

The Biggest Fish

Literacy Level 23 • Maths Level 3 • Geometry and Measurement

Wise Up!



Inquiry Learning
for Years 6 and Up

Inquire to Learn!

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There are many ways in which *The Biggest Fish* can be used as a base for Inquiry Learning. This is just one suggestion.

Literacy Achievement Objective:

Students understand that texts are written for different purposes and audiences.

Specific Literacy Learning Outcome:

Realize that *The Biggest Fish* is a narrative fiction that has been written both to inform and to entertain.

Numeracy Achievement Objective:

Apply mathematical knowledge to practical problem solving.

Specific Numeracy Learning Outcomes:

- Organize, record, and interpret data in tables and graphs.
- Make estimates of weights.
- Convert between centimetres and millimetres; convert between kilograms and grams.

Cross-Curricular and Topic Links:

water safety, research, science and environment, recording data, family time

Additional Social Studies Outcome:

Understand how people make decisions about access to and use of resources (fish).

Additional Science Outcome:

Understand the interdependence of living organisms, including humans, and their relationship with their physical environment.

Session 1: Using the Big Book, share-read *The Biggest Fish*, stopping at natural points for discussion. Draw on students' prior knowledge of fishing; discussing the practice of catch-and-release fishing, and the use of fishing permits and quotas.

Session 2: Using the Big Book, work through the Literacy Focus questions. Guide the students towards achieving the literacy learning outcome.

Literacy Focus:

1. *Author's Purpose:* Ask: Why do you think the author wrote the book? [To explain the practice of catch-and-release fishing; to explore how measurement is used in real-life situations.]
2. *Recall:* Ask: What do catfish use to help them find food? [Their barbels, which look like cats' whiskers.]
3. *Vocabulary:* Discuss the word *anchor* (page 14) and read the definition in the glossary. Discuss the wider meaning of an anchor as a person or thing that provides stability or confidence. Discuss if a principal could be described as the anchor of a school. Who/what else could be described as an anchor? As a class, complete an acrostic poem using the word anchor as the base. Brainstorm words that describe the attributes of an anchor e.g., A=able, accomplished, admirable.

Session 3: Using the Small Books, have the students reread *The Biggest Fish*. Model answering the Wise Up! on page 3. In their maths groups, have the students answer the Wise Up! questions on pages 9, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 22. Help individual groups as necessary.

Inquiry Learning Extension:

1. Have students work individually or in pairs to complete the challenges on pages 19 and 24.