**Small Group Read Aloud Program: Integrative Strategy Guide**

**Title:** Following Papa’s Song

**Author/Illustrator:** Gianna Marino

**Age Range:** 4-7

**Topics/Themes:** migration, whales, father/son

See video of this book read aloud here: [Following Papa’s Song](#)

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**I. COMPONENTS OF BOOK (REVIEW EACH SESSION)**

Author, Illustrator (roles of each)

Title; front and back covers; spine

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**II. INTRODUCTION—BEFORE READING:**

Model a think-aloud strategy with the students:

- What type of animals are on the cover?
- Where do you think this story takes place? What makes you say that?
- Can you guess which whale is Papa? Why?
- What kind of song does a whale sing? (If you have a recording on your tablet of whale song, play it for students)

**DURING READING:**

- p. 1. What time of daytime "dawn"?
- p. 6. How will papa's song help Little Blue know where to go?
- p. 14. What do you predict the flash in the darkness is?
- p. 22. How is Little Blue feeling? Share with the others why you think that.
- p. 23. Do you remember what Papa told Little Blue to do at the beginning of the story? Why does he need to listen for his papa's song?

**POST READING:**

- Conduct a picture walk with the students, asking students to retell as you go.
- Is the story fiction, a make-believe? Or, is the story non-fiction, true information that gives you facts to explain something? What makes you think that?
- What happened in the story that could not have happened in real life?
- Why did Papa sing for Little Blue?
- Where do you think they were going? MANY? (Migrating to warmer waters – feeding and breeding)
- Why did the author write this story? I what was her message?

**SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITY:**

What kind of whale is in the story? Have real picture of humpback whales to share. Facts to share can be found at:

[HTTP://WWW.WHALEFACTS.ORG/HUMPBACK-WHALE-FACTS/](#)