

LEARNING ACTIVITY 10

The Silver Sea – Sharing through Storytelling



Year Level: 5 - 6

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 to write their own story about an adventure they have been on or another significant experience in their life.

Sequence of Content

Year 5 and 6 students:

- Understand, interpret and experiment with sound devices and imagery, including simile, metaphor and personification, in narratives, shape poetry, songs, anthems and odes (**English - ACELT1611**)
- Identify the relationship between words, sounds, imagery and language patterns in narratives and poetry such as ballads, limericks and free verse (**English - ACELT1617**)
- Create literary texts using realistic and fantasy settings and characters that draw on the worlds represented in texts students have experienced (**English - ACELT1612**)
- Create literary texts that adapt or combine aspects of texts students have experienced in innovative ways (**English - ACELT1618**)
- Plan the display of artworks to enhance their meaning for an audience (**Visual Arts - ACAVAM116**)

Learning Intention

We are learning to:

- Draw inspiration from other stories and use my own experiences to write a story and use illustrations to enhance the meaning of my story.

Success Criteria

I can:

- Write a story that draws on my own experiences and use illustrations to enhance the meaning of my 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. 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 and what did it feel like to return home at the end.
3. Drawing inspiration from the theme of this book and how this book was created, students write their own story about an adventure they have been on or another significant experience in their life. Use illustrations to enhance the meaning of the story.

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

(Story as a Rhyming Text)

The gentle rhyming text of *The Silver Sea* celebrates the joy and freedom of exploring a new world, and how nice it is to come home at the end. This book is full of lovely rhymes about the ocean.

As a class, discuss the way the rhymes work students write their own rhyme celebrating what they love about the ocean or a topic of their choice.

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.

