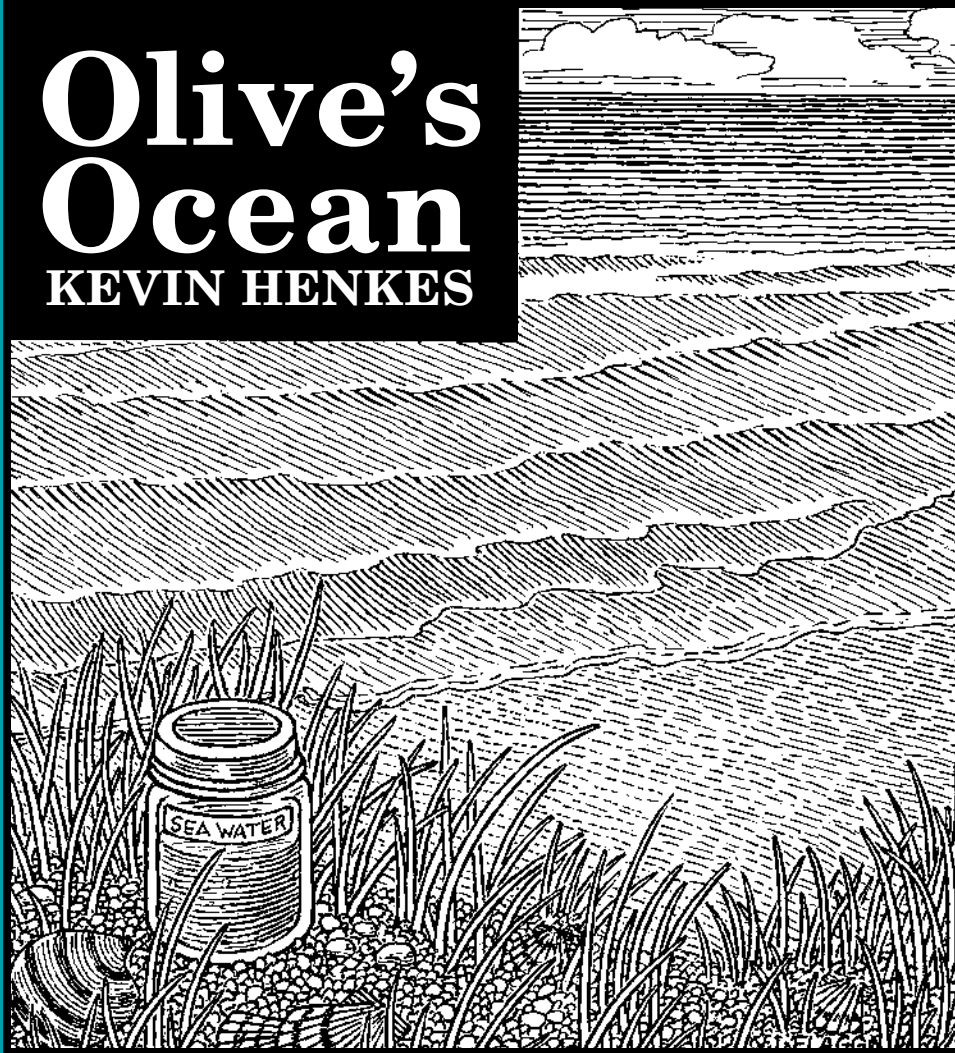


## Novel•Ties

# Olive's Ocean

KEVIN HENKES



## A Study Guide

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### LEARNING LINKS

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## For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with *Olive's Ocean* consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

In a homogeneous classroom, whole class instruction with one title is appropriate. In a heterogeneous classroom, reading groups should be formed: each group works on a different novel at its own reading level. Depending upon the length of time devoted to reading in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in three to six weeks.

Begin using NOVEL-TIES for reading development by distributing the novel and a folder to each child. Distribute duplicated pages of the study guide for students to place in their folders. After examining the cover and glancing through the book, students can participate in several pre-reading activities. Vocabulary questions should be considered prior to reading a chapter; all other work should be done after the chapter has been read. Comprehension questions can be answered orally or in writing. The classroom teacher should determine the amount of work to be assigned, always keeping in mind that readers must be nurtured and that the ultimate goal is encouraging students' love of reading.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits, formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques, will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cape Cod is a narrow arm-shaped peninsula that forms the easternmost portion of Massachusetts. It extends 65 miles east and north into the Atlantic Ocean. Although Cape Cod was originally connected to the mainland, the first Cape Cod Canal transformed Cape Cod into a large island. The land is generally flat, with sand dunes, low hills, and numerous lakes. Tourism and cranberry growing are the most important industries of the area. Cape Cod is also known for its shellfish, particularly oysters, clams, and lobsters. Although people live in Cape Cod all year round, it experiences a tourist explosion each summer when the New England cold gives way to a short but pleasant summer. Tourists to Cape Cod enjoy fishing, swimming, water sports, whale watching, and visiting the many historical sites and museums.

## AUTHOR INFORMATION

Kevin Henkes was born in 1960 and was raised in Racine, Wisconsin. Throughout his school years, he was considered an artist and a lover of books. He left Racine in 1979 to study art at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Between his freshman and sophomore years, having never before left Wisconsin and taking his portfolio with him, Henkes traveled alone to New York City on a quest to land a book contract. Susan Hirschman at Greenwillow Books decided to take a chance on this new writer and illustrator. She published Henkes' first book, *All Alone*, in 1981. This marked the beginning of what would become a prolific career as writer and illustrator of picture books and novels for a range of elementary school ages.

In 1985 Henkes married Laura Dronzek, who is the first reader of all his stories. They live in Middleton, Wisconsin, where Henkes works at his drawing table daily.

**Pre-Reading Questions and Activities (cont.)**

9. As you read *Olive's Ocean*, compare yourself to Martha in the Venn diagram below. Record the ways you are alike in the overlapping part of the circles.

