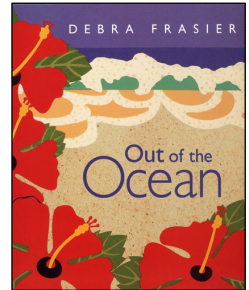




**Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide**



Title: *Out of the Ocean*

Author and Illustrator: Debra Frasier

Publisher and Copyright Date: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1998

Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota author and illustrator

Summary: This is a story of a young girl and her mother who walk along the beach and marvel at the treasures cast up by the sea and the wonders of the world around them.

Suggested ages: 4-6, 7-10, all ages

Tips for Reading:

- Read the title and brainstorm a list of items that would be found on a visit to the ocean.
- Read this book slowly, so students can examine the illustrations.

Questions before reading:

- Have you ever been to an ocean? What's the difference between an ocean and a lake, or a river?
- Some people believe the ocean can bring them something. What do you think the ocean could bring them?
- Why do people walk along the ocean beach?
- Does anyone know what a beachcomber is?

To Introduce this story say: This book is about a young girl and her mother, and their walk along the beach at the ocean. They are looking for treasures cast up by the sea and the wonders of nature around them. Let's see what they find.

Questions After Reading:

- What do you know now about gifts of the ocean that you did not know before you listened to this story?
- Who are the beachcombers in this story?
- What did the mother ask the ocean to bring her, and what did the girl ask the ocean to bring her? How do they feel about the ocean?
- What sounds, smells, textures and colors did the mother and her daughter experience on their beach walk?
- What was the mother's secret that the daughter discovered?
- How is this alike or different from your visit to the ocean or books you have read about the ocean?
- What types of artwork did Debra Frasier use to illustrate the story?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Art:

- Pretend you are walking along the ocean shore looking for all kinds of things. Some will be small enough to fit into your hand; others, like the sun and sky, will be too large. Now draw a picture of what you found along the shore.
- Make your own collage illustration using mixed media.
- Bring the ocean to you by creating an ocean photo booth. For more detailed planning information and to view other suggested activities, visit Debra Fraiser's website at <http://www.debrafrasier.com/pages/books/ocean.html>

Science:

- Take a walk in Minnesota by a lake, river or creek and see what you can find.
- Read "An Ocean Journal" in the back of the book; conduct research on what a skate is. Match "Ocean Journal" pictures to the illustrations in the story.
- Research shells, and identify shells pictured in the book. Bring in a collection of shells.

Writing:

- You are a beachcomber. Write a description of your walk along the ocean. Use your senses. What do you see? What do you touch? What do you smell? And what do you hear?
- Write a message to put in a bottle that you could send out into the ocean.

Suggestions for English Language Learners:

- Look through the pictures in the book and identify in English as many things as you can.
- Make a list of ocean vocabulary used in the story, collect a number of beach artifacts and match vocabulary to the artifacts. Practice saying and matching the items.
- Ask children if they have a beach walk experience from their home country and how it compares to the one in the book.

Related Books:

- ***On the Day You Were Born*** by Debra Frasier (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991)
- ***A Beach Day*** by Douglas Florian (Greenwillow, 1990)
- ***Come to the Ocean's Edge: A Nature Cycle Book*** by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Michael Chesworth (Boyd's Mill Press, 2004)
- ***The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor*** by Joanna Cole, illustrated by Bruce Degan (Scholastic, 1994)
- ***The Ocean Alphabet Book*** by Jerry Pallotta, illustrated by Frank Mazzola, Jr. (Charlesbridge, 1989)
- ***How to Hide an Octopus: And Other Sea Creatures*** by Ruth Heller (Grosset & Dunlap, 1992)
- ***Those Summers*** by Alike (HarperCollins, 1996)
- ***Hattie and the Wild Waves: A Story from Brooklyn*** by Barbara Cooney (Puffin, 1993)
- ***On the Way to the Beach*** by Henry Cole (HarperCollins, 2003)

