This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. This week, we are going to create the snakelike, sea eel, another friend for the summer reading, “Oceans of Possibilities”. This mysterious creature from the deep blue sea, can range anywhere from 4 inches to 11.5 feet. Depending on the species, their colors range from deep grey or black, all the way to bold and bright for tropical reef species. Eels really are very remarkable and have a life cycle similar to the butterfly. There is the developmental stage. An egg to larvae stage where the eel can be floating in the water for as long as two and half years before metamorphosing to the young adult eel. Let’s make a Sea Eel!

1-Draw the head of the eel on cardboard, heavy cardstock, or a paper bag. Start at the top of the page and draw an oval head. On either side of the head draw to small fins. Then start on the body by drawing two lines straight down from the head. On either side of these lines draw two tabs that point out towards the sides of the paper. Continue drawing the body of the eel, slithering all over the paper or cardboard.

2-Cut out the shape. Glue the eel. Face-down, to fabric, a plastic bag, or anything that would be appear shiny with a scaly texture. Add the same material to the back of the two flaps that you have added for the fins. Once it has dried, cut off the excess material. Fold the two tabs to the back of the eel and cross the ends over to make a ring for your finger. Tape or glue it together. Turn it over and bend the two flaps up for the fins. Add two eyes and any other decoration. This slithering, swimming eel has yarn to look like water or algae from the sea. Your eel has fully metamorphosed and is ready to swim into the deep blue oceans. Can you make-up a song for your swimming sea eel?

It’s very real, and it’s not a seal, but a super sea eel!

Ms. Susan