

# Next Time You See a **SEASHELL**

BY EMILY MORGAN

  
**NSTA Kids**  
National Science Teachers Association

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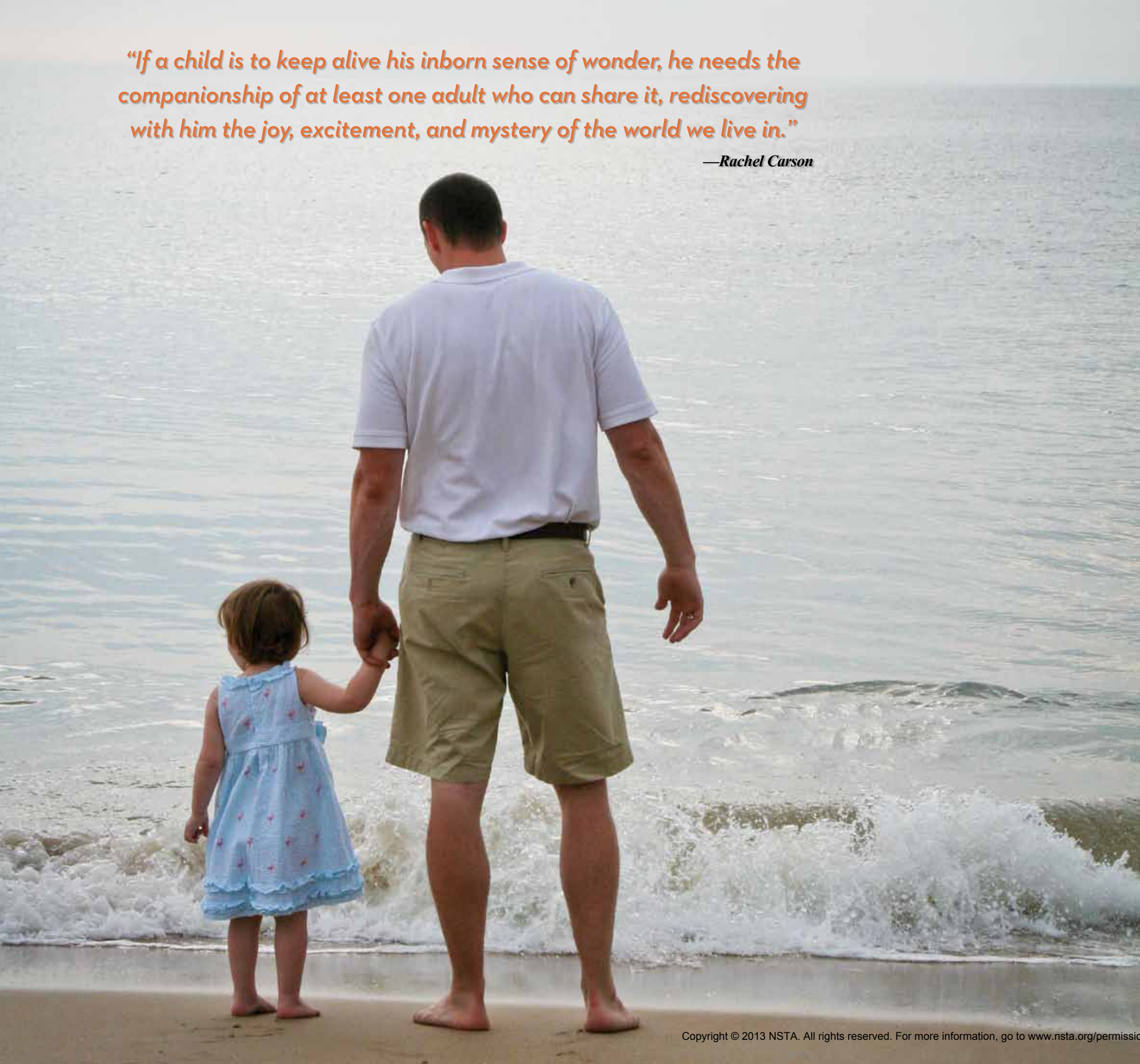
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*To my mother, Vonda Stevens,  
for teaching me that seashells don't have to be  
perfect to be beautiful.*

*“If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.”*

*—Rachel Carson*



## A NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

The books in this series are intended to be read with a child after he has had some experience with the featured objects or phenomena. For example, give your child a seashell or a handful of seashells and encourage him to observe them and wonder about them. Talk about where they might have come from. Share stories about a time you went to the beach or found a fossil of a shell. Ask what he is wondering about the shells and share what you wonder. Then, with shells in hand, read this book together and discuss new learnings. You will find that new learnings often lead to new questions. Take time to pause and share these wonderings with each other.

This book does not present facts to be memorized. It was written to inspire a sense of wonder about ordinary objects and to foster a desire to learn more about the natural world. My favorite question from students after giving them a handful of shells to observe is, “Are these real?” I think they ask that question because seashells look like pieces of fine art that a person carefully sculpted and painted.

Children are naturally fascinated by seashells, and when they contemplate the fact that these beautiful shells are made by slimy, snail mollusks, the shells become even more remarkable. My wish is that after reading this book, you and your child feel a sense of wonder the next time you see a seashell.

—Emily Morgan





Next time you see a seashell, pick it up and hold it in your hand. Run your fingers over it.

Does it feel smooth or rough?

How would you describe its shape?

What colors or patterns do you see?

Is it dull or shiny?

Smell it.

Does it have a scent?

What words would you use to describe the shell?





Seashells are some of the most beautiful objects found in nature. Have you ever wondered where they come from?



# Next Time You See a SEASHELL



This book tells the amazing story behind seashells: how they are made by mollusks, used for protection and camouflage, and full of clues about all they've been through. Inspired by *Next Time You See a Seashell*, young readers will find these intricate objects even more fascinating when they discover their origins in slimy, snaily creatures.



Awaken a sense of wonder in a child with the *Next Time You See* series from NSTA Kids. The books will inspire elementary-age children to experience the enchantment of everyday phenomena such as seashells and sunsets. Free supplementary activities are available on the NSTA website.

Especially designed to be experienced with an adult—be it a parent, teacher, or friend—*Next Time You See* books serve as a reminder that you don't have to look far to find something remarkable in nature.

Grades K-6  
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