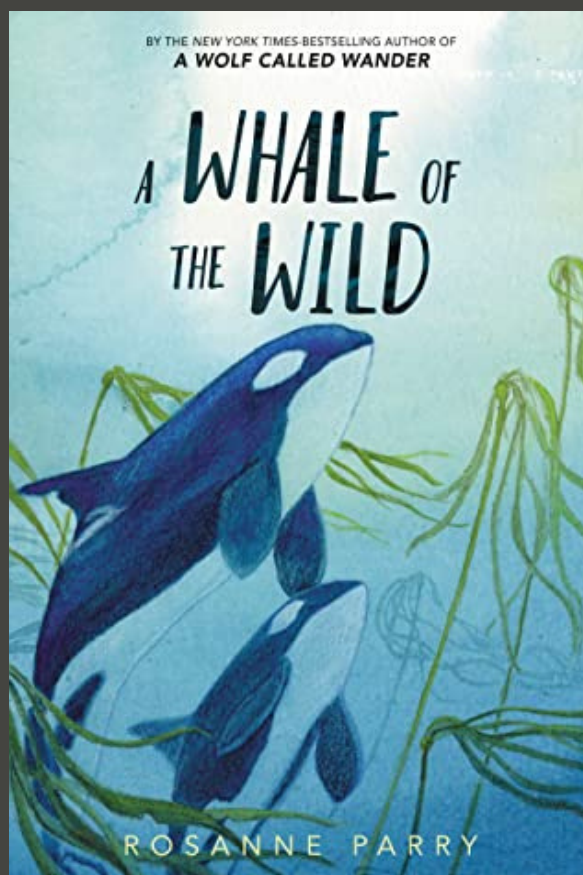


Community Matters Family Book Club

Discussion Guide

Book Pick:

A Whale of the Wild
Edited by Rosanne Parry



This Month's Theme: Food Chain Disruptions

This July we will use this guide, along with the book A Whale of the Wild to learn about orcas and food chain disruptions. Like any book club, please navigate these conversations with patience and kindness. Our intent is to better understand ourselves and the world around us.

Sincerely,
Mary, Michelle, Jenny, Tiffany, Christina, Sam
The Community Matters Planning Team

Date and Time

Thursday, July 14th @ 6 pm CST





Conversation Starters

What surprised you about this book?

What is the most interesting fact you learned about orcas?

What are some ways humans could help orcas?

Themes

- Hunger
- Childbirth
- Death and Grief
- Extreme Weather
- Helping Others
- Family Separation
- Habitat Destruction
- Pollution

Discussion Questions

1. Vega catches a salmon when she is very hungry and for a moment she thinks about eating it without sharing. Do you think you would be able to share if you were as hungry as Vega?
2. The last baby Vega's mother had was not alive when it was born and Vega's sister Capella only lived a few moments after she was born. Why do you think this is?
3. Vega steals Capella's body and carries her to Blood Cove to lay her next to Uncle Rigel's brothers who died trying to save their family from humans. Do you think this was the right choice? Why? Why not?

Discussion Questions: Continued...

4. The humans and Vega's pod both eat salmon. How do you think they should share them? Vega's family seems to have trouble eating other foods but humans can eat lots of different foods. How should this be taken into consideration?
5. Vega doubts herself constantly but her younger brother Deneb trusts her completely. Who in your life trusts you even when you do not have confidence in yourself?
6. Vega feels guilty when she sees Deneb's scar but Deneb thinks it is cool. How can your perspective change your situation?
7. Several times after being separated from her mother Vega wishes someone else was with her to find the way and take care of her. How do you think losing her mother has changed Vega?
8. Normally Aquila would lead but when Vega finds Aquila after the sea shake Aquila is injured and sick with hunger. Vega realizes Aquila was a baby like Capella was who has grown up and now needs her care. Have you ever realized this about older injured family members?
9. When she decides to lead Aquila, Deneb and Altair to the Mother of Rivers Vega thinks "I have made my choice, and if I chose wrong there is no one to blame but me. Is it empowering or frightening to realize you make your own choices and accept responsibility for the outcomes?"
10. Vega realizes if all the salmon are eaten there will not be any to have babies and her pod will not have any salmon to eat next year. How would that affect humans?



Additional Resources

[The Center for Whale Research](http://www.whaleresearch.com)

www.whaleresearch.com

[SeaDoc Society Salish Sea Wild Video Series](http://www.seadocsociety.org/salish-sea-wild)

www.seadocsociety.org/salish-sea-wild

[NOAA Fisheries Website](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov)

www.fisheries.noaa.gov

[Discovery of Sound in the Sea Website](http://dosits.org/galleries/audio-gallery/audio-gallery-summary)

dosits.org/galleries/audio-gallery/audio-gallery-summary

[Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Orca Conservation](http://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/orca)

wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/orca