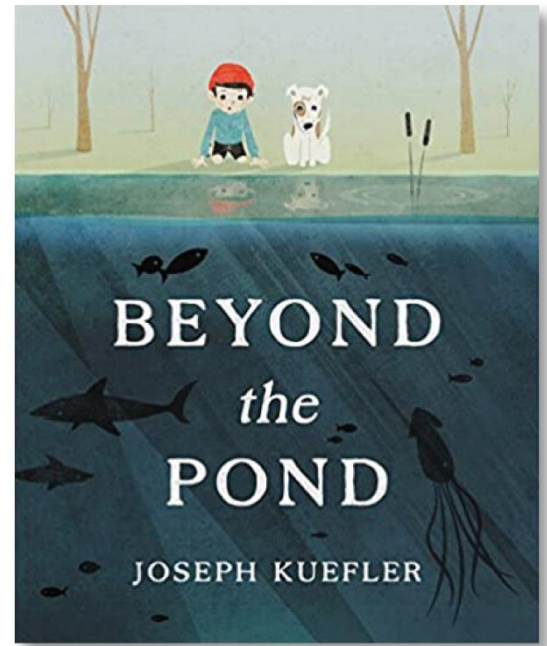


SECOND SATURDAYS FROM HOME STORYTIME: WATERCOLOR PONDS INSPIRED BY **BEYOND THE POND**



WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JOSEPH KUEFLER

Calling our littlest artists! Dive into an imaginary world with *Beyond the Pond* by Joseph Kuefler, then make a magical underwater painting inspired by the story. All you'll need this week is some basic supplies and a big imagination! Read by Abby Mechling, Director of Education, with permission from HarperCollins Children's Books.

MATERIALS:

- Watercolor Paper
- Watercolor paints and brush
- Pencil
- Crayon
- Water
- Salt

HOW TO:

1. Let's begin by thinking about all the things you want to include in your pond. Perhaps you will include imaginary things like unicorns or creatures from long ago like dinosaurs! Maybe you prefer to create a scene that exists in our world today. Is your entire scene underwater or

will you include the sky above the water in your picture? Use a pencil to draw your designs on your watercolor paper.

2. Using crayon, add color to all your drawings. When using your crayon to add your details, press hard and make sure you are creating thick lines with your crayons. This will be important when we add paint later.
3. The more details you add to your underwater scene, the better! Include things from your imagination as well as the plants and animals you would normally find at the bottom of a pond like fish and seaweed.
4. Don't forget the white crayon! When drawn on white paper, the white crayon does not show up in a bold way but the white crayon is very special when you paint over it. If you use the crayon to draw invisible creatures and details, when you add paint to your drawing, it will reveal all your white designs! Make sure to press really hard so the white crayon goes on thickly.
5. Now it is time to paint in the water and sky. The crayon on the paper will **resist** the paint when we paint over it. Because water and wax do not mix together, when you paint over the wax of the crayon, the paint will just slide off of the wax and won't change your drawing.
6. Using water to activate your paint, use your paintbrush to add **cool colors** for the water. Cool colors are blues, greens and purples. As you paint you will notice only the white part of the paper with no crayon is painted. **PRO TIP:** To smooth and spread your paint when it is already on the paper, dip your brush in water and add it to your paint on the paper. It is also fun to mix colors directly on your painting too. Try it out!
7. If you have included the sky above the water in your drawing, paint that using **warm colors**. Warm colors are the opposite of cool colors. They include red, orange and yellow.
8. The final step is to add salt! Salt is an optional step. When you add salt to wet paint, it creates a speckled texture in your painting. Before your paint dries on the paper, take a pinch of salt and sprinkle it onto the paint and watch the salt **absorb**, or suck in, the paint and create spots. When your painting is totally dry, hold it over the trash can and gently brush off the dry salt with your fingers.
9. **PRO TIP:** if your paper has curled and changed shape from adding water to it, once it is dry, you can place it under a heavy, flat object like a box or book to help flatten it back out.
10. **SHARE YOUR CREATIONS!** Show us all the amazing art you are creating by tagging @contemporaryatx #SecondSaturdaysAtHome