



14-The White Whale

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Rat The Cat had a dream at the shore:

"This is Captain Rat! I sail the seas to fish for the white whale. This is my ship, and these are my shipmates. They are Chicken Fred and Dave. Dave is a tame ape."

"Captain Rat! Captain Rat!" yelled First

Mate Fred. Second Mate Dave has seen the white whale!"

"Which white whale?" asked Rat.

"The white whale we sail the seas to fish for, Captain Rat," answered Fred.

"Are you sure?" asked Captain Rat.

"Second Mate Dave is a third-rate mate."

Captain Rat pointed at a whale in the sea.

"Did Second Mate Dave see THIS white whale?" asked Captain Rat.

"Yes!" said First Mate Fred. "That is the whale!"

Second Mate Dave ran up to Captain Rat.

"Captain! Captain!" Dave shouted. "I

saw the white whale!"

"Do you mean THIS white whale?"
asked Captain Rat.

"Yes!" said Dave. "That is the white
whale I saw!"

"Dave, you are a third-rate mate!" said
Captain Rat. "That IS NOT the white
whale I seek!"

"Why not?" asked Dave.

"THIS white whale is thin," said Rat.
"MY white whale is big and thick. THIS
white whale is nice. MY white whale is
vile. It eats ships, cats, chickens, and
apes. I gave my oath to get THAT white
whale, and I will!"

"Yipes!" gasped First Mate Fred. "Why

not just fish for THIS nice, thin white whale? We can go home with him and all the people will thank us. They will think we caught the BAD white whale!"

"Yes!" said Second Mate Dave. "Let us take THIS white whale that eats fish! Why go get a whale that will eat US?"

"I can take this from the chicken," said Captain Rat, but not from the ape! You two need to have faith in your Captain!" Then Dave took the wheel while Rat ran to the top of the ship and yelled:

"Oh, vile whale that eats ships, I will get you! This is Captain Rat! Hear me now oh vile white whale—there are three bold sailors on this ship—well, TWO

bold sailors and a chicken named Fred. But we will get you you vile white whale!"

There was a thud on the ship. The white whale, the REAL white whale, the BIG, THICK, MEAN white whale came up from the sea. The white whale was angry at Captain Rat, First Mate Fred, and Second Mate Dave.

The vile white whale ate the ship. It was a sad end to Rat's dream. Captain Rat should have let the white whale go.

Rat The Cat woke at the shore.

"Wow!" he said. "What a dream! That dream would be a nice tale—it could be a book for people to read. I could write

the book and get rich! And I think the first line of my book would be: *Call me Fish Meal.*

Vocabulary

hard th

these	this	those	then
them	that	the	there

soft th

thin	think	three	path
thick	thud	math	oath
thank	theme	with	

wh digraph

whip	where	while	wheel
whim	when	whale	whack
what	while	whine	white
why			

Weird Words

people	captain	dream
gasped	first	yelled
rich	second	asked
two	chicken	could
three	shouted	would
sailor	sure	should

Dictation

The shell is on the path.

I shop at the mall with my mom.

This whale is thick, that whale is thin.

Toss the fish to that white whale.

I think I will thank those three men.

Where is the whale that ate the three fish?

Why did the white whale eat the ship?

Where is the mall that has that fish shop?

What is that on the wheel?

Is this where we saw the whale?

What did Rat eat with the dish of fish?

Comprehension

Who is bigger, the First Mate or the Second Mate?

Do Fred and Dave want to catch the white whale?

Why or why not?

How does Rat plan to get rich?