

This is the tale of a tiny snail
 And a great big grey-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.
 "I've got it! I'll hitch a lift"
 This is the trail of the tiny snail.
 A silvery trail that looped and curled and said,
 Lift wanted around the world"
 This is the whale who came one night
 When the tide was high and the stars were bright.
 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.
 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 ear-splitting roar,
 Making him swim too close to the shore.
 This is the tide slipping away
 And this is the whale lying beached in the 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.

GLOSSARY

Tiny: small
 Humpback: a back (part of the body) that is arched.
 Soot: a black substance produced during the burning of coal.
 Itchy: irritated
 Slither: to move along a surface like snakes or snails
 Gaze: look
 Sniff: inhale air through the nose
 Sigh: let air out from our mouth and make a sound
 Hitch a lift: when you move from one place to another with the help of someone else's car or means of transport
 Trail: the track, or scent left by an animal
 Tide: the regularly rise and fall of the waters of the ocean
 Sail: to travel on water , along oceans, seas, rivers
 Upsetting: disturbing, getting someone angry
 Shore: the land along the edge of the sea or lake, where the beach is
 Crawl: move with your body on the ground, like snakes and snails.
 Fetching: going and bringing something
 Digging: making a hole
 Squirting: put liquid on something or someone

