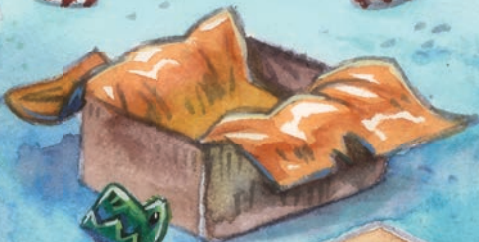


The Crocodile's Christmas Jandals

by Margaret Mahy
illustrated by Gavin Mouldey



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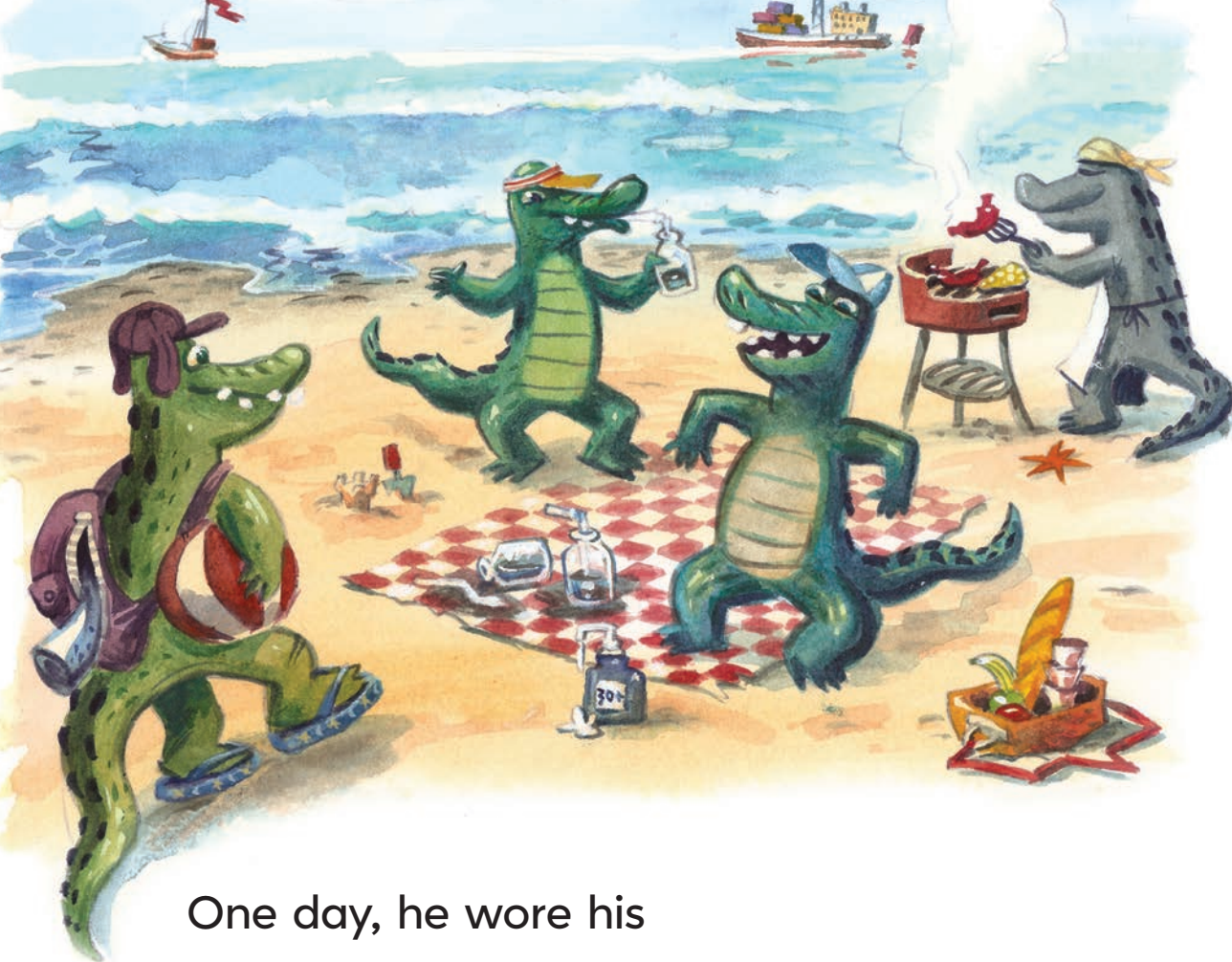


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The crocodile loved his Christmas jandals. His Aunt Alligator had given them to him. They were blue jandals with golden stars and silver moons. When the crocodile wore them, he felt as though his feet were always walking in party time.





One day, he wore his
Christmas jandals
to a crocodile barbecue
at the beach.
Crocodiles pranced and danced
on the salty sand.

They cooked sausages and sang
crocodile songs.



*Sing a song of merry crocs
Taking off their shoes and socks,
Stretching out their merry claws,
Drinking lemonade through straws.*

The crocodile took off
his Christmas jandals and put them
side by side on the beach.

He pranced and sang
and cooked sausages
with the other crocodiles
until the barbecue was over.
Then he went to get his jandals.
Horrakapotchkin!

The tide had come in
while he was prancing and singing.
It had stolen
his left-foot Christmas jandal.

The crocodile ran up
and down the beach,
but he couldn't find it.
His left-foot Christmas jandal
had floated out to sea.

Just as he was going home,
dragging his tail sadly,
the crocodile saw another jandal -
a left-foot red rubber one -
lying among the shells.



“You’ve brought me the wrong one!”
said the crocodile crossly
to the waves.
The waves just rustled on the sand
and said nothing.

The next Friday, there were football matches at school. The Crocodiles were going to play the Avon Aces.



The crocodile went along to cheer for the Crocodiles. He had to wear his odd jandals – a right-foot Christmas jandal and a left-foot red rubber jandal. “Hooray!” he shouted. “Hooray! Come on the Crocodiles!”



The girl next to him was cheering for the Avon Aces.

“Hooray!” she shouted.

“Hooray for the Aces!”

She shouted very loudly and stamped her feet.

The crocodile looked at her feet.

She was wearing

a right-foot red rubber jandal.

On her left foot, she was wearing

a beautiful blue jandal

with golden stars and silver moons!



“You’ve got my Christmas jandal!”
cried the crocodile.

The girl looked at the crocodile’s feet.
“And you’ve got my red rubber
holiday jandal!” she cried.

“I found it on the beach
near my house,” the crocodile said.
“I was looking for mine,
and I found yours instead.”

“I found *yours* on the beach
near *my* house,” said the girl.
“I was looking for mine,
and I found yours instead.”

“The sea stole them and swapped
them over,” said the crocodile.



The girl and the crocodile
wore odd jandals all day
and watched football together.
The crocodile cheered for
the Crocodiles, but sometimes
he cheered for the Aces –
just for a change.

The girl cheered for the Aces,
but sometimes she cheered for the
Crocodiles – just for a change.

At the end of the day,
the girl gave the crocodile
his left-foot Christmas jandal.
The crocodile gave the girl
her left-foot red rubber jandal.

“See you next football day!”
the crocodile called.
“We can swap jandals again,
just for fun!”



Then he pranced home.
His feet glittered with golden stars
and silver moons. He was walking
with both feet in party time
once more.

This book is for students to read and enjoy after they have become very familiar with the big book during many shared reading sessions.

Scan the QR code or use the short URL to go directly to an audio recording of this book.



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Christmas Jandals

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