



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

COLOURFUL CORAL AND THE WARMING OCEANS

READERS THEATRE SCRIPT



Written by Tania Nash, commissioned by Marine Education

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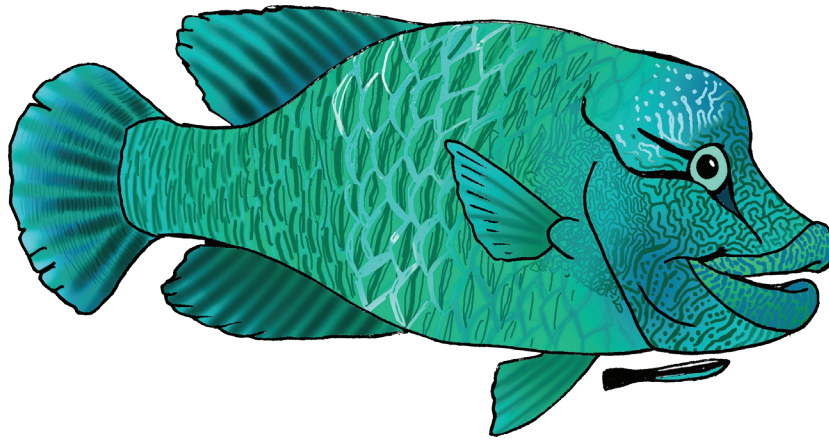


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COLOURFUL CORAL AND THE WARMING OCEANS

22 ROLES

Red Coral, Pink Coral, Blue Coral, Green Coral, Yellow Coral, Big Mama (Giant Clam), Rassey (Humphead Wrasse), Flip (Hawksbill Turtle), Greenie (Green Turtle), Major Greenway (Green Turtle), Polly (Parrotfish), Snowey (Unicornfish), Snarkie (Whitetip Reef Shark), Regina (Butterflyfish), Bozo (Anemonefish), Fluffy (Sea Anemone), Sandy (Sea Cucumber), Pearly (Pearlfish), Horsey (Seahorse), Troutie (Coral Trout), Spike (Crown-of-thorns starfish), Spiney (Crown-of-thorns starfish).

SCRIPT

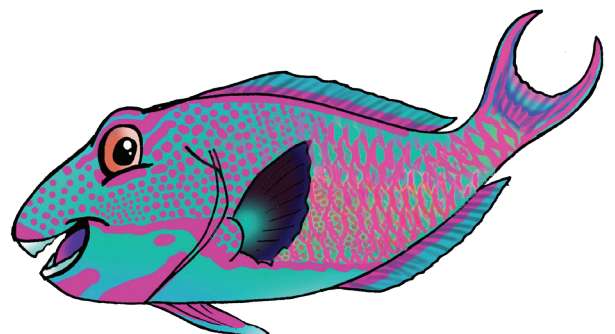
- Red Coral - This is our home under the ocean. On the Reef.
- Pink Coral - Our Reef is in trouble. The ocean is getting too warm.
- Yellow Coral - When it's too warm for too long, we lose our colour and turn white.
- Blue Coral - But if it cools down quickly, we get our colour back (*smiles proudly*)
- Yellow Coral - And if it doesn't cool down?
- Everyone - 'Shhhhh' (*pretending they don't want to know what happens then*)
- Red Coral - We have growth rings like trees, so you can tell how old we are.
- Pink Coral - Some of us are very old.
- Yellow Coral - Some of us are very young.
- Blue Coral - Some of our ancestors, the *fossil* corals, were around before the dinosaurs!
- Red Coral - Some of us are *hard* corals.
- Pink Coral - Some of us are *soft* corals.
- Yellow Coral - We come in all different shapes and colours.
- Blue Coral - Our friends of the Reef are all here to introduce themselves.

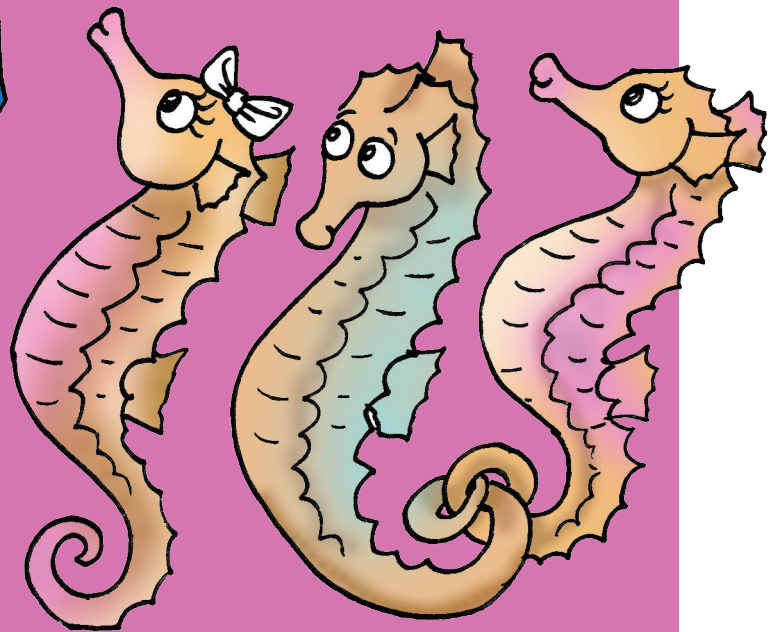
(*Optional: characters file onto stage one by one to introduce themselves staying on stage after their introduction.*)

- Big Mama - My name is Big Mama, I'm a Giant Clam. My friends like to live on my shell. Plus, I have algae that live inside my colourful mantle. We are in a relationship (*winks*). A symbiotic relationship. We do things for one another. I give my algae a place to live and they give me lots of food. It's kinda cool.
- Rassey - My name is Rassey. I'm a Maori Wrasse. I am the BIGGEST Wrasse on the Reef. I like to live alone. But I'm super popular with the tourists (*winks*).
- Flip and Greenie - My name is Flip and this is Greenie. I'm a Hawksbill Turtle and Greenie is a Green Sea Turtle. Check out our shells (*turns around to show off the shell*). We can hold our breath for 4 hours (*takes in a big breath*).
- Major Greenway - I'm Major Greenway. Greenie's uncle (*puts arm around Greenie*). We turtles love eating jellyfish. You know what looks like jellyfish? Plastic bags. Big mistake! (*Rubs a sore belly and shakes head left to right*).
- Polly - My name is Polly. I'm a Parrotfish. I'm a vegetarian and I like eating algae and pooping sand with my friends. At night, I get scared. So I build a big spit bubble to hide from scary predators (*opens umbrella*).
- Everyone - Too much information.
- Snowey - My name is Snowey. Like Polly I also like to eat algae and poop sand with my friends. Can you guess what I am? I am a Unicornfish. See! (*points to horn*).
- Snarkie - I'm Snarkie, a Whitetip Reef Shark. During the day, I sleep on the ocean floor, gulping water. This is how I breathe (*pretends to gulp*). When I wake up at dusk, I'm hungry and angry. I'm hangry. When I'm hangry, I put my pectoral fins down and my head down, like this (shows his fins and head down).
- Bozo and Fluffy - My name is Bozo. I'm an Anemonefish and I live with my mate Fluffy, the Anemone (*elbows Fluffy who waves*). We are in a symbiotic relationship too! I get pretty angry when anyone goes near Fluffy (*Fluffy nods*). Yes, yes I look like Nemo, but Nemo was way too nice in the movie. I am much more grumpy.
- Regina - My name is Regina and I'm a gorgeous Butterflyfish. I am very colourful. I have a long, thin nose and a very thin body. That way, I can get to the coral polyps and eat them! I also like to eat anemones, but Bozo always chases me away. Check out my fake eye (*points to bottom*). It's there to trick everyone.
- Bozo - You didn't trick me!
- Sandy and Pearly - I'm Sandy, the Sea Cucumber. I clean sand for a living and have a fish called Pearly who lives in my bottom. This is Pearly (*initially hides behind Sandy and then waves at audience*). I can also breathe out of my bottom, the same hole where my poop comes out, and where Pearly pokes her head out sometimes (*Pearly giggles cheekily*).
- Everyone - Too much information!!
- Horsey - Shhhhh, don't wake the babies (*holding a pouch*). Oh hi! I'm a daddy Seahorse. And these are my seahorse babies. I'm their dad.
- Troutie - Call me Troutie. I'm a coral trout. I'm 10 years old this spawning year. When I was young, I was female. But now I am older, I am a male. We change gender (*smiles proudly*).
- Rassy - We can change gender too (*also smiles proudly*).
- Bozo - So can we.
- Troutie - I like to do a shimmering dance to attract the ladies. Watch me (*does a dance*).
- Spike and Spiney - Spike's the name, and this is my son, Spiney. We are Crown-of-thorns starfish. We eat coral and when we are old enough (*taps the nose twice with a finger*) we have millions of babies.

We SPAWN (*stands proudly*). We also bust off an arm and let it grow into a whole new starfish. When there's too many of us, an underwater robot called 'cotsbot' finds us and kills us. Yikes!

- Red Coral - So now you have met everyone, it's time to tell you why we are here. We need your help.
- Pink Coral - We can't survive forever without it. Our oceans are warming, and this is killing us.
- Snarkie - This makes us sad.
- Blue Coral - The reason the oceans are warming is because of the carbon emissions.
- Rassey - What's a carbon emission?
- Green Coral - This is a difficult question, let us try to answer it.
- Yellow Coral - A carbon emission is a gas that comes from burning stuff to make energy.
- Red Coral - When the stuff burns, it makes gas.
- Flip - I bet there's a lot of that gas made.
- Pink Coral - In the last hundred years yes, a lot!!!!
- Regina - Can we see it, the gas?
- Blue Coral - No. The gas is see-through. We can't see it. But imagine it's a big blanket over the earth trapping in the heat.
- Green Coral - This gas is what's making our water warm up.
- Cumby - Does anything else make this gas?
- Yellow Coral - Well yes, cows make methane gas.
- Polly - What's methane?
- Red Coral - When a cow does a fluffy it releases methane.
- Snarkie - So it's Farting Gas?
- Pink Coral - Yes Snarkie, it's farting gas.
- (Everyone laughs)*
- Troutie - So what do we do to reduce carbon emissions?
- Blue Coral - One way is renewable energy. Instead of burning stuff for energy, use the energy from the sun or the wind or water.
- Green Coral - If you want our beautiful corals to keep their colour then why don't you all make it your mission to find out how to reduce carbon emissions in your neighbourhood.
- Cumby - Ok I will. I pledge to make it my mission, to reduce carbon emissions.
- Big Mama - *(Laughing)* You're a poet!! But I pledge too.
- Troutie - I pledge.
- Bozo - I pledge too.
- Everyone - We pledge too. Will you?
- (Exit stage. Return to stage and take a bow).*





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