Snippet is a typical snail. He loves to draw. He loves to play soccer. He loves piggyback rides. But unlike other snails, he does not love to sleep in. While his family is snoozing the morning away, he is wide awake and determined to rouse his family. But how?

**Praise for Snippet the Early Riser**

“Murguia's limpid watercolors and adorable snails charm…”—Publisher's Weekly

“Amusing illustrations rely on precise ink outlines with watercolor and gouache washes to give Snippet, his family and his insect pals a comic charm. Readers view Snippet from a bug's-eye perspective as he ingeniously works to wake up the sleepyheads.”—Kirkus

By Bethanie Deeney Murguia
Knopf Books for Young Readers
randomhouse.com

Scan this qr code to view the trailer and learn more

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**Downloads**

The following activities are available for download on Bethanie’s site:

aquapup.com/snippet.html

**Snail Story**

These snails sure seem to be on a mission…but where are they headed? It’s your job to tell their story—and add color to their world.

**Build Your Own Snails**

Snippet and his family each have their own very special shells. This sheet is filled with colors and patterns to mix, match, and create your own unique snails.

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**Spiral art**

Snippet’s snail shell is a spiral. Students can learn more about spirals and create their own snail shell mosaics by gluing down small squares of paper in a spiral shape. Ideally, the squares will be multicolored and/or patterned. Students can begin their pattern with one square in the center of a white sheet of paper and begin swirling outward from there. (A spiral can be lightly drawn on the white paper as a guide.)

Once the spiral mosaic is complete, the snail’s body and antennae can be drawn with crayon or pen. Googly eyes are a great finishing touch!
**Discussion topic: snail facts**

- Snails are one of the oldest known species on the planet.
- There are three kinds of snails: those that live on land, those that live in fresh water, and those that live in salt water.
- Snails can be found in many places you might not expect like the tops of trees, mountains, and even in the desert.
- Snails are mollusks which means they have a hard shell. Examples of other mollusks are clams and oysters.
- A single garden snail can have over 400 babies in a year.
- Snails don’t have ears; they can’t hear you.
- Snails have poor eyesight.
- Snails are nocturnal; most of their movement happens at night.
- A snail is not male or female—it is both.
- The largest known land snail was over 15 inches long.

- Snails hibernate in the winter.
- Some snails have just a few teeth, others have thousands. These teeth are found on the radula, a tongue-like organ.
- Snails travel in irregular paths.
- A snail’s slime creates suction which means it can crawl upside-down.
- A snail’s shell grows as the snail grows. A snail does not outgrow its shell and leave it behind.

**Discussion topic: spirals**

The spiral shape occurs frequently in the natural world. A snail’s shell is a spiral. Here is a sampling of other spirals that can be found in nature:

- Ferns
- Pinecones (easiest to spot when viewed from the bottom)
- Sunflowers (seed pattern)
- Pineapple (like the pinecone, easiest to spot from the bottom)
- Horn of the bighorn sheep

Many animals curl themselves into spiral shapes, for example:

- Millipedes
- Snakes

Even our own fingerprints have tiny spirals (usually referred to as whorls).

**Accompanying activities:**

- Practice drawing spirals
- Begin a classroom collection of spirals or photographs of spirals
- Create your own list of spirals