

Booktalk!

Dolphin Dreams Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- 2 actors (Avery, Maria)
- Avery: green t-shirt, blue shorts, flip-flops
- Maria: pink t-shirt, blue shorts, flip-flops, army-green canvas backpack, pencil, copy of *Dolphin Dreams*

Avery: (*walking onstage and approaching Maria slowly; Maria is writing something in a book, with her back to Avery; Avery speaking cheerfully as she approaches Maria*) Hi... I'm Avery.

Maria: (*closing book & quickly stuffing it and a pencil into her backpack; eyeing Avery uncertainly then looking away almost dismissively*)

Maria: (*pausing momentarily then looking at something in the distance*) The dolphins aren't here right now.

Avery: (*glancing out in same direction as Maria; looking slightly dejected*) Oh... Um, do they come here a lot?

Maria: (*looking out at imaginary water, then back at Avery; speaking quietly*) Yeah. I guess... Nobody knows except me, though.

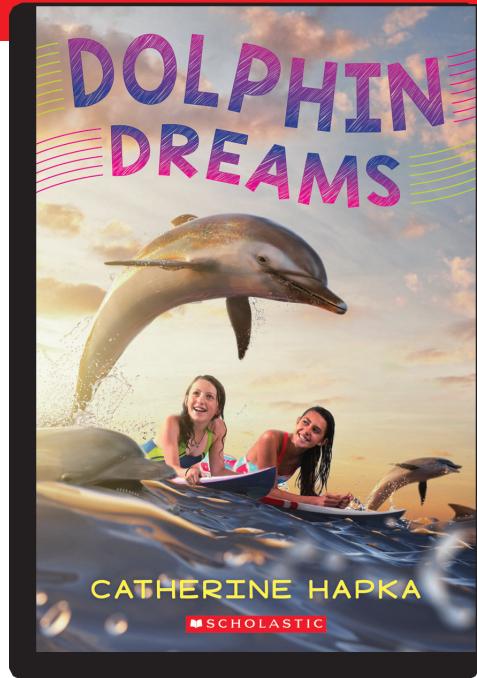
Avery: (*taking a step forward to stand beside Maria, scanning the imaginary waves*) I love dolphins. That's what I started to tell you – you know, that day in the bookstore?

Maria: (*appearing surprised; looking directly at Avery*) I wasn't sure you remembered... I mean, Kady dragged you away so fast... (*turning away to look back at the 'water'*)

Avery: (*looking in same direction as Maria; gasping excitedly & smiling broadly*) The dolphins are here!

Maria: (*glancing at Avery, nodding and smiling slightly*)

Avery: (*pointing to something in the distance*) Hey, that funny one is with them again – the black-and-white one – see? He's all spotted.



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- Maria:** *(turning away & walking towards backpack)* So you're really into dolphins, huh?
- Avery:** *(approaching Maria; speaking enthusiastically)* They're my favourite animal. *(looking back towards water)* I've always loved them, ever since I can remember. I might even want to become a marine biologist someday so I can study them.
- Maria:** *(looking straight at Avery)* Really? Well, then you probably already realized that dolphin *(pointing towards 'water')* isn't a regular bottlenose dolphin like the others.
- Avery:** Oh... I guess... I hadn't really thought about it. *(looking back into the distance)* What is he then?
- Maria:** I'm pretty sure he's a species called a pantropical spotted dolphin. I looked it up, and he looks just like some photos I found online.
- Avery:** *(smiling)* Cool. You know a lot about dolphins! Maybe you should be a marine biologist, too.
- Maria:** *(answering quickly)* I don't think so. I'm not really into science and math and those kinds of things.
- Avery:** So what are you into? *(glancing briefly down at backpack on ground)* Art?
- Maria:** *(bending down towards backpack & answering shyly)* Uh-huh. Art and books, mostly.
- Avery:** That's really cool... *(hesitating momentarily then blurting out)* You know, you're really not like I expected.
- Maria:** *(looking up Avery & snapping)* What? How do you mean – what were you expecting?
- Avery:** *(shrugging awkwardly)* I don't know, it's nothing. *(chuckling lightly)* I mean, it's just some stuff that Kady and Cam told me...
- Maria:** *(standing up, crossing arms & looking offended)* What? What did they tell you about me?
- Avery:** Just that you live in, um...the Mexican part of town...
- Maria:** *(sounding increasingly annoyed)* So WHAT? I was born in Mexico – do you have a problem with that?

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- Avery:** *(defensively)* No! Definitely not. I mean, one of my best friends back home was born in Jamaica, okay? It's not a big deal. *(speaking quicker)* It's just that Kady said there are some gangs in your neighbourhood, and that your brother went to jail or something because he's in one...
- Maria:** *(speaking icily; glaring at Avery)* And you believed her? I should have known you weren't that different after all.
- Avery:** *(frowning)* What? I'm NOT like Kady, if that's what you're saying.
- Maria:** *(shrugging & muttering under her breath)* You sure don't seem that different to me... *(bending to pick up backpack)* Anyway, I have to go. *(Maria rushing off; unknowingly her book has fallen out of the bag)*
- Avery:** *(pleadingly)* Maria, wait... Please! *(putting her hands up to her face in embarrassment; then turning to look back at the 'water'; noticing Maria's book is on the ground & picking it up; speaking to audience)* What did I just do? Maria and I have so much in common...but I had to go and say all the wrong things... *(looking down at Maria's book that she's holding in her hands)* Will she ever forgive me? Will our love of dolphins be enough to build a friendship? *(holding up the book in her hands)* Find out by reading *Dolphin Dreams* – it's at your Scholastic Book Fair.