

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *The Rainbow Fish*.

Author: Marcus Pfister

Publisher/Date: North-South Books, 1992.

Grade Level: K-3

Summary: The Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful fish in the entire ocean but after he is rude to a little blue fish one day, all of the other fish ignored him. He gives away all of his beautiful scales and discovers the value of personal beauty and friendship.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Present the book and read it to the class.
2. Allow students to express in a journal what they would have done if they were in Rainbow Fish's position.
3. Have students pick an animal and write their own fantasy story.
4. Read only the first part of the story and let students finish the story with their own ending and then share as a class.
5. Have students make a list of things they share with others and explain why it is important to share.
6. Have students write a letter to the wise, old octopus as if they were Rainbow Fish expressing how grateful they are for the good advice and how happy it made the fish.
7. Introduce others books about fish and sea life and describe why it is important for them to all get along.

Vocabulary/Spelling

coral reef	dazzling	delighted	disappeared
discover	emerged	entire	glittering
ordinary	peculiar	possessions	shimmer
shocked	sparkling	wavered	wonderful

Library Connections

1. Share other books on fish and other animals that inhabit the sea.:
The Ocean Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta. This book talks about different animals found in the ocean, and since the grade level is K-3, extra practice with an alphabet book would be a good idea.
Fish by Elizabeth Clark. This book discusses different means of catching and raising fish from the ocean. It describes how important fish are as part of our diets not only here in the U.S., but all over the world. It also gives recipes to try in class.
World Water Watch by Michelle Koch. This is a good book to teach students that along with fish, other animals share the water. Such animals include sea otters, seals, penguins, and polar bears. It describes how important it is to keep our oceans clean and how the survival of animals depends on us doing so. The relationship of how all of these diverse animals must share the ocean could be brought up regarding the sharing plot of *The Rainbow Fish*.
2. Help students find books or movies that teach sharing.
3. Find more books by Marcus Pfister since most of his books are simple adventure tales that include a moral to be pondered.

Science/Mathematics Connections

1. Begin a unit on water bodies (oceans, rivers, lakes, etc.) or fish.
2. Adopt a class fish and have the class take care of it.
3. Visit an aquarium, ocean or zoo to view exotic types of fish and other ocean animals that were discussed in the book.

Social Studies/Mathematics Connections

1. Discuss countries that rely on fishing as their main food source.
2. Invite upper grade students into your class to discuss the positive aspects of sharing and how it has helped them be good citizens.
3. Make fish water bubbles out of paper and use as counters to solve math problems.
4. Look at a map of North Carolina and discuss where fish would be located and determine whether they would be fresh or saltwater fish (rivers, ocean, lakes).

Language Arts Connections

1. Allow students to write their own books that include the moral of sharing.
2. Role play the conversations that take place between the fish.
3. Have students bring in something to share with their classmates. It can be something as simple as thank you notes for being nice friends. Put students in groups and have them discuss why they brought what they did. Also let class share the nicest thing anyone ever gave them.

Art Connections

1. Take a fish bowl, put in light blue Jell-O and either candy or plastic fish, shells, and other things found in the ocean and display it in the room. Take a plastic fish and color bright, glittering scales on it to represent Rainbow Fish as well as including the other characters in the book.