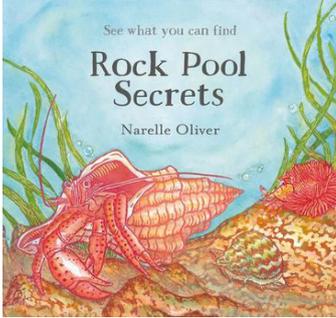




# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## Rock Pool Secrets

by Narelle Oliver  
 ISBN: 9781922179357  
 ARRP: \$24.99  
 NZRRP: \$27.99  
 April 2017

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

At first glance there's nothing much to see. But the rock pools are full of secrets. Nestling in crevices ... hiding in the seaweed ... camouflaged against the rocks ... What creatures will you find? *Rock Pool Secrets* features beautiful linocut artwork by award-winning author/illustrator Narelle Oliver and includes big, easy-to-use flaps and a glossary of rock pool creatures.

## Author/Illustrator Information:

Narelle Oliver (1960–2016) grew up in Queensland, Australia, in a family who spent every spare moment pursuing interests in visual and performing arts. The linocut print medium, often combined with other media, was a special feature of her illustrations. Narelle was the author-illustrator of a number of award-winning children's picture books: *The Hunt* won the 1996 Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Picture Book of the Year Award; *Sand Swimmers* was short-listed for the 2000 CBCA Eve Pownall Award for Information Books and the Queensland Premier's Award for Children's Literature; *Home* was the winner of the 2007 Patricia Wrightson Prize, part of the NSW Premier's Literary Awards; and in 2010 *Fox and Fine Feathers* was a CBCA Honour Book and short-listed for the Picture Book of the Year Award. *Don't Let a Spoonbill in the Kitchen!* was winner of the Queensland Literary Award for Children's Literature in 2014.

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

<b>These notes are for:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages 4+</li> <li>• Primary years F-1</li> </ul>	<b>Key Learning Areas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul>	<b>Example of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-fiction</li> </ul>	<b>Themes/Ideas:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature</li> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Animals/Biology</li> <li>• Environment</li> </ul>
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National Curriculum Focus:*				
<b>Science</b> Foundation ACSSU002 ACSSU004 ACSSU005 ACSHE013 ACSIS011 ACSIS233 ACSIS012	Year 1 ACSSU017 ACSSU211 ACSSU019 ACSHE021 ACSHE022 ACSIS024 ACSIS025 ACSIS213 ACSIS029	<b>English</b> Foundation ACELA1429 ACELA1430 ACELA1432 ACELA1433 ACELA1786 ACELT1577 ACELY1647 ACELY1648 ACELY1650	Year 1 ACELA1447 ACELA1449 ACELA1450 ACELA1453 ACELY1657 ACELY1658 ACELY1661	*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas

## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### English

View the cover and title. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The publisher

What information can you learn about the book from the front and back cover? What do you think this book is about? What type of book is this and where would you expect to find it in your library?

Is *Rock Pool Secrets* an imaginative, informative or persuasive book? How can you tell? Who is the audience for this book? Visit your school library and find other books on a similar topic. Can you find informative books, imaginative books and persuasive books?

Have a class discussion on imaginative, informative and persuasive books. What might you expect to find in each of these kind of texts? List their similarities and differences. What elements can you identify in *Rock Pool Secrets*?

What is unusual about the way this book is presented? Why do you think the book has been made this way? What effect does it have on you as the reader?

What animal do you find most interesting in *Rock Pool Secrets*? Write or tell the class what you like or find interesting about it.

How do you think this book would be different if there were no pictures? What if there were no words?

Compare this book to a storybook you have in your classroom. What is different about them?

Imagine your teacher asked you to research an animal. How would a book like *Rock Pool Secrets* be useful?

Write a book review of *Rock Pool Secrets* stating what you liked and disliked about it, who you think would enjoy it the most and whether you think the information provided is credible. Use persuasive language to make the reader understand your opinion.

Write an imaginative story about visiting a rock pool. Use information and illustrations in *Rock Pool Secrets* as inspiration for your story.

Design a persuasive poster to encourage visitors to respect the wildlife found in rock pools. Use persuasive language to raise awareness of how to not disturb habitats of the animals.

Narelle Oliver has used punctuation in the text to influence the way it is read. In each of the following sentences, identify the punctuation used and the purpose or effect it has on the reader:

- “But something is curled up and hiding ...”
- “Can you see the decorator crab?”
- “It’s a shrimp!”

### Science

Based on the text and illustrations in the book and your personal experience, have a discussion on what your senses would experience if you were visiting a rock pool, i.e. what would you hear, taste, feel, smell and see?

Compare two of the animals featured in *Rock Pool Secrets*, for example a hermit crab and an octopus. How are they similar? How are they different?

“Sometimes, at very low tide, the anemones are uncovered.”

What is low tide? How often does it happen? Why are the anemones uncovered at low tide?

Choose one of the animals featured in the book and research it further in your school library or online. Give a short presentation to your class about the extra information you discovered about your chosen animal.

Certain animals have features that are designed especially for their habitat. Why do you think these animals have developed like this? Do you think these animals could survive if they are moved away from their natural habitat? Why do you think that?

Some of the animals in *Rock Pool Secrets* are very good at camouflaging themselves. Draw a design of how you would camouflage yourself in the bush or in your school playground. Be creative but only use items that you would normally find in the bush/around your school.