

JULIA DONALDSON ★ LYDIA MONKS

THE
SINGING
MERMAID

With
glitter
on every
page!

By the creators of *What the Ladybird Heard*

Did you ever go to Silversands



On a sunny summer's day?



a



Su M T W
Th F Sa



Then perhaps you saw the mermaid



Who sang in the deep blue bay.



She sang to the fish in the ocean,



To the haddock, the hake and the ling.



And they flashed their scales



and swished their tails



To hear the mermaid sing.



And sometimes the singing mermaid

&



Swam to the silvery shore.



|



She sat and combed her golden hair



&



And then she sang some more.

&



She sang to the cockles and mussels



She sang to the birds on the wing.



And the seashells claped and the seagulls flapped



To hear the mermaid sing .



When Sam Sly's circus came to the town.



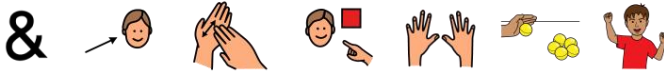
Sam took a stroll by the sea.



He heard the mermaid singing



And he rubbed his hands with glee.





He said " I can make you famous."



" I can make you rich," he said.



"You shall swim in a pool of marble



And sleep on a fine feather bed.



You shall sing for the lords and the ladies



You shall sing for the Queen and the King.



And young and old will pay good gold.



To hear the mermaid sing."



Don't go ! Don't go ! Cried the seagulls.



And the seashells warned, " He lies "



But the mermaid listen to old Sam Sly



And smiled as she waved her goodbye.



And he took her away to the circus.



And she sang to the crowds round the ring.



And "More! More! More!" came deafening roar

&



When they heard the mermaid sing.



Now the mermaid shared a caravan



a



With Annie the acrobat,



And Ding and Dong the circus dogs,

&

&



And Bella the circus cat.

&



And she made good friends with the jugglers



And the man who swallowed fire,



And the clown with the tumbledown trousers



And the woman who walked on wire.



But she was not friends with old Sam Sly.



No, she did not care for him,



For he made her live in a fish tank



Where there was not room to swim.



And there was no pool of marble.

&     of 

There was no feather bed.

And when she begged him, "Set me free!"

&       

He laughed and shook his head.

  &   





All summer long the circus toured,



All autumn,



winter,



spring,





And many a crowd cheered long and loud



To hear the mermaid sing.



But the mermaid dreamed of Silversands



And she longed for the deep blue sea,



And her songs grew sad, and again she said



" I beg you, set me free."



But again he laughed and shook his head



And he told her, " No such thing.



Here you will stay, while people pay



The hear the mermaid sing."



At Silversands, a seagull



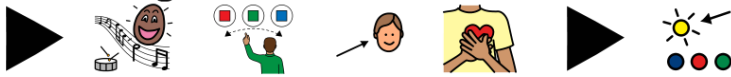
Was flying to his nest



When on the breeze he heard a song



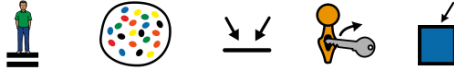
The song which he loved the best.



And he followed the song to the caravan



Sam Sly was about to lock it .



The seagull watched



as he turned the key.



And slipped it inside his pocket.



The seagull waited till Sam had gone.



Then he perched on the windowsill.



And tap tap tap at the window



He tapped with his yellow bill.



"Come back! Come back to Silversands.



It is only a mile away.



I can find the key and set you free



If you will come back home to the bay."



"Escape!" barked the dogs.



"Escape!" miaowed the cat.



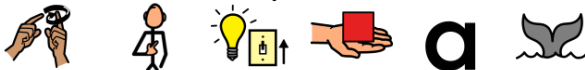
But the mermaid sighed: " I would fail



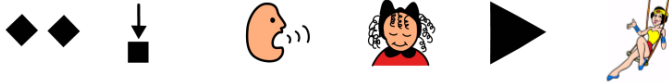
For how could I walk to Silversands



When I only have a tail?"



"Like this!" cried Annie the acrobat,



And she stood upon her hands.



"This is the way, the only way,



To get to Silversands."



"Right hand, left hand, tail up high,



There is really nothing to it .



If I give you lessons every night



You will soon learn how to do it ."





Next week, while Sam was snoring,



The seagull stole the key.



He carried it off to the caravan.



And set the mermaid free.

&



And he flew ahead, to guide her,



As she walked upon her hands,



All along the moonlit road



That led to Silversands.



And the creatures on the seashore

&



And the fish beneath the foam

&



Jumped and splashed and danced with joy



&



&



To have their mermaid home.

|





And she sang to the cockles and mussels,



She sang to the birds on the wing.



And the seashells clapped











and the seagulls flapped.



To hear the mermaid sing.



And if you go down to Silversands
&      

And swim in the bay of blue
&     of 

Perhaps you will see the mermaid,
     

And perhaps she will sing for you.
&    