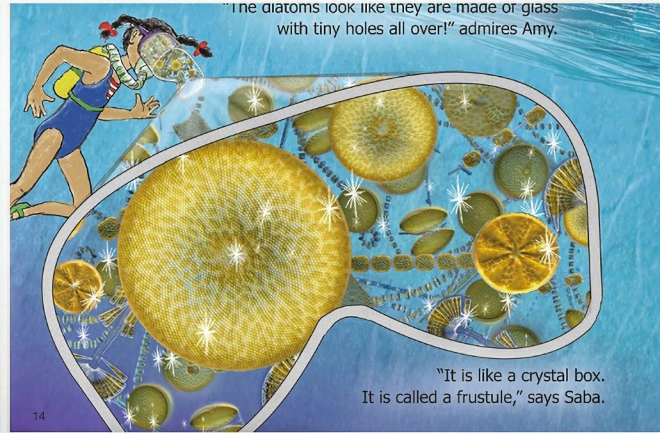
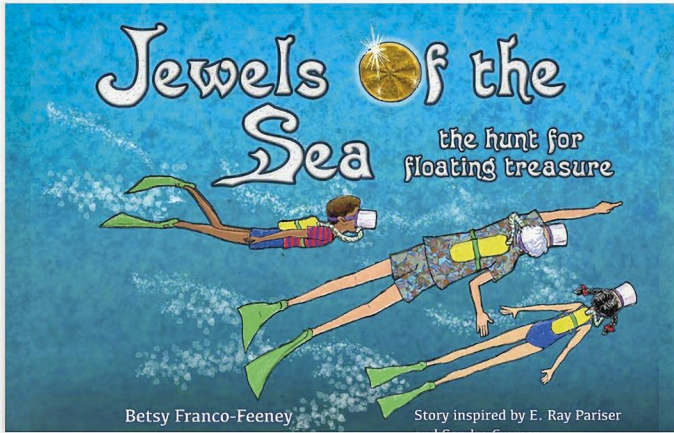
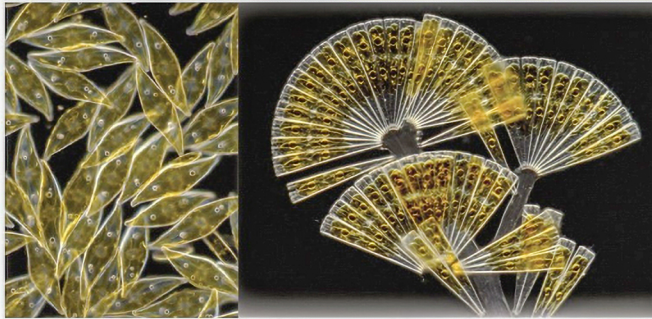


book reviews

Annual Summertime Children's Book Reviews By David Neilsen



In the picture book *Jewels of the Sea*, writer/illustrator Betsy Franco-Feeny takes on a wondrous journey into the depths of the ocean as seen through the eyes of two young children, Amy and Bart. Their grandfather, Saba, always brings them on adventures, and today's adventure promises a fantastic discovery: treasure! All three don diving gear and descend into the depths of the ocean. At first, the children are confused, as they can't imagine what sort of treasure their grandfather has in store for them. Eventually, however, they find them: the jewels of the sea! These are diatoms, microscopic creatures that appear to be made



of glass. These diatoms are the foundation of the ocean's food chain and also create oxygen through photosynthesis. The kids are amazed, the adventure ends, and all is well. This is a colorful, engaging look at a scientific topic most young children would never encounter.

While the first half of the book brings us Amy, Bart, and Saba's journey, the second half is full of facts and figures that dive into the science behind the story. There are diatom facts, information about

microbiologists, sections on how diatoms can help decrease global warming or indicate water pollution, examinations of diatoms in medicine, industry, history, and the future. All of this is followed by a large glossary of terms to ensure that the reader understands what they are reading.

It's a clever combination, as the exciting story hooks the reader in, and the information answers any questions that might come up during the reader's adventure.

For information on school and library programs: betsfeeny@gmail.com or text 914.645.6551. betsyfrancofeeny.com