**“Pedro Pufferfish” / 578**

“Thief!” Grusella growled. Pedro bolted. He swam all over the yard but forgot his way out!

It had all started that morning. Pedro had always been poor and had to help his family work in the seahorses stable, but it was never enough. He lived with his mother and sisters in a cave. Nearby was an old broken down hut. It had a big amazing yard full of treasure and things from the world above.

Pedro Pufferfish had always been mischievous and gotten into trouble, but less so the past year, because his father had been caught by Grusella, the old sea witch who lived in the hut. He was caught when he tried to steal a gold necklace to sell at the market to get money for new books for his kids. Grusella made Pedro’s dad into fish tacos.

One day Mrs. Pufferfish was going to an old friend's house.

“Now my dears you may go down to the kelp forest but just be sure to stay away from Grusella’s house and yard,” said Mrs. Pufferfish. Pedro's sisters Fishy, Wishy, and Bubbles were good little fish and went to the kelp forest, but Pedro knew that his sister’s birthday was coming up and that they didn't have the money to do anything special, so carefully he snuck into Grusella’s yard. When he got to her collection of stuff from the world above, what he saw was amazing. There were gold and silver coins, pots and pans, necklaces, and pearls even bigger than Pedro. He grabbed everything he could carry, but when he turned to leave he found himself face to face with the old sea witch, with her hair slimy and floating around her cruel face. Pedro froze. He didn’t know what to do.

“Thief!” Grusella growled.

Pedro bolted. He swam all over the yard but forgot his way out! He swam frantically and finally found the gate, and he would have made it out if his jacket had not gotten caught on a huge treasure chest. Thoughts raced through Pedro’s head. He knew he had to take off his jacket, but he was stuck. Just in the nick of time, he was able to tear it off. He raced to the gate, but while he had been struggling with his jacket Grusella had locked the gate. Pedro looked around for another way out. Finally he spotted a little hole in the gate. He swam towards it as quickly as he could and squeezed through. He didn't stop swimming until he got to the cave where he lived.

When he got back, he turned around and saw Grusella hanging up his coat as a scarecrow to keep away fish. When he entered the cave he flopped down on his bed. Pedro’s mother was cooking when he got home and wondered what Pedro had done with his little jacket. Just then his sisters swam through the door, they too wondered where Pedro had gone.

I am sorry to say that Pedro was not doing so well that evening. His mother put him to bed and gave him a dose of algae soup. Pedro felt sorry for what he had done; he'd almost got himself killed! That night he just had to watch, as his sisters had fun telling their mother about their adventure to the kelp forest. She told them about her visit with Jeremiah stingray while they ate clams, muscles, and seaweed for their supper.

The End.