

## Pepper Nose and the seahorse race

By Martin S. Beckley

Pepper Nose and Lemon Head were on holiday by the seaside. They spent the morning in the amusement arcade. They had great fun with the racing car game – Lemon Head kept crashing into the walls and so Pepper Nose won the race. They had fun with the motorbike game as well. Lemon Head kept crashing his bike and so Pepper Nose won that race as well. Then they saw the crane. Lemon Head had three turns. He pressed the buttons to make the crane pick up a toy but the crane dropped the toy just before it got to the chute every time. Pepper Nose had a go and won a hat with a yellow feather. He gave the hat to Lemon Head and told him it was a good luck hat. Lemon Head loved the hat.

After lunch, they decided to go down to the beach and watch the seahorse race. The five seahorses were ready to go. They were each a different colour: blue, red, green, purple and yellow. The riders wore the same colour as their seahorse. The yellow rider was ill and could not race. The yellow seahorse looked sad because he could not race without a rider. The man with the flag was getting ready to start the race. Lemon Head jumped up and down so he could see over the crowd. Each time he jumped up, the feather on his hat tickled Pepper Nose's nose. Just as Lemon Head jumped up again, Pepper Nose sneezed and blew him over the crowd and on to the yellow seahorse. The flagman waved his flag and the race started. Lemon Head's seahorse was very surprised to suddenly gain a rider and happily swam off at top speed. Lemon Head had to hang on around the seahorse's neck to stop him falling off. He slipped to the left and his seahorse swerved left nearly crashing

into the blue seahorse. The blue rider fell into the sea with a SPLASH! Lemon Head slipped to the right and his seahorse swerved to the right and bumped into the green seahorse. The green rider fell into the sea with a SPLASH! The crowd on the beach cheered with excitement. Both the red and purple seahorses were in front of Lemon Head. His yellow seahorse raced forwards trying to catch them up. Just then, a gust of wind blew Lemon Head's lucky hat off his head. It flew in the air just in front of him. He lent forward to grab it but the wind blew it further away. It swooped and soared towards the other riders and landed on the red seahorse's face. He could not see where he was going and swerved into the purple seahorse. Both riders fell into the sea, SPLASH, SPLOSH! Lemon Head and the yellow seahorse crossed the finish line and won the race.

When they all got back to the beach, the flagman presented Lemon Head with a big ice cream for winning.

