

## Whisper on the Wind

By Claire Saxby & Illustrated by Jess Racklyeft

Publisher: Allen & Unwin

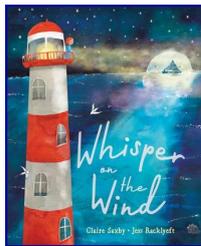
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This is the wind  
that carries the whisper  
from Ren's dream.

This is the sailor,  
long at sea,  
who catches it.

The multi-award-winning duo behind *Iceberg* returns! With its lyrical, cumulative text and whimsical, richly imagined artwork, *Whisper on the Wind* is a celebration of the wonders of the ocean and the power of love to find us - wherever we are.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### Themes:

- Separation
- Connection
- Reunion
- Wonders of the Ocean
- Family

### Discussion Questions:

#### *Comprehension:*

- Open the book and read the story through once, allowing plenty of time for students to explore each of the double-page spreads. Once finished, ask students the following questions:
  - ◇ Who is Ren?
  - ◇ What do you think Ren was 'whispering' in the dream?
  - ◇ Where did Ren's whisper travel on the wind?
  - ◇ Who is the sailor?
  - ◇ What did the sailor do when she caught the whisper from Ren's dream?
  - ◇ Why did she do that after she caught the whisper?
  - ◇ How do Ren and the sailor feel about each other?

#### *Match the Visual Elements:*

- Explain to young students that almost everything they saw in the ocean scenes was imagined/dreamed by Ren and that we know this because each can be found in Ren's bedroom in the very first page, featuring the words, 'This is the whisper in Ren's dream.' Ask students to find on this page:
  - ◇ the bottle containing the whispered dream [on the chest of drawers]
  - ◇ the whale [the toy being clutched by Ren]
  - ◇ the fish and the mermaid [a poster on the wall and the book on the bed]
  - ◇ the octopus [poster on the wall]
  - ◇ the dolphin [sticker on the wall]
  - ◇ the moon [the light globe]
  - ◇ the stars at night [the fairy lights above Ren's bed]
  - ◇ the sailor [the photo of the mother holding the baby on the wall]

#### *Real versus fantasy:*

- Encourage students to nominate which elements in Ren's dream can really be found in an ocean and which are entirely imaginary. The most obvious are the mermaid and merman, as well as the kraken (giant red sea monster).