**An Octopus in Trouble**

Once upon a time, there was a shy and quiet octopus named Jason. He always went about on his own. Although he wanted to have friends, he was too shy to talk with others. Therefore, no one liked to talk to him either.

One day, Jason found a very slippery oyster while he was looking for his dinner. He stretched out his tentacles, but accidentally tied himself into a big knot. He tried with all his strength to break free, but it was all in vain. To his shock and disappointment, he found he couldn’t move at all. Some fish swam past and ignored him. Fortunately, one very kind fish, Kevin, came to his rescue.

Jason was thankful and felt very happy when he was finally set free. However, he was so shy that he didn’t dare to express his gratitude to Kevin. Simply nodding his head to Kevin, he swam off without saying a word of thanks. A little while later, Jason regretted that he hadn’t taken the chance to make friends with Kevin.

A few days later, Jason was resting among some rocks. Suddenly, he noticed that lots of fish were hurriedly swimming past. Soon after, he saw a giant fish coming over to hunt his prey in the same area. Jason quickly hid himself behind the rocks. Peeping out from his hiding place, he saw the monstrous fish chasing a little fish. Much to his surprise, he recognized the poor little thing. It was Kevin who had saved his life a couple of days before. Kevin was now in danger and desperately needed some help. But this giant fish was so fierce that no one dared to go near it, except for Jason. Jason remembered how Kevin generously helped him and it was the right time for him to repay his kindness.

At just the right moment, Jason summoned all his courage and darted out from behind the rocks. Like a ray, he appeared in front of the big fish and shot out a big jet of black ink at the monster fish. Frightened and helpless, the big fish was lost in the mist of the chaos. Upon seeing this, Jason quickly grabbed Kevin, swam back to the rocks, and disappeared without a trace. When the big fish could finally see clearly again, his food was nowhere in sight. Furious and disappointed, he swam away with a sunken face.

As soon as the big fish was gone, all the fish hiding among the rocks, came up to Jason and praised him for his heroic deed. Kevin, barely escaping death, told them how he had helped Jason a few days earlier. He never knew that Jason would be willing to risk his life to help him in return. Hearing this, the other fish finally knew how brave and friendly Jason really was. From that time on, they decided to be his friends.

**The Bad Neighbors**

A man named Benson went out to look for a job. As he passed his neighbor’s house, an important piece of paper accidentally fell out of his pocket.

His neighbor, Tom, happened to be sitting by the window and saw the piece of paper fall to the ground. At that moment, he thought, “What a disgrace! It appeared that he dropped it on purpose. He’s trying to mess up my front yard!” Instead of going out to stop him, Tom had an idea about how to get revenge.

That night, Tom took his wastepaper basket secretly to Benson’s house and dumped it on his porch. At the same time, Benson just happened to be sitting by the window and saw what was going on. Later, after Benson picked up all the rubbish on his porch, he found the very piece of paper he had lost. Worst still, it was already torn into pieces. He thought that Tom had not only picked his pocket, but also had the nerve to mess up his doorway in such a rude way. Benson didn’t do anything because he had an idea in his mind about how to take his revenge.

That night, Benson phoned a farmer and ordered ten pigs and a hundred ducks for Tom. The following day, Tom was shocked and overwhelmed by such a big surprise. He had a hard time taking care of so many animals.

After settling the pigs and ducks down, Tom again started making another plan for revenge. It went on and on. They continued getting back at each other. Each time their way of getting revenge grew bigger. Ironically, a small piece of paper led to a rock band, a fire siren, throwing of stones, firing of canons, and the dropping of bombs, which in the end destroyed both of their houses.

Later, the two neighbors ended up in the hospital in the very same ward. At first, they refused to talk to each other. But one day, tired of the silence, they struck up a conversation as they watched their favorite sports program. Since then, they have talked with each other as normal neighbors do. One day, they finally had the courage to mention the small piece of paper, which had brought so much trouble to them. To their surprise, they realized that the whole thing was nothing but a misunderstanding. Both of them felt shame and regret because of the terrible things they had done to each other. Their plans for revenge put themselves in a very embarrassing situation and caused them to lose everything. There was nothing they could do now except to work together to rebuild their houses.

**The Little Star**

There was once a very tiny star about the same size as a mosquito. The star lived in space next to her parents, two very big stars. The tiny star was very curious and always wanted to know more about the outer world. She wanted to travel around to see for herself, but her parents told her that she was still too little to go off on her own. She would have to wait.

One day, the star saw a little blue planet. The planet looked so lovely that the tiny star forgot her parents’ warning and off she went to get a better look at it. She flew so fast that she soon got lost and didn’t know where her home was. When she landed on the blue planet, the Earth, people and animals there thought she was a very bright firefly. Everyone wanted to catch her. Frightened, she flew as fast as she could. She was very scared, so she hid herself under a sheet. Seeing the sheet moving, everyone thought she was a ghost. This time, they were scared and ran away as quickly as they could.

When she realized what happened, the little star started to use the sheet to scare everyone she met, just for fun. As she traveled on, she arrived at a mountain where a great dragon lived. The little star tried to scare the dragon, too, but she didn’t know that it was a ghost-eating dragon. The dragon suddenly spit flames at her.

Luckily, she was a very little star, so she could escape the dragon and his flames. Frightened to death, she started missing her parents. She cried for a while, but then as the night fell, she suddenly got an idea. She went to a very high mountain and found a big rock. Looking up into the sky, she hid behind the rock and then reappeared. She did this over and over again.

In reality, since the tiny star left home, her parents had been very worried about her. They searched everywhere they could just to find her and bring her home. Suddenly, they saw her light appearing and disappearing off in the distance. They recognized that she was their beloved daughter. They were so happy that they flew off to find her right away. When the whole family was reunited, the tiny star promised her parents that she would never do something so silly again.