

Reading

Read the story.

Many years ago, there were two sisters called Mia and Sara. Their father was very sick. He told his daughters, 'I can't give you expensive gifts, but take these necklaces. When I'm gone, look at them and remember I loved you.'



10 Soon after, the man died. The girls wore their necklaces all the time. One day, Mia's necklace broke and fell into a lake. She was very upset. Suddenly, a mermaid appeared. 'I lost my jewellery,' Mia told her sadly.

15 The mermaid dived down and returned with a beautiful crystal bracelet. 'Is this bracelet yours?' she asked. Mia shook her head. 'There's a rich lady in the village. Maybe it's hers,' she said.



20 The mermaid returned with some pretty silver earrings. 'Are these earrings yours?' she asked. Again, Mia shook her head. 'They aren't mine,' she said. 'The rich lady has two daughters. Maybe the earrings are theirs. My jewellery is a necklace. It isn't expensive but it's precious to me.'



The mermaid dived again and held up Mia's necklace. 'That's mine!

30 Thank you!' said Mia gratefully. The mermaid smiled. 'You're very honest. Here, these earrings and bracelet are mine. You can have them all.'

Mia went home and told her sister
35 about the mermaid. 'This jewellery is ours,' she said happily.



The next day, Sara threw her father's necklace in the lake. Again, the mermaid appeared. 'I dropped my jewellery,' said Sara. The mermaid dived down and returned with a sparkly diamond ring.
40 'Is this ring yours?' she asked. 'Yes. It's mine!' said Sara excitedly. The mermaid threw the ring back into the lake. 'You're dishonest,' she said and disappeared. Sara was left with nothing.



What can you learn from the story?