Overview

_Something’s Fishy_ shares fun facts about fish but the book also offers a greater lesson about rules and exceptions. As McCloskey vividly presents a whole alphabet, giving a sense of the large diversity in the class of fish—he humorously includes jellyfish (which are not fish) and seahorses (which don’t look like fish but are). You will guide students as they learn fun facts about fish and explore the idea of rules and exceptions.

Subject

Information Fluency, English Language Arts

Grade Level

1-2

Suggested Time

45 minutes

Materials

Pencils, activity sheet

Before Reading

Tap into your students’ prior knowledge by asking if they know what an exception is. Provide the example of apples. Ask students what color an apple is, and they will answer, “Red.” Point out that there is the famous green Granny Smith, which is different from the expected norm. Also point out that exceptions apply to ideas as well as objects. For example: Students may have to be in bed by 9 on school nights, except on Thursdays which may be family game night. Staying up late on Thursday night is an exception to the rule.

During Reading

Read the text aloud to the class, giving students time to react to the humor and images.

After Reading

As you pass out the activity sheet, have students turn to their neighbors and briefly discuss any exceptions they may remember.

Redirect the students’ attention to the front of the room and, as a class, identify the exceptions in the book by filling out the activity sheet. Some of the words students will fill out on the sheet might be long or unfamiliar because _Something’s Fishy_ is a science book.

After completing the activity sheet, ask students to think of examples of exceptions in their own lives and to share them with the class.
Exceptions

Name____________________________  Date____________________

DIRECTIONS: After reading *Something’s Fishy*, match the words in the word bank on the left to the correct sentence on the right.

1. Almost all fish breathe with their gills, but ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ also breathe by gulping air.

2. Almost all fish have scales, but ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ have none.

3. Almost all fish swim in the water, but ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ can fly in the air.

4. Almost all fish are vertebrates, but the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ has no spine.

5. Almost all fish swim in the water, but ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ can walk on land.

6. Most fish look like this 🐟, but the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ looks very different.

7. Most animals with the word “fish” in their name are fish, but ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ are not.