

TEACHER'S NOTES

MAMA OCEAN

Author: Jane Jolly

Illustrator: Sally Heinrich

AUTHOR

Jane Jolly is a Primary School teacher of 40 years' experience. She has taught in Aboriginal schools, Area schools and Primary schools. In 1983 she worked as a governess on Commonwealth Hill Station. She now works part time as teacher/librarian at Eastern Fleurieu School, in South Australia, teaching creative writing and literature appreciation.

Jane has had seven picture books published. *Tea and Sugar Christmas* was an Honour Book in CBCA Book of the Year 2015 and *One Step at a Time*, illustrated by Sally Heinrich, was an Honour Book in CBCA Book of the Year 2016.

This is the third book that Jane Jolly and Sally Heinrich have worked on together.

Outside of teaching and writing her interests include organic gardening, cooking, and the plight of refugees.

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ILLUSTRATOR

Sally Heinrich has illustrated more than forty books as well as writing and illustrating her own picture books, non-fiction information and activity books and novels. Besides publishers, her clients include advertising and environmental agencies, design studios and Government departments.

Her commissioned artwork ranges in scale from wine labels to a mural for the Singapore Zoo, to one-off pieces for celebrations such as weddings and birthdays. She also regularly runs workshops in creative writing and illustration for both children and adults.

Her work has been recognized through fellowships from the Asialink Foundation, The May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust, Varuna-the Writer's Centre and Arts SA, and her original artwork and lino-prints have been exhibited in Australia and Asia.

In 2020 Sally was awarded the Max Fatchen Fellowship, which will allow her to work on major project, an 80 page wordless picture book. ‘

Having previously lived in Darwin, Sydney, Singapore and Malaysia, Sally is currently based in Adelaide.

[instagram.com/sallyheinrich](https://www.instagram.com/sallyheinrich)

[Facebook.com/sallyheinrich](https://www.facebook.com/sallyheinrich)

GEOGRAPHY

The story is set an ocean, which could be one of many in the world.

Activities:

1. Using a map of the world, name the world's five main oceans.
2. What percentage of the world's surface do oceans cover?
3. List the five oceans in order of size from largest to smallest.
4. Name the countries which each ocean borders.
5. How does each ocean differ from each other?
6. Choose one ocean to do a detailed study of.
7. Who is responsible for the world's oceans? Are there any laws which cover what can and can't be done in the oceans?
8. What are the major problems facing the world's oceans at the moment?
9. What are the important functions of the oceans?
10. Choose one creature from the story *Mama Ocean* and research in more detail. What would happen if this creature became extinct?
11. If you can, go for a walk along a shoreline. How many pieces of rubbish did you find? How many of those pieces were plastic? How many were items that you may normally use?
12. How do you think these items are getting into the ocean?
13. Watch the YouTube film *Midway: A Plastic Island*
14. What are some ways in which you and your family can help to limit your use of plastic?
15. What is a gyre? Look at this website: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/gyre.html>
16. What is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?
<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/garbagepatch.html>
17. How many illustrations can you see in the book which show the creatures tangled in garbage? List the creature and the garbage.

SCIENCE

1. All of the creatures illustrated in the book are real creatures living in and on the ocean. How many can you count? How many can you name? Research and find out the names of the creatures, which you don't know.
2. Choose your favourite creature and research, finding out where it lives, if it is endangered, what it feeds on etc
3. Draw a flow chart showing the food chain of some of the creatures in the story.

4. What would happen if one creature were taken out of the food chain?
5. Can fresh water be made from saline water? How is it done? What does it taste like?

TECHNOLOGY

1. When was plastic first invented? What is it made from? How many different types of plastic are there?
2. What do we mean by nano plastics? What are the impacts of nano plastics?
3. Can plastic ever fully break down?
4. Design a way of ridding the oceans of pollution. Use the Research, Design, Make, and Evaluate process. Think about different situations eg preventing the rubbish from getting in to the ocean, removing the rubbish once it is in the ocean.
5. Design a poster, which will encourage people to use less plastic.
6. How much energy is used in recycling plastic? How many times can different plastics be recycled?
7. Make a list of alternatives for all of the plastics we use in our daily lives.
6. Which plastic items will float forever, and which will sink?
7. If plastic is taken out of the ocean, what will then happen to all of the plastic?
8. How many items made from plastic can you name in the giant wave *And the ocean took the gifts and carried them away* ?
9. How many items can you name, which landed on the beach on the following page?
10. How many of the plastic items illustrated in the book do you use in your life?

LITERACY

1. How does the author set the scene at the beginning of the story?
2. Jane Jolly has used minimal text, and yet she has painted beautiful images. How did she achieve this?
3. Can you find the examples of alliteration in the story? Try writing some sentences of your own, which use alliteration.
4. Can there ever be too much alliteration in a sentence? Why?
5. The story does a circle and the last scene is similar to the first. Can you write a story, which moves in a circular way and ends up at the beginning?

6. Write a *What Am I?* for one of the creatures from the text. Give three clues about the creature.
7. It has been said that there are only seven stories in the world. 1. *Overcoming the Monster* 2. *Rags to Riches* 3. *The Quest* 4. *Voyage and Return* 5. *Comedy* 6. *Tragedy* 7. *Rebirth*
Which plot do you think this story fits?
8. Write an ode to a wave. An ode is a lyric poem addressed to one particular subject usually praising it.
9. Write an ocean song.
10. Write a poem in the shape of a wave.
11. Would the story be the same if it were *Papa Ocean*? If not how would it be different?
Can you write a story using Mama or Papa linked with one of the elements? Eg Mama Fire?

ART

1. Why do you think Sally Heinrich didn't draw a traditional mermaid figure to represent Mama Ocean?
2. If there were a Papa Ocean what would he look like? Draw him.
3. Design some ocean creatures. Think about their physical features and colours.
4. The ocean is green. But how many different greens can you make?
5. Can you design some jewellery using shells etc from the ocean?
6. Draw some creatures hiding in amongst the ocean seaweeds and corals. Just give a few small clues as to which creature they are. See if someone can identify them.
7. Design a flipbook, which is cut in half so that you can mix and match different creatures eg the head of a fish on to the body of a crab.
8. What can you make using plastic? Re-use some plastic items to make something new.
Eg use yoghurt pots to make a sea creature.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Sally Heinrich's illustrations have been done using watercolour paints and graphite pencils.

For *Mama Ocean* she began with a **storyboard**.

1. What is a storyboard? Why are they useful?
2. Design your own storyboard for a story you have written or one you have heard.
3. Think about close ups, distance illustrations and middle distance. Match the text with the illustration.
4. Would the book have worked as well if she had used a different medium? What other styles or mediums may have worked? Would it change the story? How does the choice of illustration medium and style affect the way you read/understand/interpret a story?
5. Some of the pages have very few words. Look at how the words and pictures work together in picture books to tell the story.
6. Try writing a story without any words.
7. SPOTTO! Try and find the following things on the illustrations: green umbrella, red toothbrush, purple plastic peg, yellow button, piece of red lego, empty tin of tuna, cotton bud, yellow duck, green sunglasses, red shoe, pink rubber glove, broken doll's arm.
8. Make up your own list of things for a friend or classmate to find.

Research

BOOK PUBLISHING

There are many different jobs involved in publishing a book apart from the **author** and **illustrator**.

Find out what these people do:

1. Editor
2. Designer
3. Publisher
4. Distributor
5. Literary agent
6. Printer
7. Bookseller