



Commotion in the Ocean

by Giles Andreae

This delightful new collection of poems includes fun rhymes about the creatures who live in and around the ocean.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? 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 they are smiling?*

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

- commotion-a scene of noisy activity
- curious-eager to know about something or get information
- creature-any living person or animal
- wrecks-shattered remains of something that has been totally destroyed
- sideways-to or toward one side
- sneaky-doing something in an unfair way
- pretend-act as if something were true
- scamper-to run quickly or playfully
- shame-a negative emotion that combines feelings of dishonor, and embarrassment
- greet-to welcome somebody in a cordial way
- skewer-a thin pointed object used to pierce something or hold it in place
- flaps-to move something up and down, especially wings or arms during flight
- wise-knowing much from experience
- bulging-to expand or swell
- fins-part of fish used for motion
- massive-extremely large in amount
- barnacles-a clinging or dependent person or thing
- blubber-the insulating fat of large ocean mammals
- bellow-to shout something in a loud deep voice
- waddle-to walk with short steps while causing the body to tilt slightly from one side to the other
- icebergs-mass of floating ice
- slither-to slide along easily, as a snake does



After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Can you name some animals making all the commotion at the bottom of the ocean?
- How do crabs walk? Can you walk sideways?
- What animal crawls upon the beach to lay their eggs?
- What animal tries to speak to you? Have you ever gone swimming with the dolphins?
- Can you name the prettiest animal in the ocean?
- What ocean animal has long, sharp teeth and always has a smile on its face?
- What fish chases after smaller fish and skewers them on his sword?
- What fish has eight arms and uses them to tickle his tummy?
- What fish will chop off your fingers if you shake his hand?
- Is a blue whale bigger than a school bus?
- What ocean animal is round with white tusks, and bellows all the time? Have you ever seen a walrus?
- What type of bird waddles on icebergs? Don't you just love penguins?
- Where do polar bears live? In the Arctic?

DO

Fish Catch

Provide construction-paper fish in graduating sizes. Put a paper clip on the nose of each one. Provide a fishing pole (magnet on a string tied to a wrapping paper tube). Invite the children to catch the fish and arrange them in order from smallest to largest.

