



2019

The Whale, the Sea and the Stars

Jessica Mellor

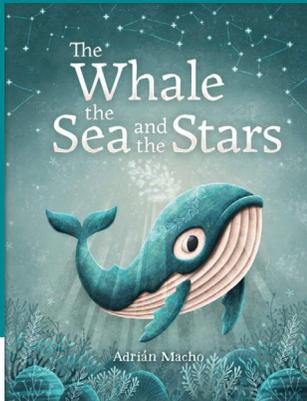
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Book Review

The Whale, the Sea and the Stars

Author

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Reviewer

Jessica Mellor

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

.....

Pages

26

Year

2019

ISBN

9781782505594

Publisher

Floris Books

Gerda lives with her family in the great big blue, but soon, she must go off to find her own special place. With her mother's song in her heart, she sets off to explore. Gerda plays with some penguins she meets, but remembering her mother's song, she heads off once again. Encountering all kinds of other animals, she can't find one place she fits until she is advised to go ask the wise narwhal of the North Pole. He tells her how to follow her heart, and she sets off, reconnecting with family and other whales to a place where she finally finds belonging.

From the cover on, readers will be struck by the beautiful and elegant illustrations. The ocean color pallet of greens and blues, with pops of orange and red, blend to give the story a rich, sumptuous feeling. All the animals' features are highlighted with beautiful scrollwork. For example, the penguins have little stylized necklaces across their chests and a little blue plume at the top of their heads that express the artist's Slovakian heritage. The story is charming with the connecting element of the whale's song, but the overall flow of the story gets a little repetitive, connecting to an ending that lacks the emotional punch the theme of finding home should give. But, even with these few flaws, this book will be one that families will enjoy sharing.