READY TO USE MOVIE

# The Snail and the Whale (U)

Watch the whole film together or concentrate on the clip 15:52 to 22:57.

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## Synopsis

A tiny snail goes on an amazing journey by hitching a ride on the tail of a huge humpback whale. This short film is based on the picture book written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler.

For parents with small children around the world, Julia Donaldson is a modern-day hero. With over 60 books released, with each one following a popular rhyming pattern and beautifully illustrated by Axel Scheffler, it’s a guaranteed success to grab one of her books out for storytime at homme. *The Snail and the Whale* was originally released in 2004, but has maintained popularity ever since, and last year it joined the growing list of Donaldson books adapted into a short film at Christmas time. Telling the story of a snail whose request for a lift around the world is answered by an enormous humpback whale*, The Snail and the Whale* teaches us that even the smallest of people can make a big difference.

## The episode

This session is aimed at a a younger group, with that in mind, chat through the following questions to help settle them into the discussion format:

* Has anyone in the group had someone read to them a Julia Donaldson book before. (It would be good to have some examples ready to show such as *The Gruffalo*.)
* Can anyone remember the story of *The Snail and the Whale*?
* This story is about a snail and a whale – what is your favourite animal and insect?

The clip focuses on the time after the snail and the whale have travelled the world taking in many exciting sights. After becoming confused by the sound of speedboats the whale loses its way and ends up stuck on a beach with the tide quickly going out. The snail, releasing that it must help, manages to evade some pesky seagulls before heading to a classroom to write on the board and alert the community to save the whale. With the community rallied, the whale is saved and sent back into the sea once more.

Once the clip has been shown, break into small groups and chat through the following questions:

* How did the snail help the whale?
* How do you think the snail was feeling in the clip when he saw the whale stuck? What about when he was being chased by the seagulls? And when the whale was saved?
* How did the children get involved and help the whale?
* Was it a surprise to see such a small snail help a big whale?

## The Bible

Building on the clip from today, read out loud or together Luke 6:31 (see if anyone can memorise it). Afterwards chat through the following questions:

* What does this verse mean?
* Who could we try and be nice to this week at home and at school?
* What good things could we do for each other this week?
* Should we be nice to people who are mean to us?

*The Snail and Whale* is available to stream on BBC iPlayer and Amazon Prime Video.

**TOM WADE**

is director of community partnerships at Haileybury School, Hertford.