



Children bond with snails as they understand more about their lives.



My Special Friend 1



Keywords story • emergent curriculum • recall and ordering

1 Use the story *My Special Friend / Hbieb tal-Qalb (Resource File)* as your platform for this topic. Decide how you wish to tackle the reading and encourage emergent themes while exploring facts about snails. The most important aspect of this topic is that children understand that:

- Sleeping snails are not to be disturbed.
- A snail goes to sleep because the weather is not right for it to be outside.
- A snail's body must be wet at all times because it breathes through its skin. Oxygen passes through water, but not through skin alone.
- When a snail goes to sleep, it makes a kind of lid across its shell opening, so it stays inside cosy and snug.
- When a sleeping snail is pulled off a wall or a branch, the lid breaks and the poor snail will dry up and die.
- A snail trail allows the snail to move smoothly and to find its way back home.
- When a snail slides along its trail, it loses water from its body; this is why snails come out at night or in the rain.

2 What you need to know if the discussion revolves around snail pellets, cooking snails, and other non-appreciative actions:

- Snails help to break down and decompose plant and organic material. Without them and other decomposers plants will not find enough nutrients in the soil.
- Snail pellets are illegal for home use. They are a very cruel way of killing snails as they use chemicals and the snails take long to die.
- If you want to keep snails away from a plant, circle it with an unbroken line of crumb-sized eggshells. Snails hate to cross over eggshell!
- Above all, young children should create a bond with nature. All parts of nature are important for Earth's health.

3 Practise sequencing skills with storyboards or picture cards to retell the events of the story in order. You may use the story pictures from the **Resource File**. Dramatise the story, or create artwork related to it, make puppets of the characters to embellish the story, etc.

Use the Dinja Wahda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of

- ☐ children listening to the story
- ☐ any dramatisation or follow-up you carry out

