

## Summary

On the east coast of New Zealand, the Whangara people believe their presence there dates back a thousand years or more to a single ancestor, Paikea, who escaped death when his canoe capsized by riding to shore on the back of a whale. From then on, Whangara chiefs, always the first-born, always male, have been considered Paikea's direct descendants. Pai, an 11-year-old girl in a patriarchal New Zealand tribe, believes she is destined to be the new chief. But her grandfather Koro is bound by tradition to pick a male leader. Pai loves Koro more than anyone in the world, but she must fight him and a thousand years of tradition to fulfill her destiny.

## English subject curriculum

### Purpose

- The subject of English shall contribute to providing insight into the way people live and different cultures where English is the primary or the official language.
- Development of [...] cultural insight can promote greater interaction, understanding and respect [...].

### Competence aims after Year 10

- listen to and understand variations of English from different authentic situations
- discuss and elaborate on the way people live [...] in other English-speaking countries
- discuss and elaborate on different types of English literature from English-speaking countries
- create, communicate and converse about [...] English [...] films

## Themes

- Racism and cultural identity
- Sacredness of nature and the corruption of man
- Tradition vs. modernity
- Female role models vs. misogyny
- The cyclical nature of time
- Love

# Whale Rider

New Zealand, 2002  
Based on the book by  
Witi Ihimaera (1987)

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## Overordnet del – verdier og prinsipper for grunnopplæringen

- Skolen skal sørge for at menneskeverdet og de verdiene som støtter opp om det, legges til grunn for opplæringen og hele virksomheten (1.1)
- Skolen skal bidra til at elevene utvikler naturglede, respekt for naturen og klima- og miljøbevissthet. (1.5)
- Bærekraftig utvikling som tverrfaglig tema i skolen skal legge til rette for at elevene kan forstå grunnleggende dilemmaer og utviklingstrekk i samfunnet, og hvordan de kan håndteres. (2.5.3)

## Cross-curricular possibilities

### Social studies curriculum

#### Competence aims after Year Level 10

- investigate how people exploit natural resources, other resources and technology in Norway and other countries around the world, and discuss the premises for sustainable development

### Curriculum for knowledge of Christianity, religion, philosophies of life and ethics

#### Competence aims after year level 10

- reflect on philosophic themes related to identity and ways of interpreting life, nature and culture, life and death, right and wrong
- discuss and elaborate on ethical choices and current themes in local and global society: social and ecological responsibility, technological challenges, peace work and democracy

### Natural Science subject curriculum

#### Purpose

- Knowledge on, understanding of and experiences in nature can strengthen the will to protect natural resources, preserve biological diversity and contribute to sustainable development
- Natural science shall also help children and young persons attain knowledge and form attitudes that will give them a well balanced view of the interaction between nature, individuals, technology, society and research.