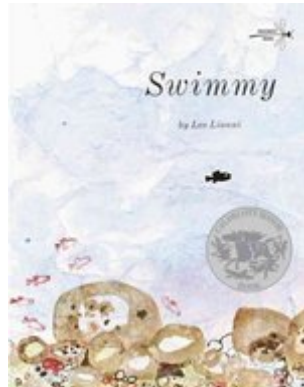


Swimmy by Leo Lionni



1. Read the story together.
2. Discussion Questions:
 - How did Swimmy feel when he escaped from the tuna and swam alone in the deep sea?
 - What helped Swimmy feel happy again?
 - Why didn't the new school of fish want to swim and play and see things?
 - Did Swimmy think the fish were right to lie still so they wouldn't get eaten? Why do you think Swimmy thought what he thought?
 - What did Swimmy do to help the fish solve their problem?
 - Why do you think Swimmy offered to be the eye of the fish?
3. Activity: Fish Sorting

Swimmy meets many different fish as he travels through the ocean, while they all may be little red fish, they would certainly have different qualities. Through sorting different types of goldfish crackers, students will learn about grouping according to a particular quality.

Materials:

- Large format graph paper (available at <http://incompetech.com/graphpaper/plain/>; 1.25 lines per inch suggested)
- Goldfish crackers in 3 varieties
- Markers

Each child will receive an assortment of goldfish crackers (pretzel, cheddar and plain) and sort the crackers according to color. After the crackers have been sorted, the child will create a bar graph to show the results of their sorting. As a group, compare the results of the sort. Was there a particular kind that always had the highest number of fish represented? The lowest?

Activities to do at Home

Make Your Own Jellyfish

In the story, Swimmy saw a medusa, or jellyfish. Bring jellyfish to light for your child with this simple science activity. Find a picture of a jellyfish in an encyclopedia or sea-life reference book. Let your child study the picture and make observations about the jellyfish. Then use the following supplies to help your child make their own jellyfish.

Materials:

- 2 clear plastic sandwich bags
 - 1 twist tie
 - Scissors
 - Tape
 - Clear bowl and water
1. Cut one plastic bag into strips to make tentacles.
 2. Tape the strips to the bottom of the second bag.
 3. Fill the second bag about halfway with water. Then seal it with a twist tie.
 4. Fill the bowl halfway with water, and lay the bag on the water so the plastic tentacles float.

Ask your child to look at the “jellyfish” and make observations about it. You might ask:

1. Is it easy to see the jellyfish in the water? Why do you say that?
2. Why is it important for the jellyfish to be difficult to see?
3. What happens to the jellyfish when we make waves in the water?
4. Why do you think a jellyfish needs tentacles?

School of Fish Estimation

Using your bag of Goldfish crackers and a large open round cookie cutter (or you can make a ring by taping together a strip of tagboard), first help your child pour some crackers onto a plate. Ask them to estimate how many fish are in the school. Record the estimate. Then pour the same crackers into the cookie cutter or ring shape. Ask your child to estimate how many fish are in the school now. Next help your child count the actual number of fish. Which estimate was closer? Was it easier to estimate the number of fish when they were spread out or grouped tightly together?

“Visit” an Aquarium

Go to the Monterey Bay Aquarium website to watch live video of animals. Click on the webcam for the Outer Bay to see schooling tuna and mackerel.

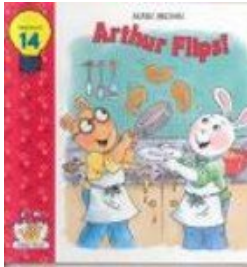
Click on the webcam for the Kelp Forest to see if there are any schools of sardines or anchovies on display. http://www.mbayaq.org/efc/cam_menu.asp

Additional Discussion Questions about the Story

1. How is Swimmy different from the other fish in his school?
2. How does Swimmy get the second school of fish out of their hiding place?
3. Are the “strange fish” really being pulled by an invisible thread?
4. Do you think Swimmy will stay with his new school of fish?

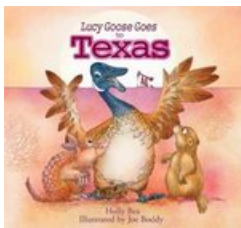
Books to Share Together

Books about Teamwork



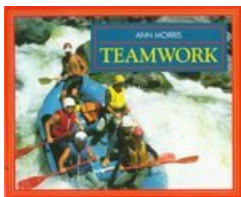
***Arthur Flips!* by Marc Brown**

When Arthur's father is too sick to make pancakes for the neighborhood pancake breakfast, Arthur and his friends team up to take his place and learn the value of working together.



***Lucy Goose Goes to Texas* by Holly Bea**

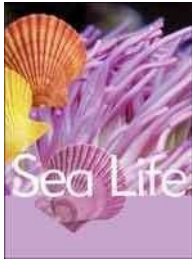
Lucy is a Canada goose who likes to do things by herself, but when the time comes to migrate to Texas, she learns that there are good reasons to work as a team. Includes information on the Canada goose.



***Teamwork* by Ann Morris**

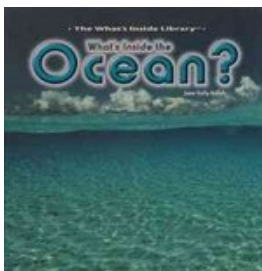
Discusses teamwork and how team members working together as a group cooperate to get the job done.

Books about Ocean Life



Sea Life by Katy Pike and Garda Turner

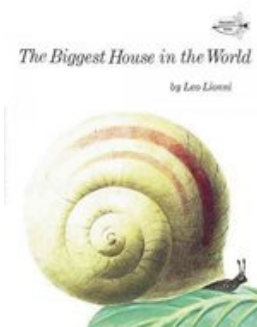
Discusses various forms of sea life, including sharks, crabs, sea stars, and squid.



What's Inside the Ocean by Jane Kelly Kosek
1999, J 578.77 KOS

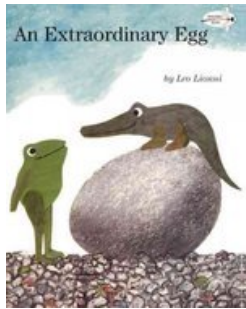
Discusses some of the life forms that live in the ocean, such as coral polyps, phytoplankton, and the great blue whale, and explains how they survive.

More Books by Leo Lionni



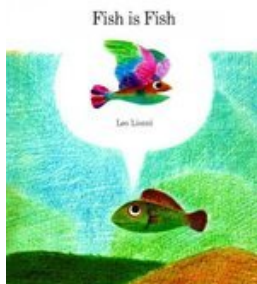
The Biggest House in the World by Leo Lionni

A snail's father advises him to keep his house small and tells him what happened to a snail that grew a large and spectacular shell.



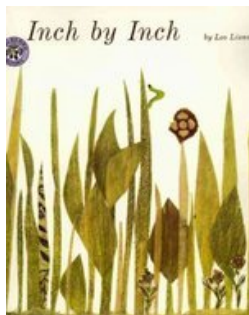
***An Extraordinary Egg* by Leo Lionni**

Jessica the frog befriends the animal that hatches from an egg she brought home, thinking it is a chicken.



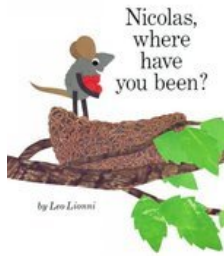
***Fish is Fish* by Leo Lionni**

When his friend, the tadpole, becomes a frog and leaves the pond to explore the world, the little fish decides that maybe he doesn't have to remain in the pond either.



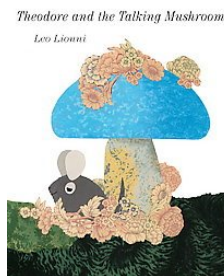
***Inch by Inch* by Leo Lionni**

To keep from being eaten, an inchworm measures a robin's tail, a flamingo's neck, a toucan's beak, a heron's legs, and a nightingale's song.



Nicolas, Where Have You Been? By Leo Lionni

Mishap turns to adventure as a young mouse learns that all birds aren't the enemies he thought they were.



Theodore and the Talking Mushroom by Leo Lionni

The blue mushroom says only one strange word but Theodore the mouse convinces his friends that it means nice things about him.



Tico and the Golden Wings by Leo Lionni

A wingless bird is granted his wish for a pair of golden wings.