

*The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs:  
The Story of Ken Nedimyer and the Coral Restoration Foundation*

**Discussion Guide**

Grades K-3

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- Introduce the importance of coral reefs by watching [this video](#) from the Natural History Museum, London.
- Use RIF's [See, Think, Wonder](#) chart individually or as a class to activate students' thinking prior to starting the book.
- This story has a lot of content specific vocabulary. Use [The Brilliant Deep Vocabulary Guide](#) to frontload vocabulary terms prior to reading.

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.**

- How is young Ken determined? Use details from the story.
- Why do you think the coral reefs were losing their color during one hot summer?
- The story says, "And growing them is really just a matter of patience... placing rows of bare rocks on the ocean floor and waiting for the marine life to move in." What do you predict that Ken is going to do to help the coral reefs?
- How is Ken able to keep his coral colony? What does he and his team do with this information?

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

- Ask: How is Ken able to keep the transplants surviving and reproducing? What characteristics can be used to describe Ken?
- **Extension:** Check out the [Coral Restoration Foundation](#) website to find tips, tools, and [interdisciplinary activities](#) aligned to standards to extend student learning.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.
- Read [Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau](#), a story about the underwater explorer who inspired Ken Nedimyer.
- Check out RIF's [Sustainable Futures](#) center to learn more about sustainability with related books and resources.