

# NATURE EXPLORATION

A Paired Text Teacher's Guide to:

Hike

By: Pete Oswald

&

The Magic and Mystery of Trees

By: Jen Green

Grade Level: 2<sup>nd</sup>



Created By: Amy Vernon

Paired Text Reading Assignment

LIBS 642

Old Dominion University

## **Pre-Reading Warm-Up:**

### Nature Walk Sensory Search

- Students will fold a piece of plain white paper into four boxes with help of modeling from the teacher. (Model hotdog fold, then hamburger fold)
- Review the five senses (see, touch, smell, hear, taste)
- Explain to students that they will be going on a nature walk around the school building. They are to look for at least two things for each of the senses EXCEPT taste. Instruct students as to why we will not be using taste (safety issue of tasting things outside etc...)
- Students should label each box with a picture of a nose (smell), hand (touch), ear (hear), and eyes (see)
- Go over safety rules & precautions concerning the area specific to your school.
- Return to the classroom after the nature walk for a pair and share of their findings.

## **Bulletin Board Idea:**

### Student work display

#### "TREE-mendous" Work

Create a three-dimensional tree to be placed in the middle of the bulletin board with the heading "Tree-mendous Work" in block letters. Use blue bulletin board paper for background. Place string from one side of the board to the other for student work to be displayed throughout the paired text unit or work may be stapled to the board as another option.

## **Book Synopsis:**

Fiction Title- *Hike* Written and Illustrated By: Pete Oswald

*Hike* is a nearly wordless picture book about a child and son exploring the beauties of nature along a trail, doing their part for conservation by plating a tee, and uniquely bringing the two experiences together as a continued family tradition.

"Like the woods, this book is an immersive experience that invites repeated visits."

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/pete-oswald/hike-oswald/>

Non-fiction Title- *The Magic and Mystery of Trees* Written By: Jen Green

Illustrated By: Claire McElfatrick

*The Magic and Mystery of Trees* takes children on a journey through the trees. Readers learn about extraordinary trees from all over the world, the basics of trees from the life cycles to seasonal changes, the animals that call them home, how people damage trees through pollination and deforestation, and much more. The book includes photographs, illustrations, and patchwork layering.

"This breath-taking book about trees takes children on a captivating journey of nature packed leafy exploration, showing them just how special these mighty organisms are."

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/41113584-the-magic-and-mystery-of-trees>

## Discussion Questions:

*Hike* By: Pete Oswald

1. What things did the father and child see on the hike? What did they do on the hike?
2. Why did the father and child go on the hike? What made this hike so special?  
Explain.
3. What do we learn about the character of the child by the illustration on the page where the dad wakes up the child? Provide evidence.
4. What is the lesson/theme that the author wants the reader to learn from this story?  
Explain.
5. What do we learn about the child from the last page of the story. Explain.
6. The book *Hike* was a nearly wordless book. What words are included in the book and what is the purpose of the words?

**Discussion Questions:**

*The Magic and Mystery of Trees* By: Jen Green

1. What is the author's purpose for writing this book? What makes you think that?
2. Name three things that trees provide.
3. Name three products that are made from wood and referenced in the book.
4. How did the author organize the information to help the reader understand it?  
Can you give examples?
5. Why do you think the author chose this title for the book?
6. What were some of the important concepts the author wanted you to learn by reading this book? Did you learn something new from this book? If so, what was it?

### **Comparative Questions:**

1. What is the author's purpose for each book? How do you know? Explain your answer using examples from the text or illustrations.
2. What is the main connection between the two books? Explain how you know.
3. Explain how reading *Hike* was different from reading *The Magic and Mystery of Trees*. Think about your reading strategies for each text.
4. Explain how *Hike* is fiction and *The Magic and Mystery of Trees* is non-fiction. What is another fiction story you could write to go with the non-fiction book?
5. How did the non-fiction book help you understand or enjoy the fiction book better?
6. What are the similarities and differences between the illustrations in each book?

## **SOL Connections:**

### **Reading**

SOL 2.7 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts.

- (a) Make and confirm predictions.
- (b) Connect previous experiences to new texts.

- Before reading: The students will make predictions about what the story, *Hike*, will be about using only the illustrations on the book jacket and title of the text. The students will discuss any prior knowledge (schema) they may have concerning the predictions discussed, illustrations, and title.

SOL 2.7 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts.

- (d) Describe characters, setting, and plot events in fiction.
- Complete a 4 square graphic organizer or 4 tab foldable including a picture and sentence for each to explain the characters, setting, problem, and solution.

SOL 2.7 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts.

- (g) Summarize stories and events with beginning, middle, and end in the correct sequence.
- Provide each student with one puzzle piece per important event. Inside the puzzle piece, have the student illustrate the event along the top half and describe it along the bottom half. Piece the puzzle pieces together into one long row.

SOL 2.8 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction texts.

- (a) Preview the selection using text features including the table of contents, headings, pictures, captions, and maps.
- The teacher will guide the students in a picture walk before reading and complete a text feature hunt using an anchor chart to list page numbers where the students located each text feature.

SOL 2.8 The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction texts.

(f) Determine the main idea

- Using the 5-finger strategy- ask and answer questions about the text to demonstrate understanding (e.g., who/what, when, where, why, and how) Have students' pair and share the five fingers

## **Visual Arts**

Creative Process

SOL 2.1 The student will apply creative thinking to artmaking.

(b) Depict imaginary characters, scenes, or experiences.

- The student will gather leaves, stems, twigs from a nature walk around the school building and use the gathered materials to create an imaginary character. (Leaf man, leaf girl, animal, alien etc...) Extension idea- Write a story with the created character as the main character of the story.

## **Library Connection**

Writing

SOL 2.12 The student will conduct research by using available resources to gather information and answer questions to complete a research product.

- Pick a type of tree mentioned in the text and research this tree in the library using the resources the librarian presents to you. (Nonfiction books about trees or databases with reliable information. Gather three facts about the tree and share why you picked the tree to research. Organize your information either in writing or a visual display. Instruct students in the difference between plagiarism and using your own words as previously learned in the school year.



## Science

SOL 2.4 The student will investigate and understand that plants and animals undergo a series of orderly changes as they mature and grow. Key concepts include:

(b) plant life cycles

- Students will use a printable sheet of pictures including the life cycle of an apple tree including apple seed, apple, harvest, blossom, apple tree, and even apple pie. Students will cut and glue them in order under a tent card with flaps.

SOL 2.7 The student will investigate and understand that weather and seasonal changes affect plants, animals, and their surroundings. Key concepts include

(a) effects of weather and seasonal changes on the growth and behavior of living things

(b) weathering and erosion of land surfaces.

- Each student is given a blank bare tree trunk to color brown. Using Play-doh in the colors, white, green, pink, yellow, and red. Students will create the changes that occur on the tree throughout the seasons, one season at a time. Upon completion they may draw and color their tree trunk into the tree of the season they like best.

SOL 2.8 The student will investigate and understand that plants produce oxygen and food, are a source of useful products, and provide benefits in nature.

Key concepts include

(d) plants can help reduce erosion

- Place soil in one cookie sheet. Pack down well.
- In another cookie sheet, add some sod to half and some soil to the other half, packing down well.
- Poke several small holes in the bottom of a gallon jug.
- Make an incline with some books and place the cookie sheets on them at an angle. Secure with a push pin or strong tape if needed to prevent from sliding
- Loosen the lid on the gallon jug and let it "rain" on the cookie sheet with only Dirt. Notice how the soil moves with the water and how much sediment is collected at the bottom of the pan.
- Next, let it "rain" on the cookie sheet with the grass strip (make sure the grass strip is at the bottom of the pan)
- Notice how the grass filters out much of the sediment and how much clearer the water is that has collected in the 9x13 pan.
- Optional: dump the water from the pans and observe how much sediment is in each one
- Discuss ways humans can prevent erosion making connections to *Hike* and *The Magic and Mystery of Trees*

## Websites of Interest

More tree unit resources, games, and activities:

<https://thebeautyofplay.com/2020/04/16/tree-unit-resources-games-and-activities/>

More about The Magic and Mystery of Trees: <https://trainupachildpub.com/the-magic-mystery-of-trees/>

14 tips for Pairing Fiction and Nonfiction in Grades K-5:

<https://www.weareteachers.com/tips-pairing-fiction-nonfiction-grades-k-5/>

Let's Talk Picture Books with Pete Oswald:

<http://www.letstalkpicturebooks.com/2020/02/lets-talk-illustrators-130-pete-oswald.html>

Lesson Activity for *Hike*: <https://librarylessonswithbooks.com/hike-by-pete-oswald-lesson-activity/>

Classroom Ideas for *Hike*: <https://media.btsb.com/TitleLessonPlans/3862.pdf>

Fun tree activities for students: <https://www.fantasticfunandlearning.com/tree-activities-for-kids.html>

## **About Pete Oswald**

A #1 New York Times bestselling illustrator and Annie Award nominated animation production designer best known for The Angry Birds Movie. He is also known for his works as a children's book author, illustrator, and painter. He is well known for his illustrations in The Good Egg and The Bad Seed both written by Jory John. Hike is Oswald's first solo author/illustrator debut. It was published in early 2020 from Candlewick Press.

## **Other Books written or illustrated by Pete Oswald**

*Attack of the Underwear Dragon*

*The Couch Potato*

*The Cool Bean*

*The Good Egg*

*The Bad Seed*

*That's What Dinosaurs Do*

*The Sad Little Fact*

*Rita and Ralph's Rotten Day*

*Mingo the Flamingo*

## **About Jen Green**

Jen Green is a nonfiction author who has written over more than 300 titles for children and adults alike. She spent 15 years in publishing before becoming a full-time writer. Green writes on a broad array of subjects, including art, animals, science, and natural history.

## **Other Books by Jen Green**

*DK Readers Women in Science*

*DK Readers Big Fantastic Earth*

*Why Should I Recycle?*

*Why Should I Save Water?*

*Why Should I Protect Nature?*

*Why Should I Save Energy?*

*The San Francisco Bucket List*

*Weather in 30 Seconds*

*I Feel Bullied*

*Wolves*

*Mapping a Country*

*Reducing and Recycling Waste*

**Further Reading for Students:**

*The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever*

By: H. Joseph Hopkins

*Because of an Acorn* By: Lola M. Schaefer

*Leaf Man* By: Lois Ehlert

*Slow Down 50 Mindful Moments in Nature* By: Rachel Williams

*The Giving Tree* By: Shel Silverstein

*Always Everly* by: Nate Wragg

*Thunder Underground* By: Jane Yolen

**Other Books on the topic:**

*The Wishtree* By: Katherine Applegate

*The Lost Art of Reading Nature's Signs* By: Tristan Gooley

*Nature Anatomy Activities for Kids: Hands on Learning* By: Kristine Brown

*This Poem is a Nest* By: Irene Latham

## References:

Boedker, M. (2008). *Curious Kid*. [Photograph]. Creative Commons. Retrieved from <https://search.creativecommons.org/photos/85e1544b-af9b-4983-a3ad-8d95223b8419>. CCBY2.0

Kirkus. (2019, December 5). *Hike by Pete Oswald- review*. Kirkus Reviews. Retrieved November 21, 2021, from <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/pete-oswald/hike-oswald/>.

Good Reads. (2021). *The magic and mystery of trees by Jen Green -review*. Good Reads. Retrieved November 21, 2021, from <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/41113584-the-magic-and-mystery-of-trees>

Commonwealth of Virginia. (2020). Visual arts standards of learning for Virginia public schools. *Virginia Department of Education*. Retrieved from [https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/fine\\_arts/index.shtml](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml).

Commonwealth of Virginia. (2017). English standards of learning for Virginia public schools. *Virginia Departments of Education*. Retrieved from [https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/english/index.shtml](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/index.shtml).

Commonwealth of Virginia. (2018). Science standards of learning for Virginia public schools. *Virginia Department of Education*. Retrieved from [https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards\\_docs/science/index.shtml](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/science/index.shtml).

Farmwife Crafts. (2017). *Soil erosion science experiment*. <https://www.farmwifecrafts.com/soil-erosion-science-experiment>

Train Up a Child (n.d.). *The magic and mystery of trees*. <https://trainupachildpub.com/the-magic-mystery-of-trees/>



