

Beneath by Cori Doerrfeld

Lesson Ideas for age 4+ and 7+

4+



Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)/Circle Time (4+)

- Students discuss what we should do when we're worried about something and the importance of sharing our worries/ bad moods by talking to trusted others. Discuss who they can go to with their worries and in an emergency at home (parents/caregiver), in school (principal, SENCO, teachers, assistants etc.), outside (police officers, security guards, shop assistants)
- The class could discuss how we are different (different likes/dislikes/experiences) by telling each other their likes/dislikes/ family members/ favourite things to do; then discuss how we are fundamentally the same (we all have a brain, a heart, lungs etc.)
- The children could discuss what makes them feel better when they are feeling sad or in a bad mood. What makes you happy? How can we make our friends happy when they are sad?

Numeracy (4+)

- Make a pattern sequence for your quilt.
- Sequence the story.

The World Around Us (WAU) (4+)

- Can you name all the animals in the book?
- The Human Body
- Animal skeletons and anatomy
- The animal food chain
- Class trip to the local forest park and discuss the observations in the book
- Research forest animals
- The Human Life Cycle
- The Life Cycle of a Plant
- Students could do a class project on an animal/plant in the book and present it to the class.

Play (4+)

- Russian dolls - what is beneath each one? Order them smallest to largest.
- Ice cubes in the water tray - pretend they are ice bergs. What is above and what is below?
- Plant seeds against the side of a glass – and see what grows above and below.



7+

Literacy (7+)

- Write a diary entry of Finn, why was he in a bad mood at the start of the book? What happened and retell the story through Finn's eyes.
- The teacher could link the book to the myth of the city of Atlantis. A whole city was said to be beneath the waves of the ocean. Students could research the myth and imagine being a part of the city.
- What is behind each character? Discuss- e.g. Elderly woman with Olympic medal tells us that she is a lot more than an elderly woman.

Art & Design (7+)

- Students design their own quilt- what would be on it?
- Can you think of any other scenes that have something different beneath them? Think of some examples of 'Beneath what's hollow can be something solid?' and 'Beneath what's falling apart can be something just starting to form?'

Notes by Sarah-Jane Keilty to accompany

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Also by Cori Doerrfeld: *The Rabbit Listened*, and *Say Goodbye... Say Hello*



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