

SNAIL'S GOOD NIGHT

by Ann Whitford Paul

Suggested Classroom Activities

Literature:

'Snail' wears clothes and a hat, has hands, and talks in this fiction book. Is this the way real snails look and act? Read a nonfiction book about snails and compare their behavior with 'Snail'. Introduce the concepts of Fiction and Nonfiction, and discuss how to tell the difference. What factual information about snails did the author use in this story?

Reinforce this concept with students each time they read or listen to a book. Is it fiction or nonfiction? How can you tell?

Students can read fiction books about other animals, and then find nonfiction books about the same animals in their school library. They can create a classroom chart showing the difference in how the animals are portrayed in the books.

Language Arts:

Students can create and illustrate their own stories about animals. They can decide whether their story will be fiction or nonfiction.

Science:

'Snail' spends the whole night traveling around to say 'Good Night' to his friends. He finally goes to sleep as the sun comes up. Students can do research on other nocturnal animals such as raccoons, aardvarks, crickets, lions, leopards, great horned owls, skunks, or koalas. How are these animals alike? How are they different? How do they see in the dark? What other senses do they use?

Students can find additional information on snails: Where do they live? What do they eat? Who are their 'friends' or 'enemies'? How long do they live? How do they move? What sizes are they?

Students can search for snails in their gardens, and (carefully) capture them and bring them to school for classroom observation. Do they really sleep all day?