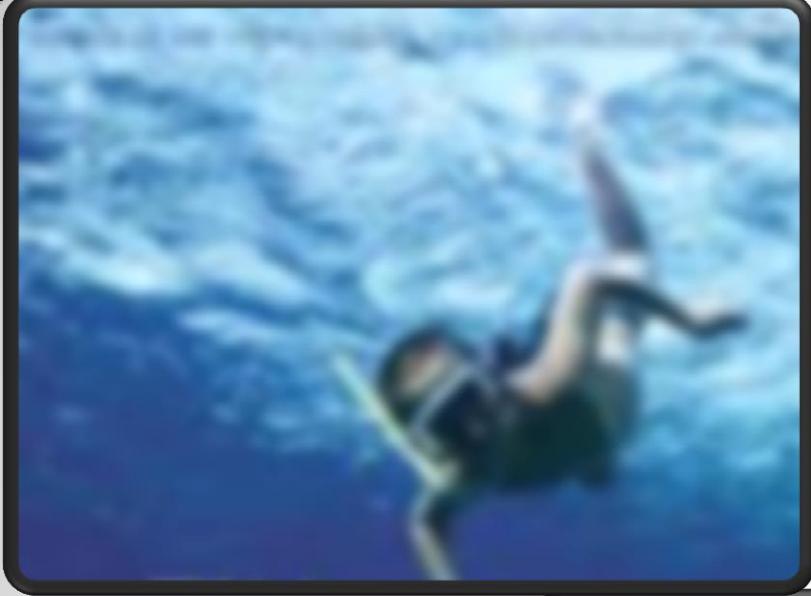


* Blueback

A novel by Tim Winton





<http://youtu.be/dvB6hbExLAo>

<http://youtu.be/Xh5WZpbmwyI>

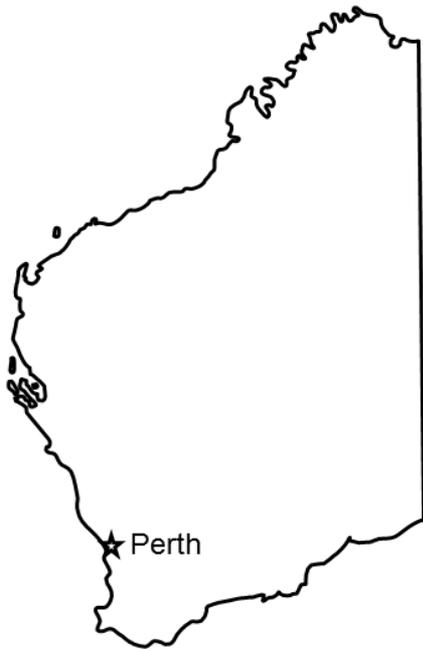
<http://youtu.be/x1woLgrWeeQ>

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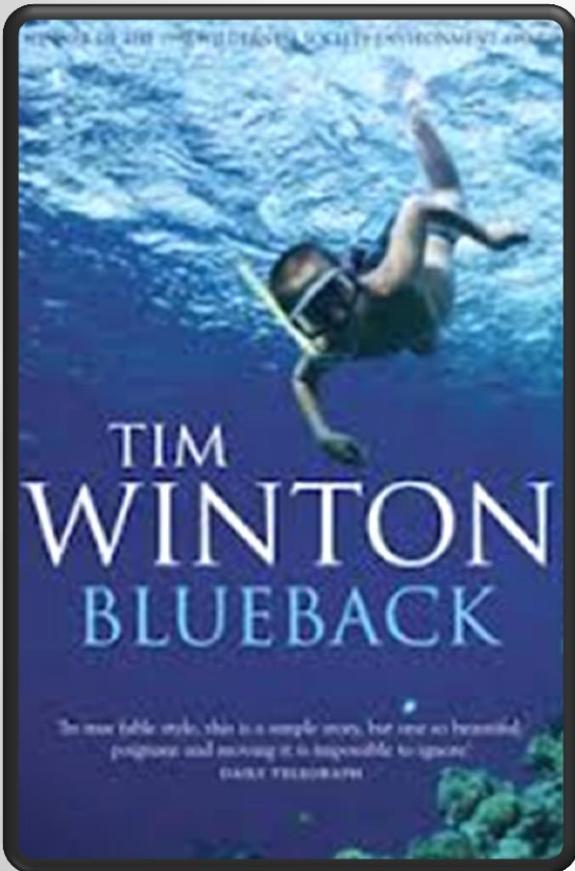
Brainstorm it !

- * Use Google maps
- * Find Margaret River in Western Australia
- * Research a natural feature of that area.

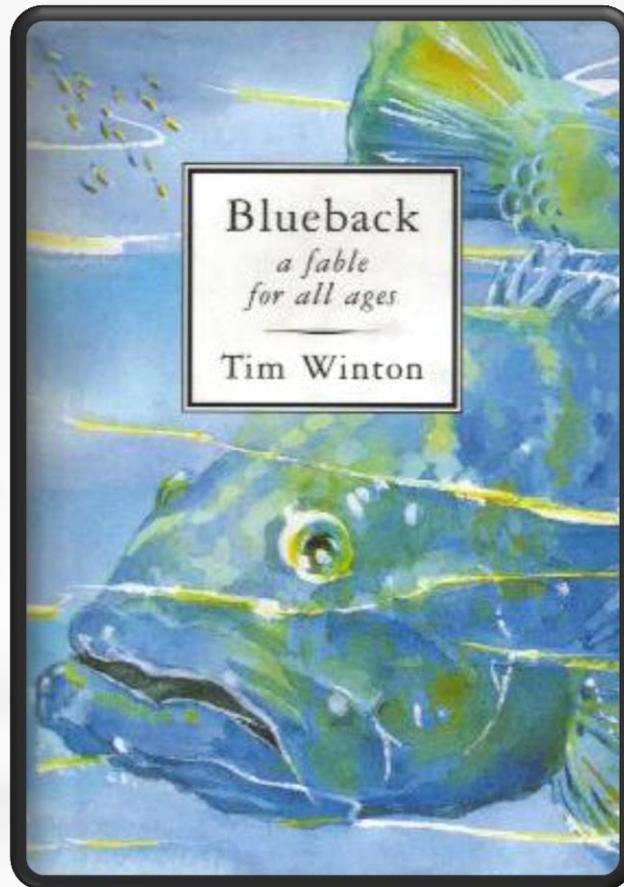
Western Australia



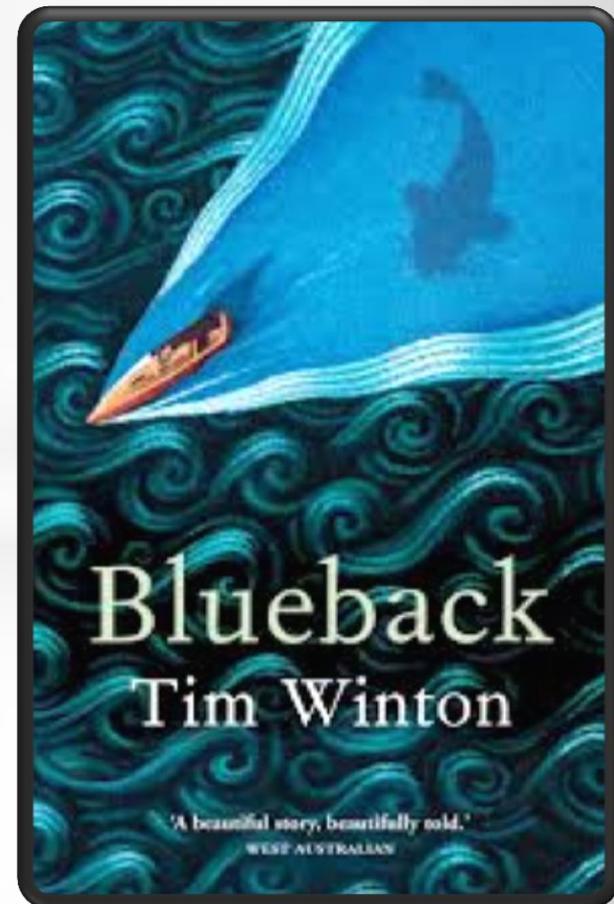
* Margaret River



<http://youtu.be/dvB6hbExLAo>

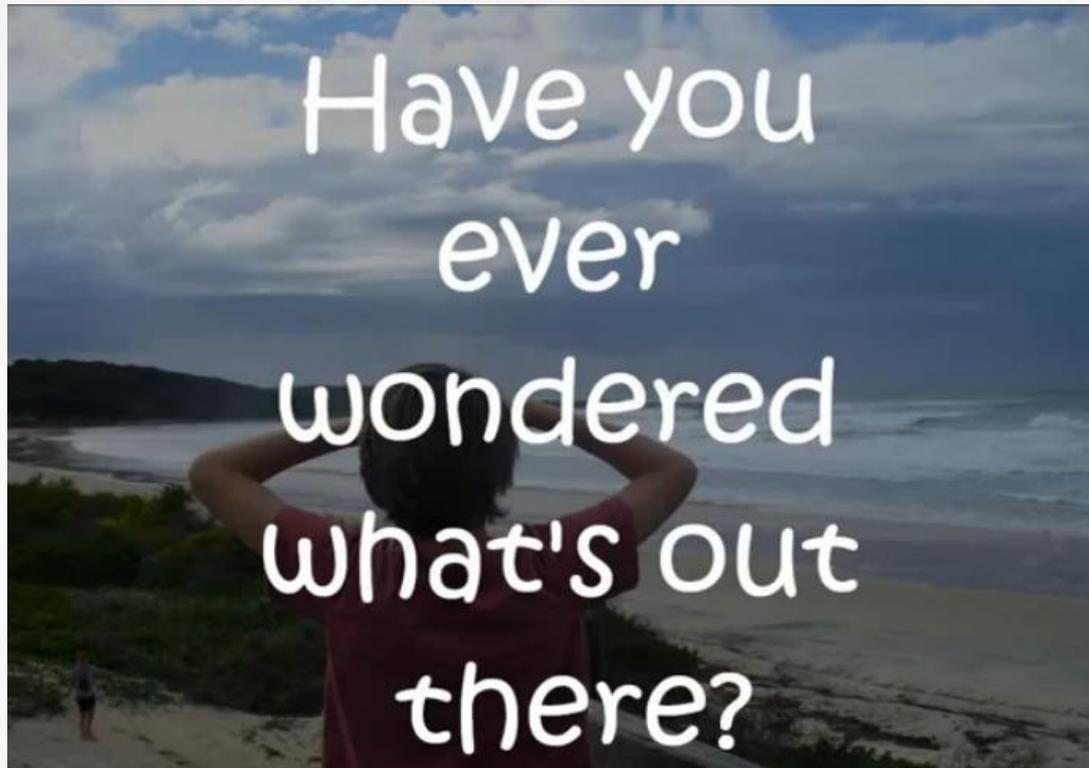


http://youtu.be/nCM3qC0fc_g



<http://youtu.be/x1woLgrWeeQ>

<http://youtu.be/Xh5WZpbmwyI>



* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCM3qC0fc_g

* **Book Trailer**

What are your questions about the book ?

*Abalone - abba lone ee



*Abel - Ae- bel



*Anchor- ank -er



*Coral - corr- ol



*Vocabulary

Create your own definitions for these words.

* Prise - prize



* Crevices - creviss-es



* Surfaced - sir-fassed



* Cautious - caw shus



* Vocabulary

Create your own definitions for these words.

- * •To avoid overfishing, diving for abalone is a heavily regulated industry which requires a quota; only 32 quotas exist in South Australia and each are worth millions of dollars.
- * •Quotas must be filled with both black and green abalone. Green is the most valuable and found at greater depths.

Why might these quotas be important ? Why are abalone worth so much money ?



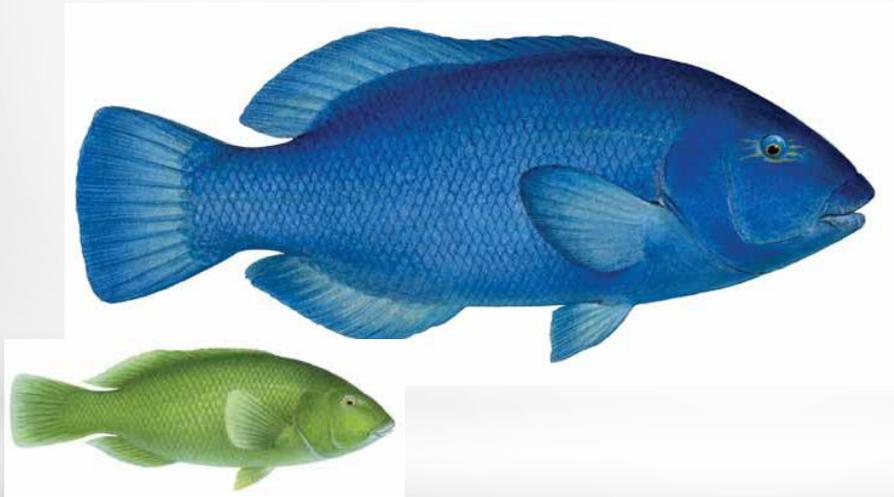
- * •A divers' bag filled with abalone is worth approximately \$2,000 and divers need to fill a minimum of three bags to break even on the overhead costs.
- * •China is the biggest importer of Australian abalone and pay approximately \$150,000 per tonne. The current quota allowance is 7.5 tonne equaling over \$1 million and divers can fill this in less than 50 days.
- * •Recreational scuba divers are allowed to take just five abalone per day.
- * •South Australia is home to more sharks per square kilometre than almost anywhere else in the world.



* Abalone

What is the relationship between abalone, divers and sharks ?

*the biggest fish he had ever seen. It was gigantic. It had fins like ping pong paddles. Its tail was a blue-green rudder. It looked as big as a horse.’ (page 7)



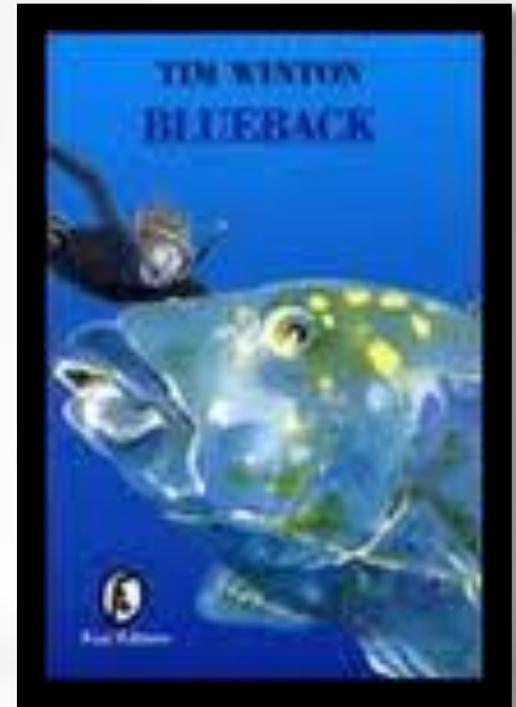
* Groper
Research

What can you find out about the Groper ?

*Quotes

The quotes at the beginning of the novel (unpaged) are reflective of the story.

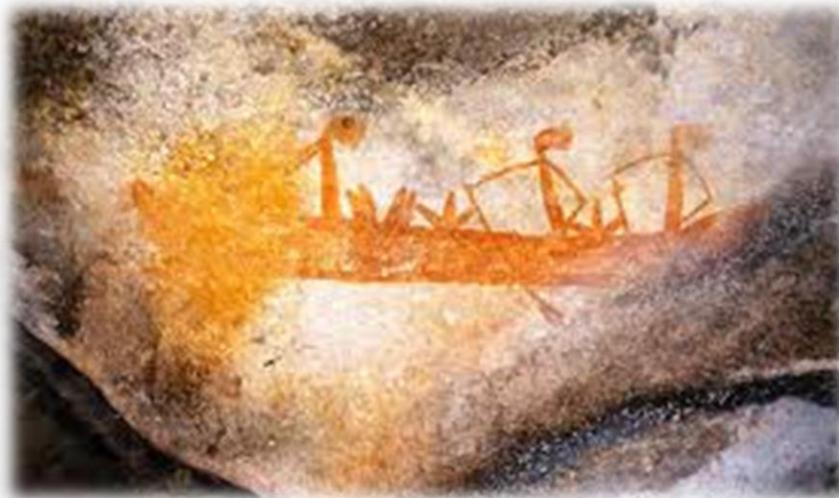
With these pieces Winton encapsulates the story of Blueback and Abel.



*Quote

*...for today, for a while, his eyes are open harbours
and the dolphins of his thoughts cannot obscure (look
down) the coral bones of all our ancestors.*

Randolph Stow, Portrait of Luke



* Think



As we read the book think about

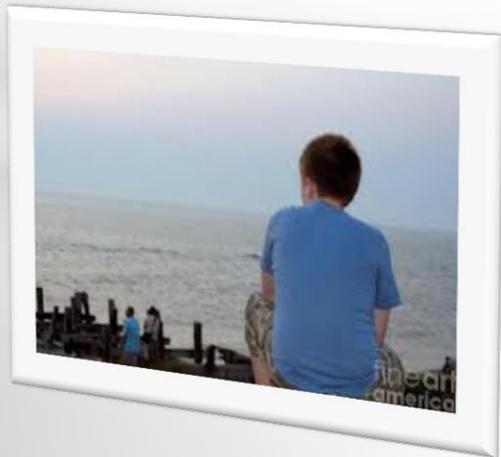
http://youtu.be/Cv_Bor9PA5M

What is the author telling us about how the characters live their lives ?

What views or opinions do the characters have ?

Are the views and opinions expressed both in word and action different in any way ?

- * Abel is an ‘everyman’ character.
- * • What does this mean to you ?
- * • Can you think of other similar ‘everyman’ characters from other novels, film or television?



* Abel

*Share your opinion about Abel's relationship with Blueback. Explain his strong ties to his home and in particular his interaction with the sea.



*Views and opinions

Beautiful, evocative descriptions are to be found throughout the novel in the words used to describe the natural environment and, in particular, in the descriptions of Blueback (pages 8, 20, 28, 151).



You will find many examples of Winton's wonderful use of language.

Discuss the following instances and how, through words, they evoke a feeling or an image:

* Imagery

- * • ‘Sunlight caught the windows of the shack above the beach so that every pane of glass looked like a fire’ (page 1-2)

*)



* Imagery

- * • ‘A cloud of bubbles swirled around him, clinging to his skin like pearls.’ (page 3)



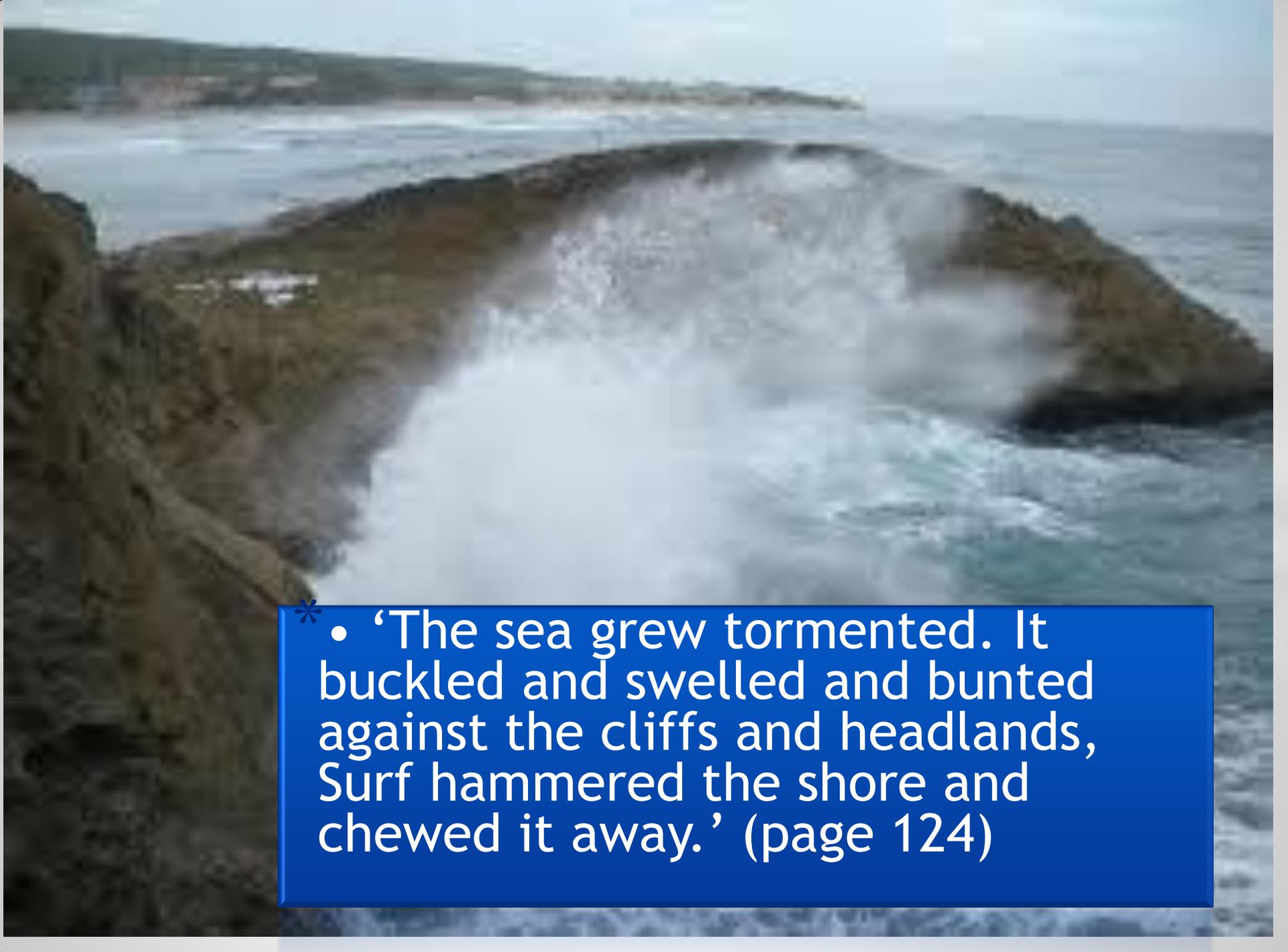
* Imagery

- ‘the shellfish grew round and silver like shiny hubcaps.’

page 4



*Imagery



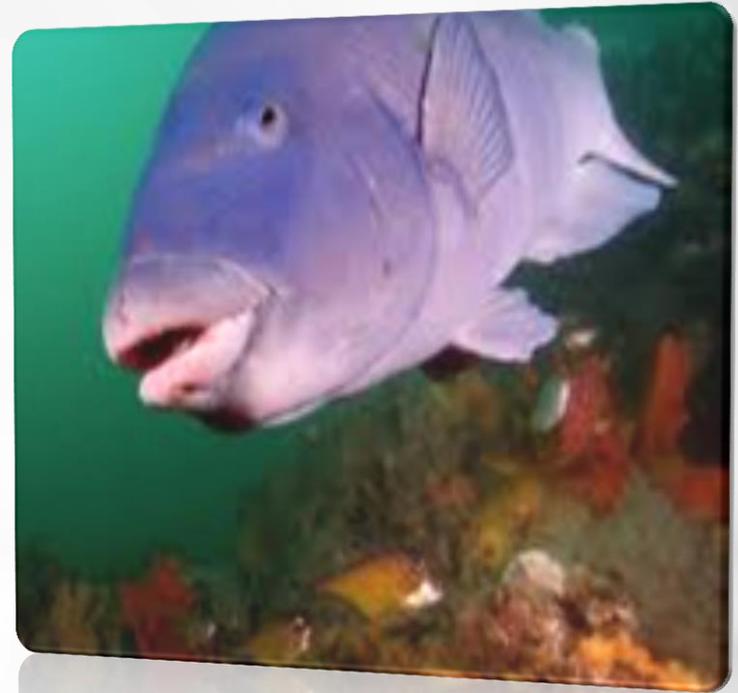
- * • ‘The sea grew tormented. It buckled and swelled and bunted against the cliffs and headlands, Surf hammered the shore and chewed it away.’ (page 124)

- 
- * ● 'He stayed just behind the breakers and was showered with their spray and saw the great, strange land through the wobbly glass of the waves.'

He saw the sun melting like butter on white dunes.'
(page 66)

* Imagery

- * 'All its armoured scales rippled in lines of green and black blending into the dizziest blue. The groper moved without the slightest effort. It was magnificent, the most beautiful thing Abel had ever seen.' (page 8)
- * The descriptions of Blueback are very impressive, colourful and fun to read.
- * As well as those already mentioned, re-read the passage where Abel plays with Blueback (page 28)
- * • Choose an animal to describe using the passages about Blueback as an example.



* Creating descriptive writing



*Tiger Shark research

[http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/video/
player?titleID=1496398280](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/video/player?titleID=1496398280)

*There is nothing in nature as cruel and savage as a human being.



***opinion**

This realisation allows Abel to open his eyes to the importance of ‘staying put’. When Dora discovers whale bones on the beach (page 125) she reflects on the passage of time and the life that brought their family to this beach. Abel and Dora’s ancestor’s lives and attitudes were vastly different to their own.

My Sitting Down Place

by Gail Kay, Proserpine, QLD



<http://youtu.be/mJErURJhwZM>

<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/arts/aboriginal-poems/my-sitting-down-place.html>

- Consider the links between this section of the novel and the Stow quote.



- *Abels ancestors were Whalers.
- *What do you know about whaling ?
- *What is your opinion about it ?

Use this address to find out how a young girl experienced whaling for herself.

<http://www.girlonawhaleship.org/>

Watch this with the class.

<http://youtu.be/mJErURJhwZM>



*Whale
Research

- * Abel and his mother live an environmentally sustainable life, working hard to leave as little footprint on the Bay as is possible (page 18). This is hard work, they go without the modern conveniences and luxuries that many of us take for granted.
- * What kind of things would Abel and his mother consider a luxury rather than a necessity ?



* Environmental Sustainability

*The life and views of Dora gives us an example of how one person embraced living sustainably.

*What can we do to live as well as Dora ?



* Contrast

- * Environmental problems such as oil spills (page 118) and changing weather (page 123) are also mentioned in the book.
- * This is a text with a strong environmental consciousness. Abel spends much of his life struggling with how best to help and protect the bay but it is not until the very end of the novel that he realises that the answer is in letting the ‘the sea be itself’ (page 150).
- * • Share your own views about environmental sustainability.

In what way could you/do you live sustainable lives?

What does this mean to you and your families?

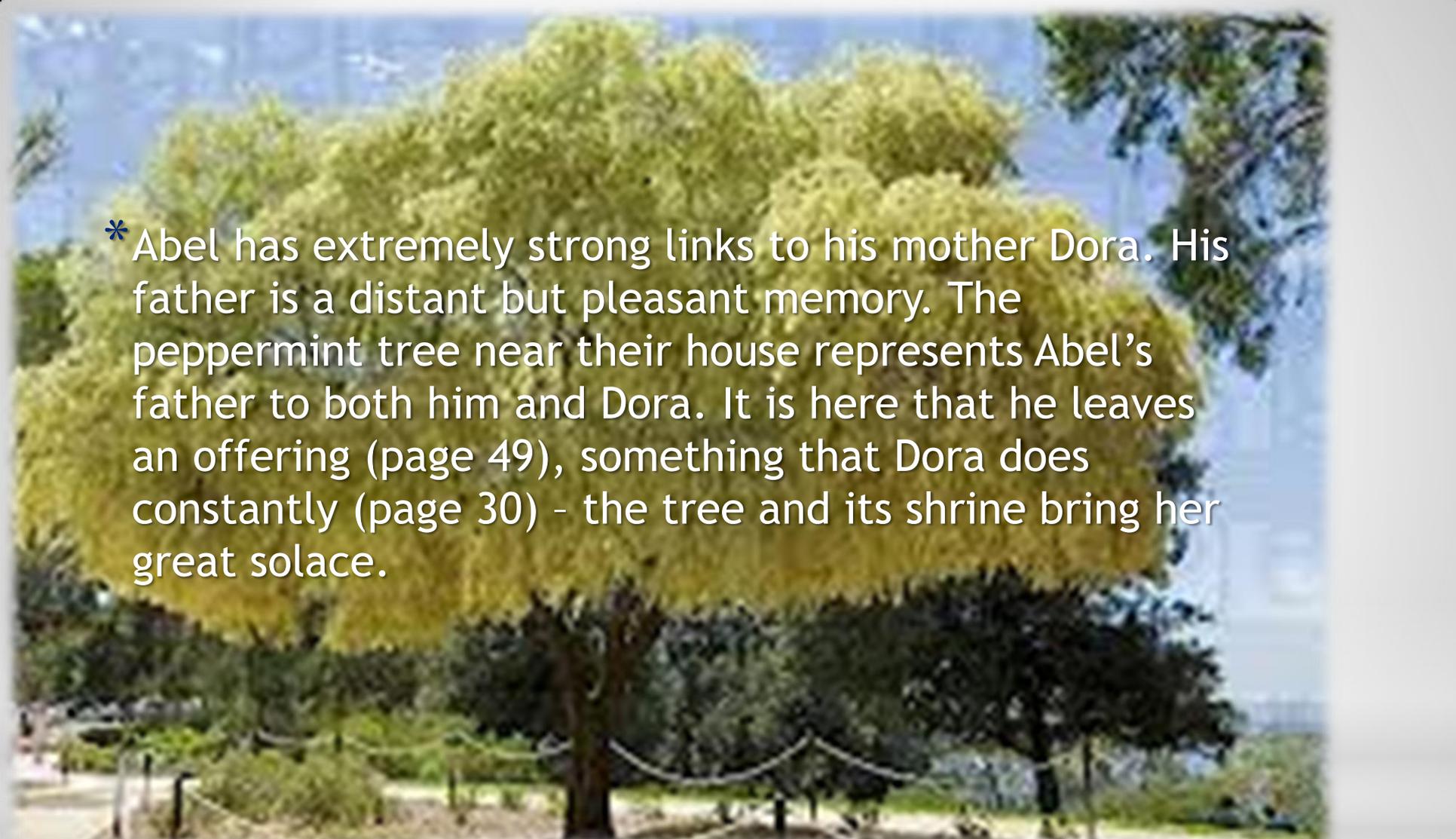
What are ‘Materialism and consumerism’ ?

Sustainability

- * <http://youtu.be/dvB6hbExLAo>
- * What questions would you need answered before you agreed or disagreed with this advertisement ?



* Opinion ?



* Abel has extremely strong links to his mother Dora. His father is a distant but pleasant memory. The peppermint tree near their house represents Abel's father to both him and Dora. It is here that he leaves an offering (page 49), something that Dora does constantly (page 30) - the tree and its shrine bring her great solace.

* Shrines



* • What is the significance of a shrine, a grave, a special place to how we remember loved ones ?

* shrines

* What might Abel tell us if he could about the importance of the peppermint tree ?



She learnt by staying put, by watching and listening.'
(page 128)



What does this mean to you ?

* Abel contemplates his mother:

* “It was true, she wasn’t like other people. She certainly wasn’t like his schoolmates’ mothers.

* Other mothers bought fashionable clothes and drove flash cars and chirped like birds. Abel’s mother was quiet and tough and sun-streaked. She did things differently. Her hands were lined and calloused. She looked like the land and sea had made her.”
(page 71-2)



* • Is Dora like other mothers?

- * Love is central to an understanding of Dora - her love of the land and the sea supports her.
- * She explains to Abel that when he is away:
- * ‘I miss you terribly. But no, I’m not lonely...this land is a kind of friend to me’ (page 71)
- * As he get older Abel understands that it is this love - for her surroundings, her husband’s memory, this place - that sustains her, makes her strong (page 97) and he realises it is this strength that sustains him through his time away.



What actions of others tell us that they love a place, a person, their family.....



- * In one of its earliest, published forms the novel Blueback had a sub title - ‘A Contemporary Fable’.
- * • Why might the book be seen as a fable?
- * The World Book Dictionary gives four definitions for the word fable.
- * They are:
 - * 1. *a story or tale made up to teach a lesson. Fables are often about animals who can talk as in The Hare and the Tortoise.*
 - * 2. *An untrue story; fabrication; falsehood.*
 - * 3. *Myth; legend: Greek Fable.*
 - * 4. *The plot of a drama or epic poem.*

* Fables

- * • **What do you think?**



- * Abalone fishing
 - * <http://marchone.com.au/client-content/dis1512-microsite/abaloneFacts.htm>
 - * **The Author:**
 - * http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Winton
 - * <http://www.theage.com.au/environment/conservation/leave-sharks-alone-says-tim-winton-20100718-10fto.html>
- Leave sharks alone, says Tim Winton
- * <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/enoughrope/transcripts/sl227915.htm>
Transcript of an interview with Andrew Denton
 - * <http://www.themonthly.com.au/node/981>
 - * SlowTV: Tim Winton in conversation with Martin Flanagan (video)
– Part 1 talks about diving and water experiences, Part 2 is more about the writing process.
 - * The Book:
 - * [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blueback_\(novel\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blueback_(novel))

- * **Reviews:**
- * <http://reviews.media-culture.org.au/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=3263>
- * Abalone:
- * <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/pub/FAQAbalone/index.php?0309>
- * <http://www.fish.wa.gov.au/docs/aqwa/Abalone/index.php?0308/>
- * <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abalone>
- * **Blue Groper:**
- * http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_groper
- * <http://www.westernangler.com.au/fishing-info/fish-guide/185-western-blue-groper>
- * <http://www.seadragonfoundation.org/SF1%20Articles/Protect%20Western%20Blue%20Groper.htm>
- * **For the Teacher:**
- * http://www.penguin.com.au/educationcentre/pdf/teachers_notes/PDF/9780143304333.pdf
- * From the penguin Teachers' notes written by Dr Susan La Marca
- * <http://www.penguin.com.au/old/puffin/notes/pdf/9780143304333.pdf>

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