A PICTURE STORY TO READ ALOUD

Coral and the Very Loud Whale

A booming song keeps Shimmer Reef awake, until Coral the mermaid discovers a lost baby whale calling for her mama.

Ages 5–6 · a fold-up mini-book

PARENT OVEN

Down in Shimmer Reef,
everyone was trying to sleep.
But every night, a huge,
booming sound shook the
seaweed:
"WOOOOO-OOOOM!"

"Who is making that racket?"
grumbled Grandpa Turtle.
Coral the mermaid and Bubbles
the seahorse decided to find
out.

They swam past the sleepy
clams, past the glowing
jellyfish, out to where the
water turned deep and blue.

There, all alone, was a baby
whale. She took a giant breath
and sang:
"WOOOOO-OOOOM!" Coral
covered her ears. Bubbles
nearly flipped upside down.

"Excuse me," called Coral.
"Why are you so loud?" The
baby whale blinked her big
eyes. "I'm Wanda. I got lost
from my family, and I'm calling
for them. But they never
answer."

Coral's grumpy feelings melted
like sea foam. "Then we'll help
you," she said. "Everybody can
help!"

Back at the reef, Coral told
everyone. The crabs clacked
their claws. The dolphins
clicked. Grandpa Turtle tapped
his shell.

★ The End ★

Talk about the story

- Why was Wanda singing so loudly every night?
- How did the reef creatures help her?
- Have you ever felt grumpy about someone, then found out why they were acting that way?

PARENT OVEN

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Out of the deep blue came a whale as big as a hill. She wrapped a flipper around Wanda. "There you are, my little song."

Now Wanda visits Shimmer Reef every week. And when she sings, it isn't loud and lonely any more. It's soft and slow: the perfect reef lullaby.

"WOOOOO-OOOOM!" sang Wanda, and the whole reef joined in: "CLACK-CLICK-TAP-WOOOOM!" The sound rolled right across the ocean.

They waited. And waited. Then, from far, far away, came a deep answer: "wooooo-ooooom." Wanda's tail flipped with joy. "That's my mama!"