

***Whale Talk*—Folder Writing**

Answer one of the following questions each time you are asked to complete folder writing. If you finish writing about one topic before time is called, switch off to another question on the list.

During Reading

1. How is your high school similar to and different from Cutter High?
2. T.J.'s sanctuary becomes swimming. Describe your sanctuary.
3. In some ways, T.J. conforms to (goes along with) what is expected of him. In other ways, he rebels against the expectations that are set for him. In what ways do you conform to the expectations that are set for you? In what ways do you rebel against what is expected of you?
4. Is this a book about friendships? Cliques? Who are T.J.'s friends? How do his friendships change? Why do they change?
5. How would you describe Mr. Simet? What qualities does he possess that make him a good teacher? Have you ever known a teacher similar to Mr. Simet? Describe this teacher.
6. How would you characterize T.J.'s relationship with his family?
7. After reading a section of *Whale Talk*, make a **prediction** about what will happen to T.J. next.
8. Choose a passage from a chapter, and write about why you like this section of the novel.
9. Describe a time when you felt you were being blamed for something that was beyond your control, a time when you were being blamed for something that wasn't your fault.
10. T.J. describes himself and his teammates as a "Far Side" swim team. Have you ever been in a situation similar to T.J.'s, somehow ostracized (left out) by the members of your school or neighborhood? If so, what impact did this situation have on you? Have you known someone in this position? How did they handle the situation?
11. Have you ever been in a frightening situation similar to the ones T.J. finds himself in with Rich Marshall? In other words, have you suddenly found yourself in a situation where you no longer felt like you had control over what was happening around you. Describe the situation and how it was resolved.

After Reading

1. Is this a book about making intelligent decisions? List three decisions that T.J. makes in the book. Tell why you think he made the decisions and what the consequences were. Were there any consequences he could not have expected?