



Illustrating Books for Adults

Level: Grades 3-12

A lot of kid's books have pictures in them. But many books for adults also have pictures. Why do you think an adult might like to have pictures in their books? Do you think they make the books better? How?

There's a book called *Moby Dick* written by a man named Herman Melville. A lot of adults are nervous about reading it because it's really long and complicated. It was written about 150 years ago and uses words that are difficult for us to understand today. So people thought it might be good to ask some artists to make pictures for the book to help everybody understand the story better. My guess is that you haven't read this long complicated book yet. So we're going to look at two pictures that artists named Rockwell Kent and Benton Spruance made for the book. And I want to see how much we can figure out about the story just by looking at these pictures. Take a close look at the pictures and then answer these questions.

Based on the pictures, what do you think the story about?

Is the whale big or small? How do you know?

What is the whale's personality? Do you think he's sad or happy? How can you tell?

Are there any other characters in the story?

Which picture do you like better? Why?

Want to know more about Herman Melville and his books? Visit this exhibition about him online here:
<https://rosenbach.org/gallery-gateway-melville/>



Rockwell Kent, Illustration for *Moby Dick*



Benton Spruance, Illustration for *Moby Dick*