

# A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR

## SEA HORSE, RUN!

Text & art ©2011 by Tammy Carter Bronson  
849 words total made up of 282 different words  
118 sentences / 1072 syllables  
77% of the words are 1 syllable  
126 syllable average for every 100 words  
FRY READABILITY AGE IS 7 YEARS

Sample questions for an Accelerated Reader (AR) Test:

- 1) Who is Sea Horse's best friend?  
(A) Shark (B) Coral (C) Eel (D) Octopus
- 2) Shark, Eel, and Octopus are afraid of ...  
(A) Whale (B) Coral (C) Dolphins (D) Sea Dragon
- 3) Coral cannot leave the reef. Who tries to save Coral from the Sea Dragon?  
(A) Eel (B) Shark (C) Sea Horse (D) Octopus
- 4) Sea Horse swims out to save Seaweed from the dragon, but Seaweed is really ...  
(A) a fish. (B) a plant. (C) the Eel. (D) the Sea Dragon.
- 5) Which one is NOT a type of Sea Dragon...  
(A) Coral (B) Leafy (C) Weedy (D) Ribbon
- 6) Which animal sings in the story?  
(A) Sea Dragon (B) Coral (C) Sea Horse (D) Octopus
- 7) Sea Horse turns three different colors. Which color below is NOT a color for Sea Horse in the story?  
(A) red (B) yellow (C) green (D) blue

**ANSWERS:** 1=B; 2=D; 3=C; 4=D; 5=A; 6=B; 7=C

**SUMMARY:** Rumors of an approaching sea dragon cause frightened sea creatures to flee the reef, but brave Sea Horse stays behind to defend his helpless friend, Coral.

**THEMES:** The dominant themes are COURAGE and FRIENDSHIP. Sea Horse's friendship with Coral enables him to overcome his fear and face the sea monster in the hope that he will save Coral. Sea Horse has a lot of courage to face the dragon alone, but his courage allows him to meet family members he didn't even know he had: sea dragons!

### **CHARACTERS:**

Sea Horse is the HERO or main character.

Sea Dragon is the TEACHER who mentors the hero. At first it seems that there is no teacher character; however, when the Sea Dragon arrives, he contributes the most to the hero's understanding of his journey.

Coral is a 'chorus' of HELPER characters who assist the hero on his journey. Coral helps by telling Sea Horse to swim away, but he chooses to stay behind and protect his friends.

TROUBLEMAKERS are opposed to the hero's goal or are an obstacle for the Hero to overcome. In this story Sea Horse assumes that Shark, Eel and Octopus are helpers, but they are really troublemakers because Shark, Eel, and Octopus spread rumors that frightened all the animals.

**CHARACTER ROLE REVERSALS:** Sea Dragon changes from troublemaker to teacher. Shark, Eel, and Octopus change from helpers to troublemakers. And in the end, Sea Horse changes from hero to teacher when he reassures Sea Dragon that he is safe from Shark, Eel, and Octopus.