

## TEACHING NOTES

# Who's Afraid of the Light?

### Title

Who's Afraid of the Light?

### Author

Anna McGregor

### Publication

May 2023

### Category

Picture book

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## PLOT

Fergus lives down in the deepest, darkest depths of the sea and is scared of just one thing ... the light!

Anna McGregor introduces young readers to the wonders of the ocean's 'midnight zone', where no sunlight at all is able to penetrate. We meet Fergus as he hides from a parade of sea creatures that use bioluminescence to find their way in the dark. At least, we think he is hiding ... or is it something else entirely?



## THEMES

Adventure

Deep sea  
Marine  
biology

Ecosystems

Wildlife and  
habitats

Humour

Food chain

Bioluminescence

## DISCUSSION & ACTIVITIES

### BEFORE READING

\* What do you know about the deep sea? What sort of creatures you think might be down there?

\* Why do you think it is so dark at the bottom of the sea?

### AFTER READING

\* The creatures in *Who's Afraid of the Light?* use bioluminescence for a lots of different life functions. Can you think of any other examples of creatures or organisms that use bioluminescence?\*

\* Which spooky underwater creature was your favourite? Why?

\* Did Fergus look how you thought he would? Why or why not?

\* Fergus is a predator – he eats everyone and is at the top of the food chain! Can you think of any other animals or creatures that are predators?



\*Some possible answers include fireflies, glow worms, and some mushrooms

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## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY



Anna McGregor is a creator of modern, quirky and conceptual stories with humour and heart. Since beginning her career as a graphic designer, she is now

emerging as an award-winning picture book author/illustrator.

Anna has a deep curiosity of all things and finds her ideas by turning the mundane on its head, merging ideas or exploring wordplay – but always with a story that connects to the human experience.



## QUESTIONS WITH THE CREATOR

**What inspired you to dive into the deep dark sea?**

It's such a fascinating alien world. Scientists are discovering new information daily with the explosion of technology that gives them access to this previously inaccessible realm of our planet. I thoroughly enjoyed researching this book.

***Who's Afraid of the Light?* is full of spooky sea creatures. Which one is your favourite?**

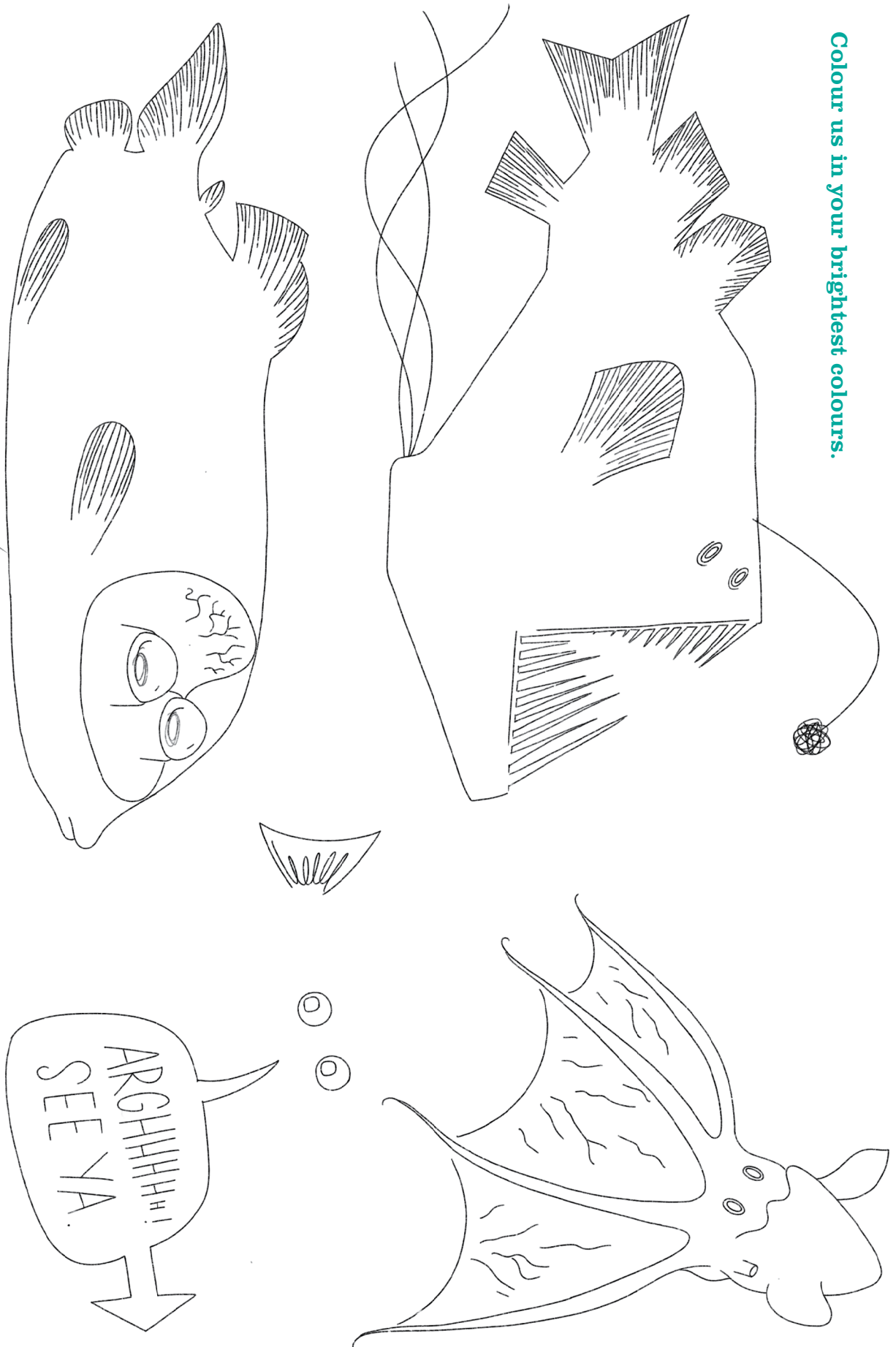
The Spookfish (also called a Barreleye fish) is definitely my favourite. It was fun to draw its jelly dome head.

**What have you learned about creating picture books since your first book came out?**

So much! It's important to consider the emotional journey you're taking the reader on. Everything else can be relatively simple.

# Who's AFRAID of the LIGHT?

Colour us in your brightest colours.



# DEEP SEA QUIZ

Hello future scientists. Search the web or your library to answer the following questions:

1. What is the scientific term for the ability of animals to produce their own light?
  - A. Bioluminescence
  - B. Phosphorescence
  - C. Fluorescence
2. What is bioluminescence?
  - A. The ability of an animal to change its colour
  - B. The ability of an animal to glow in the dark
  - C. The ability of an animal to make noise
3. Which of the following animals are bioluminescent?
  - A. Jellyfish
  - B. Sharks
  - C. Dolphins
4. What is the colour of bioluminescent light?
  - A. Red
  - B. Green
  - C. Blue
  - D. All of the above
5. How deep is the Midnight Zone?
  - A. 200–500 meters
  - B. 500–1000 meters
  - C. 1000–4000 meters
6. What is the pressure like in the Midnight Zone?
  - A. Very low pressure
  - B. High pressure
  - C. No pressure
7. What is the main source of food for animals in the Midnight Zone?
  - A. Plankton
  - B. Fish
  - C. Algae
8. What device do scientists use to explore the Midnight Zone?
  - A. Submersible
  - B. Telescope
  - C. Microscope
9. Which of the following is not a characteristic of the Midnight Zone?
  - A. High temperatures
  - B. Total darkness
  - C. Lack of oxygen
10. Which of the following is an environmental threat to life in the Midnight Zone?
  - A. Pollution
  - B. Overfishing
  - C. Deep Sea Mining
  - D. All of the Above



*Who's Afraid of the Light?* is a fresh and funny new narrative nonfiction picture book from author/illustrator Anna McGregor.