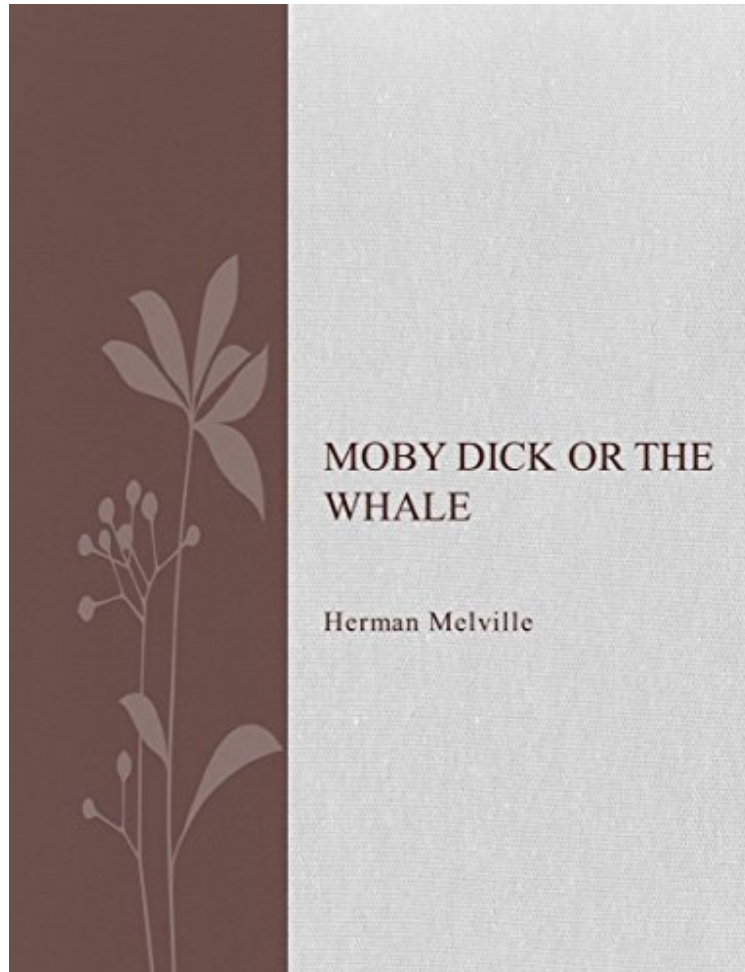


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## Moby Dick or The whale

*Herman Melville*

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**Herman Melville : Moby Dick or The whale** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Moby Dick or The whale:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent And Gorgeous Adaptation of Moby DickBy Elvin OrtizAuthor Lance Stahlberg and illustrator Lalit Kumar Singh do a stupendous job at tackling one of the longest novels in American literature in graphic format. Stahlberg is faithful to Melville in plot and characterization. While I read it, I felt that I was part of the movie. Captain Ahab's vibrant and dynamic albeit twisted personality was not lost in this adaptation. And Lilat's artwork was simply gorgeous and outstanding. If students are reluctant to tackle the original version of Moby Dick (and I can't blame them for that), this is it. Stahlberg's language is dynamic and exciting so that it is impossible to stop reading it. You can still discuss the literary elements and themes with this graphic text. The book has a couple of informative pages about the sperm whale, the existence of the true Moby Dick, and whalers of the nineteenth century. The book certainly deserves its place in the classroom. I highly recommend it.29 of 30 people found the following review helpful. Thanks to the unnamed programmer...By S. T. PorterfieldFrom previous

experience I knew there used to be a bug that prevented the original Kindle from linking to footnotes in some content. Thanks to the unnamed programmer who finally fixed this. The content pages are all complete and the text is clear. And the footnote linking works. It appears that has cleaned up the formatting of Kindle content a lot in the past year. Now if they'd offer to re-download clean versions of our previous purchases, that would really boost customer loyalty. As to the content, I'd say that \$3 for a portable copy of this classic is a good bargain. 17 of 18 people found the following review helpful. great story retold for younger audiences By Ben Tackling the likes of Melville or Hawthorne to bring the language down to entry-level is no small task. The quality and the tone of this retelling is remarkably different from the original, but the plot is similar enough that a semblance of the theme emerges. While no literary masterpiece, a child that has read or been read this will at least be familiar with the story. To be clear, if you've read this, you've hardly read Moby-Dick. You'll miss a ton, and quite a bit more than less shortened Classic Starts I've read like Tom Sawyer, The Jungle Book, and The Call of the Wild. I suppose those other original authors were not as commanding in their use of English as Melville should be regarded. The story is nearly gutted of all the Christian and biblical references, allusion and innuendo. Because of this, character development is very shallow. Because Moby-Dick is a first-person narrative, it has the effect of the reader not really getting to know the protagonist narrator very well, and also of reducing his thoughts and observations of other characters to very cursory ones. In the end, it's still at least as good as the average chapter book written to be read to kindergarteners, and it retells a story that has some substance that an adult reader can enjoy (if they've read Moby Dick). I guess it's kind of like reading a children's version of a bible story -- not the full monty but worthy and if you know more, you might even find yourself inspired to augment it with a little more of the truth. My preschool aged kids enjoyed the story. They created artwork based on the story out of their own initiative, played "whale" in the community pool, and understood allusions and metaphor to principle themes in the story like the blindedness of Ahab's foolish, vengeful wrath. The only way to go wrong here is if this story somehow prevented someone from reading the original when they were later able.

Moby-Dick; or, The Whale (1851) is a novel by Herman Melville, in which Ishmael narrates the monomaniacal quest of Ahab, captain of the whaler Pequod, for revenge on the albino sperm whale Moby Dick, which on a previous voyage destroyed Ahab's ship and severed his leg at the knee. A commercial failure and out of print at the time of the author's death in 1891, its reputation grew immensely during the twentieth century. According to D.H. Lawrence, it is "one of the strangest and most wonderful books in the world," and "the greatest book of the sea ever written." Dedicated to Nathaniel Hawthorne, "in token of my admiration for his genius," Moby-Dick is considered a Great American Novel and an outstanding work of the Romantic Period in America, a period also known as the American Renaissance. "Call me Ishmael," is one of world literature's most famous opening sentences. The product of a year and a half of writing, the book draws on Melville's own whaling experience, on his reading in whaling literature, and on literary inspirations such as Shakespeare and the Bible. The detailed and realistic descriptions of whale hunting and the process of extracting whale oil, as well as life aboard ship among a culturally diverse crew, are mixed with exploration of class and social status, good and evil, and the existence of God. In addition to narrative prose, Melville uses a wide range of styles and literary devices ranging from songs, poetry and catalogs to Shakespearean stage directions, soliloquies, and asides. The author changed the title at the very last moment in September 1851, and so the work first appeared as *The Whale* in London in October 1851, and then under its definitive title *Moby-Dick* in New York in November. The British edition of five hundred copies was not reprinted during the author's life, the American of almost three thousand was reprinted three times at approximately 250 copies, the last reprinting in 1871. These figures are exaggerated because three hundred copies were destroyed in a fire at Harper's; only 3,200 copies were actually sold during the author's life.

From School Library Journal Grade 5 Up-Opening with the classic line, "Call me Ishmael," the narrator's New England accent adds a touch of authenticity to this sometimes melodramatic presentation. The St. Charles Players do a credible job on the major roles, but some of the group responses, such as "Aye, aye Captain," sound more comic than serious. This adaptation retains a good measure of Melville's dialogue and key passages which afford listeners a vivid connection with the lengthy novel. Background music and appropriate sound effects enhance the telling of the story about Captain Ahab's obsessive pursuit of the malevolent white whale. The cassettes are clearly marked, and running times are noted on each side of the tapes. Announcements at the beginning of each side and a subtle chime signal at the end make it easy to follow the story, but a stereo player must be used to hear some dialogue. The lightweight cardboard package is inadequate for circulation. Done in a radio theatre format, the recording does a nice job of introducing the deeper themes of the book and covering the major events. For school libraries that support an American literature curriculum, this recording offers a different interpretation of an enduring classic. Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library. Rocky Hill, CT Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal November 14 marks the 150th anniversary of Melville's salty saga of vengeance and obsession. Now a contender for the great American novel, this book was harpooned at the time of its 1851 publication by critics who found it overly long and boorish (observations no doubt still shared by countless high school students). They felt that

like Ahab, the story didn't have much of a leg to stand on. The once lucrative whaling industry also was in its death throes and of little interest to readers. The book was forgotten for decades before being rediscovered in the 1920s by scholars who understood and appreciated the multilevel symbolism and allegory dismissed by their 19th-century predecessors. Melville published little after the failure of *Moby-Dick* and made his living as a customs inspector in New York City, where he was born in 1819 and died in complete obscurity in 1891. He is buried in the Bronx. This edition of his masterwork includes the full text along with illustrations of whales, whaling barks, and whaling instruments; maps; and a new introduction by Nathaniel Philbrick. A lot for the price. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist

Considerably abridged from what Needle characterizes as Herman Melville's "enormous . . . long and rambling, even obscure" novel, this reworking, with moody illustrations on nearly every page, won't look out of place on a coffee table but still offers plenty of substance. Needle links passages of the original book, ranging in length from one line to several pages, with extended, ruminative summaries and his own comments, which are distinguished by a lighter typeface. Benson ably captures the tale's gloom and grandeur with a plethora of strong character portraits and other illustrations, mostly rendered in shadowed, atmospheric pen and ink, that burst into full color when the white whale arrives on the scene. Closing with a glossary of nautical terms and a labeled cutaway view of a typical whaling ship, this version will appeal to readers who might be after a richer literary experience than Will Eisner offers in his graphic novel retelling (2001) but are still reluctant to immerse themselves in the pleasures of the full-size leviathan. John Peters

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