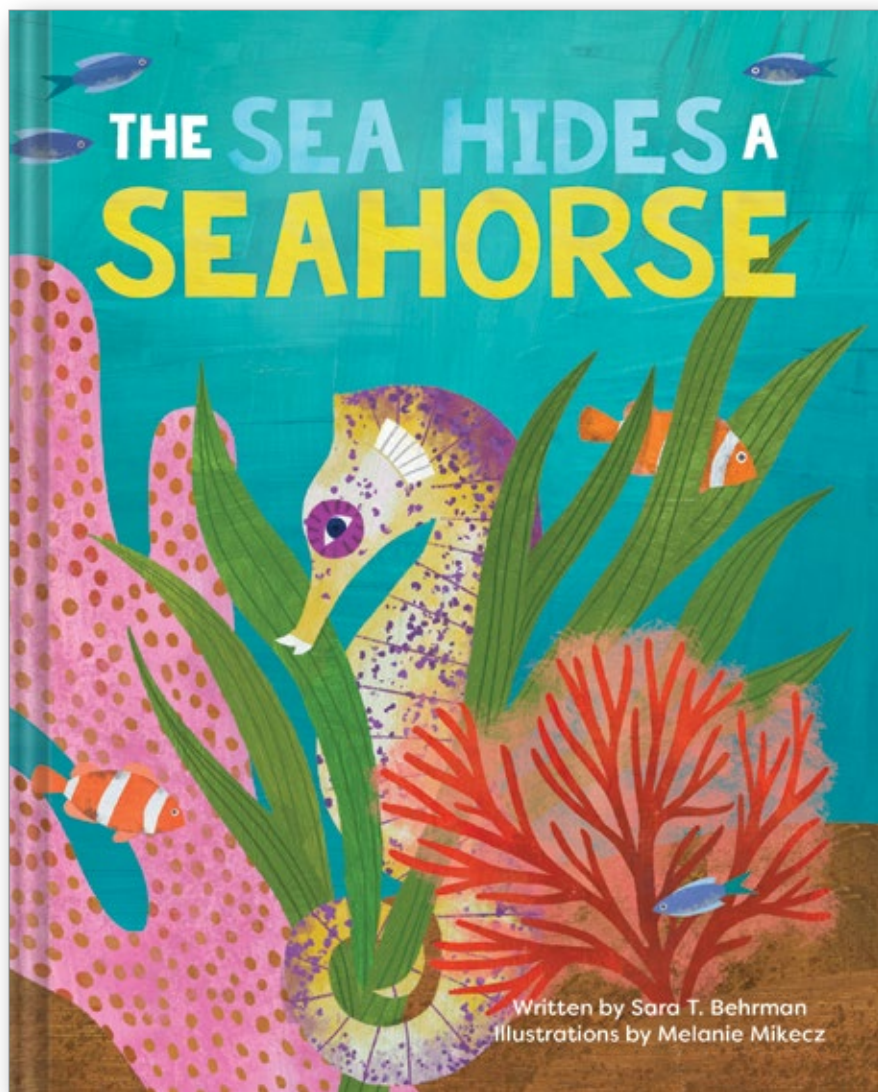




# BOOK GUIDE FOR *The Sea Hides A Seahorse*

Written by: Sara T. Behrman  
Illustrated by: Melanie Mikecz



Fry Readability: Q | Lexile Measure: 327

# SUMMARY

In lyrical prose with beautifully rendered illustrations, this gorgeous picture book introduces young readers to the amazing world of seahorses.

Hidden in the ocean of colorful fish, octopus, kelp, sea sponges, and other sea life is a most unique creature: the seahorse. Watch it play in the seagrass, hunt among the mangroves, and sway with the sea fans. Can you find it as it hides and changes colors? The ocean is home to a variety of creatures, but the small and delicate seahorse has a beautifully rich and fascinating life that is distinctly its own.

Featuring different species of seahorses and seadragons across the world, *The Sea Hides A Seahorse* is a subtle seek-and-find story that journeys underwater to provide a glimpse into the secrets of seahorses as they swim, hide, hunt, court, mate, and more. Included at the back is more information about seahorses and how to support their protection and conservation.



## About the Author

Sara has published 40 feature articles and creative pieces in regional (e.g., *Oregon Humanities*) and national publications (e.g., *American Libraries*, *School Library Journal*). *The Sea Hides a Seahorse* is her first picture book. Sara was hooked when she saw her first seahorse in 1998 at a live exhibit of Sydney Harbor's marine animals. Until that moment, she'd thought seahorses were imaginary creatures or a bizarre marketing plot, much like the sea monkeys she'd been given as a child to grow in a little toy tank. She was thrilled to discover that, unlike sea monkeys, seahorses were real.



## About the Illustrator

Originally hailing from Wisconsin, Melanie earned a degree in Visual Communications from the Washington University School of Art in St. Louis. Since graduating in 2004, she has worked as an illustrator and designer in Boston, London and now San Francisco. Melanie specializes in a digital mixed media style that charms children and adults alike. Her technique involves sketching, painting, scanning, and collaging on the computer. She loves drawing a menagerie of colorful creatures and geometric abstracts. When she's not creating art, she enjoys long distance running and hiking.

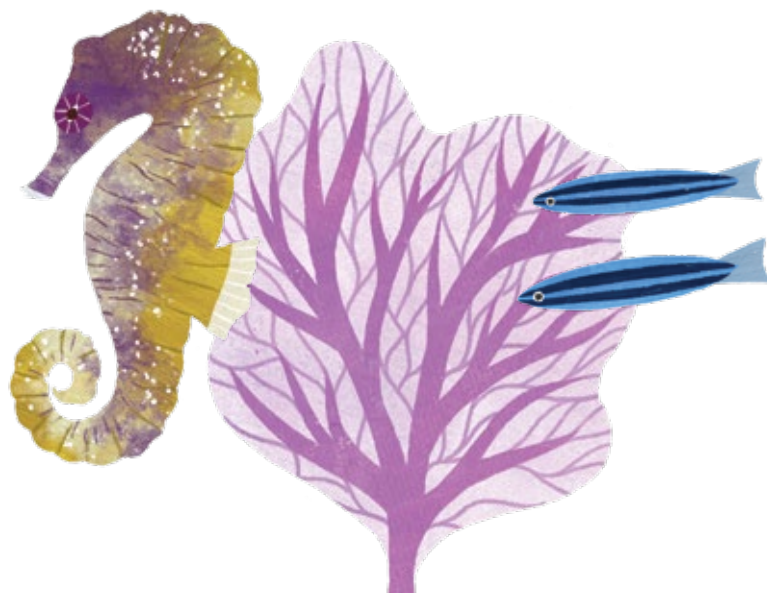
# ABOUT THE OCEAN:

The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems. Ocean life ranges in size from the smallest living things, microbes, to the largest animal on Earth, blue whales. Ocean biology provides many unique examples of life cycles, adaptations, and important relationships among organisms that do not occur on land.

Everyone is responsible for caring for the ocean. Humans affect the ocean in a variety of ways. Human development and activity leads to pollution, and humans have also removed most of the large vertebrates from the ocean.

The ocean affects every human life. It supplies freshwater (most rain comes from the ocean) and nearly all of the Earth's oxygen. It regulates the climate, and provides food and medicine. Ocean-dependent businesses employ almost three million people, and the ocean provides humans with unique recreational activities.

Learning goals: Students will identify seahorse adaptations that help them to get food, find mates, grow, and survive in their unique habitat.



# QUESTIONS LINKED TO COMMON CORE STANDARDS

1. Seahorses have some special abilities. Name three special abilities you've learned seahorses have. Which special ability do you wish you had and why? [RL.K.1; RL.1.1; RI.2.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10; RL.3.1; RL.3.7]
2. How many predators are pictured in this book? (Hint: Don't forget to count the seahorses!) [RL.1.3; Counting and Cardinality; Operations and Algebraic Thinking; 1.OA.A.1; RI.2.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10; 2.OA.B.2; RL.3.1; RL.3.7]
3. Name three things a seahorse has in common with other fish. [RL.K.1; Measurement and Data; RL.1.1; RI.2.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10; RL.3.1; RL.3.3]
4. Name three things about a seahorse that make it different from other fish. [RL.K.1; RL.1.1; RI.2.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10; Measurement and Data; RL.3.1; RL.3.3; RL.3.7]
5. Can you name at least three other animals who use camouflage to disguise themselves? [RL.K.1; Measurement and Data; RL.1.1; W.1.7; W.1.8; W.2.7,8; RL.2.1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10; RL.3.1; RL.3.3]
6. Seahorses feed by sucking small prey into their tubelike mouths. Have you ever done this? (Hint: Think about drinking through a paper straw!) [SL.2.1,1b,1c,2,3,4,5,6]
7. Do any seahorses live near your house? Check out where seahorses live on this map from National Geographic: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/facts/seahorse> [W.1.7; W.1.8; W.2.7,8; RL.3.5; RL.3.7]
8. Have you ever tried to dance with another person while linking arms? Did you find this easy or hard? Why? [SL.2.1,1b,1c,2,3,4,5,6]



**Activity I: Coloring Page**



## Activity II: Seahorse Stick Puppet

### SUPPLIES

- One “Seahorse” sheet
- Art materials: crayons, colored pencils, paint, tissue paper, and googly eyes.
- Scissors
- A popsicle stick
- Glue



### STEPS

1. Use the art materials to decorate the seahorses on the next page.
2. Fold the page in half (the seahorses should match up).
3. Cut around the two seahorses.
4. Place one seahorse on the table, blank side up.
5. Run a small bead of glue along one side of the popsicle stick. Press the glued side to the blank side of one of the seahorses.
6. Run a small bead of glue along the exposed side of the popsicle stick.
7. Pick up the second seahorse and hold it decorated side up. Place it over the other seahorse so the edges match up, and press it into the glue on the popsicle stick.
8. Allow the glue to dry and then enjoy your seahorse stick puppet!



