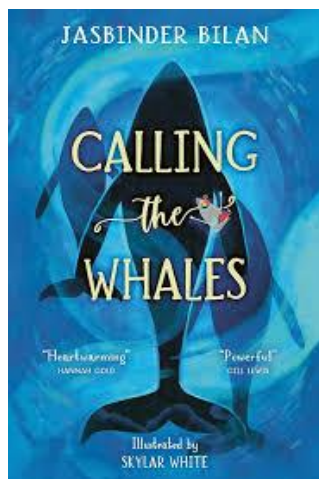


Book Drop Book – Calling the Whales

Discussion Guide



Each week you can share our story together then use this discussion guide to talk about what you have read.

You do not need to write or record your answers and responses unless you are asked to by a teacher as part of your homework.

Don't forget to explore our Book Drop Bingo activities too. We will also have the opportunity to complete some of these during our Reading for Pleasure time in school too.

Front Cover and Blurb

- Explore the front cover. What can you see? The title of the story is 'Calling the Whales,' what do you think the story could be about? Where might it be set?
- Read the blurb. Where is the story set? What does the word 'capsize' mean? Why do you think the author uses an ellipsis in the final sentence?

Chapter 1

- What is the Craig? Why do you think Tulsi and Satchen like to go there?
- What do you think the whale bones on the hill mean?
- How does the author describe the whale's jawbone?
- What do we learn about Tulsi in this chapter? Do you think she is brave?
- What does the author mean when she uses the word 'scaling.'
- What have Tulsi and Satchen done to try and help with the state of the seas?
- What do you think Tulsi might have seen out at sea?

Chapter 2

- Do you think Tulsi was right to tell her parents where she was going? Why?
- Who/what is 'Shona, queen of the sea?'
- What are black and white guillemots?
- What does Tulsi mean when she says 'it sends butterflies fluttering inside my belly?'
- Find three examples that show that Tulsi is apprehensive about what is happening.
- What do you think is making the sound?

Chapter 3

- What does the first paragraph tell us about the time of day?
- Use a dictionary to find the definition of the word 'lumbering.'

- What are the dangers of a whale swimming too close to the shore?
- Do you think it is a sensible decision to swim out to the whale? What are the dangers?
- How big is the whale?
- What does Tulsì mean when she says that she has a lump in her throat?

Chapter 4

- Why do the children decide to name the whale?
- What does Angus do to let the children know he's aware they're coming to save him?
- Use a dictionary to find the definition of the word 'plunging.'
- How does Angus respond to Satchen's singing?
- On page 41, how does the author convey how long the children have been trying to rescue the whale?
- Why is Tulsì so upset that a storm is coming?

Chapter 5

- Why does Satchen say they 'need to get back to shore'?
- On page 45, how can you tell that Tulsì is anxious?
- Why does Satchen feel that rowing is pointless on page 46?
- On page 48 how does Tulsì reassure Satchen?
- What words could you use to describe how the children might be feeling at the end of the chapter?
- What do you think will happen next?

Chapter 6

- Look at page 52 – what are limpets?
- On page 53 how do you think Tulsì is feeling about saving Angus?
- Can you identify the adjectives on page 55?
- Why do they put a foil sheet around the children when they are rescued?
- How do you think Tulsì's mum is feeling on page 59? What evidence is there in the text?
- Did Tulsì dream that the whale saved her or did it really happen? How do you know?
- What does Tulsì want to do next?

Chapter 7

- Why do Tulsì's parents say that she needs to stay in bed for ages?
- What does the word 'jittery' mean on page 64?
- Sum up, in your own words, Tulsì's message to the radio presenter.
- Name three issues that the children raise.
- What do they say people can do to help?
- What does Tulsì say looks like fireworks?
- Do you think Angus will remember the children?

What would you do if you saw a stranded whale?