

Guided Reading Lesson Plan (Levels M-Z)

Title: Whales by Gale Gibbons

Level N

ISBN: 978-082341030-9

Publisher: Holiday House

Before Reading: (5-7 min.)

*Summarize plot (M)

*Discuss pictures (M)

*Unfamiliar book language/character names (S)

*Draw upon students' experiences (M)

Before reading, ask students to write three things they already know about whales. Next, write three things they wonder about whales.

From the Pygmy whale to the world's largest animal- the 100ft. Long blue whale, this book offers a thorough introduction to these spectacular mammals and their world.

This book has beautiful illustrations packed with important facts about whales and instills an appreciation for them.

Be sure to read Whale Tales at the end of the book on page 30.

*New or important words (V) p.1 mammals, warm blooded, p.4 ancestors, p.7 flukes, p. 10 echolocation, p. 12 migration, p. 18 baleen, p. 27 cosmetics

Unusual aspect of text layout (V).

Suggested Teaching Point (Behaviors to Notice and Support) or focus on a Comprehension Strategy:

connections, questions, inferences, visualizing, summarizing, synthesizing, determining importance.

Good readers use the illustrations to help them understand the text.

Good readers use the text features to help them understand nonfiction.

During Reading: (10-15 min.)

Students silently read the text, you may choose to listen to a few whisper read the text. While students are silently reading, you can start another group or conference with students.

After Reading: (8-10 min.)

*Discuss the story

-clarify confusion, revisiting parts of the text that posed problems for readers

-acknowledge partially correct responses, seeking to understand students' perspectives

*Connect discussion to the teaching point and/or a comprehension strategy (see above)

What is one message the author is trying to teach?

How do whales differ from fish?

Is the largest animal in the world a whale?

Are there more or fewer whales in the world than there were 200 years ago? Why?

What are two main types of whale?

What are three things you learned about whales?

What are some things you found interesting about whale?

Writing Connection (optional): Write: Do you think it is important that people try to keep whales from extinction? Explain your answer.

Students can do follow up research on one type of whale and report back to the group.