

Books for Young Learners Teacher Resource

Book Notes

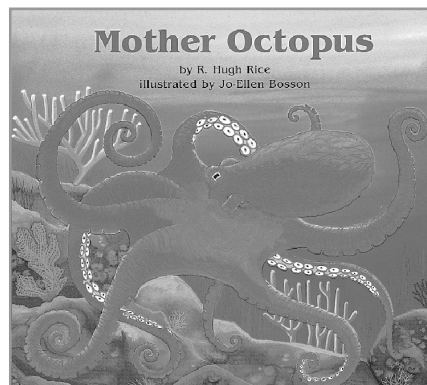


Mother Octopus

Author R. Hugh Rice

Illustrator Jo-Ellen Bosson

12 pages ■ 119 words



Mother Octopus

Em	Early				Fluent			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
	S		G		I			

S = Shared G = Guided I = Independent

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

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

What other characters might you meet as you read 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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Mother Octopus (continued)

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?

FOLLOWING THE READING

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