

# LEARNING ACTIVITY 20

In the News

"A Focus on Footy Colours Day"



**YEAR LEVEL:**

9 and 10

**LEARNING AREA:**

English

**STRAND:**

Literature

## Learning Focus

Students explore the making of *The Silver Sea* and draw on the theme of this story as well as their own life experiences to create an imaginative story. Students extend their learning by writing a 'media release' to promote *Footy Colours Day* and the publication of their story.

## Sequence of Content

Year 9 and 10 students:

- Create literary texts, including hybrid texts, that innovate on aspects of other texts, for example by using parody, allusion and appropriation (**ACELT1773**)
- Create literary texts that reflect an emerging sense of personal style and evaluate the effectiveness of these texts (**ACELT1814**)
- Create imaginative texts that make relevant thematic and intertextual connections with other texts (**ACELT1644**)



## Learning Intention

We are learning to:

- Create and publish an imaginative text which draws on our own experiences and relates to a selected theme.

## Success Criteria

I can:

- Create and publish an imaginative text that draws on my own experiences and inspiration for writing such a story.

## ACTIVITY

Students have been selected to be a 'school ambassador' for *Footy Colours Day*.

As part of this role, students have been asked to write a children's book about their role as 'school ambassador' and use the inspiration from a significant event in their life to connect with young children who may be in hospital or unwell.



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. Here's an interview we did about the process."*

Source: [www.janegodwin.com.au/the-silver-sea](http://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](http://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. **Click [here](#)** to visit the *Footy Colours Day* website and discuss questions such as:
  - o *What is Footy Colours Day?*
  - o *Where does the money go?*
3. Discuss the aim of *Footy Colours Day* and the significance of such an event in helping the lives of young children with cancer.
4. **Click [here](#)** to visit the *Our Ambassadors* section in the 'About Us' tab of our website to learn more about the 2021 *Footy Colours Day Ambassadors*.
5. Drawing inspiration from how this book was created, students use the inspiration from a significant event in their life to write a children's book about their role as a 'school ambassador'. A key feature of their story could be either the main character being in hospital or them visiting other young children in hospital.

**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.

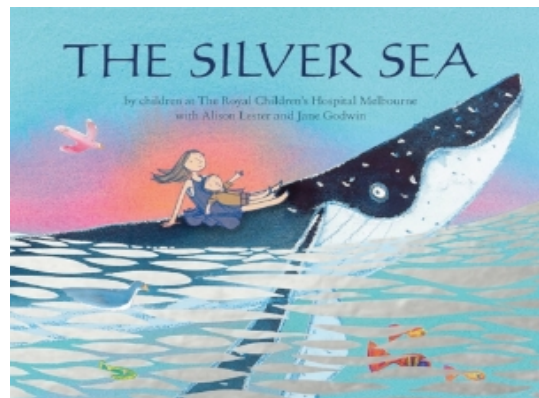
## Resources

*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](http://www.janegodwin.com.au/the-silver-sea)

[www.affirmpress.com.au/publishing/the-silver-sea](http://www.affirmpress.com.au/publishing/the-silver-sea)



## Extension Activity

**(In the News ... will be our school Footy Colours Day Ambassador)**

Students are to create a 'media release' that can be used to announce their role as a 'school ambassador' and to promote *Footy Colours Day*.

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 selected to be a *Footy Colours Day School Ambassador*. Other information is to include a brief description of the book and the inspiration for their story.

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.

***Specky-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.

