



Ocean Meets Sky

Author: Terry Fan
Illustrator: Eric Fan

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Lincoln Children's Books

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Synopsis:

Finn remembers the stories his grandfather told him about a place where the ocean meets the sky: where whales and jellyfish soar and birds and castles float. Now that his grandfather is gone, Finn knows the perfect way to honour him. He'll build a boat. He'll set sail. He'll find this magical place himself! And maybe, just maybe, he'll discover something he didn't even know he was looking for.

Author and Illustrator Bio:

Brothers Eric Fan (left) and Terry Fan (right) received their formal art training at the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto. Their work is a blend of traditional and contemporary techniques, using ink or graphite mixed with digital. *The Night Gardener* was their widely acclaimed debut picture book. Terry spends his days (and nights) creating magical paintings, portraits, and prints. Visit him online at [Society6](#), [Caseable](#), [DenyDesigns](#), and [Facebook \(Terry Fan Illustration\)](#). Eric has a passion for vintage bikes, clockwork contraptions, and impossible dreams. See more of his work at [Society6](#), [Redbubble](#), [Caseable](#), [DenyDesigns](#), and on [Facebook \(Eric Fan Illustration\)](#).



Curriculum Links

History Foundation [ACHASSK013](#)

English [ACELT1582](#)

Science Inquiry Skills [ACSIS024](#)

Design and Technologies [ACTDEK002](#)

Pre Reading.

Look at the cover

Read the Title

Identify the author and illustrator (Read the information about the brothers found on the back flap of the dust jacket)

Open the book wide and look at the front and back cover as one image.

Name some of the things you can see.

What do you think this story might be about?

Read the book: Discuss what the student think about the story.

History

The illustrations in the book all relate back to things that were important to Finn's Grandfather.

If you look at the illustration of his Grandfather's office you will see:

A picture of a jellyfish, books, shells, a model whale, a ship in a bottle, various birds, a pipe, a dirigible (airship) and a picture of a hot air balloon.

All of these items feature in the illustrations throughout the book

An island of books, surrounded by birds, and island of shells, a sea of moon jellies and a sky full of whales, ships and hot air balloons.

Think about someone in your family that you have a close connection with. Why is this person special to you? Go home and talk to your family about this person and find something that reminds you of them. It could be a 'thing' like the thimble in the story, it could be a photo.

Over the course of a week ask the students to present and share their stories/ memories of this special person. They could be as a presentation in class or they may like to make a video at home to present to the class.



Design and Technologies Science Inquiry Skills

In the story the boy makes a boat. What does a boat need to do?

Float

Have a look at the illustration of the boys boat.

- Do you think it will float?
- If not, why not?

With this in mind, provide a selection of materials, and in groups have the children design and make their own boats.

Have a tub of water available to test the boats in front of the whole class.

Talk about which ones floated, which ones didn't and why?

For inspiration go to:

<https://inspirationlaboratories.com/how-to-build-a-boat/>

Discussion Questions:

The Koi and goldfish symbolizes prosperity.

It brings good luck and good fortune. With its golden scales and colorful patterns, they are associated with much wealth which it will share to those it guides.

Finn has a goldfish guide.

Goldfish / Koi are supposed to bring good luck and fortune and represent perseverance, or courage.

- Why do you think Finn has a giant goldfish?
- At the start of the story...
- How did the giant goldfish...
- What did it show Finn...
- How do you think...

