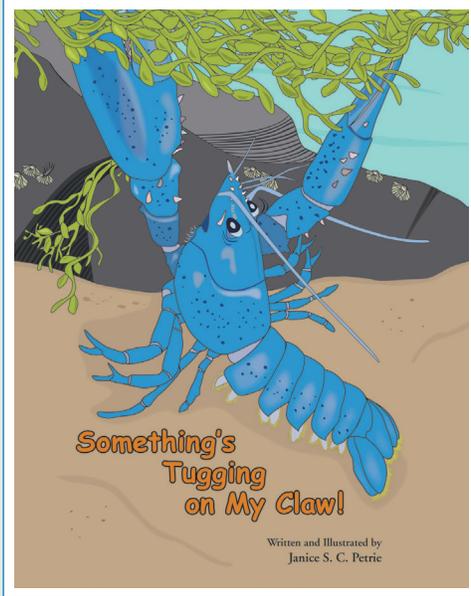


Story Elements for the book: *Something's Tugging on My Claw!?*



Title: *Something's Tugging on My Claw!*

Author: Janice S. C. Petrie

Illustrator: Janice S. C. Petrie

Main Characters: a young blue lobster, a Jonah crab, a swordfish, a horseshoe crab, an older wiser lobster, tidepooling man and children.

Additional Characters: A monk fish, a haddock, and a cod become the audience for the story. They listen to the story and comment on what they hear.

Setting: the rocky coastline by a tidepool, just offshore in the sea.

Problem: The young, blue lobster needs to find out what was tugging on his claw, so he will feel safe in the ocean again.

Solution: The blue lobster discovers that a man was tugging on his claw because of his rare, blue color. He finds out ways to stay safe, and that a claw dropped to escape danger isn't lost forever.

Events:

A. The blue lobster feels something tugging on his claw.

1. Did the blue lobster know what was tugging on his claw? (No) Fact
2. Why couldn't he see what had a hold of his claw? (Rockweed was blocking his view.) Inference
3. What do you think had a hold of his claw? Do you think it was friendly, or something that wanted to hurt him, like a predator? (Any reasonable answer would fit here, as long as the answer would be found in or near the sea.) Inference
4. What does "foe" mean? (an enemy; a person or thing that is harmful or destructive to something) Vocabulary

B. The blue lobster drops his claw to escape.

1. What did the lobster do to get away? (He dropped his claw.) Fact
2. Do you think the lobster should have let his claw go? (Yes, he was in danger and needed to escape; no, he should have tried to find out what had a hold of him; any reasonable answer.) Inference
3. How do you think the little blue lobster feels? (scared; sad to only have one claw, happy to escape danger.) Inference

C. The young, blue lobster hides away for a while, but he is forced to leave his hiding place to find food.

1. What does the little blue lobster do once he drops his claw and escapes? (He hides under a big piece of seaweed or kelp.) Fact
2. How long do you think he stayed in his hiding place? (At least one day and one night; 24 hours) Inference
3. Why does the blue lobster come out of his hiding place? (He's hungry; he has to look for food.) Fact

D. The blue lobster sees a Jonah crab approaching. The Jonah crab decides to enter a lobster trap to eat the bait.

1. What sea animal does the blue lobster see first? (a Jonah crab) Fact
2. What's a Jonah crab? (A big, red crab with very large claws.) Vocabulary

Events: (continued)

3. Is he afraid of the Jonah crab? (Yes, he thinks it might have been the thing that was tugging on his claw.) Inference
4. What did the Jonah crab decide to do? (Crawl into a lobster trap.) Fact
5. Why did the Jonah crab crawl into the lobster trap? (He wanted to eat the fish from the bait bag.) Fact
6. What does the Jonah crab crawl through to get into the lobster trap? (the funnel) Fact
7. What part of the lobster trap holds the bait bag that's full of fish? (the kitchen) Fact
8. Where does the Jonah crab go in the lobster trap, after he's done eating? (the parlor)
9. Can he get out of the trap? (No) Fact; Why or why not? (He can't fit through the escape hatch, and can't crawl back through the funnel.) Inference
10. Do you think the Jonah crab was tugging on the blue lobster's claw? (Any logical answer will work.) Inference
11. How do you think the Jonah crab feels? (sad, frustrated because he's trapped.) Inference
12. How do you think the young, blue lobster feels? (Happy, safe that the Jonah crab is trapped and can't hurt him.) Inference
13. Name a part of a lobster trap. (funnel, kitchen, parlor, escape hatch) Vocabulary

E. The blue lobster sees a swordfish approaching. The swordfish chases an octopus into a cave.

1. What sea animal does the young, blue lobster see next? (a swordfish) Fact
2. What's a swordfish? (a large, marine fish whose upper jaw is long and looks like a sword.) Vocabulary
3. Is he afraid of the swordfish? (Yes, he thinks it might have been the thing that was tugging on his claw; it looks really hungry and might want to eat the blue lobster.) Inference
4. Did the swordfish see the blue lobster? (No) Inference
5. Why do you think the swordfish didn't see the blue lobster? (He was hiding in the sea grass and weeds.) Inference
6. What sea animal did the swordfish see? (an octopus) Fact
7. What did the swordfish do when he saw the octopus? (Chased him into a cave.) Fact
8. How do you think the blue lobster felt when he saw the swordfish chase the octopus into the cave? (Relieved that he wasn't in danger anymore, scared for the octopus) Inference
9. Does the blue lobster think the swordfish is brave? (Yes) Fact
10. Does the blue lobster think that he's brave? (No, not one bit!) Fact
11. Do you think the blue lobster is brave? (Yes, because he left his hiding place, even though he was scared. No, because he's hiding every-time he sees something strange. Any answer is acceptable that's reasonable) Inference

F. The young, blue lobster flaps his tail quickly to swim backwards, away from the cave where the swordfish entered.

1. Does the lobster stay near the cave? (No, he swims away.) Fact
2. How does a lobster swim away from danger when he wants to get away fast? (He flaps his tail swiftly, and swims backwards away from danger very quickly.) Fact
3. Is the Jonah Crab still in the trap when the lobster sails by? (Yes) Fact

G. The blue lobster swims backwards into a horseshoe crab, and meets an older, common colored lobster. This lobster saw who was tugging on the blue lobster's claw and tells him it was a man. The man wanted to show the kids at the shore the rare, blue lobster he'd found.

1. What sea animal does the young, blue lobster run into swimming backwards? (a horseshoe crab) Fact
2. What is a horseshoe crab? (a large, marine sea animal with two compound eyes and eight simple eyes, a pointy tail with which it can turn over and use like a rudder to steer, book gills, and a dark, horseshoe-shaped shell; a prehistoric sea creature with no backbone.) Vocabulary
3. Is the blue lobster afraid of the horseshoe crab? (Yes, he thinks it might have tugged on his claw.) Inference
4. What sea animal saw what was tugging on the blue lobster's claw? (a lobster) Fact; What color was this lobster? (The common, brownish, blackish, greenish color that blends with the color of the bottom of the ocean.) Inference
5. What was tugging on the blue lobster's claw? (A man) Fact
6. Why was he tugging on the blue lobster's claw? (He was excited to find a rare, blue lobster and wanted to show it to the children at the beach.) Fact

Events: (continued)

7. What did the man wind up showing the children? (a blue lobster's claw) Fact
8. According to the larger, common lobster, why did the man grab the blue lobster's claw? (It's bright, blue color stood out, and was easy to see. His color needed to be duller, to blend in well in the sea.) Fact
9. What does cyan mean? (a greenish-blue or light blue color) Vocabulary
10. What does cobalt mean? (a deep blue to strong greenish-blue color) Vocabulary
11. Why doesn't a blue colored lobster blend well with the color of the water in the ocean? (Because even though we color water with a blue crayon or marker, sea water is really clear.) (FYI: The reason the sea appears blue is because sunlight's colors like red, orange and yellow have longer wavelengths that get absorbed by the water, but blue, with a shorter wavelength, is reflected and scattered by water, and that's the color our eyes see.)

H. The larger, common colored lobster & the horseshoe crab give the blue lobster some advice on how to stay safe.

1. What does the larger, regular colored lobster tell the blue lobster he should do to stay safe? (Stay away from the shoreline.) Fact
2. What did the horseshoe crab tell the blue lobster he should do to stay safe. (Dig himself into the sand.) Fact
3. What does advise mean? (to recommend, to give an opinion or suggestion to someone of what they should do.) Vocabulary

I. The blue lobster molted, and shed its shell to grow.

1. What happened to the blue lobster's shell? (It split between his tail and body.) Fact
2. Why did his shell split? (He was getting too big for his shell and needed to leave his shell to grow.) Inference
3. Is the blue lobster's new shell as hard as his old shell? (No, it's soft as soft can be.) Fact
4. Why do you think the blue lobster's new shell is soft? (The blue lobster had to fit through the opening between the tail and body of his old shell, even though his new shell was bigger.) Inference
5. Is the blue lobster's new shell still blue? (Yes) Fact
6. What is molting? (When an animal sheds its shell, or skin, to grow.) Vocabulary

J. The blue lobster's claw has grown larger, and he has a new smaller claw to replace the one he lost.

1. What surprise did the blue lobster have after he molted and grew? (He had a brand new, smaller second claw to replace the one he lost.) Fact
2. Did his other claw grow, too? (Yes, it was bigger than before.) Fact
3. What are each of the two lobster claws called? (pincher, crusher) Fact, Vocabulary
4. What did the blue lobster learn to do to keep himself safe? (He keeps his two claws hidden away.) Fact
5. What does "undersize" mean? (smaller than the usual size) vocabulary

Vocabulary: Sea Animals

lobster: a sea animal that has a hard, protective exoskeleton, and no backbone. It has a long body, ten legs, including eight walking legs and a pair of large claws (a pincher & a crusher) which are also counted as legs, two stalked eyes, and antennae that it uses as a sensor with which to feel, taste, and smell.

Jonah crab: a sea animal that's a type of crab, that has no backbone, and a rounded, rough shell or carapace that's reddish in color, with some light spots. A Jonah crab has two, very large claws that have dark brown-black tips. Lobster fishermen say that this type of crab is called a "Jonah," because lobster fishermen believe them to be bad luck. If a Jonah crab has gone into a lobster trap, lobsters often won't enter the trap.

swordfish: a predatory fish that has a long, rounded body, and an elongated upper jaw that resembles a sword. When a swordfish becomes an adult, it loses its teeth and scales. Swordfish don't stab their prey, they slash and slice their prey with their sword. The swordfish is a very speedy fish, which helps it to catch its prey. Swordfish often hunt near the bottom of the ocean, and come to the surface at night.

Vocabulary: Sea Animals (continued)

horseshoe crab: This prehistoric sea animal has no backbone, but has a hard shell that's shaped like a horseshoe, a long pointy tail or telson, book gills to breathe with and flap to help propel it along, and ten eyes, two of which are compound eyes, and eight that are simple eyes. When full grown, the female horseshoe crabs are larger than the males. A horseshoe crab doesn't sting with its tail. Instead, it uses its tail to dig in the sand to turn over, or to steer itself in the water, like the rudder of a boat.

octopus: a sea animal with a soft, oval body, and eight sucker-bearing arms, living mostly near the bottom of the sea. It's not only able to change color with its surroundings, but the octopus can change the texture of its skin to match a surface to which it's stuck. They are masters of camouflage.

Vocabulary

foe: an enemy that might want to do harm to something or someone

claw: a leg of a lobster or crab with a pincher at the end for catching food and tearing it apart.

lobster trap: a device used to catch lobsters. Once wooden, most modern lobster traps are made out of metal. Each trap usually consists of a series of rope funnels that serve as entrances to different sections of the trap; a kitchen, where the bait bag is located; and a parlor where the lobster ultimately winds up waiting for the lobster fishermen to harvest the trap. There's at least one escape hatch in the parlor for undersized lobsters to crawl out of the trap. Often young lobsters will use a trap for food for years, and crawl out the escape hatch to get away without getting caught.

hurrah: yay; used as an exclamation of joy.

kitchen: where the bait bag full of fish hangs.

parlor: another word for living room; where the lobster ultimately waits for the lobster trap to be hauled up to the fisherman's boat.

brave: showing no fear, not afraid; showing courage

swiftly: quickly

gleaming: a bright or shining quality

cobalt: a strong greenish-blue or deep blue color.

cyan: a greenish-blue or light blue color.

blend: to look like things nearby

duller: lacking brilliance or luster

rare: not often found

shoreline: the land along the edge of a body of water, a coast

split: to separate or divide into parts, to break apart.

slit: a long narrow cut or opening in something.

molting: to shed a shell to grow.

undersize: smaller than the usual size.

pincher: one of the two lobster claws used to tear its food apart, it's the sharpest of the lobster's two claws; also known as scissor, seizer, or cutter claw.

crusher: to squeeze something together so hard that it breaks or loses shape.

Compound Words

something

swordfish

backward

horseshoe

shoreline

yourself

undersize

Rhyming Words

foe - go

do - two

gone - on

away - day

bait - wait

out - doubt

claw - jaw - saw

it - bit

stay - play - away

quickly - swiftly

well - shell

advise - wise

split - slit

be - sea

crusher - cover

Building Background Information, Activating Prior Knowledge, & Predicting

Examining the front cover:

1. Students look at the cover of the book and identify the author, the illustrator, and the title of the book.
2. From the illustration on the front cover, where do students think the story is set? (ocean, under the sea)
3. Have students identify the sea creature on the front cover. (lobster) Ask children if they've ever seen a lobster before? Ask them what color the lobster was that was in the grocery store or on their dinner plate? If students say lobsters are red, explain that their shell turns red after they're cooked. Ask students what color the lobster is in the book?" (blue) Explain that most lobsters living in the ocean aren't blue, so if you were able to find a blue lobster, you'd be pretty lucky, wouldn't you? They're fairly rare!
4. Tell students that the blue lobster in the story has a problem. Something has a hold of his claw and won't let go. It could be a friend playing with him, or it could be a predator that might want to eat him. He can't see what's holding his claw because the seaweed (rockweed) is floating on the surface of the water, and he can't see through it.
5. Then tell students that if something is holding tightly to a lobster's claw, and he can't get away, he has a very good way of protecting himself. He can drop his claw, let it go, and flip his tail really fast. That way, he can swim backwards, away from danger, and hide under a rock or some seaweed to stay safe. Isn't that a great way for him to protect himself?
6. Then ask students to suggest what might be holding the blue lobster's claw? After students make prediction, tell them to read and see if they can solve the mystery.

After the lobster finds out the man at the beach was tugging on his claw:

1. Ask students if a blue lobster blends in very well at the bottom of the ocean? (no) What ways can you think of that a blue lobster can keep himself safe at the bottom of the ocean, since he isn't very well camouflaged? (hide under seaweed, behind or under rocks, in caves, dig into the muddy bottom, any reasonable answer.)

Just before the page where the blue lobster's shell begins to split:

1. Ask students if they know how a snake grows? (They shed their skin.)
2. Did you know that a lobster sheds its shell to grow? (Tell children that the lobster's shell splits between its tail and body, and the lobster squeezes through that opening wearing a new, bigger shell that is very soft. His new shell needs to be soft so it will fit through the opening in the lobster's old, smaller shell.)
3. Ask students if they know of any animals that have lost an arm or leg, that they can grow a new one back? (Sea stars grow new rays. It's called regeneration.) Discuss whether they think the blue lobster will be able to grow a new claw back, to replace the one he lost.