

In a very small tide pool
On the beach's east side
Where the sand pipers sleep
And the sea snails reside,

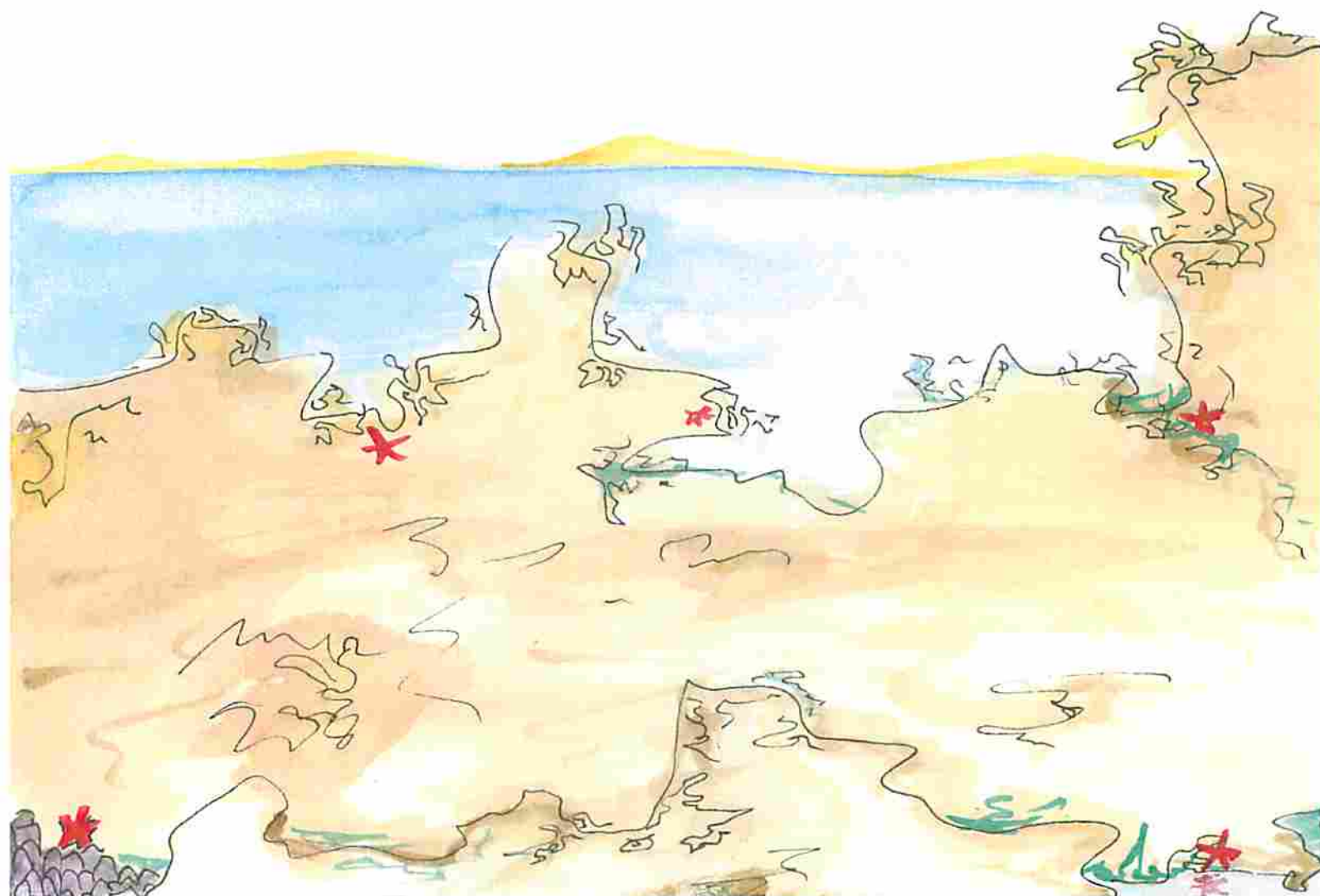


Rests a red and orange starfish

Who sleeps in the sun

And who spent the whole morning

Having no run of fun.





In the earliest hours

Of that very day

Her third of five arms

Was carried away.

A large, green, glass bottle


Had crashed on her rock

And off came her arm

Which was really a shock.

The waves kept on crashing
The poor starfish was scared
That without her third arm
She would be quite impaired.



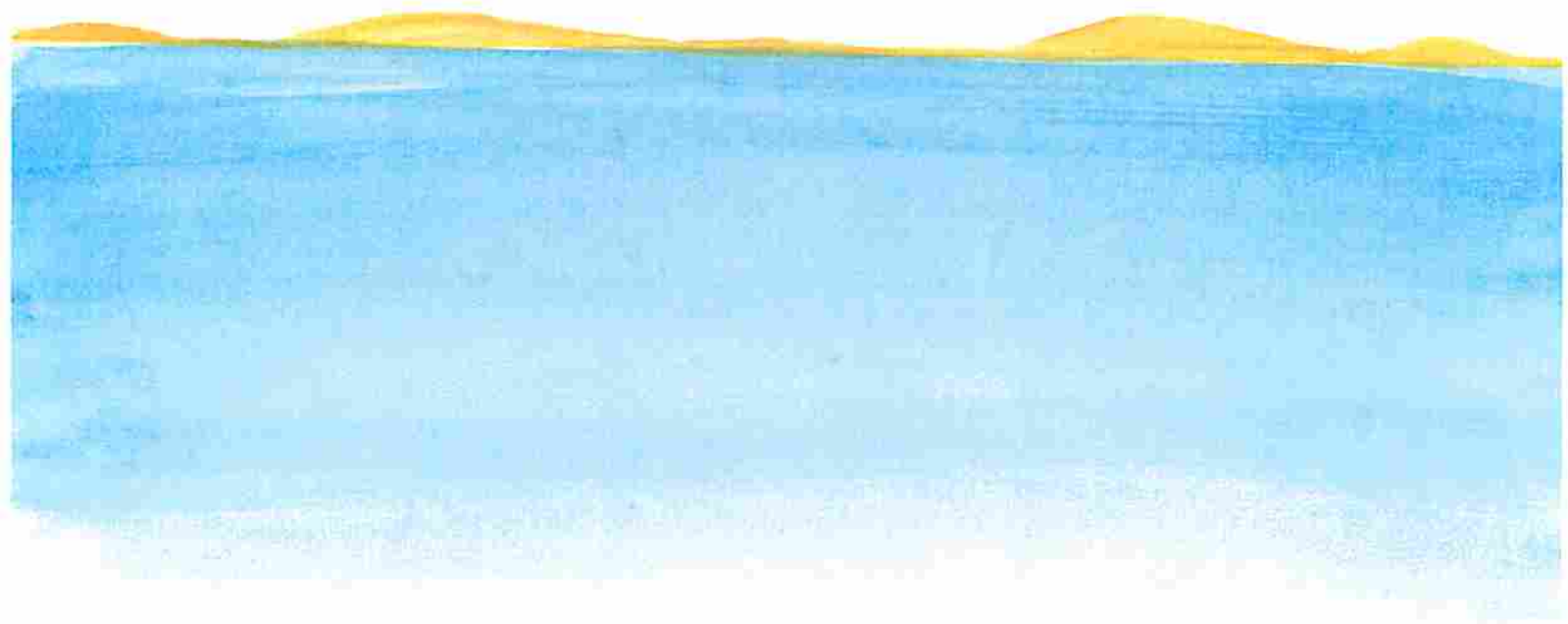


And she was quite right;

For a big wave soon came.

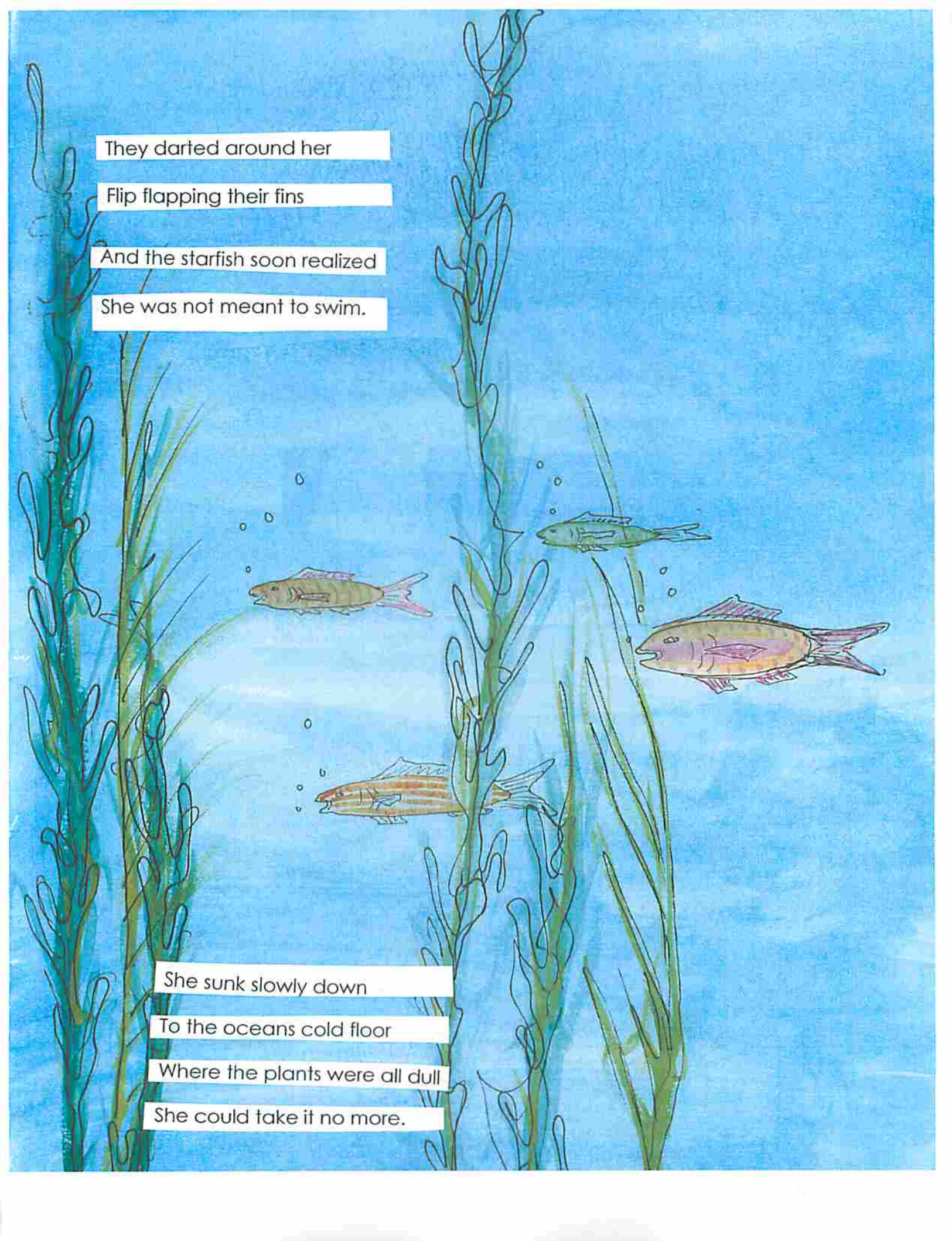
It took her from home

With the bottle to blame.



Her friends were all left
Behind in the pools
As she went off swimming
With fishes in schools.





They darted around her

Flip flapping their fins

And the starfish soon realized

She was not meant to swim.

She sunk slowly down

To the oceans cold floor

Where the plants were all dull

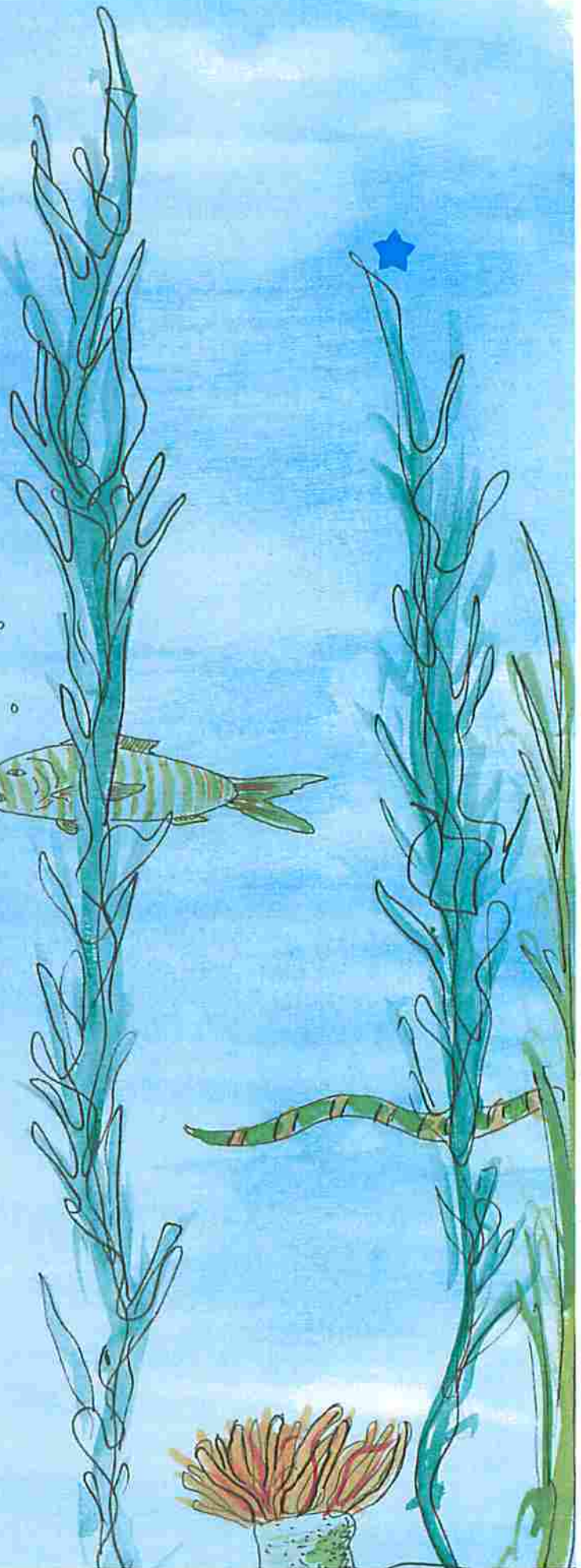
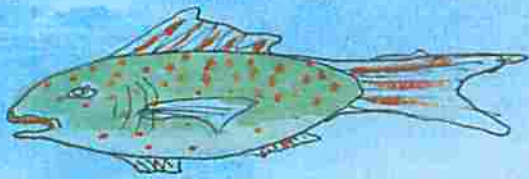
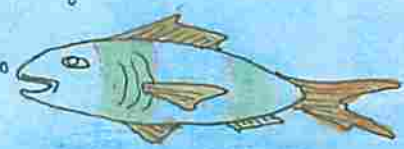
She could take it no more.

She lay there alone

So armless and sad

That she thought she would die there

'Till she saw a king crab





His name was McGoober

And he exclaimed "PISH"

When that morning he spotted

The armless starfish

"What are you doing?"

He said with a grin,

"Trying to escape

From your rockdwelling kin?"

"No, silly king crab

This ain't no vacation!

It isn't my choice

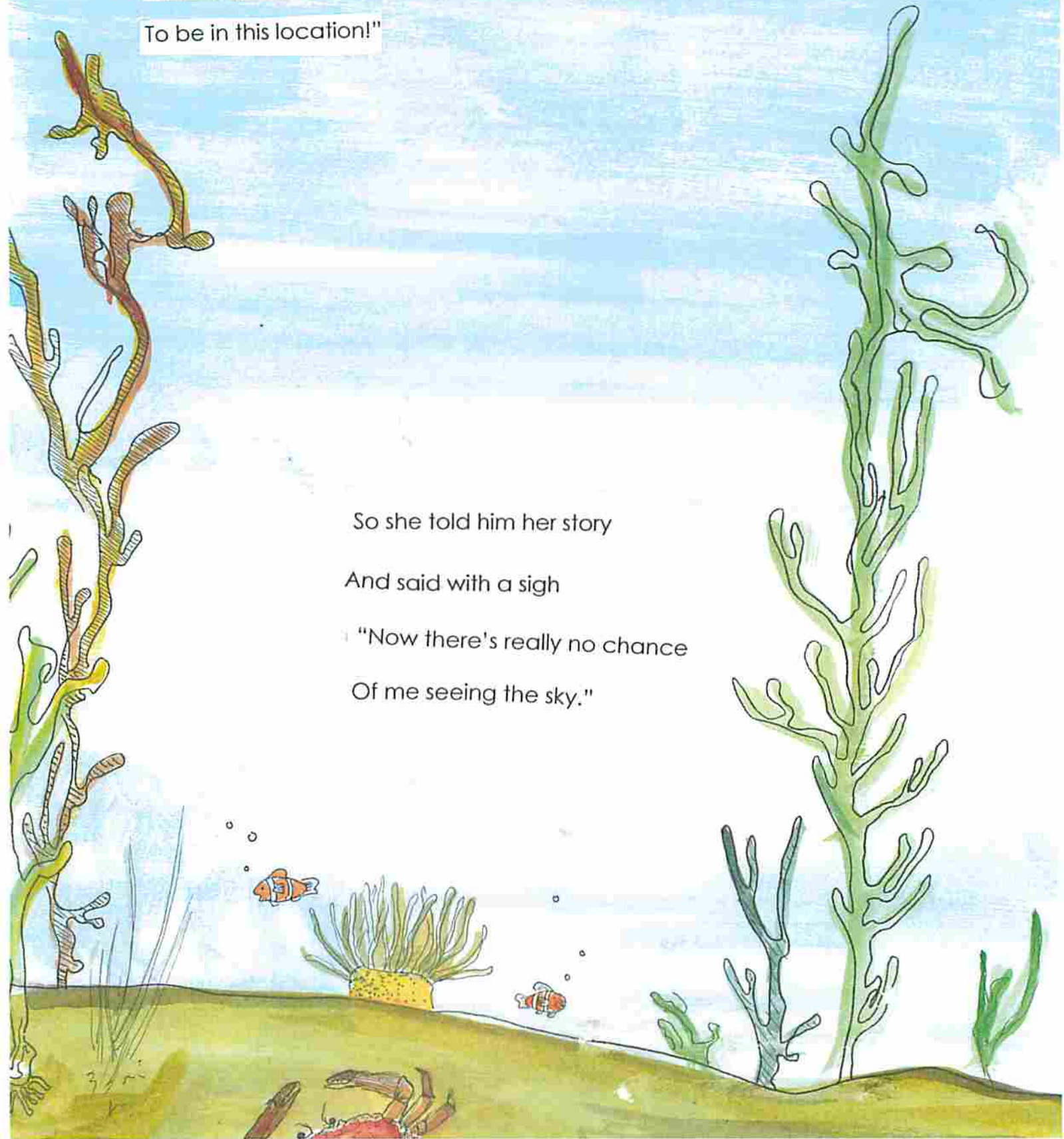
To be in this location!"

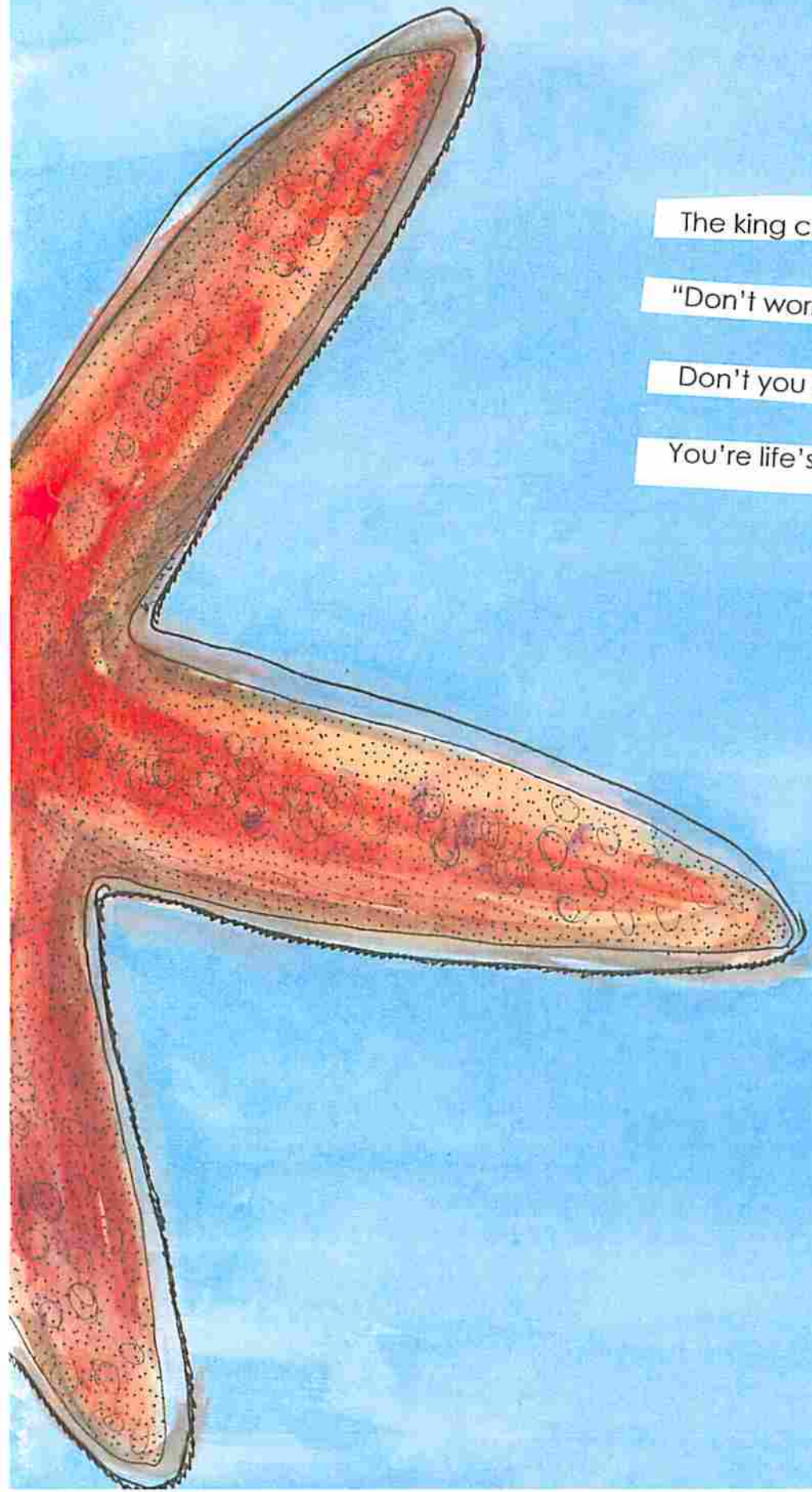
So she told him her story

And said with a sigh

"Now there's really no chance

Of me seeing the sky."





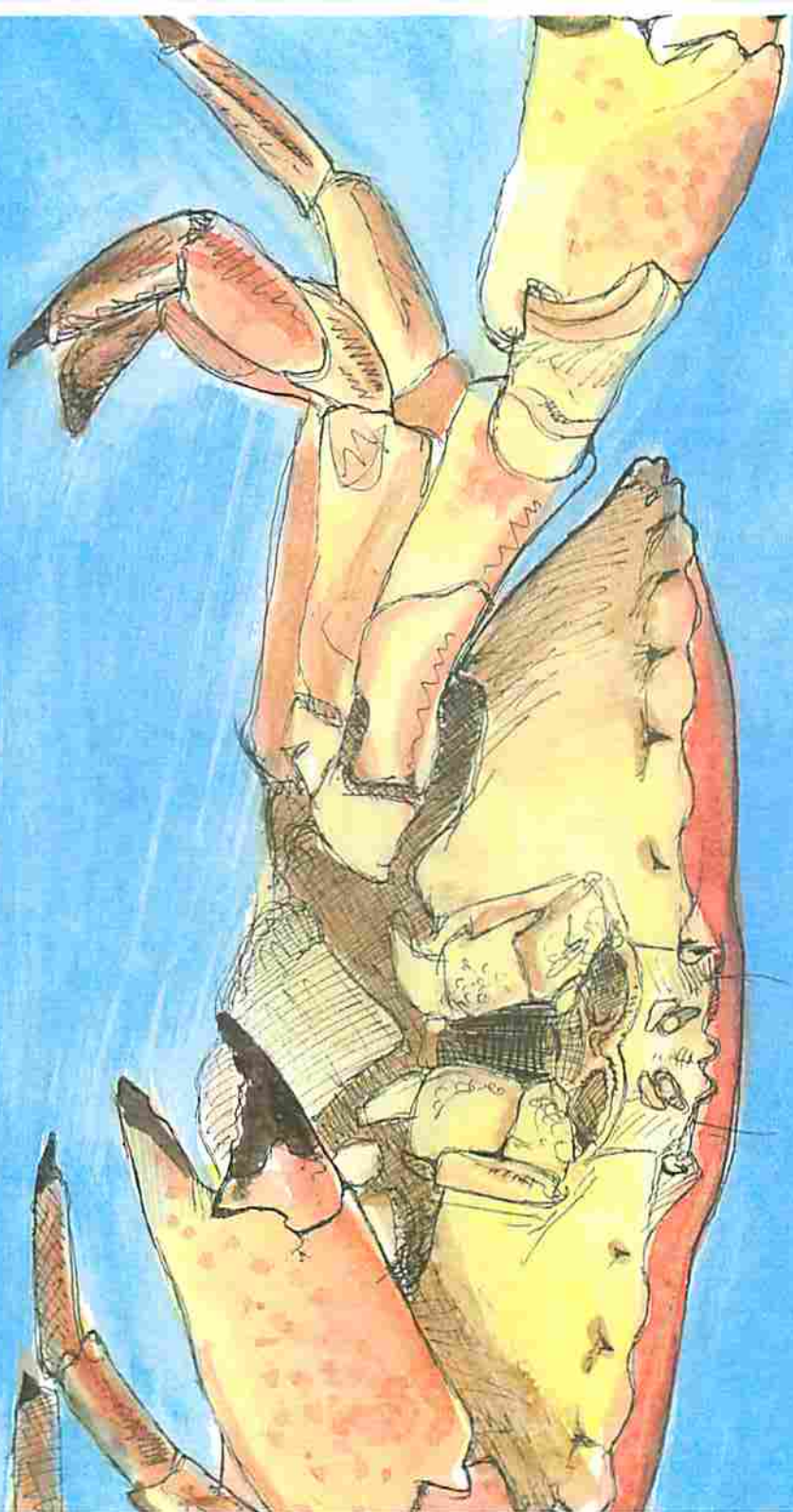
The king crab kept grinning

"Don't worry, don't fret!

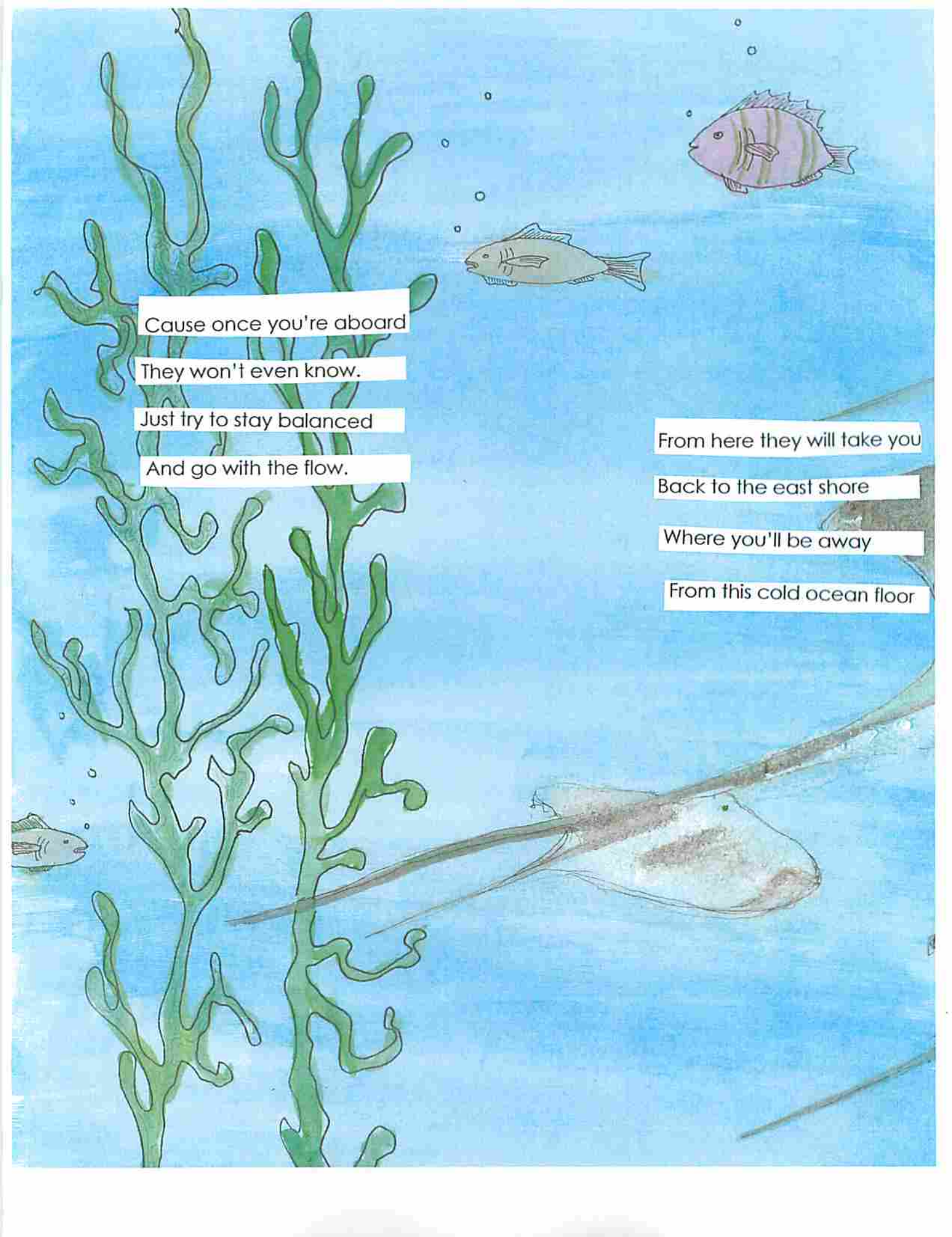
Don't you dare give up hope!

You're life's not over yet!"

"If you let me carry you
Up to the tip-top
Then once we've arrived
I'll just let you drop.



You'll fall a wee bit
Then you'll surely progress
When you hitch a quick ride
On the sting ray express



Cause once you're aboard

They won't even know.

Just try to stay balanced

And go with the flow.

From here they will take you

Back to the east shore

Where you'll be away

From this cold ocean floor

An illustration of a rocky coastline. The sky is a light blue with a faint sun. The water is a darker blue. In the foreground, a large, white, rounded rock formation dominates the center. To its left, another smaller rock formation is visible. In the background, a third rock formation is seen. A large, green, branching coral structure is positioned between the rocks. Several seals are depicted: one is perched on the top of the central rock, another is on the left rock, and a third is on the right rock. A small fish is swimming in the water near the bottom right. The overall style is a simple, colorful drawing.

There's a big rock out there

That's surrounded by seals

And there you can rest

Until your arm heals!

"Oh goodness, oh golly,

Oh gee wiz, oh quack!

Let's set off at once!

I can't wait to get back!"

"Can you walk?" asked McGoober.

"Not really," she said.

"Then let me just call on

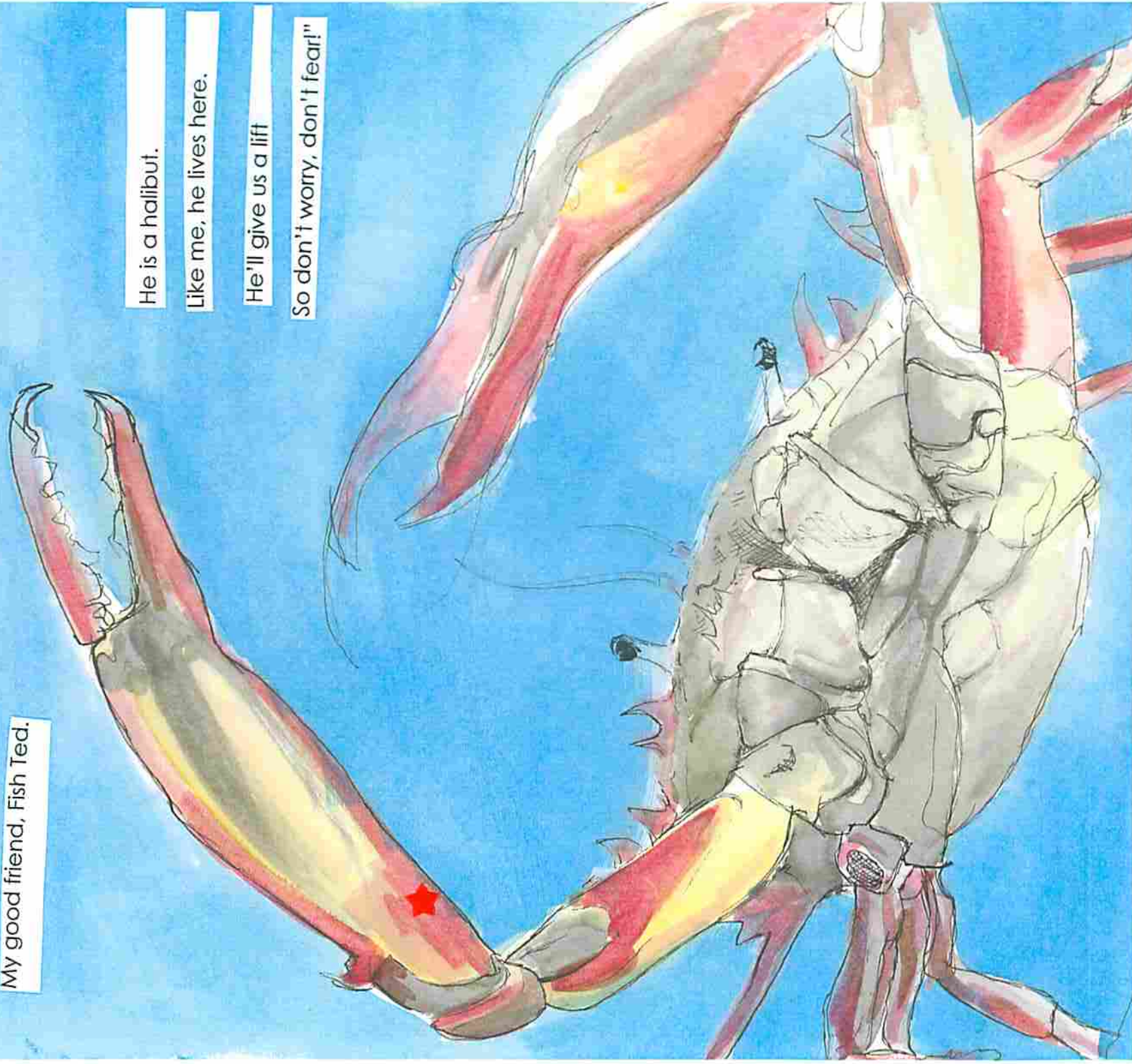
My good friend, Fish Ted.

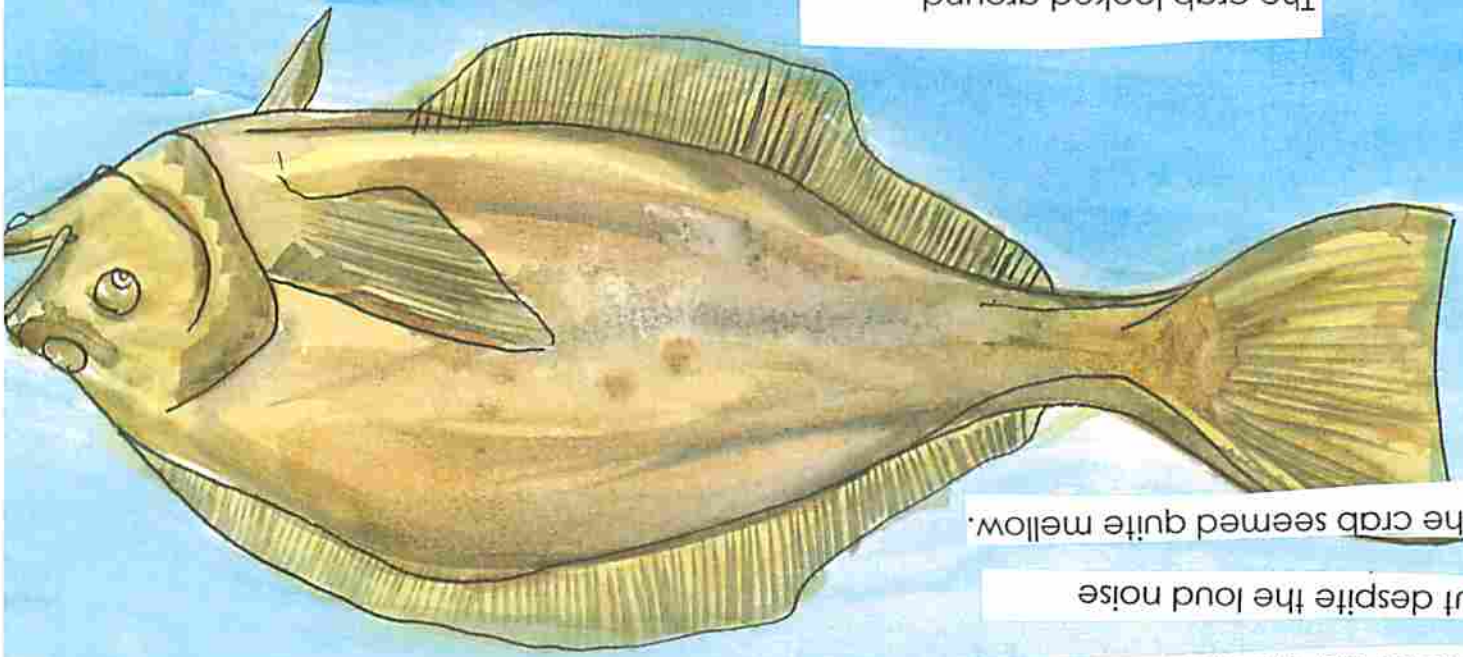
He is a halibut.

Like me, he lives here.

He'll give us a lift

So don't worry, don't fear!"





He took a step back

And let out a bellow

But despite the loud noise

The crab seemed quite mellow.

The crab looked around

It had been quite awhile

Then he finally snapped

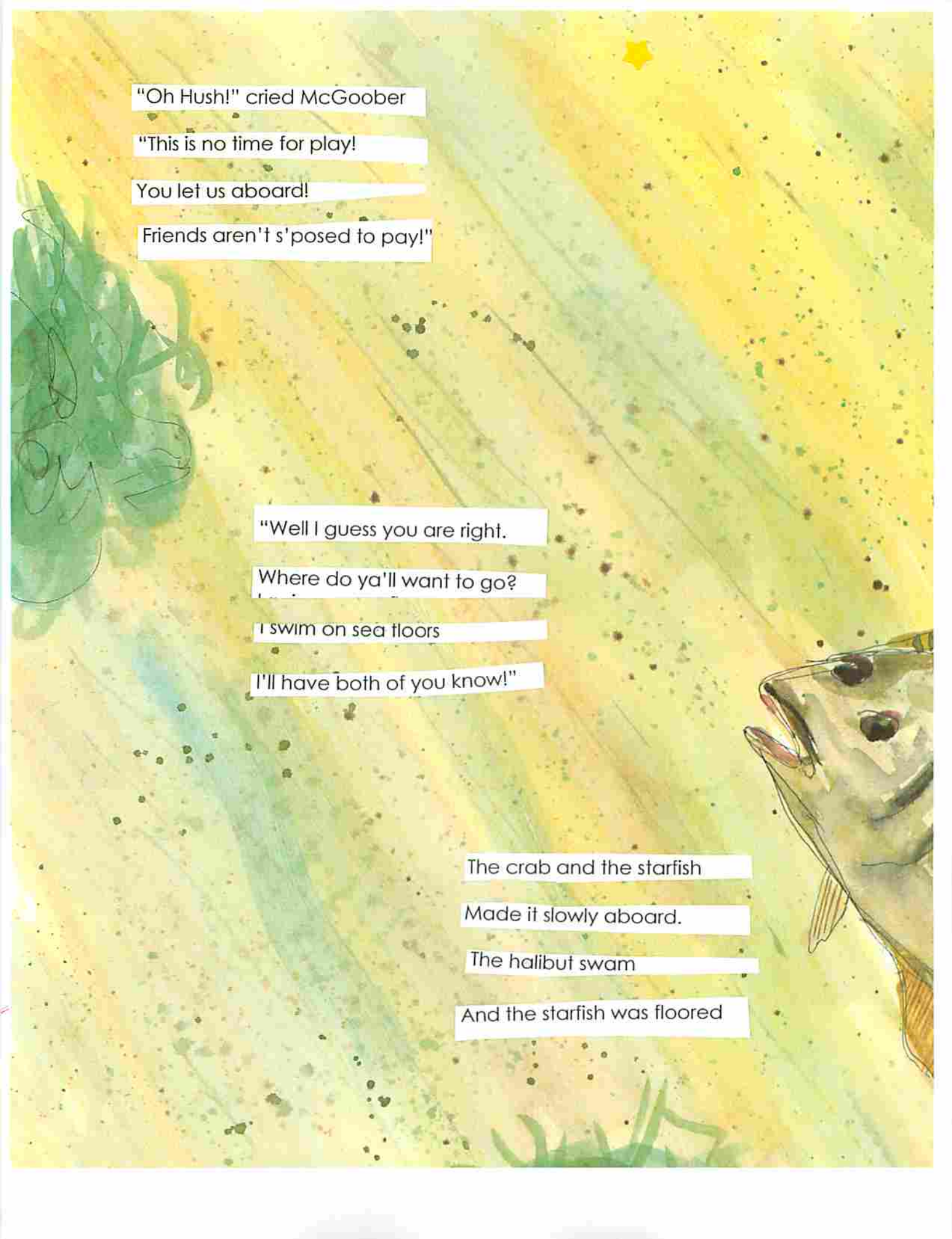
And put on a big smile.

The fish had arrived!

"Are you down on your luck?"

Asked his big, booming voice

"I'll help out for a buck!"



"Oh Hush!" cried McGoober

"This is no time for play!

You let us aboard!

Friends aren't s'posed to pay!"

"Well I guess you are right.

Where do ya'll want to go?

I swim on sea floors

I'll have both of you know!"

The crab and the starfish

Made it slowly aboard.

The halibut swam

And the starfish was floored

All around them there grew

Great green kelp plants so tall

That the poor little starfish

Felt incredibly small.

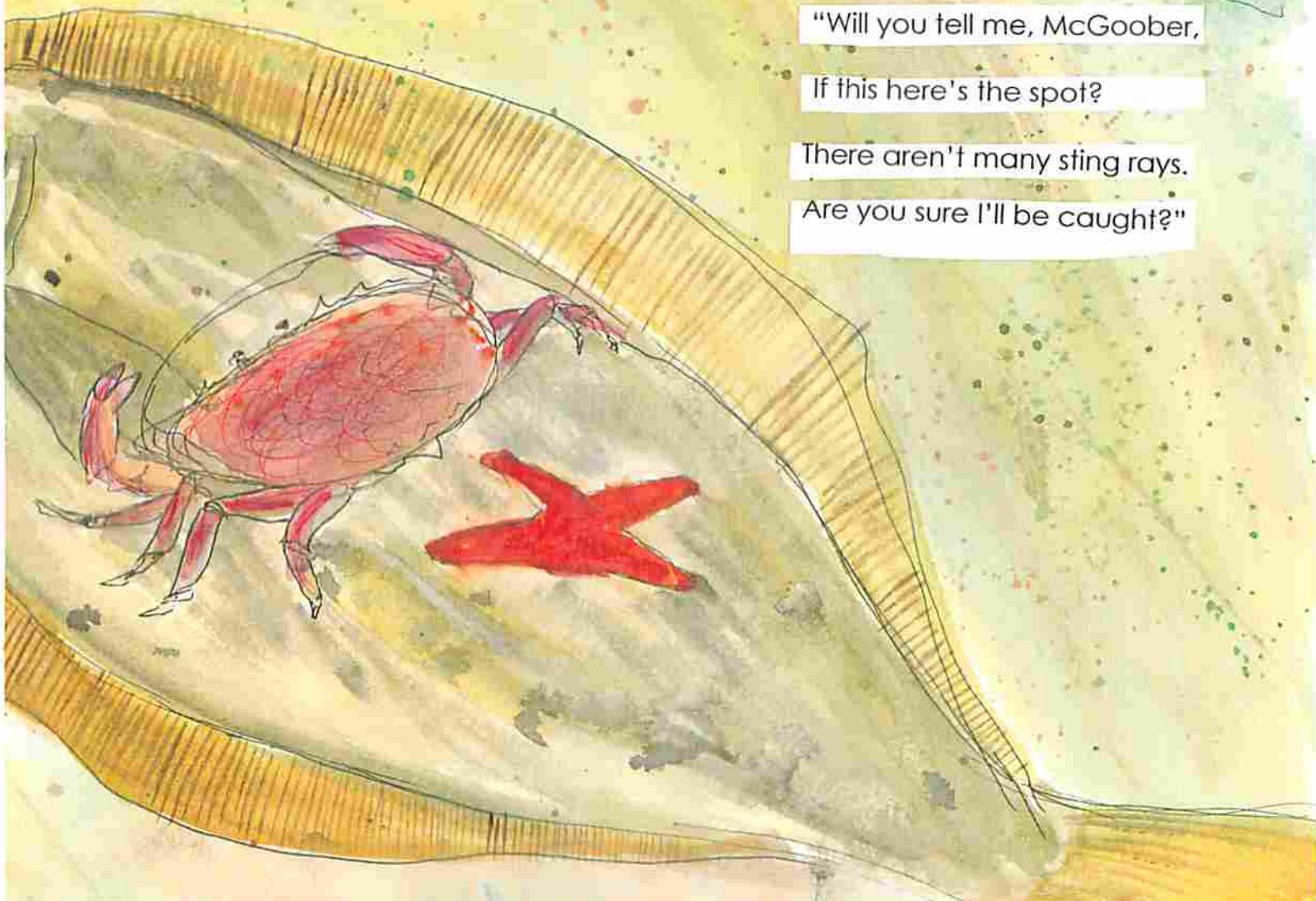


"Will you tell me, McGoober,

If this here's the spot?

There aren't many sting rays.

Are you sure I'll be caught?"



A watercolor illustration of a halibut fish swimming in blue water. The fish is white with a purple dorsal fin and is positioned in the center of the frame. It is surrounded by green seaweed with long, thin blades. The background is a textured blue wash.

The critters got off

Of the halibut fish

And started to climb

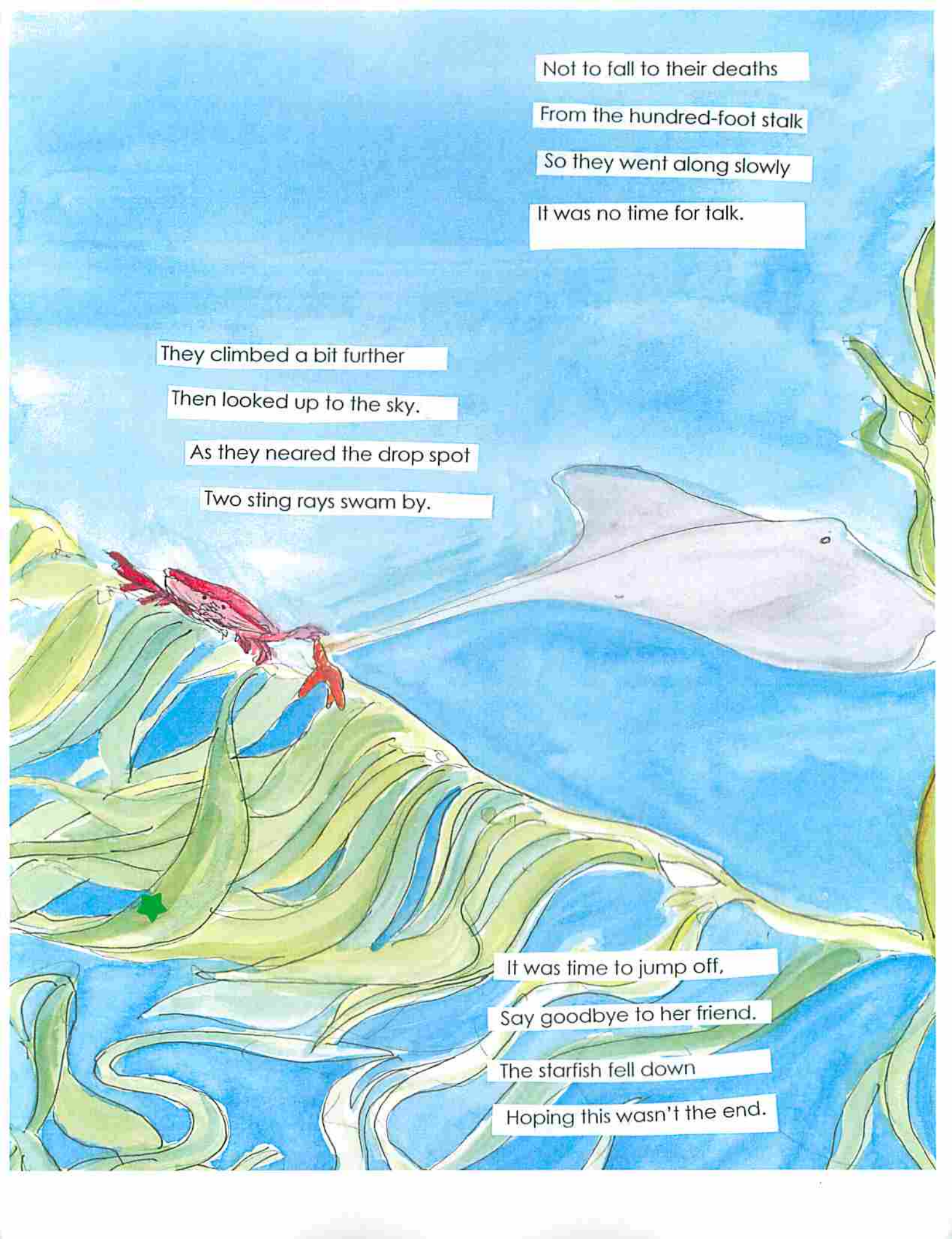
With only one wish:

"Look up, my dear starfish,

They're swimming up there

If you follow my lead

There's no need to beware."

An illustration of a starfish on a piece of seaweed. The starfish is pinkish-red with white spots. The seaweed is green and yellow. In the background, there are two sting rays swimming in blue water. The sky is light blue with some white clouds.

Not to fall to their deaths

From the hundred-foot stalk

So they went along slowly

It was no time for talk.

They climbed a bit further

Then looked up to the sky.

As they neared the drop spot

Two sting rays swam by.

It was time to jump off,

Say goodbye to her friend.

The starfish fell down

Hoping this wasn't the end.

With a "plop" she had landed

On top of a ray

Whose back was quite large

And a good place to stay.

For five or so minutes

They swam along quickly.

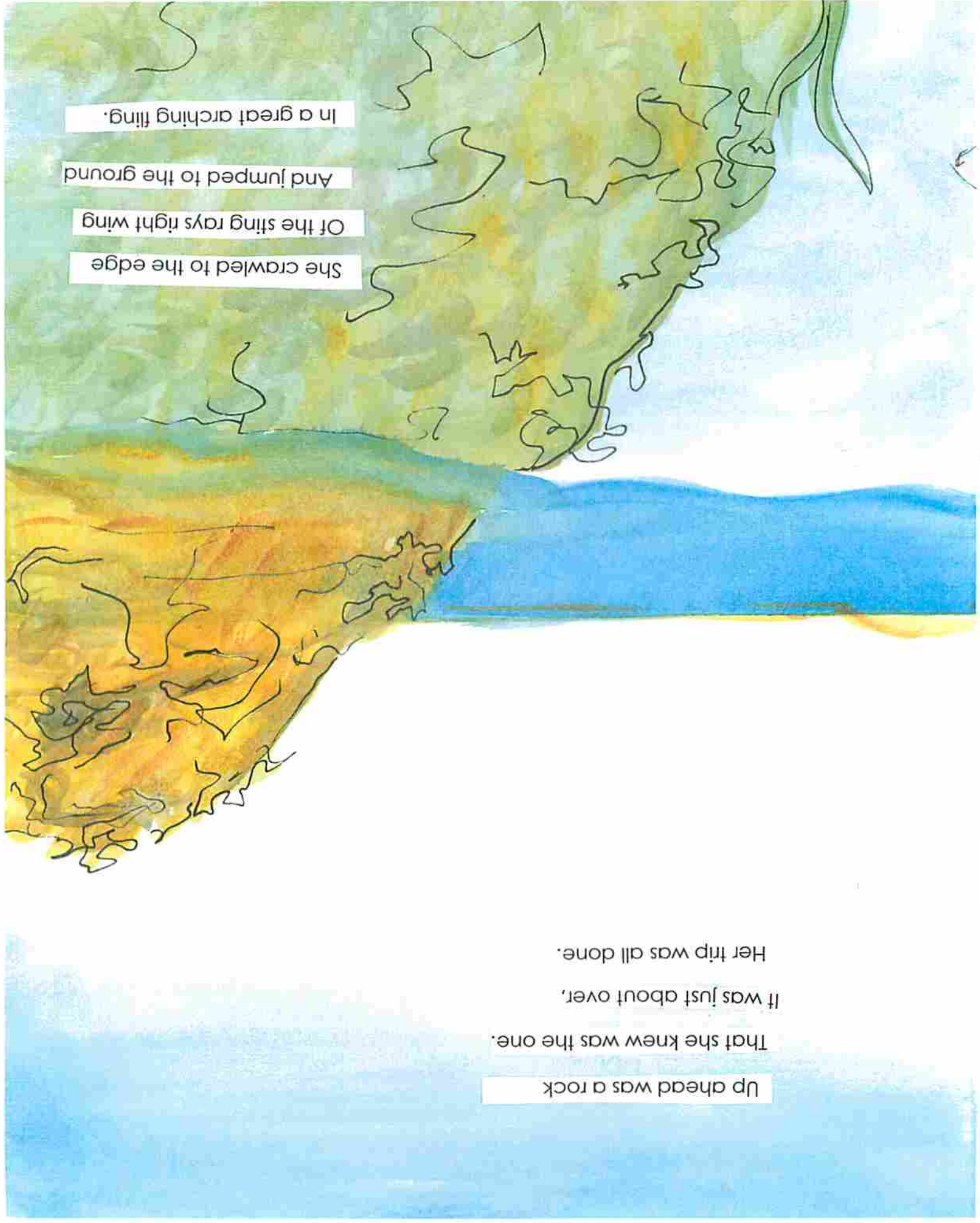
The water rushed by her

It was incredibly tickly.



Up ahead was a rock
That she knew was the one.
It was just about over,
Her trip was all done.

She crawled to the edge
Of the sting rays right wing
And jumped to the ground
In a great arching fling.



The
End.★

