

神造万物皆有美意

神造万物，各按其时成为美好。——传道书 3:11

嗨，孩子们！今天，我们来听一个关于动物的故事。这个故事里所说的动物不是生活在动物园里，也不是生活在农场里，它是生活在水里，但你可能在水族馆里也找不到它，它既没有鳍，又没有尾巴，也没有鳞。



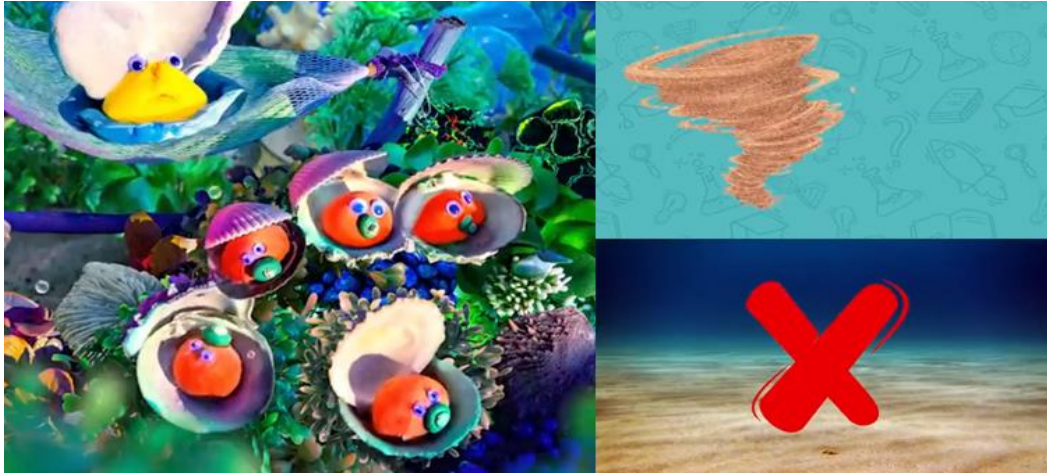
这个奇怪的生物会是什么呢？给个提示你，它有一个硬壳，时不时的一张一合。我想你猜对了，它是牡蛎。有些牡蛎里面藏有美丽的珍珠，有些珍珠是如此耀眼夺目使得其价值非常珍贵，可与钻石媲美。我们知道珍珠来自牡蛎，但你知道牡蛎是如何变出珍珠的吗？



现在让我们来探索这个精彩的故事，看看牡蛎是如何长出珍珠的。要仔细听好，因为故事里面还隐藏着很多好消息噢！你准备好了吗？让我们来个深呼吸，潜到海底去仔细观看！在大海深处生长着有色彩缤纷的珊瑚，有银光闪烁的水母。虽然时间还早，但海洋生物已经开始忙碌起来了，多热闹的地方啊！你看，鱼儿们还有各种各样的海洋生物们游来游去，忙忙碌碌的，好像都有事情要做，都有地方要去一样。



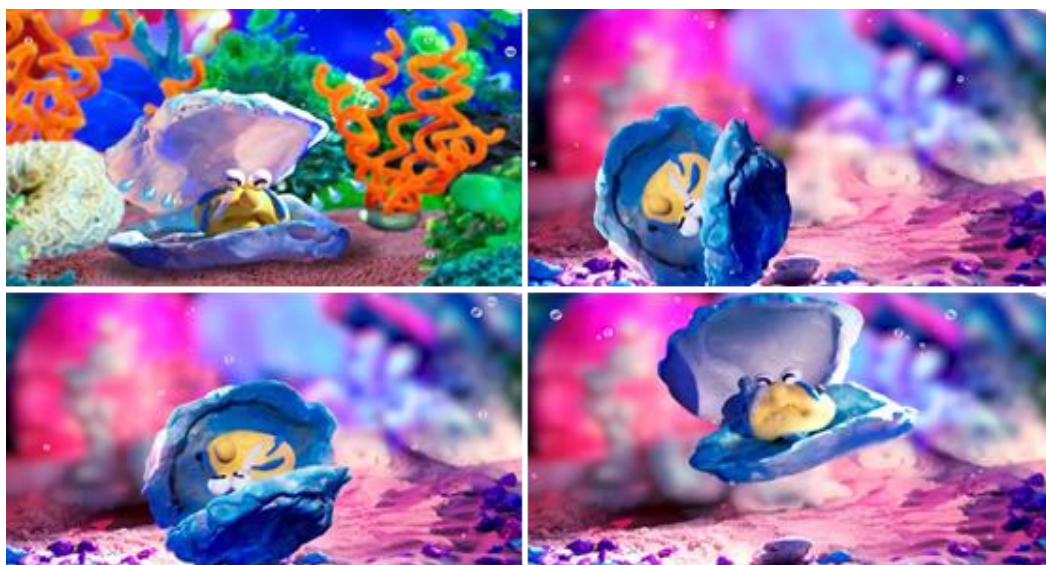
但是等等，我有说所有的海洋动物吗？可不是呢，看仔细点，我们发现在一个角落的地方有牡蛎床，牡蛎宝宝们刚睡醒呢！牡蛎并不是忙碌的生物，它们更喜欢待在牡蛎床里，只是一味的打盹和长个子。牡蛎妈妈经常告戒她的孩子们说：“要远离那些会嗖嗖响移动和旋转的生物！太多的嗖嗖移动和旋转会搅动沙子和其他一些令人讨厌的东西，这些沙子和细小的东西一旦掉进我们的身体，就会伤害甚至割伤我们。所以无论你做什么，都要远离沙质的土地。”所有在听的小牡蛎们都齐声回答说：“知道了，妈妈！我们要远离沙地。”所有的牡蛎们都知道沙子是个坏东西！



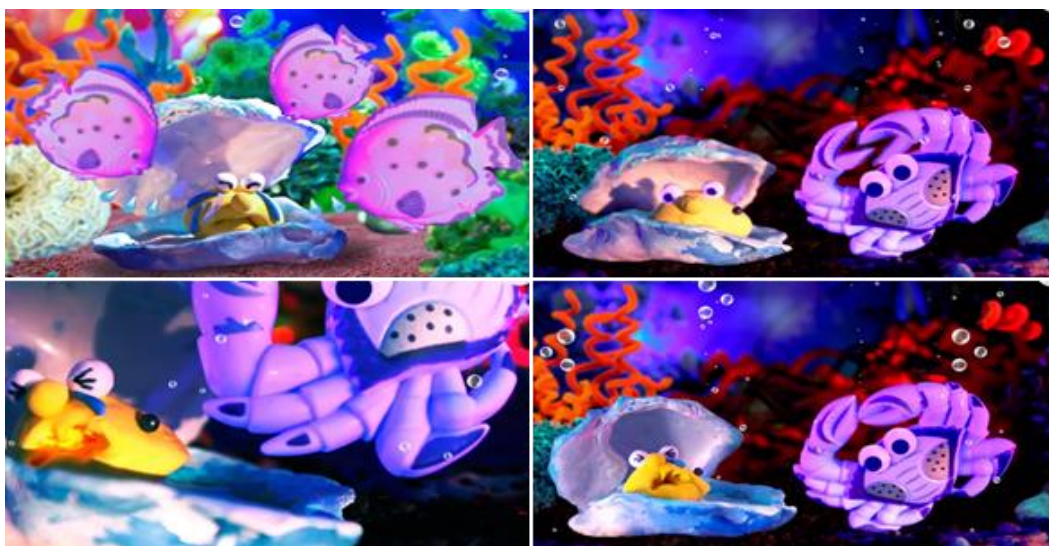
但是等等，我有说所有的小牡蛎都在听吗？可不是呢，有一只名叫奥利的小牡蛎就呆在沙土上，它听说这里是鱼儿们常来觅食的好地方，它开心极了，就想呆在那里看热闹！第一条鱼游来，奥利屏住呼吸看这条鱼开始进食——啄，啄，啄，……越来越多的鱼游了过来。鱼儿们开始疯狂地觅食，嗖嗖地快速移动且旋转，这样可以搅拌起更多的细小食物，而沙子也跟着像小龙卷风一样旋转起来。牡蛎奥利环顾四周，它在沙尘暴中看不清东西，一切都是模糊的，它好兴奋噢，觉得很好玩！



就这样，意料中的事情发生了，沙子掉进了奥利的壳里，落在它柔软的身体上，像一把刀子切进它的肉里。“哎哟，好痛啊！”奥利疼得尖叫起来，它哭个不停，大声喊叫：“救命啊——快救救我啊——快把沙子从我身上弄出去！”奥利所不知道的是，每次它哭泣时，闪亮的泪珠都会覆盖在那粒沙子上，它不知道它的泪珠里含有珍珠母，而这层珍珠母会裹住沙子粗糙的边缘。但奥利现在理会不了这些，它只是想着要摆脱这个痛苦。于是，奥利就地滚来滚去，上下蹦来蹦去，想尽一切法子要摆脱那粒让他如此痛苦的沙子，但都无济于事。好可怜的奥利！



鱼儿们停止了觅食，都冲过来帮忙。“快！啄它的壳。”鱼儿们告诉彼此。鱼儿奋力啄了又啄，但帮不上忙，它们很遗憾的说，“对不起，奥利，你的壳太硬了！”这时蟹老板走过来，炫耀出它的大螯钳。“让我来帮你，”它说，“在大海里我们螃蟹的夹力是最棒的！”于是，蟹老板胸有成竹地磨砺一下它的大钳子，瞄准目标，自信满满的吆喝道：“准备好了吗？一……二……我掐！”“嗷呜！”奥利疼得尖叫。“哎唷”，蟹老板也掐得自己大叫，接着它不好意思的说，“对不起，奥利，你还是去找别人帮忙吧！”



奥利更伤心了，也哭得更厉害了，同时也释放了更多闪亮的珍珠母，越来越多的珍珠母包裹住那粒令它感到刺痛沙子。但奥利完全没有意识到这一点，它还在忙着要处理掉那粒沙子。此时，一只弯弯曲曲的海底鼻涕虫爬了过来。“让我试试！”鼻涕虫主动请缨，它深吸一口气，开始在奥利身上上下扭动、来回滑动，但一点作用都没有。鼻涕虫还试图用身上的鼻涕黏液来润滑它，搞得奥利浑身黏液横飞，咦——，恶心死了！“对不起，奥利！我太滑太黏糊糊了，我想我帮不上忙。”奥利赶快逃离此地，它跃上斜坡，蹦过海绵床，窜过海藻，然后落到自己的床上。“我再也受不了了，让它快点消失，就没有人能帮我吗？哇——”奥利近乎绝望地大嚷大哭。



就在奥利旁边，是牡蛎爷爷和牡蛎奶奶，他俩会意地看了看对方，知道奥利发生了什么事。这时，牡蛎奶奶说：“奥利，振作一下！我很遗憾你受伤了，我希望我们都能帮得上忙。但相信我，一切都会好起来的！”“好起来？”奥利继续哭道，“疼得这么厉害，怎么会没事呢？”“嗯，现在可能很疼，”牡蛎爷爷回答说，“但肯定会好起来的！你知道吗？当上帝创造我们牡蛎时，祂在我们的眼泪里给了我们一些特别的东西。每次我们哭泣时，闪亮的泪液就会一层一层地覆盖在沙子上，磨平沙子锋利的边缘，直到它不再伤害我们为止。奥利，你现在哭可是好事！我们的眼泪会把现在伤害我们的东西变成一颗美丽而珍贵的珍珠，等着瞧吧！”



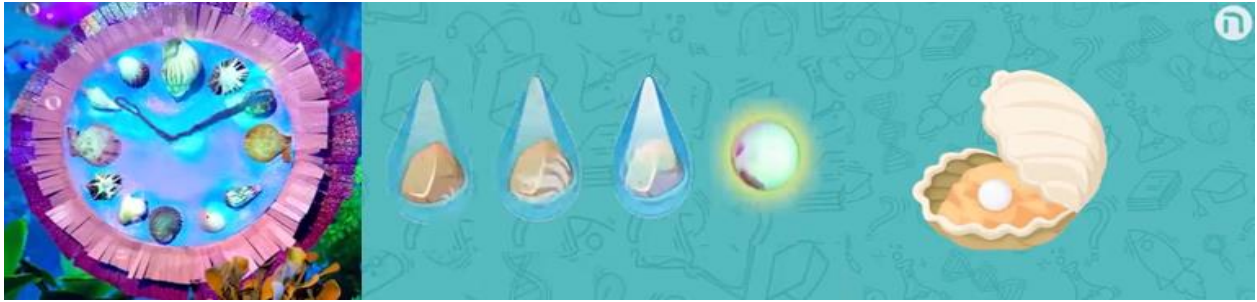
几周过去了，几个月过去了，我们去看看奥利，看它怎么样了。哇，看！牡蛎奥利已经长大了很多，原来掉进沙粒的地方现在长出了一个又大又亮的东西，你猜是什么？那还用说，是一颗珍珠！造成奥利如此痛苦的根源可以变成一颗这么美丽的东西！神的创造真奇妙！奥利得意地在它的壳里走来走去，笑眯眯地说：“是不是很光彩夺目？我的眼泪把沙子盖住然后变成了这颗珍珠，甚至别的牡蛎也对我说，这是它们所见过的最珍贵的珍珠！”



孩子们，在牡蛎奥利的故事中，它壳里的沙子扎进了它的身体并伤害了它，它无法止住疼痛，它所能做的就是不停地哭，日复一日，它的眼泪涂在那粒沙子上，使得沙子锋利的边缘更光滑，带走了疼痛，并留给奥利一颗美丽而珍贵的珍珠。这个发生在奥利身上的故事，让人想起了圣经传道书 3 章第 11 节中的经文，你也可以把它标记出来。经文是这样说的：“**神造万物，各按其时成为美好。**” 这节经文告诉我们，我们的神对我们有多好！它告诉我们，即使目前的状况看起来不太好，但我们慈爱的阿爸天父绝不会让我们愣在一旁伤心哭泣而不顾，祂会在合适的时间里，使这一切转变成为我们生命中的美意与祝福！这真是个大好消息！所以，即使有时候我们遇到困难，我们可以信靠我们的阿爸天父一定会好好照顾我们，祂会一天天一点点地带走我们的伤痛和失望，把开始的困难转化成美好的结局！虽然我们并不总是知道何时会发生，但我们可以确信，我们的神会在恰当的时间，以最好的方式，使一切都成为美好！



孩子们，记住：我们是属耶稣的，我们有一个真实和可以信赖的盼望，我们有一位如此宠爱着我们的阿爸天父，祂总是想要给予我们更多，所以我们坚信事情一定能够并且将会变得更更好！所以今天，让我们带上灿烂的笑容来开启我们的祷告：“亲爱的阿爸天父，谢谢你总是对我们这么好！即使在事情看起来不太好时，我们依然倚靠你，因为你使万物按其时成为美好！我们有盼望，我们的未来是光明的！谢谢你这么爱我们！所有的孩子们一起说‘阿门’！”



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孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有的罪，使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿门！”

OLLIE THE OYSTER

He has made everything beautiful in its time. – Ecclesiastes 3:11, NKJV

Hey, Rock Kidz! Today, we are going to hear a story about a certain creature that you won't find in a zoo, or even in a farm. This creature lives in the water, but you probably won't find it in many aquariums either. It has no fins, no tail, and no scales either!

Whatever can this creature be? Here's a clue for you. It has a hard shell that opens and closes like this. That's right! It's an oyster. Inside this oyster is a beautiful pearl. Some pearls are so beautiful, that they can be as precious and as valuable as diamonds. We know that pearls come from oysters. But do you know how it happens?

Let's have some fun today, as we imagine what an oyster goes through to grow a pearl! Listen carefully, for hiding inside the story is lots of good news for you and me. If you're ready, take a deep breath. Let's go! Our story begins deep down at the bottom of the sea where the coral grow and jellyfish glow. It is still early morning, but already the sea creatures are getting busy as they start their day. What a busy place! Everyone has something to do and somewhere to go. But wait! Did I say everyone? Not everyone is rushing and bustling about. Tucked away in a corner are the oyster beds where the baby oysters sleep. Oysters are not busy creatures. They prefer to spend their time in their oyster beds, just snoozing and growing.

Mama oysters often tell their children, "Stay away from the creatures that swoosh and swirl. Too much swooshing and swirling stirs up sand and other nasty bits that hurt us and cut us. So whatever you do, stay away from the sandy bottom." All the oysters know that sand is bad news. All the young oysters listen and say, "Yes, mama! We will stay away from the sandy bottom." All the oysters know that sand is bad news.

But wait, did I say all the oysters? Ollie the oyster is at the sandy bottom. He's heard that this is where the fish come to feed. How exciting! The first fish comes. Ollie holds his breath ... the fish start to feed! Peck, peck, peck, peck, peck. More fish come. The fish swoosh and swirl about in a feeding frenzy. The sand whirls about like a small tornado. Ollie the Oyster looks around him. He can't see through the sand storm. Everything is a blur. So exciting!

Then it happens. Sand gets inside Ollie's shell! Ooh! It lands on the oyster's soft body and cuts into him. Oh no! the pain is so bad that Ollie cries and cries! "Help!" Ollie cries, "Get the sand off me! Help!" what Ollie does not know is that each time he cries, his shiny tears cover the sand, coating the rough edges that cut into him. But Ollie cannot think of this right now. He can only think of getting rid of the pain. Ollie twists and turns, he jumps and bumps about. But he cannot get rid of the thing that hurts him so much. Poor Ollie!

The fish stop their swirling, and rush to help. "Quick! Peck at his shell!" the fish tell each other. The fish peck and peck, but cannot help. "Sorry Ollie, your shell is too hard!" A crab comes along, showing his pincers. "I'll help you," he says. "We crabs have the strongest pinch in the ocean!" Mr. Crab sharpens his

large claws and takes aim. "Ready? One ... two ... pinch!" "Owww!" goes Ollie. "Oops!" goes the crabs. "Sorry Ollie, I guess you just need someone else."

Ollie is so upset that he cries even more. More shiny nacre is released. The nacre covers the thing that hurts him so much. But Ollie does not realize this. He's still too busy trying to get rid of the piece of sand. A squiggly sea slug slithers up. "Let me try!" he offers helpfully. The slug takes deep breath and begins to squiggle and slither and slide all over him. But when nothing happens, the sea slug tries to slime him. Sploosh! Eww! "Sorry Ollie! I'm too slippery and slimy. I don't think I can help!" Ollie scoots away as fast as he can. Up the slope through the sponge bed, past the seaweed, and jumps right back into bed. "I can't take it anymore! Make it go away! Isn't there anyone who can help me? Wahhh!"

Beside him, the bigger oysters look at each other knowingly. "Cheer up Ollie," the biggest oyster says. "I'm sorry you got hurt, and I wish we can all help. But trust me, it is going to be alright." "How?" weeps Ollie. "How is it going to be alright when it hurts so much?" "Well, it may hurt a lot now," the big oyster answer, "but it will surely get better. You see, when God made us oysters, He gave us something special in our tears. Each time we oyster cry, the shiny liquid of our tears covers the sand layer by layer, making the sharp edges smooth until it stops hurting us anymore. It's okay to cry now, Ollie. Our tears turn what hurts us now into a beautiful and precious pearl later. Just wait and see!"

Weeks and months go by. Let's check on Ollie and see how he is doing. Look! Ollie the Oyster has grown so big now there is something big and shiny where the grain of sand used to be. What do you think it is? Yes, it's a pearl! What caused Ollie so much pain has become something beautiful. Ollie moves about in his shell and smiles. "Isn't it gorgeous? My tears covered the sand and turned it into this! Even the other oysters tell me it is the most precious pearl they have ever seen!"

Hey Rock Kidz, in the story of Ollie the Oyster the piece of sand inside his shell cut into him and hurt him. He couldn't stop the pain and all he could do was cry and cry. Day by day, his tears coated that piece of sand making its sharp edges smoother, taking away the pain and giving Ollie a beautiful and precious pearl in its place. What happened to Ollie in this story reminds me of a verse in the Bible. Now I want you to flip your Bibles to Ecclesiastes 3: 11. You can highlight this as well. It says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time." This verse tells us how good our God is to us. It tells us that even if things don't look so good right now, our loving Daddy God won't leave us hurting and crying. No! Because he is so good to us, he makes everything in our lives beautiful in its time. This is good news! Because it tells us that even when things sometimes get rough for us, we can depend on our Daddy God to take good care of us! Day by day, and bit by bit, He takes away the bad and the sad we feel. But because our God is so good, He doesn't just stop there! No, our God always gives us the much more.

Because we belong to Jesus, we have a real and confident hope that things can and will get better! No matter what comes our way, we have a good and loving God who takes away our hurts and disappointments and makes them beautiful for us. We don't always know the timing, but we can be sure that our God will make everything beautiful for at the right time and in the best way. So today, let's put a smile on our face and say, "Dear Daddy God, You are always good to us. You are good to us, even when

things don't look so good. We put our trust in You because You make everything beautiful in its time. We have hope and our future is bright. Thank You for loving us so much." And all the Rock Kidz say, "Amen!"

Hey Rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you've never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, "Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus' name," and everyone say, "Amen."