“White Moon, Purple Sea and the Underwater Circus”

by Karen D. Clawson

**Drawing Activity and Reader Discussions**

*by Karen D. Clawson*

**Drawing activity –**

*Readers of this story told the author they saw a silver moon on a purple sea, a blue moon on a purple sea, and even a pink moon on a purple sea*!

What color do you see?

Draw a moon and sea. What color is your moon going to be? What color will be your sea?

 Draw as many of the “characters” as you can or your favorites from the story.

**Possible discussion of words and topics:**

Talk about some of the words you have heard:

Have you learned new words? Which ones?

Are some of the words silly and made up?

Does the moon sleep?

Have you heard about the “man on the moon?” This author talks about the

 moon as if she’s a female, as in “We know where to find ‘her’…tomorrow

 night?” What do you think? Is the moon a man or woman?

Have you ever seen the moon look like a different color than white; or different shades of white? Why?

Can a sea be purple?

What is the largest body of water you have seen, in person? In a book or on

T.V.? What color was the water? Did it have more than one color? Did

the colors change throughout the time you saw it? Why?

 Can the sea stretch?

Will we find the word “squishes” in the dictionary?

Is it a verb or noun? How is it used in this story?

What are squadrons? What are squirts?

Has anyone ever called you a little ‘squirt’?

What is ‘bling-blang’?

Have you ever the word ‘bling’? What does it mean?

What do you think the squirts look like then? Are they ‘flashy’?

What are jelly giants?

 Do you think they are like jelly fish?

 What are big belly bangs? How can a belly bang?

Can seahorses gallop? Do they have legs like a horse on land? How do they move around?

Describe what lightning bolt eyes might look like.

 Have you ever seen a fish like this? This might be a fun topic to research.

 *Our author saw a fish while scuba diving off the Great Barrier Reef in Australia*

*that had pale blue eyes with bright yellow zigzags in them that reminded her of lightning bolts. The fish’s eyes bulged out with a FLAT surface, square or oval.* Would you call them eye-blocks instead of eyeballs?

What is coral?

Can they climb in tall towers?

Describe the different kinds of coral, hard and soft.

Have you ever seen fish that are straight and thin like arrows?

Have you ever seen fish that dart fast like arrows?

Can fish have two sets of eyes like in this story at both ends of their body?

Have you heard of camouflage?

Did you know that one set of eyes may be a look-alike, or camouflage, so that it’s difficult for another fish to tell which part of the fish is the head and which is it’s tail? Why would this be important?

How do you move in zigzags? Can you draw a zigzag?

 How many make a pair?

 Besides parents or friends, who else can make up a pair?

What combinations of family members? Sisters, brothers, sister/brother,

mom/daughter, mom/son, father/son, father/daughter, cousins, aunts,

grandparents….

*[Note: Before discussing “ghost creatures” consider the age of the child/children and omit any*

*questions about ghosts that might ‘spook’ them.]*

What would ghost creatures look like?

 What color would they be?

 Would they be invisible? If they are, how do we know they are there?

 Can they pass through other things and can others pass through them?

 What are sand-cakes? Do they look like pancakes?

Why would a fish lie “so still on the ground?”

What shape is a blob? Have you ever tried to squeeze out glue from its container and a ‘blob’

plopped out? Could you call it a “glob” too?

What is a belch? Have you ever had one?

Why would a passing fish fall or drop from the belch?

What is a bobber? What is a bob?

If you looked up this word in a dictionary, would it be a noun or verb?

 Can you bob? Has your hair ever been cut in a bob?

 What do you think the bobber looks like?

Does an octopus have arms or legs? How many?

Did you know that lobsters move in lines called trains, as in lobster train?

 What color are lobsters? Can their claws fire light?

Have you heard of royal fish? How about clown fish?

 When they flash gold teeth, are their teeth gold?

 Have you ever seen someone with a gold tooth?

How do the fish “flash” their gold teeth? Do they smile or bare their teeth?

What if they only had one gold tooth – would they smile on one side only?

At the end of the “second” story, the author uses the word “sea” and “see” – the two word sound

the same but are spelled differently and mean different things.

What is the name of two words that sound the same but mean different things? Can you think of other examples?

 time, thyme….to, too, two….meet, meat….rye, wry….red, read

What does it mean that the moon “bathes” us in light?

 Can you think of others words the writer could have used? [washed, showered]