A Question for the Fish



Watching closely can be its own answer.

A short story to enjoy together

A Question for the Fish

At the library, a small orange fish lived in a large tank full of plants. Nara liked to visit it after choosing her books.

One day she sat beside Grandma and asked the fish a question.

"What is your favourite part of the tank?"

The fish swam behind a tall green leaf.

Nara waited. The fish came out and drifted above a smooth stone.

"Maybe it is the leaf," she said. "Or the stone."

Grandma nodded. "We can watch without tapping the glass."

Nara folded her hands in her lap. The fish's fins moved gently. Its mouth opened and closed. A line of tiny bubbles rose near the back.

"Does it like the bubbles?" Nara whispered.

"We do not know exactly what it likes," Grandma said. "But we can notice what it does."

A Question for the Fish

They watched it swim through a gap between two plants. It paused in the open water, turned, and passed through the gap again.

Nara smiled. "That looks like a doorway."

She opened her notebook and drew the tank. She marked the plants, the smooth stone, and the little doorway. Then she drew the fish in the middle, with plenty of space around it.

When it was time to leave, Nara stood up quietly.

"Thank you for showing me around," she told the fish.

On the way home, Grandma asked whether she had found the favourite place.

"Not yet," Nara said. "But I found three places to look next time."

She held her notebook close. It was full of things she had noticed.

THE END

LET'S TALK

What did Nara notice by watching quietly? What question would you like to investigate?

Original story and illustration created with AI assistance. MimoMango, 2026.