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The Pout-Pout Fish by Deborah Diesen, Illustrated by Dan Hanna

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Author: Diesen, Deborah

Title: *The Pout-Pout Fish*

Illustrator: Hanna, Dan

Publisher: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux

Year of Publication: 2008

ISBN: 9780374360962

Number of pages: 32

Rating: Outstanding

Reading/Interest Level: Preschool; Primary

Keywords: Fish; Attitude; Perspective; Picture Book

Review:

Mr. Fish is a swimmer with a wide and fat bottom lip which he uses throughout the story as an excuse to be glum, gloomy, and just plain pouty. While good-intentioned friends try to change his attitude, he claims that with lips like his, it isn't up to him—he simply has no choice but to be sulky and sad. But a unique fish in the ocean helps to give him a different perspective and look at his lips in a whole new way—they are perfect smooching lips!

Hanna's vividly colorful illustrations give us a fun glimpse into an ocean world of cartoon sea creatures. Diesen weaves clever and detailed introductions to each character that work well with the images. The structure created by rhyme and repetition is used effectively in conveying Mr. Fish's change of heart and gives the story a good pace and rhythm. Creative play with contrasting language displays Mr. Fish's transformation from a pout-pout fish spreading "dreary-wearies" to a kiss-kiss fish spreading "cheery-cheeries." All of these elements combine for a delightful out-loud read that shows attitude can make all the difference.

Reviewer: Dana Staples

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