

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

Stewart, Melissa

Illustrator

Illustrated by Rob Dunlavey

Reviewer

Martinez, Shan

Pages

Unpaged

Price

\$18.99

ISBN

978-0-593-38060-4

Publisher & Date

Random House Studio, 2023

Classification

Nonfiction (577.79)

Grade Level

4-6

**

Book Review: WHALE FALL: EXPLORING AN OCEAN-FLOOR ECOSYSTEM

Life cycles are a fascinating topic. Often, readers only get a description of birth to death, but what happens to a body after it dies? In this book, the author takes readers to the bottom of the ocean to observe a whale fall. When a gigantic whale dies, it descends to the bottom of the ocean where hundreds of creatures live and wait for food to come to them. This community of organized deep-sea dwellers is the cleanup crew of the ocean. Readers may be surprised to read about the hagfish who smell the dead whale from miles away. They rush to get their first meal in weeks. Then over weeks, months, and years, various not-so-well-known creatures take their turn at deconstructing and consuming the body of the whale. This book is illustrated with colored drawings with some showing microscopic views of creatures such as the deltaproteobacteria, which can only be seen under a microscope. Several pages in the back display the many deep-sea creatures with details such as scientific names, sizes, and diets listed next to the illustration. Older readers will enjoy this book. Well done!

