

Title: The Oyster Who Looked at the Sky

Author: Darcy Dobell

Illustrator: Marion Syme

Grade Level: K-4

Category: Picture Book

Synopsis: A small curious oyster wants to open her shell and look outside. She wants to see but the others tell her “oysters aren’t supposed to look”. The smallest oyster’s curiosity is stronger than her fear of what’s out there. Eventually more and more oysters gather round as she describes the beauty she sees and where they are in relation to the natural world. Rhythmic text and whimsical illustrations. Great read aloud.

Thematic/Curriculum Connections : Mollusks, Oceans and Aquatic Life, Canadian West Coast, Natural Science, Environment, Weather, Legends, Curiosity.

Activities:

1. Drama:

This story could be acted out by having the students close their eyes while someone makes various sounds to represent the sounds of nature. The teacher could make these sounds using various materials, or some of the students could volunteer to be sound makers. With their eyes closed let the class listen to all the sounds of the sea, and outside world, so they could imagine how the little oyster felt. Then, as the teacher calls out their name, each student could take a turn opening their eyes and reporting what they see to the rest of the class. You could use photographs, pictures from a magazine, or hold up the picture book and let the student explain what they see to the class.

2. Writing

Change the character in the story to a farm animal, a bird, a fish, a jungle animal or an animal that lives in the forest or underground. Pretend you are just waking up and looking at where you live for the first time. Write a story about what you see.

Other book Connections:

- Brown Bear Brown Bear What do you See by Bill Martin
- Polar Bear Polar Bear What do you Hear by Bill Martin
- Hey, Little Ant by Phillip and Hannah Hoose