

The Fish Who Couldn't Swim

I

Narrator: There once was a goldfish named Goldie who couldn't swim. She tried and tried but, no matter how hard she flapped her fins, she would always sink to the bottom.

Goldie (flapping and sinking): I wish I could swim.

Narrator: Sometimes, if she took a long, deep breath, she could float. But even when she floated, all she ever did was bump into things.

[Goldie floats around, bumping into things]

Narrator: One day, while floating into things, the goldfish spotted a group of other fish. She took a deep breath and floated toward them.

[Clownfish (#6), Catfish (#10), Hogfish (#2), Dolphin (#1), Duck (#44) are hiding behind some rocks. Goldie takes a long, deep breath and bumps her way toward them.]

Goldie: Hi, I'm Goldie. What are you doing?

They all stand up, surprised

Duck: Um ... nothing.

Goldie: It looks like you are hiding.

Clownfish: Well ... we're not!

Dolphin (whispers to Goldie): We're hiding from 7!

Goldie: Why?

Clownfish: (indignant) We are not!

Hogfish: DUCK!

[Everyone ducks behind the rock, except for Duck who pops her head up.]

Duck: Yeah?

[Dolphin tugs on Duck's sleeve.]

Duck (embarrassed): Oh ... right.

[Duck ducks.]

[Goldie and hog come forward to tell their joke]

Goldie: Why is 6 so afraid of 7?

Hogfish: Because 7 ate 9!

Clownfish: We're not hiding! We're ... umm ... racing! Yeah ... that's it. We were just getting ready to have a swimming race.

Goldie (nervous): Oh, well then, I'll just go on my way.

Clownfish: What's the matter? Don't you want to race with us?

Goldie: Umm...No thanks.

Goldie tries to quietly float away.

Duck: What's the matter? Can't you swim?

Goldie: I can swim! I can swim faster than any of you!

Duck: Oh yeah? Prove it.

Goldie took a long, deep breathe and started flapping her fins. She floats to the top and starts moving – but she can't hold her breathe forever. As she exhales, she sinks straight to the bottom.

All the other fish just stared at her. Goldie scampers away, angry and embarrassed.

Goldie: I'll be back tomorrow and I'll race you then!

Goldie "swims" away.

Hogfish: Oh no! Tomorrow we'll have to race!

Catfish: We'd better get home and get some rest.

Clownfish (sniffing around): And eat a good meal ... does anybody smell -- fish?

Dolphin: We'd better learn to swim, too.

Catfish: I can swim!

Catfish takes a deep breath, starts flapping, floats to the top – and sinks as she exhales.

Clownfish: Face it, Catfish. We are fish who can't swim.

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II

The next day, Dolphin and Hogfish are going to meet the rest of the fish and spot Goldie, crying.

Dolphin: What's the matter, Goldie?

Goldie (sobbing): I really can't swim. I'll never learn to swim. I'll always be a fish who can't swim!

Dolphin and Hogfish feel badly for Goldie, and offers to be help her.

Hogfish: We'll help you learn.

Dolphin: Yeah, Let's try the flapstroke.

They all take a deep breath, and start flapping their fins. Goldie does the same, but sinks to the bottom.

Goldie (sighing): It's no use.

Dolphin: Don't give up. Let's try the backstroke.

Dolphin and Goldie try swimming backwards, but they still sink.

Hogfish: How about the Butterfly?

Goldie starts flapping her fins like a butterfly. She spins a bit, but moves forward.

Goldie: I can swim! I can swim!

Catfish meows, off-stage.

Goldie: Did you hear that?

Hogfish: That?

Goldie: What kind of fish meow's?

Dolphin: A cat-fish

The others swim up, on their way to the race track. Catfish and Clownfish are tossing a ball back and forth. The others float between them.

Clownfish: DUCK!

Everyone ducks, except Duck, who pops her head up.

Duck: Yeah?

Duck gets hit with the ball.

Clownfish: Come on, it is time for the race.

Goldie: Ok, I'm coming.

They all start swimming. Clownfish notices something floating around, and is distracted.

Goldie: You coming, Clownfish?

Clownfish stops and turns to the other fish as they swim away.

Clownfish: Yeah, I'm coming. [she looks back at the floating thing] ... You go ahead and I'll catch up.

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III

The fish arrive at the race track. They all line up and get ready to race.

Dolphin: Time for the race!

Referee: Who's in the first lane?

Hogfish: DUCK!

Duck ducks her head. The rest of the fish just stare at her.

Duck (embarrassed): Oh ... right.

Duck swims over to the first lane. The rest of the fish file in beside her.

Dolphin: Hey wait! Where's Clownfish? We can't start the race without her.

[The fish swim around, looking for Clownfish. Duck swims near the front of the stage. Goldie and Catfish come forward to tell their joke. Duck is “searching” nearby]

Goldie: Hey, I have a riddle: How do you catch a fish?

Duck finds half of a fish stick and a clown’s nose on the floor.

Catfish: Use a ...

Duck: ... Fish stick?

Duck shrugs and tosses the fish stick down.

They line up to race without Clownfish.

Referee: On your mark. Get set. Go!

When they begin, the others are just floating and Goldie is spinning. At first, she is winning. But then she gets dizzy, and they all fall to the bottom together.

Referee: It’s a tie ... I guess.

Duck: That’s the best race we’ve ever had!

Catfish: Wow, Goldie, you really are the fastest!

Hogfish: Welcome to the team.

Dolphin hands her a jersey and they all float off together.

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Characters:

Goldie, the goldfish

Catfish (#10)

Clownfish (#6) / Starfish (Referee)

Duck (#11)

Hog fish (#5)

Dolphin

Props:

Rocks

Referee’s whistle

Clown nose

Half of a frozen fish stick

Costumes:

Clown costume

Duck costume

Hog costume

Face paint for catfish

Goldie

Dolphin