A HOUSE FOR HERMIT CRAB
by Eric Carle
Ages: 5 - 7; Grades: K - 2
Themes: Growth and Change, Science, Seasons and Nature
Runtime: 9 minutes

NEW! COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS:
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.3 Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.4 Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.9 Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.1 Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.SL.2 Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

SUMMARY
Hermit Crab has outgrown his cozy little shell. He finds a new one that is just the right size, but much too plain. So Hermit Crab scours the ocean floor to find friends to help decorate and protect his new home. As the year passes, and Hermit Crab grows, his new shell begins to get too small. How will he be able to say goodbye to all of the sea creatures who have helped to make his house a home?

OBJECTIVES
• Students will use context clues to figure out the meaning of unknown words.
• Students will identify and describe sea creatures in order to make an informational mobile.
• Students will analyze character feelings and make text-to-self connections.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES
Tell students that they will be watching a fictional movie about a hermit crab that needs to move into a new shell and searches for other sea creatures to help make his shell less plain. Encourage them to watch and listen for clues to help them figure out the meaning of these words. Revisit the words after viewing the movie.

Activate students’ background knowledge about marine animals. Guiding questions:
• What animals do you know of that live in the ocean/seas?
• What details or facts can you share about any of these animals? How do they look? What do they eat? What else do you know about them?

Tell students that they will be watching a fictional movie about a hermit crab that needs to move into a new shell and searches for other sea creatures to help make his shell less plain. Encourage them to watch and listen for information about animals that they may or may not have heard of before.

Build students’ background knowledge about hermit crabs. On the first page of the book, A House for Hermit Crab, there is some information about hermit crab’s bodies and lifestyles. Share photographs of hermit crabs with children. Use a diagram to identify their body parts. Discuss when and why hermit crabs move to a new shell.

AFTE