

## These notes are for:

- Kindergarten / Preschool
- Lower / Upper Primary (yrs 3-7)
- 3-12 years old

## Key Learning Areas:

- English
- HSIE / SOSE
- Art

## Example of:

- Picture Book
- Rhyme
- Series Fiction

## Experience of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening & Speaking
- Viewing

## Themes:

- Sea / Ocean
- Sailors / Sailing
- Transport - Boats
- Fishing
- Environment
- Food Chain
- Seafood
- Nursery Rhyme
- Facts

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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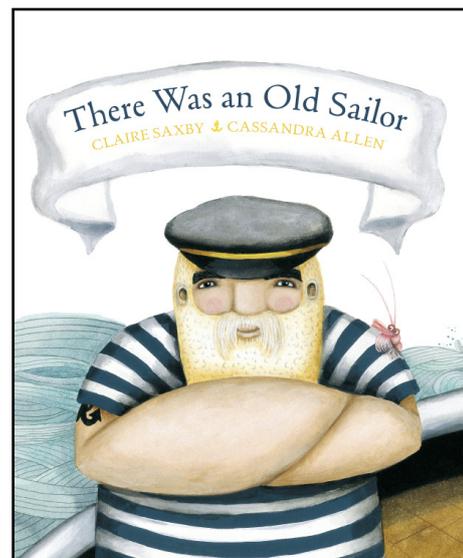
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## There Was an Old Sailor - Overview

### There Was an Old Sailor

By: Claire Saxby  
 Illus by: Cassandra Allen  
 ISBN: 9781921150715  
 ARRP: \$27.95  
 NZRRP: \$29.99  
 No. of Pages: 32  
 February 2010



## Outline:

A delightful new twist on a familiar tale!

**There Was an Old Sailor** is the tale of an old salty sailor who swallows a krill which makes him ill, and who cures his terrible bellyache by eating each animal in the sea, one after another. A hilarious new twist on *There was an Old Woman who Swallowed a Fly*, delightfully brought to life by Cassandra Allen.

A perfect classroom read aloud with plenty of animals to discuss and explore. Students will delight in the rhyming, sing-song language matched with bold illustrations. This twist on a classic nursery rhyme is also a great way to introduce children to the concept of the food chain.

## Author Information:

**Claire Saxby** was born in Melbourne and grew up in Newcastle, NSW where she thought she'd stay until the end of her days. But Claire's parents decided to move to Bougainville Island in Papua New Guinea and took her with them. Since then, she's lived in more houses than she can remember. She loves to talk about writing and books. Claire is the author of *Ebi's Boat* illustrated by Anne Spudvilas, which was a CBCA Notable Book in 2007.

**Cassandra Allen** was born and raised in Australia, and now lives in the French speaking part of Switzerland, drawing almost every day and soaking up the wonders of life in Europe. After years of study in Melbourne, including fine art, photography and multimedia, she set up an illustration and graphic design business. Several years later Cassandra followed her heart and quit graphic design altogether, focusing solely on illustration. After moving to Europe her career grew wings and she began illustrating children's books, amongst other editorial work.

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

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## Classroom Ideas for *There Was an Old Sailor*:

### *Viewing the illustrations*

- The illustrations in this book were created in gouache and pencil. What is gouache? Discuss different art media with students. Have students create their own illustration of the sailor using mixed media.
- Have students look at a selection of picture books from the library. Identify who the illustrator's are. How many different styles of illustration can the students identify? How do they differ?

### *The characters*

- What is a sailor? What does a sailor do? With students, brainstorm different professions and what they do e.g. butcher, tailor, singer, baker.
- Ask students to discuss in groups what they know about the animals in this book. With older students ask them to research one of these animals and find out further information.

### *Food*

- What is your favourite food? Would you eat a krill or a seal? Ask students to list their favourite foods and answer the following questions:
  - why do they like this food?
  - how does the food make them feel?
  - what food group does it belong to?
- What food group does the sailor mainly eat from? Is it healthy to eat from the same food group? What are healthy foods? What are unhealthy foods? Discuss.
- Study food chains with students. Are any of these animals herbivores, carnivores or omnivores?

### *Oceans & Seas*

- Create your own ocean in the classroom. Decorate the room with waves and the animals that inhabit the sea.
- With students, brainstorm different animals that live in the ocean. Create a list of these animals and then order this list alphabetically.
- Go to the library and ask students to collect books about the ocean. Create a book display of these in the classroom.
- Locate the different oceans and seas of the world on a globe.

### *Movement & Games to play*

- Create a memory game using the animals in the book. Create a card with each of the following animals on it, one animal for each card. Write the name of the animal on the back of the card: krill, jellyfish, fish, squid, stingray, seal, shark, whale. Have students put these cards in order of the story, first using the picture side and then using the written word side.
- Ask students to pretend to be the animals that are inside the sailor's stomach. The jelly wriggled and jiggled his belly, how would it move to do this? How do the other animals move? Ask students to move around like these animals.
- Create a "There Was an Old Sailor" puppet. Put a zip-lock bag where his tummy would be and as you read the book put pictures of the animals he has eaten into the bag.

### *Rhyming*

- Read the classic nursery rhyme "There Was an Old Woman". What are the differences/similarities between these two rhymes?
- Create a word bank for the ocean. Ask students to list as many words as possible. Brainstorm words that rhyme with these.
- Ask students to create the beginning for their own "There Was an Old ..." rhyme. What type of person will they use? What animals will they eat? E.g. "There was an old baker who swallowed a bee, that buzzed and hummed inside him with glee".

## The Fishy Facts Quiz:

Read the Fishy Facts at the back of the book. Afterwards test comprehension with the following questions:

**Five krill weigh about the same as:**

- A bucket of water
- A bag of beans
- A teaspoon of sugar
- A handful of sand

**Jellyfish catch their food using:**

- A knife and fork
- A net
- Stinging threads
- Poison hairs

**Fish have:**

- Fur
- Feathers
- Wings
- Fins

**A squid has a strong \_\_\_\_\_ like a parrot:**

- Claw
- Wing
- Beak
- Belly

**Where is a stingray's mouth?**

- On its arm
- Underneath
- On top
- It doesn't have one

**What helps a seal find its food?**

- Flippers
- A map
- Whiskers
- Its eyes

**What can sharks grow?**

- Vegetables
- Teeth
- Whiskers
- Flowers

**A blue whale can eat \_\_\_\_\_ of krill a day:**

- Trillions
- Thousands
- Millions
- Billions