

Diving Deep into "Blueback": Character, Setting, and Conservation

Materials:

- Copy of "Blueback" by Tim Winton
- Notebook or Journal
- Pens or Pencils
- Computer with internet access
- Optional: Colored pencils, markers, drawing paper

Lesson Activities:

1. Introduction (10 mins):

Think about the ocean. What words, feelings, or images come to mind? Have you ever felt a strong connection to a place in nature? Briefly jot down your thoughts. Today, we're exploring the world of "Blueback" and its connection to the sea.

2. Character Spotlight: Abel's Journey (20 mins):

- Read or review key sections focusing on Abel Jackson.
- In your notebook, create a character map for Abel. Include:
 - His personality traits at the beginning vs. the end.
 - Key events that changed him.
 - His relationship with his mother, Dora.
 - His connection to Blueback (the groper) and the bay.
- Discuss: How does Abel change? What causes these changes?

3. Setting the Scene: Longboat Bay (15 mins):

- Find descriptions of Longboat Bay in the book.
- Write a paragraph describing the bay in your own words, using details from the text.
- Discuss: Why is this setting so important to Abel and Dora? How does the health of the bay affect the story?

4. Theme Exploration: The Call for Conservation (20 mins):

- "Blueback" carries a strong message about protecting the environment. Find examples in the text where characters show concern for the bay or take action to protect it.
- List these examples in your notebook.
- Discuss: What is the author's main message about conservation? How is this message shown through the characters and events?

5. Reality Check: Marine Life (15 mins):

- Choose one marine creature mentioned prominently in the book (e.g., groper, abalone, crayfish).
- Use the internet to research 2-3 interesting facts about this creature (its habitat, diet, conservation status, etc.).
- Compare your findings to how the creature is portrayed in the book. Are the descriptions accurate?

6. Optional Creative Extension (15-20 mins):

- Create a poster or write a short persuasive paragraph advocating for the protection of a place like Longboat Bay, using ideas and inspiration from the book.

7. Wrap-up & Reflection (10 mins):

- In your journal, answer one of the following prompts:
 - How did Abel's connection to Longboat Bay shape his life and decisions?
 - What does "Blueback" teach us about our responsibility towards the natural world?
 - If you could ask Tim Winton one question about the book, what would it be and why?