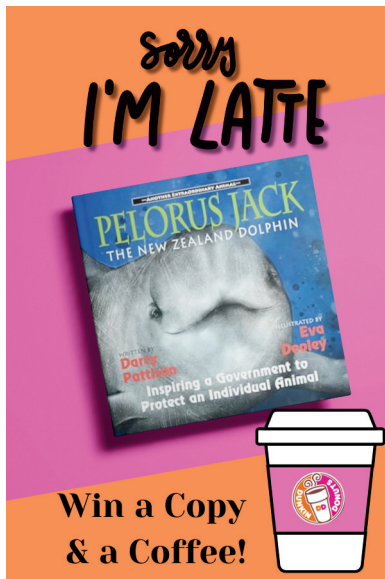




Volume 1 / Issue 4 / May 2024



Hey there, REACH subscribers! I owe you a big apology for this late issue, but I promise it's for a good reason—and I'm making it up to you with a special Subscriber's Only contest! 🎉 Enter now for a chance to win a copy & a coffee on me. The copy is this month's hot off the presses, featured book, "Pelorus Jack" by Darcy Pattison and the coffee is Dunkin'.

[Click here to enter!](#)

May has been a whirlwind for my family, with lots of exciting celebrations. Unfortunately, it also means I'm running a bit behind. My daughter broke her thumb, which meant lots of doctor's visits and chauffeur duties for me since she couldn't drive. On top of that, we've had birthdays galore—both my kids and my husband celebrated turning another year older. Plus, my son's been inducted into the National Honor Society, and my daughter has bagged both her high school diploma and her A.A. degree as a dually enrolled student! Needless to say, we've had our fair share of cake. 🍰

Thank you for your understanding in May, and stay tuned for more fun in the more timely (👉) June issue!

This month's REACH guide, features the newly released picture book by award-winning author Darcy Pattison. It's called *Pelorus Jack*, and it's the sixth book in her Extraordinary animal series which chronicles the story of how humans interact with animals in various ways: how we enjoy, challenge, admire, endanger, and save them. It's a fabulous series for kids to learn about the amazing complexity of animals.

As always, I am grateful to have you as part of the REACH community. Together, we're creating meaningful connections through the magic of stories and making a real difference for generations of readers.

*See you next month!*

*Donna B.*

REACH Editor & Concierge of Children's Book Fun

# This Month's Featured Book: **PELORUS JACK**



By Darcy Pattison, illustrated by Eva Dooley

\*Reading Level 4th-5th Grade, 920L

In the late 1800s, a worldwide conservation movement started to gain momentum. One question people asked was this: How can we save the wild animals?

A mysterious fish, in a remote waterway, swam into history and helped answer this question. Meet Pelorus Jack, the New Zealand dolphin who won the hearts of travelers and inspired a nation to protect him with legislation in 1904. Pelorus Jack lived near French Pass, a notorious waterway in the South Island of New Zealand. With gorgeous, lifelike illustrations, this story transports readers to New Zealand's rugged shores where Pelorus Jack befriends sailors and locals in his role as guardian of the steam ships.

As his fame grew, though, so did the danger from collectors, hunters, and adventurers. How could people protect this amazing dolphin?



“A sweet and vivid historical tale.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*

“An appealing, historical tale of early twentieth-century wildlife conservation.”  
—*Booklist Online*



Hardcover ISBN: 9781629442419 \$25.99; Paperback ISBN: 9781629442426 \$11.99; eBook ISBN: 9781629442433 \$5.99; Audiobook ISBN: 9781629442440 \$5.99. Release date: May 14, 2024

## “ANOTHER EXTRAORDINARY ANIMAL”

PELORUS JACK is the newest addition to Darcy Pattison’s Extraordinary Animal series. This series includes the story of the oldest bird in the world, a spider in space, an orphaned puma cub, a bullfrog with a world-record leap, the poignant story of saving a species from extinction, and the dolphin who inspired a government to protect him.

The series is much more than just an introduction to the animal kingdom. It chronicles the story of how humans interact with animals in various ways: how we enjoy, challenge, admire, endanger, and save them. It’s a fabulous series for kids to learn about the amazing complexity of animals.



### Meet AUTHOR – DARCY PATTISON

Children’s book author and indie publisher Darcy Pattison writes award-winning fiction and non-fiction books for children. Her works have received starred PW, Kirkus, and BCCB reviews. Awards include the Irma Black Honor award, five NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books, two Eureka! Nonfiction Honor book, two Junior Library Guild selections, two NCTE Notable Children’s Book in Language Arts, a 2021 Notable Social Studies Trade Books, a Best STEM Book award, an Arkansiana Award, and a Susannah deBlack Arkansas History Children’s Book award.

## Historical Video of Pelorus Jack from 1912!

How cool is this? Click the image below to see a short video of Pelorus Jack, the legendary New Zealand dolphin who inspired people to seek protection by parliament.

Thank you to Darcy Pattison for sharing this video link with us!



This video is in Public Domain and was graciously shared with our REACH subscribers by author Darcy Pattison

## Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Pelorus Jack enjoys swimming with ships? What does this say about his personality?
2. How does the author use illustrations and text to show Pelorus Jack's connection to the ships and the sailors?
3. What role do the sailors play in Pelorus Jack's life? How do they feel about him?
4. Why do you think Pelorus Jack disappears at the end of the story? What might his disappearance symbolize?
5. Have you ever seen a dolphin or another sea animal in real life? How did it make you feel?
6. How does the story of Pelorus Jack inspire you to help others or make a difference in the world?
7. What are some things you can do to protect wild animals ?



## Reflective Conversation

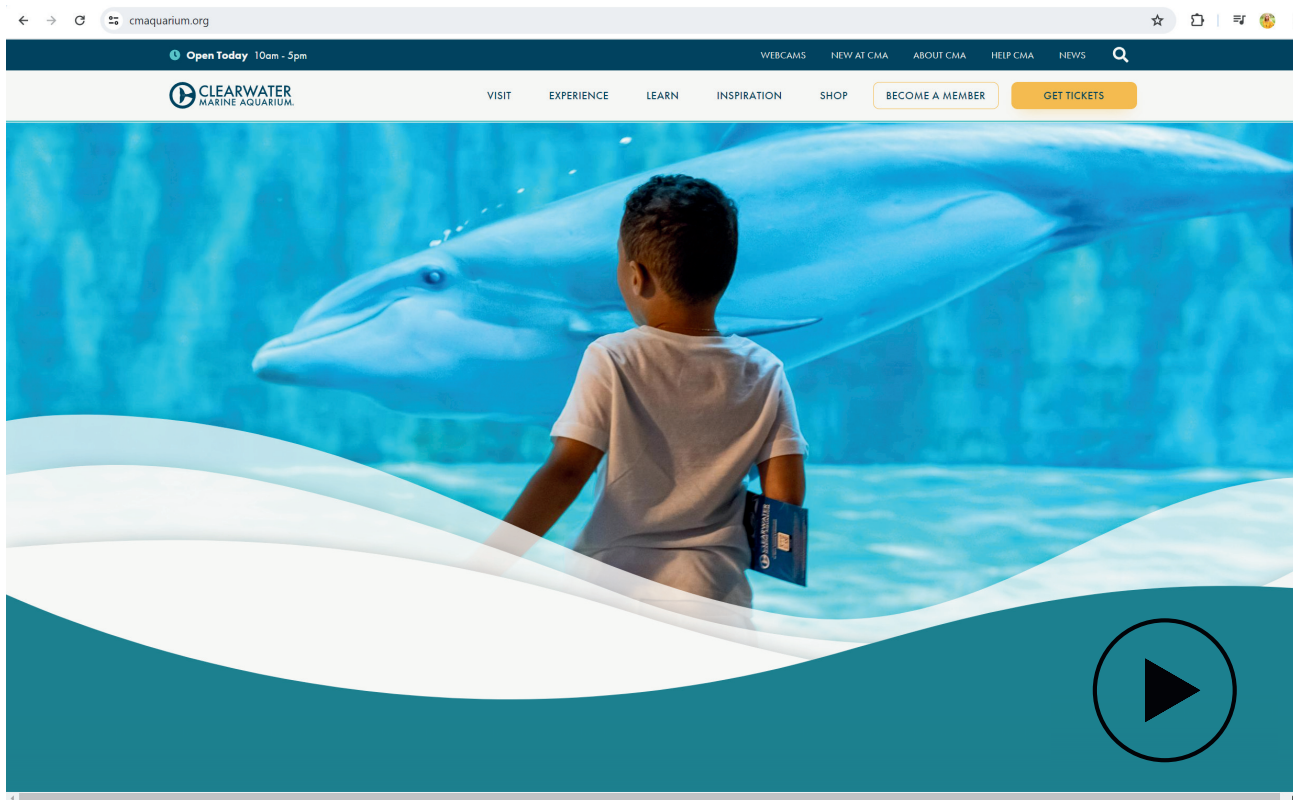
Reflect on the importance of protecting wildlife like Pelorus Jack. What can you do to help protect animals and their habitats?

# Visit the Aquarium together even if you're far away!

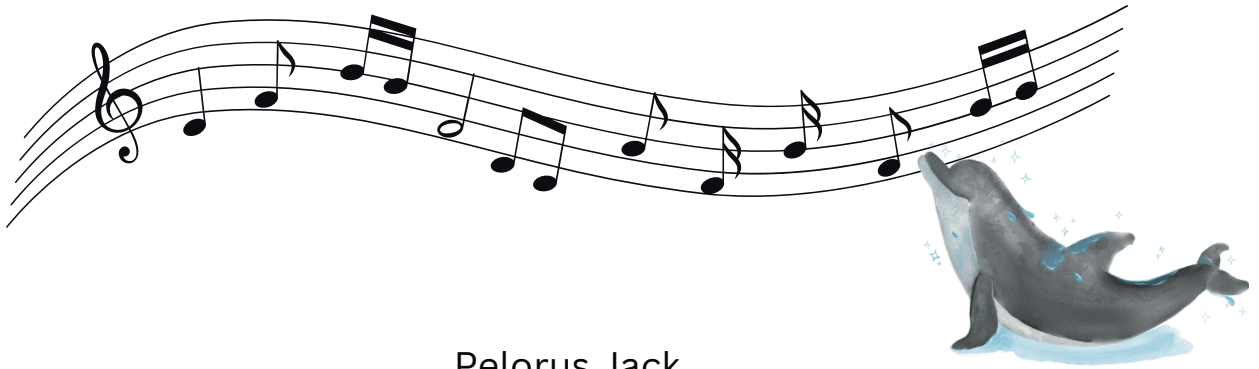
Dive into the depths of the ocean from the comfort of your own home.

Even if can't be in the same room together, you can visit the same webpage and watch the livecams together!

Visit the [Clearwater Marine Aquarium's Live Webcams](#) and see dolphins, otters, sea turtles and so much more. Get ready to be amazed by the wonders of the marine world as you embark on this unforgettable journey together!



## Sing Along Song!



Pelorus Jack  
(To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

(Verse 1)

Swim, swim, Pelorus Jack, In the ocean blue. Guiding ships along their way, A friend so kind and true.

(Chorus)

Pelorus Jack, Pelorus Jack, Swimming in the sea. Guiding ships with gentle flips, A dolphin full of glee.

(Verse 2)

Play, play, Pelorus Jack, With sailors passing by. Your antics bring them joy and cheer, As you leap and fly.

(Chorus)

Pelorus Jack, Pelorus Jack, Swimming in the sea. Guiding ships with gentle flips, A dolphin full of glee.

(Verse 3)

Gone, gone, Pelorus Jack, One day you disappeared. But in our hearts, you'll always stay, Your memory revered.

(Chorus)

Pelorus Jack, Pelorus Jack, Swimming in the sea. Guiding ships with gentle flips, A dolphin full of glee.

