STUDY BUDDY

THE RAINBOW FISH

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ArtsPower 9 Sand Park Road, Suite 6 Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

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This Study Buddy™ published by ArtsPower National Touring Theatre is designed to help you and your students prepare for, enjoy, and learn from our musical **The Rainbow Fish**, based on the popular book by Marcus Pfister. It contains background information about the production as well as cross-curricular activities to present to your students both before and after the performance.

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Artistic Director

THE RAINBOW FISH
Based on the book by Marcus Pfister.
Published by North-South Books, Inc.
New York.

Adapted by Greg Gunning
Music by Richard DeRosa
Lyrics by Greg Gunning

Original Direction by Greg Gunning

Incidental Music by Ron Drotos

Sets by Tom Carroll Scenery

Costumes by Fred Sorrentino

STUDY BUDDY™
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THE RAINBOW FISH
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ABOUT OUR SHOW

Teachers: Please read "About Our Show" to your students before seeing the performance.

Of all the fish in the deep blue sea, the Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful. She is the only one with lovely shiny scales, and she certainly knows it; she spends most of her time looking at herself in the mirror. But when she will not share her scales with the Green Fish and the Blue Fish, they do not want to be friends with her anymore.

Rainbow is very confused. How can they ask her to give away the one thing that makes her special? Remembering what her teacher told her, she decides to look for the Wise Old Octopus and ask for help.

Along the way, she meets a stuck-up Star Fish and a scary Shark. She begins to find out that there are other fish in the sea. When she meets the Octopus at last, the advice she gets is simple: share your gift with others, and you will find happiness. This is still too hard for Rainbow, and she leaves thinking she has made the journey for nothing.

Once the Rainbow Fish returns home, though, she sees her old friends playing and realizes how badly she wants to join them. Do you think she will share her scales with her friends?

A Narrator helps us through the story, using a magic mirror to show the actors in their "fishy" forms.

Founded in 1985 by Gary Blackman and Mark Blackman, ArtsPower is one of America's largest and most active producers of professional theatre for young and family audiences. We tour our original musicals and plays across the United States - 49 states in all - in many of our nation's first-run Broadway theatres, cultural centers, university auditoriums, and schools. With nearly 600 performances annually, ArtsPower has amassed an audience of 12 million people.

ArtsPower's mission is to create and tour nationally-recognized, professional theatre of exceptional quality that nurtures in both children and adults a deeper connection to family, peers, and their own feelings, and instills in them what it means to be a good person in heart, mind, and deed. ArtsPower's productions speak to the rewards associated with overcoming adversity, standing up to prejudice and inequity, and of the American ideals of freedom and respect for others.

ArtsPower's main offices are located at 9 Sand Park Road, Suite 6, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009. Our phone number is (973) 239-0100. We welcome your questions or comments.

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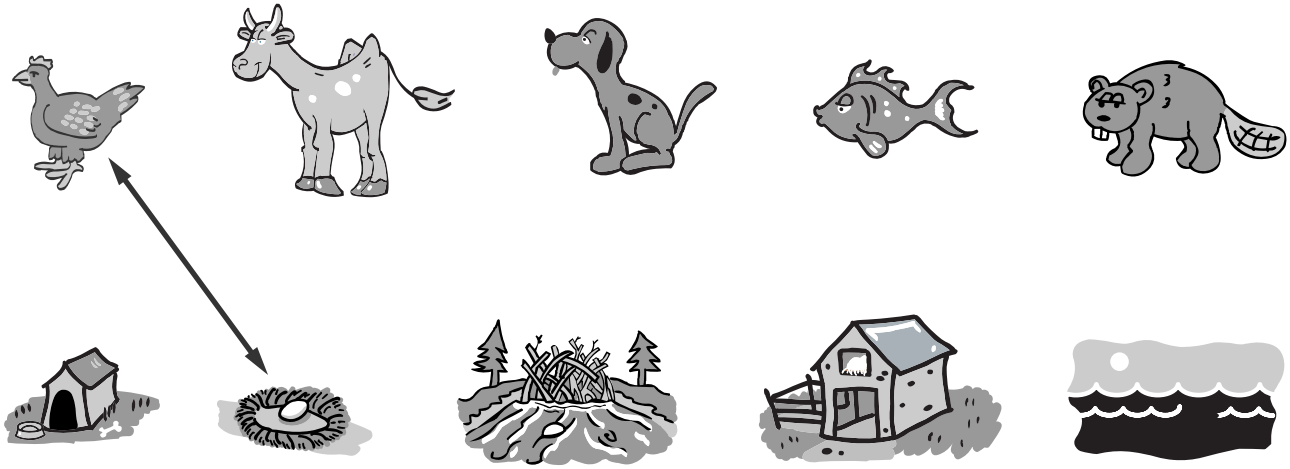
TRY THESE: ACTIVITY FOR (GRADES K-1)

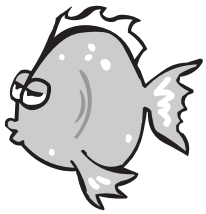
Teachers: Please photocopy and distribute to your students.

WHO GOES WHERE?

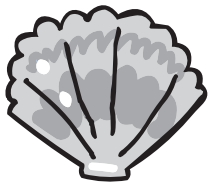


The Rainbow Fish feels all mixed up when her friends get angry at her. The letters in some of the words below have gotten mixed up! Can you make these scrambled letters spell the names of things you might find under the sea? Hint: look at the pictures for help!

1) IHSF

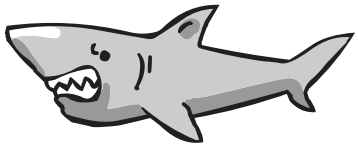


2) LLSEH



3) CBAR

4) AKSHR



5) SADN

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LEARN MORE

Teachers: Please read LEARN MORE to your students and then distribute this page.

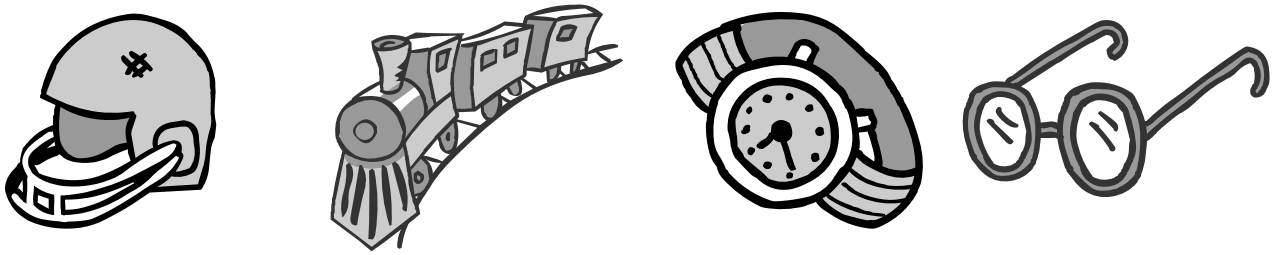
Ready for some fun fish facts? After your teacher reads to you about fish, think about what you have learned and try the activities below.

➤ Fish are covered in hard plates called scales. These scales protect the fish.

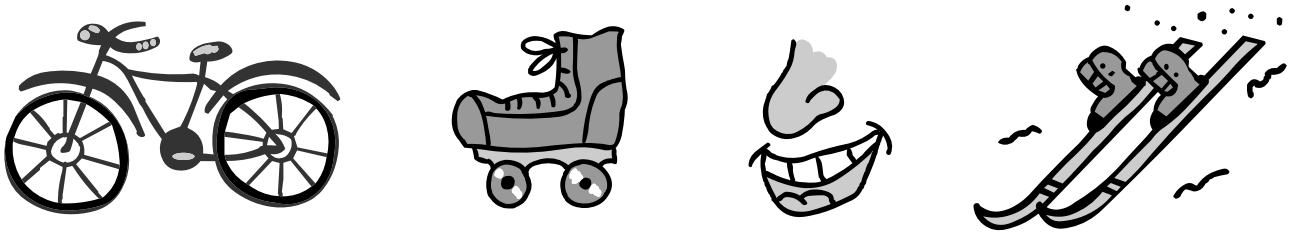
➤ How can fish breathe underwater? They use small slits called gills. Through the gills, fish can breathe water as easily as you breathe air!

➤ Did you know that fish were around before the dinosaurs? They come in many different shapes and sizes. A whale shark, for example, can grow to more than fifty feet long!

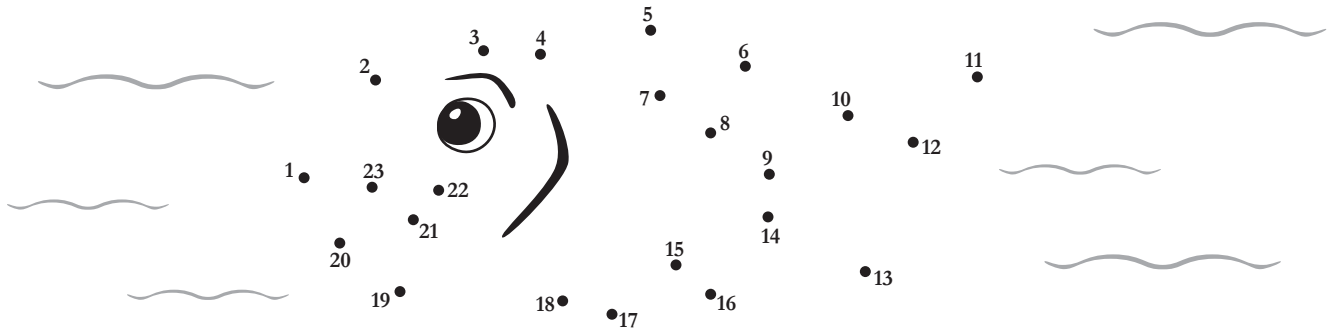
1) Which of these do you use in the same way a fish uses its scales?



2) Which of these do you use in the same way a fish uses its gills?



3) Learn how to draw a fish. Follow the pattern below. Be sure to add scales and gills to your fish!



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YOUR TURN

Teachers: Please read YOUR TURN to your students and then distribute this page.

When the characters in **The Rainbow Fish** look into a magic mirror, we can see them as they really look. Imagine your own magic mirror. When you look into it, what do you see? What do you like most about yourself, and what would you like others to see when they look at you?

Draw yourself in the imaginary mirror below.

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ALL ABOUT THEATRE

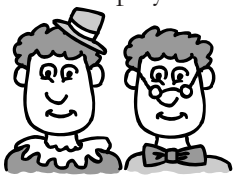
Teachers: Please read this page to your students. Discuss their responses to the "Think About It" questions.

Watching a play is not the same as watching a movie or a television show. In the audience, you can see the performance as it is happening; it is live and not on tape. For this reason, actors use special ways of telling the story onstage.

Music: This production is called a musical. That means the actors use music and songs instead of simply talking. They can sing to each other or to the audience. Often, music helps to show how a character is feeling.

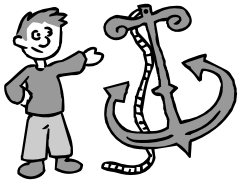
Think About It: Why might music be a good way to show feelings? How might it be better than talking?

Doubling: When one person acts out more than one part, this is called doubling. ArtsPower uses only four actors to play eleven parts. For example, the Green Fish and the Shark are played by the same actor.



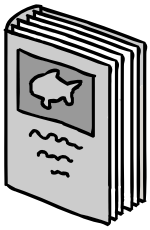
Think About It: Why didn't ArtsPower just use eleven actors? Why might doubling be a better way?

Props: The Rainbow Fish and her friends live under the sea, but this play does not actually bring you underwater! Instead, props are used. Props are objects used by the actors as they perform. You, in the audience, have an important job: you must use your imagination to help turn props into the real thing.



Think About It: What if you had to pretend the stage were really underwater? What props might you use? During the performance, see if ArtsPower used any of your ideas!

Adaptation: This play is called an adaptation. That means it came from a different source and was changed. Marcus Pfister's book **The Rainbow Fish** is the source for ArtsPower's play. Read the book!



Think About It: After you read The Rainbow Fish, you can watch to see how the play is different. Why do you think some parts were changed?

Other Books by Marcus Pfister:
Milo and the Magical Stones
Sun and Moon
The Magic Book
Dazzle the Dinosaur
Just the Way You Are

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WRITE TO US

Teachers: Please photocopy this page and distribute it to your students.

We would love to hear from you. Please let us know what you thought of the play!: Send your letters to ArtsPower, 9 Sand Park Road, Suite 6, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 or e-mail us at info@artspower.org.

Teacher's Name: _____

Your School: _____

City, State: _____

Date: _____

Dear ArtsPower,

My favorite character in The Rainbow Fish was _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

My favorite part was when _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Here's what else I have to say about the show: _____

_____

_____

_____

Sincerely,

Your Name: _____