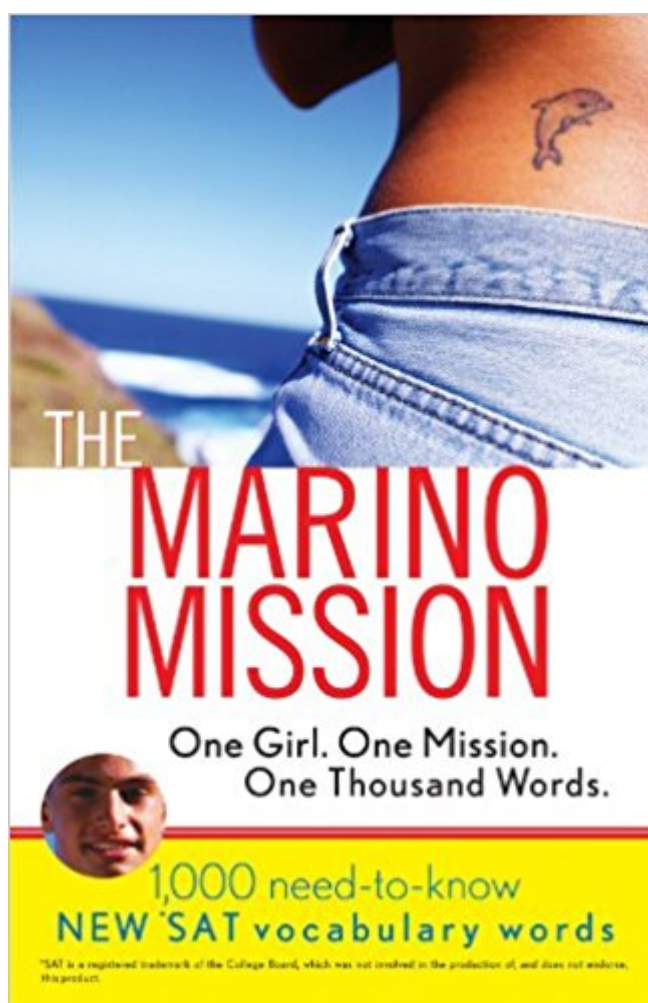


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# The Marino Mission: One Girl, One Mission, One Thousand Words: 1,000 Need-to-Know SAT Vocabulary Words (WordSavvy Book)



## Synopsis

One unforgettable story. One thousand unforgettable SAT vocabulary words. Alexa McCurry leads an ordinary teenager's life in upstate New York—until she embarks on a summer adventure in Central America. While working at a potentially boring internship in a marine DNA lab, she befriends a local boy, JosÃ©, and a remarkable dolphin, Pecos. Together, Alexa and JosÃ© uncover an ominous secret: Pecos' missing baby may be a captive at a marine biology facility. In a riveting tale of intrigue, Alexa and JosÃ© work to unravel the mystery—and lead the reader on a vocabulary-expanding adventure. The Marino Mission is a fun and painless way to master 1,000 tough SAT vocabulary words. Why spend all day looking at lists of words and definitions when you can read a gripping page-turner that incorporates SAT vocabulary words right into the text? Even better, words are defined at the bottom of each page so you don't have to flip to the back of the book to find definitions. Plus, self-tests at the end of the novel help you retain what you learn and prepare for test day. Once you open up The Marino Mission, you'll hardly know you're studying at all!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up -Alexa is not happy about having to go to Central America for the summer with her marine biologist mother, who will be working there. The teen meets a local boy and makes friends with the lab's dolphin. When the animal's baby is taken by members of a rival lab, the teens set out

to find out why and what they plan to do with it. The author incorporates 1000 SAT vocabulary words into the novel. Each one is footnoted at the bottom of the page with its definition. This is a great idea. Not only can students read a fast-paced and fun story, but they can also learn potentially unfamiliar words without a great deal of effort. The writing and character development are actually good and the DNA-lab setting is believable, as is the story line. The Marino Mission may not be a literary standout, but as a study tool it is unbeatable.-Marianne Fitzgerald, Severna Park High School, MD Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"The Marino Mission...a better read than prior attempts at this concept, which tried too hard to cram in large words." (Miami Herald, February 26, 2005)

I purchased this for my niece teenage but gave a couple chapters a read before shipping it off to her. For it's purpose, it's not a bad text. Every page has about 5-10 SAT words interspersed throughout the text with the definitions on the bottom of the page. The writing does come off a bit mechanical and the dialogue is especially unnatural when using SAT words I feel that for the purpose of teaching vocabulary words in context, this is forgivable. It's to be read not as the next great American novel to torn apart for literary criticism but as a fun tool for SAT practice. In general, the writing is very easy to get through and the story is engaging enough. It reads like a take-to-the-beach novel but with random sentence that suddenly jump into academic language. Hardcore readers will probably be a little bored but if you take this book as it is - as an alternative to computer word games and flash cards - it's a great tool.

I like the book. Yet there is a 'blooper' that bugged me. Jose uses words that most English speaking people don't use. I know that this is an SAT novel, but still he speaks English perfectly. Which is a little unrealistic and lost me. I'm Hispanic and live in New England. My first language is English and I struggle speaking Spanish. Yet, Jose lives in a very poor Spanish speaking country and has an extensive English vocabulary. I did like that this book did include Hispanic characters because most books do not. I thought that the whole 'Free Willy' theme was so unrealistic. Being a hopeless romantic, I had hoped that Alexa and Jose's relationship would be a little deeper. I was not satisfied and the ending was so cheesy. Jose says, "it always boils down to whether or not you know the vocab". I would have preferred if the book was more like other novels and not so robotic and boring. Definitely buy "Sunkissed" by Belinda Ray. It's an SAT vocab novel also. And doesn't feel

robotic like this book.

The high school girl I mentor and I read this book aloud over a period of many weeks. (We alternated readers every couple of paragraphs.) Each day we discussed the words and the actions of the heroine and other characters. On our own we explored other words related to the featured words. When we were finished we read *Mayan Mission* and *The Mayan Mission: Another Mission. Another Country. Another Action-Packed Adventure. 1,000 New SAT Vocabulary Words* and loved that too, just as much. When the next book appears - as I hope it will - I'll be first in line to buy [it!

*Marino Mission*, a great story for augmenting your vocabulary. It's worth five stars from me. Although in my forties, I couldn't resist reading this book and have re-read it a few times. I'd to say that I've loved this book so much that I've bought another book by the same author. I'd learned off all the words within.

This is a great book that will build your SAT vocabulary. The book is a fun read so you will not get bored as you are learning new words. Great for high schoolers.(and parents too)

Excellent seller! Super fast shipping! Highly recommended! Thank You!

We purchased this book on the strong recommendation of a relative, and can likewise recommend it to others, without a bone of contention...I skim-read the story, and while the artifice used to introduce the vocabulary is a bit much for an adult, it should work well for the target audience. As the heroine is, well, - a heroine, the book might initially appeal more to young women, rather than to boys. But, any young person would probably enjoy the plot and the storyline once immersed in the book. At the risk of dating myself, I'd equate the book to Nancy Drew meets Tom Swift, updated for the 21st century... All in all, an effective and elegant solution for providing young people with a rich vocabulary while preparing them for one of the most significant examinations they must undertake. Significantly, one-third of the book is devoted to exercises which reinforce the meaning and proper use of the myriad words introduced in the story. As repetition is the root of understanding, students would be wise to make use of this added bonus. Teachers and educators should likewise give this book strong consideration for inclusion in their curriculum and SAT-prep courses. With the advent of a re-tooled SAT containing a much-dreaded essay component, Ms. Chapman should put her considerable creativity to work on a new book which addresses this

coming challenge. I have no doubt that any such attempt would be as engaging and successful as "The Marino Mission."...On a personal note, at last I can use the word "perspicacity" correctly...

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