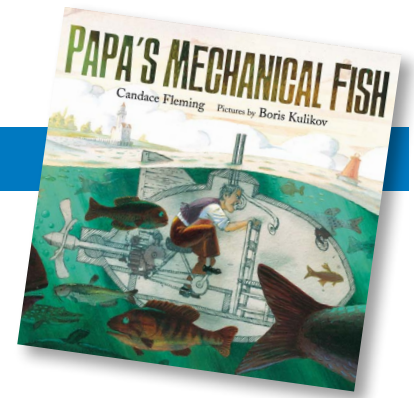


Papa's Mechanical Fish



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Invention, Persistence, Problem Solving, Engineering

Book Brief: While on a fishing trip, Papa gets the idea to invent an underwater vessel. As he works on his invention, Papa illustrates the old saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!"

Author:
Candace Fleming

Illustrator:
Boris Kulikov

Content Connections:
Science, Social Studies, Math

TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: What modern piece of equipment do you think Papa is trying to invent? Explain.

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pages. How do the details in the pictures

provide information about the setting (time and place) of the story and overall lifestyle of this family?

Prior Knowledge: Discuss with students what they already know about submarines. What are submarines used for? When were they invented? SUB comes from Latin and means "under." MARINE also comes from Latin, from the word *mare*. Can you guess what it means?

Vocabulary: edible, mechanical, vessel, launched, levers, barricades

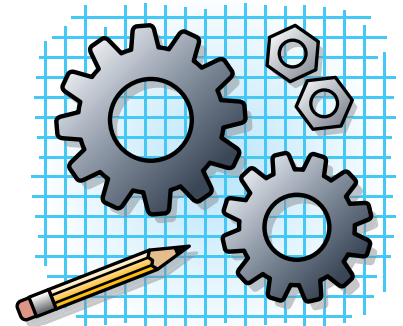
Purpose for Reading: As we read, think about the importance of asking questions and how questioning things might lead to new ideas.

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ How does the author use *onomatopoeia* in the story?
- ◆ Are all inventions practical?
- ◆ Why is Papa frustrated?
- ◆ Where does the story take place?
- ◆ What type of drawing does Papa make?
- ◆ How does it change?
- ◆ Why do you think the vessel keeps growing larger?

- ◆ How long do you think it took for Papa to complete each project?
- ◆ What character trait would best describe Papa? How about the mother?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Why is it important to ask questions? How might questions lead to new ideas?

Extending Our Thinking: What purpose would an underwater vessel serve in 1851? When coming up with an idea for an invention, what are some things you might want to consider? Where do you think inventors get their ideas or inspiration? What was the overall theme of this story?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is
Fundamental