

POCKETMOUSE at Torrey Pines

Author: Marian Parks
Illustrator: Melinda Beavers
Publisher: American Nature Tale, Inc.

Theme:

Perseverance is necessary to achieve goals.

Related Themes:

- California coastal habitat
- Endangered species
- Wildlife / Predator-prey

Summary:

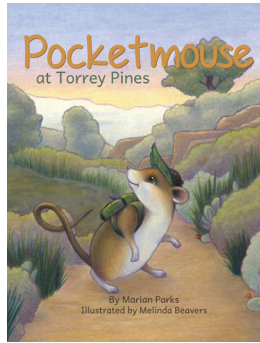
Pocketmouse is sad to leave his friends at Crystal Cove, but he's determined to find his family. When a clue to their location turns up, he heads south to Torrey Pines. But no sooner does Pocketmouse arrive at Torrey Pines than he hears the blood-chilling howls of prowling coyotes. With the help of a Torrey Pine tree, Pocketmouse prepares for battle. The rare tree is protective of endangered creatures and provides resources that help the little mouse defeat the band of coyotes. Pocketmouse finds his family, safe and well, under the protection of a Torrey Pine tree.

Prior to Reading:

- Show the location of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve on a map. Discuss: Torrey Pines is a real place that provides protection for the native Torrey Pine tree.
- Share digital images of endangered pocket mice. Discuss that pocket mice are now endangered because their habitat has been disturbed by humans and domestic animals.

Directed Listening:

Teacher: While listening to the story, see if you can remember why Hi Q, the owl, doesn't want Pocketmouse to leave Crystal Cove.



Discussion Questions:

RL 2.1 Why did Pocketmouse believe that his family might be at Torrey Pines? (He saw pictures of mice at Torrey Pines in the newspaper.)

RL 2.1 Why did Hi Q think it was a bad idea for Pocketmouse to leave Crystal Cove? (Pocketmouse was endangered and shouldn't take risks.)

RL 2.3 Describe the actions Pocketmouse took when the coyotes came close to the tree? (Pocketmouse took charge. He made pine pollen fall from the tree, and he disturbed the hornet nest.)

RL 2.7 Pocketmouse perseveres despite challenges. What events prove that he really does persevere? (He made a plan and went to Torrey Pines. When he encountered trouble with the coyotes, he didn't run away but found ways to fight them.)

Topics for Reading Journal

W2.3 Pocketmouse decides to stay at Torrey Pines with his family. Describe what you would do if you had to move to a new place. What would you do to make friends? How would you feel?

W2.3 Hi Q warned Pocketmouse not to leave Crystal Cove, but he left anyway. Describe a time when someone warned you not to do something. Did you do it? Describe what happened? Did you regret your choice?


Writing Opinion Topic

W.2.1 Pocketmouse warned the remaining coyote to leave, but the coyote didn't move. Do you think Pocketmouse should have nudged the wasp nest? Give several reasons to support your opinion.

Story Extensions

- Draw or paint a picture of a Torrey Pine tree.
- The endpapers of the book show native plants. Have students draw some of the plants shown in the book.
- Research local native plants.
- Retell the story using the mini-book pdf.
- Write a short report about an endangered mouse or tree.

Pocketmouse at Torrey Pines Mini-Book

<p>Pocketmouse at Torrey Pines Mini Book</p>  <p>by</p>	<p>Page 1</p>
<p>Page 2</p>	<p>Page 3</p>
<p>Page 4</p>	<p>Page 5</p>

Directions

1. Cut along the dotted lines. Arrange the pages in order and staple together on the left side.
2. Write your name on the cover.
3. On page one, describe the story's setting and the main character.
4. On page two, write about the first important event.
5. On pages three and four, write about the important events that happened next.
6. On page 5, write about the ending of the story.

Name _____

Date _____

Reading Journal

Pocketmouse at Torrey Pines

Pocketmouse decided to stay at Torrey Pines with his family. Describe how you would feel if you had to move to a new place. How would you make new friends?

Illustrate your paragraph in the space below.
