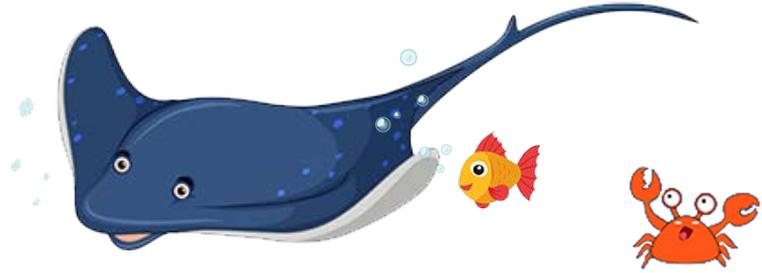


## LET'S GO EXPLORING!



Dupa and Kit were the very best of friends. They loved exploring the big wide ocean together, playing games and having fun. They had been friends ever since they could remember and lived right next door to each other in the neighbouring corals. Every day Dupa and Kit would wake up, would have a morning stretch, would eat their breakfast and meet outside to swim to school.

They loved where they lived. They didn't always enjoy going to school but once they were with everyone else they always had fun.

On one particular day, Dupa and Kit woke up, had a morning stretch, ate their breakfast and met outside to swim to school. Everything seemed quite normal only today as they swam to school, someone new had arrived to the neighbourhood. This time they met Crabby.

"You guys swim really slowly!" he taunted as they passed by.

Dupa and Kit carried on swimming and did their best to ignore the heckler. But Crabby continued...

"You smell of rotten sea shells! Ew... Smell-ey!" he shouted.

"I've seen baby krill swim with faster than you!" he continued.

"You're just a few bubbleheads."

Everyday as Dupa and Kit woke up, had a morning stretch, ate their breakfast and met outside to swim to school, they were met by Crabby's usual nasty taunts.

One day, as Dupa and Kit heard some of Crabby's taunts, Dupa swam to Crabby and said, "Our bones may break from debris and wreckage, but your words won't hurt us."

As Crabby heard this, he huffed and puffed and all he could say is, "Talk to the claw because this crab isn't listening." and eventually marched off his rock by himself. "Dupa that was so brave!" said Kit.

Now, today it was Saturday. Dupa and Kit's favourite day because they could go out and explore the great ocean reef. Dupa and Kit woke up, had a morning stretch, ate their breakfast and met outside. As they got ready for Crabby's usual nasty taunts, instead it was quiet.

But then, in the distance, Dupa and Kit could hear the faint sound of sobbing. As Dupa and Kit swam towards the cries, they saw it was Crabby! He was trapped in a cage that was heading straight to the surface of the sea.

Crabby cried, "I'm so scared!" and continued to sob.

Dupa and Kit looked at each other. "Should we help?" asked Kit.

"We can't leave him like this, he's in really bad trouble and there's no way he can get out by himself!" said Dupa.

"You're right. We should help him." said Kit. "Okay, I have a plan..."

So, Kit and Dupa swam to Crabby. Kit wiggled himself through the bars and managed to unlock the cage with his small fin.

"Come on, Crabby! Swim out of there and come home with us!" exclaimed Dupa.

But Crabby didn't move. He stayed completely still. "I can't come out. I'm scared of heights!"

"What do we do now?" cried Kit.

"He'll have to ride on my back and I'll swim him down to the ocean floor safely" said Dupa.

So with some encouragement and a little nudge, Crabby jumped onto Dupa's back who swam him down to safety.

With a wobble in his legs, Crabby was pleased to be safely back to his rock and amongst the other coral again.

"Th- Thank you, Dupa and Kit. You really saved me." stuttered Crabby. "And you know, I- I'm really sorry for the mean things I said. I shouldn't have said them." he continued.

Dupa and Kit looked at each other. They thought that he was brave to apologise even if he was afraid of heights.

"I was a bit nervous about coming to this neighbourhood. I just wanted to have a friendship like yours and I guess I was jealous that you do so much together. You're always having so much fun." said Crabby.

Dupa and Kit looked at each other again and smiled. They swam to Crabby and said, "There's still a lot we haven't done and there's still plenty we haven't seen together on the ocean floor."

"Let's explore the great ocean floor together!" exclaimed Kit.

So everyday as Dupa and Kit woke up, had a morning stretch, ate their breakfast and met outside to swim to school they now had a new friend who joined them and on Saturdays they would explore the great ocean floor and discover some of their greatest treasures!

And Crabby was no longer so *crabby!*