This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. This week we will celebrate the kick-off of Shorewood Library Summer Reading 2022. The theme this year is “Oceans of possibilities”. All things found in the deep blue seas. So let’s start with a funny fish called the Clownfish. These fish live on coastal sea reefs and sheltered lagoon waters. They are carnivore/omnivores, eating zooplankton but also, bottom dwelling invertebrates and algae. Though their name is clownfish, these fish are not always funny. They can become very aggressive with any intruders, by tail-beating, chasing and biting. Let’s make our clownfish kind and colorful, or you can pick another fish.

1-Start with two paper plates. Cut some cardboard for the tail fin, lips, top and bottom fins, and lips or eyes. Staple the two plates together with tops facing each other to create a pocket. Staple the cardboard between the two plates. Cut up long strips of newspaper, colored paper, or tissue paper. Mix up a batch of flour and water. One-part flour to two parts water. Mix this paste in a plastic container with a lid, in case you want to work on the fish another time. You can add a small amount of white glue to the mixture to make it stronger. Dip strips of paper into the mixture and pull off any excess with your fingers. Lay it all across the fish form. Cover all the edges and set on plastic wrap to dry. You can do the back side another day or when the front is completely dry.

2-Make sure your fish is completely dry and color it with markers, or if you used colored paper, you just need to add eyes, fins or lips. Hang up in your window, so your neighbors know that you are creating “Oceans of Possibilities” all summer long.

Let’s start clowning around!

Ms. Susan