

The Naked Hermit Crab

Deep down in the salty sea lives a hermit crab that goes by the name of Greg. He isn't any ordinary hermit crab, this little guy managed to lose his shell. Now, this may not seem like a big deal, but without a shell Greg looked like a shrimp, and shrimp are not respected in the sea. So Greg crawls along the seaweed covered ocean bottom hunting for the perfect shell that fits him just right. He doesn't want a regular looking shell; he wants one with a special pizzazz. Greg is a sassy hermit crab and he wants a shell that makes others yell out, "I want that shell!"

As Greg walks or rather floats along wiggling his feelers, searching for his dream shell, he becomes lost in this dark green-blue ocean he calls home. He floats past sea anemone, slides through kelp covered coves and over pink starfish, he watches turtles soar gracefully above him and he becomes so caught up in his search that he runs straight into a huge rock. Greg falls over onto his back and kicks his little legs in an attempt to stand upright again. He kicks and he kicks until finally a tiny blue fish finds him suffering and swims over to the rescue.

"Need some help little guy?" the fish asks kindly.

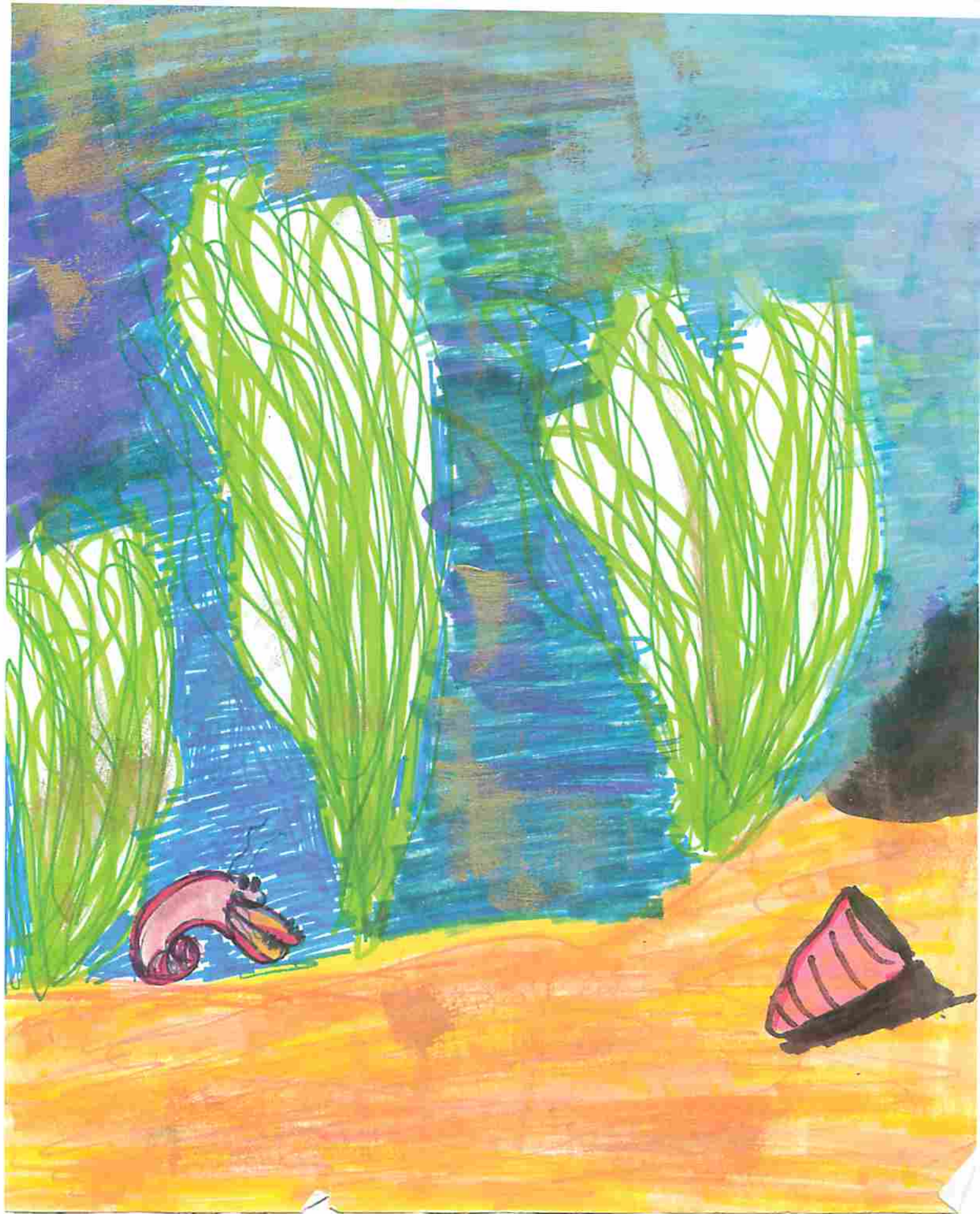
"Yes, I've fallen over and I can't seem to get up! But how on earth will you help me? You don't have any hands!" Greg quickly replies.

"There's no need for hands, I'll go get a piece of kelp, we can use it as a rope." The fish replies with confidence.

"Brilliant! Then what?"

"I will give you one end to hold on to and I will hold the other in my mouth, then I can swim forward and hopefully get you back on your feet."

"Thank you so much!" Greg yells with glee.





you'll
be okay
Buddy!

The tiny blue fish swims over to the closest kelp plant. This one's not good enough—it's practically dead. So she keeps swimming because she wants to find the perfect piece that is strong enough to do the job. She swims and swims and finally she finds a huge plant. Bright green, millions of feet tall and has a beautiful glow that catches her eye. She swims right up close and puts a small portion in her mouth. Then she begins to tug. She tugs with all her might, all of a sudden she flies backward going faster than ever before and runs straight into a bigger, and more powerful fish.

At first this big, yellow fish looks at the little blue one with disgust.

"How rude," the yellow fish comments.

"I'm so sorry, I was trying to get a piece of kelp to help flip over a little hermit crab down the current!" the blue fish replies while breathing heavily.

"Maybe I can help you out, since I am bigger than you I can probably manage to pull a piece of kelp for you."

"That would be wonderful!"

The big yellow fish swims over to the kelp plant and grabs a huge chunk and pulls as hard as she possibly can. She pulls and she pulls and suddenly she falls back and runs straight into an even bigger fish! This fish is very big and very scary looking. It has big eyes and razor-sharp teeth. Since he is so big he doesn't even feel the yellow fish fall against him. Despite the fishes worries, they decide to ask him for help.

"Since he is so big maybe he can get the kelp for us," said the big yellow fish.

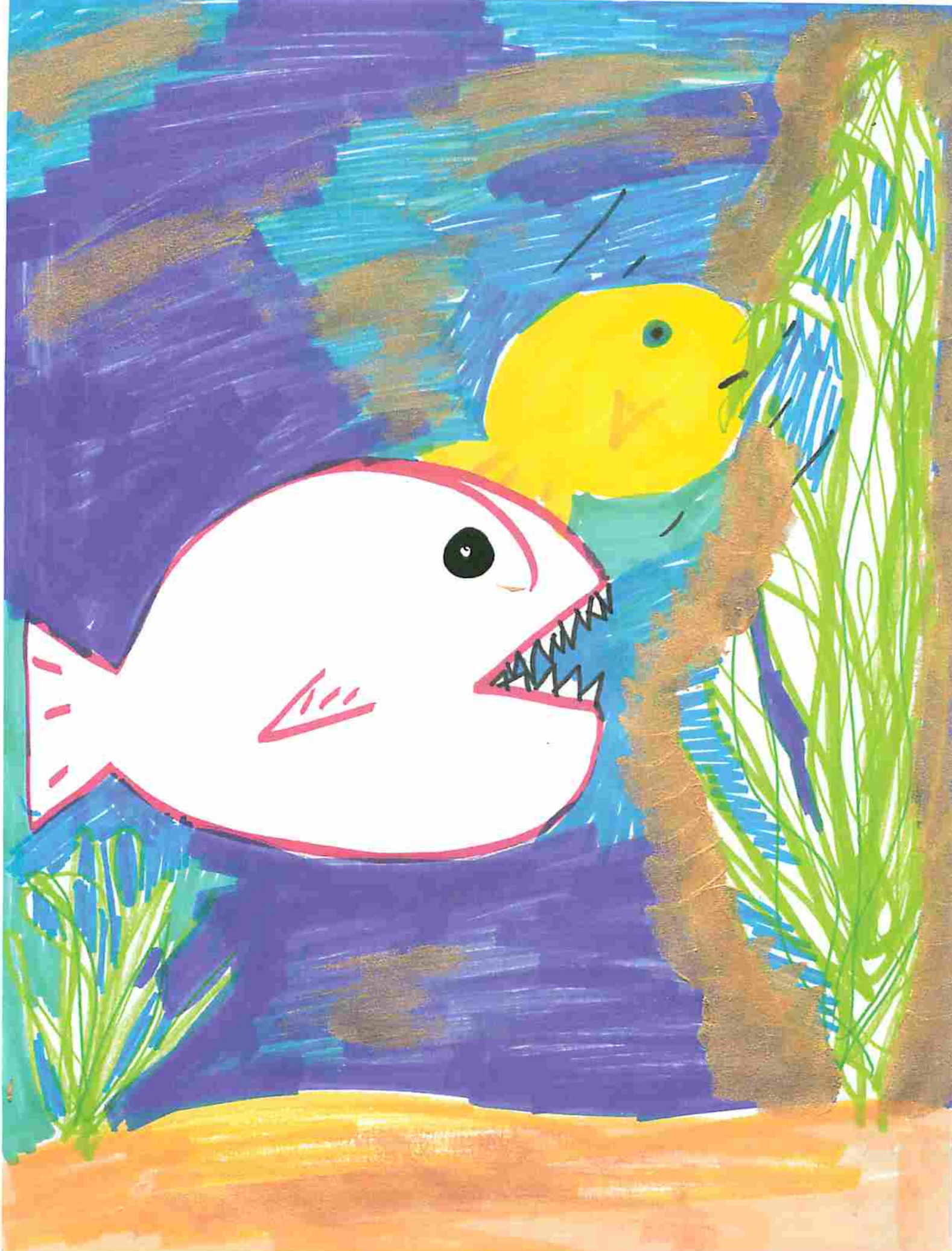
"That's exactly what I was thinking!" the little blue fish yelled with excitement.

Then the two fish turned toward the very big fish, they turned back and looked at each other with





Garrumpf



terrified expressions. The little blue fish pushed the big yellow fish forward right into the very scary big fish.

"He..hello, sir, c...could you do us a favor?" the big yellow fish said nervously.

The very big fish then let out a loud grunt. His breath smelled like fish.

Quietly the little blue fish whispered to herself "Does that mean he eats fish like us?"

"Cerrrrrtanly I can, what can I do for you?" the very big scary fish responded in a loud deep voice.

"W..well we need a piece of kelp to save our friend, do you think you c...could pull out a sturdy long piece for us?"

Without thinking twice the very big fish swims toward the kelp. He puts a perfectly plum piece tightly into his razor sharp teeth and begins to pull.

"One...two...three..." The three fish count outloud.

The kelp flies out of the ground without too much trouble.

"Yes, You did it!" The two fish cheer together.

The very big fish hands the kelp to the others, "Here ya go, I hope all goes well."

"Thank you so much." The two fish say as they swim away.

The little blue fish and big yellow fish swim over to Greg. He is still in the same position before, and begins clapping his claws together in excitement when he see's the kelp coming his way. Greg gladly calls the fish over and grabs a hold of one end of the kelp. The fish begin to pull, swimming with more strength then ever before.

"One...two...three..." They all count again.

Greg flips over on to his feet in a matter of seconds. He stretches out his feelers and his claws and



begins to walk again. He crawls around in a few circles to show his appreciation.

“Thanks so much. I don’t know what I would have done without you guys,” Said Greg.

„need help with anything else?“ the little blue fish asked.

„Well, if you want you can help me find a new shell? I need one with pizzazz, I’ve been naked for a while now and it’s starting to be embarrass me.”

“Sure, I don’t have to be home for another hour.” The little blue fish says.

“Yes, I love adventures!” the big yellow fish says with a huge smile on his face.

The three fish set off for a search. This search isn’t going to be easy. There are millions of shells deep down in the ocean but Greg is picky; he doesn’t like grey shells, or shells with green on them, or ones that are too round, or too square, he doesn’t even like the ones with more than two colors. Within the first 5 minutes of searching the two fish show Greg millions of shells, blue ones, green ones, purple ones, but Greg wasn’t satisfied. He’d simply look over, shake his head and continue on the adventure.

Finally Greg sees the perfect shell in a short distance. It’s bright yellow, has faint stripes and is the perfect spiral cone shape that he can’t resist. But there is a problem. The perfect shell is placed right in the middle of a shrimp habitat. Greg isn’t rude, but he just doesn’t like shrimp. He has never actually talked to one before but the word in the ocean is that they’re dirty, mean, swim weird, smell bad and the worst part is that Greg looks like one of them without his shell.

“I need that shell.” Greg says.

He sounds so dedicated and heads straight into the habitat with his fish friends close behind. He crawls past big shrimp and little shrimp, baby shrimp and old



that shell is perfect!

shrimp, pink shrimp and brown shrimp, and finally reaches the sacred shell. He circles it, smells it, stares at it, and finally crawls inside. He feels confident and more comfortable than ever before, he turns toward the fish and smiles.

As they swim out of the shrimp habitat Greg hears the shrimp talking.

“That shell looks perfect on him.”

“Wow, I’m glad someone made good use out of that shell.”

“I hope he enjoys that beautiful shell.”

Greg was startled. He thought shrimp were mean, he thought they hated hermit crabs, but they seemed so kind. He turns around to thank the shrimp for all the compliments.

“Thanks guys, I’m glad you like it.”

Greg crawls and the two fish swim into a small cove.

“I’ve gotta head home, it was wonderful meeting you guys.” The little blue fish says.

“Me too, its getting late, can we go on another adventure soon.” The big yellow fish responds.

“Yes, of course, you guys saved my life, and my reputation, thank you so much, have a good night, we will hang out soon, just come knock on my shell.”

The fish swim home in opposite directions, Greg crawls deep into a coral reef to settle into his shell for a good nights sleep.

Greg’s day ends with a huge smile. He has two new friends, and millions of shrimp to talk to now. He thought a shell would be the only thing he needed to feel less naked. What he really needed was friends, friends who help him through everything and have huge hearts, and that’s what he found. Today Greg crawled home with a bright new shell, and a bright new life.



Bye
Guys!

