



DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

REEF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Grouper Moon Project Curriculum

Year 4



"Grouper Moon"
by
Cynthia Shaw
Read Aloud Activities

CREDITS

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Special thanks to REEF's Grouper Moon Project Education and Scientific staff,
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of Environment Staff.

CREATION AND REVISION HISTORY:

v 1.0 First Creation, 2011

v 2.0 Updated, 2023

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Read Along

OVERVIEW REFERENCE SHEET YEAR 4

DURATION: Depends	METHOD: Group Activity, Individual
MATERIALS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vocab for students• Comprehension Questions• Class Copy of Grouper Moon	SUBJECT(S): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literature

RESOURCES:

- The enormous educational benefits of reading aloud to your students is a widely studied field. For more information about the efficacy of reading aloud: <https://www.waldenu.edu/online-bachelors-programs/bs-in-elementary-education/resource/the-benefits-of-reading-aloud-to-your-students>
- Research also shows us the importance of interdisciplinary learning. This read-aloud combines literature and science uniquely engagingly, making science learning more accessible to a broader range of learners. For more on this concept: <https://serc.carleton.edu/econ/interdisciplinary/why.html#:~:text=Interdisciplinary%20instruction%20allows%20us%20to,them%20to%20the%20learning%20process>
- For more information on how to use the Reader's Theater strategy in your classroom that includes a video example, check out this link: <https://learningforallstudents.wordpress.com/2015/02/05/strategy-1-readers-theater/>

Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Anchor Text Description:

“It’s Grouper Moon in the Caribbean! Cooper, an affable Nassau grouper, has been content with his life on the reef as a loner. One day he awakens to realize that for the first time in his seven years, he is lonely. His comfortable world is turned upside down as he is called away on a mysterious mission of great importance to his kind. Renny is the free-spirited island boy whose life is the reef. When the property above his favorite cove is sold to a Yankee who plans to build a dive resort, Renny must deal with the prospect of having to share his reef with strangers from other countries. While spearfishing on Christmas afternoon, Renny is led into a dark, secret place, where two worlds become magically linked by common concerns—and uncommon friendships. As islanders prepare for Grouper Moon, the arrival of a fish biologist draws Renny even further into the world of the Nassau groupers. When he learns that Cooper’s first journey into the unknown may be his last, Renny desperately wants to help. But how can he? And is it already too late? A delightful and unforgettable story, GROUPER MOON is about friendship and trust, discover, and having the courage to reach out and make a difference in the world ;” -Cindy Shaw

Purpose:

Grouper Moon, by Cindy Shaw, is a story filled with excitement and wonder and has captured the imaginations of countless young readers. Interwoven into the story are a number of important marine sciences concepts. The story of Renny and Cooper the Grouper provides an excellent literary entry point into the world of the Caribbean coral reef. While students become wrapped up in the fanciful story and interesting characters, they will also be learning critically important science concepts, including tropical reef ecology and conservation, the interdependence and interconnections between all species, the life cycle, spawning, and much more.

To accompany the read-aloud are comprehension questions and key vocabulary lists for each chapter, which can be done together in class or as homework.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop active listening skills
- Develop reading comprehension skills
- Develop student’s understanding of marine sciences concepts through literature

National Science Curriculum Alignment: Year 4

- Recognize that living things can be grouped in a number of ways.
- Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.
- Observe similarities and differences among animals and among plants.
- Find out about other animals, including how they grow, feed, move, and use their senses.
- Investigate a local habitat, including the relationship between the animals and plants found there, and develop skills in classifying animals and plants by observing external features.



Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Character List

Renny Thomas
Mrs. Thomas (Margaret)
Mr. Thomas (Renton)
J.D. John David Patrick
Aunt Opal Brown
Uncle Eddie Brown
Cooper the Grouper
Sam the Parrotfish
Buster Henry (fisherman)
Andrew Henry (brother)
Sadie the Grouper
Henry the Neck Crab
Maurice the Moray Eel
Louie the Grouper
Uncle Epinephelus
Greg the Grouper
Beryl Piscado
Gordy Smallbone
Wilfrid Kingsly

Teaching Idea!

Species List–

Have students create a species list as the story is read out loud. Add to this list each time the story is read, listening carefully for the different marine species named in the book. After the read-aloud, the class will compare notes to see if all species were identified. This is a great engagement tool.

Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions:

The following is a list of vocabulary words and comprehension questions for each chapter in Grouper Moon. You can use these in several different ways. You can assign some or all the vocabulary ahead of time to your students or you can simply review the words with your class before each read aloud. The comprehension questions can also be assigned after each reading or they can be discussed as a whole class.

1. The Gift

Vocabulary:

- a. Jinx
- b. Oblong
- c. Potential
- d. Hibiscus
- e. Kerchief
- f. Rituals
- g. Routine
- h. Exuberant
- i. Aroma
- j. Flourish
- k. Casually
- l. Muttered
- m. Conceal
- n. Gunnysack
- o. Tentatively
- p. Contours
- q. Giddy

Comprehension Questions:

1. List the characters we have met so far and how they are related.
2. What did Renny get for Christmas?
3. What is Renny going to do after church?

Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions:

2. Coconut Cove

Vocabulary:

- a. Currents
- b. Hoisted
- c. Productivity
- d. Cutlasses
- e. Flamboyant
- f. Rowdy
- g. Foundation
- h. Abandoned
- i. Established
- j. Strategically
- k. Colonies
- l. Lease
- m. Yankees
- n. Oblivious
- o. Promote
- p. Convoy
- q. Honored
- r. Bearings
- s. Hovered

Comprehension Questions:

1. Name five marine species Renny saw while diving on the reef.
2. What concerns does Renny have about JD's dive resort?
3. In what skill is Renny a champion among his friends?
4. Why did Renny get nervous while swimming on the reef?

Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions:

3. The Fairyland

Vocabulary:

- a. Fringe
- b. Coral polyp
- c. Algae
- d. Coral colony
- e. Coral head
- f. Spawn
- g. Larvae
- h. Oasis
- i. Sponges
- j. Sand chute
- k. Abundant
- l. Iridescent
- m. Crustacean
- n. Survey
- o. Detect
- p. Clenching

Comprehension Questions:

1. Name five more species Renny saw on the reef.
2. In what ways is a reef like a village or town?
3. What happened to the lobster Renny caught?

4. The Grotto

Vocabulary:

- a. Infused
- b. Silhouettes
- c. Supple
- d. Unison
- e. Lush
- f. Sensational
- g. Communicate
- h. Pectoral fin
- i. Surfacing
- j. Undertow
- k. Eternity

Comprehension Questions:

1. What happened in the grouper's den?
2. What did Renny do just before leaving the reef?

Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions:

5. Christmas Dinner

Vocabulary:

- a. Irresistible
- b. Dissolve
- c. Beamed

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is changing about the Nassau Grouper population on the island?

6. The Changeover

Vocabulary:

- a. Scavenger
- b. Crustacean
- c. Decapod
- d. Gluttony
- e. Residents
- f. Delicate
- g. Plankton
- h. Network
- i. Reflection
- j. Commotion
- k. Mucous
- l. Esteemed
- m. Irritable
- n. Meditation
- o. Spicules
- p. Ambush
- q. Pondered

Comprehension Questions:

1. Describe what happens during “the changeover” on the reef.
2. What does Cooper love about living on the reef?
3. In what ways is Cooper feeling different than he normally does?

Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions:

7. Getting Ready

Vocabulary:

- a. Engrossed
- b. Technique
- c. The Bends
- d. Aggregation
- e. Stealth
- f. Lured
- g. Armada
- h. Trudged
- i. Veranda

Comprehension Questions:

1. How does Renny feel about JD's dive resort idea? Explain:

8. Dem Bones

Vocabulary:

- a. Solitary
- b. Encounter
- c. Glum
- d. Restless
- e. Fidgety
- f. Commotion
- g. Trance
- h. Parasites
- i. Admire
- j. Carapace
- k. Hydroids
- l. Incredulous
- m. Miserable
- n. Aplomb
- o. Swaggered
- p. Whimsical
- q. Japanese Pagoda
- r. Juvenile
- s. Hesitated
- t. Courting
- u. Depressed
- v. Anxiety
- w. Aimlessly

Comprehension Questions

1. Who are the cleaners and how do they help Cooper?
2. Who is Henry and what is his new job?
3. How does Cooper feel as he is waiting for Sadie?

Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions:

9. The Old Neighborhood

Vocabulary:

- a. Authority
- b. Preoccupied
- c. Reclaimed
- d. Machete
- e. Quipped
- f. Compromise
- g. Unison

Comprehension Questions

1. How does JD convince Renny that the dive hotel is a good idea?
2. Describe Renny's personality. What kind of person is he and how do you know?

10. Becoming Enlightened

Vocabulary:

- a. Mission
- b. Forbidden
- c. Security
- d. Shimmering
- e. Vulnerable
- f. Splendor
- g. Hypnotized
- h. Slithered

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who is Maurice and what do he and Cooper do together?

11. The Corrida

Vocabulary:

- a. Doggedly
- b. Formation
- c. architecture
- d. fleeting
- e. presence
- f. emerged
- g. Epinephelus
- h. Sashayed
- i. Corrida
- j. Distinctive
- k. Landmarks
- l. Autopilot

Comprehension Questions:

1. When does the Grouper Moon happen?
2. What is a group of Nassau Grouper called?



Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions:

12. Beryl

Vocabulary:

- a. Harvested
- b. Unadulterated
- c. Solitary
- d. Roe
- e. Aggregate
- f. Likelihood
- g. Cryptic

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who is Beryl and what is her job?
2. Does Grouper Moon always happy during the full moon? Explain.
3. What time of day do the grouper spawn?

13. Casting Off

Vocabulary:

- a. Seine net
- b. Nor'easter
- c. Hoisted

14. The Problem With Groupers

Vocabulary:

- a. Otolith
- b. Generations
- c. Established
- d. Replacements
- e. Benefits
- f. Overfishing
- g. Ignorance
- h. Poaching
- i. Revolt
- j. Tradition
- k. Develop
- l. Outwit

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why are less and less Nassau Grouper? What is the problem?
2. Why are Nassau Grouper sensitive to overfishing?

Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions:

15. To Make A Difference:

Vocabulary:

- a. Innocent
- b. Vegetation
- c. Smother
- d. Recover
- e. Encounter
- f. Biology
- g. Fisheries
- h. Hostility
- i. Suppress
- j. Relate
- k. Glanced
- l. Obscure
- m. Resources

Comprehension Questions:

1. Explain what you think the following quote by Senegalese ecologist Baba Dioum means: "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we are taught."

16. The Big Bash

Vocabulary:

- a. Survey
- b. Promontory
- c. Intently
- d. Glorious
- e. Delicacy
- f. Pondered
- g. Tantalizing
- h. Hunch
- i. Contraption
- j. Despondent
- k. Agitated
- l. Navigate
- m. Distressed
- n. Dazed
- o. Abhor
- p. Dignity
- q. Aggravation
- r. Dissipate
- s. Productive
- t. Optimism

Comprehension Questions:

1. Where is Sadie and how did she get there?
2. How did Uncle Epinephelus know it was NOT time to spawn yet?



Grouper Moon: A Read Aloud

Vocabulary and Comprehension Questions:

17. The Dance

Vocabulary:

- a. Tuxedo
- b. Column
- c. Vortex
- d. Euphoric
- e. Splendid

Comprehension Questions:

1. How did Nature lend a hand and help out the Nassau aggregation?

18. Waiting

Vocabulary

- a. Vengeance
- b. Sensible
- c. Thrashed
- d. Rabble-rousing
- e. Improvements
- f. Appropriate
- g. Economically
- h. Overdevelop
- i. Persuasive
- j. Outreach
- k. Spanish Bullion

Comprehension Questions:

1. What is Margaret going to change on her menu?
2. What is one thing JD is going to do to help protect the reef as he builds his hotel?

19. A Good Place to Be

Vocabulary:

- a. Donned
- b. Instinctively
- c. Recalling
- d. Denizens
- e. Lounging
- f. Wary

Comprehension Questions:

1. Where was, "John Patrick David was here" written and did it make Renny feel when he saw it?