

The Eye of the Whale

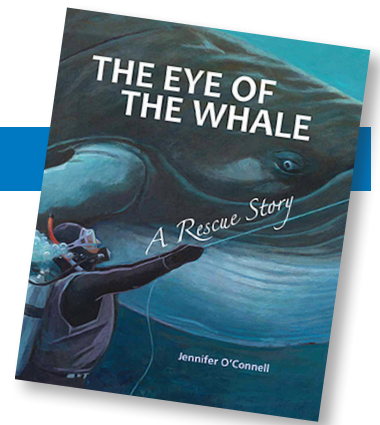
A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

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, make predictions: What is wrong with the whale on the cover? Why do you think she needs rescuing? Who do you think will help her?

While reading, make inferences: How do the whale and James relate to one another? How do animals and humans communicate with one another?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ How would you have felt if you were the whale stuck in the crab net?
- ◆ How did James feel at the beginning of the book and then at the end? Why do you think his feelings changed?
- ◆ What are some things we can do to help keep animals safe in our community?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

SINK OR SWIM?

Materials: aluminum foil, pennies or paperclips, small bowl or sink, water

Allow children to experience buoyancy. Use a piece of aluminum foil and help him or her shape it into a boat. Ask the child how many pennies will sink the boat. Float the boat and add pennies one at a time, keeping track of how long the boat stays afloat! Have a competition with the whole family. Then have boat races using straws or your own "wind"!

EDIBLE OCEAN

Ingredients: graham cracker crumbs, blue gelatin, fruit snacks or canned fruit, clear cups, whipped topping

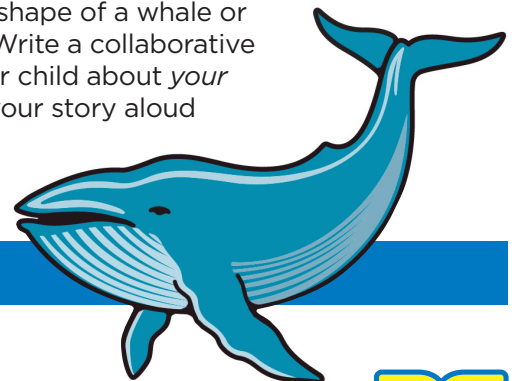
Add one tablespoon of graham cracker crumbs to bottom of cup as "sand." Help your child mix the gelatin according to the package directions; fill each

cup 1/2 full. Place fruit in the cup and fill rest of cup with gelatin. Let set in the refrigerator. Top with whipped topping for waves. While eating, talk about the different layers of the ocean and which animals live in each.

WHALE'S TALE

Materials: white paper, various colors of construction paper, old colorful magazine pictures, glue

Using the book's artwork as a model, create your own whale. Have your child tear colored paper into small pieces and glue closely to create a collage in the shape of a whale or ocean scene. Write a collaborative story with your child about *your* whale. Share your story aloud with others.



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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