



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Pre-school/ Lower primary
(ages 3+)

CONTENTS

Plot summary	1
About the author	2
Author's inspiration	2
Key study topics	2
Further reading	4

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- English: Literacy, critical and creative thinking, personal and social capability
- Sustainability: The Environment, Biological Sciences; Geography, Geology, Living things
- Art: Visual Artworks and Design

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss new vocabulary and respond to texts
- To share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts
- To learn more about our relationships with each other
- To use the text as a springboard for cross curricular teaching

THEMES

- English – fables and traditional storytelling
- Relationships – family, independence
- Society – Change and development

PUBLICATION DETAILS

ISBN: 9780143791409 (hardback)

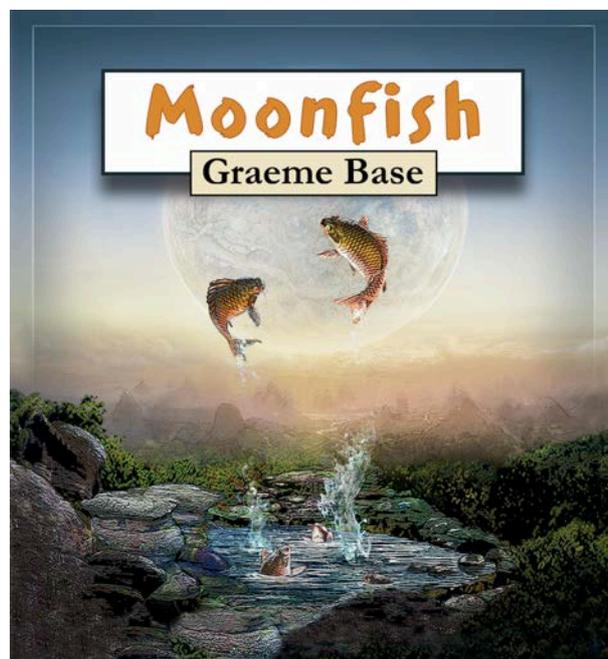
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Moonfish

Graeme Base



PLOT SUMMARY

The fish that live in the pond beneath the dragon-moon are happy. They know the moon will keep them safe.

But it was not always like this . . . There was a time when they looked to the skies with fear.

The acclaimed creator of *Animalia* brings us a stunning tale of magical, dream-like worlds hidden beneath the surface and wild and wonderful creatures above.

A moving, visually gorgeous fable about family, belonging, growing up to be more than you ever dreamed possible, and how an odd little fish became a powerful protector dragon.

Set in China and first published there.



ABOUT THE CREATOR

Graeme Base is one of the world's leading creators of picture books. *Animalia* received international acclaim when it was first published in 1986 and has achieved classic status with worldwide sales of over three million copies.

Other favourites by Graeme Base include *The Eleventh Hour*, *The Waterhole*, *Jungle Drums*, *Uno's Garden*, *Enigma*, *The Legend of the Golden Snail*, *The Jewel Fish of Karnak*, *Little Elephants*, *The Last King of Angkor Wat*, the Little Bug Books, *Eye to Eye* and *The Amazing Monster Detectoscope*. Graeme lives in Melbourne, Australia, with his artist wife, Robyn.

CREATORS' INSPIRATION

Over the years I've found a sure-fire way of finding inspiration for my work is travel. *The Waterhole* and *Jungle Drums* both came from trips to Africa, *The Last King of Angkor Wat* from Cambodia, *Eye to Eye* from Antarctica. In the case of *Moonfish* it happened a few years ago while I was in China, travelling around the country talking about my work.

The landscape was so vast and varied I felt the need to capture it in some way, although I quickly decided to set it underwater, eventually blending these two elements with the classic 'Ugly Duckling' theme. The result is a kind of travelogue as our orphan hero, unhappy and unsettled, sets out to find himself – journeying far and wide through a wonderful but strangely familiar landscape.

The transformation at the story's end is clearly inspired by Chinese folklore (Dragons are a force for good in China, in contrast to the evil connotations they generally have elsewhere), but many other elements in the book also come from things I saw as I travelled, especially the hidden objects that lie scattered through the pages.

The unsung PandaFish character who accompanies Moonfish on his odyssey was created to amuse my Chinese publishers. It turns out they loved him so much I will be putting a similar character in the next title I am planning for release in that part of the world – although this time it will not be a PandaFish but a PandaBug!

KEY STUDY TOPICS

English

- Read the writing on the back of the book (the blurb). What do you expect the book will be about? Do you have any questions? Are those questions answered in the story?
- How many characters are in this story? Do you think things other than people can be powerful characters in a story? How? Can you think of other stories that have non-human characters?
- Find three words in the book that are new to you. Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and the words and pictures that surround them).
- Activity: Create a book trailer for this book.

Storytelling

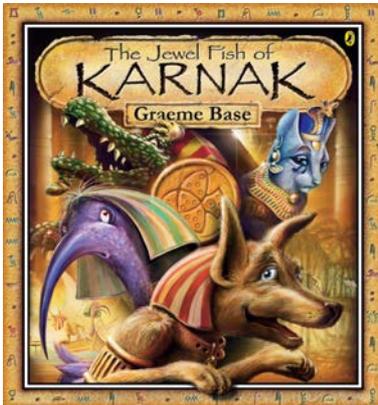
- Break into small groups and tell your classmates about a time you have done a brave thing. What did you do? Why was it brave and what did you feel about it? How did it change you?
- Draw a comic of a scene in the book as if you and two of your friends were the fish and his parents. What would you say to each other?
- Fables often have a 'message' or a 'moral'. What is the 'moral of the story' here?
- Do you know any traditional fables? Create a poster that illustrates three of your favourites and what they are trying to tell us.
- Write a diary entry as if you were the Moonfish after he scares off the herons.
- Research the origins of several fables: where and when were they written? Are they still useful stories now in the modern world?



- Do you play-act or imagine exciting adventures with your friends or siblings? In groups of four, roleplay a scene from *Moonfish*.
- What does the cover tell you about the tone and content of the book?

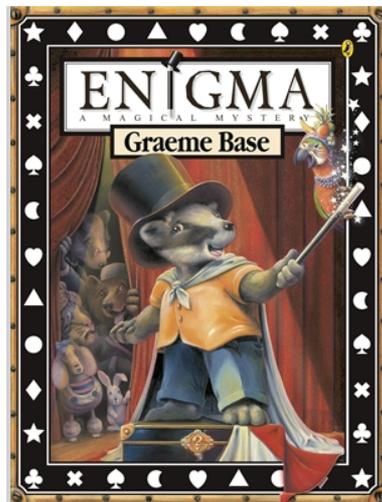


FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA

*The Jewel Fish of Karnak*

Far away in Ancient Egypt, Jackal and Ibis are brought before the Cat Pharaoh to be punished for stealing from the town market. In a merciful moment, the Pharaoh decides to give the two friends one last chance: they must journey up the River Nile to the temple of Karnak and bring back something that has been taken from her - a beautiful and precious Jewel Fish.

Complete with hieroglyphics, and sparkling jewels, here is a cautionary tale set amongst the wonders of an ancient world.

*Enigma*

'Don't worry,' Bertie said at once. 'I'll solve this, have no fear, For magic things that vanish almost always reappear . . .'

Bertie loves to visit the Retirement Home for Elderly Magicians and watch his grandpa perform magic tricks. But one day all the magicians' props go missing, so Bertie sets off to investigate . . .

Can he solve the mystery in time to save the show?

You can help Bertie find all the missing things and reveal the mysteries of Enigma!

*Eye to Eye*

A child, brave and curious about the world, flies high over the mountains, goes out on a limb and dives into the deep. From here, he can see eye to eye with majestic and curious creatures, from the miniature to the enormous, the everyday to the fantastic.

From one of Australia's favourite picture book creators comes a remarkable look at the connection between the animals that inhabit our Earth – even the human ones. *Eye to Eye* will give you an amazing new perspective on the world!



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	AGE	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Moonfish	Graeme Base	9780143791409	5+	\$24.99		
The Jewel Fish of Karnak	Graeme Base	9780143782896	3+	\$16.99		
Enigma	Graeme Base	9780143782964	3+	\$16.99		
Eye to Eye	Graeme Base	9780670078592	3+	\$26.99		
TOTAL						

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