

Episode 2: Kiko Tries New Things

~ Read Aloud Script ~

The sun rises over the ocean. Seagulls glide through golden light while Kiko floats gently in a soft bed of kelp. Calima calls her to breakfast. "Your favorite - kelp cereal!" "Oh no! Kelp?" Kiko cries. Koba reminds her that she loves playing in kelp, but Kiko explains that it is not very yummy. Calima smiles and admits she was only joking. Grandma, however, has something real for Kiko to try: a kind of fish she has never eaten before.

Kiko studies the strange-looking meal. It is different from anything she has tasted. She wonders what it will taste like - and, perhaps even more importantly, what it will feel like. Will it be mushy? Gloppy? Maybe, Koba suggests, it will taste like orca candy. "I don't want to!" Kiko says. Koba asks whether she might try just one tiny bite. Kiko wants to know exactly how tiny. "Plankton tiny," Koba tells her.

Grandma speaks gently. "It is always good to be curious. Maybe you will like it. Maybe you won't. You won't know unless you try." Kiko thinks slowly. The ocean is patient and quiet. She closes her eyes and takes the tiniest nibble of all. "Oh," Kiko says. Koba leans closer. Is that an oh-no, or an oh-yes? "It's not so bad," Kiko decides. Then she takes a second bite, this one all on her own. "Actually, I kind of like it."

Grandma reminds her that she never has to rush or be perfect. She can try new things in her own time. After breakfast, Koba announces that he wants to do one of his favorite things. Without a flinch, he leaps high into the air in a perfect breach and crashes back into the ocean. The splash echoes far across the water. Kiko stares in nervous amazement. Calima asks whether she would like to try.

"I don't know," Kiko admits. "I'm a little nervous. What if I'm not good at it? What if it hurts?" Her family encourages her. Kiko swims faster and faster. She is almost ready to leap - but suddenly she stops. "I can't do it!" she groans. Feeling disappointed, Kiko drifts through the water. Nearby, she notices a young dolphin leaping in and out of the waves with ease.

"How do they do that?" she asks. "Practice," Grandma says. "If you keep trying, amazing things can happen." Something stirs inside Kiko. She dives deep, swims as fast as she can, and rockets upward. For one bright moment, Kiko flies above the surface. Then - splash! - she lands back in the sea.

"I did it!" Kiko cheers.

Calima tells her she breached just like her father, and Koba proudly beams. Kiko has discovered that trying something new does not mean doing it perfectly the first time. She can begin with one tiny bite, one careful attempt, and one more try.

"I'm going to breach again!" Kiko says. Then she laughs. "And now I'm hungry for more fish!"

THE END

Optional discussion: What is one new thing you could try with one tiny first step?