



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Pre-school/ Lower primary
(ages 2+)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- English: Literacy, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability
- Sciences; Living things
- Art: Visual Artworks and Design
- Music

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss new vocabulary and respond to texts
- To learn to identify colours
- A counting resource
- To use the text as a springboard for cross curricular teaching, such as the wonders of our oceans, especially the Great Barrier Reef, and the importance of keeping it clean.

THEMES

- Music
- Bedtime
- Colours
- Counting
- Nature - plant and animal life of our oceans

PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 978 1 76089 939 4 (hardback)

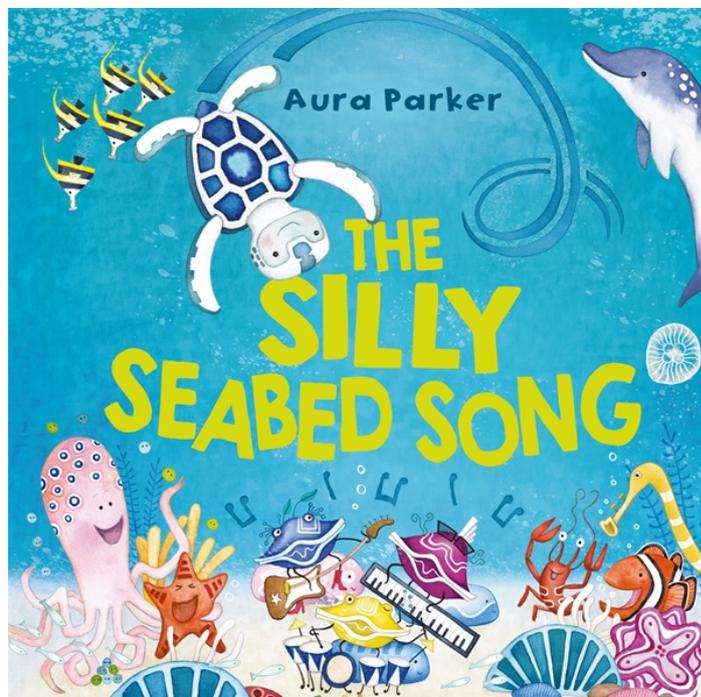
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The Silly Seabed Song

Aura Parker



PLOT SUMMARY

From the award-winning author-illustrator of the delightful *Meerkat Splash* and *Goodnight, Glow Worms*, comes another bedtime story for the very young, brimming with bouncing rhyme and the playful riddle of a backwards poem.

The Rock Oysters sing the Silly Seabed Song to help send the sea creatures to sleep, but the crazy words are too much fun and it just makes them all laugh instead! Little Turtle Hatchling Fred just wants to rest his head, but how will he ever get to sleep?

Way down deep, under the sea,
Can you hear it? Can it be?
Jelly flubber! Wobbly gong!
It's the Silly Seabed Song!

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Aura Parker is an illustrator, writer and designer who creates delightful picture books, prints and textiles. Her work is joyful, imaginative and brimming with details to explore. Aura Parker's storytelling through words and pictures inspires imagination, courage and confidence in young readers. Aura works with watercolour, gouache, pen and coloured pencil, both by hand and using a mix of digital drawing techniques. She works from a studio in Sydney. *The Silly Seabed Song* is her third picture book with Penguin Random House, following the delightful *Meerkat Splash* and *Goodnight Glow Worms*.

CREATOR'S INSPIRATION – THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The book is set in an underwater world inspired by **the Great Barrier Reef**, a place of staggering beauty, teeming with amazing sea life. The beauty of the reef is overwhelming, but the problems we face in protecting the environment for the future can be overwhelming too, as the fragile ecosystems are under threat from human activity and climate change.

The coral, home to many unique living creatures who are also under threat is stressed and suffers from bleaching events. Green sea turtle populations are also in decline due to rising water temperatures.

The book itself has a sweet, fun story and undeniably silly song, but can still be a springboard to learn about the wonders of the ocean and create awareness for the plight of the reef as it introduces many sea creatures to the reader. The endpapers are a look-and-find, filled with marine life to explore and count.

In 2017, I visited the reef and managed to get up close to many of the fish who ended up being characters in the book. I spotted different types of coral; stag, plate, fan to include as well.

The colour of the water is a sparkling, intense aqua and the fish are vibrant and wonderful. It was amazing and I felt in awe of the beauty of it all, at the same time feeling frightened by the vastness of the unknown. I look closely at nature for reference and inspiration but also re-imagine

things and intentionally stylize elements to create an imaginary world for the story. I design fabrics and textiles too, and the style of my illustrations is infused with a love of playing with colour and patterns. Another thing I really love is writing and playing with language, and I have filled it with words that are fun to say for the pure pleasure of the sounds. The book is certainly packed with laughter and fun.

The marine life put on a great show that day and I found lots of creatures to put into the story. A giant Maori Wrasse floated up to greet me with his enormous mouth, and the tropical fish were plentiful, colourful and stunning as they danced around, perfectly comfortable to get up close to people. I was able to take photos through the glass bottom boat too. We even spotted a green sea turtle swimming by and it was magical!

I hoped to paint some of the underwater wonder into my book and hope to do more to educate, create awareness and protect our precious ecosystems.

KEY STUDY TOPICS

English

- Read the writing on the back of the book (called the 'blurb'). What do you expect the book will be about? Do you have any questions? Are those questions answered in the story?
- Who do you think are the main characters in this story? Do you think things other than people can be characters in a story? How does that work? Can you think of other favourite stories that have non-human or non-living characters?
- Create a book trailer for this book.

The Riddle of the Silly Seabed Song

- What is the riddle of the song and how is it solved?
- Can you write a reverse / backwards poem?
- Can you write a silly song with words that are fun to say?



Have a look at how the meaning of the song changed when you rearrange the lines in reverse order. This is known as a backwards or reverse poem where when the order of the lines which make short statements are placed in reverse order the poem has a different or opposite meaning.

*Jelly flubber! Wobbly gong!
Bong, this is a silly song.
You'd be crazy if you think,
This song helps you sleep, wink, wink.*

*This song helps you sleep, wink, wink.
You'd be crazy if you think,
Bong, this is a silly song.
Jelly flubber! Wobbly gong!*

Visual Literacy Discussion

Colours

Take a look at the colours Aura has used throughout the story. As this is a bedtime themed book, the final spreads show all the sea creatures drifting off to sleep. There is a colour transition from the climax of the story where everyone is laughing, using bright and vibrant colours, which changes to softer sleepy purples to create calm for the end of the story.

Creative Arts

- Using the words of *The Silly Seabed Song* or the words of your own silly song, make up a melody to go with the words.

- Try adding in some percussion instruments that you have in the classroom, or make some of your own, such as rice shakers, a shell rattle or bottle-top castanets in the shape of oysters!

Science & Nature

There are many ways to help kids learn more about the beauty of (and threats to) our precious Great Barrier Reef. For more inspiration, try the Kids Corner on the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's website: <https://barrierreef.org/kids>

Questions and Activities

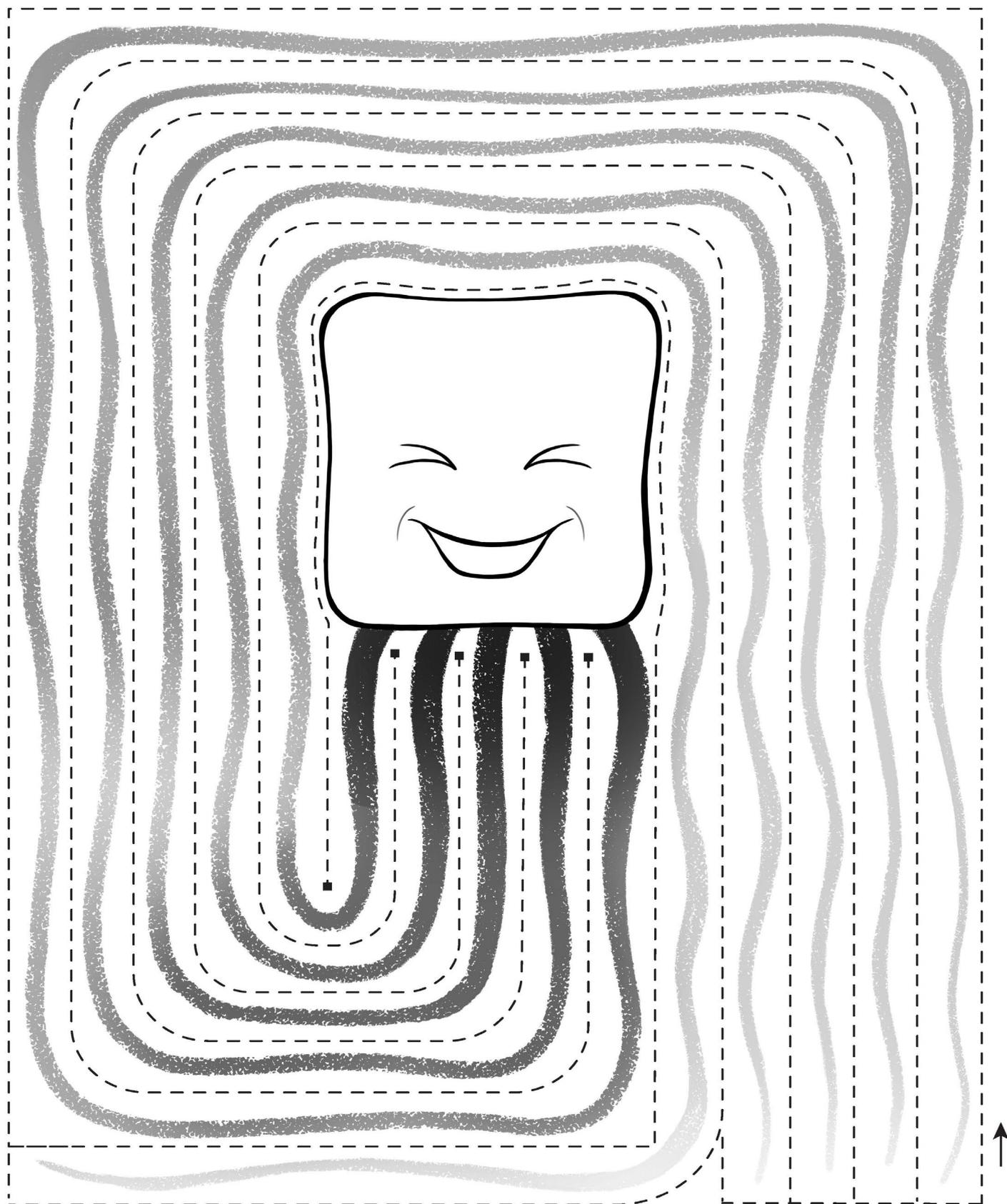
1. On the back of the endpapers at the beginning and end of *The Silly Seabed Song* there are lists of sea creatures to look for. Choose one of these creatures and find out five facts about them. You can even do a drawing of that creature or write a story where they are the main character.
2. Many creatures on the reef are symbiotic. What does this mean, and can you name some creatures who have symbiotic relationships?





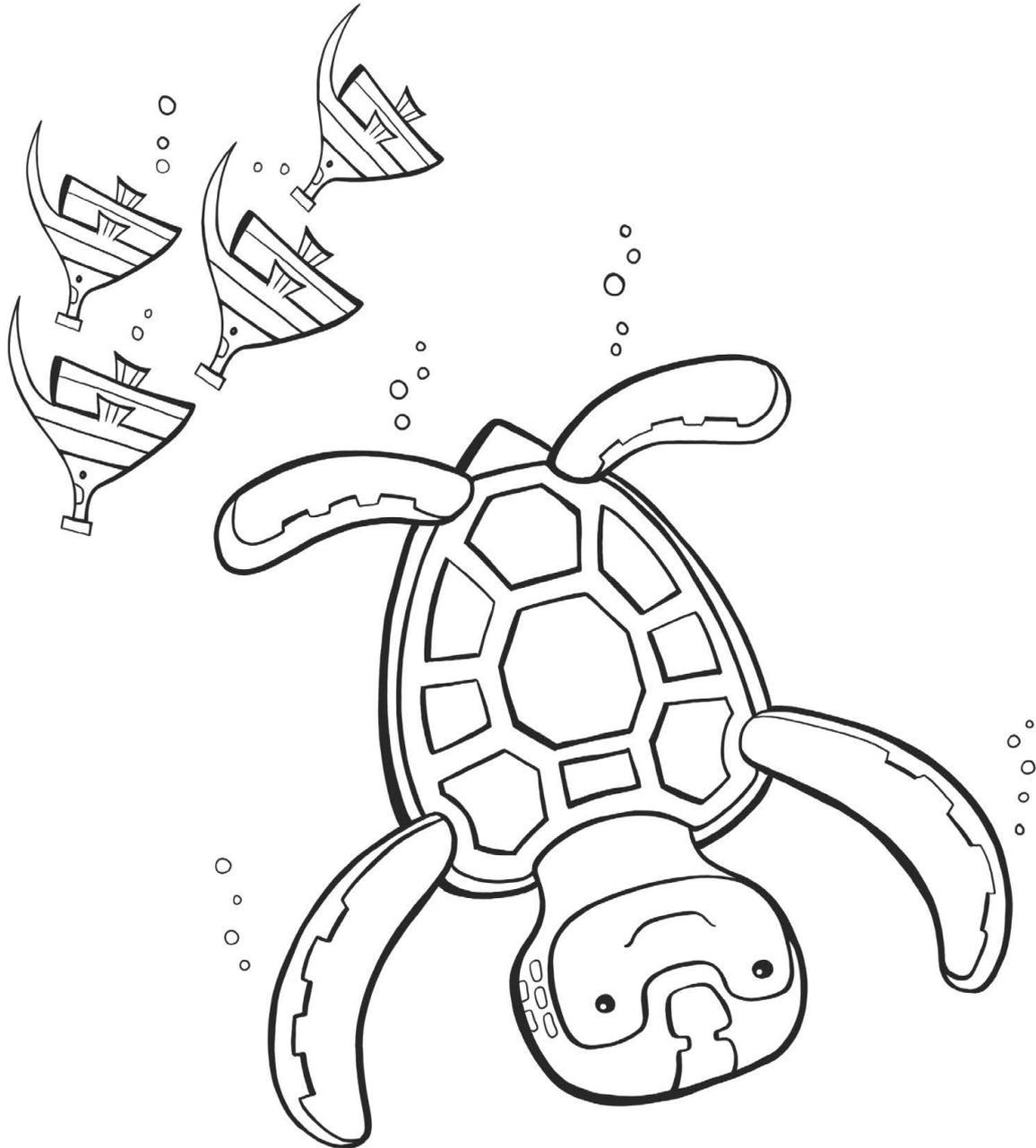
Make a Jellyfish

(Colour me in and cut me out!)

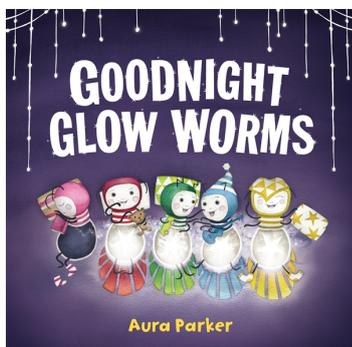


Colour in Fred the Turtle

(Why not draw in some extra creatures from the reef?)



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



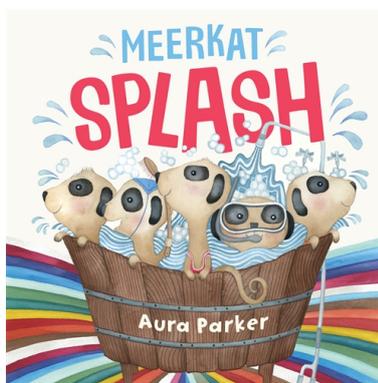
Goodnight Glow Worms
by Aura Parker

*Goodnight, Glow Worms, shining bright,
Time to dim your Glow Worm light.
Glow Worms gleaming, beaming round,
Can't switch off and can't wind down.*

From the creator of the delightful *Meerkat Splash* comes a cuddly, snuggly bedtime book for the very young, full of joyous, playful illustrations and bouncing rhyme - with a perfect ending to send little ones happily off to sleep.

Aura Parker's playful rhyme and energetic illustrations combine to create the perfect picture book for the very young about the sea and bedtime.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)

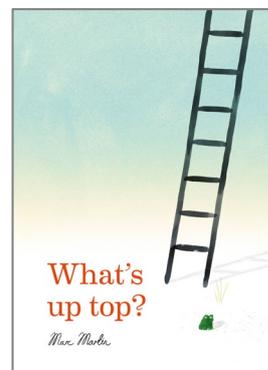


Meerkat Splash
by Aura Parker

*Meerkats cleaning, washing.
Wooooo! Slipping, sliding,
swimming too.*

Follow Meerkat Red into the burrow and join all the colourful meerkat friends for one big crazy bathtime! But who makes the biggest MEERKAT SPLASH?

Aura Parker's playful rhyme and energetic illustrations combine to create the perfect picture book for the very young about colours and bathtime.



What's Up Top?
by Marc Martin

What's at the top of the ladder? Is it a hat? Is it a cat? Is it a snail on a whale?

Simple, playful and absurdist, this new picture book by Marc Martin is about imagination and creativity. Reminiscent of *Press Here* by Herve Tullet, *Dr Seuss* and *I Want my Hat Back* by Jon Klassen.

[Teachers' resources available.](#)



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	AGE	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
The Silly Seabed Song (hardcover)	Aura Parker	9781760899394	2+	\$19.99		
Goodnight Glow Worms (hardcover)	Aura Parker	9780143792918	2+	\$24.99		
Meerkat Splash (hardcover)	Aura Parker	9780143792895	2+	\$19.99		
TOTAL						

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