

Lamont Books Standing Order

October 2013

Teacher Notes and Activities

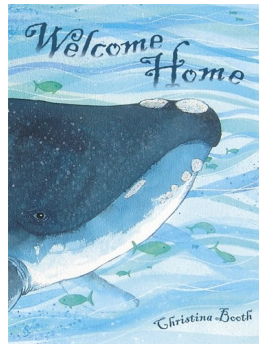
Welcome Home

By Christina Booth

ISBN 9781925000085

\$26.95

Welcome Home is the story of a young boy and a whale as she swims into the river harbour seeking safety and a resolution to the violent past relationship between whales and man. This prosaic journey, accompanied with soft sketchy watercolour images, reveals how the past can impact our future. Can the boy make amends for the past? Can the whale forgive and return to what was once her ancestors' home? Whaling is an horrific image to portray in any literature yet this story offers its history and consequences to children in a gentle, safe way. This story does not avoid the facts but ends with hope and reconciliation, using history to show the consequences of our choices and actions.



Teacher Notes have been taken from those supplied by the publisher, Ford Street Publishing. A full version is available at www.fordstreetpublishing.com.

Themes:

- Whaling/Conservation
- Endangered species/Extinction
- Environment
- Hope
- Forgiveness
- Story telling

Discussion Points:

Welcome Home is the perfect book for introducing the topic of whaling.

- Why did people hunt whales in the past? How did this impact on the whale population? Why were so many whales killed in early settlement time? What products were made from the whale? Why don't we need whales to make these products anymore?
- Why do people hunt whales today? Do you think it is necessary? Why?
- Why have whales now been protected?

The environment and conservation are both subjects that arise from the story.

- What does conservation mean? Why is it important? Do you know of any groups or organisations that involved with conservation?
- What can you do at home and in your area to help with the conservation of animals, plants and habitats?
- How important is it to conserve our natural environments? Why is it important?

Welcome Home focuses on the hope that the southern right whale might be able to gradually return to safe numbers again with our protection.

- What is the difference between extinct, endangered, threatened and protected species? Can you find animals that fit into each of these categories?
- Discuss what happens when an animal becomes extinct. Is it just the end for that animal or does it have other consequences?

Activities:

- Research an animal that is endangered and write a story from the animal's perspective to let the world know how it might feel.
- As a class, draw a large scale image of a whale and fill it with collage images of sea creatures, ships, whaling images, others whales etc.
- Design a mural that shows the size of a whale compared to everyday objects, such as a house, car, bus, people etc.