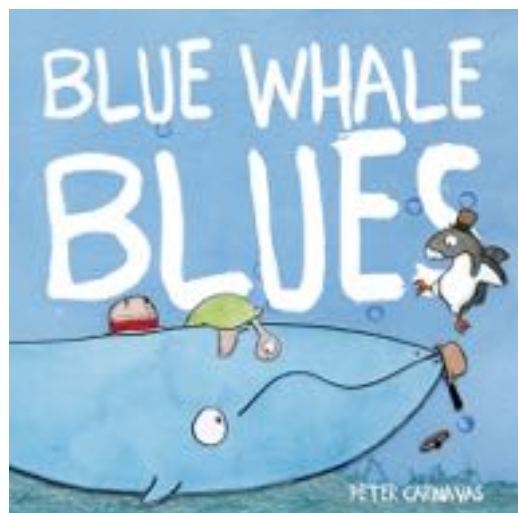


TEACHERS' NOTES

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BLUE WHALE BLUES

Written and illustrated by Peter Carnavas

SYNOPSIS

Blue Whale Blues is the story of a blue whale with the blues. Whale has bike trouble – first it's upside down, then it's all wet, then he doesn't know what to do with his helmet. Penguin is always around to cheer him up and fix the problem, however the BIG problem is that neither Whale nor Penguin realise that Whale's bike isn't really a bike... it's a shopping trolley. With a little help from Turtle, Whale learns the truth and discovers that the things we worry about aren't really worth worrying about.

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR STYLE OR MEDIUM

In order to bring a real sense of fun to the illustration process, Peter used a range of materials and styles to create the pictures for this book. The result is a sort of collage, ramshackle and often spontaneous. The characters were drawn and painted on watercolour paper, then cut out and glued on to a watercolour background. Many other elements were created by drawing onto recycled materials, such as sheet music, food packaging, envelopes, shopping bags. Peter also used string and fabric to create some objects, such as the fishing rod and the towel.

AUTHOR MOTIVATION

Peter aims to make picture books that are light and fun to read but also carry underlying themes for later discussion. On one level, *Blue Whale Blues* is a fun and silly story about a whale and a penguin. On a deeper level, it is the story of worry and anxiety. Children and adults alike spend a lot of time worrying about things that are not worth worrying about. By depicting a whale worrying about his bike – which is actually a shopping trolley – Peter hopes that we can all learn to laugh at ourselves a little more, and worry a little less.

AUTHOR BACKGROUND

Peter Carnavas is a children's author and illustrator who creates picture books for children and grown-ups to enjoy. He writes simple yet thoughtful stories complemented by light, whimsical illustrations. Peter's work has been shortlisted for many awards, including the Queensland Premier's Literary Award, and his books have been translated into many languages. His books include *Jessica's Box*, *Last Tree in the City* and *The Children Who Loved Books*.

Blue Whale Blues is Peter's ninth author/illustrator work.

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EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

The key theme in this book is learning to deal with worry and anxiety in a light-hearted way.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before reading the book

1. Talk to the children about the front cover and the title. Discuss the meaning of the word “blues”, as in “I’ve got the blues”. What are some things that might give you the blues? What do you think might give a blue whale the blues?
2. What sort of character do you think the penguin is? How can you tell?

During reading the book

1. Encourage the children to sing along with you, when you sing the *Blue Whale Blues* song.
2. When the Whale first moans about his “bike”, as the children about it. Does that look like a bike? What is it? How do you think it got there?
3. Each time Penguin tries to help, ask the children if they think the bike will work now.
4. When Penguin sees “something strange heading their way”, ask the children what they think it could be?

After reading the book

1. Ask the children why they think Whale finally laughed at the end.
2. What do you think the author is trying to say with this story? What can we learn from Whale and Penguin? What can we do next we start to worry about things?
3. What is the significance of Turtle remaining silent throughout the story?

ACTIVITIES

Underwater Collage

The illustrations were made by cutting and gluing lots of things onto a blue painted background to make a collage picture. Children could have a go at this themselves. Start with a blue piece of paper, then draw, paint, cut out and glue sea creatures onto the blue paper. You can always add the eyes and hats on later, like Peter did.

Recycled Art

Many of the smaller objects in the illustrations were made with recycled materials, such as envelopes, sheet music and food packaging. Can you make a piece of art using only recycled materials?

Silly Whale

In this story, Peter wanted Whale to worry about silly things, so he could finally laugh about it later on and realise that those things weren’t worth worrying about. Can you think of some other silly things Whale could worry about? Draw a whale in the middle of a page and surround it with silly things to worry about. For example, his shoes don’t fit; his hat won’t stay on, he never wins hide-and-seek.



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MARKETING AND SELLING POINTS

- Peter Carnavas is an award-winning author/illustrator
- A humorous book that educates children on depression
- The book comes with a downloadable track featuring Peter Carnavas reading his book and singing a rather catchy tune
- Simple and playful text with gorgeous illustrations



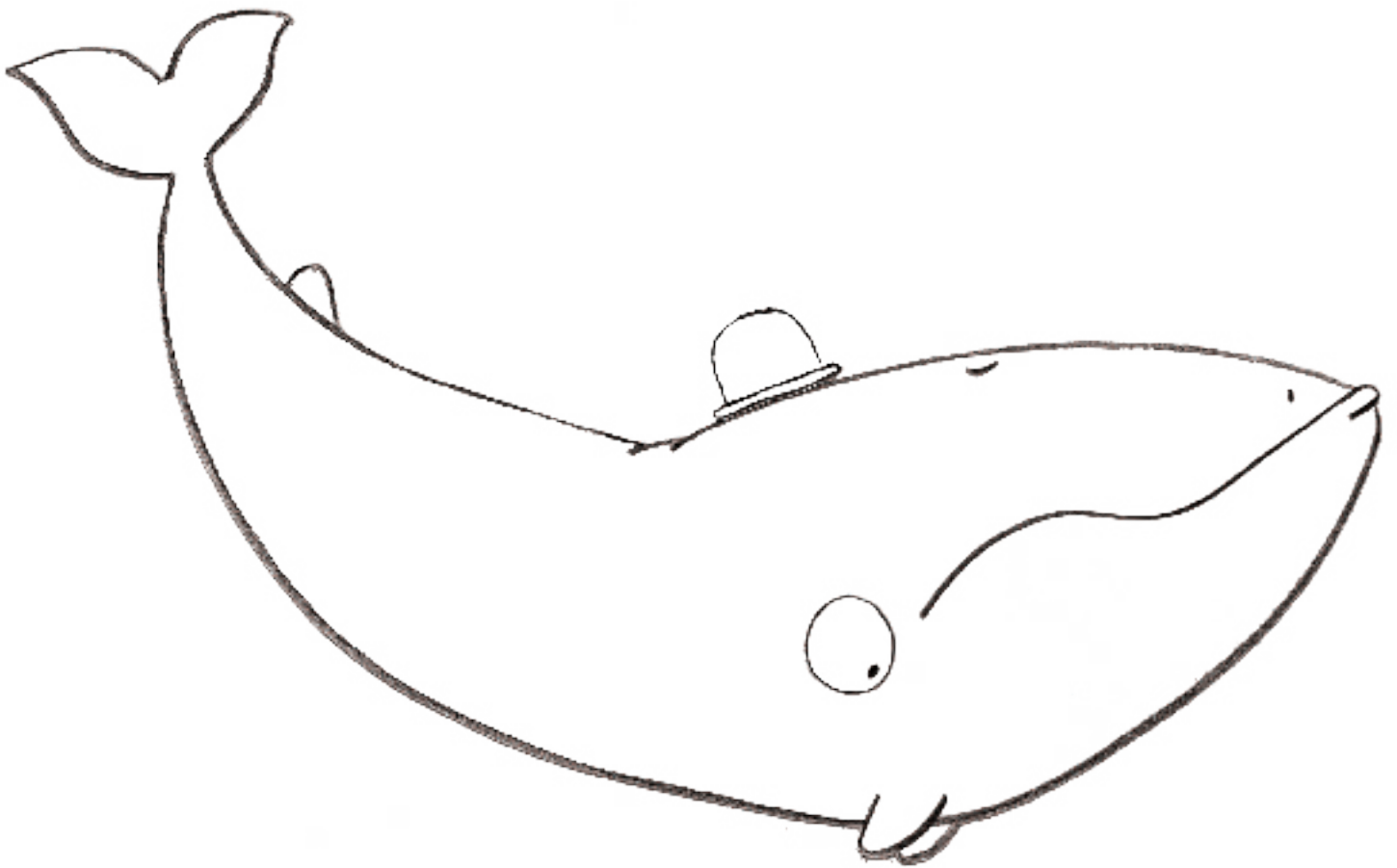
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SILLY WHALE TEMPLATE



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