

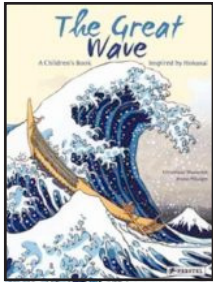


# CRUCHLEY'S COLLECTION

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshops are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

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## THE GREAT WAVE



Veronique Massenet,  
Presetel, ©2011,  
978-3-7913-7058-3

This is the story of fishermen who are caught in a huge wave that deposits a baby into their arms. He grows up uncertain as to where he comes from or who his real parents are. A fish promises to help him answer his questions. When the boy finally becomes scared, the fish turns into a dragon and says that Naoki now knows that his “real” parents are the ones that raised him.

## JOURNAL WRITING

Picture books lend themselves to a journal response, because they are really short to read and because they are often also useful for other writing purposes. Here are four suggestions for *The Great Wave*:

- A story about something that happened that made you appreciate your parents.
- An adventure involving water.
- A time you had to have patience about something.
- Getting lost.

## INSPIRED BY A PAINTING

This book was inspired by the painting, *The Great Wave of Kanagawa* by Hokusai which was part of a series of woodblock prints called *36 Views of Mount Fuji*. In this painting, Mount Fuji is hidden by the wave. Why not choose some other prints from the same series, and ask students in groups to write a story using that picture as an inspiration?

## GREAT WAVES IN JAPANESE HISTORY

This book was written before the great Japanese tsunami of 2011 which decimated areas of Japan, and where four months later they were still trying to get control of their nuclear plant. *National Geographic* has a series of pictures titled *Japanese Tsunami: 20 Unforgettable Pictures*.

In Japanese history there was also a great storm, or typhoon, that twice destroyed the fleet of Kublai Khan as he attempted the invasion of Japan. The wind was called a divine wind, or “kamikaze.” During the second world war the suicide bombers were said to be *kamikaze* - a divine wind that would destroy the Americans.



## LA MER BY DEBUSSY

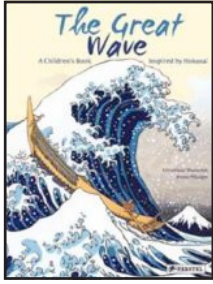
The book mentions that Debussy was inspired by Hokusai's *The Great Wave* to write *La Mer*, the sea. Download that piece of music for the students to listen to a portion of while they admire the woodcut.

## LINOCUTS

A linocut is easier than a woodcut, but creates the same impression. You could use this book to introduce the art project of making a linocut to illustrate a piece the student is writing.

## THE IMPRESSIONISTS, INSPIRED BY HOKUSAI

For further cultural literacy, students can learn more about the Impressionists, looking at some paintings by Monet, Manet, Degas, Cassatt, Renoir, Turner, etc. Their major qualities, as those of Hokusai, included painting pictures of ordinary people, not models, outside, not in a studio, creating an instant “impression” of reality. The paint was applied in a more spontaneous, less painterly, manner.



# THE GREAT WAVE, CONT.

## KOI NOBORI - THE CHILDRENS' FESTIVAL

Koi Nobori is held on the 5th day of the 5th month - or May 5th - to celebrate childrens' individual personalities. It is a national holiday. There used to be two holidays - a girls' day on May 3rd, and a boys on May 5th. They are now unified as a children's day. For boys there is a display inside of samurai dolls to represent courage; for girls a display of dolls in traditional costume. Carp flags are flown on a bamboo pole outside. As they blow in the wind they resemble carp swimming upstream.

The legend of the carp is that 360 carp once swam upriver. At the dragon's gate, only one leaped through to become a dragon. The carp symbolizes courage and perseverance - qualities the parents hope their children will have.

At the end of the book Naoki admires his carp fish fluttering on Koi Nobori day.



Edo period of Minamoto Yoshitsune, 18" high, circa 1820

## VERONIQUE MASSENOT'S WEBSITE

Massenot's website is called *Coralie's Corner*. It is really interesting because she includes a journal, in French, of some trips she has taken. The French is not too hard to understand because of the illustrations that accompany it.

## USING SIMILES

There are 7 different similes in the story that can be listed for students to describe what two elements are being compared:

- the wave..like a giant creature opening its foamy mouth, greedily swallowing everything before it.
- heart beat more wildly than all the drums of the world together.
- all his friends shot upwards, faster than bamboo.
- his thoughts drifted...coming and going like the water's ebb and flow.
- it's scales shimmered like silver.
- the back of the fish lengthened and began to move like a wave.
- the sea was as smooth as glass.

Ask students to re-write a portion of a recent piece they have written to include three original similes.

