

Vocabulary in Context

TARGET VOCABULARY

- migrate
- survival
- plenty
- frightening
- accidents
- solid
- chilly
- landscape
- thunderous
- dramatic

Vocabulary Reader

Context Cards



1 **migrate**

These butterflies fly far away when they **migrate**, or move from place to place.



2 **survival**

This bluebird flies south for the winter for its **survival**, or to stay alive.



3 **plenty**

Some animals don't migrate in winter if they have saved **plenty** of food.



4 **frightening**

It is **frightening**, or scary, for penguins when leopard seals come nearby.



L.3.6 acquire and use conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases

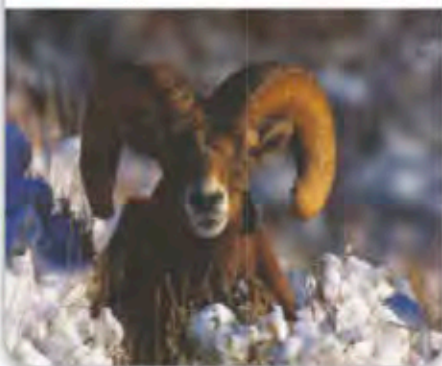
- ▶ Study each **Context Card**.
- ▶ Use two Vocabulary words to tell about an experience you had.

5 accidents

When moose cross busy roads to find food, **accidents** can happen.

**6 solid**

It is very hard for animals to find food under snow and **solid** ice.

**7 chilly**

Polar bears have thick fur to keep them warm in cold, **chilly** weather.

**8 landscape**

The **landscape** changes in spring. Grass turns green, and flowers bloom.

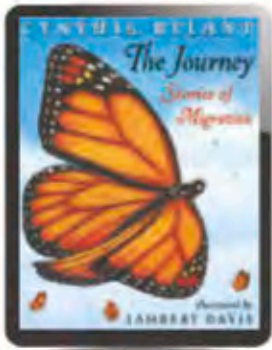
**9 thunderous**

A herd of caribou makes a very loud, **thunderous** sound as it runs.

**10 dramatic**

Salmon swimming upstream to lay eggs is a **dramatic**, or exciting, sight.



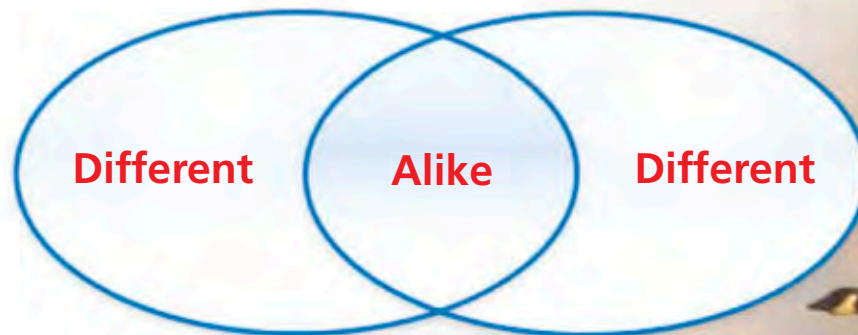


Read and Comprehend



✓ TARGET SKILL

Compare and Contrast As you read *The Journey: Stories of Migration*, look for ways to **compare** and **contrast** important details about the two different kinds of migrating creatures. Note that the author uses a similar structure for both parts of the selection. This helps you see how the migrations are alike and different. Use a graphic organizer like this one to record text evidence that helps you compare and contrast the two migrations.



✓ TARGET STRATEGY

Visualize As you read, use the author's descriptive details to help you **visualize**, or picture, the information you read.

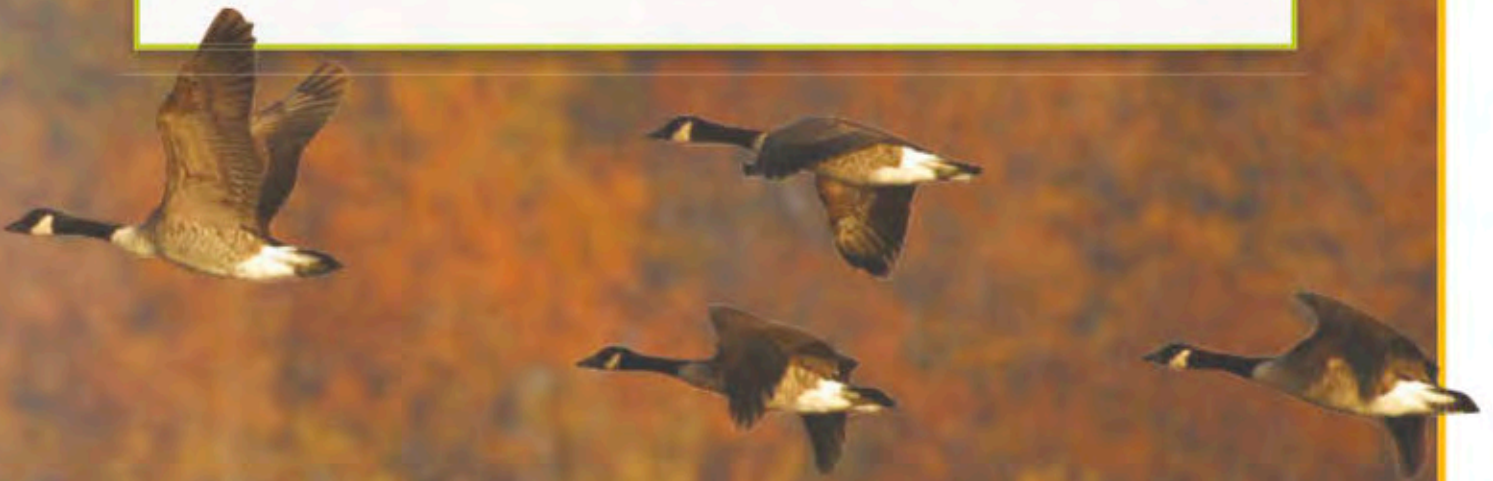


PREVIEW THE TOPIC

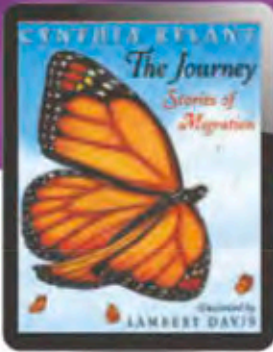
Animal Migration

Geese fly in a V-shape high in the sky. Hundreds of monarch butterflies gather on a tree trunk to rest during their long flight to Mexico. Sea turtles gather on Florida beaches in the spring and summer. These are just a few examples of migrations made every year. A migration is the movement of insects, animals, or even people from one location to another, often thousands of miles apart.

In *The Journey: Stories of Migration*, you'll learn why two very different creatures—gray whales and locusts—migrate and where they go.



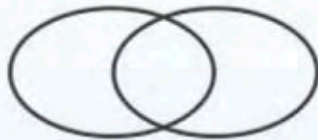
ANCHOR TEXT



✓ TARGET SKILL

Compare and Contrast

Tell how details are alike and different.



✓ GENRE

Informational text gives you facts and information about a topic. As you read, look for:

- ▶ headings that tell about the content of sections
- ▶ how the ideas and information are organized
- ▶ graphics such as maps to help explain the topic



RI.3.8 describe the connection between sentences and paragraphs in a text;
RI.3.10 read and comprehend informational texts; **L.3.3a** choose words and phrases for effect



MEET THE AUTHOR

Cynthia Rylant

What advice does an award-winning, famous author like Cynthia Rylant have for young writers? Go out and play. "Playing is still



the greatest training you can have, I think, for being a writer," says Rylant. "It helps you love life, it helps you relax, and it helps you cook up interesting stuff in your head." She is the author of *The Blue Hill Meadows* and many other books.



THE JOURNEY

Stories of Migration

by Cynthia Rylant

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why do animals migrate to other places?



Introduction

Most creatures live out their lives in the places where they are born. The tiny mouse runs in the fields where his mother ran. The gray squirrel lives in the same tall trees all her life. The cow stays on the farm.

But there are some creatures who do not stay where they are born, who cannot stay. These are the creatures who **migrate**. Their lives will be spent moving from one place to another. Some will migrate to survive. Some will migrate to create new life. All will be remarkable.

Here are the stories of two of these remarkable travelers—so different from each other but so alike in one profound way: Each must *move*.



The Locusts



There are few migrations as **dramatic** and **frightening** as when the desert locusts are moving across Africa. These insects are actually young grasshoppers, and grasshoppers usually do not travel.

But sometimes too many grasshopper eggs are laid in one small area, and when the grasshoppers are born, there isn't enough food. The grasshoppers now have only one choice for **survival**: to migrate in search of vegetation.


And so these grasshoppers will begin changing. Their bodies will turn from light green to dark yellow or red. Their antennae will grow short rather than long. And when they rise up to fly together by the *billions*, they will be grasshoppers no more. They will be locusts.

A cloud of desert locusts in the sky is an unbelievable sight. There are so many locusts that they block out the sun. It seems like night. And in the sudden darkness there is a terrible **thunderous** noise. It is the noise of a billion wings.



ANALYZE THE TEXT

Author's Word Choice What words help you visualize how it looks and sounds when the locusts fly away together?

A large swarm of locusts is shown flying over a desert landscape. In the foreground, a sand dune is visible, and a dense cluster of locusts is gathered on the ground near some sparse, green vegetation. The sky is clear and blue, with several locusts in flight. The text is overlaid on a white box with a red border.

What happens next is even more incredible. When the locusts fly to the ground, they will eat every plant, every blade of grass, every leaf and bush and piece of vegetation as far as the eye can see. Within minutes they will fly off again, leaving behind them a totally devastated **landscape**.

And though locusts do not willfully hurt people—they want only to eat gardens, trees, bushes, grass—people may die because of the locusts. Because the gardens are empty of food, people may die of starvation.

Desert locusts can also cause **accidents**. Locusts fly very high—as high as two miles up in the sky—and this can make difficult flying for planes that have to move through the locust cloud. The swarms can also interfere with trains. And millions of crushed locusts on a highway will make cars slip and slide.



There are many stories in history about the terrible devastation of locust plagues. It is written that in ancient times, one locust swarm covered 2,000 square miles.

The swarms today are not nearly as large as that. But they can still be quite big, often as much as one hundred square miles. Imagine so many insects in the sky!



locust eggs

As the locusts migrate in search of food, they ride the winds from one area of rainfall to the next. (There is always more food where it rains.) They travel on sunny mornings and stop in late afternoon to roost for the night.

When they reach a rainy area, they mate and die. Then their eggs will hatch and a new swarm of locusts begins moving. This will happen again and again until one day a swarm will return to the same place where the very first locusts began.



And if the eggs laid are not too many, and if there is plenty of food when the new eggs hatch, there will be no locust swarms for a while. Only pale green grasshoppers moving quietly about.

But someday too many eggs may be laid, and the newly hatched grasshoppers will be much too hungry. These grasshoppers will begin to look a little different and act a little different.

Then they will rise up together by the billions—as desert locusts—and they will fly.

The Whales

Many mammals migrate, but no mammal migrates as far as the big gray whale. It travels 6,000 miles, then back again—and most of its traveling is done on an empty stomach!

Gray whales love the cold waters near the North Pole because the waters are full of the food they love to eat. The whales live on tiny ocean shrimp and worms, and the Arctic waters are full of these in summer. The whales eat and eat and eat, straining the tiny food through strips of baleen in their mouths. (Instead of teeth, the grays have baleen—long strips of a hard material similar to fingernails.)

The gray whales swim and eat mostly alone through the summer. But in the fall, they will begin to look for some traveling companions, because the whales know one thing for certain: that they must migrate. In winter, the Arctic seas are going to be filled with **solid** ice. And the whales will die if they stay.

The first gray whales to leave the Arctic are the pregnant females. These expectant mothers want to have plenty of time to reach the warm waters of California and Mexico before they give birth. No mother wants to have a baby in icy water!

The other whales will follow, and in small groups they will all travel down the Pacific coast. Once they leave the Arctic, the whales won't find much food again, and it may be as long as *eight months* before they eat.

But the whales have stored a lot of fat in their bodies, called blubber, and this will keep them alive.





As they travel, the whales often swim near shore, and people along the way are thrilled. They wave to the whales from rocky cliffs and travel out in boats to say hello to them.

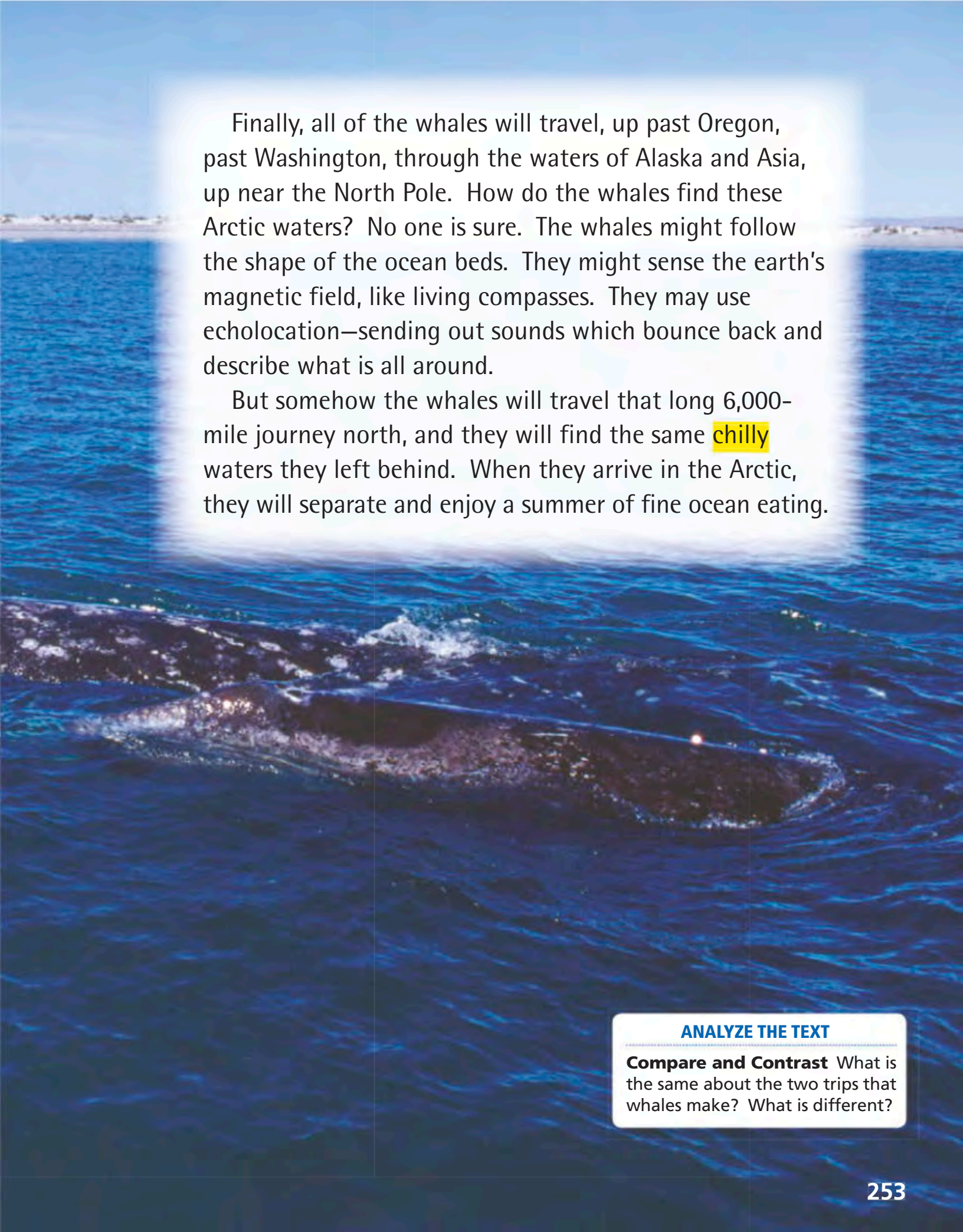
When finally the gray whales reach the warm tropical waters in January, the pregnant females will give birth. And the other whales will mate.

With new calves among them, all of the whales will enjoy life in the peaceful lagoons for a while. Then in March, they will be ready to head back to the Arctic for the summer. They haven't forgotten how they love to eat there!

This time the males will leave first, and the females and calves will stay behind for another several weeks. The calves will have more time to grow and get stronger for the long journey.



The arrows on the map show the gray whales' 6,000-mile journey from the Arctic, then back again.



Finally, all of the whales will travel, up past Oregon, past Washington, through the waters of Alaska and Asia, up near the North Pole. How do the whales find these Arctic waters? No one is sure. The whales might follow the shape of the ocean beds. They might sense the earth's magnetic field, like living compasses. They may use echolocation—sending out sounds which bounce back and describe what is all around.

But somehow the whales will travel that long 6,000-mile journey north, and they will find the same **chilly** waters they left behind. When they arrive in the Arctic, they will separate and enjoy a summer of fine ocean eating.

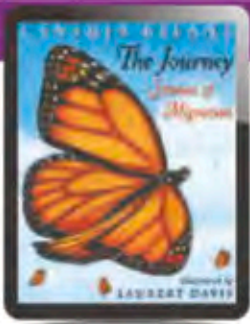
ANALYZE THE TEXT

Compare and Contrast What is the same about the two trips that whales make? What is different?



But just before the Arctic winter arrives,
before the ice, something will tell the whales to
find each other again. To find some company
for another long, long swim.





Dig Deeper

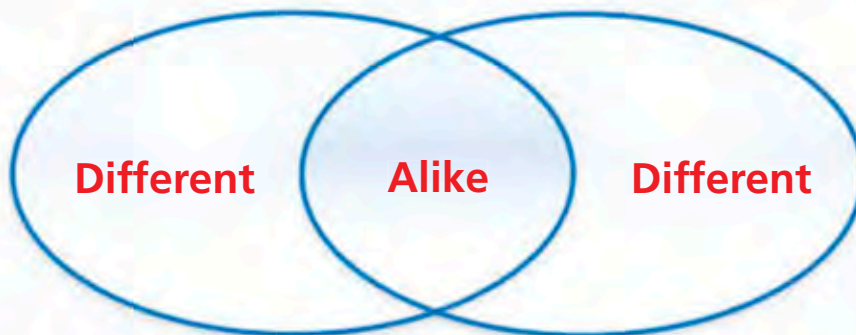
How to Analyze the Text

Use these pages to learn about Comparing and Contrasting and Author's Word Choice. Then read *The Journey: Stories of Migration* again to apply what you learned.

Compare and Contrast

The author of *The Journey: Stories of Migration* organized the text in a way that helps readers **compare** and **contrast** whales and locusts. Looking for connections between parts of a text will help you understand what you read.

Return to pages 240 and 241 in *The Journey: Stories of Migration*. First, you will learn that some animals migrate while others do not. Then you will start reading about one migratory animal, the locust. As you continue reading, look for text evidence that helps you make connections. When you come to the next section, about whales, you will be able to start comparing and contrasting the information with what you read about locusts.



RI.3.8 describe the connection between sentences and paragraphs in a text; L.3.3a choose words and phrases for effect

Author's Word Choice

Authors carefully choose the words and phrases they use. Choosing strong **adjectives** and **adverbs** helps readers picture what things look like and how events happen.

In *The Journey: Stories of Migration*, the author uses the words *dramatic* and *frightening* to describe a swarm of locusts on page 241. Think about how those words help you imagine the young grasshoppers.



Your Turn



RETURN TO THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION



Review the selection with a partner to prepare to discuss this question: *Why do animals migrate to other places?* As you use text evidence to discuss the question, listen carefully to your partner's ideas and expand the discussion by adding your own ideas.



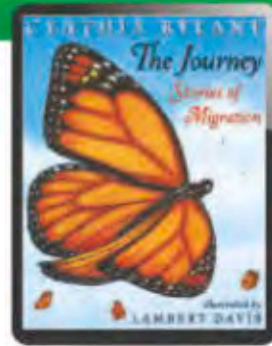
Classroom Conversation

Continue your discussion of *The Journey: Stories of Migration* by explaining your answers to these questions:

- 1 How do people feel about locust migration? Whale migration? How do these feelings differ?
- 2 There are a few ideas about how gray whales know where to go. Which makes the most sense to you?
- 3 How would you describe these migrations to someone who has not read the selection?

WRITE ABOUT READING

Response Think about the two migrations in *The Journey: Stories of Migration*. If you could watch either the locusts migrate or the whales migrate, which would you choose? Write a paragraph about your choice. Use text evidence from the selection to support your opinion.



Writing Tip

As you write, choose words and phrases that emphasize your point of view. Use adjectives that help readers visualize what you describe.



RI.3.1 ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding, referring to the text; **W.3.10** write routinely over extended time frames or short time frames; **SL.3.1a** come to discussions prepared/explicitly draw on preparation and other information about the topic; **SL.3.1d** explain own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion; **L.3.3a** choose words and phrases for effect