

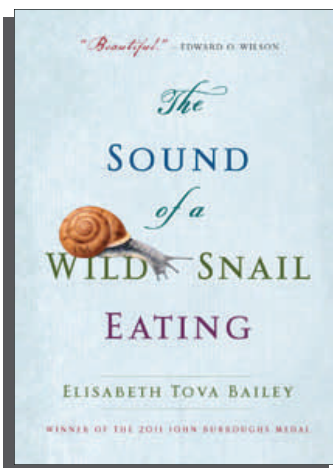


The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating in the Classroom

Teachers looking for a versatile natural history trade book to engage their students will delight in *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elisabeth Tova Bailey. This little book tells the captivating story of a woman's convalescence and the ordinary woodland snail that becomes her recuperation companion. Bailey's exhaustive research makes the book detailed enough for use in Advanced Placement, university, and medical school classrooms. At the same time, her prose and narrative are accessible even for Middle School teachers to excerpt. Below are a few ways you might include *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* in your curriculum.

In the Science Classroom:

- Great discoveries in biology can be made by anyone! This book illustrates how much one can learn about the natural world just from carefully observing it. Works well with entry level high school students for this purpose.
- The book includes detailed accounts of snail (gastropod) biology, life history, reproductive, and behavior — a perfect supplement for AP/IB Biology, Comparative Anatomy, or entry level college Biology courses.
- The background narrative of Ms. Bailey's health would be of interest to teacher's in Biotechnology or Environmental Science courses where virology, bacteriology, or epidemiology are discussion topics.



Humanities, Medicine, Language Arts, and More!

- From its cliff-hanging prologue to its reflective epilogue, Bailey's book provides wonderful examples of different types of writing within a natural history context.
- The book is infused with literary excerpts, haiku, poetry, and historical vignettes. Her compilation affords teachers a good reference for natural history themes.
- Medical professionals recommend Bailey's story as a marvelous example of how biophilia — the human connection to the natural world — can be an important element in patient care, an unexplainable panacea that picks up where modern medicine leaves off.
- The vivid accounts of her terrarium and the curious going's on of snails would be a great example of creative nonfiction for the English or Language Arts classroom or inspiration for student artists of all types.

For more information on how you might incorporate *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* into your classroom or curriculum contact Ryan Bromwell at rbromwell@loyolablakefield.org

Ryan Bromwell teaches Advanced Biology, AP Environmental Science, and Marine Science at Loyola Blakefield High School in Towson, MD. He recently collaborated with Ms. Bailey in using her book with 9th grade students.

