

Nan and me beside the sea. Is it time? Soon.

A grandmother and child eagerly await some special visitors. However, it soon becomes rescue time, when some lost baby turtles are in danger. Everyone is needed to save the day. Will they save the babies in time? The wonder of welcoming nesting turtles ashore comes beautifully to life in this gentle story of family, community and caring for the environment.

#### FROM THE AUTHOR

Beside the Sea was inspired by news reports of turtle hatchlings disorientated by light pollution. It presents a positive contemporary perspective on the environment through the eyes of a child and her loving Nan. Children can be overwhelmed with a sense of responsibility for the environment. By focusing on one issue, the book presents environmental concerns as manageable and shows children the benefits of working with trusted adults and their community to create change. The child protagonist takes an active role in solving a problem and creating a solution for the future.

I hope it will help children reflect on what it means to share special places with other living things and how helping them is a benefit to us all. This book is suitable as a catalyst for exploring environmental issues and solutions, life cycles, coastal habitats and the impact of community action. Further turtle information can be found at the back of the book.



#### FROM THE ILLUSTRATOR

When reading Kerri's manuscript, I loved how there were relationships in focus the Nan and child, and of course the turtles and their relationship to the light, land and sea. I wanted to keep a smooth tempo between these relationships. So many of the positions and scenes are repeated at least twice, such as the mother turtles heading back to the sea, followed by the babies, or the Nan and child in the dunes. The big focus was also creating a sense of light - whether it be a sharper human created light or softer moonlight - to reinforce Kerri's beautifully conveyed important environmental and messages in the story.







# **National Curriculum Links**

Sustainability is a cross curriculum priority Biological Sciences - Living Things - basic needs, life cycles, environment

HASS - My personal world; How people, places and environments interact; personal and social capability, ethical understanding.

# **Before reading**

Explore the cover clues and end papers - what do you think this story could be about? Where do you think the story is set? What might we see in this story?

# After reading

Did the story end as you thought it would?
How would you have solved the problem?
How did everyone working together help the turtles
now and in the future?

Which was your favourite page and why? Loggerhead turtles breed for the first time at 30 years of age. How old will you be when the hatchlings return to lay eggs?



Useful Links

Qld Government Dept of Environment and Science Mon Repos Conservation Park https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/mon-repos

Marine Turtles in Western Australia

https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/marine/marine-wildlife/66-marine-turtles-in-western-australia?showall=1

*Marine Turtles Northern Territory* 

https://nt.gov.au/environment/animals/wildlife-in-nt/marine-turtles

# Language

Make a poster alerting people to nesting turtles and light pollution. Use the simple signs in the book as a starting point to explore design.

Make a class list of what you might find beside the sea. Introduce the concept of a List Poem. Present finished work as an anthology or larger display related to the book.

Use the text as a tool for exploring parts of speech e.g. verbs and adverbs

# Science/Research

Research topics - threats to turtles, species, status (endangered, threatened), nesting regions around Australia and the world, successful solutions to light pollution.

Life cycles – compare and contrast turtle with mammals, insects, birds etc.

### **Visual Arts**

Artist Jess Racklyeft has used mixed media – collage and watercolours – to create the illustrations for Beside the Sea. Explore texture with children using these methods and extend to include rubbings of found objects in nature to create a mural of the coastal ecosystem.

### Drama

Act out the book using a narrator as a device for demonstrating the arc of the narrative.

What other animals might be found beside the sea that need your help?

What action would need to be taken and who would be needed to help?

Have children work in small groups to create scenarios, with and without dialogue.

