

Episode 1: The Sound of Home

~ Read Aloud Script ~

This is Kiko, a young orca who lives not just in the ocean, but with it. She knows the cool touch of water on her skin, the way sunlight dances above the surface, and the sounds that travel far through the sea.

Kiko swims with her family: Mama Calima, calm and steady; Koba, her strong and gentle daddy; and Grandma Nima, who remembers many storms, many still days, and many changing tides. Together they rise, dive, and breathe. They are a pod.

One day, the whole pod swims forward in the same direction. Everyone, that is, except Kiko. She has discovered a forest of kelp. The long ribbons twist and turn and tickle her fins. Kiko loops through them once, twice, and then one more time. She shouts playfully, "This is so much fun!" Then she spins and twirls while the kelp seems to dance with her. At last, Kiko slows down.

The water feels quiet. Looking around, she asks, "Where did everybody go?" Kiko rises upright with her head above the surface to look around. This is called a spyhop. The ocean looks very big from up there. She sees waves and hears wind, but she does not see her pod. Kiko feels something new - a small, uncertain feeling mixed with wonder.

Far away, Grandma Nima notices that Kiko is missing. She looks back, then forward, then back again. "Kiko? Where are you?" she calls. Grandma Nima sends a steady sound through the water. It travels past rocks and through the kelp until Kiko hears it. Kiko knows that call. That sound means together. "My pod!" she cries. Kiko turns and swims as fast as her little fins can carry her. Soon, the familiar shapes of her family appear in the blue.

Grandma Nima tells her, "The sea is big, and so is curiosity. Sometimes curiosity wanders ahead. Sometimes it lingers behind." Mama Calima gently adds, "That is why we listen."

The pod's rhythm returns: breath, current, sound. Their voices rise together, each one different and all belonging. No one is lost. They find their way together.

Koba looks at his family and says, "And tomorrow, there will be more to explore in this wonderful home we call the ocean."

"Orca hug!" Kiko cheers.

The pod gathers close, and the ocean feels like home again.

THE END

Optional discussion: What sound makes you feel that you are home?