

---

---

# THREE BY THE SEA

Author: Edward Marshall

Illustrator: James Marshall

Publisher: Dial Books for Young Readers

## THEME:

Telling a story or listening to one can unlock the imagination. One learns that a story with the same characters can be told in many different ways.

## PROGRAM SUMMARY:

While laying on the beach, Lolly, Spider, and Sam agreed it was the perfect time for each of them to tell their very own stories. LeVar learns that telling a story or listening to one can unlock the imagination as he watches Chicago City Limits, an improvisational performance group. Kids tell their own stories in the books they make. While walking on the beach, LeVar explores the history and adventure of sea chanteys and talks with winners of a sand sculpture contest.

## TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Discuss with the students why Sam and Spider didn't like Lolly's story. What makes a good story?

Explain the oral tradition of storytelling to the students. Discuss how stories exist in different versions across cultures and even within the same culture because the storyteller may interpret it differently. Ask students to name some different versions of the same story. (They will likely be able to identify several folktales that exist in different versions.)

Making up a story requires imagination. Ask students how they use *their* imaginations.

## CURRICULUM EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Bring in some postcards or travel brochures that show a beach or shoreline. Discuss different types of things that are shown in the picture. Give students 4 x 6-inch index cards that are lined on one side. Have them illustrate the blank side with a seashore picture. On the lined side, have them write a postcard "home" telling about their trip to the beach. Bind the postcards with a plastic spiral and title the collection, "Our Seashore Vacations."

Obtain a collection of seashells. (Students might bring some shells. Keep borrowed shells together so they can be delivered to the correct owner at the end of the activity.) Have students classify shells according to type, color, size, pattern, etc. They will think of other attributes by which to sort them. Encourage them to explain the reasoning behind their classification schemes. Students might also arrange the shells in size order in the different groups.

From the shell collection, select a few that are very nearly the same size to use as an alternative unit of measurement. Pose questions, such as "How long is a desk in shells?" and "How tall are you in shells?" Have students estimate the number of shells needed before they actually conduct the measurements.

Have students make a sand castle or sand creature. The following mixture works well for classroom use:

6 cups sand  
1 cup wheat paste  
water

Mix the wheat paste and sand and add water until the sand has a clay-like consistency. It should be sticky and pack firmly into shapes. More sand and water may be added as needed, but the wetter the sand, the longer it will take to dry. Use materials such as paper cups, tin cans, margarine or yogurt containers, school lunch milk cartons, film canisters, and items such as sticks, toothpicks, flags, drinking straws, and craft sticks to form and decorate the castles and creatures. Display the sand creations where others in the school can see them.

Divide the class into small groups to do a variety of improvisational activities. Possible activities include: 1) give each group an object, such as a feather, an unusual hat, an old shoe, an umbrella, etc., and have them do a skit involving the object; 2) give each group three characters and a setting and have them create a story to act out; or 3) give each group a list of words (e.g., cloud, egg, pumpkin, scissors, princess, river, and owl) to build a story around. There are many possibilities for improvisations—students will think of their own ideas, as well.

Invite a local storyteller to the classroom to tell some stories and talk with students about the art of storytelling.

Have students visualize a place they have been and know well. Invite them to write a description of that place for someone who has never been there.

As a class, brainstorm a list of types of stories. For example, students might mention mysteries, funny stories, scary stories, biographies, stories that could really happen, make-believe stories, folktales, etc. Make several large book cutouts to place on the wall and put one of the story types named by the students on each cutout. As you read stories to the class or as they read books together, decide which type of story it is and write the title on the appropriate cutout. Check the cutouts from time to time to see which types of stories you read most frequently, which stories fit more than one type, and which types you still need to read. For the cutouts that have few titles listed, have students find books for you to read.

---

**RELATED THEMES:**

seashore plants and animals  
making books

**RELATED READING RAINBOW PROGRAMS:**

Program #88 — Seashore Surprises  
Program #17 — Simon's Book  
Program #127 — Hip Cat

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR:**

Edward was James Marshall's middle name. He published several books under the name of "Edward," including *Space Case*, a **Reading Rainbow** feature book. A native of San Antonio, James Marshall studied music before he turned to art. Best known for such characters as George and Martha, Viola Swamp, and the Stupids, his cartoon style of art is immediately recognizable by children. Several of James Marshall's books have been featured on **Reading Rainbow**, including *Space Case*, *Miss Nelson Is Back*, *Fox on the Job*, *The Piggy in the Puddle*, and *Nosey Mrs. Rat*.

**BOOKS REVIEWED BY CHILDREN:**

FROG AND TOAD TOGETHER  
by Arnold Lobel (HarperCollins)

COME AWAY FROM THE WATER, SHIRLEY  
by John Burningham (Crowell)

REGARDS TO THE MAN IN THE MOON  
by Ezra Jack Keats (Four Winds)

**SUPPLEMENTARY BOOKLIST:**

WHERE DOES THE TRAIL LEAD?  
by Burton Albert, illus. by Brian Pinkney (Simon & Schuster)

A BEACH DAY  
by Douglas Florian (Greenwillow)

MY STORIES BY HILDY CALPURNIA ROSE  
by Dale Gottlieb (Knopf)

GRAMMA'S WALK  
by Anna Grossnickle Hines (Greenwillow)

TELL MY A STORY, MAMA  
by Angela Johnson, illus. by David Soman (Orchard)

FOUR ON THE SHORE  
by Edward Marshall, illus. by James Marshall (Dial)

THE CASTLE BUILDER  
by Dennis Nolan (Macmillan)

ON THE EDGE OF THE SEA  
by Betty Paraskevas, illus. by Michael Paraskevas (Dial)

SUN SAND SEA SAIL  
by Nicki Weiss (Greenwillow)

CHERRIES AND CHERRY PITS  
by Vera B. Williams (Greenwillow)

THE SEASHORE BOOK  
by Charlotte Zolotow, illus. by Wendell Minor (HarperCollins)



Three by the Sea book. Read 19 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Lolly, Spider, and Sam have a wonderful picnic on the beach. After...  
Three children sitting by the ocean decide to tell stories to one another. When the first story is boring, the other two try their hand at storytelling. Each story gets progressively silly. This books easy vocabulary, repetition, and good pacing make it great for children just learning to read. Three children sitting by the ocean decide to tell stories to one another. When the first story is boring, the other two try their hand at storytelling. Each story gets progressively silly. Three by the Sea Apartment is 10 minutes drive from Cape Byron Lighthouse and 45 minutes drive from Gold Coast Airport. This air-conditioned apartment features a fully equipped kitchen and a patio with outdoor furniture. The lounge area includes a flat-screen TV. There is a bathtub and laundry facilities. This is our guests' favourite part of Byron Bay, according to independent reviews. We speak your language! 3/34 Kendall Street - Three by the Sea has been welcoming Booking.com guests since 30 Jul 2014. What would you like to know? Enter your feedback. Take advantage of our THREE BY THE SEA promotion and work with a Virtuoso travel Advisor to receive exclusive perks. Escape for three memorable nights and days of fun in the sun at our sanctuary by the sea! Save 15% on nightly rates, including full American breakfast daily for two, and enjoy unlimited fitness classes, and as much snorkeling, kayaking, and paddle boarding as you like at our beautiful swimmable beach on the turquoise waters of the Sea of Cortez. Offer includes: 3-night stay. 15% off Best Available Rates. Daily full American breakfast for two.