



The Snail and the Whale

Longing to see the world, a tiny sea snail hitches a ride on the tail of a great, grey-blue humpback whale. Together they go on an amazing journey around the world, told through viola music, singing, storytelling and lots of laughs ... but when the whale gets beached, how will the snail save him? Join an adventurous young girl and her sea-faring father as they re-imagine this story inspired by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved picture book.

The performance is approximately 55 minutes long. You can watch it all at once or it can be broken up into the following 4 digital "chapters" with the accompanying discussion questions.

Chapter 1 - Approx. 15 minutes. Start of show until 14 minutes 58 seconds.

The dad says "a good story can take you around the world, without ever leaving your room" - what does that mean?

There is a lot of rhyming in the story. Can you remember any of the rhyming words? Can you find other words which rhyme with them?

The snail has "an itchy foot" and longs to see the world. Where in the world would you like to travel to and why? What would you do when you got there?

What was your favorite part of their bedtime routine (Hide & Seek, "Don't Wriggle" Game, a story, a song)? What's your favorite part of your bedtime routine?

Chapter 2 - Approx. 16 minutes. Start at 14 minutes 58 seconds until 31 minutes 29 seconds.

In this adaptation of The Snail and the Whale, the dad is away from home for long periods of time. How do they stay connected (ex: sending each other letters and drawings, FaceTime, sharing a beloved stuffed animal)? What can you do to stay connected to folks in your life when you're apart?

The little girl and her father create the big grey-blue humpback whale from bits of furniture in her room. What could you use from your house to create this enormous creature? What would you use for his tail? And his eyes?

What did you notice about the play's set and lighting? How do they change the story's location throughout the performance? What environments or scenes do you remember? (ex: the underwater caves, the penguins, the sharks, the volcano, etc...)?

Chapter 3 - Approx. 16 minutes. Start at 31 minutes 30 seconds until 42 minutes 05 seconds.

The Snail and the Whale is full of wonderfully descriptive verbs and adjectives – such as "slithered," "shimmering", "zooming", "fiery", "frolicked", "earsplitting"... What other fun adjectives can you remember? Practice using those words in a sentence!

How is viola used throughout the performance? What sound effects do you remember hearing?

The actors use their whole bodies as they are "swimming" or to transform themselves into Penguins or crabs... How else did the performer use pantomime within the performance? How did they make imaginary objects come to life?

Chapter 4 - Approx 12 minutes. Start at 42 minutes 06 seconds until 54 minutes (the end).

The snail has to get the town to help her save the whale. How does it feel to work together with others to achieve something? What are the advantages of teamwork? Why is it hard? When and How have you experienced this?

Even though the snail is small, she helps to save the whale. Think about your abilities. Is there anything that you thought you couldn't do, but you managed to when you tried?

This performance weaves the story from the book The Snail and Whale with many beloved memories of the narrator and her father together when she was a young girl... Who was your favorite character? What was your favorite moment in the performance? Why?

What about the play was different from the book? Were there any characters, events, or details that were in the book but not in the play? Why do you think these choices were made?