

Science + Literacy = Fun!



Creative ways to use *The Secret Pool** & *The Secret Bay*** to teach ecosystems, food webs, estuaries, vernal pools, writing, & art!

- 1. Virtual Field Trip: Nature Detectives!** Invite your students to investigate the pages of *The Secret Pool* or *The Secret Bay* to find amazing animals, plants, and “secrets.” Download free “Estuary Detective” and “Vernal Pool Detective” worksheets at www.kimridley.com.
- 2. A is for Amphibian: Create a Wetlands Alphabet Mural.** Assign each student a letter of the alphabet and have them find an organism, habitat, or process in *The Secret Pool* (vernal pools) or *The Secret Bay* (estuaries) that begins with this letter. Have each student research and write a sentence or short paragraph about their topic and illustrate it on a sheet of paper. Create a vernal pool or estuary alphabet mural on a bulletin board with the students’ work.
- 3. Habitats: Who Lives Where?** Make a bulletin board with the four estuary habitats (river, salt marsh, tide flats and salt pans). Assign or have students choose an organism in *The Secret Bay* and research which habitat/s it needs to complete its life cycle. Have students write a sentence about their organism, draw it, and place it in its habitat/s on the bulletin board.
- 4. Who’s for Lunch?** Using *The Secret Pool* or *The Secret Bay*, invite each student to choose an animal from the book and determine whether it is a predator, prey, or both!
- 5. Wild Wetlands: Compare and Contrast.** Both *The Secret Bay* and *The Secret Pool* are about wetlands. How are these wetlands similar? How are they different?
- 6. Write about Your Secret Place!** Using *The Secret Bay* or *The Secret Pool* as a guide, explore your school nature trail or local park. Write and illustrate your own story as a class about the animals, plants, and secrets you discover.
- 7. Dive In: Author Visits.** Invite Kimberly and Rebekah to your school for our unique programs that integrate science, writing and art and support Common Core Standards.

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