



2009

Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea

Ruth-Anne Brown

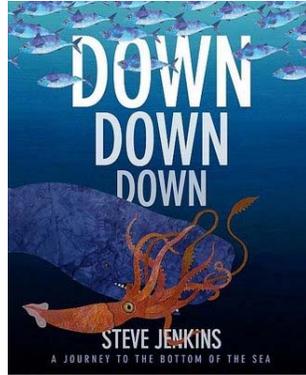
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Jenkins, Steve. *Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea*. Illustrated by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. ISBN 9780618966363. \$17.00. 40 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture books; Informational books;

Subject: Marine animals--Juvenile fiction; Deep-sea animals--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

If you were at the deepest part of the sea, there would be seven miles of water over your head. This cool fact is one of many found in Jenkins' latest picture book about the ocean and the creatures that live in it. The book begins by showing the vastness of the earth's water from an outer space view. In comparison, it concludes with a close up look at the bottom of the deep ocean floor, which can only be described as a layer of "ooze." Jenkins includes information about animals, from the world's largest fish, the whale shark, to small krill that travel in schools called swarms. Deep sea shrimp living in the pitch black water will defend themselves by squirting "bright sticky goo" into the face of an attacker. Some hunting animals have stomachs that can stretch so much that they can eat an animal larger than they are! The fascinating and often dark habitats of sea animals are depicted through cut and torn paper collage pictures.

Young children will like this book for the detailed texture of the lifelike art. Older children will enjoy the facts about the unusual animals and their ways to survive. Additional pages at the end of the book provide more information on each animal, including a scale comparing the animal to a human hand or human body. Each page shows the depth and temperature of the water where those particular animals live. All readers will enjoy this view of the wet, and often dangerous, life of a fish.

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