



Jellies at the Aquarium

Level H / 154 words / informational

High frequency words:

many, they, together

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title. Call attention to the informational text features within the text: bold words, glossary, photographs.
- Possible discussion questions: "Where have you seen jellies? What do you know about jellies?"

Look through all the pictures

- Using the language in the story, discuss each photograph in the book. Notice details in the pictures and use that information to better understand the text.
- Help the children find any tricky words in the text: *aquarium, tentacles, umbrella, and water*. Discuss meaning, word structure, and sounds you expect to hear in those words.

Reading the text

- Have the children read the text independently. While they're reading, listen to and prompt each student to use meaning, structure, and visual information to figure out words, self-correct, or improve expression.
- Introduce and discuss graphic organizers. A graphic organizer provides a visual representation of information, concepts, or ideas to help children understand and organize what they are reading.

After reading

- Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you notice students using correctly.
- **Literal comprehension:** The answers are in the text. Ask, "How do jellies move through the water? What are some other words for groups of jellies?" Have students read the pages that support their answers.

- **Inferential comprehension:** The answers are in your head. Ask, "Why do some jellies have stingers with poison? Why do you think jellies come in so many different sizes and colors? Describe how you would look if you were a jelly."

Word work

- Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
- Find and discuss the word *swarm* with the *sw* onset. Make other words that sound the same (*swat, sway, swim*).
- Find and discuss the word *smack* with the *ack* rime. Make other words that sound the same (*back, hack, tack*).

Rereading for fluency

- Have the child(ren) read the text again aloud, listening for phrased, fluent oral reading that includes appropriate pausing, intonation, and word stress.

Writing activity

- Have each student create a web diagram graphic organizer for jellies. A web diagram is often used to list ideas, facts, characteristics and/or traits related to a single topic. Have them read their web diagrams to each other.

FUN FACT

The *lion's mane jellyfish*, also called the *hair jelly*, is the biggest jelly in the world. It gets its name from its long, dangling tentacles that resemble a lion's mane. It can have tentacles that are over 120 feet long - that is longer than a blue whale. The largest known lion's mane jelly was found in 1870 off the coast of Massachusetts.

Teaching Points: Introducing nonfiction/informational texts; Introducing new words; Practicing the *sw* onset; Practicing the *ack* rime; Rereading; Introducing the web diagram graphic organizer.