

Jasper Juggles Jellyfish

By Ben Long & Illustrated by David Cornish

Publisher: Ford Street Publishing

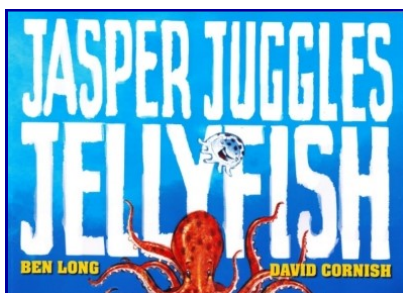
ISBN 9781925736038 SCIS: 1872952

\$22.95

An octopus called Jasper gives up on learning the basics at school to pursue something he thinks will be more fun.

He soon finds that even fun things can be difficult to learn. But luckily, a smack of jolly jellyfish are there to help him every step of the way.

How many jellyfish do you think Jasper will be able to juggle by the end? Count along! Maybe he will end up learning the basics without even knowing it.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Juggling
- Learning
- Maths

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- Only Jasper and four of the jellyfish have names. What names might you give to the other jellyfish?
- Discuss as a class:
 - ◇ What words could you use to describe how Jasper feels at the start of the story?
 - ◇ Why does he feel like that?
 - ◇ How do you know he feels like that?
 - ◇ What does he want to do instead?
 - ◇ Does he find it easy to learn to juggle?
 - ◇ Even though he finds juggling hard at times, does he give up?
 - ◇ What words could you use to describe the jellyfish?
 - ◇ How does Jasper end up learning to count?
 - ◇ What words could you use to describe how Jasper feels at the end of the story?
 - ◇ Why does he feel like that?
 - ◇ How do you know he feels like that?
- Write about what it would be like if you lived under the sea:
 - ◇ Describe what you can see, smell, taste, hear, touch.
 - ◇ Describe some of the fun things you would do under the sea.
- Create your own informative text (e.g., a book or poster) that teaches your class about a sea creature. Hint: You could draw a sea creature, label each of its parts, and discuss or write about what each part is used for.
- Identify some of the rhymes used in this story:
 - ◇ Can you think of some other words that rhyme with these?
 - ◇ Can you think of some different rhyming words of your own?
- Write a rhyme of your own that is set under the sea. It doesn't have to be very long – one or two verses is fine.
- List a range of emotions as a class; for example, happy, sad, scared, excited, etc.
- Emotions can be expressed in many ways. Take turns to show the rest of the class what these emotions look like. Try using your whole face and your whole body. Try using only one part of your whole face/body, for a more subtle expression. Take turns to show an emotion while the rest of the class try to guess which one it is.
- At the end of the book, Jasper says he'd like to try the flute. Do you think he'll be able to? Why or why not? Where is the mouth of an octopus located in real life?