

# Clownfish's Secret



## A modern fable

Clown fish and Angel fish had always been the best of friends and never fell out.

One sunny morning as they were swimming to school, angel fish asked clown fish if she wanted to go to the open reef since they were already late for school.

"No," said clown fish nervously, "I'm terrified of the reef and did you know that in the reef there are sharks?"

"How do you know that?" asked Angel fish.

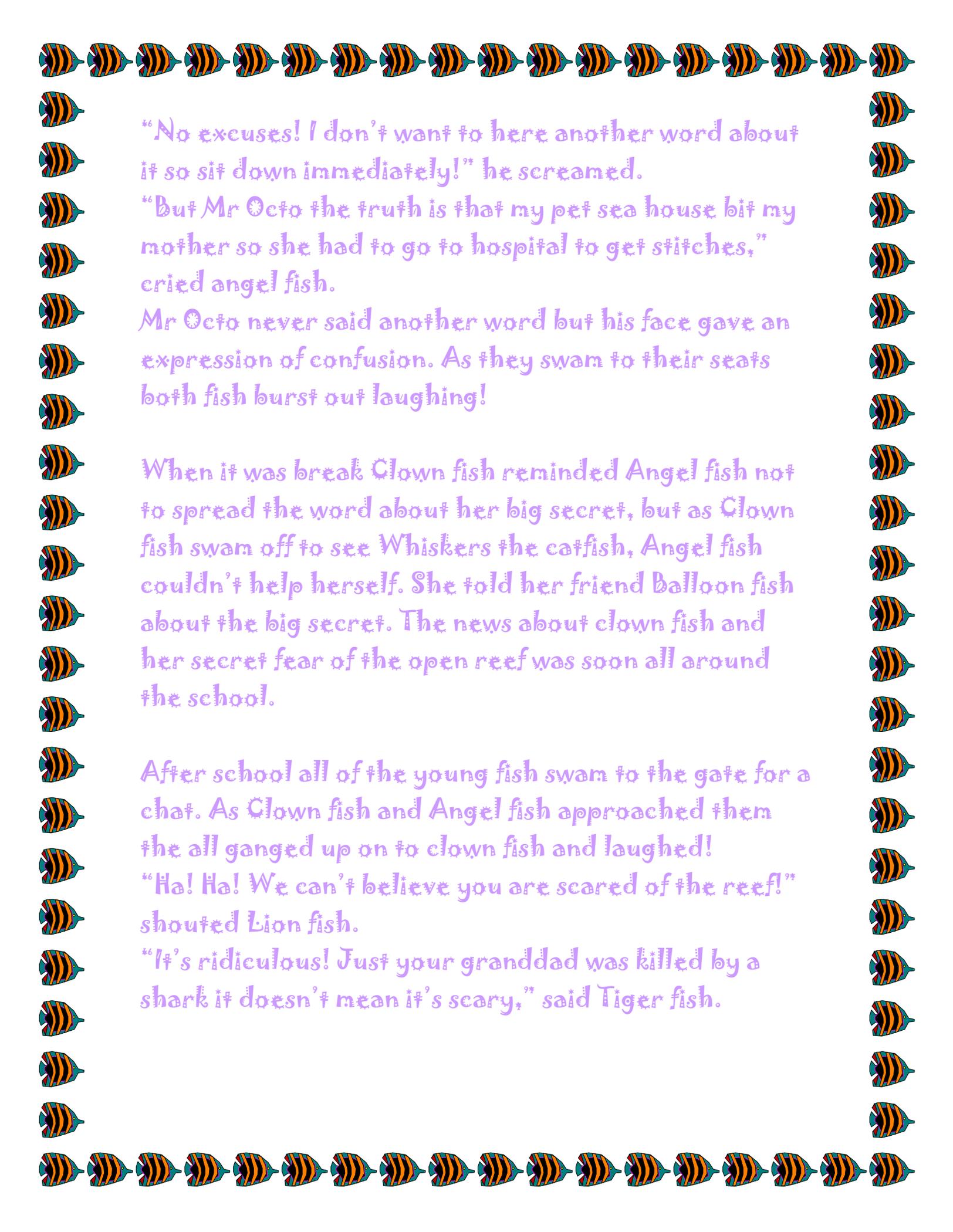
"Well my mum told me that my granddad died from a fatal shark bite," answered Clown fish.

"Well he was probably weak and wrinkly!" said Angel fish.

"Maybe, but please don't tell anybody anyway," said Clown fish, still looking frightened.

When they got to school they both got told off by Mr Octo.

"B..b.. but Mr Octo...." stuttered Clown fish.



“No excuses! I don’t want to here another word about it so sit down immediately!” he screamed.

“But Mr Octo the truth is that my pet sea house bit my mother so she had to go to hospital to get stitches,” cried angel fish.

Mr Octo never said another word but his face gave an expression of confusion. As they swam to their seats both fish burst out laughing!

When it was break Clown fish reminded Angel fish not to spread the word about her big secret, but as Clown fish swam off to see Whiskers the catfish, Angel fish couldn’t help herself. She told her friend Balloon fish about the big secret. The news about clown fish and her secret fear of the open reef was soon all around the school.

After school all of the young fish swam to the gate for a chat. As Clown fish and Angel fish approached them the all ganged up on to clown fish and laughed!

“Ha! Ha! We can’t believe you are scared of the reef!” shouted Lion fish.

“It’s ridiculous! Just your granddad was killed by a shark it doesn’t mean it’s scary,” said Tiger fish.

Poor Clown fish swam off feeling sad and lonely. She thought to herself, I don't know how I can trust Angel fish again.

The next morning Angel fish and Clown fish met in school. Angel fish apologised but Clown fish did not trust her ever again!

Moral... think twice before you speak!

By Megan 8/11/08

