

HOW THE WHALE GOT HIS THROAT

by Rudyard Kipling

Once upon a time there was a giant Whale who lived deep in the sea. He was always hungry, and more than anything he loved to eat fish of all different kinds: mackerel, salmon, tuna, crab, octopus, squid, eel and more. He ate and ate, until there was only one fish left in the whole sea!

Luckily, the Last Fish in the sea was a clever one. Before the hungry Whale could chase him, the Last Fish took a bow and asked, "Oh, mighty Whale, have you ever tasted man?"

"No," said the Whale, who was a bit confused, "What is it like?"

"Oh, it's delicious," said the clever Last Fish, "And it will really fill you up. I saw one just the other day sitting on a raft in the middle of the sea. He is a shipwrecked sailor. Go and find him!"

So the Whale swam and swam, until he came upon a raggedy sailor, alone on a wooden raft. The hungry Whale crept up, opened his mouth wide and swallowed the sailor, raft and all. But it was not as the clever Last Fish had said—this man was not delicious at all! He kicked and danced, pranced and punched at the inside of the Whale's belly.

Annoyed, the Whale swam around trying to find that clever Last Fish, but he'd already made his escape. "This man is making me hiccup," the Whale said to himself, "What should I do?" Suddenly, from inside his belly the Whale heard a man's yell: "Take me home, to Albion, or I'll kick as hard as ever!"

The poor, hiccupping Whale had no choice but to swim the man home. After he escaped, the man lived happily ever after. And so did the Whale, but he had forgotten about the raft that was lodged in his throat. It was like a permanent sift! From then on, it prevented the Whale from eating anything except tiny fish.

And that was how the Whale got his throat.

Activities

Draw a line from the word to its meaning.

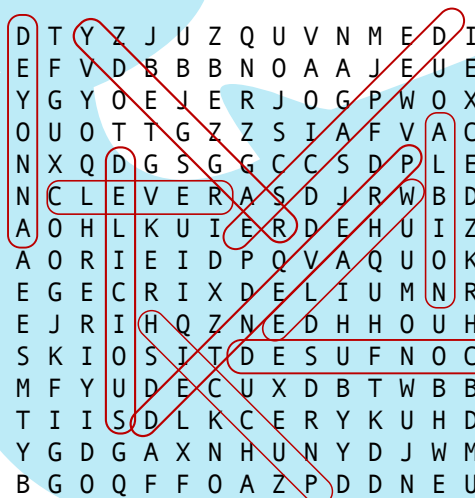
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| 1. clever | Without understanding; mixed up |
| 2. confused | Having a good taste or smell |
| 3. delicious | Torn or worn-out |
| 4. raggedy | Smart or bright |

Write the best word in the blank to complete the sentence.

clever, confused, delicious, raggedy

1. My mother cooked my favorite dinner and it was delicious.
2. The scarecrow had raggedy clothes.
3. The clever policeman solved the crime.
4. John was confused and got lost on the way home.

WORD SEARCH



WORD LIST
Albion
Annoyed
Clever
Confused
Delicious
Escaped
Hiccup
Prevented
Raggedy
Whale