

This is my fourth and most recent educational rhyming book for children. It was commissioned by Parragon in 2016 but has no publisher attached as of their demise.

**The Greatest Fish of All** by Julia Kogan 13/6/2016

*(COVER - Manta Ray is holding a trophy which has "The Greatest Fish of All" written on it while surrounded by fishes who are either showing off slightly or are looking at it with curiosity.)*

Manta Ray glides out to play with fishes in the sea.

Spotting Whale Shark first, he calls out, "Friend, no need to flee!"

"Come out to sway and dive and stray, swim out and play with me!"

*(Page 1 - 2 spread of Manta Ray and Whale shark meeting up and frolicking)*

Together they set off to find other playful fishes.

They ask Sea Horse, but he wails, "I have to wash my dishes..."

*(Page 3 - picture of seahorse at a sink full of dishes overwhelmed with babies, manta ray and whale shark are looking on.)*

They see Blowfish puffing up and billowing away.

*(Page 4 to be divided up into 2 comic book cells to show the blowfish puffing up as he swims away...the text could be split in two and put at the bottom of each cell.)*

Goby hides inside a coral, that is where he'll stay.

*(Page 5 - page is also split into two cells, goby sees them coming in cell one, then is hidden inside a coral in cell two, looking secretive, with text split in two also.)*

Frogfish doesn't want to budge, she sits there like a stone.

*(Page 6 - frogfish is frozen like a stone, with a comic "I'm not really here" expression.)*

Moray Eel had caught a chill, he slides back home to groan.

*(Page 7 - the eel is trembling and electricity is being emitted...he scares himself with this.)*

Parrotfish flies over, crunching coral from the strand.

*(Page 8 - parrotfish is flapping past with a too cool for school expression on its face, chewing the coral like gum.)*

Flounder flutters on the spot and hides beneath the sand.

*(Page 9 - flounder is fluttering into the sand, looking paranoid and unsociable.)*

Then Manta Ray breathes long and deep to trumpet loud and clear,  
Calling across the briny sea for everyone to hear:

"A contest is announced this day for fishes big and small  
to find out who among us is the **GREATEST FISH OF ALL!**"

*(Page 10 - Manta Ray is bellowing while the other fishes, far away, prick up their ears.)*

All the fishes in the sea hear and hurry over,

Those who join the contest bring along their lucky clover.

*(Page 11-12 full page spread of fishes hurrying over to Manta Ray, some of them carrying four leaf clovers. It is a great parade of sea life, each creature with its own somewhat comic personality.)*

With all the fishes gathered round, Lionfish roars out "I'm found!"

"I am beautiful and rare, come approach me if you dare!

I am venomous, it's true, and a greater fish than you!"

*(Page 13 - lionfish in detail with a devilish look - some of the spikes can be made to resemble horns slightly, especially since there is a lot of red.)*

Angelfish sings out, "You're through, I'm far lovelier in hue!"

"Look at all my gorgeous colours. I'm a greater fish than others."

*(Page 14 - an emperor angelfish in detail, showing itself off.)*

Tuna brags, "My fins are best! They are sleeker than the rest!"

"I swim fastest while you trawl. I'm the greatest fish of all!"

*(Page 15 - tuna is like a high-speed machine, its character is that of a sleek mechanical wonder.)*

"I'm the most astonishing," Manta Ray replies,

"I'm the one the divers love, they can't believe their eyes!"

*(Page 16 - picture of divers in scuba gear photographing Manta Ray as he poses like a Hollywood star.)*

"I'm the biggest fish of all," barks Whale Shark. "I'm not pretty,"

"But compared to me, you're all runty, puny, bitty!"

*(Page 17 - Whale Shark is a Sopranos type of character...lumpy, a tough guy, but with humour.)*

"Size is not the subject here," the tiny Krill are shouting.

"Gathered up together, we will dominate the outing!"

*(Page 18 - picture of thousands of Krill gathered together in a gigantic threatening-looking fish form as the other fishes cower from the bully.)*

Suddenly, a shadow sweeps in from deep below,

And a giant whale mouth gulps the Krill all in one go.

*(Page 19-20 spread of a blue whale scooping up from deep below to swallow the shrill Krill.)*

*(Page 21-22 spread of all the fishes looking stunned with surprise at each other and at the whale receding into the distance. No text.)*

"Well," says Manta Ray at last, "The argument is moot."

"It was a silly contest and without a prize to boot!"

"When we fishes realise we're all birds of a feather,

Then the fishes of the sea will live happily together."

*(Page 23 - Manta Ray has his thinking cap on, all listen and agree...)*

And everyone goes home to their corner of the sea,

Because the greatest thing about all fish is their diver-si-ty.

*(Page 24 - everyone swims off happily, wiser for the wear, and with great camaraderie.)*