Beach Wander
by Finley Good
(Pacific Northwest)

I’m Finley Good, my mom says I’m a true PNW girl. I like to climb trees and sneak up on people with my fox feet. I also like to go on wanders in the woods and beach. One beach I like to go to is Titlow Beach. I like to go to Titlow because it has a forest on the fringes, and big rocks to hop on. I also like that it has rocks instead of sand.

On this warm spring day, we went to wander on the beach. The first thing I saw was a crow chasing a seagull. I think the seagull was carrying something in its beak, but I couldn’t see. The next thing I saw was another crow walking in the field. I wondered why the crow was walking instead of flying.
Next I saw some seagull scat on the paved trail. I wondered if all that poop was just one seagull. I didn't notice anything else until I got stuck climbing on the cliff. On the cliff, I saw a crow fly past twice. I wondered why the crow changed direction. Later while picnicking, I saw a seal in the water. I wondered if it was a mother. After snacking my dad moved a log into the water for us to play on. Under the log tiny little bugs were jumping around. I say one that looked really big. When I picked it up I was surprised to find a baby bug clinging to the underside. I wondered if the darker ones were males and the lighter ones
females. We took the log to play in the water. Next to the shoreline we turned over a rock and found a tiny sea snail. I wondered if the sea snail was lonely. I'm sure I would be lonely there, because there were no other sea snails around.

Next my wanderings took me to the clay cliff wall. I saw an ant dragging another bug. I wondered if the ant had killed the bug. Farther up the cliff I saw a chickadee flit to and fro in the bushes. I imagined it was a mother checking on her chicks. I decided to make a list of all I had seen before I forgot. While I was writing, a bumble bee buzzed straight past me. I wondered if it had some nectar...
for the hive, or if it was coming from the hive. When I moved to get out of the sun, I saw an ant that looked like it had wings! I wondered if it was actually an ant with wings or if it was something else.

We had been at the beach for about two hours. On the way back, I saw a hummingbird zoom out from the scotch broom. I wondered if the hummingbird was a mother too. (I guess I was just thinking about mothers that day.) I thought my last sighting was a goose skimming the water, but just before I got to the car, a little voice told me to
look up. Above me there was a crow soaring. I wondered what the crow was doing. Crows are always doing something mischievous.

At home I looked at my list; I had 14 noticings that day, and lots of wonderings.

Here's a quick recap:

Beach Sightings Today
1. Crow chasing sea gull.
2. Different crow walking on seashore.
3. Lots of sea gull seagulls.
5. Seal in water.
6. Sea shell on rock.
7. Ant on hill.
8. Chickadee in bush.
10. Winged ant next to the tree.
11. Tiny jumping bugs on beach.
12. Humming bird in air.
13. Oppose fly above water.
14. Crow fly above me.
It really is amazing how much you can see when you look!
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6. sea snail on rock
7. ant on hill
8. chickadee in bush
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The End