

CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



The Little Blue Cottage

Written by Kelly Jordan, Illustrated by Jessica Courtney-Tickle
32 pages / Grades K-3

A heartwarming story, this charming picture book will have us all fondly remembering our own favorite places we visited in childhood. Told from the point of view of a summer cottage by the sea, we follow the journey of the house who deals with embracing change and cherishing family. This is a book you will read again and again...and smile as you escape to visit the little blue cottage.

C Context

Told from the point of view of the cottage, a perfect lead-in to teaching **personification** and **perspective**.

Purposeful, targeted use of repetitive text.

Cherishing traditions and family memories through time, whether you are a child or an adult.

Lyrical text as a method to creating feeling in readers.

Tone of text, as this book as a natural calming, nostalgic, sweet feel to it.

A Arts

Illustration as a way to build **mood** and **tone** in stories.

Shading and color choice when creating illustrations to build feeling and texture.

Combining techniques to create depth in illustration.

While there is an incredibly cohesive feel in these illustrations, upon closer look, there is clearly a focused set of techniques being used.

T Themes

Growing up

Summer memories

Family traditions

Favorite places as a grounding force in life

Simple pleasures

The more things change the more they stay the same.

C Create

Write the story of your own favorite place, through the eyes of an object that is always there. (A treehouse, a special room, a grandparent's house, etc)

Experiment with combining two different artistic techniques to create depth and focus in an original illustration. Be selective in how you use them.

Set the story to music. What would you have playing in the background as you read it aloud, and why? Does the music change?

H Heart Words

"Nose to window, the girl stared at the waves and whispered, "You are my favorite place."

"Gray dolphins dove and white seagulls sang. Bright-colored boats bounced over the bay."

"Year after year, and night after day - the girl and the cottage.....they grew up together from summer to summer."

