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AGE DIVISION: ELEMENTARY  
IMAGE OF CHOSEN CREATURE (see below)



### Learning to See His Own Beauty

Emma Smith, Age 8 (3rd Grade)

This is a story about Gerald, the one-eyed fish.

One day, in a time you've never known, lived Gerald. He had *no* friends. *Everyone* made fun of him. Especially Sarah, the rainbow fish. She was so popular and everyone loved her. Every single day, Gerald went home crying. His mom was always so tired from working really hard all day. Gerald's dad died before he was born. It was just him and his mom. But, when his mom wasn't working, she would tell Gerald stories about his dad. Like the one time, when Gerald's mom and dad got ice cream while swimming home. Gerald's dad bumped into some coral reef and somehow got ice cream all over his gills! His mom laughed. Out loud. A lot. Gerald always smiled when he heard that story. It was his favorite.

But, when he went to school, even the biggest smile disappeared. Sarah and her fish crew called Gerald names, like "One-Eyed Disgust," and said he was the ugliest fish in the sea-verse. Gerald hated it. He hated school. He hated how he looked. And no matter how much he begged them to stop, they never did. The rainbow fish made Gerald's life miserable.

Years later, however, Gerald learned to love himself and his one eye. Gerald even found a true friend! Another one-eyed fish and they became *inseparable!*