

LEARNING ACTIVITY 19

In the News – "A Focus on Footy"



YEAR LEVEL:
7 and 8

LEARNING AREA:
English

STRAND:
Literacy

Learning Focus

Students explore the making of *The Silver Sea* and draw on the theme of this story to write their own story about an adventure they have been on or another significant experience in their life. Students extend their learning by writing a 'media release' to promote the publication of their story.

Sequence of Content

Year 7 and 8 students:

- Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, selecting aspects of subject matter and particular language, visual, and audio features to convey information and ideas **(ACELY1725)**
- Use a range of software, including word processing programs, to confidently create, edit and publish written and multimodal texts **(ACELY1728)**
- Create imaginative, informative and persuasive texts that raise issues, report events and advance opinions, using deliberate language and textual choices, and including digital elements as appropriate **(ACELY1736)**
- Use a range of software, including word processing programs, to create, edit and publish texts imaginatively **(ACELY1738)**



Learning Intention

We are learning to:

- Use our own experiences to create and publish an imaginative story to engage a selected audience.

Success Criteria

I can:

- Create an imaginative story and publish a children's book that draws on my own experiences and inspiration for writing such a story.

ACTIVITY

Students select one of the different football codes (Australian Rules, Rugby League or Soccer) and take on the role as a famous player.

As a famous player (students) have been asked to be an ambassador for *Footy Colours Day* and write a children's book about an adventure they have been on or another significant experience in their life.

As a class, have a copy of *The Silver Sea* for students to read and watch *The Making of The Silver Sea* (Affirm Press). [Click here](#) to view.

Use the below information that has been edited from the *Teacher Notes* (Affirm Press) to develop a shared understanding of the story as well as highlighting the connection between how this book was created and the aim of Footy Colours Day.

The Story

Created by Alison Lester and Jane Godwin in collaboration with the children of The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne, *The Silver Sea* follows two children on an adventure under the ocean.

The authors spent over a year visiting The Royal Children's Hospital and running workshops in different styles of painting and drawing. Each page is a collage of the artwork created by the children as well as Alison's character sketches and backgrounds.

"My friend Alison Lester and I volunteer each month at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. During 2017, we made this book with the young patients at the hospital. Alison and I wrote the text, and all the kids painted the artworks, then Alison and I put them together. We had a great time making the book, and it was lots of fun working with all the kids at the hospital."

Source: www.janegodwin.com.au/the-silver-sea



The story behind the book reminds readers of the value of working together. Students can see the way different illustrations complement one another and understand that bringing different people together can make a project both richer and more exciting.

The Theme

The Silver Sea celebrates the joy of exploration and adventure. The story features two characters who go on a journey and discover all kinds of new things about the world under the sea. It highlights the excitement of the new experiences that happen when you step outside your comfort zone. Another theme is the return to reality after an adventure.

The book showcases the sense of freedom and comfort that can be found by connecting with nature. The children in this story – and the children who helped to create it – find happiness by embracing nature – both the scary and beautiful aspects.

Source: *Teacher notes: The Silver Sea* (Affirm Press).

Our inspiration in creating *The Silver Sea*

The authors were inspired by the idea that splashing in the ocean would be an energising image for the children in hospital, and they wanted to provide that same escape through their workshops and through this story. It was also important that there were no adults in this story, and that the characters had power in a way that the children might not feel they do when they are in hospital.

"We wanted a story that would take the kids out of the world of the hospital, into the dreamy world of the ocean. Whenever we talked with kids about their lives outside of the hospital, they seemed to really enjoy this opportunity to remember and look forward to things that they loved – and for most Australian children, the beach is such a symbol of joy, holidays, sunshine and freedom."

Source: www.janegodwin.com.au/the-silver-sea

Both authors wanted this story to reflect the journey of a child visiting the hospital; there are aspects that might be frightening but ultimately it is a very reassuring journey. They hope that many children will enjoy this book, and that the children who helped create it will feel very proud of what they've achieved.

The Silver Sea was launched as part of The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne Good Friday Appeal at Easter, 2018. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to The Education Institute at the Royal Children's Hospital.

1. Discuss the story and inspiration in creating this book.
2. The children in this story have a wonderful time on their adventure. As a class, share any adventures or similar experiences students might have had such as a holiday or event they could use as an inspiration for a story.
3. Drawing inspiration from the theme of this book and how this book was created, students select one of the different football codes (Australian Rules, Rugby League or Soccer) and take on the role as a famous player.
4. As a famous player (students) have been asked to be an ambassador for *Footy Colours Day* and are to write a children's book about an adventure they have been on or another significant experience in their life.

Note: Students could use their choice of digital resources and use other online communication tools such as a class blog or a shared online learning forum used by the school or classroom teacher to create and publish their book.

Resources

The Silver Sea by Alison Lester and Jane Godwin.
Published 2018, Affirm Press.

Links to the author's and publisher's websites:

www.janegodwin.com.au/the-silver-sea

www.affirmpress.com.au/publishing/the-silver-sea



Extension Activity

(In the News ... has been announced as a Footy Colours Day Ambassador)

Students are to create a 'media release' that can be used to accompany the publication of their book and to promote their role as a Footy Colours Day Ambassador.

Students are to write an 'Author Biography' that includes a brief history of their playing career (team, major achievements) and what it means to them being a Footy Colours Day Ambassador. Other information is to include a brief description of the book and the inspiration for their story.

Students can visit the Our Ambassadors section in the 'About Us' tab of our website for an example of what to write. [Click here](#) to access.

Various football players have written children's books in recent years. Students may wish to learn more about these books and view other useful information to assist with this activity.

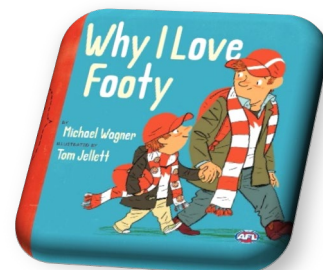
Additional Teacher Notes and Resources

Teachers may refer to the *Teacher notes: The Silver Sea*, by Alison Lester and Jane Godwin, with the children of *The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne* produced by Affirm Press.

Teachers may wish to share with students the various children books written about Australian Rules, Rugby League and Soccer. Students could also refer to these websites to assist them in writing their media release.

Australian Rules

***Tiger's Roar* (2018)** by Alex Rance. Written by the 2017 AFL Premiership player, Alex Rance and illustrated by Shane McG, this is an inspiring and hilarious picture book about a Tiger who wants to be his best. Published by Allen & Unwin Book Publishers, visit their website to learn more about this book. [Click here](#) to access.



***Why I Love Footy* (2018)** by Michael Wagner. A perfect picture book for families and footy fans. Published by Penguin Books, visit their website to learn more about this book. [Click here](#) to access.

***Speccy-tacular Footy Stories* (2018)**. This is a collection of AFL-themed short stories written by some of Australia's sportiest children's authors. Published by Penguin Books, visit their website to learn more about this book. [Click here](#) to access.



Rugby League

NRL great, Billy Slater and Patrick Loughlin published a four-book series based around the West Hill Ravens Under 11s footy team. Written in 2014, the titles of each book are; ***Try Time***, ***Banana Kick***, ***Show and Go***, and ***Chip and Chase***. More information about the Billy Slater series is available by searching the 'Author' section of the *Penguin Books* website. [Click here](#) to access.

Soccer

Developed in partnership with Football Federation Australia and written by Australian author, Adrian Beck ***Champion Charlies* (2018)** is a hilarious junior fiction series for boys and girls that celebrates the great world game of football. Published by Penguin Books, visit their website to learn more about these books. [Click here](#) to access.

FIFA World Cup Champion, Olympic gold medallist, and bestselling author Alex Morgan has written an eleven-book series titled ***The Kicks***. Each book tells an empowering and fun-filled story about believing in yourself and working as a team. The full range of titles and more information can be found searching 'Author' section of the *Simon & Schuster* website. [Click here](#) to access.



Reading Challenge

Students bring their favourite football book to read and to share with others in the class. This could be a book about their favourite team or player or a story similar to the above books that use football as their inspiration.