

# HOLIDAY HOUSE

## EDUCATOR’S GUIDE



HC: 9780823452682 • PB: 9780823458776  
e-book: 9780823455256

### *Great Carrier Reef*

by **Jessica Stremer**  
illustrated by **Gordy Wright**

**A Bank Street College of Education  
Cook Prize Silver Medalist**

**A Junior Library Guild Gold  
Standard Selection**

★ “[A] **clear, logical, and fascinating** combination of natural and industrial.”  
—*The Horn Book*, Starred Review

★ “[A] **fanfare-worthy** true story.”—*Shelf Awareness*, Starred Review

### ABOUT THE BOOK

An outstanding STEM picture book documenting the transformation of an aircraft carrier that was gutted and turned into the world’s largest artificial reef.

### PRE-READING

- Study the cover art. Where is the book set? What is the larger structure you see? How does the title of the book give a hint about the structure?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Define reef. Why are reefs important to the marine ecosystem? What is the greatest threat to reefs?
- What is an artificial reef? How did scientists prepare the Mighty O to become an artificial reef? Explain why it was so important to remove all the harmful material.
- How does the illustrator reveal the age of the Mighty O?



- Take a close look at the illustration of the diagram of the Mighty O as she is prepared for demolition. What are the red X marks? Explain the dangers of a demolition if it goes wrong.
- Discuss what the author means by “the Mighty O won’t go down without a fight.” What is the fight? How is it won?
- The USS Oriskany is described as a city to those who served on the ship. Explain how the Mighty O has become an “underwater city” in retirement. Study the illustration of the sunken ship and discuss the citizens of the city she has created. How quickly do the citizens find their new home?

## ACTIVITIES

- Write a shape poem about the Great Carrier Reef.
- Read “You Can Help Save Our Reefs” at the end of the book. Find out who your legislators are and write a letter to them explaining why coral reefs should be restored.
- Learn about the Great Barrier Reef on the following website:  
<https://greatbarrierreef.com.au/information/for-kids/>. List five interesting facts.
- Allow students to work with a partner. Ask one to serve as a television journalist and the other to portray a diver. Instruct the journalist to interview the diver about details of visiting the Great Carrier Reef.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared the Great Barrier Reef a World Heritage Site. Use the internet or books in the library to find out the importance of World Heritage Sites. Share your research with the class.



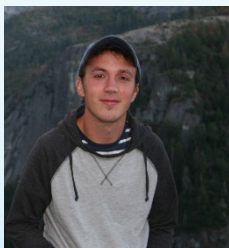
**Books for a Better Earth™** are designed to inspire children to become active, knowledgeable participants in caring for the planet they live on.

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

## ABOUT THE CREATORS



**Jessica Stremer** is the author of *Great Carrier Reef*, a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection which received two starred reviews and won the Cook Prize Silver Medal from Bank Street College of Education. After studying biology with an emphasis in ecology, she began writing for children as a way to instill curiosity, wonder, and respect for our natural world. *Fire Escape* is her sophomore nonfiction. She lives with her family in Wisconsin. Visit her online at [JessicaStremer.com](http://JessicaStremer.com).



**Gordy Wright** is an illustrator and printmaker who paints by hand in gouache and acrylic. Recent projects include *Wild in the Streets* by Marilyn Singer, *Strange but True* by Kathryn Hulick, and *Great Carrier Reef* by Jessica Stremer. Gordy graduated with a first class degree in illustration from the University of the West of England and lives in Bristol. Learn more at [GordyWright.com](http://GordyWright.com).

