

The Aquarium

Zuri and Friends

Made for Tlaloc

With love from the Faust book maker

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Zuri, Teo and Juno were friends. Pip was their owl. They came to the aquarium early. An octopus was missing from its tank. "Let's bring it home before opening!" said Zuri.



Juno peered through the home tank's glass. “The octopus is gone,” Zuri said. “Its lid is open a crack.” They called, “Where are you, little octopus?” Its shelter stayed empty.



Zuri, Teo and Juno followed swishing. They entered the filter room. "This filter cleans water," Zuri said. "A machine pushes tank water through it. This pipe carries clean water back."



Inside the filter, water flows between sand grains. The sand holds back bits of dirt. Cleaner water leaves through a pipe below. The pipe carries water back to the tanks.



A cupboard door bent Teo's cardboard hole-finder. "Octopuses need big holes!" Zuri said, "Octopuses have no bones. Their beak, a hard biting part, must fit through." Juno spotted water.



Here is how the octopus escaped earlier. Its hard beak cannot change shape. The beak fits through the lid gap. Its soft body and eight arms squeeze through.

Did you know? An octopus has three hearts.



Teo checked a bucket for the octopus. "Where are you, little octopus?" The bucket was empty. Zuri pointed toward the home tank. Only three minutes remained.



Juno spotted wet drops. Pip flapped ahead. They followed the drops to the crab tank. "The octopus is here!" Zuri said. "It's hunting crabs!"



“Breakfast might bring the octopus home!” Zuri hurried toward the kitchen. A shark swished past. “Its tail pushes it; its fins steer. Jellyfish squeeze water backward to swim.”

Did you know? A jellyfish has no heart. A jellyfish has no brain.



“Even breakfast gets weighed!” Zuri said. Behind glass, a scale measured food’s weight. “Workers weigh meals so animals get enough.” Zuri took the approved dish of crab meat.



Zuri tipped crab into the home tank. “Many octopuses eat crabs,” she said. “Breakfast might bring it home.” A water-filled pipe joined the tanks. They waited. The octopus stayed away.



The octopus squeezed through the pipe. It held breakfast as the doors opened. Zuri and Juno cheered. Pip flapped. “You're home, little octopus!” Teo's huge ring framed its face.



For grown-ups

Pumps move water through sand that catches dirt. Helpful bacteria and water changes keep water healthy. Octopus suckers can sense food. Many octopuses eat crabs. The connecting pipe and feeding shelf are story features. Visitors must leave lids closed and animals alone.