



***Small Group Read Aloud Program: Integrative Strategy Guide***

**Title:** Following Papa's Song

**Author/ Illustrator:** Gianna Marino

**Age Range:** 4-7

**Topics/Themes:** migration, whales, father/son

**See video of this book read aloud here:** [Following Papa's Song](#)

**I. COMPONENTS OF BOOK (REVIEW EACH SESSION)**

Author, Illustrator (roles of each)

Title; front and back covers; spine

**II. INTRODUCTION-- BEFORE READING:**

Model a think-aloud strategy with the students:

- What type of animals are on the cover?
- Where do you think this story takes place? What makes you say that?
- Can you guess which whale is Papa? Why?
- What kind of song does a whale sing? (If you have a recording on your tablet of whale song, play it for students)

**DURING READING:**

p. 1. What time of daytime "dawn"?

p. 6. How will papa's song help Little Blue know where to go?

p. 14. What do you predict the flash in the darkness is?

p. 22. How is little Blue feeling? Share with the others why you think that.

p. 23. Do you remember what papa told Little Blue to do at the beginning of the story? Why does he need to listen for his papa's song?

**POST READING:**

- Conduct a picture walk with the students, asking students to retell as you go.
- Is the story fiction, a make-believe? Or, is the story non-fiction, true information that gives you facts to explain something? What makes you think that?
- What happened in the story that could not have happened in real life?
- Why did Papa sing for Little Blue?
- Where do you think they were going? MANY? (Migrating to warmer waters – feeding and breeding)
- Why did the author write this story? I what was her message?

**SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITY:**

What kind of whale is in the story? Have real picture of humpback whales to share.  
facts to share can be found at:

[HTTP://WWW.WHALEFACTS.ORG/HUMPBACK-WHALE-FACTS/](http://www.whalefacts.org/humpback-whale-facts/)