



Ocean Adventures with Millie and Sam

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LITTLE MILLIE WAS SPENDING A HOT SATURDAY AFTERNOON READING A BOOK ON THE BEACH. HER BOOK WAS ABOUT A SEA TURTLE NAMED SAM WHO TRAVELED ALL AROUND THE SEA. THIS FASCINATING BOOK WAS FILLED WITH SO MANY BEAUTIFUL CREATURES DOWN IN THE DEEP OCEAN, AND MILLIE STARTED TO DAYDREAM ABOUT SWIMMING AND EXPLORING AS SHE SLOWLY FELL ASLEEP.





NEXT THING MILLIE KNEW, SHE WAS STARING AT SAM THE SEA TURTLE WHO WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER.

“COME ON MILLIE!” SAID SAM. MILLIE HOPPED ON SAM’S BACK AS FAST AS SHE COULD. “THERE’S SO MUCH TO EXPLORE ON OUR WAY TO THE OCEAN FLOOR!”

AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO THE OCEAN FLOOR, MILLIE NOTICED A BUOY-LIKE THING IN THE WATER. "WOW! WHAT'S THAT?" MILLIE ASKED. "WELL THAT'S AN ARGO FLOAT, IT'S USED TO LOOK AT OCEAN CURRENTS. IT CAN ALSO MEASURE OTHER THINGS LIKE SALINITY AND TEMPERATURE. ONCE WE GET TO THE OCEAN FLOOR, YOU WON'T SEE THEM ANYMORE." SAM REPLIED.

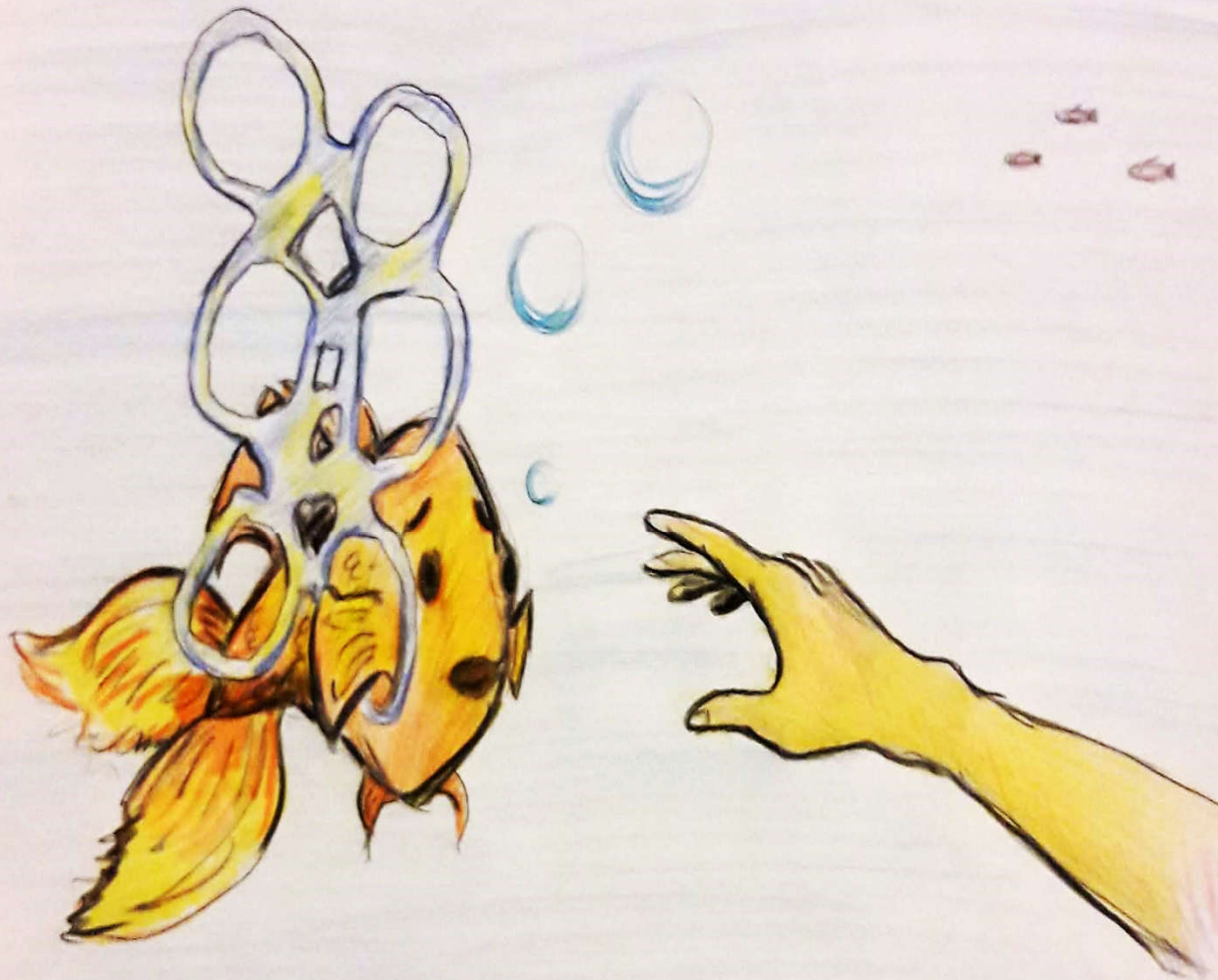




"AS WE GO DEEPER IN THE OCEAN, YOU'LL PROBABLY NOTICE A BUNCH OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE-- EVEN IN BOOKS OR IN SCHOOL," EXPLAINED SAM. "IT'S BECAUSE THE DEEP OCEAN HAS BEEN EXPLORED MUCH LESS THAN THE SURFACE. YOU MIGHT EVEN DISCOVER A NEW TYPE OF FISH!" MILLIE WAS BOTH SCARED AND EXCITED TO SEE ALL THE ANIMALS SAM DESCRIBED. "LOOK! THERE'S A DEEP-SEA CORAL HABITAT!"

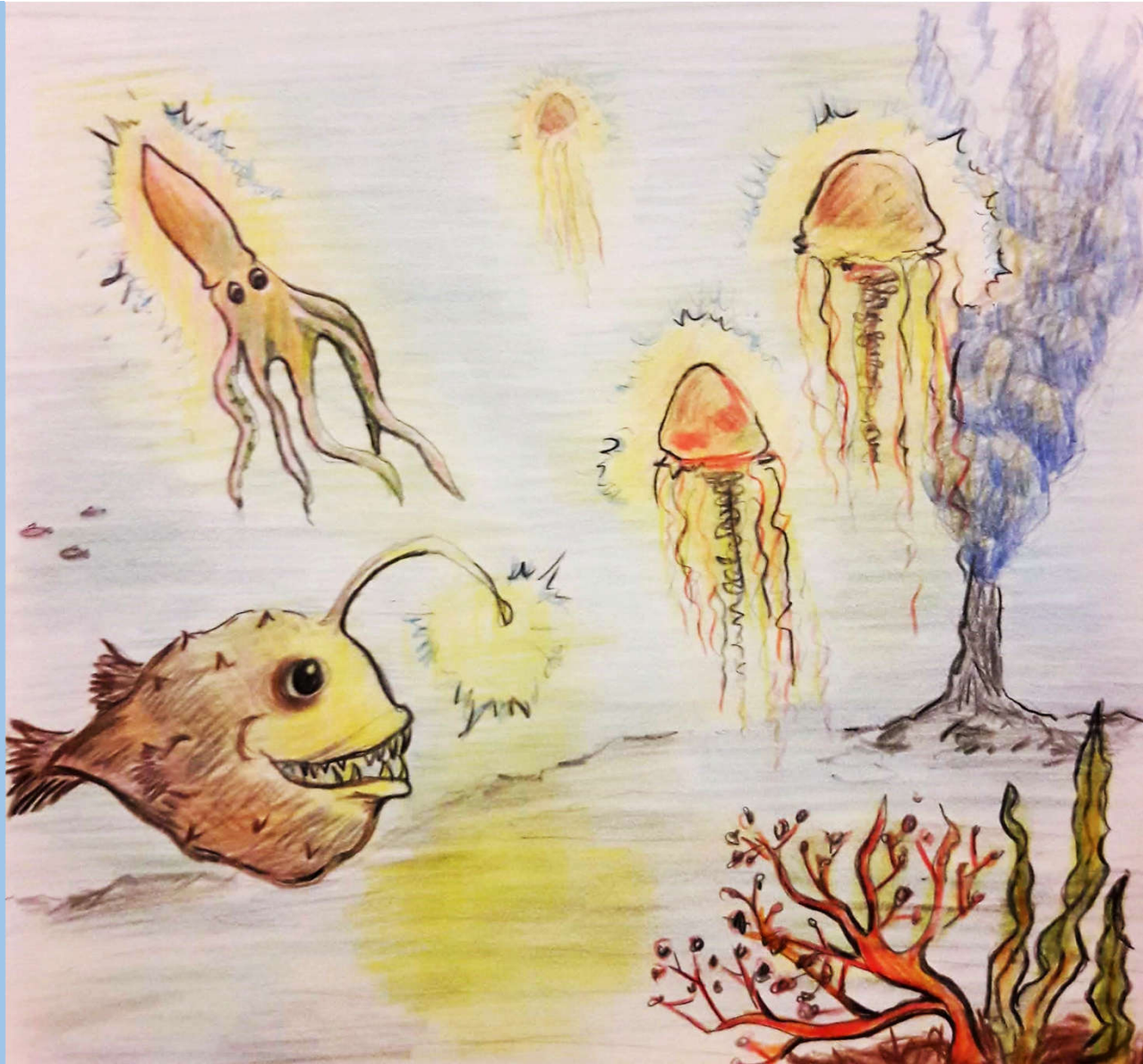
"DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE OVER 2500 TYPES OF CORAL IN THE OCEAN?" ASKS SAM. "NO, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT! WHY ARE THERE SO MANY FISH HANGING OUT AROUND THE CORAL?" MILLIE ASKS. SAM RESPONDS WITH, "WELL, ALL THOSE SEA CREATURES LIVE IN THE CORAL FORMATIONS. THAT'S THEIR HOME!"





"OH NO! IS THAT PLASTIC TRAPPING A FISH!? THAT CAN'T BE GOOD FOR ALL THESE LIVING THINGS!" SHOUTED MILLIE. MILLIE SWAM OVER TO FREE THE POOR FISH. "SADLY WE HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN POLLUTION LIKE THAT DOWN HERE. MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU ARE AT THE STORE, YOU COULD USE A PAPER BAG INSTEAD OF A PLASTIC ONE. THAT WOULD REALLY HELP OUT OUR FRIENDS DOWN HERE. IT IS ALWAYS GOOD TO BE MINDFUL OF THE WASTE WE PRODUCE. ALWAYS REMEMBER TO REUSE, REDUCE AND RECYCLE." SAM SAID.

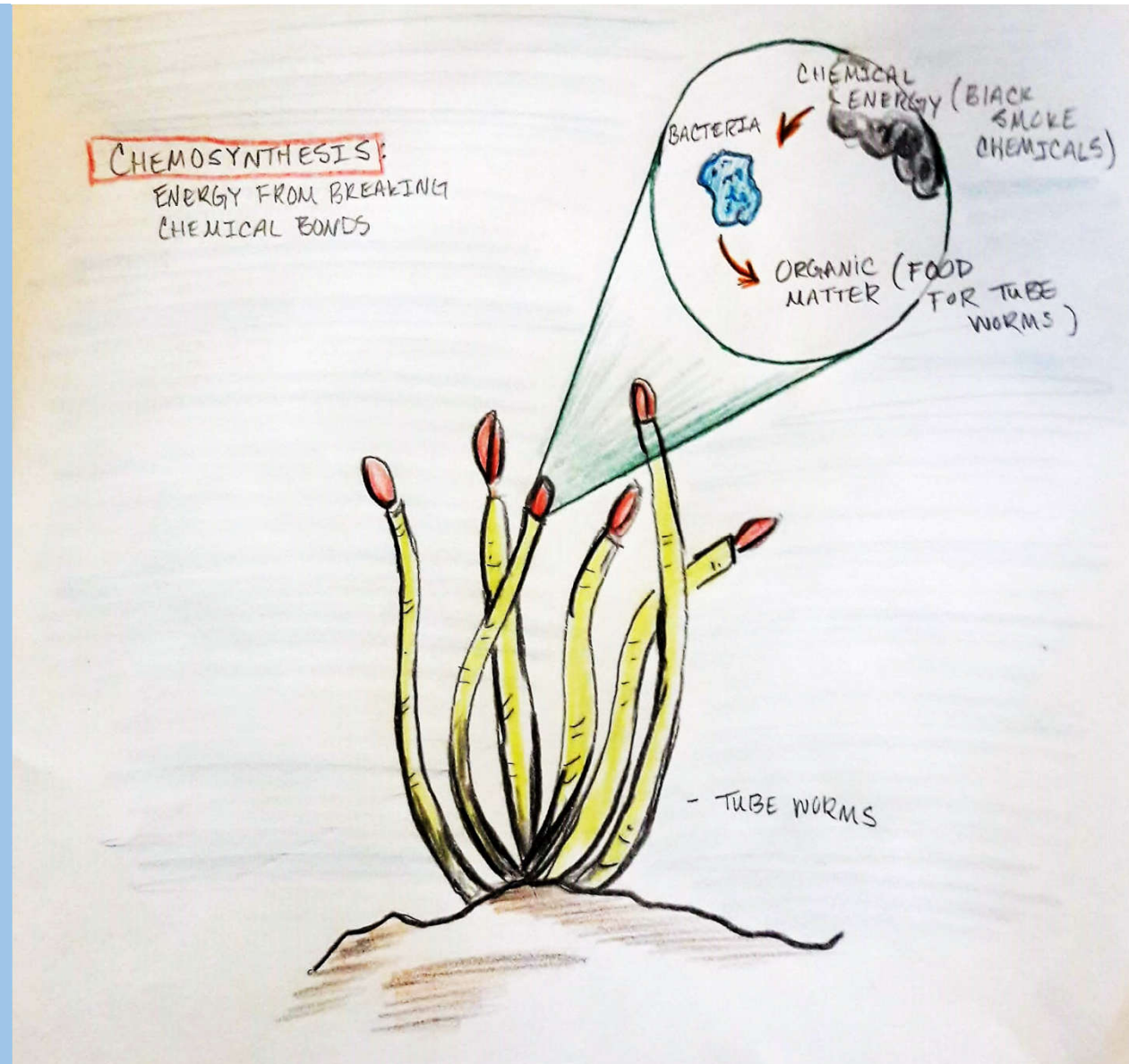
“THOSE JELLYFISH ARE SO PRETTY!” SAYS MILLIE. “THAT’S RIGHT,” SAYS SAM, “INSTEAD OF USING FLASHLIGHTS IN THE DARK LIKE HUMANS DO, THEY MAKE THEIR OWN LIGHT WITH THEIR BODIES. SOME FISH AND SQUIDS DO THE SAME!” “WOW I WISH I COULD DO THAT!” MILLIE EXCLAIMED.

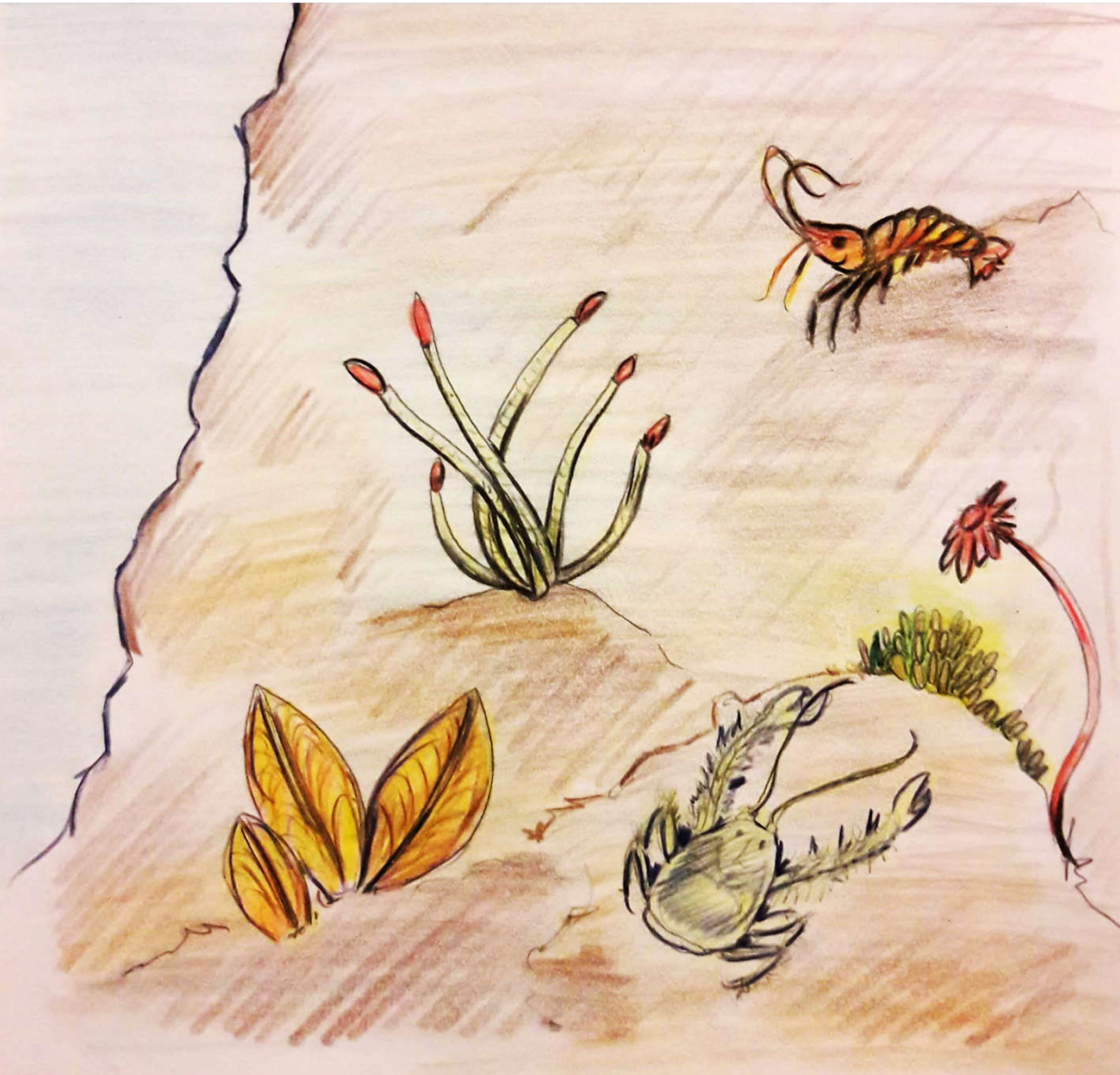




MILLIE BEGAN TO FEEL VERY WARM. "WHY IS IT GETTING SO HOT?" SHE ASKS. SAM REPLIED, "WE ARE NEAR THE HYDROTHERMAL VENTS. THE VENTS PUMP OUT CHEMICALS INTO THE WATER." MILLIE COULD THEN SEE THE LARGE COLUMN OF BLACK SMOKE COMING FROM THE VENT IN THE FLOOR. "THERE ARE VENTS THAT PRODUCE WHITE SMOKE, TOO," SAM SAID.

"HOW CAN THESE ANIMALS LIVE DOWN HERE IF THERE ARE CHEMICALS CONSTANTLY AROUND THEM? WOULDN'T THAT KILL THEM?" MILLIE WONDERED. "QUITE THE OPPOSITE. THESE SPECIES LIVE OFF THESE CHEMICALS. ISN'T THAT CRAZY! HUMANS ONLY RECENTLY MADE THIS DISCOVERY." SAM REPLIED.





“YOU KNOW MILLIE, THESE SPECIES DOWN BY THESE VENTS COULD VERY WELL BE THE OLDEST SPECIES ON EARTH. SCIENTISTS THINK THESE VENTS FORMED 4.2 BILLION YEARS AGO. IT’S LIKELY THAT THESE SPECIES WERE AROUND BACK THEN, TOO!” SAM SAID.

"WELL MILLIE I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I TAKE YOU BACK TO THE SURFACE. WE WOULDN'T WANT YOUR FAMILY TO WORRY." SAM SAID. "BUT I WANT TO STAY DOWN HERE WITH YOU!" MILLIE COMPLAINED. "BUT US OCEAN FOLK NEED SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE OCEAN FLOOR UP THERE ON LAND. WILL YOU DO THAT FOR US MILLIE?" SAM ASKED. "OKAY SAM, I WILL." MILLIE RESPONDED.





MILLIE SLOWLY OPENED HER EYES. SHE COULD SEE THE SAND AND THE WAVES, BUT SHE DIDN'T SEE SAM. MILLIE GOT UP AND LOOKED AROUND AND SAW HER FAMILY BY THE WATER. "MOM! MOM! GUESS WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT THE OCEAN TODAY!"

FOR AMELIA "MILLIE"
ROBINSON,
STAY CURIOUS AND KIND.

-LOVE,
MOM

