



978-0-8234-2140-4

FISH SCHOOL

NANCY POYDAR

About the Book

This fun, fact-filled aquarium story includes advice about caring for goldfish.

GRADES
PREK-3

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Language Arts

Vocabulary—The term “school of fish” is used numerous times throughout the story. Children can learn the words for other animal groups, such as a pride of lions, an army of ants, a barrel of monkeys, a prickle of porcupines, etc. See the first online resource below to access more group names.

Creative Writing—Discuss how Wishy might have felt being carried around in a plastic bag and what it might feel like to be a fish or sea creature in an aquarium with people always staring at you. Students can use some of the ideas from the discussion to write a paragraph or a poem from the point of view of the fish and later share their writing with the class.

Pets—Students can find out about the care and feeding of goldfish and discuss whether Charlie did a good job. They can write about how they take care of their own pets and share this with the class.

Science

Research—A guide to the fish in this book is provided on the copyright page (p. 2) with references to the pages where each creature is shown in the book. Students can choose

one of these sea creatures to research and write a report using the format of “Charlie’s Fish School” (by Charlie) on the last page of the book. Their report should include physical characteristics, habitat, food, life span, and dangers. They can illustrate their reports using the activity shown below in the Art section.

Art

Students can create lifelike drawings of the fish and sea creatures mentioned in the book using the art media of their choice. They can find accurate pictures online on Google Images, or in encyclopedias or nonfiction books. For fish, they can label their drawings showing the following parts: caudal fin, dorsal fin, gill, eye, pectoral fin, and mandible.

Class “Aquarium”—Students can also create an “aquarium” on a classroom bulletin board by pinning their fish drawings onto a dark blue background.

Another way to create an “aquarium” is to use black butcher paper as the background and draw the fish and sea creatures directly onto it using fluorescent colored chalk.

Online Resources

www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/got_questions_groups_list.html

Presents a comprehensive alphabetical list of group names for more than eighty different animals.

images.google.com/

Type “fishes” in the search area to access excellent color photos of a variety of fish.

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/

Type “fish” in the search area for access to a variety of articles and additional activities related to fish.

Classroom activities prepared by Sandy Schuckett, school library consultant.