

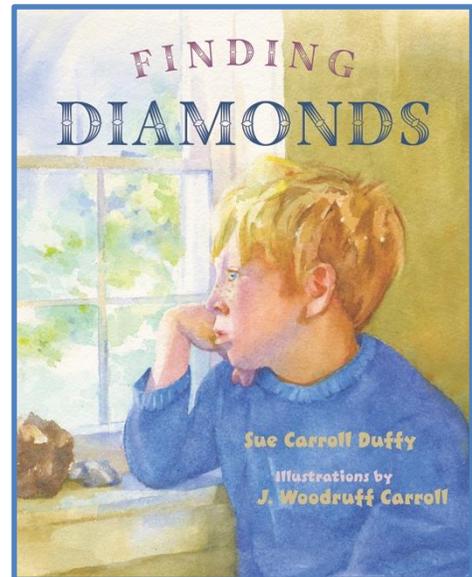
Readers Guide

Finding Diamonds

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Children/Nature
Grades K-4

Summary

If you find a giant diamond are you as valuable as a giant diamond? A young boy hopes so. While the rest of his family sleeps, he and his dog Joy begin a hunt for giant diamonds along the rural Maine coast. His curious mind, the rocky landscape, and the power of loving relationships lead the way to his most important discovery: that he is deeply loved just the way he is.



This book will lead to discussions about:

- Natural discoveries such as rocks, bugs, birds, fungi, sea glass, and driftwood.
- How children benefit from spending time in nature.
- Feelings and self-esteem.
- The value of the unfocused mind.

Discussion and Writing Prompts

In addition to helping children explore nature, it also helps them explore their feelings. First, have them read the story in its entirety. Next, consider processing the story with them two pages at a time. Ask, "What was important to you?" Encourage discussion. Next, create a quiet environment in which the child can reflect. This reflection might include writing or drawing. They should keep their drawings and writings together to make their own book.

Following are prompts to enhance reflection:

Diamonds (page 1):

- If you could be a rock, what type would you want to be?
- Learn about your rock (color, shape, Mohs hardness scale).

Sisters Do Everything Great (pages 2-3):

- What is something "great" you would like to do in your life?
- Where is the spot you feel safest?
- Tell about a time you felt jealous or that something was not fair.

It is Very Hard to Wait (pages 4-5):

- Tell about a time when it was hard for you to wait.
- Tell about a time that you felt ignored.

Hope Space (pages 6-7):

- What do you hope for?
- How big is your "hope space"?

By Myself (pages 8-9):

- Tell about something you have done by yourself.
- Tell about a time you did something you were afraid of.

Nearby (pages 10-11):

- When do you like to be loud?
- Who do you miss?

Click (pages 12-13):

- Tell about a time you found a bird's nest.
- Learn about hermit thrushes. Where do they live? What do they sound like? What color are their eggs?
- What school subjects take extra effort for you?

Bulging Eyes (pages 14-15):

- Tell about a time you found a bug.
- Learn about tiger beetles.
- Tell about something that you do well, like catching bugs.

Maybe I will Find One (pages 16-17):

- Tell about a time you were having fun and got hurt.
- Learn about oyster mushrooms.
- What would you like to find?

She Misses Grandpa Too (pages 18-19):

- Tell about a time you got muddy.
- How is sea glass made?
- Tell about a time that you comforted someone.

Drip, Drip, Drip (pages 20-21):

- What natural sound soothes you?
- Learn about quartz.
- Tell about a time when you had fun outside in winter.

Too Big for My Rock Bag (pages 22-23):

- Tell about something wonderful that you found.
- How is driftwood made?

Different Kind of Yell (pages 24-25):

- Tell about a time you yelled for help.
- Tell about a time yelling was also loving.

Running (page 26-27):

- Tell about a time that someone ran after you.
- Tell about a time that you felt important to someone.

Even Better than a Diamond (page 28-29):

- Tell about a time your family worried about you.
- Tell about a time you felt heard or listened to.
- Tell about a time that you felt love from a pet or person.

Driftwood Trees (pages 32-33):

- What does your own “treasure” look like?
- Who do you share your treasures with?
- Tell about a time that you didn’t get what you wanted, and it was okay.

Activity

Make exploring nature part of your daily routine with your child. They will stop looking at a screen if you do. See what natural treasures you find and can learn about. Every walk is sure to offer a natural gift. Enter the walk with your own curious eyes and learn together with your child.

Internet Resources

The following internet resources will enhance the learning in the story, particularly about the natural discoveries noted in the book.

Hermit Thrush

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Hermit_Thrush/sounds

Tiger Beetles

National Geographic

<http://phenomena.nationalgeographic.com/2014/02/04/tiger-beetles-become-blind-when-they-run/>

Oyster Mushrooms

Mushroomexpert.com

http://www.mushroomexpert.com/pleurotus_ostreatus.html

Sea Glass

Sea Glass Association

<https://seaglassassociation.org/>

Quartz

Geology.com

<http://geology.com/minerals/quartz.shtml>

Driftwood

Wikipedia:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Driftwood>

Self-Esteem

Kid's Health

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/self-esteem.html#>

Nature Walks and Mental Health

Natural News

http://www.naturalnews.com/037693_nature_deficiency_mental_health_benefits.html

Related Book

[How to Raise a Wild Child: The Art and Science of Falling in Love with Nature](#) by Scott Sampson.

This book provides parents, teachers, and therapists with guidance in deepening a child's connection with nature.