

Firebrand!

from Yvonne Palka, author of *Dragon Fire Ocean Mist*



Hello! You're receiving this newsletter since you have been interested in the adventures of the dragons in Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist. Here you will find short articles about the 3 main content areas of the book - Northwest Beaches, Dragons and Asian Art. If you do not wish to continue receiving these dragon adventures you may unsubscribe below. Enjoy!

[Northwest Beaches: Moon Snails](#)

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Northwest Beaches: Moon Snails

Our critter for this month is the **moon snail** that lives on sandy beaches. These snails get quite large (3-4 inches across). They live buried in the sand and are voracious predators. The moon snail's favorite food is clams. They eat them by drilling a hole in the clam's shell and then secreting digestive enzymes into the clam's body and slowly slurping the clam out! Now that's a slick way to eat your dinner. And it all happens underground, too.

You can find evidence of this snail on sandy beaches. Look for clam shells with a hole neatly drilled at the hinge side (great for collecting and making jewelry or wind chimes). Or you might find their egg collars - sandy collars about 6-7 inches across. The snail sandwiches a layer of her eggs between two layers of sand in a collar that she forms around her body and shell and sticks together with mucous. At some point the eggs



Yvonne Palka

Yvonne is the award-winning sumi-e artist who wrote and illustrated *Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist*. A retired college professor, grandmother, biologist and naturalist, she is passionate about introducing children and adults to the wonders of the natural world.

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hatch and the baby snails (in the form of larvae) swim away, leaving the collar behind to wash up on the beach.

Happy beachcombing!

*"Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist offers a delightful intertwining of imagination and love of our natural world as well as a charmed view of one of Washington state's wildest and most serene places. Great for encouraging creative voyages with the young readers in your life, and for fostering young environmentalists as well."
-Gretchen Russell, Teacher and Librarian
Gig Harbor, WA*



**Dragon Fire
Ocean Mist**
Written & Illustrated
by
Yvonne Palka

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Dragons: Find Dragons Where You Live!

Can you see dragons? People always ask me, "Are dragons real?" And I answer, "It depends." It depends on lenses of the glasses you are wearing. If you are wearing the lens of imagination you might be able to see dragons in lots of places - in **clouds in the sky** or in the way the mountain range or the way a river looks. In Asian culture dragons or dragon signs are everywhere. And if you live in Seattle or are visiting Seattle, go check out the dragons on the street poles in the International District, (See pictures on nwdragons.com). Have fun! And if you locate a dragon in your area, please share it with us! You can send an email with pictures attached to info@nwdragons.com

Asian Art: Explore Haiku

Three short lines and you have a poem. One thing about haiku that people like is its simplicity - it is simple noticing. Simply noticing, noting and recording moments that are happening around us all the time - moments that make us wake up and see and appreciate the world in a new way. It could be about the breeze on your cheek, the way the earth smells after a rainstorm, a friend that you like, an image you saw on television.

The traditional way to write a haiku is to have 3 lines that have seventeen syllables - five in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third. Some people feel that a haiku can just have 3 lines of any number of syllables provided that you can say the whole poem in just one breath!

Dragon Fire, Ocean Mist contains one haiku at the back of the book (p. 206).

*"Shi Shi holds magic
Sand quivering, rocks rumbling
Sleeping dragons wake."*

Enjoy writing some haiku of your own about moments you notice in your life. Check out the lesson, **Write a Picture, Paint a Poem** on the dragon website!



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