

Beside the Sea

AUTHOR

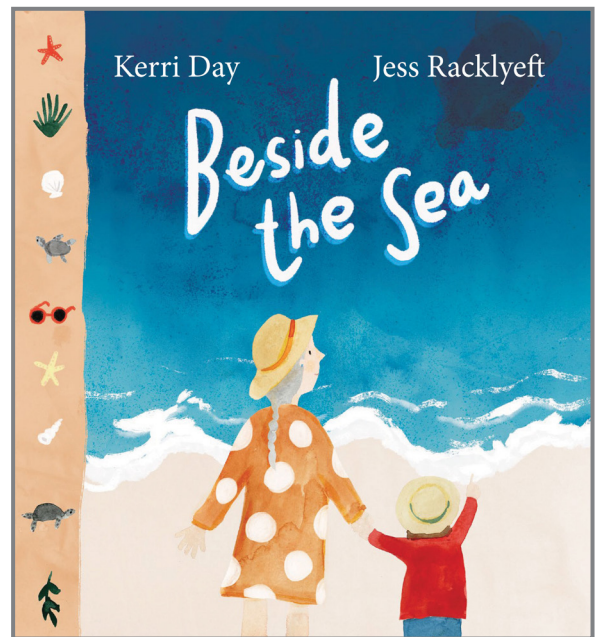
KERRI DAY

ILLUSTRATOR

JESS RACKLYEFT

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SYNOPSIS

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.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kerri Day is a Sunshine Coast (Qld) based writer with a background in teaching. Her debut picture book *Beside the Sea* was inspired by news reports of baby turtles confused by light pollution.

She hopes the book will raise awareness of this worldwide problem and help children to see environmental issues are manageable when everyone works together to find solutions.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jess Racklyeft is a children's book illustrator, card designer and watercolour aficionado working from a studio out the back of her house in Melbourne. With two little kids she's often busy working with them on art projects and reading many hundreds of picture books, as well as chasing them around the house trying to get them to pose for her next book characters.

STUDY NOTES

- 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 you have finished reading, discuss the following questions as a class:
 - 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?
- 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 eg. verbs and adverbs
- After reading the book, research further into the following topics:
 - threats to turtles
 - species
 - status (endangered, threatened)
 - nesting regions around Australia and the world
 - successful solutions to light pollution.
- Compare and contrast the life cycle of a turtle with mammals, insects, birds, etc.
- The illustrator, Jess Racklyeft, has used mixed media—collage and watercolours—to create the illustrations for *Beside the Sea*. Explore texture with the class using these methods and extend to include rubbings of found objects in nature to create a mural of the coastal ecosystem.
- 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? Work in small groups to create scenarios, with and without dialogue.