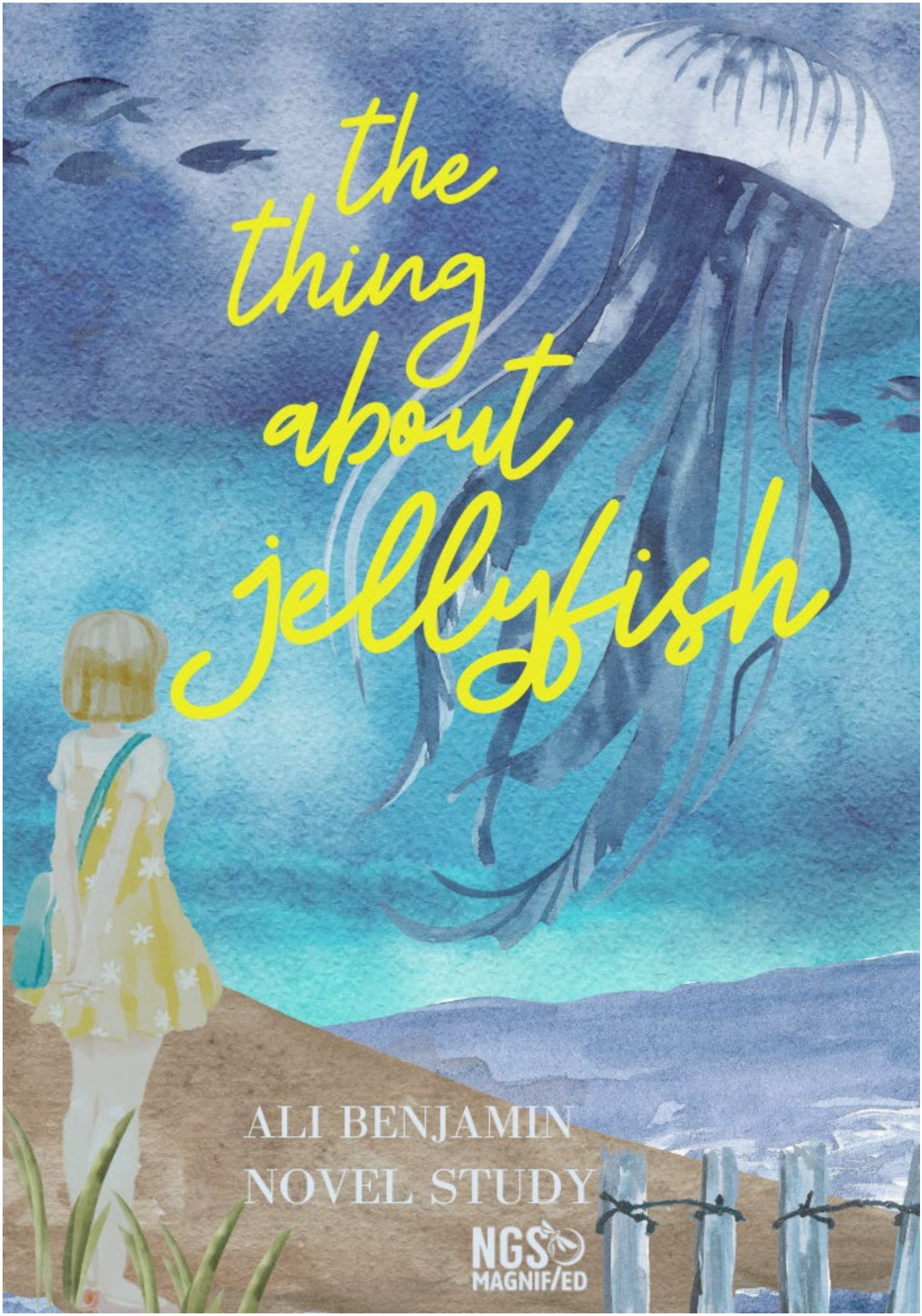

the thing about jellyfish
ALI BENJAMIN
NOVEL STUDY
NGS MAGNIF/ED

Novel Studies in the Science Classroom: Developing Science Literacy Skills

Today struggling readers face many long-term challenges and are more at risk of falling behind. However, science is a great way to engage students, no matter their background. NGS Magnified has created novel studies for teachers to use in the science classroom to help bridge that gap. Novel studies help build rapport with students while supporting and fostering independent learning. In addition, we believe that using novel studies in the science classroom will expose students to different perspectives and help them understand how science vocabulary applies to so many events in their lives.

Research shows that connecting content and skills from other subjects enhances students' learning and improves their comprehension.

- *The literacy from reading can easily come from non-fiction and fiction novels that surround a science-related topic and are far more of a high-interest read for the majority of students than reading a textbook (Anderson & Hite, 2010; Batchelor, 2017; Coiro, 2012; Freudenrich, 2000).*

- *Science fiction novels are an excellent way to engage students in science ideas while also helping students improve their literacy skills. (Creech and Hale, 2006)*

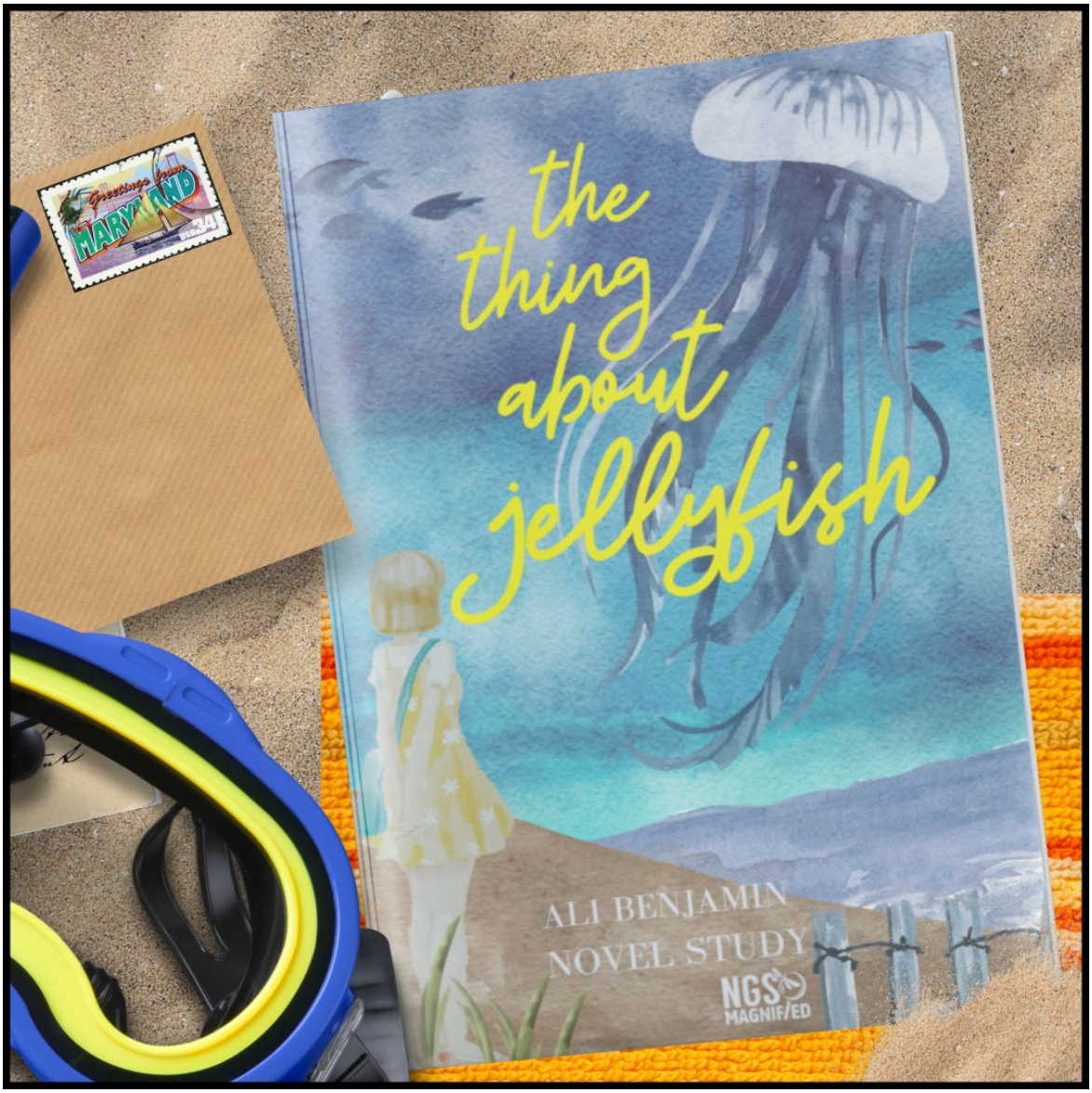
- *Teachers can add in other readings from the internet and news articles which brings the reading level down to a more manageable level, however students are more willing to learn and spend the time to learn new vocabulary when highly engaged in what they are reading (Weinbugh et al.,2014).*

NGS Magnified novel studies heavily focus on the following:

- vocabulary
- reading comprehension
- simple research
- cross-curricular connections
- culminating final project

Students will focus on inquiry skills such as comparing and contrasting, summarizing, making inferences, cause/effect relationships, fact and opinion, and critical thinking.

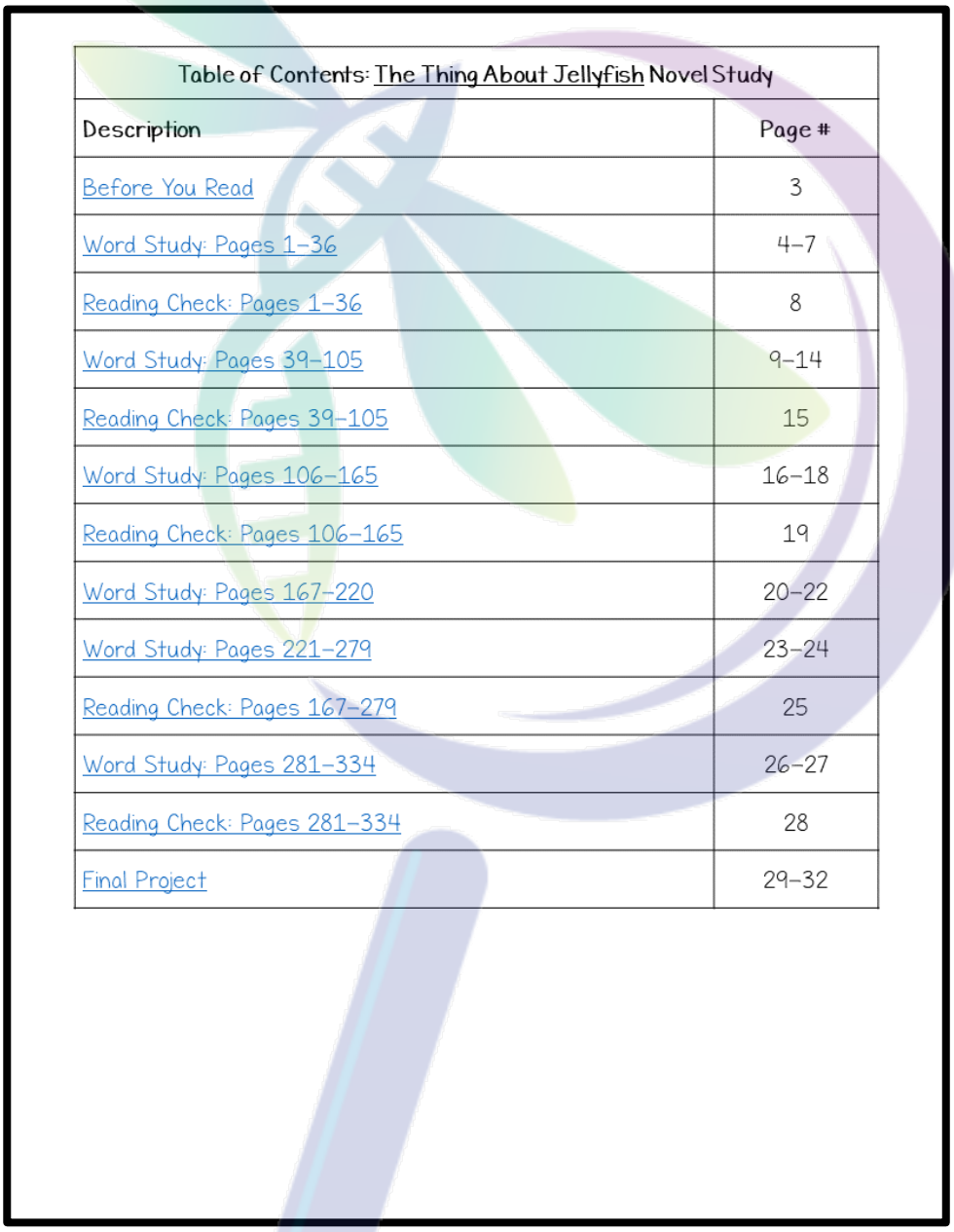
Happy reading,
Erica



This stunning debut novel about grief and wonder was an instant New York Times bestseller and captured widespread critical acclaim, including selection as a 2015 National Book Award finalist!

After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.

Hyperlinked Table of Contents



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Check out the following sample pages focusing on science vocabulary, reading comprehension, and literacy-based projects!

Teacher Guide included!

THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH

Before You Read

Directions: Cnidarians are a fascinating group of invertebrates that are adaptable and diverse. They occupy a variety of marine habitats, from shallow coastal areas to the depths of the ocean. Before you begin reading, answer the questions below to help you learn all about them.

1. Give three examples of cnidarians.

_____

_____

2. Cnidarians have radial symmetry. What does that mean?

_____

_____

3. How do cnidarians co

_____

_____

4. What are the two m

_____

_____

5. What do they eat, ar

_____

_____

6. Choose one type of

Find out what students already know.

THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH

WORD STUDY: Pages 1–36

1. Transparent

Definition:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

2. Pulse

Use the word *pulse* correctly in your own sentence.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

3. Contract

Identify two synonyms for the word *contract* as a verb.

4. Brain

Identify the three parts of the human brain.

1.

2.

3.

5. Bone

There are a total of 206 bones in an adult human body.

True False

6. Blood

List the four blood types.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Vocabulary

THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH

Reading Check: Pages 1–36

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. The main character imagines the glass breaking and animals drowning. How long can a shark survive out of water? Why?

2. What happened to Zu's best friend?

3. What are the sy
an Irukandji Jell

4. Where did Franr

5. Why do you thin
Why or why not

Each section has reading comprehension questions to track student progress and understanding.

THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH

Reading Check: Pages 281–334

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. "Remember that in science, we learn as much from failures as we do from successes." What does this mean?

2. Zu says, "When you believe in your own ability to do something, even something scary, it gives you an almost magic power. Confidence *is* magic. It can carry you through everything." Do you agree? Why or why not?

3. Why isn't Zu able to fly to Australia?

4. In Jenna's presentation about dolphins, what does Zu recall about the mother dolphin?

5. Did you like the ending of the book? Explain your answer.

Novel Project option

THE THING ABOUT JELLYFISH

Final Project - Jellyfish Life Cycle

The Life Cycle of Jellyfish

Jellyfish are incredible ocean creatures. They undergo a fascinating life cycle involving several distinct stages of development, beginning with the release of tiny **eggs** into the water by adult jellyfish. These eggs are very small and may look like tiny transparent spheres. They drift along with ocean currents until they hatch into larvae.

Once the jellyfish eggs h
planulae. Planulae spend
microscopic organisms,

As the larva grows, it at
into a polyp. **Polyps** rese
coral, or other surfaces

Once the waters warm,
stack of tiny jellyfish cl
will detach from the po
ephyrae

Ephyrae are juvenile jelly
They have a bell-shape
continue to grow and de
the ocean.

As the ephyrae grow la
various shapes, sizes, a
umbrella-shaped body
capture prey.

The life cycle of a jellyfi
reproduction. Each stag
marine ecosystems and

Directions:

1. Read the passage on the life cycle of a jellyfish.
2. Cut out the top and bottom of the spin wheel, along with the images of the different stages of the life cycle.
3. Decorate and title the top of your Jellyfish Life Cycle Spin Wheel.
4. Color and paste the stages in order. Be sure to label each stage.
5. Use a brass fastener to secure the top of the spin wheel to the bottom.

Thank you for sharing NGS Magnified with your students!

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