



SOMEWHERE IN THE OCEAN

AUTHOR: JENNIFER WARD & T.J. MARSH

ILLUSTRATOR: KENNETH J. SPENGLER

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Somewhere in the Ocean](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

A counting book in rhyme presents various marine animals and their children, from a mother manatee and her little calf one to a mother octopus and her little babies ten. Complete with a glossary, musical score, and numbers hidden in the illustrations.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Ward is the author of numerous books for children, including *Mama Built a Little Nest*, illustrated by Steve Jenkins (Simon & Schuster / Beach Lane Books). Jennifer is a full-time writer and lives in Illinois.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Kenneth J. Spengler has had a love for art and animals since he was very young and would draw his own pictures of army men, jet planes and whimsical creatures on the endsheets of his Beatrix Potter books.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- What do you notice on the cover? Can you tell what the story might be about?
- (show endpapers) Who knows what this is? Does this give you another idea of what the story might be about?

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 2-4) Babies of manatees and orcas are both called calves. I wonder what else the babies of the animals in this book are called.
- (p. 6) What do you think “nestle” means?
- (p. 9) Why do you think that a bunch of kelp is called is a forest?
- (p. 11) What does the author mean by “cruise”?
- (p. 15) Can you paddle like a sea turtle?

SOMEWHERE IN THE OCEAN

TOPICS & THEMES:

- Counting
- Sea animals
- Songs
- Rhyming stories

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

“Tell me more, why do you think that?”

“How do you know that?”

“Why do you think they feel like that?”

“Interesting, did you notice anything else?”

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- Is this fiction or non-fiction? What makes you think so?
- Point out the Fun Facts at the back of the book. Talk about what Fun Facts are.
- Read two or three of the facts (e.g. vertebrates and invertebrates; coral)

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- All sing along to the tune seen at the end of the book!

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- The book can be sung to the tune of “Over in the Meadow” (<https://youtu.be/C6ljGXMMB-g>). Have students sing along with the book.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- (versa of title page) The orca is saying “Hey, kid! Look for the number hidden on each page!” Let’s do find the numbers on each page. It corresponds to the number of baby animals on that page.
- How does the author show “zap”? “squirt”?
- What are the words used in the books that describe how the clownfish, orca, shark, seahorse, and sea turtle move?
- How do the manatees and otters eat, according to the author?
- Fun Facts: pick two or three and discuss the information.

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Listen to the song “Over in the Meadow” on YouTube and adapt the words from this book to the tune. Teach it to the children and sing it together. There are many books with the same pattern as this one and the tune works for all of them.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- List three fish from this book and the habitat in which they live.
- Read about vertebrate and invertebrate in the glossary. Create two columns: vertebrates, invertebrates and write the name each of the animals in the story in one of the columns.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Draw a picture of what you listed in the writing activity.

COMMON CORE LINKS

Common Core links: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1, K.2, K.4, K.5, K.6, K.7, K.9, K.10

