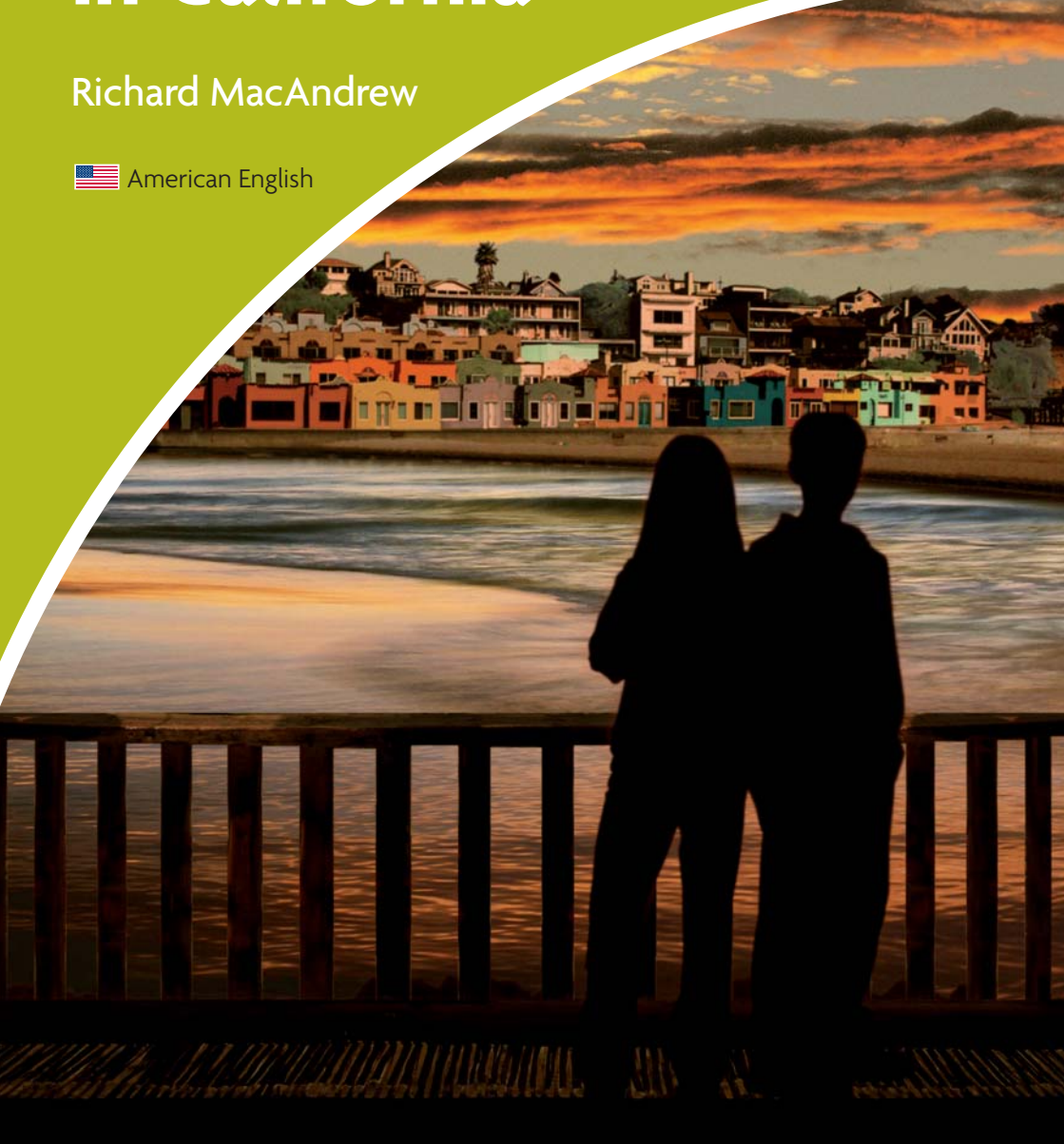


A Little Trouble in California

Richard MacAndrew

 American English



People in the story

Kim Lawson: a 13-year-old girl; Andy Lawson's sister

Andy Lawson: a 13-year-old boy; Kim Lawson's brother

David Lawson: Andy and Kim's father

Ellen Lawson: Andy and Kim's mother

Darryl: a man on the beach

Officer McMahon: a police officer

BEFORE YOU READ



1 Look at the pictures in Chapter 1. What do you think?

Answer the questions.

1 The Lawson family go for a walk. Where do they go?

.....

2 Do they know the man there?

.....

Places in the story



Andy and Kim's birthday



“Happy birthday, Kim! Happy birthday, Andy!” say David and Ellen Lawson.

“Thirteen!” says Ellen Lawson. “You’re teenagers now!”

David gives Andy his present. Ellen gives Kim her present.

“Thanks, Mom. Thanks, Dad,” say Kim and Andy.
Quickly they open their presents.

“Thank you very much!” says Kim. She looks at her new camera.

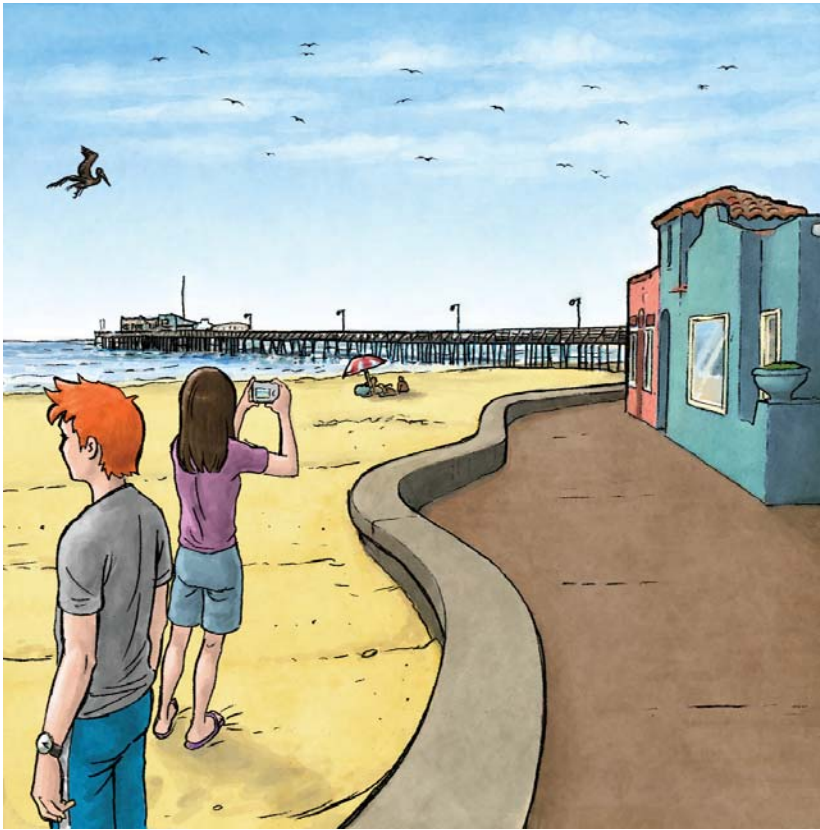
“An MP3 player!” says Andy. “Wow! Thank you!”



Today is Andy and Kim Lawson’s birthday. They are twins¹. Andy is 13 and Kim is 13, too. They are on vacation with their parents in Capitola, a small town in California.

“Can we go out?” asks Kim. “Now? I want to take some pictures.”

“In a minute,” laugh her parents.



At 11 o'clock, the Lawson family leave their vacation house and go to the beach. They see the funny Capitola Venetian hotel. Some rooms are red, some are green, some are yellow, and some are blue. Kim takes lots of pictures.

David and Ellen sit on the beach. Kim and Andy walk to the wharf².

A man comes out from under the wharf. He has long gray hair and a gray beard. His clothes are dirty. His face and hands look dirty, too.

“He’s very dirty,” thinks Kim, “but he has friendly blue eyes.”

“Hello,” she says. “What’s your name?”

Andy looks at Kim.

“Why *is* she talking to *him*?” he thinks.



“My name’s Darryl,” says the man, but he doesn’t smile. He looks at Andy, then at Kim.

“What are you doing here?” he asks.

“We’re on vacation,” answers Kim. “We’re from Boston.”

“Well, I’m from here,” says Darryl. “And this is *my* beach.”

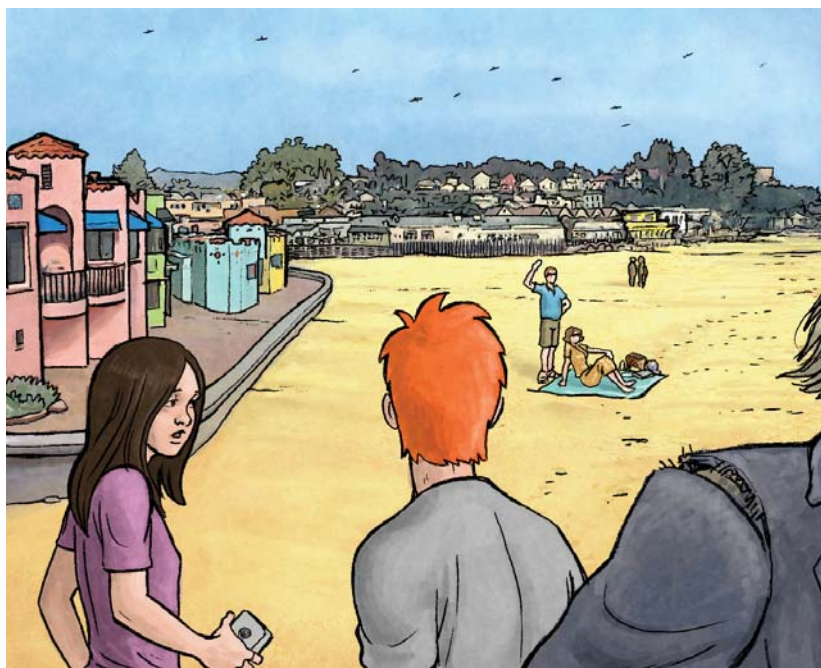
Then he walks away.

“Well, that isn’t very friendly,” says Kim to Andy. “And it isn’t *his* beach. It’s everyone’s beach.”

Then she looks under the wharf.

“What do you think?” she asks Andy. “Does he live there? Under the wharf?”

Andy starts to say something, but then they hear their father.



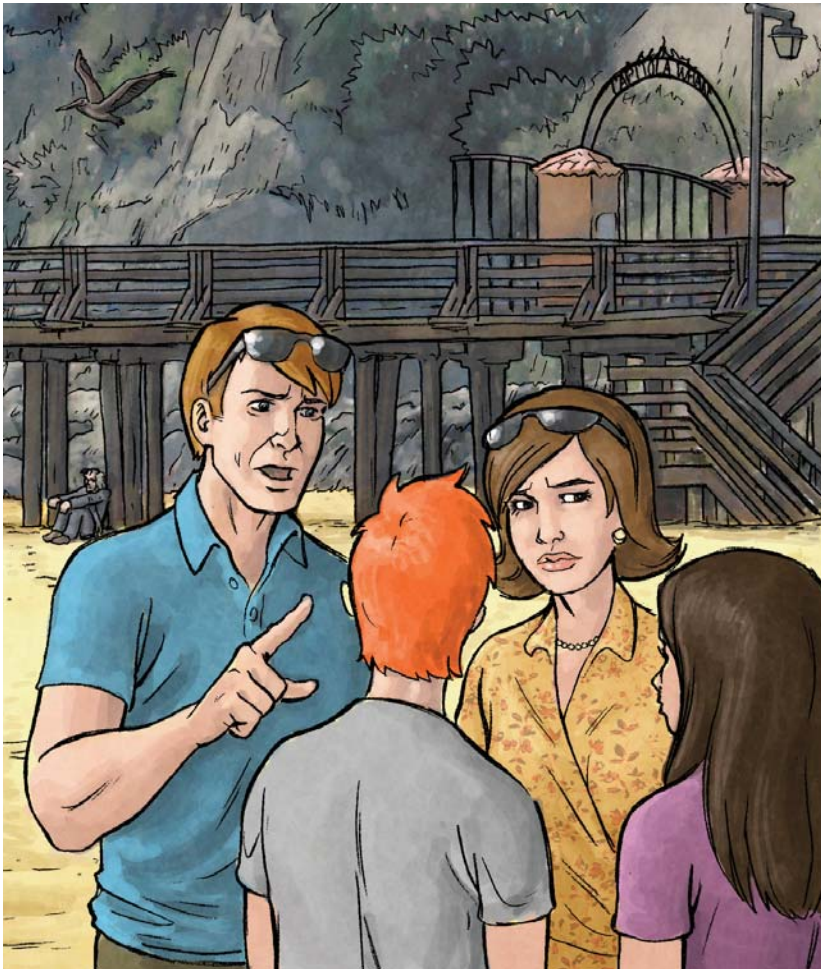
“Andy! Kim!” shouts David Lawson. “Come on! It’s lunchtime.”

The teenagers run back to their parents.

“Who’s that?” asks David Lawson.

Darryl is sitting under the wharf now.

“His name’s Darryl,” answers Andy.



“He looks very dirty,” says Ellen.

“He is,” says Kim. “I think he lives there. He isn’t very friendly.”

“Well, don’t talk to him,” says Ellen.

“But, Mom –” says Kim.

“No ‘buts,’” says David. “Don’t talk to him again. Don’t talk to strangers³.”

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 4.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Kim and Andy (x2) Kim (x2) Andy (x2) Darryl

- 1 It's Kim and Andy's birthday.
 - 2 gets a camera.
 - 3 gets an MP3 player.
 - 4 go to the wharf.
 - 5 has dirty clothes.
 - 6 talks to a man at the wharf.
 - 7 doesn't want to talk to Darryl.
- 3 Who do the underlined words refer to in these lines from the text?
- 1 Quickly they open their presents. (page 6) Kim and Andy
 - 2 They see the funny Capitola Venetian hotel.
(page 8)
 - 3 "Why *is* she talking to *him*?" he thinks.
(page 9)
 - 4 Then he walks away. (page 9)
 - 5 And it isn't his beach. (page 10)
 - 6 Then she looks under the wharf. (page 10)
 - 7 "He is," says Kim. (page 11)

4 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 It's Andy and Kim's / David and Ellen's birthday.
- 2 Andy and Kim go to school / are on vacation in Capitola.
- 3 The Lawson family go to the beach / wharf.
- 4 The man at the wharf is very dirty / friendly.
- 5 Darryl is / isn't from Boston.
- 6 Darryl thinks it's everyone's / his beach.

5 Match the questions with the answers.

- 1 What does Darryl want to know? a
 - 2 Where do the Lawson family live? b
 - 3 Why does Kim think Darryl isn't friendly? c
 - 4 Why do Kim and Andy leave the wharf? d
 - 5 Who thinks Darryl lives under the wharf? e
- a Because it's lunchtime.
b Kim.
c Because he stops talking to them and leaves.
~~d~~ What they're doing at the wharf.
e Boston.

LOOKING FORWARD



6 Check (✓) what you think happens in Chapter 2.

- 1 Kim and Andy see Darryl on the beach.
- 2 Kim and Andy don't see Darryl again.