



Watch Out, Snail!

Gay Hay , Margaret Tolland (Illustrations)

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Watch Out, Snail! Gay Hay , Margaret Tolland (Illustrations)

This gorgeously illustrated picture book showcases the native Powelliphanta snail on its perilous nighttime hunt. A little-known New Zealand creature, the Powelliphanta is not at all like your average garden snail. It is huge, handsome and carnivorous! This story teaches children about the circle of life within nature.

Watch Out, Snail! Details

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Author : Gay Hay , Margaret Tolland (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Watch Out, Snail! for online ebook

Kathleen Dixon says

This is beautifully illustrated and tells perfectly the status of small creatures in our native forests. The native snail, powelliphanta, is as big as a person's fist, and is carnivorous. But while it is hunting for a juicy worm, other animals are hunting it!

After reading this James was inspired to hunt for a snail in our garden, and we now have a snail farm in our schoolroom. A second snail arrived on a piece of silver beet - maybe we'll have babies in a little while.

Lisa Boyd says

I love the illustrations and the "slimy" look of the snail and its trail.

Jennifer says

Narrative nonfiction about snails... with a fun "shimmer" effect. Might be fun to pair with ESCARGOT.

Arminzerella says

The illustrations are wonderful, but the accompanying text was not so great. There was some additional information about this species of snail at the end of the book, which was helpful, but overall the package was disappointing.

Cosette says

An amazing book! Feel the pages - read the vocabulary- fossicks! I'm gonna use fossicks in a sentence every day from here on out. And marauding.

My son was busy fossicking thru his nasal cavity and did not notice his sister marauding his stash of candy.

sylas says

This book was gross in an animals-are-freaking-awesome sort of way. Liked the art and the slick snail trail throughout.

Angela says

The language is interesting yet reasonably simple. it has a certain rhythm but is not rhyming except once. There is always something to look for in each 2 page spread along with the snail. I feel the language sometimes lacks momentum, it's a bit jumpy, but of course that reflects how the snail must be to sense creatures which might prey on him or stamp on him. A pity the author didn't include humans as well. The art work is stunning, especially the shiny snail shell. I haven't seen anything like it in a picture book. The layout is also superb, giving some variety on each page despite the forest plants being similar each time. There's a simple factual section on the back page and 14 words with Maori translation, although these words do not appear in the main text.

There is a Te Reo Maori version sold separately.
cover Image is on the publisher's web page.

Rhyllis Bignell says

The Powelliphanta snail is very rare, a native of New Zealand's moist forests. This large carnivorous snail hunts for earthworms at night.

Author Gay Hay and illustrator Margaret Tolland's Watch Out, Snail explores the nocturnal activities of the snail as it slips and slides through the forest searching for food. Lurking in the background are the hungry predators waiting to pounce. The striking front cover with a glossy overlay on the delicately patterned shell is both a tactile and visual experience. As the snail crawls over and under the leaves, a shiny trail is left behind, for readers to trace the snail's movements. Tolland's visually pleasing paintings bring us close to the action. The deep purple of the night sky, the green hues of the leaves and bushes a beautiful background for the snail's nocturnal trip.

Jennifer Brinkmeyer says

Cool story about how the circle of life works. First, you root for the snail not to die, then you root for the snail to kill and survive. Gritty stuff. Nice take on the illustrations.

Isaac Toit says

I enjoyed this book. The book is full of cool pictures and it is easy to read.

Melanie says

A beautiful introduction to Powelliphanta snails from New Zealand. Children will love feeling the shiny parts of the pages where the snail's "slime" has left a trail.

