



The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea

Brenda Z. Guiberson , Gennady Spirin (Illustrations)

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Which sea creature is the greatest? Is it the one with the most venom, the greatest diver, the one with blue blood, or the best rotating eyes? Or is it the master of disguise, the one with the best light, the most slime, or the most eggs? Fascinating facts and spectacular illustrations will inspire young readers to choose their own favorite sea creatures!

The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea Details

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Author : Brenda Z. Guiberson , Gennady Spirin (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea for online ebook

Alyson (Kid Lit Frenzy) says

With illustrations that we both draw in kids and even creep them out a bit, and text that will have kids debating exactly who is the Most Amazing Creature in the Sea, Guiberson & Spirin have a book that will appeal to children. I love that the text can be used as a mentor text for writing.

Alyssa says

This is such a fun book!! I enjoyed the sea creatures that were highlighted. The only problem is my mom said it scares her kindergarten kids. That is understandable though because anglerfish are creepy. Really well done though!

Karen Bessin says

The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea is an interesting blend of informational text and argument writing, where each creature makes the case for why they should be chosen "the most amazing creature." A great mentor text!

Margaux says

Definitely an interesting read. The illustrations in here are absolutely phenomenal. The way she takes these modern creatures and draws them in almost a prehistoric manner is awesome.

The writing is a different concept, too. Each animal gives her own argument for why she is the "most amazing creature in the sea." They boast about their best features and talents just like a kid would. However, the reader doesn't feel inundated with information at the end of the book, which would be a worry for me. The snippets are enough to give information, and short enough that the reader learns something about each animal.

Just don't Google Hagfish. I feel scarred.

Beverly says

Not only is the information fascinating, but Gennady Spirin's paintings are fantabulous!

Paula says

Fabulously detailed underwater portraits of some of the biggest, most deadly, or flat-out weirdest creatures in the sea. Gennady Spirin's murky tempera, watercolor and pencil art recalls murky Dutch Renaissance still life paintings, and deserves a place alongside the similarly outrageous naturalist work of Ernst Haeckel and Maria Sybilla Meriam. Yep. I will go that far.

Jackie says

All these sea creatures tell us why they think they are *The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea*:

Box Jellyfish
Leatherback Sea Turtle
Vampire Squid
Barreleye Fish
Mimic Octopus
Anglerfish
Hagfish
Ocean Sunfish
Whale Shark
Blue Whale
Leafy Sea Dragon
Wolfish

A short snippet about each animal along with colorful, detailed illustrations make his picture book intriguing and engaging.

Christine Turner says

Which sea creature is the greatest? Is it the one with the most venom, the greatest diver, the one with blue blood, or the best rotating eyes? Or is it the master of disguise, the one with the best light, the most slime, or the most eggs? Fascinating facts and spectacular illustrations will inspire young readers to choose their own favorite sea creatures!

Note: This book could be used as a part of pre-school or elementary storytime. Depending on the group, you may not be able to read the entire book, but it is written in such a way that you could choose to share one or two favorite sea creatures.

Notes

Brenda Z. Guiberson is the author of many notable books for children, including *The Greatest Dinosaur Ever*; *Frog Song* ; *Life in the Boreal Forest*; *Moon Bear*; *The Emperor Lays an Egg*; and the bestselling *Cactus Hotel* . She lives near Seattle, Washington.

Gennady Spirin is the illustrator of *Frog Song* and *Life in the Boreal Forest* . He has been awarded five gold

medals from the Society of Illustrators, the first prize in both the Bologna and Barcelona International Book Fairs, and has been chosen four times for the New York Times Best Illustrated Books list. He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

Linda Lipko says

As always, the combination of the writing of Brenda Guiberson and the lush illustrations of Gennady Spirin create award-winning books time and time again.

In this book, very interesting, sometimes bizarre looking deep sea creatures are highlighted with a description of what makes them the most amazing sea creature. The reader follows page after wonderfully detailed images of The Vampire Squid, who turns itself inside out to hide its blackness with the added ability to create incredible bright colored lights to lure prey, the Box Jellyfish who has the deadliest venom and has no brains, backbone, lungs or gills and has 24 eyes to help find prey, and then there is the barreleye fish who rotates their green eyes to spot prey.

There are 16 double page spreads which any curious child would find fascinating.

Kimberly says

Ugh. There are so many gross, gross things in the ocean.

That being said, this book is really good. If you like gross things, and octopi, and whale sharks, turtles and blue whales. Those things are not gross, I guess.

Krista the Krazy Kataloguer says

No doubt about it, this book contains a lot of amazing sea creatures! Guiberson did an excellent job of selecting animals with unique properties and abilities. I was thinking " wow! " at every one. My vote for the most amazing, I think, goes to the box jellyfish, because I'm still trying to wrap my head around the fact that it has "no brain, no blood, no backbone, and no lungs or gills," and yet is one of the deadliest creatures in the sea. I also have to say that the hagfish is one of the ugliest! Gennady Spirin's beautiful illustrations are as good as photographs at showing us these animals. I was pleased to read Guiberson's author's note at the end, in which she points out how important each of these amazing creatures is to the overall ecology and balance of life in the ocean. This is one of the best children's books I've read on undersea life. Highly recommended!

Deana Metzke says

We read this book right before our trip to the aquarium, and it was perfect. Each page has a different extraordinary animal from the sea who pleads their case as to why they are the most amazing. They give

different characteristics that they have that other animals lack, so you as the reader can make your own choice.

This would be a wonderful read aloud in any classroom, and was a wonderful bedtime read for me and my two kids!

Barbara says

From the eye-catching cover of an anglerfish and the book's title, readers might be excused for thinking the author is going to provide the definitive answer to which sea creature is most intriguing. But she doesn't; instead, as was the case in her earlier *The Greatest Dinosaur Ever*, she offers a baker's dozen of amazing creatures found in the ocean's depths and then makes a case for each one of them. From the box jellyfish on the book's opening pages to the maritime helpers near the conclusion, readers will be absolutely glued to the book's pages, filled with amazing, highly-detailed illustrations rendered with tempera, watercolor and pencil. I like the way the book is designed with an "I am..." statement on the first page about the animal, then a description under a huge two-page illustration of each fascinating creature, concluding with "That's why I am the most amazing creature in the sea" (unpaged). I must confess that my favorite illustration is the one featuring the leatherback sea turtle. Amazing!

Anya Edwards says

Twin Text:

Swinburne, S. R., & Peterson, M. (2010). *Ocean soup: Tide pool poems*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge.

Rationale:

These two texts look at different animals in the ocean. *The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea* (Guiberson, 2015) looks at animals that may not be as well known in a narrative description format. *Ocean Soup: Tide Pool Poems* (Swinburne & Peterson, 2010) looks at more familiar animals in verse form with poems for each animal, often told in first person. By looking at these two books together, students could pull out a lot of information about animals and learn more about familiar and unfamiliar animals. This would be a good way to look at different animals students could choose for a research paper to move beyond the familiar. They could also use the stories together as inspiration to create poems based on the amazing creatures like they see in *Ocean Soup* to put the nonfiction information they learn into a different format type.

Text Structure & Text Features:

The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea is told through a descriptive narrative of each creature. It puts the name of each animal in bold to draw attention to it. It does not feature many traditional text features of nonfiction, instead using illustrations for each creature and description in first person narrative. There is a bibliography at the end of the book.

Strategy Application:

With these stories, I would start with *Ocean Soup* and read through the different creatures the story mentions. I would have students make a web to categorize the different creatures they learned about and characteristics of each creature (Camp, 2010). Then, we would read *The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea* and add new animals and their characteristics to the list. I would have them make connections with the creatures by

connecting characteristics that were shared between animals on their webs. When they finish, they would take at least one creature from *The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea* and make a poem similar to what they see in *Ocean Soup* for it. Then they would add a short description of the creature based on the facts they learned.

Resource:

Camp, D. (2010, February). It takes two: Teaching with twin texts of fact and fiction. *The Reading Teacher*, 53(5), 400-408.

Cecilia says

This is a very well written nonfiction picture book. It doesn't shy away from the gross/weird facts about real life sea creatures, but it does so in a very classy way. It's a book that would appeal to kids that like gross humor without actually containing any body function humor. The facts were kept factual but brief, but never felt anything other than thorough.

As for the illustrations: The publisher easily could have used real life picture for this book. But then it would have felt just like any other nonfiction book about sea critters (visually at least). The realistic drawings are super beautiful and add a lot to the feeling of the story.

A very solid, enjoyable experience.
