

Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau

Discussion Guide

Grades 1-4

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Discuss the importance of the lifelong learning and working in the field of water conservation.
- Before reading, have a class discussion to activate prior knowledge about conservation of earth's oceans. Why should we take better care of our oceans? Make a list of student generated responses on an anchor chart or whiteboard.
- Frontload vocabulary: Jacques Cousteau, underwater, diving, explorer, adventurous, Calypso

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What are you learning about Jacques Cousteau, both as a boy and as a man? How did he take his love of water as a boy into a lifelong love of the oceans and their protection.
- Let the illustrations be helpful in understanding all the vocabulary and captions.
- Make a list of the equipment that Jacques needed to be able to swim underwater for long periods of time, truly becoming a "manfish." List the vocabulary related to Jacques diving expeditions.

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

Using the story explain what Jacques began to learned and began to teach the world about cleaning up our rivers, lakes, and oceans. What can we continue do to be less polluting to our waterways?

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 about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.