Vira Sings
For Her Sandals

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Vira is 7 years old and comes from Supizae Island in the Choiseul Province. Vira lives by the sea with her mother, father and baby brother. Vira’s father is a fisherman and her mother dyes lava lavas to sell at the market.
Vira wanted a new pair of sandals for school. When she asked her parents they told her she would have to save up some money first to buy her sandals.

Vira was quite upset at first, as she really wanted new sandals, but she began to make seashell necklaces to sell at the market.
With every necklace Vira sold, she saved the money in a small tin. Each day she counted her money but still didn’t have enough.
One day after school, the headmaster told all the students that there would be a talent competition at the end of the term. The prize was a new pair of sandals for the best performer!
Vira was so excited she ran home to tell her parents. She was going to enter the competition and sing.

Vira practised singing her song every day after school. She sang by the sea, she sang by the trees, she sang while she swept the floor.
On the day of the talent show, Vira woke up feeling sad. Her mother asked, “What is wrong my dear?”

Vira replied, “I am scared Mummy. I might not win the sandals.”
Vira’s mother hugged her and looked her in the eye. She told her she had practised very hard and she would do well. This made Vira feel better.
At the talent show, Vira waited for her turn to sing. When it was time, Vira opened her mouth to sing her song. When she was done, everyone clapped at her performance. Vira was proud of herself.
When it was time to announce the winner, the headmaster called Vira’s name for best performer. She had won her first pair of sandals!

Vira was so happy! She had practised hard to win. Now she could walk to school in her new sandals.
You can use these questions to talk about this book with your family, friends and teachers.

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