

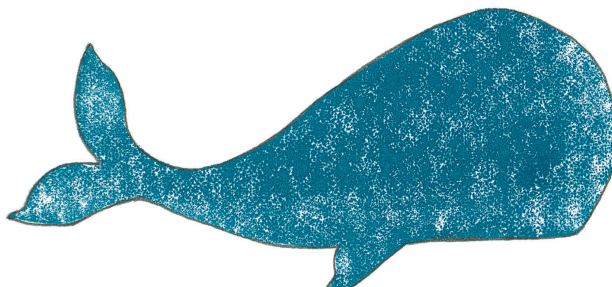
Writing Activities

Create an Acrostic Poem



Every April, we celebrate National Poetry Month. There are lots of different types of poems. One type is an acrostic poem. Let's write an acrostic poem about patience and how you feel waiting for something you really want. To start your poem, put the letters that spell out WHALE down the side of your paper. Then go back to each letter and think of a word, phrase, or sentence that starts with that letter. We gave an example using the letter W below. You get to fill in the other letters! Remember that this type of poetry doesn't need to rhyme. Be creative and share your poem!

W _____
H _____
A _____
L _____
E _____



Write a Whale of a Tale About Your Favorite Animal (CCSS: RI.4. W.2, W.5)

Teachers

After reading If You Want to See a Whale, encourage students to discuss the word choices made by Julie Fogliano. As a class, create a chart of descriptive nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Encourage students to think about word choices in their own writing.

Students

Complete the story below by filling in the blanks with the appropriate word based on the part of speech after each blank, e.g. *noun*. Once you have fill in all of the blanks, read the completed story to the group. For inspiration, use your classroom, school, or public library to read books about a variety of animals.

My favorite animal is the _____ (*noun*). This is my favorite animal because I like their _____ (*noun*). They like to _____ (*verb*) a lot, and they love to eat _____ (*noun*). Sometimes the _____ (*animal noun*) can be _____ (*adjective*), _____ (*adjective*), or even _____ (*adjective*). The coolest thing about the _____ (*animal noun*) is that it _____ (*insert fact about the animal*). They live in _____ (*adjective*) environments and hang out with other animals like the _____ (*noun*). My favorite thing about the _____ (*animal noun*) is that it _____ (*verb or other fact*). If I ever have this animal as a pet, I would want to name it _____ (*noun*).

Teachers/Librarians: *If You Want to See a Whale* activities align with these Common Core State Standards, Grades K-5: RI.4, RI.7, RL.7, S&L.1.b., W.2, W.5.



Art Activities

Draw Your Favorite Animal (CCSS: RI.7, RL.7, S&L.1.b.)

Teachers

After reading *If You Want to See a Whale*, encourage students to discuss the illustration style of Erin E. Stead. What does the illustrator hope to communicate by using these colors? Encourage students to think about color choice in their own drawings.

Students

I want to see a _____. Draw a picture of your favorite animal below.



Make a Paper Flower Whale

Materials Needed: Shades of blue tissue paper, kid-friendly scissors, blue pipe cleaners, bulletin board or large-sized kraft paper to display whale on a wall or in a hallway!

How to Make the Paper Flowers:

1. Gather 6 to 8 sheets of tissue paper and cut to approximately 7 x 11 inches.
2. Make a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch fold on one short side of the rectangle. Continue by folding the paper accordion-style (back-and-forth folding).
3. Trim excess paper. To create rounded flower-like edges, cut the ends of both sides in a curve.
4. Tie a pipe cleaner around the center of the folded paper and leave a little extra pipe cleaner hanging away from the flower so you can use that piece to attach the flower to the larger whale.
5. Spread the sides of the folded paper so that it opens up like a fan on each side.
6. Slowly separate each layer of tissue by pulling each sheet toward the pipe cleaner. Continue to do this with all of the layers of tissue paper on both sides.
7. To make a more rose-shaped flower, twist the center pieces in a circle.

How to Display the Paper Flowers in the Shape of a Whale:

1. Draw an outline of a whale on the bulletin board or Kraft paper.
2. Use a push pin to secure the extra pipe cleaner to the bulletin board or use tape for the Kraft paper.
3. Secure the blue paper flowers inside the shape of the outline of the whale.

Even though the process takes a long time, now your classroom, library, or hallway has a beautiful whale that people can see every day!

