





Talk About It

Have you seen a whale in a movie or on TV? At the aquarium or in the sea? What were some of the things you thought or felt?



Find out more about whales at www.macmillanmh.com

WHALES

Vocabulary

rumbling massive
snoring tangles
unique politicians
dove



Dictionary

Homographs are words that are spelled the same but have different meanings and may have different pronunciations.

dove = past tense of *dive*

dove = a type of bird



A Whale of a Trip!

by Kristin Gold

“Ladies and gentlemen,” shouted Matty, our guide. He had to yell over the **rumbling** sounds of the boat’s engines. “I don’t want to hear any **snoring**,” he teased. “You’re in for a **unique** and exciting trip.”

Matty continued, “I want to give you a little information about whales.” First he explained that whales are mammals, not fish. He also informed us that a group of whales is called a pod.

The first thing we saw were birds flying alongside our boat. One **dove** sharply toward the water, and then flew up again! “That’s a dovekie,” explained Matty. “Whales may be nearby.”



“There are two major groups of whales,” Matty continued, “baleen whales and toothed whales. Instead of teeth, baleen whales have plates that act like a big sieve and collect food. These birds hang around to eat the tiny fish that slip out of the whales’ mouths!”

When a whale suddenly surfaced, I couldn’t believe how big it was. It was **massive!**

Soon we saw another whale slap its tail on the water.

“Is it angry?” I asked Matty.

“Probably not,” said Matty.

“That’s called lobtailing. Some scientists think it’s a warning to other whales. Others think they’re just playing or cleaning their tails.”

Matty explained that it’s against the law to hunt humpback whales, but whales get killed anyway. The huge nets fishermen use to catch tuna often trap whales, too. Matty said these **tangles** can be prevented by using other kinds of nets. Some concerned people want the **politicians** to help by passing more laws to protect whales.

When we reached the dock, we realized that Matty was right. The whale watching trip had been exciting and one-of-a-kind.



Reread for Comprehension



Analyze Text Structure

Sequence Sometimes authors use signal words to help readers know the order in which events occur. Words like *first*, *next*, and *last* are signal words.

A Sequence Chart can help you analyze text structure, or understand how a selection is organized. Reread to find the sequence of events on the field trip.

Event
↓
↓
↓