

Why the Oyster Has the Pearl

*Written by Johnette Downing
Illustrated by Bethanne Hill*

Activity Booklet

www.johnettedowning.com
www.bethannehill.com

Why the Oyster Has the Pearl

About the Book

As keeper of all the jewels in the ocean, the Oyster shares these treasures with any creature who needs them. He manages the balance of wealth and beauty in the sea with the refrain, "Choose the ones you need and leave the rest." But when the greedy Snake tries to leave the other sea creatures with nothing, he is forced to live with the consequences. In this morality tale, avarice marks the Snake permanently when he attempts to keep everything for himself.

About the Author

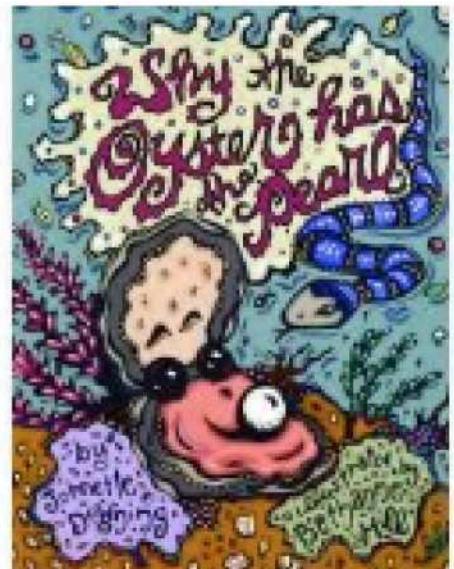
Johnette Downing is an award-winning, internationally recognized singer/songwriter who performs original children's music. Her many accolades include six Parents' Choice Awards, four iParenting Media Awards, and four National Parenting Publication Awards. The author of nine books with Pelican, she wrote and illustrated *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Bugs*, *My Aunt Came Back from Louisiana*, *Why the Crawfish Lives in the Mud*, and *Amazon Alphabet* and authored *Chef Creole*, *Down in Louisiana*, *Today Is Monday in Louisiana*, *Today Is Monday in Texas*, and *Today Is Monday in New York*. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

About the Illustrator

Bethanne Hill is a Southern-born painter and illustrator whose work has appeared on the covers of numerous magazines, books, and CDs. Her bold, colorful paintings are widely collected. *Why the Oyster Has the Pearl* is the first children's book she has illustrated. Hill lives in Birmingham, Alabama, with her husband, artist Darius Hill, their three children, and three dogs.

Product Details

- Reading level: Ages 4-8
- Hardcover: 32 pages
- Publisher: Pelican Publishing (September 30, 2011)
- Language: English
- Retail price \$16.99
- ISBN-10: 1455614602
- ISBN-13: 978-1455614608



Why the Oyster Has the Pearl

Discussion Questions

- 1. If you are the guardian of great wealth, what is your responsibility, or do you have any responsibility?**
- 2. When is enough, enough?**
- 3. Does your character show?**
- 4. Is your appearance a reflection of your actions?**
- 5. If you had great wealth, what would you do with it and why?**
- 6. If the oyster hadn't been so generous, would the snake have been so greedy?**
- 7. Does too much goodness create evil and vice versa?**
- 8. Is there such a thing as a proper balance of wealth?**
- 9. If you were the oyster, would you help the snake when he is choking ,and why?**

Why the Oyster Has the Pearl

Creature Match

Draw a line to match the animal picture with the correct word.



Crab



Oyster



Jelly fish



Snake



Lobster



Seahorse



Fish



Shrimp



Starfish

Why the Oyster Has the Pearl

Creature Count

From cover to cover, count how many of the following creatures appear in the book illustrations:



Crabs



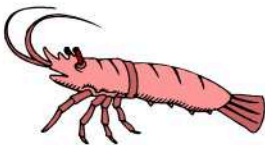
Jelly fish



Lobster



Seahorses



Shrimp



Starfish



Why the Oyster Has the Pearl

Word Search

amethyst
choke
diamond
emerald
generosity
gold
greed
jewels
moral

myth
oyster
pearl
ruby
sapphire
shell
snake
water

U M D Y H U M A G D G A M G A
U Y P E A R L C S L O P W O M
G T Y B V H B L L L E H S L E
A H T W S K V R S P E D O D T
T J I A H K K L N X F W K A H
B B S T W N E I P W A T E S Y
M Q O E J H S S E K L W J J S
O G R R D N O M A I D V F D T
R V E W E N S J Z P R I Y E K
A D N K M S N S O R P B K E E
L D E F E K A E Y X U H U R D
A B G G R V K K S R B L I G R
B G S F A S E O T L P B L R Y
P X A B L B X H E E F H L D E
L R V O D A K C R B S Q A N F

Why the Oyster has the Pearl
Coloring Sheet



Bethanne Hill

Why the Oyster has the Pearl

Sneaky Math

Read the story again paying attention to the number of jewels the snake specifically asks for from the Oyster.

The snake asks for:

=====

Emeralds

Rubies

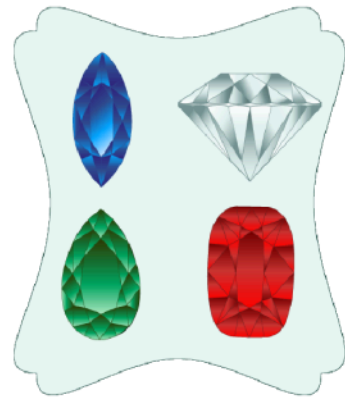
Sapphires

Gold rings

Amethysts

Diamonds

Pearls



Total Estimation

At the end of the story, how many estimated jewels does the oyster have? _____

At the end of the story, how many estimated jewels does the snake have? _____

Why the Oyster has the Pearl

Sneaky Math Answers

Read the story again paying attention to the number of jewels the snake specifically asks for from the Oyster.

The snake asks for:

- 2 Emeralds
- 10 Rubies
- 300 Sapphires
- some Gold rings
- 4 Amethysts
- 0 Diamonds
- 0 Pearls



=====

316+ some Total Estimation

At the end of the story, how many estimated jewels does the oyster have? **1**

At the end of the story, how many estimated jewels does the snake have; don't forget the diamond? **317+ some**

<p>JANUARY</p>  <p>Garnet Symbolizes: Constancy</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p>  <p>Amethyst Symbolizes: Sincerity</p>	<p>MARCH</p>  <p>Aquamarine, bloodstone Symbolizes: Courage</p>	<p>APRIL</p>  <p>Diamond Symbolizes: Innocence, lasting love</p>
<p>MAY</p>  <p>Emerald Symbolizes: Love, success, hope</p>	<p>JUNE</p>  <p>Pearl, alexandrite, moonstone Symbolizes: Health, longevity, purity</p>	<p>JULY</p>  <p>Ruby Symbolizes: Contentment, love</p>	<p>AUGUST</p>  <p>Peridot, sardonyx, agate Symbolizes: Married happiness</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p>  <p>Sapphire Symbolizes: Clear thinking, wisdom</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p>  <p>Opal, tourmaline Symbolizes: Hope</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p>  <p>Topaz Symbolizes: Fidelity</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p>  <p>Turquoise, zircon Symbolizes: Prosperity, harmony</p>

- 1) Make a graph listing each student's name in the left vertical column and each month in the top horizontal column.
- 2) Make copies of the above birthstone chart and cut out the squares containing the months with their corresponding birthstones.
- 3) Paste one birthstone per child on the graph to represent each student's birthstones/months.
- 4) Count the number of birthstones per month to see which stones would occupy the least and most amount of space in the oyster's shell.



Why the Oyster has the Pearl

Birthstone Graph

NAME	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec



Why the Oyster has the Pearl

Poems About Pearls and Oysters

Do Oysters Sneeze? by Jack Prelutsky

Do oysters sneeze beneath the seas,
or wiggle to and fro,
or sulk, or smile, or dance awhile
...how can we ever know?
Do oysters yawn when roused at dawn,
and do they ever weep,
and can we tell, when, in its shell,
an oyster is asleep?

Sleepy Oyster by Frances Gorman Risser

The storm is raging up above,
And waves are dashing high,
The sea birds, screaming, fly to land,
As thunder rocks the sky.
But down below in waters calm
The oyster sleeps away;
Quite heedless of the wind and waves,
He snoozes, night and day.
He does not shout and rant and rave,
Nor bolts of lightning hurl,
He's dozing in the oyster bed,
And dreaming up a pearl!

Poem by Sir Edwin Arnold

Know you, perchance, how that poor formless wretch--
The Oyster--gems his shallow moonlit chalice?
Where the shell irks him, or the sea-sand frets,
He sheds this lovely lustre on his grief.

Oysters by Jack Prelutsky

Oysters
are creatures
without
any features.



Oyster Limerick by Johnette Downing

There is nothing more grand in the world
Simply made from its swishes and swirls
Good fortune befell
With sand in its shell
For the oyster then made the pearl

Sea Creatures by Meish Goldish

Come along, come with me,
Take a dive in the deep blue sea.
Put on your gear, let's explore
All the way to the ocean floor!
See that snail wrapped in curls?
Look! An oyster wearing pearls!
Watch the octopus oh so dark,
But don't you dare to pet the shark!
Dive on down, seaward bound,
Motion in the ocean is all around!
Dive on down, seaward bound,
Motion in the ocean is all around!
Now we're very far below,
The lantern fish are all aglow.
Is that a tiny shock you feel?
You just met an electric eel!
Giant blue whales start to stir,
Bigger than dinosaurs ever were!
Wave good-bye to the squid and sponge,
This is the end of our deep-sea plunge!
Dive on down, seaward bound,
Motion in the ocean is all around!
Dive on down, seaward bound,
Motion in the ocean is all around!

by Meish Goldish, 101 Science Poems & Songs
for Young Learners, Instructor Books