

## THE LITTLE MERMAID

Written by Alex Field

Illustrated by Owen Swan

Published by New Frontier Publishing



### SYNOPSIS

The little mermaid must say goodbye to her sea legs if she is to be with her prince. Owen Swan's ethereal illustrations recreate life and beauty under the sea.

### WRITING STYLE

*The Little Mermaid* is a European fairy tale about a young mermaid who falls in love with a human prince. The story was first published by C.A. Reitzel in 1936. Alex Field has simplified the original story for a younger audience with a focus on action and dialogue.

### ILLUSTRATOR STYLE

Owen Swan uses colour pencils and watercolour when creating his illustrations to create timeless and nostalgic images. The delicate style in which he has brought these characters to life, resonate with the fairytale story and classic tale.

### AUTHOR BACKGROUND

Alex has written numerous articles for print and online media. She has written many picture books including the *Mr Darcy* series for New Frontier Publishing.

### ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND

Owen spent most of his childhood in country New South Wales and the Blue Mountains. He is not only an award-winning illustrator but also plays the mandolin and the banjo.

### EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

The story of *The Little Mermaid* addresses several key themes. Firstly, alienation and the feeling of being different from your peers is highlighted in the story. The concept of sibling rivalry is also addressed in the narrative through the little mermaid's relationship with her sisters. Finally, the father and daughter relationship is an important and considered theme.

The book also explores the notions surrounding the soothing power of music, the two different worlds that are in the sea and on the land and finally the comparison to the original fairy tale.

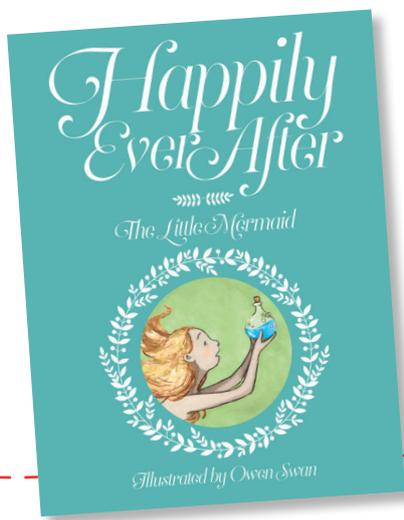
### DISCUSSION TOPICS

#### Before and during reading the book:

1. Introduce *The Little Mermaid* and ask the children what they think the book might be about? Have they heard of the book before? What is their previous knowledge of the story?
2. Show the children the book cover to arouse their interest and trigger their memories.

- Who can they see on the cover? (*The Little Mermaid*)





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- What is she holding?
- Where is she?
- Why is there blue liquid in the bottle?

### After reading the book:

1. Discuss the following questions:
  - Why did the Little Mermaid go to save the Prince?
  - Why couldn't she tell the Prince she saved him?
  - What did the Sea King order the Sea Witch to do?
2. Pick three of your favourite pictures and describe the mood of the character in the picture.

### ACTIVITIES

#### The Little Mermaid Story Book Dictionary

After encountering the target words, the children draw pictures to illustrate them in their The Little Mermaid Story Book Dictionary. The dictionary can be completed in stages either in class or at home. Print pages 4 to 6 double-sided to make the dictionary.

### Story Review

After reading the story of *The Little Mermaid*, your students might like to review it using either of the formats below (see pages 7 and 8).

1. In the first review the children draw a picture of their favourite character and their favourite part of the story. They then rate the story by colouring the stars, for example,

☆ = terrible!    ☆ ☆ = OK    ☆ ☆ ☆ = fantastic!

2. In the second review the children also say why they like the character and a particular part of the story. For this review, you may like to give examples from the children and/or show them a model, for example:

#### Sea King/Ariel/Prince

I like this character because she/he's good/kind/beautiful/little/old.

#### Sea Witch

I like this character because it's bad/terrible/scary.

#### The ending/beginning/middle

I like this part because it's happy/romantic.



Mermaid

sea

Witch

King

Prince

# *The Little Mermaid Story Book Dictionary*

Name: ..... Class: .....

When you find these words in the story book  
draw pictures of them.



from *The Little Mermaid* illustrated by Owen Swan, published by New Frontier Publishing  
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ocean

sisters

swimming

fireworks

castle

ship

daughter

sand

potion

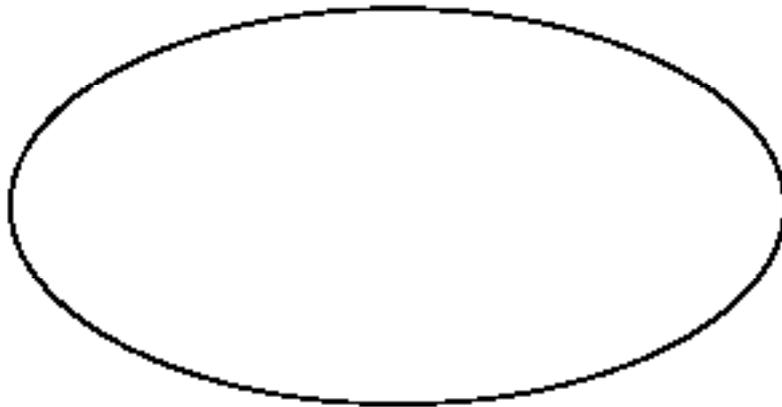
storm

iceberg

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# *The Little Mermaid Story Review*

My favourite character



My favourite part of the story



# *The Little Mermaid Story Review*

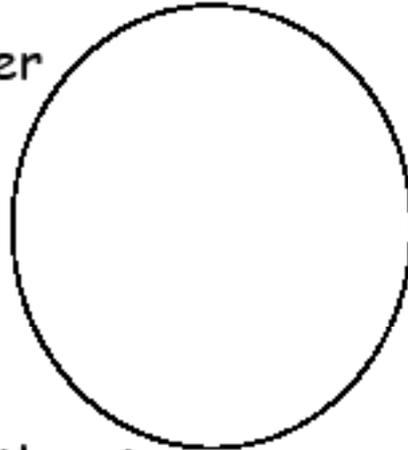
## My favourite character

I like this character because

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## My favourite part of the story

I like this part because \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Little Mermaid Word Search

Can you find all the words?

Name: ..... Class: .....

X C A O D H C B W G Z P Y G D M R E K L  
P E A N I E G X L I O B V A W H Z W O B  
L O A S L N W Y R B V N U P J U K E O Y  
G S F J T K L R D C X G Z E J Y J Q N L  
F N M Q S L N O W I H Y A N U B J U K A  
I K I G M M E W J T A A U T Q Q U E S J  
R V K K G C P T E A P M I U M N V H R Z  
E E Q G N Q E R D M U D R B G B D W E N  
W H L I J G X M R E O F O E N W P S T T  
O J R W O I Q R R W K M J U M Z T P S D  
R P N I D R G N I M M I W S C O Z I I I  
K U Q T R E Q G M Z S U W G R D F H S X  
S I I C N V O A S K H M M M S E A S X S  
W P A H J A V J J J G Y K E L A N X F F  
U Z M S F W N C F Z C U Y K I P C N P Q  
B U K C Z I E B L Y O P D C L A Y V D N  
C X S X V F Q W A P R D H V B C H P W Q  
B E O H Z B C K T W W W L Q D W K D S Z  
R N A E C O T W N D I L B V K F J J N N  
P O T I O N J V G H M Q W Z H V O C H T

Mermaid  
sea  
Witch  
King

ship  
daughter  
sand  
potion

storm  
Prince  
ocean  
sisters

swimming  
fireworks  
castle  
iceberg



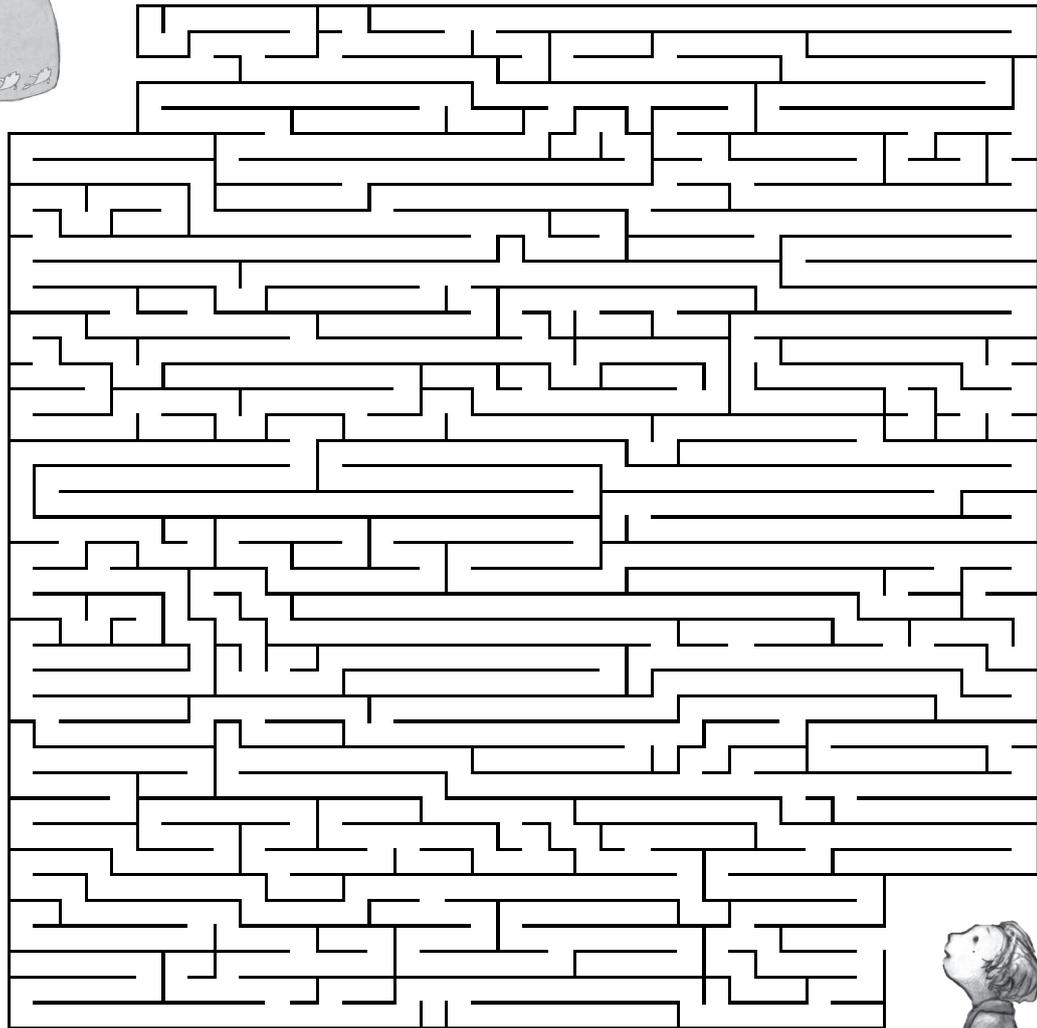
Solution

+ C + + D + + + + + + + + + D + + + + +  
+ + A N + + + + + + + + + A + + + + + + +  
+ + A S + + + + + + + + + U + + + + + + + +  
G S + + T + + + D + + G + + + + + + + + +  
F N + + + L + + + I H + + + + + + + + + +  
I + I + + + E + + T A + + + + + + + + S +  
R + + K + C + + E + + M + + + + + + + R +  
E + + + N + + R + + + + + R + + + + + E +  
W + + I + + + + + + + + + + E + + + S T +  
O + R W + + + + + + + + + + M + T P S +  
R P + I + + G N I M M I W S + O + I I +  
K + + T + + + + + + + + + + R + + H S +  
S + + C + + + + + + + + + + M S E A S + +  
+ + + H + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +  
+  
+  
+  
+  
+ N A E C O + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +  
P O T I O N + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

# The Little Mermaid Maze

Can you make sure the Little Mermaid finds her Prince?

Name: ..... Class: .....



# Colour *The Little Mermaid*

Name: ..... Class: .....



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