

Alessandra Gutierrez

Ms. Slama

English 11, P. 4

17 September 2018

“The Stingray and his Tale”

Long before you and I were born, the ocean was very different from today. In this ocean, sea rays had magical powers, and they swam freely through the water using their magic towards the preservation of the ocean. However as the ocean was at peace, Stingray did not enjoy having no use for his magic. It bored him greatly and Stingray complained night after night. One day, he spoke to himself,

“If I could play tricks on my friends, I could use my magic and give myself a laugh! This is a wonderful idea and I know exactly who to trick first.”

Stingray decided to visit his friends, the Seahorses, with a plan in mind. The Seahorses were expecting children, and the mother had a large belly.

“Well well,” said Stingray. “What a joyous occasion!”

“Yes yes. We are quite thrilled. Now what is it you need, Stingray?” Asked the father.

With a jolt of his tail and a flick of his barb, Stingray cast his magic upon the Seahorses. The mother’s large belly was no longer there. It was now on the father. As the Seahorses’ were startled and hysterical, the Stingray laughed and laughed, and he swam away. This is why the father Seahorse bears the children.

Now that the thrill of the first trick was running through Stingray's veins, he decided to visit Wise Whale. Wise Whale was a very important figure in the ocean. He imparted wisdom among all animals every day, helping them in their times of need.

"Hello Wise Whale." Said Stingray. "How do you do?"

"I am very well today, thank you. Is there something I can help you with?" Asked Wise Whale.

With a jolt of his tail and a flick of his barb, Stingray cast his magic upon Wise Whale. He had replaced Wise Whale's teeth with bushy hairs! Stingray laughed and laughed, and he swam away. This is why Wise Whale has no teeth.

Wise Whale was no longer able to impart wisdom upon the other sea creatures. He still tries, but all that comes out is a moan of discomfort. The sea rays saw this and decided to hold a council meeting. Stingray presented himself before Manta Ray, nervous of what punishment would be given to him.

"Stingray," Said Manta Ray. "You know why you are here. The Seahorses have complained about you and Wise Whale can no longer speak! What will we do now without his wisdom?"

Stingray felt great shame as Manta Ray continued to speak. "We as a council have decided that your magic is far too dangerous, and we must take it away."

Stingray protested, but it was no use. With a jolt of his tail and a flick of his bolt, Manta Ray had rid Stingray of his magic.

"We are also banishing you to the sand. There you will live, eating what little food the ocean floors offer and always hiding in shame."

Stingray still lives there today, hiding his shame beneath the sand. Sometimes when danger strikes, he flicks his barb in attempt to cast his magic once more. While no magic comes out, the barb lodges its way into the danger and allows Stingray to continue living.