

# Book Notes

## A Fishy Story

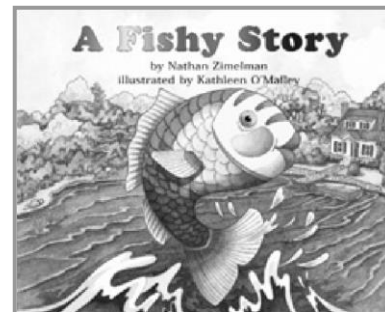
Author Nathan Zimelman

Illustrator Kathleen O'Malley

16 pages ■ 174 words

Fountas and Pinnell Level L

Reading Recovery Level 14



### SYNOPSIS

A humorous story about a man and wife who are granted a wish, but as in similar wish stories, find that things do not go as expected.

### WHAT THE BOOK OFFERS

- Fantasy “wish” folktale structure set in current day
- Third person
- Past tense
- Humor
- Surprise ending
- “Nod nod, wink wink”—reader is in on the joke with the author
- Nonfiction note on inside back cover
- Dialogue
- Contrast between realism and fantasy in text and illustrations
- Ellipses to heighten anticipation
  
- Considering author’s purpose

### POSSIBLE SKILLS

#### EMPHASIS

- Inferential reading
- Using structure of genre to assist reading a new text in a similar form
- Connecting to and comparing experiences with similar text structure
- Understanding words with multiple meanings
- Use of descriptive phrasing—“licking his lips,” “with hungry eyes”
- Action verbs—“gasp(ed),” “gulped”

# Book Notes

## A Fishy Story (continued)

### INTRODUCING THE BOOK

*What do you think the word “fishy” means?*

*What kind of story are you expecting this to be? (realistic, fantasy) Why?*

### FOCUS OF INSTRUCTION

*Page 5: Does this story remind you of any other stories you’ve read? What are they? (traditional tales about wishes being granted) What do you think will happen?*

*Page 10: What do you notice about “except...”? Why did the author put three periods there?*

*Pages 12, 13: What does the writer want the reader to do on these pages? Why? How does he do that?*

*Page 16: Go back to the title. Why do you think the author used the word “fishy” in the title? Now what do you think “fishy” means?*

■ Explore words with multiple meanings.

*Look at the nonfiction note. Do you think the man and woman in this story learned a lesson? What might the lesson have been?*

*What features in this story are usually found in folktales?*

### FOLLOWING THE READING

■ Discuss other folktales that the students have read in which wishes are given. Compare one to this story.

■ Find other stories from other cultures about wishes.

■ Discuss how the author used dialogue in the story. The students might take a story they have written or want to write and consider how they could use dialogue.

■ Discuss the structure of folktales with students. Students could use that structure to write their own stories.



# Book Notes

## A Fishy Story (continued)

Additional Comprehension Prompts For Oral or Written Use Before, During, and After Reading	
<b>FINISH THIS THOUGHT</b>	<p>This story is not true because . . .</p> <p>I wish I could . . .</p>
<b>USE YOUR MEMORY</b>	<p>What was the first thing the fisherman said they already had?</p> <p>What was the first thing the fisherman’s wife said they already had?</p> <p>What was the second thing the fisherman said they already had?</p> <p>What was the one thing the fisherman’s wife say they didn’t have?</p> <p>Reread pages 7 – 10 and see if you answered all the questions correctly.</p>
<b>WHAT’S YOUR OPINION?</b>	<p>Do you think the fish really would have granted a wish if the fisherman had thrown him back in the water? Why or why not?</p> <p>What other story does this story remind you of?</p> <p>What do you think the fisherman and his wife should have wished for?</p>
<b>BE CREATIVE</b>	<p>Draw a magic lantern. Put lots of colorful designs on it. Show a genie coming out of your magic lantern. What will he look like?</p> <p>Under your lantern, make a list of all the wishes the genie will grant IF someone rubs the lantern 3 times. Make a wish!</p>
<b>VOCABULARY AGENT</b>	<p>The words below are written in past tense (already happened). Change each one to the present tense (happening now). Then write the present tense form in a sentence. For example: wondered = wonder. I wonder what the fisherman will wish for.</p> <p>Words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*caught</li> <li>*gulped</li> <li>*tossed</li> <li>*looked</li> <li>*leaped</li> <li>*splashed</li> <li>*swam</li> </ul>