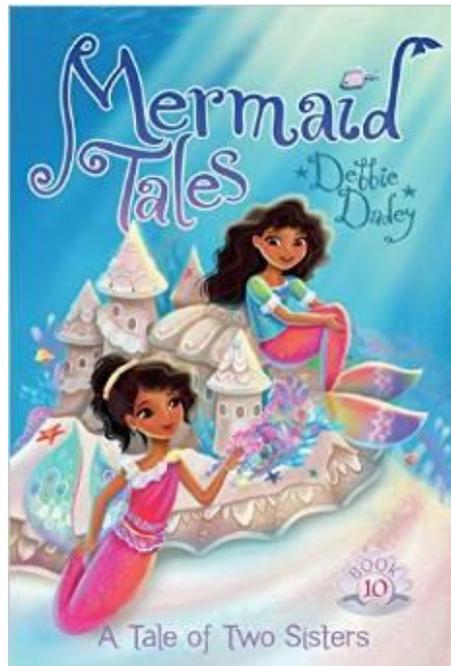


MERMAID TALES

A Teaching Unit

Tale of Two Sisters



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www.debbiedadey.com and www.Facebook.com/debbiedadey

Other books in the Mermaid Tales series include:

Trouble at Trident Academy
Battle of the Best Friends
A Whale of a Tale
Danger in the Deep Blue Sea
The Lost Princess
The Secret Sea Horse
Dream of the Blue Turtle
Treasure in Trident City

A Tale of Two Sisters was first published by Simon and Schuster, January 2015

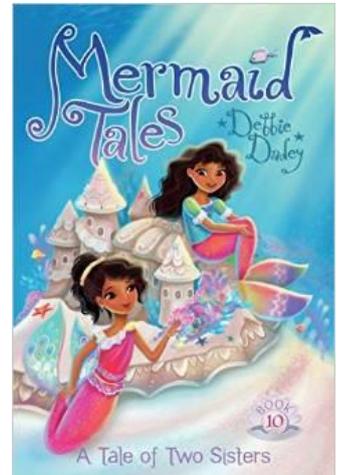
Illustrations by Tatevik Avakyan

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Book Summary:

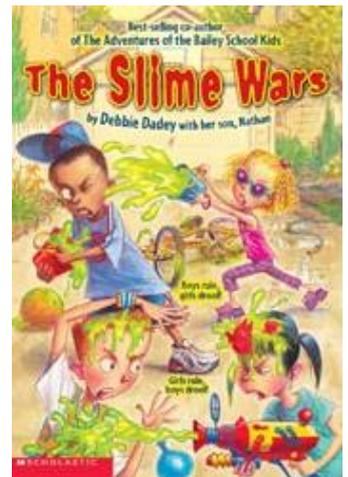
Echo is excited when she finds something human. But when her sister claims it, a sister war begins! Can anything save their friendship? Can they learn to get along again? Echo's class studies about crabs as Crystal and Echo rebuild their friendship by sculpting a school project together.



Meet the author:



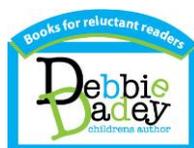
Debbie Dadey is the author and co-author of 162 children's books, including *The Mermaid Tales* and *The Adventures of the Bailey School Kids* books. A former librarian and teacher, Debbie and her husband, Eric, and their three wonderful children; Nathan, Becky, and Alex make their home near Philadelphia. Debbie even wrote two books with her son, Nathan. *Slime Wars* and *Slime Time* were the result of a fun brainstorming session. Find out more about her at www.debbiedadey.com and www.Facebook.com/debbiedadey.



She enjoys writing, reading, answering kid's questions on her blog (*Debbie Talks*), visiting schools, playing tennis, and Skyping with classrooms.

Photo credit to Portrait Innovations

www.debbiedadey.com



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book illustrations by Tatevik Avakyan

MERMAID TALES

DEBBIE DADEY BOOKLIST

Here is a selected list of books by Debbie Dadey. For a complete list of titles visit www.debbiedadey.com

Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots

Dream of the Blue Turtle

Ghosts Don't Eat Potato Chips

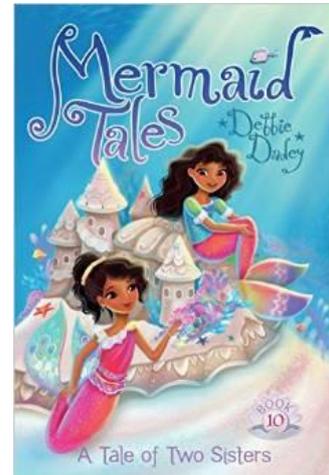
Leprechauns Don't Play Basketball

The Worst Name in Third Grade

This Side of Magic

Cupids Don't Flip Hamburgers

Trouble at Trident Academy



Pre-reading activities: Before reading **A Tale of Two Sisters** complete some or all of the activities below to peak interest in the story, as well as to increase comprehension, reading, and predicting skills. The next two pages have activities to try as well.

1. Show the life cycle of a frog. Can students name other creatures that have life cycles?
2. Read the *Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and let students draw the life cycle of a butterfly. Tell students that in the next story they're about to read, they'll learn about the life cycle of another creature. If you can bring in a crab for students to see, do it!
3. Ask students if they have brothers or sisters. Ask them if they have ever had disagreements with their siblings. If you, as the teacher, have brothers or sisters you can share your experiences. Author Debbie Dadey never had a sister, but always wanted one!
4. Have students close their eyes. Bring out a good-sized rock. Tell students there is a treasure under the rock. Let them guess what the treasure could be. After they've had a chance to guess, pull out the story, **A Tale of Two Sisters**. Tell students that in this story, two sisters have a huge disagreement. What could they be fighting about?



MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Pre-reading activity

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Anticipation Guide Dive in! Answer true or false to these questions before reading **A Tale of Two Sisters** and again after completing the story to see if your answers have changed.

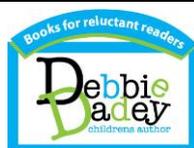
Before (no wrong answer)		After
_____	1. Metamorphosis is a big word for life cycle.	_____
_____	2. Humans use telephones to talk to people far away.	_____
_____	3. Zoea is another name for larva.	_____
_____	4. If you find something, it belongs to you.	_____
_____	5. You can get warts from sea creatures.	_____
_____	6. Life cycles and stages of life are the same thing.	_____
_____	7. Some crabs can live to be 100 years old!	_____
_____	8. Some crabs can grow back a missing claw.	_____
_____	9. Some crabs release their eggs into the water and they float away.	_____
_____	10. Debbie Dadey has two brothers.	_____

Did you change your mind on any of the above? Yes or No

Did any of the above sentences surprise you? _____

Which one? _____

On the back of this page make up your own sentence to ask your teacher or classmate. Let them guess if the answer is true or false.



MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Pre-reading activity



Name: Answer guide	Date:
--	-------

Anticipation Guide Dive in! Answer true or false to these questions before reading Dream of the Blue Turtle and again after completing the story to see if your answers have changed.

Before (no wrong answer)		After
_____	1. Metamorphosis is a big word for life cycle.	___ T ___
_____	2. Humans use telephones to talk to people far away.	___ T ___
_____	3. Zoea is another name for larva.	___ T ___
_____	4. If you find something, it belongs to you.	___ F ___
_____	5. You can get warts from sea creatures.	___ F ___
_____	6. Life cycles and stages of life are the same thing.	___ T ___
_____	7. Some crabs can live to be 100 years old!	___ T ___
_____	8. Some crabs can grow back a missing claw.	___ T ___
_____	9. Some crabs release their eggs into the water and they turn into dinosaurs.	___ F ___
_____	10. Debbie Dadey has two brothers.	___ T ___

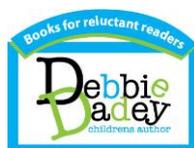
Did you change your mind on any of the above? Yes or No answers will vary

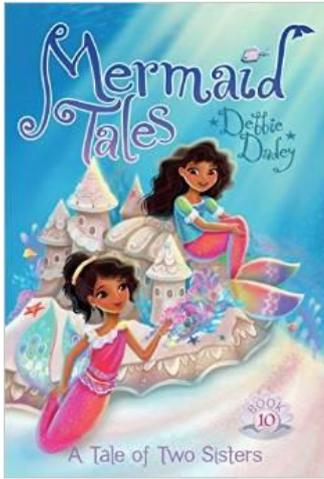
Did any of the above sentences surprise you? _____

Which one? _____

On the back of this page make up your own sentence to ask your teacher or classmate. Let them guess if the answer is true or false.

Answers will vary





MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Pre-reading activity

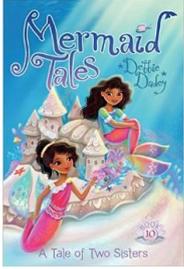
Name _____

Book Overview: Fill the sheet below with nouns and verbs, then cut it down the middle and trade one half with another classmate to see how your words work together. **Answers will vary.**

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.1.e](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.1.i](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.1](#)

Nouns

Verbs



MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Pre-reading activity

New words To Learn for A Tale of Two Sisters

Chapter 1

stretched	prestigious	scrimmage
performing	gymnastics	bioluminescent

Chapter 2 and 3

object	sponge	zoa
bait	metamorphosis	instructions

Chapter 4 and 5

disbelief	unfortunately	juvenile
treasure	casserole	barbed

Chapter 6 and 7

accidentally	cancelled	littered
Innocent	barrel	sculptures

Chapter 8 – 11

flunk	mention	enormous	announcement	entertainment
destroyed	magnificent	transformed	proceed	deserve
potential	tentacles	examining	auditorium	rattled

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4](https://www.debbiedadey.com)

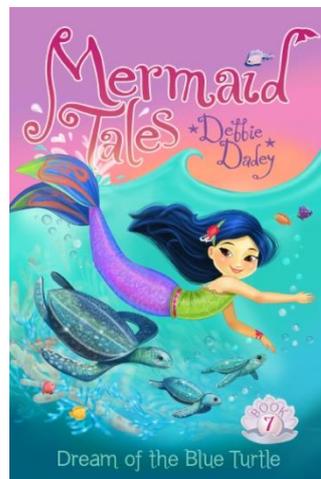
E/LA Common Core Standards for Reading Grade 3 RL.3.4

FUN WAYS TO LEARN VOCABULARY WORDS

FOR A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

- Let students make up a story using as many vocabulary words as possible.
- Let students pick a word to fill a page. Then let them create a word animal using the word's outline. Display the animals.
- Fill a sand pail with sand and let students practice writing the vocabulary words with their fingers in the sand.
- Let students design their own paper crabs and put a vocabulary word on each one. Use them to decorate the classroom door. Upon entering the room students must touch a crab and say a word.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4](#)



MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Chapter 1/prediciting and homophones

NAME:

DATE:

In chapter one of Mermaid Tales #10, A Tale of Two Sisters, Echo finds something under a rock. What do you think she found? Make five predictions below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The orginial title of **A Tale of Two Sisters** was A Tail of Two Sisters. Tale and tail are homophones, words that sound the same but are spelled differently. Can you match the other homonyms below? **CCSS L.3.5**

pray

their

there

write

flour

meat

right

piece

meet

flower

peace

prey

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Chapter 1/predicting and homophones

NAME:

answers

DATE:

In chapter one of Mermaid Tales #10, A Tale of Two Sisters, Echo finds something under a rock. What do you think she found? Make five predictions below.

1. _____ answers will vary _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The original title of **A Tale of Two Sisters** was A Tail of Two Sisters. Tale and tail are homophones, words that sound the same but are spelled differently. Can you match the other homonyms below? **CCSS L.3.5**

pray	their
there	write
flour	meat
right	piece
meet	flower
peace	prey

MERMAID TALES
A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Chapter 2/life cycles

Name:

Date:

In the space below, draw the life cycle of a crab.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2

CCSS 2.3.2

MERMAID TALES

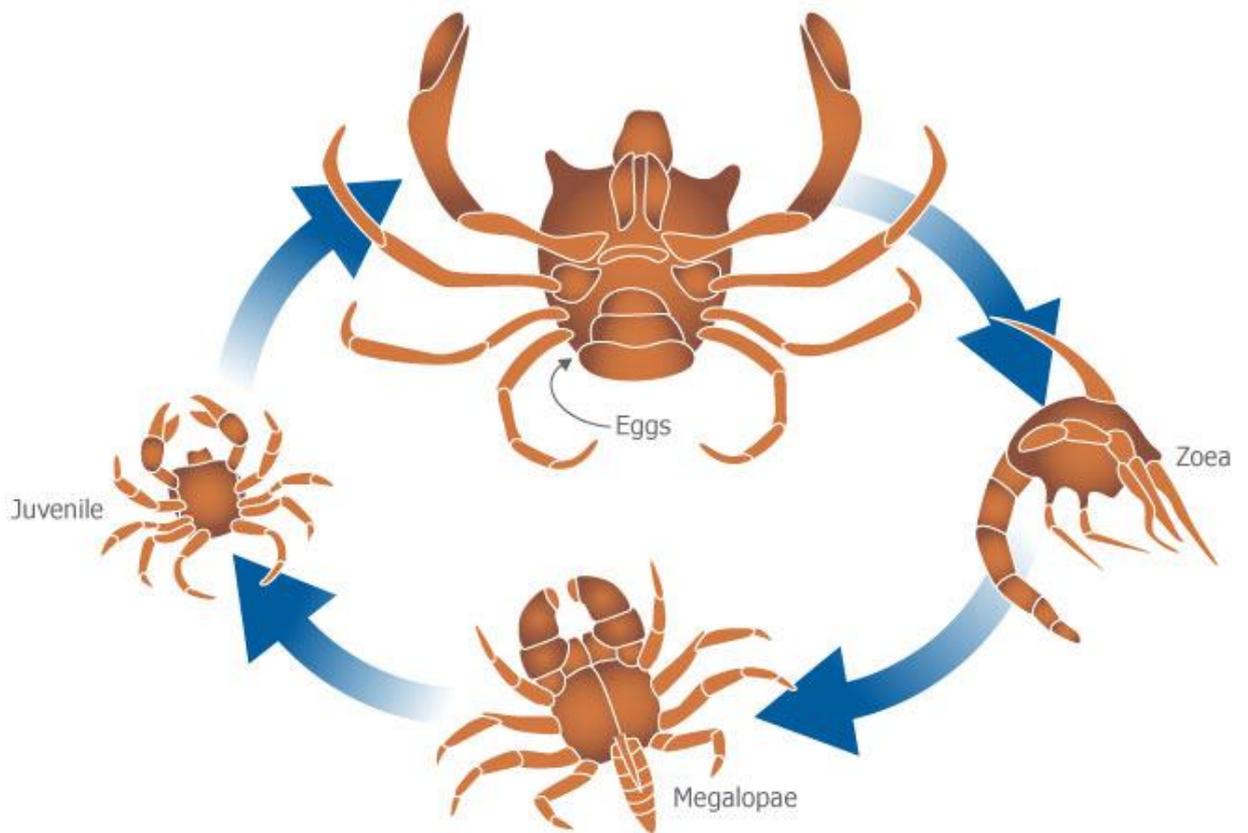
A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Chapter 2/life cycles

Name:

Date:

In the space below, draw the life cycle of a crab.

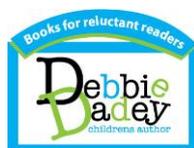


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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2

CCSS 2.3.2

www.debbiedadey.com



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book illustrations by Tatevik Avakyan

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Chapter 2 and 3/brainstorming

Name:

Date:

Can you put the events of chapters two and three in the right order?

_____ Rocky flipped his brown tail into high gear and caught the eggs.

_____ Echo screamed. "It's gone!"

_____ Pearl squealed. "Look what Rocky did!"

_____ "It's not my fault you were daydreaming in class," Rocky said.

_____ "I need to talk to you," Crystal snapped

_____ "Here are some crag eggs," Mrs. Karp told them.

_____ "We'd better get to school."

Now, it's your turn. Write three things that happened today in the right order.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1](http://www.debbiedadey.com)

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

Chapter 2 and 3/brainstorming

Name:

answers

Date:

Can you put the events of chapters two and three in the right order?

_____ **5** _____ Rocky flipped his brown tail into high gear and caught the eggs.

_____ **7** _____ Echo screamed. "It's gone!"

_____ **3** _____ Pearl squealed. "Look what Rocky did!"

_____ **4** _____ "It's not my fault you were daydreaming in class," Rocky said.

_____ **6** _____ "I need to talk to you," Crystal snapped.

_____ **2** _____ "Here are some crag eggs," Mrs. Karp told them.

_____ **1** _____ "We'd better get to school."

Now, it's your turn. Write three things that happened today in the right order.

1. _____ **answers will vary** _____

2. _____

3. _____

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1](#)

Name: _____

Date: _____

Learn about crabs and then try your luck at the crab quiz. If you get three or more right, you earn a Super Turtle Seal of Approval.



Crabs live on dry land and in every ocean. Crabs can be very tiny, like the small pea crab, and they can also be quite large, like the thirteen foot Japanese Spider Crab. Crabs have a hard shell, which they shed or molt many times as they grow. Crabs have been known to work together for the protection of their families.

True or False

1. Crabs live on clouds in outer space. _____
2. Crabs are always very small. _____
3. Crabs have hard shell, which they keep their entire lives. _____
4. When a crab sheds it's shell, it is called molting. _____
5. The Japanese Spider Crab can get to be thirteen feet wide. _____
back.

Go the library and find two different kinds of crabs. Draw their pictures on the back.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Learn about crabs and then try your luck at the crab quiz. If you get three or more right, you earn a Super Turtle Seal of Approval.



Crabs live on dry land and in every ocean. Crabs can be very tiny, like the small pea crab, and they can also be quite large, like the thirteen foot Japanese Spider Crab. Crabs have a hard shell, which they shed or molt many times as they grow. Crabs have been known to work together for the protection of their families.

True or False

1. Crabs live on clouds in outer space. _____ **F** _____
2. Crabs are always very small. _____ **F** _____
3. Crabs have hard shell, which they keep their entire lives. _____ **F** _____
4. When a crab sheds its shell, it is called molting. _____ **T** _____
5. The Japanese Spider Crab can get to be thirteen feet wide. _____ **T** _____

Go the library and find two different kinds of crabs. Draw their pictures on the back.

Drawings will vary

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS CHAPTER 5/NEWSPAPER

You are the editor of the Crabby News, a paper just for crabs. You must come up with news and stories to interest your customers. Perhaps you can even have an ad for a product that appeals to crabs! Feel free to be silly!

Editor:

Date:

Crabby News

What happened:

What every crab needs:

When:

Where:

For Sale at the Zoea Gap:

**Big Show Tonight at the
Megalop Music Hall:**

Answers will vary. [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.7](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.4](#)

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS CHAPTER 6/GRAMMAR

Name:

Date:

Circle the punctuation mistakes in the following sentences. Write each sentence correctly on the line below each incorrect sentence.

1. anybody could have done it echo said

2. its mine echo snapped

3. shelly put her burger down

4. shes never going to forgive me

5. i dont have any sisters either kiki told echo

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.1](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.2.c](#)

MERMAID TALES
A TALE OF TWO SISTERS **CHAPTER 6/GRAMMAR**

Name:

Date:

Circle the punctuation mistakes in the following sentences. Write each sentence correctly on the line below each incorrect sentence.

1. anybody could have done it echo said

"Anybody could have done it," Echo said.

2. its mine echo snapped

"It's mine," Echo snapped. _____

3. shelly put her burger down

Shelly put her burger down. _____

4. shes never going to forgive me

She's never going to forgive me. _____

5. i dont have any sisters either kiki told echo

"I don't have any sisters either," Kiki told Echo. _____

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.1](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.2.c](#)

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

CHAPTER 7/ADDITION

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

What if Echo had decided to buy presents for her sister? Figure out the cost for the items below.

shell necklace 4 shells	fin polish 2 shells	new book 5 shells
glittering plankton bow 2 shells	MerStyles magazine 4 shells	sculpting set 5 shells

1. Shell necklace, a book, and fin polish _____
2. A sculpting set, a MerStyles magazine, and a glittering plankton bow _____
3. 2 new books, 2 MerStyles magazines, and a shell necklace _____
4. A sculpting set, fin polish, and a new book _____
5. Two shell necklaces, a new book, and fin polish _____
6. A new book, two glittering plankton bows, and a MerStyle magazine _____

Echo only has eleven shells. Circle the group of presents above that Echo can afford.

Now, it's your turn. Pick three things above that you would give your sister if you had one, then name the cost.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Cost: _____

[CCSS.Math.Content.2.OA.B.2](#)

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

CHAPTER 7/ADDITION

Name: **answers**

Date:

What if Echo had decided to buy presents for her sister? Figure out the cost for the items below.

shell necklace 4 shells	fin polish 2 shells	new book 5 shells
glittering plankton bow 2 shells	MerStyles magazine 4 shells	sculpting set 5 shells

1. Shell necklace, a book, and fin polish 11 shells
2. A sculpting set, a MerStyles magazine, and a glittering plankton bow 11 shells
3. 2 new books, 2 MerStyles magazines, and a shell necklace 22 shells
4. A sculpting set, fin polish, and a new book 12 shells
5. Two shell necklaces, a new book, and fin polish 15 shells
6. A new book, two glittering plankton bows, and a MerStyle magazine 13 shells

Echo only has eleven shells. Circle the group of presents above that Echo can afford.

Now, it's your turn. Pick three things above that you would give your sister if you had one, then name the cost. **Answers will vary**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Total Cost: _____

[CCSS.Math.Content.2.OA.B.2](#)

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

CHAPTER 8 ART/ART HISTORY

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

Did you know that Michelangelo and Donatello were famous sculptors before they were Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?

Donatello was born in Florence in 1386. He created two statues of the biblical character named David. The first statue was in marble. The second, his most famous, was in bronze and stands a little over five feet tall. This was the first free-standing nude statue since antiquity, so Donatello was taking a bit of a risk to create one in 1440. This bronze David only wore a hat and boots, and one foot rested on the head of his enemy Goliath! It originally stood in a Medici family courtyard.

Michelangelo was born in Caprese, Italy in 1475, but was raised in Florence. His marble David statue took him two years to complete. He worked on it in a court yard, not stopping even when it rained. It is fourteen feet tall and totally nude. Michelangelo was only 26 years old when he began his David, but he was already one of the best paid and most famous artists of his time.

Use the chart below to compare and contrast Donatello and Michelangelo. Name three things in each area.

DONATELLO	BOTH	MICHELANGELO
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1](https://www.coreknowledge.org/standards/aligned/CCSS/ELA-Literacy/RL/3/1/)

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS CHAPTER 8 ART/ART HISTORY

Name: **answers**

Date:

Did you know that Michelangelo and Donatello were famous sculptors before they were Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?

Donatello was born in Florence in 1386. He created two statues of the biblical character named David. The first statue was in marble. The second, his most famous, was in bronze and stands a little over five feet tall. This was the first free-standing nude statue since antiquity, so Donatello was taking a bit of a risk to create it in 1440. This bronze David only wore a hat and boots, and one foot stood on the head of his enemy Goliath. It originally stood in a Medici family courtyard.

Michelangelo was born in Caprese, Italy in 1475, but was raised in Florence. His white marble David statue took him two years to complete. He worked on it in a court yard, not stopping even when it rained. It is fourteen feet tall. Michelangelo was only 26 years old when he began his David, but he was already one of the best paid and most famous artists of his time. His David stood outside in a courtyard for many years.

Use the chart below to compare and contrast Donatello and Michelangelo. Name three things in each area. **Answers may vary**

DONATELLO

BOTH

MICHELANGELO

1. Born in Florence

2. 2 David statues

3. David statue in marble and bronze

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1](https://www.illustrations.com/CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1)

1. Florence

2. Made David statues

3. David statues in marble

1. Born in Caprese, Italy

2. 1 David statue

3. David statue in white marble

MERMAID TALES TEACHER PAGE

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

CHAPTER 9 AND 10/ART AND RESEARCH

Chapter Nine:

Ask your art teacher if it is possible to let students use clay to correlate with the story. If not, invite a local sculpture into the class for a demonstration or watch this video on making a simple sculpted animal. Then, let your students try it themselves. Hope you do too!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocAc--CQdPw>

Chapter Ten:

Echo's art teacher turns the front entrance of Trident Academy into an art exhibit. Watch these videos to virtually visit an art museum. Of course, an actual visit to a local art museum would be even better! Then, perhaps you can make your own classroom art exhibit using the clay you made in the activity above. Invite parents or other students to view your exhibit. (Teachers, be aware that some of the videos below do show a few naked statues.) Give students paper so they can take notes on their favorite art pieces in each museum or use the next page.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJxH-QuJeXo> **Visit the Louvre**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5HcYY1b7wk> **Visit the Musee d'Orsay**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u04g-pHLPnM> **British Museum**

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

CHAPTER 10—ART AND RESEARCH

Name:

Date:

Answer these questions as you virtually visit three art museums.

1. Which of these is your favorite museum? Circle it.

The Louvre

The Musee d'Orsay

British Museum

Or if you have a different favorite, list it here: _____

Why did you pick that one as your favorite? _____

2. As you watch each video, pick at least one item that is your favorite from that museum and list it here:

The Louvre: _____

The Musee d'Orsay _____

The British Museum _____

3. Which of the museums above houses the famous painting called the Mona Lisa?

4. Which of the museums above is in England? _____

5. Which of the museums above has a clock that fires cannons?

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1.a](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1.b](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.7](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.8](#)

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

CHAPTER 10—ART AND RESEARCH

Name:

Date:

Answer these questions as you virtually visit three art museums.

1. Which of these is your favorite museum? Circle it. **Answers will vary**

The Louvre

The Musee d’Orsay

British Museum

Or if you have a different favorite, list it here: _____

Why did you pick that one as your favorite? _____

2. As you watch each video, pick at least one item that is your favorite from that museum and list it here: **Answers will vary**

The Louvre: _____

The Musee d’Orsay _____

The British Museum _____

3. Which of the museums above houses the famous painting called the Mona Lisa?

_____ **The Louvre** _____

4. Which of the museums above is in England? ___ **The British Museum**

5. Which of the museums above has a clock that fires cannons?

_____ **The British Museum**

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1.a](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1.b](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.7](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.8](#)

MERMAID TALES

A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

CHAPTER 11 / JOURNALING

Name:	Date:
-------	-------

In *A Tale of Two Sisters*, Echo and Crystal are able to work out their differences, with the help of their friends. Write about a time where you had a problem with a friend or family member. Were you able to work out your differences? How? If you weren't able to work it out, how would you have liked things to work out? Why do you think you had trouble? Use the back if you need more room.



[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1.a](https://www.coreknowledge.org/standards/aligned/CCSS/ELA-Literacy/W/3/1/a/) Answers will vary