

Written by Michael Lacey Freeman

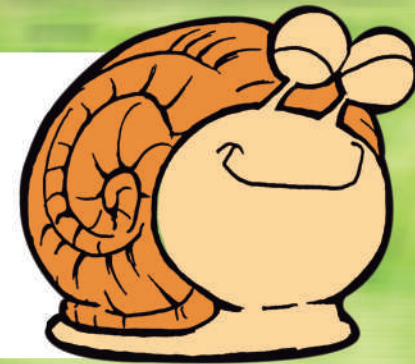
KIN THE SPEEDY SNAIL

Dung Nguyen and Za Nakashima
Across the Sky Team



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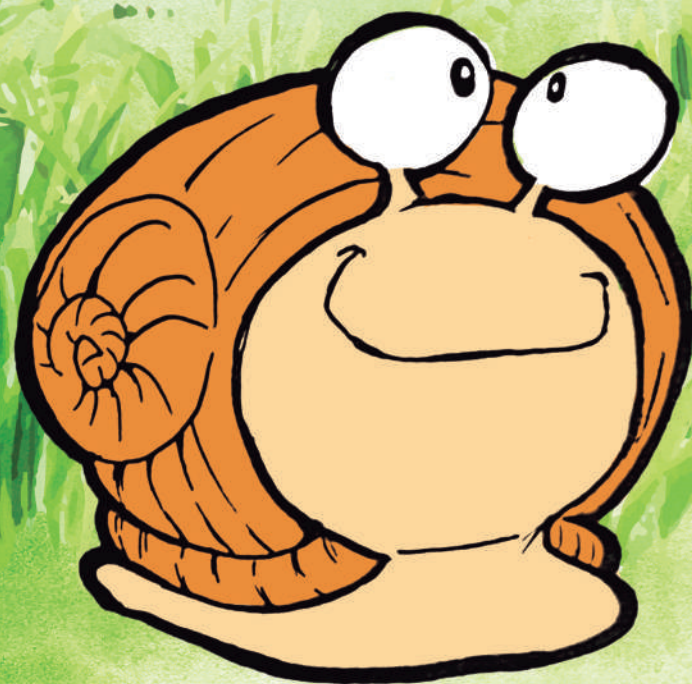
KIN **THE SPEEDY** **SNAIL**



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Kin was a snail. He lived in the garden with his friends, and he liked to think that he was very fast.

Beep Beep!
Get out of
the way!

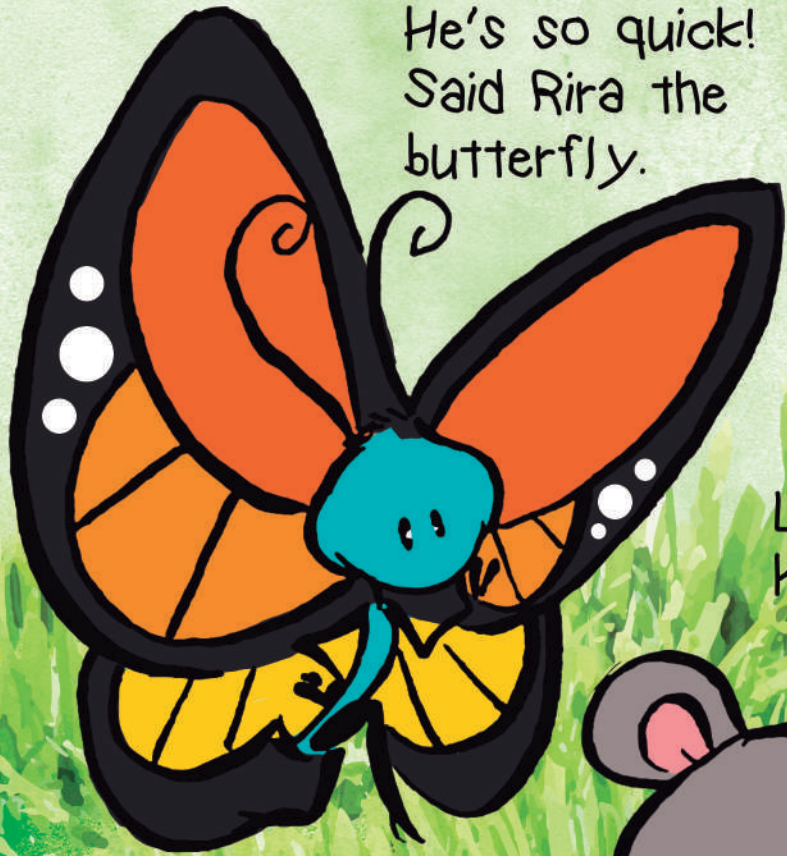


Kin shouted to everyone when he moved around the garden.

Beep Beep!
Get out of
the way!



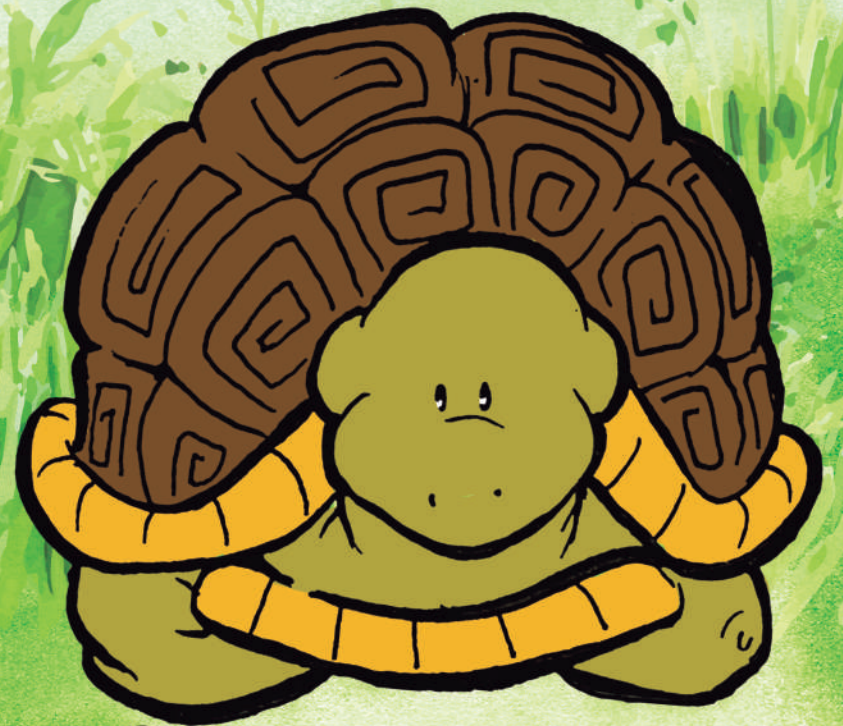
He's so quick!
Said Rira the
butterfly.



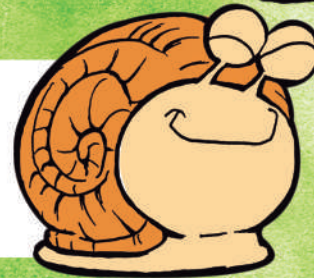
Look at
Kin, Go!



Quick as a flash!
Said Koi the tortoise.

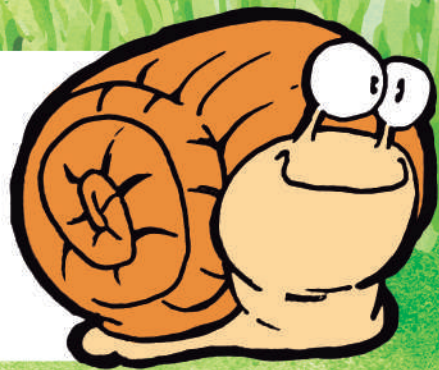


The other animals
always laughed.
They loved Kin.



One day, a new animal
came to the garden.
It was Ricky the rat.

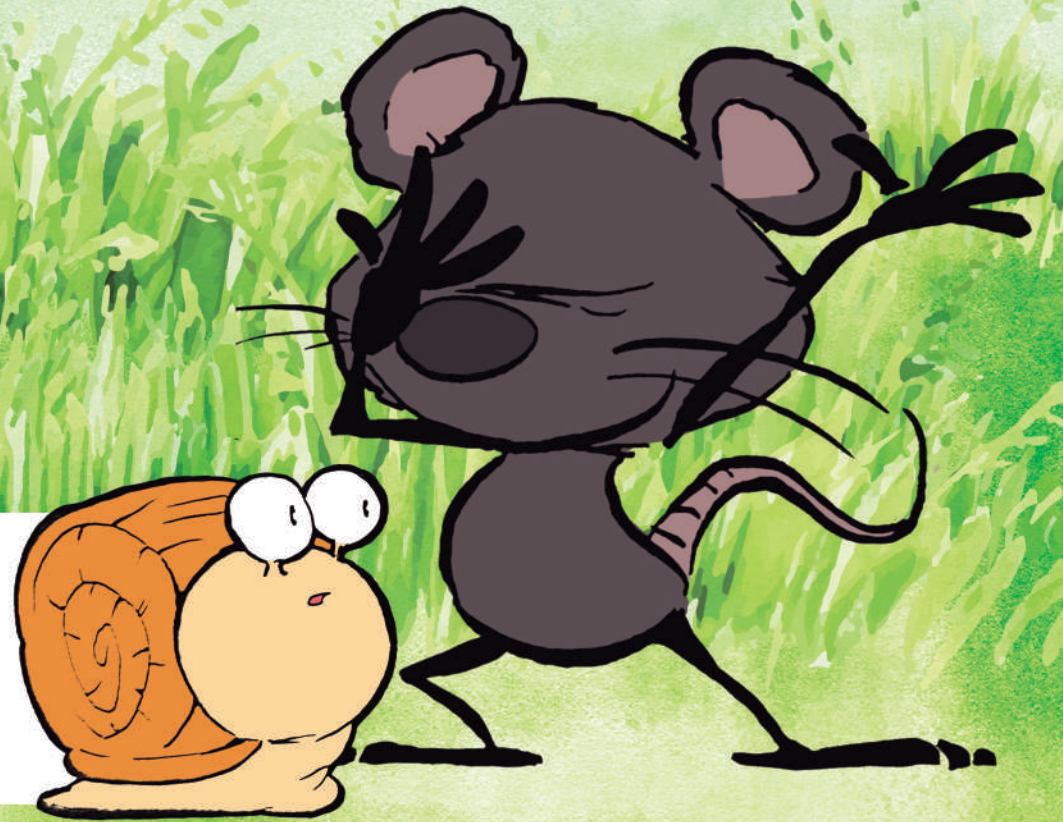
But Ricky didn't move.
He waited for Kin to arrive.



Beep Beep!
Get out of
the way!

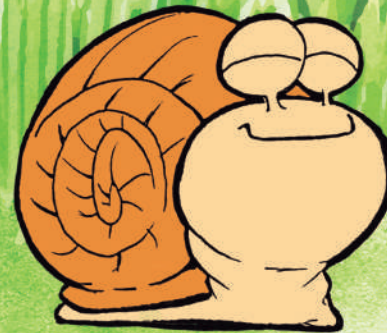
Beep Beep!
Get out of
the way!

Five minutes passed.
Ten minutes passed.



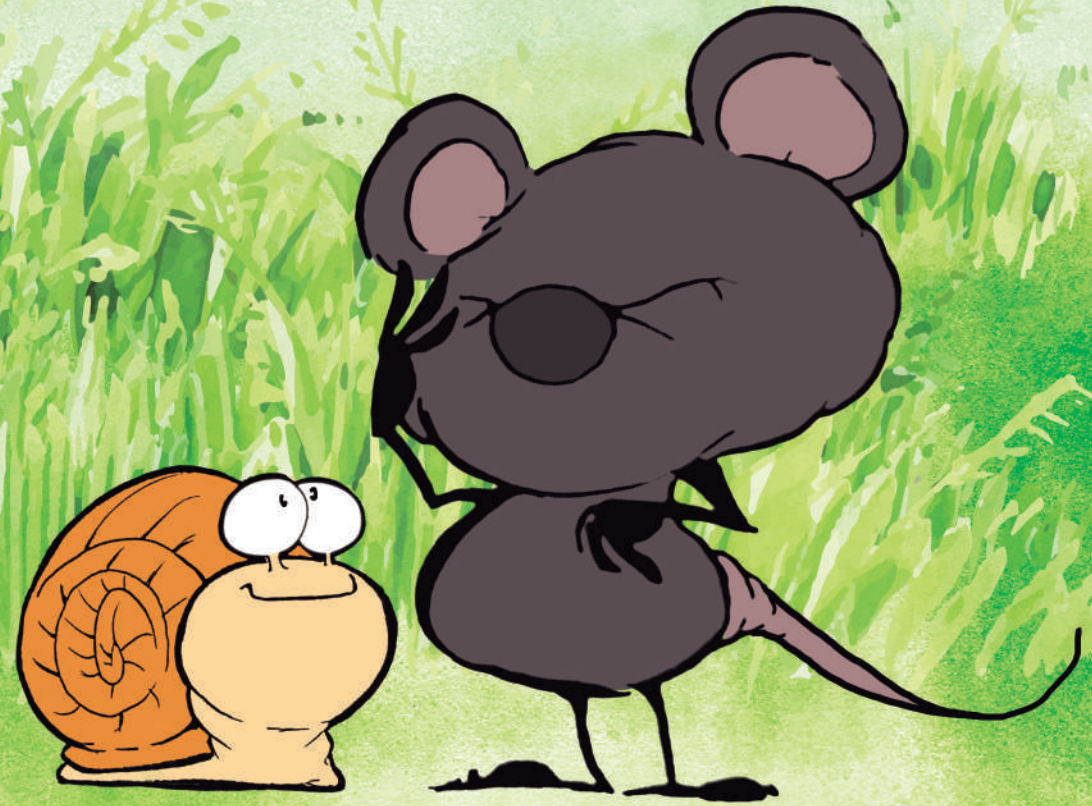
Why do you always
say that? Asked Ricky.

Say what?
Beep Beep! Get out of the way!
I say that because I'm super-fast
and I don't want to hurt you,
Said Kin.



You're not fast at all!
I will show you,
Let's race to the end
of the garden tomorrow.
I will win! Meet you at
the big rock.
Said Ricky.

OK, we can meet.
But I'll win," Kin said.





The next day, all the animals came to watch the race.

Ready,
steady, go!
Shouted Rira.



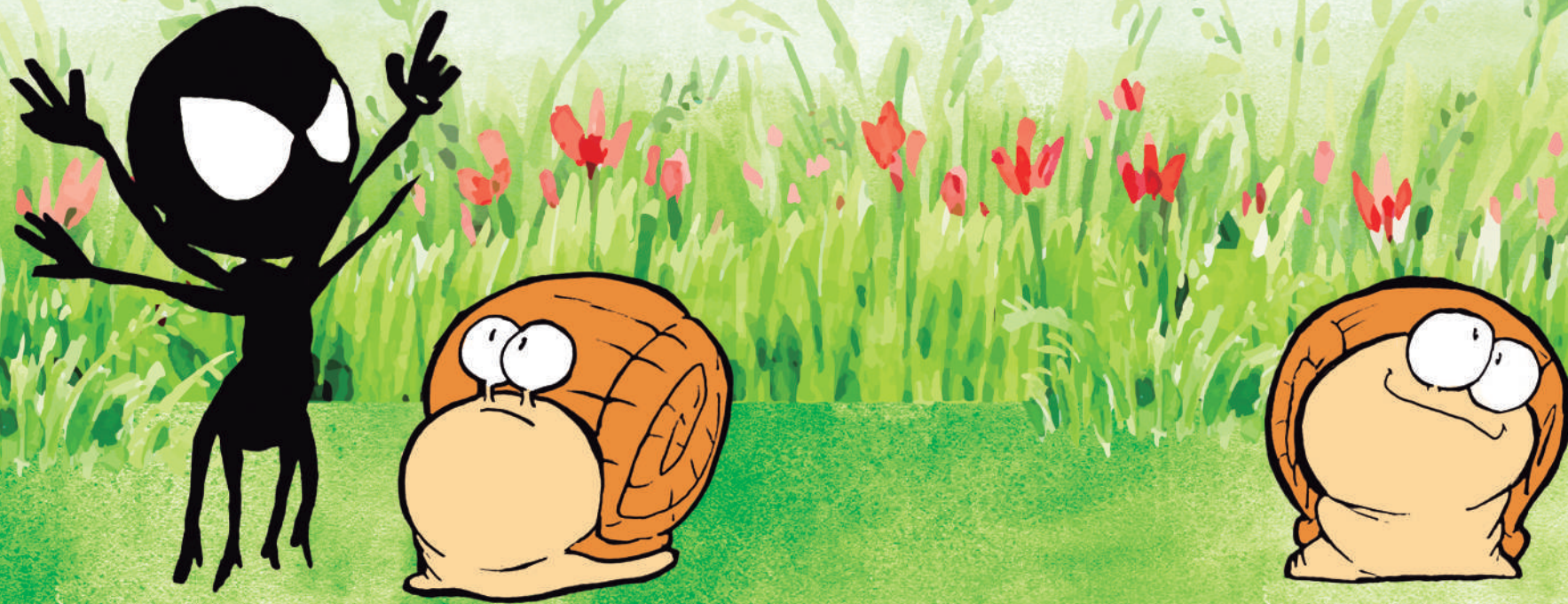
Rira the Butterfly, Poppy the Bird,
Maddie the Mouse, Harry the Hedgehog,
Ollie the Owl, Sandy the Spider,
and even Koi the Tortoise were there.



Kin moved on,
but then he saw Sandy
the Spider looking worried.

My web is broken.
The wind blew it away.

You are so kind, said Sandy.



"I can help you to mend it", said Kin.

Kin noticed Harry the Hedgehog looking sad.

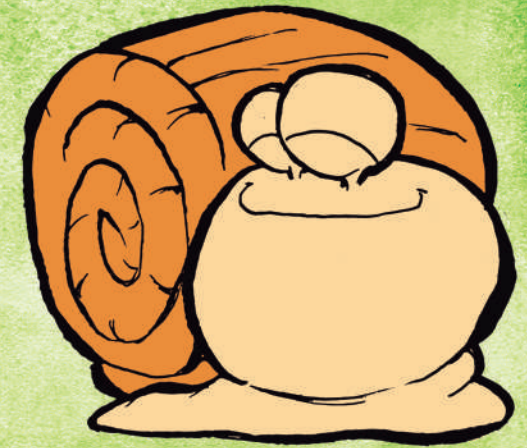
"I lost my scarf. It keeps me warm in the winter," said Harry.

"What's wrong?" Kin asked.



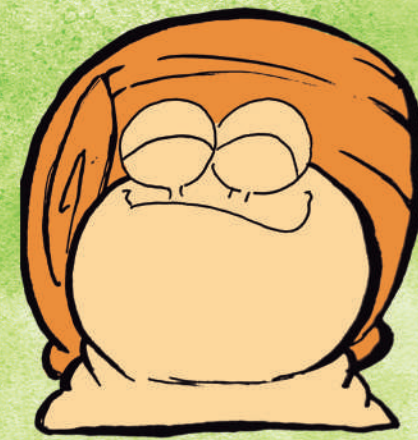
Kin helped Harry look for it.
"Here it is! Under that leaf!"
Said Kin.

Thank you so much, Kin,
Said Harry.



Kin moved on and found
Maddie the Mouse.
"I can't open this nut," she said.
"I will help," said Kin.

"Yum yum! Thanks, Kin," Said Maddie.



He pushed the nut against a rock
with his shell until it cracked open.

When Kin finally reached the end of the garden, Ricky was already there.
"Ha! You're not saying 'Beep Beep!' anymore. I won! You're not fast at all!"
laughed Ricky.

Kin smiled and said,
"You won this race, but I helped my friends. And that is the best thing of all!"

You're our hero, Kin!

Hooray for Kin!





Michael Lacey Freeman
The Author
He writes the Stories.

I have been working in the field of English Language Teaching for 30 years, both as a teacher and ELT author. However, I am also a storyteller and have travelled extensively around Italy and other parts of the world to tell my stories, and spread the message that words are powerful. I have also been involved in writing many course books and twelve of my graded readers have been published, five of which have won Extensive Reading Foundation Language Learner Literature Awards. In 2017 I was invited to be on the board of directors of the Extensive Reading Foundation. Over recent years, together with my band, 'Eggheads', I have been experimenting with music and examining how songs can go hand in hand with stories to enhance the language learning process.

KIN THE SPEEDY SNAIL

Garden Series

Story 8

Written by **Michael Lacey Freeman**

Illustrated by **Across the Sky Stories**



Dung Nguyen
The teacher and Educator
She tells the Stories.

Education has always been at the heart of everything I do. Growing up in rural Vietnam, I saw how access to learning could transform lives, and that's what inspired me to dedicate myself to teaching. As a freelance English teacher, a storyteller, and a mother of three, I've spent my life finding creative ways to help children learn, dream, and grow. **Why should we care?** Because the future depends on the ideas and actions of today's children. By inspiring them to care for the planet, connect with others, and believe in their ability to make a difference, we're shaping a better tomorrow. This is my journey: from a small town in Vietnam to classrooms and projects that reach the world. I write and teach because I believe in the potential of every child to shine and I'm committed to helping them do just that.

**Written and Illustrated
By Humans For Humans**

Independently published

by **Michael Lacey Freeman**, Italy in collaboration
with **Across the Sky**

Email: michaellaceyfreeman@gmail.com



ZA Nakashima
The Illustrator
He draws the Stories.

Za's artistic voice is instantly recognizable—full of warmth, wonder, and quiet wisdom. His first children's book, *Em Busca da Árvore do Bem*, marked the beginning of a new era in his career, captivating readers with its message of kindness and unity. Since then, he has released numerous independent titles, blending storytelling with playful illustrations and handcrafted toys. In 2020, Za brought his magical worlds online, reaching a global audience and earning critical acclaim. Za is also a member of *Across the Sky*, a project devoted to free education and cultural diversity through art and literature. Through his YouTube channel, he invites audiences behind the scenes of his creative adventures—offering a glimpse into the heart and hands behind every page. With each story he tells, Za Nakashima reminds us that the most powerful journeys often begin with a simple question—and a colorful backpack full of imagination.

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Published 2025

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