The First Glitterling

Eithne Gallagher
There was once a Glitterling.

A what-a-ling?

A Glitterling!!
It lived with other Glitterlings in Ms Glyn’s classroom.
Now here’s the thing about Glitterlings...

...guess what?

They are **polyglots**!

Poly whats?

**POLYGLOTS!**
Poly means many.

Glot means tongue.

what

tongue
No, no, no!
Glitterlings don’t look like that!
A polyglot is someone who can speak or use different languages.

to speak __________________________

hello __________________________
All the **Glitterlings** are polyglots. Being a polyglot is wonderful. You can talk to people from other places in the world.

**hola**
Each and every one of us can be a **polyglot**. **You** can be a polyglot, too.
Just listen carefully when you hear other languages. That's what the first Glitterling did.
Way up high on planet **Glitterling**, two stars left of the moon, he listened to all the talking floating up from Earth.
He heard many different language sounds. But one voice was singing a beautiful song.
He decided to follow that song all the way down to Earth.
There, in a bright and noisy classroom a little girl was singing as she squeezed and splodged her art dough. Her name was Messy Tessy.
At first the Glitterling couldn’t understand anything. He only knew the language he spoke on planet Glitterling. He felt lonely.
But as he listened, an extraordinary thing began to happen.

A gleaming sparkly glow of light appeared on his head.
Sometimes he thought in Glitterling words and sometimes he thought in English words.
He loved to listen to the children telling stories in their home languages.

Slowly, slowly, the Glitterling started to learn the children’s languages as well as English.
And what extraordinary thing happened?

More sparkly glowing colours appeared.

slowly

colours
Finally, one blustery, breezy day the little Glitterling felt brave enough to talk to Tessy.
‘My name is Glit,’ he smiled. ‘I’m from planet Glitterling, two stars left of the moon.’

‘Hello my name is Tessy,’ she replied. The Glitterling’s feet felt soft and tingly in her hand.
Small babies can hear different languages and respond to them.

Mandarin Chinese is the language spoken by the most people in the world.

Knowing more than one language helps to make you brainy.