



The Secret Summer

Author : Ali Standish

Published by Hachette

ISBN: 9781408343685

Synopsis:

Discover an island of buried secrets ... A captivating coming-of-age story from the Carnegie-nominated author of *THE ETHAN I WAS BEFORE* Miranda misses her mum. The mum who used to laugh at her jokes and take her to Disneyworld. But something happened that stopped all that - now Miranda's mum is always hurrying away on another work trip and can barely look Miranda in the eye. So when Miranda is sent to spend the summer on August Isle, where her mum grew up, she is determined to unlock the secrets that are breaking her family apart.

Author Bio

Ali Standish, author of the critically acclaimed *The Ethan I Was Before*, split her time growing up between North Carolina and several imaginary worlds. The only award she ever won in school was for messiest desk, but that didn't stop her from going on to get degrees from Pomona College, Hollins University and the University of Cambridge. She still spends most of her time in her imagination, but you might just spot her walking her two rescue dogs with her Finnish husband around her neighbourhood in North Carolina.



You can visit her online at www.alistandish.com

Curriculum Links

Health and Physical Education Year 5 and 6 [ACPPS056](#)

English—Literature Year 5 and 6

HASS Geography Year 5 and 6 [ACHASSK111](#) [ACHASSK138](#)

The arts—Visual Arts Year 5 and 6

[ACAVAM115](#) [ACAVAM116](#) [ACAVAR117](#)

Themes:

Family
Friendship
Mystery
Fears

Geography

When Miranda and her friends spend time with Taylor. He tell them stories from some of the countries he has visited.

Find these places on a map/globe

- Finland
- Stockholm—Sweden
- Himalayas
- Accra—Ghana
- Lima—Peru

Pick a country or city that Taylor talked about and find some interesting facts about it:

Examples:

Finland is the world's most literate nation

Stockholm—The city's subway is also known as the world's longest art gallery, with the majority of its stations being adorned with paintings, sculptures and mosaics.

Discussion Questions:

Health and Physical Education Year 5 and 6 [ACPPS056](#)

Miranda changes a lot throughout the course of the story.

As a class, or in groups write down some words and emotions that describe Miranda at the start of the book

At the opposite end of the paper/board write down words or describe her at the end of the book.

Look at what happened to her during the story and the people she met during the summer, and talk about how they helped those changes come about.

Book Covers The Arts—Visual Arts

Ask the class who has heard of the saying 'Don't Judge a Book By It's Cover'

Then ask who does, judge books by their covers.

The Secret Summer was published in the USA with a different title and a different cover.

Use the images on this page or find the images online to show the two for comparison. Ask students which one they prefer.

Spend some time in the library looking at novels, and make choices juts based on their covers.

Either as a class or in small groups talk about the choices, and what made those cover images so appealing.

Are there common elements that make a good cover Or is it a purely personal

Now find a book that has a cover you find unappealing. What is it about this cover that makes the book unappealing to you.

Ask the students to choose a book, either a favourite, or one of the books where they didn't like the cover, and ask them to design a new one. They can use any media, drawing, painting, collage or use a publishing program.

Look at the design template on the following page which outlines all of the elements that need to be included.

Australian/UK
Edition



US
Edition



Design a Book Cover

<p>Blurb</p> <p>Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb.</p> <p>Blurb blurb blurb blurb. Blurb blurb blurb blurb.</p> <p></p> <p>Author picture and information</p> <p>Publisher logo</p> <p>barcode</p> 	<p>Title</p> <p>Author</p> <p>Publisher logo</p>	<p>Title</p> <p>Author</p> <p>Cover Image</p> 
---	---	--