

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Arctic

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Synopsis: When winter ice covers the Arctic Ocean, a narwhal pokes his head through a patch of open water, his tusk, a six-foot long tooth, pointed to the sky. Join this mammal as he jousts with another narwhal, floats with his pod, and uses echolocation to find his prey. When warmer weather arrives, he will migrate towards summer ground. But he must be careful! Predators, orcas, and polar bears will be hungry and looking for a meal ... How will the narwhal escape? Will he be able to return to the winter bay?

Suggested Reading Date: National Narwhal Day (April 22); World Aquatic Day (April 3)

Activity Descriptions:

- Introduce/review onomatopoeia (sound words) throughout the book
- Research narwhals using a database, non-fiction book, or website like National Geographic
- Discuss animal adaptations & predators
- Makerspace:
 - Make a narwhal out of Legos;
 - Design a habitat using different types of resources, i.e. Keva planks, Legos, blocks, etc.

Related Websites:

- Author website: <https://candacefleming.com/>
- Illustrator website: <https://deenasooteh.com/books>
- National Geographic Narwhals: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/narwhal/>;
- Interview with the author from "School Library Journal:" <https://afuse8production.slj.com/2024/09/26/heck-yeah-collapsible-ribs-a-talk-with-candace-fleming-about-her-incredible-new-title-narwhal-unicorn-of-the-arctic/>
- World Wildlife Federation - Narwhals: <https://wwf.ca/species/narwhals/>
- Narwhal Activities: <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/stem-narwhal-activities-ocean/>
- Natural Museum of History of Natural History - Video on Animal Adaptations: <https://naturalhistory.si.edu/education/teaching-resources/life-science/explore-animal-adaptations>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Not a Monster* by Claudia Guadalupe Lopez
- *Narwhal and Jelly* by Ben Clanton
- *Buffalo Fluffalo* by Bess Kalb
- *Knight Owl and Early Bird* by Christopher Denise

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