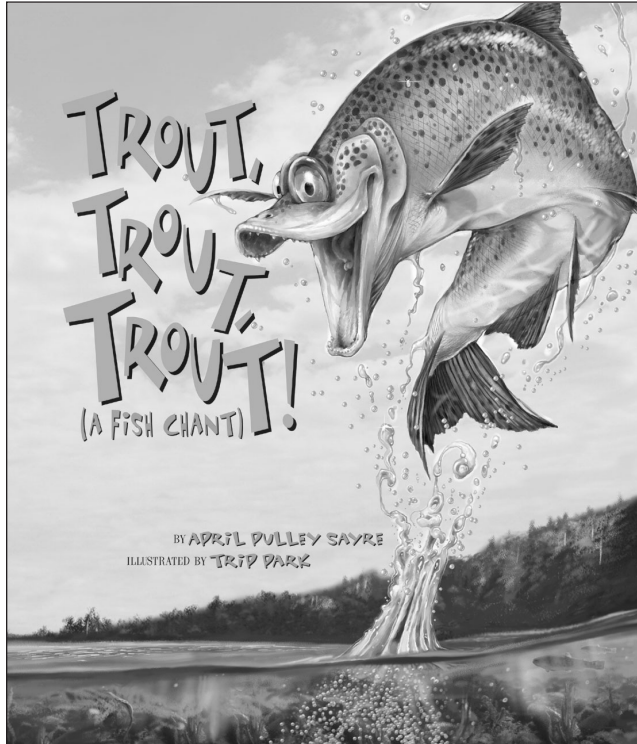


NorthWord Notes

Classroom Activity Guides for Homes, Libraries, and Schools



Trout, Trout, Trout! (A Fish Chant)

by April Pulley Sayre
illustrations by Trip Park

1-55971-889-7
Ages 5-8, Grades K-3
8-1/2" x 11", 32 pages,
Hardcover RB w/jacket, \$15.95

“Chestnut lamprey, lookin’ odd.
Pupfish, catfish, cod, cod, cod!
Yazoo Darter, shout it out!
Cavefish, Swampfish, trout, trout,
trout!”

This delightful, hilarious “fish chant” will have fish lovers laughing at the antics this author and illustrator imagine underwater. The jaunty text begs to be “chanted” out loud — if you can get through it without giggling! Wacky, bold illustrations add even more humor, yet accurately depict dozens of freshwater fish. *Trout, Trout, Trout!* is an ideal collaboration of science and entertainment. Whether young readers enjoy fish in their own fish bowls, up at the lake, or on the end of their fishing poles, they’ll get a kick out of chanting, “Trout, Trout, Trout!”

About the Author & Illustrator

April Pulley Sayre is the award-winning author of more than 50 books for young readers including *If You Should Hear a Honey Guide*; *Turtle, Turtle, Watch Out!*; and *River and Stream*. Sayre’s books, renowned for their lyricism, accuracy, and sometimes silliness, have been translated into French, Dutch, Japanese, and Korean. April really is interested in the ecology of freshwater fish, but she just can’t stop laughing at their common names.

As a kid, Trip Park had every kind of aquarium fish, and with a pond in his backyard and a lake in his town, he quickly became an amateur expert on his scaly friends. Trip was drawn to advertising, as an art director long before he illustrated, and his editorial cartoons have been in Greensboro’s *News & Record* and *USA Today*. He also illustrated *Gopher Up Your Sleeve*, a children’s picture book written by Tony Johnston. Trip currently resides in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife and his own school of four children.



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Books for Young Readers

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Classroom Activities

Before you read to the children:

Introduce the book to the students by reading the title and naming the author and illustrator. Look at the cover. How does it make you feel? Can you guess the tone of this book? The subtitle of the book is A Fish Chant. What is a chant? For a future reading of the book, ask a group of older students or a guest reader to chant the words for the class.

After reading the book:

Look at the interesting illustrations. Point out to the children that Trout, Trout, Trout! is funny, and still teaches us a great deal about fish. Discuss the details shown on some of the pages; for example, the fish crossing sign (p.3), the row of hooks with worms (p.14), and the fishnet (p. 15). Make a list of fish vocabulary by looking at pages 16 and 17: fisherman, boat, motor, lures, vest, hat, rod and reel, gas can, bobber, etc. Many small fish form the shape of a large fish on page 24, and the spread on pages 26 and 27 has a great view from underwater of the boy on the dock.

Language Arts

Read some, write some "Fish Tales"! The stories can be posted on the bulletin board in the classroom or on a hallway mural. Decorate with fish paraphernalia: fish box, bait bucket, fishnets, bobbers, floats, etc., but no real fishhooks! Hang blue and green crepe paper strips down from the top edge and attach small paper fish cutouts here and there at different heights as though swimming. Discuss the homonym tail/tale. If not already introduced, talk about tall tales as a genre of literature. Children may be familiar with the American folk legends of Paul Bunyan, which give a clear example of boasting. A fish story is an implausible, boastful story, a tall tale told by a fisherman who exaggerates the size of his catch. The teacher could write a basic storyline, which the students can follow, using his/her imagination to fill in more details. One _____ day, I went fishing in a _____. I baited my hook and dropped it into the _____ water. Something pulled down on the line! It was a _____, bigger than a _____. I was excited! Then my line broke and it got away! Some students may investigate the meanings behind different sayings, such as "a fine kettle of fish" and "fish or cut bait." Ponder the proverb: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for life." Consult a dictionary for more possibilities.

Math

- Counting: Serve fish crackers in a pail (small paper cup) and give each child his/her own lake (blue placemat). Children can do simple addition and subtraction problems and then eat the answers! For variety, use different flavors of fish crackers.
- Fishing game: Cut fish shapes from construction paper. "Hook" each mouth with a paperclip. The fishing pole can be made from a dowel and a string with a magnet for a hook. Many games can be played by the children, who take turns fishing for matching fish. This learning game can be used to match, for example, numerals and number words or lower case and capital letters.
- Fish posters: Measure the fish on printed posters or use fish resources to make your own life-sized fish models. This would be a good activity for older and younger children to do together.

Science

Trout, Trout, Trout! is about the fish found in North American waters. Use an encyclopedia or other science books as reference materials for these topics:

- Name bodies of water, remembering both large and small.
- Discuss fresh water vs. salt water
- How many fish can you name?
- Fish life cycle and habitat
- Physiology of fish, such as how do gills work
- What nutrients are in fish?
- Who are the fish's predators?
- How does an angler catch fish?
- The class would surely enjoy raising fish from eggs.
- How do we preserve fish to eat later? (fresh, frozen, canned, dried, smoked, pickled)

More classroom activities for *Trout, Trout, Trout! (A Fish Chant)*

Art

- Carp Kites** These can be made any size and are especially beautiful hanging from the ceiling! Cut two fish shapes from paper. Glue tissue paper scales to one side of each, let them dry, and glue together around the edge, leaving the mouth open. Hang by yarn or string from the mouth.
- Fish Prints** For this Japanese art form, you may be able to get an old fish from the market that can no longer be sold. If you want to make T-shirts, ask each child to bring one to school and use fabric paint or ink suitable for clothing. Put a piece of cardboard inside the shirt so that the print will not go through to the other side. Apply ink evenly to the fish. Place the paper/shirt on the inked surface, rubbing the back so the details show up. Remove the paper/shirt and allow it to dry completely. After the print is dry, paint in accents on the fish, such as an eye, or habitat features, if desired. Small fish prints would make beautiful greeting cards. If you can get more than one type of fish, the variety is especially pleasing for a large display of the students' work.
- Collage** Have children cut fish shapes of all sizes and colors and glue them to construction paper to make a picture.
- Sequin Fish** Cut shapes from tagboard and glue sequin to both sides for the scales. Punch a hole and hang from the doorway, top edge of a bulletin board, or ceiling. Using page 3 for inspiration, have the children draw crossing signs, perhaps for outside the classroom or their own home.

For a drawing idea from pages 26-27, the children can draw a horizontal line across the middle of a large piece on paper. The line is the dock and they can do a self portrait sitting there and draw creatures in the water below the dock.

Resources

Books – Search your library's card catalogue for "fish-juvenile fiction" or "fish-juvenile non-fiction". You can also look for books on fish habitats, which will add to the children's understanding. The librarian can help you with other specific topics.

Scouting groups can provide demonstrations and educational materials on fishing and lures. Call your local county extension office for 4-H materials on Fishing Sports.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service www.fws.gov

Look in the phone book for a local number and availability of resources. Wonderful information can be found here about endangered species Kids page www.fws.gov/kids/

Also, beautiful fish and wildlife pictures can be found at <http://pictures.fws.gov>

Fieldtrips

Go to your local body of water: creek, brook, stream, pond, lake, reservoir, river, or ocean! Check out the zoos and aquariums in your area; these will probably provide a better view of the fish and can help those of you for whom no body of water is readily available. Visit a fish market or the seafood counter of a major grocery store. Look in the yellow pages for these destinations: bait shop, fishing club or ice fishing, fishing boat, fishing camps, guides and parties, fish hatchery, or pet shop. Call to set up a trip or invite someone to visit your classroom and bring the visuals along. Investigate local museums of Native American culture and natural history to see if the experience will benefit the children's knowledge of fish. Check with your city, county and state parks programs for other educational opportunities, possibly for you as a teacher.

Department of Natural Resources can be contacted through your local telephone book or by an internet search for your state office. The web sites have great pictures of fish, give license requirements, a lake locator, and listings of special events.



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Activities suggested by Heidi Kroll, a home-schooling mom in St. Cloud, MN, with a B.A. in early childhood education from Augsburg College and years of teaching experience.