

MERMAID TALES

BOOK TWO: BATTLE OF THE BEST FRIENDS

A Teaching Unit



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www.debbiedadey.com

Other books in the Mermaid Tales series include:

The Trouble at Trident Academy

A Whale of A Tale

Danger in the Deep Blue Sea

Book published by Simon and Schuster in 2012

MERMAID TALES

BATTLE OF THE BEST FRIENDS

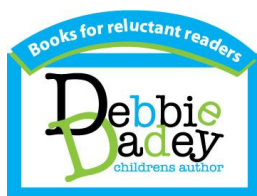


Book Summary:

Lots of things are happening at Trident Academy: the announcement of who will make the Shell Wars Team, Tryouts for the Tail Flippers, a report on famous MerPeople is due, and the amazing boy band, The Corals, are coming to Pearl's birthday party. But when Echo forgets the report, Shelly ends their friendship. Will Echo be able to be a Tail Flipper, get to Pearl's party, get her report finished, and make-up with Shelly?

Meet the author:

Debbie Dadey was born in Morganfield, Kentucky on May 18, 1959. In high school and college she worked at McDonalds. "I was perky just like the old commercials," Debbie says. She graduated with a Masters Degree in Library Science from Western Kentucky University, where she met her husband, Dr. Eric Dadey. Debbie taught first grade before becoming a librarian. Her favorite job is being a writer because she can be home with her children; Nathan, Becky, and Alex. Of course her dogs love for her to be home too. Bailey, Skip, and Shadow stay by her feet while she's writing. They live in Bucks County, PA. Her website is www.debbiedadey.com. She enjoys answering kid's questions on her blog, Debbie Talks, and volunteering at the historic Moland House, where George Washington really did spend thirteen days in August of 1777.



MERMAID TALES

DEBBIE DADEY BOOKLIST

Here is a selected list of books by Debbie Dadey. For a complete list of titles visit www.debbiedadey.com

Mermaids Don't Run Track

The Wrong Side of Magic

Slime Time

The Swamp Monster in Third Grade

This Side of Magic

The Worst Name in Third Grade

Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots

The Trouble at Trident Academy (Mermaid Tale #1)



Pre-reading activities:

Before reading *Battle of the Best Friends* complete some or all of the activities below to peak interest in the story, as well as to increase comprehension, reading, and predicting skills.

1. Ask students to tell you what they know about musical bands. Tell them they are going to read a story with a boy band named The Corals. Ask them to suggest names for their own band. Ask them what instruments should be in a band.
2. Ask students to guess what a Shell Wars game would be like. Let them come up with their own rules.
3. Ask students if they think it is fair to invite everyone but a few people in a classroom to a party. After reading the book, plan a Non-Coral party!

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Pre-reading activity/research

Name:	Date:
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You are in charge of a new band. Often new bands will write their own music. Write the words to your own song on the back of this sheet. You need at least two verses and a refrain (the part you repeat). Fill in the information below to start your band!

Name of your band: _____

What kind of music will you sing? _____

Name four songs you will sing: _____

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New words To Learn for *Battle of the Best Friends*

Chapter 1

Fascinating	Jewels	Invitation
Advantages	Announce	

Chapter 2 and 3

Enormous	Jewelry	Residents
Announced	perform	Patrols

Chapter 4 and 5

Encrusted	conversation	Confident
Scrunched	argument	congratulated

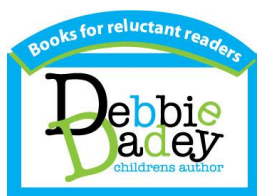
Chapter 6

Gleaming	official	Collided
Polish	permission	Special

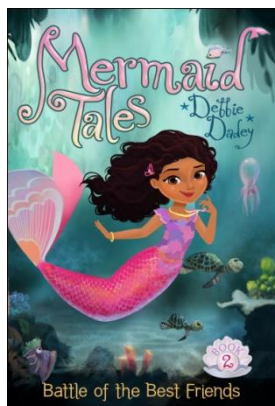
Chapter 7 - 10

Concentrate	coaxed	Injured
Commitment	audience	Glanced

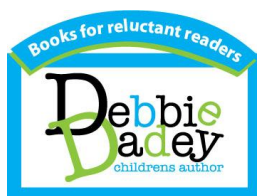
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FUN WAYS TO LEARN VOCABULARY WORDS FOR *BATTLE OF THE BEST FRIENDS*



- Assign one word to each student. Give them time to define the word and then let each student orally share their word's meaning.
- Go around the room and let kids do a 'vocabulary bee' where they must use one of the vocabulary words in a sentence or sit down.
- Let kids put their words in spelling boxes by drawing a rectangle and putting the word in it. Now, separate each syllable inside the boxes.
Remind students that every box must have a vowel.
- Let students make their own paper shells and put a vocabulary word on each side. Use them to decorate the classroom door. Upon entering the room students must touch a shell and say a word.
- Have a word race. Call out the word and let students race to find the word in the chapter.
- Have students put the vocabulary words in the right column: verb, noun, adjective, or adverb.



MERMAID TALES

Chapter 1/art and writing

Name:	Date:
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In *The Battle of the Best Friends* Pearl gives out invitations to her party. Make your own party invitation below after describing your perfect party.

Describe your perfect party: _____

Design an invitation to your party. Don't forget to have a theme, what time and date for your guests to come, where the party will take place (your address) and your phone number for them to let you know if they can attend.

MERMAID TALES**Chapter 2/predicting/science**

Name:	Date:
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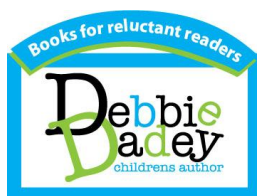
In *Battle of the Best Friends*, Echo must decide what to do next. Can you make a prediction of what she will do?

What do you think Echo will tell Pearl after Pearl says, “And if you want to be friends with me, you can’t be friends with Shelly.”

What would you say if someone told you that you couldn’t be friends with someone?

Here is a list of some of the animals in our story. Select one. Cut two eight inch heavy paper circles. Divide one into eights. Research your animal and write a different fact in each section. Cut out a one eighth section from the other circle, decorate it, and place it on top of the first circle. Attach the two circles. Now you have a fact wheel to share with your class.

Sea turtle coral shark sponge oyster sablefish hagfish wolf-fish



MERMAID TALES**Chapter 3/phonics-aw**

Name:	Date:
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In *Battle of the Best Friends* the girls aren't sure if Rocky is **awesome** or **awful**. Circle the aw word that completes these sentences.

1. The shark ate the meat _____. **raised or raw**
2. Pearl _____ Echo at practice. **saw or salt**
3. Do penguins have _____? **clause or claws**
4. Can you _____ a mermaid picture? **draw or drink**
5. The sea turtle can _____ on the ocean floor. **crawl or clown**
6. Dolphins have flippers instead of _____. **lawn or paws**
7. The jellyfish will not _____. It will sting! **gnaw or not**
8. Mermaid rules are _____. **lipstick or laws**
9. Some sea creatures like it when the ice begins to _____. **thaw or thick**
10. There is seaweed, not _____, in the ocean. **straw or saw**

Choose one of the sentences above to illustrate on the back.

ANSWERS MERMAID TALES Chapter 3/phonics-aw

Name:	Date:
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In *Shelly and Echo and the Amazing Boy Band* the girls aren't sure if Rocky is **awesome** or **awful**. Circle the aw word that completes these sentences.

1. The shark ate the meat _____. **raised or raw**
2. Pearl _____ Echo at practice. **saw or salt**
3. Do penguins have _____? **clause or claws**
4. Can you _____ a mermaid picture? **draw or drink**
5. The sea turtle can _____ on the ocean floor. **crawl or clown**
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Choose one of the sentences above to illustrate on the back.

MERMAID TALES**Chapter 4/research**

Name:	Date:
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In *Battle of the Best Friends*, Mrs. Karp assigns a report on a famous MerPerson. Use the form below to start your research on a famous person. Then dress as that person and tell your class a few interesting facts about your famous person that they may not know.

Famous person _____

Find two sources of information about your person (not Wikipedia):

1. _____

2. _____

Use the above sources to take notes on six note cards. Be sure to put on your note cards which source gave you the information. You can write 1 or 2.

Make sure you have the following:

1. Date of birth: _____

2. Date of death: _____

3. Why are they famous: _____

4. An interesting story or fact about them: _____

Ideas for Famous People

Females	Males
Susan B. Anthony – Crusader for women’s rights Harriet Tubman – Underground Railroad Rosa Parks – Rights for all citizens regardless of skin color Amelia Earhart – Air Flight Marie Curie – Heroine of Science Cleopatra – Queen of Egypt Betsy Ross – Maker of American flag Emily Dickinson – Poet Laura Ingalls Wilder – Author of Children’s Books Pocahontas – Native American Helen Keller – Deaf & Blind Student Anne Sullivan – Helen Keller’s Teacher Mary McLeod Bethune – Teacher Maria Montessori – Teacher trainer Florence Nightingale – Nurse Sarah Palin-Politician/ran for Vice-President Hilary Clinton-Politician/First Lady Mother Theresa-crusader for the poor Margaret Thatcher-former Prime Minster of England Joan of Arc-Led French troops against England Oprah Winfrey-Television personality J. K. Rowling-Writer of Harry Potter series Rosa Parks-Began the Civil Rights Movement Debbie Dadey-author	Van Gogh – Artist Leonardo DaVinci - Artist Monet - Artist Albert Einstein – Artist of Science Benjamin Franklin – Inventor/Politician Thomas Edison – Inventor of the light bulb Alexander Graham Bell – Inventor of the telephone Louis Pasteur – Pasteurization Galileo – Astronomer Samuel F. B. Morse – Instant Communication Louis Braille – Books for the blind Harry Houdini – Magician Christopher Columbus – Explorer Robert E. Lee – Civil War – Confederate Army George Washington – 1 st U.S. President Thomas Jefferson – 3 rd U.S. President Abraham Lincoln – 16 th U.S. President Martin Luther King, Jr. – Rights for all citizens regardless of skin color Frederick Douglass – Anti Slavery Henry David Thoreau – Writer Robert Louis Stevenson – Writer John Muir – Protector of the Wilderness Ralph Waldo Emerson – Writer

MERMAID TALES

Chapter 5/Library Skills

Name:	Date:
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In *Battle of the Best Friends*, Echo visits Pearl's amazing rock library. The author, Debbie Dadey, is a former librarian. Learn some library skills by doing an undersea treasure hunt in your school library.

- 🦞 Find a book on sharks and write down the call number: _____
- 🦞 What is the name of a book that has a mermaid story in it? Hint-check the 398.2 section of your library or the catalog. _____

- 🦞 Look for a book about the ocean. On what page does it have information about waves? _____
- 🦞 Write down the author's name of a book about penguins.

- 🦞 How many books does your library have about the octopus? _____
- 🦞 Find a book about fish. On what date was it published? _____
- 🦞 Look in an encyclopedia and find a picture of kelp. Draw it on the back.

MERMAID TALES**Chapter 6/math**

Name:	Date:
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In *Battle of the Best Friends*, Pearl likes to buy the most expensive items in the lunch room. Find out what each item and the combinations cost below.

Trident Academy Lunchroom Menu

Black Oyster and Sablefish Stew 20 shells	Hagfish jelly sandwich 4 shells
Seaweed juice 1 shell	Ribbon Worms 6 shells
Octopus legs with krill sauce 3 shells	Daily Special 4 shells
Crab Casserole with Vent Bacteria seasoning 9 shells	Polka-dot Batfish Sushi in seaweed wrap 5 shells

1. Rocky is very hungry and orders a special, sushi, and a juice. How much does it cost him? _____
2. Pearl orders Black Oyster and Sablefish Stew, but one day it is rotten. She takes it back and gets Crab Casserole instead. How much change does she get back? _____
3. Shelly gets to buy her lunch and decides on the Daily Special, Ribbon Worms, and two seaweed juices. How much does it cost? _____
4. Echo had five shells. She bought the Hagfish jelly sandwich and then she sees the cooks have made shrimp cookies for a treat. They are \$2 for five. Does Echo have enough money? _____
5. Kiki buys 3 helpings of Octopus legs and 3 juices. It costs _____.

MERMAID TALES **Answers** Chapter 6/math

Name:	Date:
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1. Rocky is very hungry and orders a special, sushi, and a juice. How much does it cost him? **10 shells**
2. Pearl likes to order Black Oyster and Sablefish Stew, but one day it is rotten. She takes it back and gets Crab Casserole instead. How much change does she get back? **11 shells**
3. Shelly gets to buy her lunch and decides on the Daily Special, Ribbon Worms, and two seaweed juices. How much does it cost? **12 shells**
4. Echo had five shells. She bought the Hagfish jelly sandwich and then she sees the cooks have made shrimp cookies for a treat. They are \$2 for five. Does Echo have enough money? **no**
5. Kiki buys 3 helpings of Octopus legs and 3 juices. It costs **12 shells**.

MERMAID TALES**Chapter 7 prediction and punctuation**

Name:	Date:
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In *Amazing Battle of the Best Friends*, Shelly and Echo get the shock of their life when they get to the Big Rock Café. Can you predict what surprised them?

Fix the punctuation in these sentences from chapter seven:

1. im so excited echo said at merpark
2. it was hard to concentrate on flipping
3. yes shouted pearl
4. because i'd rather be with a real friend echo said
5. let's party shelly said
6. shelly hugged echo

MERMAID TALES Answers

Chapter 7 prediction and punctuation

Name:	Date:
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In *Battle of the Best Friends*, Shelly and Echo get the shock of their life when they get to the Big Rock Café. Can you predict what surprised them?

_____ answers will vary _____

Fix the punctuation in these sentences from chapter seven:

1. "I'm so excited," Echo said at MerPark.
2. It was hard to concentrate on flipping.
3. "Yes," shouted Pearl.
4. "Because I'd rather be with a real friend," Echo said.
5. "Let's party," Shelly said.
6. Shelly hugged Echo.

MERMAID TALES**Chapter 8/comprehension**

Name:	Date:
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A shark attack is always a danger in Trident City. Read some shark facts below and circle the right answer.



The Whale Shark, is the biggest fish in the world. At 40-65 feet long and weighing over 13 tons, its mouth is large enough to fit a human inside. Luckily for humans, it only eats plankton and small fish. It has white spots on its back and no two Whale Sharks have the same pattern of spots.



The White Shark has made more attacks on humans than any other shark. It usually eats small fish and marine animals like seals. It is thought that the “Great White” mistakes humans for a seal when it attacks. It has a white belly.

1. Which is the biggest shark? White or Whale
2. Which attacks humans? White or Whale
3. Which has unique white spots? White or Whale
4. Which weighs over 13 tons? White or Whale
5. The white belly of this shark camouflages it. White or Whale

MERMAID TALES Answers

Chapter 8/comprehension

Name:	Date:
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1. Which is the biggest shark? White or **Whale**
2. Which attacks humans? **White** or Whale
3. Which has unique white spots? White or **Whale**
4. Which weighs over 13 tons? White or **Whale**
5. The white belly of this shark camouflages it. **White** or Whale

MERMAID TALES**Chapter 9/poetry**

Name:	Date:
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In *Battle of the Best Friends*, Shelly sings along with the Corals. Did you know that many songs are poems put to words? Try your hand at an ocean poem using the five senses below. You might even like to put it to music and have your own amazing band! It doesn't have to rhyme.

My Ocean Poem

In the ocean I see _____

In the ocean I feel _____

In the ocean I smell _____

In the ocean I hear _____

In the ocean I touch _____

On the back, try a poem totally on your own. Will you write about a shark, a mermaid, crashing waves, or playing on the beach? It's up to you.

MERMAID TALES**Chapter 10/research or writing**

Name:	Date:
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In *Battle of the Best Friends*, Mrs. Karp assigns a report on famous merpeople, but Rocky also has to do a report on Killer Whales. It's your choice. Do a report on Killer Whales or makeup your own story (like author Debbie Dadey did for her characters) about a merperson.