Once upon a time, there lived a mommy lobster in a big house under the coral reef. She carried her eggs under her belly, all the way from her home in the coral reef to the edge of the forbidden zone.

It was at that very moment that the mommy lobster became very sad. She knew that it was time to leave her eggs behind so that they could go off on their own and grow up to be adult lobsters. The mommy lobster left all of her children behind and started the long journey back to her coral reef home.
All of a sudden, there was a loud ‘pop’ and one of the eggs hatched to reveal Gerald, a tiny phyllosome larva. This was the beginning of Gerald’s 6 to 10 month journey throughout the Caribbean. Gerald struggled out into the open ocean where his journey awaited. In preparation, he transformed and evolved 11 times, finally becoming a beautiful puerulus larva that swam from the open ocean into the shallows.
Gerald didn’t know where he was, but his instincts told him he needed to find a nice place to settle, like a soft algae bed, safe mangrove roots, seagrass beds or sponges. Gerald knew that in these places he would be protected from the dangerous creatures from the forbidden zone that would want to eat him. He finally settled in a nice mangrove root house and lived there for many months.
Each month, the Mangrove Council measured all of the juveniles to give them the o-k to move from the mangroves further out to sea. On the 11th month, Gerald stood high and mighty and measured exactly 0.64 inches — he got the o-k and was free to leave! Even though he would miss all of his friends from his mangrove house, Gerald was ready to explore the new world.
Gerald traveled to the beautiful sponge and coral garden he had heard so many stories about. With all of the beautiful colors and diverse animals, he immediately knew he was in the right place! After much decision-making, Gerald found a nice spot in a coral crevice that would serve as his new reef home.
One day, Gerald was out for his daily hunting and saw far in the distance a mouthwatering piece of plankton. Without caution, he swam out in the open to retrieve the plankton and before he knew it Octavia the octopus was chasing him down.

Gerald swam as fast as he could but Octavia was much faster and much larger than he was. Just as Octavia caught up to Gerald, a huge green moray eel launched for Octavia and won the battle! Eli the eel and Gerald quickly became the best of friends.
On Gerald's 2nd birthday he met the love of his life, whose name was Laura the lobster. She had the most beautiful spotted carapace and she convinced Gerald to move with her and all of her lobster friends to a rocky house full of lobsters on the other side of the reef.

Before long, Laura started the whole cycle over again and gave life to another lobster, Gerald Junior.