

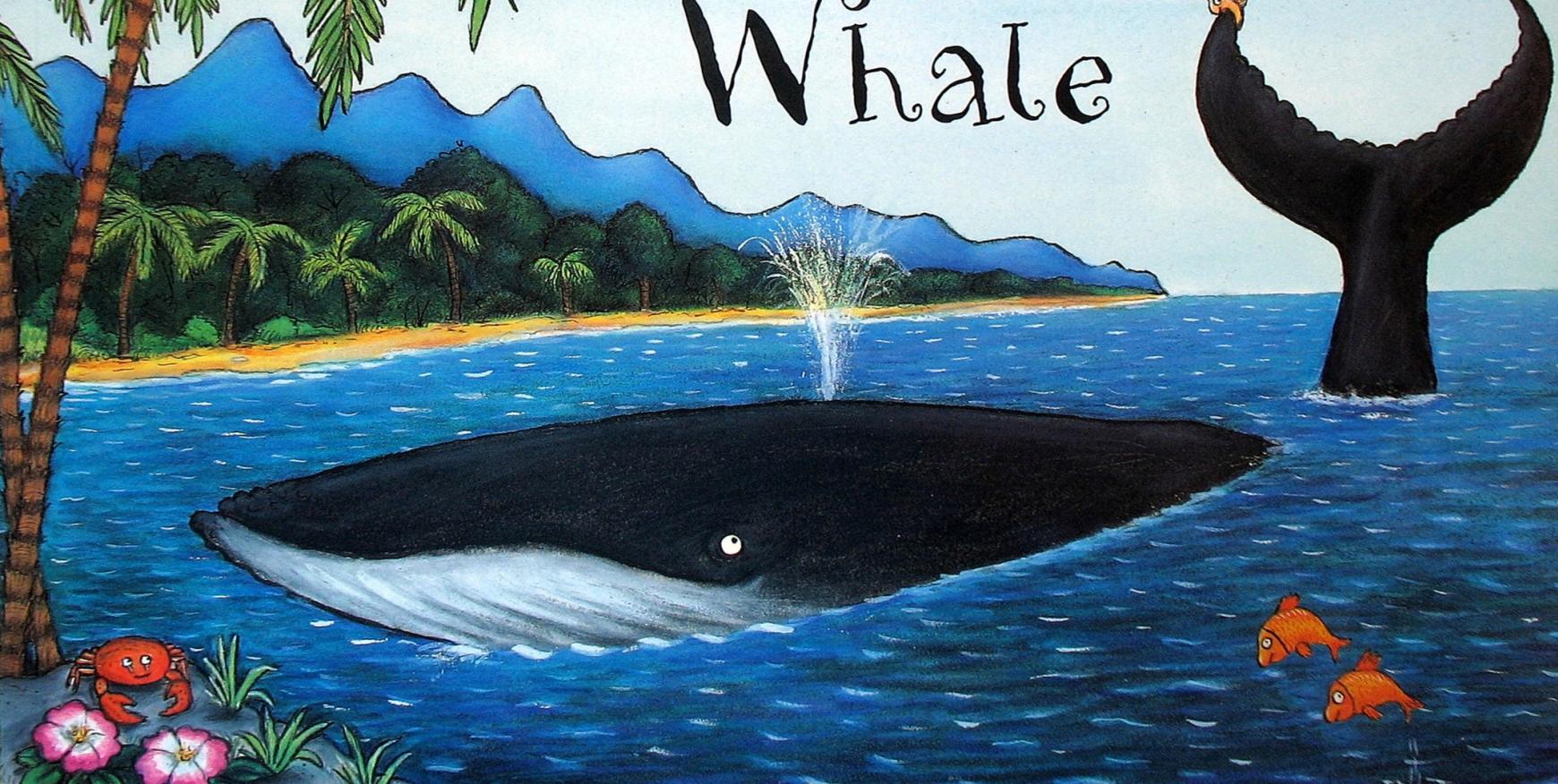
Julia Donaldson



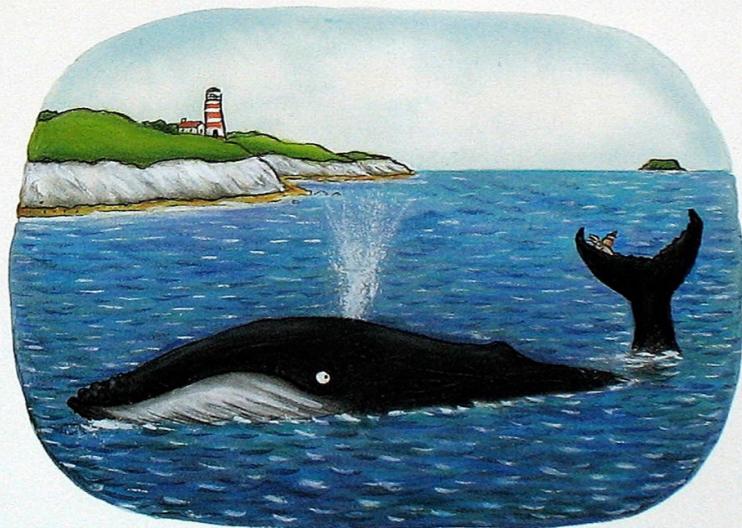
Axel Scheffler



The Snail and the Whale



The Snail and the Whale



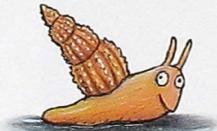
by Julia Donaldson

pictures by Axel Scheffler

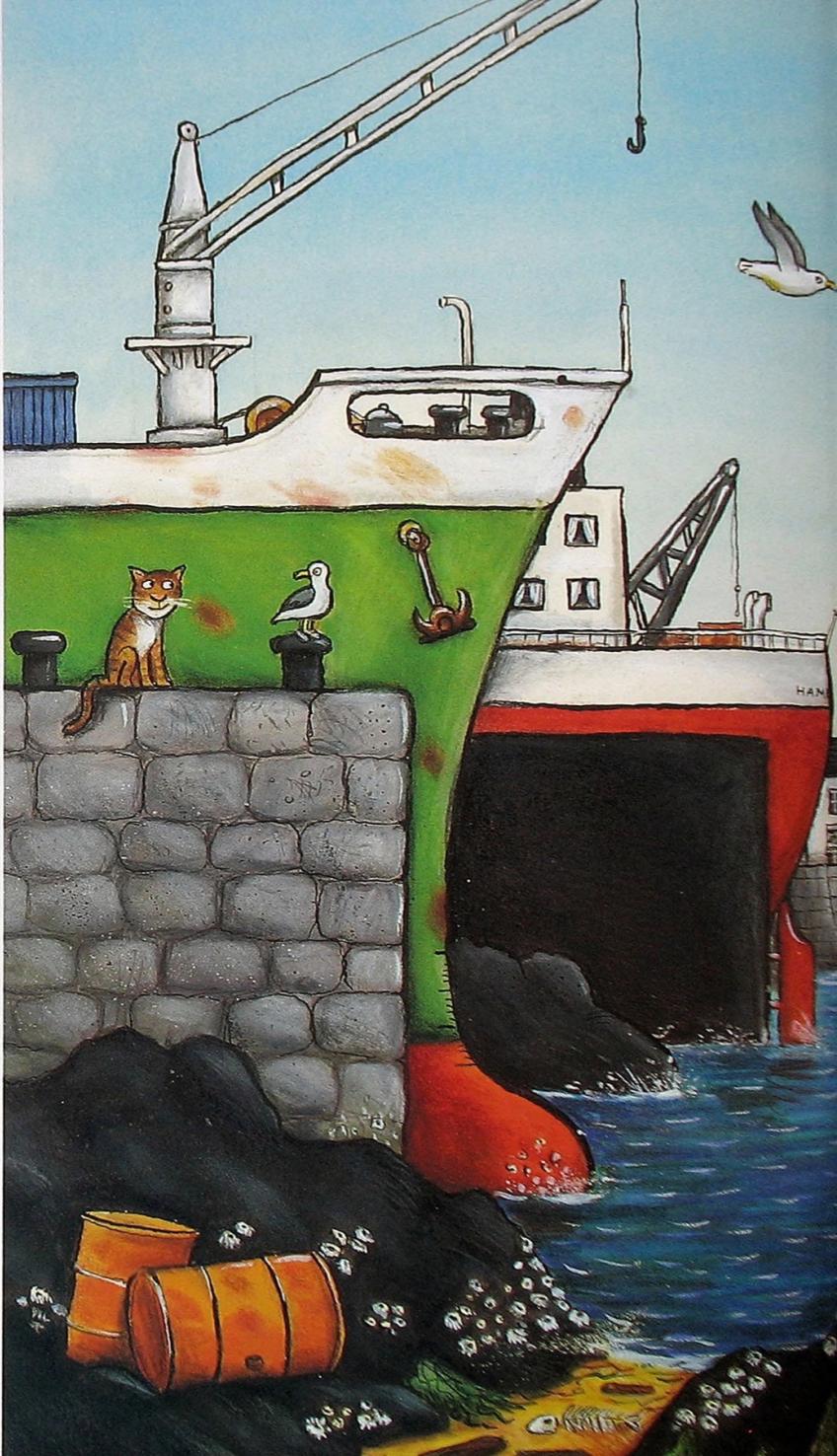
This is the tale of a tiny snail
And a great big, gray-blue humpback whale.



This is a rock as black as soot,
And this is a snail with an itchy foot.



The sea snail slithered all over the rock
And gazed at the sea and the ships in the dock.
And as she gazed, she sniffed and sighed.
“The sea is deep and the world is wide!
How I long to sail!”
Said the tiny snail.

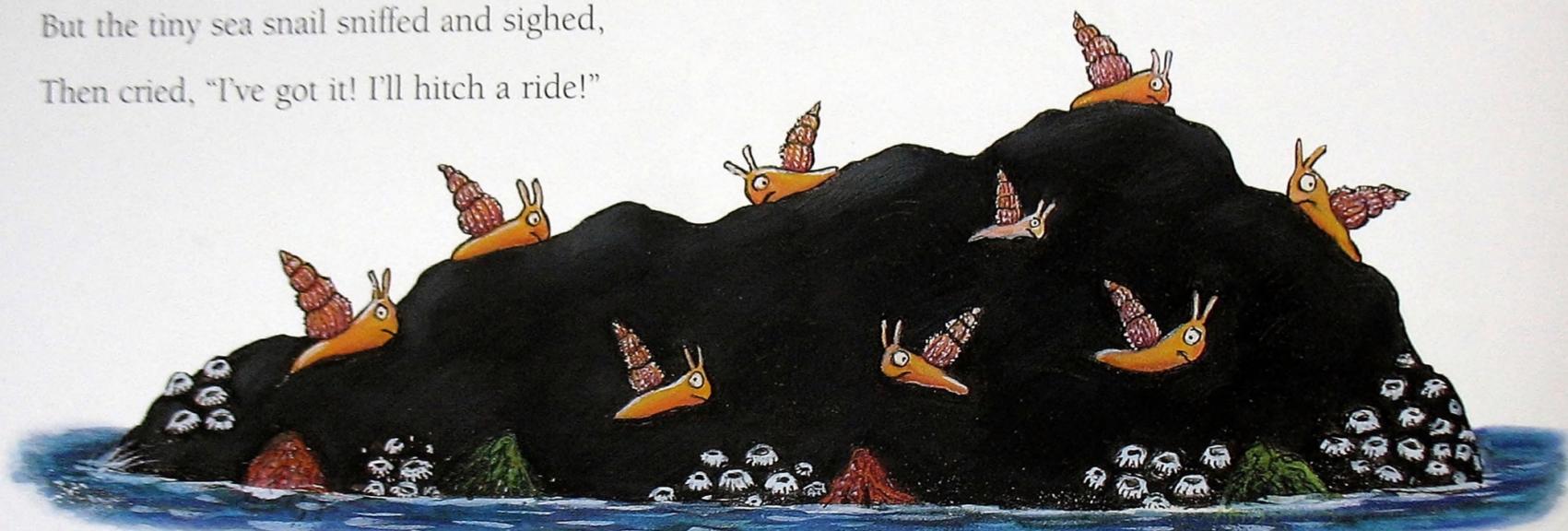




These are the other snails in the flock,
Who all stuck tight to the smooth black rock
And said to the snail with the itchy foot,
“Be quiet! Don’t wiggle! Sit still! Stay put!”



But the tiny sea snail sniffed and sighed,
Then cried, “I’ve got it! I’ll hitch a ride!”

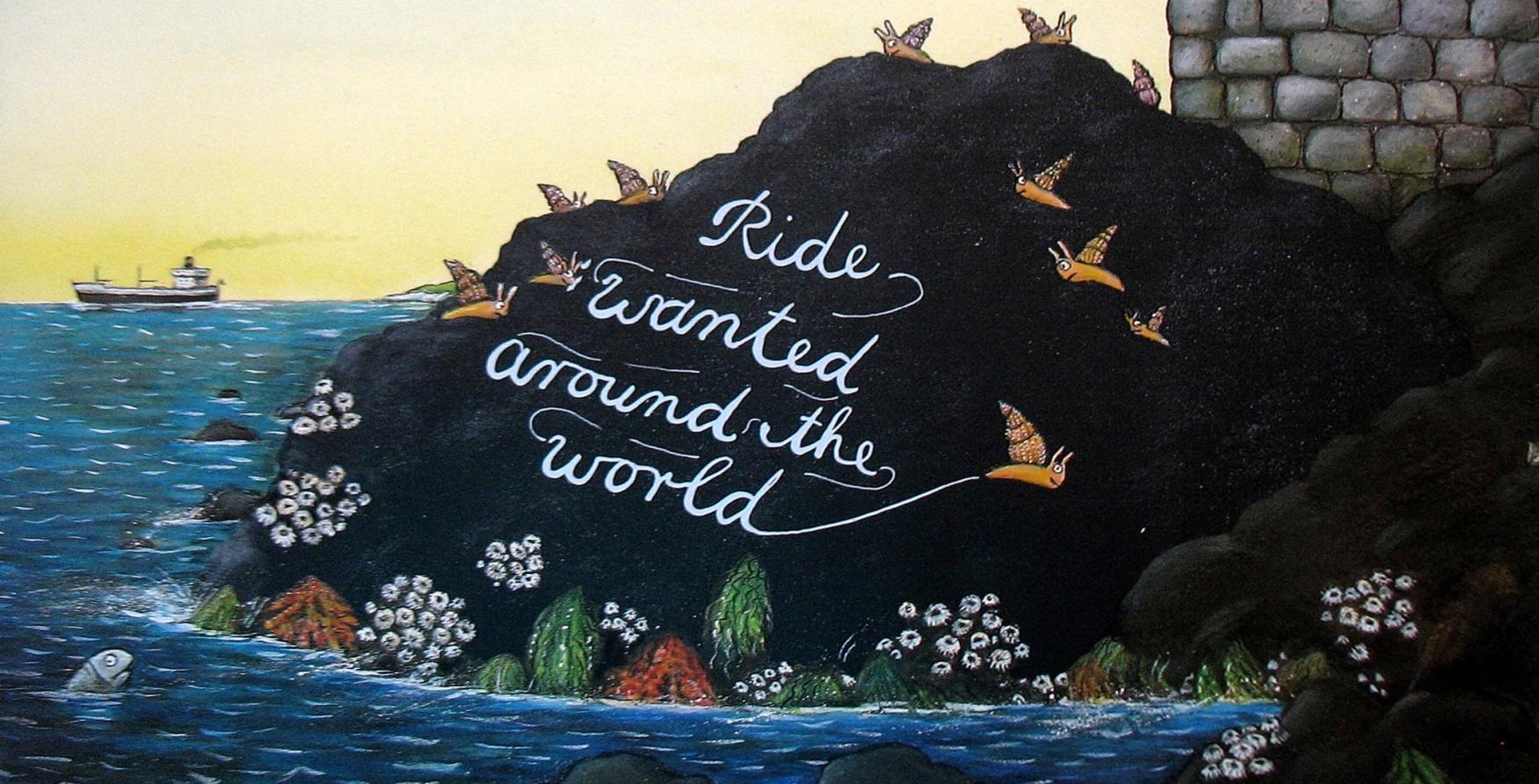


This is the trail
Of the tiny snail,
A silvery trail that looped and curled
And said, “Ride wanted around the world.”





Ride
wanted
around the
world

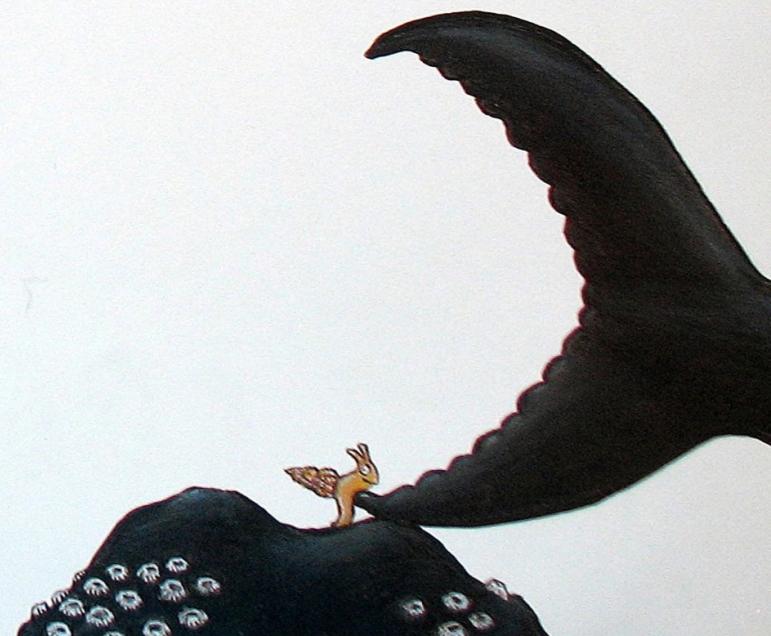






This is the whale who came one night
When the tide was high and the stars were bright.
A humpback whale, immensely long,
Who sang to the snail a wonderful song
Of shimmering ice and coral caves
And shooting stars and enormous waves.

And this is the tail
Of the humpback whale.
He held it out of the starlit sea
And said to the snail, "Come sail with me."



This is the sea,
So wild and free,
That carried the whale
And the snail on his tail
To towering icebergs and far-off lands,





With fiery mountains and golden sands.







These are the waves that arched and crashed,
That foamed and frolicked and sprayed
and **SPLASHED**
The tiny snail
On the tail of the whale.

A vibrant underwater scene. In the upper left, a large green octopus with long tentacles hangs from a dark rock. Below it, several colorful fish with yellow bodies and red stripes swim among red coral reefs and white anemones. In the lower right, three sharks with sharp white teeth are visible, one facing left, one facing right, and one facing forward. The background is a deep blue ocean.

These are the caves
Beneath the waves,
Where colorful fish with feathery fins
And sharks with hideous toothy grins
Swam past the whale
And the snail on his tail.



This is the sky,
So vast and high,
Sometimes sunny and blue and warm,
Sometimes filled with a thunderstorm,
With zigzag lightning
Flashing and frightening
The tiny snail
On the tail of the whale.







And she gazed at the sky, the sea, the land,
The waves and the caves and the golden sand.
She gazed and gazed, amazed by it all,
And she said to the whale, "I feel so small."



But then came the day
The whale lost his way . . .

These are the speedboats, running a race,
Zigging and zooming all over the place,
Upsetting the whale with their earsplitting roar,
Making him swim too close to the shore.





This is the tide, slipping away,





And this is the whale lying **BEACHED** in a bay.

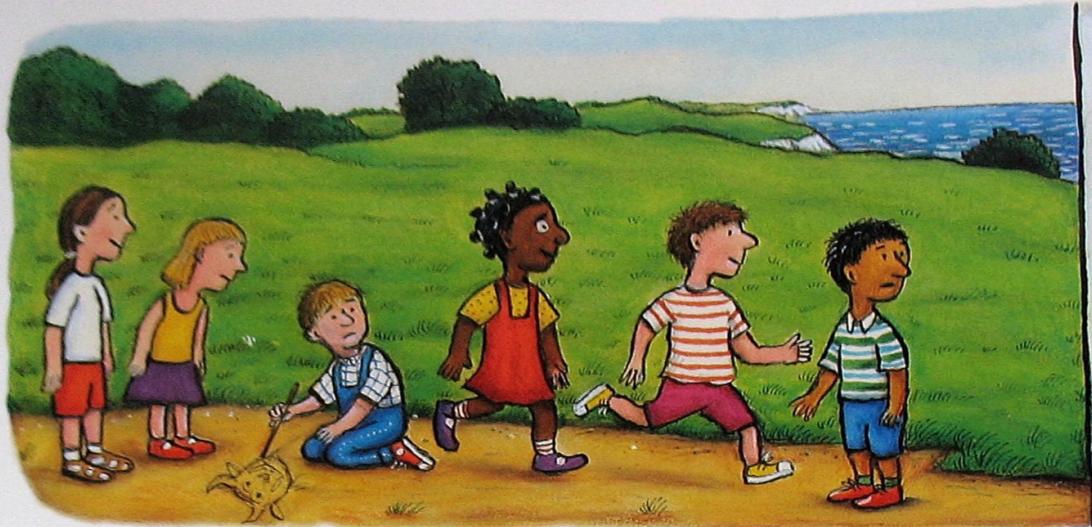
"Quick! Off the sand! Back to sea!"
cried the snail.

"I can't move on land! I'm too **BIG!**"
moaned the whale.

The snail felt helpless and terribly small.
Then, "I've got it!" she cried,
and started to crawl.

"I must not fail,"
Said the tiny snail.





This is the bell on the school in the bay,
Ringing the children in from their play.



This is the teacher, holding her chalk,
Telling the class, "Sit straight! Don't talk!"
This is the board, as black as soot,

And this is the snail with the itchy foot!

"A snail! A snail!"

The teacher turns pale.

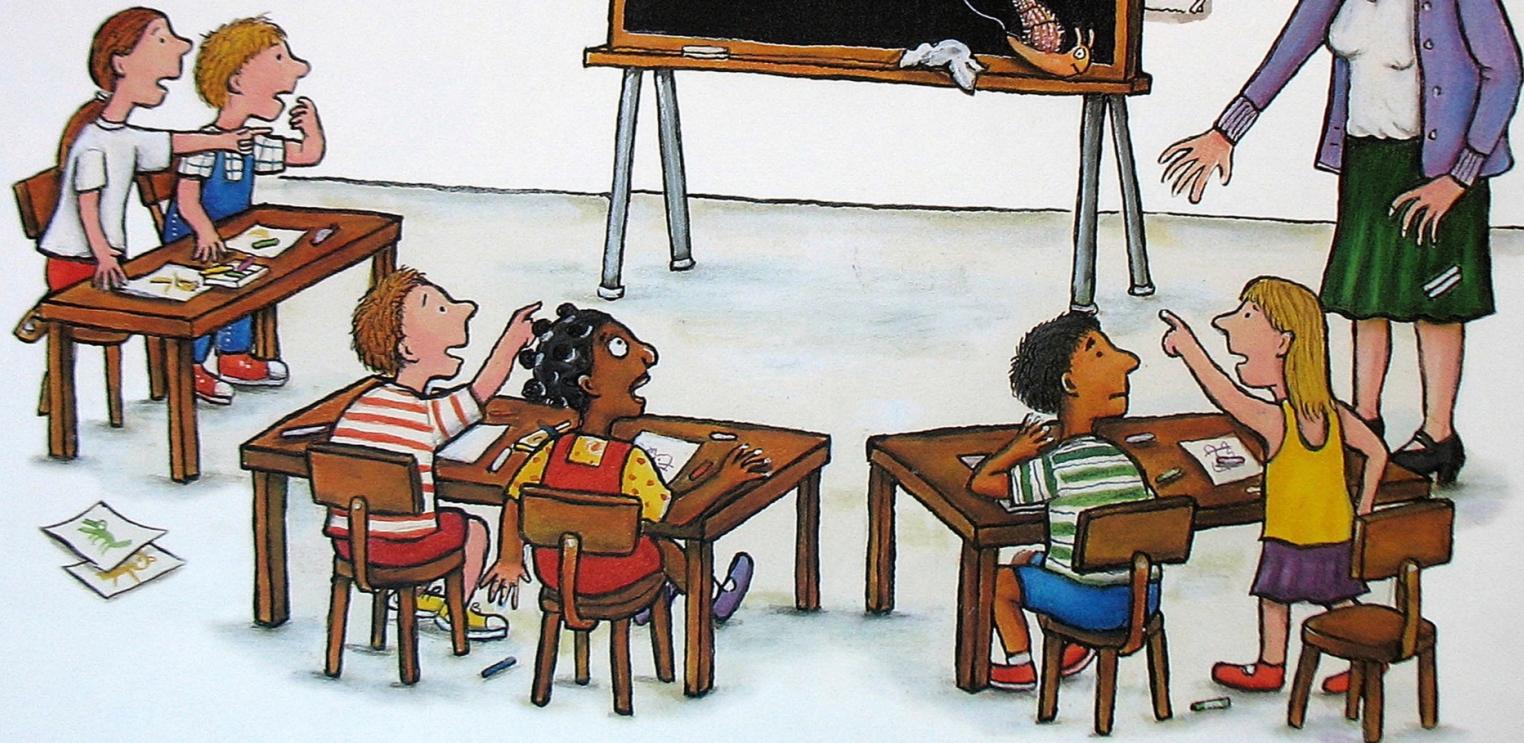
"Look!" say the children.

"It's leaving a trail."

This is the trail

Of the tiny snail,

A silvery trail saying, "SAVE THE WHALE"





These are the children, running from school,



Fetching the firemen, digging a pool,



Squirting and spraying to keep the whale cool.





This is the tide coming into the bay,

And these are the villagers shouting, "Hooray!"

As the whale and the snail travel safely away . . .



Back to the dock
And the flock on the rock,
Who said, "How time's flown!"
And, "Haven't you grown!"





And the whale and the snail
Told their wonderful tale
Of shimmering ice and coral caves,
And shooting stars and enormous waves,
And of how the snail, so small and frail,
With her looping, curling, silvery trail,
Saved the life of the humpback whale.

Then the humpback whale
Held out his tail
And on crawled snail after snail after snail.

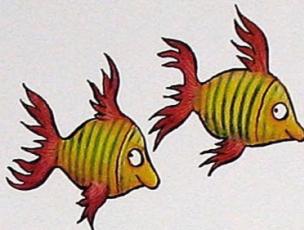




And they sang to the sea as they all set sail
On the tail of the gray-blue humpback whale.



For Malcolm—J.D.



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Julia Donaldson is the award-winning author of several children's books, including *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom*. She has also written children's plays and songs and runs regular storytelling workshops. Ms. Donaldson lives in Glasgow, Scotland.

Axel Scheffler has received worldwide acclaim for his lively and charming children's book illustrations, including those for *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom*. Born in Hamburg, Germany, Mr. Scheffler currently makes his home in London, England.

Even the tiniest snail can help
a friend in a very big way....

This is the tale of a tiny snail and a great big gray-blue humpback whale. The snail may be tiny, but she has huge dreams of seeing the wide, wide world. So she hitches a ride on a friendly whale's back and sets off to see amazing sights. Icebergs and volcanoes, storms and sharks—the snail and the whale see it all together. But when the whale swims too close to shore, will the snail be able to save her newfound friend?

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