

Little Treasure

AUTHOR

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ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

*'Inside the small bowl of your hands,
I see your treasure.'*

A mother and child explore a deserted beach on a windy day—an afternoon that they'll both treasure always. This is a poetic book about how the small moments spent together are often the most precious.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chanelle Gosper is a writer based in South Australia, where she lives with her husband, daughters and a whole lot of story ideas. A lifelong love of learning and adventure has seen her live in three different countries, travel the world and enjoy a colourful career that includes primary school teaching, recruitment, healthcare support and marketing. While writing has been a constant companion on all her adventures, Chanelle is only now pursuing her dream of sharing her stories with the world and was thrilled to have her short story, 'Unsettled', highly commended and published in the Stringybark Stories 2021 anthology *The Mirror*.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Jennifer Goldsmith is an internationally renowned figure in the world of handmade inventive toy characters. Jennifer has always thought of toymaking as a kind of storytelling and her need to build and share characters now finds life through watercolour and pencil illustrations. She is also the illustrator of *Where Happiness Hides* by Anthony Bertini.

Follow her on Instagram: [@jennifer.goldsmith.storyteller](https://www.instagram.com/jennifer.goldsmith.storyteller).

STUDY NOTES

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS)

- 'Little Treasure' may refer to the collection of objects the child gathers. It also refers to treasuring the moments we share together. And it may equally refer to the fact that the child is a 'little treasure' to her mother. Discuss the word treasure, and the bond between parents and children.
- This story is about a mother and child spending time together and sharing special moments. Often family life can be busy and we neglect the time we might spend doing things quietly together. Discuss some of the activities which mothers and children might partake in. What do your students like to do with their mother or carer?
- There is a subtle sense that this adventure is the beginning of the child growing up and making her own way in a

changed world, and that her mother realises that as well. Readers might surmise that this may also be one of very few days spent entirely alone with this child, as the child will begin to socialise in pre-school and school-based activities, making the day even more special. Invite students to reflect on the images and to discover any other details they observe in this story about a mother and child.

- The concept of being 'still' or 'slow' and focusing on being mindful is very topical at present. What does being mindful mean? How do we encourage ourselves to be mindful?
- The child and mother could be said to be 'beachcombing' a word which is used to describe a person searching for items washed up onto, or left on, any beach which they are exploring. What things have you discovered on a beach?
- Many people like collecting things. Invite students to share their experiences of collecting. What do they like to collect when they are exploring?
- This book depicts a beach on which the child finds both animate beings and inanimate objects. Discuss with students the ecology of a beach and the various life forms and objects they have observed on beaches.
- Shells are often found on beaches, as are rocks. Sea glass is far less common but on some beaches it is a rare treasure. Sea glass is weathered glass fragments from broken glass bottles that have been tossed by waves and sanded down until the sharp edges become smooth. They are like the jewels described in this book. What things should be collected on beaches? What should be left alone?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

- The text consists of repeated questions: 'Look! . . . What do you have there?', 'Look! . . . What do you see there?' Such cumulative tales rely on a traditional structure in which a character embarks on a journey and makes several encounters, prompting a repeated question, which leads to a climax. What was the resolution of this story?
- This text is written in second person.

'Look!

Here you come, running to me,
with sandy hands cupped carefully.

What do you have there?'

Encourage students to experiment with writing in second person rather than the far more common first or third person. Discuss the effect the use of second person has on the narrative.

- The verses in this poetic text rhyme, eg. bell/shell; me/sea; reveal/heal. Sometimes, though, the rhymes are imperfect, eg. lines/fine. Choose one of the rhyming pairs and write a list of other words that rhyme with it.
- Phrases in the book refer to fairytales, eg. a mermaid's jewels/a treasure ship/faraway lands. Invite students to write a list of other such fairytale phrases.
- Literary devices used in this text include alliteration, eg. tall twisting turrets/purple pebble/seaweed strand/pale pink perfection. What other literary devices can you identify?
- Write a story set on a beach and based on activities which you enjoy.
- Write an acrostic poem using the letters in 'beachcombing'. Then write a haiku poem about beaches exploring the feelings expressed in this book.
- This is Chanelle Gosper's first picture book. How would you describe her writing?

VISUAL LITERACY

- The cover of a book is an important part of its message. It depicts the mother and child building a sandcastle, collecting treasures and playing with a small dog and a seagull on an idyllic beach setting. Invite students to write a summary of what the cover suggests to them.
- Other parts of the book work together to tell the story. The endpapers depict a delicate seaweed strand like the one the child has collected in the book. The half-title page depicts a feather. The title page contains a circle within which are depicted the mother, child, dog and bird examining the treasure. How does the layout of the storyboard, format and design of the book influence your reading of it?
- Visually creating characters entails studying facial expressions and 'body language' and drawing to reflect a character's personality and feelings. What emotions or personality traits did you observe in these images?

- The medium or style employed is watercolour paper, paint and pencils. The colours used in this book are warm pastels. Draw and colour an image based on the illustrations in this book.

CREATIVE ARTS

- Make a Beach Memory Jar. Find an interestingly shaped jar with a lid. Start collecting small found objects on the beach—or that remind you of the beach—and gradually fill the jar. Once it is full, you can close the lid and perhaps add a ribbon or some sort of decoration to the lid of the jar. Keep the jar or give it to someone special who shares these memories with you.