

Swirl by Swirl

Recommended for Grades K-3

Book Summary: Swirl by Swirl

Beginning with winter, animal and plant spirals are presented through the seasons. The author shows how spirals are an integral part of nature in helping living things survive.

Author Biography: Joyce Sidman

Joyce Sidman was born June 4, 1956 in Connecticut. In grade school, she felt compelled to write and began keeping journals. She was intrigued by the sleekness of poetry in high school and still finds it easier than writing a novel. She received a Bachelor of Arts in German from Wesleyan University. To date, she has written thirteen children's books, primarily poetry collections, and continues to publish more.

She currently lives in Wayzata, Minnesota with her husband and two sons.



Oswego Campus
32 W Jefferson Street
Oswego, IL 60543
www.oswego.lib.il.us

Montgomery Campus
1111 Reading Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 978-1272

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Discussion Questions: Swirl by Swirl

1. Why do you think the author chose to show spirals present in nature? Does this help more to understand what a spiral is? If so, how?
2. In the story, all the animals and plants are identified on the pages. Was this a good choice for the author to make or do the names get in the way of the pictures? Why?
3. Do you think one season has more spirals than the others? If so, which season? Why?
4. What are some other spirals in nature that were not included in the book?
5. In the book, the author presents a wide range of spirals. Which one was your favorite and why? Is one spiral better than the others? Why or why not?
6. How is a spiral a clever shape? How does it protect itself?
7. What are some other examples of shapes in nature? Is there a particular shape that you see most often? If so, which one?
8. Think about the characteristics the author attributes to spirals (they snuggle, they grow, they reach out, they move). Can you think of any other characteristics of spirals?
9. If you had written and illustrated the book, what would you do differently? What other animals or plants would you choose to include?
10. How does the book change your perception of shapes in nature?



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