

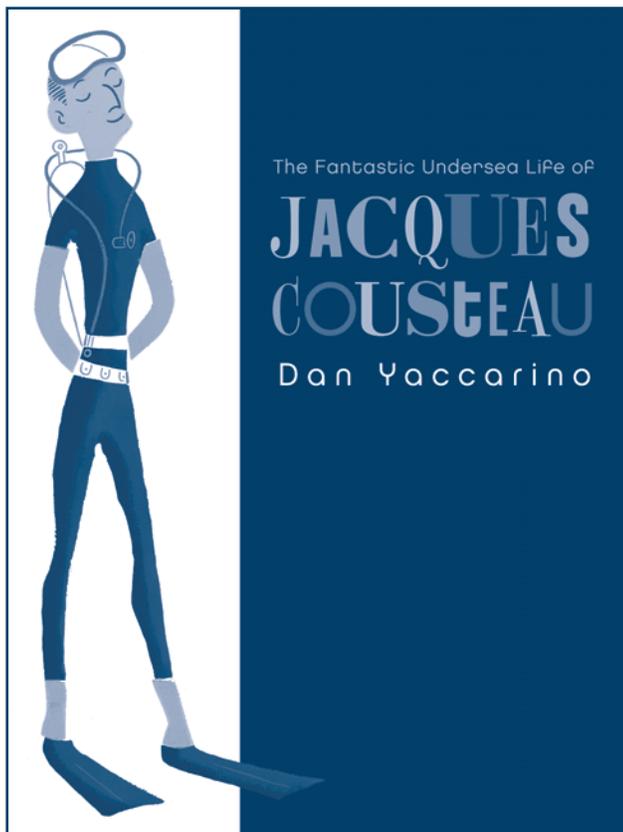


The Fantastic Undersea Life of

JACQUES COUSTEAU

Dan Yaccarino

Dive In! Fantastic Activities for the Classroom



Grades 1-4 • Alfred A. Knopf HC: 978-0-375-85573-3 • GLB: 978-0-375-95573-0

About the Book

From his first glimpse of the world under the ocean's waves, Jacques Cousteau was hooked. And so he set sail aboard the *Calypso* to see the sea. Cousteau and his team of scientists invented diving equipment and waterproof cameras. They made films and television shows and wrote books so they could share what they learned. The oceans were a vast unexplored world, and Cousteau became our guide.

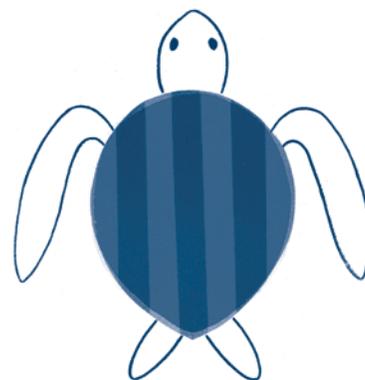
Now, in this inspiring biography, Dan Yaccarino introduces a whole new generation of ocean enthusiasts to the captain. So strap on your goggles and dive into the fantastic undersea world of Jacques Cousteau!

“When one man, for whatever reason, has the opportunity to lead an extraordinary life, he has no right to keep it to himself.”

—Jacques-Yves Cousteau

About the Author-Illustrator

Dan Yaccarino is an internationally acclaimed author-illustrator with more than 30 books to his credit, including *Every Friday*, *Unlovable*, and *Dan Yaccarino's Mother Goose*. Exhibitions of his work have been held in New York, Los Angeles, Rome, and Tokyo. Yaccarino is also the creator of the animated TV series *Willa's Wild Life* and *Oswald*. He lives in New York City with his wife and two children. You can visit him on the Web at www.yaccarinostudio.com



Pre-Reading Activity

Hold up a copy of *The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau* and read the quote on the back of the book aloud to the class. Have students make predictions about what they think they'll learn about Jacques Cousteau. Why do they think it might be important to learn about him?

Dive In! Fantastic Activities For the Classroom



Questions For Group Discussion

1. Describe Jacques's childhood in France. How did his interests lead him into the sea?
2. Why was Jacques told that he would have to wear braces for his whole life? How did he overcome it? What can you learn from his example?
3. Explain how a pair of goggles changed Jacques's life forever.
4. Would you say Jacques Cousteau was more of an inventor or a scientist? What is the difference? Which would you rather be?
5. What did Cousteau and his team invent? If you could invent anything, what might it be? What would you explore with your new tool?
6. Why did Cousteau want to film what was underwater? Where would you like to film?
7. What was the *Calypso*? If you were on board, where would you ask Cousteau to take you?
8. Which invention do you think was his best work? Why?
9. Why do you think the author chose to write about these events in Cousteau's life? What do you think he wanted us to learn from this famous scientist? Who would you choose to write about?
10. Which one of Cousteau's ideas did not have merit? Why? Do you think he was disappointed? Did he quit?
11. What do you think is the most interesting thing that Cousteau discovered? Where would you like to explore? What might you discover?
12. Read the quotes from Cousteau (in circles) on the pages and discuss. Which one is your favorite? Why? Why do you think the author decided to include these in the book?
13. Why do you think the author-illustrator chose this palette to represent Cousteau's life? What colors would you choose to tell your own life story?
14. Using this book as a mentor text for your own writing, what did you learn? Which lines stick out as especially good writing?
15. What connections did you make while reading the story? What did this story make you wonder about? What did you think about?

Curriculum Connections

Science

Have students research one creature that Jacques Cousteau could've encountered in his many years researching the sea. Challenge them to write about what they learned in at least three different genres.

Language Arts

Instruct students to choose another important scientist or environmentalist to research. Using the work of Dan Yaccarino as inspiration, have them write the biography of that person and illustrate it, too.

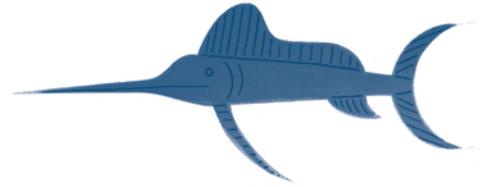
Math/Geography

Display a world map and have students find a location they would like to explore on the *Calypso* and then complete the following tasks: Estimate the miles from your current location. Then find out the actual miles to this location. Estimate how much it would cost to get to your location and then research how much it would actually cost. Create three other estimation/actual questions inspired by the book that you'd like to answer.

Art

After studying the art of Dan Yaccarino have students create a piece of art about a setting they would most like to explore. They should write a brief artist's statement about the choices they made in color, style, and design.

Name: _____



Quotes that Make Me Curious

Directions: Choose quotes from *The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau* that you think are important. Then record your responses to the quote on the other side of the chart.

Quotes from the book

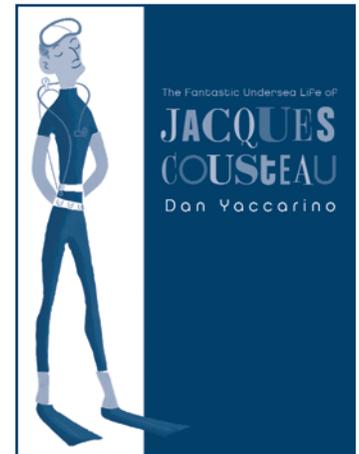
Example quote: "He saved his money and bought a camera . . . then took it apart to see how it worked."

What it made you think, feel, or wonder

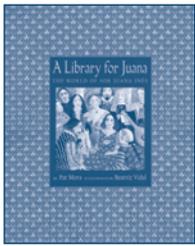
I would be too afraid to take something apart like this! I wonder if he was able to put it back together?



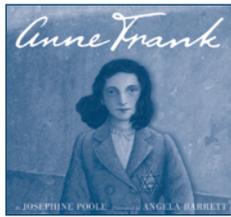
Illustration © 2009 by Dan Yaccarino



Must-Have Picture Book Biographies For the Classroom



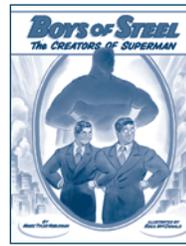
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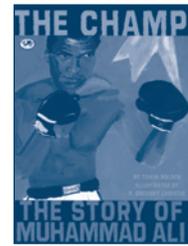
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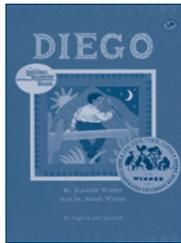
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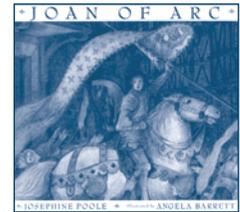
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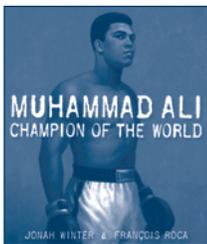
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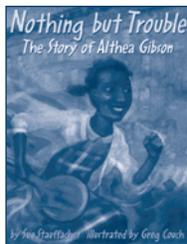
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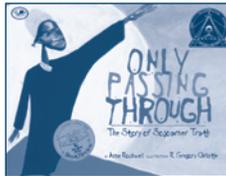
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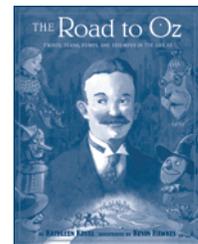
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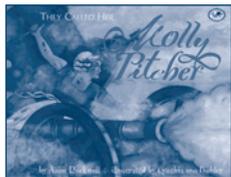
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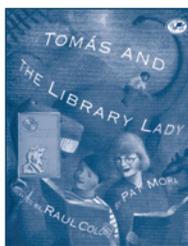
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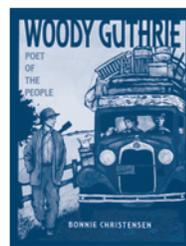
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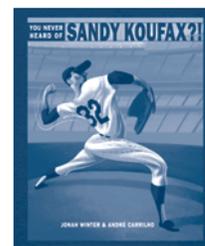
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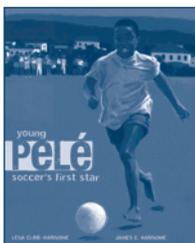
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