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Spend a day at the beach, and take in the ocean through the senses of sight, hearing, feeling, taste, and smell in this lively romp through sand and waves. Glorious illustrations of water, sun, and sky accompany brief, evocative verses, making this a perfect keepsake of a seaside vacation or a striking introduction to the pleasures of a day by the ocean.

Pam Muñoz Ryan drew on her children's and her own experiences of the ocean in writing the poetic text of Hello Ocean. She is the author of many books for children, including *The Flag We Love, California, Here We Come!*, *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride* (Scholastic), and *Esperanza Rising* (Scholastic). She lives in Leucadia, California.

Mark Astrella lived by both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans while illustrating this book. He is the illustrator of *The Desert Alphabet Book* and *The Butterfly Alphabet Book*. He now lives in Hawaii.

Hello Ocean Details

Date : Published February 1st 2001 by Charlesbridge (first published January 1st 2001)

ISBN : 9780881069884

Author : Pam Muñoz Ryan , Mark Astrella (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Hello Ocean for online ebook

Wendy says

Lovely, realistic illustrations in this lush book full of figurative language.

Tiffany says

I've never seen a more beautifully illustrated children's book. My kids have always loved this book, even though we live far from the beach.

The story is written in verse and talks about the 5 senses, but it's illustrated beautifully. I would buy the book for the pictures alone.

Megan Piero says

This is a beautifully written book about a young girl who spends a day at the beach enjoying every bit of it with all of her five senses. The entire book is written in both English and in Spanish with the blocks of text right next to each other. The author, Pam Muñoz Ryan, does an excellent job using descriptive language in the book. For example, she writes "waves that pounce in rowdy play, tide that tickles with splashing spray". This book also has an excellent flow to it that reads more like poetry than a traditional picture book. I absolutely loved this book and I would recommend it to anyone!

As a teacher, this book could be used in several different ways. It could be used as a platform to teach students about the way we really use our five senses to take in the world around us. It could also be used in a language arts lesson about descriptive language or as an example of authors craft and what we notice when we read like writers. I could also use this book with my ESOL students because it can be read entirely in Spanish, or it can be read to English speaking students to expose them to a different form of Spanish literature they are most likely unfamiliar with. Really, the possibilities for this book are endless!

Tatiana Giraldo says

The rhymes in this book describe the unique experience of going to the ocean and using all the senses to describe it.

Alexandria Baker says

Wonderful book for seeing the ocean and being with friends.

Julia says

This book attracted me with its title and the cover picture for I remembered my own early days when I was introduced to the ocean. Furthermore the words are easy to read and simple for any beginning reader.

The artwork is amazing, beautiful and very detailed. Each page is a full colored picture that illustrates what is being told in the story whether it is bubbly surf, spraying waves, sea gulls soaring the blue dish of sky or the glorious sunset of the day.

The best part is the memories that this book evokes in me for the girl doesn't just visit the ocean but she explores it with all her senses - sight, touch, taste, feel and smell. I can relive my own memories with each sentence although my memories are a little bit different with almost dried-up jellyfish that still stung, tiny fish nibbling at your toes, the hot sand and of course the ever-present ocean, my old best friend.

Manybooks says

Hello Ocean, penned by Pam Muñoz Ryan and graced with and by Mark Estrella glowing and luminous accompanying illustrations truly and utterly (and in my humble opinion) is a real and deliciously opulent magical feast for the senses (for ALL of the senses). Poetically, lyrically, evocatively a young girl delightfully and glowingly describes how the ocean is her oldest and dearest friend, how she loves the sights, the sounds, the touch, the smells and tastes of the sea. and indeed I feel myself so much and so completely immersed in and enveloped by the the author's presented narrative that with Hello Ocean, I can almost literally see, feel, touch and smell the ocean myself (and can actually also and well imagine being that little girl, experiencing the waves, the sun, the scent of the salt wind, the touch of the sand, the squishy sea kelp on my bare skin). The little girl's images have therefore and this become my own and personal images, she has become me and I have become her, and both of us have in a way merged with the ocean, with the magic of the sea and its surroundings. And yes, Mark Estrella's accompanying illustrations are also equally wonderful, realistic, yet also at the same time magical, evocatively enchanting, showing, presenting on a visual and concrete, pictorial level the translucent, magical beauty of the waves, the sky, the reflection of the setting sun on the surface of the water. They provide a realistic and esoteric, delightful complement, a perfect mirror of and for Pam Muñoz Ryan's lyrical and descriptive poetic paean, and as such Hello Ocean glowingly and caressingly features a for the most part simply and utterly perfect marriage of text and image.

However and that all having been said, and similar to what my GR friend Lisa has already stated in her own excellent review of Hello Ocean, the scene with the fisherman is (or at least might be) a bit problematic (in my opinion), and not so much that the person is fishing, but rather that he seems to be fishing on a public beach where children and adults are swimming, sunbathing (not altogether safe, and also, smelling, seeing freshly caught fish at a public beach is not an image or a smell I really desire to experience and remember). But aside from this minor little point, Hello Ocean is a truly wonderful reading experience, redolent of the ocean, the beach, a book that truly endeavours to make the reader experience the seaside with all of his/her senses and in all of its glory (and also most definitively succeeds). Highly recommended, and not just for young children either (and by the way, Hello Ocean also seems to be available in both unilingual Spanish and dual-language Spanish/English editions, the latter of which I am definitely interested in trying sometime in the hopefully not too distant future).

Lisa Vegan says

Really lovely, realistic style illustrations. I thought they were really great.

The rhyme that makes up the story is okay, and did fit in a lot about the experience of being at the ocean's edge.

The account of a girl (girls? as it looks like 2 or 3 different girls basically in the same swimsuit outfit) appreciating the ocean via her five senses will resonate with ocean and beach lovers.

I do wish dead and dying fish in a bucket along with showing someone fishing from the sandy beach hadn't been one of the things she says she smells. I could have done without that illustration and the other odors are so much more universal of what I connect to how beaches and oceans smell. That example took the magic out of this book for me. Luckily for me, I don't associate beaches with humans deliberately killing fish; we're not even talking a pier here but someone who's fishing right where other humans are swimming and wading. Weird. Most of the scenes are lovely though.

Ocean and beach lovers are likely to appreciate this book. This would be a fine book with which to introduce, discuss, and teach about the five senses; I could see kids eagerly giving other examples of seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling/touching, and tasting. The sense words are even shown in bold.

3 ½ stars, ½ star off for that dead fish & fishing scene

Dolly says

This is a fun book about the ocean. The illustrations are gorgeous and the narrative evokes all of our senses. I love how the scenes depict a bright summer day - I almost needed my sunglasses! I got a pang of nostalgia reading this book, especially now that we live much further away from the seashore. This book was featured as one of the selections for the July 2011: Seaside/Beaches books discussion at the Picture-Book Club in the Children's Books group here at Goodreads. I'm so glad that we had the opportunity to read this book!

David says

Hello Ocean by Pam Muñoz Ryan, illustrated by Mark Astrella is a beautiful concept book about the five senses set at an ocean beach. A girl experiences the ocean using her sight, hearing, feeling, taste and smell. It's also a celebration of a day at the beach by the ocean.

The descriptive text will introduce some readers to new vocabulary words. The rhyme and rhythm flow as do the waves. The large font and rhyme will make this a successful read-aloud for many young beach lovers. Dark, bolded type highlights the sensory words within the text. I did find myself confused for too long over the early allusion "the five of me" which refers to the five senses, and this will require explanation to some listeners.

The impressive illustrations are done in acrylics on airbrush paper. They are beautifully successful in the evocative seascapes. The two page spreads of the girl racing ahead to the water's edge, gazing at the wide

open water, and listening to two gulls are very appealing to me, as are the one page looks at amber seaweed, tide pools, the "wet embrace of the surf" and the "pulling, pushing restless ocean." The faces of the girl were less successful and at the end it seemed to me that a different model is being used. The illustrations of the starfish, kelp, the shells, and splashing ocean spray are all evocative of the beach experience.

Some readers and listeners may object to the man fishing on a public beach from a safety viewpoint and to the mention of the smells of reeky fish.

Overall, this works well as a concept book about the five senses, and the evocative illustrations bring one back to the beach, with all its beauty and wonders. The story can be extended through many activities, including geography, study of animals, plants and shells, art and writing.

For ages 1 to 7, the five senses, beach, ocean, environment, animal themes, and fans of Pam Muñoz Ryan and Mark Astrella.

Beverly says

Nice poem; beautiful, almost photo-realistic acrylic paintings. Very short, good for story time.

Crystal Marcos says

My family and I just took a short trip to the seaside and I brought this book along to read to my 2 year old daughter. Since we have returned she has asked me to read it to her twice. I like the realistic illustrations of the ocean and beach. What we saw when we were at the ocean was very similar to what was illustrated in these pages (It was a bit colder here than depicted in the story so there weren't people actually swimming but there were some wadding). I would have loved to see someone in the pages flying a kite, especially since it looked like it was windy enough (We saw many kite flyers at the beach).

I like the way the story read aloud and flowed very well. It managed to make me sense the ocean. I think it is a great read for even the youngest of children. A wonderful story to read before a trip to the ocean.

Thanks again to the Children's Group for picking this title for this month's theme found here <http://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/5...>

Elizabeth Lyle says

Nonfiction/Twin Text #5: Nonfiction selection: Oceans Alive by Amanda Li and Mark Robertson (Goodreads did not have this nonfiction book)

I paired the nonfiction Oceans Alive with the fiction Hello Ocean by Pam Munoz Ryan. While Oceans Alive provides the reader with detailed and interesting facts regarding creatures that live in the ocean, Hello Ocean is a poem in book form about what one might see, feel, smell, taste, and hear when at the ocean. For example, "I taste the ocean and wonder why its tastes like tears I sometimes cry. Sandy grains in a salty drink are best for fish and whales, I think." Therefore, through the avenues of the five senses, the students

might be able to get a true picture/feeling of what it is like to be at the ocean (for those that have never been to the ocean and those that have can discuss if they had similar or differing experiences). That is the non-obvious reason for pairing these two books, in order to deepen discussion, understanding, knowledge, sensory learning, and experiences. The more obvious reason is due to direct referencing to animals in the ocean. For example, the author of *Hello Ocean* writes, "Reeky fish from waters deep...." Here we could talk about the animals we learned about in *Oceans Alive*.

Another great fiction book that I would pair with *Oceans Alive* would be *Following Papa's Song* by Gianna Marino. This fiction book follows a Papa whale and his son traveling through the ocean. This fiction book references to actual facts. Similar facts are found in *Oceans Alive*. For example, the author of *Following Papa's Song* writes, "'But Papa? How will we know which way to go?' 'We'll follow the song of the whales, Little Blue, just like our family has for years upon years.'" *Oceans Alive* states, "It [the blue whale] communicates with other whales using squeaks, grunts, and whistles." Additionally, Marino writes, "'Papa!' said Little Blue. 'How do you swim so fast!?' 'When you are big, Little Blue, your tail will carry you quickly, too.'" *Oceans Alive* states, "The end of the blue whale's tail is as wide as a soccer goal." Plus, Blue whales "can swim at speeds of up to 30 mph." Also, *Following Papa's Song* references to the depths of the ocean and Little Blue wonders what is down there. ("As they traveled, Little Blue dreamed of what lay below and saw a flash in the darkness.") Using *Oceans Alive*, the student's can find out and discuss real, interesting creatures that live in the depth of the ocean (i.e. the Anglerfish). Students would be able to make connections about Little Blue and Papa to facts found in *Oceans Alive*. All three of these books I would use in primary (maybe early intermediate) grades due to easy content level and subject matter along with easy vocab.

Hannah Feeney says

This is an awesome bilingual book about the ocean. It's what we see, hear, smell, and taste at the ocean. The book has beautiful illustrations that spread the page with beautiful visuals that have readers of both languages feeling like they're at the ocean. I love that you can see the exact translations side by side so you can begin to understand another language. It is beautifully written and a great read.

Elizabeth says

Hello Ocean skews a little young since it's essentially a book about senses. But Ryan doesn't make it feel like a silly book for little kids, she uses great vocabulary and interesting slant rhymes. Books about senses, at least in my experience, can feel very didactic and very similar to one another. It's refreshing to see the topic tackled from a nature perspective and a little less heavy-handed with the lesson.

Of course that makes me wonder if this book is better suited to kids who have actually been to the ocean, particularly because it focuses on all the senses instead of just sound and sight, which could be gotten from a video. The book was perfect for a bedtime story in our house this week because we were just at the ocean and it was a nice reminder of our vacation and of the sights, sounds, smells, and feelings my daughter had while running around on the beach.

It would certainly make a nice addition to classrooms studying the ocean, ocean conservation, senses, and

poetry. It would also pair well with other beaches although there is specific mention of the salty water.

Reading all of these varied books by Pam Munoz Ryan has been interesting. She's clearly a talented author, but she manages to handle everything from poetry to picture books to middle grade well. I think any of her books would make great additions to home, classroom and library collections.
