![C:\Users\Laura\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\LEHOSX86\MC900252417[1].wmf]()The Splishy Splashy Tale of Shelley the Seahorse

Have you ever wondered what adventures are happening on the ocean floor? Take a deep breath, pinch your nose and come and take a look…

Deep on the ocean floor, in a kingdom made of pearly pink shells, lived a family of seahorses. They spent most of their days munching on shrimp and clinging to the nearby seaweed with their curly wurly tails. One day, Shelley the Seahorse decided she was bored; she dreamed of playing further away from home and wished to meet some friendly fishes to play with in the bubbling foam. She hatched a plan with her friend Stacy Starfish to sneak away from the rest of her seahorse family and go on a big adventure, especially for a little seahorse like her. Slowly she gripped seaweed strand after strand, each time changing colour so she looked exactly like the seaweed. “No one will see me escape” she chuckled to herself!

As Shelley got further from home the sea became rougher and she found it difficult to cling on, her body glowed golden in panic. Soon things became darker and she realised she had drifted into a mysterious cave hidden deep on the ocean floor. As she looked around, rocks twinkled in the haze of the water and tiny eyes blinked out at her in the gloom. Glancing around quickly she noticed that there was no seaweed to be found anywhere here. How would Shelley get back home now? She became sad and wished she had her family here to help, they would know what to do. Suddenly, the cave became bright with colour, Shelley blinked and realised that she was surrounded by a cluster of shiny pink jellyfish that swayed to and fro in the clear cool water. As she looked more closely, she could make out the glittery strands that hung down from their bodies and was held in a daze, amazed by their beauty. She was so caught up by her new find that she didn’t notice that the current had picked up again. If only we could warn Shelley! As she stared in wonder at her new discovery, she was slowly being pushed towards the jellyfish’s strands. “Yelp!” cried Shelley as she became tangled and a sharp pain went through her. Oh no, poor little seahorse! What will she do now? Shelley closed her eyes in despair, she felt so alone and very sorry for herself.

However, some new glowing figures had appeared at the mouth of the cave and as Shelley opened her eyes, there before her were her seahorse family come to rescue her! The sight of more intruders made the jellyfish shy and they retreated back in to the depths of their home leaving Shelley gripped firmly to her mummy’s tail. Daddy Seahorse stayed by Shelley’s side and said “Where have you been Shelley? We were very worried about you. You left without telling us where you were going”. Shelley felt ashamed, “I’m sorry” she said quietly, “I just wanted to explore”. “I know” said Mummy Seahorse nicely “It is natural to want to discover and learn new things but don’t forget that you can share your dreams with us, we are here to help and protect you always”.

As the family happily arrived home to their shell kingdom, Shelley knew that whatever adventures the future held, she was loved deep down on that ocean floor.

-Laura Inman