

Why the Whales Came - Michael Morpurgo

Lesson 3

Creative Exercise

Read the extract below (Chapter 9):

*I rarely dream, and if I do I can scarcely ever remember them; but I dreamed a dream that night after my return from Samson that was so vivid I have never forgotten it. I saw through a sunlit fog, fleeting glimpses of Father riding over the sea on a bright white unicorn. He was in his sailor's uniform and he rode so fast that his hat fell off. He was laughing when he jumped down to retrieve it. Then the unicorn galloped off into the fog and left him alone, standing on the sea. He looked everywhere for his hat but he could not find it. It did not seem to worry him though because he was laughing, laughing all the time. As he sank into the sea he was still laughing and waving at me. All that night I kept waking up and falling asleep again only to dream the same dream again and again.*

## **Comprehension**

### **Chapters 9-12**

1. What does Daniel say they are going to have to tell their father in Chapter 9?
2. What does the letter say?
3. What emotions does Gracie feel when she is crying about her father?
4. What gifts was Gracie's family given?
5. What did they do to try to stop the whales from coming too close to the shore?
6. What does Birdman tell Grace to do to keep the whale happy?
7. What letters are spelled out with shells?
8. Why was Daniel angry in chapter 12?
9. What will you have for company if you go to Samson?
10. How do you feel at the end of the story?

## **Vocabulary**

1. Remnants
2. Pale
3. Spite
4. Personally
5. Tirade
6. Vicious
7. Prowl
8. Pathetic
9. Usual
10. Admirable
11. Wretched
12. Voluminous
13. Dainty
14. Pretence
15. Signal
16. Glimmer
17. Clumsy
18. Incongruous
19. Unnatural
20. Blunt
21. Stranded
22. Spout
23. Discourage
24. Fury
25. Instant

## HOMEWORK

What is your **favourite part of the book** and **why**?

**OR**

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.