1. fronds – the leaf or leaflike part of a palm, fern, or similar plant.

intently – with great effort, attention, or concentration.

perplexed – completely baffled; very puzzled.

1. whimpering
2. Jim is Alfie’s father
3. It says that they were ‘both in deep concentration’. Alfie was ‘hunched over’ ‘gazing intently’, he knew what he was looking / waiting for. Alfie also knew what Seagulls and Seal Pups sound like and knew this other sound was ‘out of place’.
4. Jim and Alfie have been there a long time as the first sentence says ‘it was a long while later that Alfie heard it’.
5. He wants his father to be able to hear the sound. He doesn’t want to scare the ‘child’ off or frighten them.
6. I think he starts it this way to build suspense and it makes the reader ask lots of questions such as ‘where is Alfie?’, ‘what is he doing?’ ‘what does he hear?’.
7. The weeds are ‘waving mockingly’ because Alfie is looking really carefully in the water to spot some fish but there aren’t any there and the weeds keep moving and distracting him, making him think they are fish but they are not.
8. Maybe there aren’t any other people on the island? No one lives there? Maybe it’s really difficult to get to the island so how would the child have gotten there on their own?