



## AUTHOR

**Rob Biddulph** is a best-selling and multi award-winning author and illustrator of children's books. Visit his website for a detailed account of his books and achievements. Many young readers will already be familiar with his twice weekly draw-along videos #DrawWithRob, which he started in 2020. This year (2024) he has been chosen as one of the World Book Day authors. He has also written a trilogy of middle-grade novels about Peanut Jones (Macmillan).

## WEBSITE

<https://www.robbiddulph.com/>

## LINKS

A dedicated website page which includes a charming 40 seconds trailer and a link to How to Draw Gigantic and Friends videos

<https://www.robbiddulph.com/gigantic#gigantic-trailer>

A short film (just under 4 minutes) containing 5 interesting facts about Blue Whales.

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/animals-101-blue-whales/>



# GIGANTIC

Younger Children Shortlist 2024

## INTRODUCTION

A **rhyming story** about a small whale with a very much bigger older brother who thinks his size makes him better than Gigantic. The vibrant colour palette perfectly captures the stormy weather and jewel-like colours of the underwater environment. A salutary story about a small whale with a big heart, which carries a **strong message** about the importance of who you are inside, rather than how you look on the outside.

Encourage children to look closely at the detail of the illustrations, where they might be able to find a pearl in an oyster shell, a tiny alien piloting a submarine, a pirate fish, a message in a bottle and a diamond ring.

## ACTIVITIES

**Read** At the beginning of the book you will spot a 'Greenpeace' boat. Challenge your child or children to look online or in library books to see what they can find out about the organisation it belongs to and then consider why the author might have included it in the book.

**Write or illustrate** a factual mini-booklet, comic strip or poster about **blue whales**, using the short film in the Links as a starting point.

**Create** an origami whale following these easy-to-follow instructions at Red Ted Art <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOm47eh2AYk>

## NOW READ ON

*The Big Blue Whale* by Nicola Davies & Nick Maland (Walker, 2008) A beautiful book about about this majestic mammal which describes the animal's size, diet, sounds, migration habits and more. *How Long is a Whale* by Alison Limentani (Boxer Books, 2021) will help young children develop a sense of scale. See also Sophie Henn's Lifesize series of books (Red Shed, 2018). *Setsuko and the Song of the Sea* by Fiona Barker & Howard Gray (Tiny Tree, 2021). A story of friendship & hope in an uncertain world.