

The Generous Fish

ABOUT THE BOOK

In *The Generous Fish*, a boy named Reuven takes a verse from scripture to “cast your bread upon the waters” (Ecclesiastes 11:1) quite literally. The result is a giant talking fish with golden scales. Boy and fish spend idyllic days together until the villagers realize those scales are real gold. Every villager has a good reason to ask for one. Devorah needs clothes for her children. Old Joseph needs money for a cane. The fish says he has plenty to share. But he grows weak from giving away too much, too fast. Can Reuven stand up to the village and save his friend?

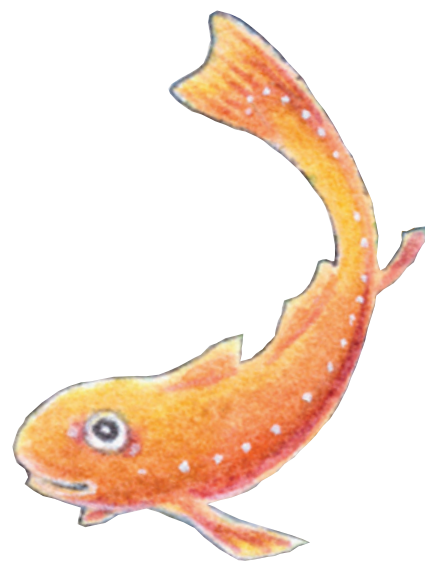
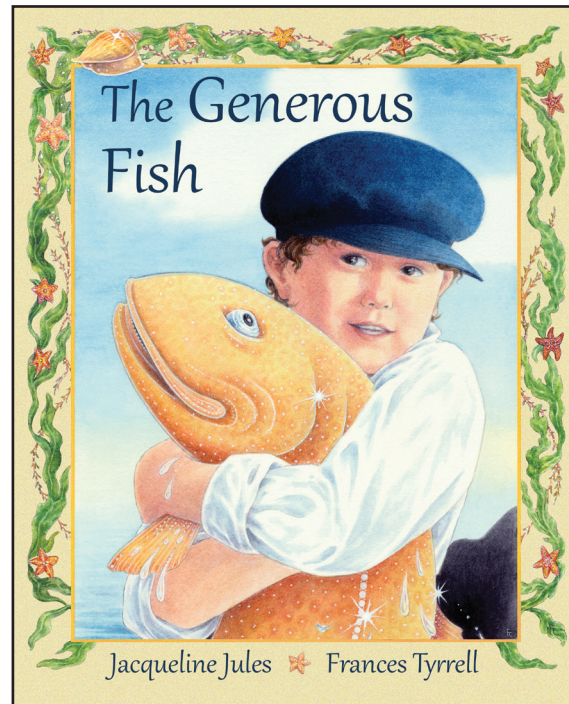
- * Environmental fable addressing the depletion of natural resources
- * Inspired by Jewish folklore
- * Finely detailed illustrations capturing the natural world
- * Author’s note provides biblical sources on human interaction with the environment

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jacqueline Jules is the author of forty books for young readers, including the award-winning *Zapato Power* series, *Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain*, and *Feathers for Peacock*. A former school librarian and teacher, Jacqueline enjoys visiting schools to share her passion for reading and writing. She is a word person, who loves rearranging words on the page, the same way people have fun fitting the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together. Jacqueline lives in Arlington, Virginia.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Frances Tyrrell is an artist who creates finely detailed and imaginative illustrations for children’s books and a wide range of licensed products. A lover of the magical world of illustrated books since childhood, Frances now takes great pleasure in creating beautiful books for today’s children. Her works *Huron Carol* and *Woodland Christmas* have been shortlisted for the Governor-General’s Award for Illustration, while her original watercolors are in private and public collections. Frances lives and works in Oakville, Canada.



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**Wisdom Tales**
Stories from Around the World

THE GENEROUS FISH — WISDOM TALES DISCUSSION GUIDE



ACTIVITIES

1. Research an endangered animal or insect. Learn how to help protect it.
2. Go on a hike and enjoy nature.
3. Plant a tree and/or an indigenous garden.
4. Start a compost pile to recycle food waste from your kitchen.
5. Collect food or clothing to help others.
6. Discuss everyday acts of kindness (e.g. holding doors open, carrying packages, sharing, etc.).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What made the fish grow so big?
2. Why did Reuven ask the giant fish to share his golden scales?
3. What restored the giant fish back to health? What did the fish need to get well?
4. The rabbi said, “all creatures are important.” What did he mean by this?
5. Every villager who asked for a golden scale had a good reason. No one meant to make the fish sick. What does this say about taking too much from one source? Are there times when you should put aside your own needs for the health of someone else or the environment?
6. Reuven was not sure he could stand up to the villagers and protect the golden fish. Have you ever tried to protect an animal from harm? How did you feel?
7. “Cast your bread upon the waters” is from a wise saying in the Book of Ecclesiastes. If you follow this instruction, you make decisions to be kind without expecting an immediate reward. Has a stranger’s kindness ever made a difference in your life? Can you describe a time when a friend helped you or made you feel better when you were sad?
8. What can you do to protect the environment? Can you reduce trash? Could you use less plastic, energy, or water?

