



# The Snail and the Whale

by Julia Donaldson

A tiny snail and a great big gray-blue humpback whale demonstrate that friendships come in all shapes and sizes.

## READ

**Before:** Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- *I wonder if the whale knows there is a snail on his tail?*

**During:** Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words

- Soot-black dust given off by fire
- flock-a group of animals
- slithered-to move along a slippery surface or make something slide
- gazed-to look for a long time with unwavering attention
- wiggle-make small movements
- silvery-like silver, especially in color
- tide-the rise and fall of the ocean
- immensely-to a huge degree
- coral-a deep pinkish orange marine organism
- enormous-huge or gigantic
- icebergs-a mass of floating ice
- fiery-glowing hot
- golden-colored like gold
- arched-curved
- frolicked-to play and move cheerfully
- caves-a large hollowed-out place in the ground or in a rock
- feathery-similar to a feather in lightness and softness
- hideous-horrible to see
- vast-very great in size or amount
- zigzag-a line going at an angle one way and turning sharply another way
- amazed-to be filled with wonder
- earsplitting-very loud
- shimmering-to shine softly with a wavering light
- frail-weak and easy to break
- tale-a story that is untrue
- enormous-huge



## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Where did the sea snail want to go?
- What animal asked the sea snail to go sailing?
- On what part of the whale's body did the sea snail sit?
- How big do you think an iceberg is? Bigger than a bus?
- What is another name for a fiery mountain?
- What are some other animals that live in the sea?
- What makes a thunderstorm scary?
- What happened when the whale swam too close to the shore?
- Did this book have a happy ending?
- Did the other snails want to go sailing after they heard about the trip?

**DO**

### Feed the Whale

Cut a whale shape from poster board and glue it to a box. Cut a hole for the mouth. Encourage the children to toss bean bags, tennis balls or quarters into the whale's mouth.

