



Teaching Notes: SEAL CHILD

Written by Robert Vescio

Illustrated by Anna Pignataro

Published by New Frontier Publishing



SYNOPSIS

While a child searches for a place to call home, she is befriended by a seal. This lyrical tale is one of hope and friendship. Illustrator Anna Pignataro has captured the drama of the sea and sky, creating the perfect backdrop to Robert Vescio's enchanting story.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Vescio is an award-winning children's author. He is dedicated to inspiring children with his passion for stories. When he is not writing, he enjoys visiting schools to share his imaginative tales. Robert lives in Sydney and enjoys spending time with his children, who are an endless source of inspiration.

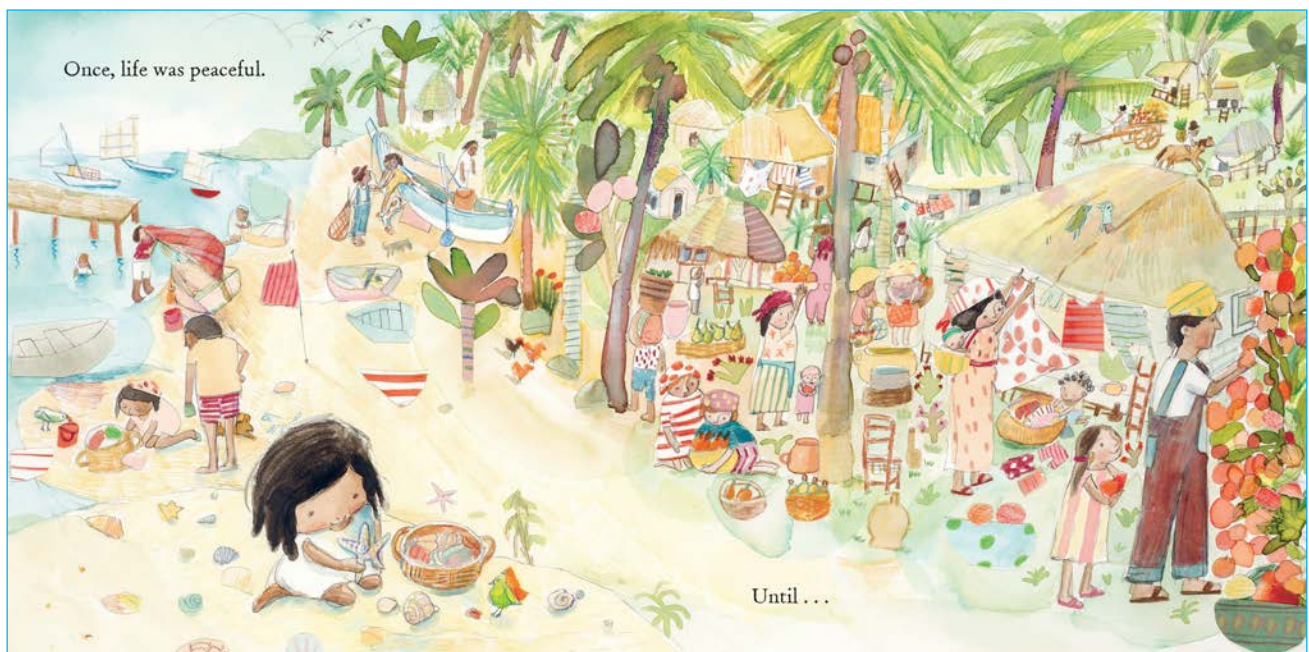
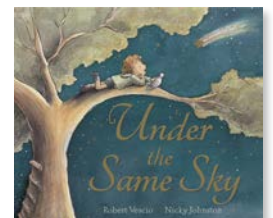
Website: www.robertvescio.com

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Anna is an award-winning illustrator who has created more than 60 books for children. She uses watercolour, ink, pen and collage, and also likes to sculpt in clay and sandstone. She's been drawing since she was small and it was always her dream to illustrate fairy tales. Growing up in an extended Italian family and her father being a musician mean that music and family are two of her key inspirations, as well as the weather, nature and everyday little things. A keen dream interpreter, Anna's favourite things are fortune telling, movies, trees, roses, British mysteries and stormy winters.

You can find her on Instagram @annapignatarobooks. Website: www.annapignataro.com

MORE BOOKS BY ROBERT





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EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Seal Child is a beautiful and moving story about the close connection between a little girl and a seal and their triumph of hope over adversity. Key themes are displacement, friendship and kindness.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

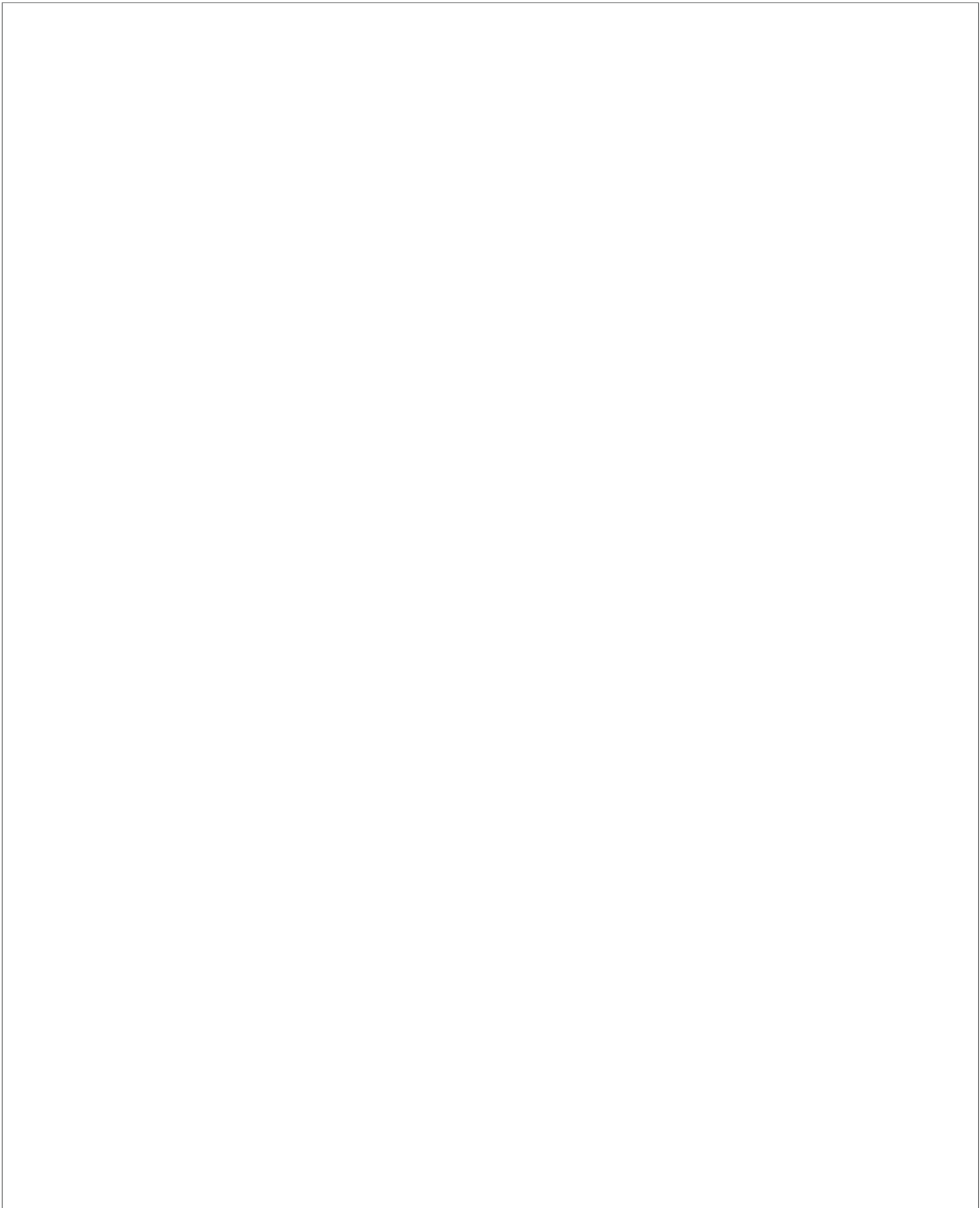
Before, during and after reading the book

1. Introduce *Seal Child* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. Ask the children if they've ever seen a seal before?
3. Ask the children if they've had or got a close relationship with an animal. How does it make them feel?
4. How do you think the little girl in the story feels when she loses everything, including her family, in the storm?
5. How do you think the baby seal makes her feel?
6. The girl and the seal go on quite an adventure together. Ask the children if they've been on any exciting adventures.
7. How does the little girl feel when the seal finds its mum? Happy for the seal but sad that she doesn't have a close friend anymore. Have you ever felt two feelings at the same time?
8. Describe how the little girl must feel when she sees her family at the end of the book.
9. After reading the book, ask them what they thought of the story. Which was their favourite part and why?



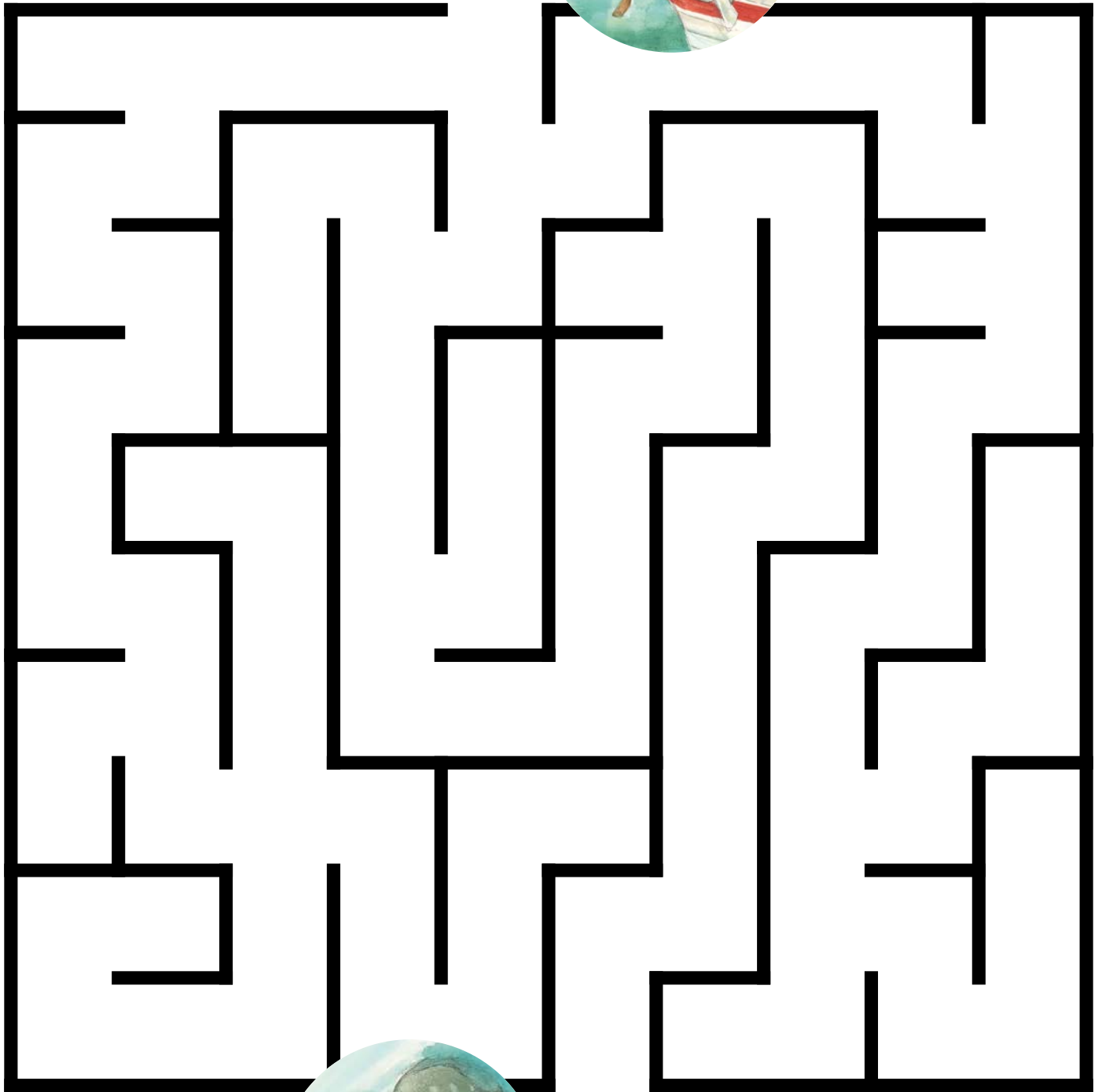
SEAL CHILD DRAWING

Draw a picture of the little girl and the seal. You might want to copy a page from the book or you might have your own idea. Use coloured pencils, felt tips or even try watercolour paints, like the illustrator of *Seal Child*.



A-MAZE-ING SEAL

Help the little seal pup find its mum.



SEAL CHILD MEMORY GAME

How well do you remember what happened in the story? Below are six pictures from the story but they are jumbled up. Carefully, cut them out (ask an adult to help you!) and arrange them in the correct order. Try to retell the story in your own words. Maybe you can tell it to your favourite bedtime cuddly toy!

