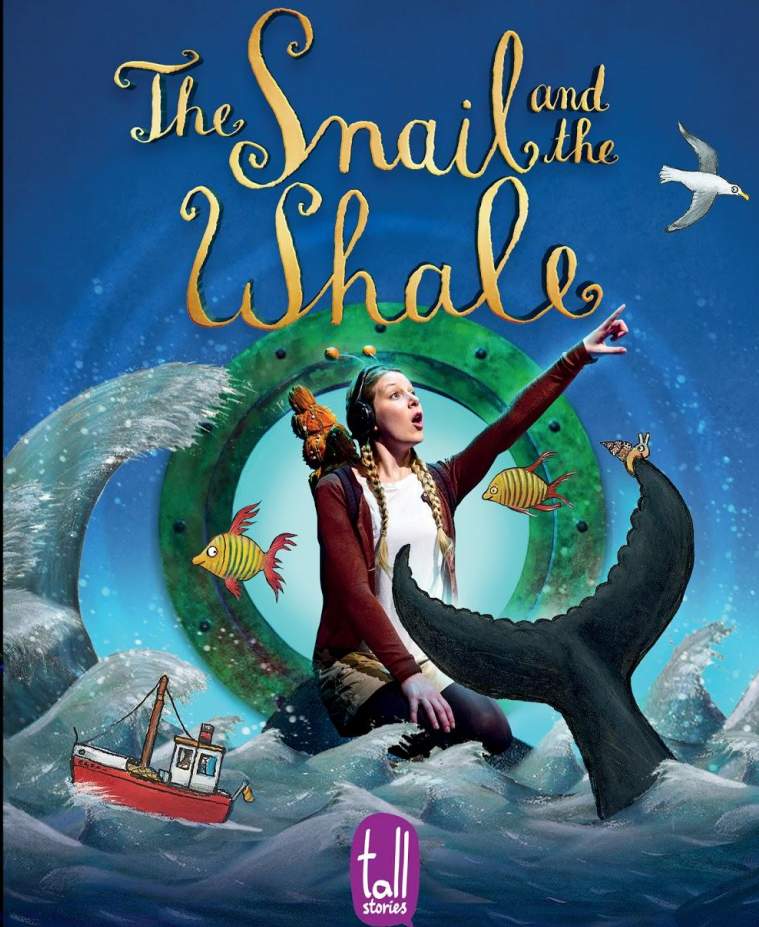




PARAMOUNT
EDUCATION PRESENTS

The Snail and the Whale



tall
stories





The video you watched was created by Tall Stories, a theatre company based in London, England. Tall Stories travels around the world performing for schools and families. To keep audiences safe during the pandemic, they filmed their performance of *The Snail and the Whale* so audiences like you could watch it safely and digitally. [Learn more about Tall Stories.](#)





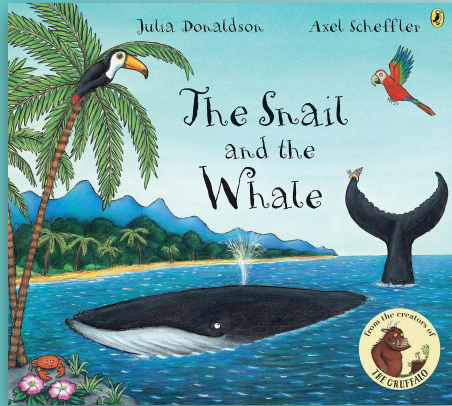
We asked Toby Mitchell, Show Director:

What, would you say, is the core message to take away from the show? How do you hope kids and families leave feeling?

The core message of Julia's story is that small things can achieve big things. The message of the show is to love stories and use your imagination. As the dad says, a good story can take you all around the world, without even leaving your room. We hope kids and families will leave feeling energized – and ready to go home to make dens, tell stories and sing songs!

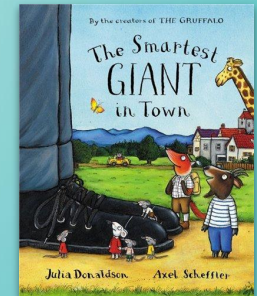
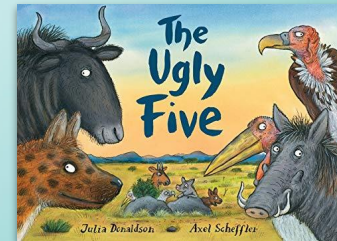
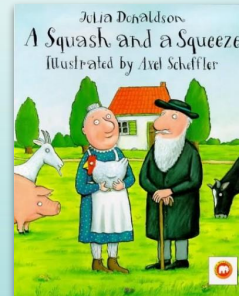
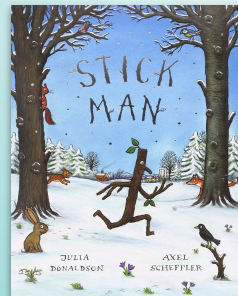
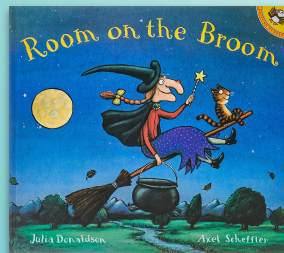
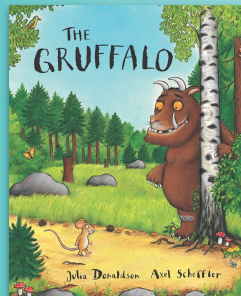
What feeling did you have after the show?

The Book the Play was Based On



The performance was adapted by the book, The Snail and the Whale, by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. It was published in 2003.

Julia and Axel have written many other books you might be familiar with. **Put a check mark above the ones you have read. Look for the books you haven't read at your school or local library.**



A Story Told in Rhyme

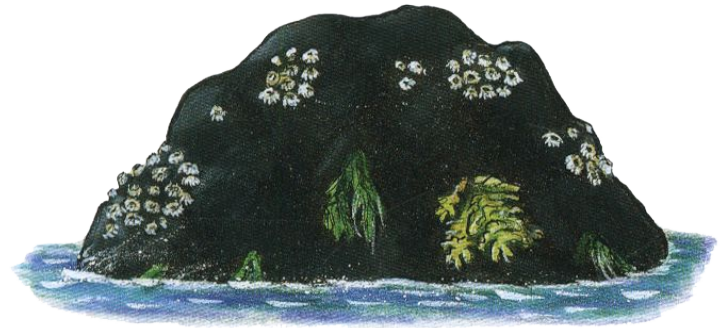
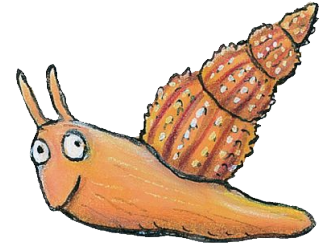
The Snail and the Whale is written in rhyme. A rhyme is created when two words sound the same. Here is the beginning of the story, with the rhyming words highlighted.

This is the tale of a tiny **snail**

And a great big, gray-blue humpback **whale**.

This is a rock as black as **soot**,

And this is a snail with an itchy **foot**.



Finish the Rhyme

Now let's see if you can finish the rhyme in these passages from *The Snail and the Whale*.



This is the **trail**

Of the tiny _____,

A silvery trail that looped and **curled**

And said, “Ride wanted around the _____.”

This is the whale who came one **night**

When the tide was high and the stars were _____.

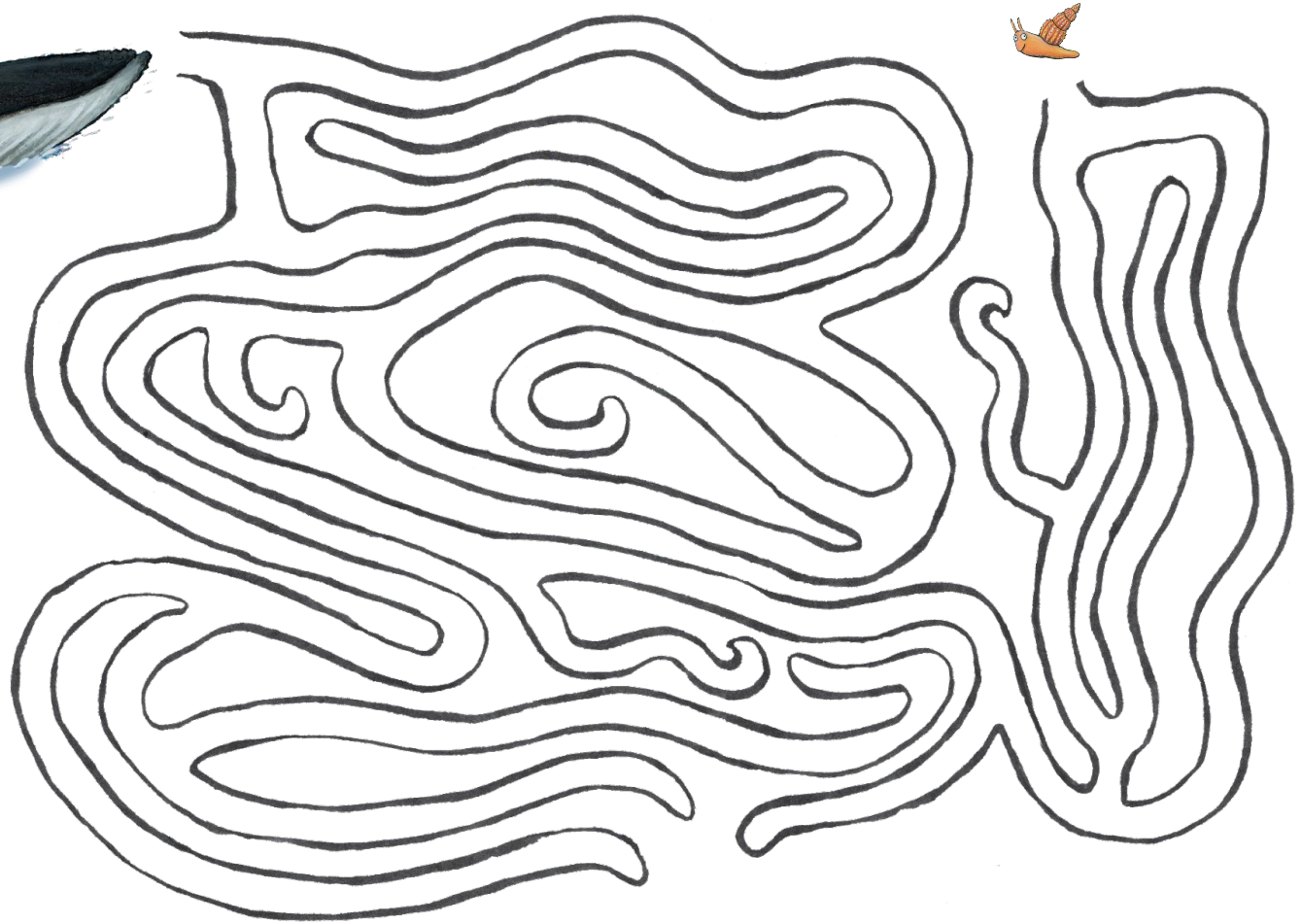
A humpback whale, immensely _____,

Who sang to the snail a wonderful **song**.



Help the whale find the snail

The whale has heard about a snail that has left a message that says "Ride wanted around the world," but he needs help getting to her. Can you help him navigate the maze to get to the snail?



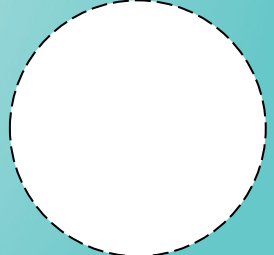
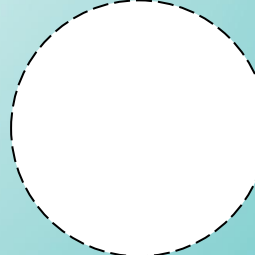
Where should the whale take Speedy the snail?

Speedy the snail has an “itchy foot,” which is a way of saying that she wants to travel around the world and go on new adventures. Do you have an itchy foot? If you were the whale, and you could take Speedy anywhere in the world, where would you go? Draw two places below:



What do you find in the ocean?

The snail and the whale travel to new places, but humpback whales are usually found living along the coasts of all oceans. Circle the things you find in the ocean. Cross out what doesn't belong there. What else do you find in the ocean? Draw a couple more things found in the ocean.





Snail or a Humpback Whale?



Here are some fun facts. Circle whether you think it's true of a snail or a humpback whale. Check your answers after the next page!

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. They have a life expectancy of 40-50 years. | Whale | Snail |
| 2. They can live up to 15-20 years. | Whale | Snail |
| 3. They cannot hear. To find food they use their sense of smell. | Whale | Snail |
| 4. They are one of the oldest-known animal species in the world.
(By most estimates, they are more than 600 million years.) | Whale | Snail |
| 5. Their heart alone weighs about 429 pounds. | Whale | Snail |



Snail or a Humpback Whale?



- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------|-------|
| 6. | They are known to sing long, complex, and beautiful songs. | Whale | Snail |
| 7. | They have incredible endurance, traveling over 3,000 miles during each seasonal migration, with almost no rest. | Whale | Snail |
| 8. | They are in the mollusk family of animals which means they don't have a backbone, have a soft body, and usually live in a shell. | Whale | Snail |
| 9. | They breath air at the surface of the water through 2 blowholes located near the top of their head. | Whale | Snail |
| 10. | They can have up to 400 babies in a year. | Whale | Snail |



Snail or a Humpback Whale?




Answer Key

1. Whale
2. Snail
3. Snail
4. Snail
5. Whale
6. Whale
7. Whale
8. Snail
9. Whale
10. Snail


The Snail Game

In the show, the father and daughter play a game that you can play at home with your family, or in school with your classmates. Let's review how it's played!

First you need a leader to call out commands. Everyone else can play along. As the game progresses the leader calls out the commands faster and faster and in random order.

 **“BE QUIET”** Freeze with your finger to your face making a “shhh” gesture.

 **“DON'T WIGGLE”** Wiggle your body.

 **“SIT STILL”** Put your arms up in the air, with your hands by your face.

 **“STAY PUT”** Cross your arms over your body.

Discussion Questions

Do you have a favorite bedtime story? Do you like to act out your favorite stories with your family or friends?

Why might a snail and whale want to be friends? How could a snail help a whale and how could a whale help a snail? What makes a good friendship?

Can you think of an example of a time when you helped a friend or family member? How did it make you feel?

The ocean is home to humpback whales, sea snails, and many other living creatures. What can we do to keep the ocean safe for the creatures that call it home?



About The Paramount Theatre

The Paramount Theatre was built 105 years ago in 1915. Back then, Congress Avenue was a dirt road and the automobile was a new invention. As one of the first examples of early theatre architecture, the Paramount has been bringing Austin families together for generations. When you visit the theatre, you enter a place that feels exciting and welcoming. From your seat, you can almost reach out and touch the performers on stage! Many famous people have performed at the Paramount. From magician Harry Houdini to the premier of the original Batman movie, the Paramount and its audiences have seen it all over the past 100 years...here's to the next century!



About Paramount Education

We inspire the intellect and imagination of young people by providing opportunities to experience, perform, and learn through the arts.

We can't wait to see you again at our theatre or in our school programs!

Paramount Education programs are made possible through generous donations from our community. [Learn more about us](#) or [make a donation](#).

Thank you!



The image shows the interior of a grand, ornate theatre. The stage is dominated by a large, vibrant red curtain. The architecture is highly detailed, featuring gold-colored carvings, arches, and a balcony with decorative railings on the left. The ceiling is also highly decorated with circular patterns. The overall atmosphere is one of classic elegance and grandeur.

Take a virtual tour of the
Paramount Theatre now!

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