

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

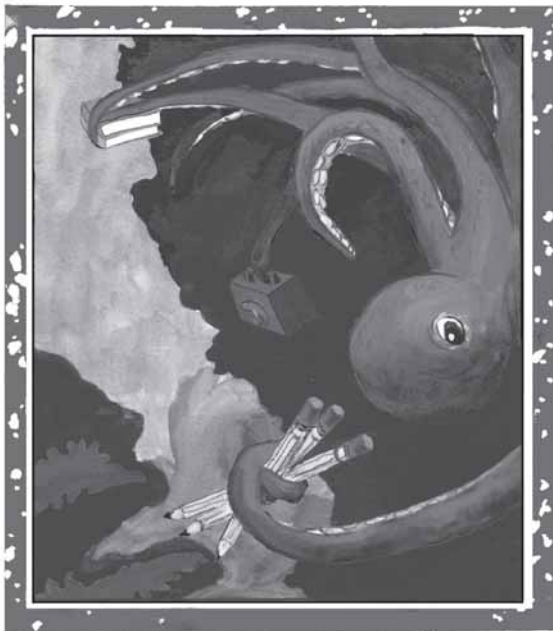
- * How many legs do six octopi have? Seven? Draw a picture to solve.
- Brainstorm things found in eights. Example: legs of insects, sides of a stop sign, packages of markers or crayons.

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.*