

LEARNING ACTIVITY 9

The Silver Sea – Sharing through Words



Year Level: 3 - 4

Learning Area: The Arts (Visual Arts)
Strand: Sharing artworks through performance, presentation or display

Learning Area: English
Strand: Literature

Learning Focus

Students read *The Silver Sea* and draw on the theme of this story and use their own experiences and inspiration to create an imaginative story including illustrations.

Sequence of Content

Year 3 and 4 students:

- Discuss how language is used to describe the settings in texts, and explore how the settings shape the events and influence the mood of the narrative (**English - ACELT1599**)
- Discuss how authors and illustrators make stories exciting, moving and absorbing and hold readers' interest by using various techniques
- Create imaginative texts based on characters, settings and events from students' own and other cultures using visual features (**English - ACELT1601**)
- Create literary texts that explore students' own experiences and imagining (**English - ACELT1607**)
- Present artworks and describe how they have used visual conventions to represent their ideas (**Visual Arts - ACAVAM112**)

Learning Intention

We are learning to:

- Draw inspiration from other stories and use our own experiences to create an imaginative story using words and illustrations.

Success Criteria

I can:

- Create an imaginative story using words and illustrations that draws on my own experiences and inspiration for writing such a story.

ACTIVITY

As a class, read *The Silver Sea* and use the below information and activities 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.

Watch *The Making of the Silver Sea* (Affirm Press). [Click here](#) to view.



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, by Alison Lester and Jane Godwin, with the children of The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne (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. Before reading the book, discuss the story and inspiration in creating this book.
2. As a class, discuss what it would be like to be in hospital, and any similar experiences students might have had.
3. Students share their favourite character and part of the story expressing the reasons why.
4. Drawing inspiration from the theme of this book and how this book was created, students reflect on their own experiences to create an imaginative story including illustrations.

Note: Students could use their choice of digital and non-digital resources to create their illustrations 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 share and showcase their story.

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

(A Place Outside)

A key theme of *The Silver Sea* is the joy of exploration and adventure. Students draw their favourite place to go outside and write a description of what it is they like about this place and how it feels to be in nature.

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.