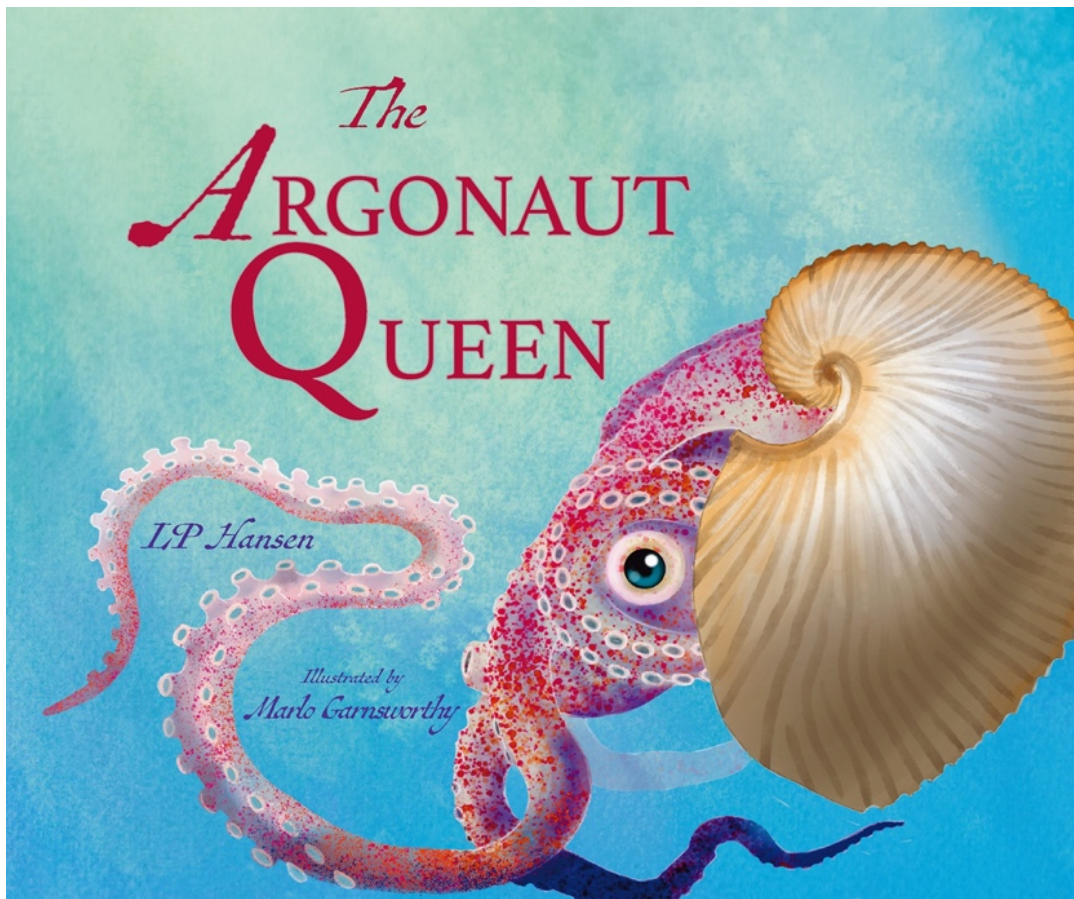


The Argonaut Queen

Teaching Notes

Author: L P Hansen

Illustrator: Marlo Garnsworthy



SYNOPSIS

Dive into the oceans — and into the depths of history — with the Argonaut Queen, an expertly-told story that weaves together the marine science of these fascinating creatures and the woman who we have to thank for it, Jeanne Villepreux-Power, one of the earliest studiers of this subspecies of octopus and the many features that make it so unique. Though Villepreux-Power's scientific illustrations were lost to the seas in a shipwreck, this book pays homage to them through exquisitely rendered, real-to-life drawings of the creature she dedicated her life to.

In the Classroom

Before Reading:

Discuss what can be seen on the cover:

- Introduce the book by looking at the cover:
 - What can children see?
 - Do children know what this animal is called?
 - Where do you think they live?
- What do you think the story is about?
 - Why do children think this?

Additional cover discussion:

- Do any children share the same letters from the title in their name?
- What colours can be seen on the cover?
- What shapes can be seen?
- What do you think the shell would feel like?

During Reading:

Questions to ask children during the story:

About Argonauts

Look at the front endpaper:

- How many shells can you see?
- What differences can you see?
- Where do you think the shells come from?

Information is given during the story about the argonauts life and how they make their own shells.
Potential areas of discussion:

- Why do children think argonauts create a shell?
 - Protecting eggs/young
- Look at the differences between the male and female argonauts.
- Discuss the use of the argonauts arms:
 - Senses used.
- What do children think argonauts eat?

About Jean Villepreux-Power

- Why do you think Jean Villepreux-Power wanted to study/watch live creatures?

After Reading:

Discussion about what children have learned from the book:

Jean Villepreux-Power:

- What did Villepreux-Power want to achieve?
- Why do you think she was interested in looking at argonauts?
- How did she watch the argonauts she found?
- Can you remember some of the things she saw argonauts doing?
- How did Villepreux-Power record this information?
 - Artwork
 - Writing
- Why do you think Jean Villepreux-Power's work was important?

Jean Villepreux-Power invented the aquarium:

- Do children know what an aquarium is?
 - What are they used for?
 - Where might you find one?
 - Have children ever visited an aquarium?
 - What did they see there?
 - Do they have an aquarium at home?

What happened to Jean Villepreux-Power's work? Is it gone forever or do we still understand more about argonauts?

Marine Biology:

- What do children think a marine biologist is?
 - What do they do?
 - Where do they work?
 - What do they hope to find out?
 - What do you think would happen if people were not studying our oceans?

Use textbooks or online resources to look at the importance of marine biology.

Discuss Marine Conservation

- What is pollution?
 - What examples can children give?
- What impact does pollution have on our oceans and the animals found there?
- What can we do to prevent this?
- What other factors can harm animals and plants in the sea?

Classroom Activities:

- Draw your own argonaut – Using images from the book or online resources, encourage children to become Villepreux-Power and draw their own argonauts.
- Sea creature still life – Using sea creature play toys, encourage children to draw or paint their choice of sea animal.
- Create your own shoebox aquarium – Using classroom resources, groups of children can create their own ‘aquarium’. Children can decorate a shoebox and then draw/make their own sea creatures to place or stick inside. String can be used to make creatures look like they are floating. Use crepe paper and other resources to create weeds/plant life.
- Create an underwater display – Children can draw pictures of marine life to add to the display. Handprint argonauts can also be included
- Water tray aquarium – Add sand, shells and pebbles to a water tray with toy sea creatures. Encourage children to act as scientists looking at and exploring the items that can be found. Discuss the features of what they can find and the textures, properties of the items.

About the Author:

L P Hansen writes her stories in a cottage by the sea in sunny New Zealand. She decorates her garden with smooth driftwood and shiny abalone or pāua shells from the nearby beach. The first paper nautilus shell Linda found is an *Argonauta nodosa*. She found it at Tūhua or Mayor Island, a wildlife refuge in New Zealand’s North Island.

About the Illustrator:

Marlo Garnsworthy is an author, illustrator, editor, and Antarctic science communicator. When she’s not making books, you’ll find her paddling her kayak, hiking a trail, having adventures in far-flung places, or dreaming of Antarctica. She lives in a National Park on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA, with her husband, two cats, and lots of wildlife.