

Teachers' Notes by Nicola Le Lievre

Reading the book:

Number the events in order:

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| | Charlie and Millie prepare the snails for cooking and spells. | | Charlie finds the article 'Snails, Spells and Snazzlepop' on the computer. |
| | The snails disappear from Millie's window sill. | | Millie gets Ivan behind the ears with the spell! |
| 1 | Charlie has an idea for the snails Mum found in the garden. | | The biscuit stall at the fair is a huge success. |
| | A new project begins – Snazzlepop biscuits for the fair. | | The international dinner party with the snail entrée. |
| | The first attempt at the Growing Taller spell at Granny's house. | | Fame at last – photo in the local paper. |

Reading the book:

Who said.....?

Match the character to their quote.

- Charlie
- Zak
- Mum
- Natsuko
- Granny
- Mr Swinkburn
- Millie
- Ivan
- Mr Mullwhister (Millie's dad)

At least we won't starve, Charlie.

Ra, ra, ra, gonna put you in a jar.

Your snails are still alive.

Now, would you like a glass of milk, or my kiddo cocktail?

Do we have to eat the eyes?

Well done, Charlie. Very enterprising.

We could get rich and famous for treating bullies so they never bully again.

Will you make me miso soup for the rest of my life?

Next time you're sleep walking, I'd prefer that you clean my bathroom.

Think-talk-write about what you have read.

- ❖ Snails, Spells and Snazzlepop is a funny story – talk about the parts you found funny and why. Have you done anything similar? Maybe you got into trouble at first, like Charlie!
- ❖ Why does Charlie want ‘fame and richness’? Write a list of his reasons. Write lists for yourself: ‘Reasons for (and against) fame and richness’. Do you have any similarities with Charlie?
- ❖ Who is Mr Swinkburn Doug? Describe his relationship with Charlie. Is it the same from the beginning of the story to the end? How do you know the relationship changes? Who do you think changes more, Charlie or Mr Swinkburn Doug?
- ❖ Millie doesn’t claim the fame for the ‘bully spell’ episode. Why do you think this is?
- ❖ Write some questions to get Granny’s version of Charlie’s story. Imagine her answers and write an article for the local paper or role play the interview with a partner. Remember she knows things that no other adult in the story does! Will she tell all?

Do some maths!

1. If Zak woke up at twenty to eight and took fifty minutes to brush his teeth, get dressed, and eat breakfast, what time would he be ready for school?
2. On page 100, Millie giggles when she suggests Charlie should be 284 cm tall. Why is this funny? What height do they settle on? Why? How tall are you? How tall would you be if you doubled your height? How can you visualise this? What would your ideal height be? Why? How many centimetres would you need to grow each year to reach this height by the time you are 16 years old? 18 years old?
3. Can you estimate how much money Charlie and Millie needed for the ingredients for 400 Snazzlepop biscuits? Charlie and Millie baked the Snazzlepop in Granny’s oven. What is the temperature inside a hot oven? Choose the more reasonable temperature, 40°C or 150°C.

Do some science!

1. Try making your own popping candy with help from an adult.
2. Find some snails and study their behaviour. Set up situations similar to Charlie’s. Do your snails behave the same way? (Perhaps DON’T try drying them on the window sill or cooking them in Mum’s frying pan!) Do compare night time activity with day time. Write your observations in a notebook.

Be creative!

1. Design a sign for Charlie and Millie’s stall at the fair.
2. Do some illustrations for the book. Some ideas -
 - Granny with a kiddy cocktail
 - Charlie’s snails in the frying pan
 - Ivan getting his dose of the bully spell by Millie
 - Charlie and Millie at their stall at the fair
3. Write your own rhyming spell for something you would like to change.
4. Film an advertisement for television for Snazzlepop biscuits.