



Walker Books Classroom Ideas



Blobfish

Author: Olaf Falafel
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*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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Outline:

Deep, deep, deep under the sea ... lives Blobfish! Blobfish loves telling jokes, although he has no one to share them with, so he sets off on an adventure to find a friend. But sometimes friends turn up in the most unexpected places, even at the bottom of the ocean. This heartfelt and humorous story gently introduces children to themes of friendship, belonging and the issue of plastics in our oceans.

Author/Illustrator Information:

Olaf Falafel is an award-winning comedian, children's author and illustrator. In 2020, Olaf started Art Club – a YouTube series packed with jokes, how-to-draw tutorials, technical tips and tricks as well as a few fantastically silly songs. Olaf's recent books include *Unleash Your Creative Monster: A Children's Guide to Writing* written by Andy Jones, with lashings of Olaf's jokes and bright and bold illustrations. Olaf lives in Bedfordshire; find out more about his work at www.olaffalafel.com

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.

These notes are for:

- Ages 5-9
- Years 1-4

Key Learning Areas:

- English

Example of:

- Picture Book

Themes/Ideas:

- Conservation
- Sustainability
 - Humour
- Friendship



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Before Reading

Before reading *Blobfish*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author/illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end?

Does anyone in the class know what a blobfish is? As a class, brainstorm what you know about then use this information to create a mind-map. Use subheadings to help organise the information. What extra information would you like to learn about them? Make a list of questions to return to after reading.

Discussion Questions and Activities

Who do you think the audience for this book is? Why?

Is *Blobfish* an imaginative, informative or persuasive text? Is it a combination of more than one of these types of texts? How can you tell? Who do you think the book was created for?

On the whiteboard or on a large sheet of paper, place an image of the cover of *Blobfish* and surround it with words that describe the book. Include words that describe what you liked and what you disliked about the book. Take turns describing/retelling the story as if you were explaining it to someone who hasn't read it yet. What do you think are the most important parts of the story? Why do you think that?

Personification is when you give human qualities or abilities to an object or animal. Find examples of personification in the book and discuss why you think Olaf Falafel used this device.

Blobfish feels like he has no friends to play with. Have you ever felt like Blobfish? What happened? How could you help your friends if they're feeling lonely?

Choose one of the spreads and have a class discussion about the following:

- How do you think Blobfish is feeling? What clues might there be in the pictures?
- Is there a main colour in this spread? How does it make you feel?

- Do the colours change from spread to spread? Why might that be?
- Do the pictures take up the whole page, or are they framed?
- How do things close up look different to things in the picture that are far away?
- How do the illustrations add to the story? How would the story be different if there were no illustrations?

Look at the colours Olaf Falafel has used in *Blobfish*. Why do you think he chose to use these colours? Do they accurately represent the environment that blobfish live in?

Some stories have a moral, which means the story is trying to teach the reader a lesson. What is the moral of this story? Is there more than one? Do you know any other stories that have a moral?

Blobfish almost gets himself in a very nasty situation with the plastic bag! How can you stay safe when you are near or in the ocean?

How do the ways we dispose of our rubbish affect our environment? What steps can you take at home and at school to make sure rubbish is thrown out properly and carefully?

What did this book teach you about conservation of marine life? Do you think looking after marine life is important? Why? What are some actions you can take to help?

In *Blobfish*, there are families volunteering to clean up the ocean. What are some of the benefits that being a volunteer can provide to our environment? What are some places you and your family could volunteer in your community?

Make a list of websites which are useful for learning about blobfish. Make sure you consider whether the information each site provides is reliable, who wrote or manages it and how up-to-date it is.

Why do you think a blobfish looks the way it does? Look up a real picture of a blobfish (it might be a little bit gross!) and research more about blobfish on the internet to answer this question, and any others you came up with before reading the book. Create a PowerPoint presentation about blobfish and present it to the class.

Do blobfish look or act differently to how you imagined them from the story? Did you learn any extra information?