

The Rainbow Fish



By Marcus Pfister



Far out in the sea
lived a fish. No
ordinary fish,
however.

He was the most
beautiful fish in the
entire ocean.

His scales shimmered
with all the colours of
the rainbow.



The other fish liked his colourful scales and called him Rainbow Fish.

"Come on, play with us, Rainbow Fish!" But Rainbow Fish was proud and swam past them.



A little blue fish
swam along behind
him.

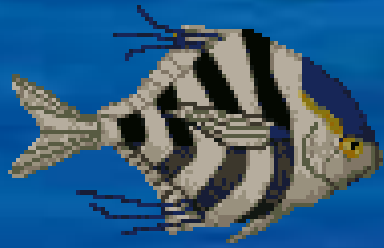
"Rainbow Fish, wait
for me! Please give me
one of your glittering
scales.

They are so beautiful
and you have got so
many!"



"Give you one of my scales? What are you thinking of?", cried Rainbow Fish.
"Get away from me!"

Shocked, the little blue fish swam away.



Still excited, he told his friends about it. From then on nobody wanted any more to do with Rainbow Fish.

They turned away when he swam past them



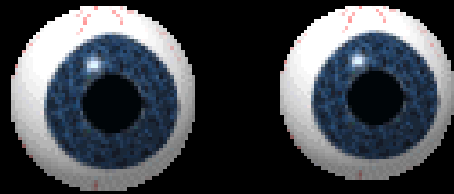


What use were
Rainbow Fish's
beautiful scales, if
they were no longer
admired by anyone?

Now he was the
loneliest fish in the
entire ocean!
"I'm so beautiful.
Why doesn't anyone
like me?"



"In a cave behind the coral reef lives the wise octopus. Perhaps he can help you," said the starfish



Rainbow Fish
found the cave.
It was very dark
here. He could
hardly see
anything.



Then suddenly he
saw two glowing
eyes.



"I have been expecting you," said the octopus in a deep voice. "

Listen to my advice: give every fish one of your glittering scales. Then you may not be the most beautiful fish in the ocean, but you will be happy again."





"Give away my scales?
My beautiful glittering
scales?" thought
Rainbow Fish, horrified.

"Never! No. How could I
be happy without them?"



Suddenly he felt the light touch of a fin. The little blue fish was back!

"Rainbow Fish, please, don't be angry. Please give me one of your glittering scales, a small one."

Rainbow Fish hesitated.

"A very, very small scale, he thought. Why not, I will hardly miss it."



Rainbow Fish
carefully pulled
off the very
smallest of his
glittering scales.

"Here, I'll give
you this one! But
now leave me in
peace!"



"Thank you, thank
you very much!"
burbled the little
blue fish excitedly.
"You are kind,
Rainbow Fish."

Rainbow Fish felt
quite strange.



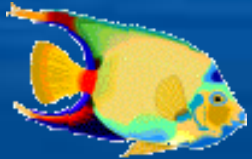


The little blue fish darted through the water with his glittering scale. Soon Rainbow Fish was surrounded by other fish. All of them wanted to have a glittering scale. Rainbow Fish shared out his scales and felt very happy.



"Come on, Rainbow Fish, come and play with us!" called the others.

"I'm coming!" said Rainbow Fish and went happily with the other fish.



THE END