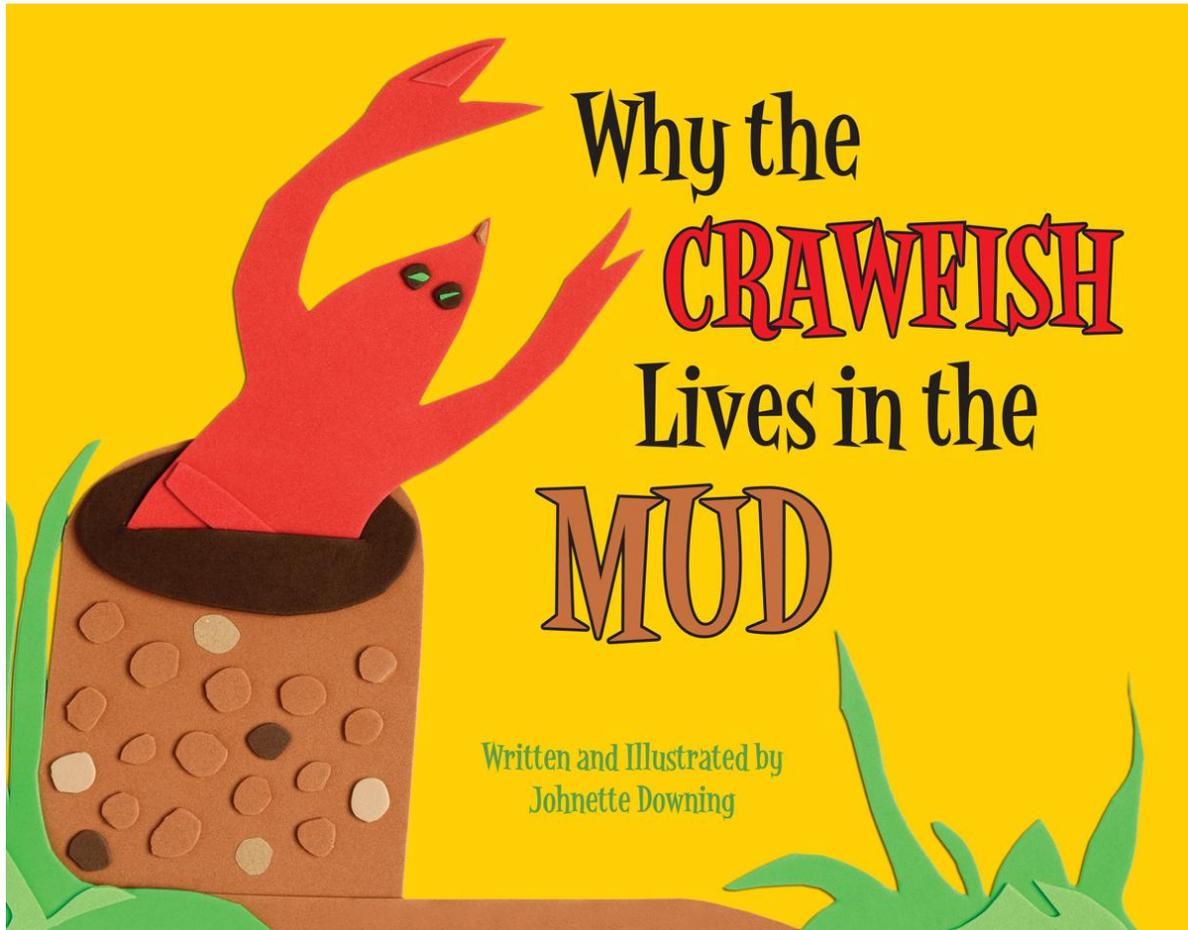


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Classroom Activity Guide for



Why the Crawfish Lives in the Mud

Written and illustrated by Johnette Downing

Guide created by Johnette Downing



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Why the Crawfish Lives in the Mud

Soundscape

By Johnette Downing

Having trouble getting your children to read? How about using some musical instruments to create a soundscape for books? Select any children's book you would like your children to read and then assign a musical instrument for each character in the book. Weather, nature, sound words and other environmental factors offer great opportunities to create sound effects. Here is an example using my book Why the Crawfish Lives in the Mud:

<u>Characters</u>	<u>Musical Instrument Assignment</u>
Crawfish	Rhythm sticks
Crab	Wood block
Fish	Maracas

<u>Environment</u>	<u>Musical Instrument Assignment</u>
Mud	Guiro or washboard
Bayou	Bells

<u>Repetitive Sound Words</u>	<u>Musical instrument Assignment</u>
Hot	Tambourine
Small	Triangle
Big	Drum
Loud	all of the instruments in unison



Instructions:

1. Assign the musical instruments to these specific words in the book.
2. Demonstrate the proper way to play each musical instrument.
3. Pass out the assigned musical instruments to the children; one instrument per child is recommended.
4. Slowly read the book aloud to the children, allowing them time to hear and react to the trigger words for their instruments.
5. The children will listen with purpose to the book and will play their instrument once each time their trigger word is spoken throughout the book.
6. Enjoy!

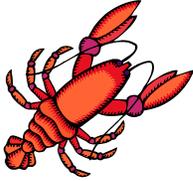
Adding musical instruments to reading will not only enhance the enjoyment of the experience of reading, but will also engage the children in reading in a positive way. Reading becomes a multi-sensory, participatory experience.



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Why the Crawfish Lives in the Mud



Crawfish Fun Facts Quiz



By Johnette Downing

1. Crawfish belong to the _____ family along with shrimp, crabs, and lobsters.
2. List three common names for crawfish: _____, _____, _____.
3. Crawfish are decapods, meaning they have how many legs? _____.
4. Crawfish are omnivores, meaning they eat both _____ and _____.
5. The hard outer shell of the crawfish is called the _____.
6. Crawfish tunnels and mounds are made of _____.
7. According to the book, why does the crawfish live in the mud?

8. What is the moral of the story?



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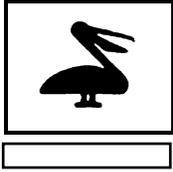
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Why the Crawfish Lives in the Mud

Crawfish Fun Facts Quiz Answers

By Johnette Downing

1. Crustacean
2. Crayfish, crawdad and mudbug
3. Ten
4. Plants and animals
5. Exoskeleton
6. Mud
7. To keep away from the angry crab
8. Suggested themes for discussion: fairness, kindness, sharing, honesty, generosity, hard work, integrity and justice. Suggested morals: Treat others the way you wish to be treated. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.



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Pin the Crawfish on the Pot

**By The Early Childhood Teachers
Academy of Sacred Heart, New Orleans, LA USA**

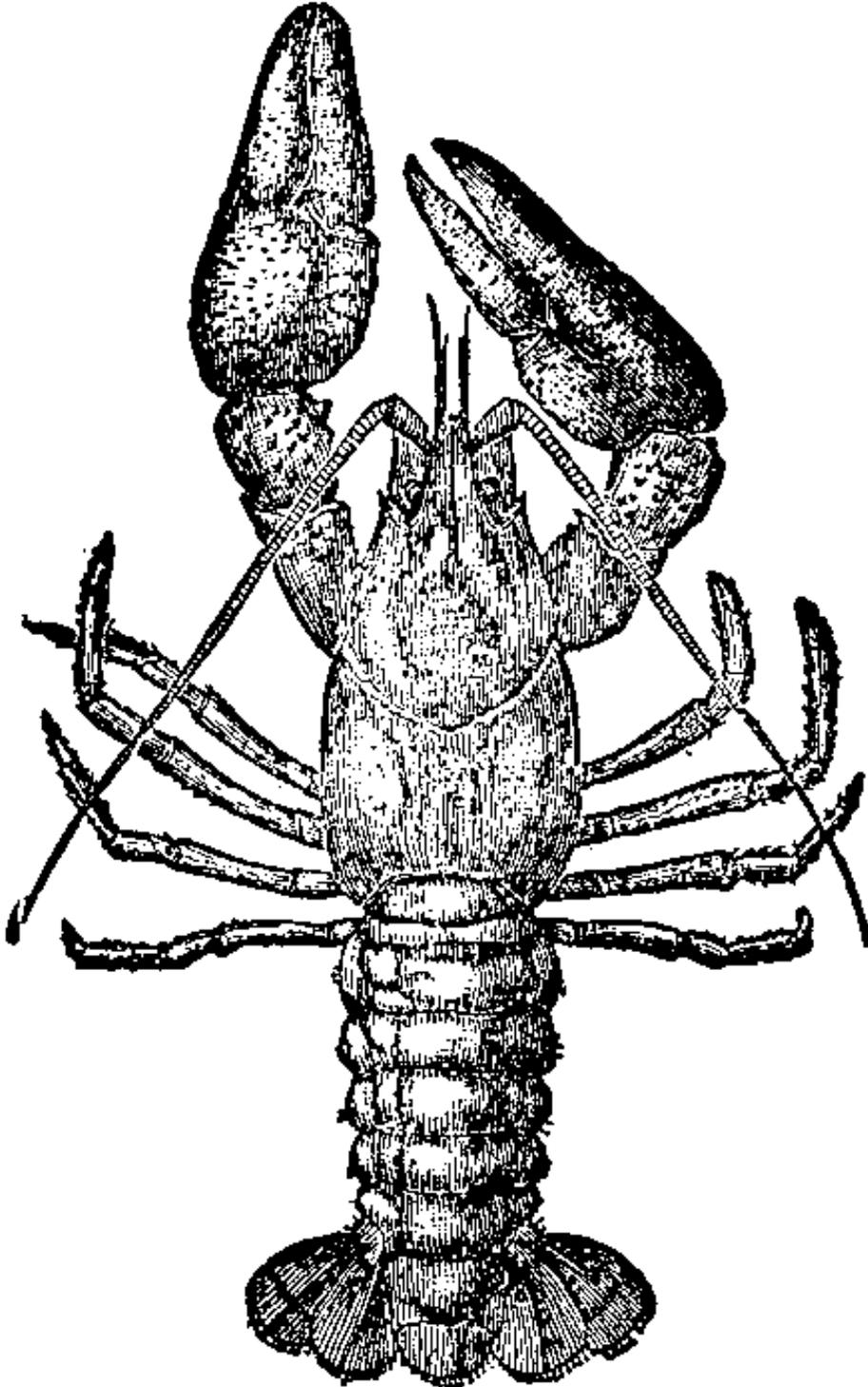
1. Cut out of construction paper an image of a large gumbo pot (or use clip art).
2. Cut out of construction paper an image of a crawfish. You can use the one on the next page. You'll need one for each student in the class.
3. Affix the gumbo pot to a bulletin board.
4. Taking turns, each child is blind-folded and tries to pin or tape the crawfish on the pot.
5. Play the "pin the tail on the donkey" game the usual way, but use the crawfish and the pot.





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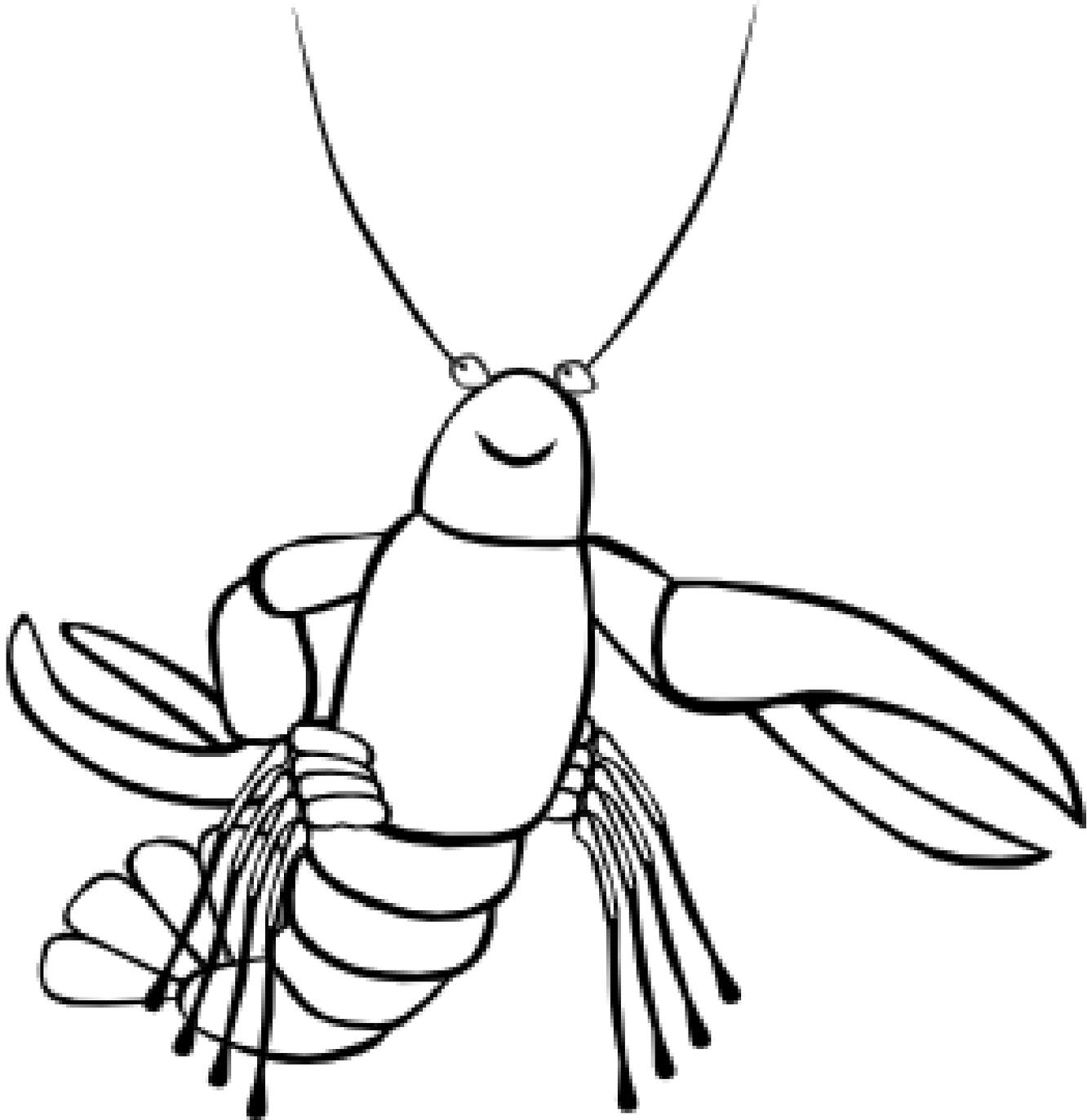
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Color your own Crawfish!



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WHY THE CRAWFISH LIVES IN THE MUD

Written and Illustrated by Johnette Downing

A long time ago, when Crab and Crawfish were still best friends, Crawfish was feeling particularly lazy—and particularly hungry—as he loafed around the muggy bayou. When Crab arrived with a fish, Crawfish took one listen to his empty belly and decided to trick his good-natured friend.

After Crab realizes Crawfish has made a fool of him again, he isn't happy, and before he knows it, Crawfish gets exactly what he deserves. A charming tale cautioning children about the consequences of cheating your friends, this colorful picture book from the critically acclaimed Johnette Downing will delight readers of all ages with its timeless and gentle lesson about integrity.

Lively collage-style illustrations, a glossary of Cajun words and phrases, including entries such as “*cher*” (dear or friend) and “*beaucoup*” (much), and a list of crawfish “fun facts” make this book an irresistible read.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Johnette Downing is an award-winning, internationally recognized singer/songwriter who performs original children's music inspired by her Louisiana heritage. Her many accolades include six Parents' Choice Awards, three iParenting Media Awards, an Imagination Award, among others. She is the author of Pelican's *Chef Creole, Down in Louisiana, Today Is Monday in Louisiana*, and *My Aunt Came Back from Louisiane*, which she also illustrated.

WHY THE CRAWFISH LIVES IN THE MUD

By Johnette Downing

JUVENILE FICTION / Animals / General

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18 color illus. Glossary

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