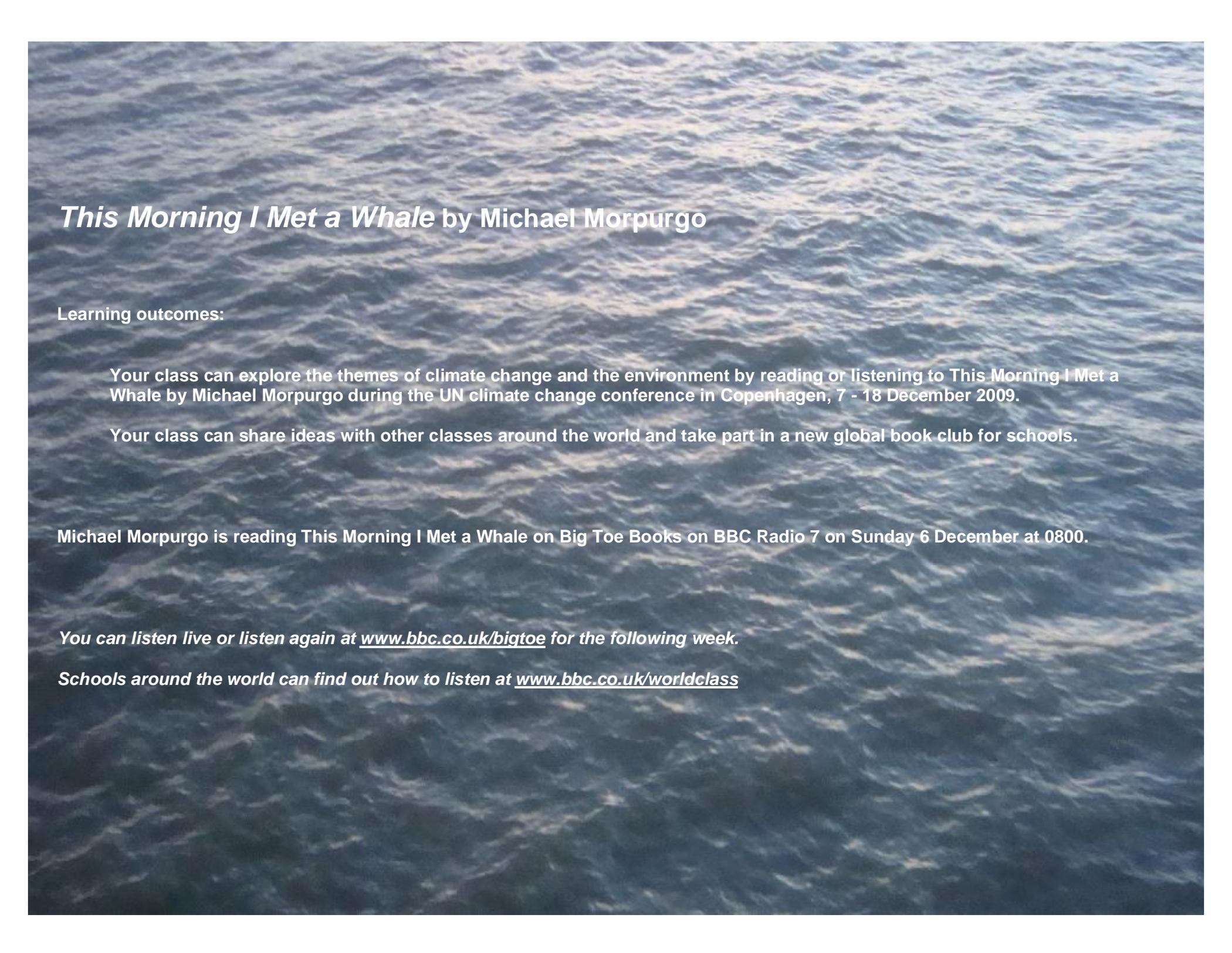


Share a Story: This Morning I Met a Whale
BBC World Class and the British Council



This Morning I Met a Whale by Michael Morpurgo

Learning outcomes:

Your class can explore the themes of climate change and the environment by reading or listening to *This Morning I Met a Whale* by Michael Morpurgo during the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, 7 - 18 December 2009.

Your class can share ideas with other classes around the world and take part in a new global book club for schools.

Michael Morpurgo is reading *This Morning I Met a Whale* on Big Toe Books on BBC Radio 7 on Sunday 6 December at 0800.

You can listen live or listen again at www.bbc.co.uk/bigtoe for the following week.

Schools around the world can find out how to listen at www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass

Activity 1

Sharing stories and ideas

Some prompts for your class to think about:

What did *This Morning I Met a Whale* make you think about?

What message does the book send to readers?

What is the difference between reading about climate change in a story or in a newspaper?

What other kinds of writing could be used to discuss climate change?

What questions would you like to send to your partner school about the book?

Send each other four questions about the book and respond with your views and ideas.

You can also share via the World Class website on our “Share a Story” pages.

Email: worldclass@bbc.co.uk

Invite your partner school to do the same.

Some of your comments will be read out on Big Toe Books on BBC Radio 7.

(If you are emailing your pupils’ work, you will need to confirm that you are the teacher and you have headteacher permission for the BBC to publish pupils’ contributions.)

Activity 2

Do you agree or disagree with the whale's message?

The UN Copenhagen Summit is taking place this week. Governments will try to reach a global agreement on climate change.

What do you think about climate change?

How has climate change affected the area where you live?

Look at the World Class Climate Change Interactive questions:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/8368254.stm

Tell us about the extreme weather where you live. If you have been in storms, floods, droughts, heat waves, or other extreme weather, tell us what happened.

Have you ever missed school because of extreme weather? Tell us what happened.

Do you think you are affected by climate change? If yes, how?

Whose job is it to look after the natural world?

Input answers from your class into the page, as directed. Invite your partner school to do the same.

Activity 3

Conversations with schools in other countries.

Read comments from schools around the world on the Climate Change Interactive map:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/8368373.stm

Some prompts for your class to think about on the themes of climate change, sharing a story, and school partnerships:

How do experiences of extreme weather differ around the world?

How do views on who is should look after for the natural world differ?

How has talking to children in other countries made a difference to understanding of important issues like this one?

How has taking part in a global book club has changed your understanding of the book?

How has it helped you understand children in another country?

What would you like your next conversation with your partner school to be about?

What subject or type of book (theme) would you like to share with your partner school or global book club next time?

You can share via the World Class website

Email: worldclass@bbc.co.uk

Invite your partner school to do the same.

(If you are emailing your pupils' work, you will need to confirm that you are the teacher and you have headteacher permission for the BBC to publish pupils' contributions.)

Read about the real whale in the River Thames at the BBC News website:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/4631396.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/4635874.stm>

In pictures: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/4632194.stm



Photograph of the northern bottle-nosed whale in the River Thames taken on 21 January 2006 by Tom Hevezi.

“Share a Story: This Morning I Met a Whale” is a BBC World Class collaboration with the British Council and Big Toe Books, BBC Radio 7.



Thanks to the British Council [<http://www.britishcouncil.org>] and The Reading Agency [<http://www.readingagency.org.uk/>] who are bringing schools around the world together through shared reading.



Thanks to Lisa Stevens, Whitehouse Common Primary School, Birmingham for developing activities for this pack.



Thanks to Michael Morpurgo for his special reading of This Morning I Met a Whale on Big Toe Books, BBC Radio 7: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0072tp2>



Find out more about global book groups on the Chatterbooks pages of the Connecting Classrooms website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-connecting-classrooms-chatterbooks.htm>

Join the climate change interactive: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/8368373.stm

