

Big Al
By Andrew Clements Yoshi

Parts:	Narrator 1	Narrator 2	Narrator 3
	Narrator 4	Fish 1	Fish 2
	Fish 3	Big Al	

Narrator 1: In the wide blue sea there was a very friendly fish named Big Al. You could not find a nicer fish.

Big Al: “Hi!”

Narrator 2: But Big Al was also very, very, scary.

Narrator 3: Other fish seemed to have at least one friend. Some had many. But Big Al had none.

Narrator 4: He did not really blame the other fish.

Big Al: “How can I expect little fish to trust me...a great big fish with eyes and skin and teeth like these?”

Narrator 1: So Big Al was lonely, and cried big salty tears into the big salty sea.

Narrator 2: But Big Al really wanted friends, so he worked at it.

Narrator 3: First he tried wrapping himself up with seaweed.

Big Al: “This is a great disguise!”

Narrator 4: But no one else thought so. Who wants to stop and talk to a floating plant that has big sharp teeth?

Big Al: “I know, what if I puffed myself up all big and round, the other fish would laugh and see how clever and silly I can be?!”

Narrator 1: All they saw was how BIG he could be, and they steered clear.

Narrator 2: Very early one morning, Big Al went down to the bottom and flopped and wiggled himself into the sand until he was almost covered up.

Narrator 3: He looked much smaller. When other fish came near, Big Al talked and joked with them and had a delightful time.

Big Al: “Hey guys, why didn’t the clam share his pearls?”

Fish 1: “How come?”

Big Al: “Because it was shellfish!”

Fish 1: (Laughs) AHHH HA HA HA HA!!

Narrator 4: But then one scratchy little grain of sand got stuck in his gills-and he...and hehe...and he sn...and he SSNEEEEEEEZED.

Big Al: “AAAAAAACHOOOOOOO!”

Narrator 1: When the clouds of sand cleared away, all the other fish were gone.

Narrator 2: Big Al even changed his color one day so he could look like he belonged to a school of tiny fish passing by. He bubbled along with them for a while, laughing and feeling like he was just one of the crowd.

Big Al: “Hi. How ya doin’? Nice day isn’t it? Where are we going?”

Narrator 3: But he was so big and clumsy that when all the tiny fish darted to the left and then quickly back to the right, Big Al just plowed straight ahead. He went bumping and thumping right into the little fish.

Fish 2: "Oomph! Hey, watch where you're going!"

Narrator 4: Before he could even say,

Big Al: "Excuse me,"

Narrator 1: they were gone, and he was all alone again, sadder than ever.

Narrator 2: Just when Big Al was starting to feel sure that he would never have a single friend, something happened.

Narrator 3: He was floating along sadly watching some of the smaller fish, and was wishing they would come closer. As he watched, a net dropped down silently from above, and in an instant, they were caught.

Fish 3: "Oh no! Somebody help us!"

Narrator 4: Big Al forgot all about being lonely,
and he forgot all about being sad.

His eyes bulged out bigger and
rounder than ever, and with a mighty
flip of his tail he opened his mouth
and charged straight at the net!

Big Al: “Here I come!”

Narrator 1: The net was strong, but Big Al was
stronger. He ripped right through it,
and all the little fish rushed out
through the hole.

Fish 1: “Yippee, we’re saved!”

Narrator 2: But when Big Al tried to turn around
and go out of the hole, he got all
tangled up in the net. He was stuck!

Big Al: “Uh oh...I can’t...get...loose.”

Narrator 3: The net went higher and higher toward the bright surface of the sea, and the little fish watched Big Al as he disappeared above them.

Narrator 4: The fish were finally able to speak again.

Fish 2: “That huge, wonderful fish saved us!”

Fish 3: “It’s so great to be free!”

Fish 1: “What a shame that big fellow was captured!”

Narrator 1: Just then there was a tremendous, crashing splash above them, and the small fish dashed away. Was it the net again?

Narrator 2: Not at all—it was Big Al. Those fishermen took one look at him, and threw him right back into the ocean.

Narrator 3: And now there is one huge, puffy,
scary, fierce-looking fish in the sea
who has more friends than anyone
else.

Narrator 4: Big Al.