



# THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE

AUTHOR: JULIA DONALDSON

ILLUSTRATOR: ALEX SCHEFFLER

See a video of the book read aloud here: [The Snail and the Whale](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

When a tiny snail meets a humpback whale and the two travel together to far-off lands. It's a dream come true for the snail, who has never left home before. But when the whale swims too close to shore, will the snail be able to save her new friend? (amazon.com)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Julia Donaldson (born 3 January 1968) is a British writer, playwright and performer, and the 2011–2013 Children's Laureate for the UK. She is best known for her popular rhyming stories for children, especially those illustrated by Axel Scheffler, which include *The Gruffalo*, *Room on the Broom* and *Stick Man*. She originally wrote songs for children's television but has concentrated on writing books since the words of one of her songs, "A Squash and a Squeeze", were made into a children's book in 1993. (From Wikipedia)

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Axel Scheffler was born in Durham, England. He studied at the Bath Academy of Art and worked in advertising and publishing after graduating in 1985. He has drawn his distinctive illustrations for many authors of children's books from Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. He lives in Blackheath, London, England.

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- What kind of genre do you think this book is and why?
- Has anyone ever seen these creatures? Where did you see them?
- Introduce the title and author and illustrator.
- Let's listen to the story and find out what these creatures might be up to

### DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- (p. 2) I notice that this book isn't told like other stories. How is it different? (rhyming)
- (p. 12) What did the snail think of his adventures with the whale?

## THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Marine life
- Friendship
- Rhyming stories

### *Tips for every book!*

#### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

#### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

- (p. 18) How does the whale feel and what will he do now?
- (p. 22) I wonder what the children think of the snail's message?
- (p. 28) What do the other snails think of their tale?
- (p. 30) What was the message the author wanted us to take away after reading this story?

## AFTER READING

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*Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- Were you surprised the whale and snail helped each other?
- What kinds of nice things do you do for your friends?
- What did the snail mean when he said, "I feel so small"?
- Have you ever wanted to go on an adventure with someone different from you?
- Why did all of the snails jump on the whale tail at the end of the story?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- (p. 2) Let's find the rhyming words on this page. (continue throughout the book on other pages – not all)

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- Whisper to your neighbor why you think all of the animals are smiling?
- Share with your neighbor somewhere places you would like to take an adventure and who would come along

## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

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- Conduct a picture walk and let the students discuss their favorite part of the story.
- (reader: have each student pick one page) Can you find all the rhyming words on this page?
- I wonder how the illustrator made each ocean picture look so unique?
- What were some of the dangers the snail could have faced during this adventure?

### Suggested Optional Activity:

- (reader) Write vocabulary words from the story on small pieces of paper or index cards and hand them out to the students. Write the definitions all on one page. The students take turns reading the definitions and try to match them with the correct vocabulary word. (sample words: slivery, tide, iceberg, hideous, etc.)

### 2. WRITING ACTIVITY

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- Write the sequence of events and who the whale and snail saw on their adventure.

### 3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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- Draw some of your own creatures that could become friends in a new adventure that you create.

## COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6.