

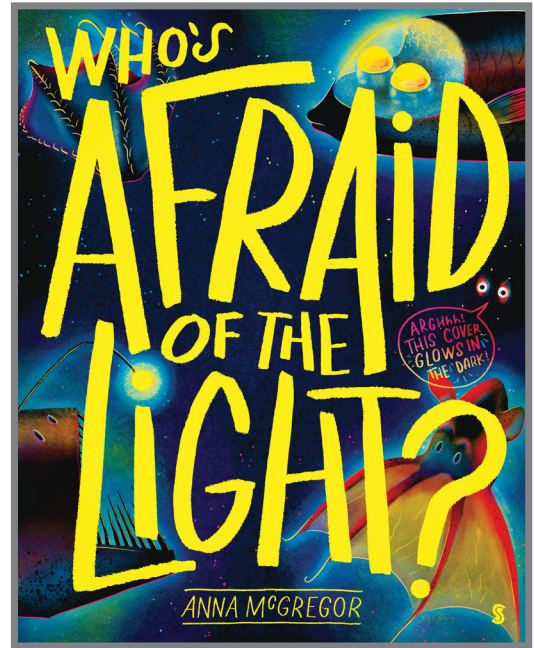
Who's Afraid of the Light?

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
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SCIS: 5445876

ISBN: 9781922585394

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Fergus lives down in the deepest, darkest depths of the sea and is scared of just one thing . . . the light!

Anna McGregor introduces young readers to the wonders of the ocean's 'midnight zone', where no sunlight at all is able to penetrate. There, we meet Fergus as he hides from a parade of sea creatures that use bioluminescence to find their way in the dark. At least, we think he is hiding . . . or is it something else entirely?

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Anna McGregor is a creator of modern, quirky and conceptual stories with humour and heart. Since beginning her career as a graphic designer, she is now emerging as an award-winning picture book author/illustrator.

Anna has a deep curiosity of all things and finds her ideas by turning the mundane on its head, merging ideas or exploring wordplay—but always with a story that connects to the human experience.

THEMES

- Adventure
- Deep sea
- Marine biology
- Ecosystems
- Wildlife and habitats
- Humour
- Food chain
- Bioluminescence

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- What do you know about the deep sea? What sort of creatures do you think might be down there?
- Why do you think it is so dark at the bottom of the sea?

AFTER READING

- The creatures in *Who's Afraid of the Light?* use bioluminescence for a lot of different life functions. Can you think of

any other examples of creatures or organisms that use bioluminescence in the wild? Some possible answers include fireflies, glow worms, and some mushrooms.

- Which spooky underwater creature was your favourite? Why?
- Did Fergus look how you thought he would? Why or why not?
- Fergus is a predator—he eats everyone and is at the top of the food chain! Can you think of any other animals or creatures that are predators?
- Answer the following questions after reading *Who's Afraid of the Light?* If you can't find the answer, use the library or research on the internet:
 - What is the scientific term for the ability of animals to produce their own light? (Bioluminescence.)
 - What is bioluminescence? (The ability of an animal to glow in the dark.)
 - What is the colour of bioluminescent light? (Red, Green and Blue.)
 - How deep is the Midnight Zone? (1000–4000 metres.)
 - What is the pressure like in the Midnight Zone? (High pressure.)
 - What is the main source of food for animals in the Midnight Zone? (Plankton.)
 - What device do scientists use to explore the Midnight Zone? (Submersible.)