



Olive's Ocean

Kevin Henkes

Teacher's Guide

Written By Laurie Rozakis, Ph.D.

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Synopsis

Chapter 1

As Martha Boyle and her family prepare for their annual summer visit to New England, the mother of her deceased classmate Olive Barstow comes to their door. Olive was killed by a car a month earlier, and Mrs. Barstow wants to give Martha a page from her daughter's journal.

Chapter 2

Olive Barstow was killed when a car hit her while she was riding her bicycle.

Chapter 3

In this single journal entry, 12-year-old Martha learns more about her shy classmate than she ever knew: Olive also wanted to be a writer; she wanted to see the ocean, just as Martha soon will; and she hoped to get to know Martha Boyle as "she is the nicest person in my whole entire class." Martha cannot recall anything specific she ever did to make Olive think this, but she's both touched and awed by what they have in common.

Chapter 4

Dennis Boyle, Martha's father, wants Martha to baby-sit her two-year old sister Lucy while he runs some errands. Martha's older brother Vince will be away most of the day. Dennis Boyle had quit his job as a lawyer to be a writer, without any success. Martha has yet to tell anyone that she wants to be a writer, too.

Chapter 5

Martha loves her baby sister Lucy and treats her gently and kindly.

Chapter 6

Martha walks Lucy in her stroller to the site of Olive's death. She writes "Olive" on the spot with chalk.

Chapter 7

Martha calls her friend Holly and they discuss Olive's death. Martha realizes that if Olive can die, so can she or anyone. Martha and Holly discuss how Olive was rather "weird."

Chapter 8

Martha recalls how Olive had seemed invisible. Martha's mother Alice works for Wisconsin Public Radio. Martha and her mother had been close but now they are getting on each other's nerves.

Chapter 9

Martha's brother Vince is exactly a year older than Martha. They are close: Martha loves and admires her brother and he is sweetly protective toward her.

Chapter 10

While on the plane to Providence to visit her grandmother, Martha writes in her notebook. She writes only two words: "Olive Barstow."

Chapter 11

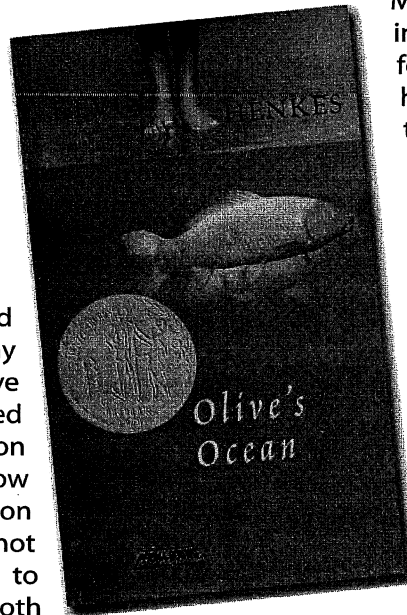
Martha gets a "glittery" feeling to be returning to the place she loves so much.

Chapter 12

Martha tells her beloved grandmother "Godbee" (Dorothy Boyle) how much she loves staying with her. They make a pact to tell each other something about themselves each day.

Chapter 13

Lucy throws a fit because they do not have any baby bananas. Her father is equally cranky as he storms out to buy baby bananas. Godbee keeps the peace.



Chapter 14

The family plays Parcheesi, their usual pastime. Martha feels herself and her family changing. She tells Godbee that she hates everyone. Godbee shares the secret that she hates her hands, which are aged and gnarled.

Chapter 15

Martha's father decides to give up trying to be a writer and return to his job as a lawyer. Martha is thrilled because this opens the way for her to be a writer and not compete with her father.

Chapter 16

Lucy and Martha have a ritual kiss, which Lucy must pronounce "good." Martha's mother is delighted that her husband is going back to being a lawyer.

Chapter 17

Martha wears bright orange shirts to complement her bright orange hair. Martha tells her grandmother that her novel will be about a girl named Olive.

Chapter 18

Martha works on the opening of her novel.

Chapter 19

Martha and her family are good friends with Godbee's neighbors, the Mannings. Mr. and Mrs. Manning have five sons: Jimmy, Tate, Todd, Luke, and Leo. Martha feels attracted to Jimmy, who is making a movie.

Chapter 20

Jimmy annoys the family with his intrusive filming.

Chapter 21

Martha likes Jimmy more and more.

Chapter 22

Godbee tells her second secret: she can't taste or smell anymore. Martha is scared that her grandmother is fading away.

Chapter 23

Martha writes more of her novel.

Chapter 24

Martha wonders what the day will bring.

Chapter 25

Godbee tells Martha that she, too, had wanted to be a writer. In fact, she had written a short story. Martha shares her third secret: She likes Jimmy Manning.

Chapter 26

Godbee says, "Lucky him."

Chapter 27

In a flashback, Martha recalls that she had liked her classmate Kyle Gilbert, but she is greatly embarrassed when she accidentally reveals that she likes him because he does not share her feelings. Later that day, the teacher asks the class to write about their most embarrassing moment. Martha stands up to the teacher and the teacher changes the assignment.

Chapter 28

Martha is invited to the Mannings for dinner; Jimmy has asked for her specifically.

Chapter 29

Martha eats lobsters at the Mannings while Jimmy films the lobsters being cooked.

Chapter 30

Martha and Jimmy talk over dinner.

Chapter 31

Martha and Jimmy walk to the Benton property. Jimmy films her as she thinks about Olive Barstow.

Chapter 32

Martha again recognizes that if Olive can die, so can she, so can anybody. "I don't want to die," she says on camera.

Chapter 33

Jimmy tells Martha that he needs her for the "love" section of his video. Martha is thrilled when they hold hands.

Chapter 34

Martha has a difficult time falling asleep because she is so excited about her romance with Jimmy.

Chapter 35

Martha continues writing Olive's story.

Chapter 36

Martha's mother invites Jimmy for lunch.

Chapter 37

Jimmy is fourteen years old. Martha is relieved when the lunch is over.

Chapter 38

Martha and Jimmy build a castle on the beach and then wreck it. Martha decides that this is the best day of her life.

Chapter 39

Jimmy tells Martha that he wants to be a filmmaker when he grows up. She feels they are growing very close.

Chapter 40

Jimmy kisses Martha. He films it, but she is enthralled by her first kiss nonetheless.

Chapter 41

Martha is still swooning when Jimmy says smugly that he has won the bet: he reveals that he kissed her for the film. He has bet his brothers that he could. Feeling horribly betrayed, Martha runs away and bursts into tears.

Chapter 42

Martha is horrified at what has happened. She wonders how Olive would handle the situation.

Chapter 43

Martha tries to pretend that nothing is wrong but she cannot maintain the facade.

Chapter 44

Vince reveals that he knows how Jimmy tricked Martha into kissing him.

Chapter 45

The family goes to Martha's favorite restaurant in Woods Hole. Vince comes to her rescue by taking her side against Jimmy.

Chapter 46

Tate Manning apologizes to Martha for what his brother Jimmy did.

Chapter 47

The family plays Parcheesi and Martha feels her mood lifting.

Chapter 48

Martha writes about Olive.

Chapter 49

Martha gets up in the middle of the night and goes to the kitchen. She finds Godbee filling Lucy's baby food jars with colored water to make a stained glass effect.

Chapter 50

Martha rereads Olive's journal about wanting to go to the ocean.

Chapter 51

Martha and Lucy talk about kissing.

Chapter 52

Martha takes Lucy to the beach.

Chapter 53

Martha fills a baby food jar with ocean water for Olive because Olive never got to the beach. She sees Jimmy Manning coming down the beach, holding hands with a girl she had never seen before. To avoid an embarrassing moment, Martha slips into the ocean.

Chapter 54

Martha nearly drowns!

Chapter 55

At the climax of the novel, Martha realizes that the world has suddenly changed: the world does not revolve around her and would continue to exist with or without her. She is delighted to be alive.

Chapter 56

Tate leaves her a note about taking care of the film that Jimmy made.

Chapter 57

Martha looks at a scratch on her hand.

Chapter 58

Martha has set aside her story about Olive, convinced that it is not very good. Instead, she writes a poem about the ocean.

Chapter 59

Martha feels like a jar filled with secrets. Vince avoids Jimmy out of loyalty to Martha. In her mind, Martha imagines that Tate Manning comes over and tells Martha that he likes her and always has.

Chapter 60

Tate calls Martha the day before they are leaving. He says that he is coming over.

Chapter 61

Martha has a bad dream in which her grandmother is trapped but Martha is unable to rescue her.

Chapter 62

Godbee gives Martha a sweet thank you note that Martha had written when she was only six or seven years old. Godbee tells Martha that she had always been a brave child. Martha fears that her grandmother is dying and this is their last summer

together. Martha hugs her grandmother with all her might.

Chapter 63

Martha and her family are just about to leave when Tate Manning arrives.

Chapter 64

Tate hands Martha the film that Jimmy took of him kissing Martha. Tate has enclosed a note saying that he is the one who really liked her all along. Martha feels a burst of joy.

Chapter 65

Martha arrives home with the baby food jar filled with sea water, which she has dubbed "Olive's Ocean."

Chapter 66

Martha finds Olive's mother's address. Martha tells her father that she wants to be a writer. Martha is afraid that he would be upset over the competition, but he is overjoyed and supports her completely.

Chapter 67

Martha takes the ocean water to Olive's house but an elderly man says that Olive's mother has moved. By mistake, Martha introduces herself as Olive. The elderly man admits that he is haunted by Olive, as is Martha.

Chapter 68

Martha pours the water on the concrete steps as a tribute to Olive. Martha returns home and feels happy and safe. In her two weeks on Cape Cod, Martha has learned to deal with the changing emotional landscape that comes with adolescence.

Timeline

- 1941** Dec. 7 America enters World War II
- 1948** State of Israel founded
- 1950** Korean War begins
- 1952** Elizabeth II crowned Queen of England
Car seat belts introduced; polio vaccine invented
- 1954** Supreme Court issues *Brown v. Board of Education*, making segregation illegal
- 1955** Disneyland opens; McDonald's corporation founded

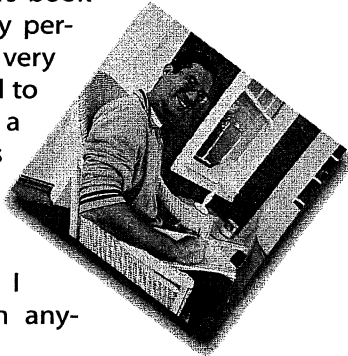
- 1956** Sabin invents oral polio vaccine
- 1957** Dr. Seuss publishes *The Cat in the Hat*
- 1958** NASA established
- 1960** First televised U.S. presidential debate
Kevin Henkes born
- 1961** Peace Corps founded; Berlin Wall built
Alan Shepard is first American in space
- 1963** President Kennedy assassinated
- 1967** First Super Bowl; first heart transplant
Six Day War in Middle East
- 1969** Neil Armstrong is the first man on the moon
- 1974** President Nixon resigns
- 1979** Sony introduces the Walkman
- 1981** First woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court
Pac-man video game is very popular
- 1983** Sally Ride becomes first woman in space
- 1989** Berlin Wall taken down
- 1990** Nelson Mandela is freed in South Africa
- 1991** Collapse of Soviet Union
- 1997** Scientists clone sheep
- 2003** *Olive's Ocean* published.

Biographical Sketch

Writer and illustrator Kevin Henkes was born in 1960, in Racine, Wisconsin. He attended the University of Wisconsin—Madison. He and his wife Laura, whom he married in 1985, make their home in Madison.

Henke became an author-illustrator when he was just nineteen years old. He went to New York City with his portfolio, hoping to find a publisher. Greenwillow Books recognized his talent and published his first picture book, *All Alone*, in 1987. Since then, Henke has written and illustrated many picture books and several novels. He likes experimenting to keep his work interesting.

In the *Sixth Book of Junior Authors and Illustrators*, Henkes explains how he feels about being a children's book writer: "I'm a very lucky person. I've known for a very long time that I wanted to be an artist and a writer—and that's exactly what I do for a living. Making books is my job, but more importantly, it is what I love doing more than anything else."



Critic's Corner

Olive's Ocean was nominated for *Los Angeles Times* Book Award in 2003 and a Newbery Honor Book the following year. Writing in *School Library Journal*, Maria B. Salvadore praised the novel's "rich characterizations [that] move this compelling novel to its satisfying and emotionally authentic conclusion. Language is carefully formed, sometimes staccato, sometimes eloquent, and always evocative to create an almost breathtaking pace."

Michael Cart, writing in *Booklist*, called the novel a "lovely, character-driven novel that explores, with rare subtlety and sensitivity, the changes and perplexities that haunt every child's growing-up process." Cart noted that Henkes "brings to his story the same bedrock understanding of the emotional realities of childhood that he regularly displays in his paradigmatically perfect picture books. This isn't big and splashy, but its quiet art and intelligence will stick with readers, bringing them comfort and reassurance as changes inevitably visit their own growing-up years."

Family Fun Magazine praised the book and author this way: "The ever-versatile Kevin Henkes dazzles with this spare yet profoundly touching coming-of-age novel."

Henkes' Other Works

All Alone (1981)
Clean Enough (1982)
Margaret and Taylor (1983)
Return to Sender (1984)
Bailey Goes Camping (1985)
Once Around the Block (1987)

Grandpa and Bo (1986)
Two Under Par, (1987)
Sheila Rae, the Brave (1987)
A Weekend with Wendell (1987)
The Zebra Wall (1988)
Chester's Way (1988)
Good-bye, Curtis (1995)
Circle Dogs (1998)
Jessica (1989)
Shhhh (1989)
Julius, the Baby of the World (1990)
Chrysanthemum (1991)
Words of Stone (1992)
Owen (1993)
The Biggest Boy (1995)
Protecting Marie (1995)
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse (1996)
Sun & Spoon (1997)
The Birthday Room (1999)
Oh! (1999)
Wemberly Worried (2000)
Sheila Rae's Peppermint Stick (2001)
Owen's Marshmallow Chick (2002)
Julius's Candy Corn (2003)
Wemberley's Ice Cream Star (2003)
Kitten's First Full Moon (2004)
Lilly's Chocolate Heart (2004)

Bibliography

New York Times Book Review, April 28, 1991, p. 22.
Publishers Weekly, December 18, 1981, p. 70.
Sixth Book of Junior Authors and Illustrators, H. W. Wilson, 1989, p. 123-24.
Tribune Books, May 14, 1989, p. 5.

General Objectives

1. To understand how Martha matures
2. To analyze the author's style
3. To think about life and death
4. To assess Martha's personality
5. To recognize the novel's theme
6. To analyze why Olive's mother gives Martha a page from her daughter's diary
7. To decide why Martha wants to be a writer
8. To find examples of cruelty
9. To understand what Martha's first kiss means to her
10. To probe the relationship between Martha and Godbee

Specific Objectives

1. To understand why Martha enjoys spending time on the Cape
2. To analyze why Martha decides to honor Olive with the ocean water
3. To probe why Olive called Martha the nicest person in her entire class
4. To understand why Jimmy betrays Martha with the kiss
5. To find evidence that Godbee is aging
6. To probe the relationship between Martha and her siblings
7. To see the effect of love and acceptance
8. To understand the plot structure
9. To explore Martha's fiction and poetry
10. To explore why Martha alternately loves and hates her family

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Kevin Henkes' style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

point of view the position from which a story is told. In *Olive's Ocean*, Kevin Henkes uses the third-person point of view to give readers some distance from Martha and her experiences. Since readers are positioned outside the action, they can compare and contrast their life to Martha's in the novel. This forces readers to think about their role in similar social situations. In effect, the novel becomes a lesson in kindness and maturity.

style the author's unique way of writing. Style is comprised of diction (word choice), sentence variety, sentence length, and figures of speech. Henkes uses a lyrical, elliptical style to give the book the quality of poetry. As a result, the prose is unusually graceful and beautiful.

conflict a struggle or fight. Conflict makes a story interesting because readers want to find out the outcome. There are two kinds of conflict. In an external conflict, characters struggle against a force outside themselves. In an internal conflict, characters battle a force within themselves. Novels often contain both external and internal conflicts. In *Olive's Ocean*, Martha has an external conflict with Jimmy when he betrays her by kissing her. She believed that he was kissing her because he likes her. She also has an external conflict when she comes close to drowning in the ocean. Martha suffers internal conflicts over her feelings about her family. These feelings cause her to feel guilty.

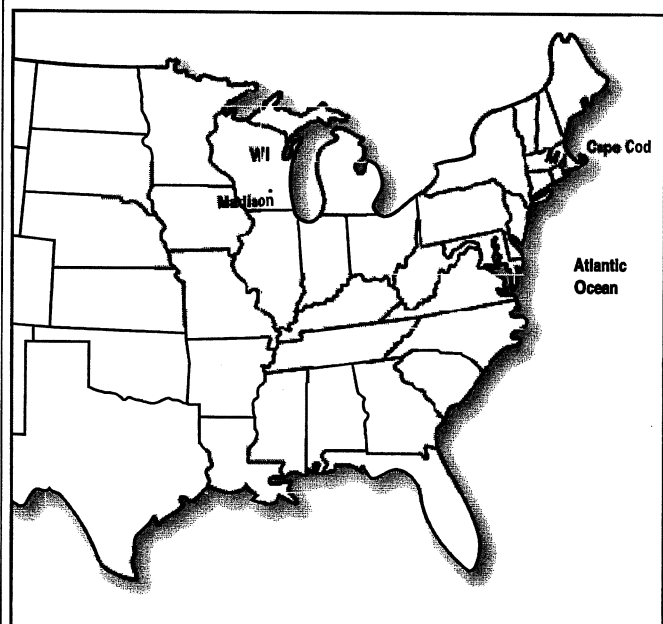
that he was kissing her because he likes her. She also has an external conflict when she comes close to drowning in the ocean. Martha suffers internal conflicts over her feelings about her family. These feelings cause her to feel guilty.

The Importance of Setting

Olive's Ocean has two settings: Madison, Wisconsin, and Providence, Massachusetts. The novel opens and closes in Madison, but the bulk of the action is set in Providence, an imaginary town very similar to the actual town of Provincetown, which is on Cape Cod. The setting is important for several reasons.

Martha learns about Olive's death while she is home in Madison. She has time to process that information while she is on vacation for two weeks at Cape Cod. During that brief respite from reality, she also experiences her first kiss, her first betrayal, and a near-death experience. Since Martha only sees her grandmother Godbee once a year at the Cape, she is also far more aware that the elderly woman is growing old and closer to death. Last, Martha realizes that Tate Manning likes her in a romantic way. Martha had felt attracted to him as well.

As a result of these experiences and the fact that they occur in a specific place and time, Martha matures sharply. It is unlikely that she would have been able to grow up in such a short time at home in Madison, with all the distractions of school and her regular routine.



Cross-Curricular Sources

Novels

Joan Bauer, *Hope Was Here*
 Meg Cabot, *The Princess Diaries*
 Jenny Carroll, *Shadowland*
 Sarah Dessen, *Dreamland*
 Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak*
 Davida Wills Hurwin, *A Time for Dancing*
 E. L. Konigsburg, *Silent to the Bone*
 Gail Carson Levine, *Ella Enchanted*
 Lois Lowry, *Gathering Blue*
 Louise Rennison, *Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*
 Jacqueline Woodson, *If You Come Softly*

Videos/DVDs

The Breakfast Club
Pretty in Pink
Sixteen Candles
St. Elmo's Fire
Ten Things I Hate About You

Audiocassettes

Olive's Ocean (Audio File, 2004)

Internet

Kevin Henke Home Page
www.kevinhenkes.com/

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Kevin Henkes' *Olive's Ocean* should include these aspects:

Themes

- confusion
- death
- family support
- friendship
- individuality
- love
- maturity
- the ocean
- self-realization
- setting goals

Motifs

- showing love and support
- being a loyal sibling
- being a good friend
- expressing your individuality
- dealing with growth and change

- being kind to others
- appreciating your family
- sharing your feelings in a healthy way
- having self-awareness and maturity
- working together as a family to support and help each other

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. Olive Barstow was dead. (Chap. 2, p. 3)
(Martha's road to maturation is sparked by the death of a classmate she barely knew, Olive Barstow, hit by a car while riding her bicycle. Martha is baffled when Olive's mother gives her a page from her daughter's journal.)
2. "I have an idea," Godbee said suddenly. "You have to tell me something about yourself everyday you're here. Something I don't know." (Chap. 12, p. 36)
(In exchange for Martha's revelation, Godbee will share one of her own secrets. This process helps Martha voice some of her greatest concerns and in turn, understand more about her beloved grandmother.)
3. The world was changing before Martha's very eyes, and she hated it. (Chap. 14, p. 44)
(The change is a result of Martha's growth and maturity, rather than any major changes in her family's landscape. Later in this chapter, she blurts out that she hates her family, but right after that, she loves them again. From her awareness of change and her own quixotic mood shifts, readers can see that she is growing up.)
4. "I want to be a writer," she announced slowly and softly. (Chap. 17, p. 56)
(Martha tells her grandmother that like her father, she has decided to become a writer. She keeps her decision a secret from everyone else in her family, however, because she does not want to compete with her father. Henkes himself decided to become a writer/illustrator when he was very young and launched his career when he was only nineteen years old.)

5. "But it's not fair. It's just not fair, Ms. Driggs." (Chap. 27, p. 88)
(Martha's English teacher, Ms. Driggs, has assigned the class to write about their most embarrassing moment. Martha, as with her fellow students, does not want to reveal this information. She bravely but politely requests that the assignment be changed. This not only reveals Martha's courage but also her compassion. We can see why Olive would want to have been friends with her.)
6. If Olive could die, then so could I. So could anybody. Anytime. (Chap. 32, p. 104)
(As Jimmy videos Martha, she suddenly comes to the stunning realization that everyone is mortal. This is the most traumatic lesson that anyone ever has. It marks the end of her childhood and the start of her adulthood.)
7. Now.
He.
Kissed.
Her. (Chap. 40, p. 128)
(Jimmy kisses Martha, her first kiss. The world seems to stop spinning on its axis. Unfortunately, this splendid moment will be followed by one equally upsetting, as Jimmy reveals that he kissed her only on a bet with his brothers. Thus, this is Martha's first betrayal as well as her first kiss.)
8. But, in another way, the world had changed dramatically—because Martha understood for the first time that the world didn't revolve around her, that it was bigger than that, that it simply was, and would continue to exist with or without her. (Chap. 55, p. 165)
(This chapter is entitled "Change," which is what happens to Martha when she has her second big revelation: she is not the center of the universe. Her childish egocentric view has been replaced by maturity.)
9. She found it strange that something so insignificant—the jar—could contain a piece, however tiny, of something so grand—the ocean, Olive's ocean. (Chap. 65, p. 202)
(Just as the tiny baby food jar can contain a piece of the huge ocean, so one small person—Martha—can contain all the humanity that marks us as special: love, kindness, and even confusion.)

10. "You be the writer in the family." (Chap. 66, p. 208)
(Martha had feared that her father would resent the competition with her, but just the opposite is true: he is delighted that she has chosen to be the writer in the family. And so he passes the torch to her.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. How did Olive die?
(She was hit by a car on Monroe Street while riding her bicycle.)
2. What pact does Martha make with her grandmother Godbee?
(They promise to share a secret a day with each other.)
3. How does Jimmy betray Martha?
(He bets his brothers that he can kiss Martha and film it. Martha believes that Jimmy likes her and is horrified at his betrayal.)
4. What is Olive's ocean?
(It is a baby food jar of ocean water that Martha takes from Cape Cod to Olive's former home.)
5. Why does Tate give Martha Jimmy's video?
(Tate likes Martha and understands that she feels betrayed by his brother Jimmy. He gives her the video to show his feelings and try to erase his brother's bad-mannered action.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. Why did Olive's mother give a page of her daughter's diary to Martha?
(Olive's mother says that she knows her daughter would have wanted Martha to have it because in the entry, Olive speaks so well of Martha. It is also likely that Mrs. Barstow needs to feel that her daughter, who was very shy, had at least one friend. The woman also senses kindness in Martha, which perhaps can help her deal with her daughter's tragic death.)

7. What is Martha's relationship to her family?
(She loves them very much, but as with any teenager, her feelings oscillate between extremes: love and hate. One moment she feels very close to them; the next, she detests them.)
8. How does Martha change as a result of her experiences during the two weeks on the Cape?
(She matures and realizes that all people die, no matter how much we care for them. She also realizes that the world does not revolve around her. She was always a very nice girl, but now she is on the road to adulthood.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. What does Olive's ocean represent?
(The water represents homage to a child who died far too young. It also shows that Martha has learned to process grief and deal with her feelings. She will be an admirable grown-up.)
10. Do you think Olive and Martha would really have been friends, if Olive had lived? Why or why not?
(It seems likely they would have been friends because Martha is indeed as nice a person as Olive believed. Both are quiet, kind children and would no doubt have forged a friendship.)

Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)

11. Write the second page in Olive's journal.
12. Working with a small group of classmates, discuss some ways Martha could have responded to Jimmy's betrayal.

Across the Curriculum

Language Arts

1. Godbee finds a thank-you note that Martha wrote to her many years ago. Write a note thanking someone for a favor that they did for you. Send the note to the person, too!
2. In an essay, explain the symbolism of Olive's ocean.
3. Write a chapter in Martha's book, using this first line: "The orphan's secret wish was that her bones were hollow like a bird's and that she could just take off and fly away."

4. Write a brief sequel to the novel in which you explain what has happened to Martha ten years later.
5. Write the news story about Olive's death.
6. Martha wants to be a writer. In an essay, explain what careers you think you would enjoy. List at least three careers and explain your reason for liking each one.
7. Read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Summarize the novel and explain why you did or did not enjoy it.

Art/Music

1. Create a new cover for the novel. Explain how your cover art fits the novel's tone, theme, and characters.
2. Godbee makes stained glass by filling baby food jars with colored water. Make these jars and display them for your classmates.
3. Make a memorial to Olive. Assume that it will be placed in the school.
4. Make a video that tells about your life and experiences.

History/Social Studies

1. Martha and her family visit Cape Cod every summer. Make a travel brochure to encourage other people to visit Cape Cod.
2. Martha almost drowns in the ocean. Create a pamphlet to teach your classmates about water safety.
3. Play a game of Parcheesi with some classmates, as Martha and her family do when they are on vacation.
4. Martha wants to be a writer. In an essay, explain what careers you think you would enjoy. List at least three careers and explain your reason for liking each one.

Speech/Drama

1. Give a speech to encourage your classmates to ride their bicycles more often. Explain the reasons why bike riding can be beneficial.

2. Martha's father stays home and takes care of the children. Now that he is going back to work as a lawyer, Lucy will be in day care. Working with a group of classmates, debate whether children should be cared for by a parent or placed in day care.
3. With a partner, role-play a scene between Martha and Tate in which they share their feelings for each other.
4. Imagine that you are a school psychologist. Working with a partner, role-play the advice that you would give to Olive's mother.
5. Deliver a eulogy in honor of Olive.

Mathematics/Science

1. Look at some ocean or lake water under a microscope. Draw what you see. Then see if you can identify each of the microorganisms.
2. Martha's father is a lawyer. Make a chart showing the number of lawyers in your state.
3. Before the family goes on vacation, it is very hot and humid in Madison. Define "humidity" and explain how it is created.
4. Martha has bright red hair. Make a chart showing the percentage of the population that has red hair, black hair, brown hair, and blond hair. Explain what causes these variations in hair color.

Alternate Assessment

1. Role-play ways to help people mature.
2. Plan the ideal summer vacation. Include at least two weeks of activities that you would really enjoy.
3. In your own words, state the novel's theme or message.
4. Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main events.
5. Make a character list and describe each character.

Vocabulary Test

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| ___ 1. wake up | A. exhilarating |
| ___ 2. cut apart | B. lurch |
| ___ 3. flinch in pain | C. cryptic |
| ___ 4. arms depot | D. tranquil |
| ___ 5. noticeable | E. despise |
| ___ 6. ambiguous, puzzling | F. buoyant |
| ___ 7. tirade | G. revelation |
| ___ 8. actively | H. dissect |
| ___ 9. fruit | I. peony |
| ___ 10. peaceful | J. arsenal |
| ___ 11. wobble, stagger | K. conspicuous |
| ___ 12. floats | L. unique |
| ___ 13. spooky | M. eerie |
| ___ 14. thought over | N. rouse |
| ___ 15. hate | O. briskly |
| ___ 16. flower | P. winced |
| ___ 17. thrilling | Q. diatribe |
| ___ 18. socially clumsy person | R. mango |
| ___ 19. discovery | S. dork |
| ___ 20. one of a kind | T. mulled |

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| ___ 1. The boy who gives Martha the videotape | A. Martha Boyle |
| ___ 2. Martha's father | B. Olive Barstow |
| ___ 3. The boy who kisses Martha | C. Jimmy Manning |
| ___ 4. Martha's classmate | D. Tate Manning |
| ___ 5. The girl who dies | E. Lucy |
| ___ 6. Martha's older brother | F. Vince |
| ___ 7. Martha's grandmother | G. Godbee |
| ___ 8. The main character | H. Holly |
| ___ 9. Martha's best friend | I. Dennis |
| ___ 10. Martha's two-year old sister | J. Dana Lewis |

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Circle the correct word or phrase to complete each of the following statements.

1. Like Martha, Olive also wanted to be a (**lawyer, writer**) and she wanted to see the ocean.
2. Martha's father has quit his job as a (**doctor, lawyer**) to be a writer, without any success.
3. Olive had always seemed (**invisible, popular**) to the rest of the class..
4. Martha's mother Alice works for (**Wisconsin Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Water**).
5. Lucy throws a fit because they do not have any (**ice cream, baby bananas**).
6. The family plays (**Parcheesi, Monopoly**), their usual pastime during their summer vacations.
7. Godbee shares the secret that she hates her (**hands, feet**), because they are aged and gnarled.
8. Mr. and Mrs. Manning have (**three, five**) sons, all of whom are close in age.
9. Godbee tells her second secret: she can't (**see colors, taste or smell anymore**).
10. Martha and Jimmy build a (**fort, castle**) on the beach and then wreck it. Martha thinks that this is the best day of her life.

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part III: Identification (20 points)

Briefly describe each and explain its importance in the story.

1. Cape Cod
2. Olive's ocean
3. Jimmy's video
4. lobsters
5. kisses

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Compare and contrast Martha and Jimmy. Explain how they are the same and different.
2. Which character in *Olive's Ocean* do you find most admirable? Why?
3. Analyze what role Godbee plays in Martha's life.
4. Explain why Martha is so strongly affected by Olive.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: True/False (20 points)

Write T if the statement is true or F if the statement is false.

- ___ 1. Alice Hubbard was killed by a car a month before the story begins, the victim of a hit-and-run driver.
- ___ 2. Olive and Martha were best friends, close since first grade.
- ___ 3. Martha's father decides to give up his job as a lawyer and try to be a writer. He specializes in poetry.
- ___ 4. Vince, Martha's brother, is exactly a year older than Martha.
- ___ 5. Martha loves her baby sister Lucy and treats her gently and kindly.
- ___ 6. Martha very much likes to go to Cape Cod and visit her grandmother.
- ___ 7. Luke Manning is making a movie and Martha feels attracted to him because of this.
- ___ 8. Martha often wears bright orange shirts to complement her bright orange hair.
- ___ 9. Olive had liked her classmate Kyle Gilbert, but she is greatly embarrassed when she accidentally reveals that she likes him because he does not share her feelings
- ___ 10. Godbee fills baby food jars with colored water to make a stained glass effect.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| A. Cape Cod | F. Tate Manning |
| B. Madison | G. Lucy |
| C. Martha Boyle | H. Vince |
| D. Olive Barstow | I. Godbee |
| E. Jimmy Manning | J. Olive's ocean |

- ___ 1. Martha's two-year old baby sister
- ___ 2. Martha's grandmother, Dorothy Boyle
- ___ 3. Martha's brother
- ___ 4. The baby food jar of water from the Atlantic Ocean
- ___ 5. A teenager killed by a car while riding her bicycle
- ___ 6. The young man who has a crush on Martha
- ___ 7. Martha's hometown, where she attends school
- ___ 8. The young man who kisses Martha
- ___ 9. Godbee's home
- ___ 10. The novel's main character

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

Complete each phrase below with a reason or justification.

1. Olive's mother visits Martha because
2. Martha and her family go to Cape Cod because
3. Lucy throws a fit because
4. Martha asks her English teacher to change the assignment because
5. Godbee and Martha tell each other secrets because
6. Jimmy kisses Martha because
7. Martha jumps in the ocean because
8. Tate gives Martha the videotape because
9. Olive's mother moves out of the neighborhood because
10. Martha spills the water on Olive's sidewalk because

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Explain why Martha is such a nice person.
2. Analyze what you learned about maturity from this novel.
3. Describe the novel's setting and explain why it is important in the novel.
4. Trace the novel's plot. Include the rising action, climax, and resolution.

Answer Key

Vocabulary Test

- | | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. N | 6. K | 11. B | 16. I |
| 2. H | 7. Q | 12. F | 17. A |
| 3. P | 8. O | 13. M | 18. S |
| 4. J | 9. R | 14. T | 19. G |
| 5. C | 10. D | 15. E | 20. L |

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. F |
| 2. I | 7. G |
| 3. C | 8. A |
| 4. J | 9. H |
| 5. B | 10. E |

Part II: Sentence Completion (20 points)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. writer | 6. Parcheesi |
| 2. lawyer | 7. hands |
| 3. invisible | 8. five |
| 4. Wisconsin Public Radio | 9. taste or smell anymore |
| 5. baby bananas | 10. castle |

Part III: Identification (20 points)

1. Cape Cod is the novel's primary setting. Martha and her family very much enjoy their vacations on the Cape. This year, the Cape is the setting for Martha's first kiss, her first betrayal, and her maturation.
2. Olive's ocean is the baby food jar of water from the Atlantic Ocean that Martha brings home as a tribute to Olive, who had always wanted to see the ocean.
3. Jimmy's video shows Martha and Jimmy kissing, among other things. It is a source of considerable embarrassment to Martha.
4. Lobsters are the food that Martha eats at the Mannings'. Jimmy films the lobsters going into the pot for the section of his film on "death."
5. Kisses are exchanged primarily between Martha and her baby sister Lucy and the one kiss between Martha and Jimmy. The former kisses are sweet and affectionate; the latter becomes a symbol of betrayal.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. F | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. T | 10. T |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. G | 6. F |
| 2. I | 7. B |
| 3. H | 8. E |
| 4. J | 9. A |
| 5. D | 10. C |

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

1. she wants to give Martha a page from Olive's journal
2. they like to vacation there every summer
3. they do not have any baby bananas.
4. she does not want to write about her most embarrassing moment
5. they are close to each other; they love each other very much
6. he made a bet with his brothers that he could and also record the kiss on film
7. she does not want to have to talk to Jimmy, who is walking down the beach with another girl
8. he likes her and does not want her to suffer because of his brother's selfish and immature action
9. she wants to make a fresh start after her daughter's death
10. she wants to bring the ocean to Olive and mark her death in a special way. It is a tribute to a life cut short.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

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