

**Classroom Activities using**  
*Chadwick the Crab*  
**By Priscilla Cummings**

The following activities, created, written and used by teacher Lisa Taylor in her classroom, are suggestions that can be used for 3<sup>rd</sup> through middle school. Ms. Taylor writes:

By adjusting the level of expectation, students of all ages can enjoy this great tale of the Chesapeake Bay.

Pre-reading Activities

The Chadwick books are best used in conjunction with a unit on the Chesapeake Bay. While studying the Bay's ecosystem and current health, students' background knowledge is enhanced by reading Chadwick the Crab.

**Chadwick the Crab**  
**By Priscilla Cummings**

Use a KWL **graphic organizer** (attachment #1) in a whole group setting to organize thoughts on what students know about the book and what they want to know. Save the last column to verify and answer questions for the end.

Preview cover and identify characters on the front. Count the number of crabs seen as well as name the kinds of animals on the front. Identify male vs. female and discuss how students know that by looking at the cover. This will lead into a lesson on personification later.

## During Reading

Give each student a 2 column **note template** (attachment #2) for recording characters and actions.

Read pages 5 – 7 to the students or have shared reading with multiple copies of the books. Model **note taking** (attachment #3) with an overhead and share ideas for notes they may have. Discuss section and predict future events using **discussion questions**. (attachment #4)

Continue note taking while reading and ask the section questions listed in discussion questions during reading. You will be focusing on fact vs. fiction, compare and contrast, personification, and higher order thinking skills.

## After Reading

Choose from the following activities. I have used all of them over a one week period.

1. Create *Chadwick the Crab* models with conversation bubbles. Students would demonstrate their knowledge of personification by writing something that Chadwick said in the bubble. Students can also use Chadwick as a center for a 3-D web of examples of personification. Display in the classroom; hang them from the ceiling for an **underwater effect!** (attachment #5 for model and directions)
2. Students write **examples of personification** (attachment #6) on the crab graphic organizer. This could be an independent homework assignment before the activity above.
3. Compare and contrast the Blue Crab with Chadwick using the **2 column organizer** (attachment #7). Students can then

follow up with writing a simple compare and contrast paragraph. Older students could write a simple multi-paragraph report on the similarities and differences.

### Extension Activities

1. Read more Chadwick or Priscilla Cummings books! I particularly like *Chadwick's Wedding* and *Sid & Sal's Famous Channel Marker Diner*.
2. Visit an aquarium near you. If you are fortunate enough to live in Maryland or Washington, DC, visit the Baltimore Aquarium where Chadwick became famous.
3. Interview a waterman that deals with crabs. Even visit his docking site and tour his vessel.
4. Have a guest "crab picker" come to the classroom with some crabs. Have him/her demonstrate the art of picking!
5. Have lunch at a crab restaurant. Make sure there are no shellfish allergies among the children and you have parent permission to have try crab. Enjoy!

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I wish to thank Lisa Taylor, a teacher at the Radcliffe School in Chestertown, Maryland for creating and sharing these classroom activities for *Chadwick the Crab*. Lisa can be reached at [crow@radcliffecreekschool.org](mailto:crow@radcliffecreekschool.org).