Marlie Blue

A Little Marlin with a Big Dream



Big dreams begin with one little try.

A story for little dreamers and their grown-ups

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Hello, Marlie!

A big, splashy dream

In a bright blue ocean lived a little marlin named Marlie Blue.

She had a shiny blue tail, a long, pointy nose, and a very pink bow.

And she had a dream.

A big, splashy dream.



One little try.

Over the waves!

“I want to jump over the waves!” said Marlie.

“Over them?” asked Coco the Crab.

“OVER them!”

Tilly the Turtle smiled. “Let’s start with one little try.”

Swish. Whoosh. ZOOM!



PLOP!

A very soggy bow

Marlie wiggled her tail.
She zipped toward the sunshine.

Swish. Whoosh.

PLOP!

One tiny splash. One very soggy bow.

“That was more of a plop,” said Coco.

Marlie giggled. Then she sighed.



Little tries help us learn.

Try a little kindness

“Maybe I’m too little,” whispered Marlie.

Tilly paddled close.
“Little tries help us learn.”

“And I liked your plop,” said Coco.

Marlie’s smile came back.



Push. Puff. Phew!

Coco’s little problem

Then Coco gave a little grunt.

His favorite empty shell was stuck in a dip in the sand.

He pushed. He puffed.
It would not budge.

“May I help?” asked Marlie.



A little help. A big smile.

Better together

Marlie swam beside Coco.
Together, they nudged the shell.

A little push.
A little wiggle.

POP!

The shell slid free.

“Little things can do big things!”
cheered Coco.



Down… down… down…

One more little try

Marlie looked up at the waves.
Her tummy felt fluttery.

“I can try again,” she said.

She swam down…
down…
down…

Just a little deeper.



SWISH. WHOOSH.

Ready, steady…

Marlie wiggled her tail.

Swish.

She followed a trail of bubbles.

Whoosh.

“Go, Marlie!” called her friends.

Ready… steady…

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ZOOM!

Her very first leap

ZOOM!

Up went Marlie!
Past the bubbles.
Over a big wave.
Into the bright, pink sky!

Then… SPLASH!

“I did it!” she cheered.



Good night, little dreamer.

A little brave heart

It was not the biggest jump in the ocean.

It was Marlie’s first.

Coco clicked his claws.
Tilly twirled.

As the sky turned soft and sleepy, Marlie snuggled near her friends.

One little try. One big, happy heart.

Your little brave moment

What is one thing you would like to try?

Who could you help along the way?

Can you make your very best...

Swish. Whoosh. ZOOM!

Big dreams can begin with one little try.

Be kind. Be brave. Be you.

The real Marlie Blue



Before Marlie’s story, there was a real little fish.

Joey Cagle and Richard Brackett found a baby blue marlin while fishing offshore of Charleston, South Carolina. It was small enough to fit in the palm of a hand!

From a tiny fish to a big dream



They took a quick photo and released it back into the ocean to grow.

Blue marlin can grow to about 14 feet long. Even a very big fish begins small.

Big things begin with one little try.

Original photo courtesy of Richard Brackett.
Shared with Marlie Blue by Joey Cagle.
Sources: The Billfish Foundation, Baby Blue Marlin Story (2013); Florida Museum, Blue Marlin.