

Being Different is Good
By: Avi Orcutt
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It's a beautiful sunny morning in Hippy River Town. All that you can hear is peaceful water flowing down the stream and birds chirping. Shark Glob wakes up and uses his big red tongue to slurp up his morning breakfast of Sour Arms Candy and Rainbow Candy. He looks around with his giant blue eyeball at all the other creatures sleeping.

Shark Glob notices that Cheddar the ghost is stretching and waking up. Shark Glob dances over to Cheddar the ghost and says, "I noticed I don't look like anyone else. Why am I so different?" Cheddar the ghost giggles, "Man, I don't know, I'm just a ghost." He rolls over and goes back to sleep.

Shark Glob decides to take a walk and think about his question. He walks past the depot and sees the house of shells. He notices even the shells are similar. They are either big or they are small.

As he moves closer to see the shells he notices a bright yellow sunbeam. He hears a noise coming from the sunbeam. As he leans over to check the noise out, "Swoosh!" The sunbeam sucks him in!

He's flipping and flopping and bouncing and there is a lot of noise. He suddenly is shot out of the sunbeam and lands in front of a humongous blue creature with one eye. Shark Glob decides to name him Octo Eye.

Octo Eye looks down at Shark Glob and says, "What can Eye show you?" Shark Glob says, "I want to know why I am so different looking."

Octo Eye says, "It is ok to look and be different. Look at me, I'm an eye with eight legs on me." Shark Glob says, "Yeah, I guess, but I don't like how I look."

Octo Eye says, "Let's go on a trip and I'll let you see through my eye. Shark Glob, look into my eye. You'll see many things." He stares into Octo Eye's eye and he can't believe what he's seeing!

He sees one-eyed, two-eyed, three-eyed, one-legged, four-legged, and six-legged creatures all laughing and working hard together to clean up the universe.

Octo Eye says to Shark Glob, "Each one of these creatures are different, but are proud of how they look and who they are. SO YOU SEE, BEING DIFFERENT AND LOVING WHO YOU ARE IS GOOD.

Shark Glob says, "All I ever wanted is to be the same as everyone else, but now I'm so happy about who I am! Thank you for sharing your vision!"

He happily dances off to tell Cheddar the ghost what he has learned.

Lots of Strange Creatures

by: Ava Gleitz

2020 NoCo Story Trail Winner

In a dusty old suitcase, somewhere far, far away, there's a book about strange creatures and how they spend their days. Now, these creatures are rare, and like to stay out of sight, but I'll tell you a few stories, so you'll know what they're like.

There are creatures called Keftly, with yellow fur and big paws, who like to go on walks and take naps by waterfalls! Keftly's are warm, and they like to give hugs, and they also make friends with lots of ladybugs! If you see a sleeping Keftly, don't go too near, but sing a nice song for the sleepy Keftly to hear!

Then there's Gellaqua! These creatures are small blobs of water that roll around, but it's not very often one of them gets found. They like to play tricks and they like to play games. They like to play lots of very silly things! If you see a Gellaqua, there's no need to be scared! If you like to play games, then you're very prepared.

The next is a Neptill, who are green and look like fish, but they have one great big eyeball that cannot be missed! The eye of a Neptill can be any color, and no Neptill's eyes look like another! If you see a swimming Neptill, compliment its eye, and then it will jump from the water and fly!

There's just one more creature I want to discuss, and that is the marvelous Rondombombuss! This creature can spin, cartwheel, and flip! This creature is happy when it makes a loud "PIP!" If you see the Rondombombuss, you're in for a treat, because a playdate with Rondombombuss simply cannot be beat!

So, those were the creatures you've never heard of before,
But I think you could come up with even more!

So, what do you think? What other creatures are out there? Are there pretty pink birds with curly blue hair? Are there clouds that tell jokes? Are there trees with wings?

I bet you can come up with all sorts of new things!