

# TRAPPED! A WHALE'S RESCUE

by ROBERT BURLEIGH illustrated by WENDELL MINOR

**COMPREHENSION FOCUS**  
**Developing Vocabulary**  
 Use Strategies to Explain  
 New Words

**STANDARD CORRELATION**  
 Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.



**SEL CONNECTION**  
 Compassion

Page	Word	Strategy

**PREPARE**

Starting with the title page as page 1 (which includes the title, author, and publisher), use the provided circle stickers and number each of the book's pages. Place a sticky flag on the following pages: 9, 11, 13, 19, 21, and 29.

Create the anchor chart template as shown; it will be completed during the lesson.

Write the following Vocabulary Strategies on the whiteboard.

1. Reread (or read on) and look for clues.
2. Use the picture to explain the word.
3. Use a known part.
4. Make a connection.
5. Substitute a word that makes sense.
6. Use the glossary.

**STEP 1** — **EXPLAIN WHAT THE STRATEGY IS AND WHY READERS USE IT**  
 There are six different strategies that help us determine the meaning of tricky or unfamiliar words. When we read books, we need to know different ways to solve the meaning of unfamiliar words. Knowing the meaning of those words will help us better understand the text.

**STEP 2** — **INTRODUCE THE NEW BOOK**  
 A fisherman spotted a large humpback whale trying to get free from strong ropes and crab traps. Let's read to learn about how compassionate and brave rescuers work to free the trapped whale.

**STEP 3** — **READ AND DEMONSTRATE HOW TO USE THE STRATEGY**  
 Write the following words on the whiteboard: cascade, drift, flails, immense, unblinking, and nudging. As I read this text aloud, we will stop after reading these words and look at the different strategies to help us determine the meaning of the word.

**Read pages 4-9.** Reread the sentence on page 8. Cascade is a tricky word. Let's see if the picture can help us (strategy 2). The picture on this page shows water coming off or flowing off the whale's back and tail. It reminds me of a waterfall (strategy 4). I think cascade is the way the water is flowing off the whale's back. I am going to substitute the word flow in that sentence to see if it makes sense (strategy 5). Reread the sentence, making the substitution. Thumbs-up if that makes sense. Add to chart.

**Read pages 10-11.** Let's stop here and think about the word drift. Let's look over our strategies. I am going to substitute move as a word for drift to see if would make sense (strategy 5). Let's try the word move in that sentence. Thumbs-up if it makes sense. Add to chart.

**Read pages 12-13.** The tricky word here is flails. When I reread these two pages (strategy 1), they are talking about how the whale is moving. Turn and talk with a partner about what type of movement the whale may be doing. Listen to the partner pairs, and then share some of their ideas. She is tossing and turning as the ropes tighten around her. This makes me think flails means to move quickly, or wildly, to get out or away. Yes, that makes sense here. Add to chart.

**Read pages 14-19.** On page 19, I read the word immense. Turn and talk with your partner and determine the meaning of immense. Try the different Vocabulary Strategies. Which one(s) help you determine the meaning of immense? Add to chart.

**Read pages 20-21.** On page 21, it says the swimmers stare into her unblinking eye. I see a word in unblinking that I know (blink) (strategy 3). Let's all blink our eyes. So if the whale stared at the swimmers with an unblinking eye, what do you think the meaning of unblinking is?

**Read pages 22-29.** On page 25, we read the word nudging. Use your Vocabulary Strategies to determine the meaning. Listen to the partner pairs, and then add some of their ideas to the chart.

These divers showed compassion for the trapped whale. They worked hard to free the whale so it could survive. Caring for others or wanting to help someone who is sick, hungry, or in trouble is showing compassion or empathy.

Page	Word	Strategy
8	cascade	2, 4, 5
11	drift	5
13	flails	1
19	immense	1, 2
21	unblinking	3
25	nudging	1, 4

**STEP 4** — **INDEPENDENT PRACTICE**  
 Download the activity sheet from [pioneervalleybooks.com/st](http://pioneervalleybooks.com/st). Choose one of the words from the anchor chart. In section 1, write the word you chose. In section 2, write a definition for the word. In section 3, draw a picture showing what the word means. In section 4, use the word in a sentence. Display the pictures on the wall.



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STEP 1

- **REVIEW THE BOOK**

Review the meaning of the words on the anchor chart from Day 1. Use the vocabulary words to retell the story.

STEP 2

- **PROMPT**

Hand out the journals. Write the following prompt on chart paper as you read it aloud: *Retell how the divers freed the trapped whale using two or three new vocabulary words from the anchor chart.* Read it again, asking students to read it with you.

STEP 3

- **PLAN**

Use the anchor chart and the vocabulary activity from Day 1 to review vocabulary words and plan your writing.

STEP 4

- **WRITE**

While students are writing, circulate the room and confer with individuals. Have students use their personal word wall as a spelling reference. Assist students with their plan by referencing the anchor chart and Day 1 drawings, orally rehearsing their next sentence, or addressing their individual writing target.

Have students share their writing with a partner. Students can circle the new vocabulary words in their paragraph.

STEP 5

- **EXTEND AND CONNECT THE LEARNING**

In small-group reading lessons, use the Vocabulary Strategies as a comprehension focus. You can use this focus with both fiction and informational texts.

*Retell how the divers freed the trapped whale using two or three new vocabulary words from the anchor chart.*