



Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef

By Marianne Berkes

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Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef By Marianne Berkes

Teachers and parents, take note: this book is already a classic. Two geniuses--author and illustrator--came into perfect alignment to create this book. The author has kids thinking it is entertainment while adults think it is a great lesson about the ocean. The genius of the illustrator is obvious. With painstaking detail each illustration is created entirely of polymer clay, then photographed, creating a 3-D impression of tremendous vitality. Kids will sing, clap, and count their way among pufferfish that puff, gruntfish that grunt and seahorses that flutter, and begin to appreciate life in the ocean. And the art will inspire many a project. Plus there are several pages of extension ideas for curriculum and art projects as well as resources on the web and elsewhere.

Please note: The board book edition is 28 pages. It includes suggestions for children to do body movements as the text is read. It does not include additional information about the animals, rainforests, and the score of the song as is in the hardback and paperback editions.

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Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef By Marianne Berkes **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

Review

Eye-popping artwork is the star of the show in Berkes's lively, oceanic counting book... --Kirkus Reviews, Sept 1, 2004

Berkes adapts the classic song "Over in the Meadow" to bring both a counting element and a musical element to the coral reef habitat. She has produced a book guaranteed to engage children while it educates them about marine life. The coral reef is teeming with pufferfish that "puff," gruntfish that "grunt" and seahorses that "flutter." The babies follow the behavior of their mothers - except in a true-to-life twist at the end. Includes plenty of age-appropriate background information about each of the animals. The book's illustrations are composed of photographs of reliefs shaped and sculpted from polymer clay - a wonderful, friendly, pliable and colorful medium. --*Arizona Networking News*

Marianne Berkes puts a delightful marine spin on the old meadow counting rhyme in Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef. Moving through the book from 1 to 10, youngsters learn about sea-dwelling creatures as each mother instructs her babies to squirt (octopus), puff (pufferfish) and skitter (needlefish). the rhyme takes an amusing turn at the end when father seahorse flutters in as the educating parent - demonstrating, of course, that love for offspring need not be gender specific. Jeanette Canyon's polymer artwork is unique and stunning. A "tips from the artist" section gives insight into her process and offers suggestions for creating clay art with kids. With additional sections on fingerplay games and the coral reef community, this book is a wonderful Valentine gift for educators, parents and children alike. --*Mary Quattlebaum, Washington Parent*

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