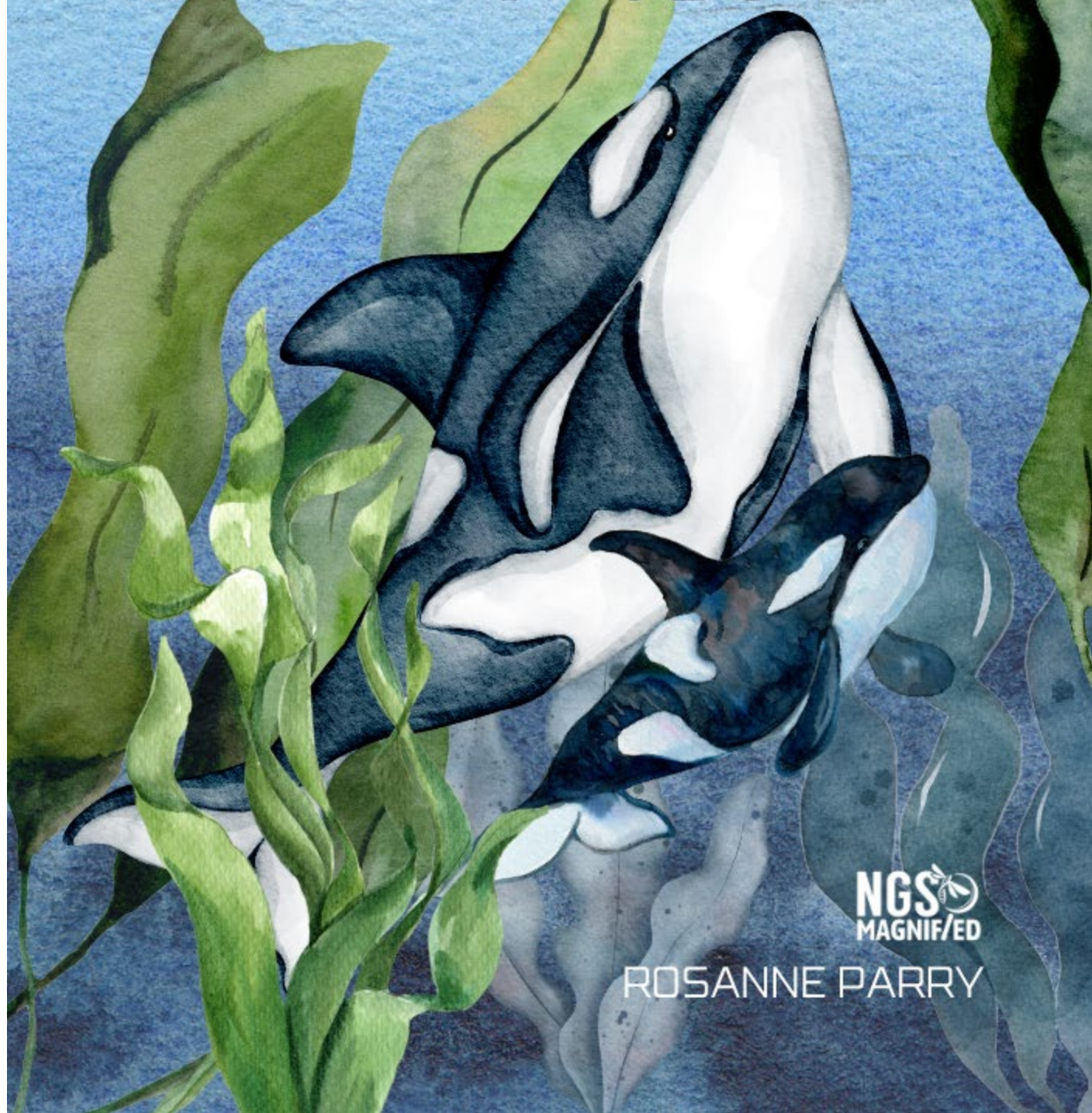


NOVEL STUDY

A WHALE OF THE WILD



NGS
MAGNIF/ED

ROSANNE PARRY

Novel Studies in the Science Classroom: Developing Science Literacy Skills

Today struggling readers face many long-term challenges and are more at risk of falling behind. However, science is a great way to engage students, no matter their background. NGS Magnified has created novel studies for teachers to use in the science classroom to help bridge that gap. Novel studies help build rapport with students while supporting and fostering independent learning. In addition, we believe that using novel studies in the science classroom will expose students to different perspectives and help them understand how science vocabulary applies to so many events in their lives.

Research shows that connecting content and skills from other subjects enhances students' learning and improves their comprehension.

- *The literacy from reading can easily come from non-fiction and fiction novels that surround a science-related topic and are far more of a high-interest read for the majority of students than reading a textbook (Anderson & Hite, 2010; Batchelor, 2017; Coiro, 2012; Freudenrich, 2000).*
- *Science fiction novels are an excellent way to engage students in science ideas while also helping students improve their literacy skills. (Creech and Hale, 2006)*
- *Teachers can add in other readings from the internet and news articles which brings the reading level down to a more manageable level, however students are more willing to learn and spend the time to learn new vocabulary when highly engaged in what they are reading (Weinbugh et al., 2014).*

NGS Magnified novel studies heavily focus on the following:

- vocabulary
- reading comprehension
- simple research
- cross-curricular connections
- culminating final project

Students will focus on inquiry skills such as comparing and contrasting, summarizing, making inferences, cause/effect relationships, fact and opinion, and critical thinking.

Happy reading,
Erica



"A spellbinding, heart-stopping adventure." –Booklist (starred review)

"A dreamily written, slyly educational, rousing maritime adventure." –*New York Times Book Review*

In the stand-alone companion to the *New York Times*-bestselling *A Wolf Called Wander*, a young orca whale must lead her brother on a tumultuous journey to be reunited with their pod. This gorgeously illustrated animal adventure novel explores family bonds, survival, global warming, and a changing seascape. Includes information about orcas and their habitats.

For Vega and her family, salmon is life. And Vega is learning to be a salmon finder, preparing for the day when she will be her family's matriarch. But then she and her brother Deneb are separated from their pod when a devastating earthquake and tsunami render the seascape unrecognizable. Vega must use every skill she has to lead her brother back to their family. The young orcas face a shark attack, hunger, the deep ocean, and polluted waters on their journey. Will Vega become the leader she's destined to be?

A Whale of the Wild weaves a heart-stopping tale of survival with impeccable research on a delicate ecosystem and threats to marine life. *New York Times*-bestselling author Rosanne Parry's fluid writing and Lindsay Moore's stunning artwork bring the Salish Sea and its inhabitants to vivid life. An excellent read-aloud and read-alone, this companion to *A Wolf Called Wander* will captivate fans of *The One and Only Ivan* and *Pax*.

Includes black-and-white illustrations throughout, a map, and extensive backmatter about orcas and their habitats.

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@NGS

**Check out the following sample pages
focusing on science vocabulary, reading
comprehension, and literacy-based projects!**

Teacher Guide included!

BEFORE YOU READ

Directions: An adaptation is a behavior or characteristic that helps a plant or animal survive in its environment. Draw a line to match each ocean animal to the correct adaptation.

Orca

Sharp spines for protection

Sea Otter

Uses echolocation to find its prey

Octopus

Webbed feet and thick fur

Salmon

Strong muscles to swim upstream

Sea Urchin

WORD STUDY: *Kinship, Noise, Birds*

1. Tide

Definition:

2. Salmon

Write a sentence that best describes the life cycle of a salmon.

Animal - _____

Animal - _____

Animal - _____

3. Flukes

Draw a picture that you find the *Fluke* of

5. Fin

What is the function

WORD STUDY: *Kinship, Noise, Birds*

7. Nonsensical

Use the word *nonsensical* correctly in your own sentence.

8. Islands

Draw a picture that correctly shows the definition of an *island*.

9. Sharks

A shark is a _____ in an ocean ecosystem.

- a. scavenger
- b. producer
- c. consumer
- d. all of the above

10. Eels

Eels are most likely found where in the ocean?

- a. Along the surface
- b. Hiding in rocks and coral reefs
- c. Eating plants in the kelp forest
- d. In the shallow waters of the beach

11. Gulls

If a gull is swooping near the water's surface, what is it most likely trying to do?

12. Seals

Seals are an integral part of the ocean's food web. What is a food web?

Find out what students already know.

Each section has reading comprehension questions to track student progress and understanding.

A Whale of the Wild

Reading Check: *Kinship, Noise, Birds*

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is a Wayfinder in this novel?

2. How do Orca whales communicate?

3. Vega is

4. How was

5. Greatmother

A Whale of the Wild

Reading Check: *Stolen, Blood Cove, Follow*

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. When Greatmother says that poisons have flowed into the waters, what do you think she is talking about?

2. What does bird

3. List three exa

4. What happened

5. Describe char

A Whale of the Wild

Reading Check: *Waves, Land's End, Seal*

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why were the waves more dangerous after the earthquake?

2. What does Vega mean when she says the blood of the boats is poison to them?

Novel Project option

A Whale of the Wild

Final Project – Marine Food Web

Project: Create a 3D model of the marine food web featured in *A Whale of the Wild*, showing how different species depend on each other and how changes in the environment affect the whole system.

Your Task:

- Choose at least 6 species from the novel's ecosystem. Examples:
 - Hanging noddies
 - Foam bodys
 - Clay or P...
 - Recyclabl...
 - Digital 3D...
- Create each species and another food web.
- Show predator-prey relationships with arrows.
- Label your model.
- Write one paragraph explaining how the story affects the food web.

A Whale of the Wild

Name _____

Marine Food Web Model – 4-Point Rubric

Criteria	4 Meets Project Expectations	3 Minor Gaps in Requirements	2 Several Gaps in Requirements	1 Major Gaps or Missing Work
Species Selection & Accuracy	Includes at least 8 accurate species from the novel's ecosystem.	Includes 7 species OR 1-2 species are inaccurate.	Includes 6 species OR 3+ species are inaccurate.	Includes fewer than 6 species OR most species inaccurate.
Predator–Prey Connections (arrows)	All predator–prey relationships are accurate; arrows clearly point from prey → predator.	Most predator–prey relationships accurate; minor arrow errors.	Some predator–prey relationships inaccurate OR arrows unclear.	Few accurate relationships; arrows missing or very unclear.
3D Construction & Creativity	Model is three-dimensional , complete, neat, and organized using any approved method.	Model is 3D but shows minimal neatness or organization.	Model is partially 3D OR appears rushed and incomplete.	Model is flat, incomplete, or missing major components.
Labels & Facts (Number Tag + Key Sheet)	Every species has a number tag and matching key sheet entry with accurate name + one fact.	Missing 1-2 number tags OR 1-2 key sheet facts.	Missing 3-4 number tags OR several facts inaccurate.	No number tags OR no key sheet provided.
Environmental Impact Paragraph	Includes a 1-paragraph explanation describing at least one environmental change in the story and how it affects the food web.	Paragraph missing one part (change or effect) OR unclear connection to food web.	Paragraph incomplete OR unrelated to food web.	Paragraph missing entirely.

Score Total _____ / 20

Feedback:



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