



new bedford
whaling museum

ART. HISTORY. SCIENCE. CULTURE.

JOURNALING:

Logging a
New
Perspective

This lesson includes three sections:

1

INVESTIGATE (15 min.)

Click through the following slide deck to learn more about journaling through the eyes of Adeline Heppingstone, a 14-year-old aboard the whaling vessel *Fleetwing* in 1882.

2

INQUIRE (15 min.)

Analyze Adeline's actual journal and the transcription to make deductions about everyday life upon a whaling vessel.

3

IMAGINE (30 min.)

Commit to making a journal entry each day for one week. Come back together to compare and contrast what each of you thought was valuable to record.

INVESTIGATE

Why do journals matter?

Journals can provide a detailed account of the past. The day-to-day recordings provide us with a unique glimpse into a specific time period, often from a distinct point of view. Journals tend to reflect societal norms and challenges of the times. These accounts contribute greatly to our historical thinking. Plus, they let us walk in another's shoes, helping to develop our historical empathy.



In the North Pacific Ocean

1857

Tight Whales Monday May 2^d B'ing with good weather and moderate wind from N.E. the ship heading at 4.15 P.M. saw a right whale on our weather beam, toward all the boat, the mate going in his own boat, after chasing for two hours they gave him up. the whale dodging around so that they could not get near him, at 7 shortens sail, middle part a severe storm with fog and light wind from N.E. the ship heading E. N. E. latter part cloudy hazy weather and moderate wind from the Northwestward, S.W. E. at 11 A.M. set snoring sail and single reefed topsails, also worn ship steering N.W. by W.

Lat. 41° 41' N. 157° 50' W.
Long. 149° 50' W.

Tight Whales Tuesday May 3^d B'ing with hazy weather and light wind from N.W. E. was at 10.15 P.M. under easy sail and single reefed topsails, at 7 P.M. shortened sail, middle part foggy weather and light wind from E. N. E. heading S. E. at daylight, saw a whale ship standing to the Northwestward, latter part cloudy hazy weather and moderate wind from the same quarter, raised whaling, at 7 P.M. toward all the boat 6 right whales in sight, at 10 they returned being unable to strike, at 11 bore again, at midnight they returned to the ship with no better success.

Lat. 41° 41' N. 157° 50' W.
Long. 149° 50' W.

Bound to Kamtschatka.

1857

Tight Whales Wednesday May 4th B'ing with good weather and moderate wind from N.E. the ship heading E. N. E. at 1 P.M. saw a group of right whales 8 or 10 in number on our weather beam, about 4 P.M. the three being quite a number of whales scattered around, toward all the boat, the whales were very quiet and they having just struck in the ground, in a short time the bow boat struck and the boat shore part two ivory in their side, the column was a long way, and kept dodging and running so under water that no other boat could follow, after trying every way to get another boat past or give him a bomb, for three hours, when the whale finally took the entire line (220 fathoms) when the boat returned to the ship at 7 P.M. and was hoisted up for the night, shortened sail. Middle part a thick fog and moderate wind from E. N. E. latter part at 7 P.M. a squall from N.W. drove up the fog with fresh breeze from the same quarter, the ship under short sail heading S.W. E. at 8 P.M. worn ship steering N.W.

Lat. 41° 41' N. 157° 50' W.
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Thursday May 5th B'ing with clear weather and a moderate gale of wind from the Westward, the ship under easy sail bore to the Northwestward toward the middle of the

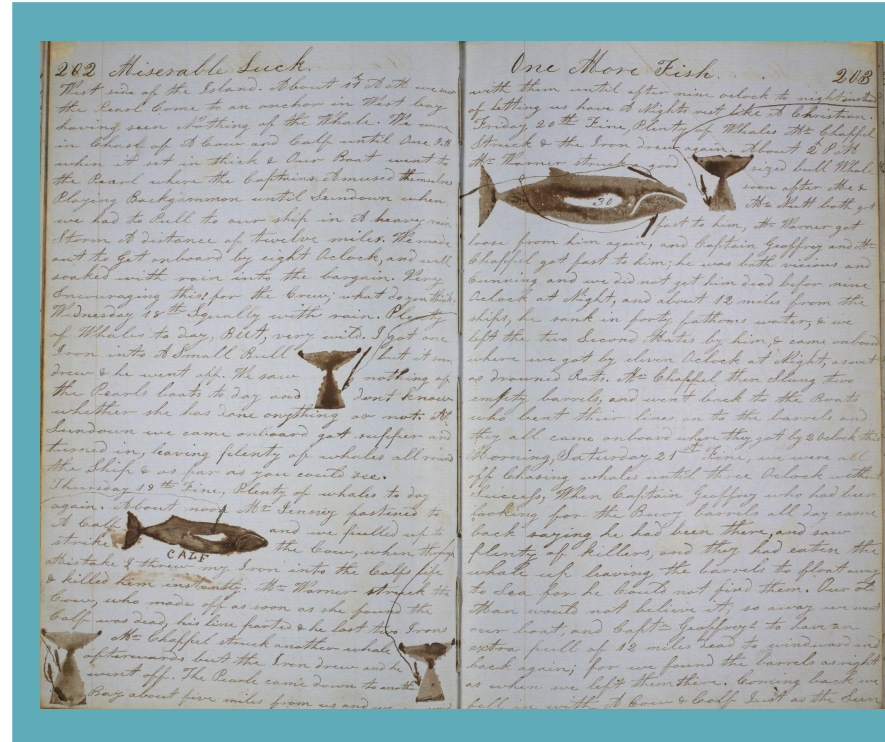
One type of journal in the 1800s was a whaling logbook, the official record of a whaling voyage. The first mate would take daily notes to record the date, the ship's position (latitude and longitude), and the weather, including the wind speed and direction.

Other members of the crew might keep journals to record their experiences while on the whaling ship.

The keeper of the journal would describe daily activities on the ship, including sailing, keeping watch, cleaning, repairing sails, and hunting whales. Some crew members were carpenters, blacksmiths, or coopers. The crew also passed the time making "spunyarn" (twine) or "scrimshonting" (scrimshaw).

Journals also noted events such as meetups with other vessels, injuries, illnesses, and deaths, plus socializing on land. Some journals contained artwork and stamps that showed whales.

A journal by Adeline Heppingstone gives a glimpse of her life on a whaling voyage in 1882.



Aft – Towards the back end of a vessel.

Ballast – Heavy material put on a vehicle to provide stability.

Cruising – Traveling back and forth across whaling grounds, westward in the morning and eastward at night in order to see whale spouts in a favorable light.

Fore – In or towards the front part of a vessel.

Hauled/hauling [to] – To change the course of a vessel, especially to sail closer to the wind.

Reefing – Temporarily reducing the area of a sail exposed to the wind, either to guard against particularly strong winds or slow the speed of a vessel.

Steaming – Traveling using steam power, as opposed to only using sails and wind.

Tacking – Navigating in a zig-zag manner to sail directly into the wind.

Trying out – The process of boiling out of the blubber.

Under all sail – To travel with all sails fully exposed to the wind.

What are some common logbook terms?

Click [HERE](#) to learn about logbooks from the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Who is Adeline Heppingstone?

Adeline Heppinstone (1868–1957) was 14 years old when she accompanied her mother and father on a whaling voyage in the Arctic Ocean. John Heppingstone was the captain of the whaling ship *Fleetwing*.

Born in Honolulu, Hawai'i, Adeline was the second child of the Heppingstones. In 1881, Adeline joined her parents on an almost year-long trip, from December 21, 1881 to November 7, 1882.



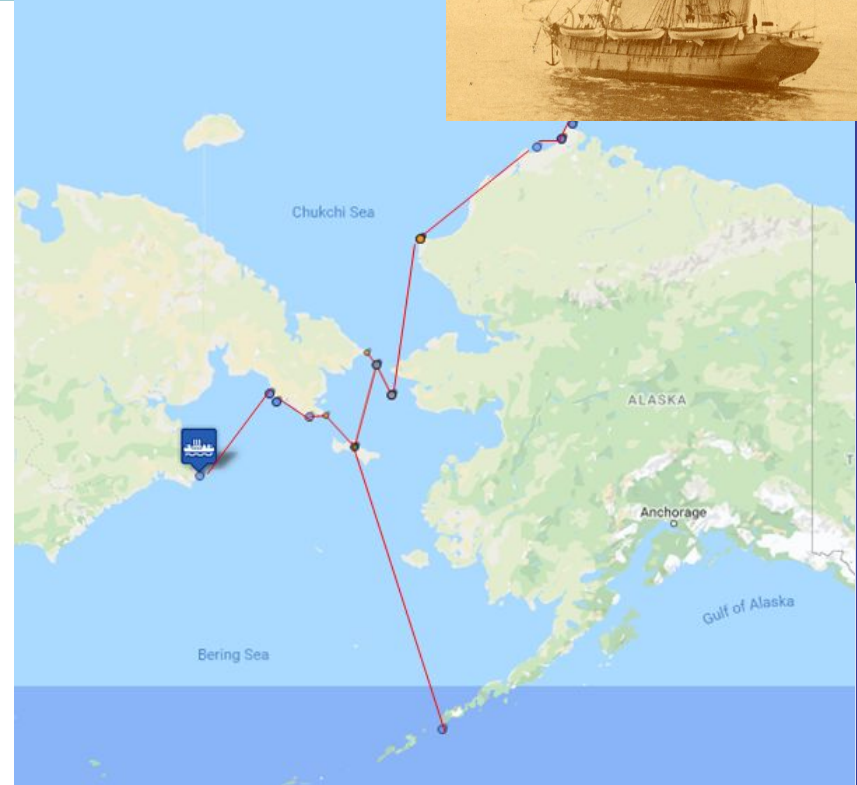
Photographs of
Adeline
Heppingstone



Where did the Fleetwing go?

In 1822, Captain Joseph Russell was the first to bring his family on a whaling voyage. Only the captains and first mates could bring their wives, and occasionally their children, with them on voyages that could last for 3 or 4 years.

Under Captain Heppingstone, the *Fleetwing* made voyages in 1877, 1879, and 1881. The image on the right shows the voyage of *Fleetwing* made with Adeline on board. The ship ultimately was wrecked in a gale off Point Barrow (Nuvuk), Alaska, in 1888.



Curious to hear more?



INQUIRE

Time to question!

Adeline's journal is unique in many ways. Use the handouts to help analyze what she wrote about regarding her daily life on May 3rd or on August 20th.

Adeline wrote in cursive in her journal and did not use much punctuation. Challenge yourself to decipher her handwriting! If you need help, you can read the transcriptions: [May 3, 1882](#) or [August 20, 1882](#)

NAME: _____

ADELINE HEPPINGSTONE

Adeline was 14-years old when she traveled with her parents on the *Fleetwing*, the ship captained by her father. Adeline kept a handwritten journal for the later half of the voyage, detailing her experiences and leaving a record of the whaling ship's trip to the Arctic in 1882.

Directions:

Take a look at one of the two entries shared or pick one on your own. Share your reflections below of this first-hand account of life aboard a whaling vessel.

Can you transcribe part or all of the the handwritten entry on your own?

What did you notice first?

What surprises you about this entry?

What do you wish Adeline wrote more about in this entry?

May, 1882.

Wednesday 3^d

To day it is blowing a Very Strong Breeze and intensely cold. eight or ten ships in sight, I intended to have finished my cushion to day, but I had my lessons to get. So I did not. Mother is doing some fancy work it looks very nice, there is quite a lot of ice around if it was calm it would freeze over there is ice all over the ship. I have not been on deck once, no whales to be seen anywhere.

[Click](#) to see the scanned version of this journal page from May 3, 1882.

Sunday 20th

again I have good news, at 9 o'clock,
we lowered for a Whale, and had
the good fortune to get him, it was
a very large Whale, the bone was
12 feet long, and it was very fat,
ten ships in sight, this forenoon and
a little while this afternoon it snowed
quite hard, but it was nice and
smooth - cutting our Whale

May, 1882.

Wednesday 3d

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August, 1882

Sunday 20

again I have good news, at 9, O, clock, we lowered for a Whale, and had the good fortune to get him, it was a very large Whale, the bone [baleen] was 12 feet long, and it was very fat, ten Ships in Sight, this forenoon and a little While this afternoon it Snowed quite hard, but it was nice and Smooth Cutting our Whale

IMAGINE

Time to create!

Journals and logbooks have provided us a valuable glimpse into the past. Plus, did you know that journaling is a powerful life tool?

Challenge yourself to create one journal entry per day for the following week. What will you choose to record about your daily life?

Activity Guide: A Journal of Your Own

Your Challenge

It's your turn to journal. Dedicate yourself to creating one journal entry per day. When and where might you want to carve out time to write in or record your journal?

What might you want to capture forevermore? Consider documenting the small details as well as the big moments in your daily life. While you might be writing for yourself, what might others -- down the road -- enjoy learning about from your life?

Materials

- Pen/pencil and paper
- Brainstorming web PDF
- OPTIONAL:
 - art supplies
 - audio recording devices or software
 - video recording devices
 - editing tools

Time to Create

STEP 1: REFLECT

- If helpful, begin by creating a brainstorming web that captures moments about your daily activities. What is significant to note? What highs and lows are worth reflecting on?
- Next, find a quiet spot to writing or record your entry. How will you recap your day?

STEP 2: RECORD

- Now, put a modern twist on the journaling. You may choose to handwrite your entries or you could take a digital approach. You could create:
 - An artistic rendition to represent the day
 - A multimedia entry with text and images
 - An audio recording complete with sound effects
 - A slideshow or animation for a visually-rich entry
 - A video recording of a first-hand account
- Consider how you can capture your voice -- literally or figuratively -- whether that be through artwork, animations, or selfie style.

STEP 3: SHARE OUT

- Find time at the end of class or in the near future to share select entries. Have a discussion to compare and contrast how each of you approached your entries. How did your creative voices differ?

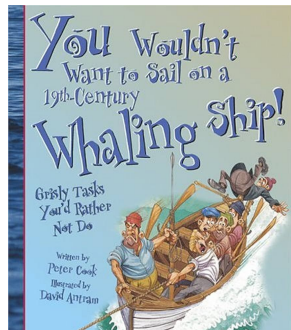
Additional resources

Old Weather Forum: Adeline Heppingstone and the Fleetwing

Vistas: The Journal of Adeline Heppingstone (Matthews) (1868-1957)

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute: Centuries-old whaling logbooks are being used to understand climate history

Internet Archive: NBWM Logbook and Journal Collection



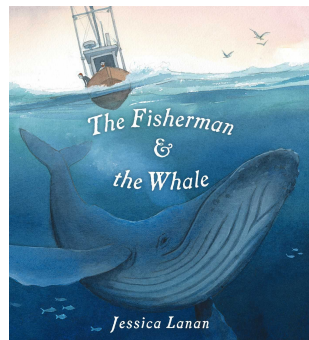
You Wouldn't Want to Sail on a 19th Century Whaling Ship!

by Peter Cook



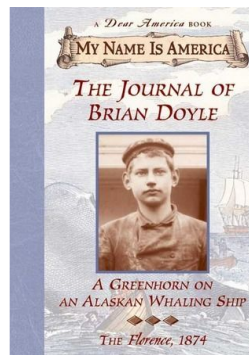
Wreck This Journal

by Keri Smith



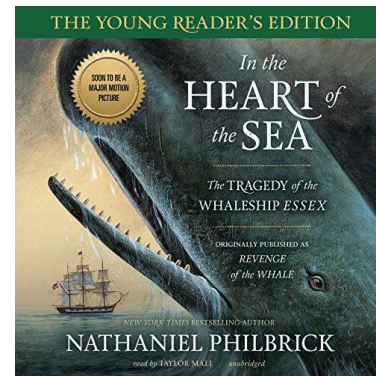
The Fisherman & the Whale

by Jessica Lanan



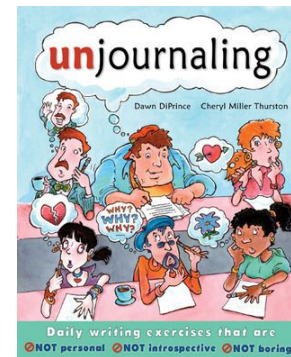
The Journal of Brian Doyle

by Jim Murphy



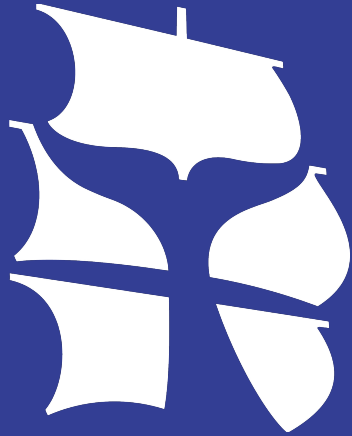
In the Heart of the Sea

by Nathaniel Philbrick



Unjournaling: Daily Writing Exercises ...

by Dawn DiPrince,
Cheryl Miller Thurston



For more
classroom activities,
visit the
New Bedford Whaling
Museum website:

www.whalingmuseum.org

Media citations

Slide 4 image: New Bedford Whaling Museum:

<https://www.whalingmuseum.org/research/>

Slide 5 image: New Bedford Whaling Museum, [KWM 181](#):

<https://archive.org/details/logbookofsaratog00sara/page/70/mode/2up>

Slide 6 image: New Bedford Whaling Museum, [KWM 1033](#):

<https://archive.org/details/KWM-1033/page/n227/mode/2up>

Slide 8 & 9 images: <https://www.oldweatherforum.org/viewtopic.php?t=971>

Slide 10 video: New Bedford Whaling Museum *Stories from the Stacks, Episode 5: The logbook of Adeline Heppingstone*: <https://youtu.be/4WncmsgAxKs>

Slides 13 & 14 images: New Bedford Whaling Museum, [ODHS 961](#):

<https://archive.org/details/logbookoffleetwi00flee/logbookoffleetwi00flee/mode/2up>