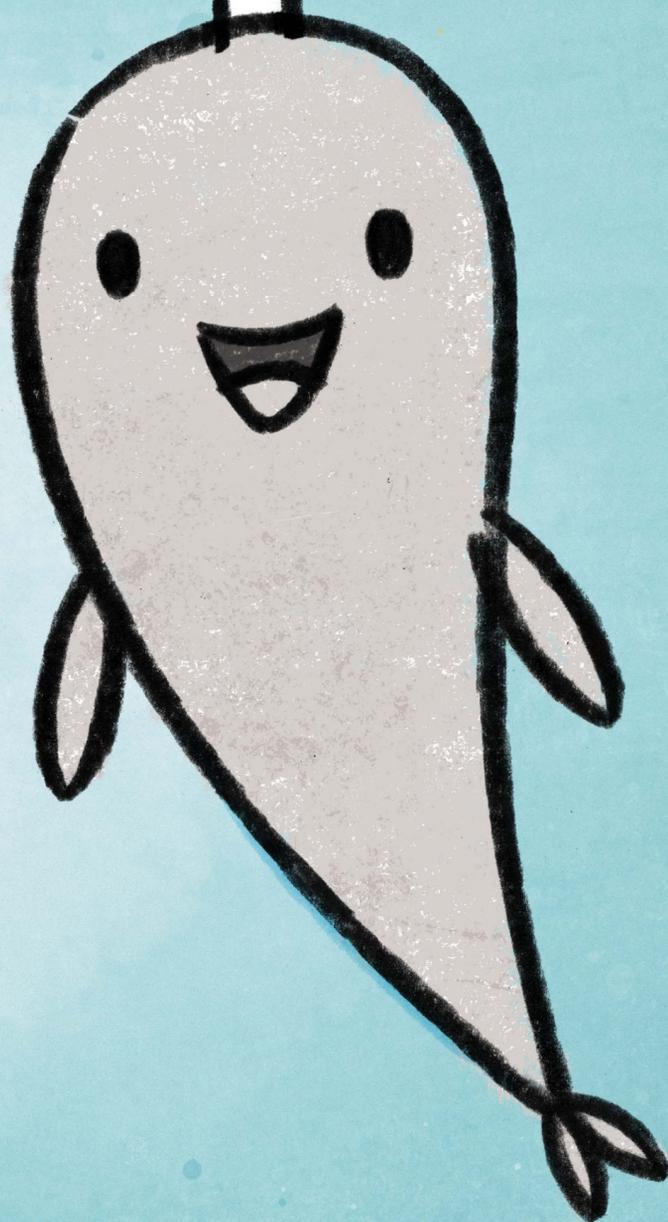


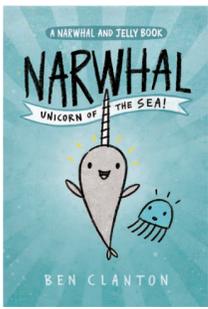
# DIVE

INTO READING!



Penguin  
Random House  
TUNDRA BOOKS

[penguinrandomhouse.ca](http://penguinrandomhouse.ca)



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky narwhal. Jelly is a non-nonsense jellyfish. The two might not have a lot in common, but they do love waffles, parties and adventures. Join Narwhal and Jelly as they discover the whole wide ocean together in a wonderfully silly early graphic novel featuring three stories. In the first, Jelly learns that Narwhal is a really good friend. Then Narwhal and Jelly form their own pod of awesomeness with their ocean friends. And finally, Narwhal and Jelly read the best book ever — even though it doesn't have any words ... or pictures! Ben Clanton showcases the joys of friendship, the benefits of working together and the power of imagination in the delightful *Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea*.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ben Clanton is a part-time merman and a full-time author-illustrator. He loves to make up stories such as *Mo's Mustache*, *It Came in the Mail*, *Something Extraordinary*, *Rex Wrecks It*, *The Table Sets Itself* and *Vote for Me!* He is the illustrator of the Jasper John Dooley series by Caroline Adderson and *Max Has a Fish* by Wiley Blevins. He lives with his wife in Seattle, Washington. Visit Ben at [www.benclanton.com](http://www.benclanton.com) or under the sea.



## HOW TO USE THE BOOK IN THE CLASSROOM

Graphic novels have become a powerful tool for educators and are included in most balanced literacy programs. The strong visual element is appealing to both the reluctant and advanced readers in your classroom and can be used to address the instructional needs of most readers. *Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea* is the perfect book to act as an introduction to the popular genre. This funny and heartwarming tale can be used to identify key components of the genre, teaching inference and using context to solidify understanding, and to discuss concepts such as friendship, imagination and humor.

## PRE-READING DISCUSSION / ACTIVITIES

- What do you know about narwhals? Jellyfish?
- Considering the title, *Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea* and looking at the cover, what do you think might happen in this story?
- Do you think it is important to have a good imagination? Why or why not?
- Without reading, quickly skim the first few pages of the book. What do you notice about how the story is told? Do you know what this format is called? Have you read any other stories in this format before? What other popular format is this type of book similar to?

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1

## 1 Narwhal is REALLY Awesome

- Retell the story of Narwhal and Jelly's first meeting in your own words.
- When Narwhal introduces himself as a "unicorn of the sea," why might Jelly have thought he wasn't real?
- The story is told through Narwhal and Jelly's conversation but there is an instance when Jelly speaks directly to the reader. Locate this part of the story. How does this affect the tone?
- Jelly tries to prove that he is real by stinging Narwhal. If you were in Jelly's position, what would you have done differently to prove that you were real?
- After reading this story, how would you describe Narwhal and Jelly? Use examples from the illustrations and their speech to support your thinking. Is your personality more like Narwhal or Jelly? How so?

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.1, 2.1, 3.1

## 2 Really Fun Facts

- After reading the Really Fun Facts, what did you learn about a narwhal and a jellyfish's habitat, longevity and physical appearance?
- What else do you want to know about each of these sea animals? Create a list of five questions about each, and in partners, small groups or as a class, create a plan of how you will find out the answers to your questions.
- Consider visiting the World Wildlife Fund's website to learn more about narwhals and jellyfish. Did you learn any facts that the author may have used to help create the Narwhal and Jelly characters?

## 3 Narwhal's Pod of Awesomeness

- Why didn't Narwhal initially invite Jelly to be part of the pod he was creating? What did each of the new members have to wear to show that they were part of the pod?
- What did Narwhal think a pod did together? Do you have your own pod, or special group of friends or family? What do you like to do together?
- There are several plays on words, also known as puns, in this story. Explain the following puns: "for shark," "podtastic," "turtley," "tentacular".

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.1, 2.1, 3.1

## 4 The Narwhal Song

- Hum a melody to accompany the Narwhal Song. Do you think it would have a fast or slow tempo? Why?
- Write the next verse of the song.

## 5 Narwhal and the Best Book Ever

- Why did Narwhal think his book was the best book ever? What book do you consider to be the best book ever? Why?
- How does Narwhal show Jelly that his book is the best book ever?
- Create your own story by following Narwhal's directions:
  - Close your eyes.
  - Think about one of your favorite things in the world.
  - Make a picture of it in your head.
  - Next, think about a robot. Picture a giant, angry robot.
  - What happens next? Tell your story in a graphic novel format.
- Narwhal's imagination is a very important part of who he is. Can you think of other imaginative activities that you think he might enjoy?

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.1, 2.1, 3.1

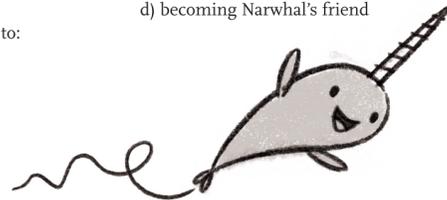
## 6 Graphic Novels

- What are the traditional elements of a story? Are all of these elements present in graphic novels, including *Narwhal*? How would you describe the graphic novel format to somebody unfamiliar with it? What is the main difference between a graphic novel and a picture book? Make a list of some of the format's main characteristics and use *Narwhal* as an example.
- What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of using the graphic novel format to tell a story? How does the author show what the characters are thinking without stating it in words?
- The story is told through Narwhal and Jelly's speech. How do the illustrations help explain the way the characters are feeling? Find an example of when Jelly is feeling surprised, angry, sad, happy and skeptical, as shown through the pictures.
- Research photographs and/or videos of narwhals and jellyfish. What features of real-life narwhals and jellyfish does the author use in his depictions of the animals? How do the illustrated versions of the animals in the story affect your feelings about the characters in the story? Select a common sea animal and look at real-life pictures of it. Create a graphic novel version of the sea animal that would be appropriate for a humorous story. Then create a version that would be appropriate for an action adventure story.
- What are the main colors used in the book? How does the author use color to develop certain parts of the plot?

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.7, 2.7, 3.7

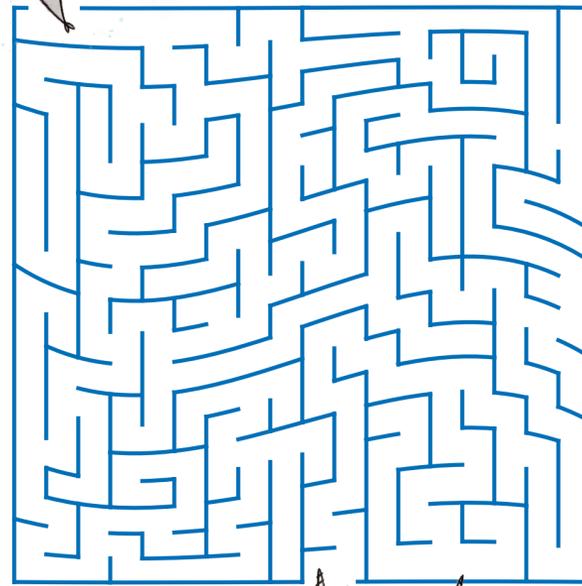
## 7 Become Part of the Pod!

- Narwhal's favorite food is:
  - pancakes
  - strawberries
  - waffles
  - sushi
- A group of jellyfish is called a:
  - snack
  - stack
  - slacks
  - smack
- Narwhals can live up to:
  - 90 years
  - 90 minutes
  - 90 months
  - 90 days
- Narwhal imagines that pods:
  - eat waffles together
  - fight crime together
  - play ultimate cannonball together
  - have super awesome parties together
  - all of the above
- Jelly tries to prove to Narwhal that he is real by:
  - tickling Narwhal
  - stinging Narwhal
  - telling Narwhal a story
  - becoming Narwhal's friend



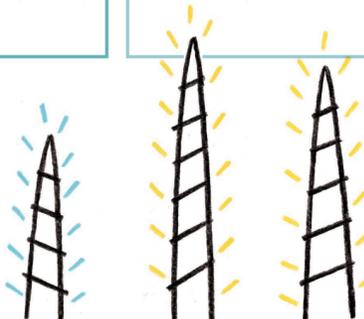
## A-MAZE-ing!

Narwhal got lost in the world wide water! Help him find his pod.



## THE ADVENTURES OF NARWHAL AND JELLY

Draw a short adventure in the boxes below about Narwhal and Jelly!

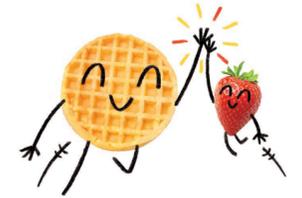


## POD SEARCH

Search and circle the following words:

q d p d i h d o p b w y  
 d b d g f r d o w q o r  
 l u e l t r u t s o n r  
 a h b j t o b o r e w e  
 h f l s u p o t c o a b  
 w n o d i q m r q o f w  
 r h w y z e r i k e f a  
 a q f t d p d o v z l r  
 n p i e n i g a m i e t  
 a h s i f y l l e j x s  
 m z h s h a r k w n d g  
 d n e i r f c h f c y p

friend	waffle	blowfish
imagine	strawberry	octopus
jellyfish	robot	
narwhal	shark	
pod	turtle	



## COMMON CORE STANDARDS

### Reading: Literature

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.1 Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.7 Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting or events.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.7 Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting or plot.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.7 Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting)

### Speaking and Listening

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1 Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

*Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea*  
by Ben Clanton

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