



Erasmus+



# An hidden heart

A story written and illustrated  
by the children of 3A  
of the school Santa Dorotea  
of Casalgrande Alto

# A story written and illustrated by 3A

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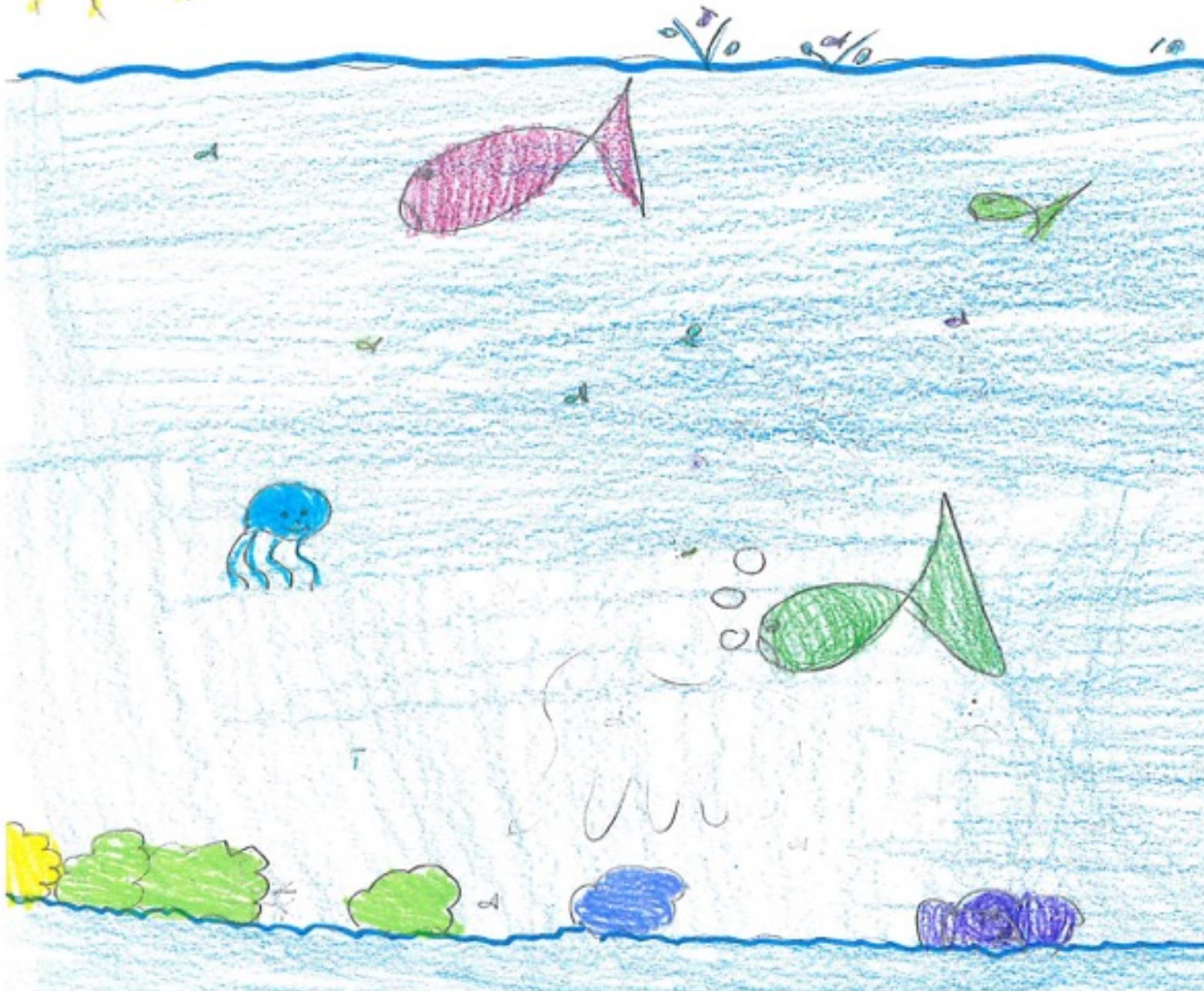
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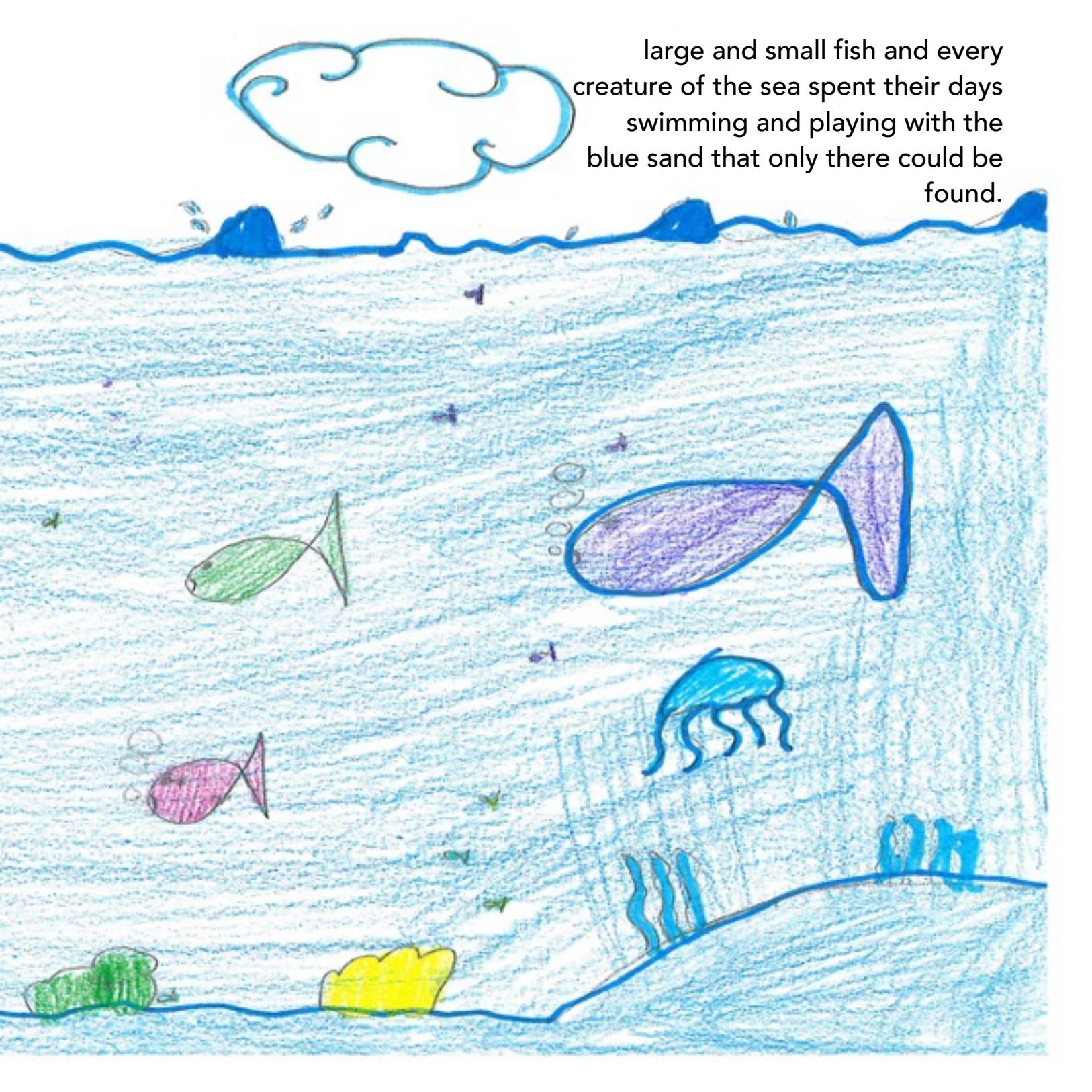
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Off the coast of England, there was a magical ocean,  
where corals of all colors lived together,





large and small fish and every creature of the sea spent their days swimming and playing with the blue sand that only there could be found.

At the bottom of the ocean, inside a cave, lived a large purple octopus named Bernie which had only 7 long tentacles. He had lost the eighth by cutting himself with a coral when he was a baby.



Bernie loved the sand of the bottom because it was soft and tender like a pillow and for this reason his favorite color was blue. As well as his best friend, the little fish Lucky.





Bernie always had so many friends around him that he enjoyed playing and going around the ocean with.

In the ocean, there lived Coral, an evil witch.



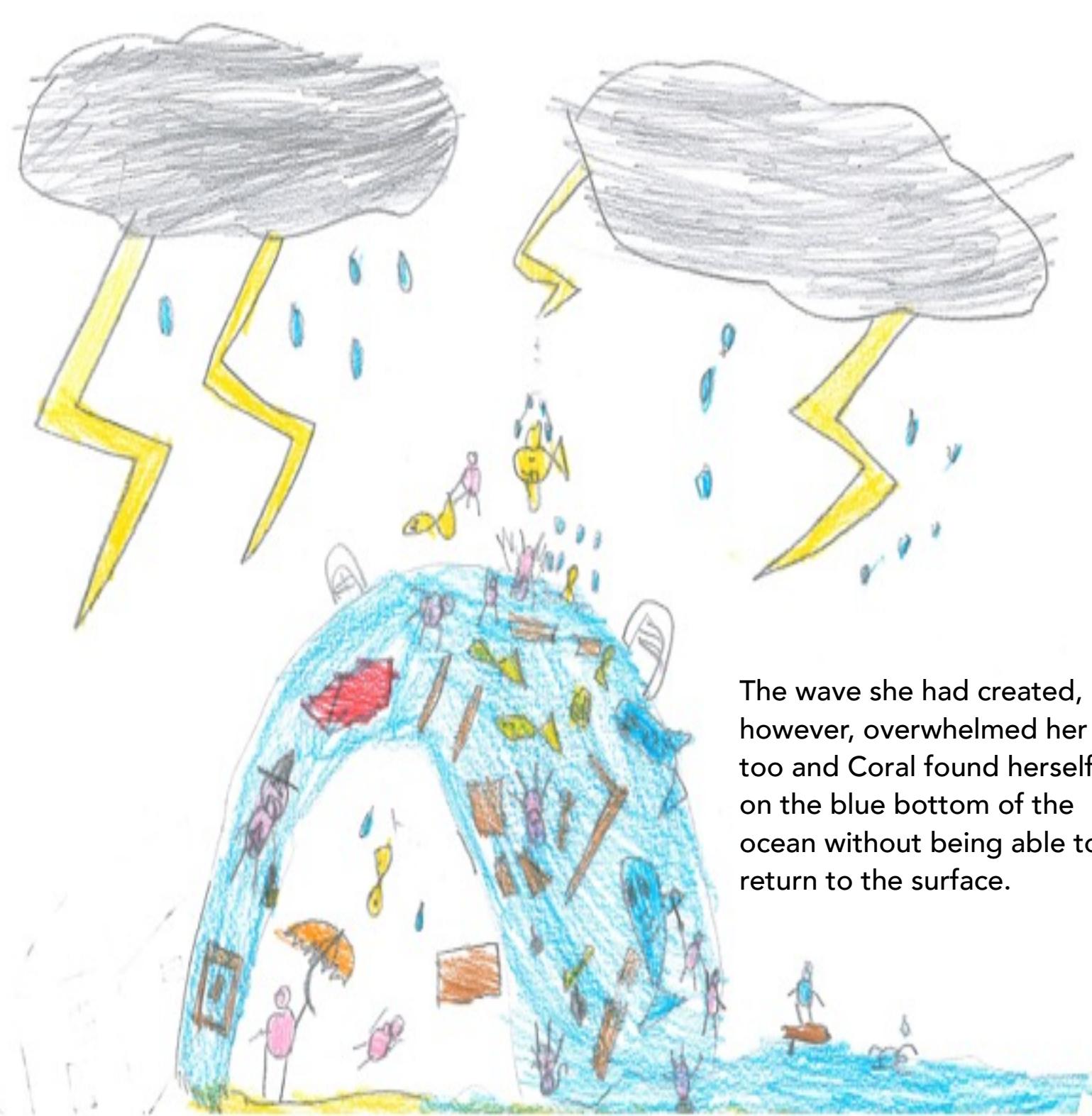
She used to live in the village next to the beach but she had to run away, because, when her friends found out she was a witch, they started to fear her and they didn't want to be near her anymore.





She was gone but, taken by anger,  
she decided to take revenge by  
unleashing a strong storm that  
would overwhelm them.

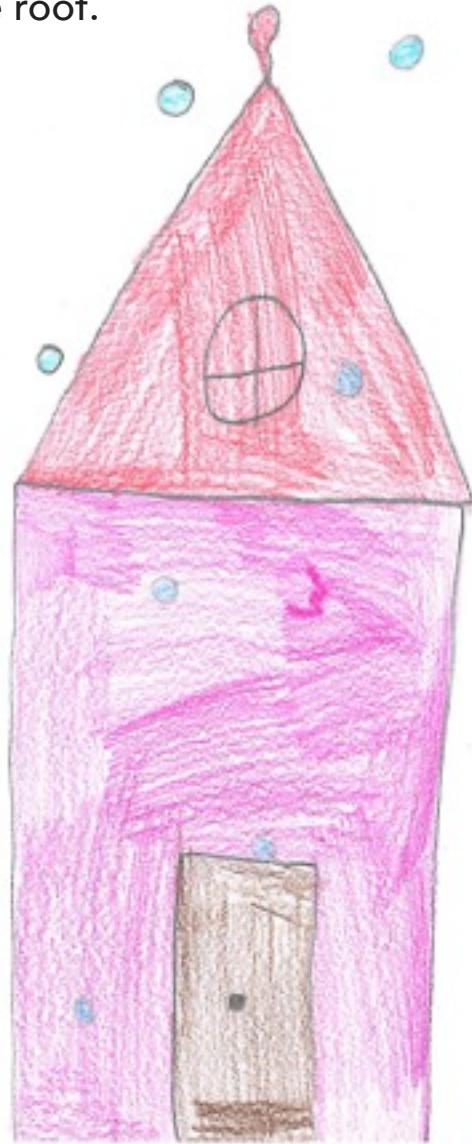




The wave she had created, however, overwhelmed her too and Coral found herself on the blue bottom of the ocean without being able to return to the surface.



She then decided to collect the corals she found to build a shelter without anyone being able to notice it. She took the largest corals and built the walls of the house there; with smaller corals she covered the remaining holes and built the roof.



At the end of the work he managed to build a beautiful, colorful house that camouflaged itself in the ocean.



Coral could not bear to see others be happy, and every time she saw a group of friends having fun, a coral stuck out of her body. After so many years, spent in the ocean, her body was filled with corals and her appearance was terrifying.



One day while she was looking for other corals, she heard loud laughter and she hid behind corals to figure out who it was. They were Bernie, Lucky and all their friends who were making a lot of big bubbles and they enjoyed bursting into it.

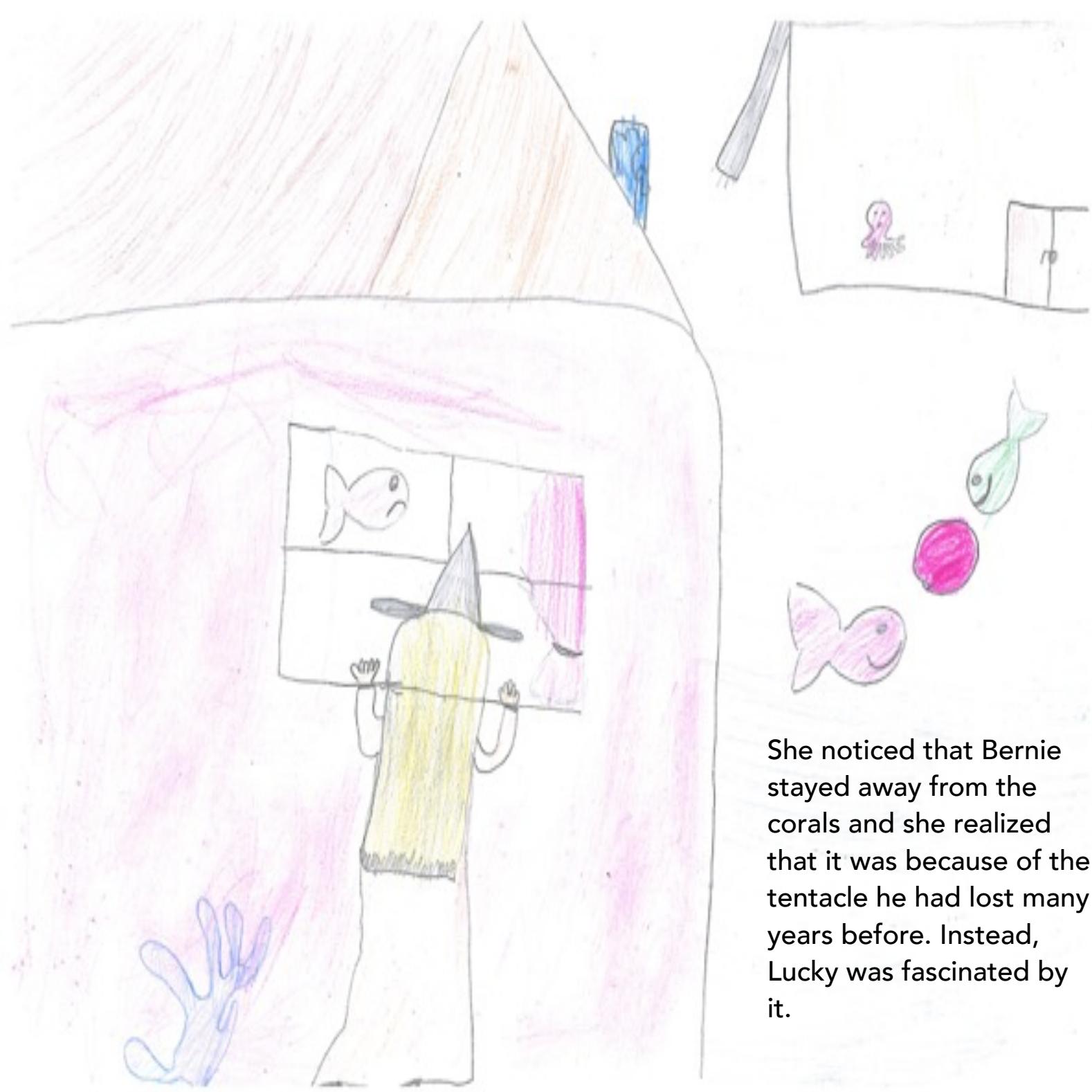


Coral got very angry and decided she had to stop the fun and make the two friends sad.

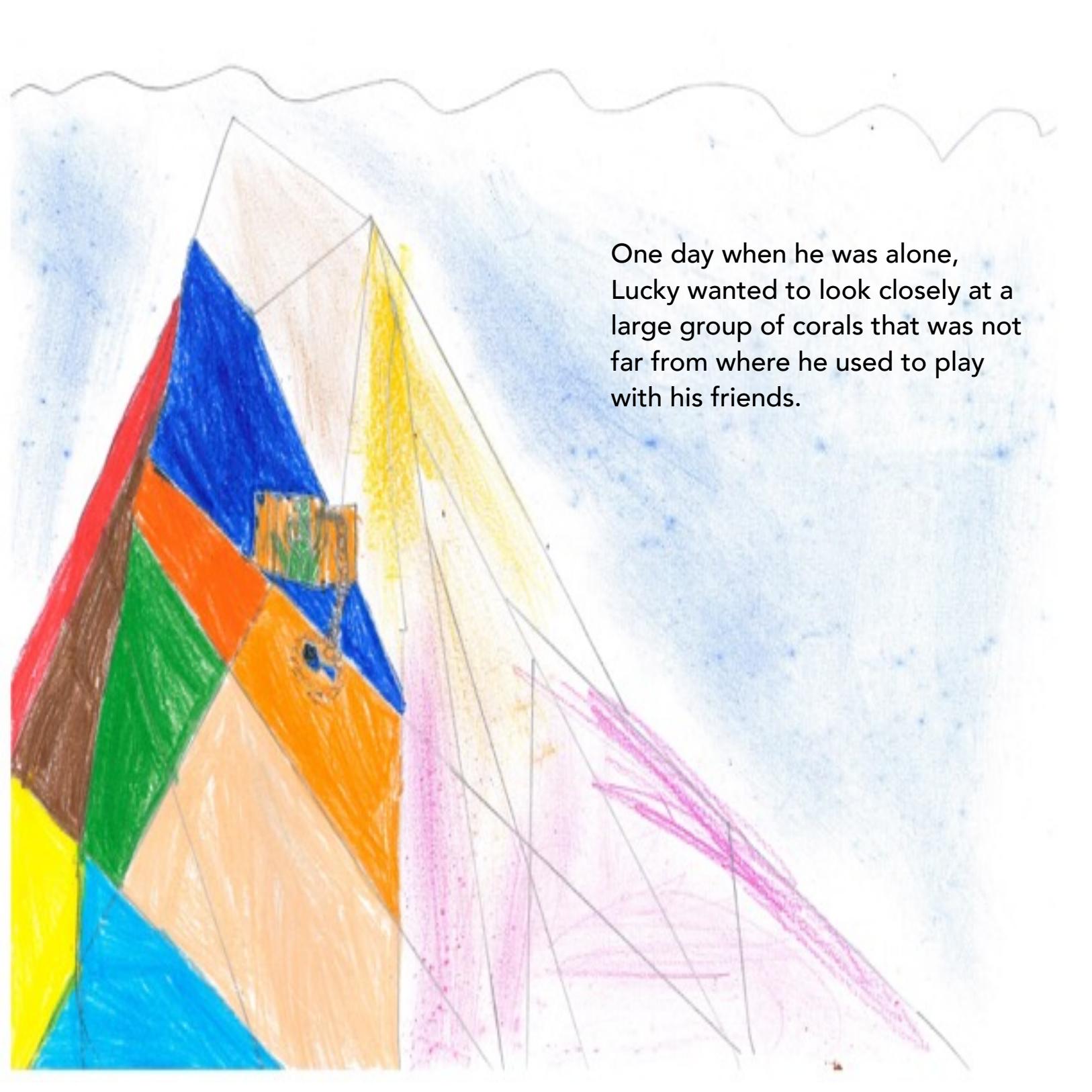


She started following them and watching them, trying to understand what they were doing, what they liked and what they didn't.





She noticed that Bernie stayed away from the corals and she realized that it was because of the tentacle he had lost many years before. Instead, Lucky was fascinated by it.

A colorful illustration of a coral reef. On the left, several hard corals of different shapes and colors (blue, red, orange, green) are shown. In the center, there is a large, branching pink soft coral or sea fan. The background consists of light blue washes representing water, with simple wavy lines at the top representing the ocean surface.

One day when he was alone,  
Lucky wanted to look closely at a  
large group of corals that was not  
far from where he used to play  
with his friends.

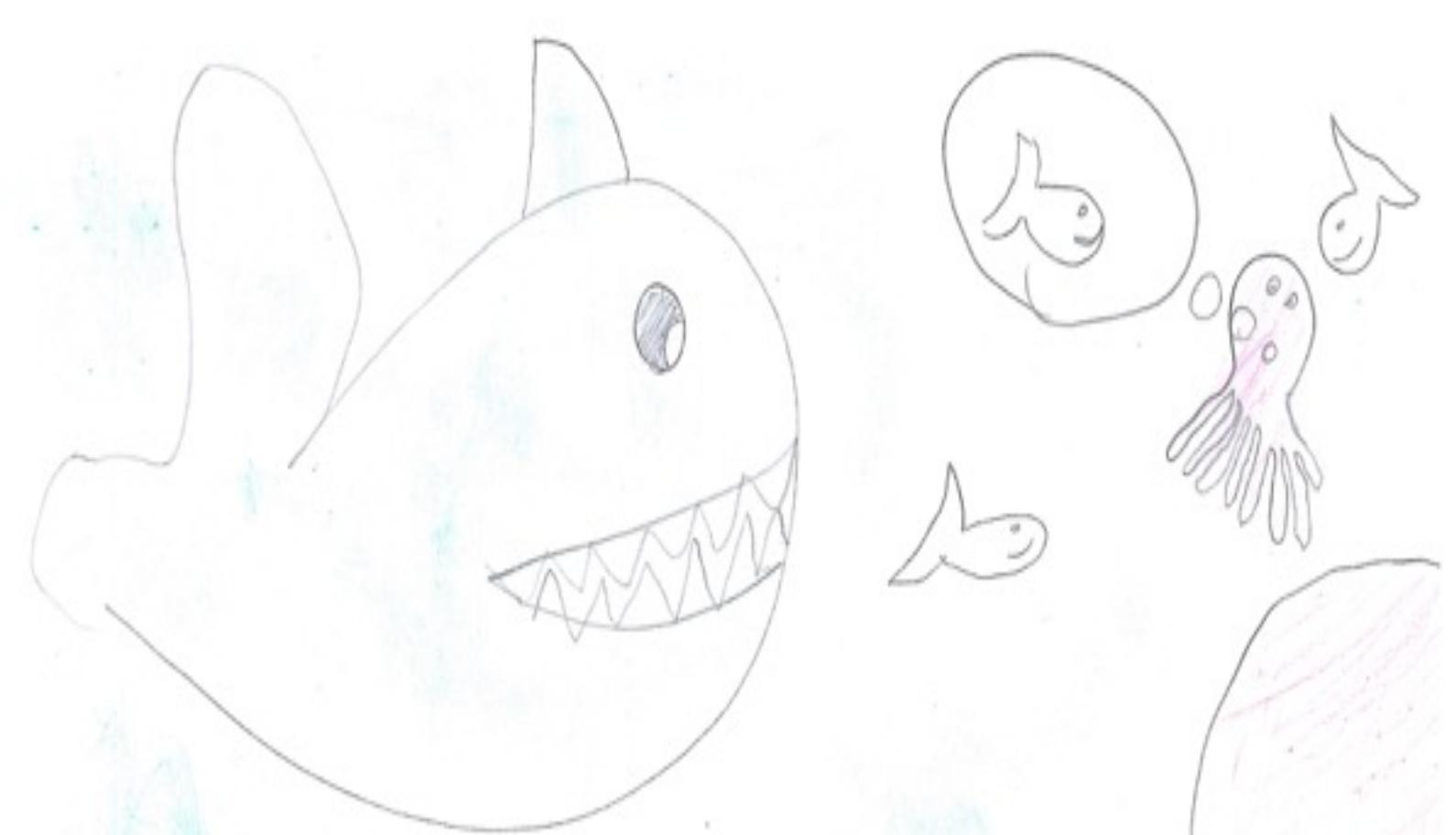
But that was Coral's home! As he approached, Coral opened the window and caught him dragging him inside the house.

When Bernie went to Lucky's house to play together and didn't find him, he worried a lot.



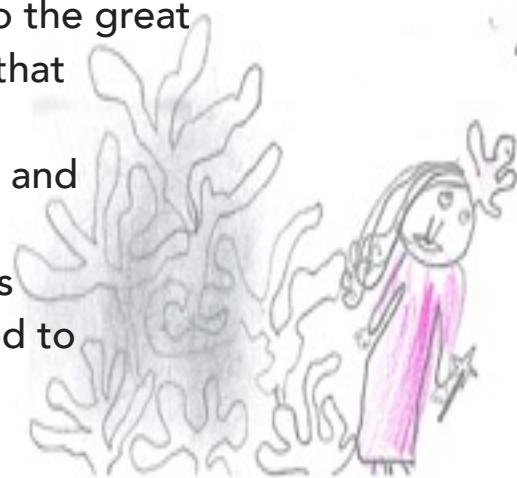
He tried to call him but he received no answer. Only one place remained where it could have gone: the mountain of corals that day by day grew more and more and that Lucky loved very much.

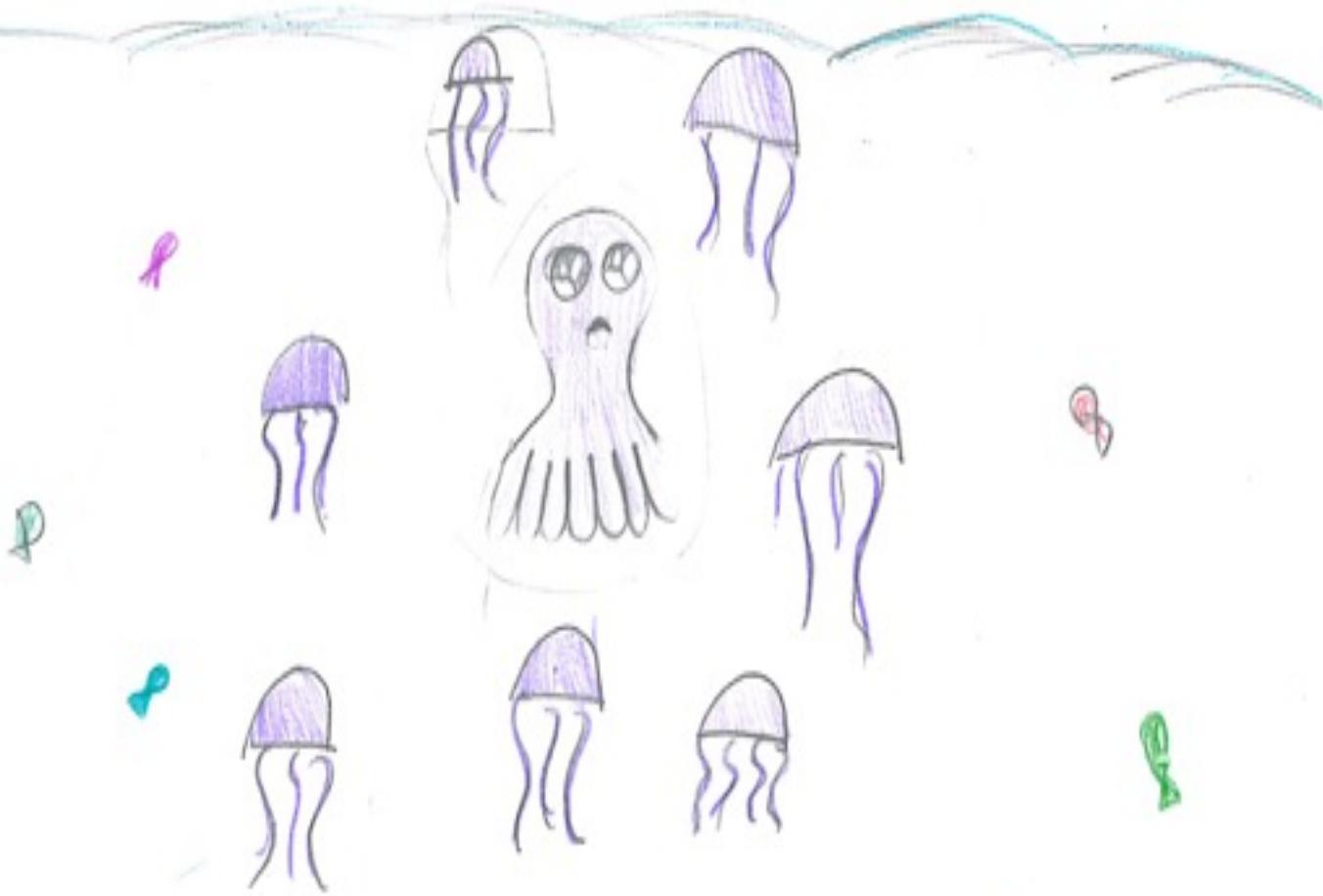




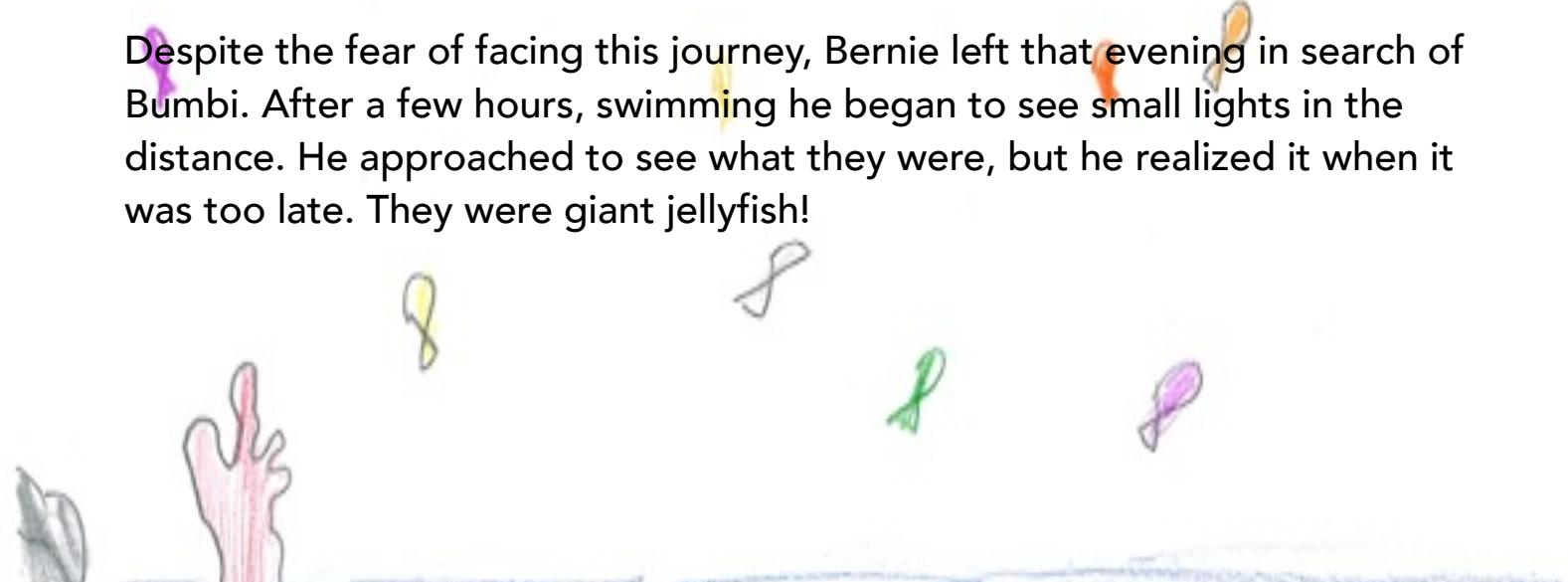
When he got there, from a distance he recognized his friend trapped in Coral's coral house. Bernie could not save Lucky alone, the only solution was to turn to the great Bumbi, the magic dolphin that helped all sea creatures.

Bumbi lived on the surface and Bernie knew he would encountered many dangers going there, but he decided to leave the same.





Despite the fear of facing this journey, Bernie left that evening in search of Bumbi. After a few hours, swimming he began to see small lights in the distance. He approached to see what they were, but he realized it when it was too late. They were giant jellyfish!





Surrounded, Bernie was very scared and he didn't know what to do. He remembered the game he played with his friends and built a big bubble, jumped in and managed to escape from the jellyfish.



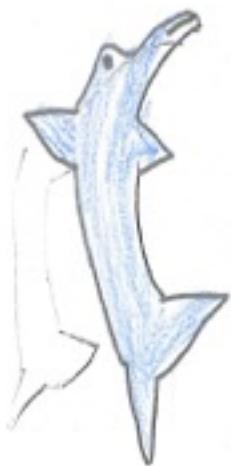
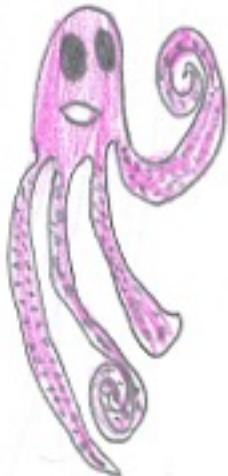
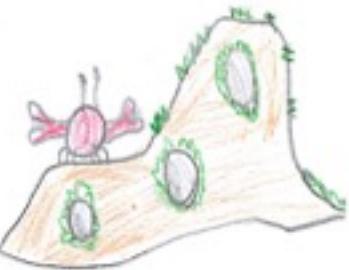
The next day, Bernie was about to reach the surface and Bumbi's house, when a flock of hungry seagulls approached him, convinced they had found a nice lunch.





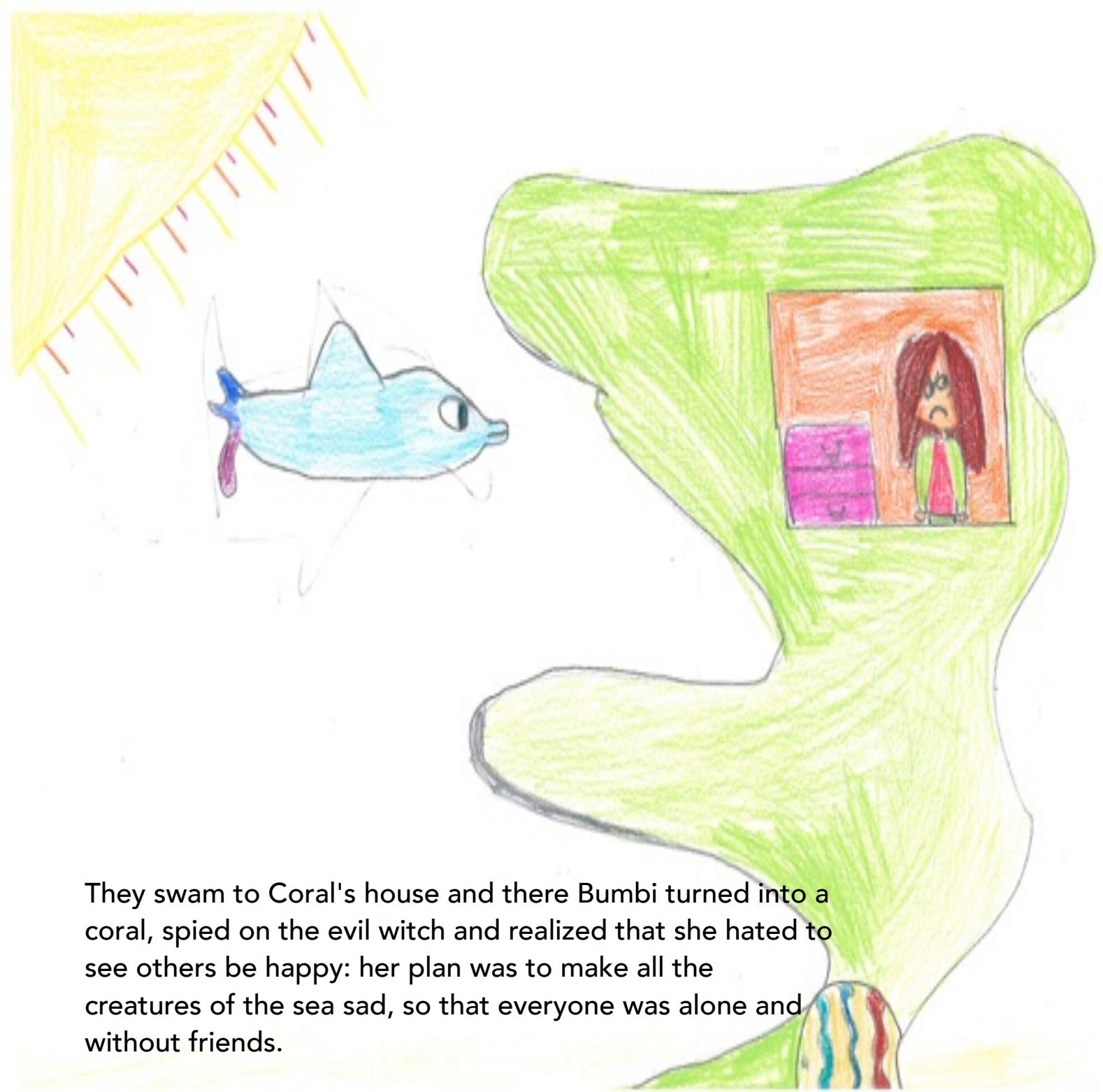
When he seemed to be doomed, Bernie was pulled by a tentacle and taken to safety by Bumbi himself who had seen the whole scene from afar.





Once safely, Bernie told the whole story to Bumbi, who decided to help him with his magical powers. The dolphin, in fact, was able to turn into any marine object and with this power could have freed Lucky from the clutches of Coral.

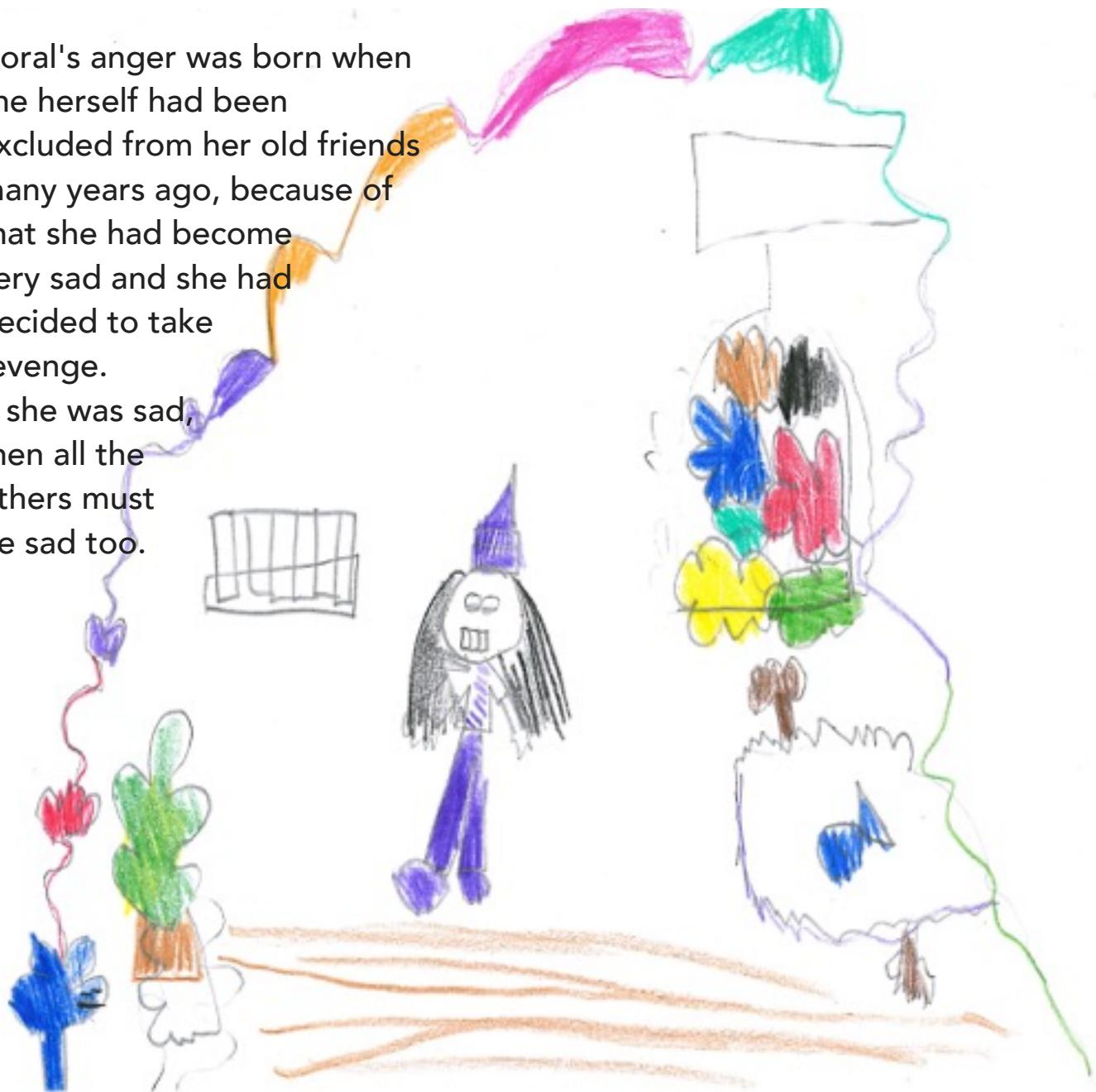




They swam to Coral's house and there Bumbi turned into a coral, spied on the evil witch and realized that she hated to see others be happy: her plan was to make all the creatures of the sea sad, so that everyone was alone and without friends.

Coral's anger was born when she herself had been excluded from her old friends many years ago, because of that she had become very sad and she had decided to take revenge.

If she was sad, then all the others must be sad too.

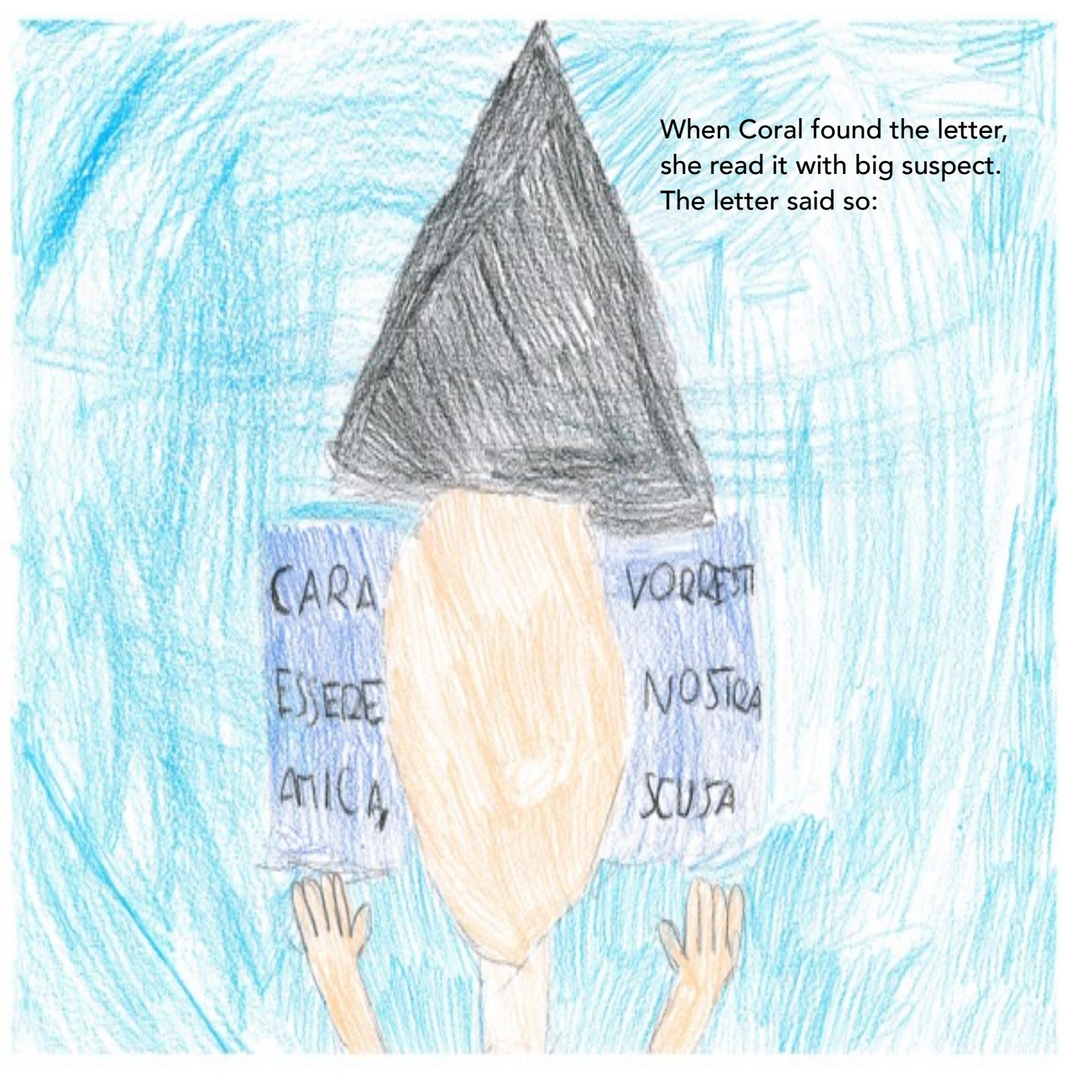


When Bumbi reported these things to Bernie, he had no more doubts: they had to convince Coral that she could find new friends and be happy again.  
But how do you approach her?





Bernie came up with the idea to write a letter to her, and put it under her front door.



When Coral found the letter,  
she read it with big suspect.  
The letter said so:

CARA

ESSERE

AMICA,

VORREI

NOSTRA

SCUSA

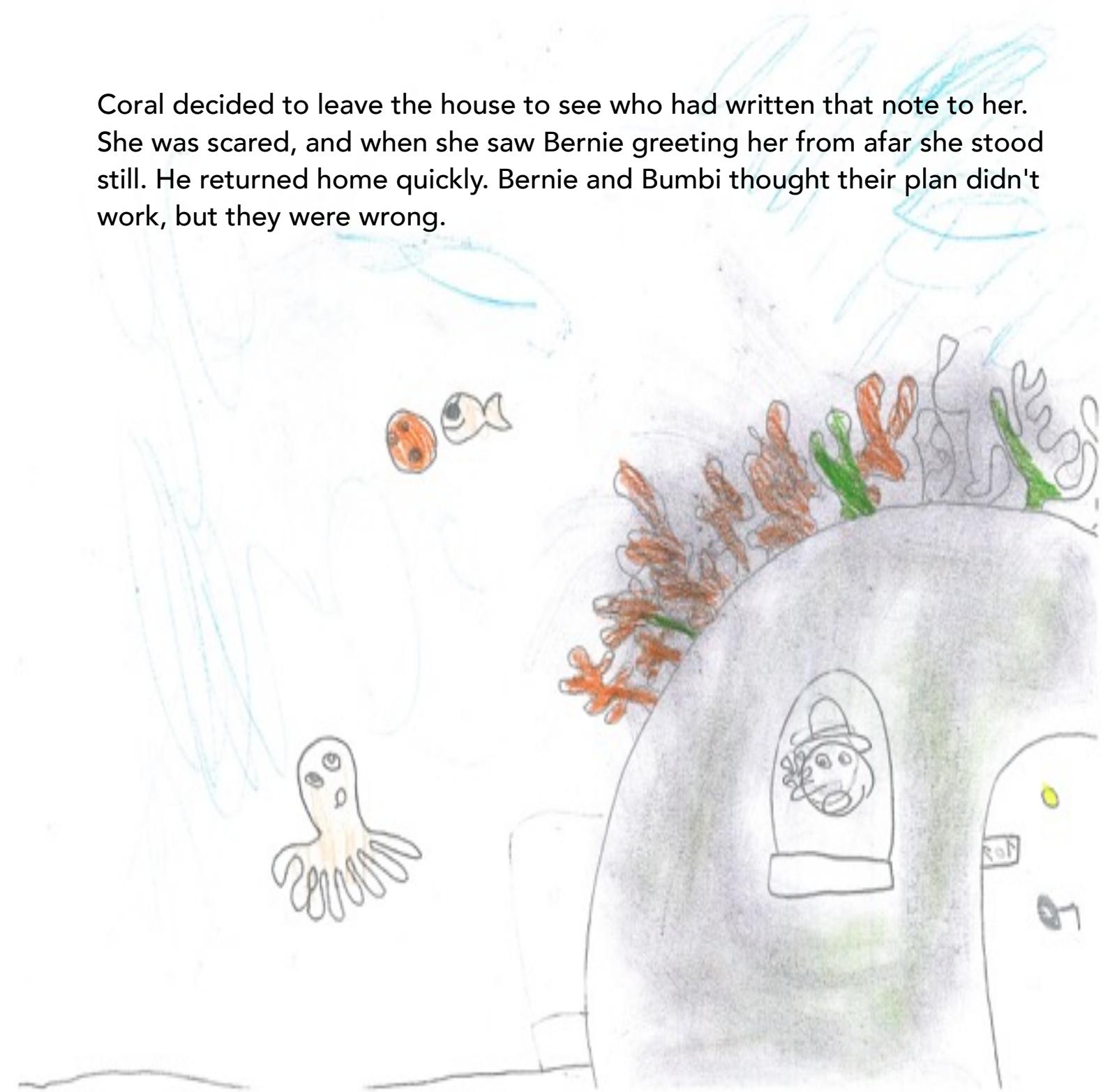
*“Dear Coral, we know why you are sad and angry.  
We just want to tell you that we are sorry for how you  
have treated your friends,  
but you must know that here in the sea we are many and we all love  
each other.*

*We will be happy if you want to be our friend and  
we will be pleased if you come to play and have fun with us.  
You don't have to be sad anymore and you don't have to make others  
like it, because friendship is a beautiful thing,  
that makes you full of happiness.  
We would like to be your friends! “*

As Coral read these words, the corals slowly disappeared from her face and body. For the first time, after so long, she no longer felt angry, but she felt a great desire to laugh and have fun.



Coral decided to leave the house to see who had written that note to her. She was scared, and when she saw Bernie greeting her from afar she stood still. He returned home quickly. Bernie and Bumbi thought their plan didn't work, but they were wrong.



Coral left the house and with her there was Lucky, free! The two friends embraced and then ran to Coral. They also embraced, greeted and thanked Bumbi, and started playing together. Coral forgot the sadness and not a day passed that she didn't smile, playing with her new friends.

