



Otter: Let's Go Swimming!

By Sam Garton

GRL E

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Otter is so excited to go to the beach to learn how to swim! Her friends Otter Keeper, Giraffe, and Teddy have come along to cheer her on. But Otter discovers she's a little frightened of getting in the water, so she finds plenty of other things to do instead. When Otter Keeper finally convinces Otter to try swimming, and she discovers it's not scary – it's fun!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Otter has a busy day at the beach in this story. What happened at the beginning of the story? What happened in the middle of the story? How did the story end? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.1., RL.3.1.*
2. Who are the characters in this book? Which character is telling the story? How do the illustrations help you answer that question? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.K.7., RL.1.3., RL.1.6., RL.1.7., RL.2.1., RL.2.7., RL.3.3., RL.3.7.*
3. What were some of the reasons Otter gave to explain why she couldn't go swimming? How does Otter Keeper help Otter get over her reasons for not swimming? *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.3., RL.K.7., RL.1.3., RL.1.6., RL.1.7., RL.2.1., RL.2.7., RL.3.3., RL.3.7.*
4. Is this a true (nonfiction) story about an otter, or is it a made-up (fiction) story about an otter? Why do you think so? Find some clues in the book that helped you decide on your answer. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.5., RL.1.5., RL.1.7., RL.2.7., RL.3.1.*

Common Core State Standards (Speaking and Listening) that discussions might also address: SL.K.1.a–b., SL.K.2., SL.K.6., SL.1.1a–c., SL.1.2., SL.1.6., SL.2.1.a–c., SL.2.2., SL.2.6., SL.3.1.a–d., SL.3.6.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

Beach Words: Draw, write, or dictate a list of the things Otter saw at the beach. What are some other things you can find at a beach? Add those to your list. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.1., RL.1.1., RL.2.7., RL.3.1.; (Writing): W.K.8., W.1.8., W.2.8., W.3.8.*

An Invitation to Otter: What is something you know how to do that you could teach Otter to do? Write a letter to Otter inviting her to come to your home or school. Tell her about the activity that you could help her with. What will she learn how to do on her visit with you? How will you help her learn? What will she need to bring with her? *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.2., W.1.2., W.2.2., W.3.2.a–d.*

Otter Meets Otter Keeper: What kind of person do you think Otter Keeper is? How can you tell? Is Otter Keeper his real name? Why do you think so? Make up a story that tells how Otter and Otter Keeper might have met each other. *Common Core State Standards (Writing): W.K.3., W.1.3., W.2.3., W.3.3.a–d.*

Lots of Otters: Author and illustrator Sam Garton has written and illustrated other books about Otter, including *Otter Goes to School* and *Otter in Space*. Read some of these other Otter books by Sam Garton, and then choose your favorite. Draw a picture from that book, and write or dictate a paragraph explaining why you like that book the best. *Common Core State Standards (Reading: Literature): RL.K.9., RL.1.9., RL.3.9.; (Writing): W.K.1., W.1.1., W.2.1., W.3.1.a–d.*

Common Core State Standards (Writing) that writing activities might also address: W.K.5., W.K.6., W.1.5., W.1.6., W.2.5., W.2.6, W.3.4., W.3.5., W.3.6.

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