



# THE WHALE ESL LESSON PLAN

(Intermediate Learners)

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### **Supplementary Materials**

4 – 9

### **FILM SYNOPSIS**

The true story of Luna, a young, wild killer whale who tries to befriend people on the rugged west coast of Vancouver Island.

### **MAIN THEMES AND MESSAGES**

Marriage, love, loss, regret, jealousy, hope, relationships, acceptance, sacrifice, personal health, determination/perseverance.

### **LESSON PLAN OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES**

When teaching English as a second language, teachers often turn to film to share Canadian culture with students. Watching and discussing films is a great way to immerse students in English and to provide them with an access point to discuss Canadian stories and situations.

The *Pre-Viewing Activities* will help familiarize the students with the basic plot and vocabulary of the film (to aid in comprehension when watching):

The *Post-Viewing Activities* will serve to give students the opportunity to improve their speaking, listening, reading, and to a capacity, writing skills. The activities should be completed in sequence, after students have seen the film.



## Pre-Viewing Activities

<b>FIRST</b> <b>Pre-Viewing Activity :</b>	“Poster Word Brainstorming”
<i>Aim:</i>	Introduce students to vocabulary and ideas associated with the film
<i>Materials:</i>	Poster printout (PAGE 4) and blackboard
<i>Time Allocation:</i>	~10 minutes
<p>This activity will serve as a warm-up for the other activities in this lesson plan. Students, as a class, will have the opportunity to contribute their own knowledge of vocabulary that they think will relate to the film poster.</p> <p>Poster: <a href="http://content8.flixster.com/movie/11/15/92/11159282_800.jpg">http://content8.flixster.com/movie/11/15/92/11159282_800.jpg</a> [also available in print-format on page 4 of this package]</p> <p>Students will be shown the movie poster (you can either show it to them using technology or print out the provided poster) for the film “The Whale” and as a class will brainstorm words that they think pertain to the film. A mind map should be used for this activity, with the central bubble titled “The Whale Film”</p> <p>Expected words: <i>love, friend, surprise, animal, water, etc.</i></p>	

<b>SECOND</b> <i>Pre-Viewing Activity:</i>	Word and Definition Pre-Teach
<i>Aim:</i>	Familiarize students with the specific vocabulary of the film
<i>Materials:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Word and Definition Fill-In Sheet (PAGE 5)</li> </ul>
<i>Time Allocation:</i>	~30 minutes
<p>In advance of the lesson, the word and definition sheet (“Word and Definition Sheet”) should be photocopied and prepared to be distributed amongst the class.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Show trailer of film to class: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9Gm0wINeaU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9Gm0wINeaU</a> *Replay trailer 1-3 times for students depending on proficiency</li> <li>2. Distribute the “Word and Definition” sheet to <u>every</u> student</li> <li>3. Go over the words and definitions on the sheet – the students can follow along by filling the word into the blank spaces in the “Example” column</li> </ol>	



## Post-Viewing Activities

<b>FIRST</b> <i>Post-Viewing Activity:</i>	“Word and Definition Matching”
<i>Aim:</i>	Review vocabulary from the film and pre-viewing activities
<i>Materials:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ “Word and Definition” cut-out page (PAGE 6 and 7)</li> </ul>
<i>Time Allocation:</i>	~15 minutes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give each student a slip of paper that has either a word or definition on it*</li> <li>2. Going around the room, each student will stand up and read what they have on their slip. The student with the corresponding word or definition will then also stand up to match their slip to the other student.</li> <li>3. The two corresponding slips of paper should be taped up onto the blackboard for all students to see.</li> <li>4. Continue steps 2 and 3 until all the words and definitions have been matched up</li> </ol> <p>During this activity, students can reference the “Word and Definition” sheet from the pre-viewing activities if they need to.</p> <p>*If you have more students than slips, distribute extras so that some students will have multiple slips</p>	

<b>SECOND</b> <i>Post-Viewing Activity:</i>	“Fill in the Blanks”
<i>Aim:</i>	Review vocabulary from the film, and allow students the chance to utilize words in context.
<i>Materials:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fill in the Blanks (PAGE 8)</li> <li>▪ Answer Key (PAGE 9)</li> </ul>
<i>Time Allocation:</i>	~15 minutes
<p>In the word and definition matching activity from the pre-viewing activities, students were able to match general definitions to their words. In this activity, students can apply the same words to a film-specific context.</p> <p>*If students are struggling, they should be allowed to work in pairs for the activity.  **Answers should be taken up as a class, with students reading the sentences out loud, after the allocated time.</p>	



<b>THIRD</b> <i>Post-Viewing Activity:</i>	“Group Discussion”
<i>Aim:</i>	Integrate listening into speaking skills (emphasis on improving fluency) - discussion
<i>Materials:</i>	N/A
<i>Time Allocation:</i>	~15 minutes
<p>Have students first think about the question individually so they can gather their thoughts. Then, students will be asked to form (or divided into) small groups of 4-5 students. In the group, they will discuss the following question:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Can a wild animal and a human ever be true friends?”</b> <b>OR</b> <b>“Who should be held responsible for Luna’s death?”</b></p> <p>This question should be written clearly on the blackboard for all students to see.</p> <p>The instructor should walk around and monitor the conversations as they take place, taking care to contribute probing questions if the conversations stall.</p> <p>At the end of the allocated time, the teacher can expand the discussion to the whole class, asking for feedback from each of the groups on what their consensus was.</p>	

<b>OPTIONAL</b> <i>Post-Viewing Activity:</i>	“Cut, Paste, and Present”
<i>Aim:</i>	Writing/Speaking: Sharing Information.
<i>Materials:</i>	Scissors, glue, magazines, newspapers, construction paper, markers.
<i>Time Allocation:</i>	~45 minutes
<p>Students can create a collage made of images and text that they cut from realia to illustrate what they got out of the film (emotions, moral of the story, etc). After they have finished their creation, students can have the opportunity to present their collage to the class – explaining what their inspiration and process was.</p>	



From Executive Producers  
**RYAN REYNOLDS**  
**SCARLETT JOHANSSON**

# THE WHALE

Narrated by  
**RYAN REYNOLDS**

*Friendship is bigger than we know*

TELEFILM CANADA through the Theatrical Documentary Program presents a MOUNTAINSIDE FILMS production in association with CBC NEWS NETWORK  
a film by SUZANNE CHISHOLM and MICHAEL PARRIT "THE WHALE" executive producers RYAN REYNOLDS, SCARLETT JOHANSSON, and ERIC DESATNIK  
producer SUZANNE CHISHOLM writer and editor MICHAEL PARRIT narrator RYAN REYNOLDS  
original music by DAVID PARRIT and TOBIN STOKES consulting producer DAVID SPRINGBETT commissioning editor ANDREW JOHNSON

[www.thewhalemovie.com](http://www.thewhalemovie.com)

TELEFILM CANADA KINOSMITH PALADIN

**G** GENERAL AUDIENCES ALL AGES ADMITTED

Word and Definition Sheet - Fill in the words on the right side of the table.



WORD	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
MISSION (n.)	an important job that someone has been given to do, especially when they are sent to another place:	“People believe that Luna has a _____ but they don’t know what it is”
PERSISTENT (adj.)	continuing beyond the usual, expected, or normal time : not stopping or going away	“Luna is a very _____ orca – he does not give up easily”
CHARMING (adj.)	very pleasing or appealing : full of charm	“People have trouble saying ‘no’ to Luna because he is so _____”
KINSHIP (n.)	a feeling of being close or connected to other people	“Even though Luna is a wild animal, everyone feels a _____ with him”
SUPERNATURAL (adj.)	unable to be explained by science or the laws of nature : of, relating to, or seeming to come from magic, a god, etc.	“The First Nations people believe Luna’s continuing presence is _____”
EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL (adj.)	coming from or existing outside the planet Earth	“Luna is so different from humans he may as well be an _____”
MOURN (v.)	to feel or show great sadness because someone has died	“The townspeople felt great _____ when they learned of Luna’s death”
STEALTHY (adj.)	quiet and secret in order to avoid being noticed	“Luna learned how to be _____ so he could surprise the people in the boats”
STEWARD (n.)	someone who protects or is responsible for money, property, etc.	“Luna had a group of _____ that worked hard to keep her safe”
ENDANGER (v.)	to cause (someone or something) to be in a dangerous place or situation	“Some people believed Luna’s presence would _____ both himself and humans”
COMPASSION (n.)	a feeling of wanting to help someone who is sick, hungry, in trouble, etc.	“The townspeople felt _____ for Luna’s loneliness”
ABANDON (v.)	to leave and never return to (someone who needs protection or help)	“The townspeople did not want to _____ Luna”
SORROW (n.)	a feeling of sadness or grief caused especially by the loss of someone or something	“The _____ that everyone feels for Luna’s death will one day fade away”
TOUGH LOVE (n.)	love or concern that is expressed in a strict way especially to make someone behave responsibly	“The hardest part of protecting Luna was giving him _____”
DOMESTICATE (adj.)	to breed or train (an animal) to need and accept the care of human beings : to tame (an animal)	“It is possible that Luna’s time with humans would _____”
NICKNAME (n.)	a name (such as “Moose” or “Lady Bird”) that is different from your real name but is what your family, friends, etc., call you when they are talking to you or about you	“The First Nations people gave Luna a _____”
REINCARNATION (n.)	the idea or belief that people are born again with a different body after death	“The First Nations people believe that Luna is a _____ of their former chief”
FINE (n.)	an amount of money that you pay as a punishment for breaking a law or rule	“The _____ for playing with Luna was \$100,000”



<b>MISSION (n.)</b>	an important job that someone has been given to do, especially when they are sent to another place:
<b>PERSISTENT (adj.)</b>	continuing beyond the usual, expected, or normal time : not stopping or going away
<b>CHARMING (adj.)</b>	very pleasing or appealing : full of charm
<b>KINSHIP (n.)</b>	a feeling of being close or connected to other people
<b>SUPERNATURAL (adj.)</b>	unable to be explained by science or the laws of nature : of, relating to, or seeming to come from magic, a god, etc.
<b>EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL (adj.)</b>	coming from or existing outside the planet Earth
<b>MOURN (v.)</b>	to feel or show great sadness because someone has died
<b>STEALTHY (adj.)</b>	quiet and secret in order to avoid being noticed
<b>STEWARD (n.)</b>	someone who protects or is responsible for money, property, etc.



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<b>TOUGH LOVE (n.)</b>	love or concern that is expressed in a strict way especially to make someone behave responsibly
<b>DOMESTICATE (adj.)</b>	to breed or train (an animal) to need and accept the care of human beings : to tame (an animal)
<b>NICKNAME (n.)</b>	a name (such as "Moose" or "Lady Bird") that is different from your real name but is what your family, friends, etc., call you when they are talking to you or about you
<b>REINCARNATION (n.)</b>	the idea or belief that people are born again with a different body after death
<b>FINE (n.)</b>	an amount of money that you pay as a punishment for breaking a law or rule



## Fill in the Blanks!

ENDANGER	STEALTHY	ABANDON
PERSISTANT	KINSHIP	CHARMING
DOMESTICATE	MOURN	

1. Even though Luna is so different from the people in the town, all the humans feel a very special \_\_\_\_\_ with him. Are what animals and humans want really so different?
2. Scientists are afraid that Luna's presence in the town will \_\_\_\_\_ him, which will cause him to be rejected from his family.
3. The townspeople find it very difficult to follow the rules made to protect Luna: no eye contact, no touching, no playing. If they \_\_\_\_\_ Luna like that, it will hurt them as much as it will hurt Luna.
4. As news about Luna's accident spread across the country, people felt sad and began to \_\_\_\_\_ his death.
5. Even if you were not supposed to play with Luna, you would often end up paying attention to him because he was \_\_\_\_\_ and did not give up.
6. Some people felt that Luna should be sent to rejoin his family because if he stayed too close to the humans, he would \_\_\_\_\_ both them and himself.
7. Once Luna's stewards began to stay away from Luna, he would surprise them by being \_\_\_\_\_ and quietly swimming to their boat.
8. People cannot resist playing with Luna because he is so \_\_\_\_\_.



## Fill in the Blanks ANSWERS

ENDANGER	STEALTHY	ABANDON
PERSISTANT	KINSHIP	CHARMING
DOMESTICATE	MOURN	

1. Even though Luna is so different from the people in the town, all the humans feel a very special **KINSHIP** with him. Are what animals and humans want really so different?
2. Scientists are afraid that Luna's presence in the town will **DOMESTICATE** him, which will cause him to be rejected from his family.
3. The townspeople find it very difficult to follow the rules made to protect Luna: no eye contact, no touching, no playing. If they **ABANDON** Luna like that, it will hurt them as much as it will hurt Luna.
4. As news about Luna's accident spread across the country, people felt sad and began to **MOURN** his death.
5. Even if you were not supposed to play with Luna, you would often end up paying attention to him because he was **PERSISTANT** and did not give up.
6. Some people felt that Luna should be sent to rejoin his family because if he stayed too close to the humans, he would **ENDANGER** both them and himself.
7. Once Luna's stewards began to stay away from Luna, he would surprise them by being **STEALTHY** and quietly swimming to their boat.
8. People cannot resist playing with Luna because he is so **CHARMING**.