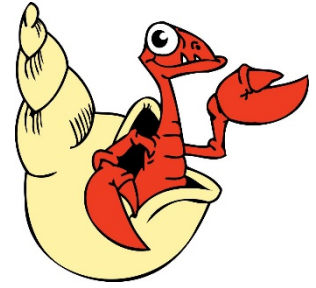


Hermie



Hermie was a hermit crab who lived on an island that was so tiny that it wasn't even on any maps. Though no people had ever been there, it was full of life. In the water around the island were colorful fish, gleaming porpoises, slow and patient turtle, and many tiny creatures living in shells, like Hermie. On land there were many kinds of birds, some colorful snakes, more turtles, and more crabs. Everyone was very sociable—except for Hermie. Hermie seldom came out of his shell.

Hermie was different from all the other crabs. The difference was his head. While all the other hermit crabs had protruding black eyes and antennae, Hermie's head looked like it had been transplanted onto his body from a different kind of creature entirely. It was scaly. He had a snout and no antennae. And his eyes were quite secured inside of it, like those of a turtle. Sometimes the other hermit crabs asked him questions about why he looked the way he did, but Hermie couldn't answer them. He just was what he was. He has simply been born this way.

One day, something amazing and unusual happened. Something the creatures had never seen before washed up onto their island. Even stranger, something stepped out of it. It walked upright on two legs. It was so tall its head seemed to be in the sky. It had two hands attached to the ends of two very long arms. Everyone who lived on the island scuttled, swam, and slithered away to hide. Except for Hermie. He was curious. For once in his life, he wasn't the only strange-looking creature on the island.

The newcomer spotted Hermie in the sand and bent down to pick him up. Hermie felt himself being raised up into the air until he was eye to eye with the stranger, who said, "Well, look at you! A hermit crab with the head of a dinosaur! You're the most amazing thing I have ever seen!"

Finally, Hermie knew how to explain his head. He had the head of a dinosaur! The only problem was, neither he nor anyone else on the island knew what a dinosaur was!

Name _____ **Grade 4 Reading Comprehension**

QUESTIONS

1. What kind of animal is Hermie?
2. Where does Hermie live?
3. Who else lives there with Hermie?
4. Why doesn't Hermie like to come out of his shell?
5. Describe Hermie's head.
6. Why can't Hermie answer the other creatures' questions?
7. What is the unusual thing that happens one day on the island?
8. Describe the newcomer.
9. What does the newcomer do to Hermie?
10. What does Hermie discover about himself?