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Granny Grommet and Me – Dianne Wolfer illustrated by Karen Blair

Publisher: Walker Books

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The plot centres around four Granny Grommets (beginner surfers) and the grandson of one of the adventurous women.

The little boy is afraid of the sea, its sheer size, and what lies under the surface. From a child's point of view, the ocean is huge. However, the Granny Grommets obvious enjoyment in the sea lures the boy and his dog to the water's edge.

The Grannys twist and turn, duck and dive, zoom and ride the waves. When the boy nervously ventures into the water, strange things brush against his legs.

Granny Grommet has the perfect solution to help ease his fears; bite-sized chunks of experience. Granny brings a smaller board and soon the boy is skimming along the beach. The rock pool is seen as a mini ocean and now the strange things look friendly. The Grommets show the youngster how to snorkel. Suddenly, he sees there are wonderful, strange things under the water!

The text is simple and effective. The Grannys put on wetsuits 'to keep their bones warm'. The illustrations are vivid watercolours enhanced with pencil and acrylic paint on acetate overlays. They complement the text beautifully.

Although aimed at a younger audience, this is a book with universal appeal. We are all fearful of 'strange things under the water'.

Useful water safety tips on the back pages complete this eye-catching, hardback publication.

**Reviewed by teacher / librarian,
Pat Osman.**

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