

The Puffin's Tiny Telescope



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On a bright green island in the wide blue sea, a puffin lived in a cozy burrow. He had black and white feathers, a white face with a black cap, and a bright orange beak with yellow and blue-grey stripes. Every morning, he stood on the cliff and looked at the faraway islands. His round dark eyes sparkled with curiosity. "I wonder what is over there?" he said.



Nearby, a tern perched on a rock. She had a slender white body, pale grey wings, a black cap, and a thin orange-red beak. "Good morning, Puffin!" she called. "Are you watching the islands again?" Puffin nodded. "They look so small from here. I wish I could see them closer." Tern fluttered down beside him. "Me too," she said. "Let's watch together."



One day, while exploring the beach, Puffin spotted something shiny in the sand. He dug with his orange webbed feet and pulled out a tiny brass telescope. It was no bigger than his wing. "Look what I found!" he chirped. Tern flew over to see. "What is it?" she asked. Puffin held it to his eye. "Wow! It makes things look bigger!"



Puffin pointed the tiny telescope at the islands. "I can see trees and cliffs!" he said. Tern waited patiently. "May I look?" she asked. Puffin nodded and handed it over. Tern peered through the telescope. "I see a beach and a cave!" she said. They took turns looking. Each time, they discovered something new.



The next morning, they hurried to the cliff with the telescope. "Let's study each island carefully," said Tern. Puffin agreed. They looked at the first island. "There's a tall tree with a nest," said Puffin. "And a little waterfall," added Tern. They were curious about everything. The telescope made the faraway world feel close.



They moved to the next island. "I see a lot of birds," said Tern. "They look like us!" Puffin laughed. "Maybe they are our cousins." They watched the birds fly and dive. "I wish we could visit them," said Puffin. "Maybe one day," said Tern. "But for now, we can learn about them from here."



Then they looked at a third island. "There's a strange shape on the shore," said Puffin. He squinted through the telescope. "It looks like a giant rock." Tern took a turn. "It's big and grey," she said. "And it has a long shape. Let's look closer." They took turns, each trying to see more clearly.



Puffin adjusted the telescope. "I think I see a tail!" he said. "And a fin!" Tern looked again. "It does look like an animal," she said. "But it's not moving." Puffin's eyes grew wide. "It's a sleeping whale!" he shouted. "A whale made of rock!" Tern giggled. "Let's call it Whale Rock!"



They spent the whole afternoon watching Whale Rock. "I can see a spout hole on top," said Puffin. "And a big round head," said Tern. "It looks so peaceful." They imagined the whale swimming in the sea long ago. "Maybe it got tired and turned to stone," said Puffin. Tern nodded. "That's a wonderful story."



Back in their burrow, Puffin drew a picture of Whale Rock in the sand. Tern helped add details. "We should tell the other birds," said Puffin. So they did. Every bird came to look through the tiny telescope. "I see it!" chirped a little gull. "It really looks like a whale!" Everyone was excited. Curiosity spread across the island.



One day, a thick mist covered the sea. Puffin and Tern could not see the islands at all. "Oh no!" said Puffin. "We can't watch Whale Rock today." Tern thought for a moment. "We can still tell stories about it," she said. So they sat together and described Whale Rock to the other birds. They talked about its tail, its fin, and its spout hole.



The mist lifted in the afternoon. Puffin grabbed the telescope. "Let's check on Whale Rock!" he said. They hurried to the cliff. But when Puffin looked, he gasped. "The whale has moved!" he cried. Tern looked too. "No, it's still there," she said. "But the light is different. The sun is shining on it from another side."



They looked again and saw that the rock had not moved. It was just the light and shadow playing tricks. "It still looks like a sleeping whale," said Tern. "But now it looks like it's smiling." Puffin laughed. "You're right!" They realized that looking closely helps them see new things every time. They felt happy and curious all over again.



From that day on, Puffin and Tern kept their tiny telescope safe in a hollow log. They took turns using it every day. They watched the islands and made up stories about Whale Rock. Other birds came to join them. "What do you see today?" they asked. And Puffin and Tern would share their discoveries.



One evening, as the sun set, Puffin and Tern sat on the cliff. "I'm glad we found the telescope," said Puffin. "Me too," said Tern. "It helps us learn about the world." They looked at Whale Rock one last time. "Goodnight, Whale Rock," they called. The rock seemed to glow in the golden light. They felt warm and happy inside.



And so, the puffin and the tern learned that being curious is a wonderful thing. Watching the world around you can lead to exciting discoveries and happy stories. They kept exploring, always eager to learn more. And whenever they looked through their tiny telescope, they remembered the day they found Whale Rock and named it together.