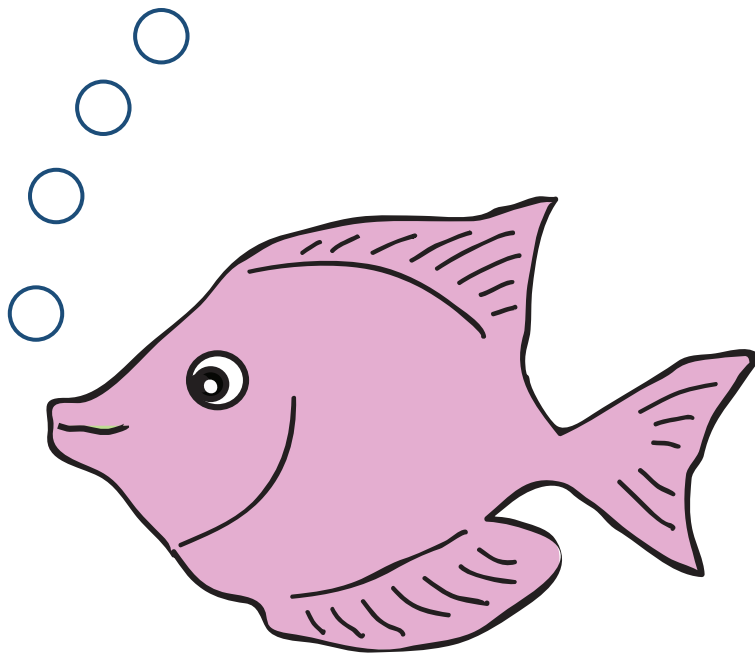


ishing for Meaning

Dive beneath the surface!



from *Rooted in Language*



Rooted in Language

Laying a Path for Readers & Writers

Fishing for Meaning

Fishing for Meaning provides multi-sensory practice in finding the hidden meaning within text. We hope you enjoy Fishing for Meaning. Add your own ideas to ours to have even more literary fun. We have included lots of fish for you to print and copy. Laminated fish work well with Vis-a-vis wet erase markers.

For more of our ideas and to share some of yours, visit us at RootedinLanguage.com

or on    

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A strategy to comprehend text on a deeper level—





A metaphor to show how text, like the ocean, operates on two levels:

-  The words float on the surface of the page
-  The inferential meaning lies beneath the surface—a hidden world of thoughts and ideas.

When students go Fishing for Meaning, they wade into the writer’s words and cast about for ideas under the waves, forming their own interpretation. While stocking their ocean with fishy ideas, students develop pre-annotation skills to:

-  Look closely at text
-  Recognize and identify literary devices
-  Notice the writer’s style.

Students also develop important analytical skills to:

-  Note and formulate thoughts
-  Express opinions verbally
-  Transcribe opinions into written expression
-  Generate notes for future writing

Developing analytical skills for writing is a monumental task for learners. Fishing for Meaning helps educators teach the necessary steps students need to gain this ability.







How to Teach *Fishing for Meaning* to Your Students:

Before you begin, print the ocean on page 7 and the fish on page 8.

Imagine the text you read as the surface of an ocean. At first all you see is the top of the water. But underneath the surface is an entire living world. The words on the page are the surface, but below the words the writer has hidden a whole world of ideas.

Pick a passage from your current book. Let's read the passage together, and write a favorite sentence along the top of the ocean's waves.

Look Beneath the Surface of our selected passage and see if we can find some of the ways the writer has hidden ideas for you to explore. For every idea you find, you can write a word or phrase on a fish to cut out and put in the writer's ocean of meaning. You can look for:

-  **Feelings:** What is the mood or emotion in the passage?
-  **Imagery:** Are there descriptions that help you create pictures in your head?
-  **Actions:** What are some of the plot ideas the writer is revealing?
-  **Comparisons:** Are there any metaphors, similes, or associations to help you understand the story?
-  **Character traits:** What do you notice about the character's personality, appearance, motivations, or problems?
-  **Word choice:** Do you notice interesting words, alliterations or creative phrases?

Notice all the ideas the writer expressed within these simple words on the page!

More Considerations to Share with Your Students:

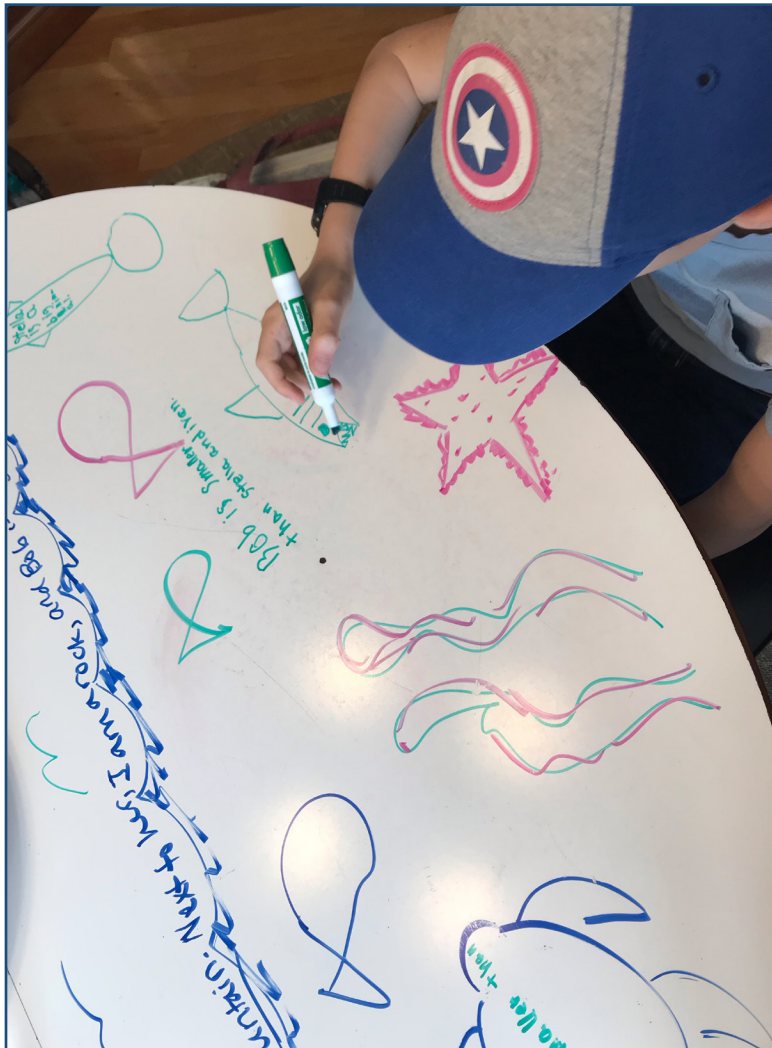
Personalize your ocean to express your own interpretation of the passage!
Visually represent the idea you've discovered. Make your fish or sea creature selection based on:

 color

 size

 appearance

Use Association: Try to match a fish to the idea you are representing. For example, a shark might be used to represent an antagonist; a jellyfish could be foreshadowing; a crab could be a secret; an octopus a problem; or a green fish might represent worry or jealousy.

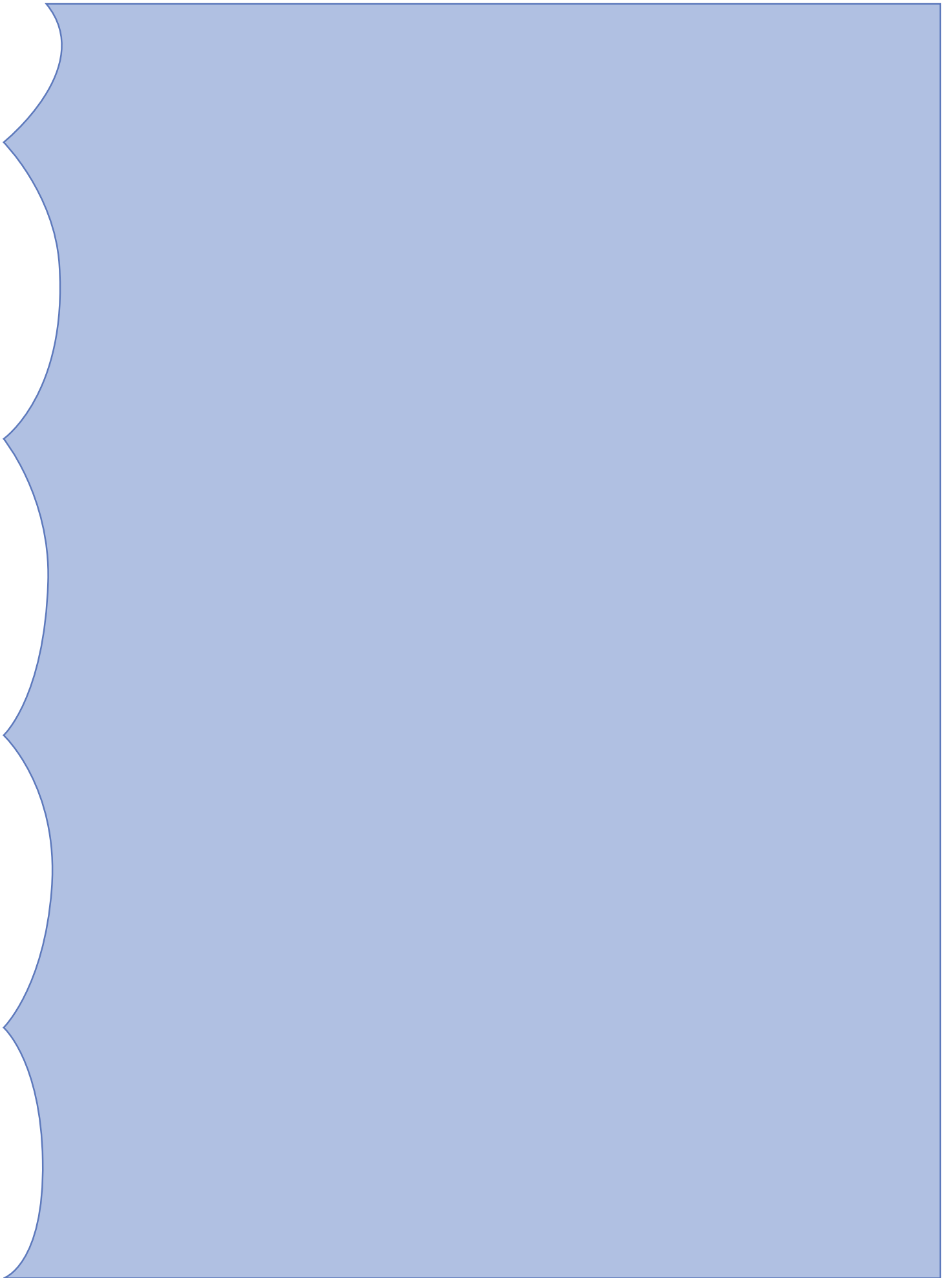


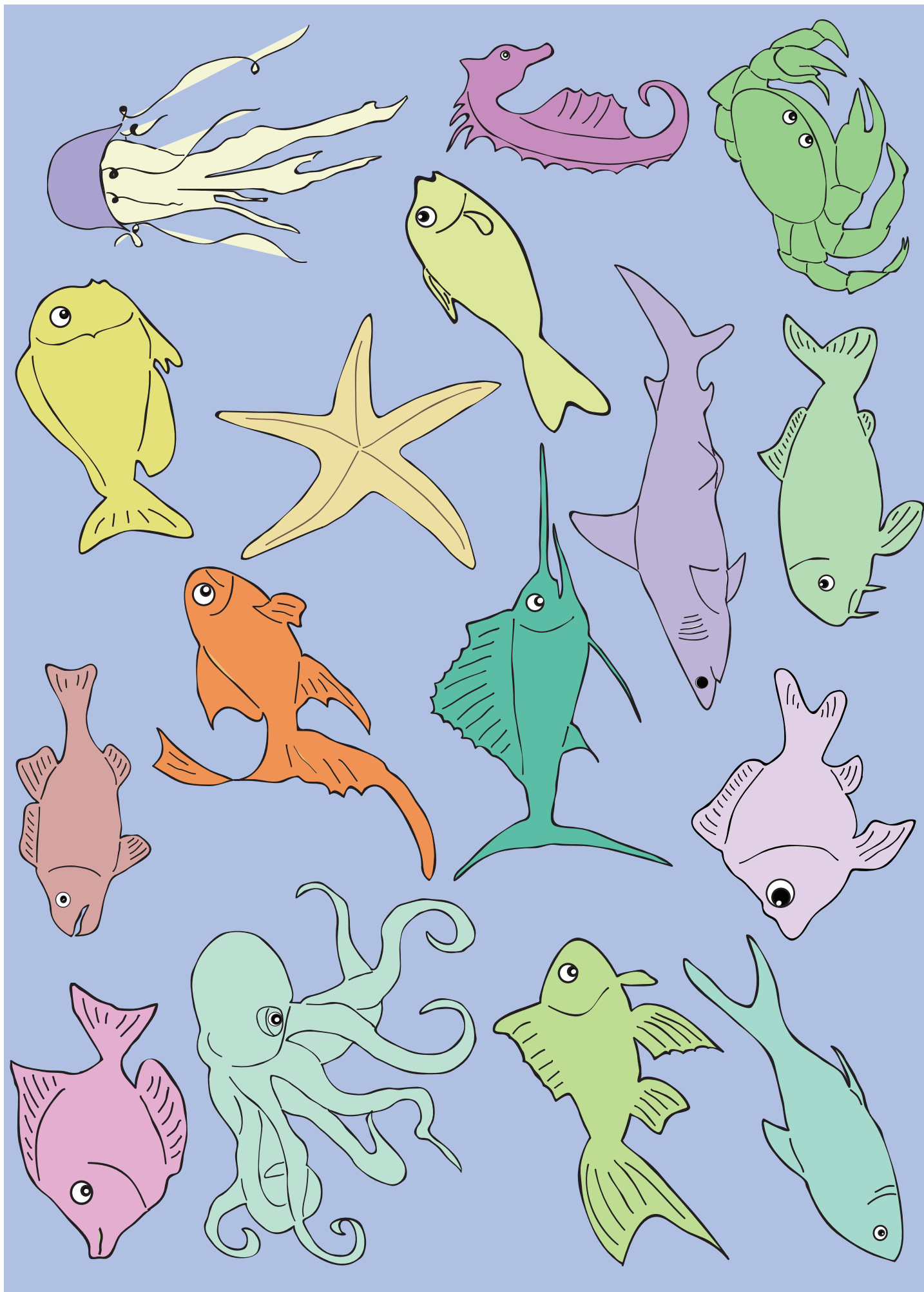
Draw Your Own fish or other sea creatures (if you are feeling adventurous) to add to the writer's ocean of ideas!



Many students enjoy creating their own fish as they analyze a favorite passage.

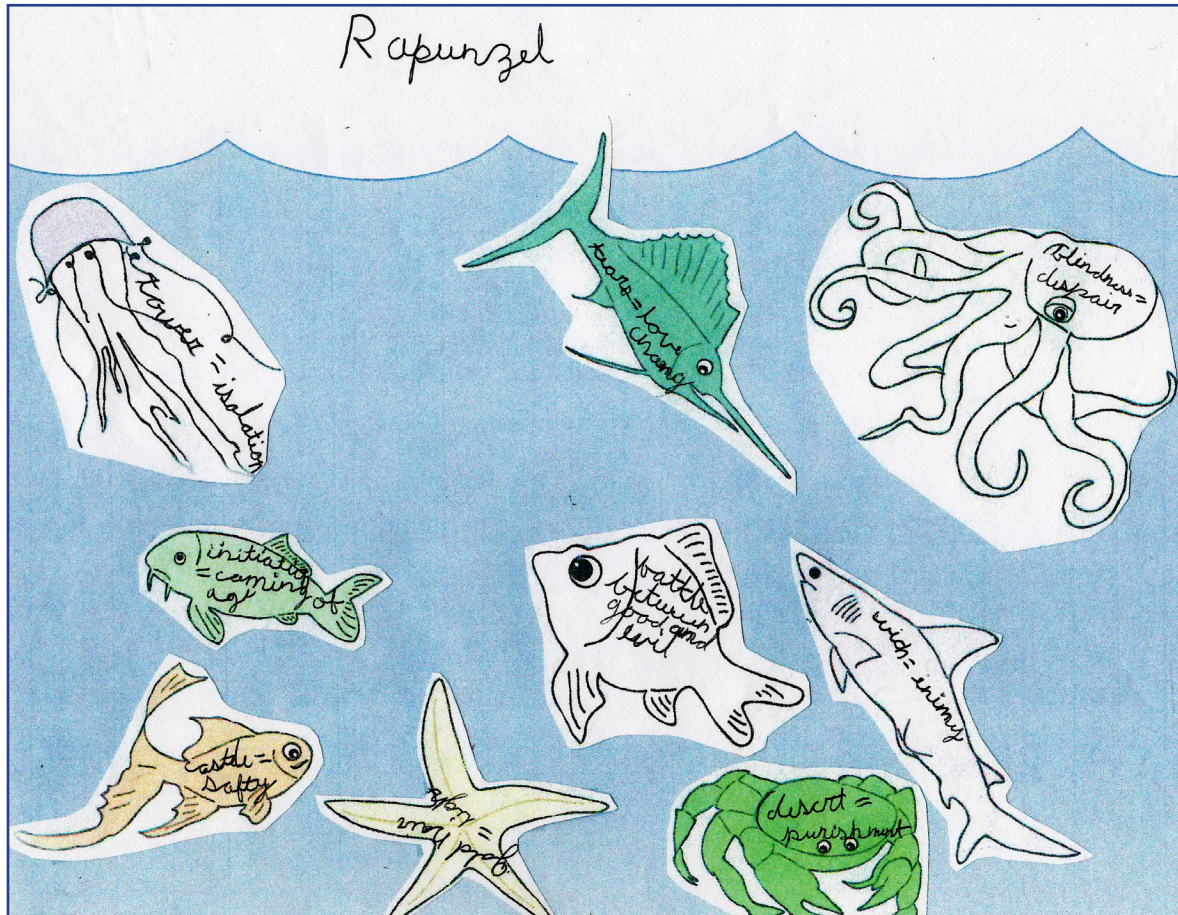
For more guidance in understanding plot structure, literary elements, and writer's style, see **Annotating Literary Elements**





Student sample from Iron Man (the movie)

“I came to realize that I have more to offer this world than just making things blow up.”



Student analysis of fairy tale archetypes from Rapunzel

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