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TEACHERS' RESOURCE KIT

I am Jellyfish

Ruth Paul

Chased to the depths of the bottomless blue.

What does a tiny Jellyfish do?

Jellyfish is quietly crooning in the shallows, when knife-nosed Swordfish swooshes, races and chases her, down, down, down, deep into the dark blue sea.

At that moment, stealthy Squid stretches a tentacle, tussling and tossing Swordfish in the darkness.

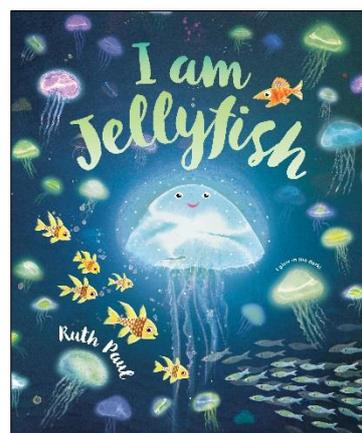
Who will help Swordfish? He makes a last wish. . .

A captivating bedtime story by award-winning picture book creator Ruth Paul, with luminous and eye-catching illustrations. The language is evocative of the deep blue sea, and readers will love the clever way that Jellyfish gets the better of hungry Swordfish. This delightfully funny bedtime story has a glow-in-the-dark cover for kids to discover once the lights are turned out – no arguments about lights out with this bedtime story!



Ruth Paul is a children's picture book author and illustrator from Wellington. She completed a Bachelor of Arts at Victoria University of Wellington, and a Diploma of Visual Communication Design at Wellington Polytechnic. Ruth has also worked as a costume illustrator for Peter Jackson's movies.

Of her 15 published titles, *The King's Bubbles* won the NZ Post Children's Choice picture book award in 2008, and several are Storylines Notable Books.



SPECIFICATIONS:

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RRP: \$19.99
Format: Paperback
Extent: 32 pages
Readership: 3-7 yrs.

RESOURCE KIT CONTAINS:

- Before reading
- Close-reading questions
- Language and style
- Illustrations
- Research and Creative Responses
- Close-reading Answers

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Teaching Notes: *I am Jellyfish*
By Ruth Paul

Synopsis:

Jellyfish is quietly crooning in the shallows, when knife-nosed Swordfish swooshes, races and chases her down, down, down, deep into the dark blue sea.

At that moment, stealthy Squid stretches a tentacle, tussling and tossing Swordfish in the darkness. Who will help Swordfish? He makes a last wish... Then... ON goes a light — it's Jellyfish!

This delightfully funny bedtime story by an award-winning writer and illustrator has a glow-in-the-dark cover for kids to discover once the lights are turned out.

Before Reading:

1. Before reading the book, look at the cover image and title. Don't forget to look at the back cover, too. Discuss what you think the book might be about.
2. When and where might the book be set?
3. What does the title suggest to you?
4. Who do you think the readership of this book will be?
5. What do you know about jellyfish? Brainstorm with the class.

Close Reading Questions (Answers at the bottom of the notes):

1. What does the Jellyfish hum as she drifts through the ocean?
2. What does the Swordfish dream of and why do you think this is its dream?
3. When asked by the Swordfish 'what is your point' what does the Jellyfish reply?
4. How does the Jellyfish escape the Swordfish's attack?
5. Why does the Swordfish not like diving down too far into the ocean?
6. What happens to the Swordfish when he is attacked by the big Squid?
7. What happens to the Jellyfish the deeper it swims?
8. What does the Swordfish promise to do if Jellyfish helps?
9. What does the Jellyfish do to the Squid to help the Swordfish escape?
10. What does the Swordfish think about the Jellyfish at the end of the book?

Language and Style:

1. Question marks, speech marks, ellipses, full stops and commas are all types of punctuation found in the book. Find and list an example of each from the book and explain their grammatical purpose.
2. Throughout the book the author has used different font sizes and types for certain words or phrases, such as 'ouch' and 's t r e t c h e d'. Why do you think she has done this? What do they help tell the reader about the text or action? Have they been used effectively? Find some more examples from the book.

3. This book is written in third person narrative. Write a recount of some of the events which take place in the book in first person narrative from the point of view of one of the characters in the book, such as Jellyfish or Squid.
4. List what you think the main themes of this book are, for example, survival and kindness, and when they are shown within the story.

Illustrations:

5. Examine the book's illustrations. Do you like the style? Why or why not? What colours are used? What kinds of lines and textures are used? What shapes are used? What happens when you look at the cover in the dark? Design your own illustrations for the cover and/or one page of text.
6. Study the illustrations throughout the book. What elements in the illustrations let the reader know where the book is set?
7. In pairs, each choose your favourite illustration from the book. Write a description of the illustration. Then read your written description to your partner and each draw a picture based on your partner's descriptions, for example, the picture of Swordfish chasing Jellyfish down and down into the vanishing light into the depths of the ocean. How do your drawings compare to the drawings in the book? Consider points such as, is the composition similar and is it as detailed?
8. Choose your favourite moment from the book and create your own illustration or artistic interpretation of it, for example, a diorama, painting, model, poem, cartoon strip, movie storyboard, video, etc. Write a brief artist's statement to accompany your interpretation.

Research and Creative Responses:

- Complete one of the following tasks inspired by the book:
9. Discuss with a partner who your favourite character in the book is and why.
 10. Find and research one of the sea creatures mentioned in the book, such as, Squid. Present your findings in the style of an entry in a children's illustrated encyclopaedia.
 11. Create a class mural of the depths of the ocean and some of the sea creatures that are found there.
 12. After reading the book, choose and discuss your favourite page/pages or moment in the book. List five reasons for your choice. Your choice could relate to elements such as plot development, characters, illustrations, the emotions that have been evoked, etc.
 13. In pairs, list what you feel are the main points of the book. Compare with your classmates. Do you agree or disagree with their choices? Why or why not? Next, write a short plot summary based on your choices.
 14. Review the book for your favourite magazine or website. What did you like about the book? Why? What did you dislike about the book? Why? Give it a rating, such as stars or a number out of ten. Consider the following questions when writing your review:
 - a. How did the story make you feel as it unfolded?
 - b. What ideas in the book awakened your interest?
 - c. What did you dislike, or find boring?
 - d. Do you think this is a significant book?
 - e. Why is this book important for today's readers?

Close Reading Answers:

1. *Jellyfish hums that she drifts and dreams as she drifts through the ocean.*
2. *The Swordfish dreams of diced Jellyfish to eat.*
3. *The Jellyfish replies 'I go with the flow' when asked by the Swordfish.*

4. *The Jellyfish escapes the Swordfish's attack by sinking down into the vanishing light of the deep ocean.*
5. *The Swordfish does not like diving too deep into the ocean as the dark frightens him.*
6. *The Swordfish's blade is bent when he is attacked by the big Squid.*
7. *As the Jellyfish swims deeper she glows brighter.*
8. *The Swordfish promises never to eat Jellyfish if Jellyfish helps.*
9. *The Jellyfish tickles and zaps the Squid with her sting to help the Swordfish escape.*
10. *At the end of the book the Swordfish thinks the Jellyfish is smart.*