



**Title:** Big Al

**Author:** Andrew Clements

**Illustrator:** Yoshi

**Themes:** Friendship

**Hear the book read aloud here:** [Big Al](#)

**I. INTRODUCTION (PREP QUESTIONS)**

- a. Use the cover and title to predict what the story is about.
  - Where do you think this story takes place?
  - The title of the book is *Big Al*, which fish do you think could be Big Al?

**II. INTEGRATIVE STRATEGIES**

a. **DURING READING DISCUSSION:**

- Does Big Al look very nice? Why or why not?
- Who do you think caught the fish with the net?

b. **POST READING DISCUSSION:**

- Refer to p. 6. How does Big Al look in the illustration? Can you guess how he is feeling? How do you know?
- What were some things Big Al tried to do to fit in?
- Why were the other fish afraid of Big Al?
- Why do you think Big Al tried to rescue the other fish?
- Why did the fisherman throw Big Al back into the ocean?
- How did Big Al feel in the beginning of the story? How did he feel at the end?
- Is the story fiction, a make-believe? Or, is the story non-fiction, true information that gives you facts to explain something?
  - If fiction, what happened in the story that could not have happened in real life?
- What do you think was the author's message to the reader? What did he want us to think about?
- What was the problem in the story? What is the solution to the story?
- Look at the inside cover and the first page at the beginning of the book where it shows the fish in the water. Then, look at the last page and back inside cover that show the fish in the water.
  - How are they the same? How are they different? Why did the illustrator decide to add these images into the book? What do these images tell us about the story?