THE STORY

Critically acclaimed author and artist Frank Viva (Outstanding in the Rain) brings us this warm, funny and innovatively designed coming-of-age story.

BOOK SUMMARY

One summer can change your whole life. As soon as school lets out, Eliot’s parents send him to the very edge of the world: a fishing village in a remote part of Nova Scotia. And what does the small town of Point Aconi have to offer? Maggots, bullies and grumpy old men. But along the way, Eliot discovers much more—a hidden library, starry nights and a mysterious girl named Mary Beth. A warm, funny and innovatively designed coming-of-age story.

AUTHOR PROFILE

FRANK VIVA is an award-winning illustrator and designer who published several children’s books. His first picture book Along a Long Road was a finalist for the Governor General’s Award for Illustration and was named one of The New York Times’ 10 Best Illustrated Children’s Books of 2011. His other books for children include Outstanding in the Rain and A Long Way Away amongst many. His art has appeared in many places such as The New York Times and the cover of the New Yorker. Frank runs a branding and design agency in Toronto and is past president of the Advertising & Design Club of Canada. But making books is his favourite thing to do.

WEB RESOURCES

• Author Website: http://www.vivaandco.com/
• Publisher Website - Book: http://penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/538406/sea-change#9781101918524
• Publisher Website - author: http://penguinrandomhouse.ca/authors/276193/frank-viva
• Book trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTenzKHf3x

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

• Information on Nova Scotia’s culture, history and economy http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/nova-scotia/
• Frank Viva’s Artistic Process https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFgybf64ViO
• Biography and Style of Pablo Picasso http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/pica/hd_pica.htm
• Concrete Poetry http://www.powerpoetry.org/content/tips-writing-concretevisual-poetry
READING COMPREHENSION

• The setting of Sea Change has a large effect on the characters’ development within the book. Identify and discuss instances throughout the novel where the sea plays a role in the characters’ actions or contributes to the plot.

• Books are also important symbols in the story. What do books symbolize within Sea Change? Additionally, in Chapter 10 Uncle Earl introduces Eliot to his Great-grandmother’s library. Explain how this instance changes Eliot’s perspective.

• At the end of the novel Eliot states, “I’m a whole other person now”. Discuss how Eliot’s character transitions throughout the book. How does his perspectives change? What are the main factors that cause these changes?

• Eliot’s relationship with his uncle changes throughout the book. Discuss how this relationship changes and what Eliot learns from his uncle?

DISCUSS

• Viva uses illustrations throughout the novel to accompany the text. How do these illustrations portray the characters in the book? Discuss how Viva’s use of colour, line, expression and composition relates to the character development throughout the book.

• Eliot faced multiple challenges throughout the book, such as: adjusting to life in Point Aconi, overcoming his fear of swimming, dealing with Donnie’s bullying, and addressing Mary Beth’s situation. How did Eliot deal with these problems? Do you think Eliot properly dealt with these challenges?

• When Mary Beth, Timmy, and Eliot read The Time Machine Timmy says that “Point Aconi has Morlocks and Eloi.” Do you agree? In your opinion, who are the “good guys” and who are the “bad guys” in Sea Change?

• A major theme in Sea Change is dealing with change and accepting new circumstances or people. Talk to students about their own perspectives on encountering new people and experiences. Do your students like change? Discuss how to cope with change or how students deal with new situations.

SUGGESTED READINGS

FROM THE SAME AUTHOR

• (for Gr. 1 to 3) Young Charlotte, Filmmaker (2015) http://www.abramsbooks.com/product/young-charlotte-filmmaker_9780870709500/


• (for K to Gr. 3) Along a Long Road (2011) http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/none/along-a-long-road/9780316235686/

BY OTHER ARTISTS FROM WORDFEST 2016


• (for Gr. 8 & up) This One Summer (2014) by Mariko Tamaki http://us.macmillan.com/books/9781596437746

• (for Gr. 5 to Gr. 9) The Biggest Poutine in the World (2015) by André Poulin http://www.annickpress.com/Biggest-Poutine-in-the-World-The

• (for Gr. 6 & up) Cahokia (2016) by Camille Bouchard (FRENCH) http://www.editionsboreal.qc.ca/catalogue/livres/cahokia-2494.html

OTHER BOOKS AND MOVIES ON RELATED SUBJECT


• (for Gr. 3 to 7) Safe at Home (2007) by Sharon Robinson http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/book/safe-home-0#cart/cleanup


ACTIVITIES

A WRITING ACTIVITY - TIMES OF CHANGE

Throughout Sea Change Eliot experiences a major change in lifestyle. While it is initially difficult for Eliot to adjust to Point Aconi, he eventually learns to embrace his new community. Discuss a time when you experienced a change in your life. Outline what your initial feelings were, how you coped with the change and what the eventual result was. In what ways do you think that individuals can positively deal with change?

A POETRY ACTIVITY - WRITING CONCRETE POEMS

Viva frequently uses concrete poems throughout Sea Change to supplement the narrative and incorporates visual imagery with the text. Concrete poems are poems they are arranged in such a way that they create a visual image when written that relates to the text. Viva’s use of this technique is exemplified on pages: 48, 50, 63, 65, 88, 94, and 115. Have students create their own concrete poems. For more information on writing concrete poems please visit http://www.powerpoetry.org/content/tips-writing-concretevisual-poetry.

A DRAWING ACTIVITY - INTRO TO PICASSO AND CUBISM AS EXPRESSION

Prior to the activity introduce students to the style of Cubism for context. Refer to the illustrations of Eliot on pages 7, 29, 38, 57, 78, 93 for an example of Viva’s use of Cubism. See Tate Museum’s Resources for more information on Cubism (http://www.tate.org.uk/learn/online-resources/cubism).

Viva’s illustrations draw off of the style of Pablo Picasso and Cubism. Cubist artists take objects analyze them, break up images and rearrange the image elements into a new form. Cubism art also incorporates various perspectives of an object and compiles these viewpoints into one image. Pick a character or scene from Sea Change and draw your own illustration for the book in the style of Cubism.

CURRICULUM CONNECTION

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

GRADE 5

• Compare characters and situations portrayed in oral, print and other media texts to those encountered in the classroom and community (2.2)
• Experiment with words and sentence patterns to create word pictures; identify how imagery and figurative language, such as simile and exaggeration, convey meaning (2.3)
• Identify and discuss how qualities, such as courage, ambition and loyalty, are portrayed in oral, print and other media texts from diverse cultures and communities. (5.1)

GRADE 6

• Discuss how detail is used to enhance character, setting, action and mood in oral, print and other media texts. (2.2)
• Describe and discuss the influence of setting on the characters and events. (2.2)
• Describe and discuss the influence of setting on the characters and events. (2.2)

GRADE 7

• Discuss and respond to ways that content and forms of oral, print and other media texts interact to influence understanding (1.1)
• Compare the choices and behaviours of characters portrayed in oral, print and other media texts with those of self and others (2.2)
• Analyze how plot develops; the connection between plot and subplot; and the interrelationship of plot, setting and characters (2.2)
• Identify or infer reasons for a character’s actions or feelings. (2.2)
• Identify and explain conflict, and discuss how it develops and may be resolved. (2.2)

GRADE 8

• Discuss various ways characters are developed and the reasons for and plausibility of character change. (2.2)
WRITING: Times of Change

ACTIVITY SHEET

Throughout *Sea Change* Eliot experiences a major change in lifestyle. While it is initially difficult for Eliot to adjust to Point Aconi, he eventually learns to embrace his new community. Discuss a time when you experienced a change in your life. Outline what your initial feelings were, how you coped with the change and what the eventual result was. In what ways do you think that individuals can positively deal with change?
POETRY: Writing Concrete Poems

ACTIVITY SHEET

Create your own concrete poem! First, write out a poem about the topic of your choice. Then, on the next page, format the poem into an image.
Write out your concrete poem in your chosen shape below.
DRAWING: Intro to Picasso and Cubism

Viva’s illustrations draw off of the style of Pablo Picasso and Cubism. Cubist artists take objects, analyze them, break up images and rearrange the image elements into a new form. Cubism art also incorporates various perspectives of an object and compiles these viewpoints into one image. Pick a character or scene from Sea Change and draw your own illustration for the book in the style of Cubism.