

## **The Little Mermaid- Comprehension**

Hundreds of years ago, in the Deep Sea kingdom, there lived the sea king (Poseidon) with his five mermaid daughters. Sirenetta was the youngest and loveliest among them. Impressively, she had a stunning voice and everybody from far and wide came to hear her sing and praised her voice and her beauty.

In the middle of summer, while Sirenetta was swimming on the surface of the water watching ships go by, she saw a young man fall off his ship. Silently, she swam swiftly to save him from drowning and dragged him to the shore. Minutes later, people found the man on the shore and Sirenetta swam away. This man was actually the prince of a powerful kingdom. When he became conscious, the prince looked around for the girl who had saved him. However, no one knew who she was.

Sirenetta often thought of the young prince and instantly fell in love with him, but she was sad because she could never be with him. He had two feet and she had a glossy fish tail! In the Deep Sea lived a witch with magical powers. Sirenetta went to beg her for human legs. The witch said, "I need your beautiful voice. Only then I shall give you legs! But you must remember, every time you set your feet on the ground, it will hurt very badly!" Sirenetta agreed. All she wanted was to be with the prince. As soon as she got her two feet Sirenetta became mute. When she was leaving, the witch said, "If your prince marries anybody else, you shall dissolve in the sea water. You can never become a mermaid again!"

With the witch's magic spell, Sirenetta found herself lying on the beach and the prince looking down at her. He asked, "Where are you from?" But she could not reply. The prince took her to his palace and looked after her. They became great friends and had a wonderful time together. Every step Sirenetta took was painful, but she never complained. Unsurprisingly, the prince did not realise it had been Sirenetta and she couldn't tell him.

Obedying the wishes of his father, the prince went to meet the daughter of a neighbouring king. Enchanted by her beauty the prince was convinced this was the same maiden who rescued him. He asked the princess to marry him immediately. A grand wedding took place. Sirenetta was heartbroken. That night, she ran crying to the seashore. There she saw four beautiful mermaids. They were her sisters! One of them handed her a knife and said, "Here, Sirenetta! This is a magic knife! We gave our long hair locks to the witch of the Deep Sea and she gave this to us in return. Kill your prince and you shall turn into a mermaid again! Then you can come and live with us!"

As quick as a flash of lightning, Sirenetta took the magic knife and went to the prince's room at night. However, she loved him so much that she could not kill him. She knew that at dawn, she would vanish into the sea, just as the witch of the Deep Sea had told her earlier. Quietly, she sat on the shore and wept. Suddenly, from the sky came a dismal cloud. It lifted her from the land into the sky. "Where am I?" asked Sirenetta. At once, the striking fairies replied, "We are the air fairies. You are now one of us because you did a good deed for the person you love. Come with us."

From then on, the little mermaid lived in the enchanted sky with the wise fairies.

### Comprehension questions

1. What was the name of the sea king?

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2. Why do you think people thought Sirenetta was the loveliest mermaid?

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3. What was Sirenetta doing when she saw the man fall of his ship?

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4. Which **word** tells you she fell in love with him straight away?

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5. What did the mermaid have to give the sea witch?

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6. What was the negative side to having legs?

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7. Which **word** tells you the wedding was incredibly fancy?

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8. What did her sisters give her and why?

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9. What do you think to the story? Did you enjoy it? Why/why not?

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10. Write your own question for someone to answer from the text.

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