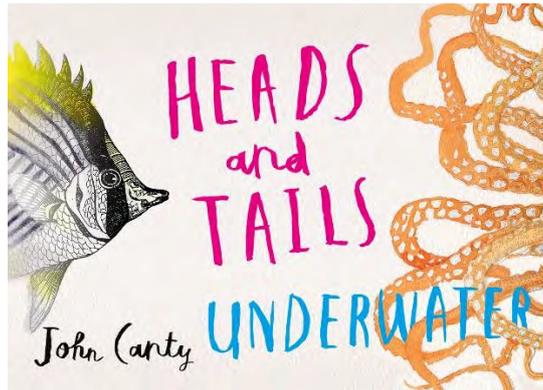


Teacher notes for *Heads and Tails: Underwater*



SYNOPSIS

A starfish, an octopus, a whale, a shark and more – discover and learn about thirteen creatures of the sea and water.

Readers read clues, see the animal's tail and are invited to guess its identity. Turning a page or sometimes two pages reveals the answer. Children and adults are drawn into a fun and rewarding process of discovery while they read.

Heads and Tails: Underwater is the third book in a series, following *Animals* and *Insects*.

The first book in the series *Heads and Tails* won the 2018 Speech Pathology Australia Best Book Award for children up to age three. *Heads and Tails: Insects* has been shortlisted for the 2019 Children's Book Council of Australia Early Childhood Book of the Year Award.

THEMES

- Aquatic animals
- Science and biology
- Nature
- Problem solving

AUTHOR and ILLUSTRATOR

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John Canty lives in Melbourne, Australia and is an author, illustrator and graphic designer. He loves design, books, art, drawings, paintings and beautiful Melbourne. *Heads and Tails: Underwater* is his third book.

STUDY NOTES

- After reading *Heads and Tails: Underwater* ask the children to list all the sea animals in the book.
- Can children identify the animal in this book that does not live in the sea?
- What were some of the clues that helped you know what each animal was?
- What new facts about each animal did you learn? What additional ones can you think of?
- List some of the words (adjectives) used to describe a jellyfish, seahorse or turtle.
- List where you would find some of these sea animals.
- What other clues could be added for each animal?
- Invite children to draw an aquatic animal and get them to list three clues to describe it.
- Why are whales not fish?

- What are predators?
- Can you name any “animal dads” who take an active role in caring for their young?
- Make a class book. After reading the book **Heads and Tails: Underwater** discuss how each sea animal had three special ‘things’. What could three special ‘things’ be about each of your students? Do you have blonde, black, brown hair? Can you climb really high? Can you run very fast? Can you read really well? Can you write very neatly? Are you a super good listener? Are you a great friend? Can you play soccer?