

# LEO AND THE OCTOPUS

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At home, Leo would hide inside  
his cardboard box to read.

Then he could **relax**.



Because life on the **wrong planet** was stressful.

And **tiring**.

And **lonely**.



Until the day Leo met Maya.



Maya was an octopus.

“She has eight arms, three hearts and a beak like a parrot,” said Edgar, the octopus keeper.



“She looks like an alien,” Leo thought. “I *feel* like an alien. We should get along.”



Leo knew everything there was to know about lots of things. But he didn't know anything about **octopuses** yet. So he went to the library.

## NOTES

OCTOPUSES HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR ABOUT 300 MILLION YEARS — LONG BEFORE THE DINOSAURS! THEIR DISTANT RELATIVES ARE SNAILS.



THEY CAN CAMOUFLAGE THEMSELVES OR EXPRESS HOW THEY'RE FEELING BY CHANGING THEIR COLOUR AND TEXTURE.



THEY RELEASE A CLOUD OF BLACK INK WHEN THEY ARE UNDER ATTACK TO CONFUSE THEIR PREDATORS.


OCTOPUSES CAN SOLVE PUZZLES AND OPEN CHILD-PROOF JARS.



WITH THEIR SOFT, BONELESS BODIES, THEY CAN SQUEEZE INTO TINY CRACKS.



"Maybe Maya and I could become friends," Leo thought as he read. He didn't know much about friendship, but he was determined to give it a try.



The week after, Leo went back to the aquarium to see Maya. He told Edgar the octopus keeper **everything he had learnt** about octopuses.



Edgar was impressed. So impressed that he had an **idea**.  
“Would you like to meet Maya?” he asked.  
“You can touch her if you like.”

Leo was **nervous**. What if Maya didn't like him?

He reached into the tank and stroked Maya's head, just like Edgar showed him.

