

# The Strange Story of the Singing Clownfish



Callie couldn't wait for the sleepover tonight!

One by one, her friends Catalina, Blanche and Marigold swam into her bedroom, with their seaweed sleeping bags hanging over their fins.

They giggled and gossiped and munched on algae chips for hours until Marigold said, "Ok. What should we do now?"

"We could watch a movie?" Blanche suggested.

"Or listen to some music?" said Callie.

"Hey, I know what would be even better!" Catalina exclaimed. "Let's make our own music video clip! We can then post it online - my mum let me install an app for doing just this last week."

"Wow, you are so lucky," said Callie. She and the other clownfish all looked deeply impressed. Catalina smiled proudly.

"I know! C'mon, what are you waiting for! Let's start performing."

The rest of the evening was spent splashing, singing, dancing and diving around Callie's bedroom as they recorded and uploaded all their favourite songs.

“Callie, you should ask your Mum for an account,” Catalina said as she left Callie’s anemone the next morning. “It would be so much fun to share music videos with each other!”

Callie agreed. As soon as all her friends were gone, she went straight to her mum and begged her for the app. She could barely believe her gills when her mum said yes! She raced back to her bedroom, downloaded the app onto her phone and recorded her first performance with great gusto.

It wasn’t long after uploading the video to her new account, that Callie received her first ‘like’! Only, it wasn’t from Catalina it was from another clownfish she had never heard of before, FunnyFishGal.

A moment later, Callie received a private message.

**@FunnyFishGal: Great clip!**

**@Callista\_the\_Clown: Thanks!! I’ve only just set up my account but that song was my favourite! :-)**

**@FunnyFishGal: It’s my favourite as well! I think you did a great first performance, Callista :-)**

**@Callista\_the\_Clown: Just call me Callie!**



Callie couldn't believe how much she and her new clownfish friend had in common. They spent the next hour messaging back and forth about all their favourite songs. The next day, they chatted about their favourite movies, and the day after, it was favourite books.

After a week of private messaging, @FunnyFishGal said:

**@FunnyFishGal: We should totally catch up sometime and make music videos together! :-)**

**@Callista\_the\_Clown: Omg that would be so much fun!**

**@FunnyFishGal: Yes, so much fun! Do you want to come over after school tomorrow?**

**@Callista\_the\_Clown: Yes! I think I'm free. I just need to check with my mum. Hold on...**

Callie swam out of her room and found her mum preparing dinner in the kitchen. "Hey, Mum. Can I meet up with a new friend after school tomorrow?"

"A new friend, how lovely! What's her name?"

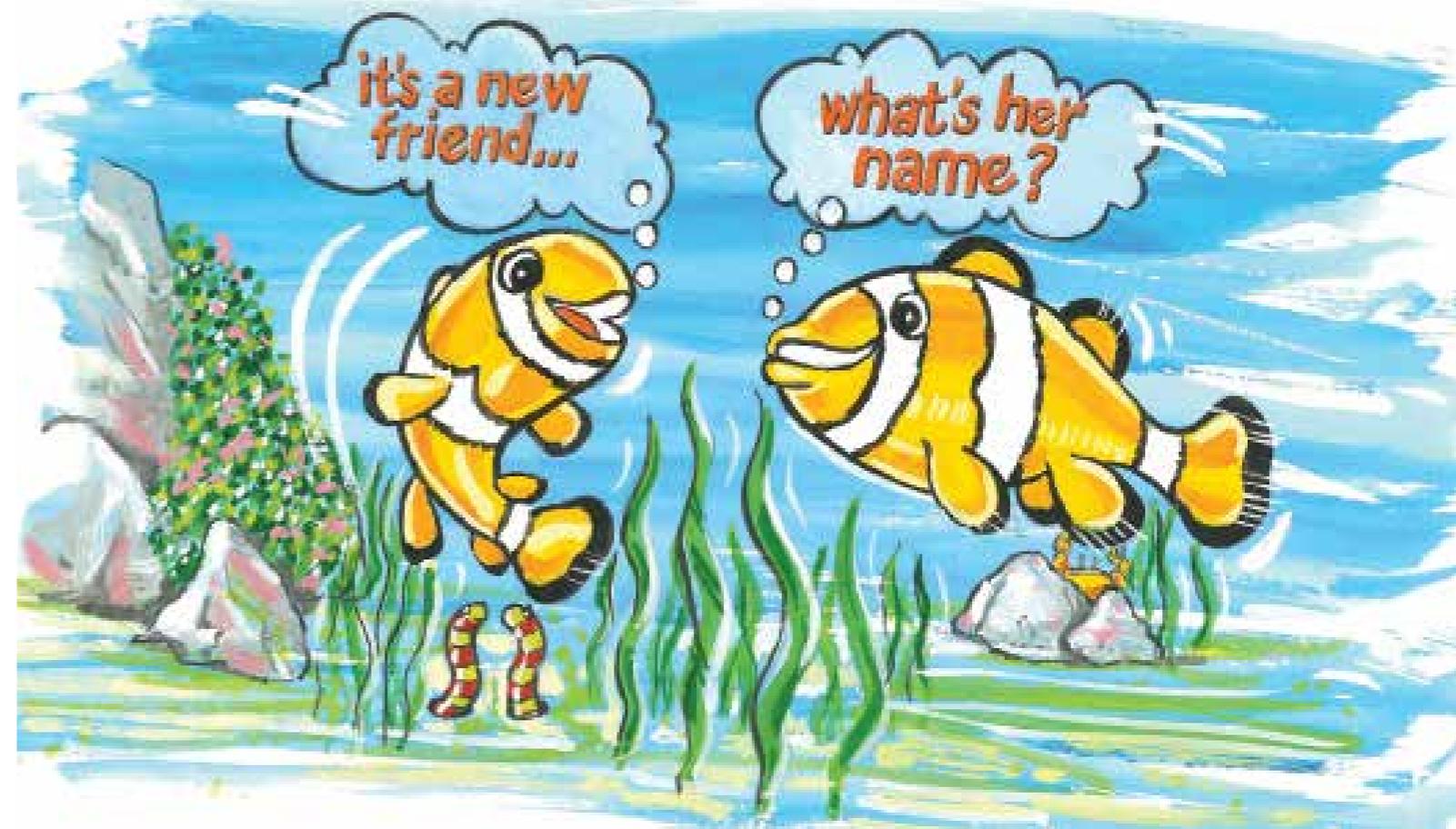
Callie paused. "Erm ... Well, actually ... I'm not sure what her name is. Her real name anyway."

When her mum looked at her, confused, Callie continued, "You see, she's a friend I've met on that app I downloaded the other day. So she uses a screen name. We have so much in common! She's invited me over to record music clips together."

"Hmmm. Where does she go to school?"

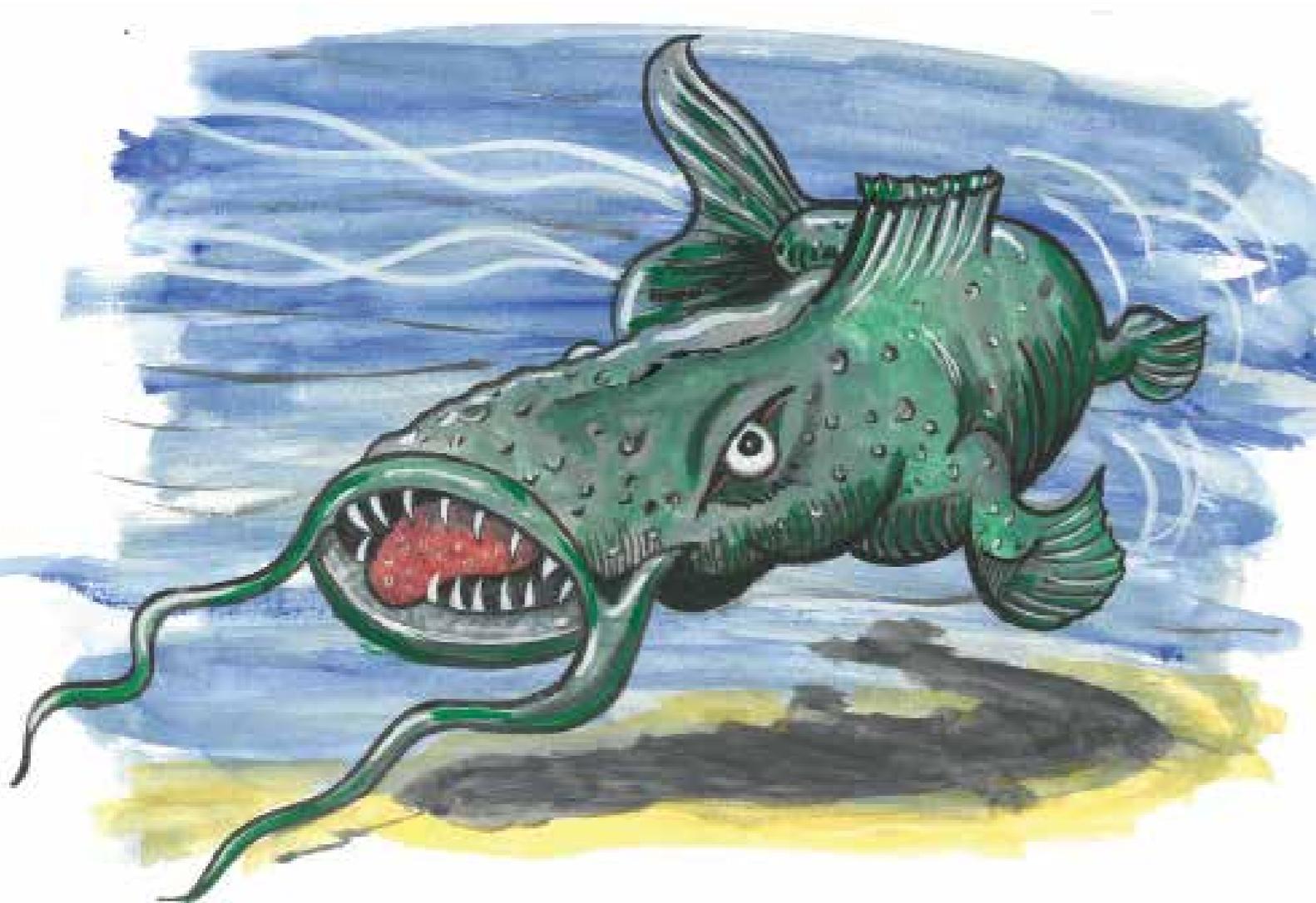
Callie thought for a moment. "Actually, I'm not sure. She's never told me."

Her mum looked worried. "Let's have a closer look at her account then, shall we? And see what we can find out."



Callie brought her phone to her mum and together they started looking through @FunnyFishGal's previous posts. As they scrolled through her many videos, Callie gasped in horror.

"Why, she's no clownfish at all! She is a he, and he is a CATFISH!"



# Reflection

1. What did @FunnyFishGal's profile reveal about "her" identity?
2. Explain how @FunnyFishGal was able to begin a friendship with Callie.
3. What do you think made Callie believe that @FunnyFishGal was just another young female clownfish like her?
4. What do you think made Callie's mum suspicious of her new friend?
5. Imagine you were approached by a stranger online. How could you respond safely?
6. What do you think Callie should do now she knows the real identity of @FunnyFishGal?