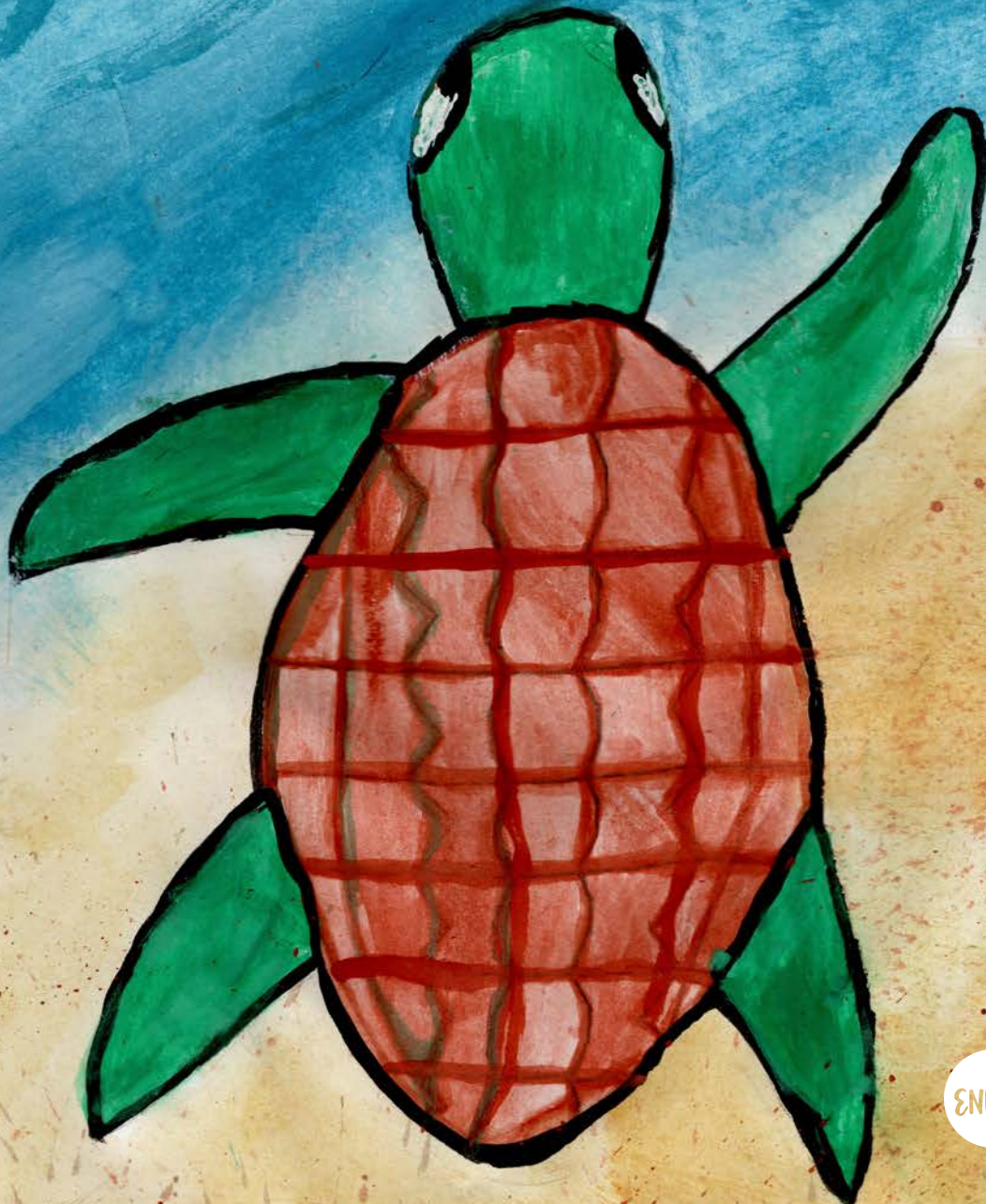


# Timmy Turtle gets into trouble





## Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

[www.envirostories.com.au](http://www.envirostories.com.au)

## Dolphin Marine Rescue Animal Rehab Trust

Dolphin Marine Rescue Animal Rehab Trust (DMRART) is a local charity focused on supporting the wellbeing of Australian wildlife through rehabilitation, conservation, education and research.

[www.dolphinmarinerescue.org](http://www.dolphinmarinerescue.org)



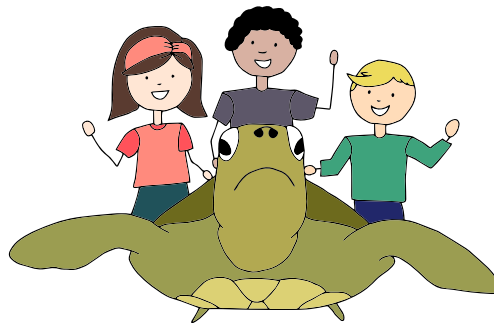
# Timmy Turtle gets into trouble

Authors: Lily Austin, Bonnie Hammond, Hadley March,  
Lara Hannaford, Isabel Kelly, Harmony Chalk,  
and Ashirah Davies-Everitt

Support staff: Holly West

This book has been published as part of the EcoGroms Enviro-Stories program. Students created this story and illustrations about the life of a sea turtle, with the support of staff from the Dolphin Marine Research Animal Rehab Trust, Coffs Harbour.

## **EcoGroms** AND THEIR **Sea Turtle Adventures**



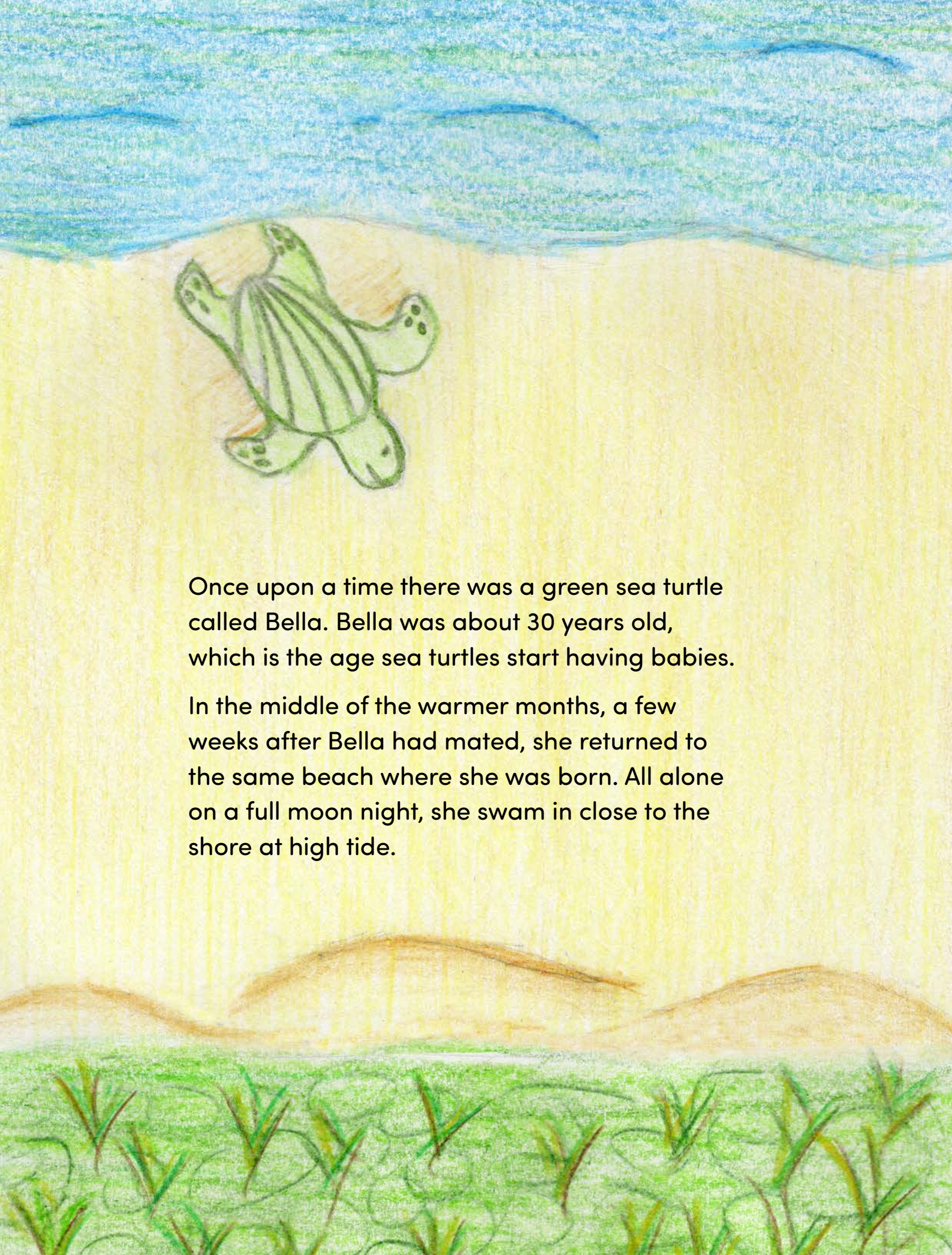
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Enviro-Stories is a Peekdesigns initiative, [www.peekdesigns.com.au](http://www.peekdesigns.com.au).

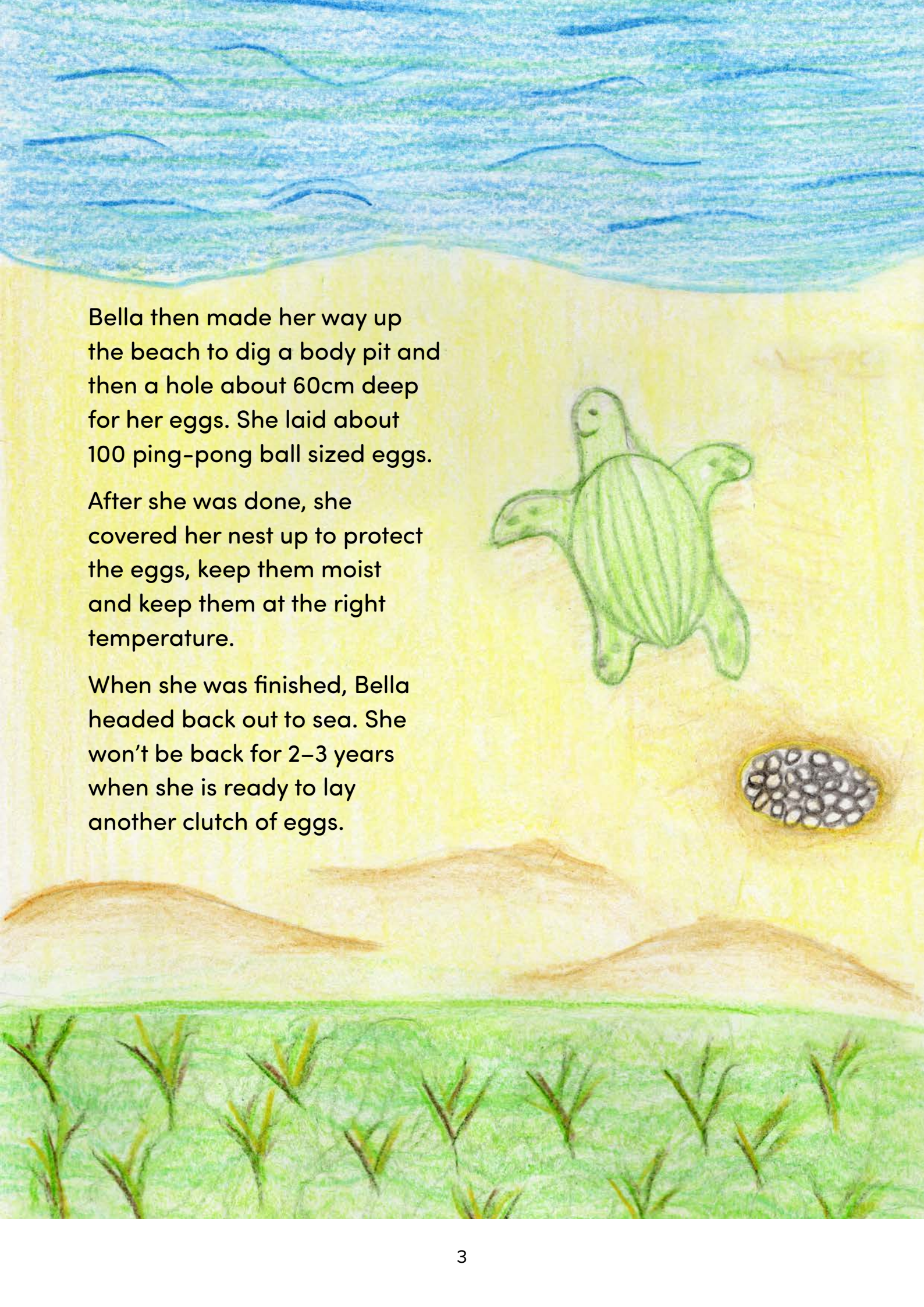
Austin, L., Hammond, B., March, H., Hannaford, L., Kelly, I., Chalk, H. and Davies-Everitt, A. 2021. *Timmy Turtle gets into trouble*. Dolphin Marine Research Animal Rehab Trust, NSW.





Once upon a time there was a green sea turtle called Bella. Bella was about 30 years old, which is the age sea turtles start having babies.

In the middle of the warmer months, a few weeks after Bella had mated, she returned to the same beach where she was born. All alone on a full moon night, she swam in close to the shore at high tide.



Bella then made her way up the beach to dig a body pit and then a hole about 60cm deep for her eggs. She laid about 100 ping-pong ball sized eggs.

After she was done, she covered her nest up to protect the eggs, keep them moist and keep them at the right temperature.

When she was finished, Bella headed back out to sea. She won't be back for 2-3 years when she is ready to lay another clutch of eggs.



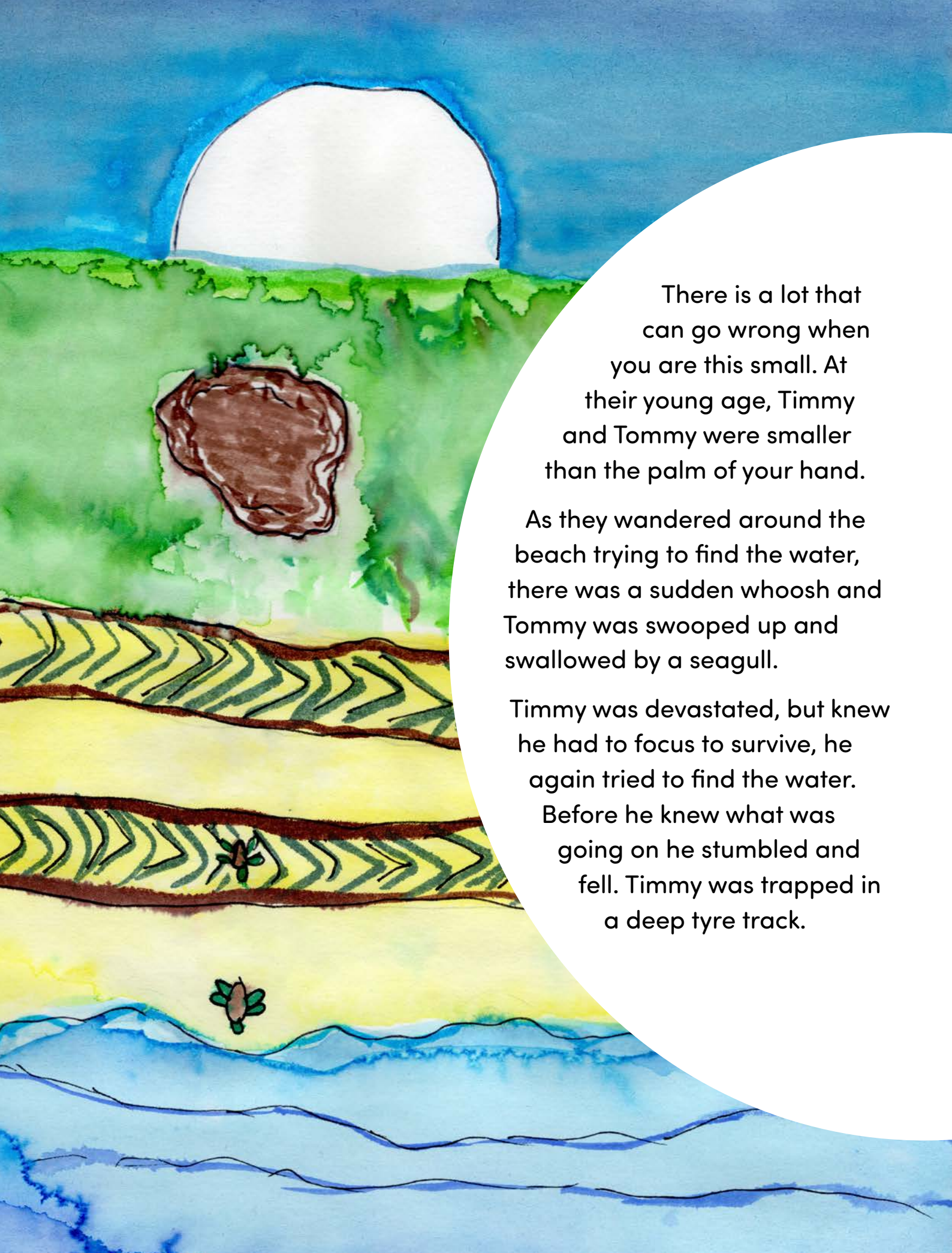
Three months later, Timmy and his friend Tommy were the first to hatch out of the nest. It took 3 whole days to crawl out from the bottom of the nest.

They wondered where all their brothers were.



Using their natural instincts, Timmy and Tommy headed towards the brightest light in the night.

They found themselves lost as they thought they were heading toward the moonlight, but instead it was the bright light of the airport! All confused, they started heading away from the water.



There is a lot that can go wrong when you are this small. At their young age, Timmy and Tommy were smaller than the palm of your hand.

As they wandered around the beach trying to find the water, there was a sudden whoosh and Tommy was swooped up and swallowed by a seagull.

Timmy was devastated, but knew he had to focus to survive, he again tried to find the water. Before he knew what was going on he stumbled and fell. Timmy was trapped in a deep tyre track.





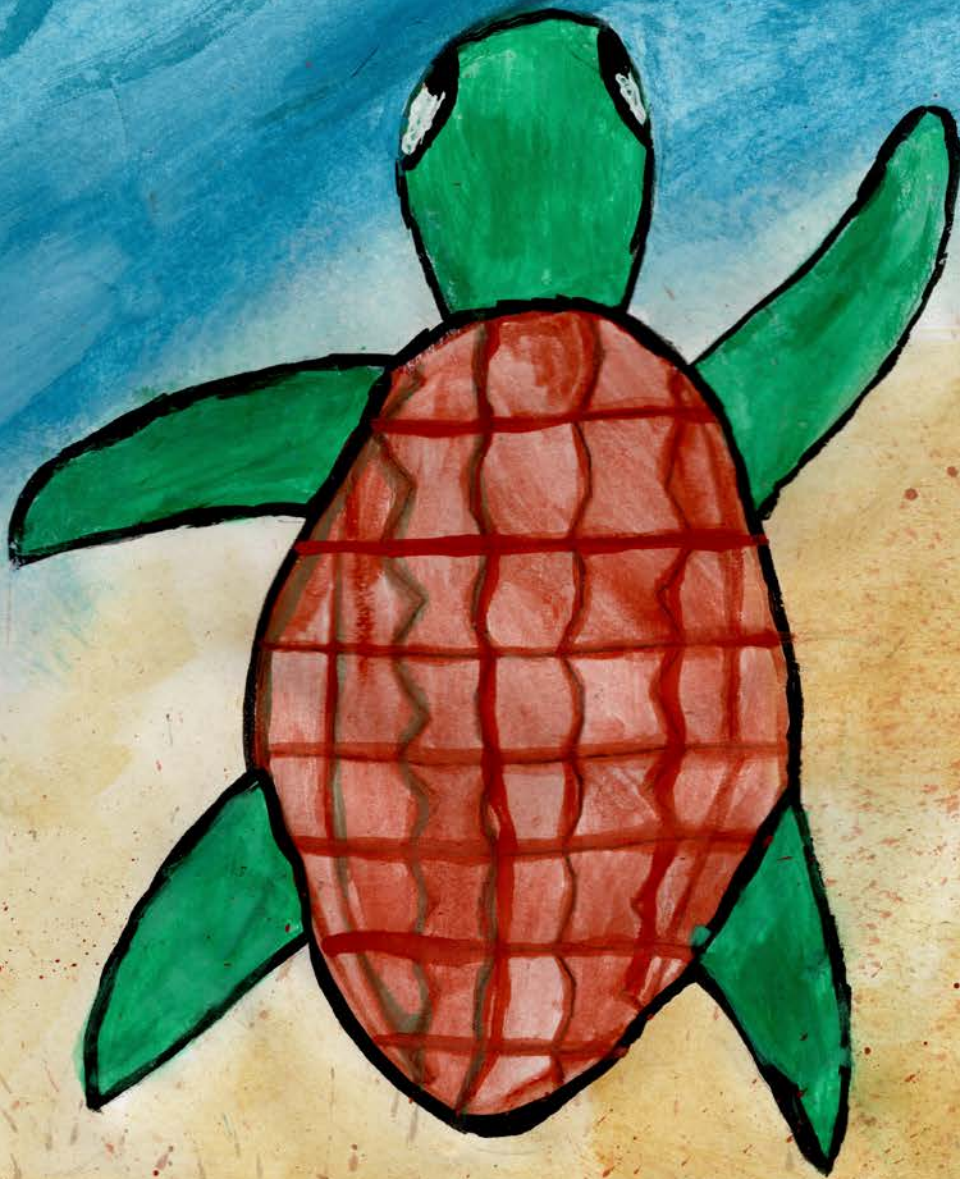
Timmy didn't know what to do! He was too small. He couldn't get out, the walls of the tyre track were too high, and now he was an easy victim to a hungry bird.

Timmy tried to get out of the hole, but he fell on his back, he had to flip over then try once more. He almost made it, but didn't quite get out.



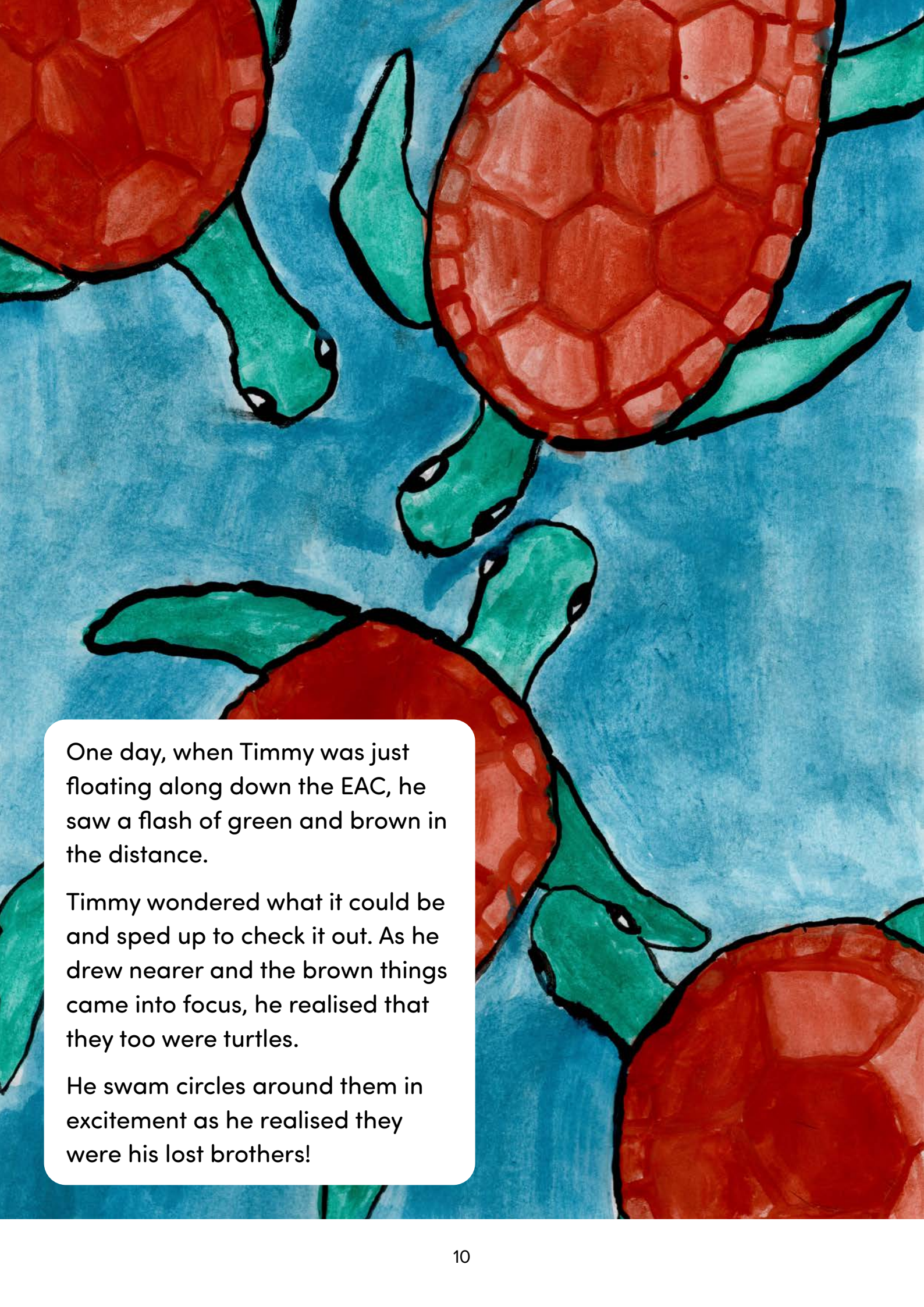
After wandering around in the tyre track for what seemed like ages, an EcoGrom who had come to the beach to check the nest found Timmy and moved him to the water's edge.

He then scurried off into the crashing blue waves. The water shimmered and glittered in the early morning sun.



Timmy swam as hard as he could to get out to sea and eventually was taken away by the old EAC (that's the East Australian Current for those of you who don't know the lingo).

It was scary out in the endless ocean, but Timmy stayed safe by hiding in floating clumps of seaweed.



One day, when Timmy was just floating along down the EAC, he saw a flash of green and brown in the distance.

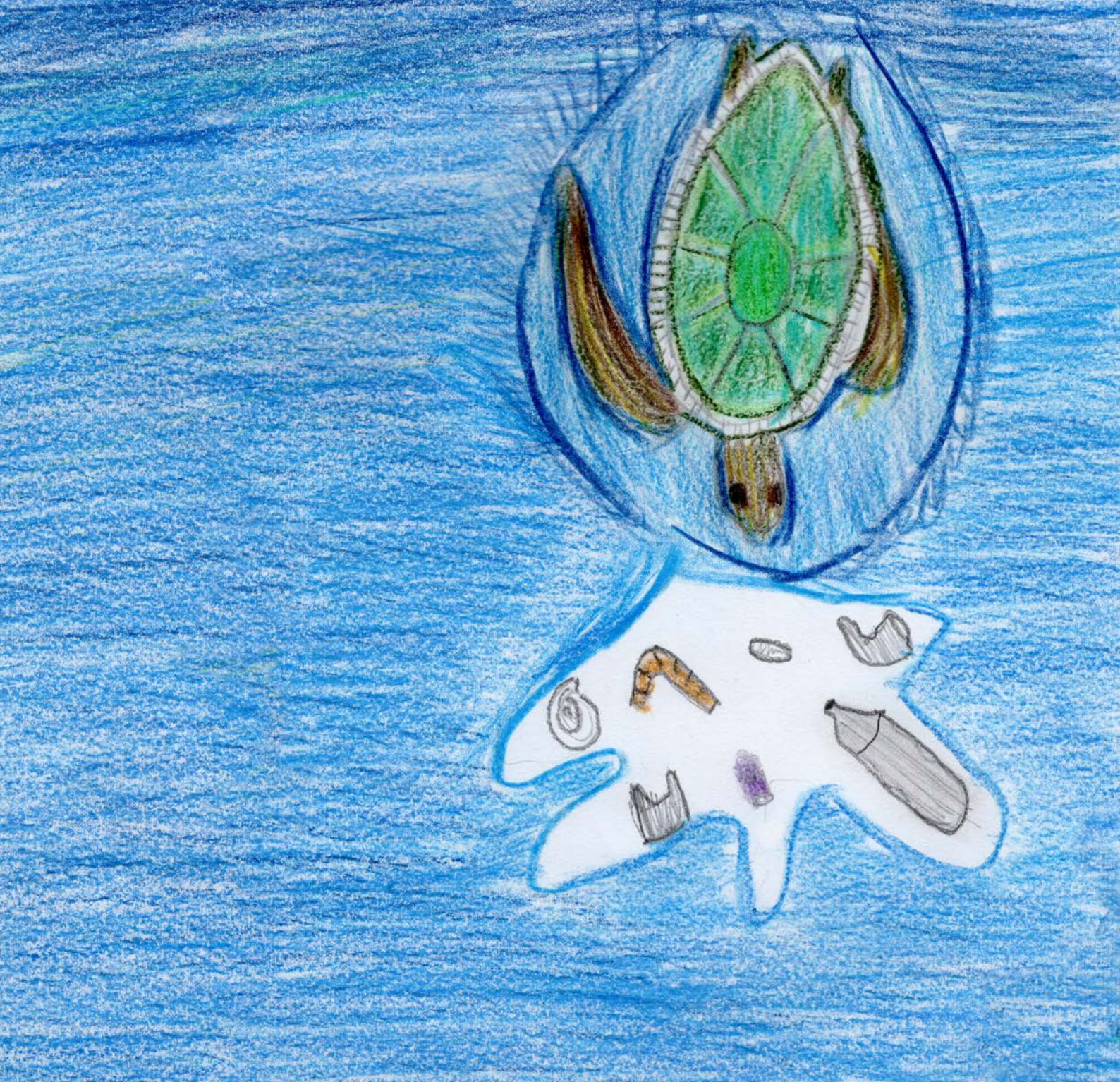
Timmy wondered what it could be and sped up to check it out. As he drew nearer and the brown things came into focus, he realised that they too were turtles.

He swam circles around them in excitement as he realised they were his lost brothers!



They told him that they had been dug out of the nest by the EcoGroms. They were buried quite deep and the sand was too heavy for them to dig themselves out.

“After the humans found and released you, they decided to search through the nest to see if we had all made it out safely. They found us and dug us out,” said Tony, one of Timmy’s brothers.



Just like Timmy had escaped from the birds and the tire track, his brothers had also had some close calls.

One brother had eaten some plastic and he couldn't poo for a week. There was lots of plastic floating around where they were hiding and it was easy to get the plastic mixed up with their food.



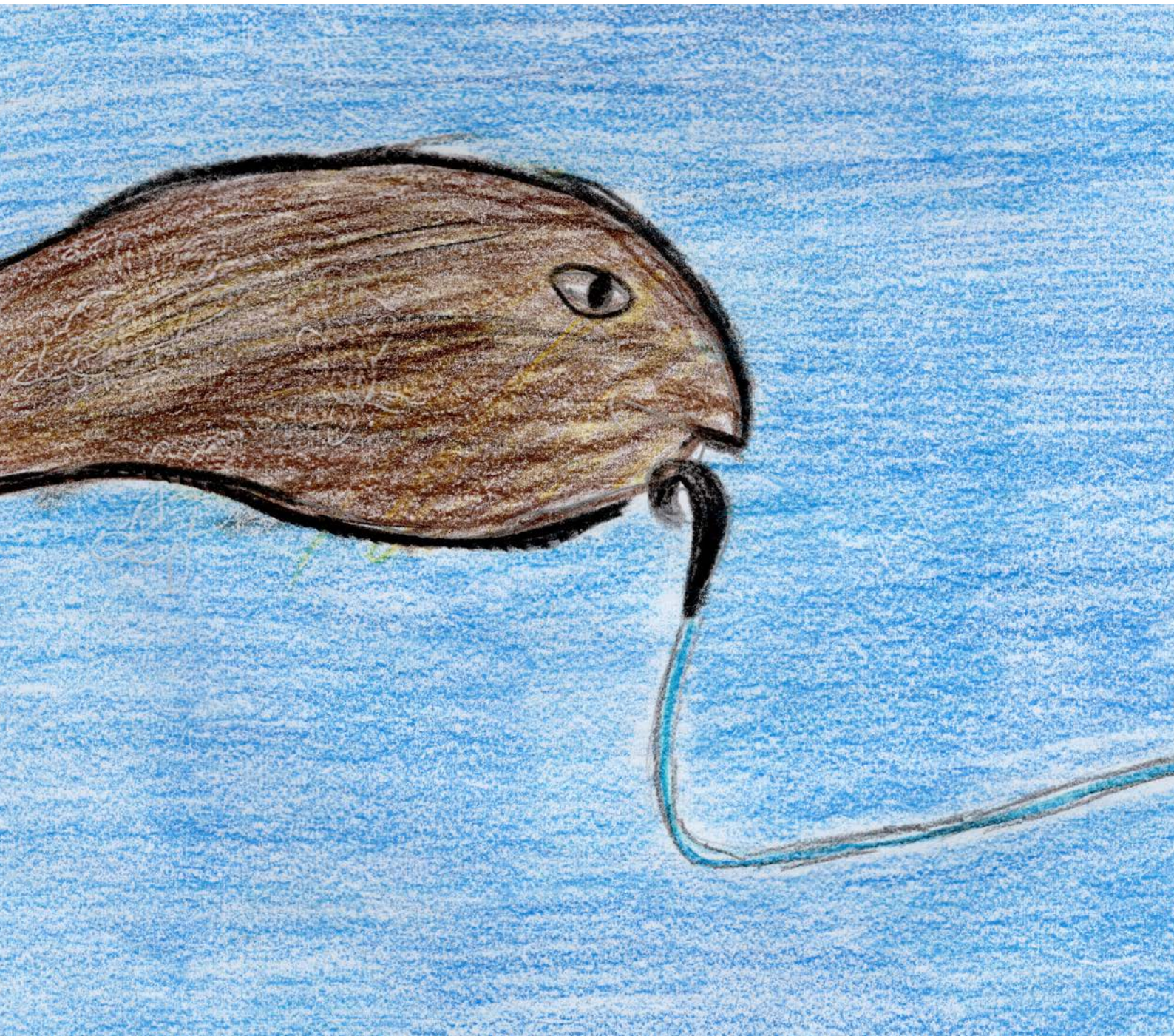
Another brother, who was missing a flipper, told Timmy how he was chased by a dolphin fish and only just escaped.

Even though he lost a flipper, he was very grateful to be still alive!

Then Timmy noticed that Tony had something shiny in his mouth,  
“What is in your mouth Tony?”

Tony said, “well, I thought I was eating a fish, but then this shiny  
hook got caught in my mouth. It makes it hard to eat my food and I  
can’t get it out”.

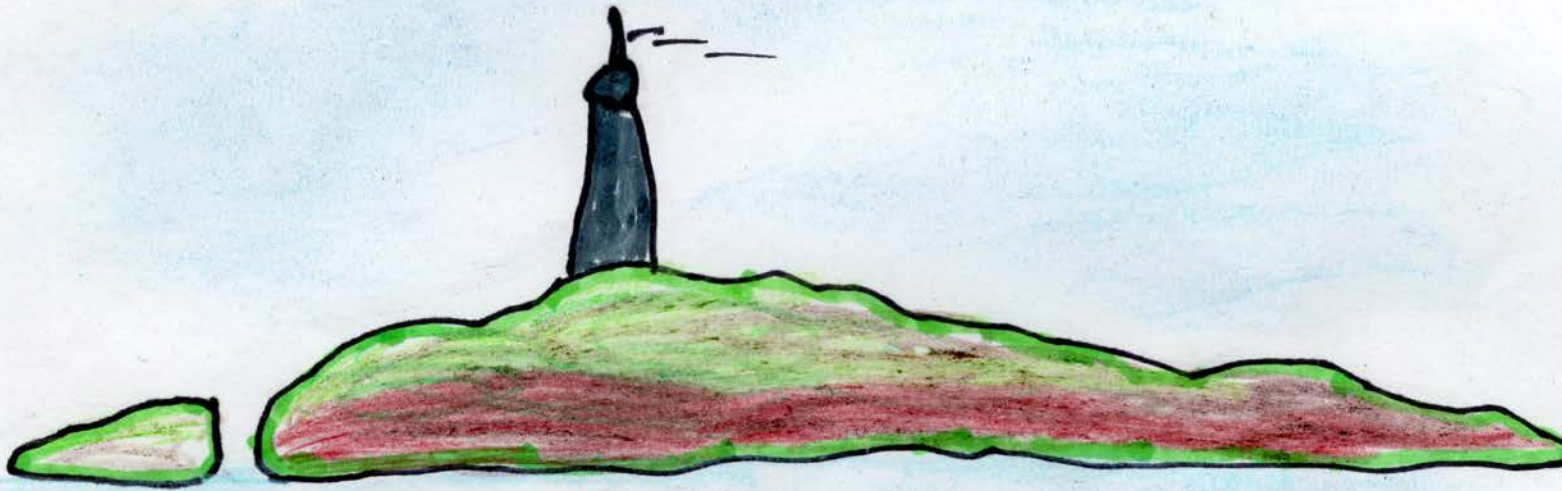
Timmy felt sorry that his brothers had such a hard time just trying  
to survive.

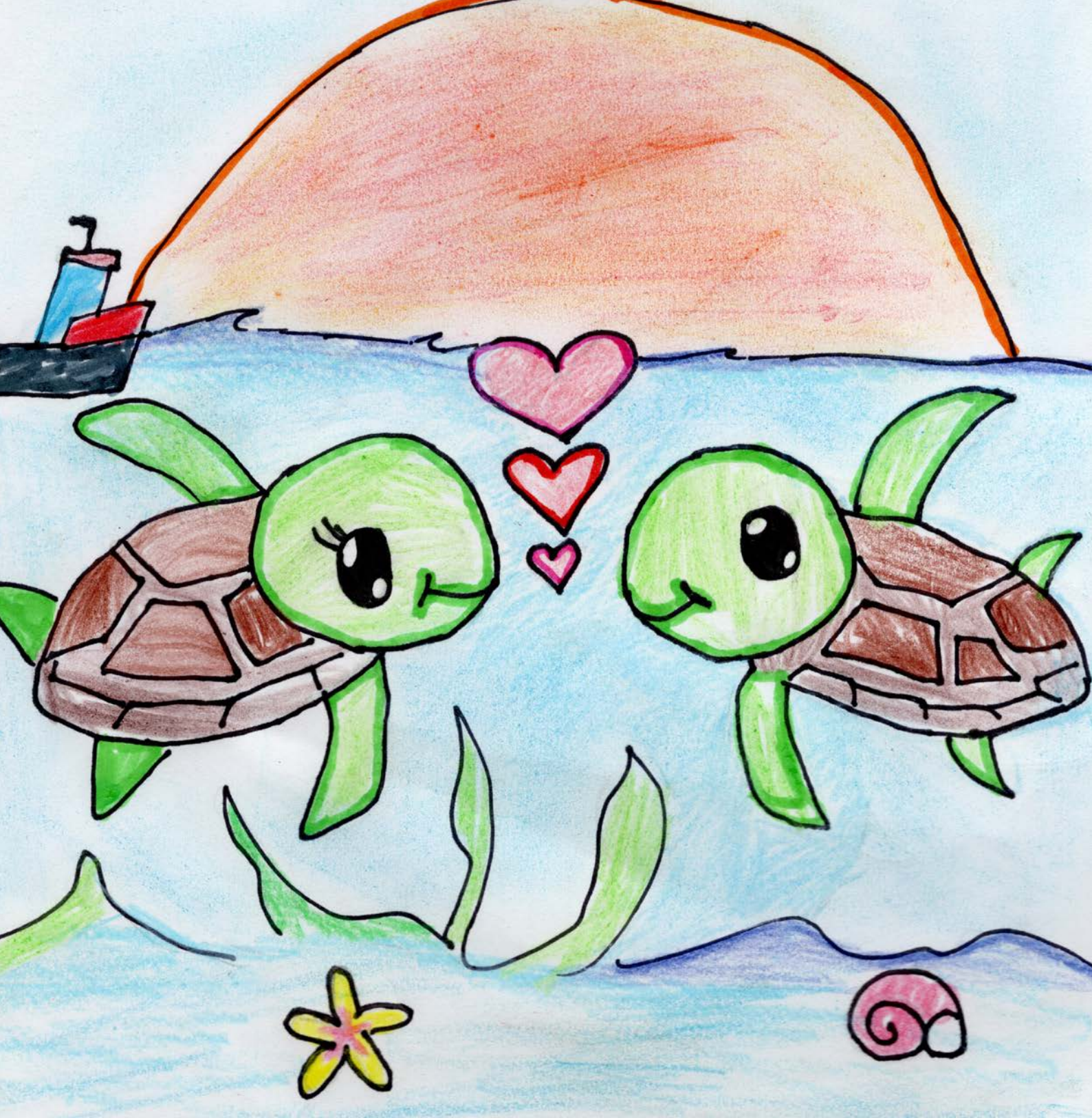




After his reunion with his brothers, Timmy the turtle floated through the open ocean to find a new suitable home.

He found some huge beds of yummy seagrass near Moonee Beach. "This looks like a good place to live," he said, "and very yummy habitat too!"





It was here in his new seagrass home that Timmy met a very cute little green sea turtle named Tammy. Tammy liked Timmy, and Timmy certainly liked spending time with Tammy. Over time they fell in love in the big blue sea.

One day they saw movement on the horizon, it was a boat moving towards them and their home.

As the boat zoomed passed, Tammy found herself too close and she was sucked into the boats propeller and injured. Poor Tammy had some slices and markings on her shell from the propeller. The boater stopped when they noticed the injured turtle, picked her up and put her in their boat.

Timmy was devastated as he thought that he had lost Tammy forever.

“How hard is it being a green sea turtle these days?” he wondered. “First my brothers don’t appear, and then Tommy is snatched. When I finally find my brothers, several are injured and then my love, Tammy, is taken from me.”



A huge storm developed over the coast. The storm water rushed down the mountains and washed all the bad toxins from human agricultural and commercial wastes down the river and out to the ocean.

The horrid brown water poured out the river entrance. The seagrass that Timmy loved to eat was polluted by the yucky water, but Timmy didn't know. He swam near the river mouth looking for food, ate the polluted seagrass and swam away.



The bad seagrass that Timmy ate left him feeling very sick. Timmy was so sick that he developed floating syndrome. This occurred because too much gas had built up in Timmy's stomach so he can't dive down.

Timmy couldn't eat because he could no longer dive down to reach the seagrass beds. He became very skinny and started to starve. He even had barnacles growing on his shell.



Poor Timmy was all alone, floating around the ocean with no food. He was very skinny and weak, so even though he saw the shore of the beach getting closer, he couldn't swim away. So the waves washed poor Timmy to the shore and up onto the beach.

*to be continued...*





# Meet our EcoGroms



Top row: Lily Austin, Bonnie Hammond, Hadley March

Bottom row: Lara Hannaford, Isabel Kelly, Harmony Chalk and Ashirah Davies-Everitt

