

I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean

by Kevin Sherry

First-time author-illustrator Kevin Sherry is sure to garner fans of all sizes for his perfect-for-preschool read-aloud with simple text, bold and delightful collage art, and a lovable squid whose spirit just cannot be crushed.



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, *Do you think the squid is the biggest thing in the ocean?* 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 he's going to eat that little shrimp?

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 *I'm the Biggest Thing in the Ocean*

- giant: somebody or something larger than usual
- squid: an ocean animal that has two long tentacles and eight shorter arms
- shrimp: a small hard shell animal with ten legs
- clams: an animal with a shell in two parts and a muscular foot used to burrow into sand
- crab: a hard shell animal with a broad flat shell, antennae, small abdomen and five pairs of legs, the front two of which are in the form of grasping pincers
- jellyfish: a sea animal that has a transparent body shaped like an umbrella with trailing tentacles bearing stinging cells
- octopus: sea animal with a big head, soft oval body, well-developed eyes, and eight arms containing rows of suckers
- whale: big ocean mammal that breathes through a blowhole on the top of its head and has front flippers, and a flat horizontal tail

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Can you name the main animal in this book?
- Can you name some other types of fish in this book?
- Which one is the largest and which is the smallest?
- How many clams can you count? Turtles?
- Can you name the animal that the squid was most afraid of?
- Which animal ate the squid?
- Which animal did the whale eat?



Do

Whale Tail Polo

Glue poster board whale tails to wrapping paper tubes. Invite the children to use the tubes to putt Ping-Pong balls back and forth or into a cup.