



2003

On the Way to the Beach

Irene Halliday

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Cole, Henry. *On the Way to the Beach*. Illustrated by Cole, Henry. Greenwillow Books, 2003. ISBN 0688175155. \$15.99. 20 pp.

Reviewer: Irene Halliday

Reading Level: Preschool; Primary; Intermediate;

Rating: Dependable;

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Seashore animals--Juvenile fiction; Nature--Juvenile fiction; Book--Review;

A young nature lover follows a path through the woods, around a salt marsh, near a sand dune, and finally reaches the damp sand at the edge of the ocean. The journey isn't a short one; at each new location, the young wanderer stops awhile to quietly watch and listen. What creatures and plants does she/he see?

At each of the four locations depicted in this quiet, gentle, first-person excursion, a flap is folded out to reveal a wide expanse of vegetation and animal life painted in vibrant acrylics. Each creature is listed on the inside of the flap, allowing the reader to match the list to the scene observed. A numbered key to the four scenes is provided at the end of the book, for an accurate self-check.

Children are natural observers of the world around them. The final suggestion, "Find a place to sit and watch and listen. What do you see?" has the possibility of helping a child see familiar surroundings with new eyes-- and perhaps some adults as well.