

Arabelle Elliott

7th Grade Homeschool

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"The time has come...

The Walrus said

To talk of other things

Of shoes and ships and sealing wax

Of cabbages and kings

And why the sea is boiling hot

And whether pigs have wings

Callo-Callay

No work today!

We're cabbages and kings"

J. Pat O'Malley

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Alice in Wonderland, Disney 1951

When I was a little kid, I used to watch Alice in Wonderland. This song was from the part in the movie with the walrus and the carpenter. They were scheming to eat the unsuspecting oysters that lived in the water. This story was mostly all I knew about oysters. The walrus invited the little oysters to a “lunch,” but the real plan was to eat them. The oysters were warned by their mother to stay in the water, but they foolishly went with the walrus instead. When the oysters were seated, the walrus asked the carpenter to make some extra food. As the carpenter was doing so, the walrus ate up all the oysters.

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From watching that story, you can learn not to trust strangers because it may not go well for you. But since learning about the endangered reef, I have realized that this story can show our own foolishness concerning reefs. We have been like the little oysters tricked by the walrus and now we don't have our reef.

The story at the beginning had a sad ending to it. I thought I needed to fix this. So I have come up with a new poem, one that makes sense and has a happy ending. This poem reflects the things I have learned about oysters and reefs and their importance to the land so that it does not erode.

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We Need a New Reef

We need a new reef

More oysters and clams

That's my belief

A good natural dam

Oysters filter up to fifty gallons a day

The little ones are called spat

A new reef. I hope and pray

We'll live a better life like that

Oysters live in salty water

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While doing so they hold back waves

An oyster can be a son and daughter

With their reefs the land they save

Oysters are important for the Chesapeake

Pearl oysters aren't usually on the menu

Oysters are important for rivers and creeks

Our ecology is counting on you

Oyster shells make great compost

The word oyster means bone

We need many along our coast

Let's not leave just one alone

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Oyster shells one must recycle

There are five species in the US

On oyster shell pavement we can bicycle

For a new reef let's all say yes

My hope for the future of reefs is that one day the reefs will house millions of healthy oysters. We will continue to enjoy our pristine coastline because they will keep our land from eroding away. The reefs will house lots of other water animals and be a resting spot for bird.

The many oysters will filter out water pollution and so that it will be

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healthier for the other animals so they will not die. I hope the
Chesapeake Bay will once again be filled with lots of oyster reefs.