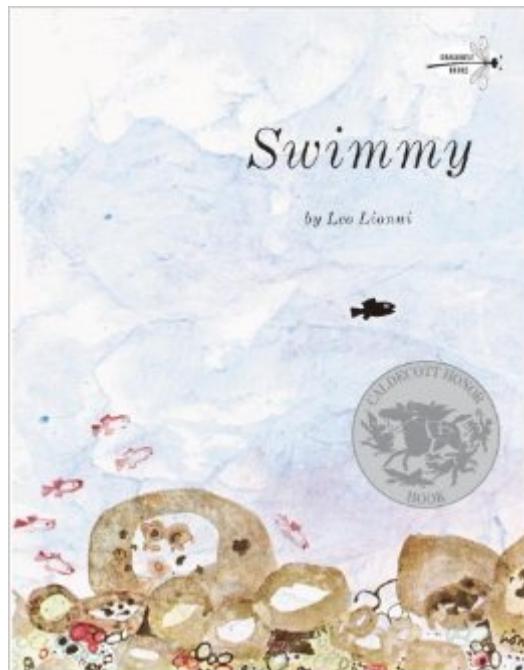


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# Swimmy



## Synopsis

Deep in the sea there lives a happy school of little fish. Their watery world is full of wonders, but there is also danger, and the little fish are afraid to come out of hiding . . . until Swimmy comes along. Swimmy shows his friends how "with ingenuity and team work" they can overcome any danger. With its graceful text and stunning artwork, this Caldecott Honor Book deserves a place on every child's shelf.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; Reissue edition (April 12, 1973)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0394826205

ISBN-13: 978-0394826202

Product Dimensions: 7.1 x 0.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (122 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #5,539 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Fish #23 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Marine Life #136 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

A lot of children's books deal with sharing and getting along with others. A lot try to help children be themselves. The brilliance of Leo Lionni is that in book after book he brings these two ideas together, showing children that they can be themselves and care about others at the same time. Many of Lionni's best books - Frederick, Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse, Tico and the Golden Wings, and Swimmy - all deal with this theme. Of all these, Swimmy is probably the one with the most immediate appeal to small children. The idea of little fish banding together to scare off the big bully fish is really empowering to small children. And the illustrations are delightful. As a writer and former English teacher, I also love Lionni's simple poetic language. You have to love a writer who writes about "an eel whose tail was almost too far away to remember" and describes sea anemones as "pink palm trees swaying in the wind." Hearing such beautiful and evocative language from an

early age can't help but make children better readers and writers later on. If I could, I'd send every baby home from the hospital with one of Rosemary Wells' Max books and this book. It belongs in every library.

Ah, *Swimmy*. You charming little guppy. This book wins the award for Subtlest-Book-About-Diversity for 1963. It is wholly and entirely charming. *Swimmy* is the only little fish amongst his brothers and sisters who was born black instead of red. A faster fish than all of them, *Swimmy* has the mixed blessing of being able to out swim a big fish that has come to devour his family. Poor *Swimmy* is left all alone in the world, but his sadness doesn't last for very long. The undersea world is full of wonders, including medusas made of rainbow jelly, a forest of seaweeds growing from sugar candy rocks, and sea anemones that look like, "pink palm trees swaying in the wind". When *Swimmy* stumbles across another group of small red fish, his quick thinking helps them to band together to fight the larger fish in the sea. For any kid that loved "Finding Nemo", I think this book would be an excellent companion. The lesson is twofold. One is that when people band together they can fight the unnaturally large problems facing them. Another is that being different, like *Swimmy*, can be a wonderful thing. I'm sure you're going to read reviews from people decrying this book as Communist propaganda (after all, it's a bunch of red fish finding strength in numbers to defeat the more powerful members of society that were previously eating them), and that's fine. It could definitely be read that way, and there's nothing wrong with that. But for those of you who feel that the book was probably meant to be read as a story for children and that's that, you're undoubtedly more correct. Leo Lionni is a magnificent artist, by the way. No one draws jellyfish with as much light and airy oomph as he does. The sea's wonders are all alright here, with little black *Swimmy* eyeing each and every one. There's a beauty to these watercolors that is difficult to find anywhere else. Even today, with our high tech picture book wizardry and computer generated images, nothing looks as pleasing to the eye as Lionni's tendrils of swaying anemones. Originally published in 1963, the book has not aged. Looking at it today, it never will.

This book is a must for every child's library. There are so many topics of discussion that can be brought out with just this one book. Friendship, courage, cooperation, and the ocean life are just a few. If you are a teacher, or have young children, this book is a must. Note to teachers: I use this during my ocean unit in kindergarten. We then make an ocean mural. Every child makes a red fish and I make a black fish, which is *Swimmy*. We then work together to make all of our fish look like one big fish. The children love it!

Who couldn't love the adorable fish that devises the perfect plan. At first this tiny little black fish is the only survivor of his large group of red fish. All alone he sets off to explore the ocean I love how Leo Lionni describes the sea animals Swimmy meets along the way. "The sea anemones, who look like pink palm trees swaying in the wind" and "an eel whose tail was almost too far away remember." Finally Swimmy meets up with another group of friends but they are afraid to explore the ocean like Swimmy does. So Swimmy devises a plan where all the fish group together in the shape of a large fish with Swimmy as the eye. All together they are safe from danger. This book teaches children do many great lessons. It shows them how when you work together you can do anything! This is an excellent book to use in classrooms with young children!

I love to read this to our students in our children's library. It's lessons are so varied. Teamwork, thinking creatively and being different are all topics to discuss after this great read. The illustrations and language are simply astounding. It is an underwater dreamscape that provokes contemplation for adults as well as children!

As a child, this was my favorite book. Reading it as adult to my own daughter, I marvel at the author's use of words to create the incredible imagery of the sea. I remember as a child being spellbound by his descriptions of the "eel whose tail was almost too far away to remember", and the "lobster who walked about like a water-moving machine." Even if this book had no illustrations, it would be a treasure. However, the water color illustrations are beyond beautiful. Not surprisingly, my own two year old daughter is enthralled by this book, just as I was. I recommend it for pre-school through elementary age children (and for those adults among us who never grew up!)

The pictures a dark and the words are small, almost invisible! Very poor quality for young eyes to read. What is the purpose of this book and who was it written for? What is the purpose of a child's book if not for a child to read it or for you to be able to read to them. If you read to them, you want them to be able to see the words so they can begin to identify with the words. This book makes that impossible. I would like a refund!

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