A Fright, a Frolic, and a Farewell*

Key Concepts

1. A sudden change in salinity and strong, storm waves are just a few of many life-threatening hazards tidepool creatures face.
2. Without their shells, hermit crabs are very vulnerable to predation and injury.

Teaching Hints

Read chapter 17 of Pagoo with students.

Chapter Summary

Pagoo seeks shelter from the fresh rain water in a canyon crowded with other creatures having the same intentions. The undertow current grows strong. Huge waves crash against the cliffs and churn and toss the sea bottom. Instinct tells Pagoo to sit tight. His shell gets cracked, but he is safe. The creatures that survive begin eating those who did not. Pagoo finds a Wavy Top for his new home, not realizing it has a hole in it until he gets poked! Pagoo turns on his attackers who pull inside their shells. But when they discover Pagoo is not entirely protected, they turn on him. He leaves the shell and “outruns” the other hermit crabs.

Key Word

undertow - the current beneath the surface that sets seaward or along the beach

Extension

Challenge students to conduct research and report on tsunamis.