

The Eye of the Whale

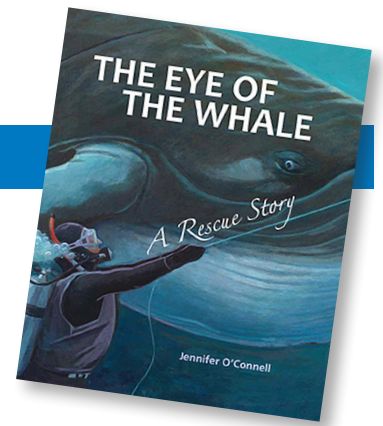
A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

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

Content Connections: Environmental Science, Math, Oceanology



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: See if students can predict what the book is about based on the title and cover illustrations. What is the scuba diver doing in the water? What does it mean

to rescue someone or something? Have you ever seen an animal in danger before?

The Pictures: Look at the pictures and point out to the class how the author/illustrator used her water-color paintings to describe the rescue. Talk about the colors she used to portray feelings, etc.

Prior Knowledge: Ask students what they know about whales, specifically humpback whales. Explain that whales have good vision, unlike other animals in the dark ocean. The humpback whale's eye is as large as an orange and easy to spot. Talk to students about the physical characteristics and body parts of whales. Use the following website for great information.

www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/whales

Vocabulary: captain, fog, nudge, plunge, pod, score of rope, swell, vibrate

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about how the rescuers and the humpback whale worked together to have a successful rescue."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What do you think the rescuers are thinking as they head out to locate the whale?
- ◆ What is the whale feeling when she sees the humans trying to help her?
- ◆ Why does James tell the rescuers, "If the whale starts moving, get out of the way!"

- ◆ How do you think James and the other rescuers feel after the rescue?
- ◆ How does the whale show her gratitude to the rescuers? What does she do?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "What were the feelings and actions that the rescuers and the whale showed one another throughout the story?"

Extending our Thinking: What are other ways in which humans and animals interact to save lives from environmental dangers?

What can we do to help protect the animals near our home? Make a list of ten ways to protect animals in your area.

<https://www.natgeokids.com/nz/discover/animals/sea-life/humpback-song/>

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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