

Sally and the Limpet

Not long ago, on a Sunday, Sally was down on the beach exploring when she found a brightly coloured bigger than-usual limpet shell. She wanted to take it home but as she pulled, the limpet made a little squelching noise and held on to the rock.



The harder Sally tugged, the tighter the limpet held on until suddenly Sally slipped and fell – with the limpet now stuck to her finger. Though she pulled with all her might, it just wouldn't come off. So she ran over to her dad. He heaved and groaned but the limpet made a little squelching noise and held on even tighter. So that afternoon Sally went home in the car with a limpet stuck to her finger.

When they got home, her dad tried using his tools. Her brother tried offering it lettuce and cucumber. But that night, Sally went to bed with a limpet stuck to her finger. Next day it was school. All her friends tried to pull the limpet off Sally's finger. Mr Blueberry the nature teacher said that limpets live for twenty years and stay their whole lives on the same rock. In the afternoon, Sally's mother took her to the hospital to see the doctor. He tried chemicals, injections, potions and pinchers.

Sally was beginning to feel upset. Everyone was making too much fuss all around her. She kicked over the doctor's chair and ran. She ran through the endless corridors. She just wanted to be on her own. She ran out of the hospital and through the town. She didn't stop when she got to the beach. She ran through people's sandcastles. She even ran over a big man. When she reached the water, she jumped in with all her clothes on. She landed with a big splash and then just sat quietly in the water. The limpet, feeling at home in the ocean once more, made a little squelching noise and wiggled off her finger.

Sally didn't forget what Mr Blueberry the nature teacher had said. Very carefully, she lifted the limpet by the top of its shell. She carried it back across the beach, past the man she had walked over and gently, so gently, she put the limpet back on the very same rock she had found it the day before. Then humming to herself, she took the long way home across the beach.

