

## Welcome, Ocean Explorer!

Today, we're diving back into the world of 'Blueback' and exploring the exciting developments in Chapter 8. Get ready to see how Abel is growing and what's happening in Longboat Bay!

### Materials Reminder:

- Your copy of 'Blueback'
- Notebook or journal
- Pens/pencils
- Colored pencils/markers (optional)
- Computer/tablet for optional research
- Craft supplies for optional diorama

### Warm-up: Setting the Scene (5-10 minutes)

1. In your notebook, quickly jot down 1-2 main things you remember happening to Abel or in Longboat Bay up to the end of Chapter 7.
2. What do you predict might happen in Chapter 8? No right or wrong answers, just your best guess!

### Reading Adventure: Chapter 8 (15-20 minutes)

Now it's time to read Chapter 8 of 'Blueback'. You can read it silently to yourself, or we can read it aloud together, taking turns.

As you read, pay attention to:

- What Abel experiences and how he feels.
- Any changes in Longboat Bay or with the character of Costello.
- Any important messages about the ocean or conservation.

### Deep Dive Discussion & Activities (20-25 minutes)

Let's talk about what we discovered! Discuss these questions, and jot down your thoughts in your notebook:

1. **Abel's Journey:**
  - What are the significant things Abel does or experiences in this chapter (e.g., boarding school, returning home, diving, seeing Costello)?
  - How do you think Abel is changing as he gets older? What new things is he learning or understanding?
2. **Costello the Groper:**
  - How is Costello, the big blue groper, described in this chapter?
  - What do you think Costello represents or symbolizes for Abel and his mother, Dora? Why is this fish so important to them?
3. **Longboat Bay's Health:**
  - What does Abel notice about the bay when he returns and dives?
  - Are there any hints about the health of the bay or any potential threats mentioned or implied?
4. **Word Detective:** Find 2-3 words in Chapter 8 that are new to you or particularly descriptive. Write them down, look up their meaning if needed, and try to use each in a sentence related to the story.

### Creative Catch! Your Turn to Shine (15-20 minutes)

Choose **one** of the following activities to show what you learned and thought about Chapter 8:

- **Abel's Logbook:** Write a diary entry from Abel's point of view describing his feelings and experiences from this chapter. What was most memorable for him?
- **Underwater Snapshot:** Draw or paint a scene from Chapter 8 that you found most vivid or important. For example, Abel diving with his mother, or his reunion with Costello.
- **Marine Biologist Report:** Costello is a Western Blue Groper. Do a little research (online with permission, or using books if you have them) about this fish. Write down 3-5 interesting facts about them. (Optional: Where do they live? What do they eat? How big do they get?)
- **Longboat Bay Diorama (Optional Challenge):** If you're feeling extra creative and have supplies, you could start creating a small diorama (e.g., in a shoebox) of a scene from Longboat Bay, perhaps featuring Costello! This could be an ongoing project.

### **Wrapping Up: The Current Pulls Us Home (5 minutes)**

- What was the most surprising or interesting part of Chapter 8 for you?
- What are you hoping to find out in Chapter 9?

Great work today exploring 'Blueback'! You're becoming a true expert on Abel's world.