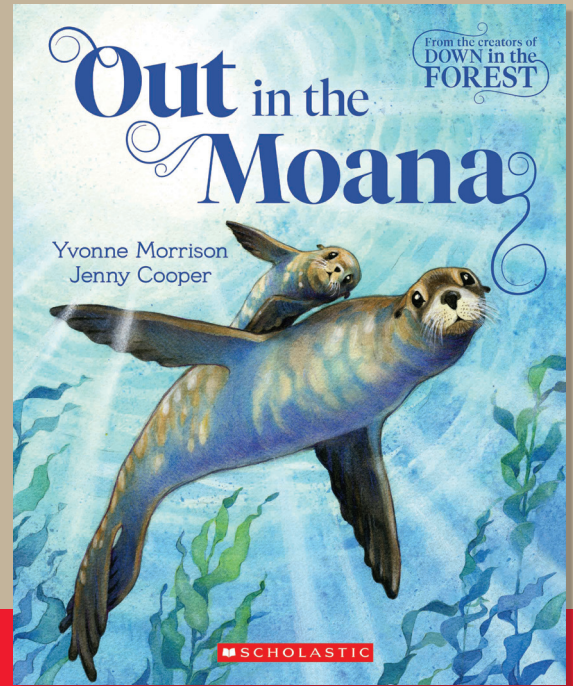


Out in the Moana

By Yvonne Morrison
Illustrated by Jenny Cooper

• Reading • Writing • Role Play •



Synopsis

A retelling of the much-loved traditional story, *Over in the Meadow*, this is a companion title to the popular *Down in the Forest*. “Out in the moana, underneath the sparkling sun, lives a mother sea lion and her little pup one.” The mother urges her pup to swim. The little one repeats the verb, and they swim to shore together. This format is repeated throughout the story: a Māui dolphin mother urges her two young dolphins to leap; a father blue penguin urges his three little penguins to fish; a mother moray eel commands her four little eels to snap at passing prey; a mother mako shark suggests her five little sharks smile at the people on their dive; a father seahorse encourages his six little babies to grip onto the seaweed; a mother jellyfish tells her seven little jellies to drift in the tranquil ocean; a flounder mother urges her eight little flounders to hide beneath the sand; a father hermit crab instructs his nine little crabs to swap their shells; and a mother octopus commands her ten octopuses to leave the den.

About the Author

Yvonne Morrison is a zookeeper, swing dance instructor, former school teacher, and children’s book author of such bestsellers as *A Kiwi Night Before Christmas*, *A Kiwi Jingle Bells* and *Down in the Forest*. Yvonne is passionate about animal welfare and loves to travel the world seeking out strange and unusual species.

About the Illustrator

Jenny Cooper lives in Amberley, near Christchurch, and has been illustrating children’s books for over 20 years (when she’s not working in her extensive garden). After gaining a qualification in graphic design, Jenny and her family moved to Samoa, where she taught art. Jenny has also tutored at Christchurch Polytechnic and participated in several exhibitions of New Zealand illustrators. In 2015 she won the Mallinson Rendel Illustrator’s Award. With many children’s books to her name, Jenny is perhaps best known for her hilarious illustrations for the Topp Twins’ sing-along books, as well as her war stories with Glyn Harper.

Writing and Illustration Style

A catchy and playful retelling of a much-loved traditional story, this companion title to Yvonne Morrison's *Down in the Forest* features fascinating creatures from the seas that surround New Zealand: sea lion, dolphin, penguin eel, shark, seahorse, jellyfish, flounder, crab, and octopus. The author uses precise nouns to describe which species they are, for example, Māui dolphin, mako shark, moray eel. On each double-page spread, each parent urges their young to take an action, using verbs such as swim, hide, leap. The action is relayed with dialogue, with the young repeating the command, then carrying out the action with the parent. It is also a counting book, ranging from one sea lion pup to ten young octopuses. The author uses alliteration to enhance the read-aloud experience. For example: 'So they swapped for bigger shells, beneath the salty brine.' The story rollicks along with a predictable rhyme and rhythm sequence. The book is also available in te reo Māori: *I Waho, i te Moana*

This ocean adventure is brought to life by the beautiful illustrations of award-winning illustrator Jenny Cooper. The illustrator has drawn the pictures in pencil and watercolour, and then they are scanned digitally. Full-colour pictures feature on each double-page spread with text typed in black or white Meyer Two font. Each verb is highlighted in bold and several sizes bigger than the rest of the type.

Shared Learning and Discussion Points

During the shared sessions encourage students to ask questions to clarify their understanding. Have them make predictions, inferences and relate to their own experiences. Read the passages aloud and or students read alongside or by themselves.

ASK YOUR STUDENTS:

Look at the cover and read the blurb.

- Where is this story set? How can you tell?
- What do you think this story is about? Why do you think that?
- What do you already know about marine creatures that live in the ocean?

Comprehension questions

- What are sea lion babies called?
- What other names could you call 'moana'?
- What verb is the mother telling her baby to do?
- What is the present tense and past tense of the verb?
- What type of sea do blue penguins fish in? How else could you describe it?
- Why are the moray eels snapping? What is their prey?
- Why is the mako shark mother telling her little sharks to smile?
- How do you think the divers feel?
- Why do the seahorses need to grip? What are they gripping onto and how are they doing it?
- How do jellyfish move?
- What does tranquil mean? What other words could you use?
- Why do the flounder have squished up faces? How does this help them hide?
- What is a predator and why must they hide from them?
- What is the 'salty brine' and where would this term have come from?
- Why are the little crabbies swapping their shells?
- Why is the mother octopus telling her babies to go?
- What are those round circles on the mother's arms (tentacles)?



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ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1: FIND THE ALLITERATION

Tell the class that the author has deliberately used alliteration – words that start with the same letter – throughout that page. Read aloud some examples. For example the sea lion page: ‘sparkling sun ... sea lion ... swim .. So they swam to shore ...’ What other words could the author use that start with ‘s’?

Break the class into groups and ask them to look closely at the page you have given them from the book. Ask them to identify the words that start with the same letter. Then brainstorm other words the author could use.

ACTIVITY 2: “WHAT DIRECTION, MOTHER SHARK?”

Read aloud one of the pages to the classroom. Ask the students, where is the animal in the moana? How do they know that? What direction/location words has the author used?

In preparation for the activity put locations on signs around the classroom/outside area. For example: North – near the shore, East – surface of the ocean, South – far from the shore, West – on the seabed.

Ask the students to stand up in the room/outdoor area. Tell them you are going to give them a command, telling them they are a type of marine creature and a direction. When you give the command, they will pretend to be that animal, move like it, and go to the direction you have shouted. They need to do it without talking. Have a few practise-runs. For example, you might ask them to pretend to be a shark, showing their fearsome teeth and swim to the seabed (West). To make it harder after they’ve done it a few times only shout the direction (North, East, South, West). For younger students, ask them to mime being the different marine creatures first, before introducing the direction commands.

ACTIVITY 3: RHYME TIME!

Ask the class, what other marine animals could the author have used? Students brainstorm other marine creatures. If there was a whale, what order would you put it in? Number one or number 10? Why? Also ask the class how would a whale move in the sea and where would you find them in the ocean? Near the surface, near the coast or far out to sea? Ask these types of questions for other marine animals suggested. Remind students that their place will need to rhyme with the number they have chosen.

Tell the students to pick an animal that is not featured in the book and use the sequence that the author has used. For example:

Out in the moana,

In/where/far from/ [location in time and space]

lived a mother/father ...

and her/his ... [number]

“[type of action]!” said the mother/father.

“We [action]!” said the [number].

So they [action],

[Repeat second line of first stanza].

Extension: Students draw pictures to illustrate it, and the stories are joined together in number order to make books. Read aloud in the classroom, other classes or assembly.

Written by Maria Gill



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