

The Eye of the Whale

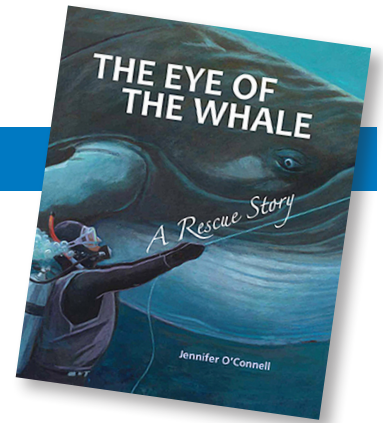
A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Human and Animal Behavior, the Environment, Conservation, Compassion, Bravery

Book Brief: This true story tells of divers who saved a humpback whale trapped in a crab

net off the coast of the San Francisco Bay.

Author and Illustrator:
Jennifer O'Connell



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Explain that this true story is about a whale trapped in a crab net and then rescued by divers. Ask the children if they have ever seen an animal in need of rescue. What can humans do to help protect ecosystems like the ocean to keep animals safe?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

ALL TRAPPED UP! (AGES 6-12)

Materials: string or yarn, construction paper cut into whale shapes (or children can create their own)

After reading, have children write and/or draw their reaction to the story. Prompt with: "How do you think the whale felt after she was freed?" "How did James feel before and after saving the whale's life?" Have the group sit in a circle with one person holding the ball of yarn. Allow each child to share a reaction, holding one thread of the yarn and tossing the yarn to another child in the circle to create a net. Discuss how the whale would have felt in the net. Have students toss their paper whales onto the net.

ECHO...ECHO...ECHOLOCATION! (AGES 5-12)

In a large open space, explain that whales use a variety of songs that send vibrations so that they can find each other or their pods. After listening to whale songs using the link below, have children choose their own whale song. Blindfold one child who sits in the middle as the "whale". Say "SWIM," and the children, or "fish," rotate clockwise. Say, "STOP!", and

each "fish" goes to the nearest corner. The "whale" sings and the "fish" repeat the song. The whale points to where the most "fish" are located. All "fish" in that space are eaten by the "whale" and sit near the whale. Repeat, continuing until all fish have been eaten. Last surviving "fish" is the new whale!

A WHALE'S EYE VIEW (AGES 5-9)

Materials: bulletin board paper, blue paint, water, paint brushes, crayons

Discuss various layers of the ocean (tidal region, open-sea surface, ocean deep down) and different ocean animals located on each level. Let children draw their favorite ocean creatures in crayon. Dilute the blue paint with water and paint entire paper. Paint won't stick to wax crayons, so ocean animals will stand out!

TECHNOLOGY LINK:

You can listen to a variety of whale songs at <https://whaletrust.org/song-sound/>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT WHALES

Among Giants: A Life with Whales, Charles "Flip" Nicklin (2011),

Face to Face with Whales, Flip and Linda Nicklin (2010),

Here Come the Humpbacks, April Sayre (2013),

Whales, Gail Gibbons (1993), *Whales*, Seymour Simon (2006).



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