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Visiting Master Writing Class

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The Kelp Forest

The cold seawater envelopes me. I can taste the salt on my tongue. I can smell the sea spray when I come up for air. There is no smell or taste in the world that I’d welcome more. Everything about the sea around me is beautiful: the clear blue water, the tall kelp stalks stretching to the surface, the fish swimming beneath my feet, the blue sky and its bright sun above me.

The ocean brings a perfect combination of nature and beauty. All life began in the sea and, to feel life at its greatest intensity, one must return to it. The water invigorates me; mind, body and soul. The ocean is where I’m most alive.

The kelp beds are a denizen of living creatures. They come in all shapes, colors and sizes. An enormous yellowfin tuna, swims beneath me. A spotted leopard shark, weaves between the kelp stalks. A sleek and shiny bonito darts past me. A red snapper nibbles at the kelp near my foot. A golden garibaldi drifts up lazily from the seafloor.

The marine forest beneath me is not so different from the forests of the land. The great yellow stalks of kelp are its trees. The bright green seagrass and purple coral that cover the ocean floor are its undergrowth. Rays of sunshine enter through the crystal-clear canopy, but little light reaches the bottom. The aquatic habitat is home to all sorts of creatures that perform all manner of necessary of functions: prey, predators, scavengers and myself, the visitor who comes to witness the this world’s wonders and then withdraws.

The world beneath the waves is hidden from most land creatures, but I am one of the fortunate few who can explore it. I can see its beauty and its grace; its power to give life and its power to awaken the senses. I can feel its strange energy coursing through me.

As I take a deep breath and descend into the depths below, I turn my head to observe every inch of my surroundings. I can see fish, dim rays of sunlight and a seal that zips happily through the water. For the brief minute or so that I can remain submerged, I become a part of the aquatic world around me.