

Shark Lab California State University, Long Beach 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*"

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      sa.4a8g91 T (66t)j0.t)j03 27ocean?

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.

Panel 11: Three kids



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 ahmiu"*

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!*”

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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 rTd(As) J35 Td(T)l.tthe to*"





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 h:](#)

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

Panel 8: Nick

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

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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

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

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



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

## Page # 28

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**

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