

TEACHERS NOTES

A Trip to the Beach



By Gwyn Perkins

THEMES

- Holidays
- Adventure & Exploration
- Taking Chances
- Reassurance & Support

SUITABLE FOR

Age 2-8: Pre-school to Grade 2

DESCRIPTION

Today's the day – Iggy's going to catch a wave without any help! Or at least that's what Grandad thinks. Iggy isn't quite so sure.

What follows is an unforgettable beach adventure that involves the best sandcastle ever built, fish and chips for lunch, lots of boats and a few perfect waves.

Here is a story about the unique beauty of the Australian coast, the universal magic of the ocean and the importance of finding your own way.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Melbourne in 1942, Gwyn Perkins began his artistic career when he won a newspaper drawing prize of one guinea pig and a box of paints (mistakenly awarded to Miss Gwyn Perkins). He spent many years as a successful animator in the advertising industry before moving to an island north of Sydney to enjoy a slower pace. He spends his days drawing, sailing and doing odd jobs for his friends and family. Gwyn has two adult sons and lives with his wife and teenage daughter.

AUTHOR INSPIRATION BY GWYN PERKINS

I love working for early readers. I try to imagine I'm talking to a small child, who's maybe sitting up in bed with Dad or Mum before the lights go out. When I used to read to my kids, they would be looking at the pictures on both open pages as the story was being read.

I like to explain normal things, and I find subject matter all around me. When my grandson holidayed with us as a four-year-old, he wanted to play with our cat, but she's nervous and all she wanted to do was hide. I drew a six-page set of drawings describing everything he'd done when he stayed, except it was the cat who was doing it! It was an instant hit.

A Trip to the Beach has impressions of places near where I live, or things that stay in my memory about the beach. There's a part where Iggy goes too far into the water and is dumped by a wave – I watched my granddaughter do just that on a beach along the New South Wales Central Coast. The traffic section at the start of the book shows what it feels like to drive up the M1 to visit those beaches.



THEMES

Holidays

Grandpa and Iggy take a trip to the beach to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. As they drive, the motorways and traffic jams give way to green hills and sand dunes, revealing the beautiful natural surrounds of the New South Wales Central Coast. *A Trip to the Beach* shows us life at a slower pace, with opportunities for rest, relaxation and discovery. Children will recognise the hallmarks of beach holidays: mornings at the beach, fish and chip lunches and afternoons of relaxation.



Adventure & Exploration

When you go to the beach, there's so much to see and do! Iggy and Grandad choose a humble little boat – not too big, not too zoomy – and take the road less travelled with no destination in mind. Iggy also uses “looking-in-the-water glasses” to discover another world under the water, full of new plants and creatures. *A Trip to the Beach* encourages curiosity, exploration and discovery as it takes young readers through a beautiful natural environment.



Taking Chances

Iggy loves the beach, but he isn't too sure about the waves. He races to the shore as soon as Grandad stops the car, heedless of warnings to be careful, only to be dumped by a wave. But after a day full of sandcastles, tide pools and swimming, Iggy summons his courage and decides to try surfing. With Grandad to guide him, Iggy takes a chance and discovers that surfing isn't so scary after all.

Reassurance & Support

When Iggy gets dumped by a wave, Grandad is right there to make sure he's all right. “I've got you,” he says. “If you're worried about the waves, we can do something else.” *A Trip to the Beach* shows how the support we get from loved ones can help us to stand on our own two feet, and how parents and grandparents can reassure young children in worrying moments. As Iggy explores the beach, Grandad is right behind him to provide encouragement and guidance.

When Iggy decides to try surfing again, Grandad is supportive. “I can teach you everything I know,” he promises Iggy. But after Iggy succeeds, Grandad celebrates Iggy's achievement, then quietly steps back to allow Iggy a chance to explore his new found independence.



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION POINTS



- This story is about an afternoon spent at the beach. Take a look at the different things Grandad and Iggy do together. They build sandcastles, go rowing, eat fish and chips and swim in the sea. When was the last time you went to the beach? Did you do any of the things Grandad and Iggy do together? What's your favourite thing to do at the beach?
- Iggy and Grandad build a sandcastle together. Did you know that there are sandcastle competitions all over the world? Use a tablet or computer to look at some of the sandcastles that have won these competitions, then draw the sandcastle that you would build if you were going to enter a contest.
- There are two other books about Iggy and Grandad's adventures: *A Walk in the Bush* and *A Trip to the Show*. Read these books as a class. Which is your favourite? Why?
- Iggy is nervous about surfing for the first time, especially after he gets dumped by a wave the first time he runs into the sea. He doesn't stay nervous, though – by the end of the story he doesn't want to stop! Why do you think he stops being nervous?
- While exploring, Iggy and Grandad find a tide pool and stop to take a look. What do you know about tide pools? What sort of sea creatures would you find there? Once you have thought of some creatures living in these environments, draw your own tide pool and fill it with friendly sea creatures.
- Think of a special day you spent with someone you love. It doesn't have to be a trip to the beach like Grandad and Iggy; it can be any time where you had fun and felt loved. Who were you with? What were you doing?
- Have you ever been on a row boat? A big boat? A zoomy boat? A boat with lots of ropes? Where were you going?
- There are animals hidden in the illustrations. Can you find the following animals:
 - A dog
 - A cow
 - A starfish
 - A seagull
 - A crab
 - A sea snail
- Think of your favourite trip away from home and write two or three sentences about where you went and what you did. Remember – it doesn't have to be far away, and you don't need to have stayed overnight! Draw a picture as well.
- Once Grandad and Iggy choose a boat, they put on funny yellow vests. What are these vests called? Why is it very important that Grandad and Iggy wear them?
- On the first page, you can see Grandad and Iggy packing the car. What sort of things are they taking to the beach? Can you think of anything they might have forgotten to pack?

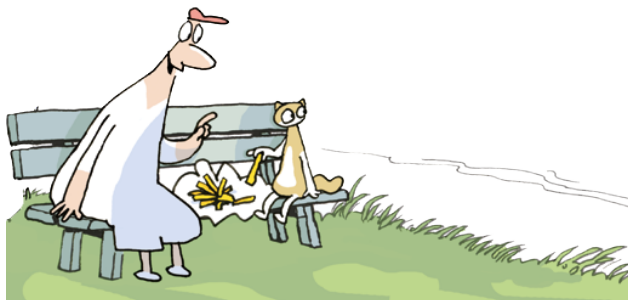


ACTIVITY: RETRACING YOUR STEPS

Do you remember what happened in *A Trip to the Beach*? Use the illustrations to jog your memory and write about Grandad and Iggy's day in your own words.















How did you do? Give your worksheet to a friend who hasn't read the book and see if they can work out what the story is about!