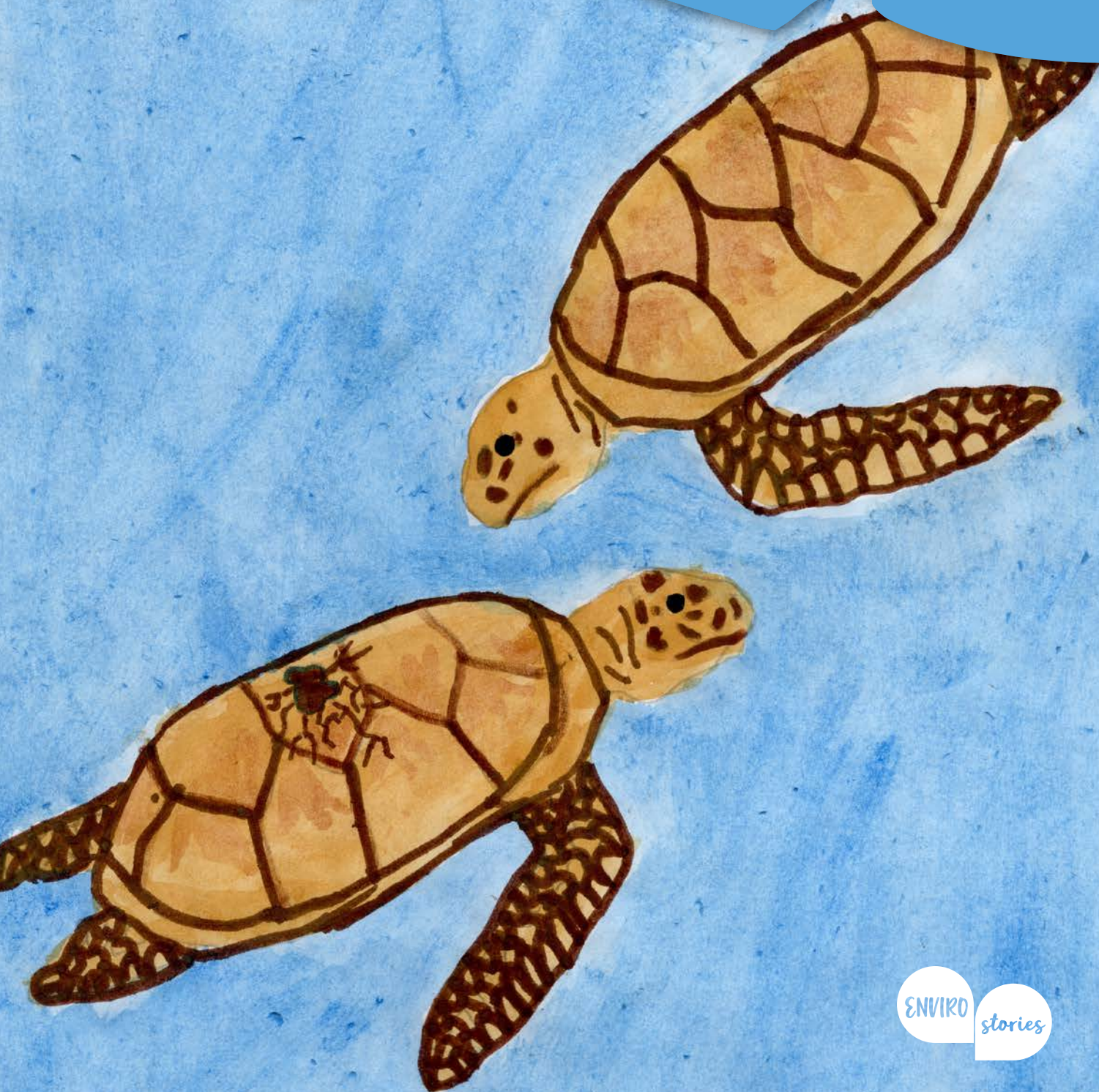


EcoGrooms rescue Timmy Turtle





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

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



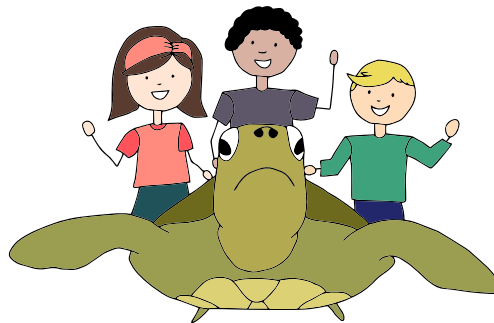
EcoGroms rescue Timmy Turtle

Authors: Lilly Trevaskis, Leo Gerhardt, Dean Gerhardt,
Sinead Slape, Joey Slape, Toby Mitchell,
Hadley March and Azurah Juarez

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.

Surname, I. 2021. *Timmy Turtle returns to the ocean*. Dolphin Marine Research Animal Rehab Trust, NSW.





One day, the Coffs Harbour EcoGroms kids were helping out by doing a beach clean-up in preparation for the upcoming turtle nesting season.

They were taught all about how northern New South Wales beaches are recognised as critical habitat for green and loggerhead sea turtles. This is why the beaches need to be free of rubbish to promote perfect nesting conditions.

They also learned that the most common dangers to sea turtles are beach pollutants, such as plastic containers, fishing line and cigarette butts. The EcoGroms were on the lookout for any of these toxic items on our beaches so they could carefully dispose of them in the bin.

During their beach clean-up the EcoGroms stumbled upon an unusually skinny, sick looking turtle that was covered in barnacles. They decide to name him Timmy the turtle.

The EcoGroms knew that you shouldn't return a sick turtle back into the ocean because they might have a condition called 'float' or internal injuries.



Timmy



“Timmy’s in trouble, we need to call the experts at Dolphin Marine Rescue, they will know how best to help him.”

Dolphin Marine Rescue thanked the EcoGroms for their call and told them they were on their way. They advised the EcoGroms to move Timmy into the shade and pour some water over him to keep him cool.





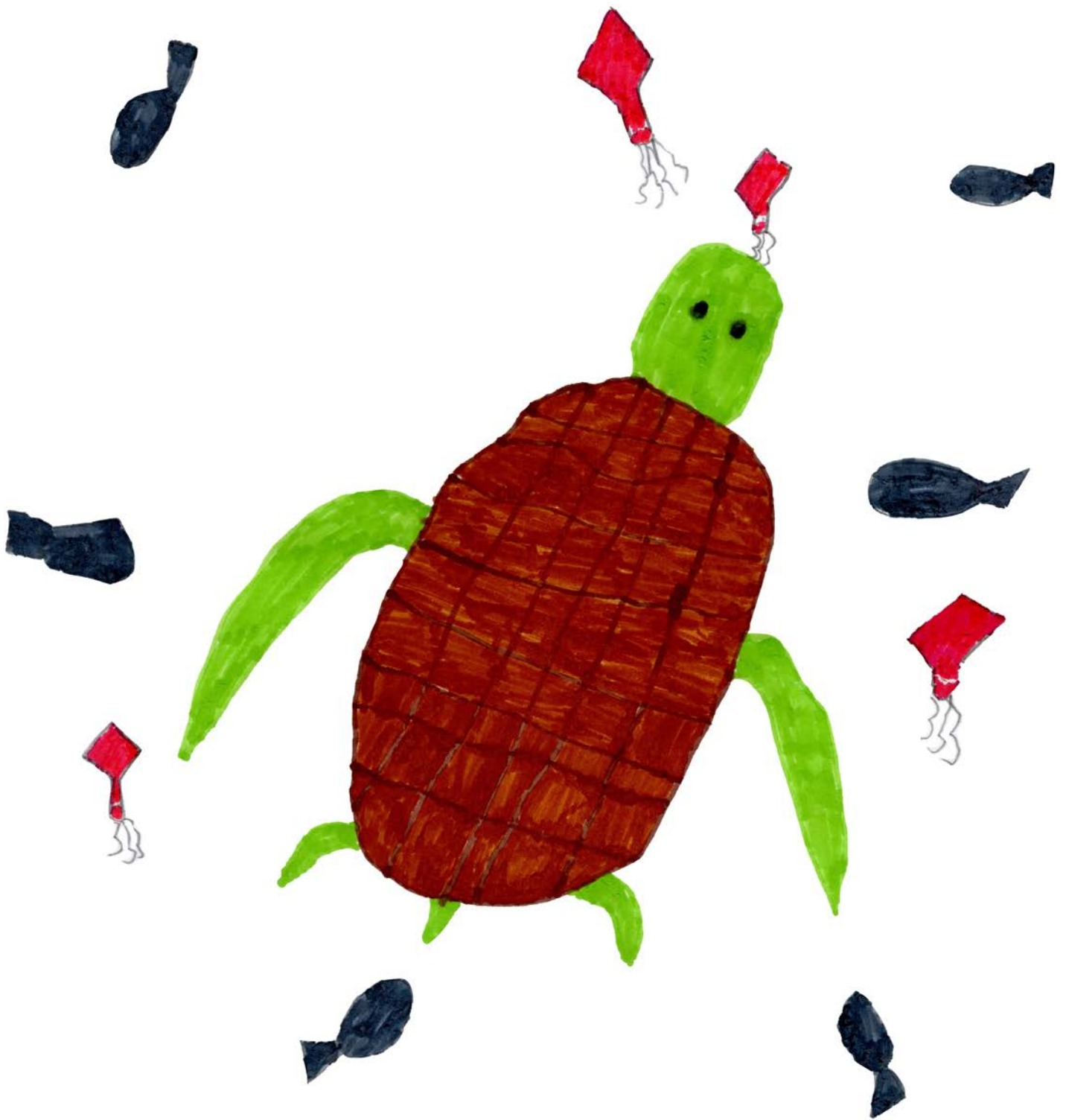
Turtles are weighed, measured and given a health check when they first come into rehab. This is so when they are weighed and checked the next time, the experts can see if they are getting better and making progress.

Timmy was placed on the scale and his initial weight was recorded.

When sick turtles first come in to rehab they are also given a bath with fresh water. This helps them rehydrate and feel a bit better. They are then put into a small kiddy pool with only a bit of water at first, so they can breathe.

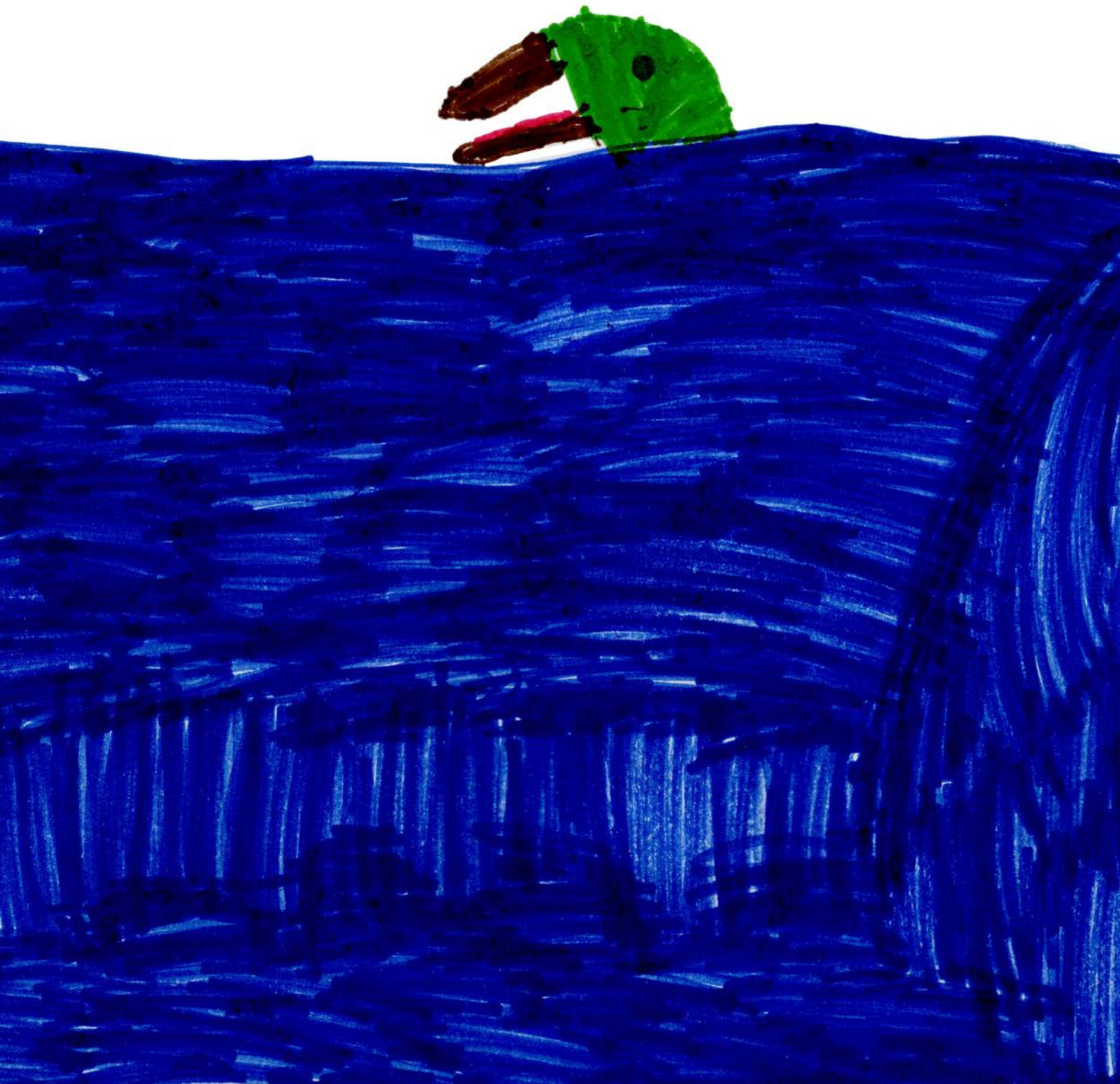
Timmy was bathed and then put safely in his own kiddy pool.

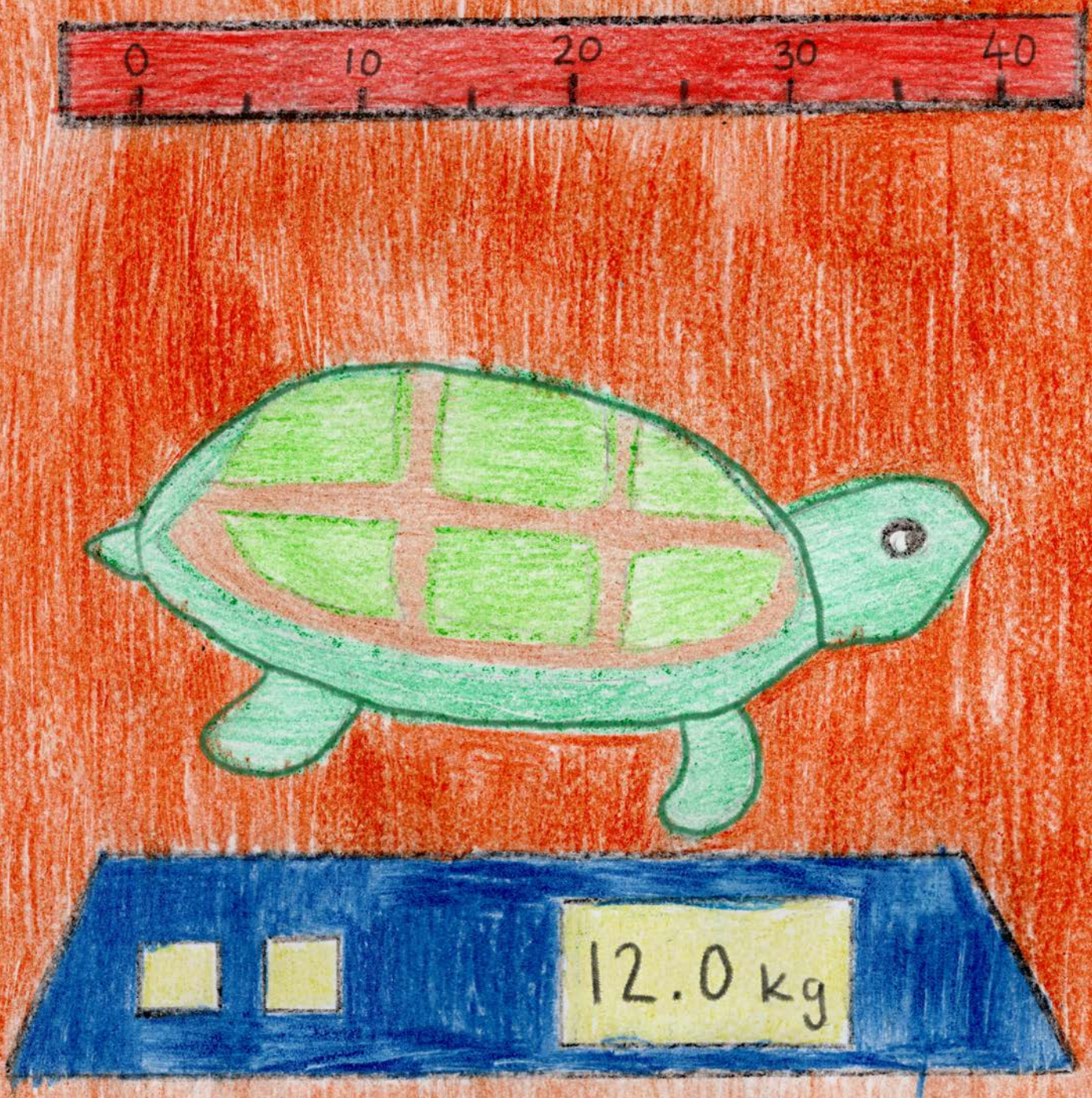




Timmy stayed in his freshwater pool for quite a few days. Turtles have to be able to breathe easily and be a bit more active before being moved to a bigger, deeper tank.

Finally, it was then time to move Timmy to a bigger tank and feed him a wider variety of food, such as fish and squid.

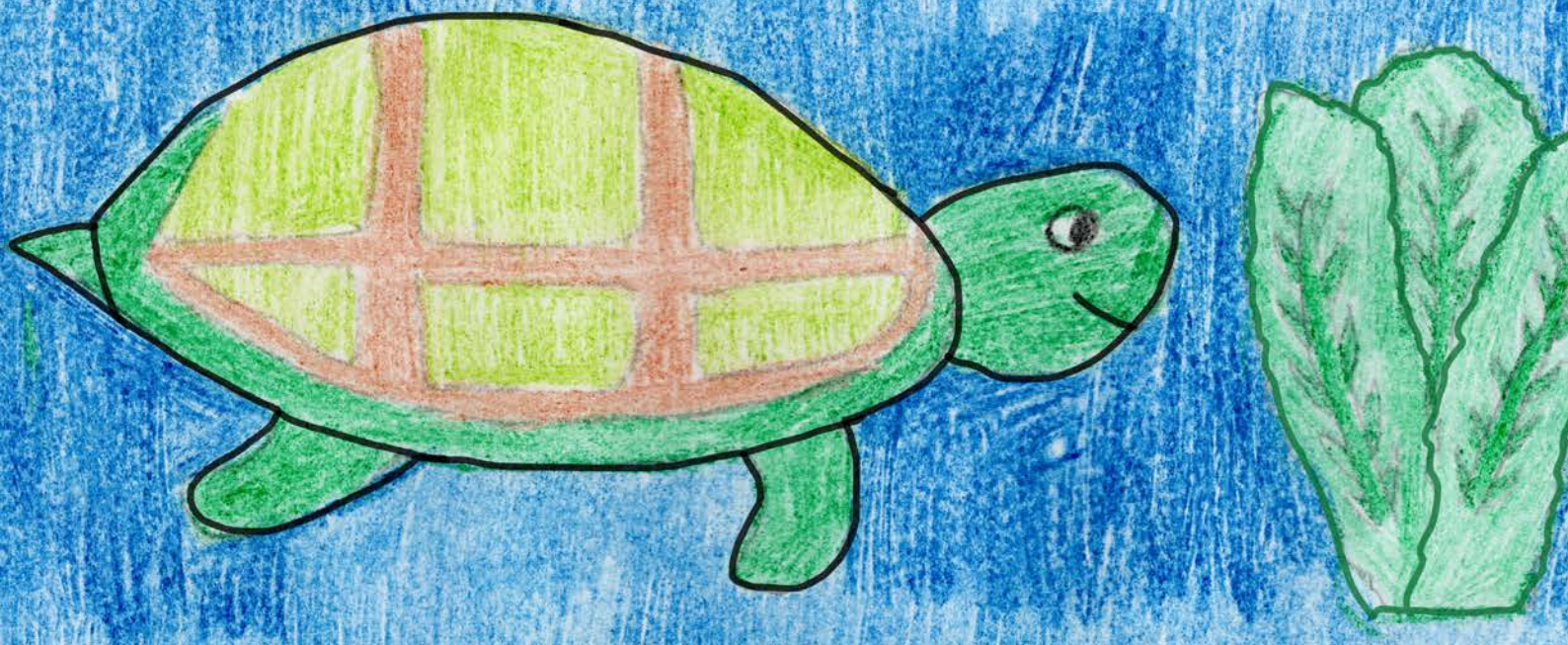




After a few weeks, the EcoGroms helped weigh and measure Timmy as he was looking much better. They planned to do this regularly to make sure he is eating enough food and gaining weight.

When Timmy was eating well they decided that it was time to feed him some veggies. Green sea turtles eat seagrass in the wild.

They need protein like fish and squid to help them grow, but it is important to give them a more natural diet before they leave the turtle hospital, so they are fed romaine, or cos, lettuce.







Gradually, Timmy began to swim faster and get his flippers moving. But there was no use as the tank just wasn't big enough.

"I wish I didn't have to swim in this teeny, tiny tank. It's smaller than what an ants bath would be," joked Timmy to himself.

Just as Timmy was laughing at his own joke, he was scooped up and moved to a different tank.

Timmy was put into a much bigger tank.

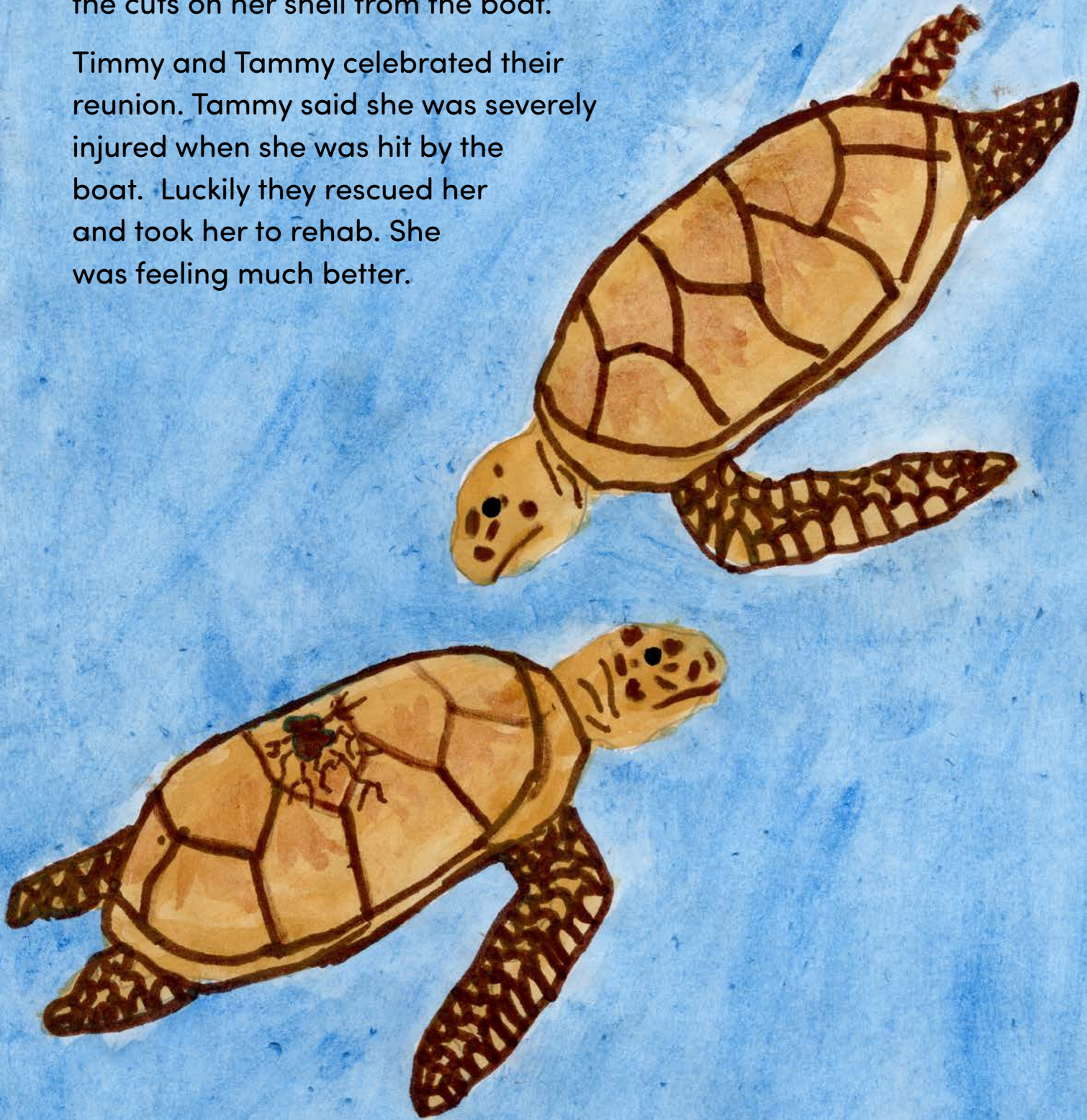
“Oh my goodness!” Timmy squealed with excitement, as he zoomed around his new and very large tank. “Yay, I can swim”, Timmy said in a very excited voice.

Now that Timmy was in the big tank, he started to dive and swim and get stronger. In this tank, the vets are able to monitor Timmy to see when he is strong enough to go back into the ocean.



As Timmy was swimming around in the big tank, he saw a very familiar turtle. He knew it was Tammy because he could see the cuts on her shell from the boat.

Timmy and Tammy celebrated their reunion. Tammy said she was severely injured when she was hit by the boat. Luckily they rescued her and took her to rehab. She was feeling much better.

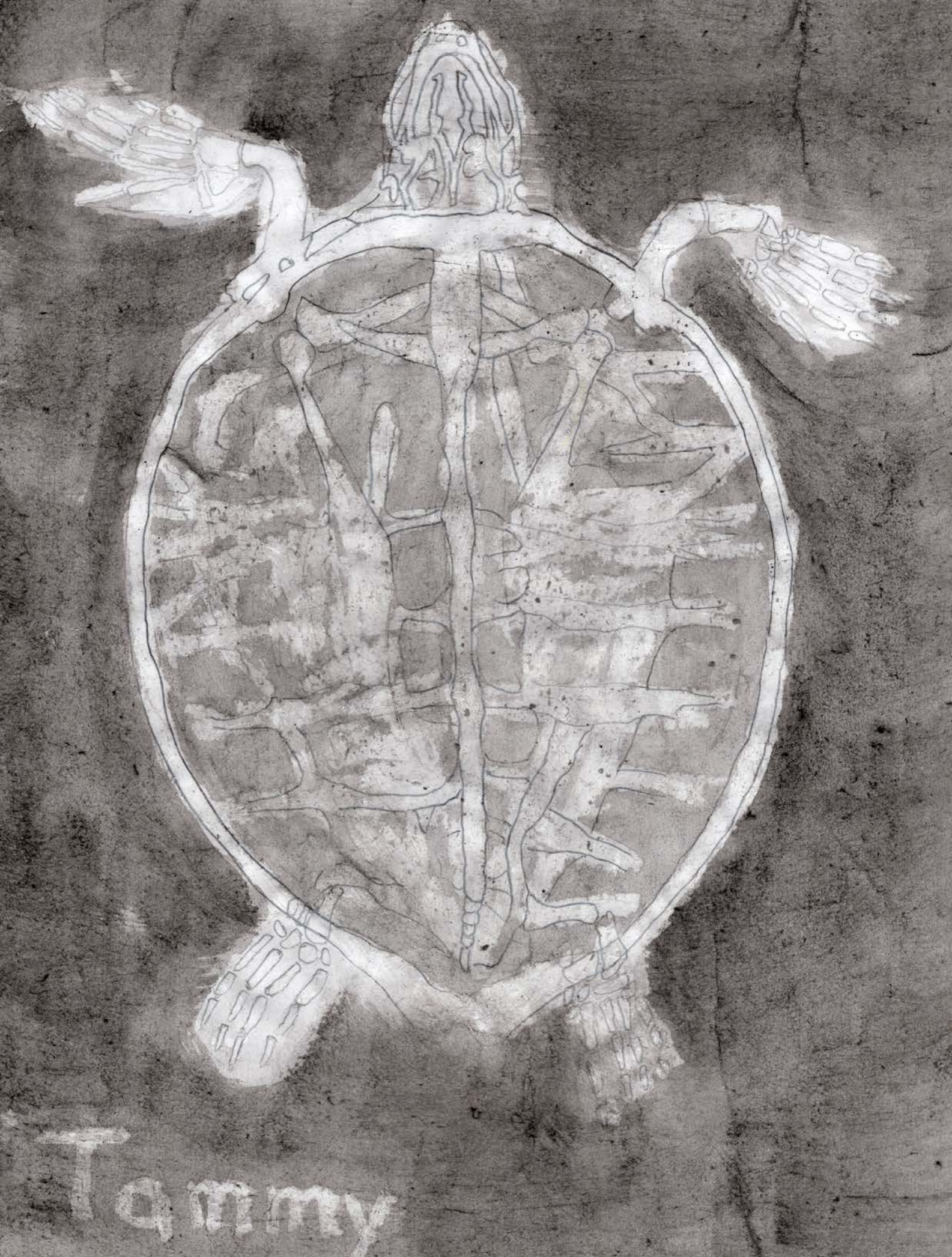


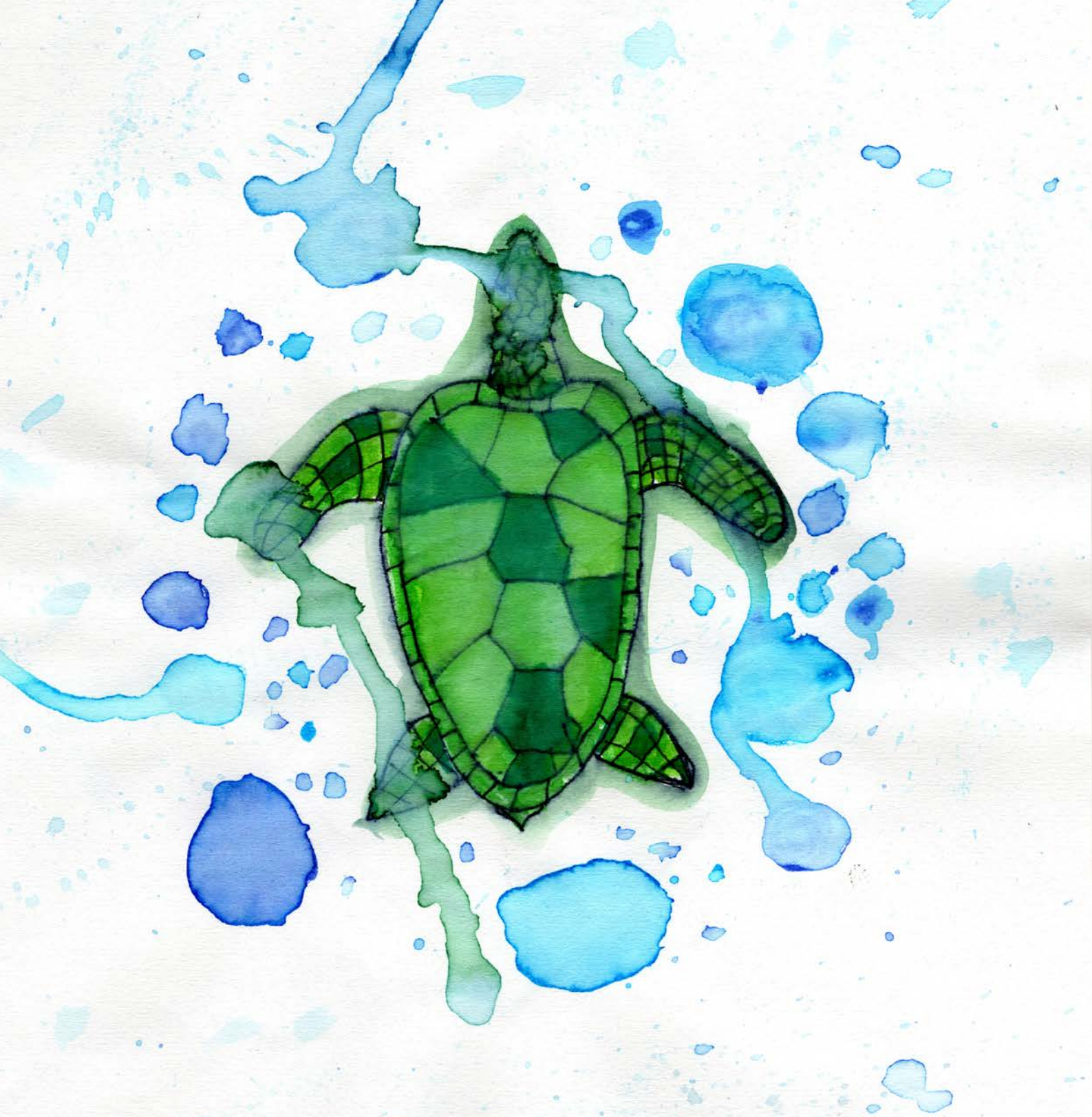
Just as Tammy and Timmy were in the middle of catching up, Tammy was scooped out of the tank and taken for more checkups.

Timmy was terrified and shocked at first, but the vets bought her back and Tammy soon joined him again.

"I thought you were gone forever", Timmy shouted with a shocked voice.

"No, I had to get my cuts cleaned and have an x-ray. The vets are still helping me get better", Tammy explained.





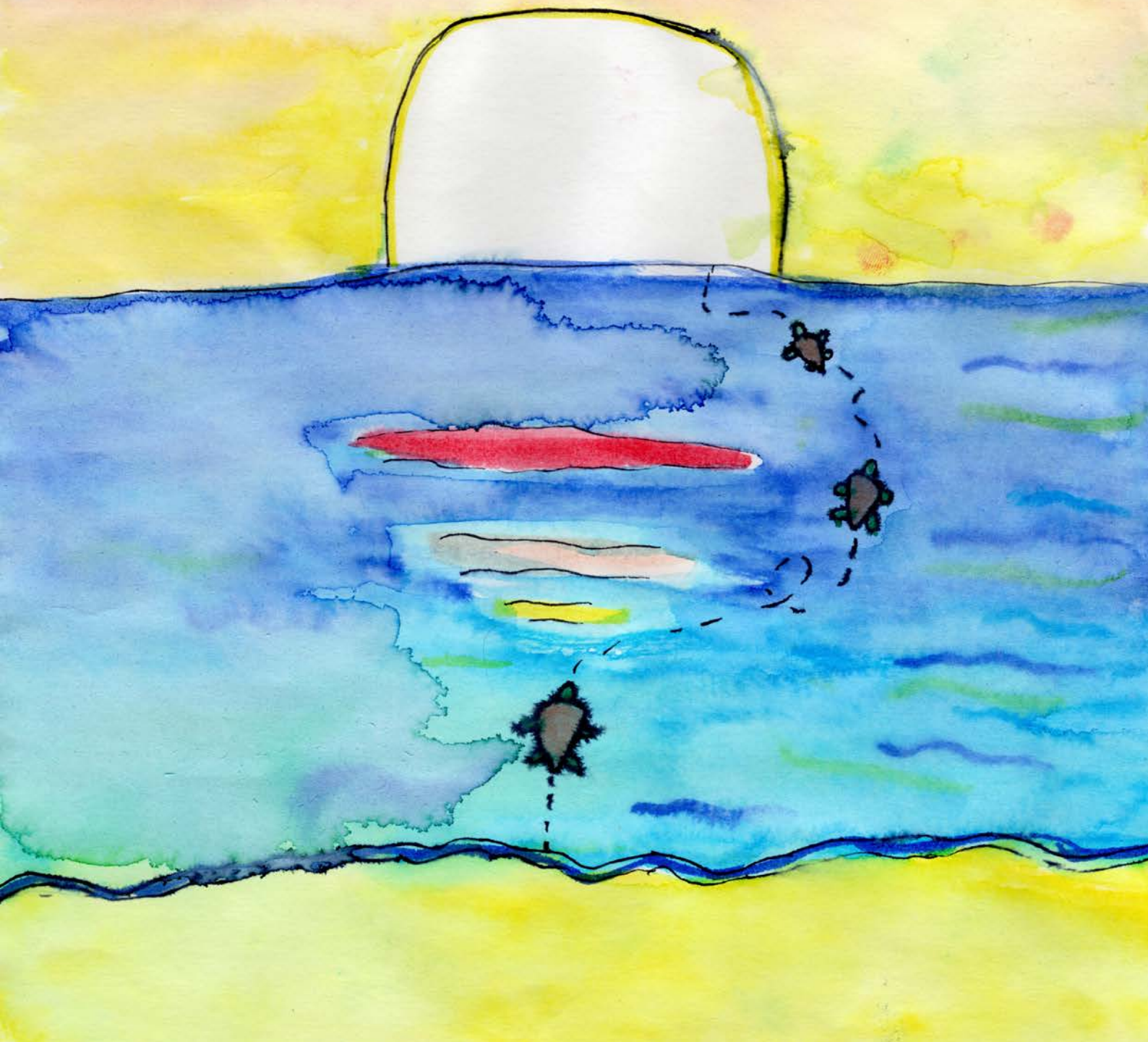
Timmy and Tammy went through rehabilitation together ever since they were brought into Dolphin Marine Rescue. It has all paid off because they will get to go back home.

They both were really excited, maybe even nervous, because soon they were going to be released at a salt water beach close to where they were found.

The turtle captains, the people in charge of releasing the turtles, approached the water. Timmy and Tammy were getting more and more excited, flapping their flippers with eagerness.

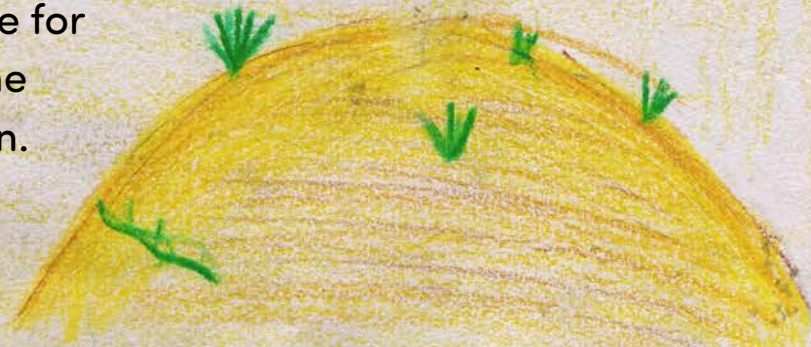
Once the turtle captains were about waist deep in the ocean, they placed the turtles in the water and watched as they swam away.

What a success! Timmy and Tammy were both healthy and happy, back in the wild. Everyone wished them good luck!





Timmy and Tammy spent the next 20 years maturing together in their seagrass home. It was now time for Tammy to return to the beach she hatched on.



She was ready to lay her own clutch of eggs. As she looked at the moon under the night sky, she was extremely thankful for the EcoGrooms and vets who saved her and Timmy all those years ago.

Meet our EcoGroms



Top row: Lilly Trevaskis, Dean Gerhardt, Leo Gerhardt and Sinead Slape
Bottom row: Joey Slape, Toby Mitchell, Hadley March and Azurah Juarez

