

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!

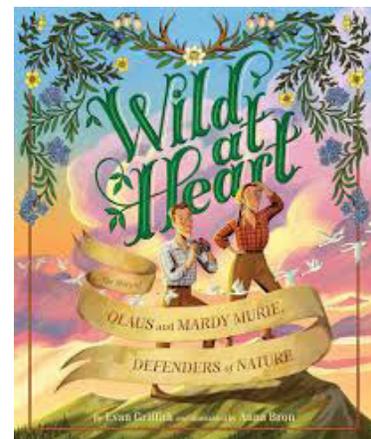
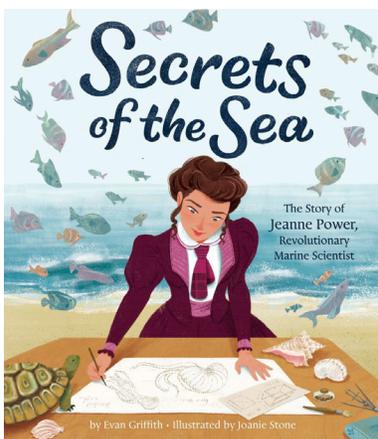


Meet Evan Griffith

Evan Griffith is an award-winning author who studied creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received his MFA in Writing for Children at the Vermont College of Fine Arts where he now serves as faculty. He often teaches writing classes and enjoys mentoring writers of all ages. He lives in Austin, Texas with a mischievous tuxedo cat and several overflowing bookshelves.

Learn more about Evan [ONLINE](#).

Read more from Evan:



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LET'S BEGIN!

Before reading the book...

Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)
- What more can we find?

Watch this [VIDEO](#) for a quick VTS demo

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, 207-460-6828 or ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

LET'S TALK SECRETS!

Peter gets angry when he finds out his friend Tommy is moving far away... something Tommy hadn't told him yet. At the same time, Peter is keeping his grandfather's health a secret from his friend. Do you think Peter should have told Tommy about his grandfather earlier? Why or why not? How do you feel about secrets? Is there a time when they might be okay to have? What makes you think this way?

Mr. Reilly is one antagonist in this story. Why do you think he behaves the way he does? Do you think he will ever change? Who or what are other antagonists for Peter in this book?

Through participation in this program, students will:

- Deepen their understanding of environmental issues through stories, author visits, and hands-on learning activities.
- Explore how literature connects to the real world, especially around topics like environmental stewardship and conservation.
- Improve reading, writing, and vocabulary skills by engaging with high-quality books and participating in author-led discussions.
- Learn about the writing process directly from authors, including how to write in verse and conduct research for nonfiction books.
- Build visual literacy skills by examining how illustrations help tell a story, express emotions, and support understanding of the text.

STANDARDS

Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3 Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate (Themes).

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5 Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

R.8 Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

R.10. Evaluate the argument and specific claims in various texts.

A3 Interpersonal Skills

Life Sciences

LET'S TALK!

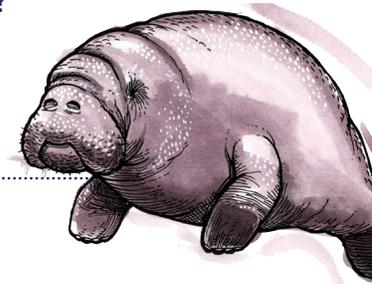
Discussion Questions

1. What can kids (like yourself) do to help make a difference for the environment? Here are a few **IDEAS** to help get you started!
2. Peter has a list of "things he's allergic to." When he feels like crying he always says he's "allergic" to whatever he is doing. Do you ever try to hide tears? Do you think his excuse is believable? Why do you think he can't admit to crying? Is there anything you might be "allergic" to?
3. Have you ever been through a hurricane or other big storm? Describe your experience. If you were Peter, would you have run outside during the storm?

Foreshadowing:

a literary device where an author gives hints or clues about what will happen later in the story.

4. How does Tommy help Peter see the world differently? How does their friendship change throughout the story?
5. How is the first chapter a prelude to the end of the book?
6. Would you like to swim with manatees? Why or why not?



LET'S CREATE!

Book-Inspired Art

1. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:

Activity 1: Write a series of text messages between two characters to show their relationship and how they communicate with each other.

Activity 2: Choose a character from the story. Create a poster that includes a sketch of the character, a quote that summarizes them, and a brief (but detailed) description of their character's journey throughout the story.

2. BE A MANATEE ADVOCATE:

Activity 1: Research manatees. Think about why they are endangered. Create an animal protection poster to raise awareness about manatees and how to protect their natural habitat. Write/Perform a newscast sharing your facts with others.

Activity 2: Write a story from the perspective of the manatee towards humans.

Check out the LET'S DIVE DEEPER section for Manatee Links

Character Development:

the process of a character evolving over a story, where their traits, motivations, and personality change in response to events and conflicts.

3. (Standard SL3) CHOOSE A THEME FOR THIS BOOK:

This book has a wide variety of themes. Make a list of possible ideas. Choose the theme you feel the strongest about, and why. *Helpful tip: Where do you see details that support your theme in the book?*

LET'S DIVE DEEPER!

Explore More

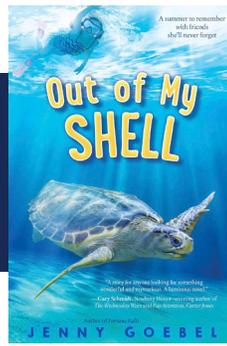
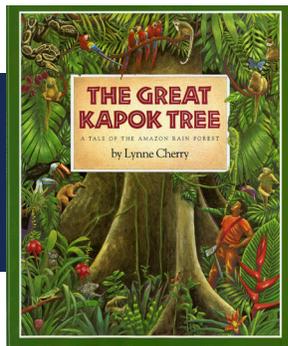
1. Live [BOOK READING AND Q & A](#) with Evan Griffith
2. Evan Griffith provides a helpful [DISCUSSION GUIDE](#) for educators
3. Manatee Links:
[WEST INDIAN MANATEES](#)
[FLORIDA MANATEE](#)
[U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE](#)
[FLORIDA MANATEE PROGRAM](#)

Have you ever
struggled with
emotions?

Seek assistance by reaching out to a school counselor, a parent, or a trusted adult. There are many people who want to help and support you!

LET'S READ MORE!

Text to Text Connections



[book guide](#)

[book guide](#)