



The Rainbow Fish

READ ALOUD

Themes: Friendship, Generosity, Sharing

Book Brief: A beautiful fish learns that sharing his shiny scales brings happiness and friendship. Known for its bright colors and beauty, the rainbow fish stands out in the sea. But he is lonely until he learns how to share. Then he finds friendship and happiness.

Author(s):

Marcus Pfister

Illustrator(s):

Alison James

BEFORE READING

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book based on the title and the cover illustration.

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [vocabulary guide](#).

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pictures. What do students notice about the Rainbow Fish?

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, think about what makes the Rainbow Fish feel lonely and how his choices change his friendships. Pay attention to how sharing affects the way the characters feel and act.”

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, “What do you do when you have a problem? Who do you go to for help or advice?”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What made the Rainbow Fish special at the beginning of the story, and how did he act toward the other fish?
- Why did the Rainbow Fish start to feel lonely, and what problem did he have with the other fish?
- What did the Rainbow Fish do to fix his problem, and how did sharing change his friendships by the end of the story?



Think Aloud: “I notice the Rainbow Fish is keeping his shiny scales to himself. I’m thinking this might be why the other fish don’t want to play with him. I’m going to keep reading to see if his choices change how he feels and how the other fish treat him.”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: How did the Rainbow Fish’s choices about sharing change how he felt and how the other fish treated him at the end of the story?

Extending Our Thinking: Have students use [RIF’s Writing Template](#), have students write or draw what they would do if they were the Rainbow Fish and a friend asked them to share something special, and explain how their choice would make them and others feel.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more titles about sharing.
 - [Swimmy](#) (1963)
 - [The Giving Tree](#) (1964)
 - [Llama Llama Time to Share](#) (2012)