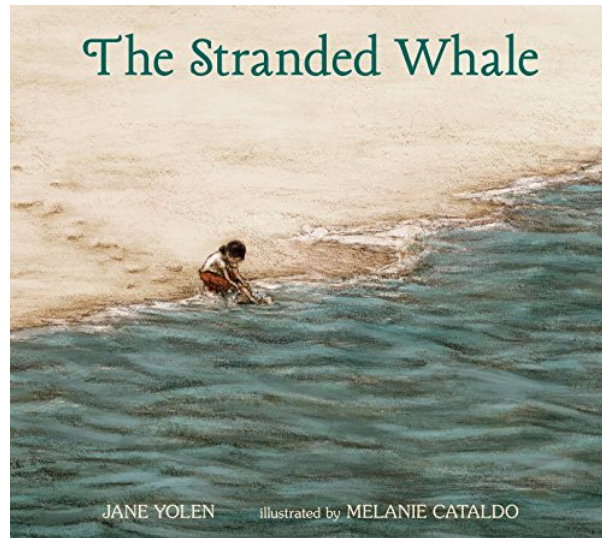


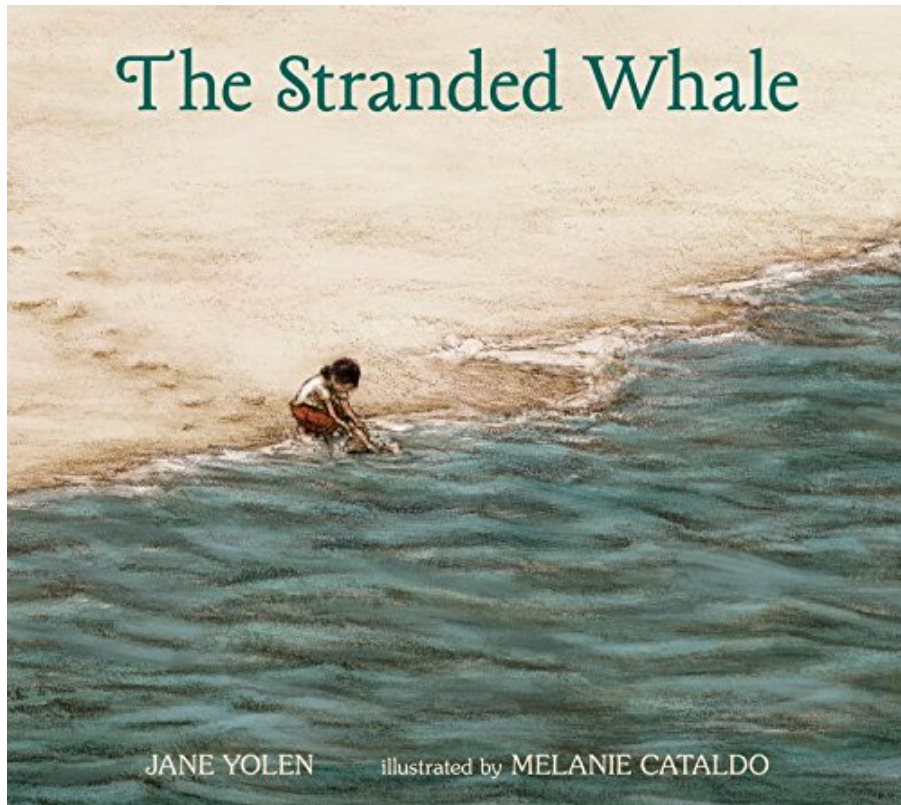
THE STRANDED WHALE BY JANE YOLEN



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From School Library Journal

Gr 1–4—While walking home from school along the Maine coast, Sally and her two brothers see a beached whale. With the tide ebbing, they rush to wet down the animal's tail and fins. After Josh runs to summon help, adult volunteers and Coast Guard members arrive. Efforts to move the whale prove futile. As Sally talks to it, the animal lets out "a huge sigh like the wind off the ocean" and dies. When a Coast Guard man present medals to the children, Sally expresses the irony to herself. "So, the whale died and we were heroes." Yolen masterfully conveys both the urgency of Sally's rush to save the whale and her anger and sorrow at its death. An author's note explains her decision to set the story in 1971, when lack of cell phones would delay the arrival of both helpers and broadcasters. She also discusses possible reasons for beachings, which usually end with the whale's death. Cataldo's paintings employ the grays, steel blues, and browns of a northern coastline. Clothing colors are also muted, and daylight gives way to evening, adding to the low-key and pensive mood. VERDICT This poignant story reminds readers that despite human efforts, not all living beings can be saved and honestly portrays the frustration and sadness that can result. A thought-provoking choice.—Kathy Piehl, Minnesota State University Library, Mankato

Review

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A moving, memorable addition to the nature collection.

—Kirkus Reviews

About the Author

Jane Yolen is the acclaimed author of more than three hundred books for children and young adults, including the Caldecott Medal–winning *Owl Moon* and the best-selling *How Do Dinosaurs* series. She lives in Massachusetts and Scotland.

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THE STRANDED WHALE BY JANE YOLEN PDF

Tender and heartrending, Jane Yolen's clear-eyed tale of a child's effort to rescue a beached whale evokes a fierce love of wildlife and a universal sense of loss.

Sally and her brothers are walking home from school along the dunes in their Maine town when they come upon an enormous whale. He's stranded on the beach. Her brother runs for help, and many people rally to respond, but the tide is going out quickly and the whale is just so big. Still, Sally is able to sit near the whale's massive eye and tell him he's beautiful and strong, and that she will miss him no matter what happens. Master storyteller Jane Yolen and illustrator Melanie Cataldo have created an authentic portrait of vulnerability that is at once spare, moving, and honest.

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- Published on: 2015-07-16
- Released on: 2015-07-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.60" h x .37" w x 9.50" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 32 pages

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Realistic whale rescue story...

By Bob Walch

A touching tale about some children who launch a rescue effort of a beached whale. What sets this book apart is that it DOES NOT have a happy ending but that makes it very realistic. I live on Monterey Bay where we have many whale rescues and not all are successful! Perhaps not for young, impressionable children but fine for nine or ten year olds. Nice job Jane Yolen!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Thar she blows!

By Tom Knapp

I enjoy some young-adult novels, but it's rare that I -- my youngest child is 17 -- will go out and buy an illustrated children's book. An exception to that statement is any book penned by Jane Yolen, who has written so many good books for adults, young adults and children that I would never hesitate to curl up with her latest to read.

This one is special, because it deals with one of my favorite topics: whales. And, as Yolen is an honest sort, she doesn't sugarcoat the reality of the central leviathan in this tale.

"Stranded Whale" is obliquely about a massive sperm whale that beaches itself on a remote Maine beach in 1971. It is more directly about the three school-age siblings who find the helpless animal and do what they can -- all well-intentioned but ultimately fruitless efforts -- to save it.

This story is not a feel-good yarn, nor should you expect a happy ending. It touches briefly but deeply on the emotional impact a creature in peril can have on a person, no matter how fleeting their interaction.

Illustrations by Melanie Cataldo suit the story neatly, with muted colors and a slight graininess to the art that reminds me of classic children's books from my youth.

by Tom Knapp, the Rambles.NET guy

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

~~ A lesson in caring and doing our best despite the odds ~~

By Richard and Liz

Death happens but knowing we did everything we can to help prevent it, can help us in our grieving. In this story, three siblings are walking home from school across a beach in Maine. It is September of 1971 so way before the age of the modern cell phone. Suddenly the girl spots the beached whale. She immediately runs to the ocean, soaks her sweater in the outgoing tide and takes it to the whale. One of her brothers runs for the telephone a half mile away. Obviously one small sweater is not going to be much help but others come to her aid also and do what they can. Sadly the whale doesn't make it.

Sad story? Yes! HOWEVER the kids are awarded medals for doing their best and for knowing not to cover the whale's blowhole. The pictures are beautiful and the writing well done. At the end of the story the author gives the reader further insight into the number of beachings there are each year and some of the reasons they happen. This actually helps explain more of why the whale died so very helpful. Facing death is part of life and this story may well help children process their own grief. Thanks, Liz

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Yolen, is too.