

Jeremiah the Jellyfish

There once was a little boy jellyfish named Jeremiah. He lived in the ocean, with all other kinds of fish. He was an adventurous jellyfish, who loved to swim in the sea. He would ride the tide and float in the waves everyday. Jeremiah would sometimes get so excited playing, that he'd forget about his curfew. His father always told him, "Be in by dark Jeremiah, the ocean is a dangerous place at night."

But Jeremiah would always say, "I'm not afraid!"

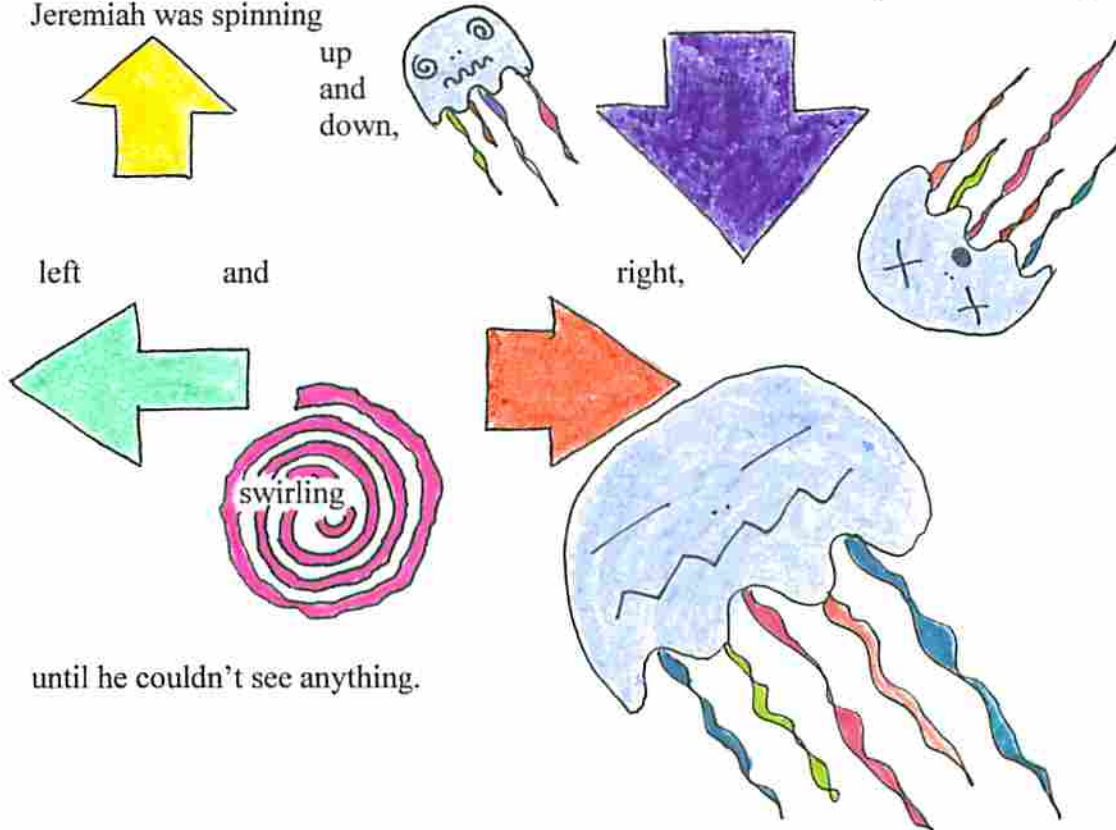


One day, when Jeremiah was gliding and sliding through the tide, his father came out to warn him. "Jeremiah, the sun is going down in a few minutes. It's time to come in now." But Jeremiah was having too much fun. "Forget the sun, Dad. I know my way home in the dark!"

But Jeremiah's father was having none of that. "Jeremiah Barnacle Jellyfish, you get your tentacles in here right now or you can't ride the tide for a week!"

"I don't care!" yelled Jeremiah, and he jumped into the tide. His father chased after him. The current was stronger than usual, and it began to pull Jeremiah farther away. Jeremiah wasn't having much fun anymore. "Help, Daddy! I want to come in now!"

Jeremiah's father chased him, but it was too late. The current swept Jeremiah away. Jeremiah was spinning



until he couldn't see anything.

He felt water all around him, pushing him in different directions. Finally, the movement stopped, and Jeremiah was all alone. The sun had almost set, and Jeremiah didn't know which way home was. He was lost. He was afraid.



He started to swim away from the setting sun, hoping he was headed in the right direction. All Jeremiah could see around him were specks of sand, dirt, and tiny bubbles that floated all around him. No fish. No coral. No seaweed. Just the dark, empty water. Jeremiah started to get very afraid. He began to worry.

What would his Dad think? Which way was home? What if something ate him?

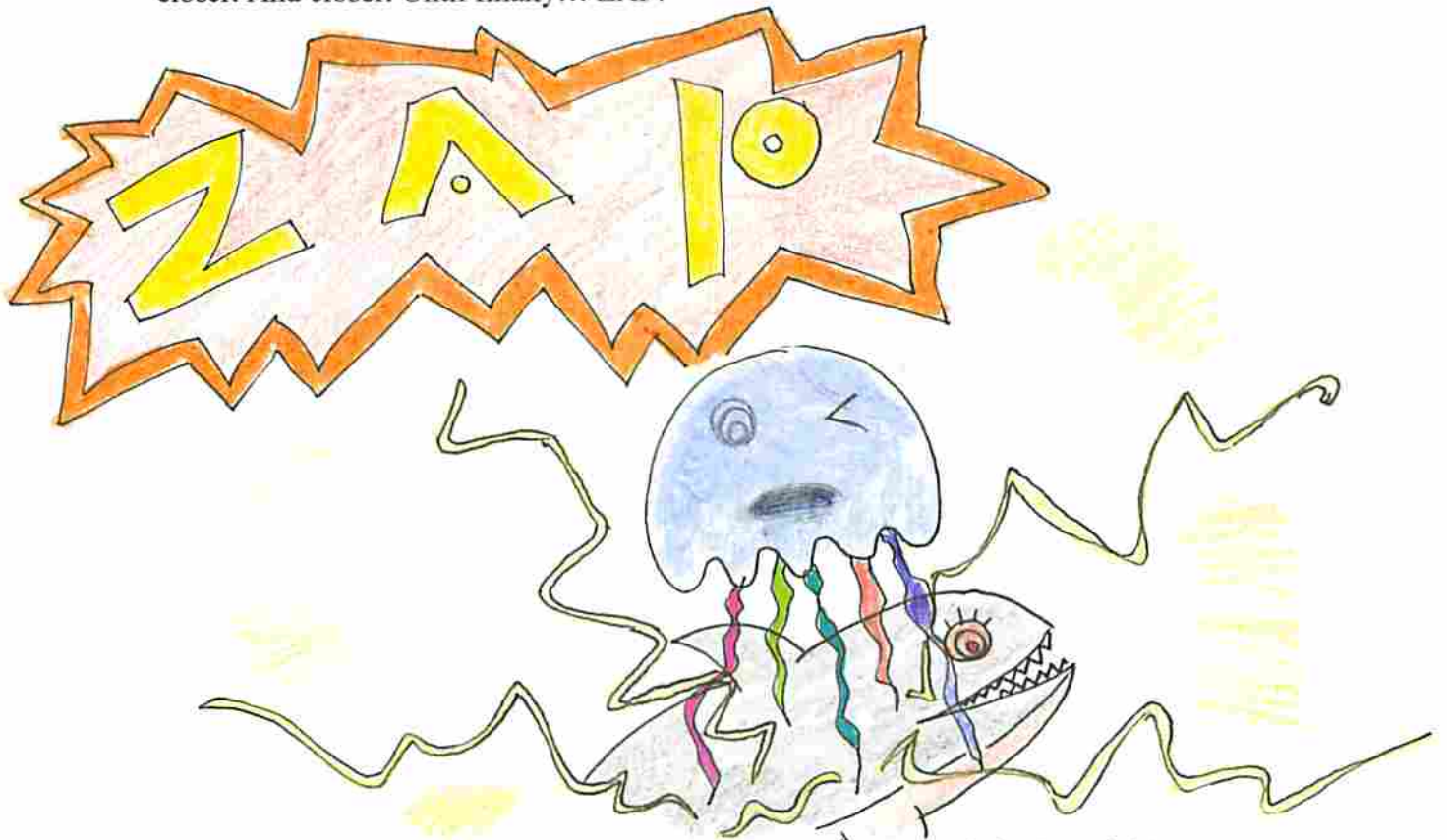
Jeremiah began to swim faster. He knew that the sun would set any minute. The ocean around him began to get darker. And darker. And darker. Until finally...

It was black. Jeremiah could see nothing. He blindly felt his way through the water, hoping that home was close. Until...

Whoosh. A wave. At night?

"Who's there?" cried Jeremiah. Nobody responded.

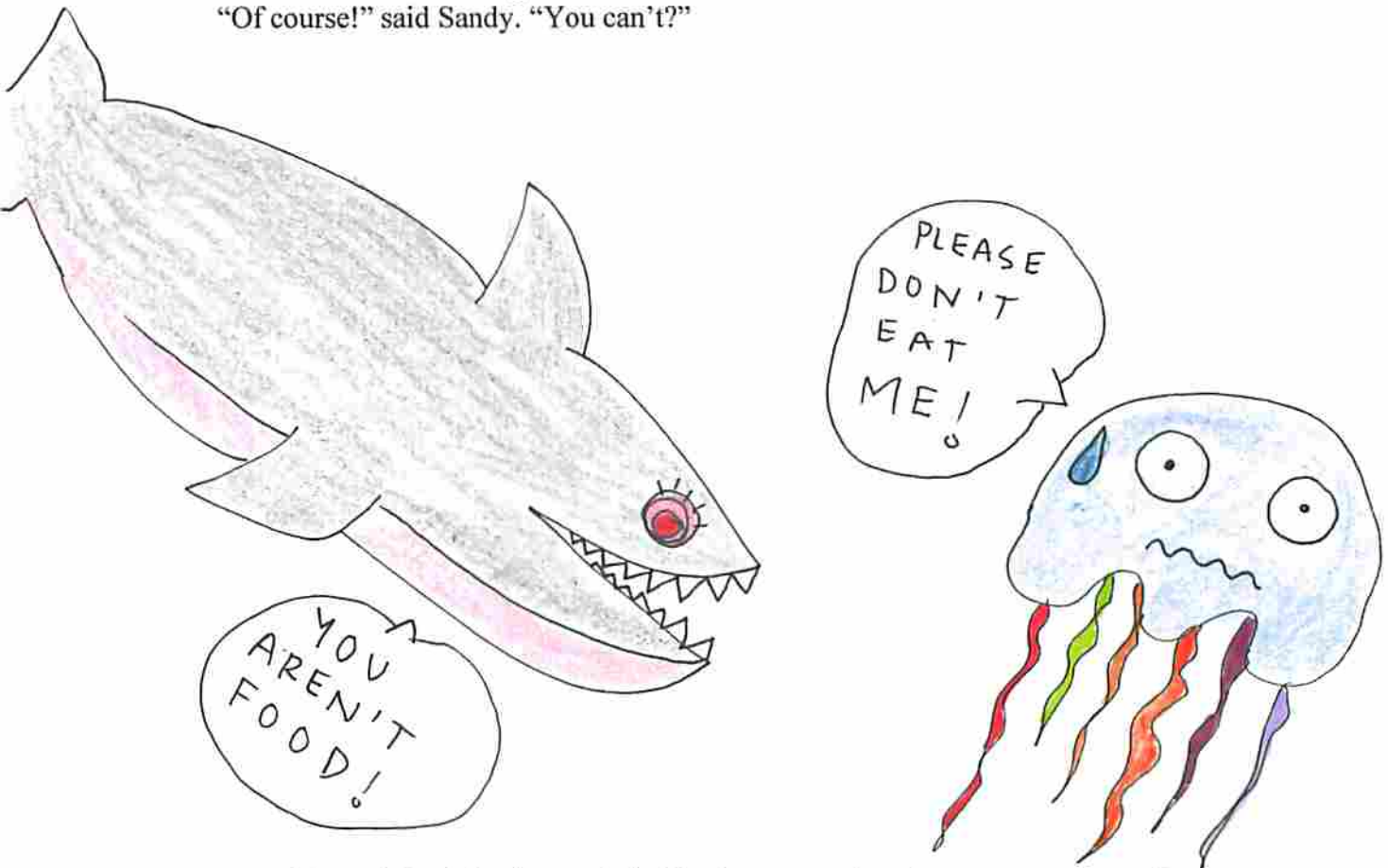
"Anyone?" he questioned. Whoosh. He felt it again. Jeremiah began to shake. Something was close, he could feel it. WHOOSH. He felt something slimy swim under his tentacles. Something BIG. Jeremiah began to swim away. Jeremiah swam as fast as he could, away from the noise. But he was being followed, he could feel it. It was getting closer. And closer. And closer. Until finally... ZAP!



Giant sparks flashed in the water. A small white shark was caught in Jeremiah's tentacles!

“Ouch!” screamed the shark, as she untangled herself from his tentacles.
“I’m sorry!” replied Jeremiah, “I thought you were trying to eat me!”
The shark laughed, “I thought I was going to eat you too! But you’re a jellyfish, and I’m a shark! Sharks don’t eat jellyfish!”
Jeremiah was happy she wasn’t going to eat him.

“What’s your name?” asked the shark.
“Jeremiah. Jeremiah Jellyfish” He said.
“Well I’m Sandy. Sandy Shark.”
“How did you run into me, Sandy?” asked Jeremiah.
“I saw you swimming alone and I thought you might be food. So I came to investigate,” said Sandy.
“You could see me at night?” cried Jeremiah.
“Of course!” said Sandy. “You can’t?”



Jeremiah explained that he was blind in the ocean when the sun went down. Sandy thought this was very funny. But Jeremiah told Sandy about how he got swept away from home. Sandy didn’t laugh, she could see that Jeremiah was sad.

“I want to go home,” said Jeremiah gloomily.

“I can help you Jeremiah!” suggested Sandy. “I know these waters very well, and I think I know where you live. Grab my fin and I’ll get us there in no time. But don’t zap me!” reminded Sandy.

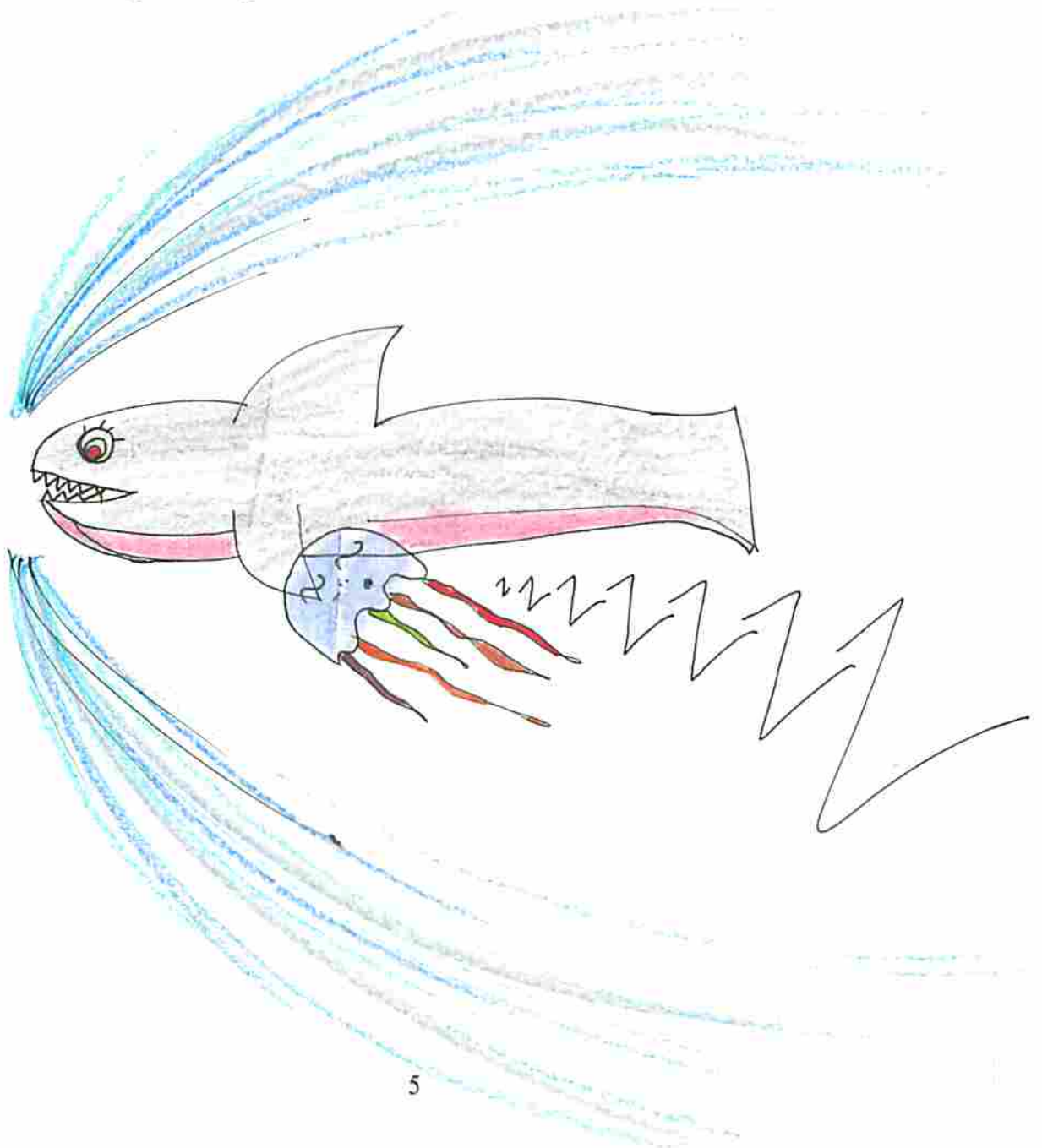
“I won’t!” promised Jeremiah and off they went.

Whoosh! Sandy was a speed demon. She zipped through the water, moving her tail back and forth. Jeremiah had never swum this fast before! Jeremiah held on, but it was still very late. He asked Sandy if they could stop and go to sleep and continue in the morning. “Sharks never stop swimming, you silly!” laughed Sandy.

“What about when you sleep?” asked Jeremiah.

“Never!” repeated Sandy. “But you can if you want. Just hold on tight and I’ll make sure you don’t slip off.”

Jeremiah held on tight and began to doze off.



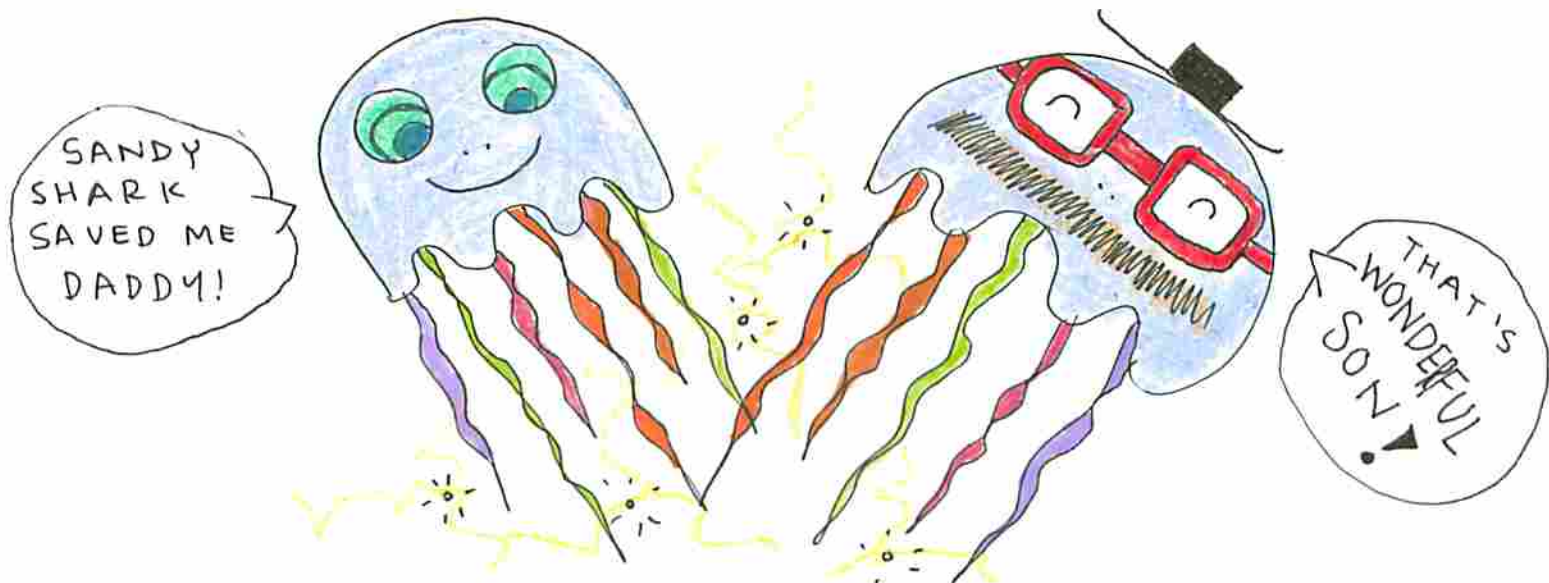
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When Jeremiah awoke, he could see a pink and white shark circling above his head. "Good morning sleepy head!" said Sandy. "Welcome home!" It was true. Jeremiah spun around and looked down at the familiar coral outpost on the seafloor. He was home. He jumped into Sandy's fins and gave her a giant hug.

"Thank you Sandy. If it wasn't for you, I never would've found my way back."
"No problem, but next time, listen to your dad, and look before you zap."
"I will," promised Jeremiah and off Sandy swam.

"Jeremiah Barnacle Jellyfish!" It was Jeremiah's father.
"Dad!" screamed Jeremiah. He pushed himself into his father's tentacles and they exchanged sparks.

"I'm so glad you're safe son." said his father.
"Me too Dad. I'm sorry I swam into the tide. I'll never stay out past dark again. I've learned my lesson."



And Jeremiah really did learn his lesson. He continued to ride the tides everyday and have fun in the sun with his new friend Sandy. But when sunset came, Jeremiah could always be found close to his father, safe and sound.

