

# The Star Whale

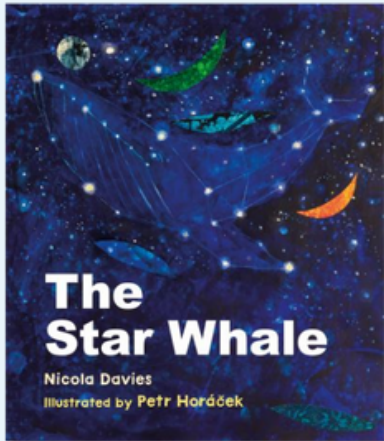
Nicola Davies

Illustrated by Petr Horáček

# BOOK TALK CARDS



Spark discussion and foster a reading community with our top picks



## ABOUT THE BOOK

A dream-like celebration of animals, nature and life. From moths to pangolins to ancient creatures, readers will playfully explore Davies' language and Horáček's illustrations.



## OUR THOUGHTS

"These gentle and rather surreal poems work in harmony with the glowing illustrations."



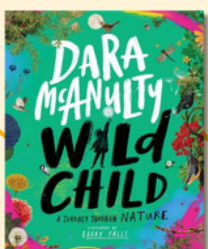
## THEMES:

- Protecting the environment
- Imagination
- Responsibility
- Celebrating difference

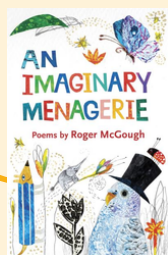
## TIME TO TALK

- 1 Can you try out the 'reverse process' the poet and illustrator describe with a friend? Can you draw a picture for a friend and then ask them to write the poem or story extract to describe your picture? In what ways does this bring a different meaning or perspective to the picture?
- 2 In what way does 'Last night I visited a Lion' change your perspective of lions? Are there people in our lives that sometimes we make snap judgements about too?
- 3 Which poem do you like best? Which illustration do you like best? Are they the same pair or from two different pages?
- 4 How does the Pangolin's poem alter the usual view of darkness and light in stories or poems? Why is it reversed here?
- 5 What do you think of comparing the ocean with the galaxies above us? Can you think of any other comparisons in the natural world?
- 6 Take another look at 'On the Bat's Back' - what secrets of the night can you think of? Do you enjoy night or day more, why?
- 7 Look at the ways the size of the dinosaur is described in 'Titanosaurus'. Which do you think is the most effective description? Can you find a way to describe something very small instead?
- 8 In 'I love a garden' the poet talks about 'neat and tidy being forgotten'. When would this help in your life? When is 'neat and tidy' quiet useful?
- 9 Why do you think the poet might choose to repeat the first verse again at the end of 'The earth is dancing', given the theme of the poem?
- 10 What does 'The Ostrich and the Kiwi' tell us about home? Which places feel like home to you, what does the word mean to you?

## TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:



Wild Child by Dara McAnulty



An Imaginary Menagerie by Roger McGough



My Heart was a Tree by Michael Morpurgo



Together: Animal partnerships in the wild by Isabel Otter



Tiger, Tiger, Burning Bright! illustrated by Britta Teckentrup