



SAMSON: THE PIRANHA WHO WENT TO DINNER

BY TADGH BENTLEY

ABOUT THE BOOK

Samson wasn't like other piranhas.
While other piranhas stayed close to home
He wanted to explore the world.

And while they stuck to the same old routine, swimming and chomping and scaring,
Samson liked to try new things,
Most of all, Samson dreamed of eating fine foods at fancy restaurants.



So when not one but THREE new restaurants come to his corner of the sea, Samson can't wait to try them all. There's only one problem: With their big teeth and scary smiles, piranhas aren't really welcome anywhere, let alone in fancy restaurants. Can Samson make his dream come true—and still be himself?

STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

- **WHAT'S ON THE MENU?:** Ask the children to pretend they are opening their own restaurant just as Samson does. What would they include on their menu? Have the children design a menu for their own restaurant. Younger children can draw pictures, while older children can write their favorite menu choices. They can also add prices to the menu. As an extension activity, children can visit each other's restaurant and order from the menu!
- **FAVORITE FOODS:** Ask children to think about their favorite foods. Then give each child a paper plate and have them draw their favorites, cut them out, and glue them on the plate. They should label the foods after they have glued them on.
- **TRY IT!:** Samson is adventurous and likes to try new things. He wants to play tennis, take a trip upstream, and try a fancy restaurant. Ask children to think about what adventures they would enjoy. What is something new they would like to try? Where would they like to go? Why is it important to try new things?
- **SILLY SAYINGS:** When the characters in the book are surprised or frightened by Samson, they exclaim, "Salty mother of mackerel!" or "Scaly Neptune's Crabcakes!" or "For the love of smoky sea bass!" Ask children to think of their own silly exclamation of surprise. Record their ideas. In pairs, one partner can pretend to startle the other, while the other partner shouts out one of the new silly sayings!
- **WHO ARE YOU?:** Samson disguises himself before going to a fancy restaurant. Provide children with hats, scarves, shirts, and other clothing or accessories so they can create a disguise of their own. They can also make part of their disguise by using materials such as paper, ribbons, or pipe cleaners to design jewelry, glasses, a mustache, or a beard.