

Pep the octopus

In a corner of the great ocean, where the water was deep blue and seaweed danced gently in the currents, lived an octopus called Pep. Everyone knew how intelligent he was. He solved problems, found food in hidden places and knew how to escape danger. The other sea creatures admired his wisdom.

One day, while playing near a large rock, Tura the turtle, Blau the little fish and Gira the shrimp saw Pep doing his daily exercises.

“Hello, Pep!” Blau called happily. “Would you like to play with us?”

Pep glanced sideways at them and answered sharply:

“Play? I don’t have time for such simple things. I prefer activities that make me think, rather than drifting about aimlessly like you.”

The three friends fell silent, feeling sad. Pep liked being alone and always thought his activities mattered more than spending time with others.

Another day, while he studied a complicated pattern of coral, Gira hurried past nervously.

“Pep! We need your help! A big storm is coming, and we don’t know where to hide!”

Without looking away from the coral, he replied:

“Find a safe cave, obviously. You don’t need to be a genius to see that. I’m busy, so work it out yourselves!”

With a heavy heart, Gira went back to her friends. As the storm approached, the sea creatures sheltered together. All except Pep, who thought his intelligence would supply the perfect answer at the last moment. But the storm was stronger than expected, and the waves swept him far away.

When it ended, Pep found himself alone in an unfamiliar place. He realised that however clever he was, he could not solve every problem by himself. For the first time, he felt vulnerable and sad.

Meanwhile, Blau, Gira and Tura had been safe in their cave. When they came out, they began searching for him.

“He might be alone and frightened!” said Tura. “We must find him. He’s our friend.”

After several hours, they found him behind a rock, curled up in fear with his arms tangled together.

“Pep! Are you all right?” Blau called.

Pep had not expected to see them. Warmth filled his heart: he had been unkind, yet they had come to help.

“I’m so sorry,” he whispered, his voice trembling. “I always thought I could do everything alone. Now I see that without you, I’m not as

strong as I believed. Thank you for finding me.”

His friends gathered around him in a hug, with fins and little legs held close.

“It’s all right, Pep,” Gira said with a smile. “Friends help each other.”

From then on, Pep listened more and spent time with them. He learned that wisdom also meant understanding others and sometimes letting them help. As well as being clever, he became a true friend who could imagine how others felt.

Deep beneath the sea, he discovered the value of friendship. He understood that knowing facts and solving problems were only part of wisdom: caring for others and belonging to a group mattered too. He shared his knowledge, but also listened, offered help and enjoyed being together.

Playing and talking, which he had once considered a waste of time, became the happiest parts of his day. He discovered that being a good friend was what truly made him special.

And so, among games, laughter and adventures, Pep and his friends lived happily, showing that true intelligence also comes from the heart.