

Finn the Flamingo

Finn wasn't like all of the other flamingos. His friends and family, who lived with him on the Galapagos Islands, could balance on one leg for 3 or 4 hours at a time. But Finn could only balance for a few seconds and everyone in his flock knew it.

His parents suggested that he should take ballet lessons to help his balance. So the next morning, he flew across the clear, blue water to the other side of the islands to see Penny the penguin, who taught ballet. His first class didn't go well. He spent most of the time on the floor. But the more he practised, the better he became.

Finn's so called friends Frank, Felix and Fletcher overheard him telling his mum and dad about the progress he was making in ballet, and they started to tease him. They called him names and excluded him from games. Finn told his parents how sad he felt because of how his friends were behaving. But dancing made him feel so happy and free.

The Galapagos Gala was approaching. It was held every year on the evening of the Summer Solstice. The Gala was held at the Royal Galapagos Hall, a circular open-air theatre close to the beach. The islands biggest stars showed off their talents to all of the animals who lived there. The sea lions were amazing singers, the penguins played the piano, the iguanas did impressions and the giant tortoise tap danced.

No-one had ever performed a ballet during the show. But Penny had a plan. She wanted everyone in Finn's flock to see how talented he was. He had worked so hard this last year. Penny was so pleased with her students' pleas and pas de bourres. So, she decided to create a ballet for the finale with Finn as the principal dancer.

The longest day of the year had arrived and the air was full of excitement. The show began and the other acts came and went. The sea lions sang their songs, the penguins played the piano, the iguanas did their impressions and the giant tortoise tap danced the night away. The crowd loved the show so far.

Now it was time for the ballet. Finn gracefully glided around the stage. He captured everyone's attention with his ability. As the music crescendoed, Finn performed his last movement, the one he had been so nervous about as he didn't have his trusty ballet barre to steady him. But all his practise paid off. He held his arabesque beautifully. The crowds erupted in applause. Clapping and cheering with everyone else were Frank, Felix and Fletcher. They were stunned by Finn's amazing performance and they felt ashamed at the way they had treated their friend.

The following day, Finn found that he was able to stand amongst his flock on one leg. Not only that, when he turned up to his next ballet class, there were three new students...Frank, Felix and Fletcher.