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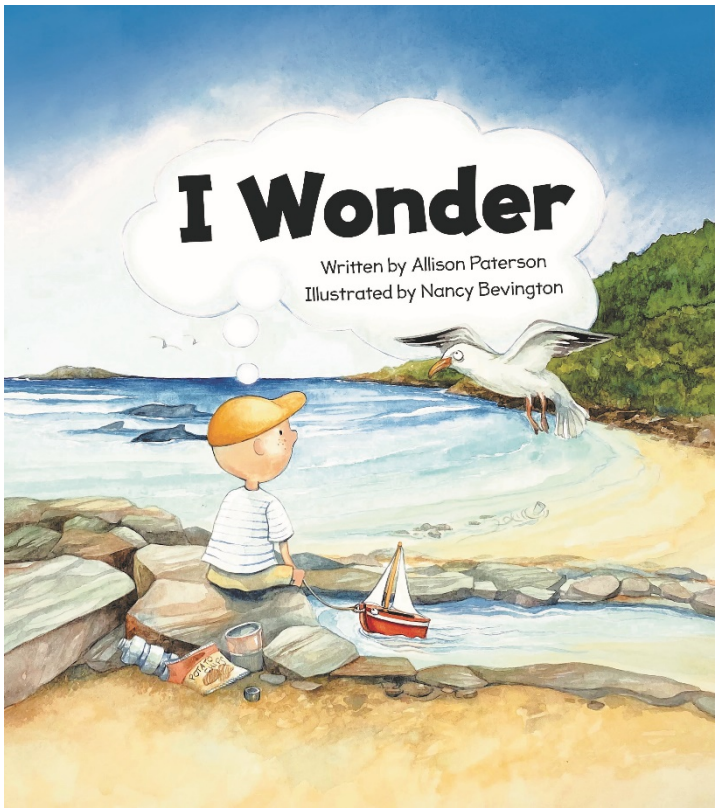

I Wonder

written by Allison Paterson

Illustrated by Nancy Bevington

Book 2 in the

***Caring for Our World* series**

CARING FOR OUR WORLD

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About the Book: *I Wonder*

The little wooden boat has been left behind in the sand dunes. Odd things pass it by, tumbling and floating into the ocean – a chip packet, a takeaway cup and a plastic bag. The little wooden boat wonders and worries ... Is it a forgotten thing? Is it just rubbish now? Will it ever find a home again?

This delightful tale will inspire readers to take the small steps needed to care for their world – no matter how young they are.

About the Author

Allison Paterson is the author of the 2016 ABIA and CBCA longlisted title *Anzac Sons.* She has also written picture books for children including *Granny's Place* and *Shearing Time*. Allison was a classroom teacher, a teacher-librarian for over twenty years and has reviewed children's literature for *Magpies Magazine* for as long. She was a recipient of a 2017 May Gibbs Children's Literature Trust Creative Time Fellowship. The resulting young adult manuscript *Follow After Me* was published in 2019. Her first book in the *Australia Remembers* series, *Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and War Memorials* was released in 2018 followed by *Australia Remembers: Customs and Traditions of the Australian Defence Force* in 2021. Allison now works as a full-time writer and presenter in schools. ***I Wonder*** was inspired by an early morning walk on the beach. Allison was dismayed to see the rubbish that had been left on the beach, and she wondered why? Why would people do that?

About the Illustrator

Nancy Bevington is an energetic, multifaceted visual artist. Her artistic career spans over three decades, working in painting, illustration and concept creation and execution. Picture books are one of her real passions. Using her many styles and techniques she has the ability to interpret the written word and bring a story to life. Nancy uses traditional media including gouache and watercolour, as well as photography and creative programs such as photoshop. She approaches every narrative with fun and sensitivity. Many books in her portfolio have been sold worldwide and nominated for awards.

Themes

- The Environment
- Seashores
- Ocean Animals
- Seashore Animals
- Waste Management
- Recycling
- Pollution
- Action for change
- Sustainability
- Marine Pollution

Key Curriculum Areas

Early Years Learning Framework

Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world
Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners

Cross Curriculum Priorities:

Sustainability

Key Learning Areas:

KLA: English

Language: Text structure and organisation, Expressing and developing ideas;

Literature: Literature and context, Responding to Literature, Examining Literature

Literacy: Interacting with others, Interpreting, analysing and evaluating, Creating Texts.

KLA: Science

Year 1
Observable changes occur in the sky and the landscape (ACSSU019)
Living things live in different places where their needs are met (ACSSU211)

Year 2
Earth's resources are used in a variety of ways (ACSSU032)

Year 3
Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things (ACSSU044)

Year 4
Living things depend on each other and the environment to survive (ACSSU073)

KLA: HASS Geography

Foundation:
The reasons why some places are special to people, and how they can be looked after (ACHASSK017)

Year 1
The natural, managed and constructed features of places, their location, how they change and how they can be cared for (ACHASSK031)

Year 4
The use and management of natural resources and waste and the different views on how to do this sustainably (ACHASSK090)

General Capabilities: Personal and Social Capability; Critical and Creative Thinking

Pre-Reading Questions & Activities

Discussion Guide

Explore the cover before reading:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- Can you see items on the cover that shouldn't be on a beach? What effect could those items have on the natural environment?
- How does the cover make you feel?
- What could the child in the illustration be thinking?
- Can you predict what could happen in the story?

Post-Reading Questions

- How does the story make you feel?
- Could this be a true story? Why?
- Have you ever noticed pollution on a beach? Or somewhere else in your environment?
- The little wooden boat wasn't sure if it was rubbish, litter or waste. Why did the boat use these terms? Why was it confused?

- The illustrator has used watercolours to create the illustrations. What effect does this have on the story? Do the colours change from the beginning, to the middle and then at the end of the story? Why would the illustrator do this?

- How does pollution affect the sea?

- Discuss the end of book. What do the footsteps in the sand mean?

- What could happen to our natural world if we didn't care for it?

- What small steps can you take to help reduce pollution?

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Is the boat a living thing or a non-living thing? List the living things and non-living things that you can find in *I Wonder.*

- Research your local environment and discover what different sort of animals are found in each environment and what their needs are. Choose one environment (beach/nature strip/local park/school yard) and create a diorama of the animal and plant life found there.

- If the climate changed suddenly in your chosen environment, what might happen to the animals there? How might they be protected/how might they adapt? Record your predictions.

- Research the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and answer the following questions:

  - What is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch?
  - Are there other garbage patches in the oceans of the world?
  - Where does all this plastic come from?
  - Whose problem is this?
  - What can you do as an individual to help solve the problem?

- Create a poster of one small step you can take to help reduce plastic pollution in our world. Display it at home or at school and encourage friends and family to do the same.

- Complete the ***What is Water Pollution?*** research and activity sheet.

- Colour in the ***I Wonder*** colouring page.

- Research how to safely collect waste. Next time you are at the beach complete the Trash or Treasure activity with your friends or family.

What Is Water Pollution?

1. Collect examples of the items listed and place each item in separate jars of the same size. Fill the jar with water.
2. Record your prediction for how the item and water will change over 4 weeks.
3. Describe the changes which occurred to the item after 4 weeks.
4. How was the water polluted? Which items do not show signs of change? Could those items still be harmful to marine environments?

Item	Predict how the item will change over 4 weeks	Describe how the item appears after 4 weeks
A leaf or grass clippings		
Paper		
A piece plastic bag		
A metal bottle top		
A plastic bottle top		

Trash or Treasure Hunt?

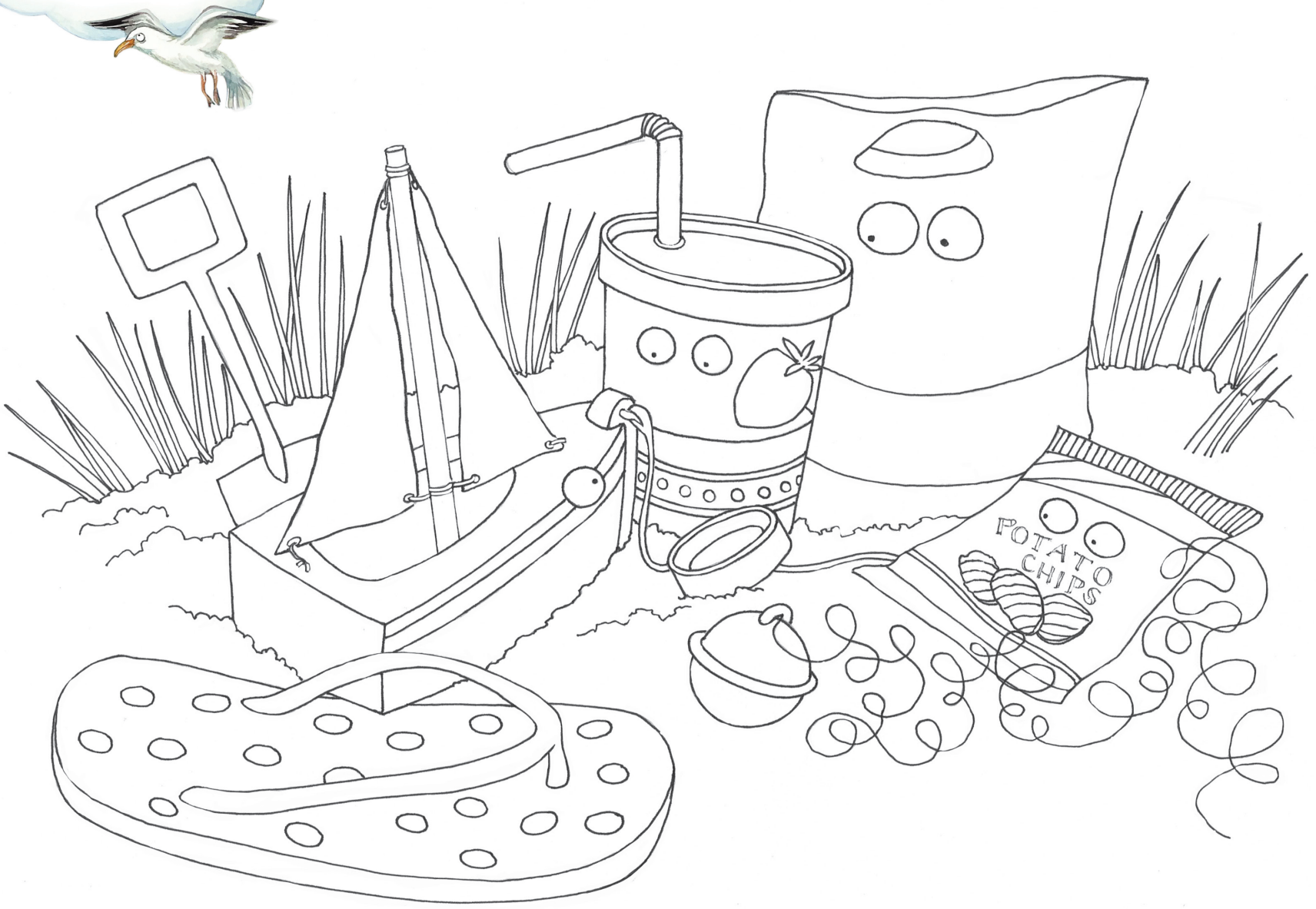
Research about how to handle waste with care. What items do you need?

Gather a group of friends or family members when you are next at the beach or nearby lake or river. Make sure you have an adult with you! See if you can find any of the rubbish which appeared on the beach in I Wonder.

- Did you find any treasure, or was it all waste?
- Dispose of the waste in a nearby bin and your reward is helping the environment!
- The one that finds the most or the quickest is the winner!

1. Plastic bottles
2. Thong or item of clothing
3. Pieces of plastic
4. Fishing line
5. Food wrapper
6. Plastic Cup
7. Straw

I Wonder



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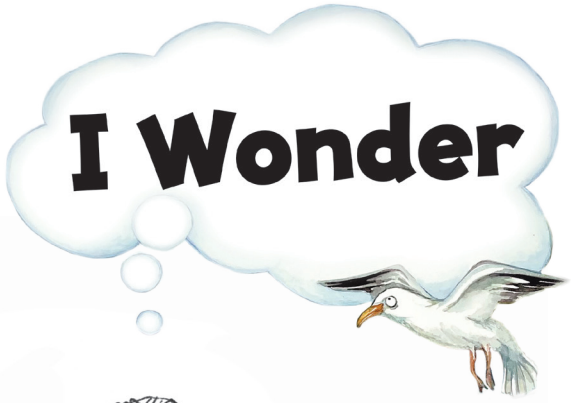
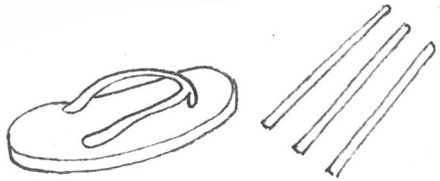
Make a Recycled Boat



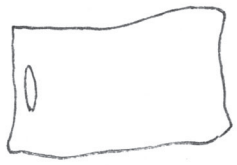
What you will need

Why not go to the beach and see if you can find any of these items washed up on the sand.



1 x Thong

3 x sticks

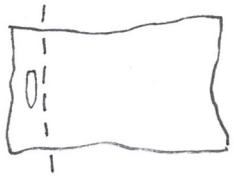


1 x plastic bag

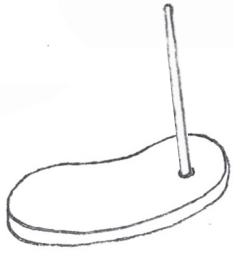
Some string

How to Make the Boat

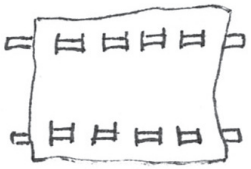
1. Take the strap off the thong



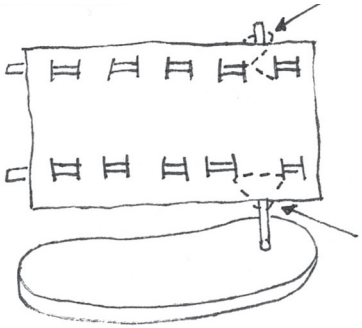
2. Cut the handle from bag



3. Put 1 stick into the hole of the thong



3. Thread 2 of the sticks along the top and bottom of the bag



4. Slide the plastic sail onto the upright stick and tie on with string

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For further information about

I Wonder

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