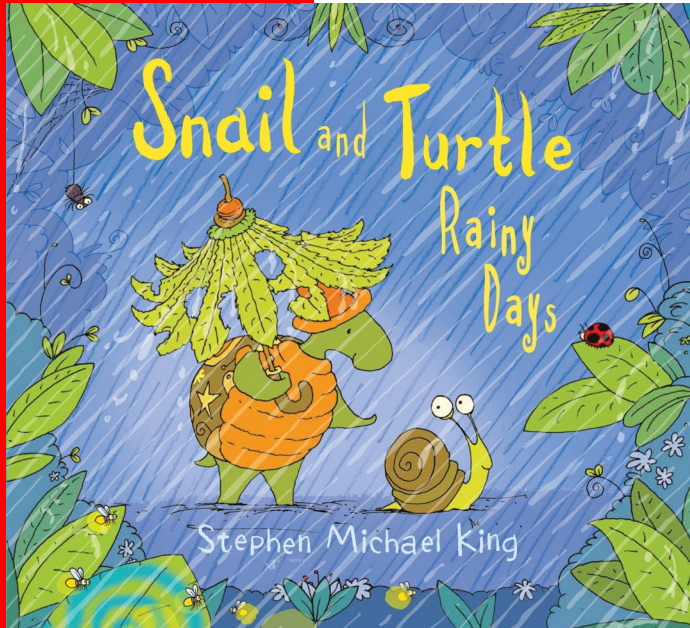


SNAIL AND TURTLE: RAINY DAYS

STEPHEN MICHAEL KING



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It's a rainy day, and Turtle loves to splish, splosh, splash through the puddles.

'Good morning, Snail!'

But Snail doesn't feel like coming out of his shell. Turtle waits patiently and creates a beautiful shelter for his friend from the rainy days.

Maybe Snail and the sun will come out tomorrow . . .

About the author: Award-winning author and illustrator Stephen Michael King has illustrated more than fifteen books for Scholastic. Stephen describes drawing as something that he simply can't live without. He works mainly with watercolours and ink. He works fast so that his ideas stay fresh and his brush and linework fluid.

Stephen's books have been regularly shortlisted and received international recognition. His first picture book, *The Man Who Loved Boxes* won the Family Award for Children's Books in 1996. It was also shortlisted in the Crichton Award for Children's Books. He was awarded the CBCA Honour Book for *Mutt Dog!* and *Leaf*. *Snail and Turtle are Friends* was awarded Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year in 2015.



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NOTE: *Snail and Turtle: Rainy Days* is an excellent springboard to introduce children to the topic of depression. Educators are advised to be mindful of students' individual circumstances when approaching this topic and the activities associated with it below.

STUDY NOTES

- Snails are animals that like wet weather and the rain. Do some research into snails. What is it about wet weather and wet environments that would suit a snail? In your answers, think about their physiology and habits.
- As a class, read **Snail and Turtle: Rainy Days** without looking at the text. Even though we only see Snail's shell for most of the story, can you tell how he is feeling without the help of the text? How?
- Have you ever had a day where you just didn't feel like playing? Write a short story about your experience. Why did you feel that way? What did you do instead? What made you feel better?
- Have you ever had a friend who was sad? What did you do to cheer your friend up?
- Snail doesn't feel like coming out of his shell, but Turtle wants to play in the rain. How does Turtle react? Think about how Turtle makes a shelter for Snail that includes all of Snail's favourite things. Do you think it's important to let people express their feelings without trying to make them change how they feel? How can we be supportive friends without imposing our feelings and wishes on others?



- Why might somebody feel sad? As a class, talk about depression. Have you ever heard of depression? What is it? How does it work? In what ways is it similar to other chronic illnesses such as asthma? In what ways is it different? How does depression make people feel? How can it change the way you think? How is depression treated? What sorts of things can help people who suffer from depression live with the illness? You might consider reaching out Headspace.org to organise for someone to come and speak to the class about living with depression (see <http://headspace.org.au/schools/>).
- What feelings are expressed in the story? How do you think Snail is feeling? How does Turtle feel? Look at the colours and the expressions on Turtle's face and talk about the contrast between the two friends. Create a word cloud of the feelings you can identify in the story.
- Look at Stephen Michael King's colour palette in **Snail and Turtle: Rainy Days**. In particular, look at the contrast between soft, washy colours and bold, bright colours. How do the soft, washy colours make you feel, and how do the bright colours make you feel? What things in the book are washy and soft? What things are bold and bright? How does Stephen use the contrast between the two colour palettes to convey the feelings in the story visually?
- What sorts of colours and shapes make you feel happy and sad and why?
- Turn to pages 22 and 23. The wind goes 'Hooooo hoo' and the lighting goes 'Crack, bang'. This is known as onomatopoeia, where the sounds that things make are written down. What other



examples of onomatopoeia can you think of? Why do you think the onomatopoeia on page 23 is written the way it is? How would you read this page aloud? Pick three of your own onomatopoeic words and write them in a way that emphasises the sound that it is making. For example, a tiny squeak from a mouse might be written very small.

- It is raining throughout the whole book. How has Stephen Michael King illustrated the rain? Can you see through the rain to what is happening in the rest of the illustration? This is because Stephen has made the rain translucent, which means that we can see partly through it. Why do you think he has done this? What do you think about the effect it has on the illustration? Create your own rainy day scene with translucent raindrops. Stephen has illustrated **Snail and Turtle: Rainy Days** as digital art. In your artwork, experiment with different mediums to see which combinations have the best effect—you might use watercolour rain over a scene that is painted with acrylic, or draw the rain over your scene using white crayon.
- Just because it's raining outside doesn't mean we can't have fun! In small groups, talk about some of your favourite activities to do on a rainy day. They could be indoor activities and games, or outdoor activities that you can enjoy even in the wet weather. Share your ideas with the class, and then, as a class, pick some activities from the list to try out on the next rainy school day.

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