

**Title:** The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School

**Author:** Deborah Diesen

**Age Range:** 4-8

**Topics/Themes:** First day of school, understanding topics covered in class, confidence

**Vocabulary:** smooch, corridor, rhombus

**See video of this book read aloud here:** [The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School](#)

**I. COMPONENTS OF BOOK (REVIEW EACH SESSION)**

- Author, Illustrator (roles of each)
- Title; front and back covers; spine

**II. INTRODUCTION (PREP QUESTIONS)**

- What do you see on the cover?
- What is the fish wearing on his back?
- Where do you think he could be going?
- Where do you think this story takes place?
- How do you think he is feeling?

**III. INTEGRATIVE STRATEGIES**

**a. DURING READING SESSION**

- p.28-29 Have students say Facts 1-4 with you aloud.

**b. POST READING SESSION**

- Conduct a picture walk with the students, recalling what happened in the story.
- p.1 Ask students if they notice how the first letter in the story is written differently. What do they see? Show students in the beginning of story how the school is called “S.S. Rock Bottom Elementary School”. What does the school look like?
- Explain to students how fish in the ocean travel in groups called “schools” to protect themselves from predators.
- p.8 What do you think “corridor” means? Help students use the illustrations to infer the definition of the word.
- p.11 What do you think a “rhombus” is based on what Pout-Pout Fish is trying to draw?
- Why do you think the Pout-Pout fish thought he was not smart, and didn’t belong?
- Have you ever struggled to do something that others could do well? How did you get better at it?

- Why do you think the Pout-Pout fish wanted to quit school?
- p.23 Why do you think the “Brand-New Fish” classroom was the best for Pout-Pout Fish?
- How did Miss Hewitt help him change his mind?
- p.29 What are the sea animals posing for? What is the difference between the sea animals on p.29 and p.30? - Explain to students what a class reunion is.
- How did Pout-Pout Fish feel in the beginning of the story? How did he feel at the end?
- What did the author want us to think about? What was the moral of the story?

# Little Fish

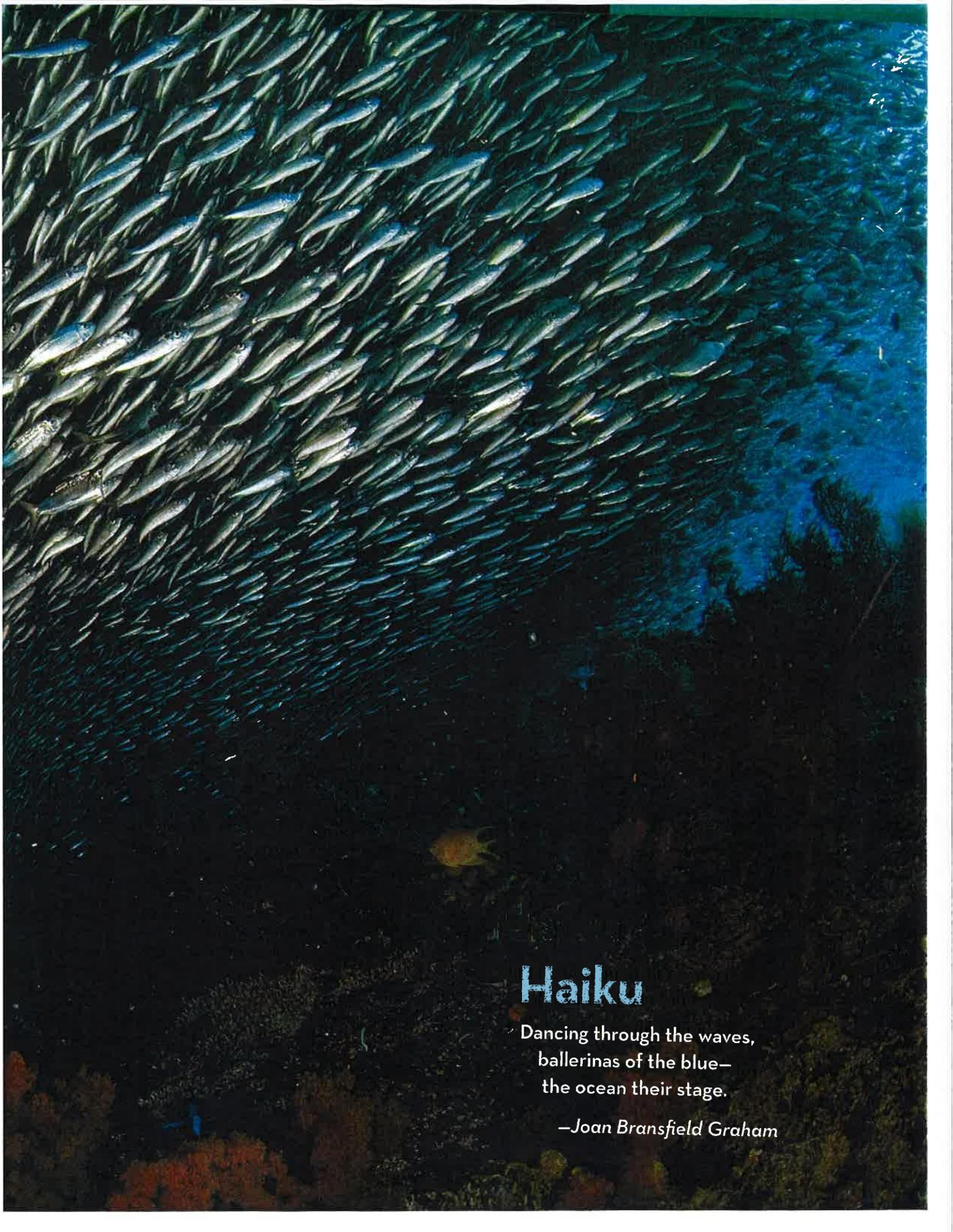
The tiny fish enjoy themselves  
in the sea.  
Quick little splinters of life,  
their little lives are fun to them  
in the sea.

—D. H. Lawrence



BLUESTREAK  
FUSILIER

GORGONIAN CORAL AND  
FEATHER STAR



## Haiku

Dancing through the waves,  
ballerinas of the blue—  
the ocean their stage.

—Joan Bransfield Graham