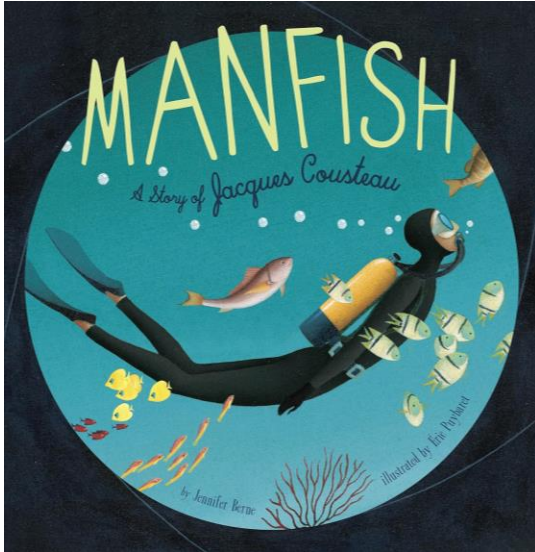


Discussion Guide for Families



Manfish

Author: Jennifer Berne

Illustrator: Eric Puybaret

Themes: Environment and Sustainability

Book Brief: Once upon a time in France, a baby was born under the summer sun. His parents named him Jacques. As he grew, Jacques fell in love with the sea. He dreamed of breathing beneath the waves and swimming as gracefully as a fish. In fact, he longed to become a manfish. Jacques Cousteau grew up to become a champion of the seas and one of the best-known oceanographers in the world.

READ ALOUD

Before Reading: Build Background

- Ask your child “Why do you think it’s important to take care of our oceans and waterways? What might happen if we don’t?”

While Reading: Make Connections

- What are you learning about Jacques Cousteau as a boy and as a man? How did his childhood love of water lead to his work in ocean conservation?
- How do the illustrations help you understand the underwater world Jacques explored and the special equipment he used?
- What equipment did Jacques need to swim underwater for long periods of time? What new words or terms did you learn related to his diving expeditions?

After Reading: Ask Questions

- Using what you learned from the story, explain how Jacques Cousteau taught the world about cleaning up rivers, lakes, and oceans. What are some ways we can help protect our waterways from pollution today?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

If your child enjoyed this book, consider:

- Encourage them to talk about it during other conversations.
- Check out RIF’s [Sustainable Futures](#) center to learn more about sustainability with related books and resources.