

MENTOR TEXT – BOOKLET 3

Okay, so we were talking about animals that might disappear forever. It's kind of sad! My favourite animal is the sea turtle, and Mrs. Peterson said they are endangered. That means there aren't much left, and if we don't help them, they might not be around anymore. That would be super sad because they are so cool and swim in the ocean!

There are a few reasons why there aren't as many sea turtles as there used to be. One big problem is us, people. Sometimes, big fishing boats catch sea turtles by accident when they are trying to catch fish. It's like if you were trying to catch a ball, but you accidentally caught your glove instead! The turtles can get stuck in the nets, and they can't come up to breathe, so they get very sick or even... well, you know.

Another thing is that people sometimes take the sea turtle eggs from the beach. The mommy turtles dig a hole in the sand and lay their eggs, and then they go back into the ocean. Sometimes people come and take the eggs to eat them or sell them. That means there won't be any baby turtles growing up. That's not fair! Nature can be a little bit mean sometimes too. Some animals, like crabs and birds, like to eat the baby sea turtles when they hatch and try to run to the ocean. It's hard for the little baby turtles to make it! Also, sometimes big storms can wash away the nests on the beach.

However, the good news is that there are things we can do to help the sea turtles! One thing is to be more careful when fishing. Some fishermen are using special nets that have a way for the turtles to escape if they get caught. That's like having a secret door in the net just for turtles! We can also help protect the beaches where the mommy turtles lay their eggs. People can put fences around the nests so that other animals and people don't step on them or take the eggs. And we can keep the beaches clean, so the turtles have a safe place to lay their eggs. Also, there are people who help the baby turtles get to the ocean safely after they hatch. They watch the nests and make sure the little turtles don't get eaten by birds or crabs on their way to the water. It's like having a grown-up help you cross a busy street!

I really hope we can help the sea turtles. They are so amazing, and it would be terrible if they disappeared forever. If we all do a little bit, maybe we can make sure they are still swimming in the ocean for a long, long time!

