

The Brave Little Turtle by Gill McBurnet

'I'll race you to the ocean!' Shouted the brave little turtle...

Of all my memories my mom reading *The Brave Little Turtle* by Gill McBurnet to me at bedtime is by far the earliest. Every night before I fell asleep I would beg my mom to read it. At one point I even had memorized the entire book cover to cover. One of the reasons I was entranced by *The Brave Little Turtle* was because of Nani. I was astonished how someone as timid and careful as I was could be a real hero. This changed me in more ways than one. One thing that changed about me was that I became more confident in myself. I had completely convinced myself that I was like Nani the turtle, I was brave inside. All I had to do was reach my inner bravery. Another way that I changed was that I was much more aware of the world around me and I saw every animal with a story. A spider on a leaf wasn't just a bug. It was Teddy the Spider trying valiantly to find his friend.

The second thing about the story that caught my attention was much more important to me. It was how Lono was hurt by the people's garbage. In my mind it was nothing short of murder. How could someone want to throw something away if they knew that it would hurt a sea animal or pollute the sea? The fact that my world wasn't as perfect as I thought it was changed my view of everything. Instead of watching TV in my spare time, I walked around the neighborhood with my mom picking up trash. I was determined to save turtles like Lono and stop the trash from hurting the environment.

Another way I changed is I started to think of ways I could not only reduce the problem, but help the solution. Every time I went on a vacation that had turtles nearby I would scour the water for trash. As I went to more and more places I learned about how hatchlings would hatch, but crawl in the wrong direction because of lights that they thought were the moon. I went online and found an organization that tried to prevent that from happening and saved turtles it was **National Save the Sea Turtle Foundation**¹ convinced to save the sea turtles I donated what little money I had to the Foundation. I didn't care that I had lost my money. I knew that I had made a difference and that somewhere, somehow, I had saved a sea turtle.

As you can see *The Brave Little Turtle* changed my view of the world very drastically, I would like to urge young readers everywhere to read *The Brave Little Turtle* in the hopes that the book would change their lives as much as it did mine. I also want to spread the message that when you litter, the trash doesn't just disappear. It turns up in oceans, trees and rivers. It hurts the birds, the marine life, and others. If the next generation reads this book and their lives are changed so they start making a

difference the world will become a better place. To change something big, you don't have to take on everything, just a small part of the world around you. Reading this book, my life was changed. If you read *The Brave Little Turtle* yours might be too. So give it a try. Just be prepared, to make a difference.

¹<http://savetheseaturtle.org/> (954) 351-9333