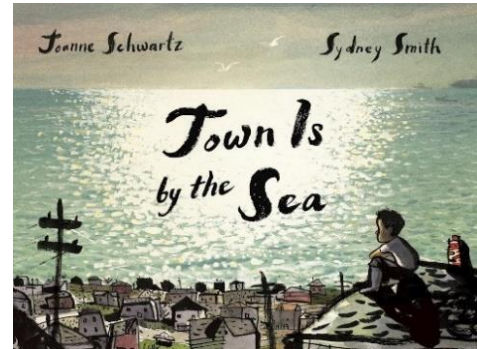


Town Is by the Sea

By Joanne Schwartz and Sydney Smith

Have a go at these creative activities at home or at school. Visit our website for many more ideas and activities linked to our other featured books!

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A ROOM WITH A VIEW

What is the first thing you see when you look out of your window? Draw the view from your bedroom window, or a favourite view from another room in your home. Use the window frame as the border for your picture. You could also draw yourself looking out of the window, just like the boy in the story.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

The boy recalls 'the bright days of summer', which are beautifully depicted in this series of images in the book. Think about your best summer-time memories and draw a picture to represent each one. Through Sydney's illustrations we can imagine the feel of the breeze blowing through the window, the sound of the birds swooping overhead, the smell of the salty air as his parents sit on the beach. Use each of your senses to recall your special moments. What are your favourite sights, sounds, tastes, smells and textures of summer?



SENSORY POEM

Turn your summer memories into a poem. Try to include some poetic devices such as **personification**, **alliteration** and **simile**.

LAYERED SEASCAPES

Summer Senses

I love the summer. It goes like this...

A chorus of birdsong nudges me awake;

Fine golden sand warms my toes;

Gentle waves tickle my ankles;

Ice-creams surrender to the hot sun;

Succulent sausages sizzle on the barbecue;

A warm breeze drifts in through the window;

Like a gentle hug as I go to sleep.



Through its lyrical text and striking illustrations, *Town Is by the Sea* introduces us to the water in contrasting forms: when it is calm and quiet; its surface sparkling in the sun; its crashing waves battering the boy's grandfather's gravestone; the

evening sun sinking into the sea and, in the final spread, the inky sea laying under the dark blanket of night.

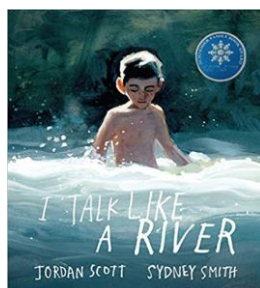
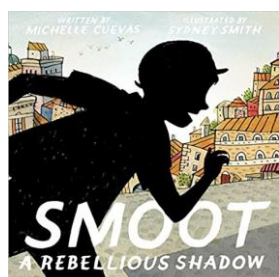
Create your own seascapes inspired by Sydney Smith, showing the sea at different times of day or in different weather conditions. Reflect the colours of the sky in the water and use different brush strokes to create texture. Display them as a series of images. Sets of three work best, in either portrait or landscape orientation. The technical term for a set of three images is called a triptych – can you work out why?

For some expert advice on how to paint expert seascapes, watch a short [video](#) of Sydney explaining how he created the illustrations for *Town is By the Sea*.

Further Activities to Try...

1. Create a collage showing the different layers we see in the story: sky, surface of the sea, under the sea and beneath the seabed. What would you find in each layer?
2. Look carefully at the way Sydney's illustrations effectively contrast the boy's carefree days and his dad's dangerous work underground. The images suggest there is a problem in the tunnel where dad is working. Rewrite the story from the dad's point of view, using the different senses build tension and suspense when the tunnel collapses.
3. Find out about the history of mining in your local area. The National Coal Mining Museum website has a range of interesting images, activities and resources to explore. They also have a virtual museum which you can visit to find out all about mining in Britain. <https://www.ncm.org.uk>

More books by Sydney Smith and Joanne Schwartz...



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