

# Selecting Marine Picture Books from Perspective of Readability and Vocabulary size

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## **Abstract**

To increase marine literacy among people of all ages and at all levels has become a crucial Marine Policy goal for the Ministry of Education in Taiwan. With the development of marine education, Taiwan can become a modern oceanic country and simultaneously promote aesthetic taste and refinement. Lacking adequate Chinese language teaching and learning marine education materials, English educators in Taiwan should consider seeking help from English picture books. Studies on the effects of literature-based curriculum suggest the advantages of implementing picture books in science courses. Accordingly, it may be very beneficial for EFL teachers to be aware of the criteria for selecting readable English picture books for Taiwanese students, as well as knowing how to enhance students' appreciation of children's literature and art related to marine science.

Five purposes are listed in this paper. The first one is to illustrate the rationale of selecting marine picture books for Taiwanese students by tallying EFL readability index and measuring their vocabulary size. Second, the researcher enumerates two marine picture books which are readable for EFL students. Third, the appreciation of these marine picture books is discussed. Other viewpoints regarding the contradictions between scientific facts and children's literature will also be clarified. Finally, suggestions for both instructional practice and future studies will be provided for EFL teachers, educators and administrators.

**Key words: Marine picture books, EFL readability, children literature, vocabulary size.**