

**English and Literacy**  
**Home Learning Read and Respond Units**  
**Reception - Week 12**



Watch and enjoy *The Snail and the Whale* animation here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000cslw/the-snail-and-the-whale> You may wish to watch this in sections, pausing at moments to discuss events and make predictions about what might happen next! Key moments to pause might be 3:49 mins, 4:55 mins, 15:39 mins, 16:37 mins, 20:30 mins.

Enjoy a reading of the story here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmMnaSkeKqQ> Which version do you prefer and why? Now that you have watched the film and listened to a reading of the book, can you retell the story to another person in your household? You can use time words such as *first, next, later, after that, and finally* to help you.

Talk about what you know about the snail and the whale in the story, e.g. *The snail is tiny and it has an itchy foot. The whale sang a song to the snail.* Listen to the story or watch again if you like, to find out more. Ask your child to draw a picture of the snail and the whale and use their phonics to help label them. If your child is able to, write a sentence (or two) about the snail and the whale. Encourage them to rehearse their sentence out loud first, to count the words, and to use their phonics to help them write their sentence(s) down. Make sure you go back to re-read your sentence(s) together.

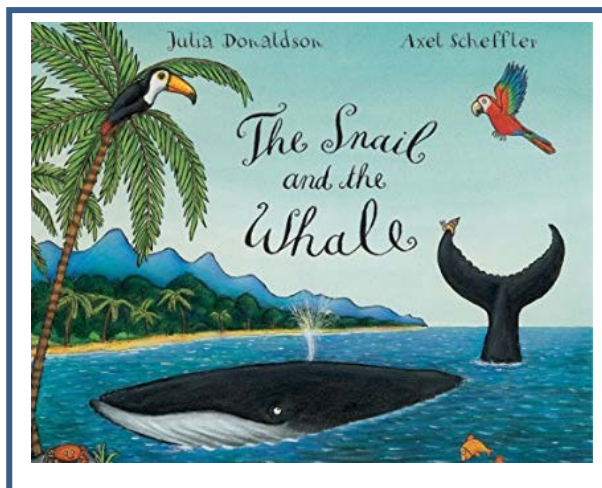
Find out all about humpback whales here: *Humpback Whale – Animals for Kids*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joBvuEJyUd0> Now that you are an expert, tell someone else in your household some facts about the humpback whale! Perhaps you could write some facts down in sentences, using your phonics to help.

Watch this clip where the TV presenter is taken by surprise: *Steve gets a surprise from a humpback whale* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/deadly-60-norway-humpback-whale-surprise>

Find out all about snails here: *Snails for Kids*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLCtVGB1mFw&t=2s> You may remember this clip from the Big Bad Bugs unit earlier in the term! Can you recall some of the key facts about snails? Here is another link to learn more about snails: *Are you a snail?*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5PiUuAPv4&t=116s>

# The Snail and the Whale



**When following links online, parents should monitor that children are remaining on that page only and are keeping safe online.**

Re-watch *The Snail and the Whale*, this time pausing the film to discuss some of the images. Use prompts such as *What can you see?* Encourage your child to identify things they can see in the picture – whether it is referenced in the text or not! E.g. seagulls, lighthouse, anchor. You can encourage your child to expand on their response by using the prompt, *Tell me more...* This is a great way to develop vocabulary and support discussion. You may wish to pause and play *I spy*, e.g. *I spy, with my little eye, something beginning with ...* Perhaps you could make a list of all the different animals you can 'spy' throughout the film – there are lots! Use your phonics to help you write them down.

Write the following words out on sticky notes using enlarged clear print (one word per sticky note) – *soot, foot, rock, dock, sail, snail, foot, put, long, song, land, sand, fins, grins.* (**Note:** these words have been deliberately chosen as it is likely these sounds will have already been covered in your child's phonics teaching). You are now going to play a rhyming game using these words, but first your child will have to build and blend them to read! **How to play:** Place your sticky notes on a surface in front of you, with the words facing down. Ask your child to pick two sticky notes and turn them over. Encourage them to build and blend to read the words aloud. Do the words rhyme? Say them out loud together several times. (Don't be alarmed if your child struggles to hear the rhyme!) If they do rhyme, your child can keep the sticky notes. If they don't rhyme, replace the sticky notes and swap turns. The winner is the player who can collect the most rhyming pairs!

## Link Texts and Other Activities

- Just like the snail in the story left a message in a trail of slime, with an adult, leave a message on a path, in your garden or on an outside wall! Paintbrushes dipped in water can leave the best messages and will look like slime - though will disappear quickly!
- Try to go out on a walk after it has been raining. Turn snail detectives and look out for any snail trails!
- Listen to and enjoy *The Snail and the Whale Song* as performed by Julia Donaldson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9hmHFQIXXs>
- Relax and enjoy this song: *The humpback whales are blowing bubbles* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV4sWSdgaHA> Join in with the chorus if you can!