

weren't made and safely put away by the end of August. As usual, each member of the family was happily getting on with his or her own affairs.

20 Little did they guess how soon this state of things would be changed by the large new member who was going to **erupt** into their midst.

Sandy rolled onto her back to make sure that the twins were not climbing on slippery rocks or getting cut off by the tide. At the same moment a large body struck her forcibly in the midriff, and she was covered by flying sand. Instinctively she shut her eyes and felt the sand being wiped off her face by something that seemed like a warm, rough, damp flannel. She opened her eyes and looked. It was a tongue. Its owner was a large and bouncy young Alsatian, or German shepherd, with topaz eyes, black-tipped prick ears, a thick, soft coat, and a bushy, black-tipped tail.

30 “Lob!” shouted a man farther up the beach. “Lob, come here!”

But Lob, as if trying to **atone** for the surprise he had given her, went on licking the sand off Sandy's face, wagging his tail so hard while he kept on knocking up more clouds of sand. His owner, a gray-haired man with a limp, walked over as quickly as he could and seized him by the collar.

“I hope he didn't give you a fright?” the man said to Sandy. “He meant it in play—he's only young.”

erupt (ĭ-rŭpt') v. to release one's anger or enthusiasm in a sudden, noisy way

atone (ə-tŏn') v. to seek pardon; to make up for

ANALYZE VISUALS

What **details** do you notice in this illustration?

