

Learning Guides 12 & 13: *Whale Rider*

You will need to hand in the following:

- Seminar Activities:
 - *Whale Rider* Character Chart
 - Symbols in *Whale Rider* Chart
- Character Analysis questions and paragraph
- Symbol Paragraph
- Essay on *Whale Rider*

Terms to know:

Drama terms

Antagonist	Comic relief	Foil	Symbol
Aside	Complication	Fourth wall	Theme
Cast	Conflict	Gesture	
Character	Convention	Stage direction	
Characterization	Dialogue	Staging	

GLOSSARY OF MAORI WORDS USED IN THE FILM

Te Reo	Maori language	Haka	Dance
Kaumatua	Elder	Karanga	Call
Rangatira	Chief	Karakia	Prayer
Wharenui	Meeting house	Taiaha	Fightingstick
Tikanga	Customs	Mau rakau	Stick fighting
Whakapapa	Genealogy	Moko/Mokopuna	Grandchild
Tapu	Sacred	Marae	Meeting place
Waka	Canoe		

Activity 1: Watch the movie *Whale Rider*

We will watch this movie over two classes, as it is 101 minutes long. If you miss one of these classes, you will need to find a copy and watch it on your own.

Before you watch the movie, you should have some background information. In class, we will go over information from the website at <http://www.teachwithmovies.org/guides/whale-rider.html>, under the section "Introduction to the Movie". You can access this from the course web site, available from the FKSS main page, under Learning Guides 13 and 14.

Before you begin the movie, take a look at the "Symbols in *Whale Rider*" worksheet, so that you can watch for these items as they appear. Make sure you know what a symbol is.

As you watch the movie, record your first impressions of the characters on the worksheet at the end of this guide.

Activity 2: Group Discussion

It's your turn to teach the class. You will be assigned to a group and to a question, listed below. You will present your question to the class – who will have the chance to ask questions.

1. What does Niki Caro mean when she says that leadership is about serving others?
2. Pai's grandmother, Nanny Flowers says of Koro, 'He has a lot of rules he has to live by.' Pai says later... 'He is the boss.' Why does Pai support Koro even though he does not recognise that she has leadership qualities?
3. What similarities are there between Pai and Koro?
4. Why did Koro so desperately want a male leader to succeed him? Are these mostly emotional or rational reasons?
5. How could the following events be examples of Pai's aptitude to leadership?
 - a) Pai telling Nanny Flowers off for smoking
 - b) Pai fixing the rope
 - c) Pai learning about her culture
 - d) Pai participating in the life of the community
6. What are your group's views on Koro and his expectations? (They don't need to be the same.) Is Koro a static or a dynamic character?
7. Why isn't Koro proud of his son Porourangi's achievements as an artist in Europe?
8. Explain why you think Koro excluded Pai from the lessons he gave to the boys about how to be a Chief? How do you think this made Pai feel?

Activity 3: Character Analysis

Choose one character from *Whale Rider* and answer the following questions about him or her:

1. What is the name of your character?
2. Is your character static or dynamic?
3. Is your character the protagonist, the antagonist, or a supporting character?
4. Is your character flat or round?
5. Is your character realistic or a stereotype?
6. Is your character sympathetic or unsympathetic?

7. What motivates your character?
8. What is one trait that describes your character?
9. What is another trait that describes your character?
10. What is a third trait that describes your character?

Now, write a paragraph of about 150 words about a character from *Whale Rider*. Make sure that the Format (movie) and Title were in our opening sentences. We use italics for the title of a movie, (or underline in handwriting) and we usually put the year beside the movie title, like this: *Whale Rider* (2002). Please make at least one main **P**oint, provide **E**xamples or **E**vidence, and **E**xplain how the point and the example relate.

Activity 4: Symbol Paragraph

In class we will go over the worksheet "Symbols in Whale Rider". Choose one of the symbols, and write a paragraph explaining why it is a symbol. Remember to explain where the symbol is located in the movie, how it works at a literal "real" level, and how it functions as a symbol.

Activity 5: Write an Essay

Complete the essay planning sheet at the end of this guide.

Whale Rider: Character Chart

Character	Trait	How I know
Paikea - the young girl who is the central character.		
Koro (her Grandfather),		
Nanny Flowers (her Grandmother),		
Porourangi (her Father)		
Rawiri – her uncle		
Hemi – a young boy who supports her		

Symbols in <i>Whale Rider</i>		
	Where it appears	What it means
<p>The Whale Tooth</p> 		
<p>Koro's staff</p> 		
<p>The waka</p> 		
<p>The bicycle</p> 		

<p>The rope</p> 		
<p>The whale</p> 		
<p>The yellow blanket</p> 		

Essay Planning Sheet for *Whale Rider*

My topic:

- How is leadership shown in the film?
- How do people seek empowerment in the film?
- How is the conflict between the Maori culture and the dominant European culture shown?
- What does the film say about the importance of tradition versus the importance of changing to become a better society?

What is the main point you want to make? This is your thesis statement.

What three things do you want to say about your topic?

1.

2.

3.

How will you prove each of your three things, based on the film?

1.

2.

3.

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Restate your thesis in different words.

Mrs. Carmichael's class