

Disappearing Island

by Corinne Demas

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

A Reading and Discussion Guide

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SUMMARY:

For her ninth birthday, Carrie's grandmother takes her to Billingsgate Island, an island off the coast of Cape Cod that has been eroding since the 1800's. They call it the "Disappearing Island" because it can only be seen during low tide. Carrie and her grandmother spend the day exploring the island, and Carrie learns what the island was like when her grandmother was a girl. A brick from the old island lighthouse becomes a memento of this special trip. Recommended for ages 4-8.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The trip to the "Disappearing Island" is special to the grandmother because her own father took her clamming there when she was a girl. Through the stories she shares, the trip and the island become special to Carrie, too. Do you and a family member or close friend have a special place that you share? What makes that place special?
2. What is erosion and what effect did it have on Billingsgate Island?
3. Carrie and her grandmother visit Billingsgate Island to celebrate her birthday. How do you celebrate your birthday every year? Have you ever gone on a special trip on your birthday?
4. Carrie's grandmother shares her memories of the Island when she was a little girl. What was your neighborhood like 50 years ago? Ask a parent, grandparent or neighbor to share their memories.
5. What do you think your neighborhood will look like 50 years from now? Will the same houses, buildings and parks be there? Will there be new buildings or recreation areas?

6. Carrie saves a brick from the old island lighthouse on Billingsgate Island as a memento to share with her children some day. Look around your neighborhood for something that you could collect to share with your children some day. A few ideas might be rocks, leaves, or tracings of different surfaces.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

<http://www.corinnedemas.com>

HELPFUL LINKS:

Explore the following websites for activities related to *The Disappearing Island*:

Ocean Tides:

<http://www.teachnet-lab.org/ps101/bglasgold/lesson4tides.htm>

<http://mbgnet.mobot.org/salt/sandy/tide.htm>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/ocean/Tides.shtml>

Grandparents:

http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson136.shtml

http://www.eduplace.com/monthlytheme/ september/grandparents_activities.html



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