

We're All in It Together!

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With a nod to

And Here's to You! By David Elliot

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Setting: Ocean floor and Coral Reef

At rise: Coral Reef is alone with ocean background.

[CORAL REEF]

I'm a Coral Reef. A **calm, quiet** coral reef. Oh, I love being here in this nice warm, clear, tropical water. It's so nice and quiet. Nobody bothers me and I can provide algae with a safe place to live and in return they clean up my waste.

Stage action: *Enter the Clownfish.*

[CLOWNFISH]

I'm a Clownfish. A **flashy, fast** Clownfish! Hey there! What ya doing?

[CORAL REEF]

Not much. Just sitting here growing a few new polyps now and then under the light of the full moon.

[CLOWNFISH]

How boring! Look at me! I can swim in and out and all around you. I can eat up algae and other reef debris.

[CORAL REEF]

You call me boring? That's a bit harsh. Maybe **calm and quiet**. Not everyone needs to be as flashy as you.

[CLOWNFISH]

Guess you're right. Sorry.

Stage action: *Enter Octopus , brushes against Coral Reef.*

[OCTOPUS]

Ouch!! Boy are you ever **pokey and prickly**.

[CORAL REEF]

Sorry I hurt you but at least I'm not **slimy** like you.

[OCTOPUS]

I'm an Octopus. A **soft, supple** Octopus. What you call slime is what protects me when I hide in the sand all day waiting for prey.

[CORAL REEF]

Kind of like the way my strong structures give new polyps a safe place to grow.

[OCTOPUS]

That's funny. I'm velvety and you're strong and we're both protecting ourselves.

Stage action: *Enter Stingray*

[CORAL REEF]

Look out! I hear this gal's got a nasty tail.

[STINGRAY]

I'm a Stingray A **long, leathery** Stingray. The unique barb I have on the end of my tail protects me from predators.

[CORAL REEF]

Oh, I didn't know you used it for protection. I guess it's pretty important to you.

[STINGRAY]

It sure is. I'd probably be dinner for a shark or orca whale if I didn't have it.

Stage action: *Enter Green Sea Turtle*

[CORAL REEF]

Here comes old slowpoke.

[GREEN SEA TURTLE]

I'm a Green Sea Turtle. A **steady, strong** Green Sea Turtle. It's not very nice to call me a slowpoke.

[CORAL REEF]

Well, you have to admit you don't swim very fast.

[GREEN SEA TURTLE]

It may not look like I'm going fast, but I can actually swim up to 35 MPH if I have too! But speed doesn't matter. What's more important are all the different "hitchhikers" I help get from one place to another.

[CORAL REEF]

Hitchhikers?

[GREEN SEA TURTLE]

Yeah, as I migrate I pick up barnacles, small crustaceans, remoras, algae, and diatoms. I help them get from place to place. It's called **commensalism**.

[CORAL REEF]

Well, I never knew. Looks like all of us have special traits that might look different or strange, but they all are just part of what makes us unique and special. Like that saying,

[ALL CHARACTERS]

"Roses are red, violets are blue. I am special and so are you."