



THE CARRUM SAILING CLUB

Written by Claire Saxby
Illustrated by Christina Booth

Published by Windy Hollow Books 2011

Teachers' notes

In Carrum Sailing Club the reader is invited to join a family as they spend an afternoon at the beach.

A note from the author

I was doing several days of school visits in Chelsea and took myself out for lunch. I drove past the sign for the 'Carrum Sailing Club' several times, and each time the sign caught my eye, stood out from others, even though it was only a normal-sized street sign. I wrote it down in my notebook with no idea what it was that struck me. But over the next weeks/months the story began to form. I didn't go to the Sailing Club and I didn't spend time on that beach. I spent a lot of time on beaches as a child, as a teenager and young adult, and as an adult with children. No matter what was happening in the day, going to the beach always made it better. I liked the idea that it was such freeform fun. So the Carrum Sailing Club of the title was always the destination, but it was the journey that I wanted to explore. The beach of my story is an amalgam of every beach I've walked on and played on. Writing for a young age group I wanted this text to be one that children would not just listen to, but participate in, so I added all the actions.

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A note from the illustrator

The illustrations for Carrum Sailing Club are painted in watercolour wash and drawn in pencil. They are on cotton based watercolour paper.

I decided to use this combined medium to help achieve a looser, softer feel. Being at the beach reminds me of wind and birds flying, waves washing and so I wanted to allow this movement in the illustrations.

I combined images that are close up so we could feel as if we were at the beach with the family and also use images that were more distant to allow for that whimsical, free and relaxed feel walking along the beach can give us, lost in our thoughts, many miles away. As a child I loved to collect shells from the beach so including these was a treat.

Claire Saxby writes fiction, non-fiction and poetry for children. Her work appears in books, magazines, anthologies, on train walls and in museum education kits. She grew up near the sea and loves it still.





Author and illustrator Christina Booth grew up by the beach and with sand always in the bottom of the shower! She loved fishing, exploring rock pools and rolling down sand dunes. One of her favourite activities was to lie on beach towels with her friends and take turns telling stories whilst drawing the pictures in the sand. Illustrating Carrum Sailing Club reminded her of what it was like to live on the beach and have your pockets full of shells, crabs and pebbles. She especially loved having to visit the beach to take photos and collect shells again to use for the illustrations in the book. The only thing missing from this book is the smell of salt and seaweed but she hopes you can imagine that part like she can.

Before reading

- What does the cover suggest about the story?
- What do you think the children are doing on the cover?
- Where do you think this book is set?

After reading

This is a story that is not just about getting to the Carrum Sailing Club but about all the fun things the family does along the way. As the blurb suggests, sometimes it's not just the destination but also the journey that counts.

- What was your favourite part of the journey?
- Can you act out the journey?
- When you read the story the author gives you clues about the noises that things make, can you include those noises in your acting? Can you find things in your room that could make those noises?

Can you draw or make a map that shows the path the family took? You may even be able to make different places in your room to signify the different part of the story, for example a green troll bridge in the block corner.

Related art and literacy activities

- 'I Spy' of what can be seen on the beach
- Draw a picture with glue then dropping sand on it to reveal the image
- Sand writing in trays filled with sand
- Making paper boats and sailing them in a water trough
- Collage with materials gathered from the beach
- Make seagull wings with strips of fabric or paper for dressing up as seagulls
- Find other books about a day at the beach.
- Think about the language that the author has used to describe the noises, can you come up with some other descriptions of noises at the beach?

Extension activities

- Make up a story about the troll under the bridge, or a story about the boats and where they are going.
- What are some other journeys that you have been on?
- What are some different types of boats and what are they used for?

