



Little Green Turtle

Terry turtle was feeling grumpy. His mum had given him a chore to do, but all he wanted to do was to lounge around the coral reef and play with his friends. His mum wasn't budging.

"You need to go and see your grandma," she said. "She's injured her tail and can't leave her bed at the minute. You need to take her this basket of food and see that she is comfortable."

Terry groaned but accepted defeat. When his mum was in this kind of mood, there wasn't any point in arguing.

"Don't forget to keep an eye out for those slippery eels," his mum said as he swam out of the door. Didn't she realise that he was growing up fast? He didn't need her warning him about eels anymore. He could take care of himself.

Granny Turtle lived in a small cave underneath a patch of coral on the other side of the reef. To get there, Terry had to swim through a tangled mess of seaweed called Kelp Forest. Each strand stretched from the sandy ocean bed all the way to the crashing waves overhead. Terry hated Kelp Forest, but he'd never tell anybody that. He didn't like the way that the drifting ropes wrapped around each other and blocked out most of the light.

Today, Terry was determined to race through the forest as quickly as he could. When he was halfway through, he felt something rub along the back of his neck. He spun around to see a piece of kelp float away into the shadows. He giggled at his own nerves and turned around. Suddenly, he was staring into the black-eyed face of a moray eel. Terry let out a little squeak and gulped.

"My, my! What do we have here?" the eel said. Its voice sounded like a hiss.

"I'm just taking this food to my grandma," Terry said. His voice didn't sound as strong as it normally did.

"Let me take it for you. I'll save you the bother."

Terry didn't wait to answer the eel. Instead, he paddled as quickly as he could and shot off into the



shadowy forest. When he was certain that the eel hadn't followed him, he made his way to Granny Turtle's house. He didn't bother to let her know that he was there. Instead, he shot straight into the cave and over to her bed. "I've brought you some food," he said.

"Thank you," said Granny Turtle, although her voice sounded different. Terry thought it must be because she was unwell.

He looked a little closer. "What black eyes you have," he said nervously.

He looked even closer. "What pale skin you have, Grandma," he said cautiously.

He edged closer still and took a good look at his grandma. "What yellow teeth you have-" he began.

"Let me stop you right there, Terry," Granny Turtle said, as she sat up in her bed. "You try lying in bed for days and see how colourful your eyes and skin are. I haven't managed to brush my teeth either! Now, don't be so rude and pass me the food!"

Together, Terry and Granny Turtle gobbled all of the food in the basket. Afterwards, Terry helped his grandma to brush her teeth!

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Find a word in the first paragraph that is a synonym for "job".
2. What picture do you get in your mind from the phrase "tangled mess"?
3. Find and copy a phrase that tells you that the surface of the sea wasn't calm.
4. What does the word "certain" mean?
5. Which word in the text tells the reader that Terry and Granny ate the food quickly?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

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Why did Terry have to visit Granny Turtle?

I

How does Terry feel about visiting his grandma at first? What evidence is there of this?

I

What evidence is there that Terry isn't as brave as he thinks he is?

S

How does Granny Turtle look different to normal?

P

Which classic fairytale is this story based on? How is it different?