

**Dear Mr. Blueberry by Simon James  
Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1991**

**ABOUT THE BOOK**

Emily has found a whale in her summer wading pool. She writes to her teacher (who replies) for information about whales.

**INTRODUCING VOCABULARY:** How many of these words can you use in one sentence to describe the cover of the book? Add other words as needed. Emily, whale, salt water, pleased, information, sincerely, spurt, forcibly, shrimp-like, creatures, goldfish, migratory, distances, disappoint, impossible.

**BEFORE READING:** Answer these questions about whales. Guess if you do not know. Find out by reading the story.

1. A whale is a big fish. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Whales live in salt water. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Whales are migratory. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Whales travel long distances each day. \_\_\_\_\_

**AFTER READING:**

Discuss: Did Emily really have a whale in her wading pool? Why or why not?

**CREATE A WHALE DATA BANK**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Lives<br>ocean<br>salt water<br>_____<br>_____                | Eats<br>fish<br>plankton<br>_____<br>_____             | Has<br>flippers<br>blubber<br>_____<br>_____ |
| What It Does<br>breathes air<br>does tricks<br>_____<br>_____ | Looks Like<br>fish<br>large sea lion<br>_____<br>_____ |  |

Use the information from the data bank in one of these patterns:

**A.** Hey, kids, I have a whale for sale. It's the handiest thing you will ever want to own because it can \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. But the greatest thing about it is \_\_\_\_\_

**B. IF I WERE PATTERN**

Name the thing you want to be  
Tell where it is found  
Name one thing it can do for someone  
Name a second thing it can do  
Repeat the first line.

Example:

If I were a lobster  
Snug in my hole on the ocean floor  
I would crawl out and tell you good morning  
And wave my claws at you  
If I were a lobster.

**WRITE A WHALE STORY**

Some \_\_\_\_\_ have their own \_\_\_\_\_ where they \_\_\_\_\_.  
Sometimes they go around \_\_\_\_\_ or sometimes they just \_\_\_\_\_.  
But to this very day, some \_\_\_\_\_ have their own \_\_\_\_\_.

**ANOTHER WRITING PATTERN**

(Use for whales or any other animal)

One \_\_\_\_\_ you are walking along the \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ air surrounds you and changes you until you feel yourself growing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. You move into the \_\_\_\_\_ for you are a \_\_\_\_\_, the color of \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ all over. You are hungry so you seek \_\_\_\_\_ and are almost ready to catch your prey when a \_\_\_\_\_ appears. Quickly you \_\_\_\_\_ away and you hide \_\_\_\_\_. You wait until the \_\_\_\_\_ leaves. Suddenly a big \_\_\_\_\_ picks you up and takes you to \_\_\_\_\_. You feel yourself changing and once again become the person that you are. You walk along the \_\_\_\_\_ (doing what?) \_\_\_\_\_.