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Project Seahorse

Lauren McMullan

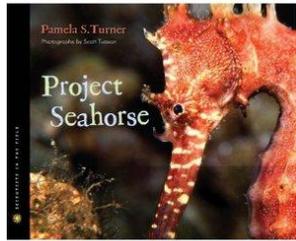
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Turner, Pamela S. *Project Seahorse*. Illustrated by Scott Tuason. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. ISBN 9780547207131. \$18.00. 57 p.

Reviewer: Lauren McMullan

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informative; Informational Books;

Subject: Seahorses--Juvenile literature; Wildlife conservation--Juvenile literature;

Philippines--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

What animal appears to be a combination of horse, crocodile, monkey, and kangaroo? The seahorse of course! This unique animal is in danger of extinction from overfishing, habitat destruction, and black market trade all over the world. One organization, Project Seahorse, is working to help correct the scare of permanent disappearance of this fascinating fish. Project Seahorse has seen success in the Philippines and this book follows the founders and community support systems that are working to keep Project Seahorse successful. Along the way there is much information about the habitat, life habits, and economical problems that are at work in this relationship between seahorse and man.

Project Seahorse is a well-researched and beautifully formatted informational book with an earth-friendly message that never comes across as preachy or overbearing. The photographs are stunning and children will no doubt find amusement and fascination in looking at the plentiful pictures of the bug-eyed, intricate, and beautiful, coral reef-dwelling seahorse. This book would be a wonderful choice for a unit on wildlife conservation and a delightful educational adventure for an at home read. *Project Seahorse* also contains some wonderful conservation foundation and general ocean specific knowledge websites in the back of the book. The story also gives an interesting and brief overview of daily life in a Filipino village.

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