

# Urashima Taro

## Vocabulary Words

1. Struggling (adjective) - Trying hard to do something, facing difficulties.  
Example: The small turtle was struggling to climb over the rock.
2. Enchanting (adjective) - Charming or captivating, creating a sense of fascination.  
Example: The enchanting melody of the song filled the room with joy.
3. Homesick (adjective) - Feeling sad or longing for one's home or family.  
Example: When I moved to a new city, I often felt homesick for my old neighborhood.
4. Mysterious (adjective) - Difficult to understand or explain, creating a sense of curiosity.  
Example: The old house had a mysterious aura that intrigued everyone.
5. Solace (noun) - Comfort or relief in times of sadness or distress.  
Example: After a long day, I found solace in reading a good book.
6. Cautionary (adjective) - Serving as a warning or providing guidance to avoid potential harm.  
Example: The cautionary tale taught children the importance of being careful near a busy road.



Urashima Taro was a fisherman who lived near the sea. One day, while he was fishing, he noticed a small turtle struggling in the water. He quickly scooped it up and returned it to the sea, saving its life. Little did he know that this act of kindness would change his life forever.

As a reward for his good deed, the turtle transformed into a beautiful princess. She invited Urashima Taro to her underwater palace, where he was greeted by magnificent sights and enchanting creatures. He spent days exploring the palace, enjoying the company of the princess, and experiencing a world he had never imagined.

Time seemed to pass differently in the underwater realm, and Urashima Taro lost track of how long he had been there. Eventually, he started to feel homesick and longed to see his family and friends again. The princess understood his feelings and gave him a mysterious box as a parting gift, with a warning not to open it.

When Urashima Taro returned to his village, he was shocked to find that everything had changed. The people he once knew were gone, and he was now a stranger in his own hometown. Overwhelmed with sadness, he opened the box the princess had given him, hoping for some solace. Instantly, he aged and turned into an old man, as the box contained the passage of time he had missed.

The story of Urashima Taro serves as a cautionary tale about the consequences of curiosity and the fleeting nature of time. It reminds us to appreciate the present moment and cherish the people and experiences that are dear to us. It teaches us to be mindful of our actions and the choices we make, as they can have unforeseen and irreversible effects on our lives.

### **Discussion**

1. Have you ever helped someone who was struggling? How did it make you feel?
2. Can you think of a time when you were captivated by something enchanting?  
What was it and why did it fascinate you?
3. What makes you feel homesick? How do you cope with that feeling?
4. Have you ever received a mysterious gift? What was it and what did you do with it?
5. When you feel sad or distressed, what brings you solace or comfort?
6. Can you think of a cautionary tale or story that teaches an important lesson?  
What is the lesson and how does it apply to real life?