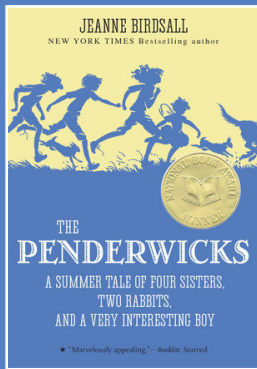


# SECRET SISTERS OF THE SALTY SEA

by Lynne Rae Perkins

Educators' Guide

IF YOU  
LIKE



THEN  
TRY



## HERE'S WHY

Readers who fell in love with the nostalgic summer tale, *The Penderwicks* will relish this unforgettable story of two sisters who discover the joy of friendship, family, and exploration during a weeklong vacation by the sea.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Family.** How would you describe the sisters' relationship with their parents? What are the differences between the two sisters? How do they help each other and how do they annoy each other? Compare the time each girl spends with just one parent—what do their activities tell you about their personalities?

**Travel.** Why do you think the parents decided to take the girls on this vacation? What expectations did Alix and Jools have for the trip? What do they learn during this week that they could not have learned at home? How did the trip to the lighthouse affect Jools? Why did she say, "I just liked doing it," about writing on the note in the book she found (p. 171)?

**Exploration.** What do Alix and Jools learn about the sea from their first encounter with it? How do they react to the creatures they find on the beach? What do they learn during their trip to the PineyWild—about the environment, the creatures, and each other? Why does Alix call the starfish

and crab shell "Secret sisters of the salty sea" (p. 84)? Why do you think the author chose that as the title of the book?

**Friendship.** Describe the way Nessa and Alix become friends. What do they have in common, and how are they different? What is the girls' first reaction to James and Roby? Does their encounter with the boys remind you of similar experiences you have had with other kids? Do you think the sisters will stay in touch with Nessa after they are apart?

**Change.** How do Alix and Jools change during their week at the seaside? Can you name specific ways that both girls learn something new about themselves and something new about each other? What do their parents learn about their daughters during the week? Do you think this experience will change them after they return home?



## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

**Salty sea excursion.** Choose one of the animals that Alix finds on the beach—jellyfish, horseshoe crab, starfish, etc.—and look up information about it. How does this creature interact with the ecology of the ocean? Write a paragraph on what you have learned about that sea creature and share the information with your classmates.



**Staying in touch.** Imagine you are Alix writing to Nessa after she returns home. In the letter, imagine Alix telling Nessa all of her favorite memories from her week at the seashore, and then describe your own neighborhood and your favorite activities at home. If you were inviting Nessa to come visit you, what activities and sites would you like to share with her?

Guide prepared by Connie Rockman, Youth Literature Consultant