

Blue Whale Barrel Roll

Blue whales can grow to 90 feet—that's longer than a tennis court. Getting that big requires a lot of fuel, says Jeremy Goldbogen, a postdoctoral researcher at the Cascadia Research Collective. That's why Goldbogen studies the whales' dining habits. They feed on krill, slurping in millions of the mini crustaceans along with hundreds of thousands of pounds of water in a single gulp. With the help of data tags and a National Geographic Crittercam, Goldbogen and colleagues found that blue whales do underwater acrobatics while they eat—specifically a move they coined the “blue whale barrel roll”.

(Taken from Science Friday website: <http://sciencefriday.com/video/12/07/2012/blue-whale-barrel-roll.html>)

Part One: Based on what you read

Thinking about the text:

1. What kind of sentences does this author like to write? Long? Short? Descriptive? Unusual?

I think the author uses long sentences. He also uses very formal language. I think he uses very long sentences because, in his first sentence, he wrote 13 words. That's not really long, but in his 2nd sentence, he types 19 words followed by an 8 word sentence.

2. Who is “speaking” in the passage? I don't think anyone is speaking in the passage except Jeremy Goldbogen.

Does the speaker have a particular point of view? How do you know?

Yes. The point of view is from Mr. Goldbogens point of view.

3. Does the author use any analogies? yes

If “yes”, please highlight the analogies in yellow in the passage above.

4. What do you think was most important to the author when he or she sat down to write this piece? I think what he/she thought was more important was the barrel roll because that is what they named the document.

Thinking about Vocabulary:

1. What do you think crustaceans are?

I think crustaceans are animals with hard shells. For example, crabs, shellfish, snails, and lobster.

2. Would you want to be a “postdoctoral researcher”? No.

3. What information did the author give you about a “postdoctoral researcher” to help you answer that question?

It says that all they do is study the animal’s dining habits. To me that is really boring.

Part Two: After watching the video

Thinking about the author’s choices:

1. Make a list of words that the author didn’t use, but you think he/she ought to have used when writing this piece.

I think the author should have used the words Dining Habits because it says that in the writing.

2. Use one word, and one word only, to identify the intent of the author when he/she wrote this piece.

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