

BLM 8 – *The Whale Rider* Chapter 9 Questions

If you have not already done so, **you must read Chapter 9** before completing this activity. It is a short chapter that documents the time the old bull whale saves his pod from radioactive material that spews from a crack on the ocean’s floor. Answer the following questions based on Chapter 9 on loose-leaf paper, in full sentences. Remember to use formal, written language (no slang or text talk).

1. What is the life cycle of Paikea according to the first paragraph of this chapter?

First he was a _____. Then he landed at _____ where he became _____ and married the daughter of chief _____. Now he is a _____ at the top of the _____ in Whangara.

2. Why is the ancient bull whale mourning? What happened in Tuamotu Archipelago?
3. Paragraph answer: What does the author, Witi Ihimaera, mean when he writes, “in this place that had once, ironically, been the womb of the world?” What place is he talking about? What happens there? What is happening there now? How is it ironic? What comparison can you make between Chapter 9 and the previous chapters that document life in the Archipelago?

You may wish to use one of the following writing prompts to start your paragraph:

- When Witi Ihimaera writes “in this place that had once, ironically, been the womb of the world,” he is referring to...
 - Ironically, _____ is no longer “the womb of the world” in Chapter 9 of *Whale Rider* because...
4. How is the whale rider able to sit atop the bull whale? What happens to ensure that he is safe while riding the whale?