down," admitted Sarah, "but it didn't affect me. Well, not really – I didn't throw up or anything. But we did go below deck to have lunch and we got pretty sick of the glasses sliding across the table. Dad said mum should have 'parked' it behind a headland. Mum told him that real sailors say 'anchored', not 'parked', and he got a bit annoyed. I reckon he was just feeling a bit off because of the waves."

"I hope they didn't have a fight about it. Anyhow, you can solve the glasses sliding about problem easy enough. Just stick something onto the bottom of the glasses so they don't slide so easily," said Emma.

"Nah, mum and dad were OK," Sarah answered. "But that's a good idea about the glasses. What do you stick on the bottom?"

"I don't know," admitted Emma. "I just heard it somewhere. You could try out a few things – see what's the best, then use that."

The conversation drifted onto another topic then, but later that day, Sarah reflected on the earlier discussion. It was her mum's birthday soon and she thought she'd like to give her mum a surprise by stopping the glasses slipping across the

table on the boat. "I guess I'll have to try out some stuff so I know what's best to stick on them," she thought, "but what's the best way to go about that, so I can be sure? I don't want to stick stuff on and then find it's no good."