



THE POUT-POUT FISH

by Deborah Diesen

Beautifully hand-drawn illustrations tell the story about a glum little fish discovering that spreading “cheery-cheeries” is more fun than the “dreary-wearies.”

READ

Before:

Before you read:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *The Pout-Pout Fish spends a lot of time frowning and not having any fun. When you are sad, what do you do to turn your frown upside-down?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an “I wonder” statement based on the cover illustration.

- *I wonder why that fish is frowning?*

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out “rare words” (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *The Pout-Pout Fish*:

- glum: to be quietly miserable
- gloomy: having a feeling of sadness
- dreary: gloomy and unexciting
- wearies: tired, to run out of patience or energy
- clam: a burrowing shellfish native to oceans, rivers and lakes
- grin: to smile broadly, usually showing the teeth
- pearl: a small sphere that forms around a grain of sand found in clams and oysters
- advice: someone’s recommendation about what another person should do
- crosstown: the other side of town
- jellyfish: an umbrella shaped sea animal with long tentacles that sting
- tentacles: a long part of an animal such as a jellyfish that sting when touched
- trailing: to hang, grow or float loosely
- locomotion: the movement or power to move from one place to another

Rare Words in *The Pout-Pout Fish*: continued

- scaly: to be covered in scales or flakes
- scowl: an expression of anger and displeasure, usually displayed by frowning
- grimace: an expression of anger or pain
- squid: an ocean animal that has two long tentacles, eight short arms and has a long body
- slender: small or slight in width
- squirmy: to wriggle the body especially because of discomfort or an attempt to break free
- squelchy: to make a sucking or gurgling sound
- impolite: to be rude and show disrespect
- kaleidoscope: a complex, colorful and shifting pattern or scene
- mope: to be full of self-pity or sulky unhappiness and lose interest in everything else
- octopus: an eight-armed sea animal which usually lives on the ocean floor
- underside: the lower side or bottom of something
- charms: a miniature trinket worn or carried
- hulky: large, bulky and often clumsy
- sulking: to refuse to talk to or associate with others
- unattractive: not good-looking or not enticing
- trait: a characteristic or quality that is genetically determined
- chum: a close friend
- destined: something that is preordained or intended
- shimmer: to shine with a flickering light or with a glow
- brilliant: splendid, magnificent and extremely bright or radiant
- astounded: to be very surprised
- aghast: to be overcome with shock and dismay
- stone-faced: to be expressionless, blank and not smiling
- statue: to appear to be like a solid carving and not real

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where does the Pout-Pout fish live?
- On the first page, how many fish are swimming with Pout-Pout?
- What does Pout-Pout spread all over the place?
- What sound does Pout-Pout make?
- Who is the first animal to greet Pout-Pout?
- How does Pout-Pout respond to Ms. Clam's request?
- Describe what happens when Mr. Jelly talks to Pout-Pout.
- Who does Pout-Pout meet after he gets tangled in the vines?
- What type of animal is Mr. Eight? How do you think he got his name?
- What happens after Pout-Pout swims to the bottom of the ocean floor?
- Describe what the silver shimmer looks like.
- What happened to Pout-Pout to make him smile?
- Can you repeat what Pout-Pout says to all the underwater animals after he is kissed?

DO

Measuring Never Tasted So Good!

You will need: Gold Fish crackers, Measuring Pout-Pout sheet, small cups and crayons/markers

After reading the story, hand each child the Measuring Pout-Pout printable and a cup full of Gold Fish crackers. Instruct the children to place a cracker on the star under the first animal. Next, place a second cracker beside the first one. Repeat until the crackers reach the circle. Repeat the above steps with all remaining animals.

Next, have the children count the number of crackers under each animal. Then, have the children identify which of the animals is the longest, shortest and which are the same size. Finally, allow the children enough time to enjoy the crackers.

If desired, have the children write the number of crackers used next to each animal.



GIVE ME TWENTY



A READING-READINESS CHALLENGE FROM THE PIZZA HUT® BOOKIT!® PROGRAM

MEASURING POUT-POUT

My Name _____

