



Hector The Hermit Crab

Hector the hermit crab was nervous. He had been growing bigger and bigger, and his shell was becoming too small. He knew that all hermit crabs need to move shells as they grow older, but he really liked the one he had. He decided to set out along the seabed to talk to other crabs.

At the bottom of the Great Big Rock, he bumped into a young crab. The young crab was struggling to carry his home across the sand. It was far too large for him.

“I wish I was like you, Hector,” the young crab said sadly. “Your shell fits you just right.”

“Oh, crab,” Hector wailed. “I wish it did. It is getting rather snug in here and I will need a new one soon. I’m very worried, though. I’ve decorated the inside of this one just how I like it.”

“Think of how exciting it will be to come up with a new design for your new one,” the young crab said.

Hector liked the sound of that and started to climb the Great Big Rock.

Halfway to the top, Hector came across a grumpy old crab. He was trying to mend a big crack in his shell with some sand.

"I wish I was like you, Hector," the old crab said with a sigh. "Your shell is shiny and smooth. There's not even a scratch on it."

"Oh, crab," Hector moaned. "I wish it was that perfect. It will soon be covered in cracks when I grow too big and burst out of it. I'm very worried, though. I know just what this one looks like. If I ever go out for a wander, I know where to come back to."

"Think of how proud you will be to show off your shiny new shell to all of your friends," the old crab said.

Hector liked the sound of that and continued to climb the Great Big Rock.

At the top, Hector stumbled upon a crab who looked very sad. Hector noticed that the sad crab didn't have a shell at all.

"Whatever is the matter, crab?" asked Hector.

"I have lost my shell! The sea washed it away. Now I am worried that I will never have a new home," said the sad crab sadly.

"You can have mine," said Hector, with a smile. "This one is too small for me."

"But where will you live?" asked the sad crab.

"I was worried about that for a while," said Hector, "but then a couple of friends made me remember just how much fun it can be to get a new home. Now, I can't wait to go and find a shell that fits me perfectly."

With that, Hector set off back down the Great Big Rock. He wasn't sure what his new home would look like, but he was excited to find out.

Vocabulary Focus

1. Which word in the first paragraph tells you that Hector was worried?

2. Which word tells you that the young crab was finding it difficult to carry his home?

3. What does the word 'wailed' tell you about how Hector spoke?

4. Find the word that means 'fix'.

5. What emotion do you think of when you hear the word 'moaned'?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

- S** How many other crabs did Hector talk to?
- R** What was the rock called that Hector climbed?
- P** How do you think Hector will feel when he grows too big for his new shell?
- I** How do you think the young crab and the old crab felt about Hector? Why?
- S** How do Hector's feelings change by the end of the story?