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***The Whale Rider* Take-home Exam, Part 1**

This exam covers the first two sections of Witi Ihimaera's *The Whale Rider*, pages 1-25, "Prologue" and "The Force of Destiny."

<p>1. Chapter 1 describes...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) animals using their Maori names, such as "kiwi," "moa," "tuatara," and "tarawhai."b) a Maori origin myth, telling how people came to New Zealand.c) how Paikea, the original whale rider, "seeded" the land with spears that turned into animals.d) a, b, and c. <p>2. The final spear Paikea throws...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) harpoons the bull whaleb) kills the tribe's enemiesc) waits for a future time when it will be neededd) breaks when it lands <p>3. The main character in Chapter 2 is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Paikeab) Kahuitac) the bull whaled) Paka <p>4. The diction, or word choice, in Chapter 2 is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) simple, clear, and directb) complicated, with unusual vocabularyc) ugly and sharp, with a violent toned) chatty and conversational	<p>5. At the beginning of Chapter 3, Koro Apirana says, "A <i>girl</i>. I will have nothing to do with her." Why is he so upset?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) He wants Porourangi to give up his artb) He wants a male heir for the tribec) He already has many female great-grandchildrend) He does not think girls can ride whales <p>6. "<i>Te mea, te mea</i>" means...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) blessed mother oceanb) may this holy motor startc) run now or I will strike you downd) yeah, yeah <p>7. At the end of Chapter 4 (p22) Nanny Flowers calls her grandson Rawiri and his friends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) "...the men who belong to Whangara."b) "...a bunch of biker hooligans."c) "...lazy, good-for-nothing drunks."d) "...our best hope for the future." <p>8. What do Nanny Flowers and the tribe's men bury at the end of Chapter 4?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) a beached whaleb) the hatchetc) Kahu's birth cord (umbilical cord/placenta)d) a special rock with a holy symbol
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9. Who is the narrator in the movie? Who in the book?

10. Which chapters are the most realistic? Why? Give specific examples.

11. Describe these characters (personality, appearance, relationships, important events) :

- Kahu
- Rawiri
- Nanny Flowers
- Koro Apirana
- Porourangi
- Rehua

12. Draw a family tree for these characters.

13. What were Nanny Flowers and Koro Apirana arguing about in Chapter 4?

14. Why did the old man disagree with the name chosen for the new born girl?

15. Why do you think Nanny Flowers buried the birth cord at the meeting house?

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***The Whale Rider* Take-home Exam, Part 2**

This exam covers the third section of Witi Ihimaera's *The Whale Rider*, pages 25-55, "Summer: Halcyon's Flight."

<p>1. In Chapter 5, the bull whale is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) sad and nostalgic for his human masterb) angry that he used to be a slavec) afraid of humansd) hazy and forgetful, not sure where to go <p>2. Kahu's mother, Rehua,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) rides a motorcycleb) dies three months after Kahu is bornc) divorces her father, Porourangid) is European rather than Maori <p>3. Kahu is raised with her mother's people, but connected to her father's via</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) the location of her birth cordb) her pet sealc) her namesake's historyd) both a and c <p>4. The Maori's legendary home has the same name as that of the whales. They are supposedly both from a place called...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Taiwanb) Peruc) Hawaikid) Te Pito o te Whenua	<p>5. Baby Kahu hides under the table and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) falls asleepb) pretends to be a whalec) bites Koro on his big toed) is forgotten by everyone <p>6. "Paka" means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) grandfatherb) buggerc) sausaged) respected elder <p>7. Koro teaches Maori history and legend to the boys at the meeting house, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) how people and whales used to be able to communicateb) how the Maori lived in harmony with the ocean and its creaturesc) how people later began to hunt whales, especially when Koro was youngd) all of the above (a, b, and c) <p>8. Kahu becomes distraught when she overhears _____ at the meeting house.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Koro talking about divorcing Nanny Flowersb) Koro telling in graphic detail about his experience whaling as a young boyc) a sad traditional Maori songd) the cries of a dying whale
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9. What or who is "Tangaroa?"

10. On page 50, Koro Apinara says, "Listen to how empty our sea has become." What does he mean? How does this relate to the story he is telling? Give details from the text.

(When....happens in the story, it shows....

(Koro mentions...which connects to why he calls the the sea "empty" in that...)

11. Do you think whales are as intelligent as they are represented in the story? Why? If you aren't sure, list some possible reasons both for and against.

12. Why does Ihimaera end so many chapters with the Maori words "Hui e, haumi e, taiki e. Let it be done."?

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***The Whale Rider* Take-home Exam, Part 3**

This exam covers the fourth sections of Witi Ihimaera's *The Whale Rider*, pages 58-92, "Autumn: Season of the Sounding Whale."

<p>1. At Chapter 10's start, Rawiri decides to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) learn to swimb) get a Maori tattooc) travel away from his home villaged) settle down and get married <p>2. In response, _____ tells him "What's wrong with Whangara? You've got the whole world right here. Nothing you can get anywhere else that you can't get here."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Nanny Flowersb) Koro Apinarac) Bernardd) Queen Victoria <p>3. Rawiri first travels to Sydney, Australia. Compared to Whangara, Sydney is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) boring vs interestingb) urban vs ruralc) modern vs traditionald) both b and c	<p>4. Rawiri next travels to Papua New Guinea with his friend Jeff, where he works until</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Jeff's mother Clara makes a rude comment at a partyb) a friend of his is killed in a car accidentc) he gets a letter from homed) all of the above--a, b, and c <p>5. After Rawiri returns to Whangara, Kahu gives a special school speech for her...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) dead motherb) beloved grandfather, Koroc) friend the whaled) little sister <p>6. Two weeks after the surprise speech at the end of Chapter 12, Kahu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) finds the special stone Koro threw overboard for the boys to findb) rejects him, hurt at his leaving themc) sings him a special Maori song
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7. Describe these characters (personality, appearance, relationships, important events):

Jeff	Tom	Clara	Bernard

8. Answer the following prompt in a brief paragraph (5-7 sentences -- 20 points).

On page 62, Rawiri tells us, "no matter what changes they had made to themselves or their lives, a cous was a cous." ("Cous" is short for "cousin," but means an extended or adopted family or group member.)

On page 75, he says, "Let me *out*. That's no native out there. That's *Bernard*. A cous is a cous."

Describe the context of the two times he uses the term "**cous**," **comparing** why, where, and how he uses it on page 62 to why, where, and how he uses it on page 75. **Use quotes** from the text as evidence, then explain and **analyze** them.

Finally, what does Rawiri discover about his own identity? (For example, what is the difference between his friend Jeff and someone he would call "cous"? Where does Rawiri fit in?)

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The Whale Rider Take-home Exam, Part 4

This exam covers the final two sections of Witi Ihimaera's *The Whale Rider*, pages 95-150, "Winter: Whale Song, Whale Rider" and "Epilogue: The Girl from the Sea."

<p>1. The whales are very frightened of returning to human islands, because...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) whalers killed so many of them beforeb) they think nuclear testing will poison themc) the mother whales like warmer climatesd) the krill tastes funny near New Zealand <p>2. On p.100, they describe a film crew catching some men butchering a beached whale. Most of the Maori react by being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) angry and unhappyb) sad and troubledc) bloodthirsty and violentd) both a and b <p>3. In the movie, the whales beach themselves at Whangara. In the book,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) only one whale beaches himselfb) a pod of 200 whales also beaches at nearby Wainui the night beforec) the whales are really robotsd) the whales all die crossing under the ice	<p>4. In Chapter 17, Kahu goes into the water and climbs onto the whale because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) she always wanted to ride oneb) the whale calls to her in the Maori language, saying <i>te mea, te mea</i>c) Koro told her "If the whales live, we live."d) she wants to travel to another island <p>5. The bull whale wants to keep Kahu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) because he is hungryb) as a kind of petc) so she will not cause more trouble for Korod) because he thinks she's really the original whale rider he knew years ago, Paikea <p>6. At the end of the book, Kahu wakes up and tells Koro and Nanny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) "We must build a temple to the whales!"b) "They told me not to wake up until you were both here."c) "The whales are aliens trying to get home"d) "I hate you both!"
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7. How does Koro Apirana explain the beached whales (on pages 116-117)? How is this explanation mirrored in the novel's blurring of myth, fantasy, and realistic genres?

8. In the Epilogue, what parallels can you see between Koro Apirana and the old bull whale? Between Nanny Flowers and the old mother whale?