

# The Magic Conch Shell



**By GERALD L. GUY**

There once was a girl who lived by the sea;  
She ran and jumped and loved to be free;  
Water to the east and land to the west  
Mother Nature and she ruled all of the rest

Then one day in the sand she did see  
A conch shell buried by the surf near a tree.  
She pushed and she pulled and uncovered it soon  
So happy it made her, she whistled a tune.

"I've never seen a shell so big," she said,  
"I wonder, pray tell, if it's alive or dead?"  
She looked and she shook and examined her prize;  
And then all of a sudden it appeared to have eyes.

Inside the big shell lived a conch she was sure;  
Then out popped a head and eyes of azure.  
Startled at first she knew not what to say,  
So she tipped her hat and offered, "Good day!"

"Thank you, kind lass, for freeing my shell;  
"I was stuck in the sand and unable to yell.  
"My family, I'm sure, will be looking for me;  
"There's Mama and Papa and brother who's three."

"Oh my! Oh my!" said girl to sea snail.  
"What can I do to help you prevail?  
"I'll help if I can; just don't be so blue.  
"Give me a hint! Please give me a clue!"

"Can I trust you, sweet gal, for there's only one way?  
"Take my shell to your mouth and blow to the bay!  
"If you huff and you puff, I'll sing loud and clear;  
"I'm sure they'll come running as soon as they hear."

Worried and frazzled, the girl did not know,  
Could a snail shed its shell? Could it slither and go?  
"The ocean's your home; Poseidon's your king;  
"You're a conch not a horn; how do I do such a thing?"

"Trust me, my friend, from your lips I can sing.  
"Believe in my power; my family you'll bring.  
"Promise you must when I crawl from my shell,  
"You'll protect me from harm so all will be well."

## My first child's story

It's not often your grand-daughter asks you to write her a story. My Hailey did in October. So, I put this together for her and was quite happy with the way it turned out. I don't have much experience writing children's stories. And the rhyming drove me absolutely crazy.

“Give an oath to me this sunny day;  
“And a pirate’s ransom shall be your fair pay;  
“Pearls and silver and coins of bright gold;  
“A bounty of riches, its value untold.”

“My shell is my home, I fear when I leave;  
“Forsake me now and forever I’ll grieve.”  
“Trust me, oh conch; no fear, no discord;  
Protect you I will; I’ve given my word.”

From its shell it departed, so slow was its move;  
All fear had departed, just bravery to prove.  
It slithered and squirmed to the palm of her hand  
She held him quite nicely and promised again.

“Now I shall play your shell loud and clear;  
“With hopes your family will swim to you here.”  
With shell to her mouth, she blew a great blast  
One sound echoed forth, first breath to the last.

And lo and behold from the turbulent sea;  
Up swam a dolphin and an old manatee.  
“We heard your trumpet, your call from the shell,  
“Is the young conch alive; if he is that’s swell.”

“His mother and father have sent us for him;  
They’re not far away; it’s just a short swim.”  
Back to his shell, the conch slithered and slid,  
He had trusted the girl and was happy he did.

“Thank you, good friend, he said with a grin;  
“My promise I’ll keep; I’ll return on his fin.  
“No thanks, she said with a wink and a smile;  
“No riches for me at least for a while.”

“Rather carry one wish to the king of the sea;  
“I beg him just once to listen to me.  
“Too often his waves are rugged and rough,  
“They pound and destroy all that they touch.”

“Gentle surf for my beach is all that I wish;”  
“A safe haven for all, both human and fish.  
“Befriend all creatures, even conch and me;  
“We’ll sing his praise from land and from sea.”

Poseidon listened and granted her wish;  
Never again stranded were conch or fish.  
Word spread as far as the ocean could reach;  
The sands of the girl became Hailey’s Beach.

