

REVIEWS

RIGHT WHALE WRONG LETTER is a masterful creation that will appeal to learners of all styles. The brilliance of combining musical composition capability with whale behavior and whale sounds, the simplicity of pairing of a musical composition tool based on the book's theme (and main characters) with the book itself will offer kids, on their own or in classroom or other informal groups, the chance to have a meaningful multimodal learning experience. It is really a wonderful and innovative creation. Highly recommend!

Deb Kovacs, Author

This imaginative book invites children to read about endangered Right Whales, watch them in motion on the book's website, and capture their trajectories in the contours of melodies they themselves can compose using child-friendly software.

Ellen Winner, Psychologist, Researcher and Author, and
Howard Gardner, Developmental Psychologist, Researcher and Author

A beautiful book with a multi-media bonus

Kids will love learning about the rare North Atlantic Right Whale in this tale about Robley, a young whale who can't seem to spout his specie's classic V-shaped mist. Try after try, Robley spouts P's... Q's... Z's... never a V. But when an approaching ship fails to see Robley and his pod of migrating whales, Robley turns frustration into inspiration. He uses his special spout to protect the pod and discovers that being different can be something to celebrate. The text's onomatopoeic renderings of whale sounds will have kids imitating whales long after they finish the book. The text rhymes, and although there's not always a consistent rhyme scheme, the 'off' beats do not detract from the text's overall, lyrical feel. The book is a winner, both in its story of how differences can be strengths and in its message about threats to whales and how humans can help.

Even better, the book comes with a bonus: A QR code launches a book-related webpage containing a fully-orchestrated, narrated story video. The music imitates and brings to life the Right Whales' own music and locomotion. The page also provides wonderful music snippets accompanied by animations that show how the notes mimic various whale swimming and diving patterns. Even better: These mini video lessons also show kids how to use a free app, available on the webpage, to compose and see whale-movement patterns of their own. I was mesmerized as I experimented with the app. The book stands alone as an engaging, beautifully illustrated tale. But a follow-up visit to the webpage can add extra layers of understanding of whales, with insights derived from some very special musical storytelling. I highly recommend this book and the related multimedia that can be used at home and in classrooms.

Carol Doeringer, Author, Nature Blogger and Videographer

