

# LEARNING RESOURCES

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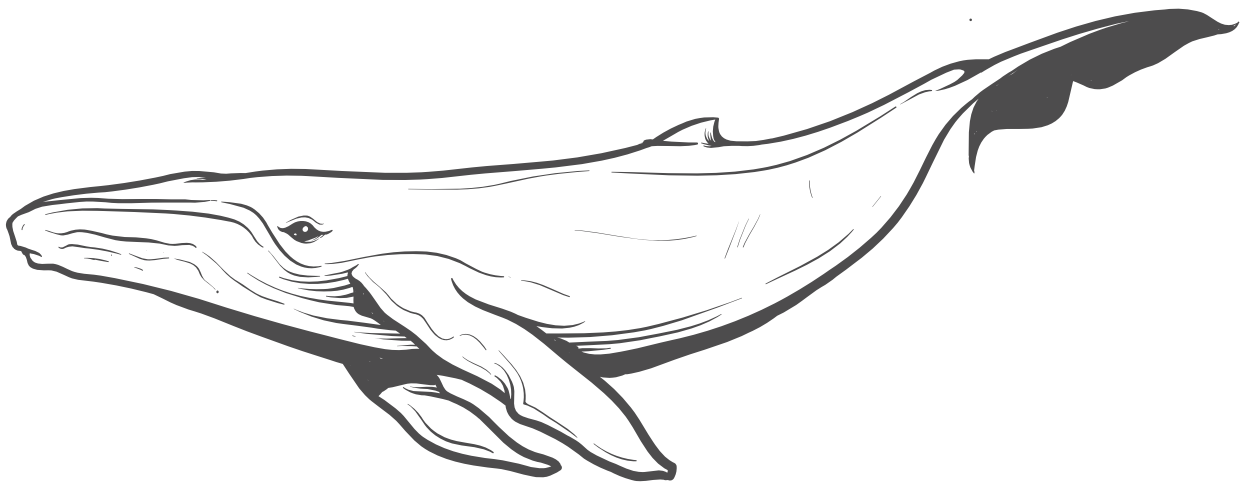


# CHAPTER 1 - BIG BLUE

pages 7-14

## Comprehension Questions

- What is your first impression of Cam and what do we learn about him in this chapter?
- Predict where you think his father might have gone.
- Why does Cetacea have rules? What are they?
- Why do the people agree to them?
- Why are the people in awe of Byron? How do they show their loyalty towards him?



## Writing Opportunities

**Write a diary**, from Cam's perspective, of his feelings the night his dad left. Be mindful of children who may have experienced similar events.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**RE•** This chapter seems to set up a cult within which Byron Vos is the leader. Find out more about what a cult is, and how they have practices that many people think of as being odd, or that most people in the world do not do.



## CHAPTER 2 -THE BOY

pages 15-22

### Comprehension Questions

- Why is Cam devoted to Big Blue even when he's teased and bullied?
- What is 'Whale Work', and why is it so special to Cam? What are the signs of Whale Work on Cam's skin?
- Why is Kelp so important?
- Who is Lindy? Who is Banjo, and how does he help Cam?

### Writing Opportunities

**Write a note to Cam.** What advice would you give him?

How would you try to make him feel better after being bullied? Consider the important themes so far, e.g. hope, family.

Can you add any more? Create a 'Theme Sheet' to record as you read.

### Cross-Curricular Activities

**ART** • From the descriptions provided, draw what you think the character of Cam looks like.

**PSHE** • Learn more about bullying. Define it as intentionally harmful and deliberate behaviour that involves a power imbalance, and is often repeated. Create an anti-bullying presentation to share.

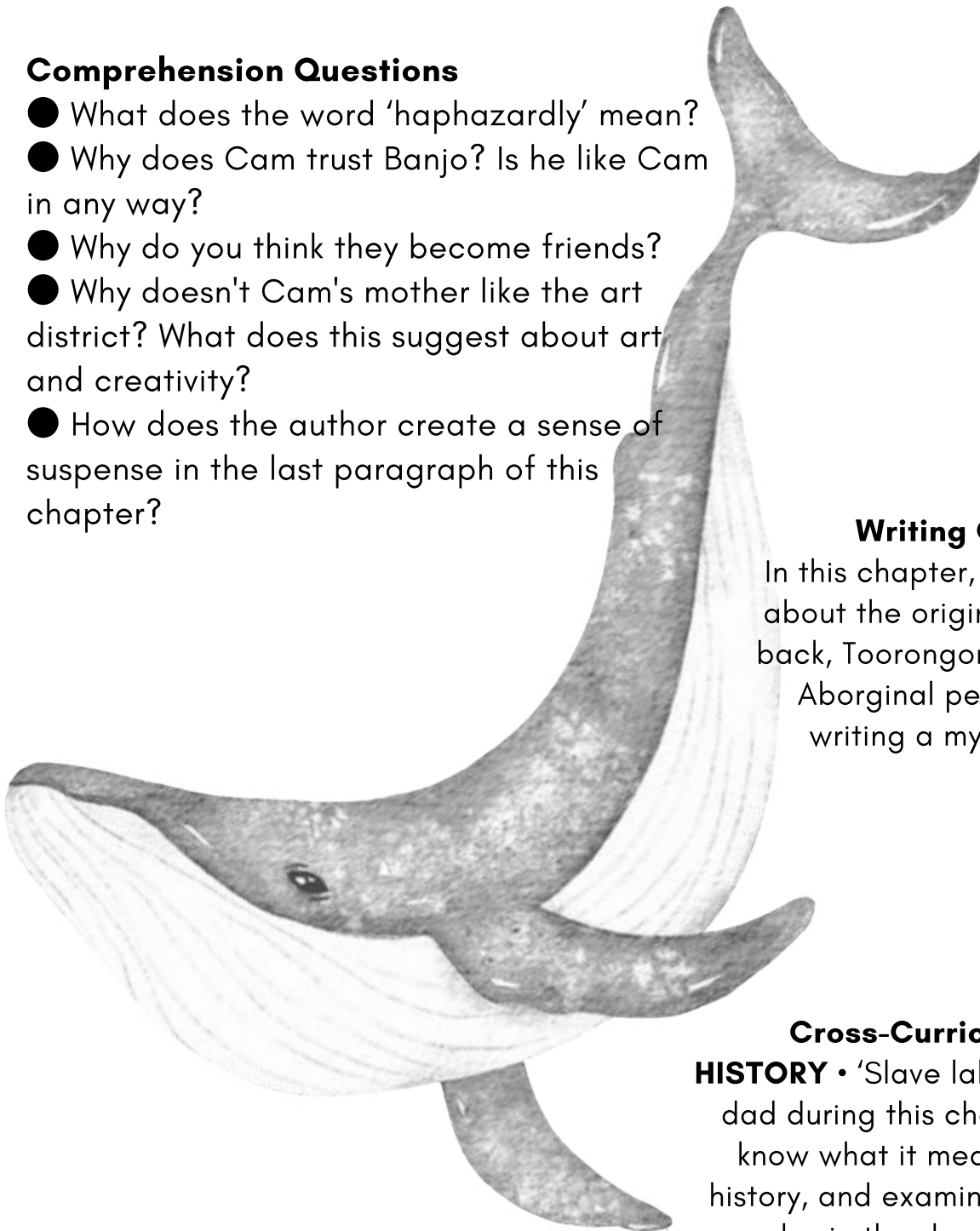


# CHAPTER 3 - THE PONTOON

pages 23-32

## Comprehension Questions

- What does the word 'haphazardly' mean?
- Why does Cam trust Banjo? Is he like Cam in any way?
- Why do you think they become friends?
- Why doesn't Cam's mother like the art district? What does this suggest about art and creativity?
- How does the author create a sense of suspense in the last paragraph of this chapter?



## Writing Opportunities

In this chapter, we are told by Banjo about the origins of his tattoo on his back, Toorongong, and its links to the Aboriginal people. Have a go at writing a myth about a whale.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**HISTORY** • 'Slave labour' is used by Cam's dad during this chapter but he doesn't know what it means. Research Black history, and examine different countries' roles in the slave trade to develop understanding about this time.



## CHAPTER 4 - ARLO FOX

pages 33-41

### Comprehension Questions

- Why is it strange that Cam had never seen Arlo before?
  - What makes Arlo's house different?
  - How does Arlo know Cam's full name?
  - Do you think Arlo is someone who can be trusted?
- Why does Cam tell him his secret?

### Writing Opportunities

Rewrite this chapter from Arlo's perspective. Think about the emotions he experiences and his interactions with characters like Cam and Banjo.

### Cross-Curricular Activities

**ART** • Cam receives a tattoo from Arlo in this chapter. Discover more about tattoos and how they are used on humans as a type of body modification.

Analyse why he wants a tattoo. Is this a good reason?  
Explain the long and short term consequences of Cam getting it.





# CHAPTER 5 - STEALING BREAD

pages 42-51



## Comprehension Questions

- Why does Cam only have two tunics?
- Why are rules important for Cetacea?
- Is Cetacea a fair society? If so, why?
- What does this chapter tell us about humans and their relationships with animals?
- When they meet Petra, why does Cam immediately ask what 'work' she is? Why does she respond by saying 'I'm not defined by work, y'know. I'm just Petra.'?



## Writing Opportunities

1) Write down five questions that you would ask Banjo and Petra if you were Cam, now that you have formed a friendship with both of them.

2) Petra prides herself on being free. Write an acrostic for the word 'FREEDOM'. What does this word mean to you?

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**PSHE** • Cam's mother's moods are described in this chapter in more detail. Talk more about how moods and emotions are a significant part of this story. Research mental health and depression and the effects this can have on people, and look into the work charities do to help people who suffer with it.



# CHAPTER 6 - PETRA'S CAVES

pages 52-62

## Comprehension Questions

- What was the first test that Petra and Banjo set Cam?
- Do you feel sorry for Petra living on her own? Do you think she is free because she doesn't live by rules, or is she trapped by the fact she needs others to bring her food and help her survive?
- What is the Great Silence? Do you think getting rid of the past creates freedom?
- According to Cam's dad, how long can blue whales live for?
- What is Cam, Banjo and Petra's plan of action?



## Writing Opportunities

1) Write your own directional poem in the style of Petra and Banjo's six-line mapping song stanza. Can you make yours have a rhyming couplet scheme like theirs?

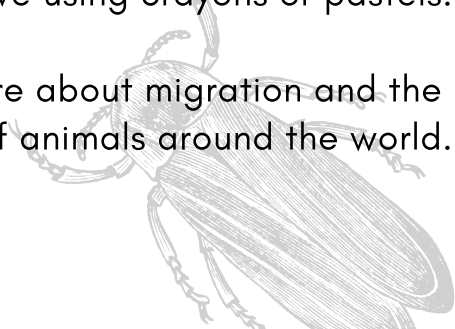
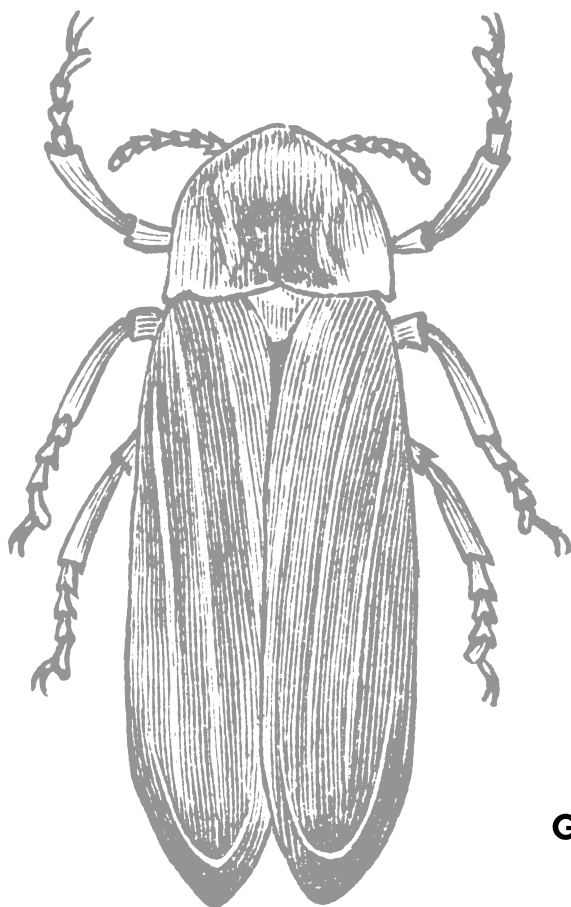
2) Petra says she is free. Write about a time when you have felt free to do what you wanted. How did you feel?

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**SCIENCE** • In this chapter, fireflies are mentioned. Investigate how their bioluminescence works.

**ART** • Create your own rubbings like those in the cave using crayons or pastels.

**GEOGRAPHY** • Learn more about migration and the movements of animals around the world.





# CHAPTER 7 - THE EDGE OF CETACEA

pages 63-75

## Comprehension Questions

- Why are the children unnoticed in their pursuits?
- What makes this night adventure so exciting?
- How do we see that Petra and Banjo really care about Cam?
- How does this adventure change the way you see Cetacea?
- Why are having adventures and investigating so important for our learning?
- Do you think Cam, Banjo and Petra's secrets are safe?

## Writing Opportunities

- 1) Write a missing person description for Petra, and create a missing person poster for her disappearance.
- 2) Write a prediction paragraph about what you think the lights are at sea.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**SCIENCE** • Banjo talks about how stars always come back to the same places and stay in the same patterns.

Look at different star constellations such as Orion (The Hunter) and Ursa Major (The Great Bear), and apply your knowledge of them to the night sky by stargazing to spot them.





# CHAPTER 8 - HOW TO BE NOTICED

pages 76-89

## Comprehension Questions

- Why do people swap jobs in the community?
- How long had Cam been cleaning help for?
- What are the origins in this chapter for the title of this book?
- Why is this chapter such a big deal for Cam?
- What does he have to do to make himself go through with it?
- Why do people want to help him - and what do you think this tells us about those people?

## Writing Opportunities

- 1) Imagine you are Byron Vos. Write a job description for a role at your house. Be specific in your criteria of what you ask for as you will be hand-picking your workers.
  
- 2) Using the last line of this chapter 'Take the whale by the tail', write your own whale-inspired mantras and affirmations.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**PSHE** • Drake suggests that Cam should collect signatures by making a petition. Begin to understand the democratic process by creating a petition to show your support for something.

**MISC** • Celebrate World Whale Day, a day that seeks to appreciate these aquatic creatures that are an important part of the ecosystem and draws attention to the man-made challenges that have made marine life difficult.



# CHAPTER 9 - PLANTING THE SEED

pages 90-101

## Comprehension Questions

- Find at least two ways in which the author shows that Cam is nervous up on stage.
- After his presentation on stage, what is it that makes Cam feel worried?
- Why does Cam's mother react angrily to his speech?
- Why is this chapter unsettling? Do you get the feeling that things are OK or that there are challenges ahead, and why

## Writing Opportunities

- 1) Write about a time when you have felt fearful after doing something bold.
- 2) Write a newspaper report about the events of Cam's speech to the people of Cetacea.
- 3) Write a report about blue whales using information you have found out from this chapter and your own research.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**GEOGRAPHY** • 'When Cam learned what a zoo was, he thought it sounded strange: a place where creatures were fed, but not free.'

Explore issues around animals in captivity, including the link to zoos.

**PSHE** • What is grief? How is it explored in this chapter? Make a note of the different emotions Cam's mother feels and possible reasons for her reactions.



# CHAPTER 10 - BYRON VOS

pages 102-116

## Comprehension Questions

- How does Cam travel to see Byron Vos? What's the difference between a trot, a canter and a gallop?
- How is Fort Eden different from the rest of Cetacea?
- Why is Byron so mesmerising to Cam? Why does Cam think he's so special?
- How has Cam come to the attention of Byron?
- Why do you think Byron doesn't say anything after hearing Cam's last name?

## Writing Opportunities

1) 'Things break much faster than they mend'.

Write a short explanation about what this phrase on page 108 means.

2) Write what you think is the meaning behind Arlo's tattoos.

Why does he have a parrot called Rosella?

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**PSHE** • This chapter ends with Cam and Arlo talking about the truth. Discuss the concept of truth in the classroom, and play a game of two truths and one lie to learn more about it.

**ART** • Create an advertisement or poster for the Day of the Whale festival. Include images and descriptions to persuade people to visit.





# CHAPTER 11 - THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TRUTH

pages 117-126

## Comprehension Questions

- Describe the reaction of Cam's mother to his news in one word.
- Who are the Watchers, and why have they come for Cam?
- What power do secrets have? When is telling a secret a bad idea?
- How can people use secrets to scare you or get them to do what you want? What is this called?
- What is utopia?

## Writing Opportunities

Write a character profile for Byron Vos.

What are his personality traits, his strengths and his weaknesses?

How does he inspire Cam? Include key quotes and descriptions from the text to explain your thinking.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**DRAMA** • In pairs, act out the conversation between Cam and Byron. Freeze frame at different points and reflect on what each character is feeling.

**PSHE** • Consider the theme of making mistakes in this chapter. Are mistakes meant to be made? How do they show we are human?



## CHAPTER 12 - MILO'S PANTRY

pages 127-137

### Comprehension Questions

- Is there anything strange about Fort Eden?
- How does Cam feel, when he realises that there are things he doesn't understand?
- What questions arise as he looks around Fort Eden?
- Do you believe that sometimes you can be too curious and ask too many questions?
- Why do questions annoy Byron?

### Writing Opportunities

- 1) Imagine you are Dana: write a plan for the Day of the Whale festival after listening to what Cam wants.
- 2) Write the events of the chapter from Dana's perspective. How would she see things?



### Cross-Curricular Activities

**ART** • Create your own whale sculptures.

**PHILOSOPHY:** Byron tells Cam that 'It's human nature to be curious. But it's also human nature to be selfish, destructive and violent.'

Do you agree? What do you think about this?

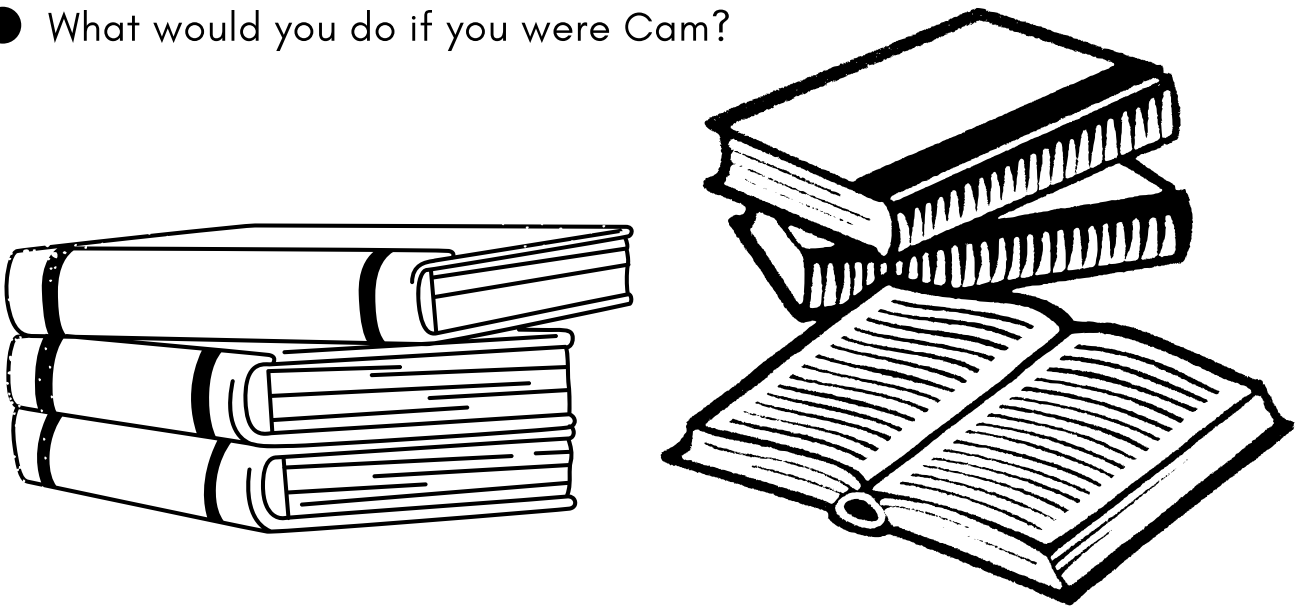


# CHAPTER 13 - LAWBREAKERS

pages 138-151

## Comprehension Questions

- What causes Cam to realise how long he had been up?
- What do the books represent?
- Why do Petra and Banjo think looking at the books is a good idea?
- Why has Cam suddenly changed his mind about finding out more about the whales?
- What would you do if you were Cam?



## Writing Opportunities

Create an emotion graph of Cam's feelings in this chapter. What vocabulary would you use to describe the emotions he feels?

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**DRAMA** • Create a 'Conscience Corridor'; half of the class stand on one side of the room, persuading Cam that Arlo has betrayed him. The other half stand on the other side, persuading Cam that Arlo is good to him. Take turns walking through the corridor in-role as Cam. How does it feel to hear this?



# CHAPTER 14 - EVERYWHERE, SNAKES

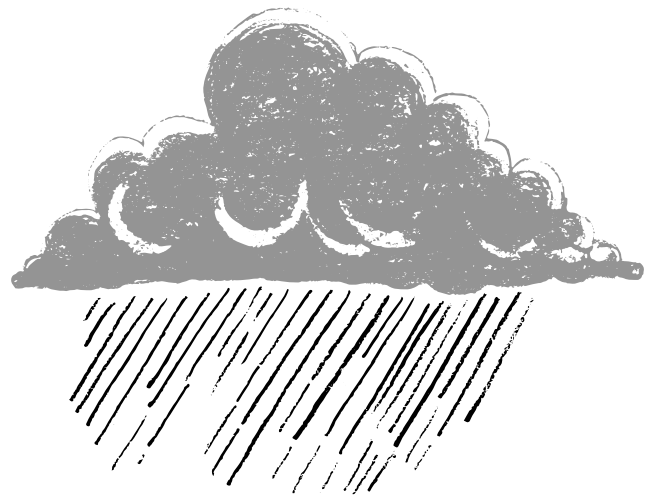
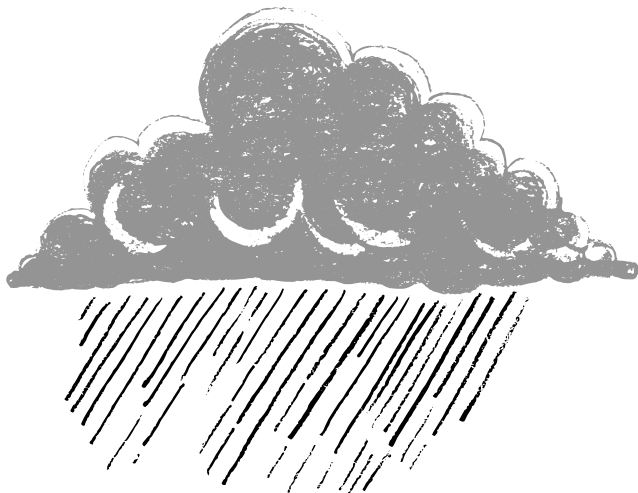
pages 152-166

## Comprehension Questions

- How did Arlo know that Cam was outside his house last night?
- Why is Dana surprised to see Cam? How does she show it?
- Predict where you think Petra has disappeared to.
- There's a rain storm, but there are other things brewing. What is causing the thunder in Cam's head?
- Why does Cam decide to stay true to Byron?

## Writing Opportunities

Write the next part of the story, predicting what you think the significance of the letter V has with the rest of the book.



## Cross-Curricular Activities

**DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY** • Cam's mother explains that their diets weren't always plant-based, and Cam says that eating flesh was part of their dirty past. Understand more about the practices of not eating meat or fish called vegetarianism and veganism.



# CHAPTER 15 - QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS

pages 167-181

## Comprehension Questions

- Cam decides there are too many questions to ignore. What does this make him do?
- Why is it a shock to find out that Byron is not a vegetarian?
- Do you think it's right to keep exploring, or would you trust someone who says it's better not to ask?
- Describe Cam's relationship with Milo.
- How does this chapter end on a cliffhanger for Cam?

## Writing Opportunities

Find out more about Australia, its location in the world in the southern hemisphere, its landscape and its climate. Make notes about your findings. Create a double-page spread report using the information you have found out.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**ART** • Sketch what you think Byron's photographs look like.

**GEOGRAPHY** • There are mentions of biofuel in this chapter. Understand more about this type of energy, how it is produced from plant material, and why they are designed to replace fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas.





# CHAPTER 16 - GROWING KELP

pages 182-191

## Comprehension Questions

- Why does the chocolate drink taste like wood?
- Byron says he's telling Cam the truth. Why does Cam believe him?
- If Byron is being honest, does that mean we can trust him now?
- What idea does Cam come up with for the festival?
- Why do you think Byron doesn't want Dana to talk?



## Writing Opportunities

Imagine you are Dana wanting to speak to Byron in this chapter. Write the conversation between the two of them that they would be having. What would she have said? Remember to include speech marks to show who is speaking.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**SCIENCE** • In this chapter, two elements of the periodic table are described: titanium and gold.

Learn more about their uses, and their properties and attributes.

Make a list of facts about both of them.

La 72 138.9055	Hf 72 178.49	Ta 73 180.9479	W 74 183.84	Re 75 186.207	Rh 45 101.07	Pd 46 106.42	Ag 47 107.8682	Cd 48 112.411
Ac 89 (227)	Rf 104 (261)	Db 105 (262)	Sg 106 (263)	Bh 107 (264)	Hs 108 (265)	Mt 109 (266)		
Ce 58 140.127	Pr 59 140.90765	Nd 60 144.24	Pm 61 (145)	Sm 62 150.36	Eu 63 151.964	Gd 64 157.25	Tb 65 158.925	Dy 66 162.50
Th 90 232.0377	Pa 91 231.036	U 92 238.02891	Np 93 (237)	Pu 94 (244)	Am 95 (243)	Cm 96 (247)	Bk 97 (247)	Cf 98 (251)



# CHAPTER 17 - THE DEEP SEA

pages 192-200

## Comprehension Questions

- Explain what a jetty is.
- What was the name of the boat that they boarded? Why does Cam think it is strange?
- Both Byron and Cam are excited. How has Byron's behaviour changed? To whom has he become violent?
- What new information do we learn about Arlo in this chapter?
- What makes Cam keep going along with Byron to the very end of the chapter?



## Writing Opportunities

- 1) Write a letter from Cam to Byron in which he lets out his anger towards him abandoning him in the sea.
- 2) There is a saying about someone showing their 'true colours'. Explain this in the context of Byron Vos.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**DRAMA** • Work with a partner to act out the conversations between Cam, Byron and Arlo in this chapter. What would they say to each other when playing the game? How would they say it? Think about their facial expressions, use of volume in their voices and body language.





# CHAPTER 18 - THE WOVEN DREAM

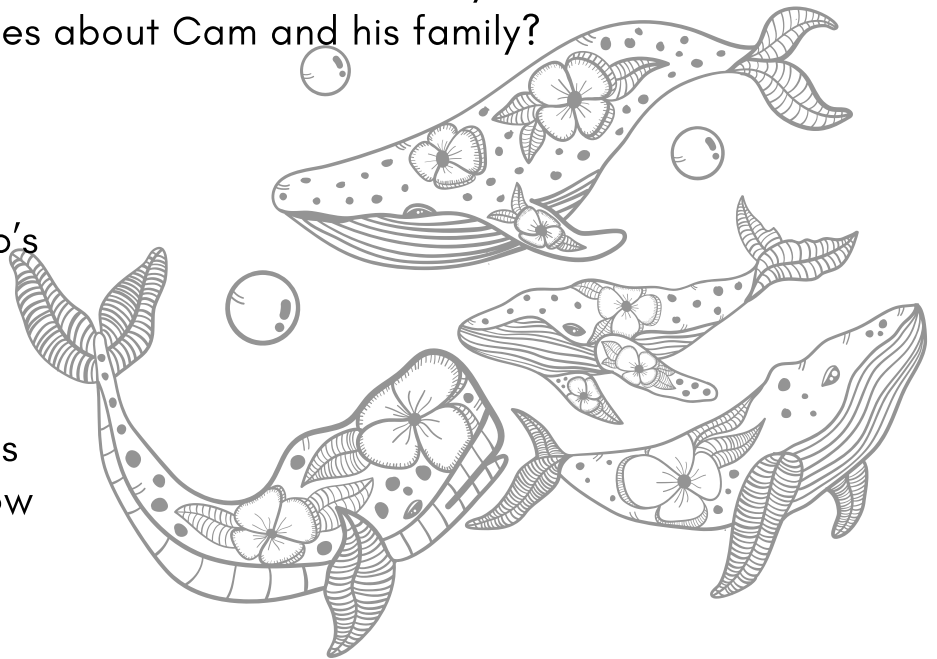
pages 201-211

## Comprehension Questions

- What does the word 'brittle' mean on page 201? Give an example of a material that is brittle.
- Why does the woman give Cam the advice of 'But sip, don't gulp.'?
- Cam is rescued and discovers the truth about Arlo. Why did Arlo sacrifice himself?
- Why did none of the adults ever tell the truth about Byron?
- Why did Matteo's dad tell lies about Cam and his family?

## Writing Opportunities

Write a diary entry from Matteo's point of view. Describe his regret towards Cam after he believed that he was a liar after listening to the bad things his dad said about him, and how he feels about him now.



## Cross-Curricular Activities

**MUSIC** • In groups, sing the song that Cam sings.

Think about how you could use different instruments and sound effects to create a soundtrack for this song as you re-read this scene.

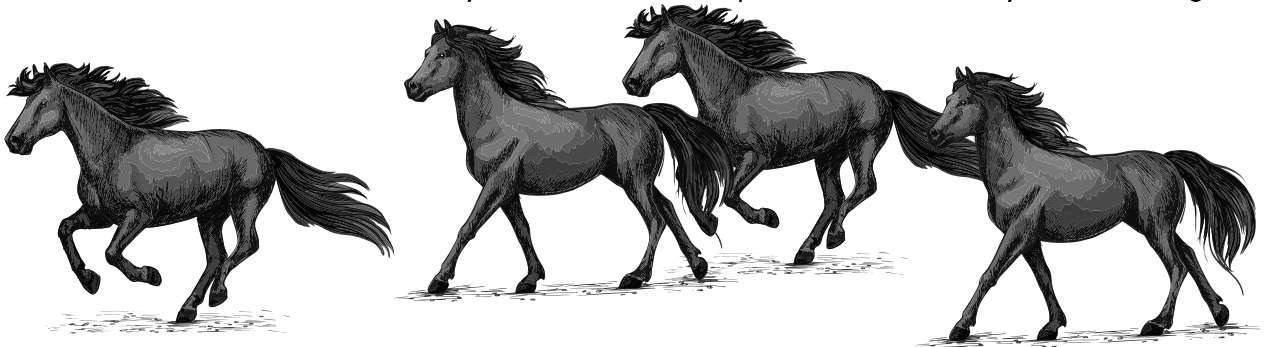


# CHAPTER 19 - THE SHEPHERD'S HUT

pages 212-227

## Comprehension Questions

- What happens to people who aren't shepherds in Shepherds' Country?
- Cam is back with friends and safe, but he's not content to just hide. Why?
- What does Veritas' attitude tell you about how some bad people get away with their crimes?
- When they come across some wild horses, it makes Cam understand Petra's behaviour - how? And how is this image important to our realisation of how people are supposed to live?
- When Cam goes looking for clues, he discovers the part that lots of people have played in his rescue - what does this tell you about the importance of everyone making an effort?



## Writing Opportunities

- 1) Pick out words and phrases Rachel Delahaye uses to describe Shepherds' Country in this chapter. Then, use them to write a poem based on the animals and the landscape of Shepherds' Country. What imagery can you create to show this mountainous setting?
- 2) Make a list of five questions that you have about the story at the end of this chapter. What are your predictions for what Arlo might be hiding?

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**SCIENCE** • What is a koala bear? Create a factual guide about this animal, including how they are marsupials and that their natural habitat is the eucalyptus forests of eastern Australia.

**ART** • Create a storyboard of images or drawings to show how Cam goes looking for clues in this chapter.



# CHAPTER 20 - THE JIGSAW

pages 228-244

## Comprehension Questions

- What terrible discovery do the children make, and how does it make Cam feel?
- He is rightly emotional, but why are emotions sometimes not helpful when trying to get something done?
- What is the significance of the boat named Rosella to an earlier part of this story?
- What does Cam correlate with the date that appears on the missing poster?
- Why does Matteo join them? How is this a moment of hope for Cetacea?

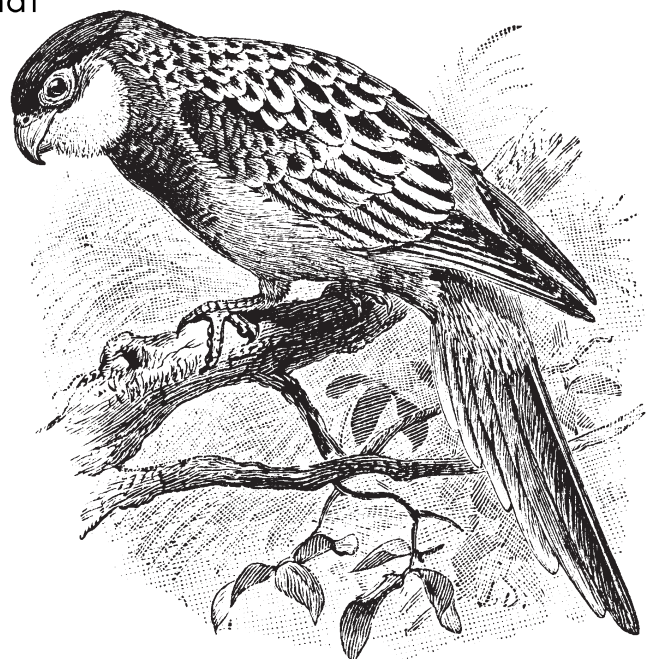
## Writing Opportunities

- 1) During this chapter, they talk about talking to whales. If you could speak to a whale, what would you say? Write down the conversation you would have.
- 2) Note down at least three qualities that make Cam, Banjo and Petra good friends to each other.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**GEOGRAPHY** • In the letter from Byron, it says that 'Whales are extinct'. Learn about the seven different categories and criteria of endangered animals least concern, near threatened, vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered, extinct in the wild, and extinct.

**PSHE** • Byron Vos has had his identity stolen by Liam King. Understand more about the concept of identity theft.





# CHAPTER 21 - DANA'S PARADISE

pages 245-254

## Comprehension Questions

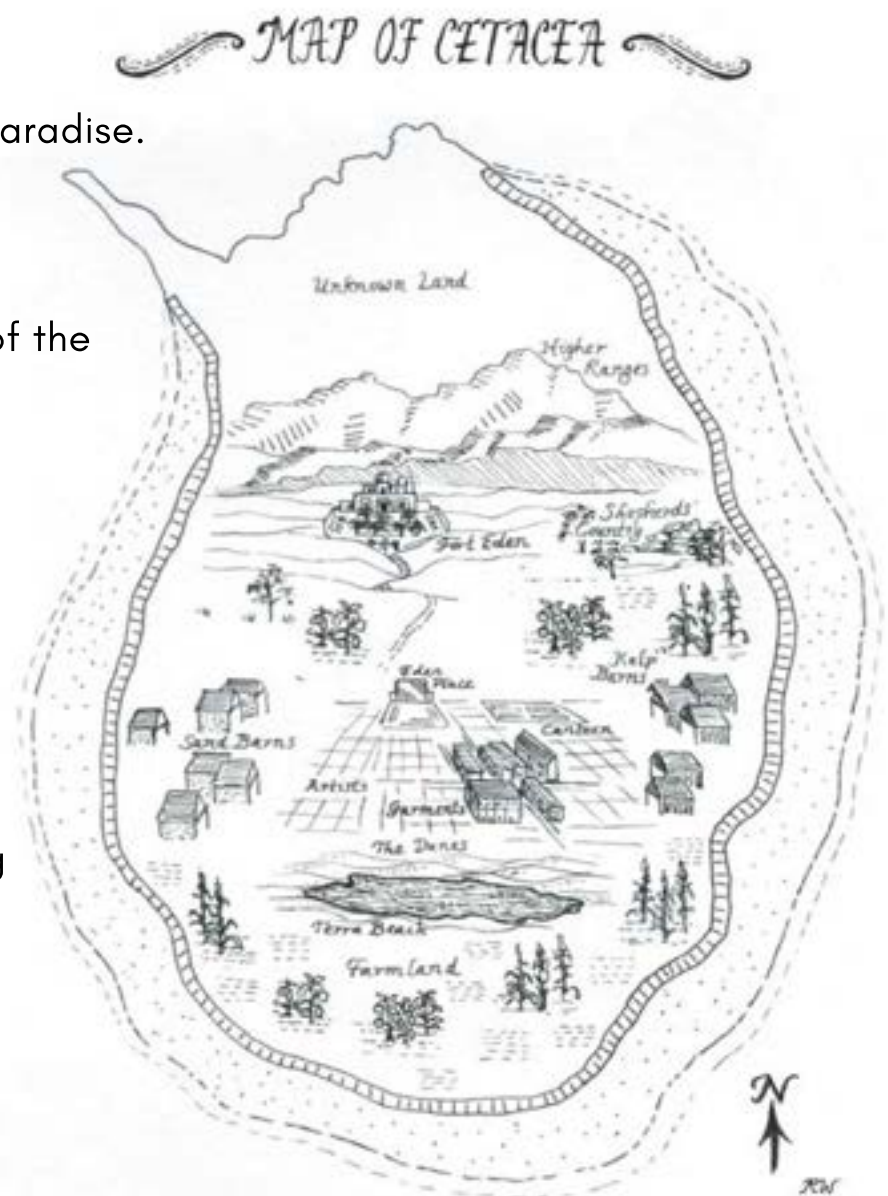
- How does Dana react upon seeing that Cam is alive?
- What did Cam discover about Dana?
- What parts of Cetacea were based on truth?
- How did these little truths help Byron/Liam create a successful lie?
- How are they going to make Cetacea believe them?

## Writing Opportunities

This chapter is called Dana's Paradise. Write five sentences either describing your paradise or what you would have on your perfect island - one for each of the senses (sight, sound, touch, smell and taste).

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**COMPUTING** • Cam finds files of moving pictures in a folder on a computer. Make your own stop-motion animations of whales moving using editing software.





# CHAPTER 22 - THE DAY OF THE WHALE

pages 255-265

## Comprehension Questions

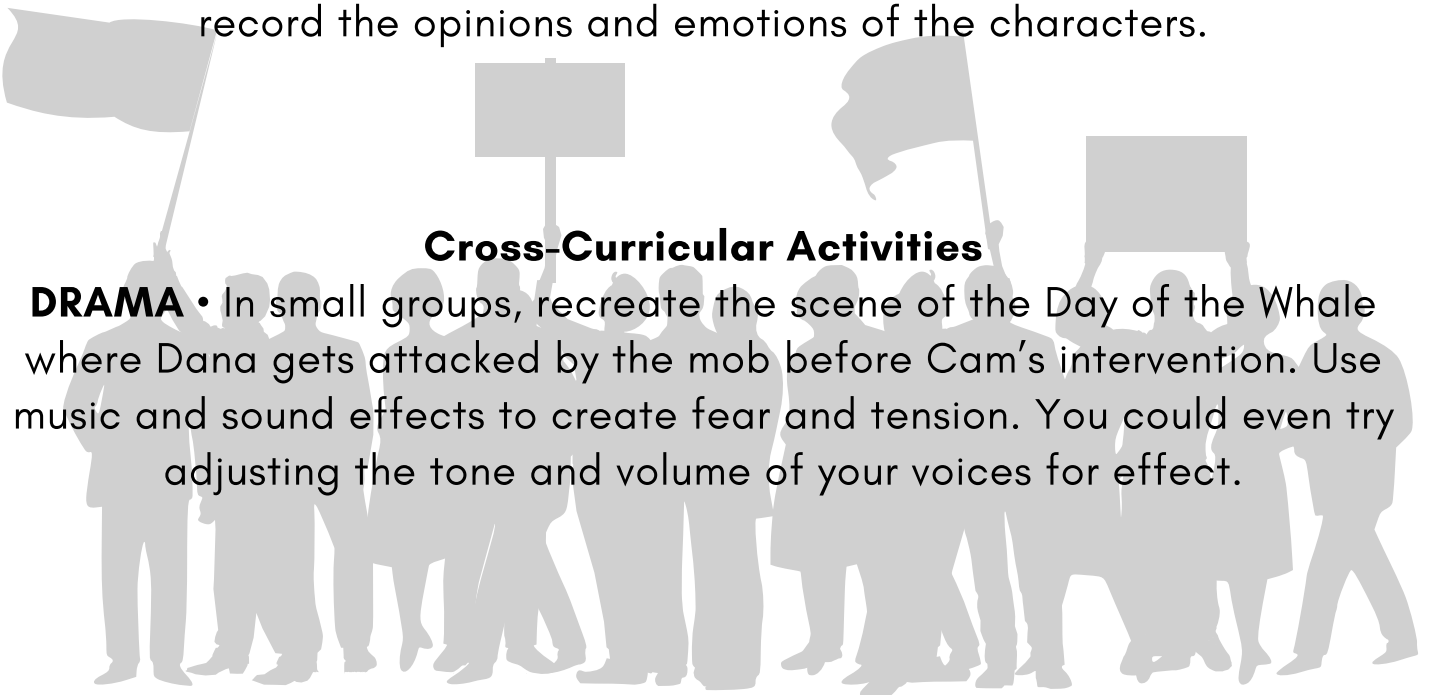
- How does the crowd react to their story?
- Why makes some people difficult to persuade, even when they have facts?
- What is so dangerous about a crowd?
- What three things are needed to create an intelligent society?  
(Clue: They are represented by Cam, Banjo and Petra.)
- What have they decided that Day of the Whale will be a celebration of?

## Writing Opportunities

Imagine you're a news reporter at the Day of the Whale festival. Write a newspaper report about it. Include quotes from eyewitnesses to record the opinions and emotions of the characters.

## Cross-Curricular Activities

**DRAMA** • In small groups, recreate the scene of the Day of the Whale where Dana gets attacked by the mob before Cam's intervention. Use music and sound effects to create fear and tension. You could even try adjusting the tone and volume of your voices for effect.





# CHAPTER 23 - CEREMONY

pages 266-287

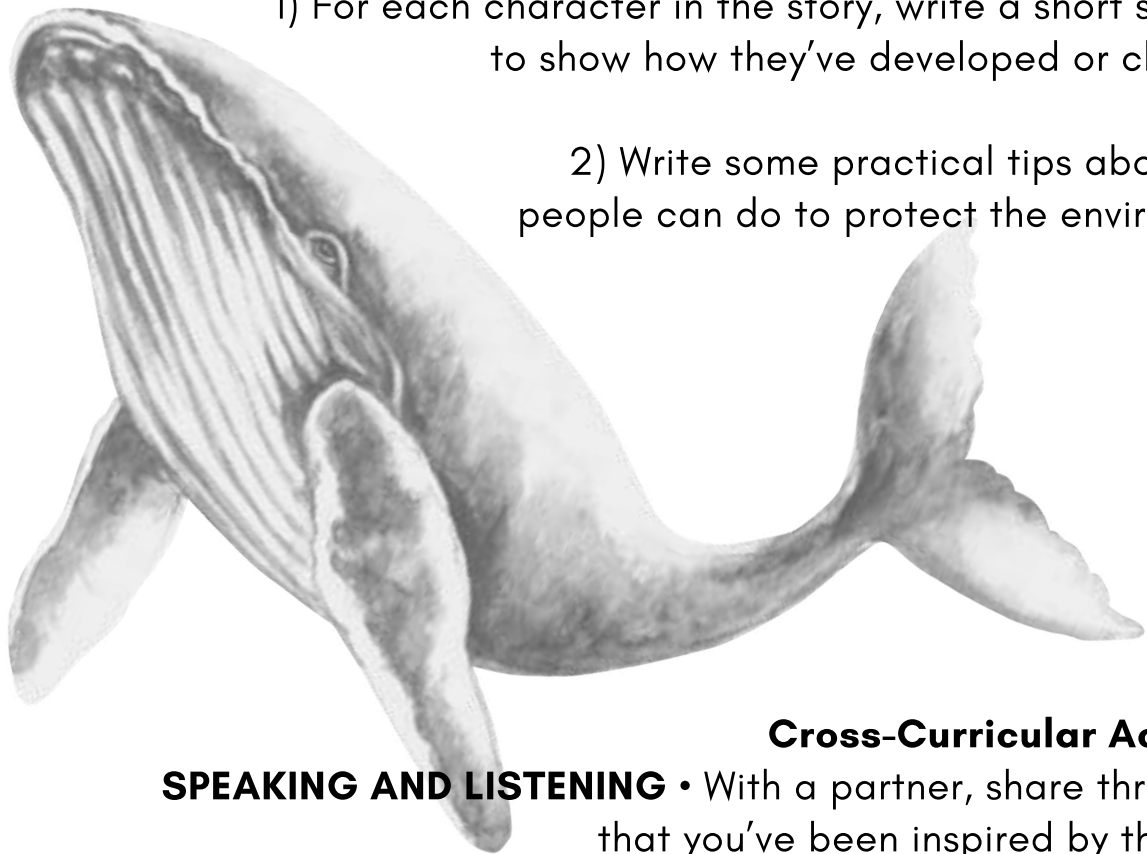
## Comprehension Questions

- How has Byron/Liam's character changed? Why is Cam not intimidated by him any more?
- Why is the way that Byron/Liam dies quite fitting?
- What does the ending tell us about friends and telling the truth?
- Why do they call themselves Whale Mob even when there are no whales left?
- Do you think there are whales out there still...?

## Writing Opportunities

1) For each character in the story, write a short summary to show how they've developed or changed.

2) Write some practical tips about what people can do to protect the environment.



## Cross-Curricular Activities

**SPEAKING AND LISTENING** • With a partner, share three ways that you've been inspired by this story.

**PSHE** • Explore the theme of fear in the story. What has Cam learned about fear?