

Ocean Adventures in Writing Homeschool Addition
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Education and Language Arts

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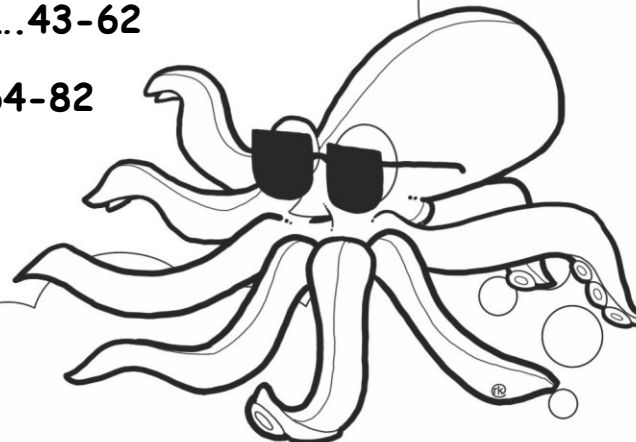
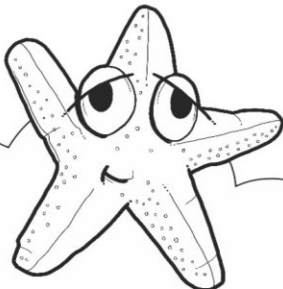
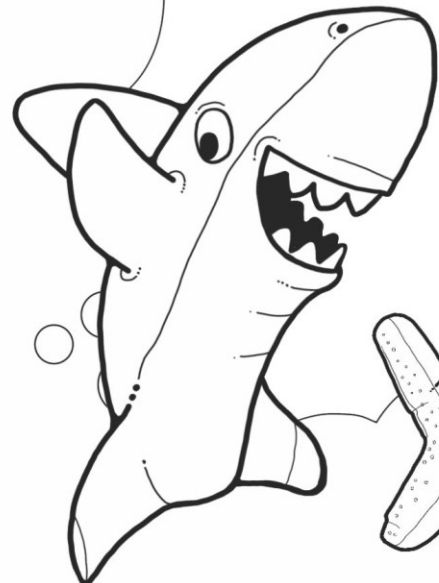
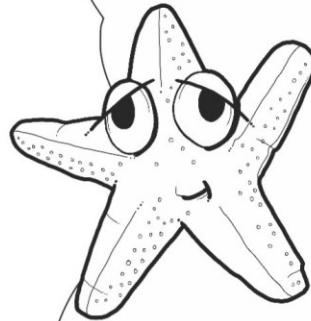
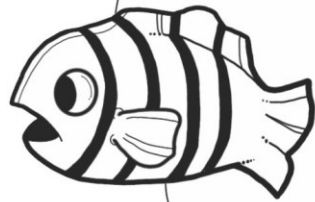
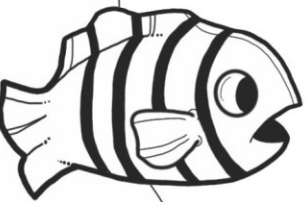
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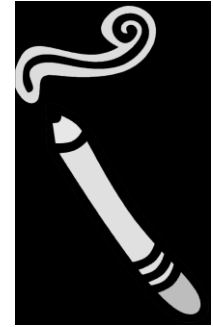


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Homeschool Teacher Notes



Introduction-How to Get the Most from these Lessons

I have been teaching creative writing for over fifteen years-first in my own homeschool then to others. I have found that given the right tools, any child can write and love it! Stress creativity over grammar and praise every small effort your children make. Give your child freedom to write about the topics they desire with oddball characters and all! I found out by keeping these things in mind, even the most reluctant writer will dive into the writing pool.

In this curriculum there are ten easy lessons with a handout for each lesson. These lessons are appropriate for all the children in your family from 8-12 years old and work well with multi-ages together. This is also loads of fun with another homeschool family, writing club or co-op.

Students will create an ocean full of fanciful characters much like the beloved movie *Finding Nemo* as each child picks an ocean animal character to become and writes from that point of view. Each student will create a **character profile** where they will develop a personality and choose an occupation for their animal in the ocean community, such as mayor, cup cake baker, athlete, ballerina, military captain etc.

If you are doing this with one student, then have them write from a third person point of view where they know what each animal is doing. They can fill out several character profiles or name and assign occupations to them all!

Creative Writing time can also be used in a unit study with more detailed ocean studies, geography, history or art. This is a great time to study scientific classification with ocean animals or write simple research papers. Encourage your children to find fun facts to share with the family or have a contest to see who can find the most of them. Have students keep a log of all new ocean vocabulary words they find to use in their stories. They can create notebooking pages of many ocean animals, or visit an aquarium or zoo.

Check out my Pinterest Page for Ideas On:

<http://www.pinterest.com/janmay2012/>

- Ocean Crafts for Kids

- Ocean Food to make with Kids
- Ocean Unit Ideas
- Make Writing Fun with Projects

Brainstorming with your children for story ideas and plots creates interest and you will find the children begging for writing time. Seasonal holidays are always a fun jump in spot for writing topics.

Write about a Bubble Bowl instead of a Super Bowl where each character writes about something they are doing concerning the Super Bowl. They might be a character playing in the game, a baker making special cupcakes for the event, or soldier in the General McSlug's Army who might be on the look-out for sharks.

Write about a Valentine's Day Party where a secret message is sent to the major and they have to figure out what it is.

Write about a St. Patrick's Day or other special day parade where the cook is missing and all the characters have to write about how he is found. Each character can draw a special parade float as an illustration for their story.

Write historical fiction about how the characters encounter pirates, Christopher Columbus or the pilgrims coming over on the Mayflower.

Include studies about different kinds of ships, both leisure and commercial and how they affect our economy. Include sunken ships and treasure or the *Titanic*; there are lots of lessons there!

Stick with the same theme for several weeks, then switch to another one when the children complete the story. By the end of ten weeks, the students may have several stories they have written. Have the students illustrate their stories and read parts along the way. Encourage them to include other student's characters in their stories in the family. This enhances story ideas. At the end you can put it all together by making a fun cover with the provided template. Use a three-hole essay folder with a plastic cover.

These can be found at a Superstore or Office Supply Store.

Other fun ways to put a book together can be found on my Pinterest page called Making Writing Fun-<http://www.pinterest.com/janmay2012/>

End the unit with a Flashlight Theatre Celebration with friends and family or grandparents. The children can use flashlights, turn out the lights and shine them on the reader. Buy or make a special snack together. My Pinterest page has lots of ideas for fish and ocean foods, including clam cookies with edible eyes! These are a great hit!
<http://www.pinterest.com/janmay2012/> Each child can read their stories for all to

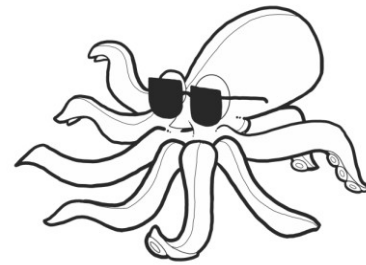
hear. This is a great way for dad and the grandparents to stay up to date on what the children are studying. It's always a highlight of the semester!

Five Great Tips to Help your Child Succeed in Creative Writing

- 1. Don't make creative writing a lesson in grammar or spelling.** This is paramount! If the critical voice becomes too noisy, it will drown out the creative voice and your child will stop wanting to write and may resist you. As their spelling improves during spelling class and grammar improves in language class, it *will* also improve in writing class.
- 2. Whatever they write, praise, praise, praise!** You may wince on the inside over the spelling or neatness, but don't let on. They may beam at the fact that they produced only one sentence in the beginning. So water your little plants with encouragement and watch them grow, grow, grow!
- 3. Let them write about what they love:** Silly plots, whacky characters, made up fantasy worlds and all. Many times a child is processing what they are learning about in life through their characters.
- 4. Keep tools handy that will help them succeed.** Find a fun and creative writing curriculum that can help you step by step. Look for something that is easy to use and will help your child stir up ideas.
- 5. Give them a reason to write by starting a Friday night Flashlight Theatre or Writing Club.** Invite grandma and grandpa, neighbors, friends or families over to listen to the next adventure your child or group has written. Turn off the lights and shine several flashlights on the reader. Pop popcorn or serve a favorite snack. Let your child read their stories for all to hear. Soon they will be motivated to write more and more and the other children may want to join in and write as well.

Lesson One

Create a Character Profile



Pass out the ocean animal printables. Have each student choose one ocean animal to become. Use catchy *alliterations* for names by using the same first letter, such as Sammy the Shark, Ricky the Ray, or Debbie the Dolphin.

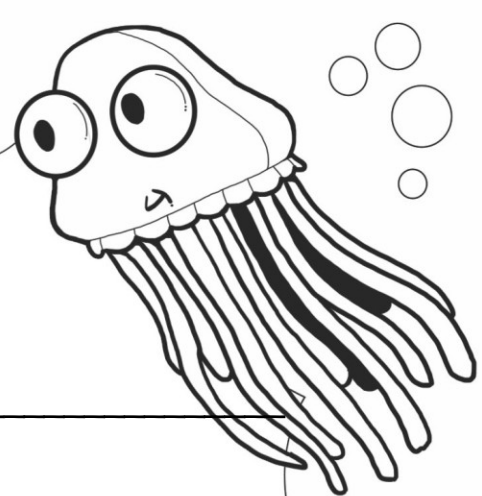
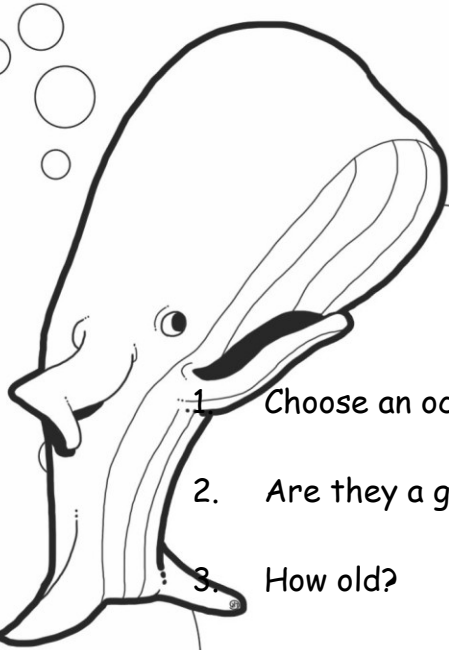
A good story will help the characters grow. They should have some weakness to be realistic. If she starts out selfish, give her opportunities to learn how to give. If he is fearful, give him a situation where he learns to face his fears and gain courage.

Pass out **Lesson One Handout-Create a Character Profile**

NOTE-All the lessons up to Lesson Five are for prewriting and priming the pump of creativity. They are necessary parts of the writing process. Most students will become very excited during these lessons. It is important for you the teacher to lead the class in brainstorming ideas for the characters and create a buzz about what is happening daily in your ocean city. It becomes a community adventure that all the children will enjoy. Even the reluctant writer will dive in!

Activity-All professional writers do research. Have the students research their ocean animal and write a short science report. Use the included **My Ocean Report Page Handout**. Instruct them to include **ocean vocabulary words** they find to use in their stories. Start a contest on who can find the most ocean vocabulary words. Let them write them out on colored construction paper and post on a bulletin board.

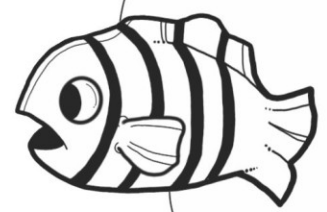
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Lesson One

Create a Character Profile

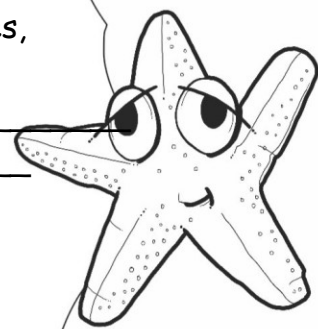
1. Choose an ocean animal to write about: _____
2. Are they a girl or boy? _____
3. How old? _____
4. Name _____ Nick name _____
5. What do they look like?



Skin color _____
 Skin texture _____
 Eye color and shape _____
 Size _____

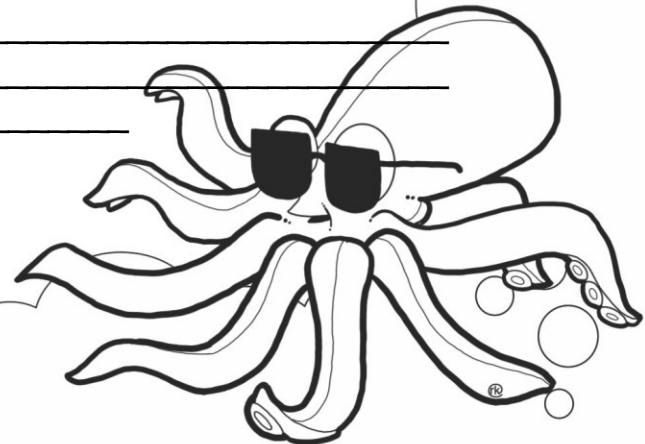
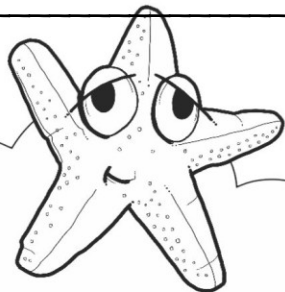
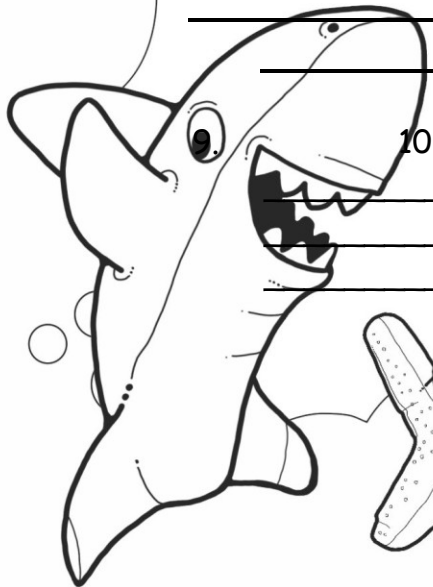
6. Do they have any special features like big eyes, long nose, or tentacles, missing teeth, ruby lips, squinty eyes?
7. _____

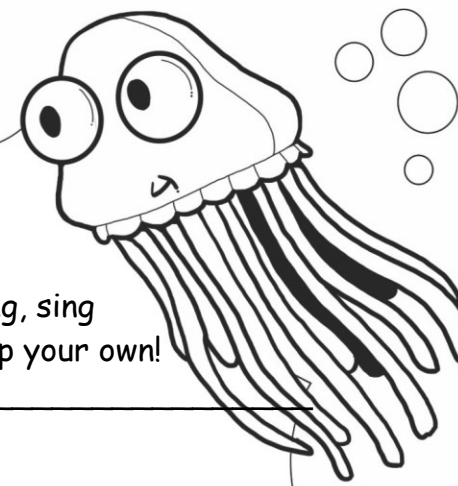
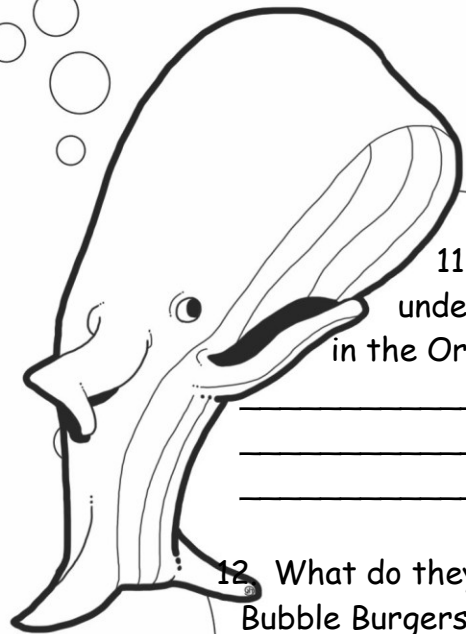
8. What is their job in the Ocean Community?



9. Where do they live? (Coral reef, cave, sunken ship etc.)

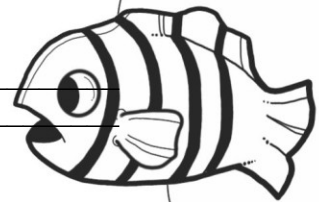
10. Describe their home:



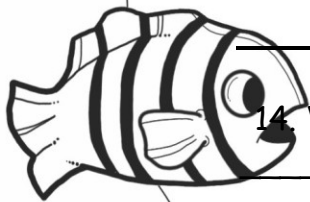


11. What are some things they liked to do? Play underwater sports in the Bubble Bowl, sand drawing, sing in the Orca Choir, or play a bubble instrument? Make up your own!

12. What do they like to eat? Have fun with it! Seaweed Salad, Bubble Burgers etc



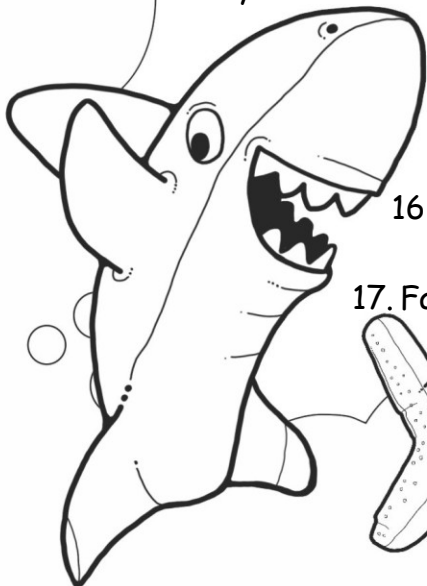
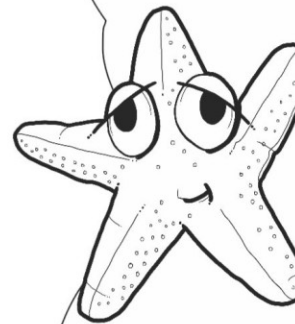
13. What is your character's strength?



14. What is one of their weaknesses?

Create a Personality: Choose from the list or write some of your own traits on the lines. Circle the ones you like:

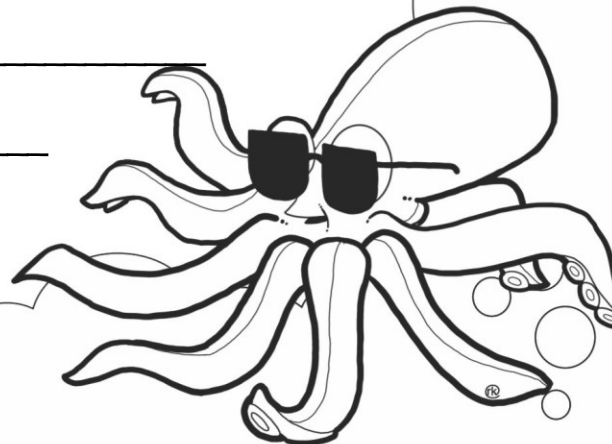
- | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|---------|----------|---------|-------|
| Outgoing | Funny | Serious | Loud | Quiet | _____ |
| Smiles | Frowns | Glares | Strong | Weak | _____ |
| Brave | Shy | Afraid | Kind | Helpful | _____ |
| Playful | Silly | Sporty | Generous | Sassy | _____ |
| Spunky | Sneaky | Witty | Mean | Nice | _____ |
| Mysterious | Proud | Wise | Humble | Clumsy | _____ |



15. Best Friend _____

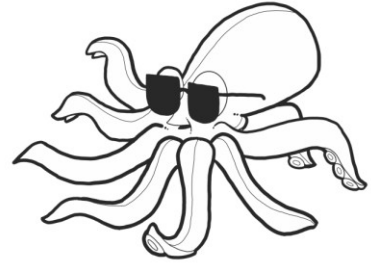
16. Favorite Movie _____

17. Favorite Food _____



Lesson Six

Onomatopoeia



There are many literary tools that help transform dry writing into a story that is alive. One of those tools is Onomatopoeia (Pronunciation: ah-nê-mæ-dê-pee-ê). This is a word that creates a sound effect that mimics the thing described, making the description more expressive and interesting. These words are fun to say and fun to read! They add sound and excitement to a story and children will love to include them in their writing.

Examples: *Boom! Swish! Splat!*

- *Boom!* The noise shook the room.
- *Splash!* The dolphin jumped out of the water and back in again.

Pass out Lesson Six Handouts for students to complete.

Continue writing for another 15-20 minutes encouraging the student to include several onomatopoeia words

Activity-Word Toss Game

Cut up the onomatopoeia words on the following page. Tape them to round Tupperware lids. Using them as a Frisbee, have the student toss them into the box and proclaim the word when it lands inside. Example: Splat! Boom! Crash! See how many words they can get into the box. If it's too easy move the box farther away or time them to see how many words they can get into the box in a minute.

Notes _____




Lesson Six Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is when a word's pronunciation imitates its sound. Like swish, zoom, zip! These words can add fun sounds to your story! Read the list below out loud and see how they tickle your tongue!

When using these words as verbs add "ing" or "ed" at the end: flipped, swished, sloshing, whoosing etc.

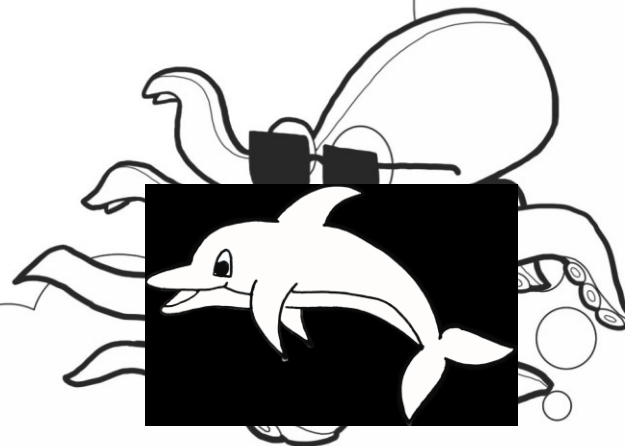
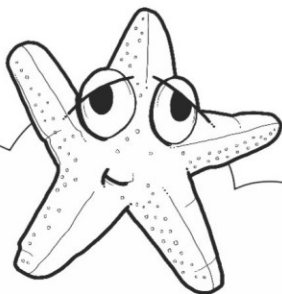
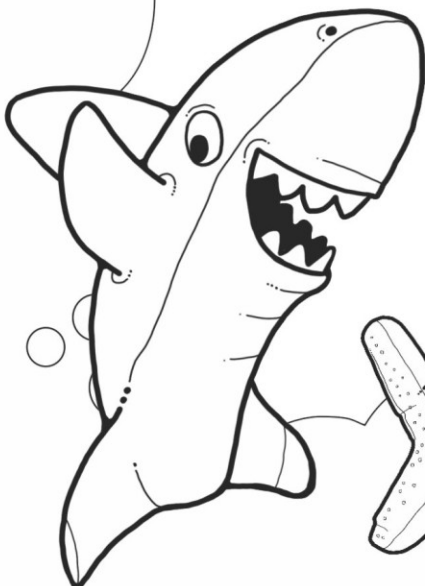
OR use them as sounds by punctuated them with an exclamation point.
Example: Splash! Boom! Whoosh!



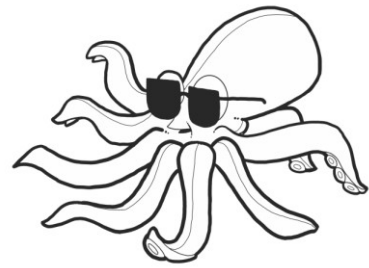
Circle the sounds that make you think of the ocean. Use some in your story as you write more today.



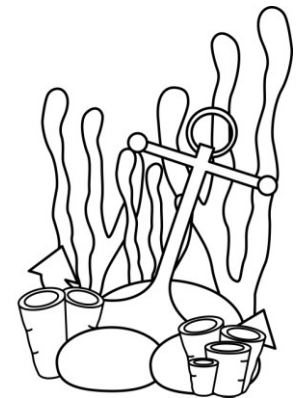
Babble	Drip	Splish Splash
Bang	Drizzle	Splat
Bash	Fizz	Sploosh
Boink	Giggle	Spray
Bubble	Gurgle	Sprinkle
Clap	Hiss	Squirt
Clink	Kerplunk	Squish
Crash	Munch	Swish



Think of the ocean characters in your story. Write a sentence for four of the onomatopoeia words that you circled on the previous page. Then draw a picture underneath it to illustrate your sentence.



1.



2.



Lesson Ten

Spice up Your Story

Add an adjective in each of the blanks below for practice:

1. Shelly the Starfish smelled the _____ flowers in the _____ coral reef.

2. The _____ clam crawled across the _____ sand to greet her _____ friend.

3. The _____ Shark Brigade protected the _____ sunken ship.

4. Deena the Dolphin baked her favorite _____ cupcakes for the party.

5. Wentworth the Whale blows _____ bubbles when he is happy.

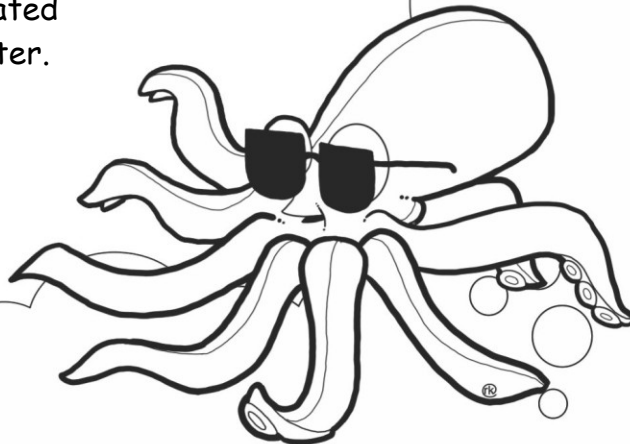
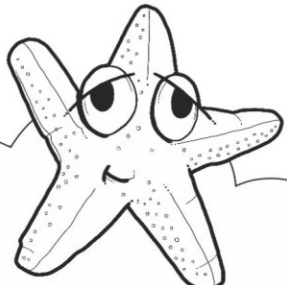
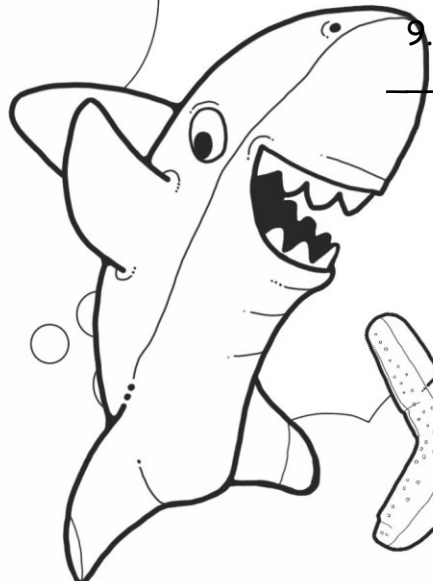
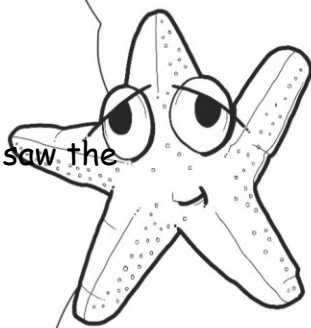
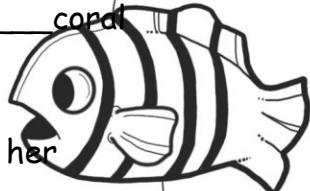
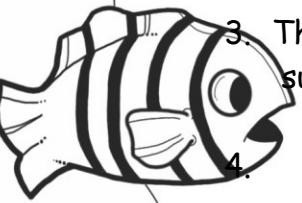
6. The two _____ angel fish swam as fast as they could when they saw the _____ shark.

7. The _____ krill played in the _____ water.

8. Larry the Lobster clicked his _____ claws.

9. The frightened clownfish hid when he heard a _____ noise.

10. The _____ jelly fish floated through the _____ water.



Orca Whale

Native of the oceans of the world, but prefer coastal waters and cooler regions.

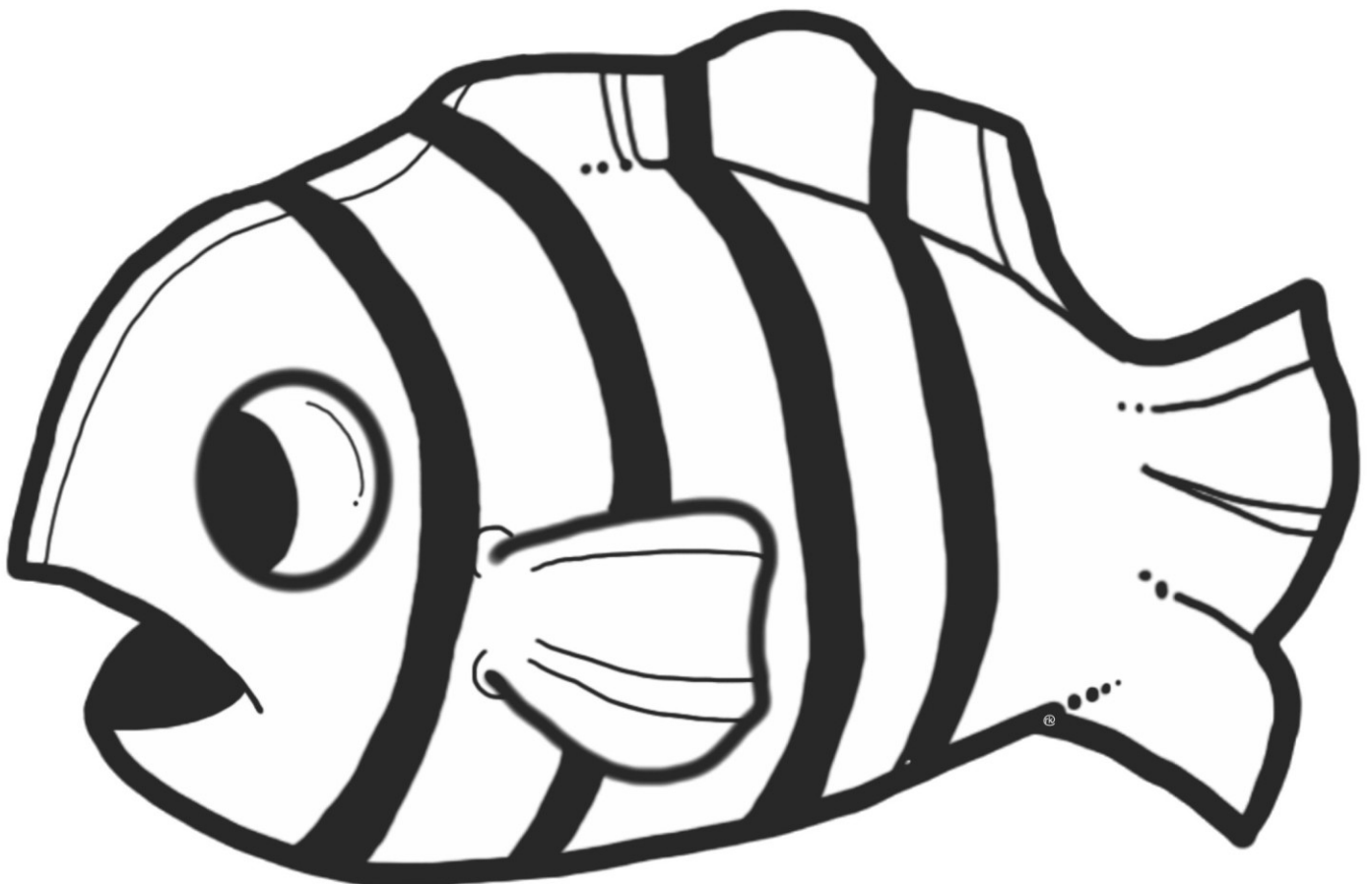
Fun Fact- Whales make a wide variety of communicative sounds, and each pod (family) has distinctive noises that its members will recognize even at a distance.

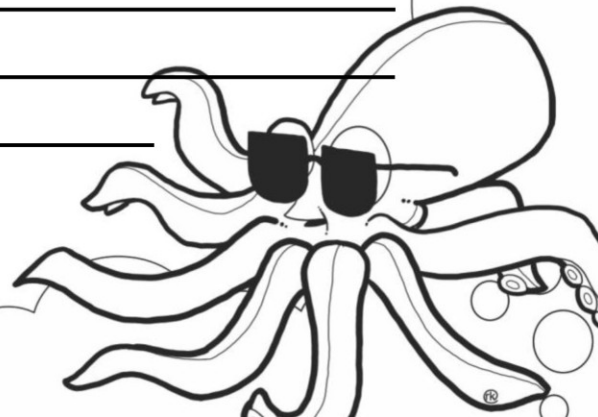
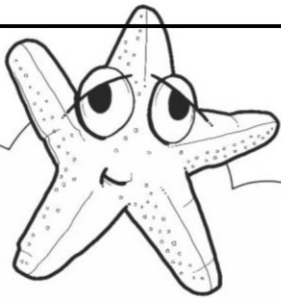
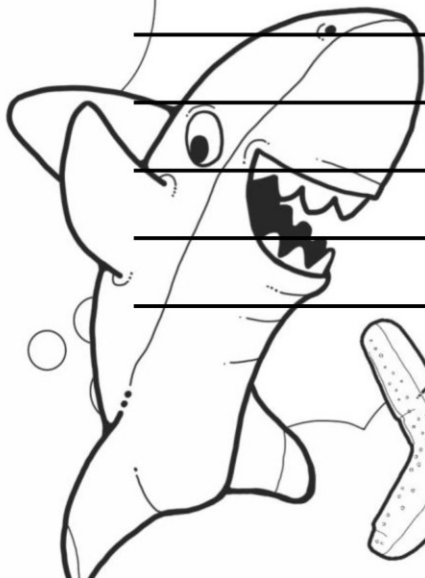
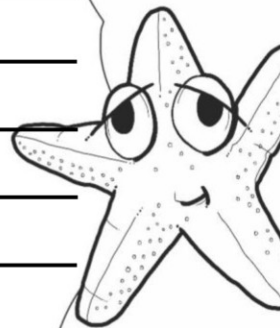
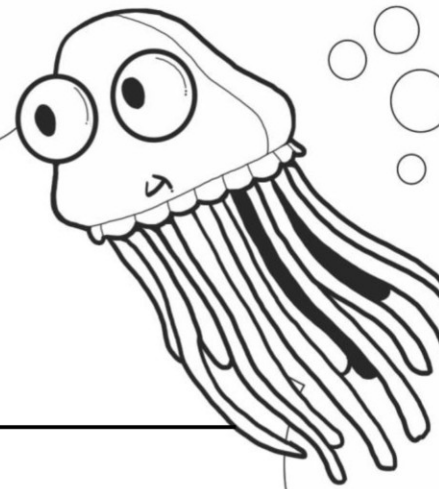
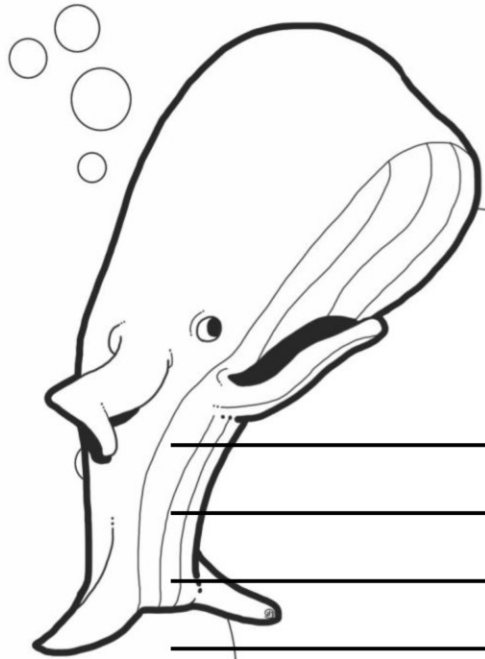


Clownfish

Native of the Indian and Pacific oceans

Fun Fact- Clown fish live in a poisonous sea plant called an anemone. They don't get stung like other fish because of the layer of mucus on its skin that makes it immune to the anemone's stings.





A series of ten horizontal lines for writing, arranged in a central column. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the page.