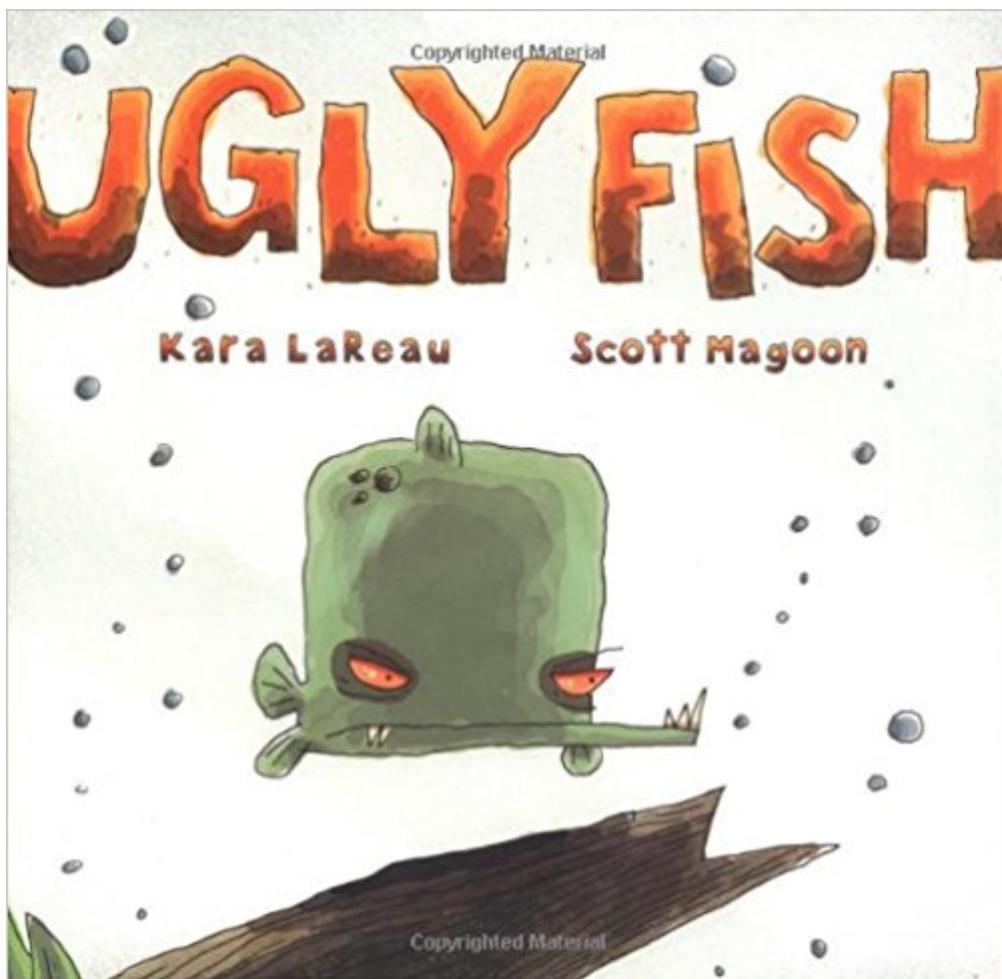


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# Ugly Fish



## **Synopsis**

Ugly Fish is ugly and big and mean, and he won't share his driftwood tunnel or his special briny flakes with anyone. And that means the wimpy little fish who keep showing up in his tank have got to go. But then one day someone bigger and uglier and maybe even meaner arrives . . . and suddenly Ugly Fish isn't feeling quite so confident anymore. From Kara LaReau, author of the Rocko and Spanky series, here is an irreverent and terrifically funny book about a bully who at last gets his comeuppance.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 500 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (June 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152050825

ISBN-13: 978-0152050825

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #528,215 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships #169 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse #341 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Fish

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 1-4 "Ugly Fish is big, mean, and not keen on sharing his space with others. Whenever new tank-mates arrive, he chases them around and then eats them. Once they're gone, he wishes that he had someone to play with and regrets his actions. However, wishes can be dangerous things, and soon Shiny Fish arrives on the scene. He is much larger than Ugly Fish and looks vaguely sharklike. Ugly Fish, lonely no more, proudly shows his new friend around the tank. Impressed, Shiny Fish decides he wants it all to himself, and, after a short chase, polishes off Ugly Fish with a burp. Edgy pen-and-ink, digitally colored cartoon illustrations perfectly complement the short text's dry and wicked humor. The comically exaggerated details within the sharp pictures prevent the plot

from becoming too heavy. While not for the faint of heart, this book will appeal to many kids; they'll thoroughly enjoy its humor and shock value.â “Julie Roach, Cambridge Public Library, MA Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

With his murky green skin and fierce underbite, Ugly Fish rules the aquarium. "He liked gliding in... and out... of his driftwood tunnel. He liked eating his special briny flakes." But he hates to share. Each time a potential friend is introduced, he snarls, "There's only room for one fish in this tank-me!" He devours all interlopers, including cute yellow Teensy Fish and the cuddly duo of Stripey and Spotty Fish. In post-meal images, readers witness Ugly's pleased expression and see the victim's fin dangling from his toothy jaw; when he's lonely, he does express mild remorse ("Chasing those fish was fun. If only I hadn't eaten them"). Shortly thereafter, dark-blue Shiny Fish-so enormous he doesn't fit on the page, and with sinister dark circles under his narrow eyes-joins Ugly in the tank. Ugly acts as though he has learned his lesson, and tries to welcome the hulking newcomer. But predator becomes prey, and Shiny gets "a nice new home... [burp] all to himself." Magoon pictures the action in close-up, except for a wordless closing image of solitary Shiny, content in the rectangular tank. In this conclusion, Magoon implies the tiny territory for which the fish compete, and not least, the human hand in the fishy murders. LaReau's text, meanwhile, describes a bully's grim comeuppance. But however satisfying the vigilante justice, only a bigger bully trumps a petty tyrant. This cautionary tale shows that violence begets violence, but never suggests an alternative to the big-fish-eat-little-fish cycle. Ages 3-7. (Publishers Weekly )Grade 1-4â “Ugly Fish is big, mean, and not keen on sharing his space with others. Whenever new tank-mates arrive, he chases them around and then eats them. Once they're gone, he wishes that he had someone to play with and regrets his actions. However, wishes can be dangerous things, and soon Shiny Fish arrives on the scene. He is much larger than Ugly Fish and looks vaguely sharklike. Ugly Fish, lonely no more, proudly shows his new friend around the tank. Impressed, Shiny Fish decides he wants it all to himself, and, after a short chase, polishes off Ugly Fish with a burp. Edgy pen-and-ink, digitally colored cartoon illustrations perfectly complement the short text's dry and wicked humor. The comically exaggerated details within the sharp pictures prevent the plot from becoming too heavy. While not for the faint of heart, this book will appeal to many kids; they'll thoroughly enjoy its humor and shock value.â “Julie Roach, Cambridge Public Library, MA (School Library Journal ) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Warning: If you are a parent who shelters your child, or if your child is super sensitive, you probably

shouldn't read this. This book is hilarious! It is about a fish living by himself in a fish tank and he is grumpy and eats any fish dumped in there. Eventually he realizes that he is lonely and should not eat the next fish dumped into the tank. The next fish that arrives is way bigger though, and I think you can imagine what happens. Yes the book has death in it, but it teaches a good lesson and shows the reality of what fish do. My son is 6 and said the book was funny, but a little sad because he liked the main character and that character dies. He wants to read it again though and found the humor in it funny. Overall I think the book was pretty fun and the pictures in it are awesome!

This book is very funny if you like snarky humor in kids books like I Want my Hat Back, Oi Frog or A Hungry Lion: A Dwindling Assortment of Animals.

Great reality lesson for kids, with an unexpected ending. My kids love this book and ask me to read it over and over. It helps to give each of the fish their own voice. Great book!!

One of the best books we have in our library!

I don't want to be a spoiler - so I can just say that this book is hilariously surprising in its non-conformity. Even when I read this to a bunch of adults, a few gasped in shock. If you are buying this for a child, consider whether that child gets upset when things don't go well for cute little characters - in fact, they go REALLY REALLY badly. The illustrations are well-done and edgy and the storyline is just refreshing as heck.

Ugly Fish has a vague moral to the story, if any. "Don't bully or you may be bullied?" But it has great pictures. It's nice to watch this very ugly fish in action. Young kids have an affinity to odd looking creatures, and things getting eaten. It made such an impression, in fact, that I got tired of borrowing it from the library, and just bought it.

I love this book! That fish had it coming!

Ugly Fish has quickly become one of my family's favorite books for kids. We all love the illustrations and the fun story. It is a cautionary tale but not at all "black humor" as one reviewer characterized it. Kids love it and can learn from the ending that being a bully doesn't pay off. Definitely a must-have book!

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