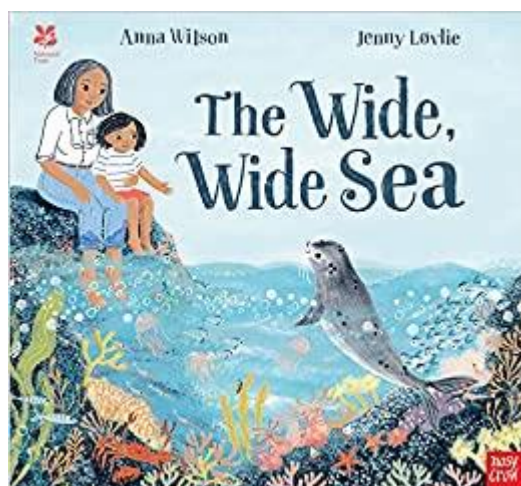


# The wide wide sea



ADVENTURES IN BOOKLAND

G D S T



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## Book Summary

When a young child forges a special connection with a seal on a trip to the seaside, their imagination takes them on an unforgettable journey. Through their eyes, we have a chance to explore everything the amazing beach and wide, wide sea has to offer . . . until suddenly a violent storm blows in. The next morning the beach is ugly . . . and covered in litter. Whose fault is it? And who can fix it? Together, the child, their grandmother, and the rest of the community clean the beach, and the child makes a promise to the seal that things will change for the better.

## Discussion Prompts

- At first the girl says that the rubbish is not hers. Grandma says that 'we' made the rubbish. Who is right? Could they both be right? Is there a conflict between individual and social responsibility?
- The girl imagines and then dreams about becoming a seal. Does this empathy change the way she sees the beach and the pollution on it? Does it trigger or spur on her desire to make a change – to make the promise that things will be different?
- If her empathy is spur for her action, is that a good thing? Or can empathy be problematic? Does it lead to a disproportionate concern for those animals with which it is easier to empathise?

## Putting words into action

- Collect the rubbish in your school grounds. Where has it come from? Who is responsible for it?
- What is the difference between picking litter up versus preventing littering in the first place (reactive versus proactive action)?
- How could you as a school community change your habits so that the rubbish is not created in the first place?