

**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 ocean salt water _____ _____	Eats fish plankton _____ _____	Has flippers blubber _____ _____
What It Does breathes air does tricks _____ _____	Looks Like fish large sea lion _____ _____	

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?) _____.