

How the Turtle Got Its Shell



A Folktale from Australia

A long, long time ago, a Turtle and a Snail lived together in the deep ocean.

The Turtle and the Snail were opposites. The Snail was very proud of her shell. She was always boasting to the Turtle about it. The Turtle was calm and quiet. She never boasted about anything.

The Snail and the Turtle had one thing in common. They were both very afraid of the Big Shark.

One day when the Snail was busy admiring her shell, the Big Shark snuck up on her and pounced.

"Help!" screamed the Snail. "I need help!"

The Turtle heard the cry and quickly went to help the Snail who was in big trouble.

Just as the Big Shark was about to bite the Snail's head, the Turtle kicked the Big Shark in the nose. The Shark made a loud noise, then went immediately to sleep and floated away. That is what happens when a Big Shark is kicked in the nose.

"Thank you!" cried the Snail. "You saved me! But my shell went a little flat when the Big Shark tried to eat me. Here - you can have it. I don't want it anymore. I can get a new one."

"That's great," said the Turtle. "I've always wanted a beautiful shell like yours. That shape will fit me perfectly."

From that day on, the Turtle always had her dome shaped shell. She always loved it but never boasted about it like the Snail did.

And that's how the Turtle got its shell.

Answer the following questions

1. Where did the Turtle and the Snail live?
2. Did the turtle boast about its shell? How do you know?
3. Which animal were Turtle and Snail afraid of?
4. Which animal was the calm quiet one?
5. What happens when a Big Shark is kicked in the nose?
6. Why did the Snail give her shell to the Turtle?
7. Which lesson you can learn from the story? What is the moral of the story?