

# A Swim Through the Sea

by Kristin Joy Pratt

Go on an alphabetical underwater adventure and explore the fascinating plants and animals living in the sea.



## 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, *The first animal featured in this alphabet book starts with A and is an Angelfish. Any guesses on what the animal that starts with B will be?* 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 if these fish are just swimming or if they are looking for food?

### 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 *A Swim Through the Sea*

- exploring: to travel to a place in order to discover what it is like there
- admire: to regard somebody or something with approval, appreciation, or respect
- amiable: friendly and pleasant to be with
- appealing: having pleasing or attractive qualities
- apparel: clothing, especially decorative clothing
- confront: to come face to face with somebody
- dozen: a group of 12 people or objects
- encounter: meet somebody unexpectedly
- exotic: strikingly unusual and often very colorful and exciting
- phosphorescent: producing a weak light without any heat

### Rare Words in *A Swim Through the Sea*

- gargantuan: huge
- hail: to welcome or greet somebody upon meeting
- inspect: to examine something carefully
- jet-propelled: powered by means of engines that use jet propulsion
- jaunt: to go on a short trip, especially for fun or pleasure
- crimson: a deep rich purplish red color
- noble: magnificent
- navigating: to find a way through a place
- nautical: relating to seafaring
- ogle: stare at somebody desirously
- peer: to look very closely
- rippling: flowing or moving in tiny gentle waves
- tarry: to stay temporarily at a place
- tawny: of an orange brown color tinged with gold
- unusual: not common or familiar
- vigilant: watchful and alert, especially to guard against danger
- victuals: food
- wondrous: so good or admirable as to inspire wonder
- examine: to inspect or study somebody or something in detail
- exhibiting: to show something off for others to look at or admire
- example: something that is representative by virtue of having typical features of the thing it represents
- exoskeleton: a hard protective covering of an organism
- yield: to slow down or stop to let another pass
- yards: a unit of length

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How does a seahorse differ from a regular horse?
- What do you think it feels like to be pinched by a crab?
- Dolphins are smart. What are some things they can do?
- Do Hermit Crabs make good pets?
- Jellyfish move by jet propulsion. What does that mean?
- Manatees are herbivores. Does that mean they eat plants or animals?
- Why do you suppose an octopus has eight legs?
- How do you think a ray feels? Smooth? Rough? Slick?
- Do you think a turtle can swim very fast?
- Has anyone even seen a whale? How come they don't have whales at the zoo?



**Do**

## A Is for ?

After reading the book a second time, go through the alphabet and ask the children to try and recall the animal for that letter. Give hints if necessary such as size, shape, color, etc.