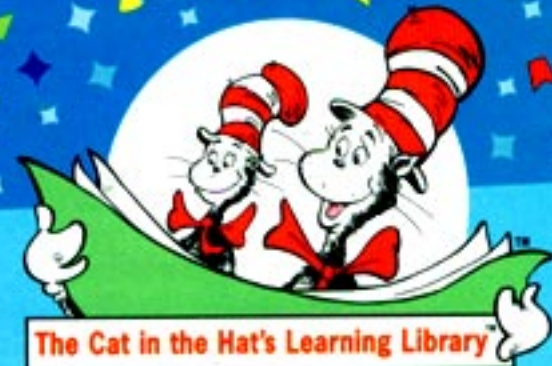




THE **CAT** IN THE **HAT**  
Knows a Lot About That!



The Cat in the Hat's Learning Library

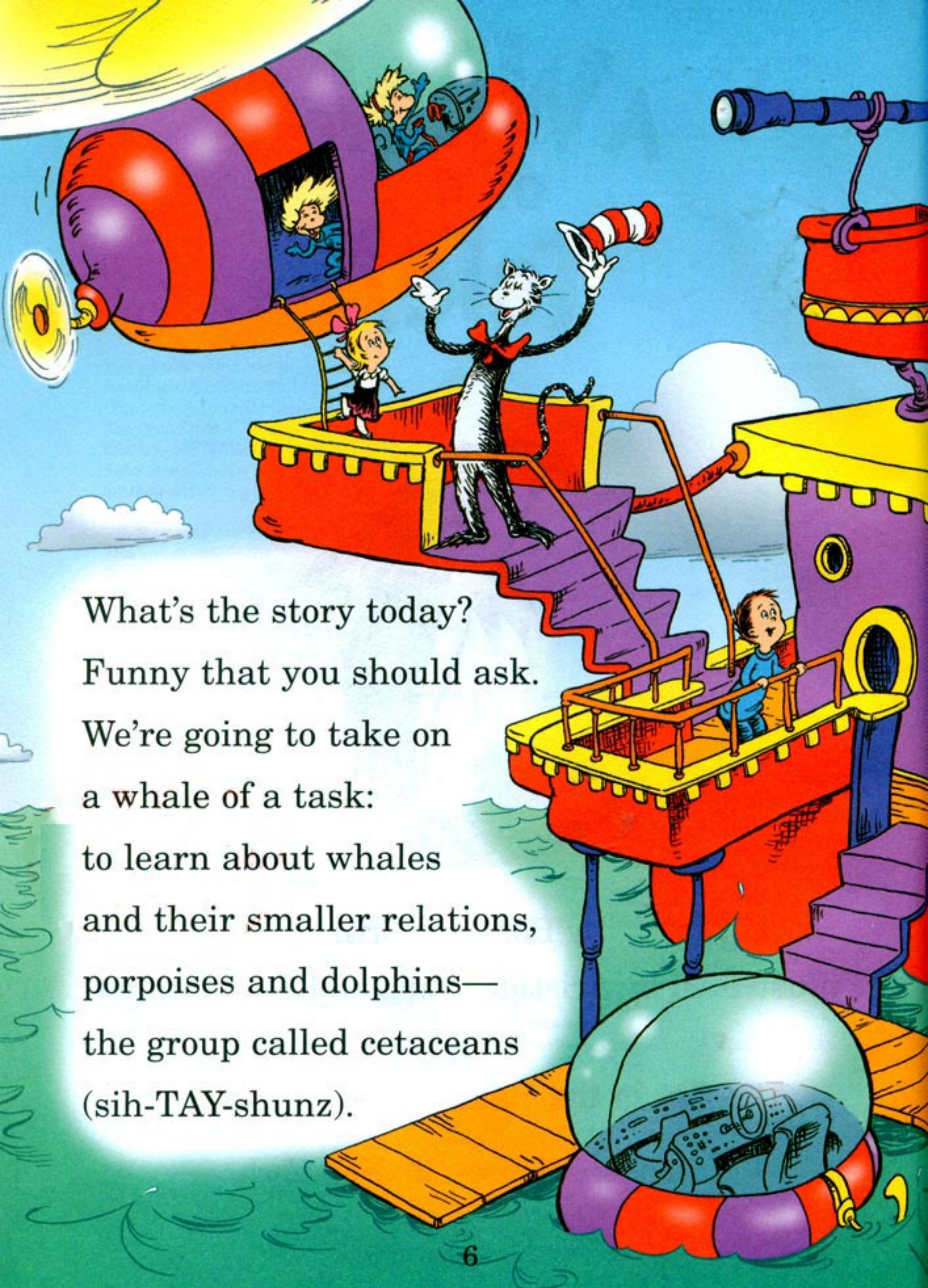
# A Whale of a Tale!

All About  
**PORPOISES,  
DOLPHINS,  
and WHALES**

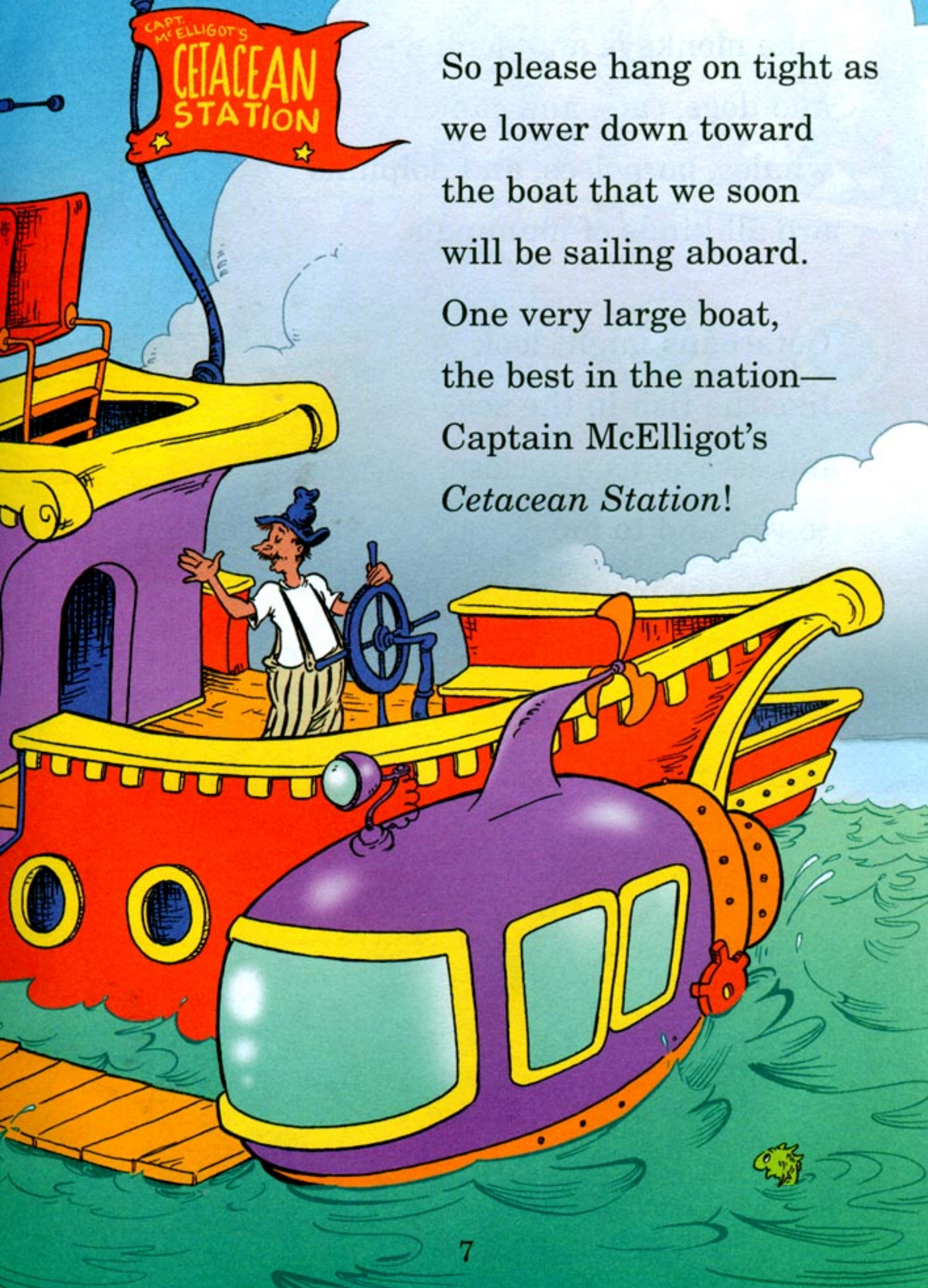


by **Bonnie Worth**

illustrated by **Aristides Ruiz**  
and **Joe Mathieu**



What's the story today?  
Funny that you should ask.  
We're going to take on  
a whale of a task:  
to learn about whales  
and their smaller relations,  
porpoises and dolphins—  
the group called cetaceans  
(sih-TAY-shunz).



So please hang on tight as we lower down toward the boat that we soon will be sailing aboard.

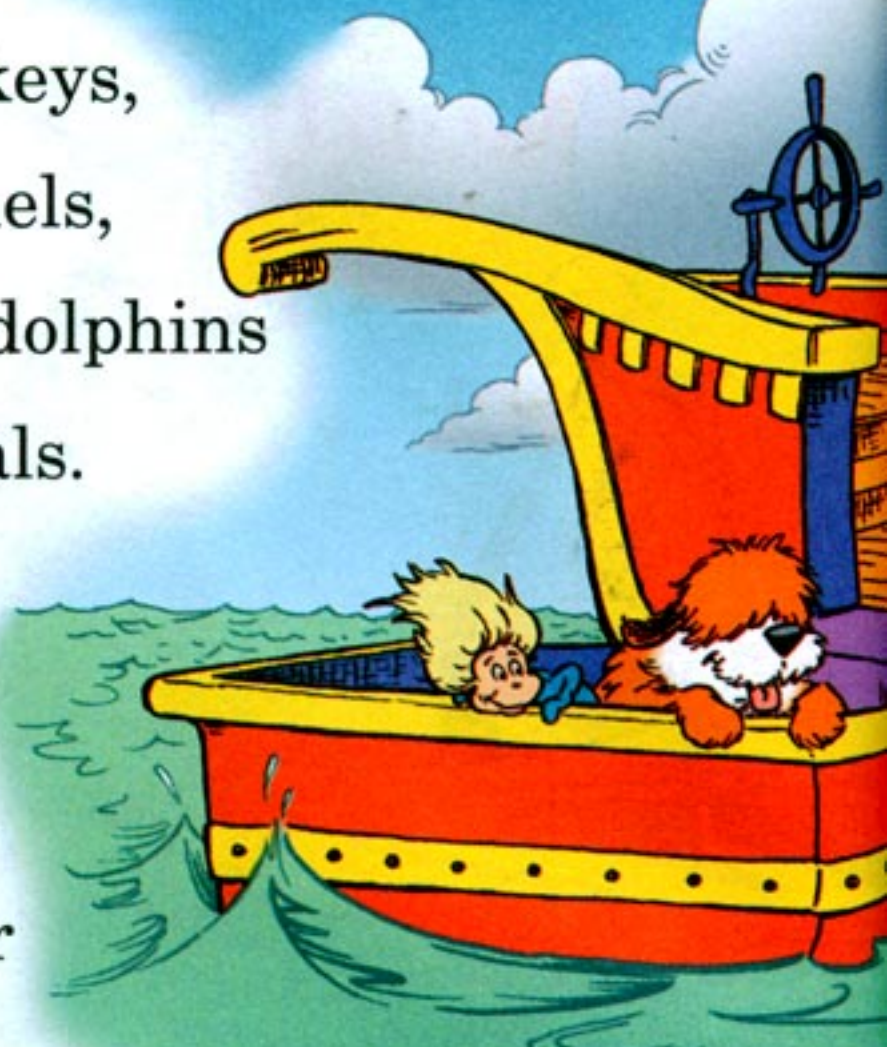
One very large boat, the best in the nation—  
Captain McElligot's  
*Cetacean Station!*

Like monkeys and donkeys,  
and dogs, cats, and camels,  
whales, porpoises, and dolphins  
are all kinds of mammals.

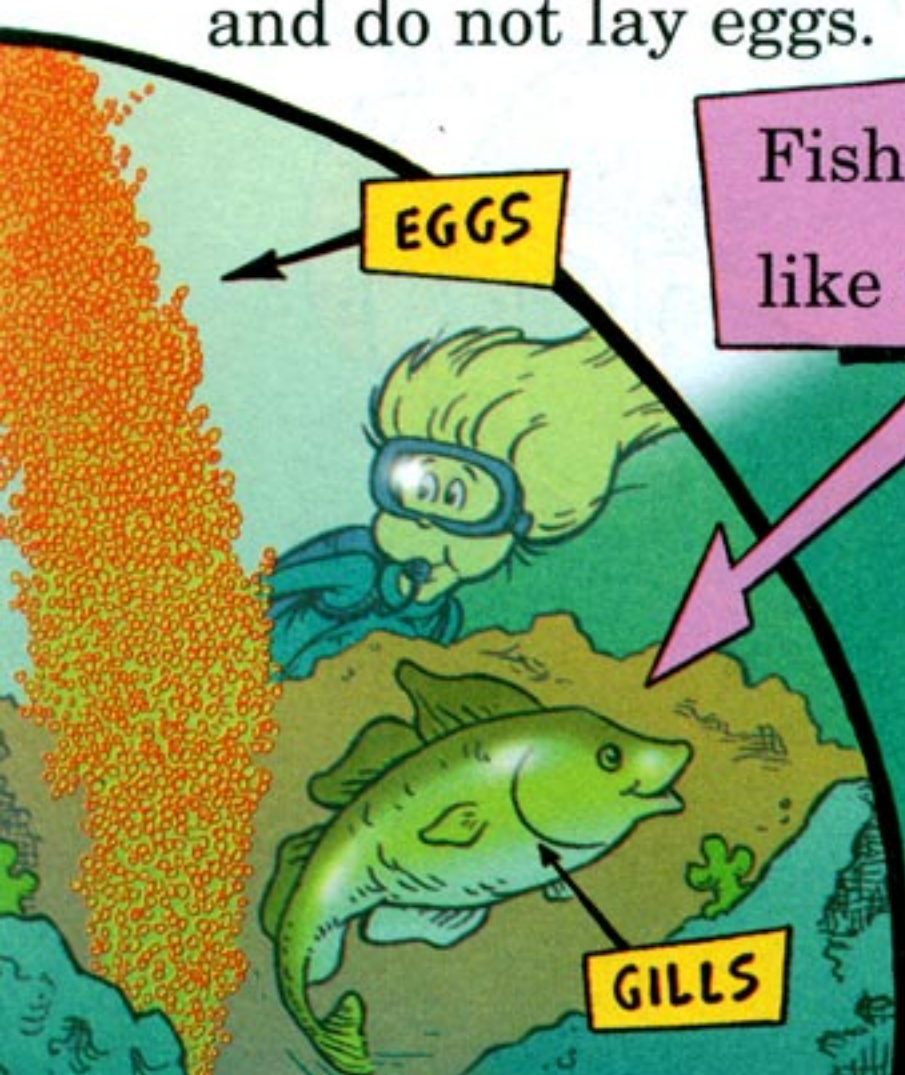
Cetaceans might look  
like the fish in the sea,  
but cetaceans are closer  
to you and to me.

They're warm-blooded, like us,  
but with fins and no legs.

They give birth to live babies  
and do not lay eggs.

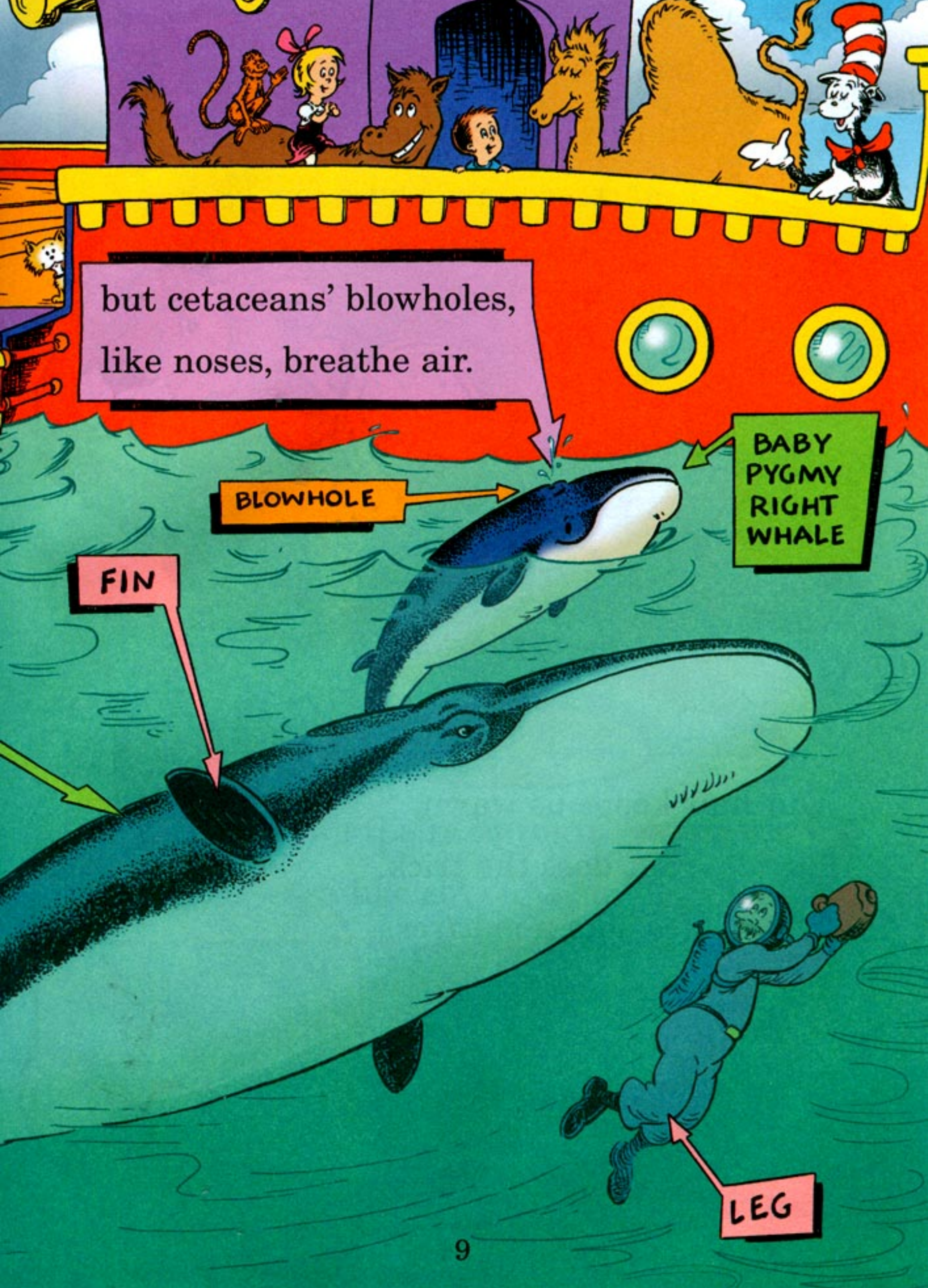


ADULT  
PYGMY  
RIGHT  
WHALE



Fish breathe through gills,  
like that cod over there,





but cetaceans' blowholes,  
like noses, breathe air.

BLOWHOLE

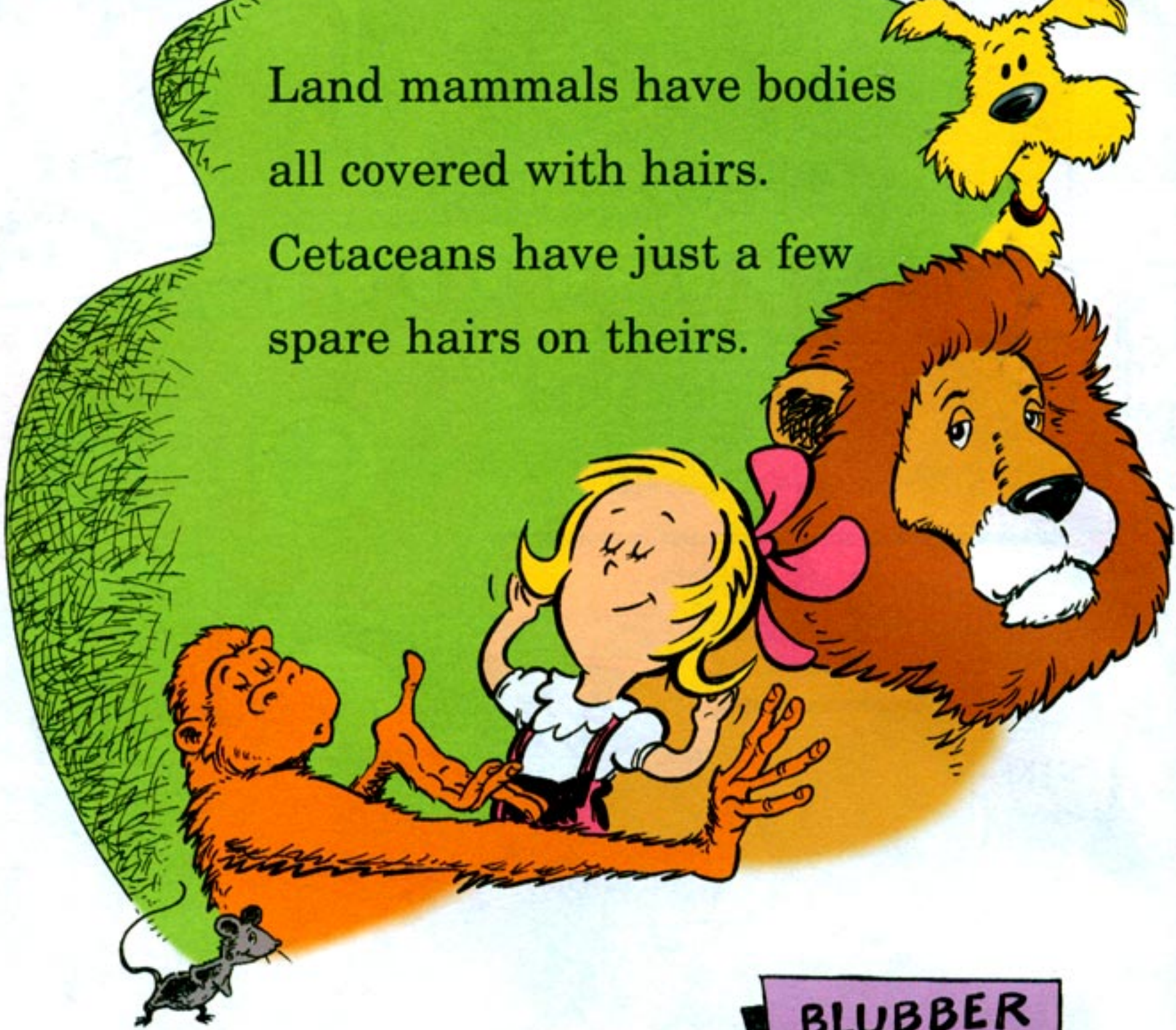
FIN

BABY  
PYGMY  
RIGHT  
WHALE

LEG

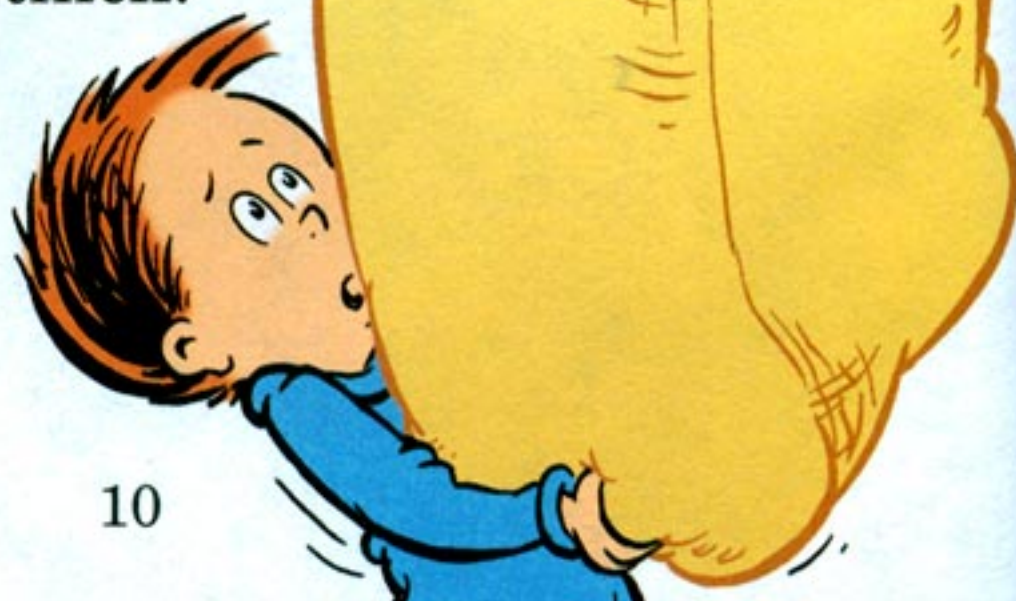
Land mammals have bodies  
all covered with hairs.

Cetaceans have just a few  
spare hairs on theirs.



Our hair keeps us warm,  
but their fat does the trick.  
Sometimes, like a mattress,  
it's two whole feet thick!

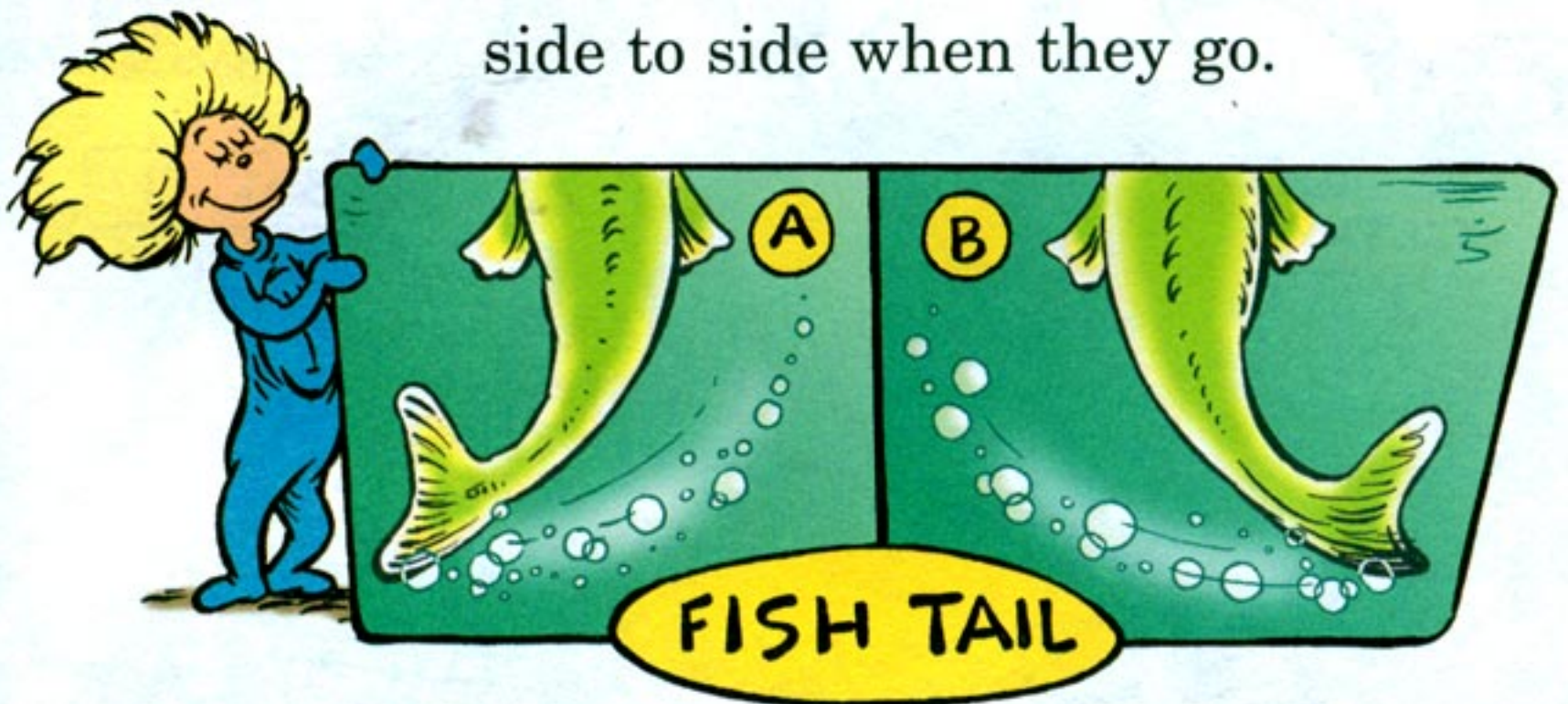
**BLUBBER**



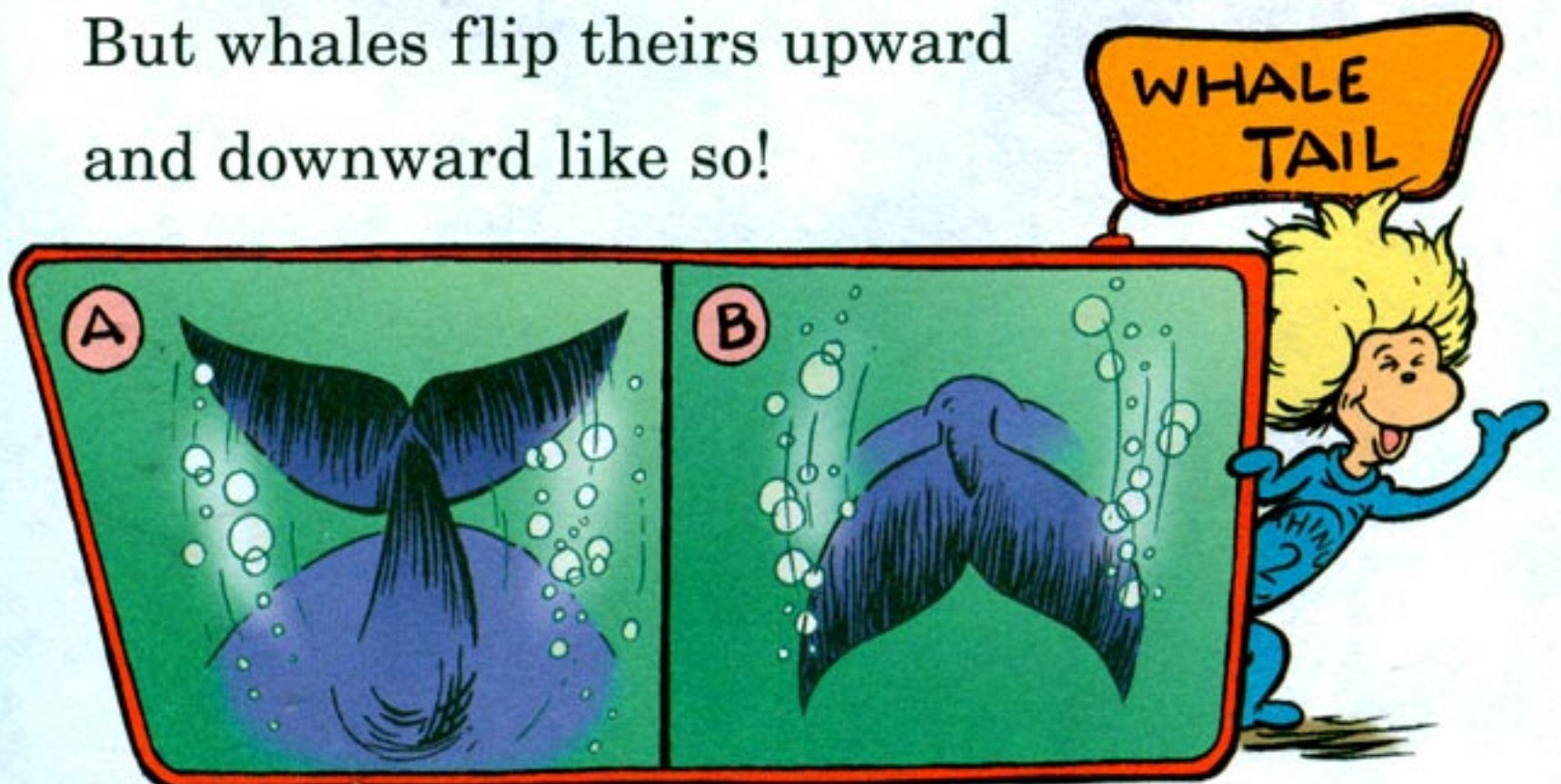
Another big difference  
between whales and fish—  
Thing One and Thing Two  
can explain, if you wish:



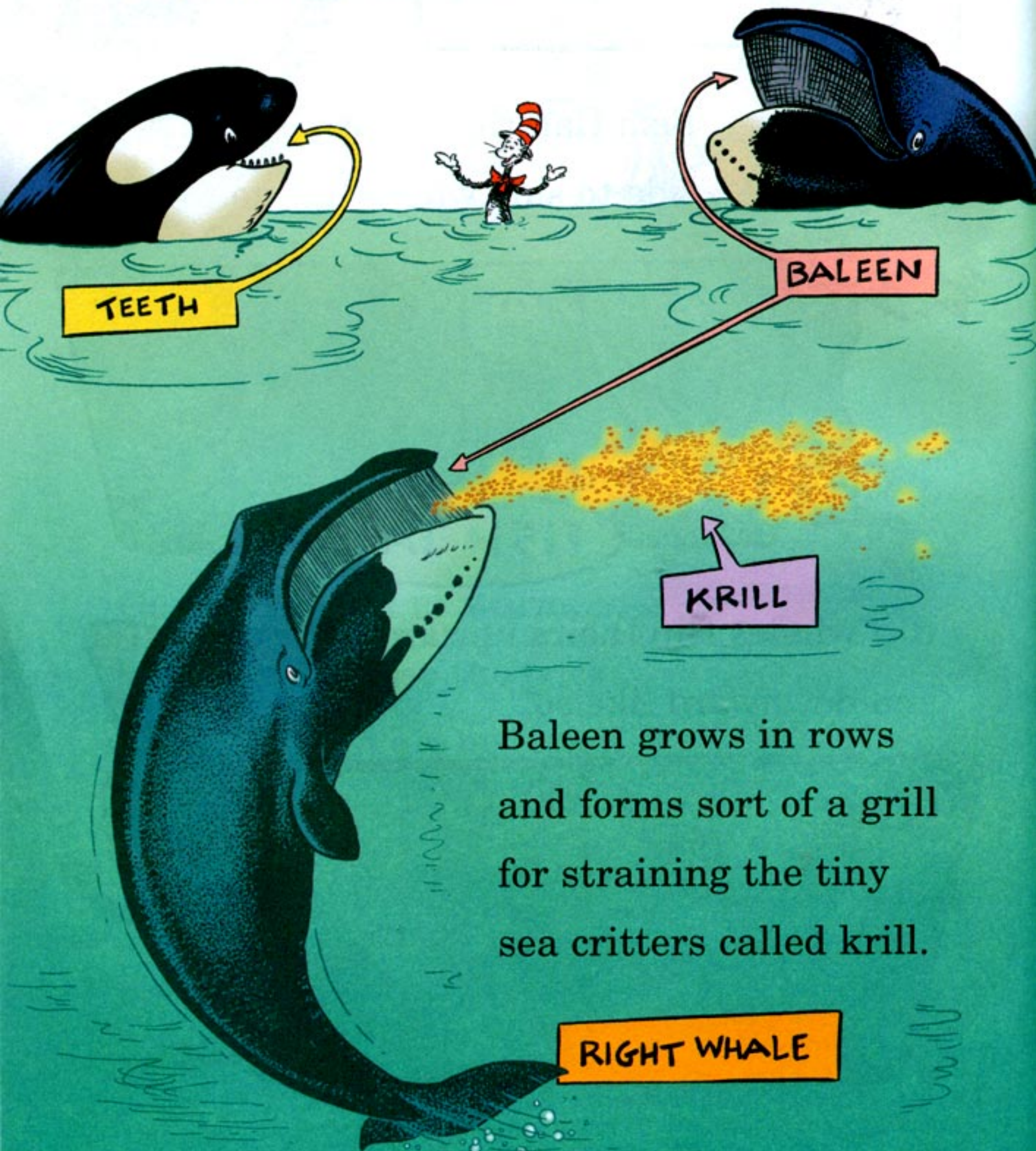
Fish flap their tails  
side to side when they go.



But whales flip theirs upward  
and downward like so!



Some cetaceans catch food with the teeth in their head. Others use something called baleen instead.



Baleen grows in rows and forms sort of a grill for straining the tiny sea critters called krill.

RIGHT WHALE



# TOOTHED WHALES

But toothed or baleen, cetaceans don't chew. They swallow food whole. That's all that they do.



SPOTTED DOLPHIN

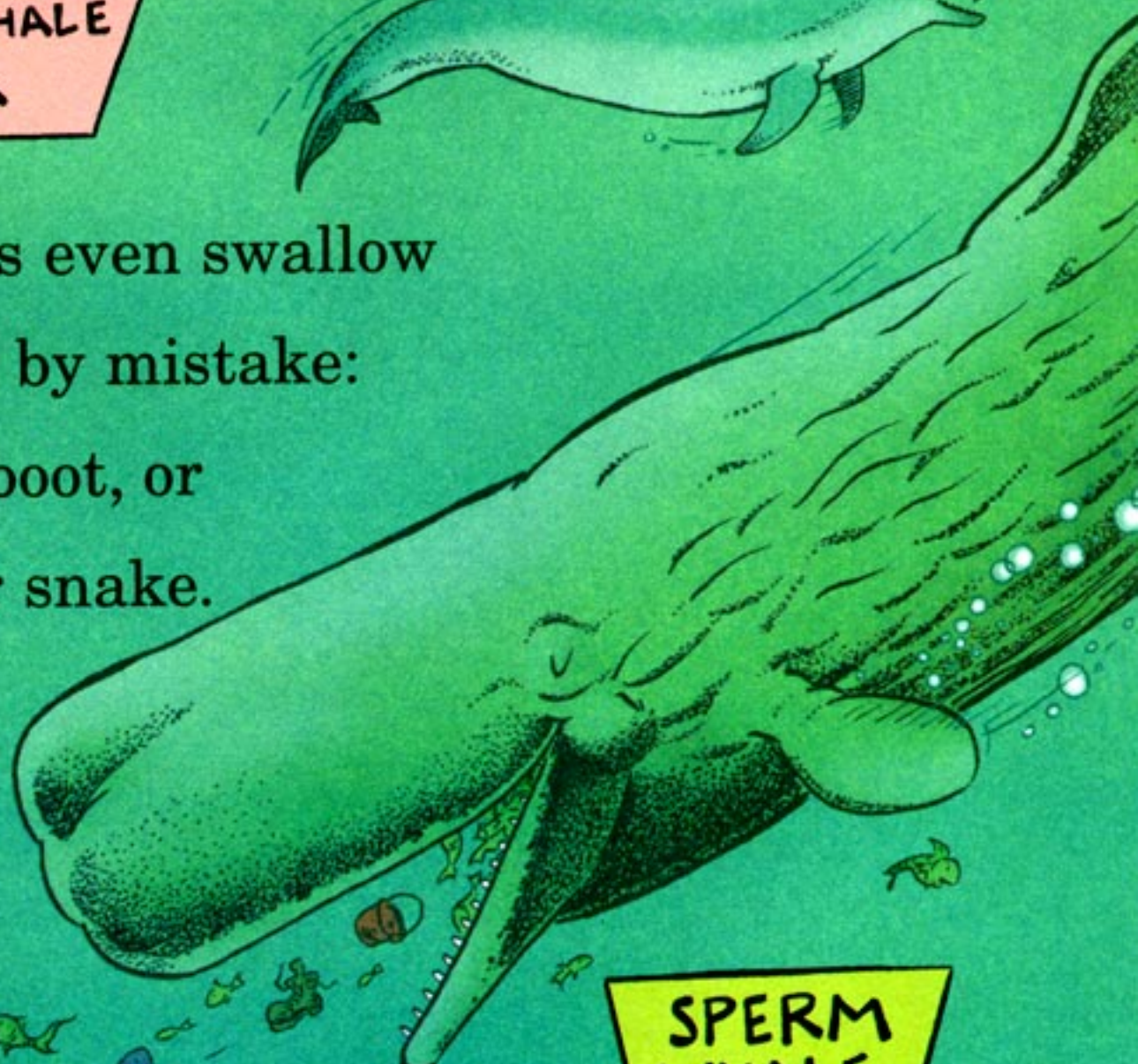


KILLER WHALE  
or  
ORCA



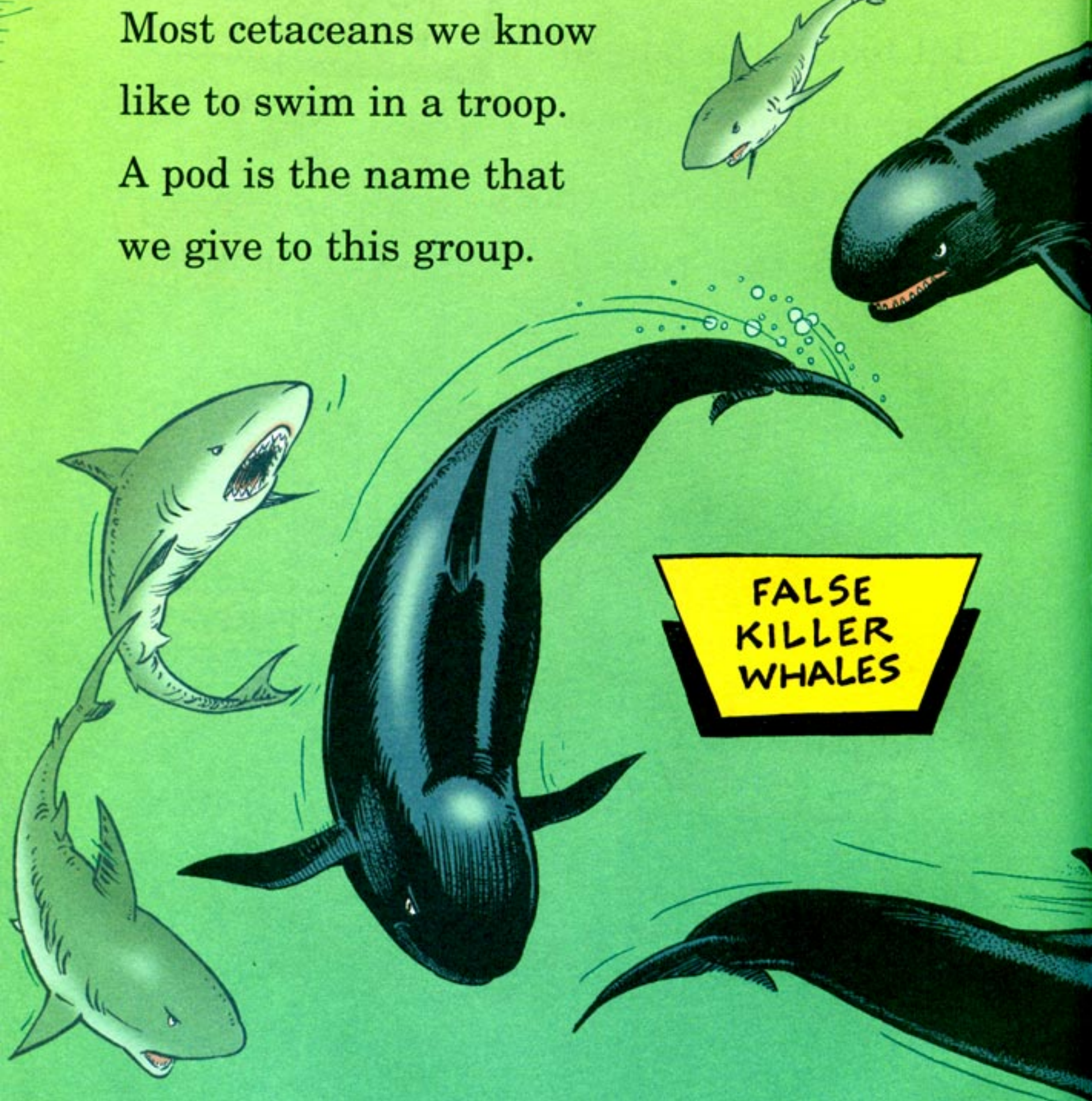
GULF PORPOISE

Some whales even swallow some things by mistake: a bucket, a boot, or a big rubber snake.

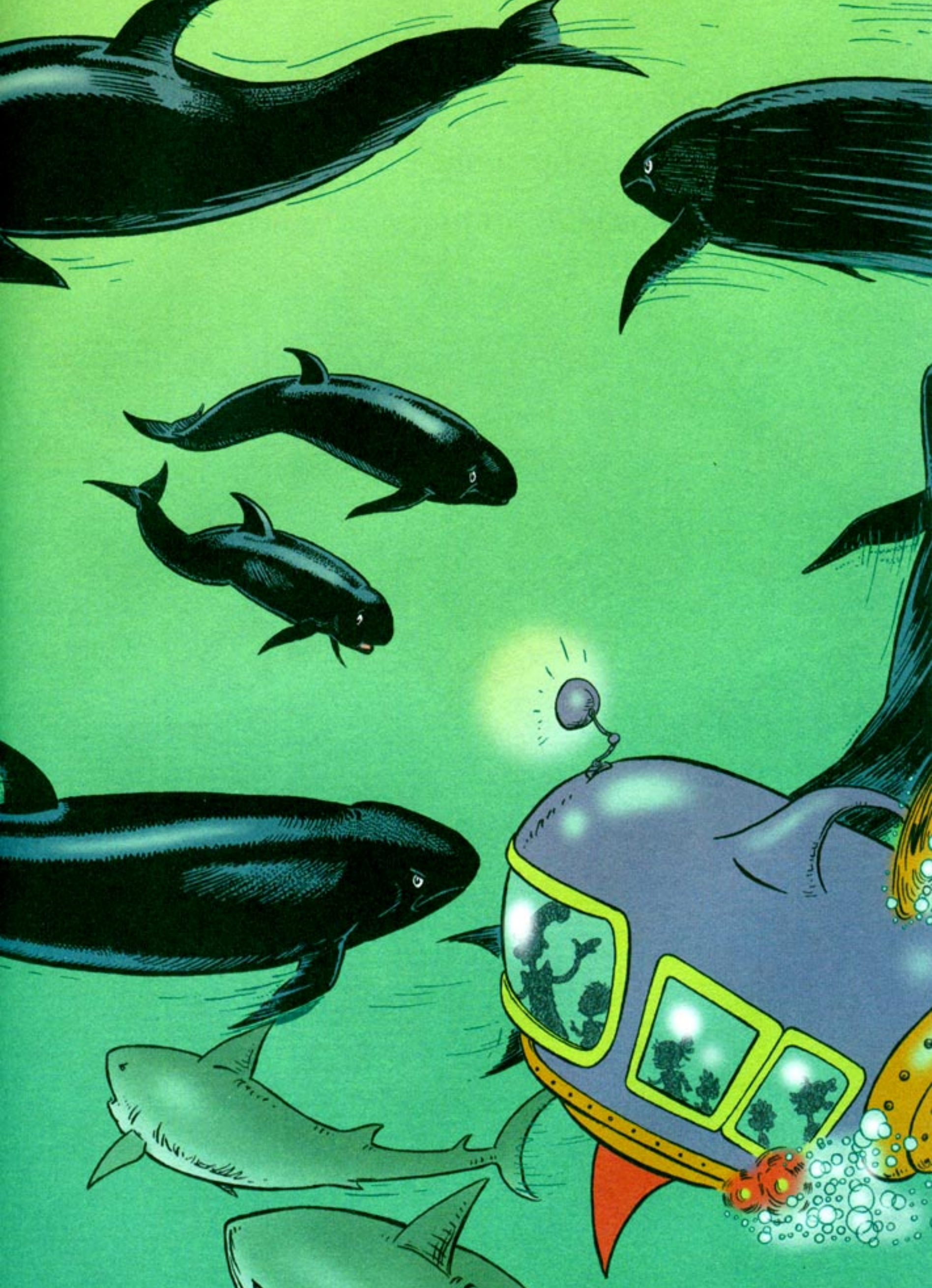


SPERM WHALE

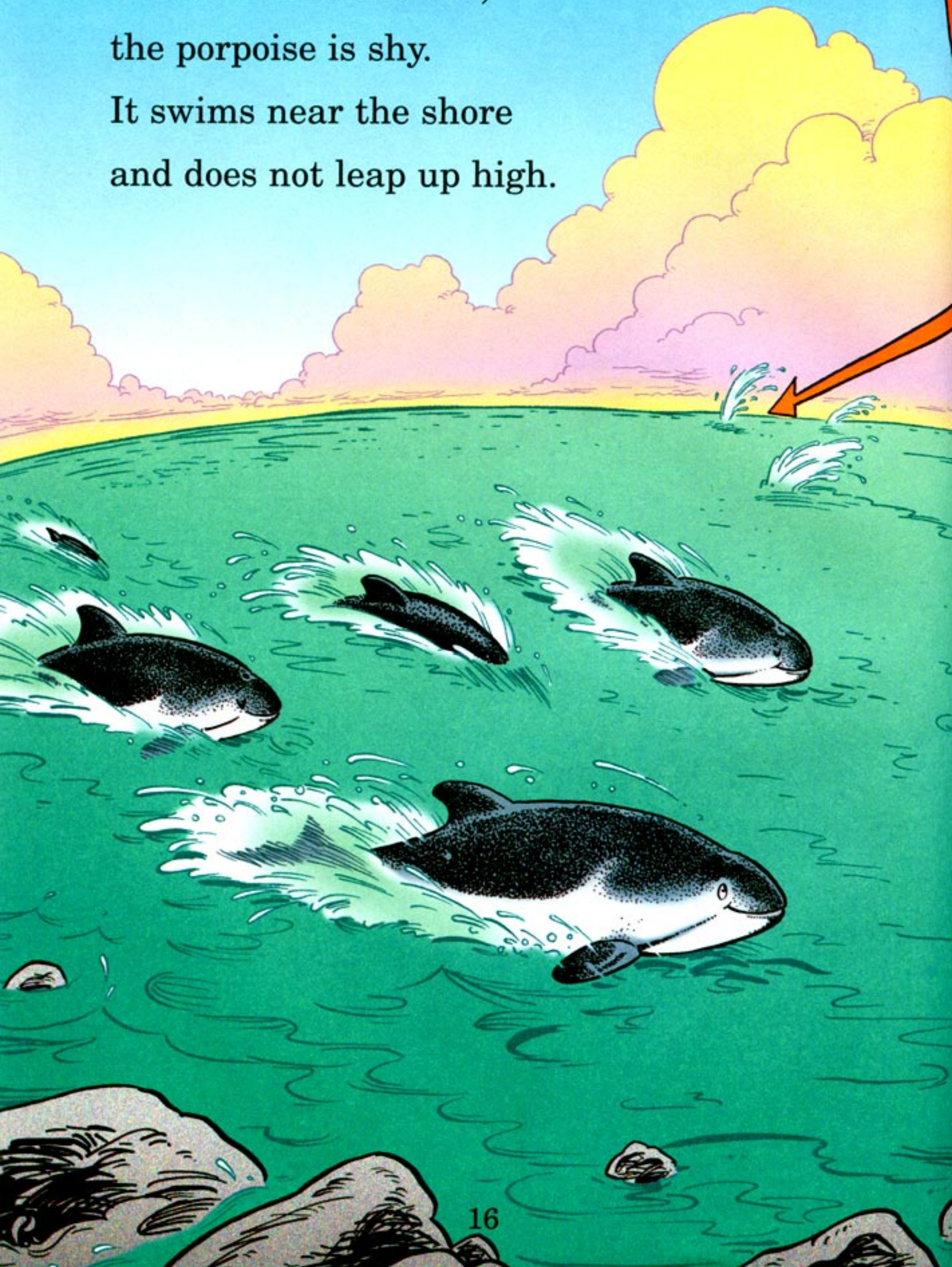
Most cetaceans we know like to swim in a troop. A pod is the name that we give to this group.



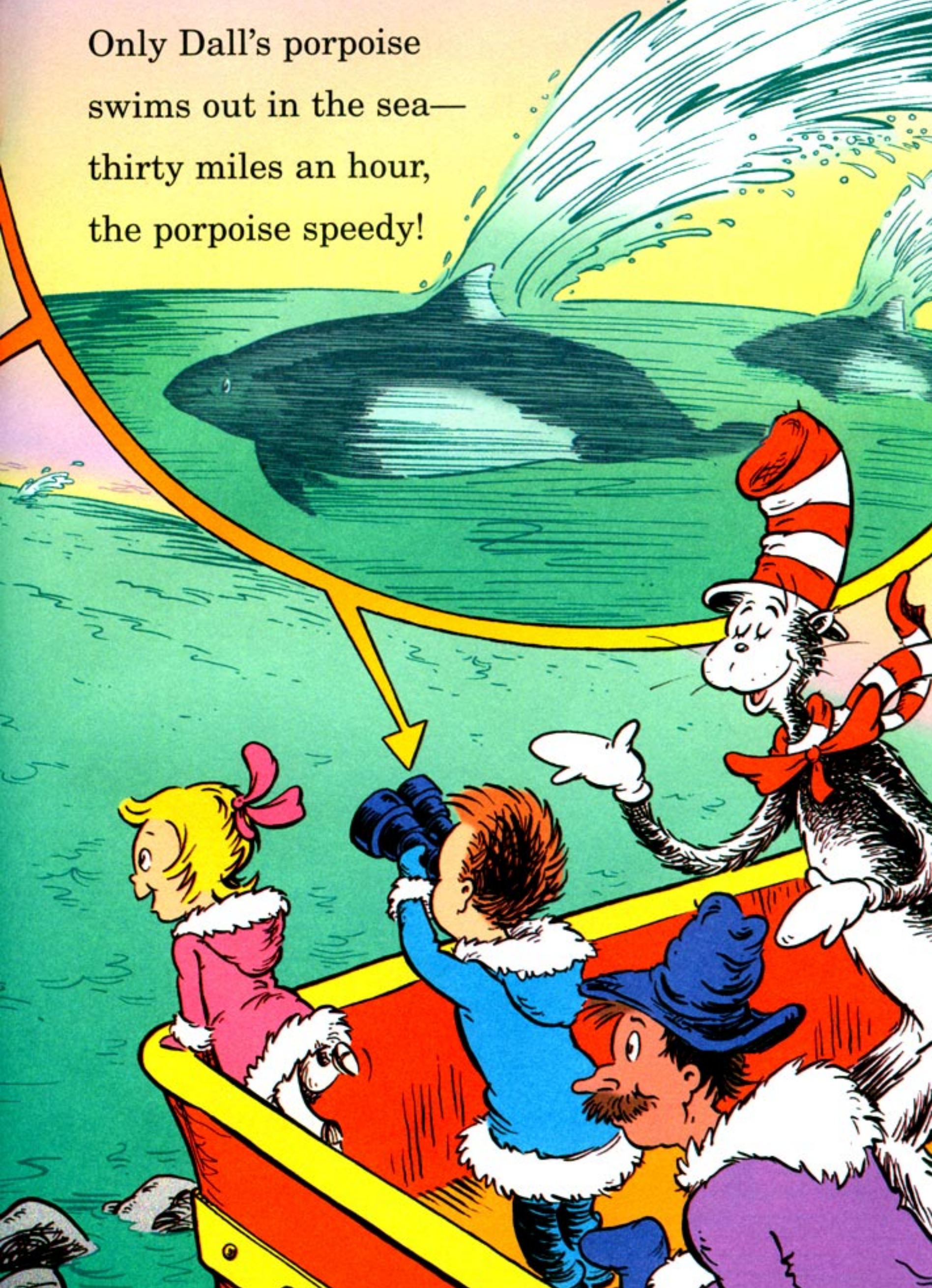
If danger is near, they will sound an alert to keep their young safe and help those who are hurt.



Because it is smallish,  
the porpoise is shy.  
It swims near the shore  
and does not leap up high.



Only Dall's porpoise  
swims out in the sea—  
thirty miles an hour,  
the porpoise speedy!

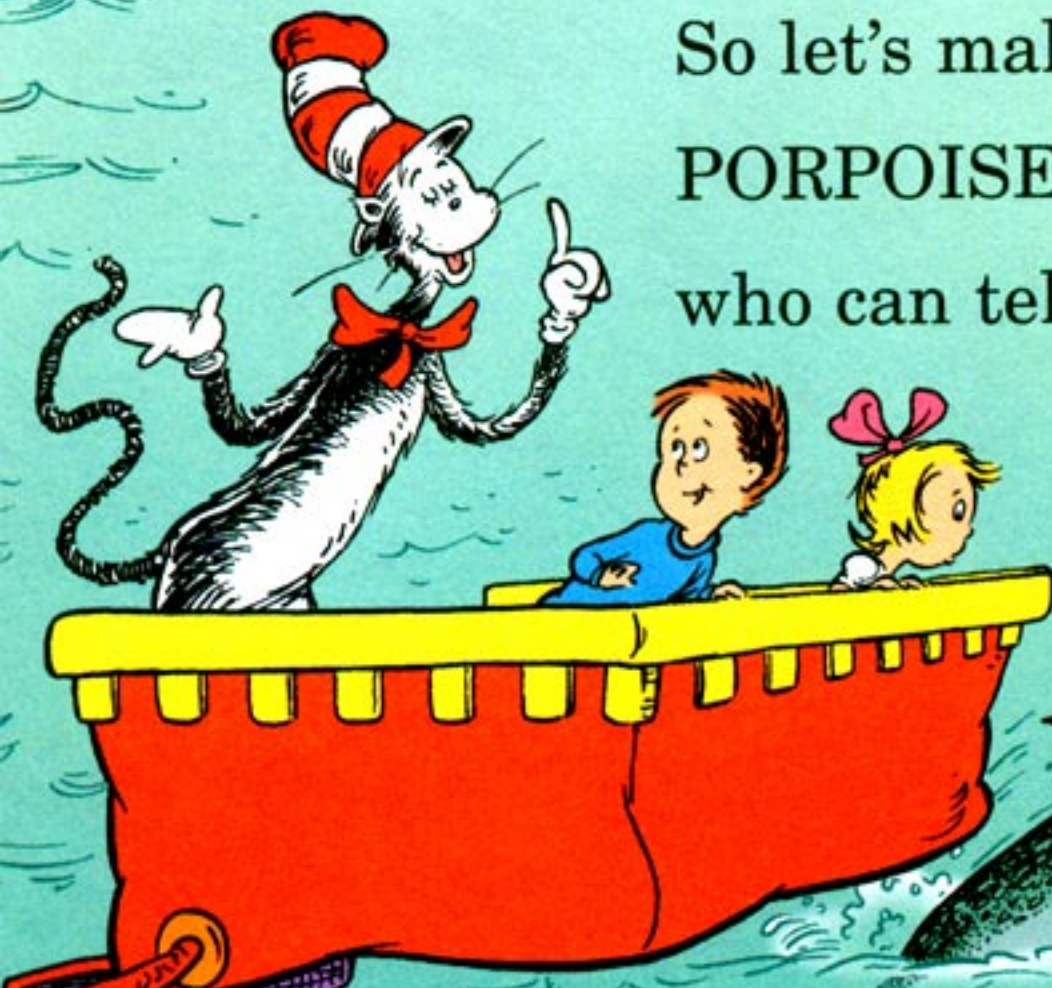


We can all play a game.

So let's make a start:

**PORPOISE OR DOLPHIN?—**

who can tell them apart?



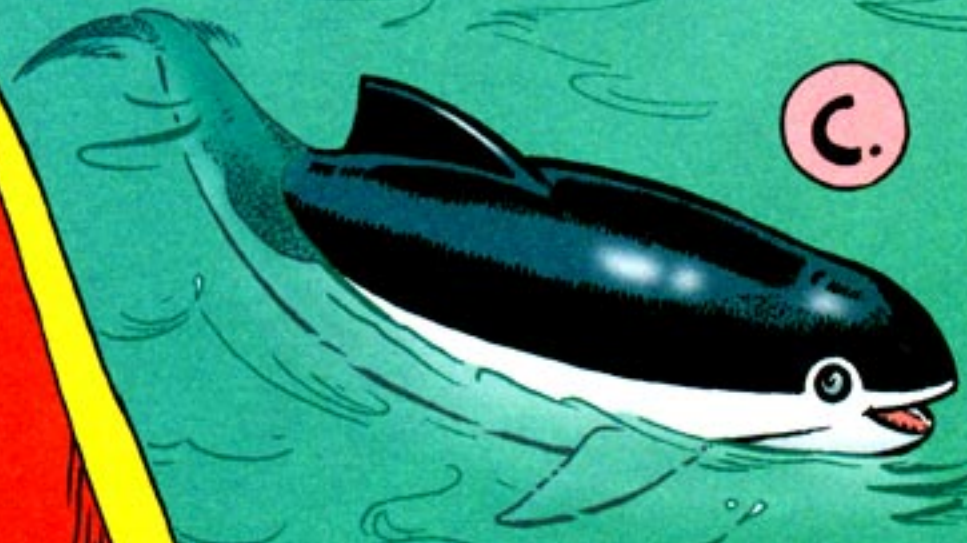
A.



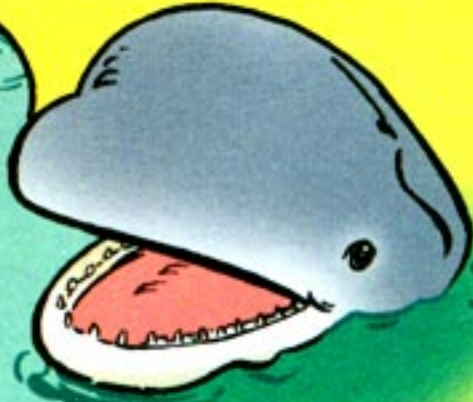
B.



C.



Porpoise teeth are flat.  
Dolphins' are cones.  
Porpoise noses are shorter,  
with delicate bones.



Porpoise or dolphin?  
It's easy to spot.  
Dolphins' noses are long,  
but porpoises' are not.

D.



E.



- A. SPOTTED DOLPHIN
- B. FINLESS PORPOISE
- C. SPECTACLED PORPOISE
- D. COMMON DOLPHIN
- E. BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

Of dolphins, there are about thirty-five types.

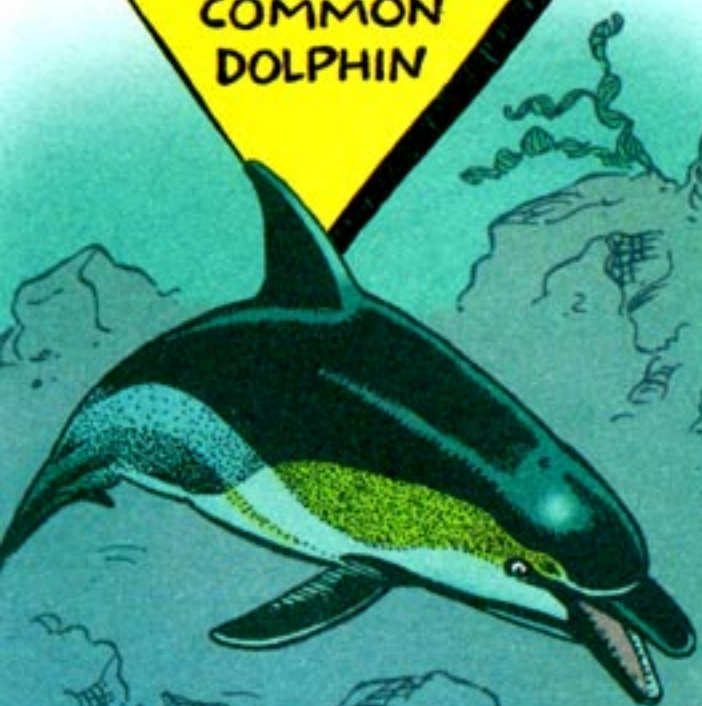
Some dolphins have patches and others have stripes.

**RISSEO'S DOLPHIN**



**FRASER'S DOLPHIN**

**SHORT-BEAKED COMMON DOLPHIN**



These markings are really a very good way of hiding the dolphins as they hunt their prey.





The smallest is five feet  
from its nose to its tail.

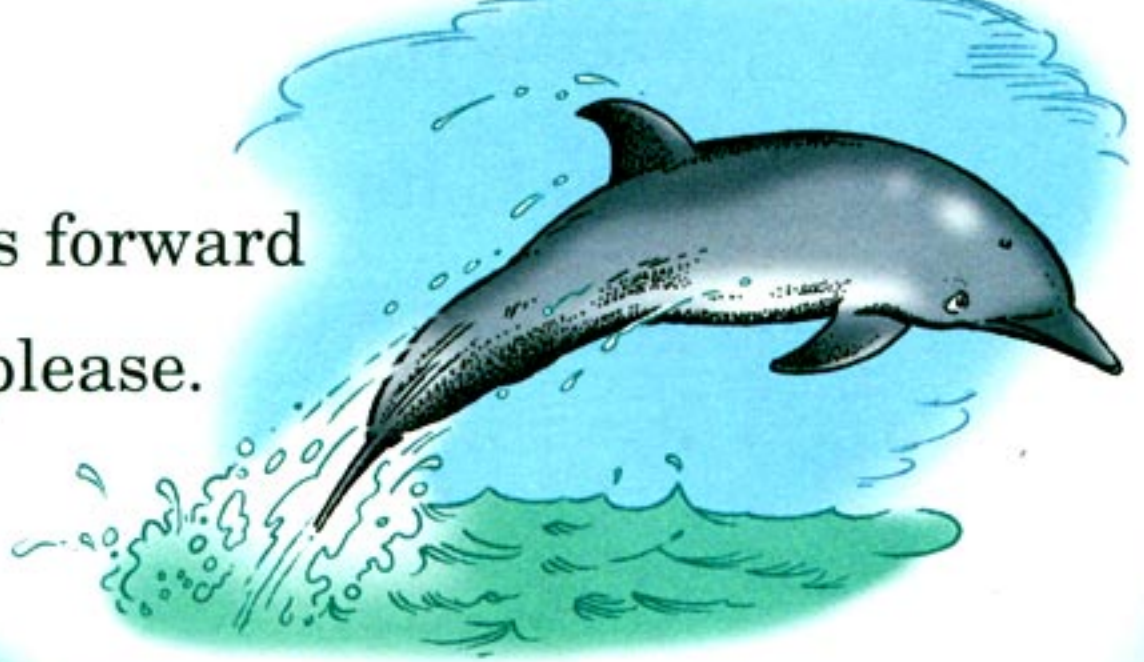
The largest is orca,  
or the killer whale.

ORCA

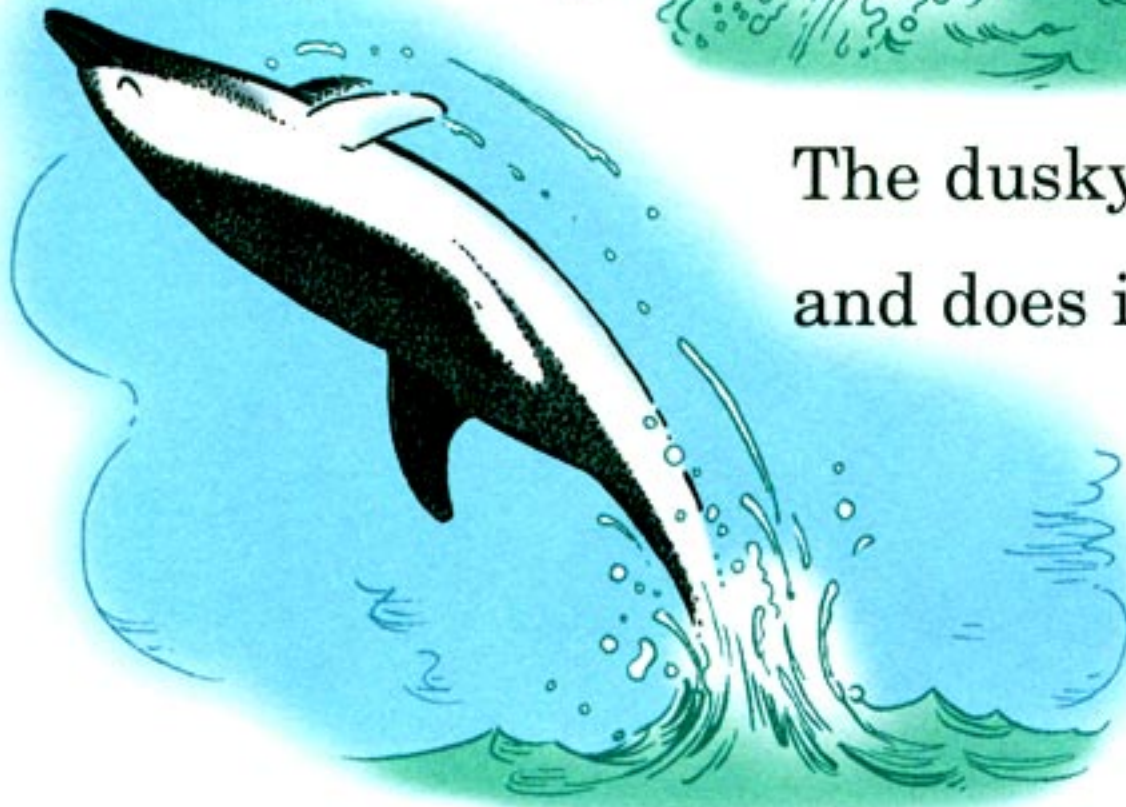
HECTOR'S  
DOLPHIN



Bottlenose leaps forward  
as neat as you please.



The dusky leaps backward  
and does it with ease.



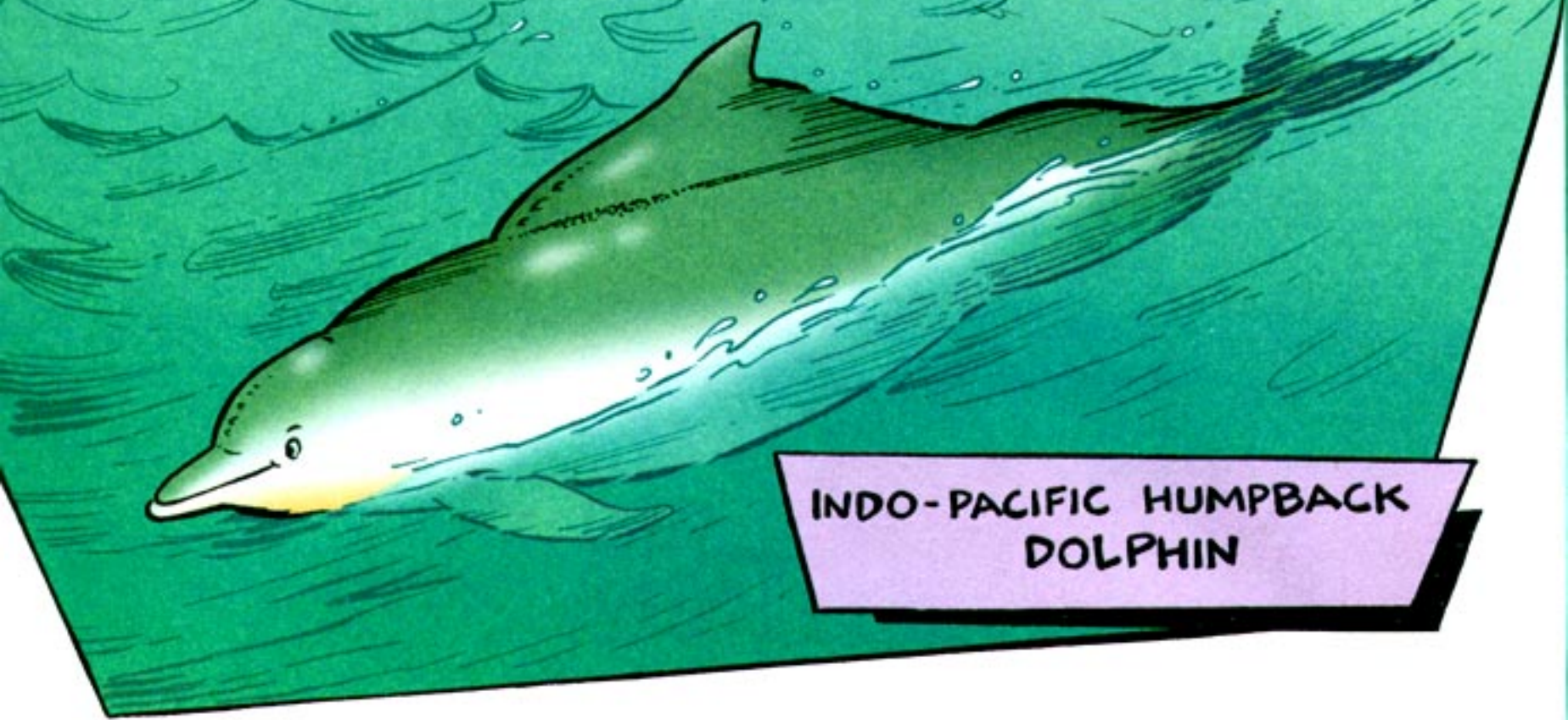
The one we call spinner,  
McElligot knows,  
spins round in the air—  
like a top, this guy goes!

And sometimes the spinner  
will come to a stop  
and peer out of the water.

It's called a "spyhop."

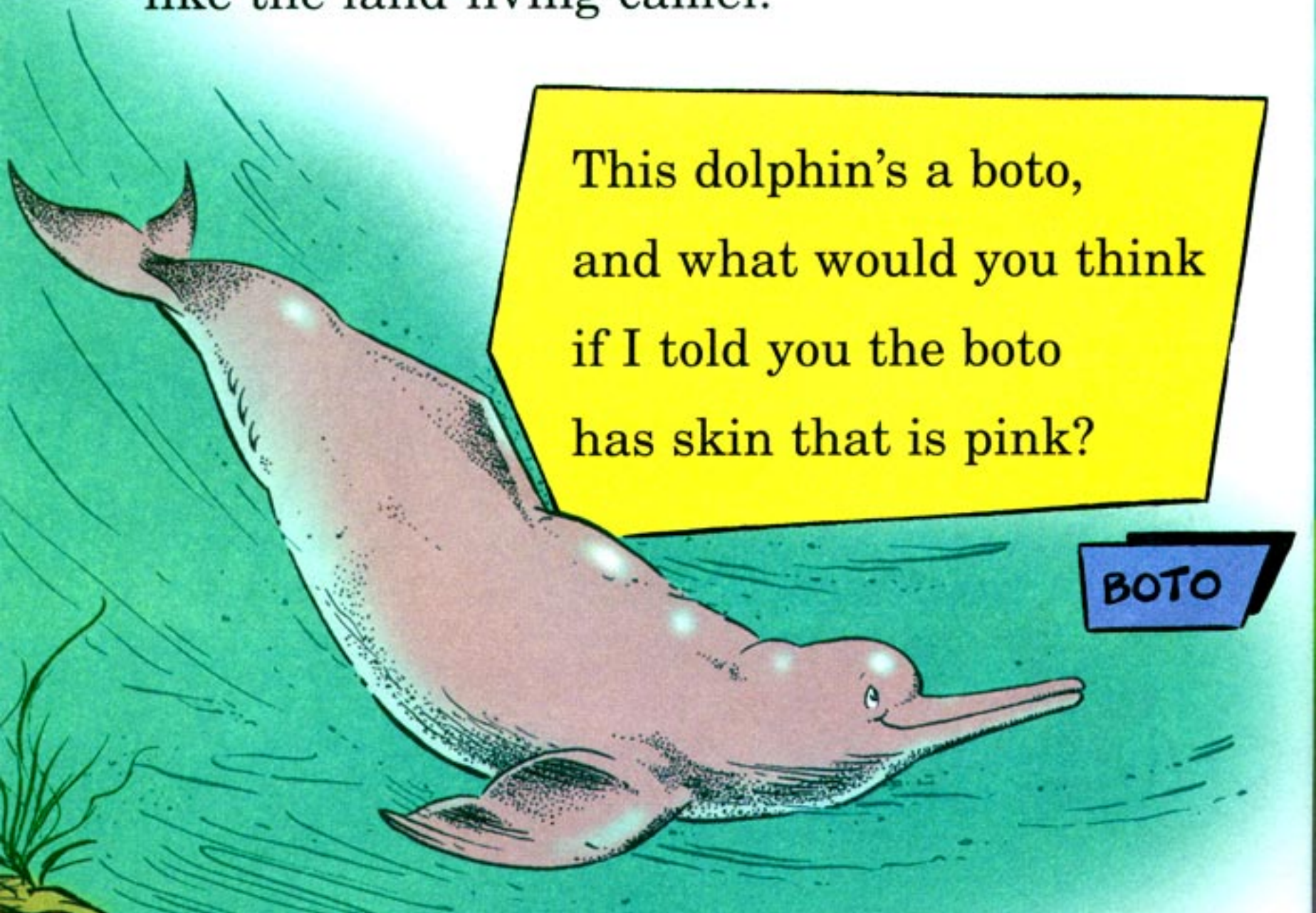






INDO-PACIFIC HUMPBACK  
DOLPHIN

This humpback is one very  
odd-looking mammal.  
Its back has a hump  
like the land-living camel.



This dolphin's a boto,  
and what would you think  
if I told you the boto  
has skin that is pink?

BOTO

The dolphin has a way of looking around by forming a picture that's made out of sound.

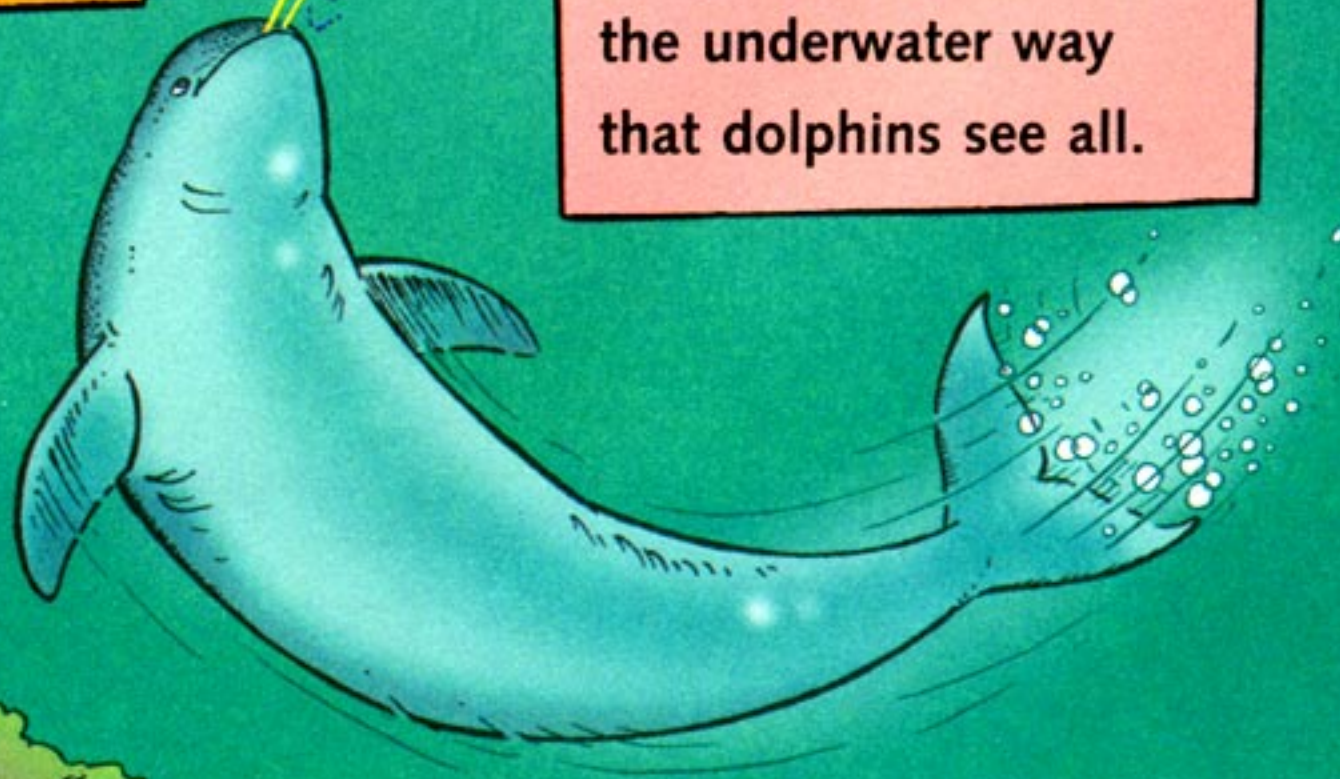
It sends out a sound at a high, steady rate.

The sound bouncing back makes its jawbone vibrate.

OUTGOING SIGNAL



IRRAWADDY DOLPHIN



RETURNING ECHOES

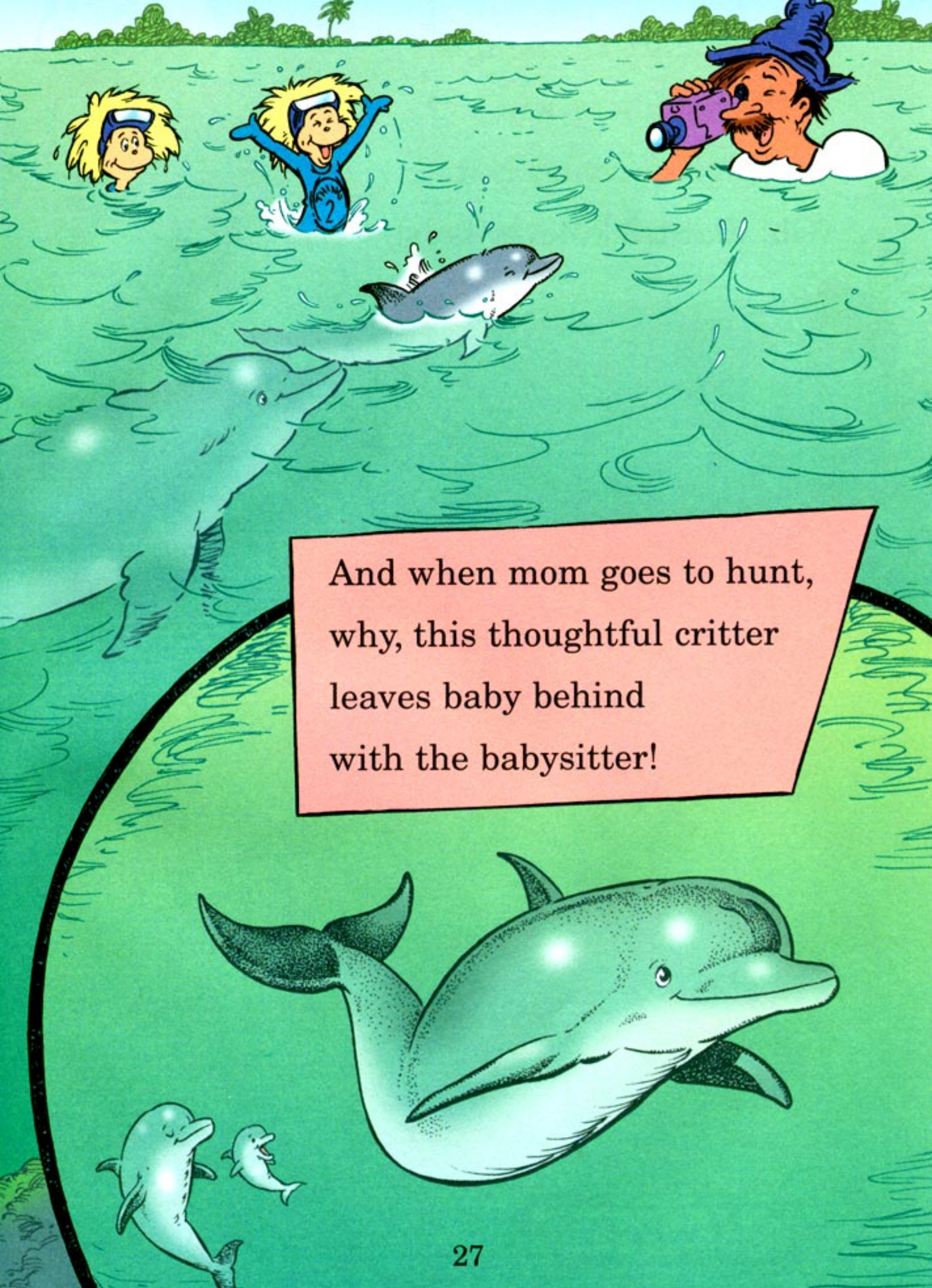
Echolocation is the word that we call the underwater way that dolphins see all.



Most dolphins could win  
Mommy of the Year.  
They care for their young  
and keep them quite near.

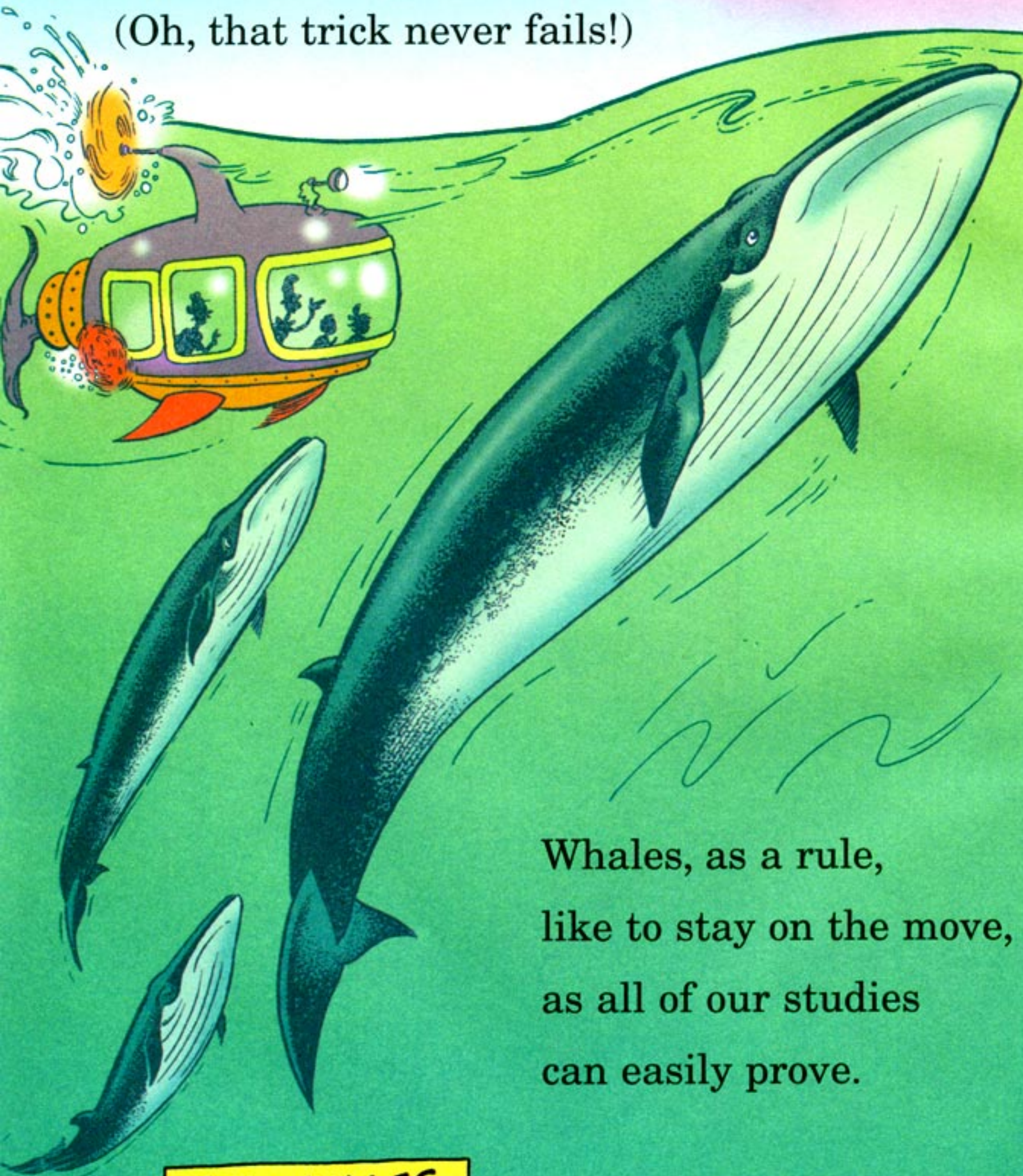
When dolphins are born,  
a nurse dolphin is there  
to bring baby up  
to breathe in its first air.





And when mom goes to hunt,  
why, this thoughtful critter  
leaves baby behind  
with the babysitter!

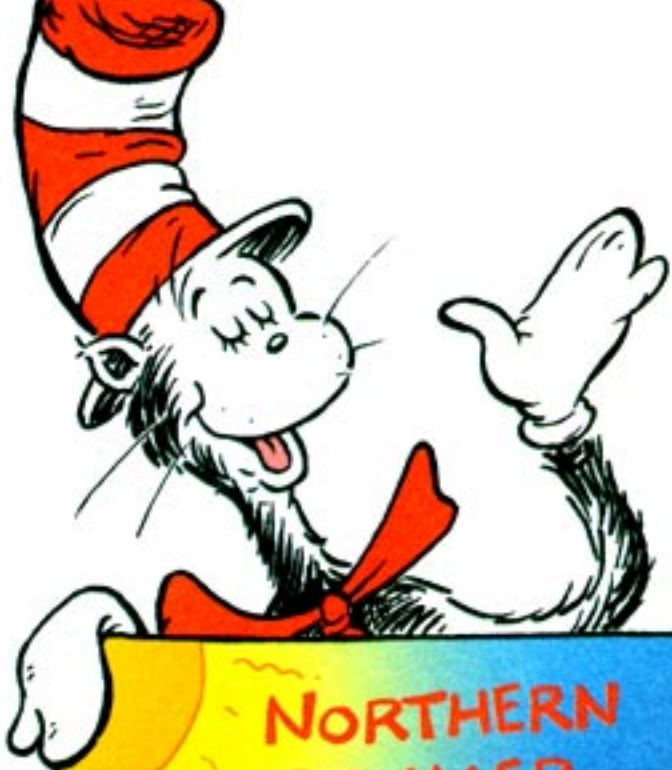
I bet you are thinking—  
hey, what about whales?  
The biggest comes last.  
(Oh, that trick never fails!)



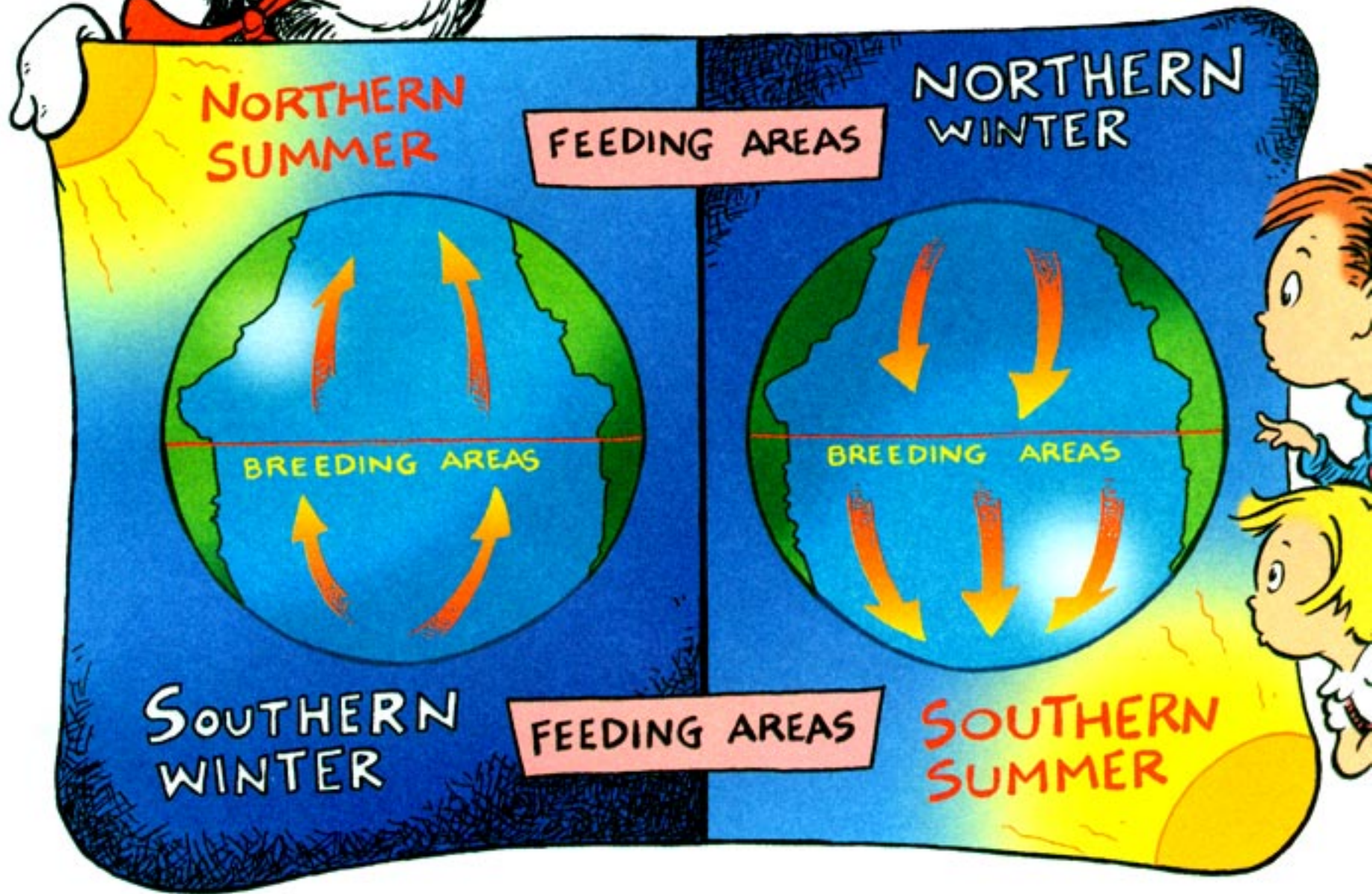
Whales, as a rule,  
like to stay on the move,  
as all of our studies  
can easily prove.

**SEI WHALES**





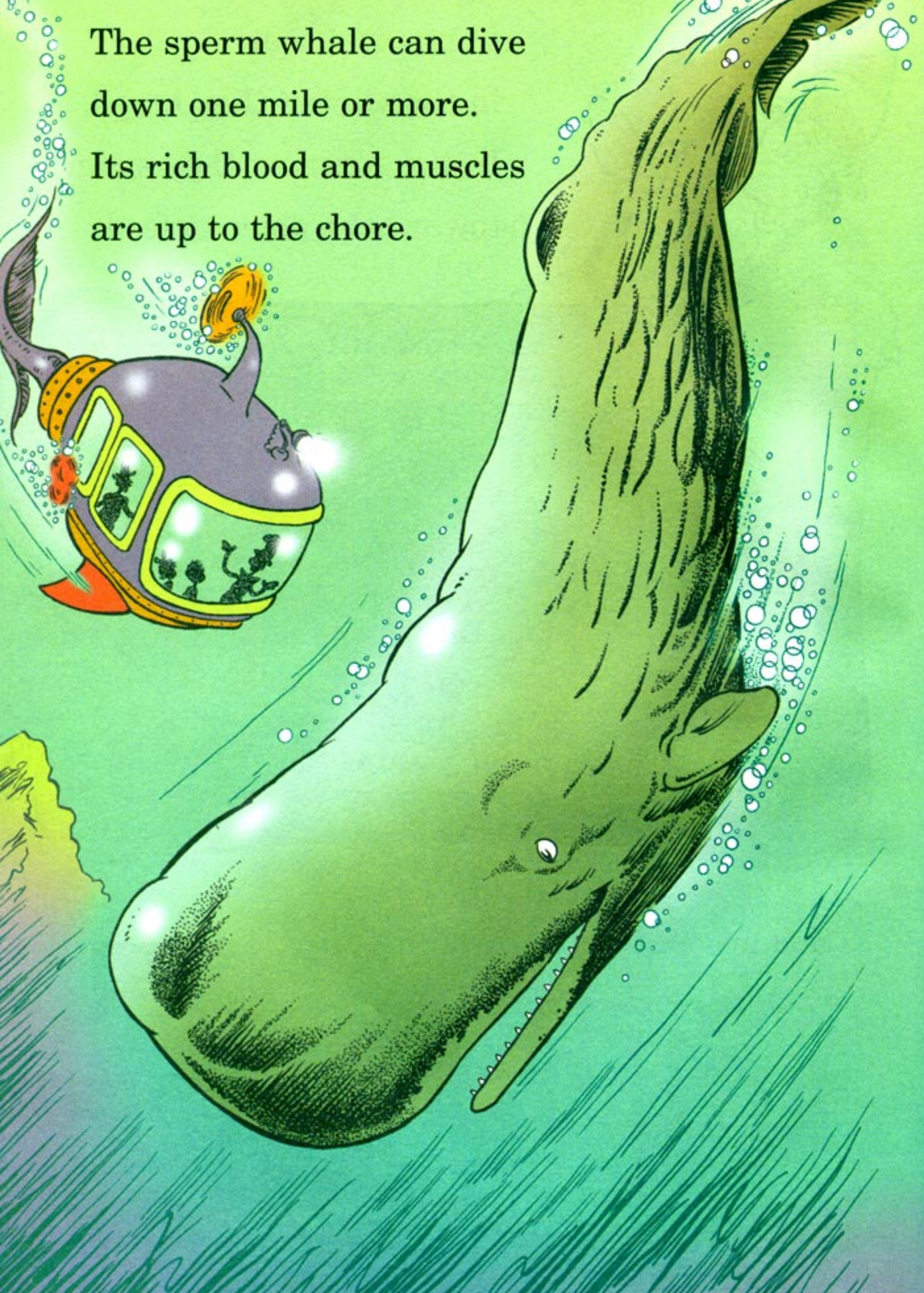
In tropical seas  
in the winter, they breed.  
In the summer, they swim  
toward the poles to feed.

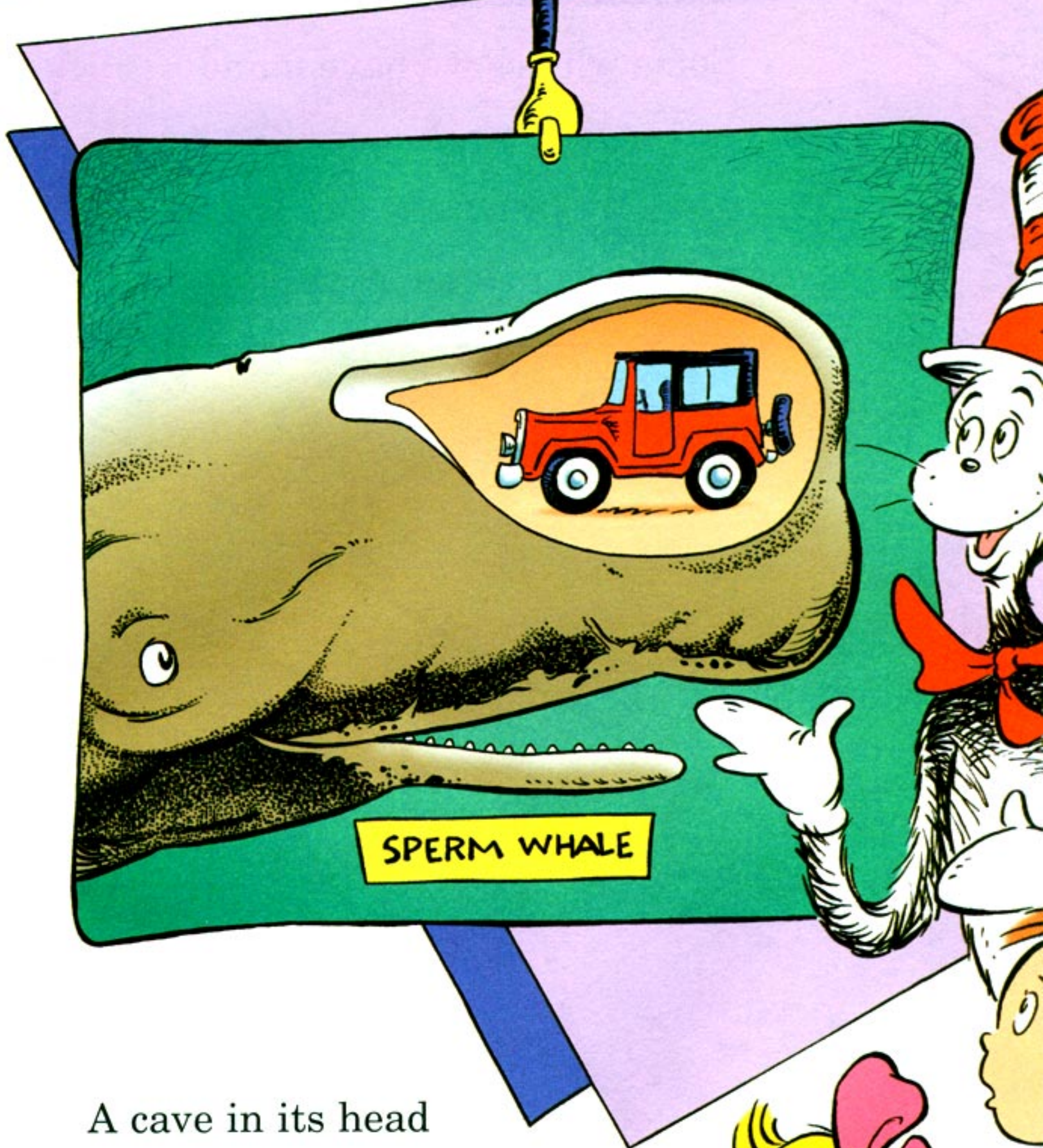


Some scientists tag whales  
with sensors or plates  
to study their habits, their  
lives, and their traits.



The sperm whale can dive  
down one mile or more.  
Its rich blood and muscles  
are up to the chore.





A cave in its head  
that's the size of a jeep  
weighs down the whale's body  
and helps it sink deep.


Some whales we have found  
have teeth much more like beaks.  
They live far from the land,  
but we've had a few peeks.



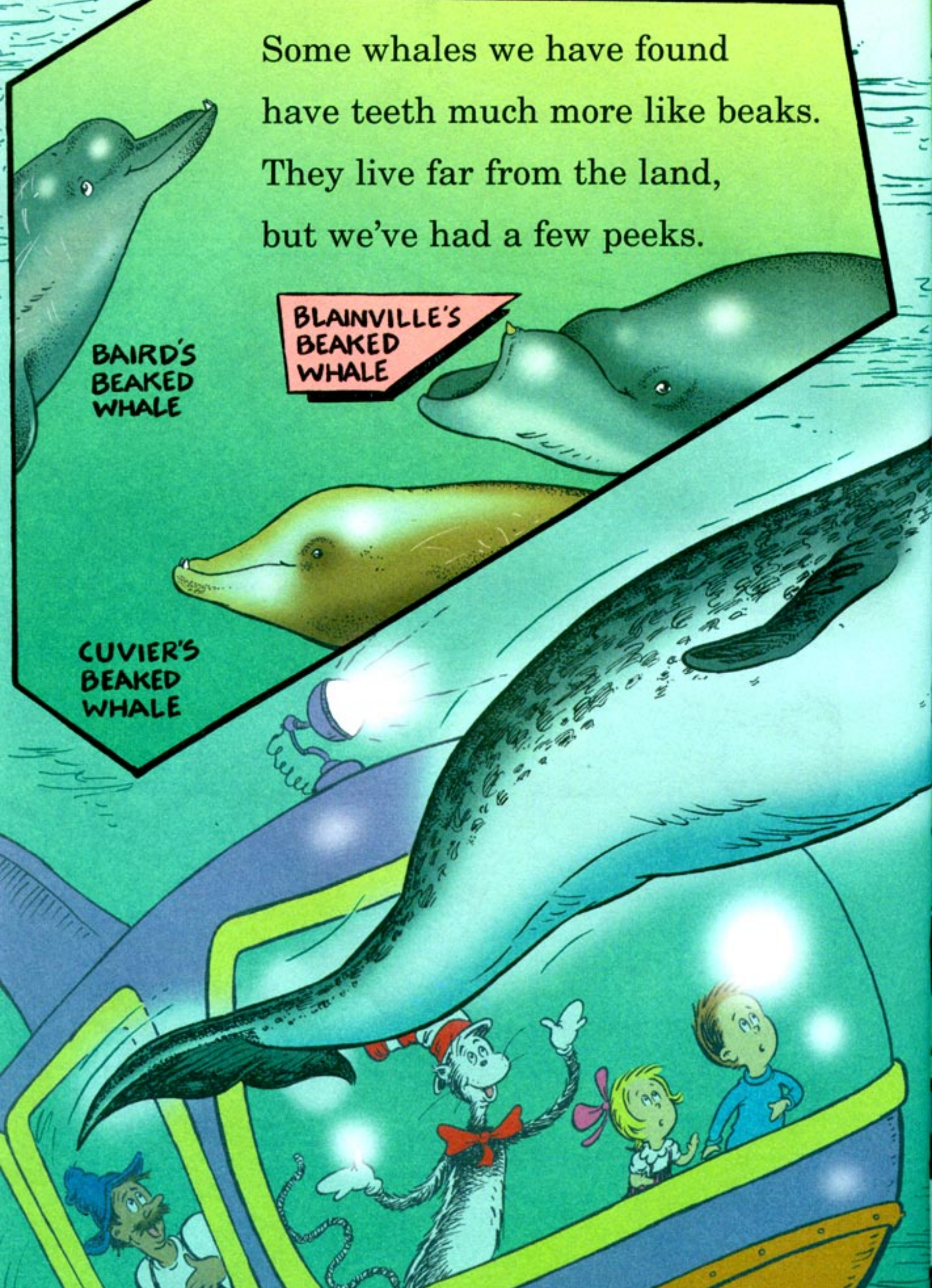
BAIRD'S  
BEAKED  
WHALE

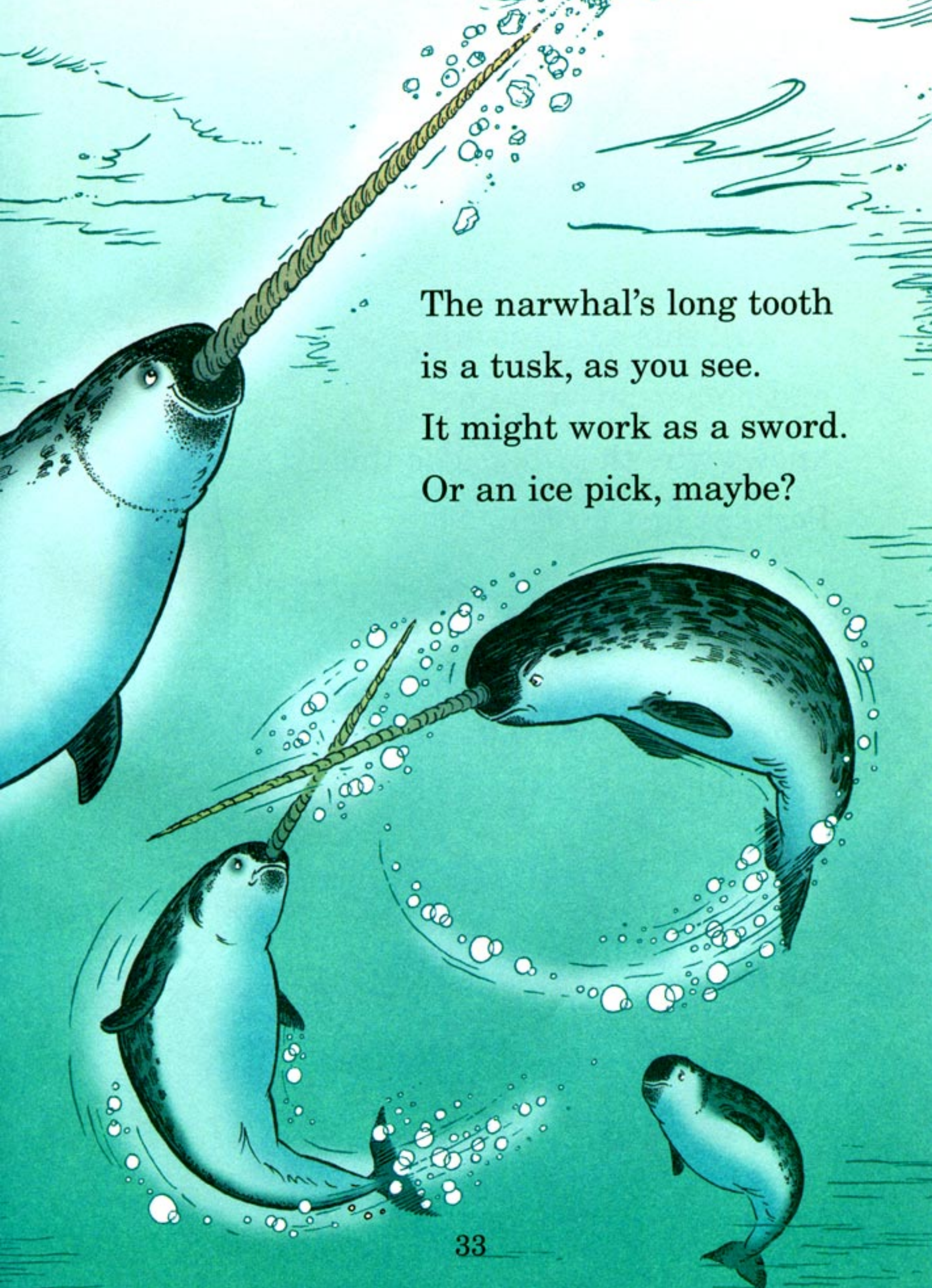


BLAINVILLE'S  
BEAKED  
WHALE



CUVIER'S  
BEAKED  
WHALE





The narwhal's long tooth  
is a tusk, as you see.  
It might work as a sword.  
Or an ice pick, maybe?

One day you might hear  
a big and loud SPLASH!!  
A whale has leapt up  
and come down with a CRASH!!!

We call this act breaching,  
and no person—not one!—  
knows why the whales do this.  
Perhaps just for fun?

The best breachers of all  
are these whales, they say:  
humpback and sperm,  
right whale and gray.

GRAY WHALE



HUMPBACK WHALE



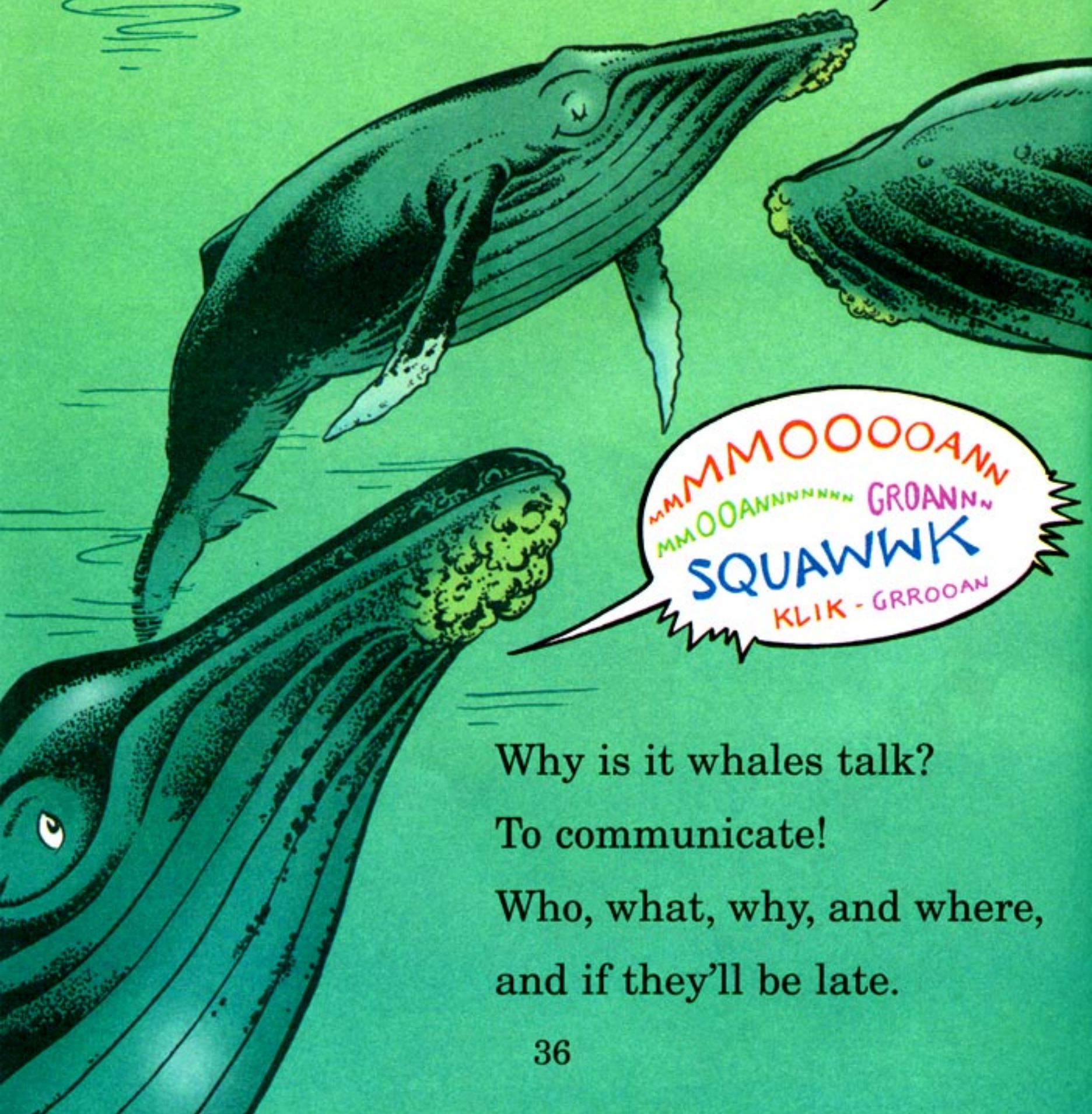
SPERM WHALE



RIGHT  
WHALES



The ocean is loud with the sounds of whales talking, their clicking and groaning and moaning and squawking.



Why is it whales talk?

To communicate!

Who, what, why, and where,  
and if they'll be late.

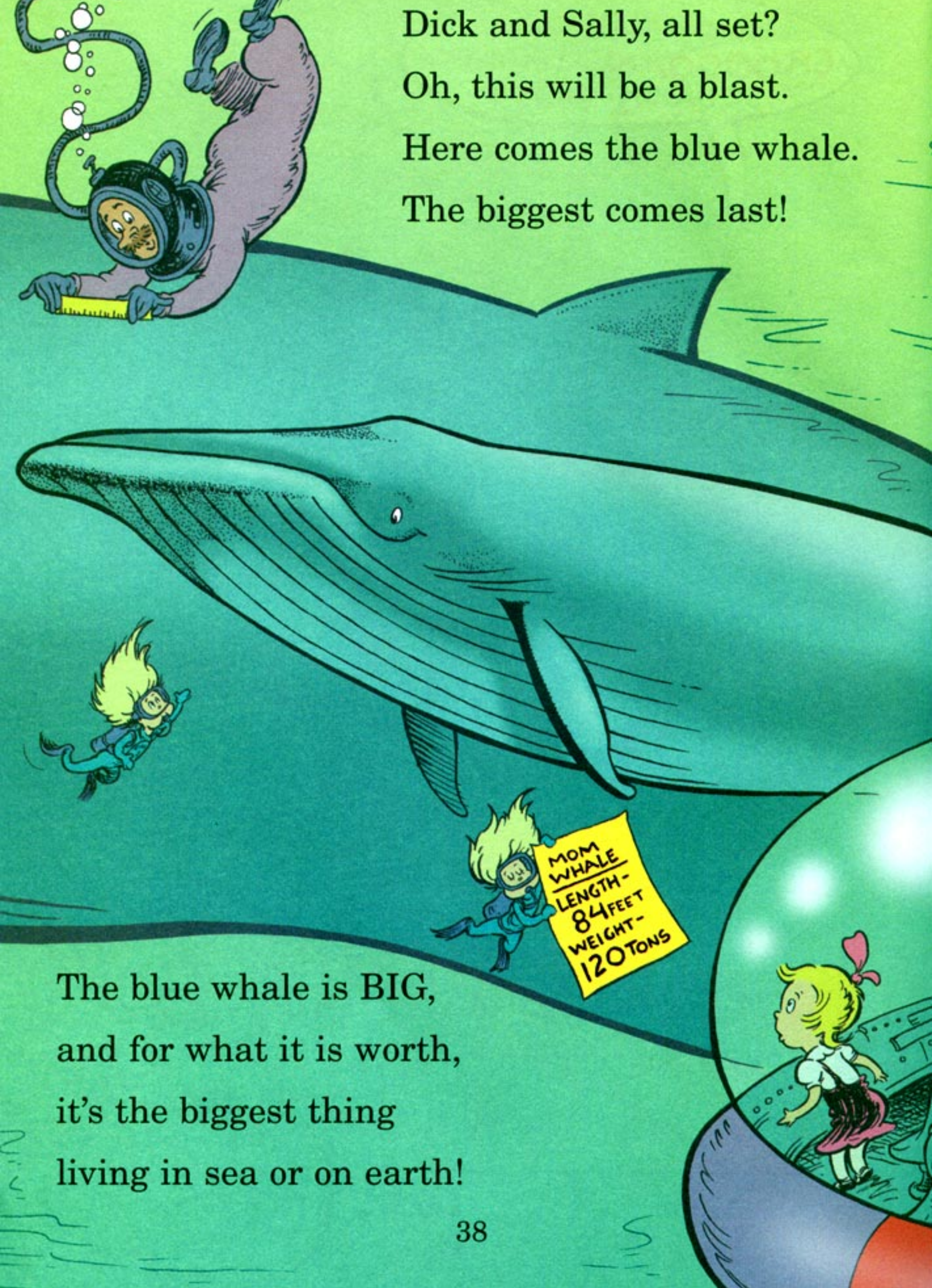


KLIK - KLIK - MODAAN  
GROOOOAN - KLIK - KLIK  
SQUAWK - KLIK KLIK



The humpback's sweet song  
won McElligot's heart.  
It even showed up  
on the pop music chart!





Dick and Sally, all set?  
Oh, this will be a blast.  
Here comes the blue whale.  
The biggest comes last!

The blue whale is **BIG**,  
and for what it is worth,  
it's the biggest thing  
living in sea or on earth!

The blue whale is big.

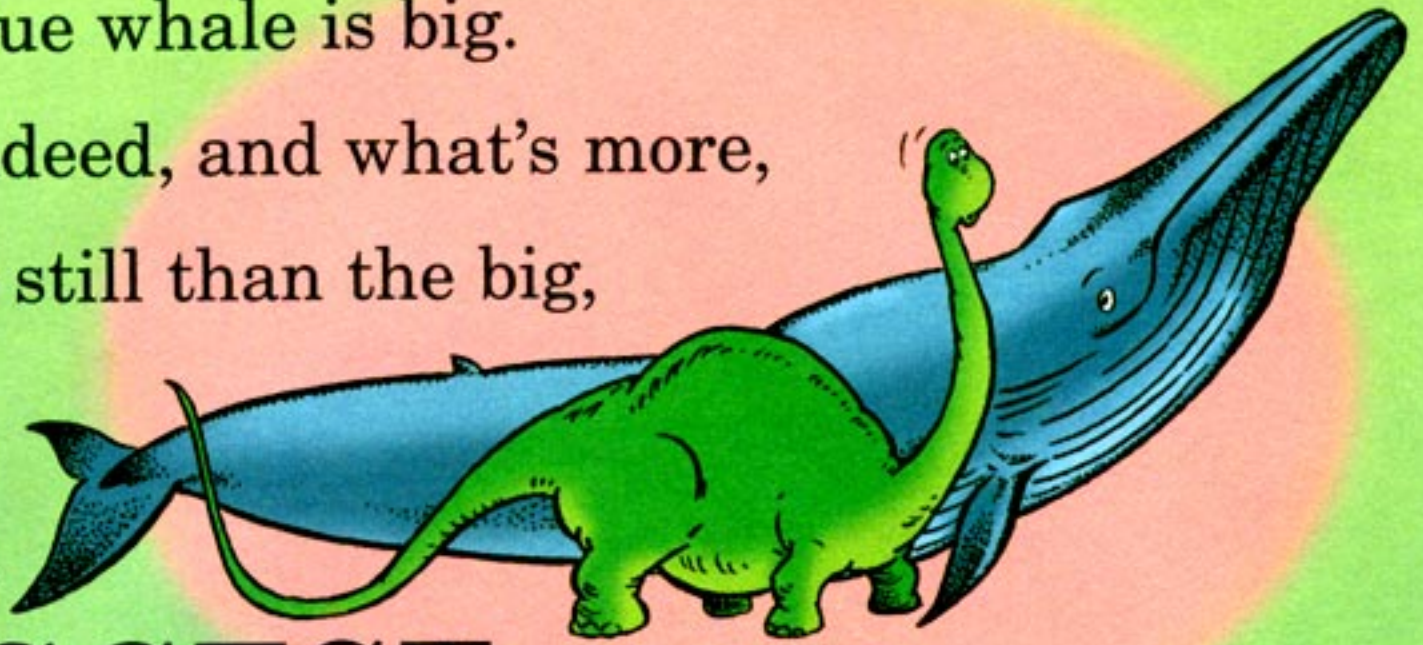
Yes, indeed, and what's more,  
bigger still than the big,

BIG,

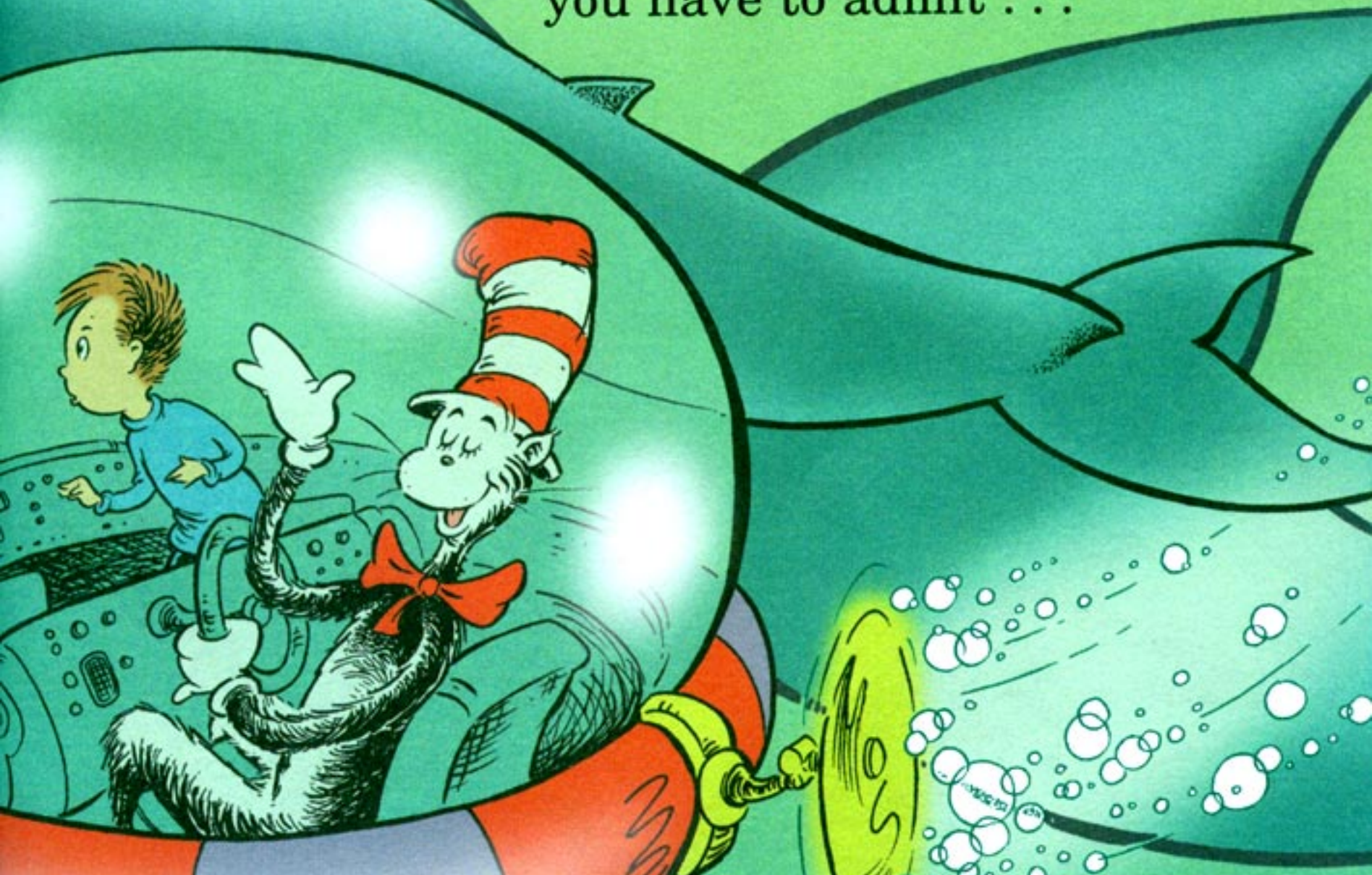
BIG,

**BIGGEST**

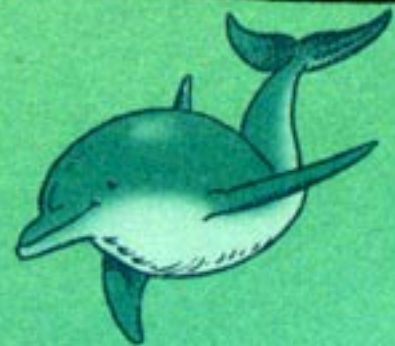
**DINOSAUR!**

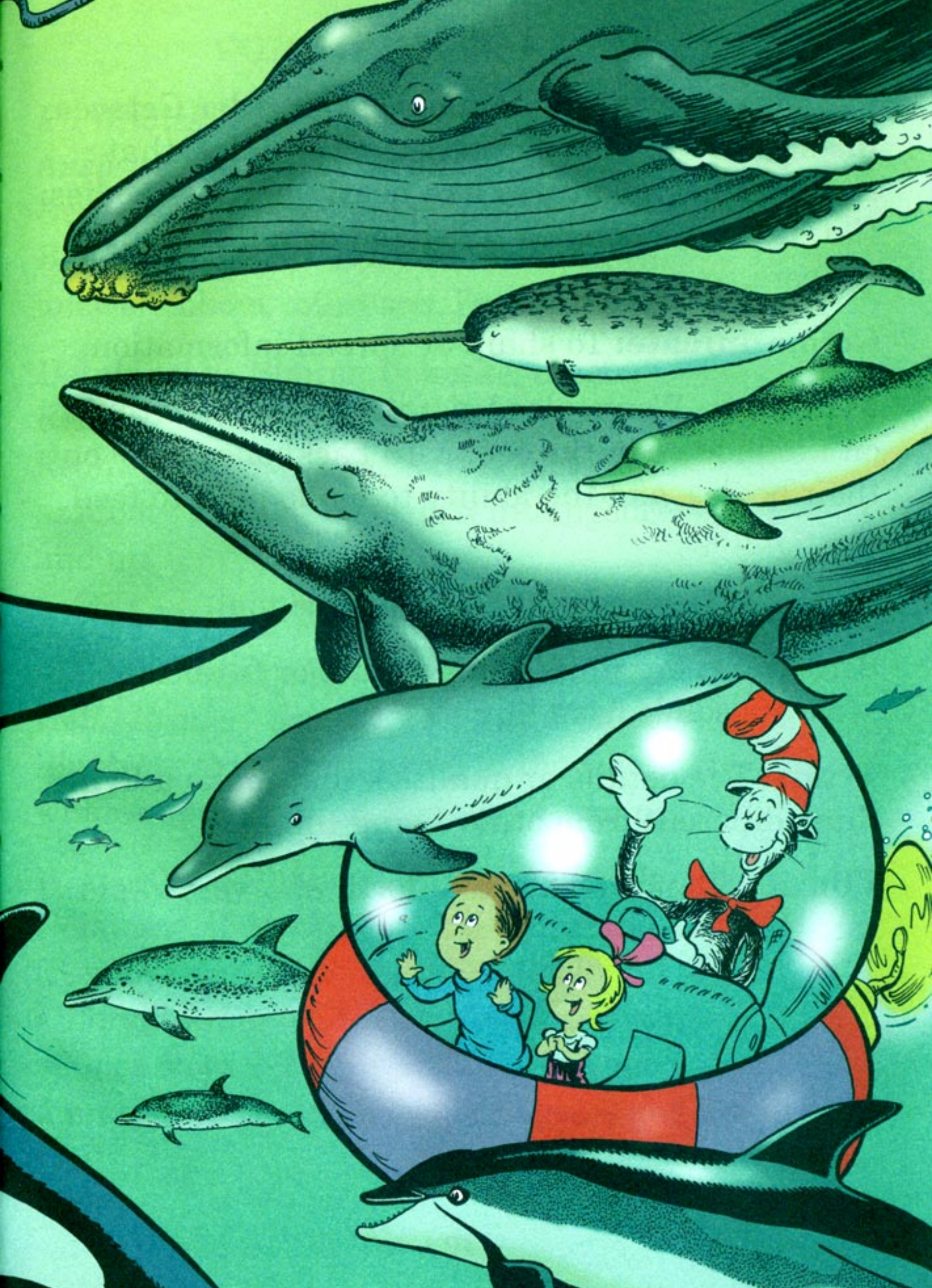


The story of the porpoise,  
the dolphin, and the whale,  
you have to admit . . .



... is a whale of a tale!







## GLOSSARY

**Cetaceans:** Water mammals of the order Cetacea, including dolphins, porpoises, and whales, that share common features like nearly hairless bodies; flat, (usually) notched tails; and arm-like front flippers.

**Communicate:** To share or spread information.

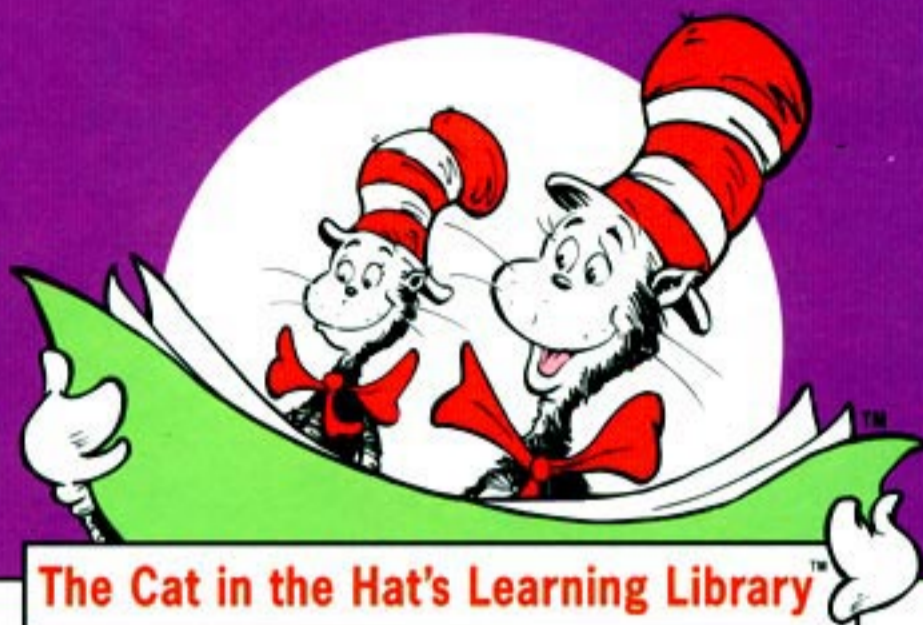
**Mammals:** Warm-blooded animals, living either on the land or in the sea, with backbones, hair on their bodies, and the ability to make milk to feed their young.

**Sensors:** Devices that can read a signal.

**Straining:** Passing through a net or filter to separate solids from liquids.

**Traits:** The details or qualities that make a living thing different from other living things.

**Vibrate:** To move back and forth at a very rapid rate.



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—*Barbara Kiefer, Ph.D.,  
Charlotte S. Huck Professor  
of Children’s Literature,  
The Ohio State University*

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