

Out of the Blue

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Ocean Life, Pollution, Environment, Wordless Text

Book Brief: There are many treasures to be found along the shore. Join two children as they explore the beach and see what a storm might bring in from the

deep blue sea.

Author and Illustrator:
Alison Jay



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, build background: What do you already know about the beach? What types of animals live in the ocean? What objects from the

cover picture do you recognize?

While reading, look for clues: Use the pictures as clues to figure out where this story takes place.

The illustrator gives a lot of hints about the location.

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why do the children live in a lighthouse?
- ◆ What is caught around the octopus?
- ◆ Look closely; what can you tell about the illustrator's sense of humor from the pictures?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

HOT OCTOPUS

Ingredients: hot dog (or veggie dog), ketchup or mustard

Cut a hotdog in half so you have two equal lengths. Slice halfway up each piece 4 times so you have 8 dangling "arms" on each half. With an adult's help, place in boiling water and watch the arms curl up! Enjoy with ketchup or mustard.

BEACH IN A BOTTLE

Materials: clear plastic bottle, water, vegetable oil, blue food coloring, sand, small pebbles and shells

Add sand, pebbles, and shells to the bottom of bottle. Fill halfway with water. Add 4 drops of blue food coloring. Add oil to bottle until almost full. Put cap on bottle and close tightly; shake. What do you see? The heaviest materials stay on the bottom. Water is heavier than oil, so the oil stays on top. Watch how

the water moves against the oil, like waves in the ocean. Based on what you see, how do you think an oil spill might affect the ocean?

PICTURE PERFECT

Materials: paper, markers or colored pencils, stapler or tape

Make your own wordless story. Think of a topic you'd like to write about. What will be the beginning, middle, and end of your story? What will the problem or climax of the story be? Now draw your story and staple or tape the pages into a book. When finished, let friends or family members practice their storytelling skills by "reading" your wordless story out loud.

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Tcnq2iYJJo to see how smart the giant octopus really is!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



OTHER WORDLESS BOOKS

Chalk, Bill Thomson (2010)
Flotsam, David Wiesner (2006)
The Red Book, Barbara Lehman (2004)



Reading Is Fundamental