



The Rainbow Fish

Written by Marcus Pfister

1999 NorthSouth Books (24 pages)

NOVEL STUDY

The Rainbow Fish, by Marcus Pfister

SUMMARY

Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful fish in the ocean, his scales shimmering the colours of a rainbow. When the other fish see him, they want shimmering scales too, but Rainbow Fish keeps the beautiful scales to himself. His choice not to share soon makes Rainbow Fish a lonely fish. He discovers, in the end, that in sharing his scales, not only does he bring a smile to others, but he feels happy as well.

CHARACTER REVIEW

The Rainbow Fish

The Little blue fish

The octopus

The other fish in the ocean

SEL THEMES IN THE BOOK

Feelings –happy, sad, proud, lonely

Sharing

Friendship



STUDY QUESTIONS

Pages 1 -3

- **Why was The Rainbow Fish special?** *He had shimmering scales that no one else had*
- **Why wouldn't The Rainbow Fish play?** *He felt he was too special and the other fish were not beautiful enough to play with*

Page 4

- **What did the Little Blue Fish want The Rainbow Fish to do?** *Give one of his shimmering scales to him*

Page 7

- **The Little Blue Fish was shocked. Show me what a shocked face looks like?**
- **Why did the Little Blue Fish tell his friends about The Rainbow Fish?** *The Rainbow Fish had upset the Little Blue Fish and he was sad. He wanted everyone to stay away from The Rainbow Fish as he shouted and didn't calm down.*

Page 9

- **The Rainbow Fish doesn't know why no-one likes him. Do you know?**

Page 10

- **How do you think The Rainbow Fish felt when he went to see the Octopus?** *Scared, worried, nervous*

Page 12

- **What did the Octopus tell The Rainbow Fish to do if he wanted to be happy?** *Give away his scales and share to make friends*
- **Do you think it will make him happy?**

Page 15

- **Do you think The Rainbow Fish will share his scales? Would you? Why/ why not?**

Page 17-19

- **What do you think the 'funny feeling' was that The Rainbow Fish had when he gave the Little Blue Fish a scale?** *Happiness – he thought he was happy before keeping his beautiful scales to himself but he felt better when he shared and made others happy*

Page 21

- **How do the other fish feel?** *Happy*

Page 23

- **How was The Rainbow Fish now feeling?** *Happy – he had lots of friends and could play with them*
- **Why were the other fish his friend?** *He was being kind and sharing*
- **Do you think he made the right choice?**

Additional Activities

- **Create The Rainbow Fish and friends and retell the story**
- **Story sack**
- **Story sequencing.** Have feeling face cards to hand so that the children can match how The Rainbow Fish and other characters are feeling throughout the story
- **Photocopied and laminated pictures from the story and feeling face cards. Match the feeling face cards to the pictures.**
- **Create a friend profile – what do you like a friend to be like? Is sharing important?**
- **Discuss what you can share – a jigsaw, sweets, a toy etc. can you try sharing? Is it always easy? How does it make you feel? How does it make the other person feel?**
- **Can you count how many colour scales the rainbow fish has? Can you create a graph?**
- **Use different fabric and material to create The Rainbow Fish and his shiny scales**
- **Role-play how The Rainbow Fish felt throughout the story. How many different feelings did he have?**