

An Octopus Is Amazing

by Patricia Lauber

A Newbery Honor-winning author introduces children to the complicated, yet interesting world of the octopus in this wonderfully illustrated book.



Read

Before:

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, *Who can tell me how many arms an octopus has?* 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 where its mouth is?

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 *An Octopus Is Amazing*

- rubbery: tough or elastic
- common: ordinary
- den: hidden home
- cave: a large, hollowed-out place in rock that can be reached from water
- flash: happening quickly and unexpectedly
- seaweeds: plants that grow in the ocean
- escape: getting away
- pleasure: a feeling of happiness
- appetite: desire for food
- examine: study something
- beak: the bony jaw projection of a fish
- prey: fish hunted by other fish
- paralyzed: unable to move
- siphon: a tubular organ by which water is taken in or out
- spurt: sudden burst of energy
- webbed: joined by skin
- tidies: neat in appearance
- fooled: trick somebody
- blob: small spot of color
- keen: able to sense minor distinctions
- stem: a long slim part of an object
- weaves: to make something by interlacing strands or strips
- drift: to be carried along by the flow of water or air
- surprisingly: sudden wonder or amazement
- clever: showing intelligence
- intelligence: the ability to learn facts and skills and apply them
- shy: uncomfortable with others
- aquariums: container for fish

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What is an octopus? How many kinds are there? Can you name a few?
- How many arms does an octopus have? If one is cut off, does it grow back?
- How many suction cups is on each arm?
- Where does an octopus live?
- What color is an octopus? An angry octopus? A frightened octopus?
- What is an octopuses favorite food?
- Where is the mouth on an octopus?
- Who is the most dangerous enemy of the octopus?
- How many eggs can an octopus lay? How long before they hatch?
- What things can an octopus do that shows his/her intelligence?
- Are octopuses shy or friendly?



Do

Octopus Puppets

Have the children glue eight 8" streamers around a paper plate. Use a crayon to add an eye.