

Teaching Unit



Simon & Schuster
Children's Publishing

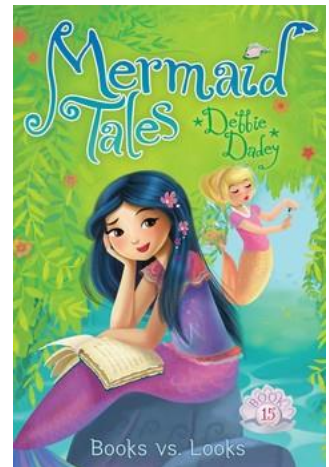
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Mermaid Tales

Other books in the Mermaid Tales series from Simon and Schuster include (also available in hardback and digital):

Trouble at Trident Academy ISBN-13: 978-1442429802
Battle of the Best Friends ISBN-13: 978-1442429826
A Whale of a Tale ISBN-13: 978-1442429840
Danger in the Deep Blue Sea ISBN-13: 978-1442429864
The Lost Princess ISBN-13: 978-1442482579
The Secret Sea Horse ISBN-13: 978-1442482609
Dream of the Blue Turtle ISBN-13: 978-1442482630
Treasure in Trident City ISBN-13: 978-1442482661
A Tale of Two Sisters ISBN-13: 978-1481402576
The Polar Bear Express ISBN-13: 978-1481402606
Wish Upon a Starfish ISBN-13: 978-1481402637
The Crook and the Crown ISBN-13: 978-1481440752
Twist and Shout ISBN-13: 978-1481440783-
Books vs Looks ISBN-13: 978-1481440813
Flower Girl Dreams ISBN-13: 978-1481440851
Ready, Set, Goal! ISBN-13: 978-1481487085
Fairy Chase ISBN-13 978-1481487115
The Narwhal Problem ISBN-13 978-1481487146
The Winter Princess ISBN-13 978-1481487184
Sleepover at the Haunted Museum ISBN-13 978-1534457324
A Titanic Friendship ISBN-13 9781534457355





Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Book Summary:

Echo is excited about an upcoming ocean trip to visit the famous ship, the Titanic. Unfortunately, the new mergirl is unable to go because her tail doesn't work right. Echo is upset when her class decides not to go as well. Is there a way for everyone to see the sunken ship or will Echo's dream of seeing the Titanic disappear?

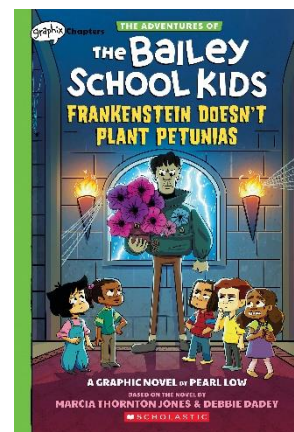
Meet the author:



Debbie Dadey is the author and co-author of 180 children's books, including *The Mermaid Tales* and *The Adventures of the Bailey School Kids* series. She has always found the Titanic fascinating. A former librarian and teacher, Debbie and her husband, Eric, live in Tennessee. One of Debbie's other books is the Frankenstein Doesn't Plant Petunias graphic novel. Find out more about Debbie and her stories at www.debbiedadey.com and www.facebook.com/debbiedadey. You can also find Debbie on Twitter and Pinterest. She would love to visit or Zoom with your classroom.



Photo credit to Don Fields



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

Elves Don't Wear Hardhats

Ready, Set, Goal!

Curious Kati

King of the Kooties

Puppies on Parade

Cherokee Sister

Whistler's Hollow

Marty the Mudwrestler



Pre-reading activities: Before reading **A Titanic Friendship** complete some or all of the activities below to peak interest in the story, as well as to increase comprehension, reading, and predicting skills. The next two pages have pre-reading activities to try as well.

1. Ask students if they've ever been on a boat or a ship. Ask them what it was like. Did they get sea-sick? What was that like. Ask what's the difference between a boat and a ship. One definition is that a ship can carry a boat, but a boat cannot carry a ship. Ask students if all ships and boats are the same. Can they name any of the different types? Watch one or both of the following videos, the first showing a paddlewheel boat and the second showing a large navy ship. If possible, go on a boat ride or visit a ship.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCOgctjE8D4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkkWrPj9owI>
2. Give students time to research and sketch boats and ships in the library or online.
3. Use the following ship activity page to initiate a conversation about the Titanic. Students may surprise you with all the facts they know about the famous ship

Mermaid Tales



A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Pre-reading activity/research

Name:

Date:

Use the Internet or library to look up interesting facts about the following ships.

FAMOUS SHIP	WHY AM I FAMOUS?
THE SANTA MARIA	
THE MAYFLOWER	
USS ARIZONA	
RMS LOUISTANA	
THE TITANIC	

Pick one of the ships above to learn more about. Which ship did you pick? _____

Find out the year it was made: _____

Did your ship have sails? _____ If not, how was it powered? _____

What is something else interesting about your ship?

Mermaid Tales



A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Pre-reading activity/research

Name:

Answers

Date:

Use the Internet or library to look up interesting facts about the following ships.

FAMOUS SHIP The answers below are included to help with the bottom area.	WHY AM I FAMOUS?
THE SANTA MARIA Built in 1460/used sails/Rain aground on Christmas Day 1492.	Answers will vary but should include: This was Christopher Columbus's ship.
THE MAYFLOWER Built in 1607/used sails. Pilgrims lived one winter aboard the ship before it returned to England.	Answers will vary but should include: This was a ship used by Pilgrims coming to what will later become the United States.
USS ARIZONA Built in 1915/The sunken ship is a war memorial/Steam turbines powered it.	Answers will vary but should include: This ship was destroyed during an attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.
RMS LOUISTANA Built in 1906/It was sunk by the German Navy/It had won an award for having the fastest Atlantic crossing/steam ship powered by coal.	Answers will vary but may include: This ship was sunk and caused the US to enter World War I.
THE TITANIC Built in 1911/It hit an iceberg and sank in 1912./It had steam engines powered by coal.	Answers will vary but may include: This ship was supposed to be unsinkable, but it sank on its first voyage.

Answers will vary on the below. Information about ships is listed with name above.

Pick one of the ships above to learn more about. Which ship did you pick? _____

Find out the year it was made: _____

Did your ship have sails? _____ If not, how was it powered? _____

What is something else interesting about your ship?



Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Pre-reading activity/vocabulary

Chapter 1

bacteria	steel	Titanic
stomachs	H. titanicae	legendary

Chapter 2 and 3

rusty	swerving	volume
pyramids	kelp	invention

Chapter 4 and 5

Oscillatoria willei (A type of bacteria)	casserole	boycott
awesome	barnacle	Cornish

Chapter 6 and 7

conch	preserver	trillion
solution	permission	rusticles

Chapter 8 – 11

sculpture	diagrams	managed	commanded	nightmares
passengers	weapons	huddled	breathe	maiden
wreckage	potato	windowless	favorite	circumstances

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4](#)

Mermaid Tales

FUN WAYS TO LEARN VOCABULARY WORDS

FOR THE A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

- Let students draw their own ships and hide ten vocabulary words somewhere in the picture. Put students in pairs. Can they find each other's words? Have students write the words they've hidden in the space below the ship. Hang the ships up on the classroom door or a bulletin board so others can try to find the words.
- Let students pick a word and make it into a ship shape.
- Have students write about their own visit to a sunken ship using at least five vocabulary words. Let students act out the scenes.
- Play word bingo using the following card.



[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4](#)

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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		



A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

BEFORE Chapter 1/persuasive writing

NAME:

DATE:

In chapter one of Mermaid Tales #21, Echo and her merfriends are going on a trip.

If you could pick anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Why did you pick that place? _____

If you could pick a place to take your class on a field trip, where would you go?
It must be someplace close enough for a bus ride.

Write your teacher a note about your field trip idea to see if you could actually go!

Dear _____,

I would like to visit _____.

I think our class would like that trip because

Thank you for considering my idea.

Your student, _____

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.4 Answers will vary.

Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 2/empathy/graphing CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.MD.B.3

NAME:

DATE:

In A Titanic Friendship, a new kid is coming to school. Do you have any new kids in your class? Be sure to say hi. Complete the chart below to learn and compare answers with your class. Make a graph with your class of the most popular foods and books. Answers will vary.

My pet

I like to eat

After school, I like to _____.

My favorite book is _____.

Things I hate are:

Things I love are:



Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 3/comprehension/CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1

NAME:

DATE:

The Titanic sailed over 100 years ago. What was it like in 1912? ? Guess the things that would **NOT HAVE** been on the Titanic and circle them. Check your paper as your teacher discusses the answers. Were you surprised at some of the things that were on board?

elevators

gourmet meals

Gameboys

swimming pools

newspapers

video games

libraries

bathtubs

televisions

barber shops

violins

YouTube

electric lights

motorcycles

Goosebump books

cell phones

potatoes

handkerchiefs

computers

telephone

rocket ships

coal

tennis shoes

car

toy jacks

spinning tops

yoyo

Sailors on ships have their own special language. Use the chart below to fill in the missing words.

“_____ matie,” said the captain. “Point the _____ toward that island. Watch the _____, or the right side, for whales. I saw one behind us off the _____ this morning. Oh, there’s one on the other side, the _____. Look out!”

Ahoy	Hello
Stern	rear of boat
Bow	front of boat
Starboard	right side of the boat
port side	left side of the boat



Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 3/comprehension/CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1

NAME: **answers**

DATE:

The Titanic sailed over 100 years ago. What was it like in 1912? Guess the things that would NOT HAVE been on the Titanic and circle them. Check your answers as your teacher discusses the answers. Were you surprised at some of the things that were on board?

elevators

gourmet meals

Gameboys

swimming pools

newspapers

video games

Libraries

bathtubs

televisions

barber shops

violins

YouTube

electric lights

motorcycles

Goosebump books

cell phones

potatoes

handkerchiefs

computers

telephone

rocket ships

coal

tennis shoes

car

toy jacks

spinning tops

yoyo

Sailors on ships have their own special language. Use the chart below to fill in the missing words.

"Ahoy matie," said the captain. "Point the **bow** toward that island. Watch the **starboard**, or the right side, for whales. I saw one behind us off the **bow** this morning. Oh, there's one on the other side, the **port side**. Look out!"

Ahoy	hello
Stern	rear of boat
Bow	front of boat
Starboard	right side of the boat
Port side	left side of the boat



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A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 4/grammar/predicting

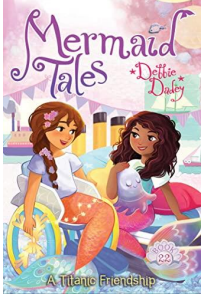
NAME:

DATE:

Echo really wants to visit the Titanic, but Shelly says they shouldn't go. Predict what will happen in the story in the space below. [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.2.c](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1](#)

Fix the punctuation in these sentences from chapter four.

1. what is all the screaming about
2. anitas cheeks turned red
3. its my fault
4. why not shelly asked
5. that's not fair kiki said
6. if you can't go shelly told her then none of us should go
7. echo couldnt believe it



Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 4/grammar/predicting

NAME:

answers

DATE:

Echo really wants to visit the Titanic, but Shelly says they shouldn't go. Predict what will happen in the story in the space below. [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.2.c](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1](#)

Answers will vary

Fix the punctuation in these sentences from chapter four.

1. "What is all the screaming about?" (Student might not know to use quotation marks.)
2. Anita's cheeks turned red.
3. It's my fault.
4. "Why not?" Shelly asked.
5. "That's not fair," Kiki said.
6. "If you can't go," Shelly told her, "then none of us should go."
7. Echo couldn't believe it! (period may also work)



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A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 5

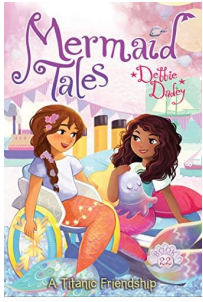
NAME:

DATE:

Echo's stomach hurts when she is upset. Try these things when you are sad or scared.

1. Talk to a safe adult about what is happening.
2. It is not your fault if you feel sad or scared. Sometimes breathing slowly can help.
3. Counting backwards from 10 or 100 can sometimes help.
4. Writing about what is wrong can sometimes make you feel better.
5. Thinking about a favorite place can sometimes help.
6. Running or walking outside in a safe place can sometimes help.
7. Drawing, painting, or coloring can often be calming.
8. Rocking in a rocking chair helps some people feel calmer.
9. Some people like to listen to music or sing as a way to feel happier.
10. Did you know that drinking water can help you feel better sometimes?

Practice at least three of the techniques above. Do you feel better? Keep this list in case you ever feel sad or scared. Don't forget you are important and special!



Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 6/answers will vary

NAME:

DATE:

Anita decorated her bedroom with a miniature Titanic bed, a life preserver, a captain's wheel, posters, and even a painting. In the space below create a dream bedroom for yourself. Will it be like a space ship, a zoo, or a jungle? Make it whatever you want, but don't forget a bed!



Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 7/science

NAME:

DATE:

Bacteria are small living things with a single cell. They can be found everywhere, even in your body! Some bacteria is good for you and some is not! Color in the squares that describes something that comes from a kind of GOOD bacteria.

CHEESE	YOGURT	BREAD
SALMONELLA (FROM UNCLEAN HANDS) CAUSES FEVER AND DIARRHEA	VINEGAR	SAUERKRAUT
PICKLES	E. COLI (FROM UNCLEAN HANDS) SEVERE STOMACH PAINS	NOROVIRUS (FROM UNCLEAN WATER OR FOOD) CAUSES VOMITING

Choose one item from above and tell about it. If it's a food, learn and tell how bacteria is used to make it. If it's a sickness, tell about how to not to get it.

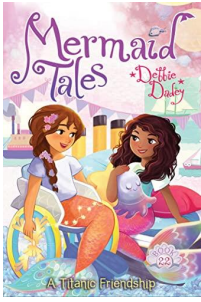
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1](#)

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A Titanic Friendship; published by Simon and Schuster, illustrations by Tatevik Avakyan



Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 7/science

NAME:

answers

DATE:

Bacteria are small living things with a single cell. They can be found everywhere, even in your body! Some bacteria is good for you and some is not! Color in the squares that describes something that comes from a kind of GOOD bacteria.

CHEESE	YOGURT	BREAD
SALMONELLA (FROM UNCLEAN HANDS) CAUSES FEVER AND DIARRHEA	VINEGAR	SAUERKRAUT
PICKLES	E. COLI (FROM UNCLEAN HANDS) SEVERE STOMACH PAINS	NOROVIRUS (FROM UNCLEAN WATER OR FOOD) CAUSES VOMITING

Choose one item from above and tell about it. If it's a food, learn and tell how bacteria is used to make it. If it's a sickness, tell about how to not to get it.

answers will vary

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1

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A Titanic Friendship; published by Simon and Schuster, illustrations by Tatevik Avakyan



Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 8/biology

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

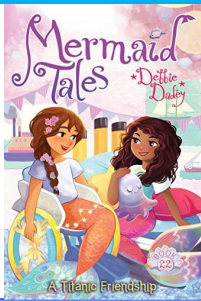
In this story, Rocky sees a Greenland shark. Did you know there are more than 400 living species of sharks? Pick one and tell your class about it, using the form below and your library or the Internet.

TELL US ABOUT IT!

1. What kind of shark is my report about? _____
2. Does this shark have a nickname? _____
3. What does this shark look like? _____
4. What makes this shark unique? _____
5. What color is this shark? _____
6. How much does this shark weigh? _____
7. How long is this shark? _____
8. Where does this shark live? _____
9. What does this shark eat? _____
10. Why did you pick this shark to tell about? _____

On the back of this page draw your shark as large as the page will allow.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1 Answers will vary



Mermaid Tales

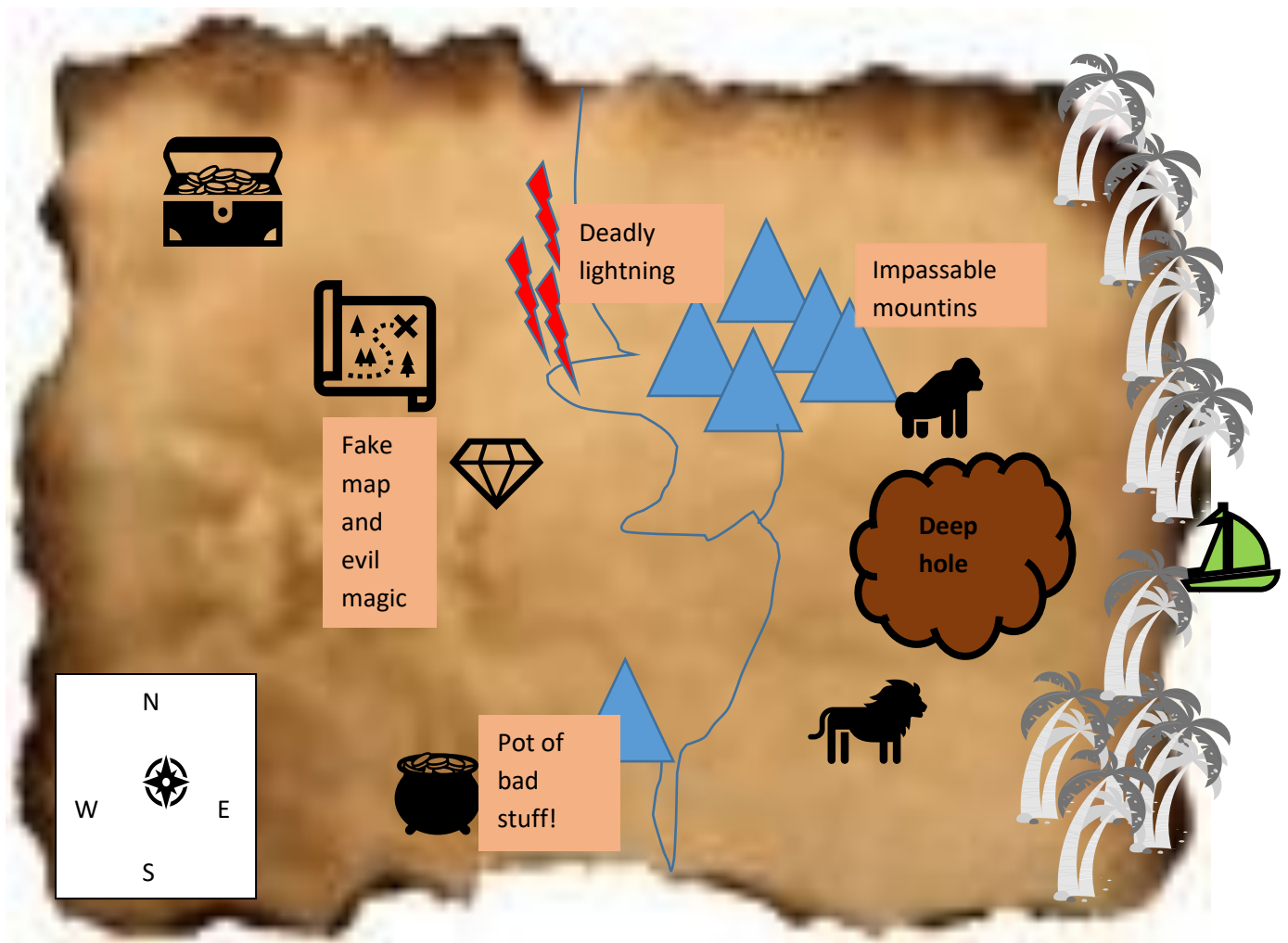
A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 9

NAME:

DATE:

In this story the characters are saved because of diagram (or interior map) of the Titanic. Use the map below to find your way to the treasure. In the space at the bottom, write directions on how to find the treasure starting from the boat. Use the landmarks and the directions in the compass. N stands for north, S stands for south, E stands for east, and W stands for west. Use the back to write a story about your adventures.



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7

Answers will vary, but should avoid bad stuff!



Mermaid Tales

A TITANIC FRIENDSHIP

Chapter 10-11/ persuasive writing

NAME:

DATE:

In this story, the merkids think something is unfair. Can you think of something in your life that you'd like to change; that you think is unfair? It could be a rule or perhaps you'd like things done in a different way.

How would the change make things better? Use the space below to make a change!

USING YOUR WORDS TO MAKE A CHANGE!

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE:

REASONS WHY IT SHOULD BE CHANGED:

1.

2.

3.

PEOPLE THIS CHANGE WILL HELP:

WHAT WILL THINGS BE LIKE IF THINGS DON'T CHANGE:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2 *Answers will vary*