

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes



Mother Octopus

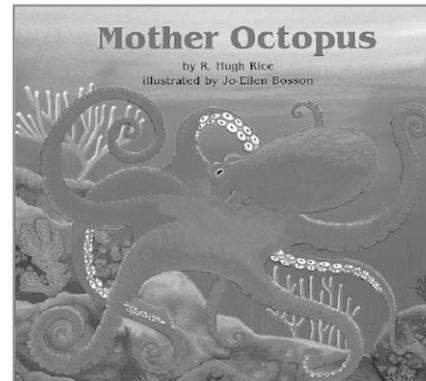
Author R. Hugh Rice

Illustrator Jo-Ellen Bosson

12 pages ■ 119 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level J

Intervention Level 18



Mother Octopus

SYNOPSIS

An expository text about Mother Octopus caring for her young.

WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Nonfiction informational narrative
- Third person
- Present tense
- Specific vocabulary
- Detailed description and information
- Different perspectives in illustrations: upright, upside-down, partial
- Open-ended
- Some content cannot be portrayed in illustrations

POSSIBLE SKILLS EMPHASIS

- Adjusting pace of reading according to content and purpose
- Gathering information, identifying most important facts
- Selecting factual information from narrative form
- Retelling information in own words
- Understanding the nature of an open-ended text

What other characters might you meet as you read the book?

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

What other information can you gather as you look at the cover? Make sure you include a descriptive word in your answer (number of arms, suckers, habitat).

This book contains a lot of information. How will you decide what is important to remember?

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FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

- The book contains a lot of information, more than students can remember, so the focus of instruction should be helping children select it from the narrative and then prioritize what to remember. A selection from the following questions might help.

What is the most important idea on this page?

Is that fact like a hook that the other information can hang on?

Do you think it is important to remember that?

When might you need to use that information again?

Use your own words to tell me the most important information from that page.

What did the author really want us to know about the octopus on this page?

Which group of words gives you the most important information?

How will you remember the information?

What do you think the author wanted you to keep thinking about at the end of the book? What questions would you like to ask the author?

How else could the author have ended this text?

How would you feel if you were Mother Octopus?

- List facts about the octopus: What we already knew about the octopus; what the book helped us to learn about the octopus.

FOLLOWING THE READING

- Choose the five most important facts from the list and think about how these could be recorded. Options might include notes, captioned and/or labeled diagram, summary statement, bulleted list. . .
 - Draw an octopus in its habitat and write descriptive labels.

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Mother Octopus (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
FINISH THIS THOUGHT	<i>By reading this book, I learned . . . and . . . and . . . I think the illustrations in this book are . . . because they . . .</i>
USE YOUR MEMORY	<i>What do the eight strong arms of an octopus have on them? When the babies zip away from the mother octopus, what do they look like? Where does it tell you that in the story?</i>
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?	<i>Would you want to be an octopus if you could be? Why or why not? Why do you think an octopus can change its body color and texture? Do you think Mother Octopus feels sad because she will never see her babies again? What makes you think that?</i>
BE CREATIVE	<i>Read each of the steps below FIRST. Then follow each step to create a new type of octopus:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Draw a mother octopus that has 2 heads and 16 arms.</i> <i>2. Make 8 of the arms long and make the other 8 arms short.</i> <i>3. Make half of her body one color and the other half another color.</i> <i>4. Put a face on each head with one face looking one way and the other face looking the other way.</i> <i>5. Draw 2 rows of suckers on the long arms and 1 row of suckers on the short arms.</i> <i>6. Draw the ocean floor around your octopus.</i> <i>7. Then give her a name.</i> <i>Now go back to each of these steps and see if you followed each step. If you did, you will have a 16-legged, 2-headed, duo-colored octopus that everyone would love to see!</i>
VOCABULARY AGENT	<i>How many words are in this story? Start on page 2 and count them. After you count them, write down 8 words that were tricky to read and 8 words that were easy to read. Then read them all!</i>

Book Note by Margaret E. Mooney

Additional Comprehension Prompts by Dr. Connie Hebert

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