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Half a Creature from the Sea

Sydnee Burr

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**Title:** Half a Creature from the Sea  
**Author:** David Almond  
**Illustrator:** Eleanor Taylor  
**Reviewer:** Sydnee Burr  
**Publisher:** Candlewick Press  
**Publication Year:** 2015  
**ISBN:** 9780763678777  
**Number of Pages:** 222  
**Interest Level:** AaBbCcDd  
**Rating:** AaBbCcDd

**Review**

In a collection of short stories, David Almond combines fact with fiction to depict his own childhood. Preceding each short story is a forward in which the author explains the inspiration behind the following story, the characters, location, and drama. The stories take place in a collection of seaside villages in England and revolve around not judging those around you, sticking up for what is right, and believing in childhood ambition.

This book could be enjoyed by young writers who are struggling with discovering their inspiration for stories. Almond walks the reader through the brainstorming, writing and editing processes involved in great writing. The stories will capture the souls of all those reading. Although not particularly engaging, the stories leave you haunted wondering what you would have done in the given situation, and hoping you would have the strength to make the right decision.