

FAMILY BOOK CONNECTIONS

BOOK BRIDGES



The Ocean's Heartbeat the Story of a Jellyfish in Search of a Heart

Author and Illustrator: Dame and Dusa

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Summary of the Story

In the very depths of the sea, a little jellyfish hears a loud sound in the distance. It makes a deep “thoomp” sound. What could this sound be? A wise fish tells her this sound is a heartbeat! She soon realizes she doesn’t have one of her own, but why? She embarks on a journey to find out, meeting different animals and learning that everyone is unique in their own way.

Read Alouds



[Youtube Book Review](#)

About the Author and Illustrator

Dame and Dusa is a creative group based out of Austria that worked together to write and illustrate this book. This group consists of five designers and architects that focus on creating children's literature. The main objective of the group is to use engaging, artistic, and educational approaches to explain nature and marine life.

Read Alouds



[Book Link](#)



Questions to Ask Before, During, and After Reading

Talking about a story before, during, and after reading helps children think deeply, connect to the characters, and build a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.



Before Reading

- What animals can you see on the cover? Where do you think they live?
- Who do you think is the main character? What makes you think that?



During Reading

- How do you think the jellyfish feels about not having a heart? Why?
- Why do you think the animals have different 'thoomp' sounds?



After Reading

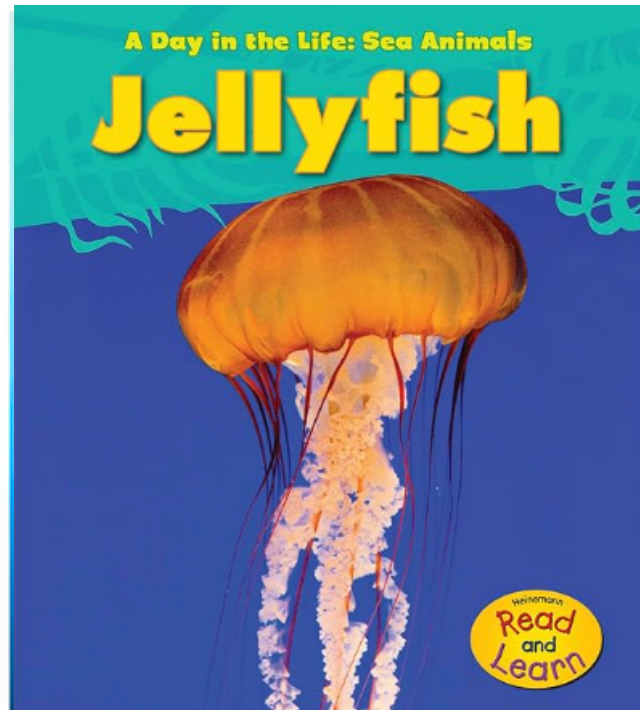
- How does the jellyfish feel after finding the 'thoomp' she was searching for? Why?
- What makes the creatures in the story unique?
- Why is it important to learn about the features that make each of us unique?



Extending the Book with Additional Reading

Continue learning about jellyfish and compare real jellyfish with the character in *The Ocean's Heartbeat*.

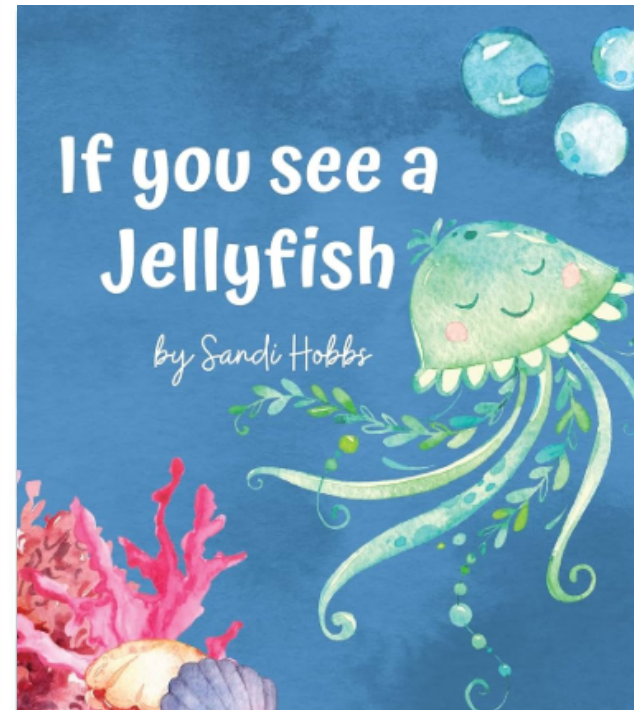
Check out this book!



Jellyfish: Ocean Life Up Close

by Christina Leaf

Or try this one!



If You See a Jellyfish

by Sandi M. Hobbs



Talk About What You Learn

After reading, talk about what you discovered!

- 1 What did you learn about jellyfish?
.....
- 2 Why do jellyfish not need a heart?
.....
- 3 How is a real jellyfish similar to the jellyfish in the story?



Watch and Learn More!

Find an informational, kid-friendly video about jellyfish.



Extending the Book with Writing and Math

Two fun activities to help you think, create, and explore!



WRITING: Write a Letter to the Jellyfish

Write a letter to the jellyfish about her search for a heart and what it means to be unique.



- 1 Begin your letter with a greeting.
- 2 Tell the jellyfish how her journey made you feel.
- 3 Share something that makes you unique.
- 4 Add a closing and your signature.
- 5 Read your letter to someone in your family.

Parts of a Friendly Letter



Greeting



Body



Closing



Signature



Need a reminder? Watch a short video about the parts of a letter!



MATH: Measure a Heartbeat

With an adult, count a resting heartbeat for one minute and compare two results.



- 1 Sit quietly for a few minutes.
- 2 Ask an adult to help locate your pulse at the wrist.
- 3 Use a timer and count the beats for one minute.
- 4 Record the number of beats.
- 5 Compare your result with another person.

Record Your Results



My count: _____ beats in one minute

Another person's count: _____ beats in one minute

Difference: _____ beats



Think and Talk

- Which number is greater?
- How many beats apart are they?
- What might make a heartbeat speed up or slow down?



This is a counting activity, not a health test. Stop if anyone feels uncomfortable.

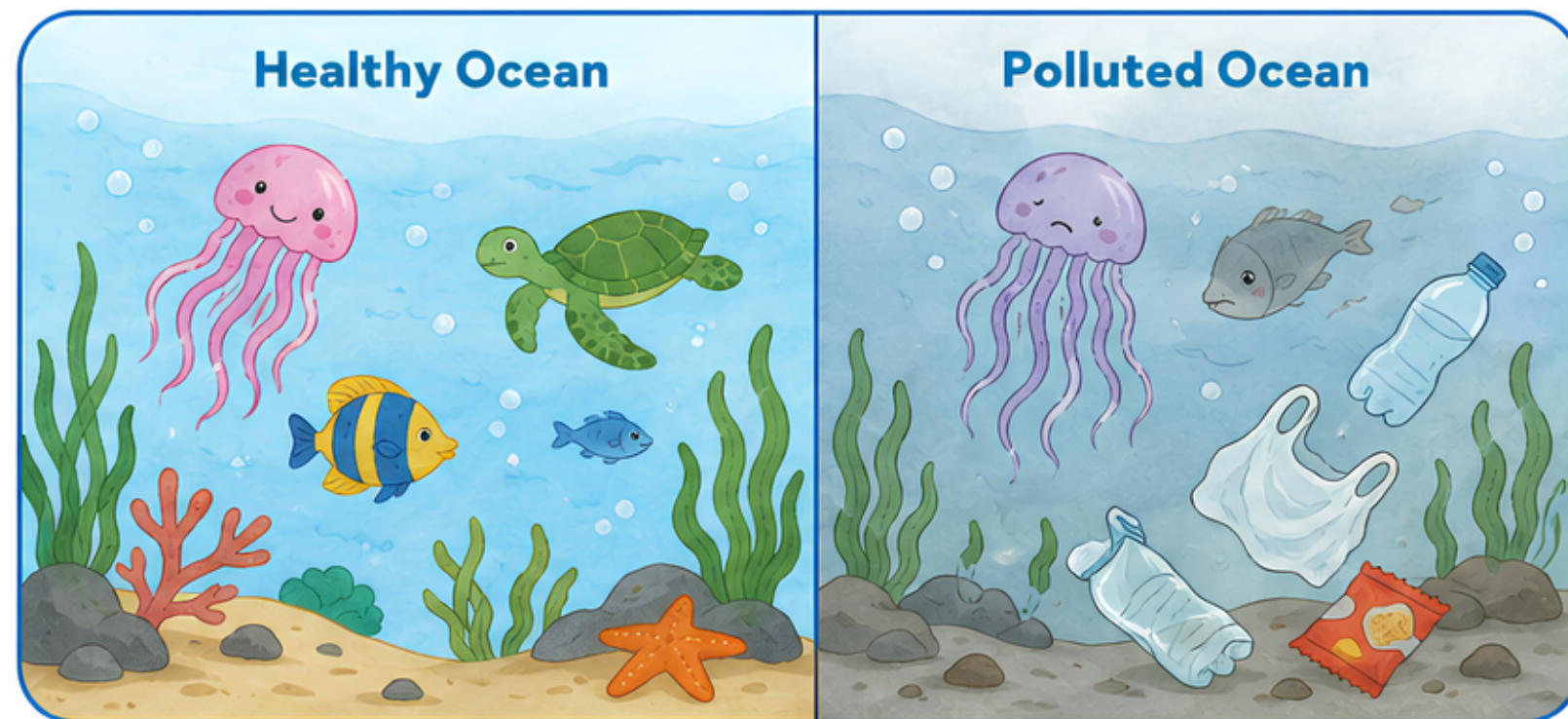
Extending the Book with Science

Compare a healthy ocean with a polluted ocean and think about how trash can affect marine animals.



Draw and Compare

- 1 Draw a healthy ocean habitat with animals, plants, rocks, and clean water.
- 2 On a second sheet, draw things that can pollute the ocean, like plastic bottles or food wrappers.
- 3 Compare the two pictures.
- 4 Talk about how pollution could affect the animals and their home.



Talk About It

- What animals are in your picture?
- What can make ocean animals sick?
- How could trash affect the animals or their habitat?
- How can we help reduce pollution?



OCEAN POLLUTION



Extending the Book with Social Studies

Oceans cover much of Earth and connect different parts of the world. Marine animals depend on these large bodies of salt water.

Explore Our World's Oceans



- 1 Find the ocean areas on the world map in the appendix.
Use the map on the last pages.



- 2 Color the oceans blue.
Leave the land uncolored.



- 3 Choose several animals from the story.
Think about where they might live.



- 4 Place or draw each animal in an ocean area.
You can mark more than one place!

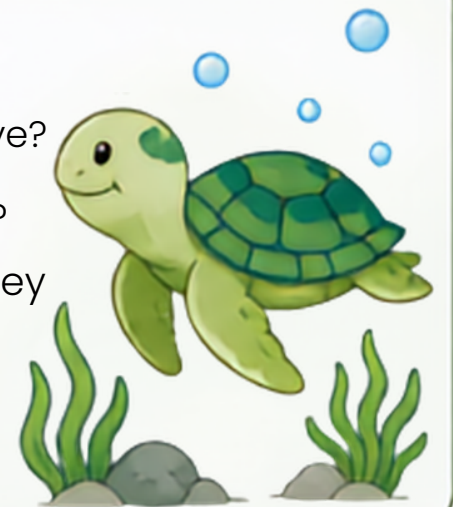


- 5 Talk about how ocean habitats are connected.
Water moves around the world!



Discuss With Your Child

- Why do marine animals need water to survive?
- Where might the animals from the book live?
- How are oceans connected even when they have different names?
- Why is protecting oceans a shared responsibility?



Did You Know?

Oceans cover more than 70% of Earth! They help provide food, clean air, and a home for many animals.





Extending the Book with Art

Create a movable ocean scene inspired by The Ocean's Heartbeat!

Make Your Movable Ocean Scene



- 1 Draw an ocean background.**
Include water, seaweed, rocks, bubbles, and more!



- 2 Color the sea animals.**
Use the outlines in the appendix or draw your own!



- 3 Ask an adult to help cut out the animals safely.**
Leave the pieces loose so you can move them!



- 4 Place the animals in your ocean scene and move them around!**
Have fun exploring your ocean.



Use the sea-animal outlines in the appendix, or draw your own.

Example: Your Movable Ocean Scene



Art Tips

- Use bright colors to bring your ocean to life!
- Add lots of details to your background.
- Be creative with how you place your animals.



Give your ocean scene a title.
Add your name and the date!



LITERACY
BRIDGES