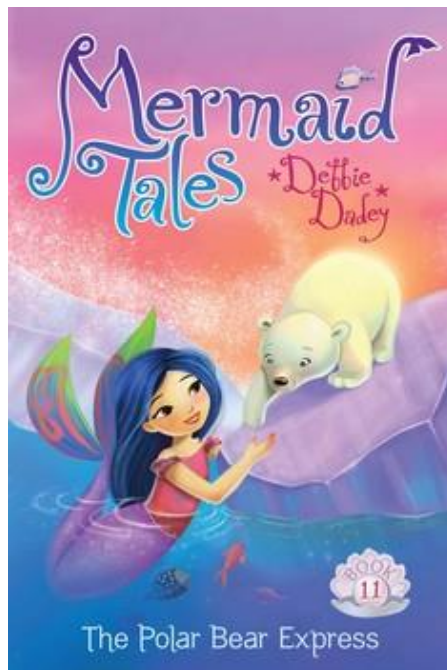


Mermaid Tales

A Teaching Unit

The Polar Bear Express



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

Other books in the Mermaid Tales series include (also available in hardback and digital):

Trouble at Trident Academy ISBN-13: 978-1442429802 - Paperback

Battle of the Best Friends ISBN-13: 978-1442429826 - Paperback

A Whale of a Tale ISBN-13: 978-1442429840 - Paperback

Danger in the Deep Blue Sea ISBN-13: 978-1442429864 - Paperback

The Lost Princess ISBN-13: 978-1442482579 - Paperback

The Secret Sea Horse ISBN-13: 978-1442482609 - Paperback

Dream of the Blue Turtle ISBN-13: 978-1442482630 - Paperback

Treasure in Trident City ISBN-13: 978-1442482661 - Paperback

A Tale of Two Sisters ISBN-13: 978-1481402576 - Paperback

The Polar Bear Express was first published by Simon and Schuster in May 2015 ISBN 978-1481402606

Illustrations by Tatevik Avakyan

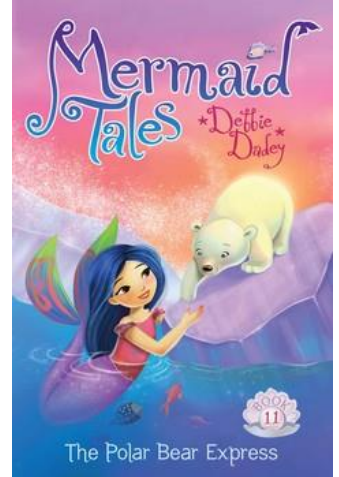
Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Book Summary:

When Kiki finds a lost polar bear cub, she is determined to find a way to get it home. Will her friends help her before Pearl gets the Shark Patrol to capture the cub?

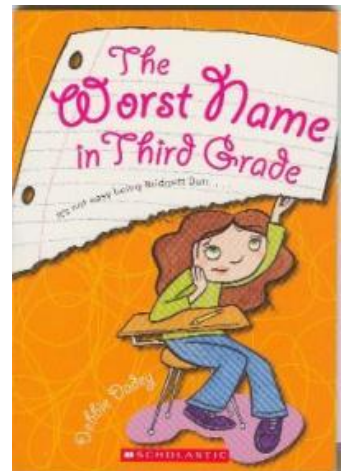
Meet the author:



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. One of her other books is The Worst Name in Third Grade. Find out more about her at www.debbiedadey.com and www.Facebook.com/debbiedadey. You can also find Debbie on Twitter and Pinterest. She would love to visit or Skype with your classroom.



Photo credit to Portrait Innovations



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

Ghosts Don't Ride Wild Horses

A Whale of a Tale

Wizards Don't Wear Graduation Gowns

The Great Green Gator Graduation

Marty the Mudwrestler (now as an ebook)

The Wrong Side of Magic

Slime Wars

A Tale of Two Sisters



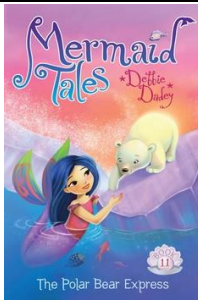
Pre-reading activities: Before reading **The Polar Bear Express** complete some or all of the activities below to peak interest in the story, as well as to increase comprehension, reading, and predicting skills. The next two pages have pre-reading activities to try as well.

1. Bring bear books into the classroom and challenge students to find out which bear is the largest and the smallest. Let students pick their favorite.
2. Ask students where they think a polar bear lives. Discuss what a polar bear's habitat might be like. Could they live in the desert? In the woods?
3. Challenge students to find a poem to share with their class. They could recite it orally or make a poster.
4. Share several haiku and acrostic poems. Let kid's vote which they prefer: haiku or acrostic? Make a bar graph to show which is the favorite.

Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Pre-reading activity/research

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

Find four interesting facts about polar bears and write them here:	Fact one:	Fact two:	Fact three:	Fact four:
Write the names of the books where you found the interesting facts here:	Book title: Author:	Book title: Author:	Book title: Author:	Book title: Author:

WHAT FACT DID YOU FIND MOST INTERESTING?

E/LA COMMON CORE STANDARDS FOR READING GRADE 3 RI.3.5

ANSWERS WILL VARY.



Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS Pre-reading activity

Often new bands will write their own music in the form of a poem. Write the words to your own song on the back of this sheet. You need at least two verses and a refrain (the part you repeat). Fill in the information below to start your own band!

Name of your band: _____

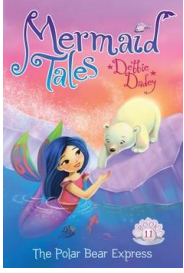
What kind of music will you sing? _____

Name four songs you will sing: _____

Sometimes bands wear costumes, design a costume for your band below:

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.10](http://www.debbiedadey.com)

Answers will vary



Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Pre-reading activity

New words To Learn for The Polar Bear Express

Chapter 1

haiku	assignment	performed
creative	poem	backup

Chapter 2 and 3

cafeteria	nudge	foresight
casserole	crimson	visions

Chapter 4 and 5

startled	polar	underwater
immediately	sushi	exhaust

Chapter 6 and 7

pufferfish	reunited	gobbled
regular	sausage	Poseidon

Chapter 8 – 11

convince	mustache	nasty	transform	rowdy
fundraiser	museum	stupendous	volunteered	audience
scurried	announcement	sharpener	serious	Arctic Ocean

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

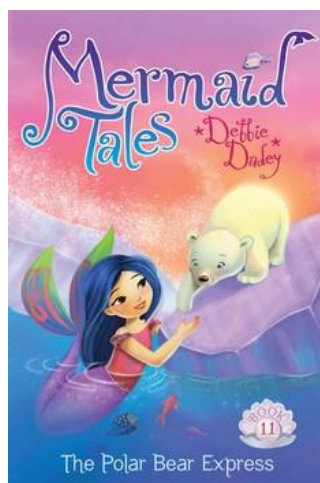
E/LA Common Core Standards for Reading Grade 3 RL.3.4

Mermaid Tales

FUN WAYS TO LEARN VOCABULARY WORDS FOR THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

- Let kids trace the shape of their words. Now, separate each syllable (or beat) inside the shape. Remind students that every part must have a vowel.
- Fill a tray with whipped or shaving cream (pretend snow) and let students practice writing the vocabulary words with their fingers in the snow.
- Let students design their own polar bears and put a vocabulary word on each one. Use them to decorate the classroom door. Upon entering the room students must touch a bear and say a word.
- Have a word race. Call out the word and let students race to find the word in the chapter.
- Go around the room and let kids do a ‘vocabulary bee’ where they must use one of the vocabulary words in a sentence or sit down.

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



Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 1/haiku

NAME:

DATE:

In chapter one of Mermaid Tales #11, Mrs. Karp says, “It’s a haiku. Five claps for the first line, then seven, then five for the last line.” Use the lines below to make two of your own haiku poems. Go on a poetry walk for inspiration.

Title of first haiku:

Five

claps: _____

Seven claps: _____

Five

claps: _____

Title of second haiku:

Five

claps: _____

Seven claps: _____

Five

claps: _____

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.10](#)

Answers will vary

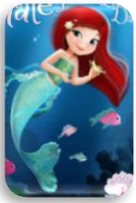
NAME:

DATE:

There are four different types of poetry in these cards. On the back of this sheet, make your own type of cards: dragons, mermaids, or even your favorite movie. Make four cards and four poems: an acrostic, a cinquain, a haiku, and a free verse. **Poems will vary.** [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.10](https://www.coreknowledge.org/standards/aligned/ELAR/3-10/CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.10)

Mermaid Tales

Polar Pal by Shelly Siren



Playful friend
Our polar buddy
Lost and hungry
Away we go to
Rescue our pal

This is an acrostic poem. The first letter of each word is used to start a new line of poetry.

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Simon and Schuster 2015 IL. By Tatevik Avakyan

Mermaid Tales

People Dreams by Echo Reef



Humans
Mysterious
I dream of seeing one
Do you think a human wants to
See me?

This is a cinquain. In this type of poem, there are five lines. Each line has a certain number of beats or syllables in this order: 2,4,6,8, and 2.

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Simon and Schuster 2015 IL. By Tatevik Avakyan

Mermaid Tales

Food Fights by Rocky Reef

Food fights can be fun
Especially at lunchtime
Splat! Right in the face!



Lost by Kiki Coral
My polar buddy
So lost in the great ocean
He needs a way home.

These are haiku poems. Each line has a certain number of beats or syllables: 5, 7, and 5.

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Mermaid Tales

Love Pirate by Pearl Swamp

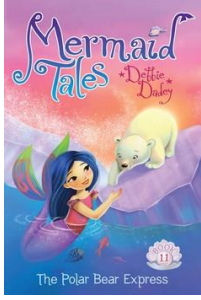
Hidden deep beneath the sea
A secret lies with me
Treasures rich beyond compare
But do I dare?
Love pirate



You are a love pirate
Will you steal my heart?
Or bring me gold?

This is a free verse poem that Pearl wants to make into a song. Sometimes free verse rhymes, but it doesn't have to rhyme.

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Simon and Schuster 2015 IL. By Tatevik Avakyan



Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 3

NAME:

DATE:

BEFORE READING CHAPTER THREE: In *The Polar Bear Express*, Kiki sees something that surprises her. Can you predict what she saw?

AFTER READING CHAPTER THREE: Put these events in order by putting a number at the front of each sentence.

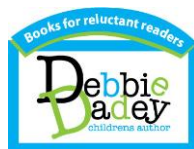
- ___ Kiki sees something that surprises her.
- ___ Rocky makes up a funny haiku poem.
- ___ Mrs. Hippocampus gives Kiki a lesson in visions.
- ___ Pearl gets mad at Rocky.

Here is a list of some of the animals in our story. Select one. Cut two eight inch heavy paper circles. Divide one into eights. Research your animal and write a different fact in each section. Cut out a one eighth section from the other circle, decorate it, and place it on top of the first circle. Attach the two circles. Now you have a fact wheel to share with your class.

barracuda dolphin octopus swordfish polar bear sea horse star fish

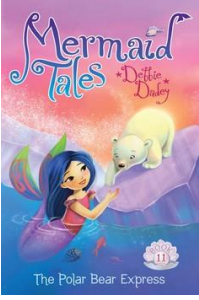
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Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 3 **Answers**

NAME:

DATE:

BEFORE READING CHAPTER THREE: In *The Polar Bear Express*, Kiki sees something that surprises her. Can you predict what she saw? **Answers will vary.**

AFTER READING CHAPTER THREE: Put these events in order by putting a number at the front of each sentence.

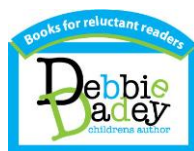
- 4.____ Kiki sees something that surprises her.
- 1.____ Rocky makes up a funny haiku poem.
- 3.____ Mrs. Hippocampus gives Kiki a lesson in visions.
- 2.____ Pearl gets mad at Rocky.

Here is a list of some of the animals in our story. Select one. Cut two eight inch heavy paper circles. Divide one into eights. Research your animal and write a different fact in each section. Cut out a one eighth section from the other circle, decorate it, and place it on top of the first circle. Attach the two circles. Now you have a fact wheel to share with your class. **Facts will vary.**

barracuda dolphin octopus swordfish polar bear sea horse star fish

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

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Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 4

NAME:

DATE:

Polar bears have thick warm fur on most of their body, except the pads of their feet and their black nose. Their skin is black and their fur is clear, although the light can make their fur look white, yellow, brown, or even grey. Their huge paws help them swim and travel over ice to find food. Polar bears usually have two cubs, but one or three is also possible. These cubs stay with their mothers until they are about two and a half years old. Most polar bears live in Canada, but some live in the U.S. (Alaska), Greenland, Russia, and Norway. Polar bears are considered a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Climate change will seriously hinder the bears' access to food.

Answer the following questions after learning about polar bears in the paragraph above.

1. Name two places where polar bears live.

2. Name two reasons that polar bears have huge paws.

3. What color is a polar bear's fur? _____

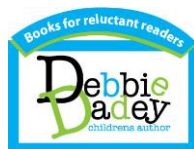
4. What is a polar bear baby called? _____

5. What do you think a vulnerable species is? _____

6. Why do you think the climate change (the earth becoming warmer) is harmful to polar bears?

E/LA Common Core Standards for reading Grade 3 RI.3.9

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Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 4 **answers**

NAME:

DATE:

Polar Bears have thick warm fur on most of their body, except the pads of their feet and their black nose. Their skin is black and their fur is clear, although the light can make their fur look white, yellow, brown, or even grey. Their huge paws help them swim and travel over ice to find their food. Polar bears usually have two cubs, but one or three is also possible. These cubs stay with their mothers until they are about two and a half years old. Most polar bears live in Canada, but some live in the U.S. (Alaska), Greenland, Russia, and Norway. Polar bears are considered a vulnerable species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Climate change will seriously hinder the bears' access to food.

Answer the following questions after learning about polar bears in the paragraph above.

1. Name two places where polar bears live.

Canada or

U.S. (Alaska), Greenland, Russia, or Norway

2. Name two reasons that polar bears have huge paws. Help them swim and travel over ice.

3. What color is a polar bear's fur? _____ clear _____

4. What is a polar bear baby called? _____ cub _____

5. What do you think a vulnerable species is? _____ answers will vary, but hopefully student will deduce it is a species that is in danger

6. Why do you think the climate change (the earth becoming warmer) is harmful to polar bears?

Answers will vary, but hopefully students will deduce that the warming of the earth will lessen the ice where the polar bears live and hunt.

E/LA Common Core Standards for reading Grade 3 RI.3.9

Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 5

NAME:

DATE:

Read chapter five and then answer true or false to these questions to test your polar bear knowledge.

1. Polar bears can breathe underwater. _____
2. Polar bears live in the Antarctic. _____
3. Polar bears are threatened by global warming. _____
4. Global warming is caused by eating too much chocolate. _____
5. Polar bears can hold their breaths for twenty minutes. _____
6. Exhaust pollution from cars causes global warming. _____

Name five ways to reduce exhaust pollution from cars. (What can we do to not use our cars as much?)

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

E/LA Common Core Standards for reading Grade 3 RI.3.9

Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 5 answers

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Read chapter five and then answer true or false to these questions to test your polar bear knowledge.

1. Polar bears can breathe underwater. _____ **False** _____
2. Polar bears live in the Antarctic. _____ **False** _____
3. Polar bears are threatened by global warming. _____ **True** _____
4. Global warming is caused by eating too much chocolate. _____ **False** _____
5. Polar bears can hold their breaths for twenty minutes. _____ **False** _____
6. Exhaust pollution from cars causes global warming. _____ **True** _____

Name five ways to reduce exhaust pollution from cars. (What can we do to not use our cars as much?) **Answers will vary, but can include such things as walking, talking a bus, carpooling, taking the train, riding a bike, or even skateboarding!**

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

E/LA Common Core Standards for reading Grade 3 RI.3.9



Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 6

NAME:

DATE:

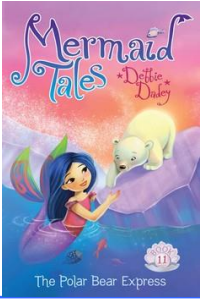
In *The Polar Express*, Echo, Kiki, and Shelly visit the Trident City library. The author, Debbie Dadey, is a former librarian. Learn some library skills by doing an undersea treasure hunt in your school library.

- 🦞 Find a book on polar bears and write down the call number: _____
- 🦞 What is the name of a book that has a mermaid story in it? Hint-check the 398.2 section of your library or the catalog. _____

- 🦞 Look for a book about the ocean. On what page does it have information about reefs? _____
- 🦞 Write down the author's name of a book about manta rays.

- 🦞 How many books does your library have about polar bears? _____
- 🦞 Find a book about fish. When was it published? _____
- 🦞 Look in an encyclopedia and find a picture of an ocean animal. Draw it on the back.
- 🦞 Many people today use the Internet to look up information. Is everything you read on the Internet true? _____
- 🦞 If your teacher gives you permission, look up two polar bear facts on the Internet from a source you trust.
1. _____ 2. _____

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.5



Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 6 **answers**

NAME:

DATE:

In *The Polar Express*, Echo, Kiki, and Shelly visit the Trident City library. The author, Debbie Dadey, is a former librarian. Learn some library skills by doing an undersea treasure hunt in your school library.

- 🐟 Find a book on polar bears and write down the call number: **599.786**
- 🐟 What is the name of a book that has a mermaid story in it? Hint-check the 398.2 section of your library or the catalog. **Answers will vary**

- 🐟 Look for a book about the ocean. On what page does it have information about reefs?
_____ **Answers will vary**
- 🐟 Write down the author's name of a book about manta rays. **Answers will vary**

- 🐟 How many books does your library have about the polar bears? **Answers will vary**
- 🐟 Find a book about fish. On what date was it published? **Answers will vary**
- 🐟 Look in an encyclopedia and find a picture of an ocean animal. Draw it on the back.
- 🐟 Many people today use the Internet to look up information. Is everything you read on the Internet true? _____ **no** _____
- 🐟 If your teacher gives you permission, look up two polar bear facts on the Internet from a source you trust.

1. **Answers will vary** _____ 2. **Answers will vary** _____

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.5](http://www.debbiedadey.com)

Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 7/[CCSS.Math.Content.3.OA.A.3](#)

NAME:

DATE:

In The Polar Bear Express, Kiki wants to earn money to help Nestor, the polar bear cub. List four ways you could earn money.

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

Figure out how much money Kiki would make using the chart below.

Use the back side to help you figure it out.

Washed Pearl's home for 30 shells	Sold one hagfish jelly sandwich 4 shells
Washed The People Museum for 100 shells	Sold one feathery pulse coral cookie 2 shells
Sold a cup of comb jelly tea 3 shells	Sold 1 piece of cup coral candy 5 shells

1. Washed Pearl's home and sold three cups of comb jelly tea: _____
2. Washed The People Museum and sold five cookies: _____
3. Sold two cups of comb jelly tea, six pieces of cup coral candy, and three feathery pulse coral cookies: _____
4. Sold sixteen hagfish jelly sandwiches, five cups of comb jelly tea, and one hagfish jelly sandwich. _____

Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 7/[CCSS.Math.Content.3.OA.A.3](#)

NAME:

answers

DATE:

In The Polar Bear Express, Kiki wants to earn money to help Nestor, the polar bear cub. List three ways you could earn money.

1. **Answers will vary**
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Figure out how many shells Kiki would earn using the chart below.

Use the back side to help you figure it out.

Washed Pearl's home for 30 shells	Sold one hagfish jelly sandwich 4 shells
Washed The People Museum for 100 shells	Sold one feathery pulse coral cookie 2 shells
Sold a cup of comb jelly tea 3 shells	Sold 1 piece of cup coral candy 5 shells

2. Washed Pearl's home and sold three cups of comb jelly tea: **39**
3. Washed The People Museum and sold five cookies: **110**
4. Sold two cups of comb jelly tea, six pieces of cup coral candy, and three feathery pulse coral cookies: **42**
5. Sold sixteen hagfish jelly sandwiches, five cups of comb jelly tea, and one hagfish jelly sandwich. **83**

Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 8/[CCSS.Math.Content.3.OA.A.3](#)

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

In *The Polar Bear Express*, the Rays drink Big Gulps from The Big Rock Café. Below is a menu from the café. See if you can figure out how much things cost. On the back make up your own menu.



How much would four Big Kelp Drinks be? _____

How much is two Seaweed Juices and two orders of The Days Catch? _____

How much change would you get from fifty clams if you bought Jewel Anemone in Bootlace Worm Mucus and a Big Kelp drink?

How much are three orders of Deep Sea Prawns with Pickled Glasswort? _____

How much would one of everything add up to? _____

Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 8/[CCSS.Math.Content.3.OA.A.3](#)

NAME: **answers**

DATE:

In *The Polar Bear Express*, the Rays drink Big Gulps from The Big Rock Café. Below is a menu from the café. See if you can figure out how much things cost. On the back make up your own menu.



How much would four Big Kelp Drinks be? _____ **20 clams**

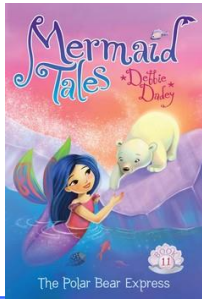
How much is two Seaweed Juices and two orders of The Days Catch? **_24**

How much change would you get from fifty clams if you bought Jewel Anemone in Bootlace Worm Mucus and a Big Kelp drink?

_____ **25 clams** _____

How much are three orders of Deep Sea Prawns with Pickled Glasswort? **_45**

How much would one of everything add up to? _____ **80 clams**



Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 9

NAME:

DATE:

In *The Polar Bear Express*, Nestor is a baby polar bear or cub. Use the library or Internet to help you match the offspring below with their parent.

fry

fox

joey

lion

pup

dog

Cub

deer

maggot

fish

kit

kangaroo

fawn

bear

tadpole

fly

cub

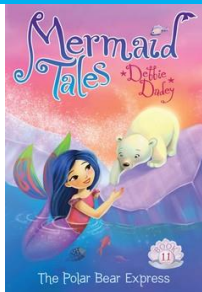
frog

kid

goat

foal

horse



Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

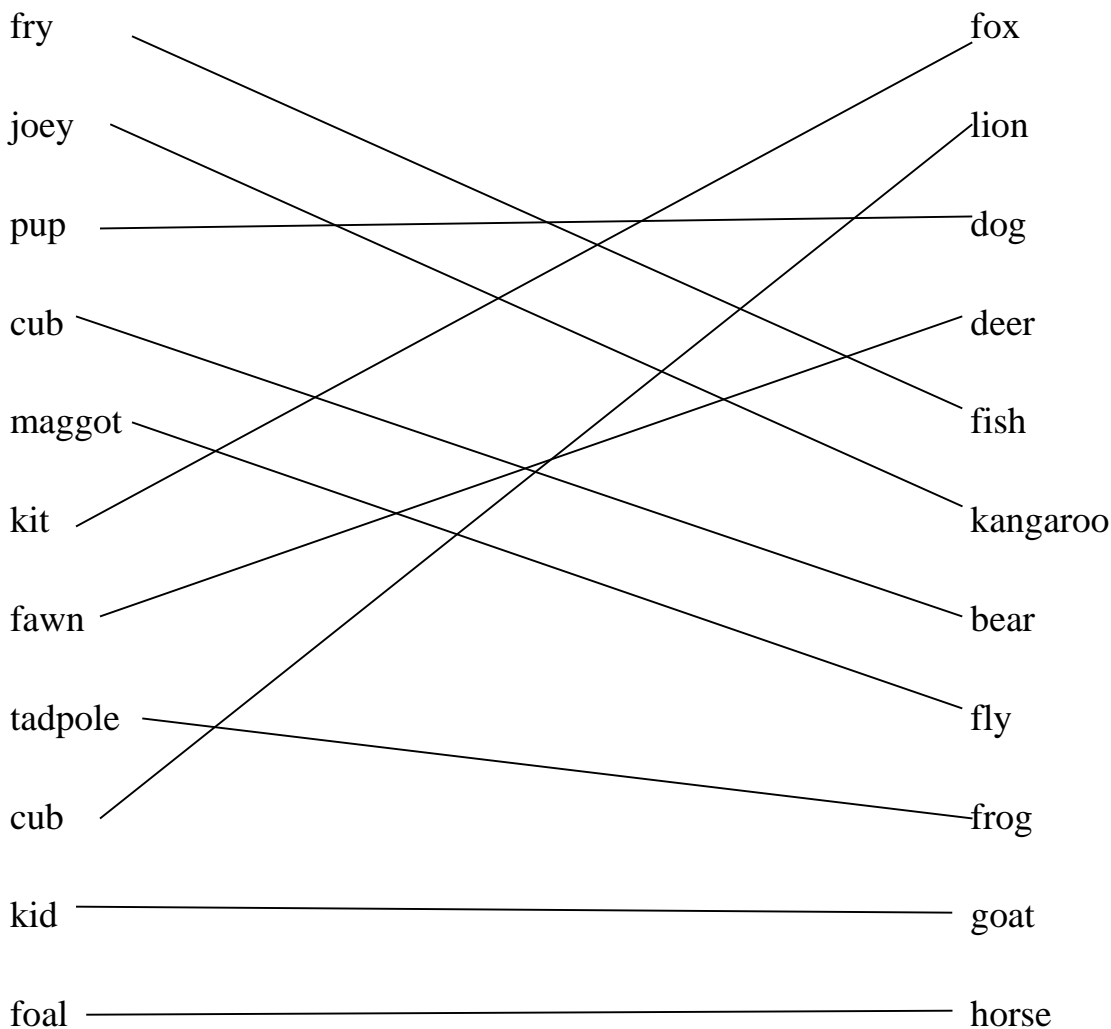
Chapter 9

NAME:

answers

DATE:

In *The Polar Bear Express*, Nestor is a baby polar bear which is also called a cub. Use the library or Internet to help you match the offspring below with their parent.



Mermaid Tales

THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS

Chapter 10/Earth Day

NAME:

DATE:

In the Polar Bear Express, Kiki helps save a polar bear cub. You can help animals too. Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd of every year. It began in 1970 by Gaylord Nelson. He wanted to bring people of every age and culture together to care for our environment. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his role as Earth Day Founder. Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Act. Discuss with your class ways you can help our world be a cleaner, healthier place for people and animals-not just on Earth Day, but every day. Use the space below to make a poster to teach other kids in your school about Earth Day and taking care of our world.

You can help the Earth by: