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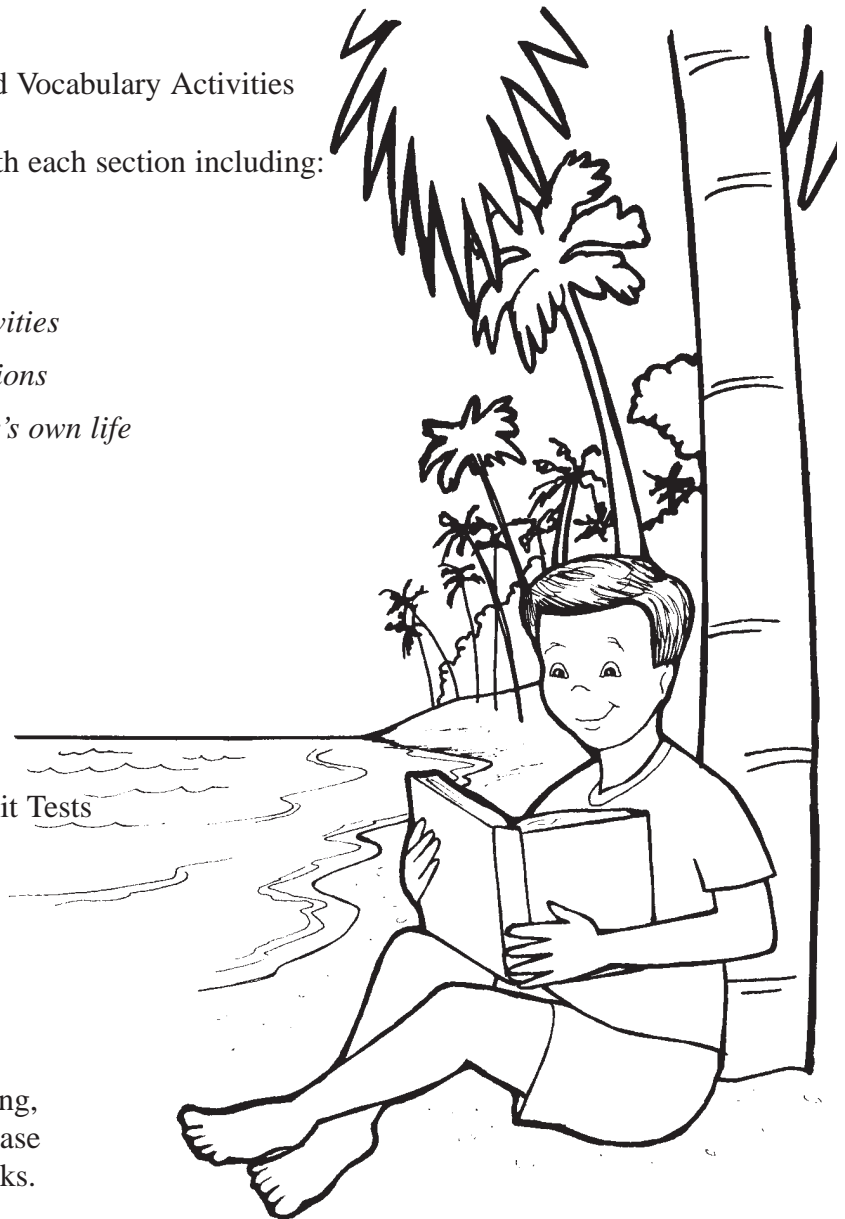
# Introduction

A good book can touch our lives like a good friend. Within its pages are words and characters that can inspire us to achieve our highest ideals. We can turn to it for companionship, recreation, comfort, and guidance. It can also give us a cherished story to hold in our hearts forever.

In *Literature Units*, great care has been taken to select books that are sure to become good friends.

Teachers using this unit will find the following features to supplement their own valuable ideas.

- Sample Lesson Plans
- Pre-reading Activities
- A Biographical Sketch and Picture of the Author
- A Book Summary
- Vocabulary Lists and Suggested Vocabulary Activities
- Chapters grouped for study, with each section including:
  - *quizzes*
  - *hands-on projects*
  - *cooperative learning activities*
  - *cross-curriculum connections*
  - *extensions into the reader's own life*
- Post-reading Activities
- Book Report Ideas
- Research Ideas
- Culminating Activities
- Three Different Options for Unit Tests
- A Bibliography of Related Reading
- An Answer Key



We are confident that this unit will be a valuable addition to your planning, and we hope your students will increase the circle of friends they have in books.

# The Cay

by *Theodore Taylor*

(Avon Camelot, 1970)

(Available from Transworld Publishers)

Phillip Enright is a young boy happily living on an island in the Caribbean. The story takes place on the island of Curaçao, the largest of the Dutch islands off the Venezuelan coast. Phillip and his friends have great times pretending that they are saving their town from pirates of old or from raids by the tall-masted ships coming over the horizon. They like to pretend that these ships are Spanish galleons coming to bombard and pillage their town of Willemstad.

One day their wildest imaginings come true and create a nightmare for the boys and the people of the local islands. In February of 1942, German navy submarines appear. The towns of Saint Nicholas and Aruba are hit by shells. Next the Germans focus on Phillip's town of Willemstad where the large oil refineries are making fuels to help the Allies in the fight against Germany. The people of Willemstad watch as the German U-boats sink tanker after tanker in an attempt to shut down the refineries and stop the oil from being sent to England.

The fighting becomes so intense that Phillip and his mother board a ship to return to the United States while his father stays in Willemstad at his job to help in fuel production. When Phillip's ship is torpedoed and sinks, he finds himself on a small raft with a black dockman named Timothy. Hours later, Phillip awakens and realises he is blind as a result of a head injury. He must learn to work with Timothy in order to survive with very little food and water.

As the raft floats to a small cay, a new stage of adventure begins. Timothy's ingenuity as a survivor and provider leads Phillip to respect and trust him. Although he is blind, Phillip learns to fish and gather food to survive on the cay.

Together they make plans to attract attention if aeroplanes are out looking for them.

Timothy protects Phillip when the cay is ravaged by a hurricane, but when the storm is over, Timothy is dead. Phillip survives alone until he is finally rescued by American sailors. It has been over four months since the ship he left Willemstad on sank. Phillip is reunited with his parents and eventually returns to live in the Dutch islands. His experiences on the cay with Timothy have changed his outlook on life in many ways.

