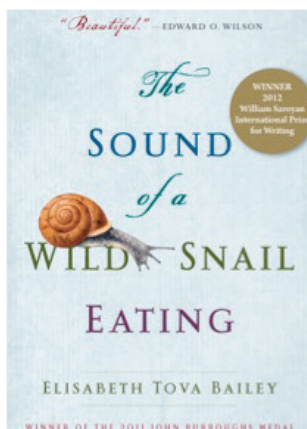


The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating in the Classroom

A content-rich nonfiction book combining science and literacy

www.elisabethtovabailey.com

This is how the true story begins: The author is bedridden with a chronic illness. A friend arrives bringing a wild snail that she has found in the woods. The author begins to observe the snail as it lives at her bedside in a terrarium. She explores the snail's social life, its remarkable anatomy, physiology, brain neurons, courtship, defense systems, hibernation, estivation, and evolution. The snail is ultimately released back to the wild.



This adult trade book is being used in all science disciplines, grades K-16

The book is a strong model text for interdisciplinary writing. Blending literature, natural history, and medical humanities, the book can be used to address Common Core (CC) standards for literacy as well as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

The *Wild Snail* book includes many voices ...

- Early scientists such as Charles Darwin, Karl von Frisch, and their colleagues
- Contemporary scientists such as Tim Pearce (*malacologist*), Richard Dawkins (*evolutionary biologist*), Edward O. Wilson (*biologist and naturalist*), and Neil Shubin (*paleontologist*)
- Other thinkers and writers, such as Florence Nightingale, Gerald Durrell, A. A. Milne, Edgar Allan Poe and Hans Christian Andersen.
- Poets such as Elizabeth Bishop, Billy Collins, Emily Dickinson, Rainer Maria Rilke, and haiku poets Kobayashi Issa and Yosa Buson

To request a desk copy to consider for curriculum use, please send an e-mail to: mrockliff@workman.com

Primary education teachers share book excerpts with their students who then:

- Create terrariums and practice their observational skills
- Monitor the terrarium's eco-system
- Write reflective essays and poems
- Visit a natural history museum with a malacological collection

Middle and high school uses for the *Wild Snail* book

- See Juliana Texley's PowerPoint on using the book in middle school and her activity "Investigating Slime" as listed on www.elisabethtovabailey.com
- See Ryan Bromwell's PowerPoint on using the book in his 9th grade advanced biology class. His students read the book, participate in weekly writing and discussion assignments, and design science activities and experiments. www.elisabethtovabailey.com

The *Wild Snail* book is being used in university and college curricula

- University of Washington—Seattle, course title "Monsters & Aliens: Encountering Others."
- State University of New York, Purchase Campus, course title "Science & Writing."
- Princeton University, course titled "A Meaningful Life: A Search."

Flip this page to learn how the book can be used to address Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards.

To view a PowerPoint that describes the book's uses in addressing science standards for K-16, visit the "In the Classroom" page at www.elisabethtovabailey.com

Using the Wild Snail Book to Address Common Core (CC): Literacy in Science Standards

- Vocabulary instruction is supported throughout the *Wild Snail* book through very specific common and scientific word use such as: *Baffling, discernible, impenetrable, ephemeral and tentacles, radula, estivate, nocturnal, logarithmic spiral, evolution, epiphragm.*
- Each of the book's essay-like chapters serve as a model text for research and writing.
- Relevant information from multiple sources is integrated into an original text.
- The book is an example of analysis, research, and reflection.
- The book's source material and permissions show evidence of the writing process.

Addressing Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Idea #1: Using the *Wild Snail* book to address Scientific Practice #8

Consider how the book is a model for "Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information"

Idea #2: Examples of how the *Wild Snail* book addresses Cross-Cutting Concepts

- Patterns (*spiral shell, pattern on snail foot, pattern of radula—snail teeth*)
- Cause and effect (*with nightfall, humidity increases and the snail becomes active*)
- Scale, proportion, and quantity (*snail/human comparisons*)
- Systems and system models (*ecosystem in the terrarium, reuse of slime*)
- Energy and matter (*snail locomotion, slime conservation, terrarium ecosystem*)
- Structure and function (*snail foot and shell, telescoping tentacles, renewable teeth, slime uses*)
- Stability and change (*snail evolution, hibernation, estivation*)

Idea #3: Using the *Wild Snail* book to address Life Sciences—Core Ideas

Here is just one Life Science Core Idea: LS1.A Structure & Function

Growth and Development of Organisms; Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems; Social Interactions; Inheritance of Traits; Natural Selection; Adaptation; Biodiversity and Humans

Throughout the book, the above topics are addressed and observational structural and physiological comparisons of humans and snails are also made . . .

- **Similarities:** heart, brain, lung, and gastrointestinal system
- **Contrasts:** slimy skin/dry skin, external shell/internal spine
- **Differences:** four senses vs. five senses, nocturnal vs. diurnal, locomotion via one foot vs. two feet

Accolades for *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*

AA rating for 9th-12th grade, Hawaii Children's Science Book Project; *Top Ten Science & Technology Books for 2010*, BOOKLIST editors (*American Library Association*); John Burroughs Medal Award for Distinguished Natural History; William Saroyan International Prize/Nonfiction; Gold Foreword Book of the Year Award for Autobiography/Memoir; National Outdoor Book Award.

www.elisabethtovabailey.com

Teaching resources are available on the "In the Classroom" page and on other pages of the author's website. These include PowerPoints, activities, a book trailer, a slide/talk, links to snail research sites, author interviews, and more. A six-week curriculum will be posted to the website in the future.