

# Octopus Goes to School

By Carolyn Bordelon

8 pages/42 words



## Synopsis

Even an octopus must gather supplies around his cave as he prepares to wave good-bye to mom on his way to school.

## Before the First Page

Play “What’s Missing?” with school supplies. Lay several items out on a table. One student takes something away while the rest of the group is not looking. The other students guess what is missing.

## Set-Up for Success

Refer to the school supplies that are used in the game as the pictures in the book are previewed. Page 8 (**his fish for the teacher** / an apple for the teacher) can be left for the children to discover when reading. Help them to notice that the octopus got ready for school just as they did.

*Independent Reading* – Students may need support with **ready**, page 1.

*Guided Reading* – Review the suggestions for *Independent Reading*. Include support for **got** and **his**, page 1.

## Learning about Print

- 1-1 correspondence on multiple lines of text.
- Directionality on multiple lines of text.
- Punctuation marks – period, exclamation point, ellipsis (...).

- Capital (**H**) and lower case (**h**) letters on the same page.
- Environmental print – **SCHOOL CROSSING, SWIM SLOWLY**, signs on book cover.

## Key Words and Phrases

he                      got                      his

## Learning about Words

*The vocabulary in this book provides opportunities to introduce, practice or enrich the following:*

- Word family – Use magnetic letters to make **he, she, we, be, me**.
- Word segments – **got**.
- Plurals – **books, crayons, scissors**.
- Proper nouns and pronouns – **Octopus, he, his**.

## Assessment Opportunities

*The following problem-solving behaviors can be observed and recorded:*

- 1-1 correspondence on multiple lines of text.
- Using pictures as a source of information.
- Using beginning letters and sounds.
- Attempting to self-correct errors.
- Using the story pattern to predict text.
- Retelling the story or offering a personal experience.

## After the Last Page

- Create a list of school supplies.
- Role-play giving someone a gift.
- \* Write a story entitled “If I Had Eight Legs...”
- Research what an octopus eats. Create an appropriate “lunch.”

## Throughout the Day

### Math

- Add and subtract facts of eight.
- Use geoboards to make octagons.
- Display different school supplies. Place a value on each item between 1¢ and 10¢. Add and subtract.

### Problem-Solving

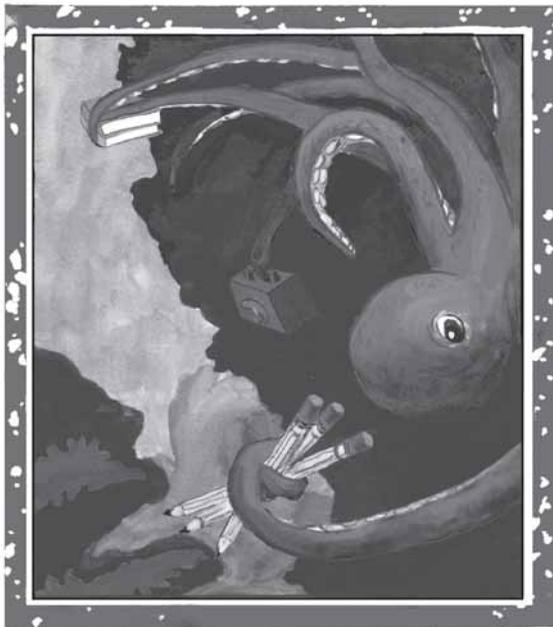
- \* How many legs do six octopi have? Seven? Draw a picture to solve.
- Brainstorm things found in eights. Example: legs of insects, sides of a stop sign, packages of markers or crayons.

### Social Studies

- Create a map for ocean creatures using environmental print (book cover).
- Encourage children to take responsibility for packing their book bags in the evening.

### Science

- Watch a video about sea life or octopi. Write fact books about an octopus.
- Discuss other creatures that live in the sea. Research one animal.
- Research spiders (eight legs).



### Art/Health

- Decorate a small brown lunch bag with pictures of octopi. Place a healthy lunch in the bag.

## The Home Connection

- Fill a basket with school supplies to keep in a study area at home.
- Eat fish crackers while reading.
- Practice math facts up to 8 using fish crackers as manipulatives.

### \* Show What You Know – a document to keep

Activities marked with an asterisk (\*) are appropriate for assessment.

## Read on...

Baer, Edith. *This Is the Way We Go to School.*

Cazet, Denys. *A Fish in His Pocket.*

Chapman, Carol. *Herbie's Troubles.*

Delacre, Lulu. *Time for School Nathan.*

Ehlert, Lois. *Fish Eyes.*

Heller, Ruth. *How to Hide an Octopus.*

Hennessey, B.G. *School Days.*

Krauss, Robert. *Herman the Helper.*

Lionni, Leo. *Swimmy.*

Most, Bernard. *My Very Own Octopus.*