

# Preview of Common Core State Standards Sample EAGLE Items

Grade 4

English Language Arts

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## **Grade 4**

This item set is based on two passages about whales. The first is an article and the second is a poem. The sources offer factual information as well as a sensory view of a mother-and-child whale pair. A complete item set would target vocabulary, structural elements of poems and articles, figurative language, and more. In this sample set, we provide two technology-enhanced items that can be machine scored, one short-answer item part, and one culminating essay.



by Jack R. Bennet

Imagine an animal bigger than a brontosaurus and louder than a jet engine. Now try to figure out why a scientist, long ago, gave it the Latin name *Balaenoptera musculus*, or “baleen whale mouse”! What is it? It’s the blue whale—and yes, its back is grayish blue. But mainly, it’s big!

### **IT’S HUGE!**

Do you think an elephant is big? An elephant could stand on a blue whale’s tongue! The blue whale grows to more than 100 feet long. It’s as long as three school buses parked end to end. Its heart is as big as a small car. A child could crawl through its largest artery. It weighs about 160 tons—as much as about 1,600 people. Even at birth, a baby *Balaenoptera musculus* may be 27 feet long and weigh 3 tons.

Why the strange Latin name? Well, the word *musculus* can actually mean either “muscular” or “mouse.” Perhaps Linnaeus, the scientist who made up the name, meant it as a joke.

### **IT’S LOUD!**

The voice of the blue whale is the most powerful in the world. The loudest land animal, the South American howler monkey, can be heard from three miles away. But a blue whale’s voice may travel across an entire ocean! The sound is so low that humans can’t even hear it. That’s good, because the sound is so loud it would be painful to human ears. The sounds made by blue whales rumble in such a way as to be felt, even at great distances.

### **IT’S HUNGRY!**

You’d think that such a large animal would need big things to eat. However, the blue whale feeds mostly on tiny sea creatures called krill. The blue whale sucks in millions of these inch-long, shrimplike animals, along with gigantic amounts of water. The krill get caught in the whale’s baleen, which is like a comb attached to the top of its mouth. The water is squeezed back out into the sea, and the whale swallows the krill. A blue whale eats about 4 tons of them every day.

A baby blue, or calf, is an amazing eater. A blue whale mother supplies milk that is very high in fat. The calf may drink 100 gallons of milk a day, gaining 8 pounds an hour, or about 200 pounds a day.

## **IT'S ENDANGERED!**

Blue whales were safe from whalers until the late 1800s. The blue whales were just too big and fast to catch. In time, however, ships got faster and powerful harpoon cannons were invented. Then blue whales were hunted constantly for the high-quality oil they store in their blubber. Between 1930 and 1931, over 29,000 were killed in the Antarctic alone.

Though at one time there may have been as many as 350,000 blue whales roaming the seas, they became scarce. Finally, in 1966, the International Whaling Commission passed laws protecting them. Today, there are probably only a few thousand blue whales, though their numbers seem to be increasing.



## **Mother and Child**

**by Miranda St. James**

Mother, can't I go and see?

If I stay at the surface, I can see wonderful things.

Be careful, my little one.

You belong in the sea.

Why? I want to see the wide world!

I want to go where the people go!

In the ocean you can see farther: mountains, canyons, wilderness.

Most of the world is covered with ocean. Isn't that enough to explore?

But I want to go fast and far!

I want to play and leap!

On dry land, you would be trapped like a giant tied to the beach.

In the sea, you are as free as a song.

We slip through the deep like a whisper.

We are dancers moving with the rhythms of the ocean.

<b>UIN:</b>	24001	<b>Subject:</b>	ELA	<b>Grade:</b>	4	<b>Item Type:</b>	copy/paste		
<b>CCSS:</b>	RI.4.1	CCSS text: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.							
<b>MC Key:</b>		<b>Item Name:</b>	evidence	<b># Art Pieces:</b>	0	<b>Est. Difficulty:</b>	2	<b>DOK</b>	2
<b>Points:</b>	4	<b>Accommodations :</b>		<b>Scoring Method:</b>	AS				
<b>Passage Title(s):</b>	It's Big! It's Blue!								
<b>Source info:</b>									

Copy and paste a sentence from the article that helps the reader answer each question. The first one is done for you.

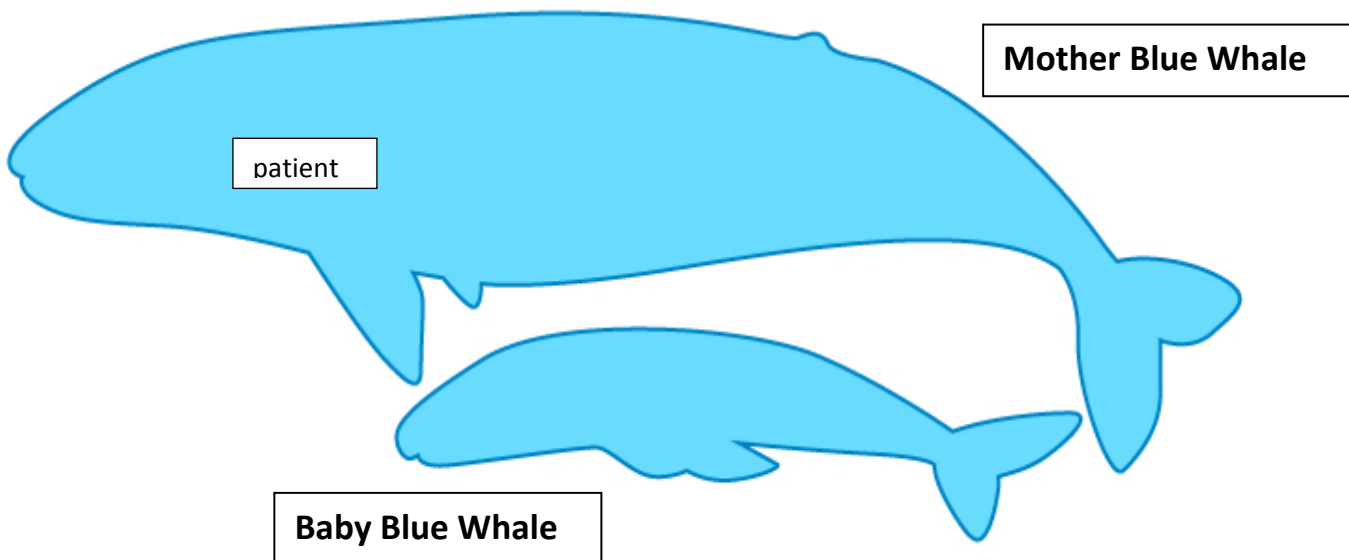
What is baleen?	The krill get caught in the whale's baleen, which is like a comb attached to the top of its mouth.
How much does a baby blue whale eat?	
How much does an adult blue whale weigh?	
What made the blue whales valuable to hunters?	
How many blue whales were in the ocean before high-powered boats and harpoons were invented?	

<b>UIN:</b>	23002	<b>Subject:</b>	ELA	<b>Grade:</b>	4	<b>Item Type:</b>	drag and drop		
<b>CCSS:</b>	RL.4.3 RL.4.1	CCSS text: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in a text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words or actions). CCSS text: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.							
<b>MC Key:</b>		<b>Item Name:</b>	Character summary from text	<b># Art Pieces:</b>	2	<b>Est. Difficulty:</b>	M	<b>DOK</b>	3
<b>Points:</b>	4-5	<b>Accommodations :</b>		<b>Scoring Method:</b>	Mixed				
<b>Passage Title(s):</b>	Mother and Child								
<b>Source info:</b>									

**Part A**

Choose the words that describe the mother blue whale and drag them into the shape of the mother whale. Then choose the words that describe the baby blue whale, and drag them into the shape of the baby whale. One word has been moved for you.

wise	calm	bold
playful	kind	protective
curious	adventurous	-----



**Part B**

Choose one of the words in part A that you feel describes the baby whale. Tell why you chose this word for the baby whale. Use examples from the poem to help you write your answer.



<b>UIN:</b>	23005	<b>Subject:</b>	ELA	<b>Grade:</b>	4	<b>Item Type:</b>	narrative		
<b>CCSS:</b>	W.4.3a-e W.4.9a-b L.4.1a-g L.4.2a-d	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.							
<b>MC Key:</b>		<b>Item Name:</b>	story based on facts from article and ideas from poem	<b># Art Pieces:</b>	0	<b>Est. Difficulty:</b>	H	<b>DOK</b>	4
<b>Points:</b>	4	<b>Accommodations :</b>		<b>Scoring Method:</b>	HS				
<b>Passage Title(s):</b>	It's Big! It's Blue! , Mother and Child								
<b>Source info:</b>									

Create a story about a day in the life of a baby blue whale. What would the baby whale see and do? Use facts from the article and ideas from the poem to help you write your story. Be sure to follow the conventions of standard English.

# Sample Constructed-Response Item Rubrics

## Grade 4

These are the rubrics and sample responses for the constructed-response **Common Core State Standards Sample EAGLE Items** for Grade 4. These items require a teacher/scorer to hand-score the responses. The rubrics provide guidance to the scorer who must bring his or her own expertise to the task. The sample responses offer one or two responses for each constructed-response item. Other exemplary responses are possible.

**Item 2B**

Exemplary Response

The baby whale is curious. It wants to see the whole wide world. The baby whale wants to go fast and far.

or

I think the baby is playful. He wants to play and leap. He wants to go and play with people.

or

any other valid response

Scoring Rubric

<b>Score</b>	<b>Description</b>
2	The response is complete and correct. The response explains why the word chosen in part A describes the baby whale AND uses examples from the poem.
1	The response is not complete or is only partially correct. The response does not fully explain why the word chosen in part A describes the baby whale, does not use sufficient examples from the poem, or includes minor errors in the interpretation or representation of the text.
0	The response is incorrect, irrelevant, too brief to evaluate, or blank.

### Item 3

#### Exemplary Response

One day there was a baby blue whale swimming in the ocean. It was swimming very fast. It went to the top of the water and then swam back down by its mom. The baby whale and its mom went to look for food and ate some krill. The baby whale drank a lot of milk from its mom. When the baby whale started to get bored, it began to play. It swam and went fast and far. It went to mountains, canyons, and wilderness. Then, all of a sudden, the baby whale saw something at the top of the water. There were people pointing at the whales. The baby whale wanted to get close, but the mama whale said no because they had to be careful. The mom was so loud, her voice went across the ocean!

or

any other valid response

#### Scoring Rubric

Score	Description
4	The response is complete and correct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The student creates a story about a day in the life of a baby blue whale.</li><li>• The student uses facts from the story AND ideas from the poem to support the story.</li><li>• Errors in the conventions of standard English are minimal.</li></ul>
3	The response shows a general understanding, but is incomplete. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The student does not fully create a story about a day in the life of a baby blue whale, OR uses insufficient facts from the story or ideas from the poem in support of the story.</li><li>• Minor errors in the conventions of standard English may be present, but do not impair readability.</li></ul>
2	The response shows partial understanding and is incomplete or incorrect in an important element. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The student only partially creates a story about a day in the life of a baby blue whale, OR uses facts or ideas from only one passage in support of the response.</li><li>• Many errors in the conventions of standard English are present and may somewhat inhibit understanding.</li></ul>
1	The response shows minimal understanding and is significantly incomplete or incorrect in important elements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The student only minimally creates a story about a day in the life of a baby blue whale, OR does not use facts from the story or ideas from the poem in support of the story.</li><li>• Errors in the conventions of standard English are significant and the reader struggles to understand.</li></ul>
0	The student's response is incorrect, irrelevant, too brief to evaluate, or blank.