

April 16, 2025

Dear Diary,

Today was one of those days I'll probably remember forever. It started out like any normal Saturday, but it turned into something really special.

I woke up early, just as the sunlight was creeping through my curtains. I could hear the kookaburras laughing outside, which always makes me smile. Mum said we were going to the beach today—not just any beach, but the one we used to go to when I was little, before we moved houses. I hadn't been there in years, and I could barely sit still while packing my towel, sunscreen, and snacks.

When we got there, the smell of saltwater and sunscreen hit me like a memory. The sand was warm under my feet, and the waves sparkled like they were full of tiny stars. I ran straight to the edge of the water, letting it crash over my toes. It felt cold at first, but I got used to it quickly. My little sister Emma squealed every time a wave came close, and Dad laughed while chasing her around.

After swimming for a while, I decided to explore the rock pools near the edge of the beach. That's when something amazing happened.

I was carefully stepping over some slippery rocks when I saw something move—it was a tiny octopus, no bigger than my hand! It was changing colours right in front of me, blending in with the rocks and seaweed. I'd never seen anything like that up close. I just stood there, completely still, watching as it slid between two rocks and disappeared.

I called Mum over, but by the time she came, it was gone. I was a bit disappointed at first, but then I realised how lucky I was to have seen it. Not everyone gets to witness something like that. It felt like nature had shared a secret with me, just for a moment.

Later, while we were eating sandwiches under the umbrella, I told everyone about the octopus. Emma thought I was making it up, but Dad said he believed me. He even promised to bring me a book about sea creatures from the library next week.

On the way home, I couldn't stop thinking about it. I started wondering how many other animals are out there, hiding in plain sight, going unnoticed. It made me want to learn more about the ocean. Maybe I'll become a marine biologist one day. Or maybe I'll just keep exploring and seeing what surprises nature has to offer.

Today wasn't just a fun day at the beach. It was a reminder that the world is full of incredible things if you take the time to look closely. Even something small—like a shy little octopus—can make a big impact.

I'm really glad we went. I hope we go back again soon.

Until next time,
William.