

*Just a Drop of Water* by Kerry O'Malley Cerra

**EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:**

1. The book is told from Jake's point of view. At the end of each chapter, write a journal entry in Sam's point of view pertaining the day's events.
2. Ask the author to share the first page of her first draft of this book. Compare and contrast her original first page to her final first page.
3. Create a classroom Pinterest board (can be done on a bulletin board in the room if you prefer not to have kids go online) pertaining to the book. Include character photos, the medal, the park, the school, and whatever else you'd like.
4. As you read the book, create your own map of what you think the city looks like.
5. Draw your own cover for the book. Explain your choices.
6. Research the meaning of your name. Ask your parents their reason for choosing your name. Last names are typically rich in culture. Don't forget to research that as well. Would you change your name? Why? Why not? If so, what name would you pick and what does it mean?
7. You can read the author's note—why she wrote the book—on her website. After doing so, how does it make you feel? Has anything significant happened in your life that might make you want to write about it someday?
8. We've all done our share of assigned book reports on famous, historical, notorious, and or prominent people, but if you look around your classroom, I'm willing to bet it's filled with students of many diverse backgrounds. Pick a partner who is ethnically different than you and do a report on them. Present it to the class when you're done.
9. The Albatross is just one of many cultural simulations used to teach understanding. Research an alternate one and present it to your class.
10. Explore other symbols of peace. If you were to plan a peace rally for your school, what events would you include?
11. Plan a field day for your class, grade level, or whole school based on peace activities.
12. Create a peace scavenger hunt at school where you track down Jake's grandfather's medal.