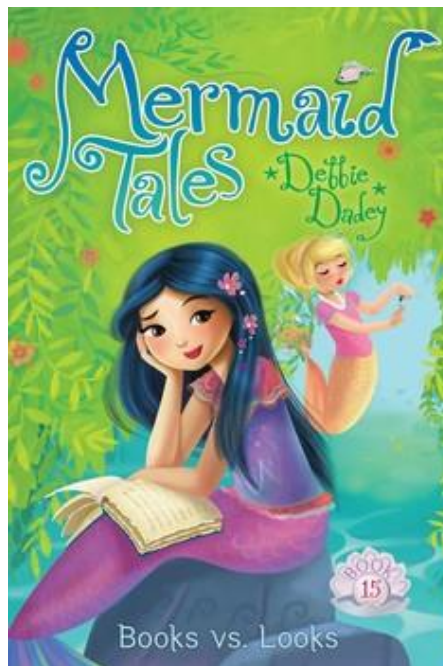


Mermaid Tales

A Teaching Unit

Books vs Looks



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

Other books in the Mermaid Tales series from Simon and Schuster 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 ISBN-13: 978-1481402606 – Paperback
Wish Upon a Starfish ISBN-13: 978-1481402637 – Paperback
The Crook and the Crown ISBN-13: 978-1481440752– Paperback
Twist and Shout ISBN-13: 978-1481440783

Books vs Looks was first published in September 2016 ISBN-13: 978-1481440813

Illustrations by Tatevik Avakyan

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Book Summary:

Kiki wants to have a book club. It will be so fun to chat about books and make new friends! But Pearl has other ideas. She starts up a rival club that is destined to put Kiki's book club out of business!

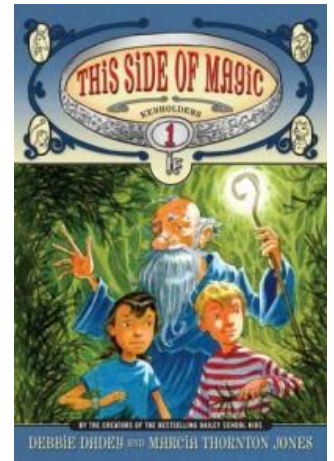
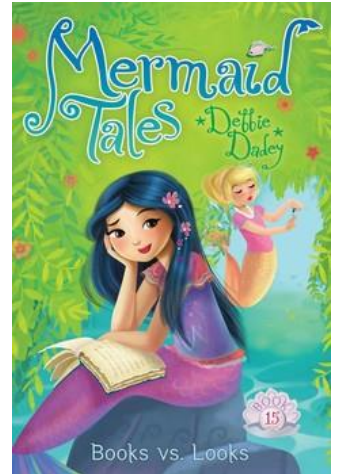
Meet the author:

Debbie Dadey is the author and co-author of 166 children's books, including *The Mermaid Tales* and *The Adventures of the Bailey School Kids* series. She loves



Photo credit to Portrait Innovations

books and hopes you do too! This former librarian and teacher lives in a Tennessee log cabin with her husband, Eric. One of Debbie's other books is [This Side of Magic](#), which she wrote with Marcia Jones. Find out more about Debbie and her stories 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 or book club. Kids can write to Debbie on the Kids Talk section of www.debbiedadey.com.



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

Werewolves Don't Run for President

Wish Upon a Starfish

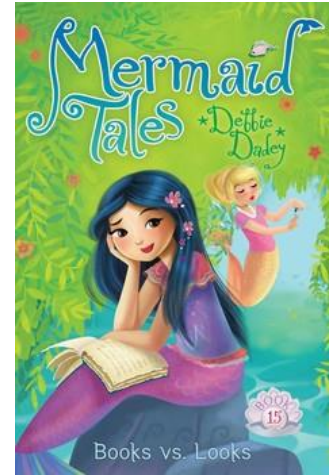
King of the Kooties (now as an ebook)

Vampires Don't Wear Polka Dots

Treasure in Trident City

The Other Side of Magic

Twist and Shout



Pre-reading activities: Before reading **Books vs Looks** 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 page has a pre-reading activity to try as well.

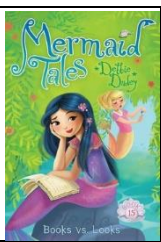
1. **Books vs Looks** is a great springboard for discussing school clubs. Ask students if they belong to any clubs. Ask what might be a fun club to be in. Are there different types of clubs-such as religious or social? Should clubs have rules? If a lot of students show interest, perhaps you can start that club!
2. Talk about book clubs. What would be some fun things to do in a book club? Tell students they are going to read a book about mermaids who make up some clubs, one of which is a book club. What do they think the other one might be?

Civics Standard 11: Understands the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political beliefs, and civic beliefs in an increasingly diverse American society.

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Pre-reading activity/research

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

Advertisers make up slogans and commercials to sell products on TV as well as in newspapers and magazines. Look at at least five commercials or print ads. Look to see if there is a Z pattern to the print ads. Now, pretend you are in advertising. Make up a commercial to get people to come to a club that you make up. Use the back for your ad or use the space to brainstorm a script for a video. (Your teacher may let you use http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/advertisingtricks/createyourownad_flash.html to get started.)

List the commercials or print ad that you studied:

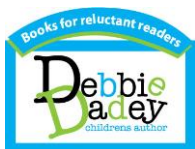
Commercial or ad for:	Something I liked about it:

Name two ways you can use the above for your club:

- 1.
- 2.

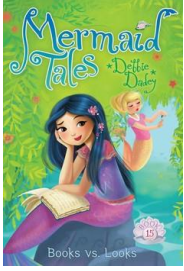
CCSS ELA-LITERACY.L.2.5 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1

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Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Pre-reading activity/vocabulary

Chapter 1

Madame	envelope	excitement
Hippocampus	Academy	skeleton

Chapters 2 and 3

permission	environment	commensalism
symbiosis	mutualism	parasitism

Chapters 4 and 5

handwriting	auditorium	announcement
plastered	bragging	relationship

Chapters 6 and 7

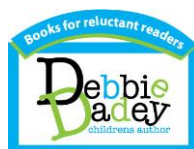
burritos	traitor	concentrate
decorations	barracuda	competition

Chapters 8 – 12

cafeteria	chandeliers	Rehearsal	plankton	librarian
donated	lonely	Proceeds	frightened	troupe
molded	crunched	auditorium	audience	entrance

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

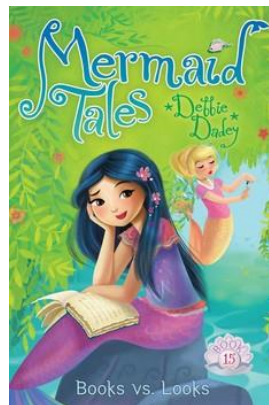
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.4](#)



Mermaid Tales

FUN WAYS TO LEARN VOCABULARY WORDS FOR BOOKS VS LOOKS

- Let students make an invitation to a book club. The one who uses the most vocabulary words in their invitation in a realistic way wins a handshake (or another prize).
- Let each person 'be' a word. They must do a quick speech to do three things:
 - How to say the word
 - How to spell the word
 - Use the word in a sentence
- Let students make their word into a work of art. They can only use the letters of the word, but can make the letters in any type of text they want. This could begin with a discussion of fonts on a computer.
- Play word bingo using the following card.



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

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.4](#)

Mermaid Tales

Write vocabulary words in the blank spaces. Listen carefully as your teacher calls off each word. Put a marker on the word. If you get five in a row in any direction, you win. Call out
Bingo!

B	I	N	G	O
		Free Space		

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 1/letter writing

NAME:

DATE:

In chapter one of Mermaid Tales #15, Kiki gets a letter from her brother. Use the space below to write a letter to someone in your family, school, or even a famous person. You can use the back if you need more room.

My address is

Date: _____

Dear _____,

From,

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.1](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.3](#) [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.2.B](#)

Mermaid Tales

NAME:

DATE:

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 2/science

In **Books vs Looks**, Mrs. Karp explains the term symbiosis. Find her definition and write it here:

In **Books vs Looks**, Mrs. Karp tells about one type of symbiosis. What is it? _____

Now, tell about that type of symbiosis. _____

Dr. Bottom actually mentions three types of symbiosis in **Books vs Looks**. Write those three below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Use the scenes of symbiotic relationships from pages 84-89 to find out more about symbiosis. Pick one type and write it here: _____

Draw your own scene of that type on the back of this worksheet. It can be one from the book, or your own that you research.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.1](http://www.debbiedadey.com) CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4

Mermaid Tales

NAME: **Answers**

DATE:

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 2/science

In **Books vs Looks**, Mrs. Karp explains the term symbiosis. Find her definition and write it here:

_Starting on page 7: Symbiosis is when two different creatures live together in the same environment.

In **Books vs Looks**, Mrs. Karp tells about one type of symbiosis. What is it? **Mutualism (p. 8)**

Now, tell about that type of symbiosis. **Answers should be similar to: Each creature helps each other in mutualism.**

Dr. Bottom actually mentions three types of symbiosis in Books vs Looks. Write those three below.

1. _____ **mutualism**
2. _____ **commensalism**
3. _____ **parasitism**



Use the scenes of symbiotic relationships from pages 84-89 to find out more about symbiosis. Pick one type and write it here: _____ **answers will vary**

Draw your own scene of that type on the back of this worksheet. It can be one from the book, or your own that you research. **Drawings will vary**

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.1](#) CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 3/reading for information

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Answer true or false to these questions before reading **Books vs Looks** chapter three and again after completing the story to see if your answers have changed.

Before (no wrong answer)		After
_____	1. Echo will have a book club.	_____
_____	2. Mermaids use telephones to talk.	_____
_____	3. There are three kinds of symbiotic relationships.	_____
_____	4. Eloped has to do with getting married.	_____
_____	5. Shelly starts a cave-exploring club.	_____
_____	6. In commensalism, only one creature is helped.	_____
_____	7. Echo starts a human studies club.	_____
_____	8. Whale sharks are parasitic.	_____
_____	9. Pearl starts her own book club.	_____
_____	10. Debbie Dadey has moved many times.	_____

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

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 3/reading for information

NAME:

DATE:

Answer true or false to these questions before reading **Books vs Looks** chapter three and again after completing the story to see if your answers have changed.

Before (no wrong answer)		After
_____	1. Echo will have a book club.	_____ True
_____	2. Mermaids use telephones to talk.	_____ False
_____	3. There are three kinds of symbiotic relationships.	_____ True
_____	4. Eloped has to do with getting married.	_____ True
_____	5. Shelly starts a cave-exploring club.	_____ False
_____	6. In commensalism, only one creature is helped.	_____ True
_____	7. Echo starts a human studies club.	_____ False
_____	8. Whale sharks are parasitic.	_____ False
_____	9. Pearl starts her own book club.	_____ False
_____	10. Debbie Dadey has moved many times.	_____ True

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

Did any of the above sentences surprise you? _____

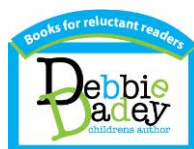
Which one? _____

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.

E/LA Common Core Standards for Reading Grade 3 RI.3.1

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

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Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 4/sequence

NAME:

DATE:

Can you put the events of chapters one through four in the right order?

_____ Pearl puts up posters for the Bubbling Beauty Bunch.

_____ Kiki stayed up very late making a kelp poster.

_____ Kiki got a letter from her brother.

_____ Pearl gets mad about Kiki's club.

_____ Wanda wants to join Kiki's club.

_____ At lunch, Kiki tells her friends about her best idea ever.

_____ Dr. Bottom visits Kiki's class.

Now, it's your turn. Write three different things that happened in the story in the right order. Do not use any of the above and use your own words.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

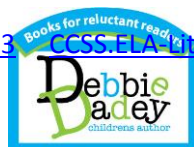
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1](#)

[CSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3](#)

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.1](#)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5

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Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 4/sequence

NAME: **answers**

DATE:

Can you put the events of chapters one through four in the right order?

 7 Pearl puts up posters for the Bubbling Beauty Bunch.

 6 Kiki stayed up very late making a kelp poster.

 1 Kiki got a letter from her brother.

 5 Pearl gets mad about Kiki's club.

 4 Wanda wants to join Kiki's club.

 3 At lunch, Kiki tells her friends about her best idea ever.

 2 Dr. Bottom visits Kiki's class.

Now, it's your turn. Write three different things that happened in the story in the right order. Do not use any of the above and use your own words. **answers will vary**

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1](#) [CSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3](#) [Books for Social Literacy](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.1](#)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.5

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Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 5/comprehension

NAME:

DATE:

In Books vs Looks, Kiki, Echo, and Shelly must decide on which book to read first. In the space below, pick three real books that would be good for a book club. Tell a bit about each book and why you chose it.

BOOK ONE'S TITLE: _____

What is it about? _____

Why I chose it: _____

BOOK TWO'S TITLE: _____

What is it about? _____

Why I chose it: _____

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.1 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.3 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.1 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.10

ANSWERS WILL VARY

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 6/literal and nonliteral language

NAME:

DATE:

Sometimes in speech and in writing we say things that we don't mean in exactly the way we say or write them. For instance, when we say someone has a green thumb, we don't mean their thumb is **really** green, we mean they can grow things well. A green thumb is an *idiom*. Underline the idioms below.

1. Last night it was raining cats and dogs.
2. That coconut milk was tail-kicking.
3. When I have to speak to a group, sometimes I get tongue-tied.
4. She had butterflies in her stomach because she was scared of the haunted house.
5. He had studied so hard, he knew the test would be a piece of cake.
6. "You'd better shake a leg before you are late for school," said Mom.
7. My eyes were bigger than my stomach when I ate the entire banana split!

Now, here comes the hard part! In the space below, find your own idiom and on the back of this page draw the literal version of one of the idioms above (what it would be like if the sayings were real. For instance, you **really** did have a green thumb!)

*

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.5 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.4

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 6/ literal and nonliteral language

NAME: **answers**

DATE:

Sometimes in speech and in writing we say things that we don't mean in exactly the way we say or write them. For instance, when we say someone has a green thumb, we don't mean their thumb is **really** green, we mean they can grow things well. A green thumb is an *idiom*. Underline the idioms below.

1. Last night it was raining cats and dogs.
2. That coconut milk was tail-kicking.
3. When I have to speak to a group, sometimes I get tongue-tied.
4. She had butterflies in her stomach because she was scared of the haunted house.
5. He had studied so hard, he knew the test would be a piece of cake.
6. "You'd better shake a leg before you are late for school," said Mom.
7. My eyes were bigger than my stomach when I ate the entire banana split!

Now, here comes the hard part! In the space below, find your own idiom and on the back of this page draw the literal version of one of the idioms above (what it would be like if the sayings were real. For instance, you **really** did have a green thumb!) **Answers will vary**

*

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.5 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.4

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 7/grammar

NAME:

DATE:

Suffixes are endings that are added to words to change their meaning slightly. Below the list of common suffixes write all the words in chapter seven of **Books vs Looks** that contain a suffix. Make three columns and look for at least 46 words! Use the back if needed. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.1.A](#)

-ed	-er	-tion	-s	-ful	-ism
-ing	-est	-ly	-en	-y	

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 7/grammar

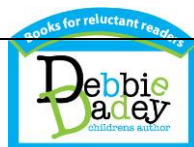
NAME: **answers**

DATE:

Suffixes are endings that are added to words to change their meaning slightly. Below the list of common suffixes write all the words in chapter seven of Books vs Looks that contain a suffix. Make three columns and look for at least 46 words! Use the back if needed.

-ed	-er	-tion	-s	-ful	-ism
-ing	-est	-ly	-en	-y	
1. eating			16. sparkling		31. mutualism
2. sitting			17. bracelets		32. accused
3. asked			18. matched		33. trying
4. feelings			19. ordered		34. forgotten
5. thinks			20. explained		35. floated
6. friends			21. clearly		36. hissed
7. sputtered			22. surprised		37. competition
8. stealing			23. snapped		38. joining
9. friends			24. barracudas		39. nestled
10. wanted			25. shiny		40. feathers
11. turned			26. wonderful		41. tried
12. looked			27. hugged		42. Dolphins
13. luckily			28. merfriends		43. Wars
14. tapped			29. spelling		44. losing
15. showed			30. barely		45. wondering
					46. planning

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.2.1.A



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

In Books vs Looks, Pearl gives away prizes at her club meeting. Find five prizes that you'd like to receive and their cost.

Prize	Cost
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____

Now, add up the cost of all your prizes and put that amount here: _____

What is the most expensive prize you have listed? _____

What is the least expensive prize you have listed? _____

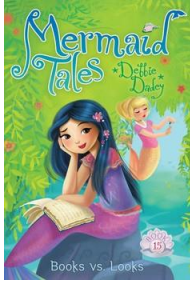
What is the difference in cost between the most expensive and the least expensive?

Show your work here:

Why do you think Pearl gave away prizes? _____

[CCSS.Math.Content.2.OA.A.1](http://www.debbiedadey.com)

Answers will vary.



Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 9/book club

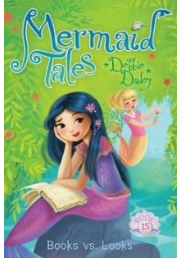
NAME:

DATE:

Use the guide below to start your classroom book club!

Kiki's guide on how to start a book club:

- Ask a teacher or parent if you can use a space for your club.
- Ask your classmates to join.
- You can even put up posters to let others know. Be nice and let everyone join.
- Take turns picking the books to read or draw titles from a box.
- Whoever chooses the book can bring a snack that matches the book.
- Whoever chooses the book can organize a craft to match the book.
- Everyone could bring questions about the book to the meeting.
- It might be fun to name your group.
- Everyone could read their favorite part of the book aloud, or tell why one character is their favorite.
- An adult may want to help you, but be sure to get permission for whatever you do!



Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 10/social awareness

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

In both **Books vs Looks** and **The Polar Bear Express**, the merkids raise money for a good cause. This is called fundraising and people do it for many reasons including charities, schools, or their church. Have you ever helped fundraise for your school? _____

In the space below, write what you think it a good cause and how you could help.

My good cause is _____

Why I think it is a good cause. _____

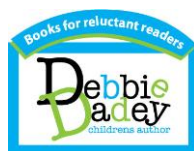
How I know about it: _____

My fundraising idea is _____

For my idea to work I would need help from these people:

Answers will vary.

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Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 11/Social Studies/comprehension

NAME:

DATE:



In **Books vs Looks**, Kiki wears a kimono for a fashion show fundraiser. Kimono was once the Japanese word for clothing, but now it refers to a type of traditional clothing for males and females. It is not usually worn every day in Japan now, but saved for special occasions. Kimonos were first believed to be worn in the year 794 and at that time they were everyday wear. Around 1868, Japanese people began wearing clothes similar to people in western countries, like the United States. For a while it was even against the law to wear a kimono for official functions in Japan!

Today there are many types of kimonos, but Furisode kimonos are only worn by unmarried women and a bride wears a pure white kimono known as a shiromuku. The sash on a kimono is called an obi. Answer true or false to the following questions.

1. Kimonos are worn all the time in Japan. _____
2. There is only one type of kimono. _____
3. Kimonos are a new type of clothing. _____
4. The word kimono once meant clothing. _____
5. A obi is a type of belt. _____
6. It was once illegal to wear kimonos. _____
7. Kimonos were originally from Hawaii. _____
8. A pure white kimono is known as a samurai. _____
9. There are only two kinds of kimonos. _____
10. Only females can wear kimonos. _____

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.1](#)

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 11/Social Studies/comprehension

NAME: **answers**

DATE:

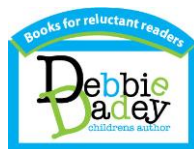


In **Books vs Looks**, Kiki wears a kimono for a fashion show fundraiser. Kimono was once the Japanese word for clothing, but now it refers to a type of traditional clothing for males and females. It is not usually worn every day in Japan now, but saved for special occasions. Kimonos were first believed to be worn in the year 794 and at that time they were everyday wear. Around 1868, Japanese people began wearing clothes similar to people in western countries, like the United States. For a while it was even against the law to wear a kimono for official functions in Japan! Today there are many types of kimonos, but Furisode kimonos are only worn by unmarried women and a bride wears a pure white kimono known as a shiromuku. The sash on a kimono is called an obi. Answer true or false to the following questions.

1. Kimonos are worn all the time in Japan. _____ **False**
2. There is only one type of kimono. _____ **False**
3. Kimonos are a new type of clothing. _____ **False**
4. The word kimono once meant clothing. _____ **True**
5. A obi is a type of belt. _____ **True**
6. It was once illegal to wear kimonos. _____ **True**
7. Kimonos were originally from Hawaii. _____ **False**
8. A pure white kimono is known as a samurai. _____ **False**
9. There are only two kinds of kimonos. _____ **False**
10. Only females can wear kimonos. _____ **False**

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1](#) [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.1](#)

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Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 12/geography

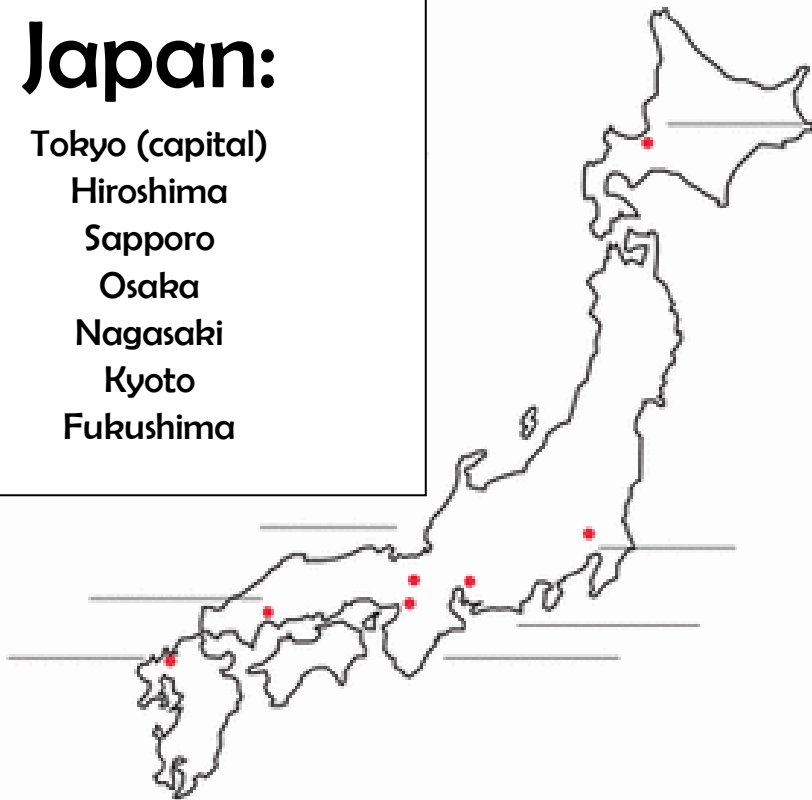
NAME:

DATE:

Use an atlas or the Internet to find where these Japanese cities are located and put them on the map.

Japan:

Tokyo (capital)
Hiroshima
Sapporo
Osaka
Nagasaki
Kyoto
Fukushima



Japan is an island (near China). Using an atlas or the Internet, locate the following in the spaces outside of Japan.

1. Pacific Ocean
2. Sea of Japan
3. Philippine Sea

Put a star where Kiki's parents might live in the story.

Free map from <http://www.education.com/worksheet/article/map-of-japan/>

Mermaid Tales

BOOKS VS LOOKS

Chapter 12/geography **answers**

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1. Pacific Ocean
2. Sea of Japan
3. Philippine Sea

Put a star where Kiki's parents might live in the story. **Answers will vary, but should be in the water.**

Free map from <http://www.education.com/worksheet/article/map-of-japan/>