

Eugene and the Egg



Once upon a time, in a place known as the Island of the Long Necks, there lived a dinosaur named Eugene. Eugene was a kind and friendly dinosaur. He was mostly happy, most days, except for one thing.

He did not look like the rest of his friends and family. The dinosaurs on the Island of the Long Necks came in all kinds of colors and patterns, but they all had one thing in common: a long neck. Eugene, on the other hand, had no neck to speak of, really, at all. He also had short, stubby legs, a wide flat belly that brushed against the tips of tall grass, and a row of plates down the center of his back.

Everyone says that I am a long neck because this is the Island of the Long Necks and nobody, but Long Necks live here, thought Eugene to himself. But I don't look like a long neck. I don't feel like a long neck either. And I must eat leaves that fall from the trees because I can't reach up into the trees to grab leaves for myself. How can I be a long neck? This situation, and his inability to explain it to himself, made Eugene feel very unhappy sometimes.

One day, Eugene was walking the shoreline of the island when something washed up out of the ocean and bumped against his feet. It was an egg! Curious, Eugene pushed it up out of the water and into the sand, where he studied it. It didn't look like any long neck egg he had ever seen. Uncertain how the others might feel about this strange egg, Eugene decided to keep it a secret.

He buried it in the sand to keep it warm and checked on it every day. Weeks went by. Then one day when Eugene arrived to check on his egg, he found the egg was just a pile of crushed shells. Sitting on top of the pile was a tiny dinosaur that looked just like him!

Eugene nuzzled the baby, who nuzzled him back. Then he scooped up the tiny new dinosaur onto his snout and hurried to show him off to his long neck family. Finally, Eugene wasn't the only long neck on the island who hardly had a neck at all!

Name _____ **Grade 4 Reading Comprehension**

QUESTIONS

1. Where does Eugene live?
2. What is Eugene's personality?
3. What does Eugene look like?
4. What bothers Eugene?
5. What does Eugene find in the water at the shoreline?
6. What does he do with his find?
7. What does the new baby dinosaur look like?
8. What conclusion does Eugene draw at the end of the story?
9. Do you think Eugene is a long neck? Why or why not?