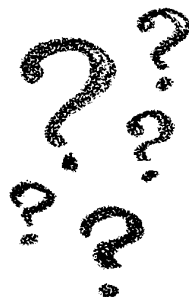


Marinated Riddles and Rhymes*

Lesson by Patty Enright, Stillwater, MN

Key Concept

1. Creative writing can reinforce marine science concepts.



Background

Riddles and rhymes provide a vehicle for looking at marine science concepts from a slightly different perspective. Many published riddles and rhymes have an aquatic orientation. Your library is a good source of the most well known.

Teaching Hints

Riddle and rhyme writing can provide you with opportunities to foster your students' creativity. Two approaches are suggested below.

Rhyming Riddles

1. Share this rhyming riddle:

Who Am I?

Along the shore or in a tide pool,
This anomuran is no fool.

An unprotected, bare behind
Encourages it a home shell to find.

It dines on plankton, molts and grows,
And avoids all places where fresh water flows.

With eyes on stalks and two pinching claws,
This crustacean is wary of others' mouths and paws!

2. Have students try to guess which creature it describes (a hermit crab).
3. Have students write their own rhyming riddles for selected marine animals.
4. An interesting display can be made if students create a matching game by illustrating their animal on separate paper from their rhyme.

Fractured Nursery Rhymes

1. Brainstorm a list of childhood nursery rhymes with students.
2. Next, create a list of water-related words or concepts.
3. Explain that a fractured nursery rhyme keeps most of the original rhyme intact but adds a new and different twist at the end.
4. Share the example that follows or, as a class, create a fractured nursery rhyme.

Little Miss Muffet
Sat on her tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey.
Along came a spider,
And sat down beside her.
Food webs were invented that way!

5. Have students create fractured nursery rhymes. Finished rhymes can be illustrated and displayed or published in a class book.