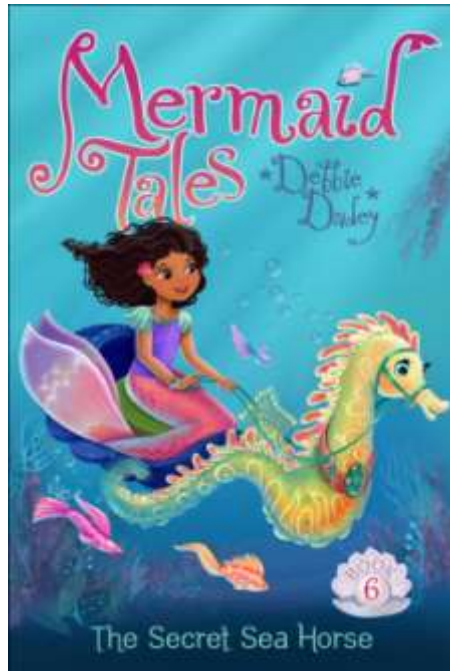


# MERMAID TALES

## A Teaching Unit

### The Secret Seahorse



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[www.debbiedadey.com](http://www.debbiedadey.com) and [www.Facebook.com/debbiedadey](http://www.Facebook.com/debbiedadey)

Other books in the Mermaid Tales series include:

Trouble at Trident Academy

Battle of the Best Friends

A Whale of a Tale

Danger in the Deep Blue Sea

The Lost Princess

The Secret Sea Horse was published by Simon and Schuster, 2013

# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE

### Book Summary:

Echo is terrible at spelling, but she loves one of the words in this week's test-sea horse. When Rocky brags that he has a sea horse no one believes him. But when Rocky lets her ride his pet Echo is beyond happy. Her sister, Crystal, tells Echo it isn't right to put a leash on a sea horse. Now, Echo doesn't know what to think. Is it wrong to keep sea horses as pets?



### Meet the author:



Debbie Dadey loves writing about mermaids and she definitely loves looking for them. She and her husband, Eric, hope to take her three wonderful children; Nathan, Becky, and Alex to the beach this summer. If Debbie sees a mermaid, she'll definitely put it on her website: [www.debbiedadey.com](http://www.debbiedadey.com) and her Facebook fanpage, [www.Facebook.com/debbiedadey](http://www.Facebook.com/debbiedadey). She hopes you'll LIKE her! She enjoys writing, reading, answering kid's questions on her blog (Debbie Talks) visiting schools, playing tennis, and Skyping with classrooms.

# 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](http://www.debbiedadey.com)

The Lost Princess

Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots

A Whale of a Tale

The Wrong Side of Magic, The Keyholders series

Werewolves Don't Go To Summer Camp

Danger in the Deep Blue Sea

This Side of Magic, The Keyholders series

The Worst Name in Third Grade

Battle of the Best Friends



**Pre-reading activities:** Before reading **The Secret Sea Horse** 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. Here is a lovely video about sea horses:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaM5RxyYzVo>

Show it to your students and ask them to describe seahorses to you orally. You may choose to put the descriptions on a board. Ask students how big they think seahorses are. They may be surprised to learn that they are only about 6" long.

2. Use a ruler to find things that are 6" long. Students may want to use the following page.
3. Let students compare and contrast a sea horse with a horse. You may want to use the worksheet that follows.
4. Together write a story on a board called The Secret Sea Horse. What could the secret be? What could happen in the story?

# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE

Pre-reading activity

Name:	Date:
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Use the chart below to write down 10 things that are six inches.

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

Use the chart below to write down some things that are longer than six inches.

1.	How many inches:
2.	How many inches:
3.	How many inches:
4.	How many inches:

[CCSS.Math.Content.2.MD.A.1](http://CCSS.Math.Content.2.MD.A.1)



## MERMAID TALES

### THE SECRET SEAHORSE

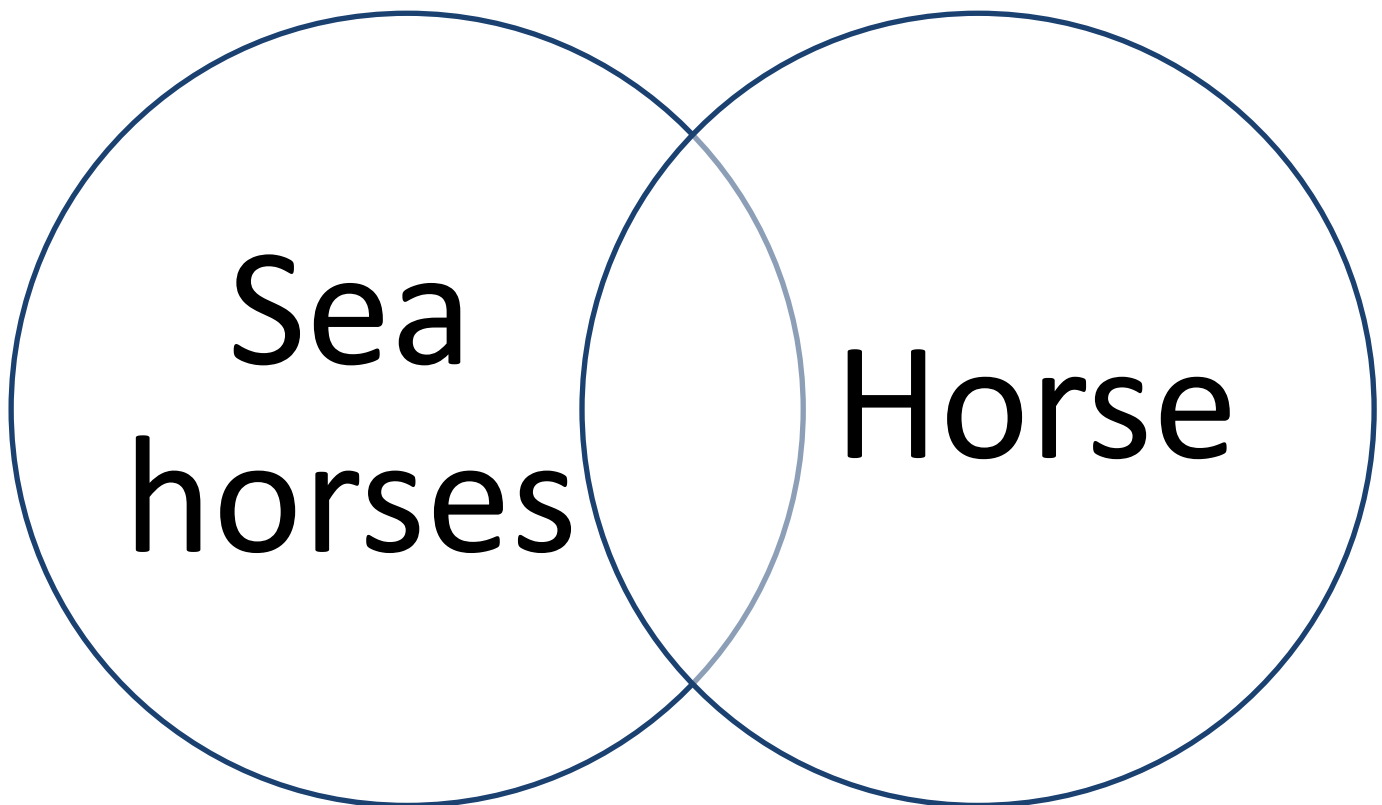
Pre-reading activity

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Did you know that sea horses do not have a stomach? Find some other differences between horses and sea horses and write them on the creatures' circles. Put the things that are alike in the intersection of the circles. If you need more room, make your own chart on the back.

Core curriculum Key Idea 3: The observations made while testing proposed explanations, when analyzed using conventional and invented methods, provide new insights into phenomena. S3.1 Organize observations and measurements of objects and events through classification and the preparation of simple charts and tables. S3.1a Accurately transfer data from a science journal or

notes to appropriate graphic organizer.





# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE

Pre-reading activity

New words To Learn for The Secret Seahorse

### Chapter 1

storytelling	pipefish	sea horse
astronomy	seadragon	stonefish

### Chapter 2 and 3

weird	gloomy	trident
academy	legend	stallion

### Chapter 4 and 5

snorted	popovers	security
Baron	exception	unfortunately

### Chapter 6 and 7

artistic	camouflage	decoration
sculpting	plankton	stomach

### Chapter 8 – 10

octopus	captive	definitely	introduce	nudged
determined	question	supposed	discussions	filly
tongue	managed	debate	diseases	nuzzling

# **FUN WAYS TO LEARN VOCABULARY WORDS FOR THE SECRET SEAHORSE**

- Check out this wonderful site with great ideas for learning spelling and vocabulary words. <http://www2.sd5.k12.mt.us/elrod/multiage/Spelling.html>  
Marvelkids.com has a fun comic strip maker.
- Play Bingo with the included Bingo Card.
- Let students select their favorite word from Echo's spelling list and go to the library to learn more about it. Ask them to tell one interesting thing about the creature they studied.
- Dare your students to make a sea creature using the vocabulary words as an outline. Something like:





# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE

Pre-reading activity

Write vocabulary words in the blank spaces. Listen carefully as your teacher calls off each word. Put a marker on the word. If you get five in a row in any direction, you win. Call out Bingo!

B	I	N	G	O
		Free Space		



# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE

Chapter 1

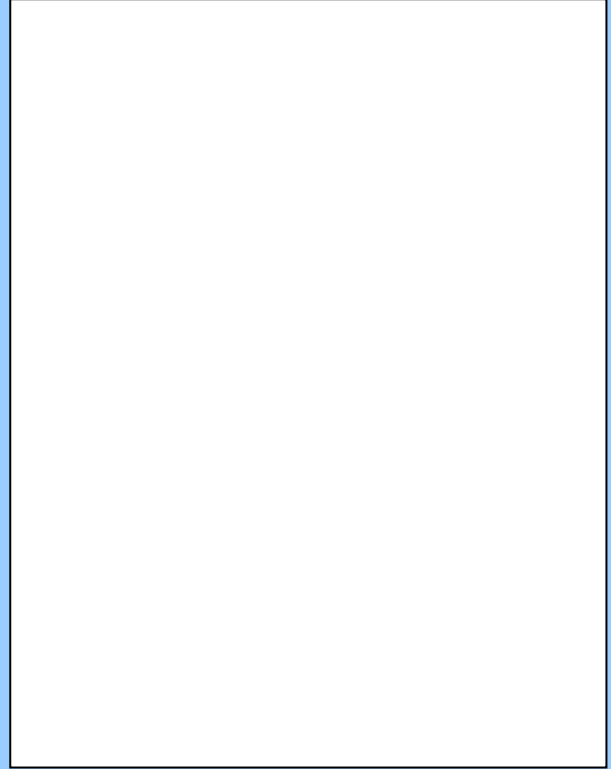
NAME:

DATE:

Draw a sea horse here.



Draw a sea dragon here.



What is your most difficult subject in school? \_\_\_\_\_

What should Echo do to learn her spelling words? How should she study? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How do you learn your spelling words? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you think it is possible to ride a seahorse? \_\_\_\_\_ Why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Core Curriculum. S3.4a State, orally and in writing, any inferences or generalizations indicated by the data, with appropriate modifications of their original prediction/explanation.

# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE

Chapter 1 **Answers**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Draw a sea horse here.**

*Pictures will vary, but should look something like this:*



**Draw a sea dragon here.**

*Pictures will vary, but should look similar to this:*



What is your most difficult subject in school? answers will vary

What should Echo do to learn her spelling words? How should she study? \_\_\_\_\_

answers will vary

How do you learn your spelling words? Tell how you study. answers will vary

Do you think it is possible to ride a seahorse? no Why not? They are too small in real life.

Core Curriculum. S3.4a State, orally and in writing, any inferences or generalizations indicated by the data, with appropriate modifications of their original prediction/explanation.

# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE

Chapter 2/letter writing

Name:

Date:

In The Secret Seahorse, Echo and Shelly gave Mr. Fangtooth a letter. In the space below, write a letter to the author, Debbie Dadey, at Simon and Schuster 1230 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10020. She will write you back!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

From,

---

National Core Curriculum Standards Language Arts Grade 3 N.4

# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE

Chapter 3/legends

Name:

Date:

Chapter three of The Secret Seahorse contains a legend about the seahorse. Fill out these steps and use the back to make a legend of your own.

1. The setting:

2. The problem is:

3. Failure to solve the problem:

4. A hero comes along to help. Who is it?

5. What is the hero's plan?

6. A solution:

7. Happily ever after:

How does the legend in chapter three differ from the steps suggested above?

---

---

---

W.2.3: Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe action, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE CHAPTER 3/LEGENDS

Name:

Date:

Chapter three of The Secret Seahorse contains a legend about the seahorse. Fill out these steps and use the back to make a legend of your own.

1. The setting:

Answers will vary

2. The problem is:

Answers will vary

3. Failure to solve the problem:

Answers will vary

4. A hero comes along to help. Who is it?

Answers will vary

5. What is the hero's plan?

Answers will vary

6. A solution:

Answers will vary

7. Happily ever after:

Answers will vary

How does the legend in chapter three differ from the steps suggested above?

There is no hero, the problem is not solved, and there is no happily ever after \_\_\_\_\_

W.2.3: Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe action, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE      CHAPTER 4/COMPREHENSION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Learn about seahorses and then try your luck at the Seahorse Quiz. If you get four or more right, you earn a Super Seahorse Seal of Approval.

### Seahorses



Seahorses have a short snout and a body made up of bony plates. In the seahorse world the males carry the eggs in a special pouch on their belly. Seahorses do not have a stomach or teeth! They must eat constantly to stay alive. They do not swim well and often use their tails to attach to ocean plants. They are between six and fourteen inches long. They don't live longer than five years. Some seahorses are endangered.

### True or False

1. Seahorses have three stomachs and eat plants. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Baby seahorses are born from their fathers. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Baby seahorses get their teeth when they are five years old. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Seahorses must eat all the time. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Seahorses are not good swimmers. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The biggest seahorse ever found was ten feet long. \_\_\_\_\_
7. There are too many seahorses in the ocean today. \_\_\_\_\_

National Core Curriculum Standards Language Arts N.6.

# MERMAID TALES

## THE LOST PRINCESS CHAPTER 4/ANSWERS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

True or False-If you have four or more right put your name at the bottom of the Super Seahorse Seal of Approval!

1. Seahorses have three stomachs and eat plants. \_\_\_\_\_ **false** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Baby seahorses are born from their fathers. \_\_\_\_\_ **true** \_\_\_\_\_
3. Baby seahorses get their teeth when they are five years old. \_\_\_\_\_ **false** \_\_\_\_\_
4. Seahorses must eat all the time. \_\_\_\_\_ **true** \_\_\_\_\_
5. Seahorses are not good swimmers. \_\_\_\_\_ **true** \_\_\_\_\_
6. The biggest seahorse ever found was ten feet long. \_\_\_\_\_ **false** \_\_\_\_\_
7. There are too many seahorses in the ocean today. \_\_\_\_\_ **false** \_\_\_\_\_

National Core Curriculum Standards Language Arts N.6. Seal from FreePiks.com (www.StockGraphicDesigns.com)



# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE CHAPTER 5/CRITICAL THINKING

Name:

Date:

In chapter 5 of The Secret Seahorse, Echo's sister tells Echo that seahorses should not be kept as pets.  
What do you think?

---

---

In the chart below, name five animals that you think are okay to be kept as pets. Also, name five pets that should probably never be kept as pet.

Animals that make good pets.	Animals that make terrible pets.
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

1. What animal would you like to have as a pet? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What animal would you **never** like to have as a pet? \_\_\_\_\_



# MERMAID TALES

## THE SECRET SEAHORSE      CHAPTER 6/ART AND RESEARCH

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Use the spaces to draw the creatures and tell some interesting facts about them.

Razorfish	Pipefish
<p>Name two facts about razorfish:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>	<p>Name two facts about pipefish:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>
Stonefish	<p>Choose your own fish: _____</p>
<p>Name two facts about stonefish:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>	<p>Name two facts about your fish:</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>

# MERMAID TALES

## THE LOST PRINCESS      CHAPTER 7/COMPOUND WORDS

Name:

Date:

In The Secret Seahorse, Echo must learn a lot of compound words. You can do the same! Draw lines to put the following words together to make a new, larger word called a compound word.

sea

room

pipe

horse

sea

telling

story

weed

every

overs

lunch

fish

pop

thing

air

ship

space

plane

Which two new compound words would definitely not fit into a mermaid story?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Find your own compound word and write it here:

\_\_\_\_\_

National Core Curriculum Standards Language Arts Grade 3 N.9



# MERMAID TALES

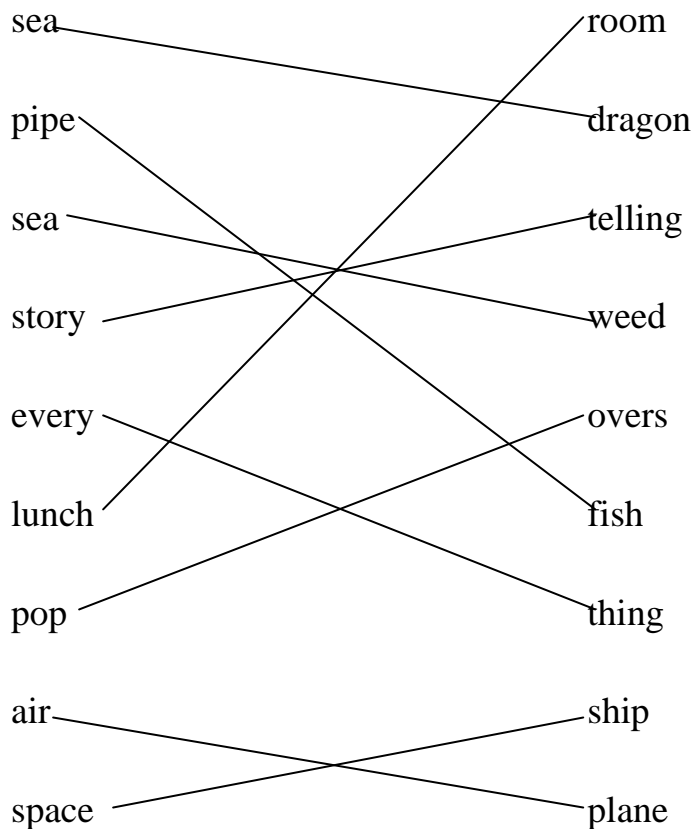
## THE LOST PRINCESS

### CHAPTER 7/COMPOUND WORDS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In The Secret Seahorse, Echo must learn a lot of compound words. You can do the same! Draw lines to put the following words together to make a new, larger word called a compound word.



Which two new compound words would definitely not fit into a mermaid story?

1. airplane

2. spaceship

Find your own compound word and write it here:

answers will vary

National Core Curriculum Standards Language Arts Grade 3 N.9

# MERMAID TALES

## DANGER IN THE DEEP BLUE SEA

## CHAPTER 8/SPELLING

ECHO DIDN'T DO WELL ON HER TEST. USE THESE FOUR WAYS TO LEARN A NEW WORD.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN WORD AND WRITE IT HERE \_\_\_\_\_

OR USE THIS WORD: MUSEUM

**WRITE THE WORD TEN TIMES  
AND SAY THE LETTERS AS YOU  
WRITE IT.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

**WRITE THE WORD AGAIN, BUT  
THIS TIME WRITE IT WITH A RED  
MARKER OR PENCIL.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

**TRACE AROUND THE WORDS  
ABOVE WITH A YELLOW  
MARKER.**

**TRACE OVER EACH WORD  
ABOVE USING A BLACK MARKER.**

**DID YOU LEARN THE WORD? \_\_\_\_\_**

**IF THIS HELPED YOU, TRY IT WITH YOUR NEXT SPELLING LIST. YOU  
CAN DO IT ON YOUR OWN OR ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR EXTRA  
COPIES OF THIS SHEET. GOOD LUCK!**



# MERMAID TALES

## DANGER IN THE DEEP BLUE SEA

## CHAPTER 9/RESEARCH

Name:

Date:

In chapter 9 of Danger in the Deep Blue Sea, Echo's mother visits the class to talk about seahorses. List below some questions you would ask Echo's mother.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you could choose an expert to visit your classroom what would you like them to be an expert on?

\_\_\_\_\_

Use your library to find an expert on the subject above. What is their name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Check with your teacher to see if it's possible to invite the expert to your class. If so, write them a letter. Mark the subjects below from one to ten. Use one for the subjects you are the least interested in learning more about with ten being the thing you like the most.

\_\_\_\_\_ birds

\_\_\_\_\_ trains

\_\_\_\_\_ dinosaurs

\_\_\_\_\_ the country of China

\_\_\_\_\_ sewing

\_\_\_\_\_ running a bakery

\_\_\_\_\_ motorcycles

\_\_\_\_\_ the country of Mexico

\_\_\_\_\_ speaking Spanish

\_\_\_\_\_ dancing

After you have finished the assignment, wait until your teacher gives you the go ahead to see if anyone in your class has the same subject for number ten. Write their name or names on the back of this page.

**MERMAID TALES**  
**THE SECRET SEAHORSE**      **CHAPTER 10**

Name:

Date:

1. Why do you think Rocky let Zollie go? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Would you have let Zollie go free? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why was Rocky mad at Echo? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think Rocky ever thought about letting Zollie go before Echo asked about seahorses as pets in school?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why do you think Zollie came back? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_