

MYTHICAL CREATURES

Lesson Plan

Picture Perfect

Lesson Plan for *Mermaids*
Grade 3

Objective

To help students understand how photos and illustrations help tell a story.

Things Needed

- *Mermaids* book

Before the Activity

Read *Mermaids* out loud to students.

Activity

Tales of mermaids exist all around the world. Different cultures often have different descriptions of how mermaids look or act. Today, students will explore how photos and illustrations can help people understand these stories. Read the *Mermaids* book again. This time, use the following prompts to discuss how the images relate to the ideas in the main text:

- pp. 4–5: The text on page 4 describes what a sailor sees and hears. What added information do readers get from the picture on page 5? (Answer: Page 4 just describes a splash and a person swimming. Only the picture shows this person is really a mermaid.)
- pp. 8–9: Why would it be helpful to show a manatee in a book about mermaids? (Possible Answers: People might not know what a manatee is. The image helps readers decide if mermaids and manatees look similar.)
- pp. 10–11: The text on page 10 describes merfolk as gods and goddesses. What information do readers get on page 11? (Answer: The coin shows one example of what a mermaid-like goddess looked like.)
- pp. 14–15: Page 14 lists where stories of merfolk exist. How does the infographic on page 15 help readers understand this text? (Answer: It shows how these places are all over the world.)



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- pp. 18–19: The text says merfolk build underwater cities. What do readers know about these cities based on the image? (Answer: The city’s buildings are grouped close together. They look similar to coral. Many different types of animals swim past them.)
- pp. 24–25: Page 24 says that some stories describe mermaids as dangerous. What makes the image on page 25 look scary? (Answer: The water is dark. The mermaids look similar to ghosts. They carry bright balls that might lure people into the water.)
- pp. 28–29: On page 28, the text says merfolk protect the oceans and rivers. How do the images on pages 28 and 29 relate to this idea? (Answer: On page 28, the mermaid is surrounded by many animals. On page 29, the mermaid is holding a shell.)

Evaluation

Could students describe what they saw in the photos and illustrations? Could they describe how the images related to the text?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.5, 3.7).

