MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

The Great Shell Swap



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Pointing at Home

The tide-glass glowed sunny yellow. Lumi held it out, and the little golden needle turned, and turned, and pointed… down. Right at their own rocks! "Here? At home?" said Teo. Grandpa Sol pulled on his boots. "Low tide," he said. "The rock pools are open."





A Kingdom in a Pool

"Step on the dry rocks, look with your eyes," said Grandpa, holding Teo's hand. They knelt by a pool full of sunshine. It was a whole tiny kingdom: red flowers that wiggled, a little fish like a flash, and crabs, crabs, crabs.

Too Tight!

One little hermit crab was pushing and wriggling. Its shell was much too small! Its legs stuck out, its claws stuck out, and it could hardly squeeze back in. Teo giggled. "It looks like me in my old boots!"





Teo's Treasure

Teo had a treasure in his pocket. A big, swirly, shiny shell, empty and perfect. He had found it that morning. He wanted to put it on the lighthouse windowsill, where the sun would shine on it all day.

Teo Gives It Away

Teo looked at his shell. He looked at the squeezed little crab. Then he took a big breath. Very gently, he put his treasure down in the pool, right next to the crab. "You can have it," he whispered. "You need a home more than I need a windowsill."





Oh No, Too Big

The little crab crept out, and climbed in. But the big shell was much too big! It wobbled and tipped and slid. The little crab peeked out, worried. Teo's face fell. "Oh no," he said. "It's too big."

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Then Lumi gasped. "Look!" Crabs were coming from everywhere, and lining up: the biggest, then a smaller one, then a smaller one, all the way down to the tiniest. Real hermit crabs do this! The biggest crab moved into Teo's shell, the next took its old one, and swap, swap, swap, everyone got a new home that fit just right.





A Yellow Light to Keep

The littlest crab found a shell that fit just right, and it did a happy little dance. Back at the lighthouse, the windowsill was empty, but Teo didn't mind. A small yellow light glowed in the tide-glass now, next to the green one. "My treasure," said Teo, "became everybody's house."

THE END

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