

Learning possibilities

Text: Pfister, M 1992, *The rainbow fish*, Scholastic, New York.

Engage

Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.

Step 2. Show your child/children the cover of the book and encourage them to make predictions about the story, for example: 'What do you notice about the fish?'

Step 3. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.

1. What did you see in this story?
2. What was different about the way the rainbow fish looked at the start of the story?
3. How did the other fish feel when the rainbow fish didn't want to share his scales?
4. What does it mean to be lonely?

Respond

This story can be used as a springboard for further conversation about the importance of friendship and the challenges of having to share, especially when something is very precious to a child. Does being a friend mean that you always have to share?

Extend

- Talk about the artwork in the story and how it was produced using watercolours. Encourage your child/children to experiment with ways of mixing colours using spray bottles filled with water-based paint (water with food colouring will work). (This is best done outside with butcher's paper pegged to a fence or on an easel placed on the grass.)
- Experiment with colour mixing using eyedroppers (or little spoons) and droplets of food dye on absorbent paper towelling. This is best done with a piece of plastic underneath, at the kitchen sink or outside.

Resources

Video

The Rainbow Fish read by Ernest Borgnine (YouTube, StorylineOnline)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9mryuEKkKc>