



The Legend of the Golden Snail

Graeme Base

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A young boy's favorite storybook tells of a Golden Snail that lived long ago in the mythical Spiral Isles. When it journeyed through its magical realm, it took on the shape of a fantastical golden sailing ship. One day the ship was captured by a Great Enchanter and put under his spell. After he became bored with the Snail, the Enchanter banished it to the Ends of the Earth so no one else could ever sail in it. There it remains until a new master comes to claim it. Could a young boy named Wilbur be the next master?

Featuring Graeme Base's visually stunning signature art (packed with details, including a hidden snail and crossbones to search for in each picture) and a bonus mini book (bound in, nonremovable), *The Legend of the Golden Snail* is an adventure unlike any other.

The Legend of the Golden Snail Details

Date : Published October 1st 2010 by Harry N. Abrams (first published September 27th 2010)

ISBN : 9780810989658

Author : Graeme Base

Format : Hardcover 48 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Adventure

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From Reader Review The Legend of the Golden Snail for online ebook

Jodie Greene says

This is a magic realism picture book. This book tells of a grand adventure that boy named Wilbur takes to find the enchanted Golden Snail in his favorite book. This snail can be commanded to do the will of whoever finds it. He goes to magically lands and meets strange creatures in his quest to be the Grand Enchanter. He finds the Golden Snail and instead of enslaving the enchanted snail, he decides to set it free.

This book has some of the best illustrations in it that I have ever seen. The creator has the capability of making the adventures pop out of the page or recede into the distance. The illustrations and text are seamlessly integrated.

I like this book for several reasons. I think it could be a great interdisciplinary lesson with visual arts on perspective drawings. The story also shows bravery, courage, and above all compassion. Our dreams may not turn out exactly as we had planned, but it's how we conduct ourselves on the journey that makes us have great character. I would recommend this book for grades 1-4.

Book Bazaar says

Graeme Base's picture books are always special and much loved by Australian families. His latest title, The Legend of The Golden Snail, is a magical quest which takes us to the world of a book within a book.

The production on this book is gorgeous. The oversize, square shape allows for beautiful double page spreads to have the impact they deserve and touches like the fold out copy of Wilbur's favourite story add to the special feel of this book.

The Legend of the Golden Snail has a rollicking rhyming spell that is great fun to read and it is easy to see why it is Wilbur's favourite story. Wilbur is a boy on an adventure, he intends to become a Grand Enchanter and capture the Golden Snail but his empathy leads to small diversions as he encounters creatures who need help on his journey. It is his kindness and bravery that bring many of these creatures back in to the story to help him when he is in trouble later. The gentle humour in the description of these creatures is beautifully married with the sumptuous illustrations that are saturated with brilliant colour.

Base is an experienced creator of picture books and is not afraid to leave a full double page spread free of text to allow the beautiful illustrations to tell the story. His use of perspective and colour is magical. As with all Base books there are images to search for hidden throughout the pages to further delight the kids. This is a very special picture book for the whole family to treasure as they read it over and over again.

Kathryn says

Graeme Base is an amazing illustrator and the heart of his books seems to me to be one of compassionate stewardship for our planet and its creatures. I think this is my favorite of his books yet, because it does have that compassionate component yet it's also wonderfully imaginative and creative! It's like a swashbuckling fairytale and the illustrations are just gorgeous. Plus, there's an orange cat--a really cute orange cat! ;-) I love so many things about this book, from the wonderful little miniature "Fable of the Golden Snail" book that you can flip through in the front of the book, to the boy's zest for adventure but also of sensitivity for other creatures, to his realization of the sort of person that he truly wants to be.

Lisa Vegan says

This is an absolutely stunning book. The pictures create a whole fantastical world: big, bold, amazingly colorful, intricate, and so easy for readers and listeners/viewers to dive into its pages. Each page has a striking illustration. It did take me awhile to get used to Wilbur's face; I've been having problems lately with the way faces are depicted in some picture books, but I actually grew to love Wilbur's facial expressions, and definitely loved his cat's expressiveness.

What a glorious romp! I love the premise of the story and how it's carried out too. The title of the book is the title of a book the main character, Wilbur, likes, and at the beginning of the book is a mini book permanently glued into the book; its text is very readable. The story in the book captures the imagination of the boy Wilbur.

His mom is encouraging and he and his (wonderful orange) cat go on an adventure to the Ends of the Earth. There is a map! (And it in particular made me think that this book is like *The Phantom Tollbooth*, which is high praise from me, but can also be enjoyed by younger children.) And there are many adventures until Wilbur reaches his goal. When he does, he isn't the hero he'd imagined himself to be, but his actions make him more admirable. The message here elevates this book from a standard fantasy/imagination story to one that has something lovely to say.

Both boys and girls can fully enjoy this book. It can be equally enjoyed as a read aloud or an independent read.

There is even a Where's Waldo type question at the end that might send readers back for a search of their own, and a companion website too.

Reading this both pure fun and fodder for discussion.

As far as the "I would recommend to" field? I don't know what to say? Almost everybody who appreciates picture books?

Jackie says

Another excellent picture book from Graeme Base. Base's art is always the highlight of his books; it's consistently detailed, clever, and beautiful. The art in this book is no exception. The illustrations accentuate the moods of the text, and I couldn't resist going back and looking for all the hidden snail-and-crossbones once I was done. The story is a fun tale with a great message. Highly recommended for children with a love of exploring, adventure, the ocean, or just reading great books.

Sally says

Beautiful illustrations and enjoyable story. Another winner from Graeme Base

Ashton Miller says

Title: The Legend of the Golden Snail

Author: Graeme Base

Illustrator: Graeme Base

Genre: Legend

Theme: Voyage, compassion, adventure

Opening Line/Sentence: Legend tells of a Golden Snail that lived long ago in the mythical Spiral Isles.

Brief Book Summary: Wilbur wants to travel the seas to the Ends of the Earth to find the Golden Snail who had been banished there by a Grand Enchanter. Wilbur endures challenges along his journey. Once he gets there, Wilbur recites a magic spell so he can become the next Grand Enchanter of the Golden Snail.

Afterwards, he commands the Golden Snail to go to the Spiral Isles and sets the Golden Snail free.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1:

<http://www.clcd.com.ezaccess.librarie...>

Kirkus (Kirkus Reviews, September 15, 2010 (Vol. 78, No. 18))

Wilbur, a boy transfixed by a story about a lost golden snail, decides to embark on his own search. Legend has it that the snail was captured by a Grand Enchanter, put under a spell and banished to The Ends of the Earth. Only the recitation of a magical verse will allow another person to become the Grand Enchanter of the snail. On his journey, Wilbur tries to be a proper Grand Enchanter but ends up doing more helping than conquering, and when he finds the Golden Snail, he decides to set him free. He ends up stranded himself, but all his good karma saves him and he is rewarded. There is an abrupt transition from reality to fantasy, and the epic language could be a stretch for younger readers. Still, the book is chock-full of Base's bold, vibrant images and features fanciful locations like The Maze of Madness and the Spiral Isles. It also includes a mini version of Wilbur's book, a map and a challenge to find the hidden "snail and crossbones" in each picture. Lots to mull over for future sea adventurers.

Professional Recommendation/Review #2:

<http://www.clcd.com.ezaccess.librarie...>

Sue Ransom (The Lorgnette - Heart of Texas Reviews (Vol. 23, No. 4))

The small book attached to the title page tells the story of a Golden Snail that lived long ago. On its journey, it is transformed into a golden Snailing Ship. It is captured by a Grand Enchanter, and he roams the oceans for a hundred years. He then banishes the Golden Snail to the Ends of the Earth where it will remain until someone claims it with a magic verse to break the spell. This is Wilbur's favorite story, and he decides to go find the Golden Snail. His mother makes him a captain's hat, and he and his cat sail off on an adventure. Along the way, he saves a wilting butterfly bush, rescues a monstrous sea creature, defeats a crew of earwig pirates, gets caught in the Slithering Sea, and gets lost in the Maze of Madness. He finally comes to the Ends of the Earth and finds the Golden Snail. Wilbur, his cat, and the Golden Snail sail off on another adventure and find a happy ending. This book was delightful from the first book-within-a-book to the final page. The theme is uplifting, the moral great, the illustrations bright and eye catching, and the storyline entertaining. Even the little spell is too cute for words. Altogether, it is a delight to read. Several of my fourth graders read this because the cover attracted them. They unanimously pronounced it really neat. I agree.

Response to Two Professional Reviews: I agree with both of these reviews because the story has a great moral: having compassion and helping others will get a person far in life. The illustrations are fascinating to look at. The use of colors is extraordinary and the pictures complement the text well. The book inside the book at the beginning of the story is also a unique and fun way to organize a story.

Evaluation of Literary Elements: When the weather was calm when Wilbur was out at sea, the sky was light blue with puffy white clouds, which had a calming effect. However, when a storm came, the sky was pitch black, dangerous, and intimidating. Towards the end, as the Golden Snail became bigger after the magic spell was recited, it is the biggest object on the page and is right in the center, which makes sense because the Golden Snail is what the story is about. The surface of the water is calm and horizontal towards the beginning and the end, due to the fact that no real danger is upon Wilbur and everything is peaceful.

Consideration of Instructional Application: For a minilesson, I would introduce what legends are to my students and help them generate a list of examples of legends they know about or have read. After the read aloud, I would have my students write about what they would have done if they encountered the Golden Snail. I could connect this book to science by talking about the ocean and the sea creatures that are mentioned in the book. I could even connect it to art by having my students create their own Golden Snail.

Kirsten Yates says

MR10 and Mr7 and I all love this book. Originally a Christmas Present for Mr10 many years ago. As with all of Graeme Base's books the pictures are beautiful and full of details and the language is smooth and hypnotic in style. I could read this daily and never tire of it.

Yolanda K. Smith says

Graeme Base is one of the most talented writer-illustrators in the market, in my opinion. This book is a new favorite, and my four-year-old requested successive readings, which is a sure sign of a winner in her little

world.

This story is about a young boy seeking high adventure through a favorite story of his own. He finds he isn't the Grand Enchanter he'd dreamed of being, but he's actually something better - the best Gallant Captain there ever was.

Angela says

What a beautiful and extraordinary book. I would have loved to have this read to me when I was 4 or 5 years old. The ultimate bedtime adventure book. Surely this one will be read over and over again as parents and their little ones get lost in the lore and magical illustrations.

Amanda says

I'm always impressed by Graeme Base anyway, but this one was one of the best ones, I think. The art is fantastic, the story is engaging and the treasure hunt (indicated on the last page) was definitely a good reason to go back through the book again. The story has a good lesson too. While my son was playing with toys and wanted me to just read this one alone, he came over for nearly every picture and helped me find the hidden snail and crossbones afterwards. So the words were enough to lure a 5 yr old in- impressive, if you ask me.

Hannah Groeschen says

The illustrations in this book were phenomenal. There were several pages that had no words and so the story relied on the details in the illustrations. I liked the parallels in the story and how first the boy helped the creatures and then later the creatures helped the little boy.

Sarah says

Beautiful illustrations, as is standard for Graeme Base picture books. The story is sweet and imaginative, as a young boy goes off adventuring in search of an enchanted "Snailing Ship."

Keegan says

This book has phenomenal illustrations! I also love the storyline so much! My kids love stories of adventure and they love when I tell them stories about them in an adventure. This story reminds me of that kind of a story, but much prettier!

Asher Bolen says

An INSTANT favorite for us! Possibly my favorite illustrator ever. Such a fun book, especially for little boys.
