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# Children's Stories Dealing With Race Relations

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AUGUST 2, 1995

CHILDREN'S STORIES DEALING WITH RACE RELATIONS

Honors Thesis Project  
by  
Susan Tregoning

Dr. Jim Scales  
Honors Thesis  
Independent Study

The thesis project presented is an attempt to address the subject of race relations through a series of children's books. The books are geared for children of three to five years of age. I have devised an outlined of the series, which contains five books. I have written and illustrated the first two books of the series.

#### I. WHY AM I A YELLOW FISH?

This book is designed to explore with the child why they are of a certain culture or race. It illustrates examples of all different kinds of fish and shows that it is positive for them all to get along. I have tried to give the child a sense of togetherness with everyone through the experiences of my main character, Martin Yellow Fish.

#### II. MARTIN FISH MEETS ZACHARY TURTLE

The second book begins to show relationships with other animals besides fish. It is showing the child how to build a friendship with someone completely different from them. I hope to illustrate how to appreciate the similarities and embrace the differences that we may have with new people we meet.

#### III. MARTIN FISH MEETS KIAUNA CRAB

The third book of the series is for the purpose of teaching about stereotypes. Martin will meet a "bad" crab and is told not to be around her. The child will be shown how to break through race barriers by gradual friendship and accepting only what they know to be true about a person. I hope the child will be more comfortable to try new experiences and not be intimidated by new and unknown cultures.

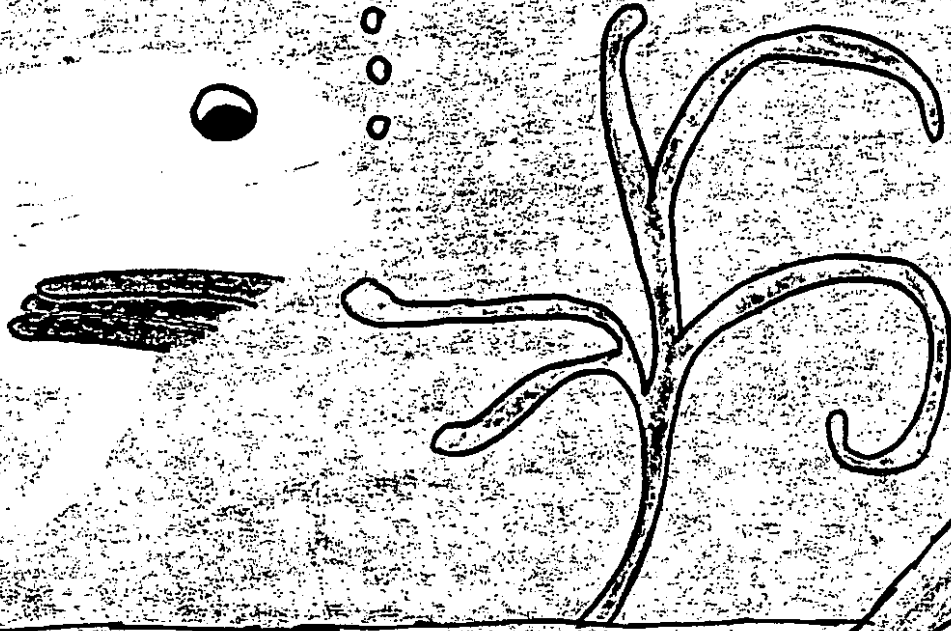
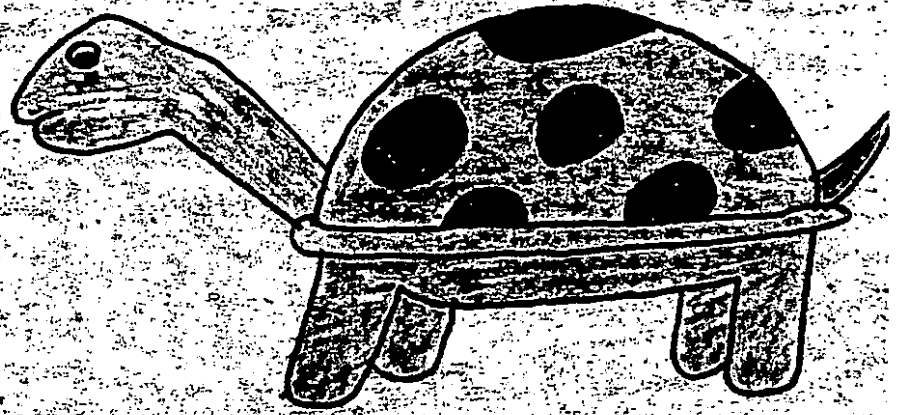
#### IV. MARTIN FISH GOES TO SCHOOL

The sometimes difficult transition for children starting school will be illustrated in the fourth book. There will also be an added difficulty when Martin's teacher is an eel and not a fish. Some of the other "fish" parents are not happy about this. Martin works through this conflict with his friends and decides he is really going to like his teacher and school after all.

## V. MARTIN FISH BUMPS INTO LUIS FROG

The fifth and final book continues with the theme of having all different sorts of friends. Martin Fish originally does not like Luis. They get into an argument when they accidentally bump into each other. No one likes Luis because he is different, but Martin begins to get to know him and starts to like him. They only can play alone together at first because of his friends, but in the end Martin convinces his friends how much fun Luis is and they all begin to get along together.

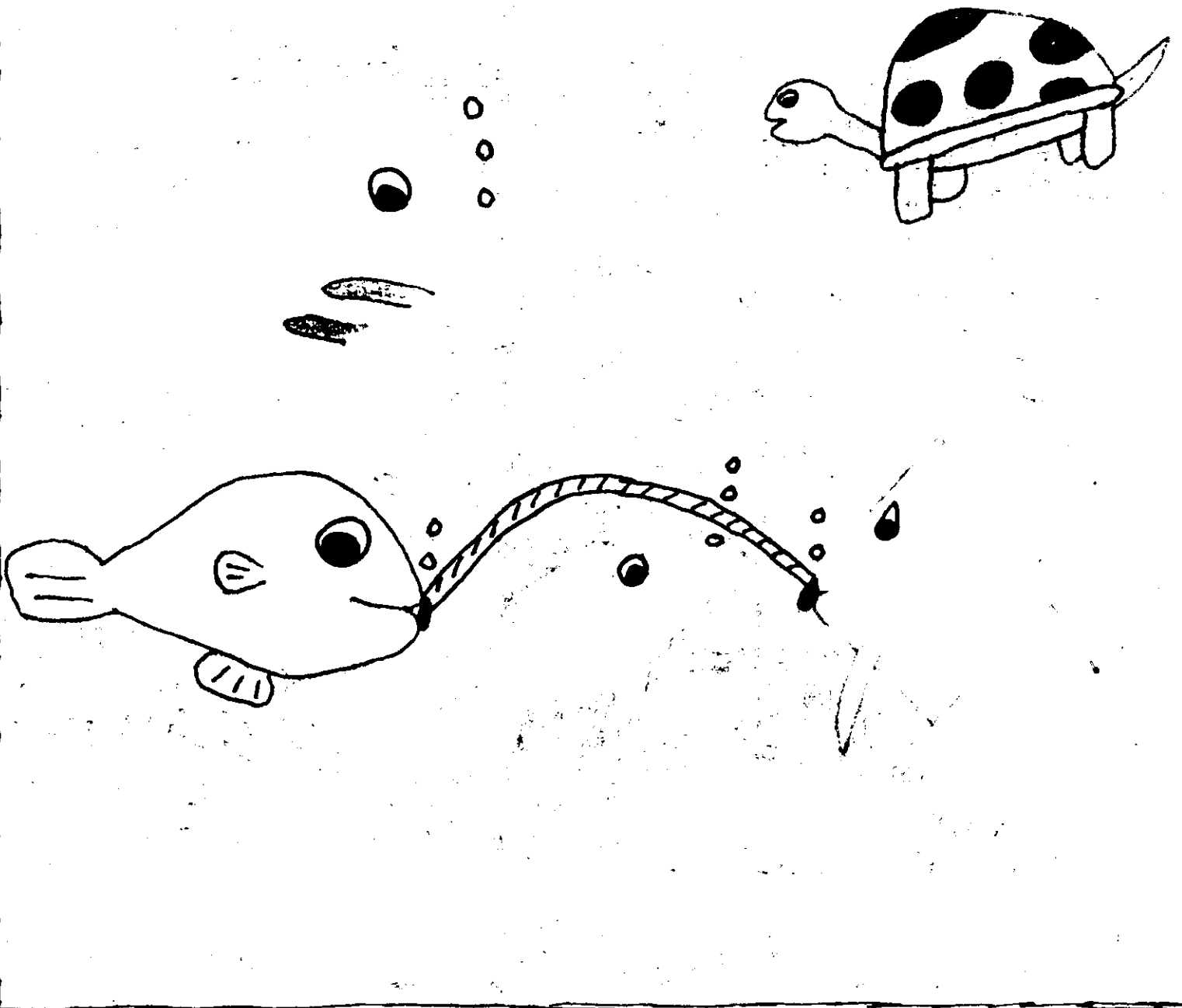
# Martin Fish Meets Zachary Turtle



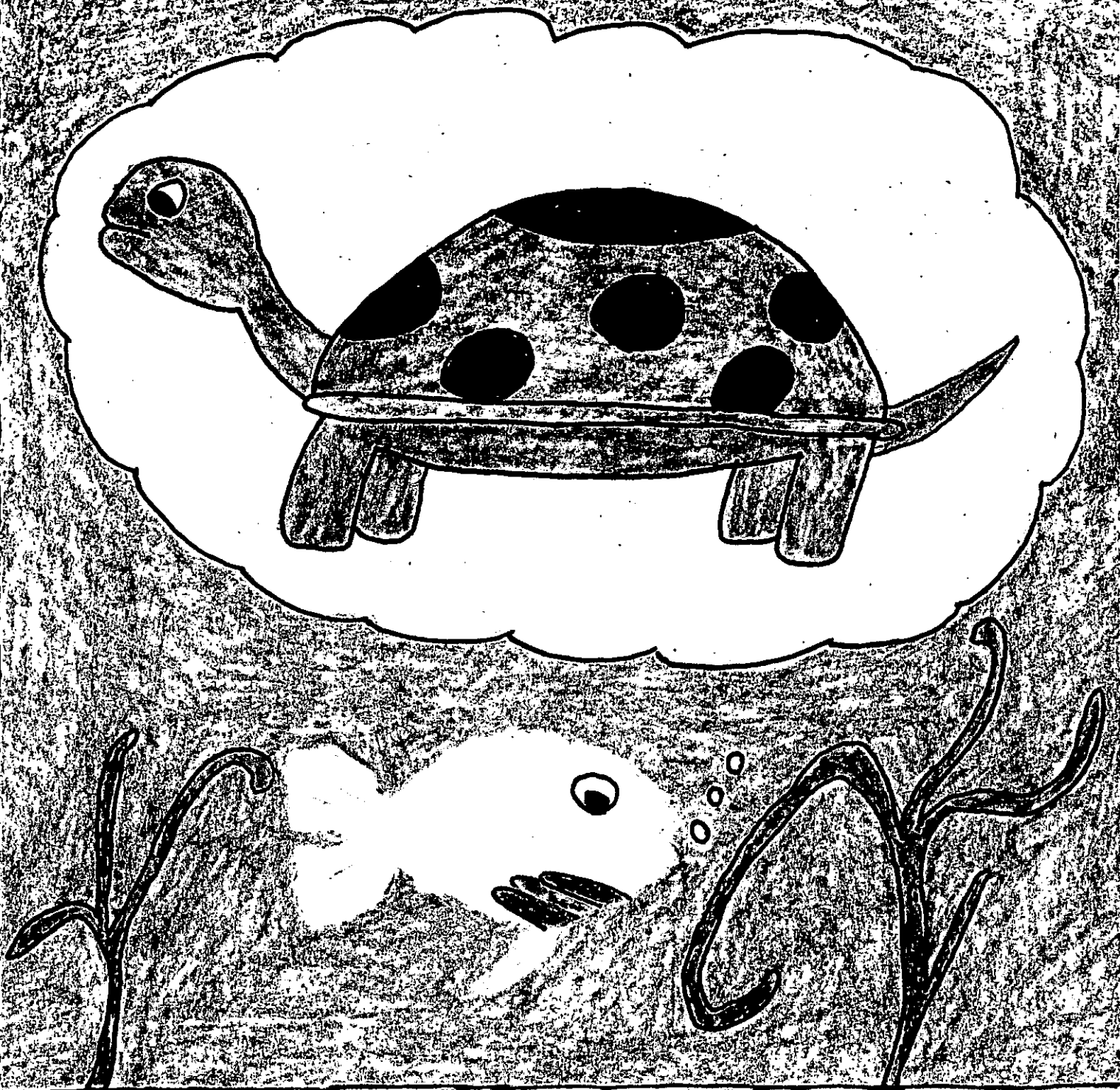
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**Martin is a yellow fish, who lives with his mother and father in a small part of Terre Beaux Lake.**

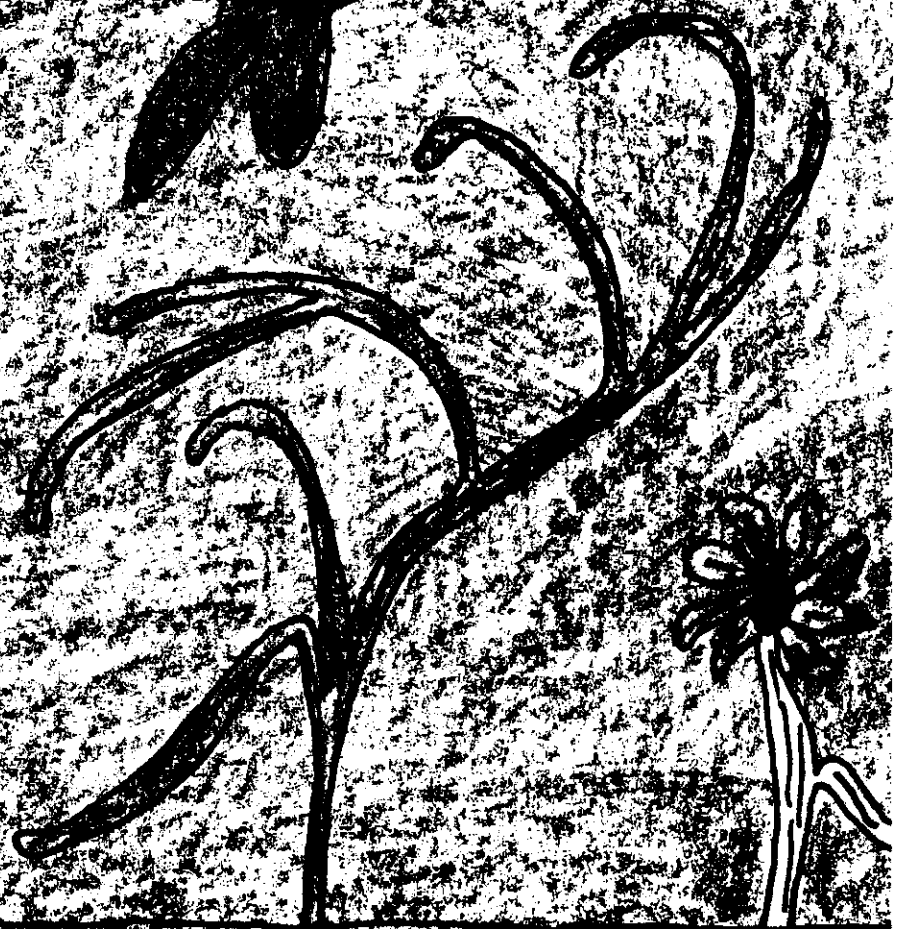


**One day when Martin was playing with his friends he saw a turtle. Martin was afraid of turtles, because they were not the same as fish.**



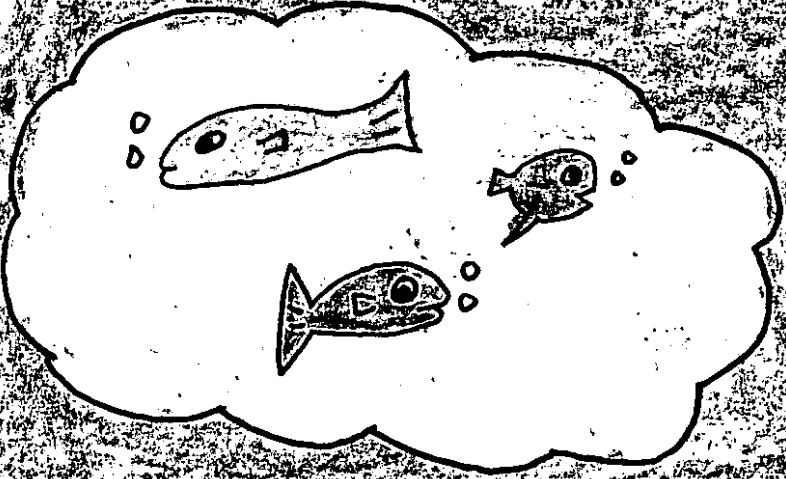
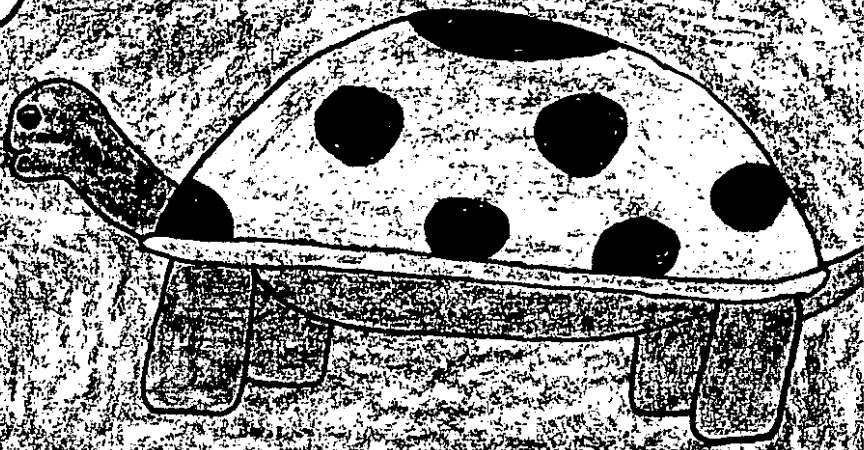
Turtles were bigger than he was, with a huge shell on their backs that looked scary. He and his friends stayed away from the turtles because they were so mean and tough.



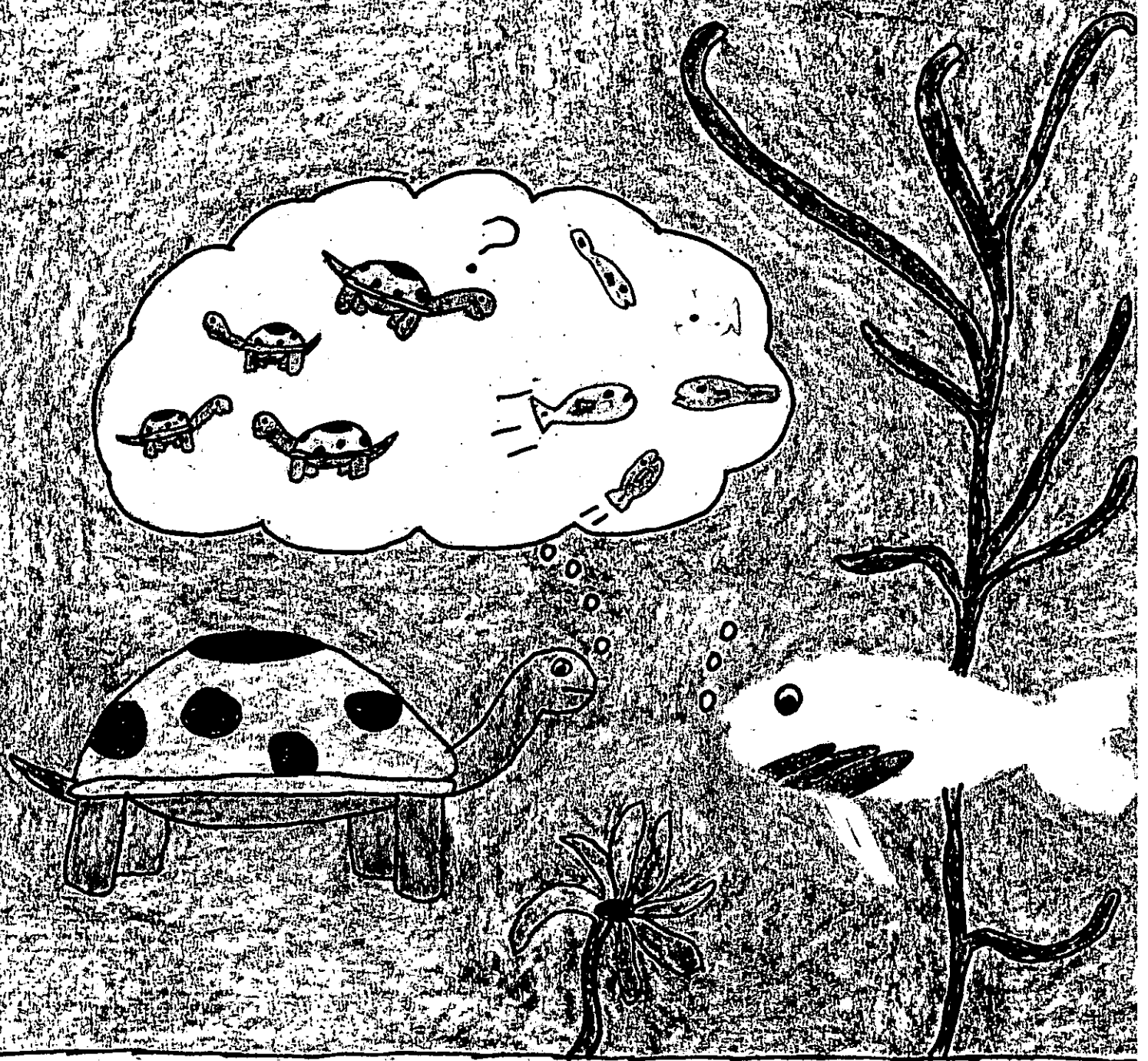


The first...  
The second...  
The third...

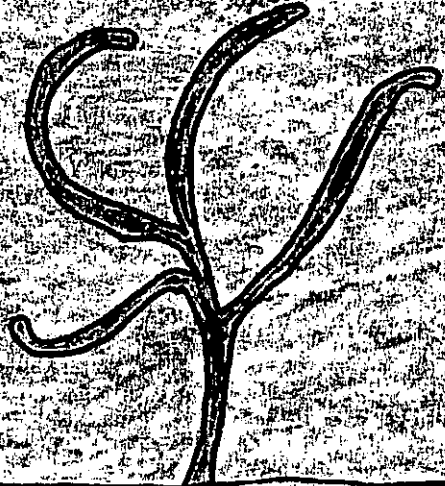
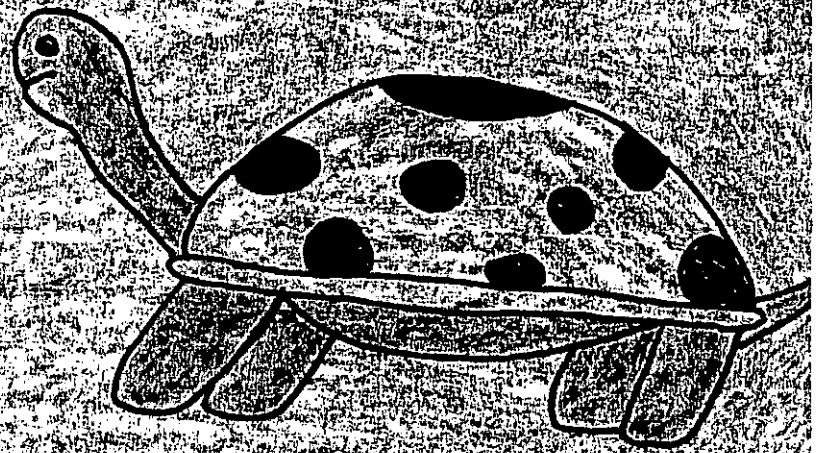
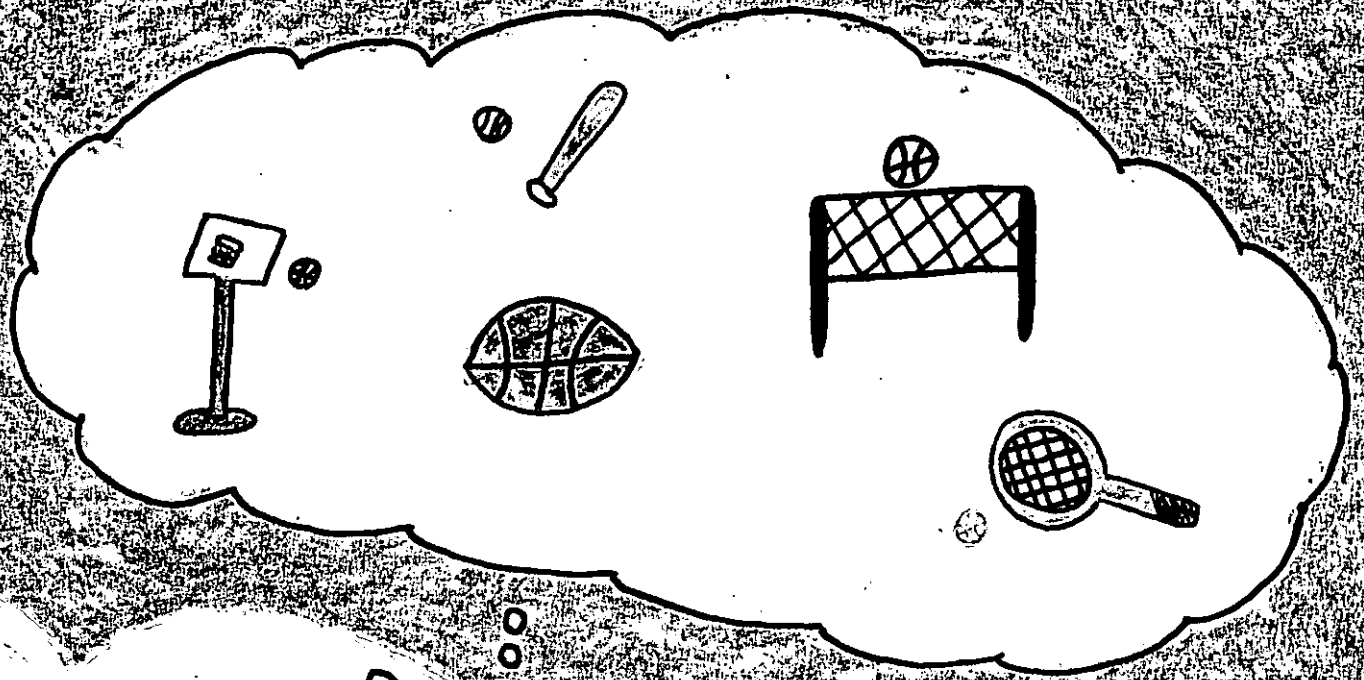
"What are you?"



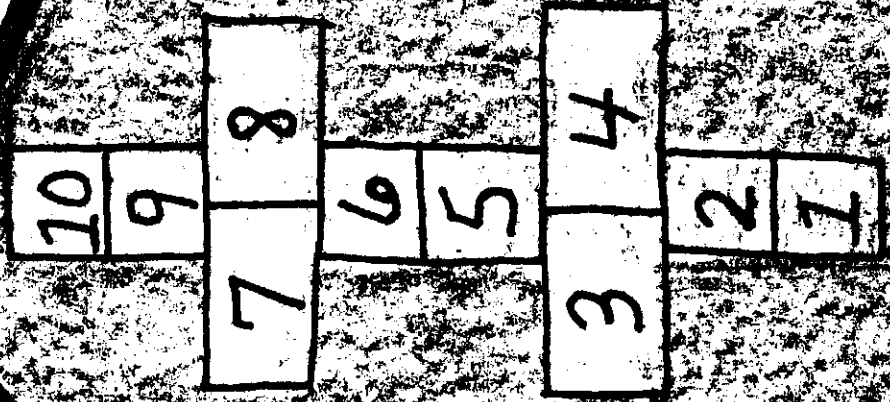
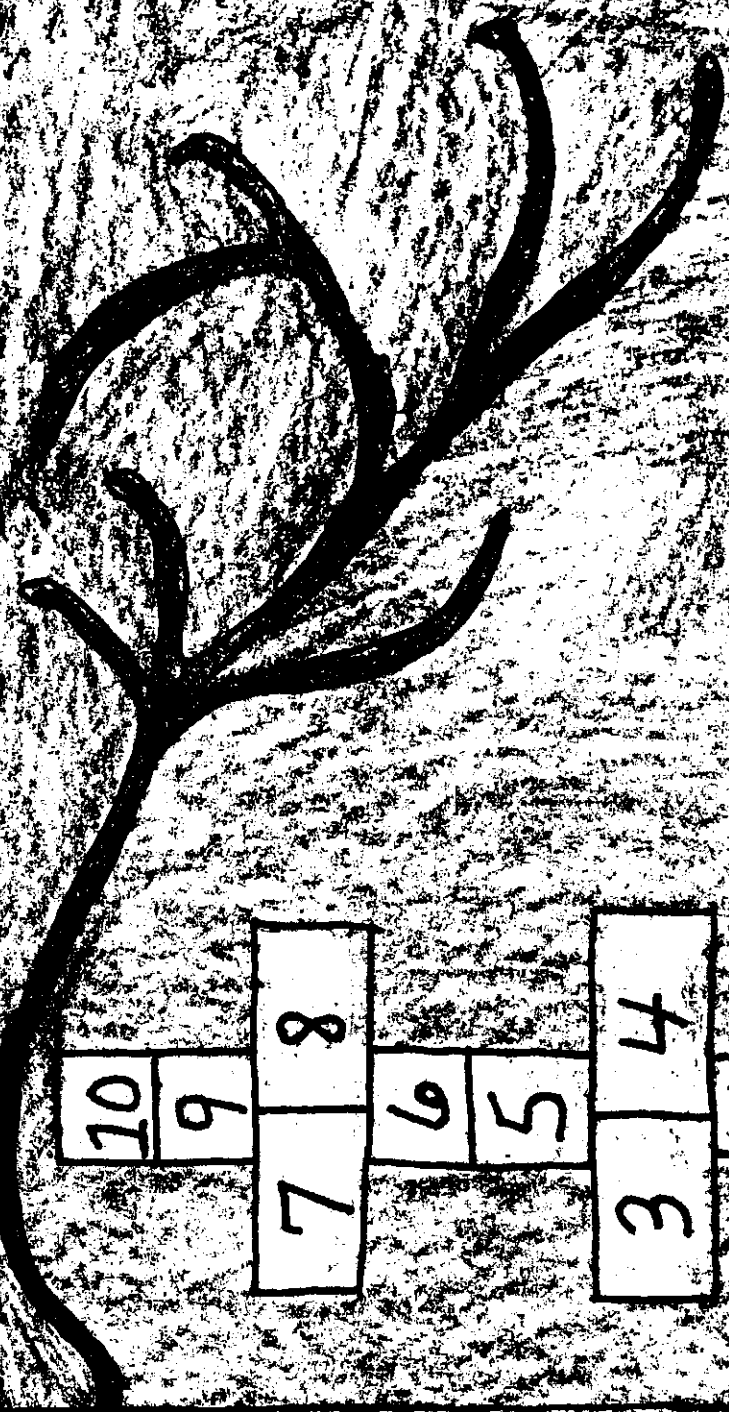
"Hello," said Martin, "my name is Martin." "What are you?" said the turtle. "Well, I'm a yellow fish" said Martin. "I live here with a lot of other fish. You've never seen a fish before?"

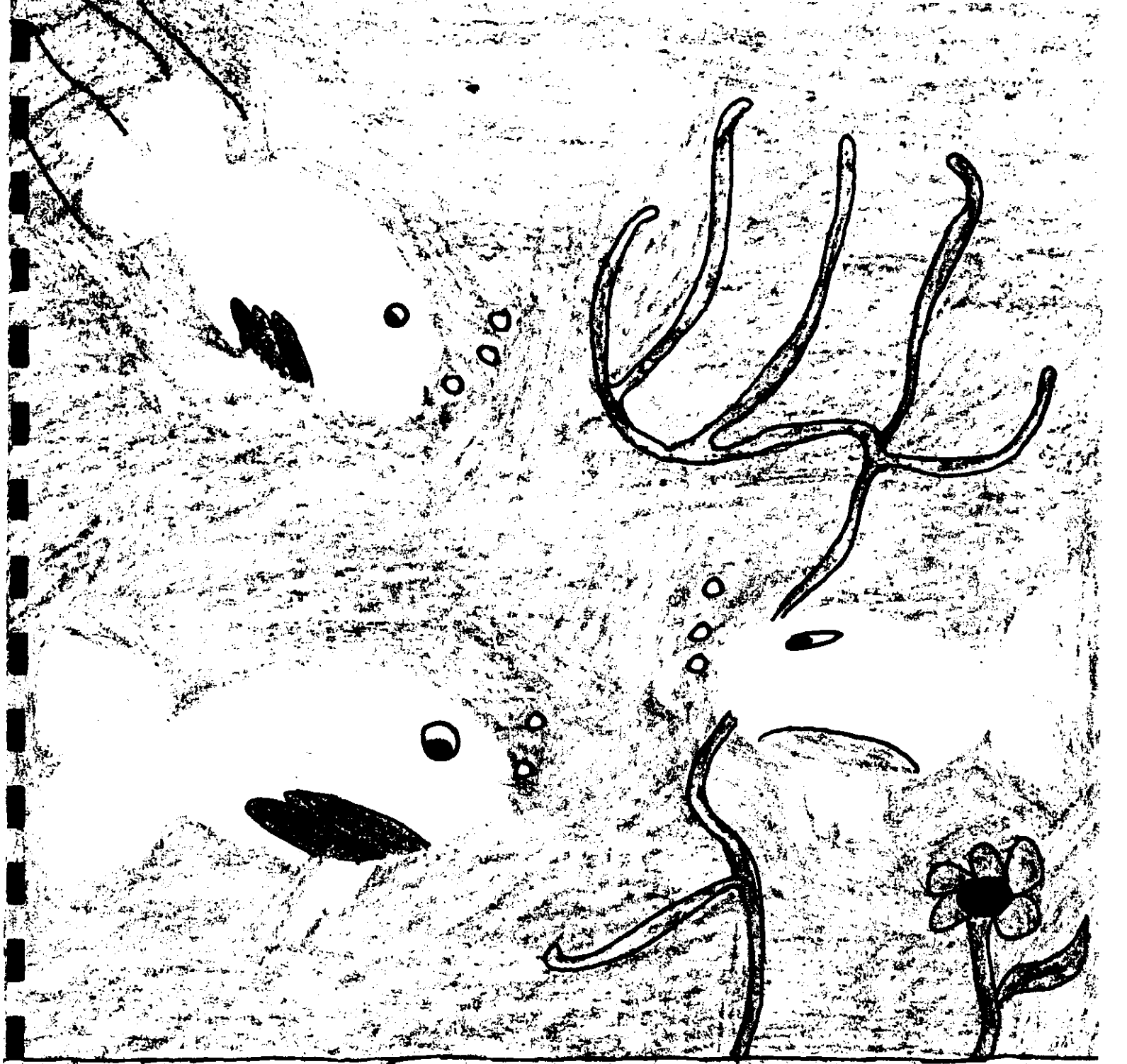


"My name is Zachary," said the turtle. He told Martin how he had only played with turtles and wasn't allowed to be around fish, because they were strange. So Zachary had never seen a fish before.

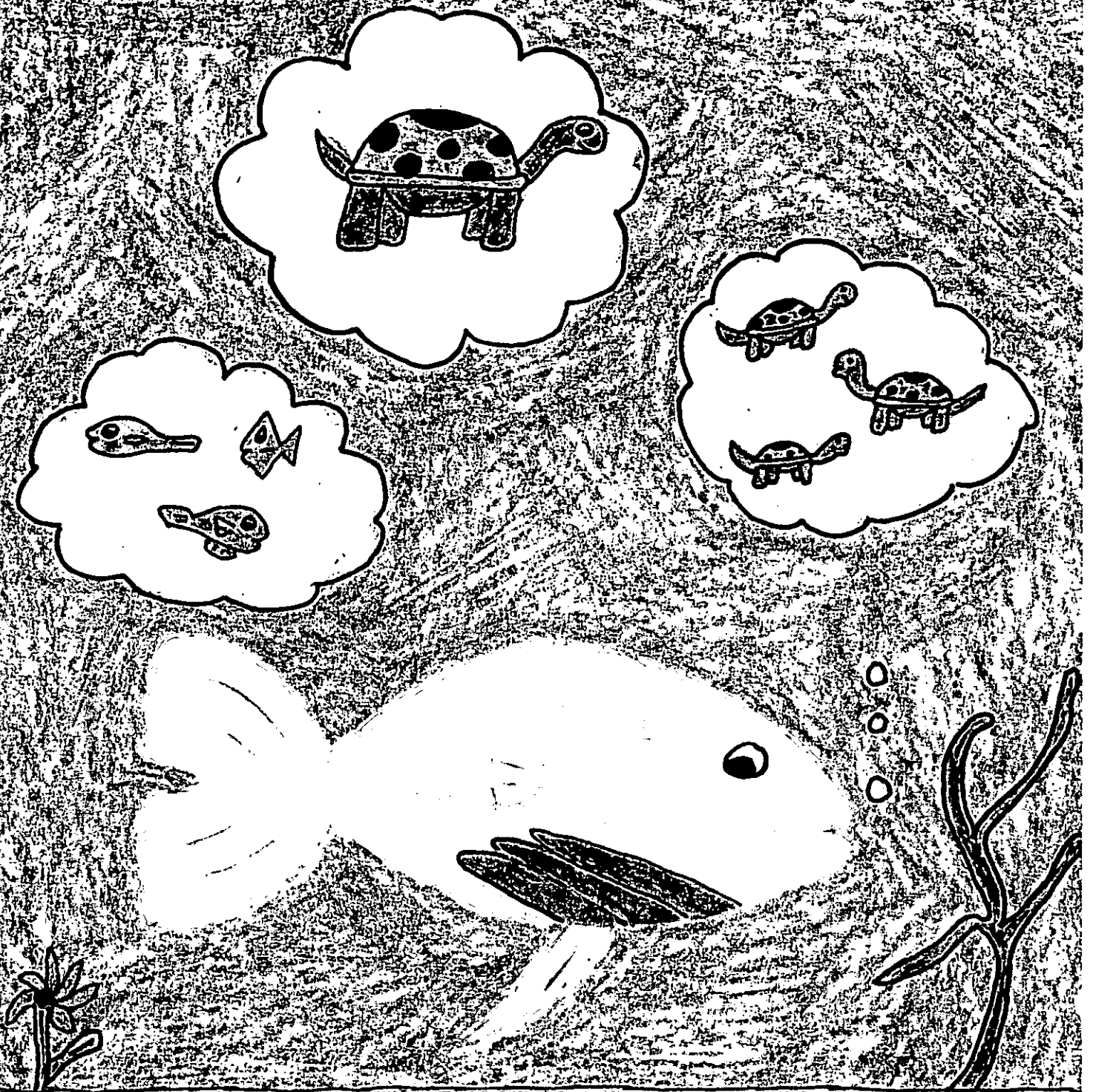


Martin and Zachary began to talk and found out that they knew how to play some of the same games. The two instantly became friends. They liked each other a lot.



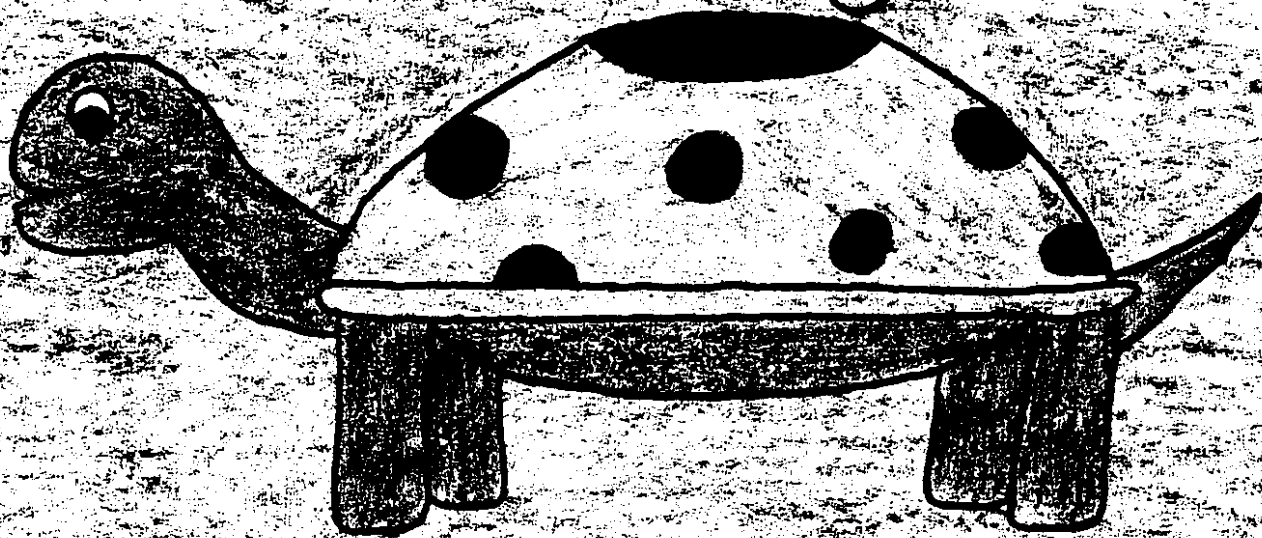


Martin couldn't wait to get home to tell his family and friends  
all about his new friend. When Martin told them about  
Zachary, they were both happy that Martin had made friends  
with a turtle.



Martin Fish learned that day that he could have friends that weren't fish like him. Martin hoped maybe some day he would have more turtle friends, but Zachary turtle would always be his first turtle friend.

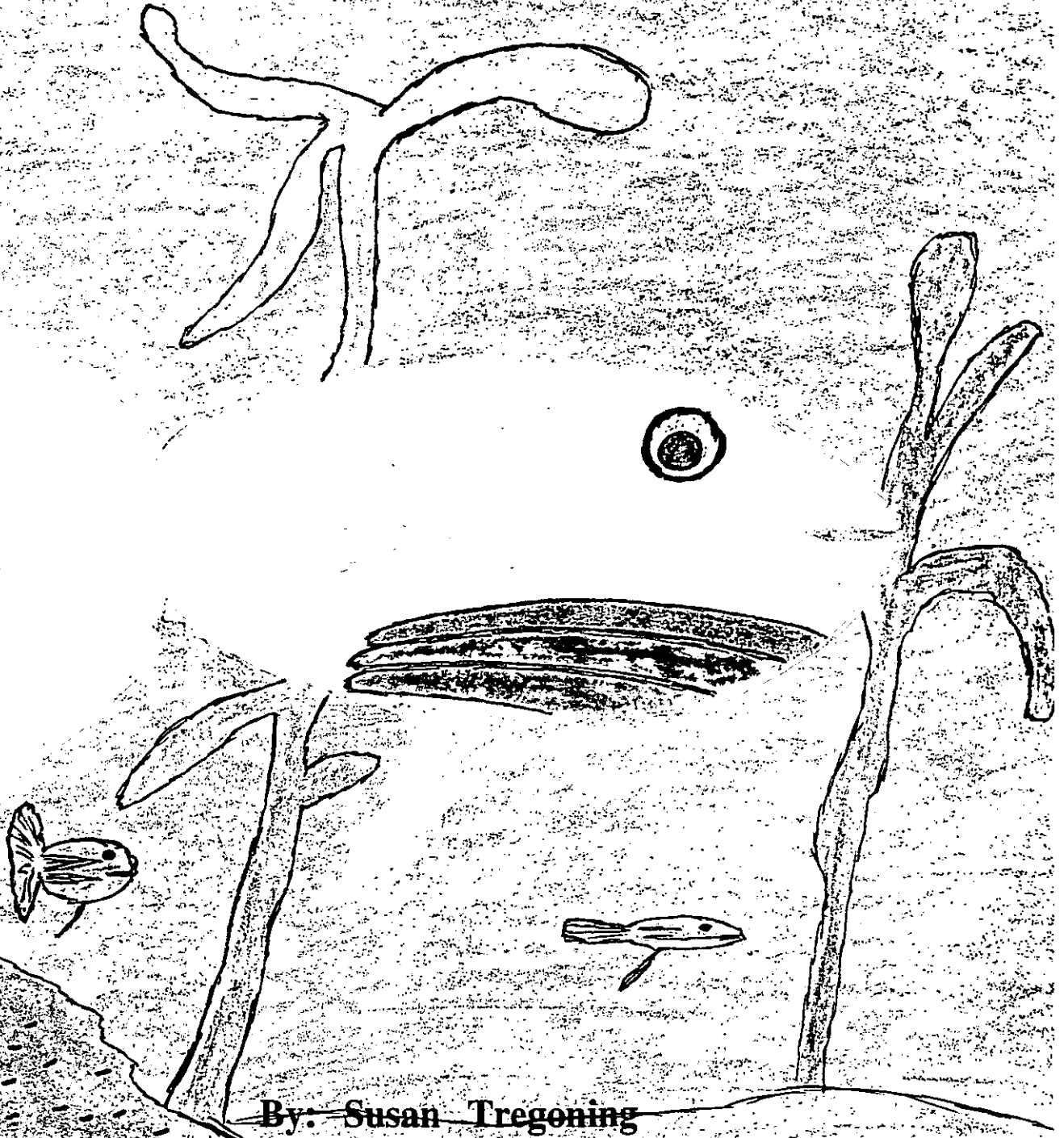
Zachary



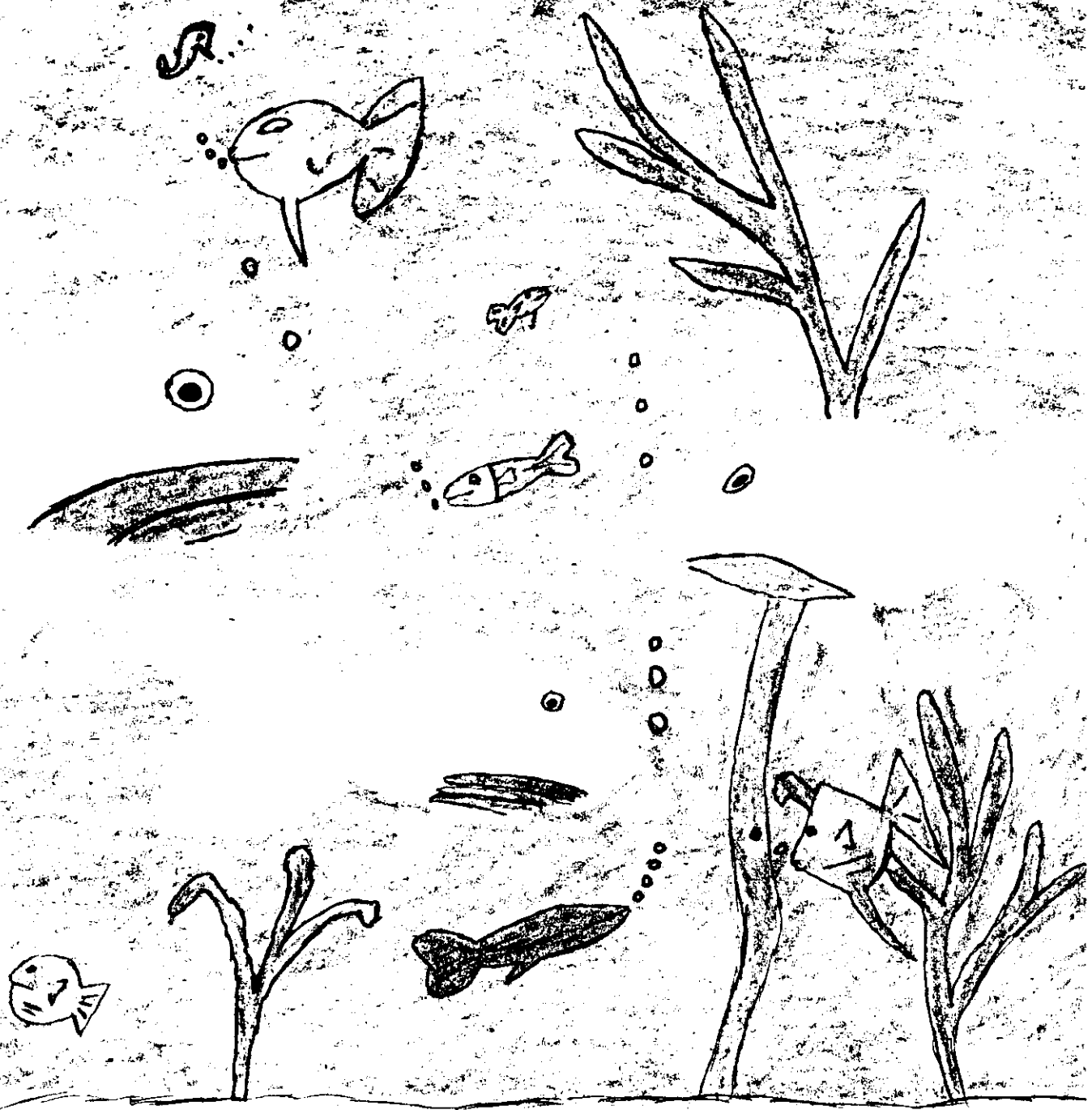
THE END



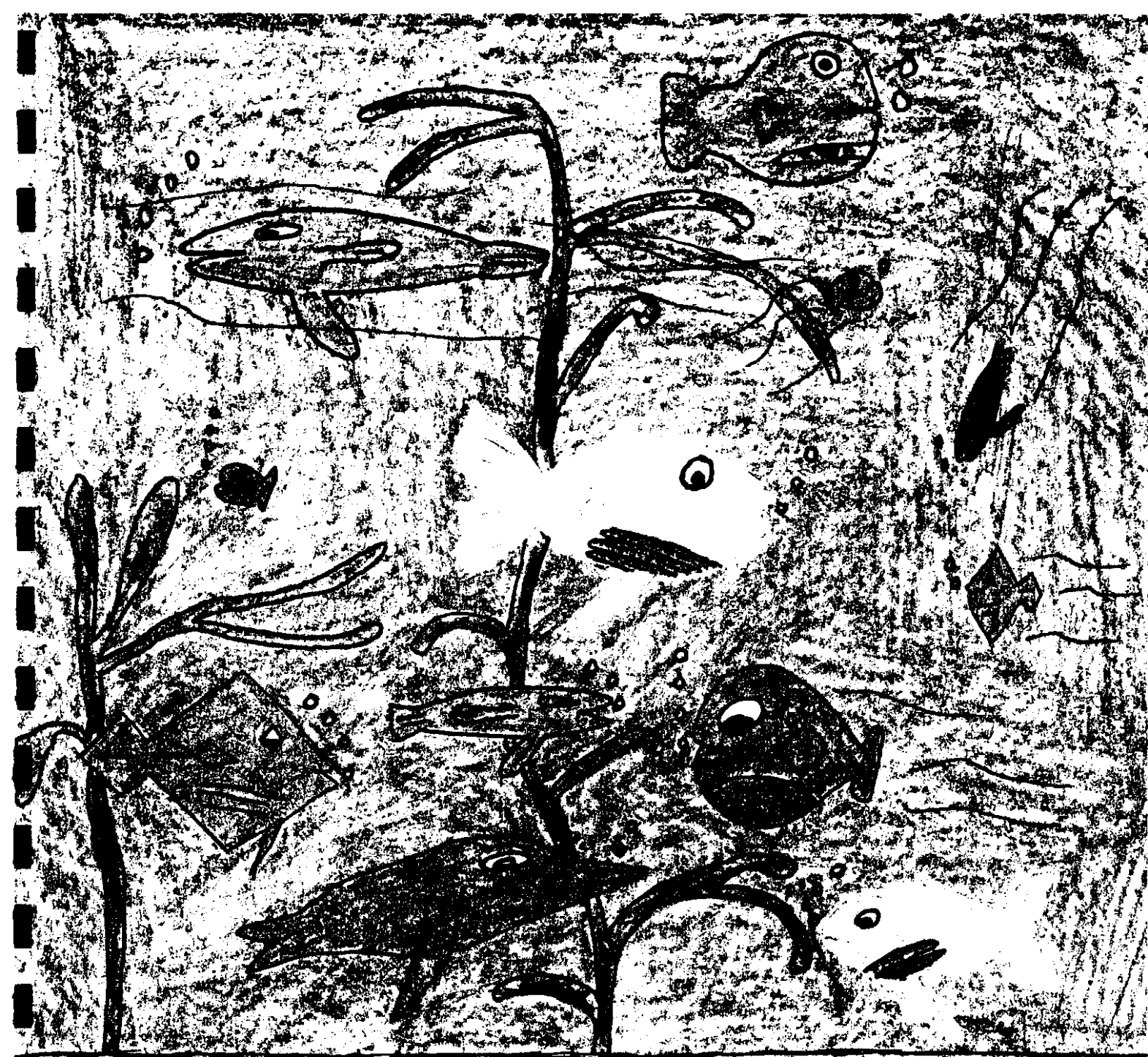
# Why am I a Yellow Fish?



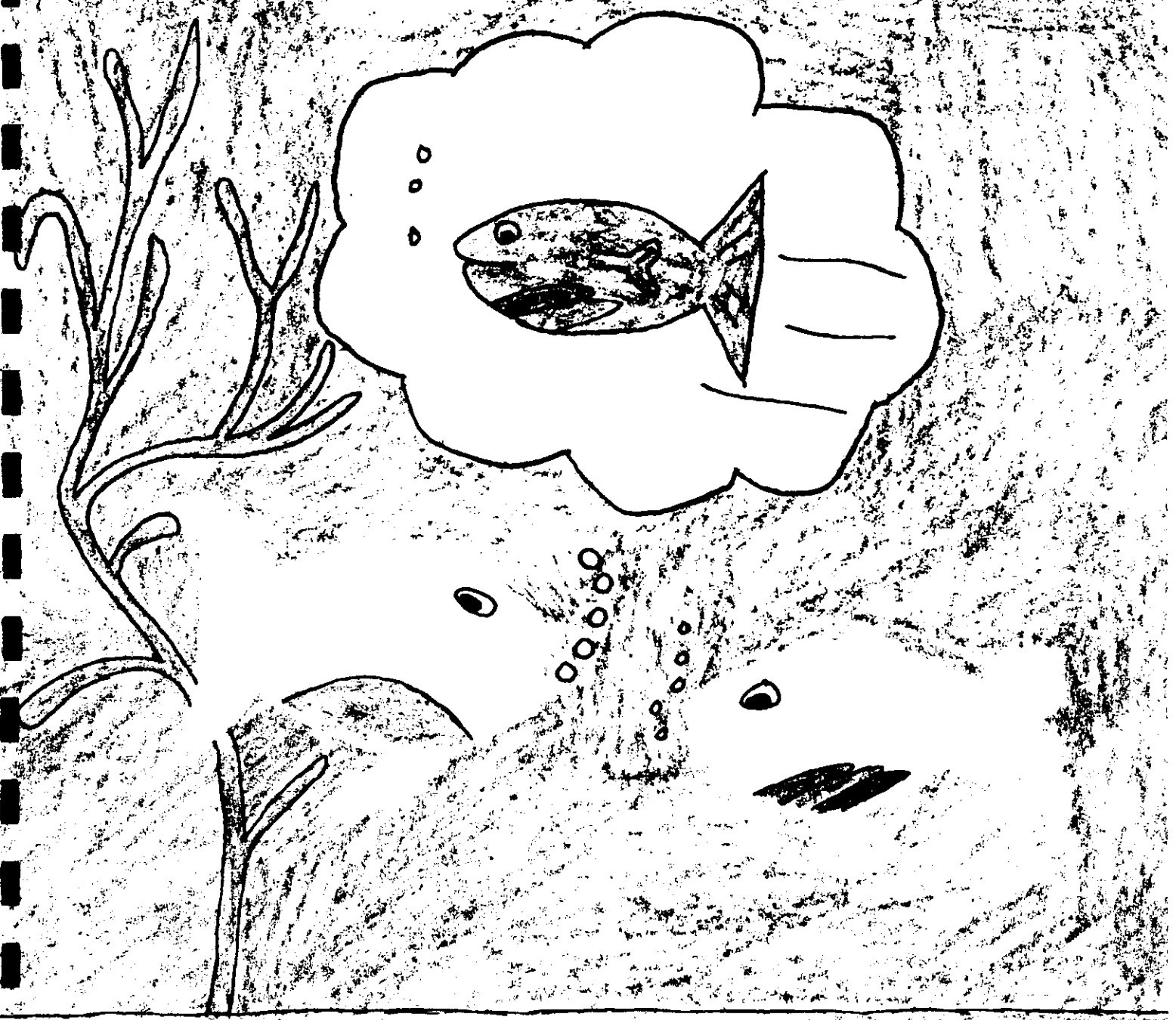
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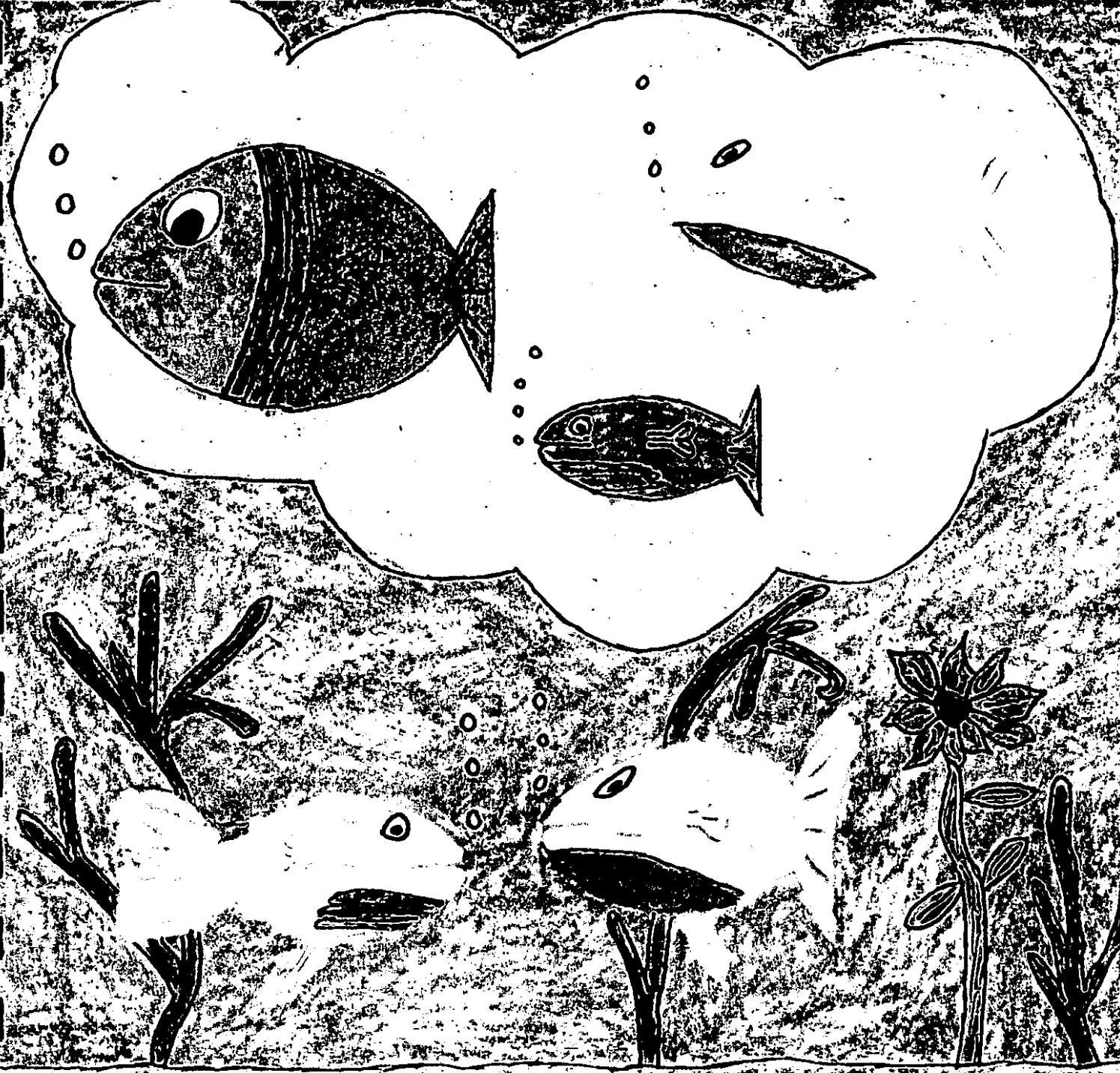
Deep in the waters of Terre Beaux Lake there lived a little fish named Martin. Martin was a yellow fish. Martin's mommy and daddy were also yellow fish.



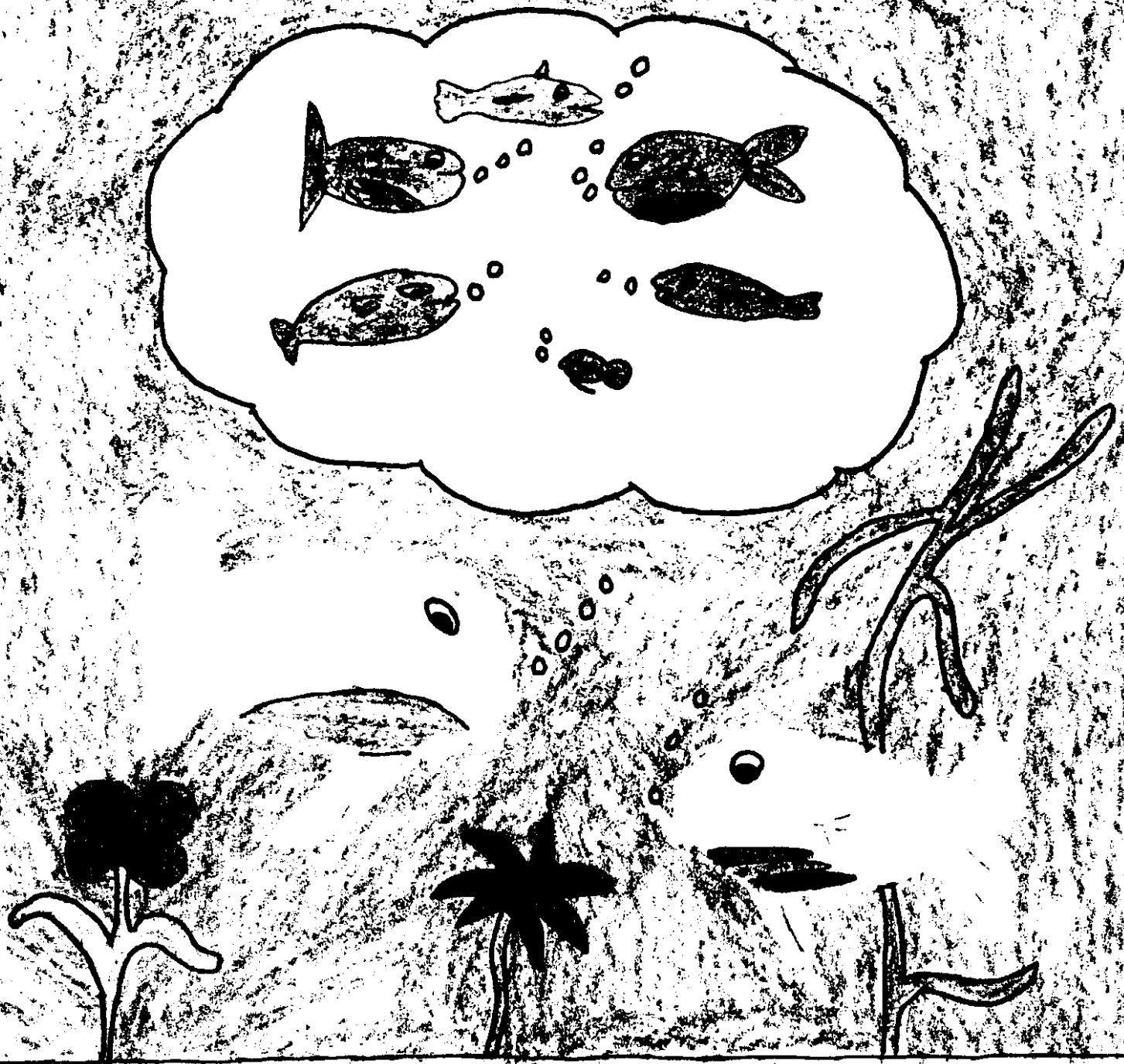
Martin Fish had many friends, but not all of them were yellow fish like him. His friends were green, blue, red, purple, and even orange.



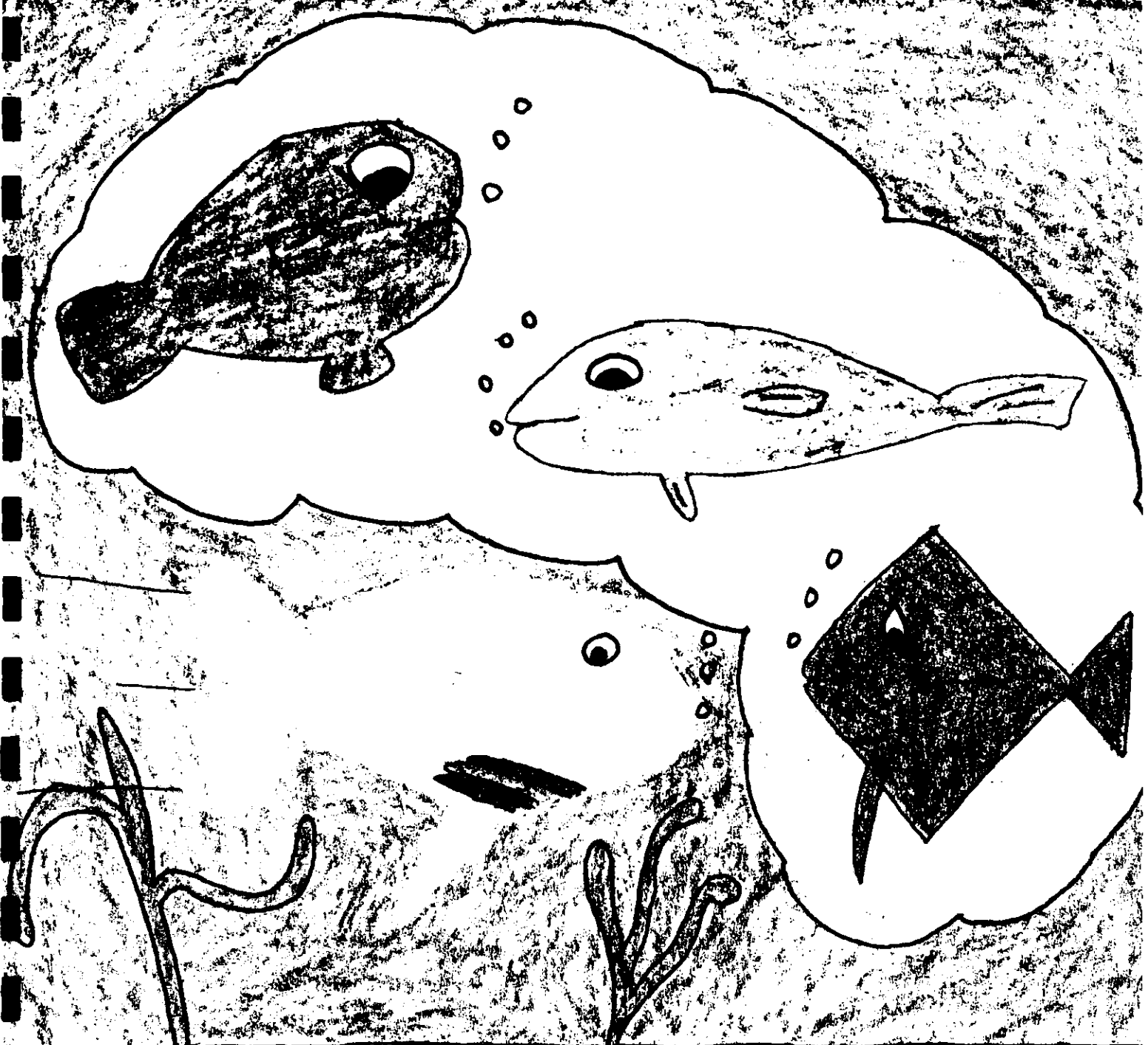
One day Martin Fish asked his mommy why he was a yellow fish. "Well, because your daddy and I are yellow, Martin." "Do you remember your cousin Kayla?"



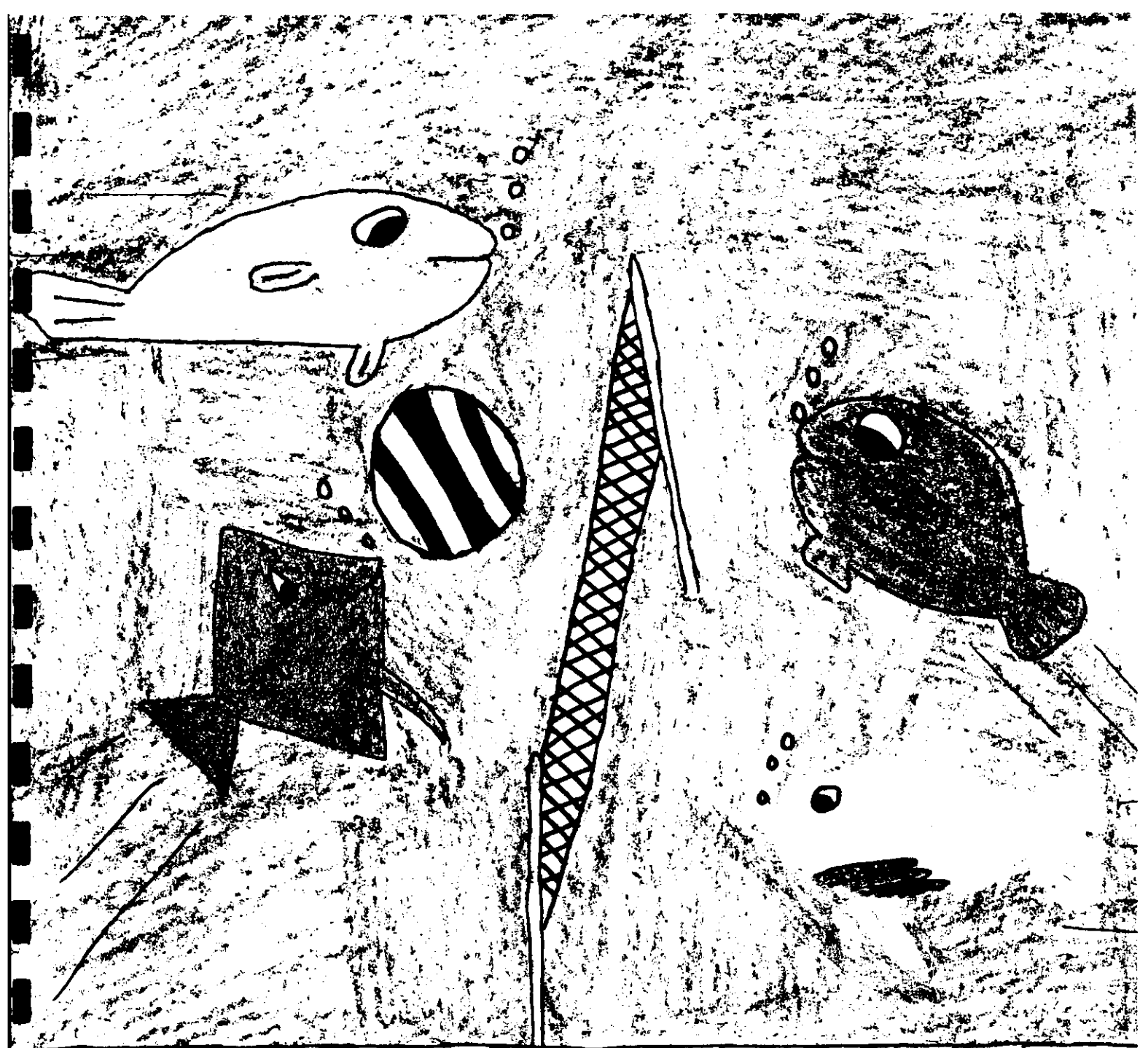
"Yes," said Martin, "but Kayla is green. Why is that mommy?"  
"Well Martin, Kayla's mommy is yellow like us but her daddy is blue. When you put yellow and blue together you get green."



**"Is it bad that Kayla is green, mommy?" Martin's mommy explained how fish are sometimes different colors, but that they are still the same inside. She said to love them just the same, but learn to like the differences.**

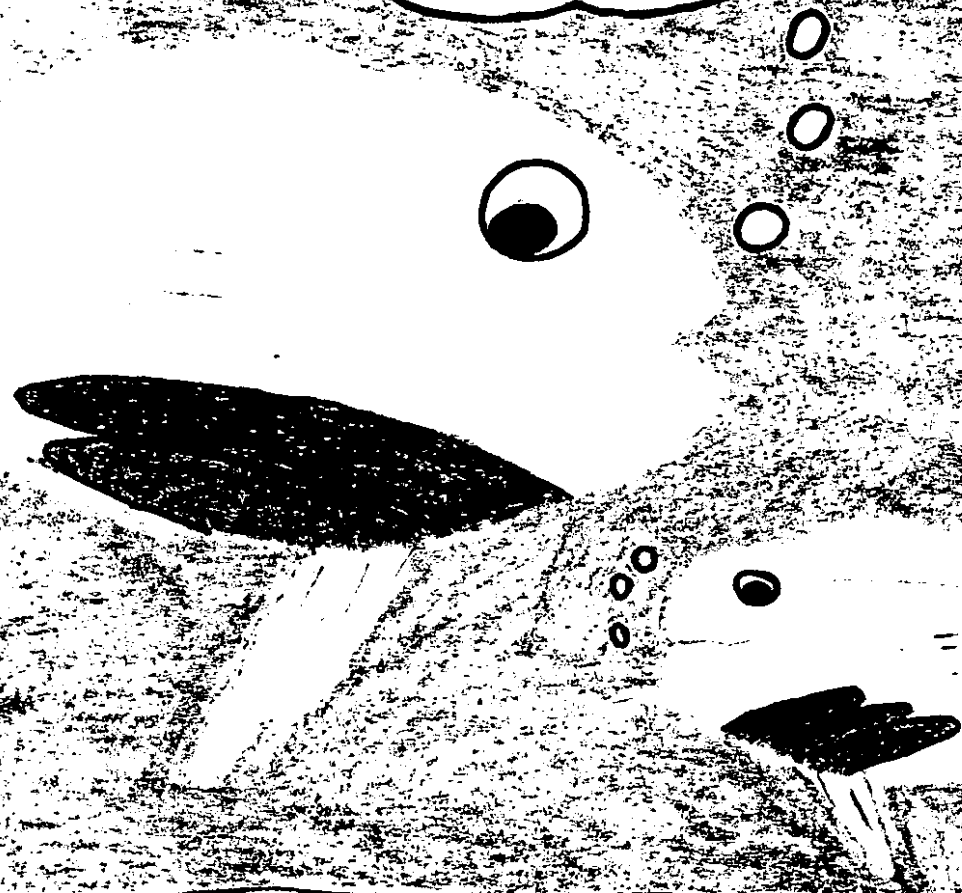
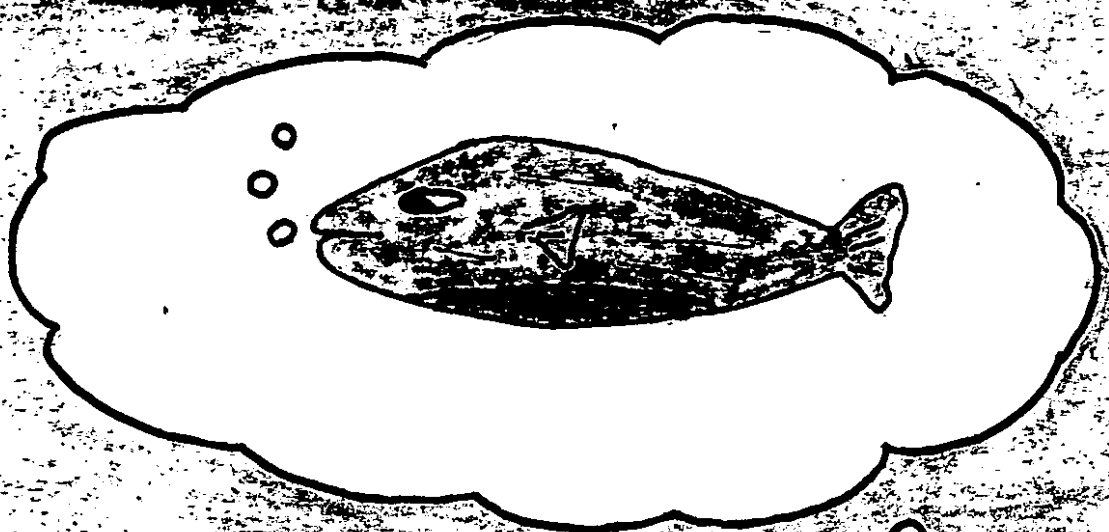


Martin thought about what his mother had said that day. His friends, Frankie, Jeremy, and Paul, were all different, but they all liked to play games together.

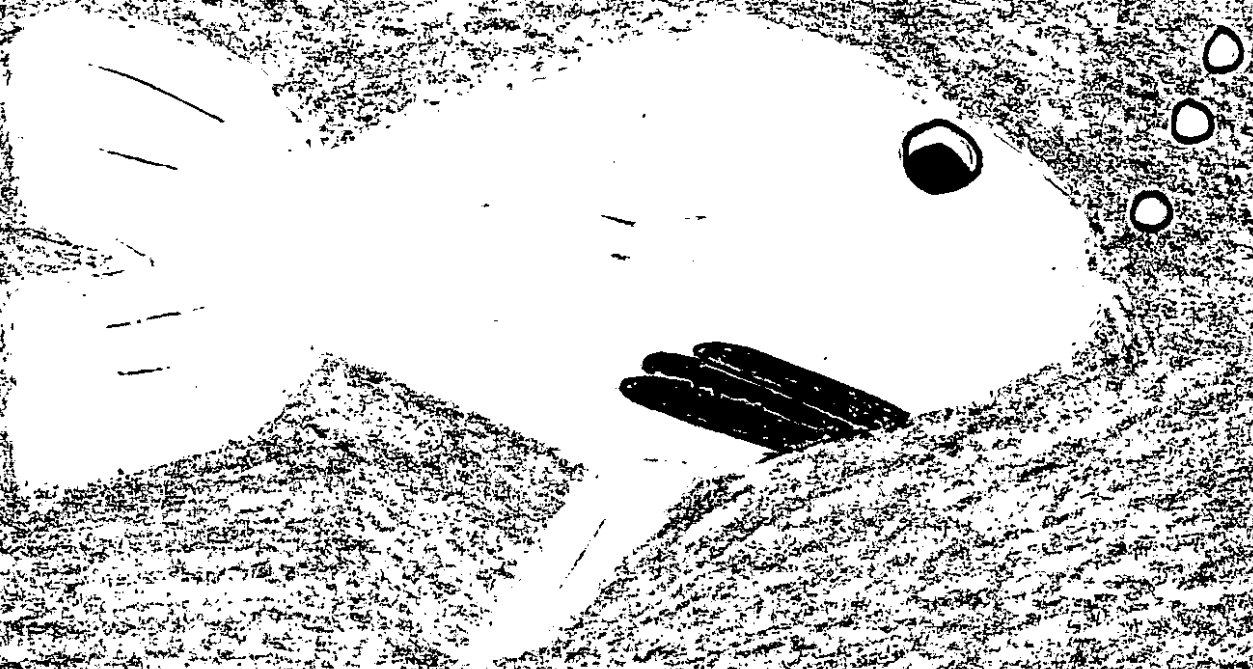
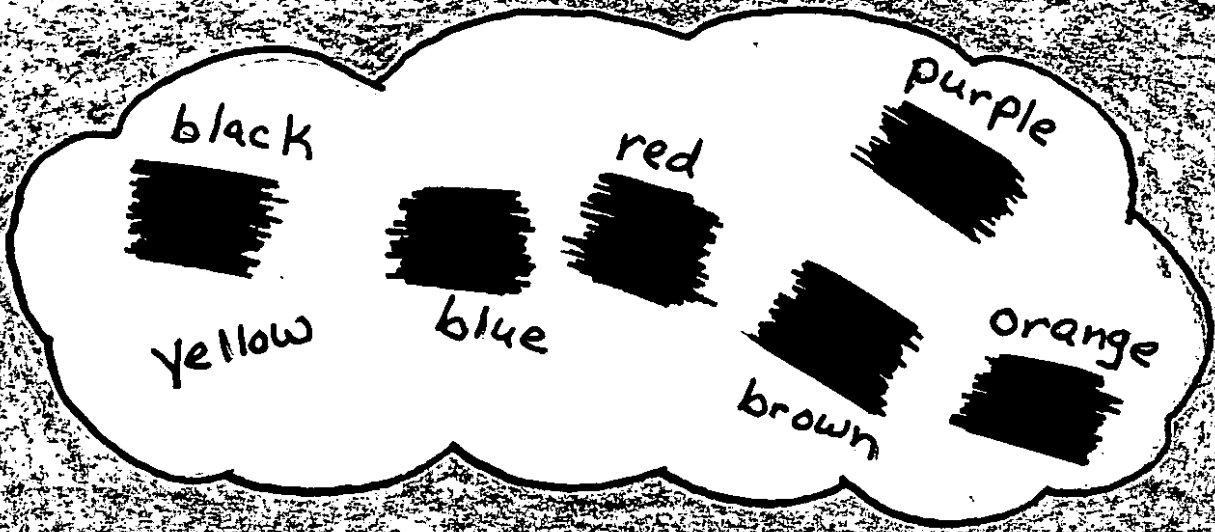


**They all played seaweed ball and bubble tag together with the other fish in the lake. None of them ever called each other names because they were a different color.**

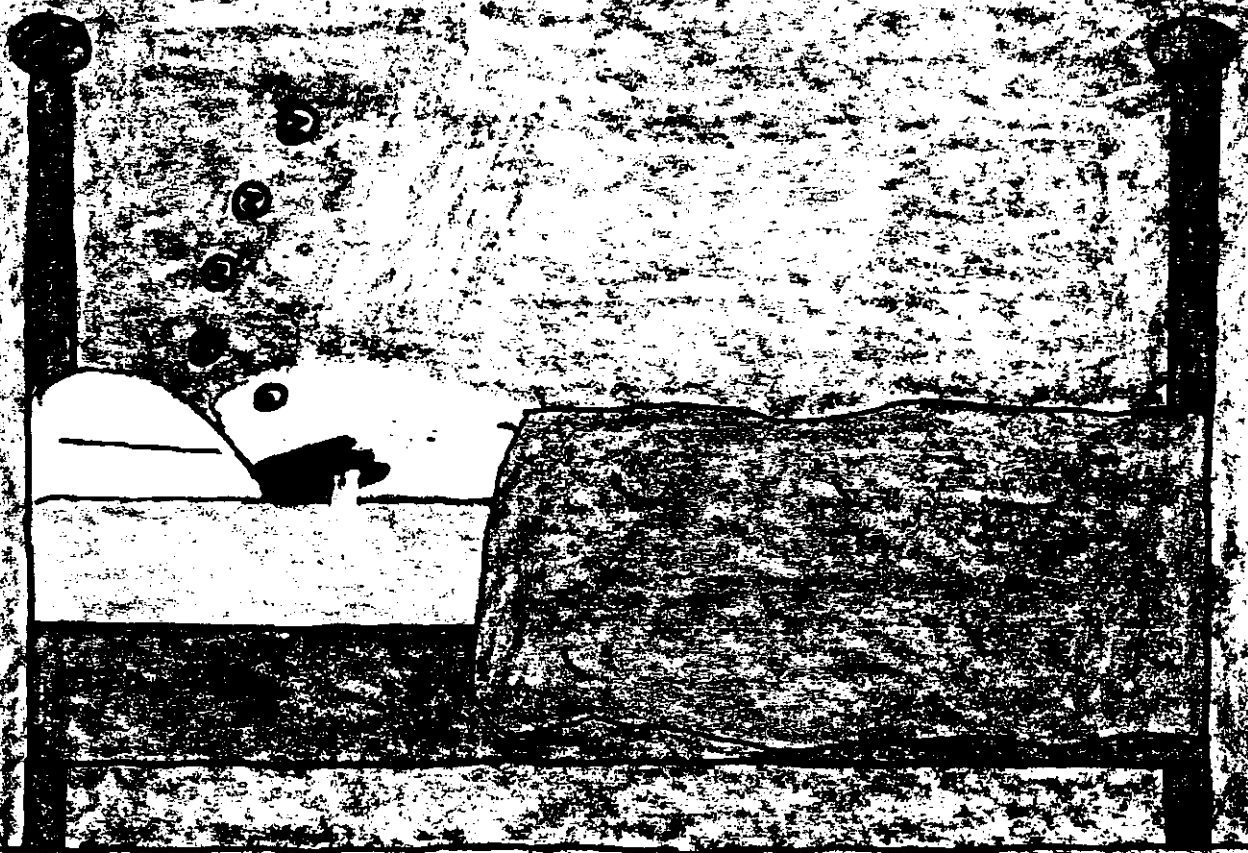




Martin Fish asked his daddy if he had friends that were different from him. "Well of course Martin," said daddy, "Rudy is a brown fish and he is my best friend."



~~Martin learned that day that it did not matter what color his friends were as long as they had fun playing together.~~



Martin felt excited by himself, and he was so that night,  
because he had learned a new thing that day and he was so  
happy.



THE END