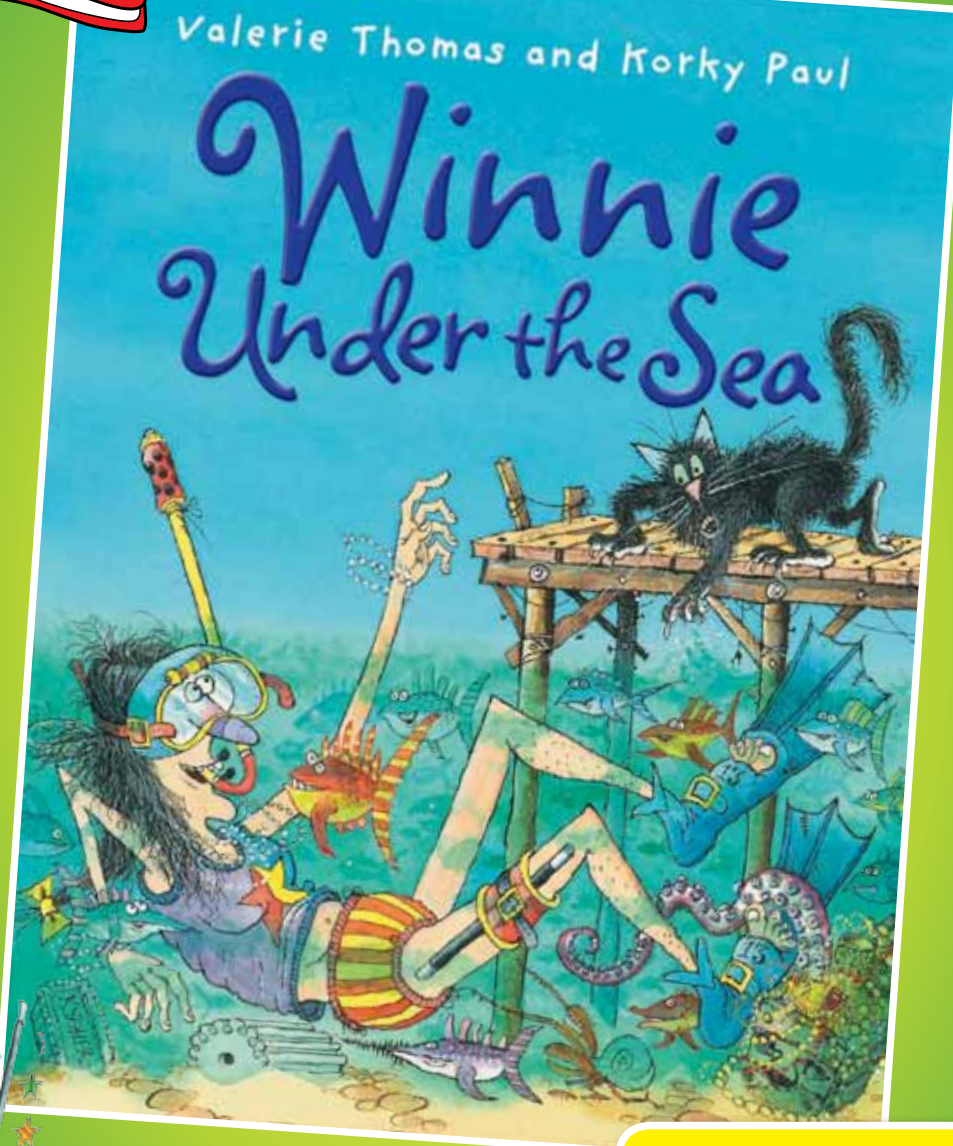


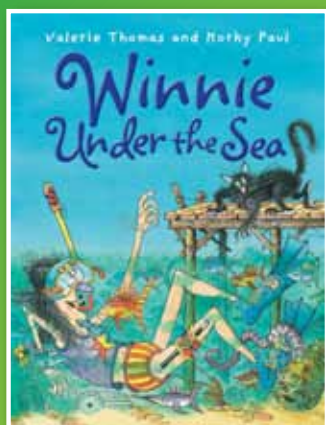
Book Talk



AGES 2+

Engage and inspire your
pupils with a Book Talk!





Look out for me at
your Book Fair!

AGES 2+

Price	£5.99 / €7.00
Case	Welcome to Reading
Author	Valerie Thomas
Illustrator	Korky Paul
Publisher	Oxford University Press

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

A funny **adventure** starring Winnie the Witch and her faithful cat, Wilbur. This story introduces children to an exciting **undersea world** full of fish and sea creatures.

Summary

It is holiday time, and Winnie and Wilbur decide to visit a beautiful tropical island. Winnie thinks the fish swimming in the seas all around the island look beautiful – and so does Wilbur! He doesn't much like the thought of getting wet, though ... so Winnie uses her magic to change him into a catfish. Wilbur has so much fun as a fish that Winnie starts to feel a bit jealous. She decides to change herself into an octopus so she can explore the undersea world properly, too. Everything's fine – until Winnie drops her wand! It drifts down to the bottom of the sea and seems to be completely lost. How will Winnie and Wilbur get back to their normal selves without it? Fortunately, Wilbur finds the wand in a treasure chest, and they get safely back to dry land. Next time they go exploring under the sea, they find a safer way to do it – inside a beautiful yellow submarine!

Did you know?

- Korky Paul, the illustrator of Winnie the Witch, spends his summers in Greece. You can often see references to Greece in Korky's books – including Greek words hidden in many of the pictures!
- The very first book about Winnie and Wilbur, *Winnie the Witch*, won the Children's Book Award in 1988. Since then, the Winnie the Witch books have sold more than two million copies.



The Story Session

1. Introducing the book

- Have the children heard of Winnie the Witch and her cat, Wilbur? Share the front cover of the book with them. What kind of person do they think Winnie is, judging by the cover picture? What do they think Wilbur is trying to do? Does the picture give them any clues about what might happen in this story?
- Read the back cover blurb to the children, and invite them to guess which sea creatures Winnie might change herself and Wilbur into. What sorts of sea creatures would the children like to be, if they could live under the sea for a day?

2. Reading the story

- Read the whole story aloud to the children. Pause on page 3 and ask the children how Winnie and Wilbur travel to their holiday island. Does it look fun to travel by broomstick? How might it be different from travelling on a boat or aeroplane?
- Encourage the children to look carefully at the underwater pictures and spot all the different types of sea creature. Can they name some of them? Can they spot any funny ones?
- Why do the children think Winnie decided to turn herself into an octopus? Was this a good choice?
- At the end of the story, ask: *Do you think Wilbur preferred being in the submarine to being a catfish? Why? If you could travel in Winnie's submarine, where would you go and what kinds of things would you want to see?*

3. Follow-up

- Encourage the children to act out their own undersea adventure – they can choose a sea creature to be, and act out diving down to explore the undersea world.
- Ask the children to make pictures of fish and other undersea creatures using collage, glitter, etc. Pin the pictures on a blue or green background to make a class underwater display.
- The National Geographic kids' website has some inspiring photographs and information about underwater exploration: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/photos/underwater-exploration>. Another website with information about life under the sea is <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>.
- Children could visit Winnie the Witch's own website for fun book-related activities and information about the books: www.winnie-the-witch.com.

YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class?
- Were they helpful?
- Are there any changes you'd like to see to make them more useful?

We're always happy to hear your comments, so please email us at bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk (UK) or bookfairs@scholastic.ie (Republic of Ireland).