

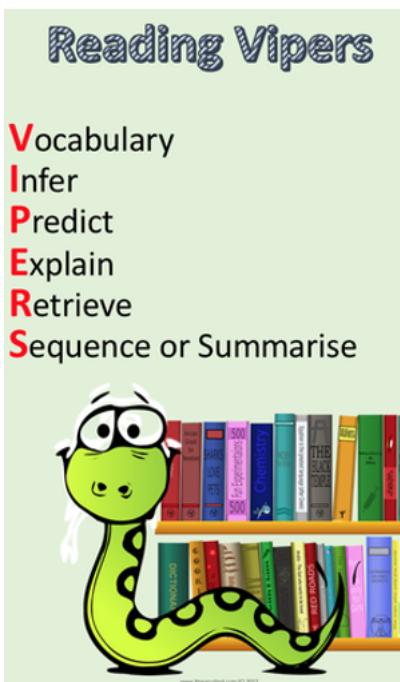
**The Storm Whale** by Benji Davies

Published by: Simon and Schuster

**Synopsis and reasons for selection:**

Noi lives a lonely life by the seaside with his dad and six cats. Dad is hard-working and leaves Noi every day to go and work on his fishing boat. After a terrible storm, Noi finds a little whale washed up on the shore. He decides to help the whale and takes it home, where he looks after it in the bath. When Noi's dad returns, he is shocked to find the whale hiding in the bath. However, he is not angry with his son and sets about helping return the whale back to the sea.

A moving, beautifully illustrated story about friendship, loss and saying goodbye. The relationship between Noi and his father is sensitively portrayed and the stunning illustrations offer depth, emotion and complexity.



The questions in this guide are simply intended as supplementary prompts – allow the children to ask questions, explore and read the book independently and initiate their own discussions. They will be much more engaged and enthused.

**Because the novel study guide is to be used to aid discussion between the adult and children, we feel there isn't a necessity for an answer booklet.**

As there are many stunning pictures in this book it is important to invite the children to examine them carefully and slowly. You could let the children use a magnifying glass or photocopy and enlarge a certain part of an image. Throughout the book, encourage the children to investigate and explore:

- Page layout
- How the illustrations are presented and organised
- The use of colour and texture
- How the text is written and where on the page it is
- The facial expressions and body language of the characters

### **Before reading....**

What is the title of the book?	Which characters can you see on the front cover?	Who might the child be?	What has happened to the whale?
What sort of book might it be?	Who is the illustrator?	Who is the author?	Who might like this book?

### **Pages 1 to 4**

Vocabulary	How would you describe the seaside scene? Which three words would you use to describe dad?
Infer	What job does Noi's dad do? How do you know? What might Noi be thinking and feeling as he watches dad go to work? Do you think dad works hard? Do you think Noi is lonely?
Predict	How do you think Noi will spend the day without dad? Do you think dad will return home?
Explain	Would you like to live by the sea? Why? Why not? In what part of the world do you think the story is set? Explain your ideas to a partner.
Retrieve	Who does Noi live where? Where does Noi live? How many cats can you spot on page 3? How often does dad leave to work on his fishing boat?
Sequence/ Summarise	Summarise the story so far in one sentence.

### **Pages 5 to 8**

Vocabulary	Write a description or poem about a storm. Can you include some similes? For example: The thunder roared like....The lightning flashed like...
Infer	How do you know that the storm is powerful? Where do you think dad is while Noi explores the shore? What might Noi be thinking and feeling when he sees the little whale? Do you think the whale is a calf or an adult? Why?
Predict	Read to page 6. What do you think Noi will discover on the beach? What do you think Noi will do with the whale?
Explain	Have you ever been woken at night by a storm? Explain why Noi goes down to the beach. Why is the whale on the beach? What would you do if you found a whale stranded on the beach?
Retrieve	What does Noi take with him when exploring the beach? What does Noi find on the beach?

Sequence/ Summarise	What happens after Noi goes down to the beach? Which three words would you use to summarise Noi's character?
<b>Pages 9 to 12</b>	
Vocabulary	Replace the word in bold with a synonym: The whale was an <b>excellent</b> listener.  Write a set of instructions entitled 'How to look after a whale'.
Infer	Imagine you are Noi telling the whale about life on the island. What sort of stories might you tell the whale? What might Noi be thinking and feeling as he talks to the whale in the bath? Where do you think the rest of the whale's family is?
Predict	Read pages 9 and 10. Where do you think Noi will take the whale?  What do you think dad will do when he returns home?
Explain	Why isn't it good for a whale to be out of water? Why is the whale an 'excellent listener'? What makes an 'excellent listener'? Why do you think Noi is talking to the whale? Does he have anyone else to talk to?
Retrieve	Where does Noi take the whale? How does Noi look after the whale?
Sequence/ Summarise	Imagine you are Noi. Write a diary about the day you found the whale. What will you do to help it?

<b>Pages 13 and 14</b>	
Vocabulary	Think of some synonyms for the following words: angry, worried
Infer	Why do you think Noi is waiting at the window? Describe the relationship between Noi and his dad. What are your impressions of dad?
Predict	How would the story have changed if dad had come home earlier? Do you think dad will be angry?
Explain	What advice would you give to Noi? What should he tell his dad? As a reader, how do you feel at this point in the story?
Retrieve	What has dad brought home with him? What time of day is it? What colour is dad's coat?

Sequence/ Summarise	What happens after Noi places the whale in the bath? Summarise these pages in one sentence.
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Pages 15 to 20					
Vocabulary	<p>Replace the words in bold with synonyms: Noi managed to <b>sneak</b> away with some <b>supper</b> for the whale.</p> <p>Use the following words in a sentence of your own: lonely, busy, belonged</p> <p>Create a semantic map linked to the word 'goodbye'. How many words and connections can you think of that link to the word 'goodbye'?</p>				
Infer	<p>Do you think Noi and his dad are talking at the dinner table?</p> <p>Why do you think dad comes into the bathroom?</p> <p>What might dad be thinking and feeling when he sees the whale?</p> <p>What might Noi be thinking and feeling when dad enters the bathroom?</p> <p>Do you think Noi is pleased to take the whale back to the sea?</p> <p>What might dad be thinking and feeling as he rows the boat on page 18?</p> <p>Why is Noi glad his dad is with him?</p> <p>What might Noi be thinking and feeling as he says goodbye to the whale?</p>				
Predict	<p>What will dad say when he sees the whale in the bath?</p> <p>How would the story change if dad went straight to bed?</p> <p>Do you think Noi will see the whale again?</p>				
Explain	<p>Is Noi right to keep his secret safe?</p> <p>Is it ever right to lie to someone?</p> <p>Explain why dad isn't angry at Noi.</p> <p>Has Noi done the right thing? What would you do in his situation?</p>				
Retrieve	<p>Noi takes the whale some fish for supper. True or false?</p> <p>What is the weather like when dad and Noi return the whale to the sea?</p>				
Sequence/ Summarise	<p>What happens after dinner?</p> <p>Re-write pages 15 and 16 from dad's point of view.</p> <p>Order the events so far from 1 to 5. One has been done for you.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;"></td> <td>After a terrible storm, Noi finds a little whale washed up on the beach.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Noi and his dad live by the seaside with six cats.</td> </tr> </table>		After a terrible storm, Noi finds a little whale washed up on the beach.	1	Noi and his dad live by the seaside with six cats.
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		Noi takes the whale home and keeps him in the bath.
		Dad works very hard and spends his day fishing.
		Dad returns home and helps Noi return the whale to the sea.

### Pages 21 to 26

Vocabulary	<p>What three words would you use to describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noi</li> <li>• Dad</li> <li>• The whale</li> <li>• The cats</li> <li>• The seaside setting</li> </ul> <p>Design and write an information booklet about whales.</p>
Infer	<p>How has the relationship between Noi and his father changed? Do you think dad is still working every day? Use thought bubbles to compare what dad and Noi might be thinking when they see the whale in the distance. Imagine you are Noi and write a letter, telling the whale about your life with dad.</p>
Predict	<p>Do you think dad will go back to working every day? Do you think the whale will return to visit Noi? How would the story have changed if the whale had been a larger, adult whale?</p>
Explain	<p>Which of these themes in the story is the most important? Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loneliness</li> <li>• Friendship</li> <li>• Fathers and sons</li> <li>• Looking after others</li> <li>• The environment</li> </ul> <p>What makes a good friend? Look at the front endpapers and the inscription/poem that begins, "The wonder of the world..." What do you think the poem is about? How does it apply to the story? What was your favourite part of the story? Do you have a favourite illustration? Share it with a partner.</p>
Retrieve	<p>What is Noi doing on page 21? What is dad doing? What things do dad and Noi take on their picnic? Look at the endpapers of the book. What do you notice?</p>
Sequence/ Summarise	<p>Re-tell this story to a partner. Re-write the story from one of the character's point of view.</p>

Can you re-write the story in the form of a different genre? How could the story be written as a thriller/fairy tale/adventure story?