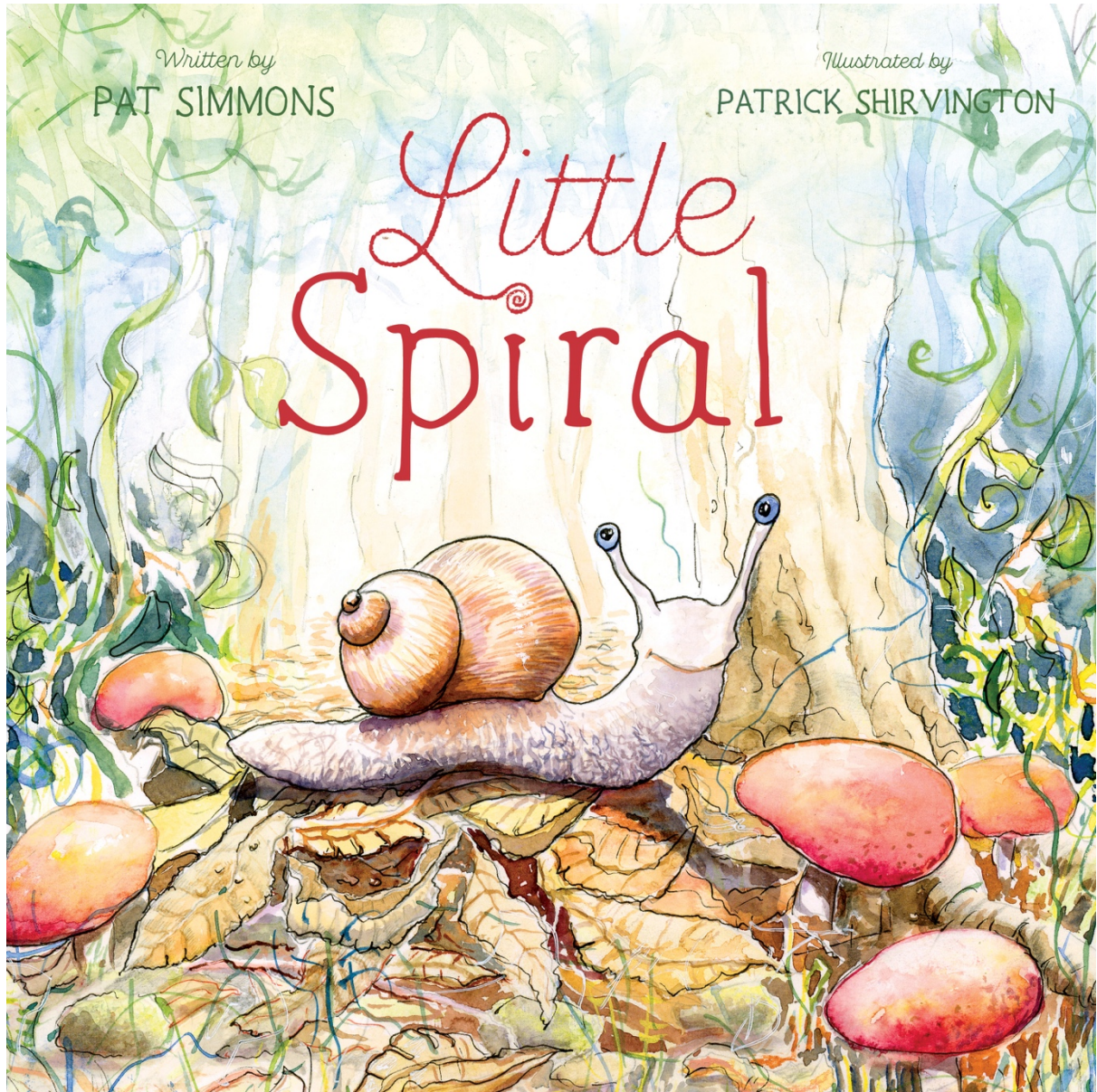


Little Spiral Teaching Notes



Written by Pat Simmons
Illustrated by Patrick Shirvington
Published by Little Steps Publishing



SYNOPSIS

He may be small but he loves exploring. Join Little Spiral on his journey through the rainforest. Stay safe, Little Spiral.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Pat Simmons is a writer of poetry, short stories, flash fiction and picture books for children. She lives in Scarborough on the NSW South Coast with her menagerie of dogs, cats and assorted mini beasts. She has worked with children in a variety of childcare and museum settings and has also taught child studies at TAFE. Pat enjoys sharing her fascination with the world of mini beasts through her writing. *Little Spiral* was inspired by her concern for the endangered Mitchell's Rainforest snail.

Website: <http://www.patsimmonswriter.com.au>

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Patrick Shirvington was born in Sydney. His childhood was spent immersed in nature, drawing the bushland subjects that were bountiful near his home. He studied accountancy, but found himself to be a square peg in a round hole, so decided to travel and follow his passion for art. Patrick built a house and studio in the bushland of northern Sydney with his wife and children and continues to paint professionally. He has a number of awards behind him. His love of drawing and the environment has led to his collaborative work in children's books with established and new authors.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Little Spiral is the perfect book for promoting nature and environmental awareness, as well as introducing children to the idea of endangered species. Key themes also include bravery and exploration.



DISCUSSION TOPICS

Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

1. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about? Do you know what a spiral is?
2. Have you visited a forest like the one in the story? What was it like? Did you see any of the animals from the book there?
3. Why do you think the author wrote a book about Little Spiral?
4. Explain what the word 'endangered' means to the children (a species which is seriously at risk of extinction). Extinct means that the species no longer has any living members.
5. Do you know about any other animals or birds that are endangered?
6. Why do you think certain animals and birds are endangered? (The main reason species become endangered is loss of habitat, this can occur naturally but is more often caused by human interference).
7. What do you think people should do if they know an animal or bird is endangered?
8. Despite being so small, Little Spiral is determined to explore the forest. Do you like exploring the outdoors?
9. Explain the concept of the story coming full circle, the story starts and ends with the forest snail egg.
10. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1 Word Search (solution provided on page 5)

Activity 2 Drawing Activity



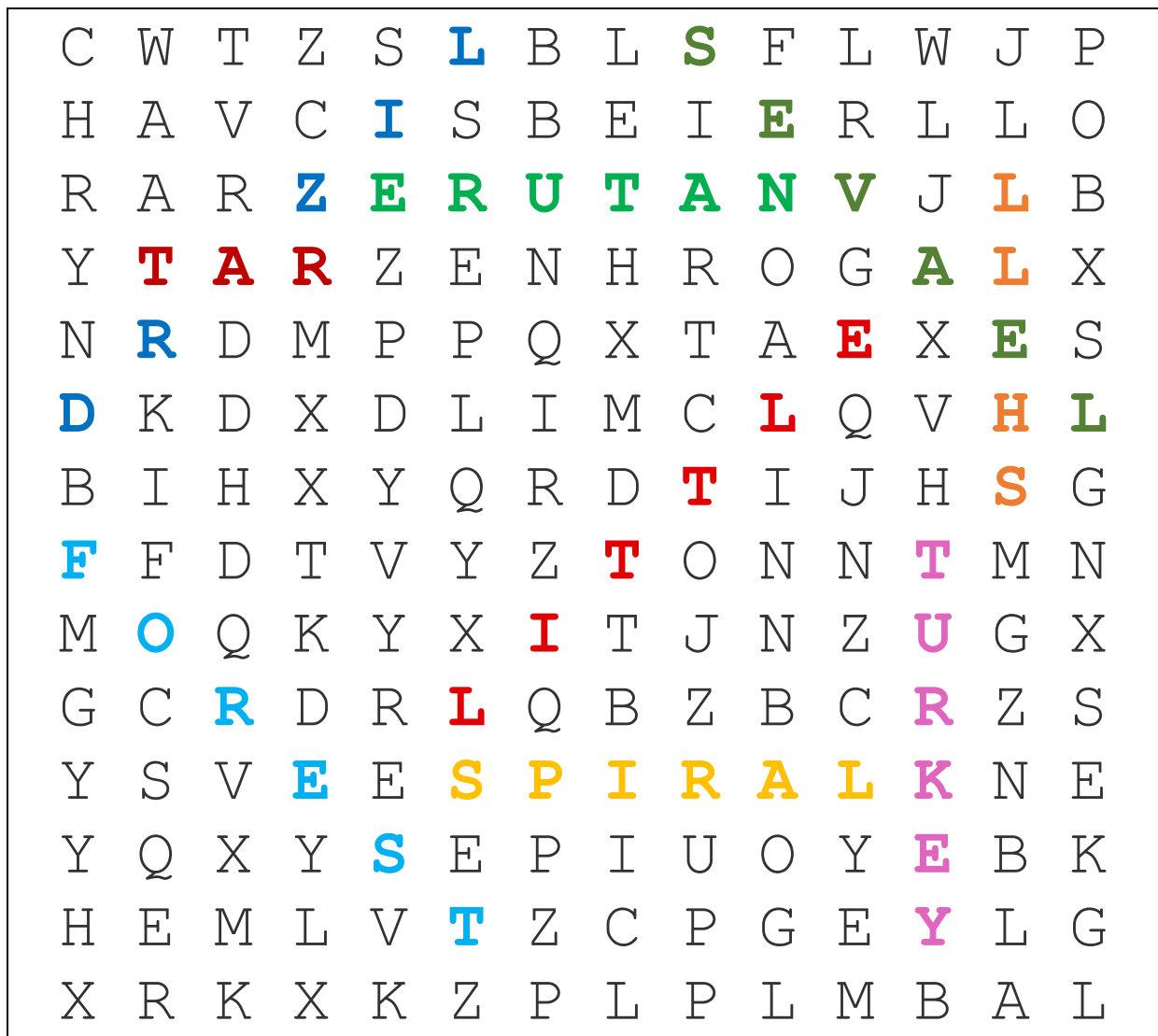
WORD SEARCH



Can you find these words?

1. little
2. spiral
3. forest
4. rat
5. turkey
6. shell
7. lizard
8. nature
9. leaves

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION



Solution

little
spiral
forest
rat
turkey
shell
lizard
nature
leaves

DRAWING ACTIVITY

Draw your own forest adventure in the space below! It can focus on Little Spiral or you can create your own character.

