

The Rainbow Fish

TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

School Matinee Performances



University Hospitals

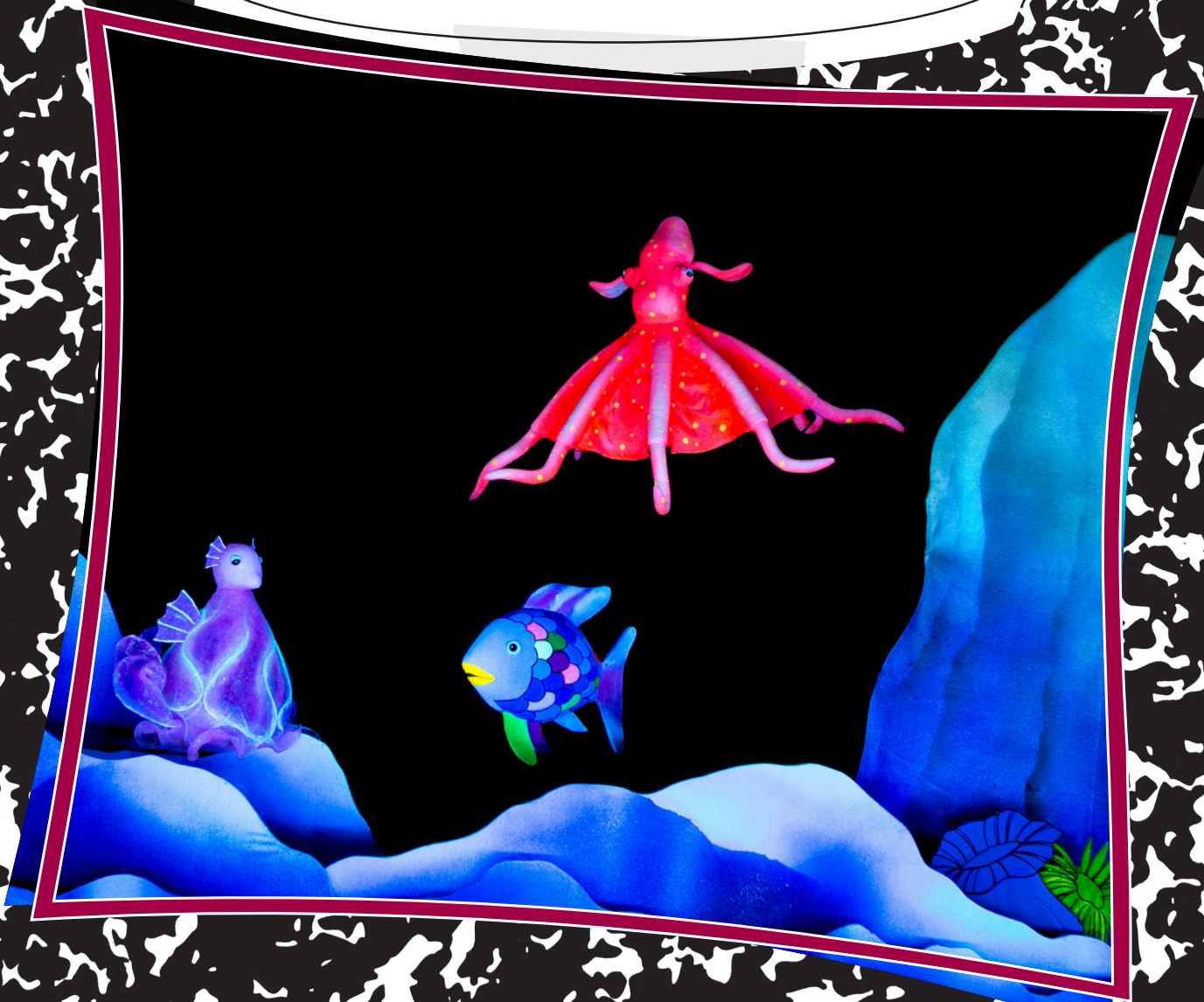
Presented by



Rainbow
Babies & Children's



Playhouse Square®



Teacher Resource Guide

THE RAINBOW FISH



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Playhouse Square	3
Coming to the Theater	4
About the Show	5
Pre-Show Activities	7
Post-Show Activities	9
Resources	11
Curriculum Standards Index	12

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION



Playhouse Square®

The lessons and activities in this guide are driven by the Ohio Learning Standards (2017) in English Language Arts. The College and Career Readiness (CCR) Anchor Standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language define general, cross-disciplinary literacy expectations that must be met for students to be prepared to enter college and workforce training programs ready to succeed.

21st century skills of creativity, critical thinking and collaboration are embedded in the process of bringing the

page to the stage. Seeing live theater encourages students to read, develop critical and creative thinking skills and to be curious about the world around them.

This Teacher Resource Guide includes background information, questions, and activities that can stand alone or work as building blocks toward the creation of a complete unit of classroom work.



The Ohio Arts Council helps fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

Playhouse Square is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.





ABOUT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE

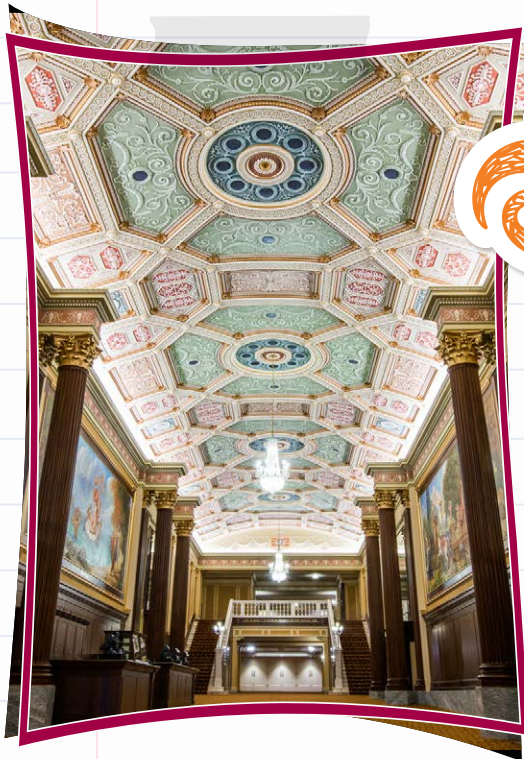


Playhouse Square is an exciting field trip destination! As the country's largest performing arts center outside of New York, the not-for-profit Playhouse Square attracts more than one million guests to 1,000+ shows and events each year. Five of Playhouse Square's 11 performance spaces are historic theaters that first opened in the early 1920s. By the late 1960s, they had been abandoned. A group of volunteers saved the theaters from being turned into parking lots. Now, all five historic theaters are fully restored.

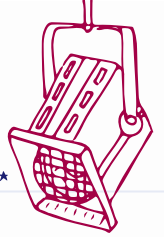
You'll find Broadway, concerts, comedy, dance and family shows on Playhouse Square's stages, along with performances by Playhouse Square's six resident

companies: Cleveland Ballet, Cleveland Play House, Cleveland State University's Department of Theatre and Dance, DANCECleveland, Great Lakes Theater and Tri-C JazzFest.

When you visit, be sure to check out the GE Chandelier, the world's largest outdoor chandelier, and the retro Playhouse Square sign with its 9-foot-tall letters!



Coming to the Theater



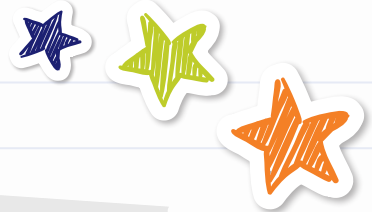
We look forward to welcoming you and your students to Playhouse Square! To prepare for a successful field trip, we encourage you to spend some time discussing the differences between coming to the theater and watching a television show or movie or attending a sporting event, especially if you have students who have not yet had the opportunity to attend a live theater performance. Here are a few points to start the discussion:

- You and your students will be greeted and helped to your seats by members of Playhouse Square's staff and "RedCoat" volunteers.
- Theaters are built to magnify sound. Even the slightest whisper can be heard throughout the theater. Remember that not only can those around you hear you, the performers can too.
- As you watch the performance, feel free to respond by laughing or applauding.
- Food, drink and gum are not permitted in the theater for school matinee performances.

- Photography and recording of performances are not permitted.
- Mobile phones and other devices that make noise or light up should be silenced and put away before the performance begins.
- When the houselights dim, the performance is about to begin. Please turn your attention toward the stage.
- After the performance, a member of the Playhouse Square staff will come out on stage to dismiss each school group by bus number. Check around your seat to make sure you have all of your personal belongings before leaving.



ABOUT THE SHOW

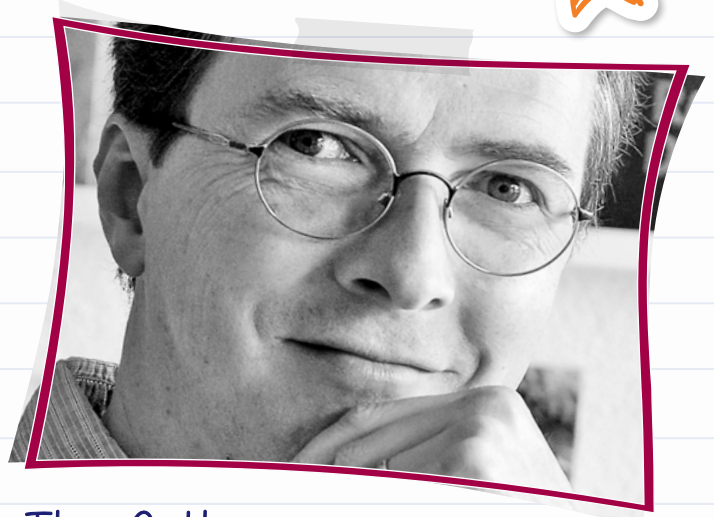


The Stories

The Rainbow Fish tells the story of the most beautiful fish in the sea, whose scales shimmer in all the colors of the rainbow. He is admired by the entire underwater world, and the other fish dream of owning one of his magnificent shiny scales. Resentment and isolation ensue when he is unwilling to give any of them away, and he becomes the loneliest fish in the ocean. Following the advice of a clever octopus, he gives each fish one of his scales. The more he shares, the happier he becomes.

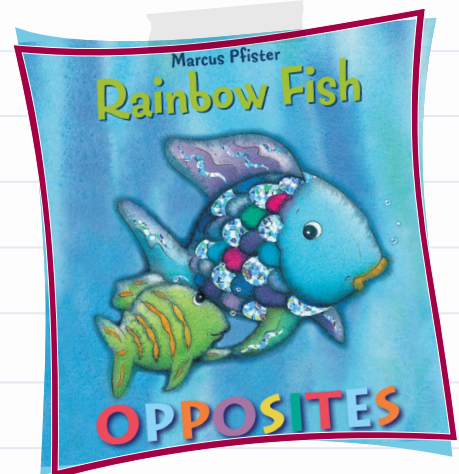
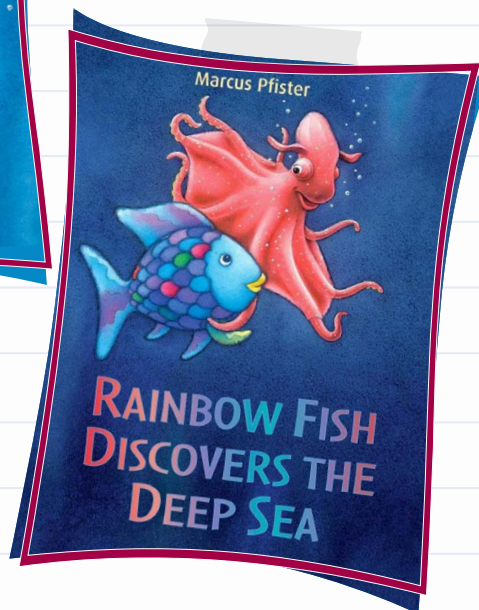
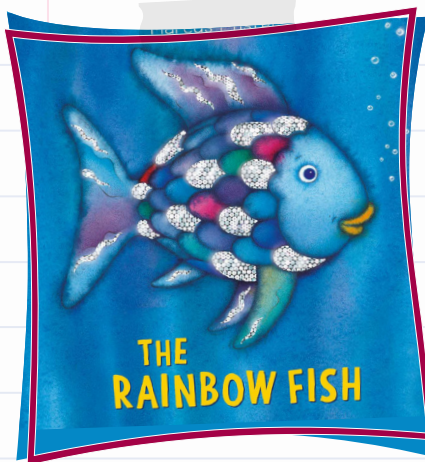
Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea highlights further adventures. When his last glittering scale falls off and sinks down into the deep sea, Rainbow Fish finds the courage to follow it into the great unknown, discovering the new world with wonderful sights and friendly creatures of all shapes, sizes and colors that are eager to make his acquaintance.

Rainbow Fish Opposites uses striking images from Rainbow Fish's underwater wonderland to introduce very young children to the concept of opposites such as up/down, in/out, over/under, big/little, long/short. As a fitting finale, the story ends with the most satisfying opposite of all – give and take – as Rainbow Fish shares one of his shining scales with a friend.



The Author

Marcus Pfister was born in Bern, Switzerland in 1960. He attended the Art School of Bern and began his career as a graphic designer, first at a publicity agency, and then as a freelance artist. After taking a six-month hiatus to travel much of North America he returned to Switzerland and began developing children's books. His first picture book, *The Sleepy Owl*, was published in 1986. In 1992 he published *The Rainbow Fish* and took the children's literary world by storm. After that, he dedicated himself exclusively to children's books, with 49 books currently to his credit. *The Rainbow Fish* spawned a series of books recounting the adventures of this colorful character. *The Rainbow Fish* books have been translated from the original German into more than 50 languages and have sold 30 million copies worldwide.



ABOUT THE SHOW

The Production

The Production

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's creative, visually striking production makes it seem as if the pages of the storybook have come to life right on the stage! To accomplish this, they use a variety of theater techniques; including puppetry, black light, narration and music. Keep an eye out for the them during the show.

Puppetry: The show employs a variety of puppetry styles – including rod, full-body, and hand puppets – to tell the three stories. Amazingly, all of the puppets and scenic elements are manipulated by just three puppeteers. The puppeteers are dressed completely in black, including a black covering over their faces that makes them look like puppet ninjas!

Black Light: Part of the visual magic of this production comes from the use of black light, which allows only certain elements onstage to be seen by the audience. The puppets and scenery are painted with fluorescent paint, which glows in the dark under ultraviolet light (also called black light). Under black light, anything black becomes invisible. During the show, the puppeteers will be on stage as they work with the puppets. They wear black clothing and black masks and perform in front of the black wall. This makes them almost invisible to the audience and allows them to execute all kinds of visual illusions with the puppets; they can make them seem to float, swim, disappear, shrink, grow, and more.

Narration and music: Along with the visual storytelling, the show employs pre-recorded narration (by Laura Benanti and Linda Wonneberger) of the text of the stories, as well as a pre-recorded musical score by Steven Naylor created especially for this production.



PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Exploring the Underwater World

The Ohio Learning Standards listed below are addressed in the following Pre-Show Activity:
RL.K.1, RL.1.1, RL.2.1, RL.3.1, K.LS.2, 1.LS.2, 3.LS.2



Rainbowfish are also called Blue Eyes or Rainbow Fish. The name Rainbowfish is derived from the fact that the color of their skin changes colors depending on how the light reflects off of it. Rainbowfish are vertebrates which means they have a backbone. A schooling fish, rainbowfish prefer to be in groups of six or more fish of the same species. Rainbowfish live primarily in Australia and New Guinea, with a few close relatives in Indonesia and Madagascar.



Starfish aren't really fish. Starfish, like sea urchins and sand dollars, do not have backbones, which makes them part of a group called invertebrates. Most starfish sport spiny skin and five arms, although some can grow as many as 50 arms! The arms are covered with suckers that allow the animal to slowly creep along the ocean floor.



Octopus are sea animals famous for their rounded bodies, bulging eyes, and eight long arms. They live in all the world's oceans but are especially abundant in warm, tropical waters.

Most octopus stay along the ocean's floor, although some species are pelagic, which means they live near the water's surface. Octopus are solitary creatures that live alone in dens built from rocks. If threatened, octopuses shoot an inky fluid that darkens the water, confusing the aggressor. The octopus can also change to gray, brown, pink, blue, or green to blend in with its surroundings.



Coral reefs are a diverse underwater ecosystem generally found in clear, tropical oceans. Coral reefs form in waters from the surface to about 150 feet deep because they need sunlight to survive. The largest reef in the world, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia is longer than 1200 miles – that's the distance between Cleveland and Dallas, Texas!

Coral reefs only make up about 1% of the ocean floor, but they house nearly 25% of life in the ocean. Animals use coral reefs either as a stopping point as they travel the deep blue sea, or they live as residents at the reef. Coral can be a variety of colors, white, red, pink, green, blue, orange and purple, due to natural pigments and the zooxanthellae in their tissues.

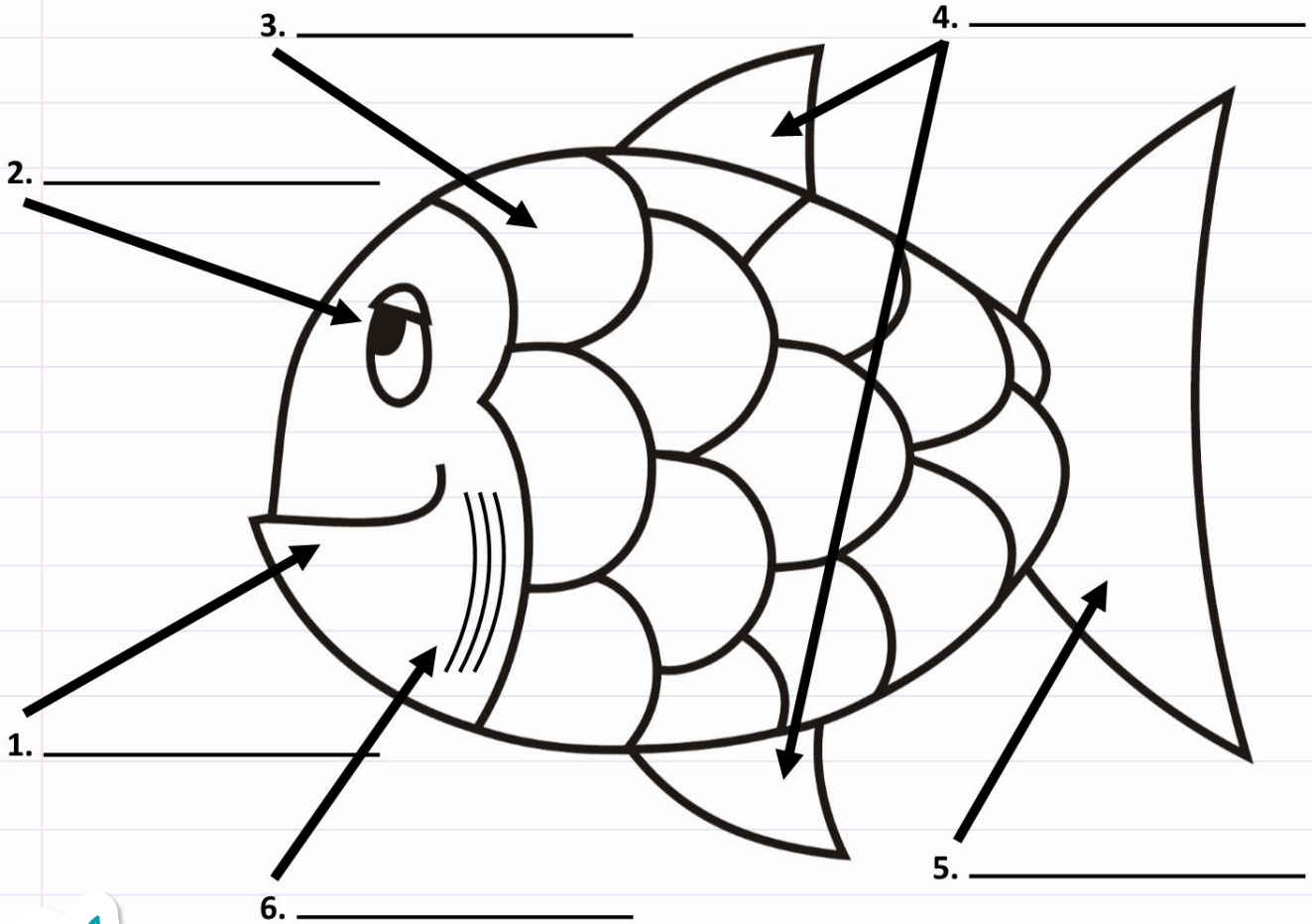


Parts of the Rainbow Fish



The Ohio Learning Standards listed below are addressed in the following Pre-Show Activity:
K.LS.2, 1.LS.2, 3.LS.2

Directions: Discuss the parts of the Rainbow Fish and have students color and label each part.



1. The **Mouth** is used to eat prey.
2. The **Eyes** are used to see, but unlike human eyes, fish eyes are adapted to live in the water and see in very low light.
3. The **Scales** provide protection. Hard, sturdy, and slippery scales prevent damage from sharp objects like coral, and they protect the fish from predators' sharp teeth.
4. The **Fins** help the fish swim. Fins are located in different places on the fish and serve different purposes such as moving forward, turning, keeping an upright position or stopping.
5. The **Tail** is also called the Caudal Fin and is the main source of movement for most fish. It's like the motor on a boat. It helps the fish move efficiently through the water.
6. The **Gills** are what a fish uses to breathe. They are like our lungs; they take oxygen from the water and excrete carbon dioxide into the water.

Answers:



Create your own Rainbow Fish

The Ohio Learning Standards listed below are addressed in the following Post-Show Activity:
RL.K.2, RL.K.3, RL.1.2, RL.1.3, RL.2.2, RL.2.3, RL.3.2, RL.3.3

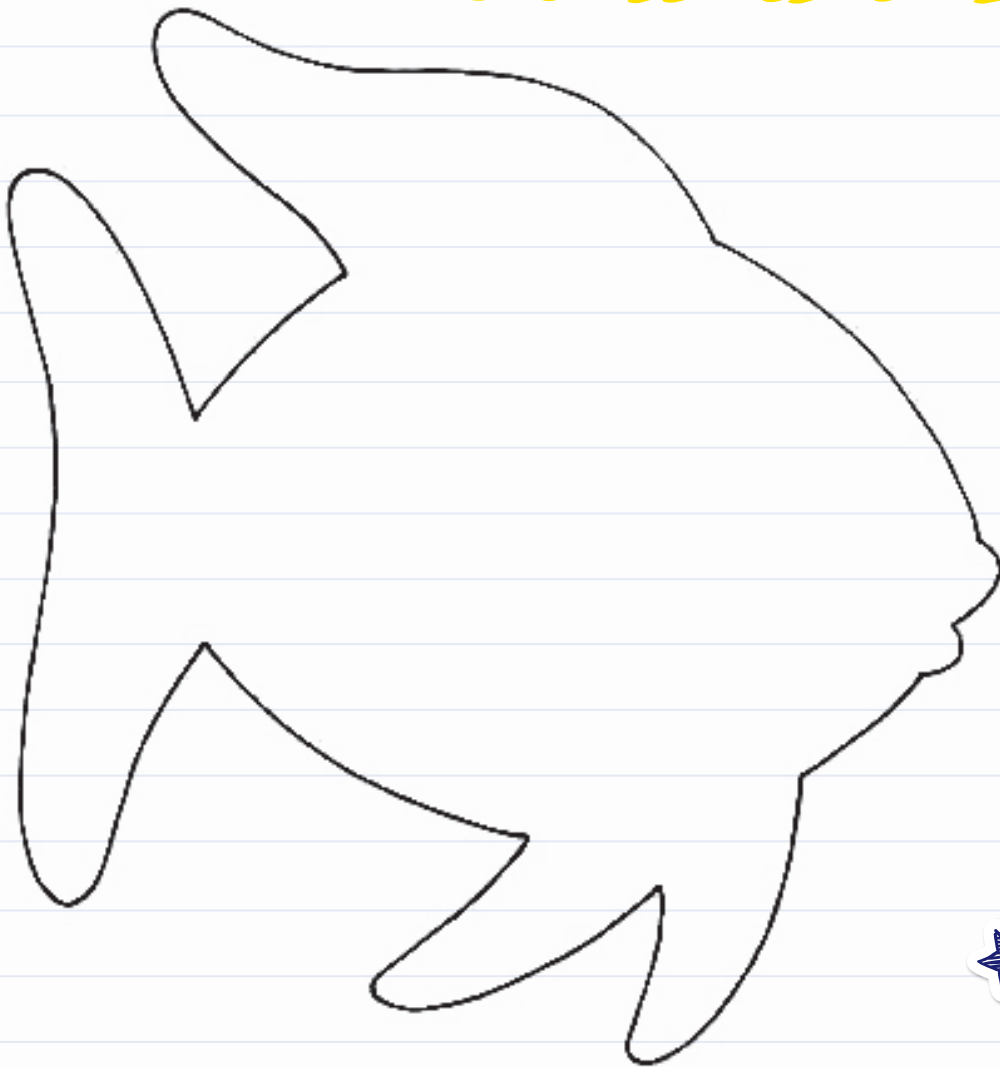
You will need:

- Cardstock or construction paper
- Cut celery stalks
- Paint
- Crayons, markers, watercolors, or colored pencils
- Glue
- Glitter or sequins
- Popsicle stick

To make your Rainbow Fish

1. Trace the template onto cardstock or construction paper and cut out.
2. If using cardstock, color both sides of your Rainbow Fish using markers, paint, crayons, or watercolors. Draw on and decorate the eyes.
3. Dip the end of the celery stalk in paint and use it to make your Rainbow Fish's scales.
4. Once dry, take the glue and trace over the scales, adding glitter or sequins to make your scales shiny. You can add as many or as few as you would like.
5. When the Rainbow Fish is dry, attach it to a popsicle stick to make a puppet.

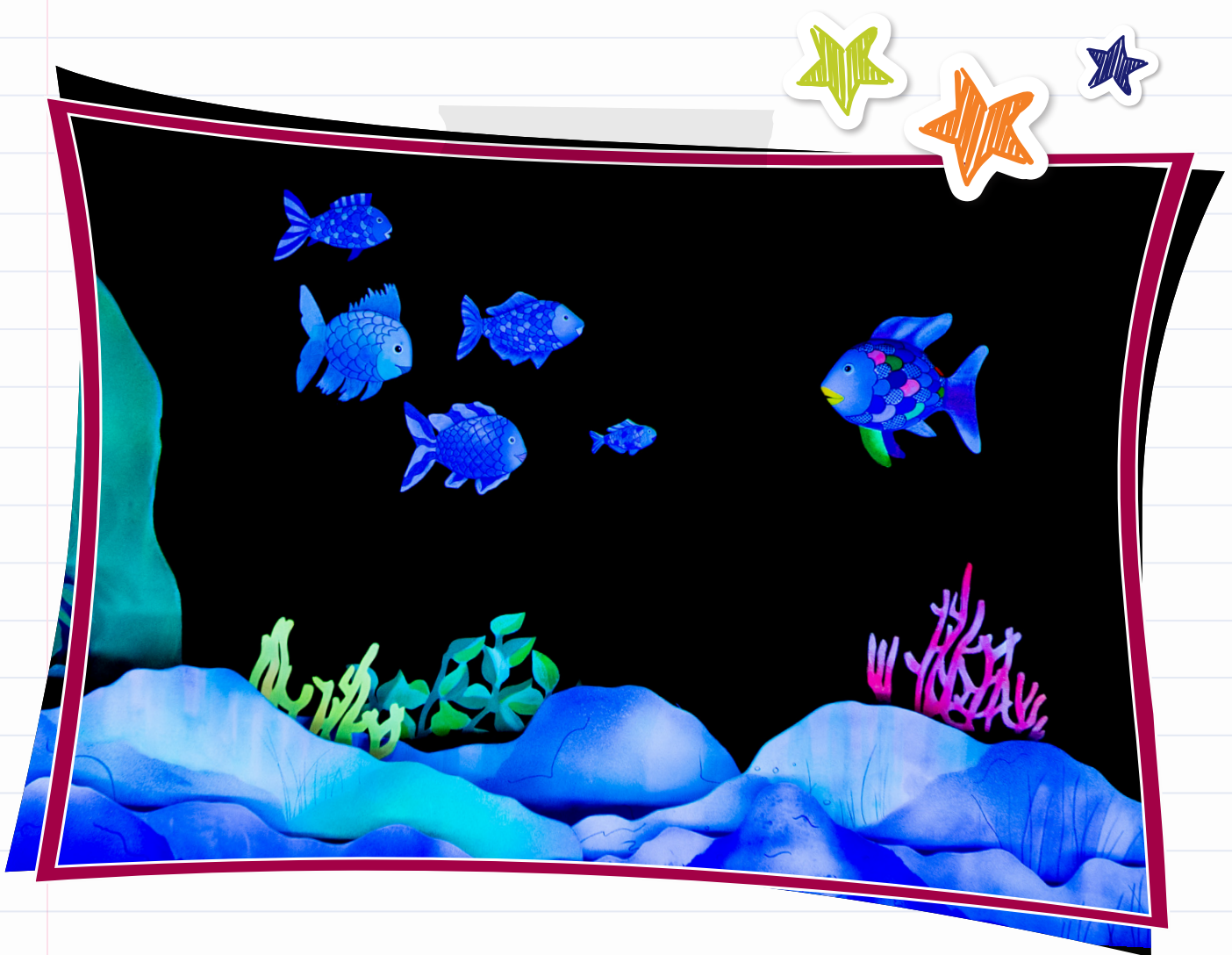
After creating your Rainbow Fish, retell the story to a friend from the point of view of the Rainbow Fish.



Critical Response Questions

Students develop their comprehension when they reflect upon what they wondered, noticed and felt. Ignite a classroom discussion with the following critical thinking questions:

1. Have you ever had something that someone else wanted? How did that feel? Did you share what you had? Why or why not?
2. Many sea creatures live in groups that need each other. Other sea creatures live alone. Do people live in groups or alone? Do we need each other? Does the Rainbow Fish need other fish?
3. This story shows us that each person may make a personal choice that affects the whole community. What actions can we make, as individuals, or as a family or class, for the common good?
4. The Rainbow Fish's shimmering scales made her feel special. What is a quality that you have that makes you feel special? What are ways in which you can share this special quality with others?



RESOURCES

Reading

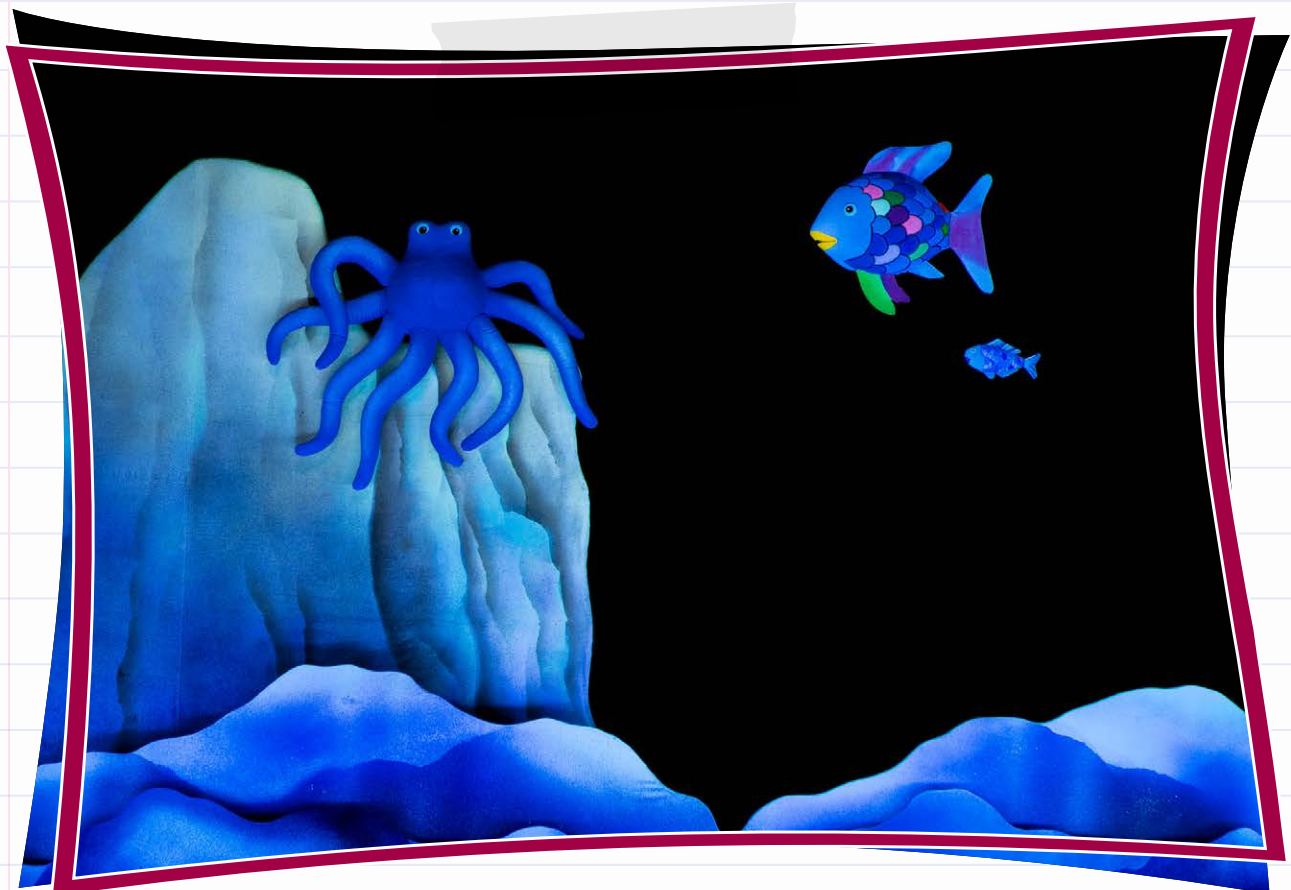
Dazzle the Dinosaur (1994)
Good Night, Little Rainbow Fish! (2012)
Milo and the Magical Stones (1997)
Penguin Pete (1987)
Rainbow Fish and the Big Blue Whale (1998)
Rainbow Fish to the Rescue! (1992)
The Sleepy Owl (1986)

Web

Play games, watch videos, learn about animals and places, and get fun facts.
<http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com>

A great resource for teaching and learning about the animals and plants that live in different ecosystems or biomes of the world.
<http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/>

Visit this website for art and craft ideas you can do at home! Featuring everything from holiday cards to origami, dinosaurs to jewelry making—this website has an activity to tap into every child's creative side.
<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/>



CURRICULUM STANDARDS INDEX



Standard	Description	Activity	Page
CCR.RL.K.1	With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Exploring the Underwater World	7
CCR.RL.K.2	With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details.	Create Your Own Rainbow Fish	9
CCR.RL.K.3	With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.	Create Your Own Rainbow Fish	9
CCR.RL.1.1	Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	Exploring the Underwater World	7
CCR.RL.1.2	Analyze literary text development.	Create Your Own Rainbow Fish	9
CCR.RL.1.3	Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.	Create Your Own Rainbow Fish	9
CCR.RL.2.1	Ask and answer such questions as <i>who</i> , <i>what</i> , <i>where</i> , <i>when</i> , <i>why</i> , and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.	Exploring the Underwater World	7
CCR.RL.2.2	Analyze literary text development.	Create Your Own Rainbow Fish	9
CCR.RL.2.3	Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.	Create Your Own Rainbow Fish	9
CCR.RL.3.1	Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.	Exploring the Underwater World	7
CCR.RL.3.2	Analyze literary text development.	Create Your Own Rainbow Fish	9
CCR.RL.3.3	Describe characters in a story (e.g. their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.	Create Your Own Rainbow Fish	9
K.LS.2	Living things have physical traits and behaviors, which influence their survival.	Exploring the Underwater World Parts of the Rainbow Fish	7 8
1.LS.2	Living things survive only in environments that meet their needs.	Exploring the Underwater World Parts of the Rainbow Fish	7 8
3.LS.2	Individuals of the same kind of organism differ in their inherited traits. These differences give some individuals an advantage in surviving and/or reproducing.	Exploring the Underwater World Parts of the Rainbow Fish	7 8

