



I'M FABULOUS CRAB!

NICKI GREENBERG

I'm *done* being dreary.

I'm *done* being drab.

I'm *done* being *Henry* . . .

I'm Fabulous Crab!

A Discussion and Activity Guide

Henry the hermit crab is tired of his dull life on the dim ocean floor. He wants glamour! His friends don't understand his desire to sparkle and try to discourage him, but Henry is undaunted. He decorates himself with the brightest bling he can find and embarks on the (sometimes surprising!) path to becoming fabulous. *I'm Fabulous Crab!* can be read simply as a playful adventure and may also spark conversations about discovering one's identity, having the courage to be different, and finding a sense of belonging.

This reading guide offers help for delving into the story further. Below you will find discussion starters, ideas for exploring the text and art, and activities for children. Access this guide online at www.flyawaybooks.com/resources, where you can follow the links for more information.

Conversation Starters

- Henry thinks being a hermit crab is drab and dreary. Why do you think he feels that way?
- Have you ever wanted to do something that was different from what your family or friends would normally do? What was it? Or maybe you've already done something that surprised others. If so, how did they react? Did you enjoy the experience?
- We follow Henry as he swims away from home to recreate himself as Fabulous Crab (Fab for short!). He's not a bit scared. In fact, we could describe him as determined. What other words can you use to describe Fab?



- Can you understand why Fab is so determined to change? What makes him so brave?
- How do the other crabs respond when Henry says he is now Fabulous Crab? What do you think about their reactions to Fab? What would you have said to Fab if you were one of his friends?



- The hermit crabs' motto is "unnoticed is best." A motto is a short saying that describes what is most important to someone. Why did the crabs choose "unnoticed is best" as their motto? Why do you think they prefer to hide away rather than draw attention to themselves? Have you ever felt that way?
- The story doesn't mention a motto for Fabulous Crab. If he had one, what would it be?
- Maybe you like glitter and sparkle like Fabulous Crab, or maybe something else is more appealing to you—that's OK! Think about what's important to you and what makes you happy and then create your own motto.
- Fab looks around for help when he gets stuck, but his friends have all scurried away. What do you think a good friend should do?
- Near the end of the story, Fab's friends change their views and become supportive of his new glamour. What changes their minds?
- Do you think Fab is happier at the end of the book than he is at the beginning? Why do you think this is? What have you learned from reading the story?

Exploring the Text

- Many words in this story rhyme. This means they end with the same letters or letters that sound alike, such as *drab* and *crab*, for example. Can you find more rhyming words in the story? Pick a page and discuss which words rhyme.



- Many words in this book start with letters that match, such as *snivelling snail* or *treasure* or *trash*. This is called alliteration. Can you find other examples of alliteration in the story?
- Words like *fabulous* are called adjectives, which means they are used to describe people or things. What are some other adjectives in the book?
- At the beginning of the story, we learn that the crabs live on the dim ocean floor. The phrase *ocean floor* means the very bottom of the ocean. Do you know what *dim* means? Why do you think the ocean floor is dim?

- There are a few long and perhaps unfamiliar words in this book, such as *calamitous*, *plunder*, *ensemble*, and *unabashed*. Pick other words that are new to you and discuss what you think they mean.
- Which words are your favorites? Why?
- The shark thought Fab was an art installation! Do you know what an art installation is? Have you ever seen one? Why did the shark think that Fab was artwork instead of an animal?
- The octopus almost eats Fab. That's because the octopus is a predator, which means it eats other animals. What other predators can you think of? Are there any other predators in this book?
- We see lots of fish swimming together in the background of this book. Do you know what a group of fish is called? How about a group of sharks?



Exploring the Art

- Look at the front cover. How does the art hint at what the book will be about?
- Can you name some of the items shown on the front cover? What do they tell you about where the story takes place?



- Look at the first two pages and notice how the crabs are gathered in a group. Can you find any other scenes where the crabs are together? Why do you think they gather in groups?
 - Flip through the pages, paying attention to the characters' facial expressions. What emotions do you see? Happiness? Fear? Worry? What else?
 - How many different types of fish can you count in this book? Which is your favorite fish? Which is your least favorite?
- Study the glittery pile that Fab is stuck beneath. How many different jewels do you see?
 - Look at the octopus and the shark. Which one is scarier to you? What makes them scary?
 - Many of the pages in the book show the beauty of the ocean floor. Can you name some of the different colors?
 - Which picture in the book is most beautiful to you? Why?

Activities

Draw a Friend for Fab

Can you create a fabulous friend for Fabulous Crab? Draw your special character. If you'd like, you can draw your character in the underwater image below.



Create a New Adventure for Fab

I'm Fabulous Crab! ends with Fab and his friends joyfully parading and showing off their new glamour. Make up a story about their next adventure. Act out the original story, or your new story, with your friends!

Create an Adventure for You

In the first section you chose a motto for yourself. Now think about the experiences that motto might lead to and make up a story about the adventures that await you!

Adjectives for Everyone

There is a recurring adjective in this book: *fabulous*! Remember, adjectives are words that describe things. The adjective *fabulous* is used to describe Henry after he decorates himself. What adjectives would you use to describe the other characters?

What are some adjectives that describe you and your friends? For extra fun, use adjectives that start with the same letter, such as *gorgeous* and *great*. Again, when words begin with the same letter, it's called alliteration.

Find the Patterns!

There are lots of patterns and shapes in *I'm Fabulous Crab!* Look at the images below and see if you can find them in the book. If you'd like to pair this with a drawing activity, draw a sea creature or plant and create your own shape and pattern for it!

