

A Wave of Change

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Goldy the goldfish lived a wonderful and simple life. He ate, slept, swam, and did twirls in the water any time his humans approached to feed him. He never wanted for anything, especially food. Food was abundant and he was prosperous. Life was good.



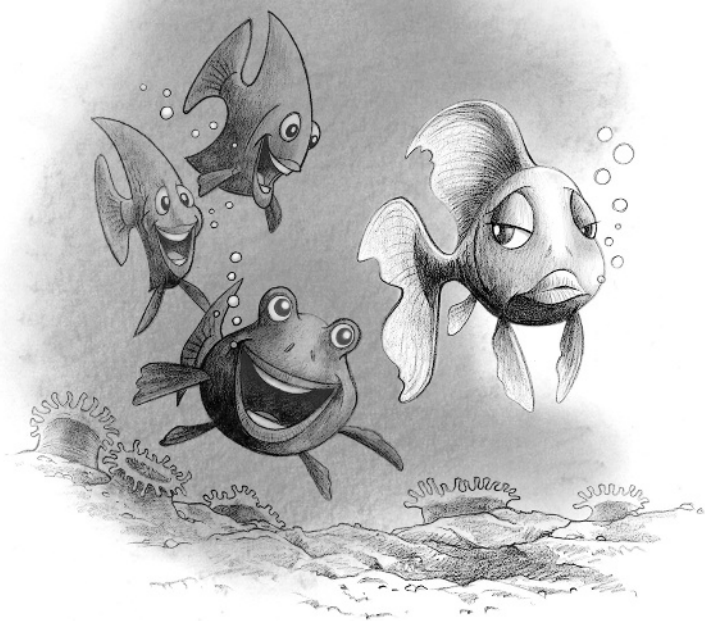
Then one day he was swept up in a net, put in a bag full of water, and carried to the beach by his boy. The boy wanted to play with his goldfish at the beach. So he dug a big hole in the sand, filled it with buckets of water, and placed his goldfish in his own private man-made lake. Laughter filled the air and everyone was happy.



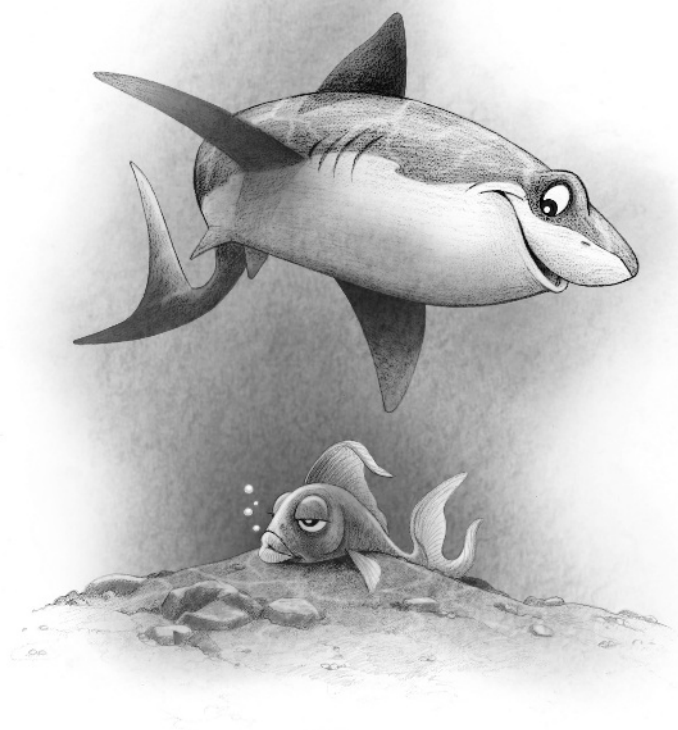
That is, until a big wave came crashing onshore, flooding the boy's lake and taking the goldfish back into the ocean with it. The boy and his family ran into the water looking for their goldfish, but he was nowhere to be found.

Gordy cried for help but no one could hear him. And as he swam aimlessly in the ocean, tired, alone, and hungry, he wondered, "Who's going to feed me now?"

He was no longer safe and secure, and without food he would surely die. He decided to ask the other fish in the ocean if they would feed him, but they all laughed at him. "Silly goldfish," they said, "always waiting for someone to feed him."



Then just as Gordy was near collapse from the salt water and starvation, he met Sammy the Shark, who could only shake his head at the poor fellow. He was a *nice* shark and he hated seeing such a pathetic sight. He knew someone had to teach this fish how to fish. Plus, he felt that sharks got a bad rap and needed some positive publicity. It wasn't fair, after all, that humans thought all sharks were mean just because a few "Jaws" wannabes experience ocean rage and go off the deep end. All the sharks he knew were nice like him and just wanted to swim, eat food found in the ocean, and keep to themselves.



“Well, lookee here, my little friend. You know what your problem is?”

“Yes, I do,” answered Gordy. “I’m starving and no one will feed me.”

“No, that’s not your problem,” countered Sammy. “Your problem is that you are a goldfish. You are waiting to be fed. That’s fine during the fat times when all sorts of people are feeding you. But you’re in the ocean now. The free food has dried up. Times are a changin’. Things are a little tougher here. You have to work a little harder. You need to be a little smarter. You need to change your thinking. You need to become a shark. Goldfish wait to be fed. Sharks go out and find food. Now let me show you how to be a shark and we’ll go to find food together.”

And off they swam through the ocean of adversity and challenges and lean times to learn the art of finding food.

