

SNAIL AND TURTLE ARE FRIENDS

Stephen Michael King

‘Snail and Turtle like hiding, but never from each other.’

Snail and Turtle are friends and love to spend time together. They are sometimes the same, sometimes different. Snail and Turtle like to run, walk and enjoy being quiet together. Snail likes swirls, and Turtle likes shapes and blobs. Step into the small world of Snail and Turtle in this charming and funny story about sharing and friendship.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen Michael King has illustrated more than fifteen books for Scholastic. His first picture book, **The Man Who Loved Boxes**, won the Family Award for Children’s Books in 1996 and was shortlisted for the Crichton Award for Children’s Book Illustration. Stephen’s recent titles include **You, You Too, The Magnificent Tree** (written by Nick Bland), **Leaf** and **Prudence Wants a Pet**. He was awarded the CBCA Honour Book for **Mutt Dog** and **Leaf**. Stephen describes drawing as something that he simply can’t live without. He works mainly with watercolours and ink.

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TEACHER NOTES

- Snail and Turtle’s friendship is based on spending time together. What sorts of things do you like to do with your good friends? What makes them so enjoyable? Do the characters of Snail and Turtle remind you of any of your friends? Why/why not?
- If you and your good friends were animal characters, what would you be, and why? Write and illustrate a story like **Snail and Turtle are Friends**, starring you and your friend/s as animal characters.
- Snail and Turtle are good friends. They have some things in common, and some things they like to do differently. Think about your own good friends. What sorts of things do you have in common? What sorts of things about you are different? Do you think it’s a good thing to have a mix of shared and different interests? Why?
- Onomatopoeia are words that sound like the objects they name or the sounds those objects make, such as ‘bang’, ‘splash’ and ‘woof’. Turn to the spread on pp 10-11 of the book. What examples of onomatopoeia can you find in this spread? What effect do they have on the illustration? Why do you think Stephen Michael King included them? As a class, visit your local park or reserve and sit quietly for a few minutes. What noises can you hear? How would you represent them as onomatopoeia? Try drawing a nature spread like the one on pp 10-11 and include some of the onomatopoeia you discovered.

- Snails and turtles both move very slowly and have hard shells. Why do you think Stephen Michael King chose these two creatures for his story? How has he incorporated their shared features into the story (eg they both like hiding in their shells)? Turn to pp 7-8 and compare these two pages. If Snail and Turtle both move slowly, how does King show the difference between walking and running? (Hint: look at the details of the picture, such as the plants in the garden).
- Snails are molluscs and turtles are reptiles. Consider the following questions:
 - What is a mollusc?
 - How is the snail different to other molluscs, such as worms or oysters?
 - In what sorts of places are molluscs mainly found?
 - What sorts of things do molluscs eat?
 - What is a reptile?
 - How is the turtle different to other reptiles, such as snakes or lizards?
 - In what sorts of places are reptiles mainly found?
 - What sorts of things do molluscs eat?
- There are many different species of snails and turtles. As a class, list some of the different species that can be found. Then, in small groups, pick one species and do some further research on it. Where does it live? What does it eat? What are its notable features? Is it endangered? If so, why? Find some images of your chosen species. Think about these and other questions, and present your findings to the class with a poster presentation.
- Turn to pp 18-19 of the book. What do you notice about this spread that is different to the ones before it? (Hint: run your fingers gently over the page – does anything stand out?). The embellishment mimics Snail’s snail trail. What is a snail trail? How is it created? What effect does the trail in the book have? As you read the remaining pages of the book, see if you can follow Snail’s trail. What other parts of the illustrations are embellished like this? Why are these parts picked out particularly?
- Make your very own snail trails like the one in the book! Mix together 3 parts PVA glue to 1 part water. Dip your paintbrush into the mixture, then trail it over a sheet of black cardboard. Try to think how a snail would move in swirls and squiggles. After your cardboard has dried, take a look at your shiny snail trails!
- Snail likes to paint swirls, while Turtle likes to paint shapes and blobs. What do you like to paint? Experiment with different shapes and techniques to find your own preferred style. What attracts you to your (if any) particular style?
- Re-read **Snail and Turtle are Friends**, making note of the colours that Stephen Michael King has used in all the pictures. What colours appear in every illustration? This is known as a colour palette. What does this colour palette bring to mind (eg autumn, nature)? Now look at the colours that are outside this palette (eg pink). These colours stand out against the palette. Why do you think King uses these colours? What effect do they have on the illustrations they appear in?

- Both Snail and Turtle have hard shells, and Turtle's shell is decorated with bright colours. Using papier maché, make your own shells! You can try a spiral shell like Snail's or a hemispherical one like Turtle. Decorate your shell with your favourite colours and patterns.