

The background is a watercolor-style illustration of a deep-sea environment. It features various marine life including coral, sea anemones, and a nudibranch. The colors are muted greens, yellows, and oranges, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The word "DEEP" is centered in large, bold, green letters.

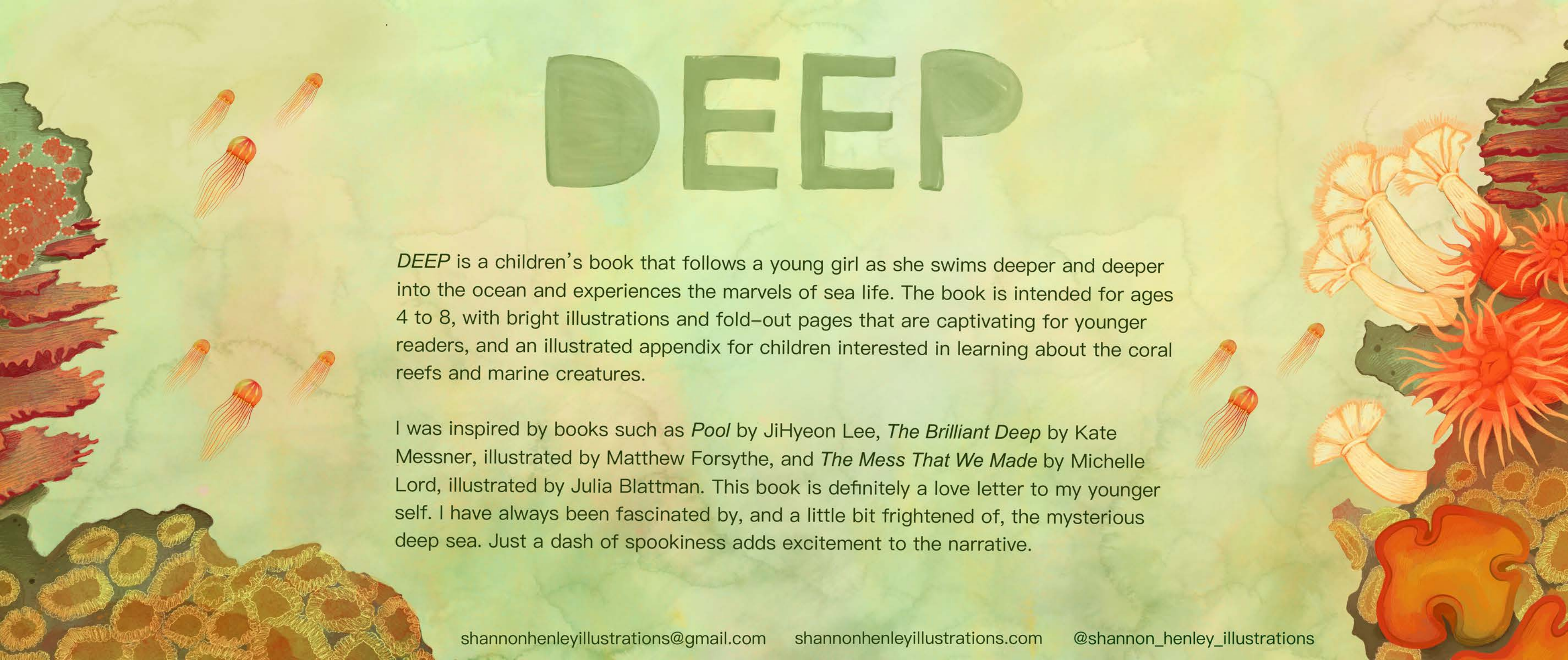
DEEP

A Dummy Picture Book by Shannon Henley

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The background of the entire page is a watercolor-style illustration of a deep-sea environment. It features various marine life forms including several orange jellyfish with long, thin tentacles floating in the water. There are also different types of coral and sea anemones, some in shades of red and orange, and others in yellow and brown. The overall color palette is soft and muted, with a light greenish-yellow background that transitions into darker, more vibrant colors near the edges where the marine life is concentrated.

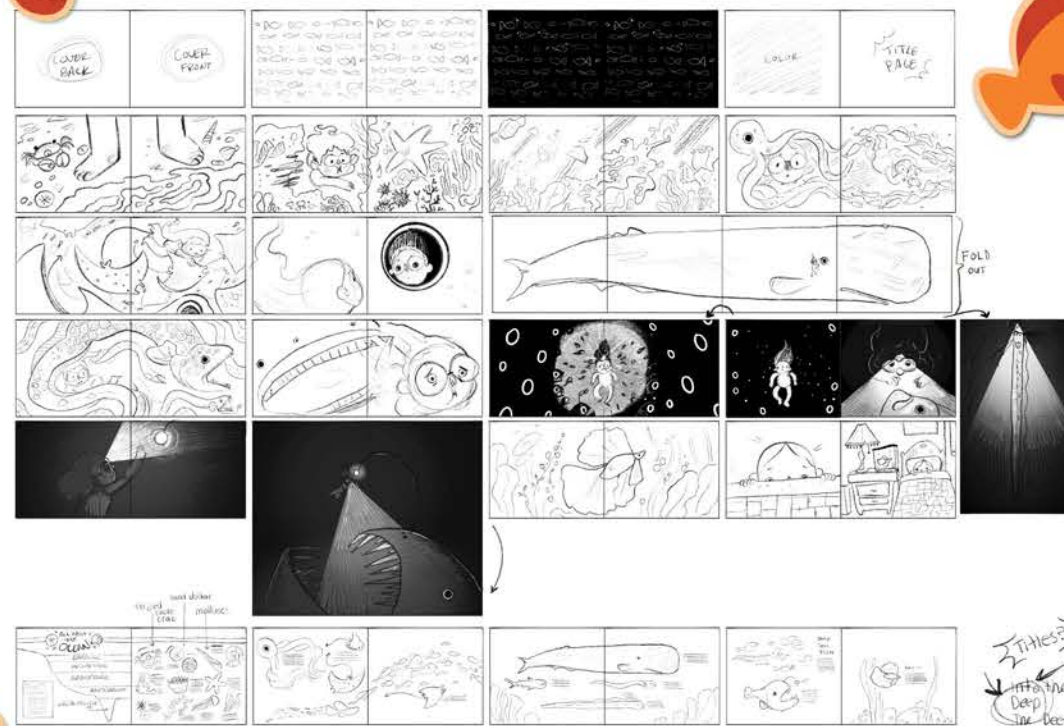
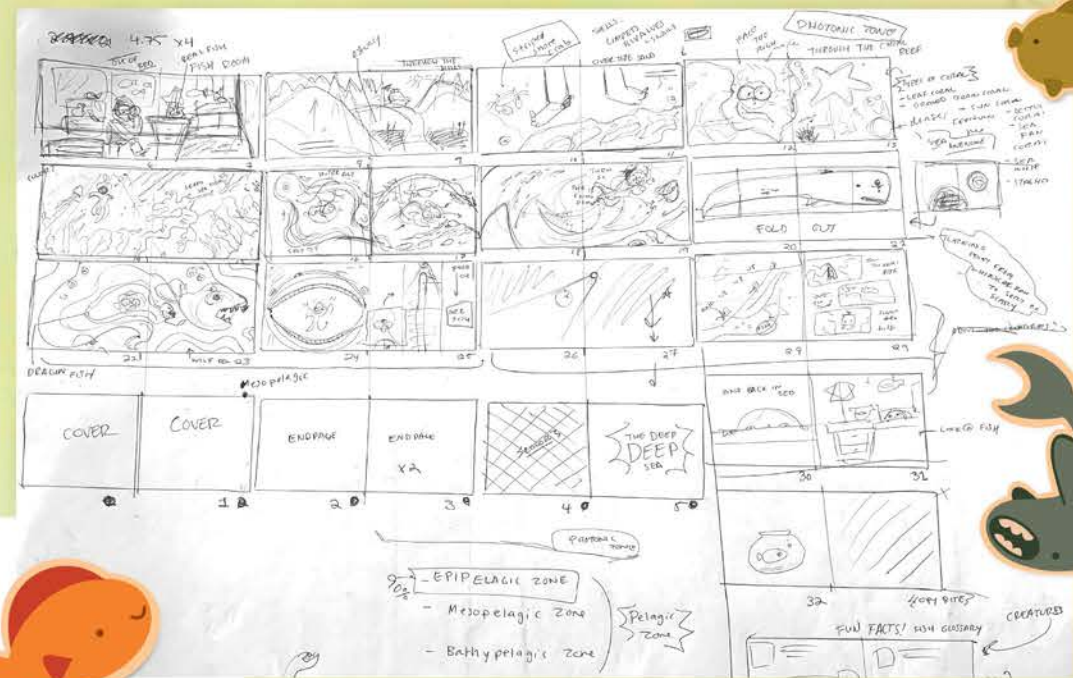
DEEP

DEEP is a children's book that follows a young girl as she swims deeper and deeper into the ocean and experiences the marvels of sea life. The book is intended for ages 4 to 8, with bright illustrations and fold-out pages that are captivating for younger readers, and an illustrated appendix for children interested in learning about the coral reefs and marine creatures.

I was inspired by books such as *Pool* by JiHyeon Lee, *The Brilliant Deep* by Kate Messner, illustrated by Matthew Forsythe, and *The Mess That We Made* by Michelle Lord, illustrated by Julia Blattman. This book is definitely a love letter to my younger self. I have always been fascinated by, and a little bit frightened of, the mysterious deep sea. Just a dash of spookiness adds excitement to the narrative.

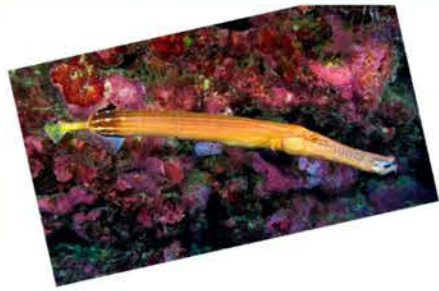
The Process

My process started with REALLY rough thumbs scribbled out on a big piece of newsprint paper

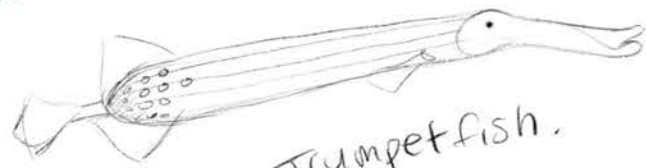


Followed by a cleaner set of thumbs drawn digitally

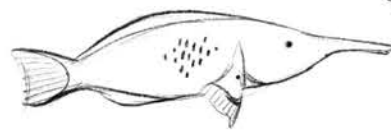
At this stage, I refined the story and compositions



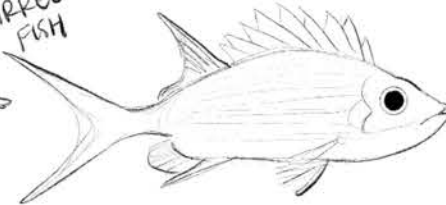
LONGJAW
SQUIRREL
FISH



Trumpet fish.



Bird
wrasse



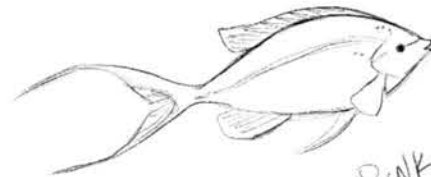
CLOWNFISH



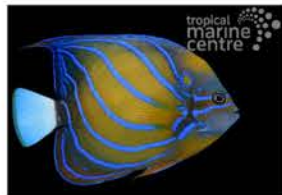
Bullethead
parrot fish



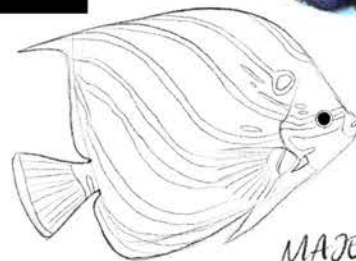
PINK FAIRY
ANTHIAS



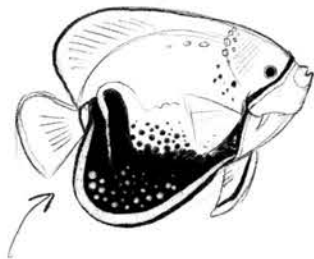
MOORISH
IDOL



BLUE RINGED
ANGELFISH



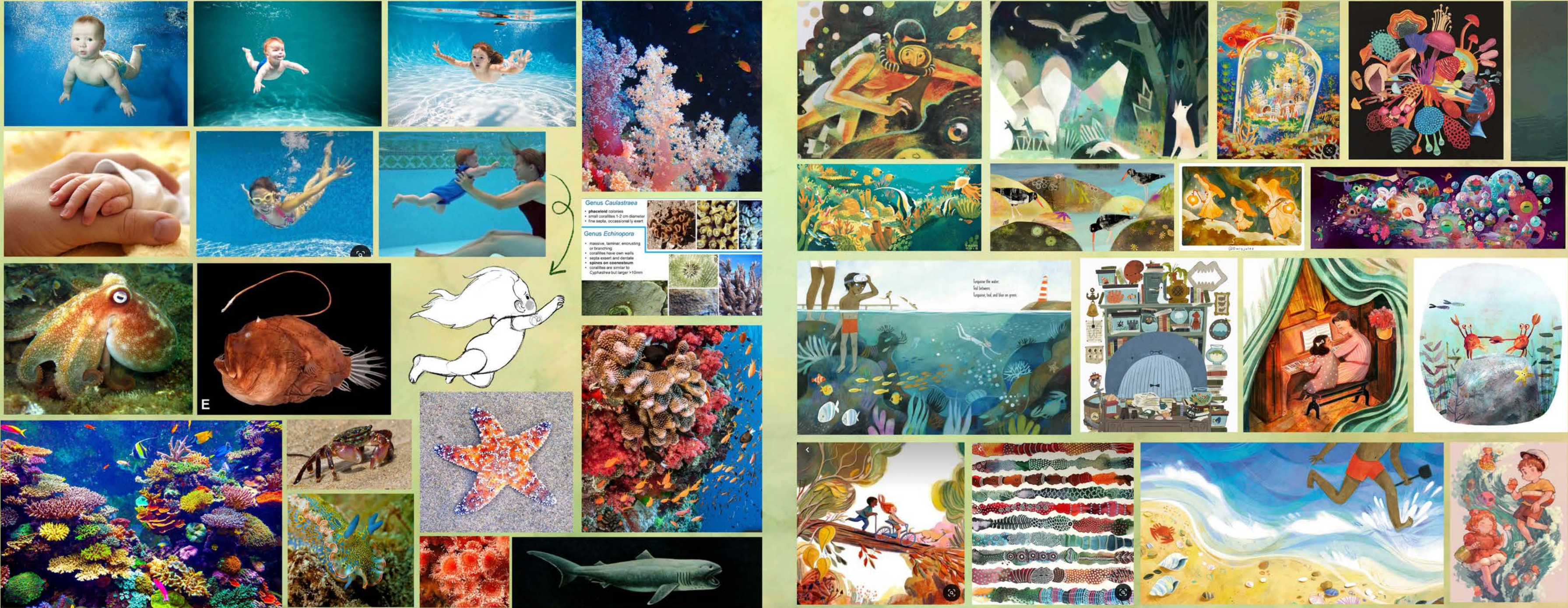
MAJESTIC ANGELFISH



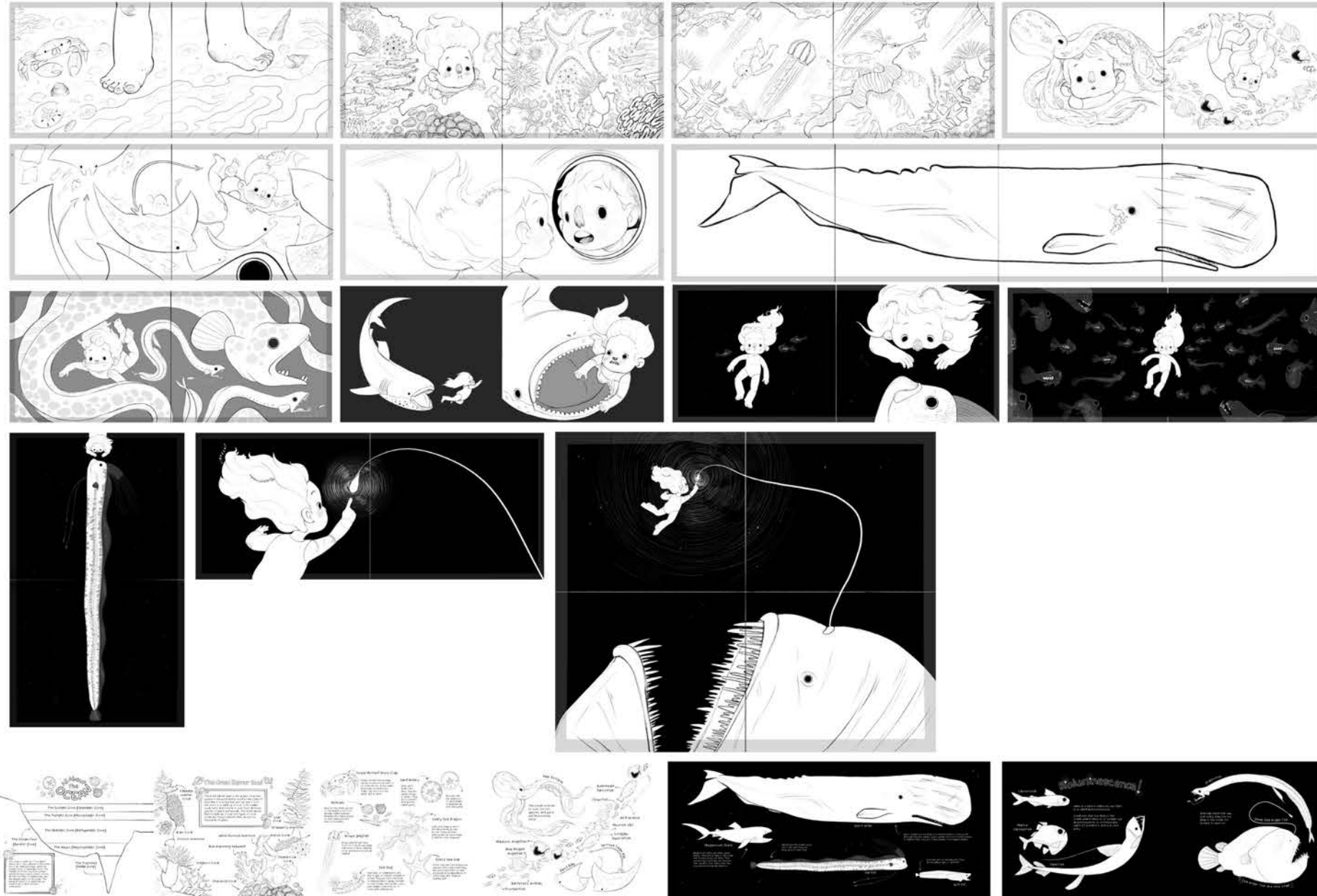
During the thumbnailing process, I also did research about the coral reefs, marine organisms, and the ocean.



I gathered indirect and direct references.



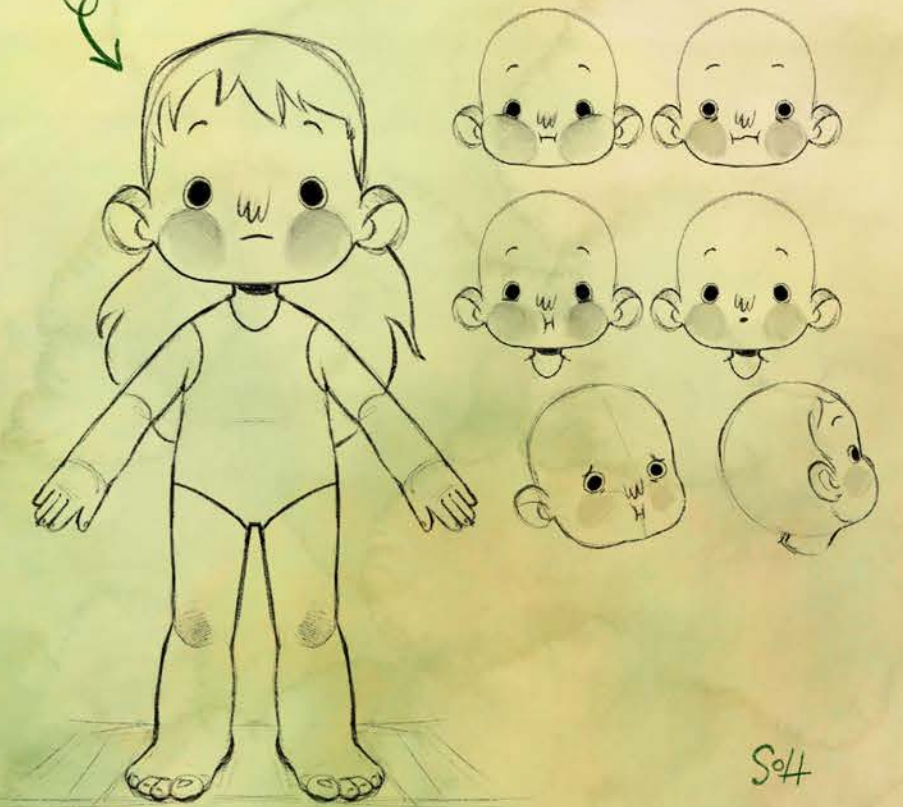
Then I started the penciling process!



And chose a "color palette"



And did a "rough" character sketch



And it was finally time to render!

I used digital brushes in procreate as well as traditional textures

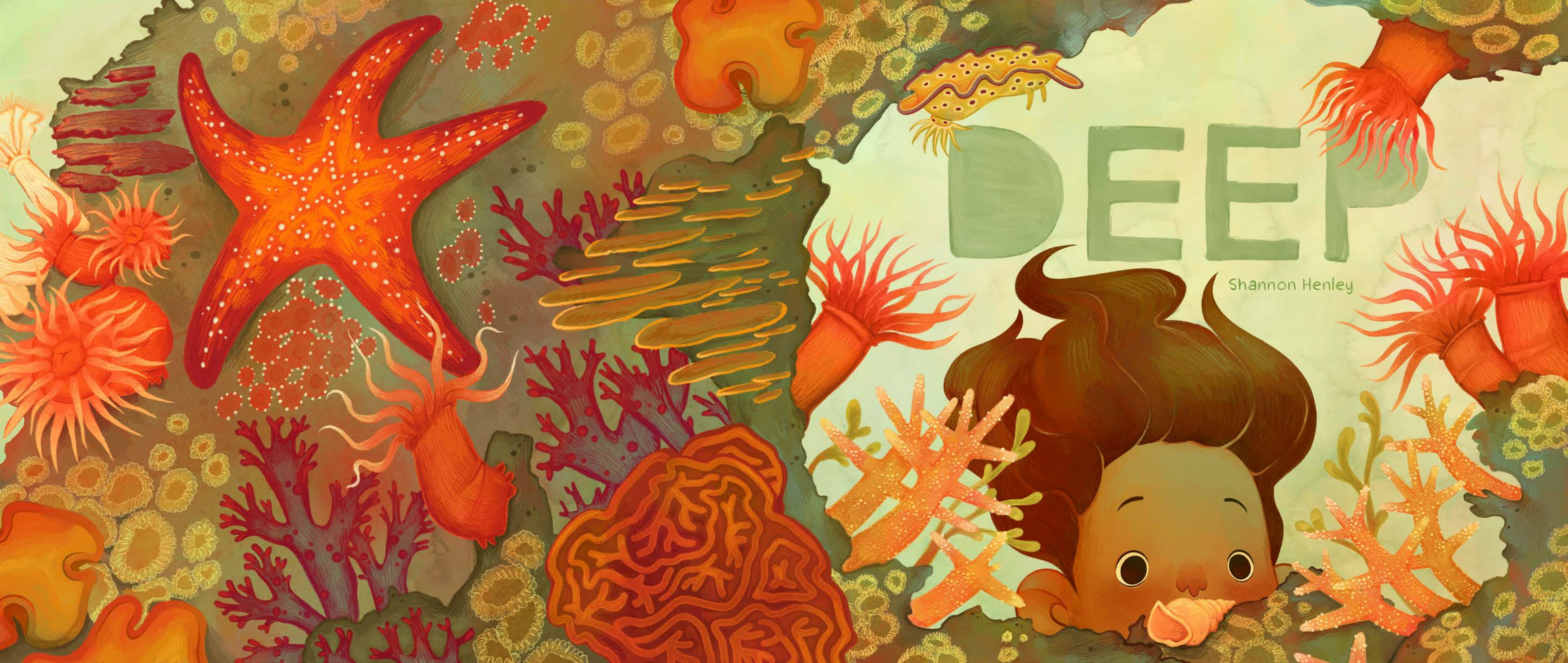


My Textures

Watercolor max pack

GvW Elder P5





DEEP

Shannon Henley



DEEP

Shannon Henley

This book was written and illustrated by Shannon Henley at the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2023. The illustrations for this book were rendered digitally using procreate and traditional watercolor textures.





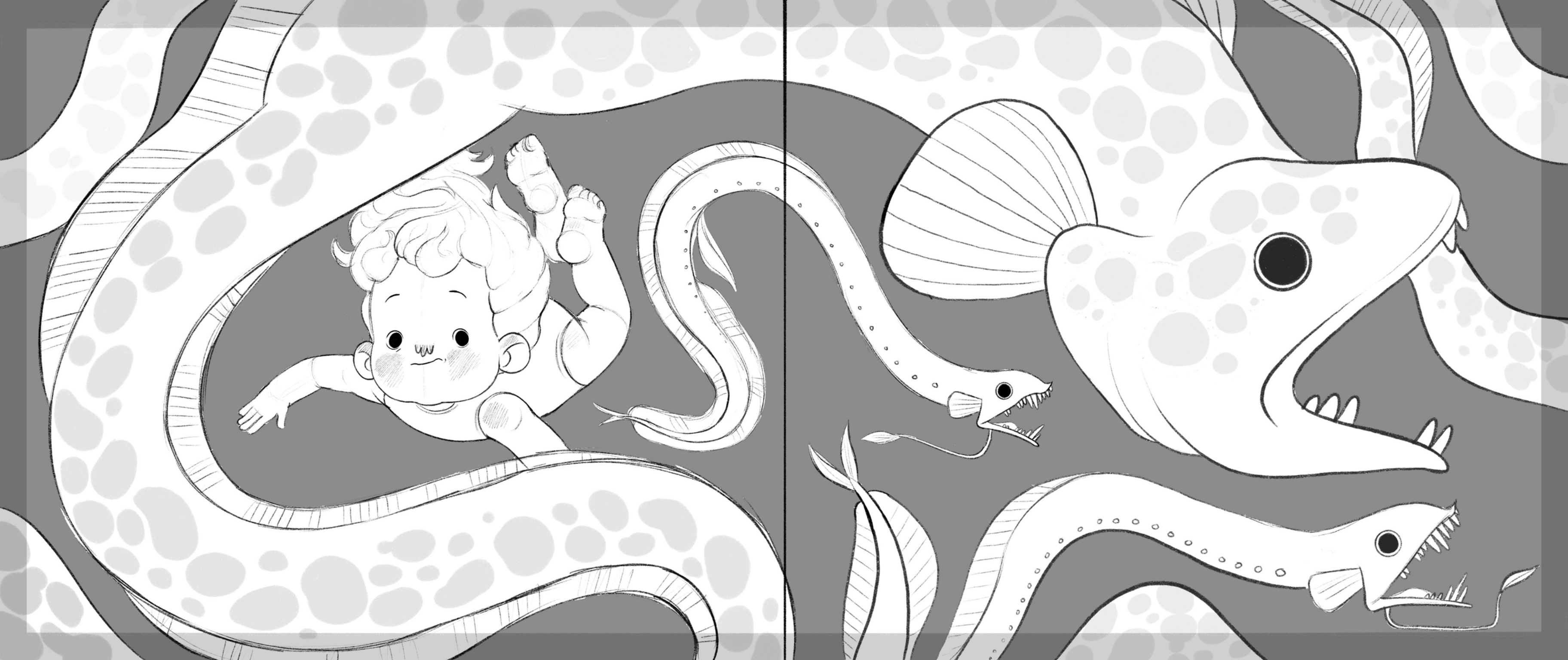


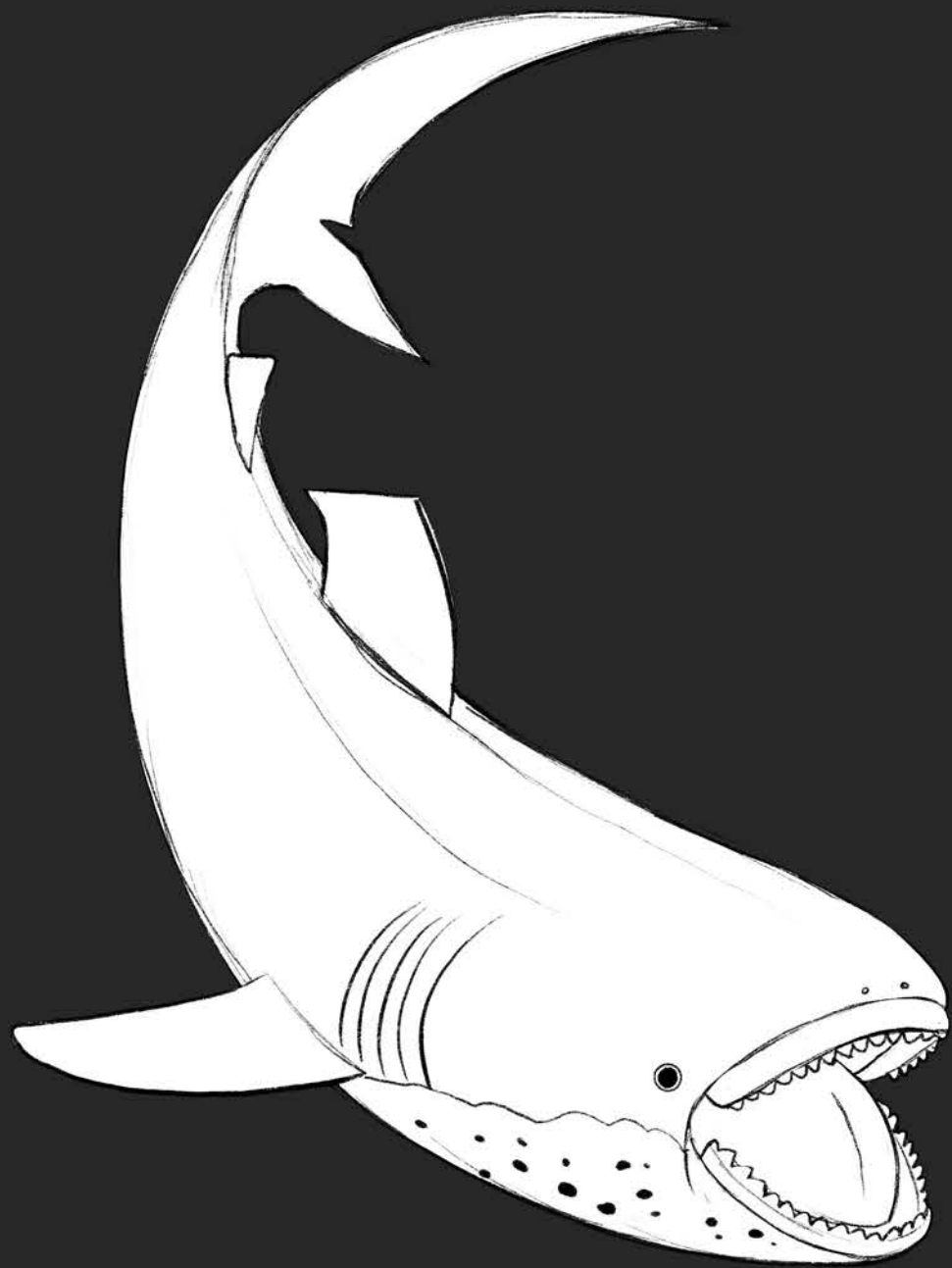












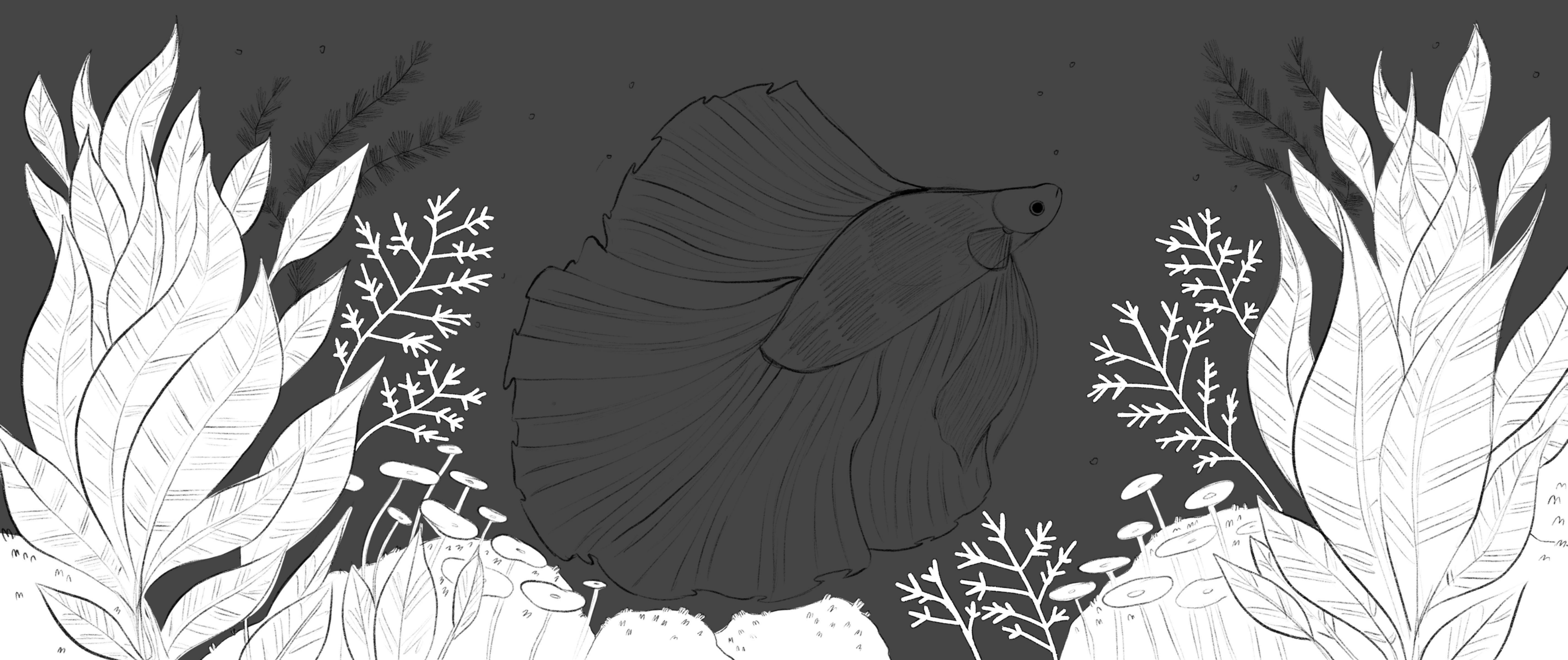














All About the OCEAN

The Sunlight Zone (Epipelagic Zone)

The Twilight Zone (Mesopelagic Zone)

The Midnight Zone (Bathypelagic Zone)

The Ocean Floor
(Benthic Zone)

The Abyss (Abyssopelagic Zone)

The Trenches
(Hadal Zone)

The ocean is made up of five layers! Almost all of the creatures in the ocean live in the shallowest layer called the Sunlight Zone, or Epipelagic Zone! The Twilight Zone has very little sunlight, and all the layers below it have none at all! The Trenches, or Hadal Zones, are the deepest parts of the ocean. The Mariana Trench is so deep that you could fit all of Mount Everest underwater!

The Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef system in the world and is found on the coast of Australia. It is so big that you can see it from the moon! It is made up of over 2,900 smaller coral reefs, and is home to over 9,000 different species of plants and animals. The Great Barrier Reef is made up of over 400 types of coral. Corals are living creatures that can live for thousands of years!

Cabbage
Leather
Coral

Brain Coral

Crimson Anemone

Staghorn Coral

Phaceloid Coral

Leaf
Coral

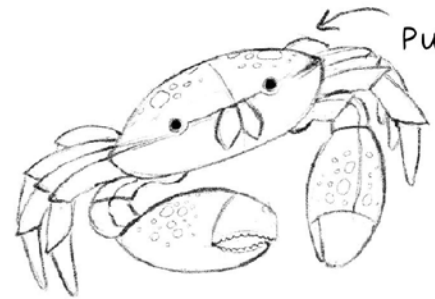
Strawberry Anemone

White Plumose Anemone

Branch Coral

Blue Branching Seaweed

Elephant Ear
Coral



Purple Mottled Shore Crab

Purple mottled shore crabs can be found in coral reefs or on rocky shores. Some crabs, like purple mottled shore crabs, can survive in the water and on land!

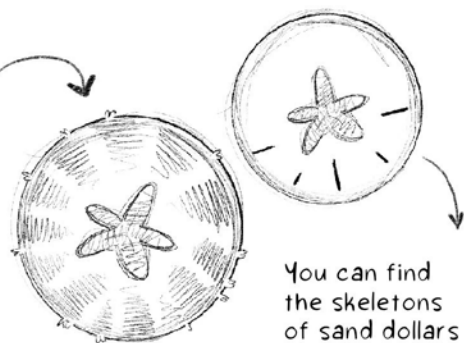
Mollusks

Most of the shells we see on the beach come from animals called mollusks! Mollusks don't have bones, so their shells protect their soft bodies!



Sand Dollars

When sand dollars are alive, they are purple, brown, or green. They are covered in little bristles called spines.



You can find the skeletons of sand dollars on beaches all over the world!

Leafy Sea Dragon

Leafy sea dragons are in the same family as sea horses! They use their leafy bodies as camouflage to blend in with seaweed.



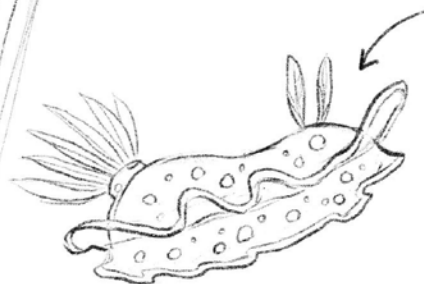
Ochre Sea Star

Ochre sea stars are a keystone species! This means that they are extra important for their ecosystems! An abundance of ochre sea stars means a healthy reef!



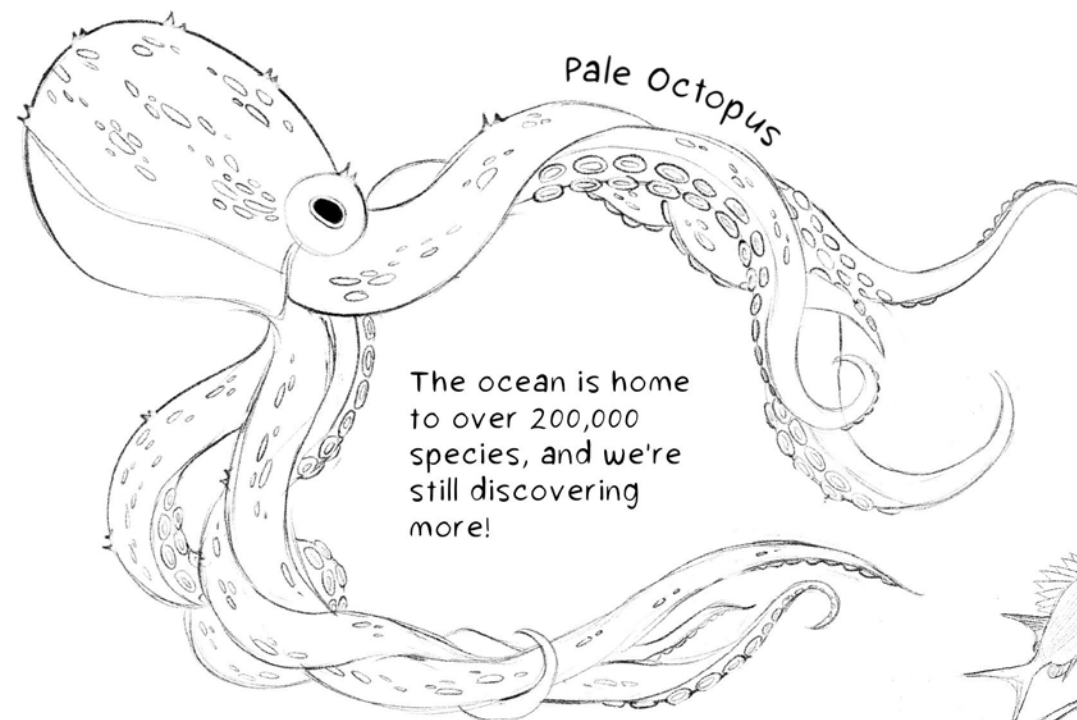
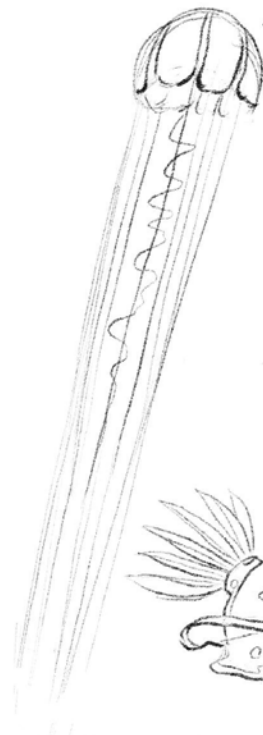
Sea Slug

Sea slugs, or nudibranchs, are also a type of mollusk! Instead of a shell, they use toxic chemicals to keep predators away. Instead of camouflage, their bright colors warn bigger creatures not to mess with nudibranchs!



Brown Jellyfish

Brown jellyfish get their color from the brown algae that lives on them! Jellyfish, coral, and anemones are all related!



Pale Octopus

The ocean is home to over 200,000 species, and we're still discovering more!

Bullethead Parrotfish

Clownfish

Bird Wrasse

Moorish Idol

Longjaw Squirrelfish

Spotted Eagle Ray

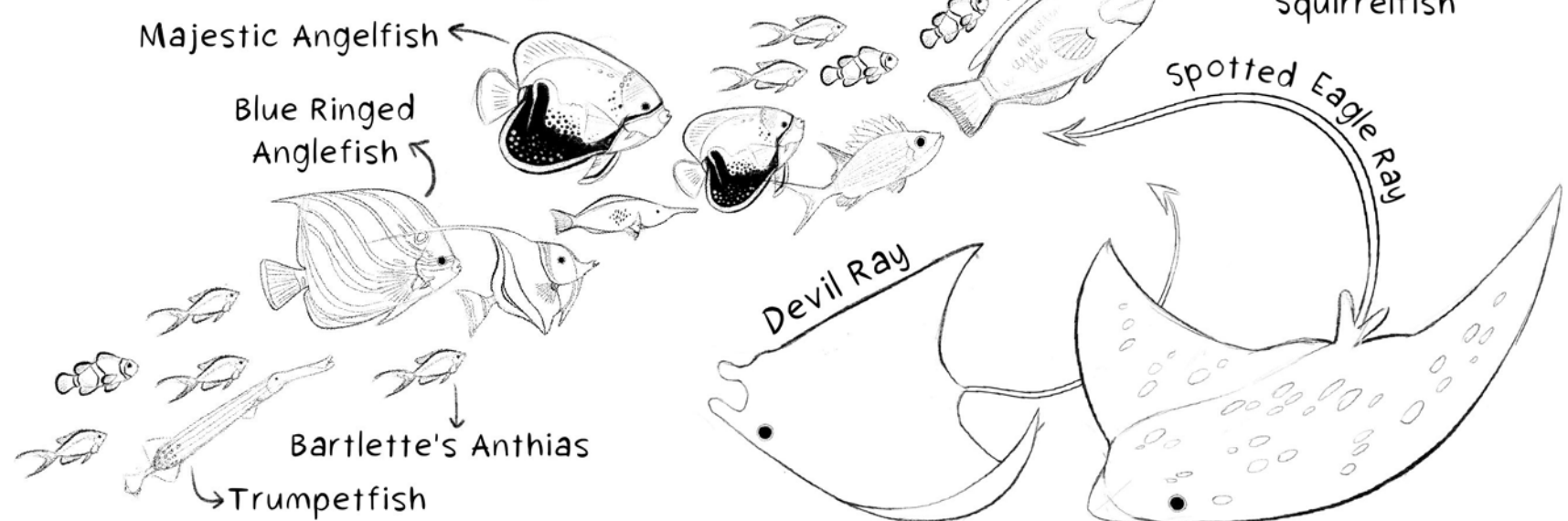
Devil Ray

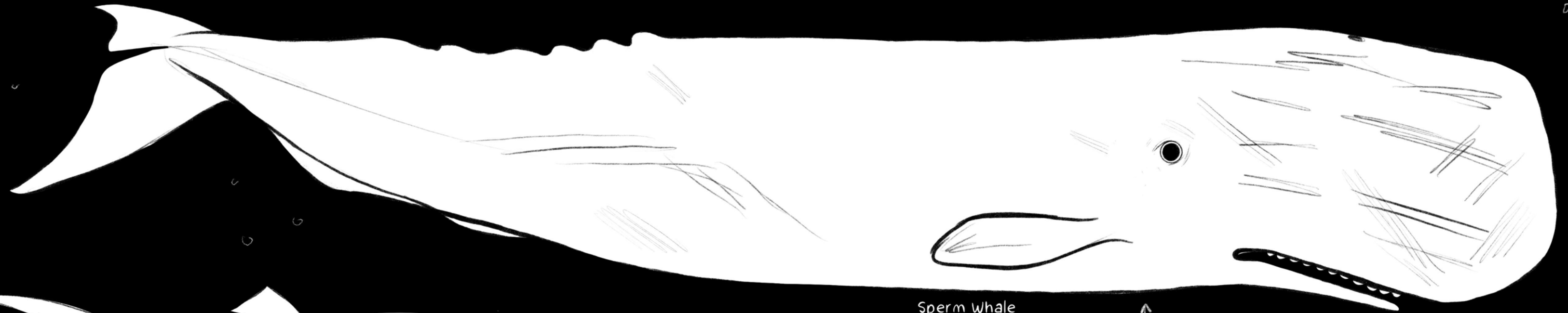
Majestic Angelfish

Blue Ringed Angelfish

Bartlette's Anthias

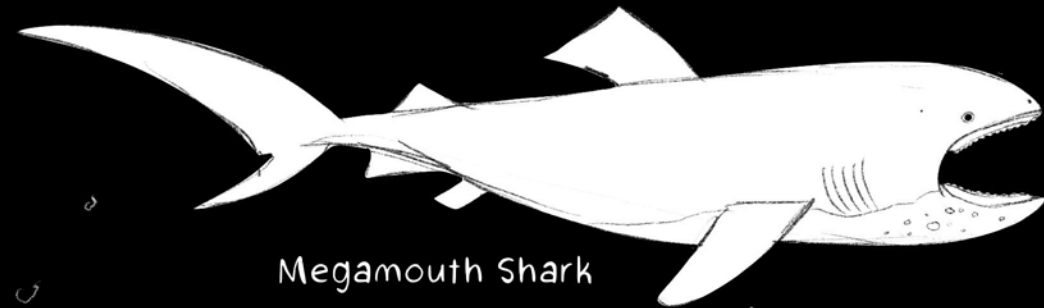
Trumpetfish





Sperm Whale

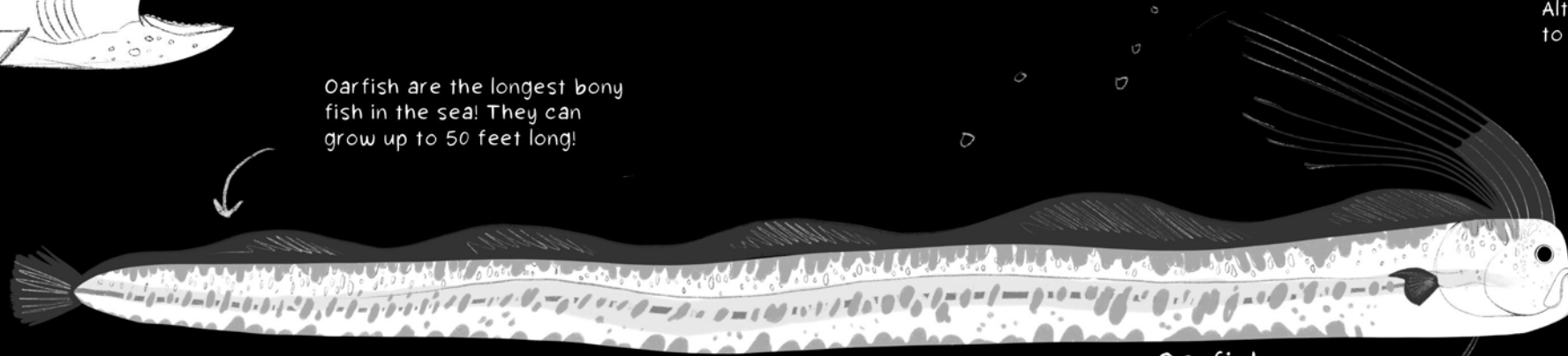
Sperm whales are the largest toothed predators in the world! Although they are whales, sperm whales are more closely related to dolphins than they are to blue whales or humpback whales!



Megamouth Shark

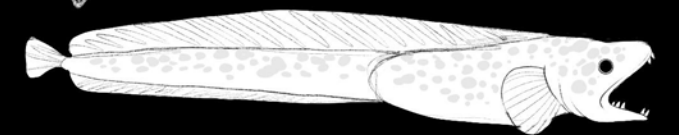
Megamouth sharks are deep-water sharks. They live so deep in the ocean that humans rarely see them. Their mouths may look scary, but they are filter feeders! This means that they only eat little things like plankton!

Oarfish are the longest bony fish in the sea! They can grow up to 50 feet long!



Oarfish

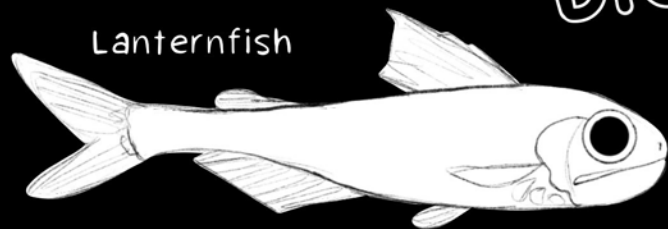
Wolf eels are not actually eels! They are actually a type of "wolfish!"



Wolf Eel

Bioluminescence!

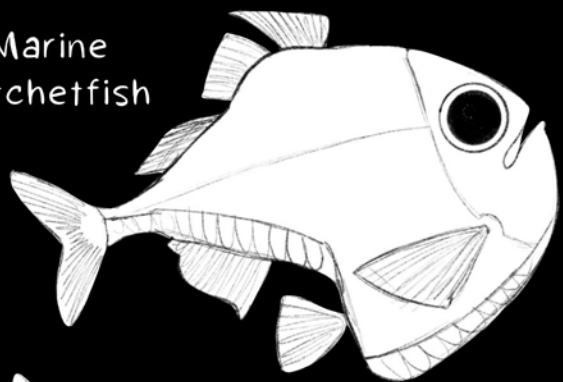
Lanternfish



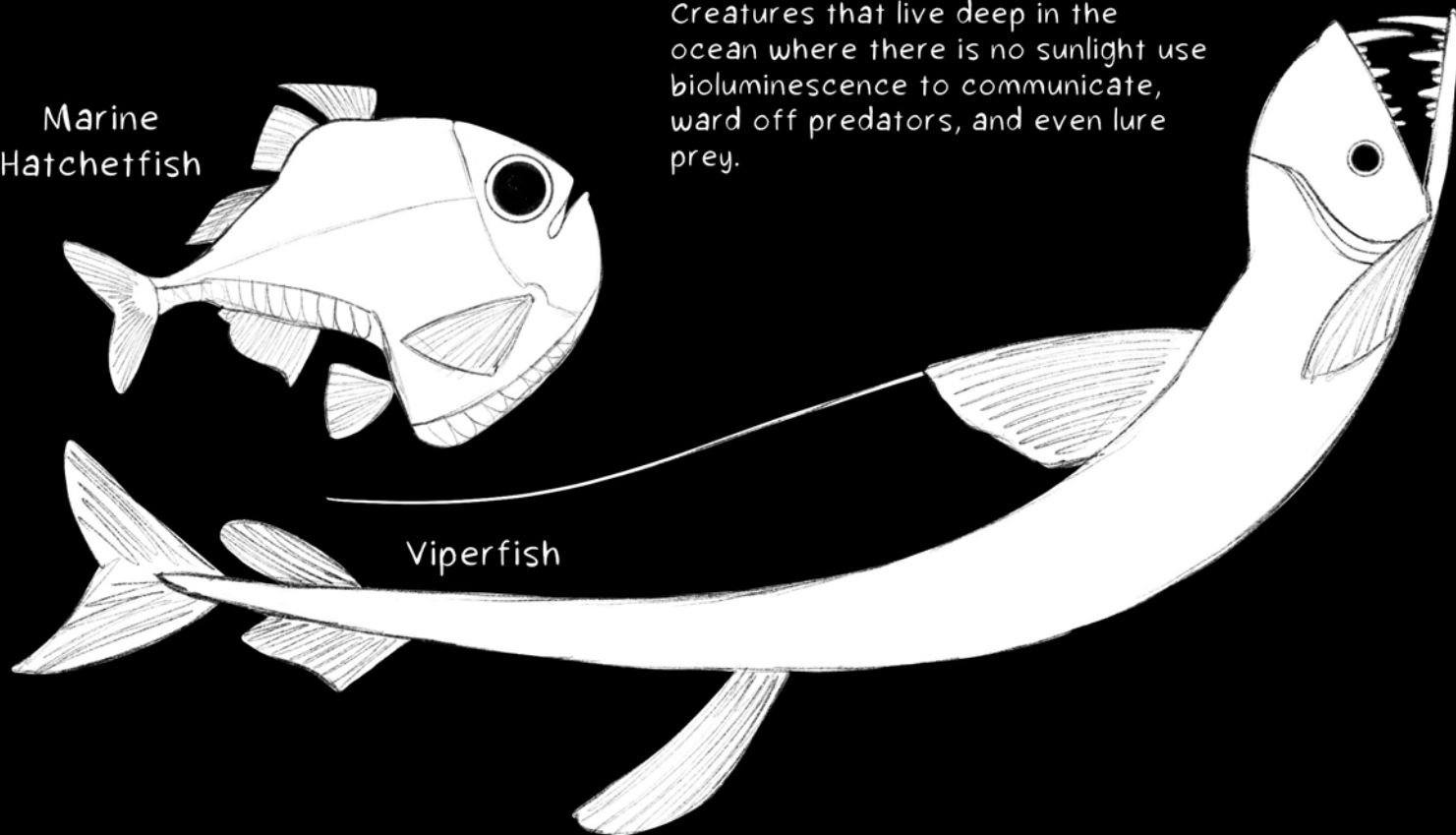
When a creature makes its own light, it is called bioluminescence!

Creatures that live deep in the ocean where there is no sunlight use bioluminescence to communicate, ward off predators, and even lure prey.

Marine Hatchetfish



Viperfish



Dragonfish



Although these fish may look scary, they live too deep in the ocean for humans to swim to!

Deep Sea Angler Fish



Real angler fish are this small!



Thank You!





Illustration
Process Book
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THROUGH THE FOXHOLE

Through the Foxhole is a visual development project for an animated series. For this project, I explored character and creature development, prop and building design, and world-building.

When 4-and-a-half year old Cooper Finley and his Dad, Daniel, move across the country, Cooper discovers a Foxhole that leads to a magical town. When Cooper suddenly turns into a fox, their only hope is to find Lady Salma: the only witch powerful enough to undo his curse. With the help of their new magical friends, Cooper and Daniel embark on a journey across the U.S. to reverse Cooper's curse and save the world of magic.

Target Audience: 7+ Children and Teens Adults that enjoy cartoons

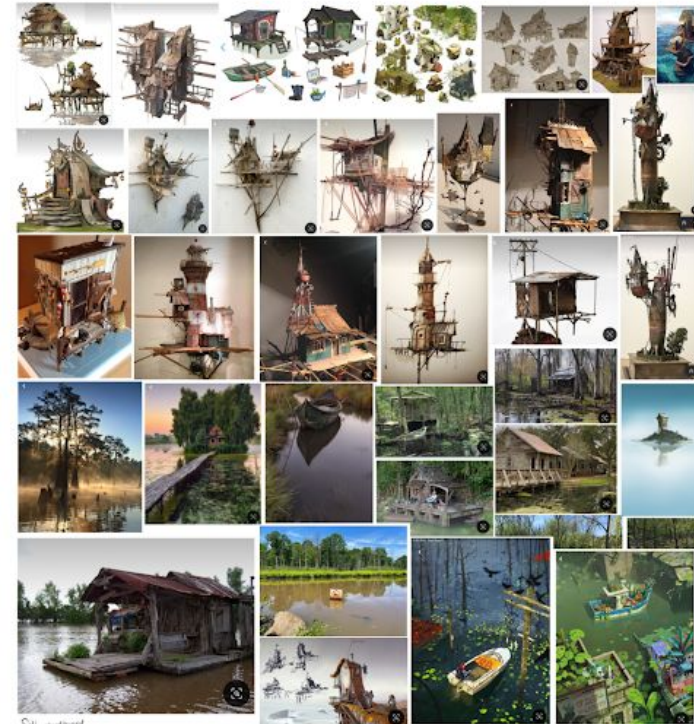
Similar Shows: The Owl House, She-Ra, Gravity Falls, Over the Garden Wall, Studio Ghibli Films



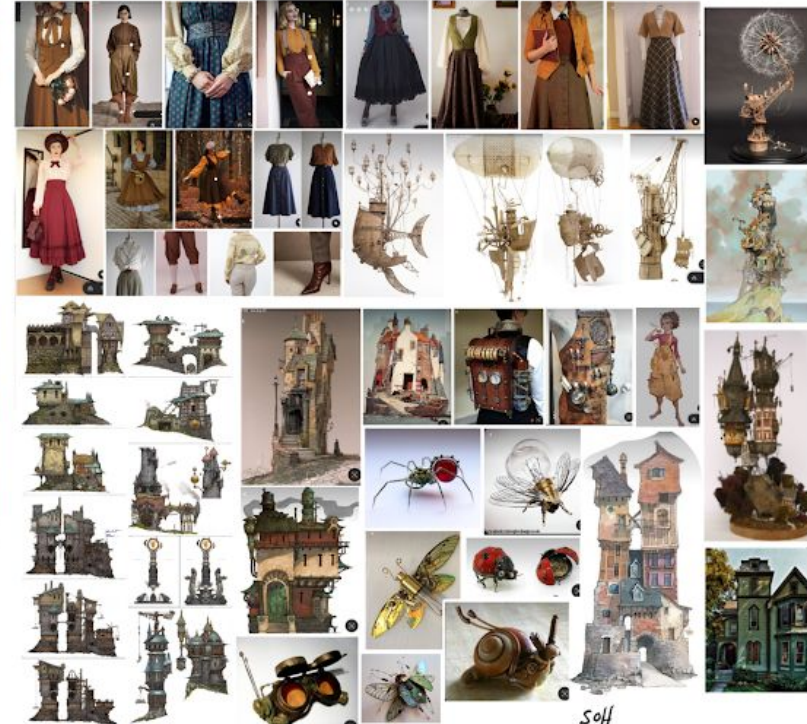
My process began with writing the story and developing the world of Through the Foxhole. I created moodboards and gathered references.



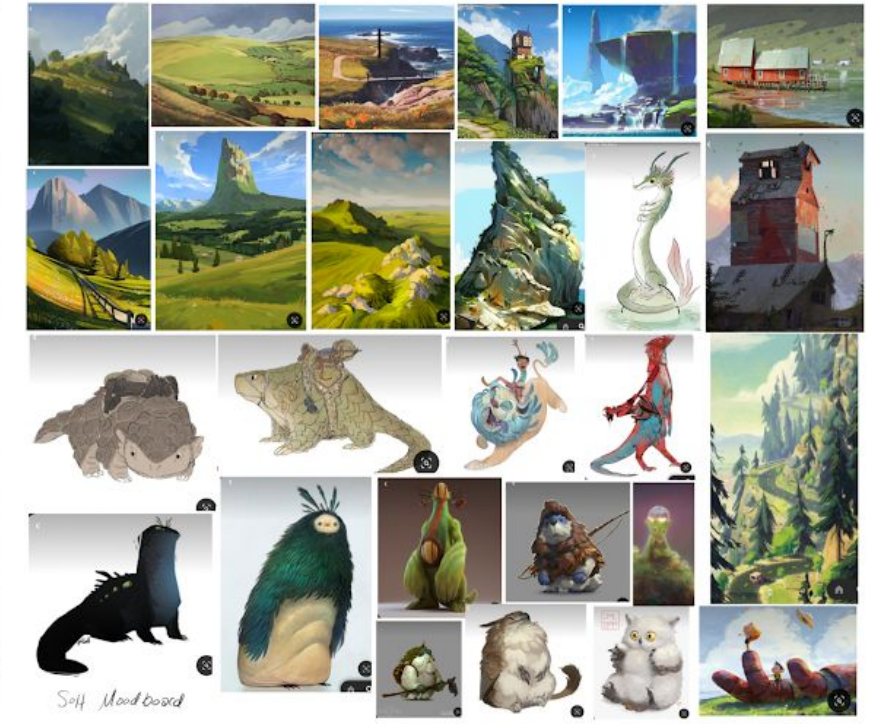
Ferinwallow



Walderon



Noddinborough



The Beastlands

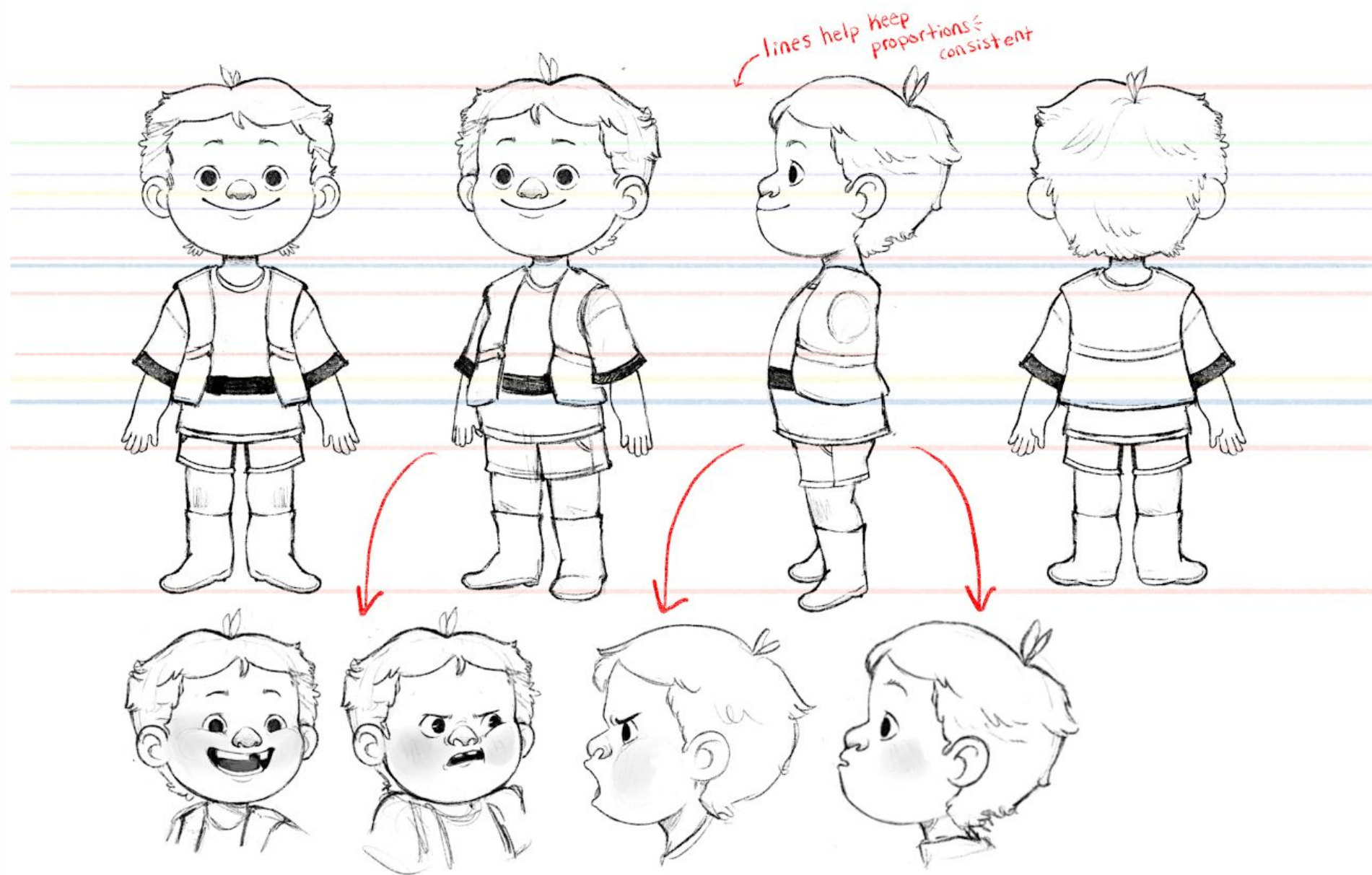
The first characters I created were Dan and Cooper. In my junior year, I created a concept for a comic about a boy and his dad who could turn into foxes. The story was born from these simple sketches. I refined and refined and refined until I was happy with the final designs.



the very first designs 2021



Making turnarounds helped me visualize my characters in a 3D space



I used the turnarounds as rough models to further explore the characters with expressions and poses.



Rendering!



I played around with color and lighting

- magic is blue to add visual contrast to main characters' warmth
- this is also why Gideon is cool-toned

hard and soft light sources

soft lighting

secondary source



When designing creatures, I used several different animals as references. I wanted to make the characters whimsical, yet believable.

animals

- spotted seal
 - manatee
 - Snow Leopard
 - polar bear
 - bulldog
- = Galumphie

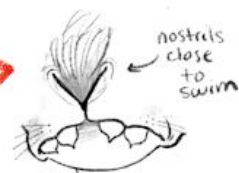


this energy
= goofy

broad chest/
shoulders



Seal-like fur helps
galumphies thrive
in colder environ-
ments



Priscilla
↳ Galumphie

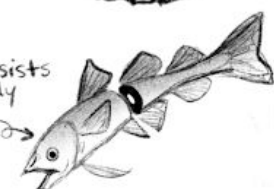
Galumphing = how seals move
on land



- Semi-aquatic
- Distant relatives of seals
- Used to be hunted for their healing pelts, but this causes a curse that made their assailant walk into the nearest body of water
- Their healing powers only work if the galumphie is happy and willing to heal. They're stubborn by nature, so you must be patient

tail helps
navigate
in water

diet consists
of mostly
fish





inspo

Start with blocky shapes

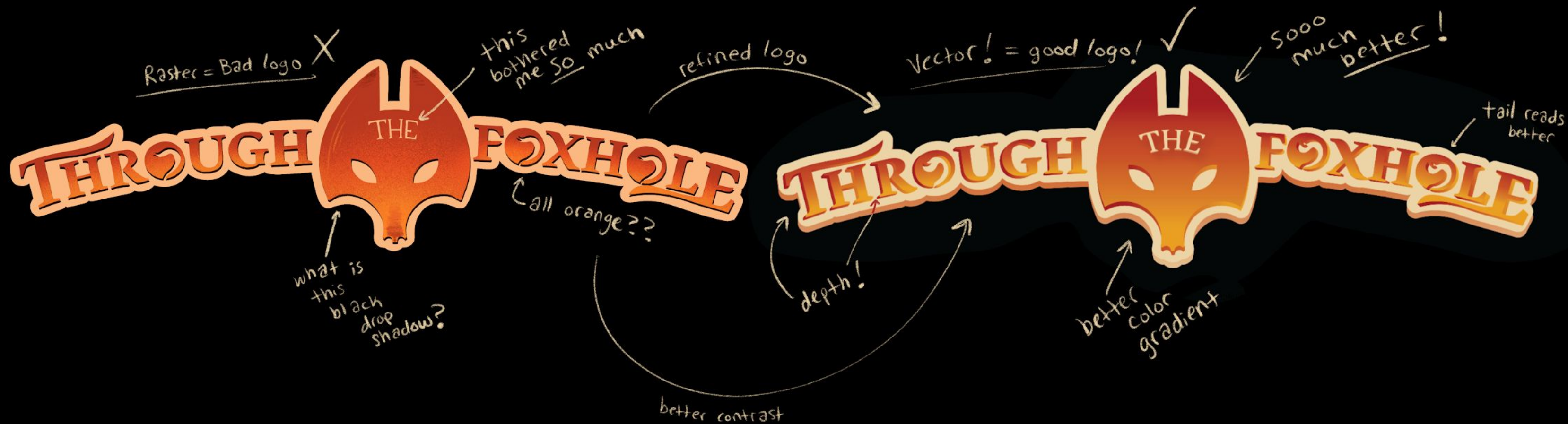
add pizzazz



smog = story element

curves

details that break the silhouette





Long ago, magic beings walked alongside humans. Witches practiced their arts in secret, and built a community that worked to protect themselves and other, more vulnerable magical beings and creatures from being discovered. Everything changed when the witch Gideon Flagg exposed these communities to the world. Magic beings were feared and hated. This fear turned to violence, and the magical communities had to go into hiding. For their protection, the witch, Lady Salma sealed villages of the surviving magic beings away using a series of protection spells called Obistriums. No one goes in- no one goes out. That is, until Cooper Finley.

Single dad, Daniel "Dan" Finley, moves to a small town with his 4-and-a-half year old autistic son, Cooper. While exploring the property around their new home, Cooper discovers a rather large "foxhole" in their yard.



That night, he witnesses a small figure in a cape go through the hole, and he follows suit. What he finds is the town of Ferinwallow, one of the secret communities that had been sealed away all those years ago.

When exposed to magic, Cooper finds himself cursed with the uncontrollable ability to turn into his favorite animal: a fox. Dan and Cooper, with the help of the witches Beatrice Florez and Margo Moore, embark on a roadtrip across the U.S. to find Lady Salma, the only witch powerful enough to undo Cooper's curse and to stop the holes that are opening up in the Obstriums. They discover other hidden villages along the way, and pick up other magic beings who are also hoping to find Lady Salma.



Through the Foxhole seeks to represent marginalized people through the metaphor of magic and through each character's lived experiences. It works to explore the intersectionality of queer, neurodivergent people.

Dan and Cooper's experience with magic functionally works as a metaphor for autism and finding acceptance within the neurodivergent community. It follows Dan's journey of discovery for both Cooper and himself. Daniel is scared of magic at first, in the same way many parents are scared of their child being autistic. He, at first, is dead set on finding a cure, but slowly discovers that there IS no cure, because there's no curse. There is nothing wrong with Cooper; he has always been magic. Magic is not a superpower or a curse, and it manifests differently in each person. Each character Daniel and Cooper encounter represents a different part of the neurodivergent experience. This story is about community and finding yourself within one.

The communities also exist as a reflection of the LGBTQ+ community, especially those in the 40's-60's who had to stay in hiding. The Obstriums are functionally both a safe haven and a prison, much like how gay bars and businesses were safe for queer people, but also hidden for their safety.





I spent months writing the story, diving into each of the main characters' background, and developing the lore of the world.

It was important to me to create something that would resonate with both younger and older audiences. The shows and movies that helped inspire Through the Foxhole are able to reach an older fan base, while maintaining their kid-friendly nature.

A key element to character creation is developing a well-rounded persona with motivations, flaws, and talents. I wanted my character lineup to be diverse in age, race, gender, sexuality, and body type as well. It is so important that children see themselves represented in the media that is made for them.

COOPER
FINLEY

Cooper is a 4-and-a-half year old boy. Foxes are his special interest and he brings Scout, his plush fox, everywhere. He loves to draw, and always keeps his headphones close by!



"I wanted Cooper to reflect the real experiences of people with autism, like sensory overload, special interests, and having periods of being non-verbal."

ME AS
A FOX



Daniel "Dan" Finley



Dan Finley is the 40-year-old dad of Cooper. He decided to move across the country with Cooper to follow his dreams of living in a quiet town and opening a bakery.



At first, Dan is resistant to the idea of magic, but he slowly starts to realize how special magic is.



Margo Moore

Margo is an 8-year-old witch's apprentice to Beatrice, her older cousin in the village of Ferinwallow. She strives to prove herself as a competent witch. Despite her deficiency when it comes to potions, Margo is a powerful magic user. She studies a book of old-world magic from before the time of Obstriums in secret.



Beatrice Florez

Beatrice is a 23-year-old Master Witch to her little cousin, Margo. She has been a gifted potion-maker and herbologist since her apprentice days. She struggles to teach Margo, as she is insistent on doing things by the book and Margo wants to experiment.



P'Lipa

P'Lipa and her father, K'Plunk, are frogfolk from the village Walderon. P'Lipa hopes that Lady Salma will help her father who is sick with the Croak, a disease that causes animalfolk to lose their memories and revert back to wild animals.



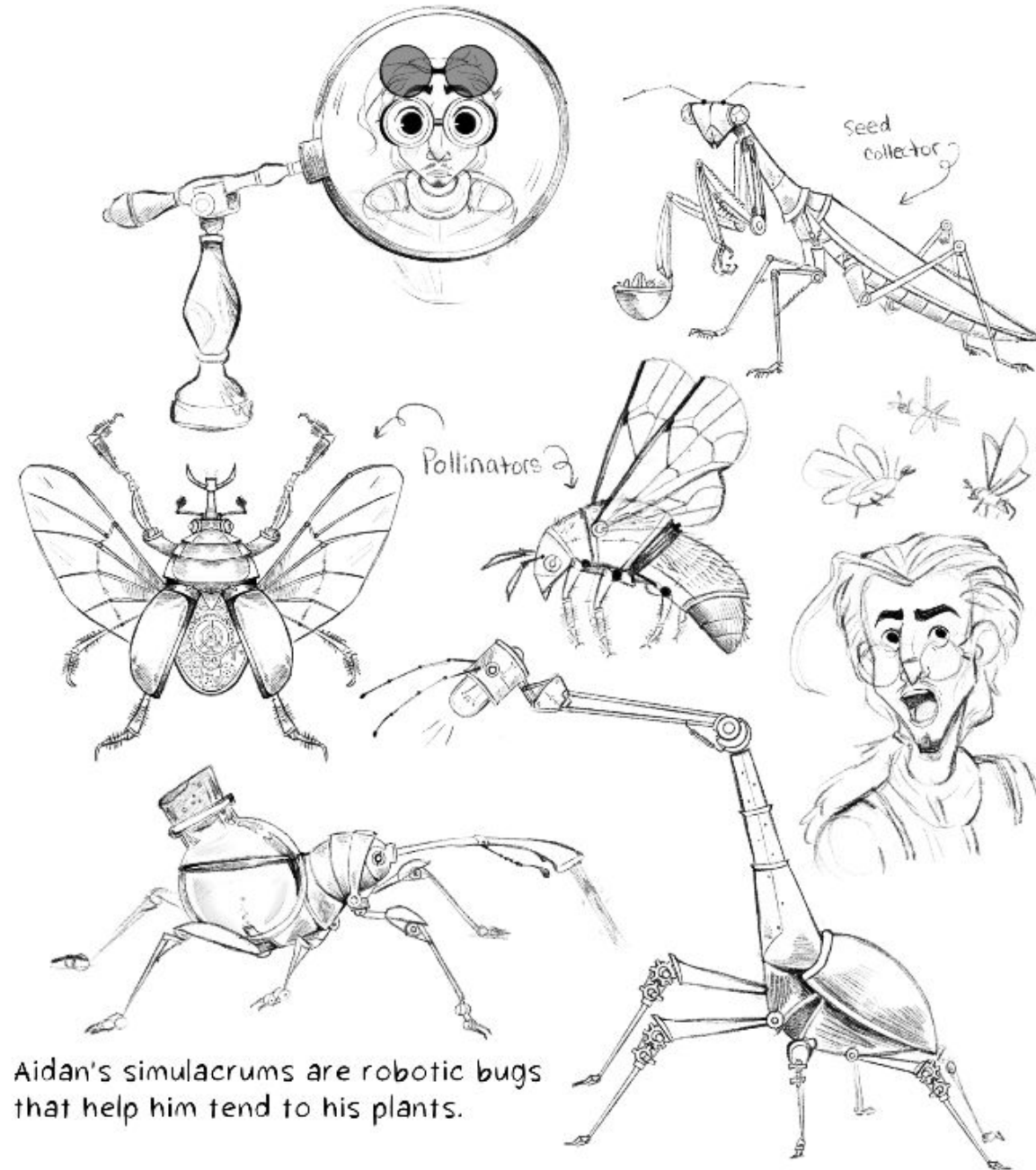
K'Plunk is tasked with caring for the village tadpoles, which is a tall order in his condition.

He is aided by Whenelope, P'Lipa's best friend, in P'Lipa's absence.



Aidan Handa

Aidan Handa is a 37-year-old magical botanist in the land of Nodinborough. Surrounded by smog, he struggles to keep his rare and magic-infused plants alive. He is also a mechanic by trade (or as he likes to call himself- a Robotanist.) He uses his mechanical skills to create "Simulacrums."



Aidan's simulacrums are robotic bugs that help him tend to his plants.

Lóna Mǐn



Mǐn is a 21-year-old beastkeeper with her aunt, Lán, in the beastlands. They live a solitary life on the cliff side, tending to their magical beast sanctuary.



Mǐn and Lán are **therians**. Like Cooper, they have the ability to turn into beasts. Mǐn's beast form is a **Tigerwyrms**: a flying dragon-like tiger.

Lóng Lán



A magic being's therian form is based on their personality and the creatures they are exposed to when growing up. Since Min and Lán were exposed to magical beasts as children, their beast forms are more fantastical creatures.



Lán's beast form is a Lion Dog, a magical beast native to East Asia.



Gideon Flagg



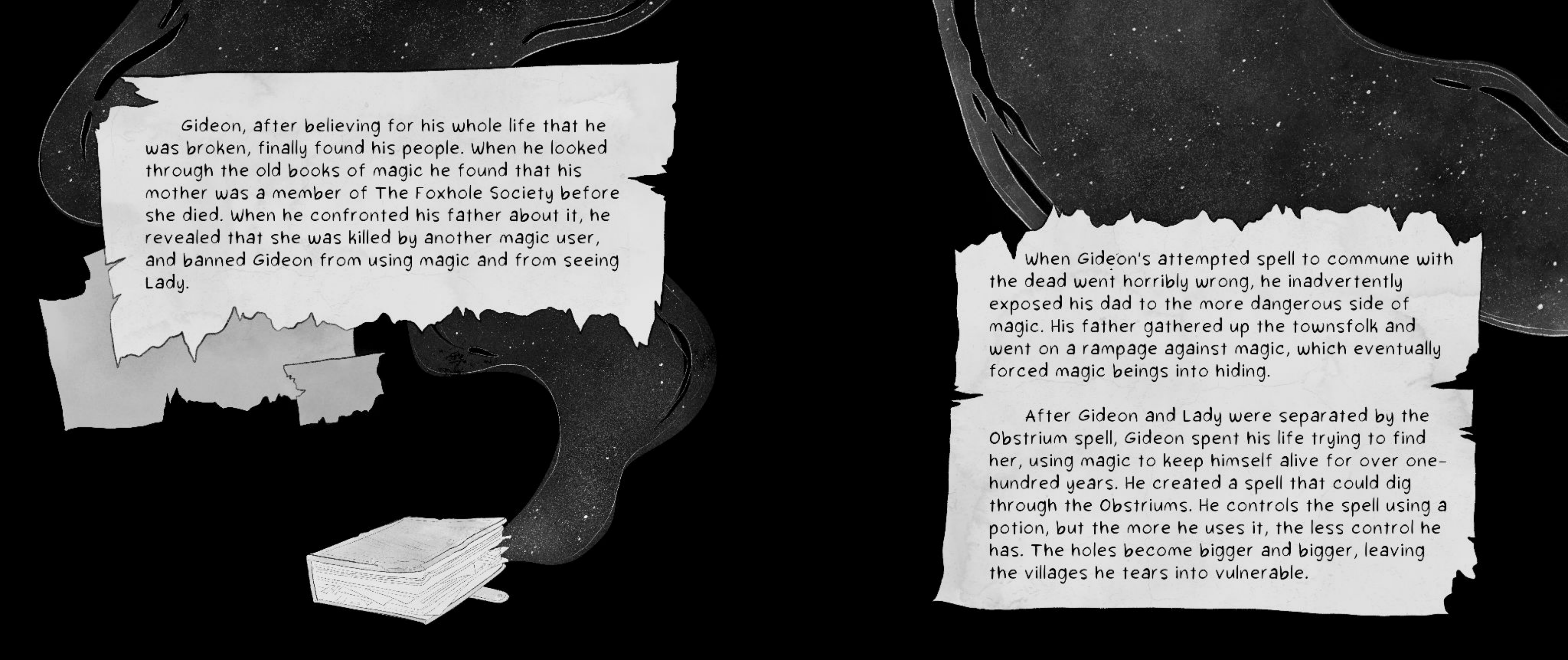
Gideon Flagg is the witch credited with exposing magic as a younger man, and is the main antagonist of the story.

Gideon is a complicated person. When he was young, he fell in love with a magic user named Lady Salma. She introduced him to an underground organization of magic users called the Foxhole Society. The Foxhole Society worked together to help protect other magic users and to share and record their magical findings.



Gideon's Magic Staff



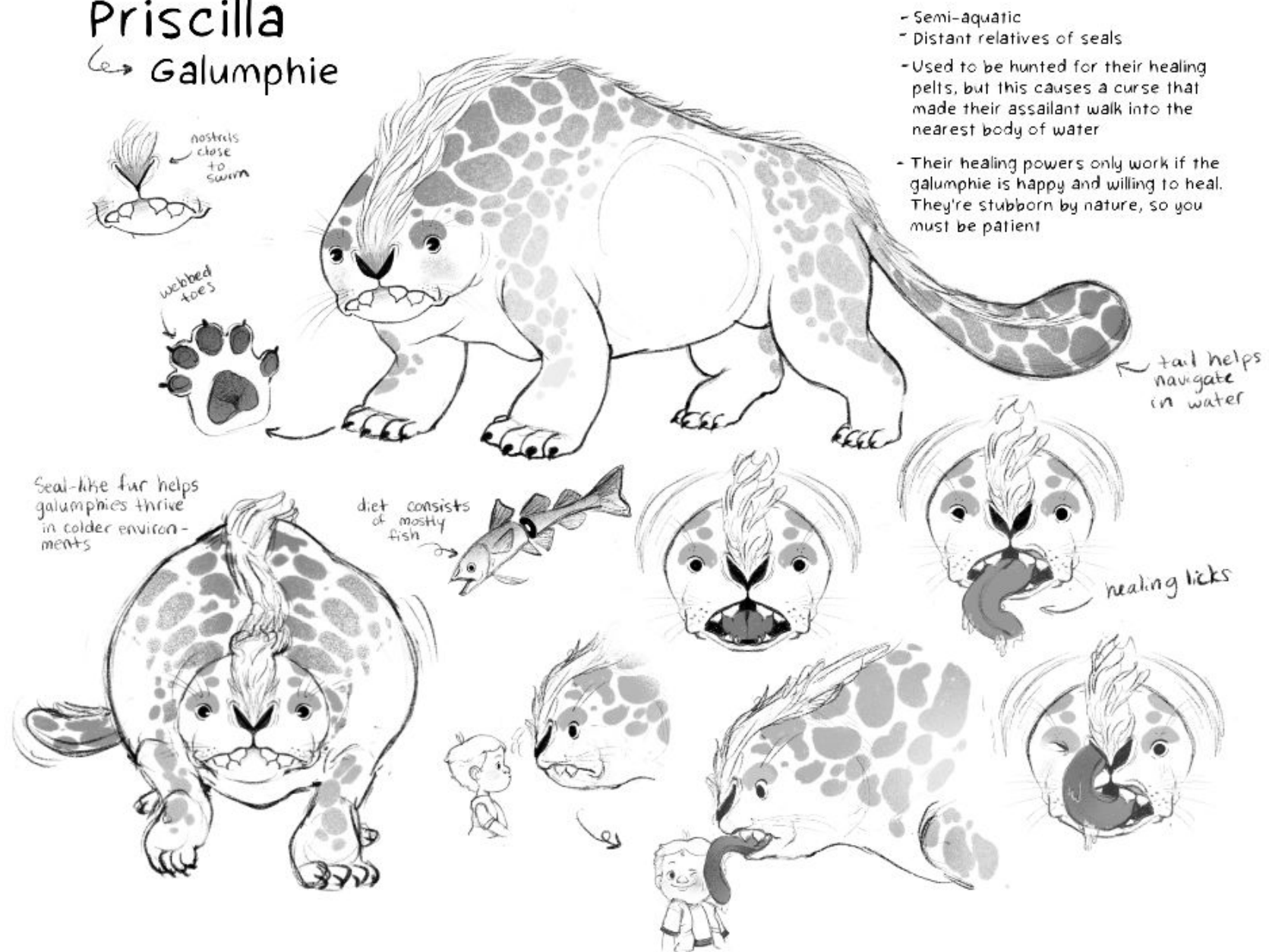


Gideon, after believing for his whole life that he was broken, finally found his people. When he looked through the old books of magic he found that his mother was a member of The Foxhole Society before she died. When he confronted his father about it, he revealed that she was killed by another magic user, and banned Gideon from using magic and from seeing Lady.

When Gideon's attempted spell to commune with the dead went horribly wrong, he inadvertently exposed his dad to the more dangerous side of magic. His father gathered up the townsfolk and went on a rampage against magic, which eventually forced magic beings into hiding.

After Gideon and Lady were separated by the Obstrium spell, Gideon spent his life trying to find her, using magic to keep himself alive for over one-hundred years. He created a spell that could dig through the Obstriums. He controls the spell using a potion, but the more he uses it, the less control he has. The holes become bigger and bigger, leaving the villages he tears into vulnerable.

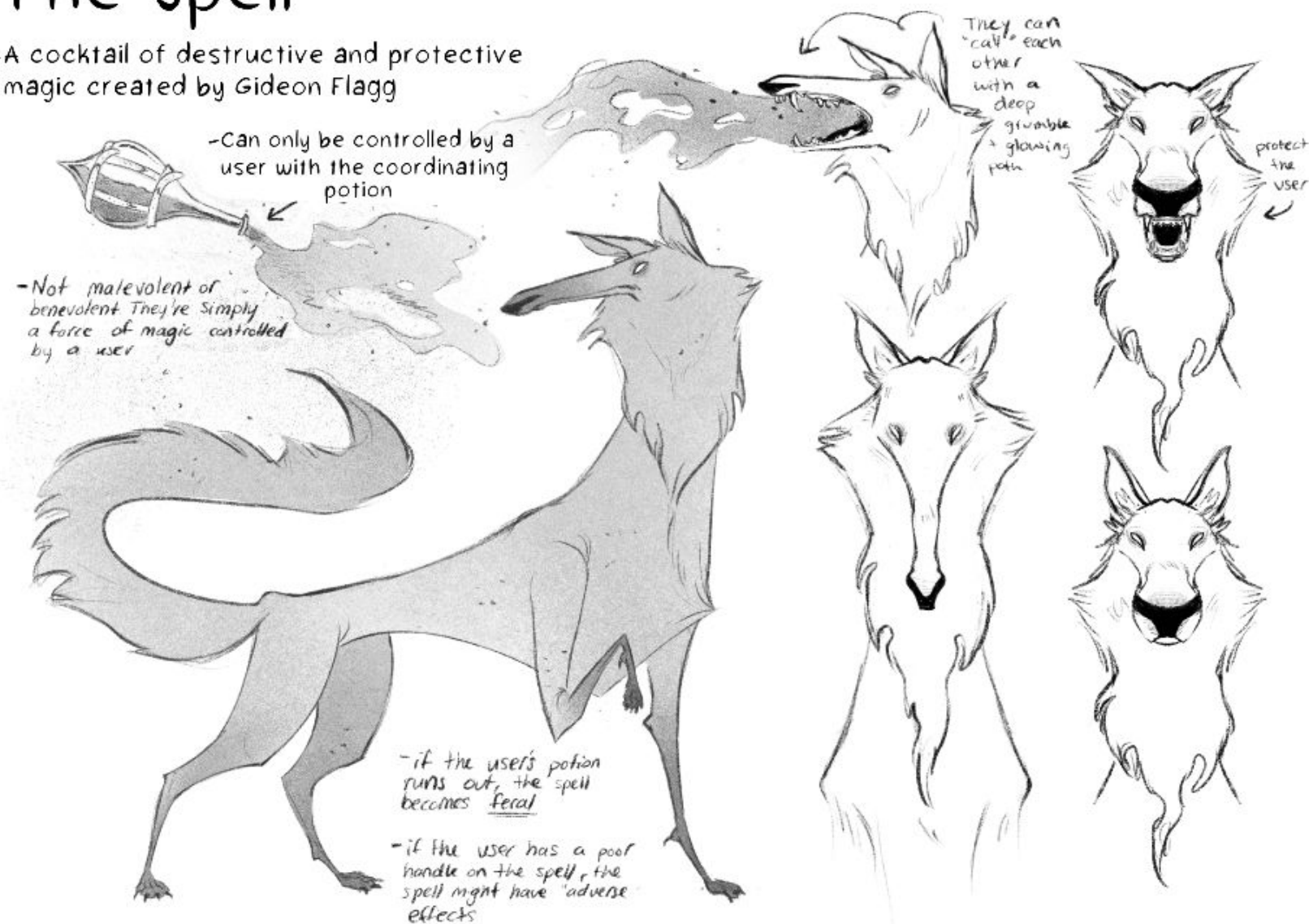
Priscilla ↳ Galumphie



- Semi-aquatic
- Distant relatives of seals
- Used to be hunted for their healing pelts, but this causes a curse that made their assailant walk into the nearest body of water
- Their healing powers only work if the galumphie is happy and willing to heal. They're stubborn by nature, so you must be patient

The Spell

-A cocktail of destructive and protective magic created by Gideon Flagg

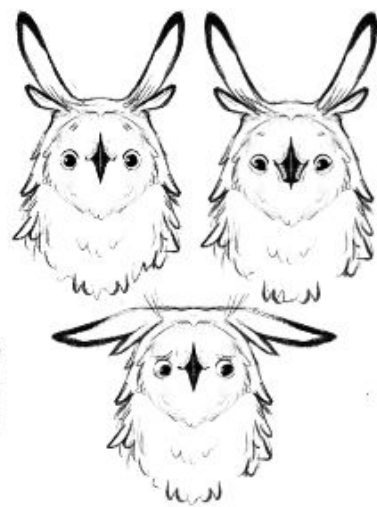


Pippin the Stragtid

Pippin is a domestic stragtid, which is a pet not recommended for magic users with no experience in beastkeeping. A stragtid's demeanor is not unlike a housecat.



Stragtids are playful and affectionate. Pippin is bonded to Margo, and she is very protective of her.



Stragtids are extremely loyal, but hard to care for. They have a lot of energy and are masters of flight.

pur-coos



The Guardian

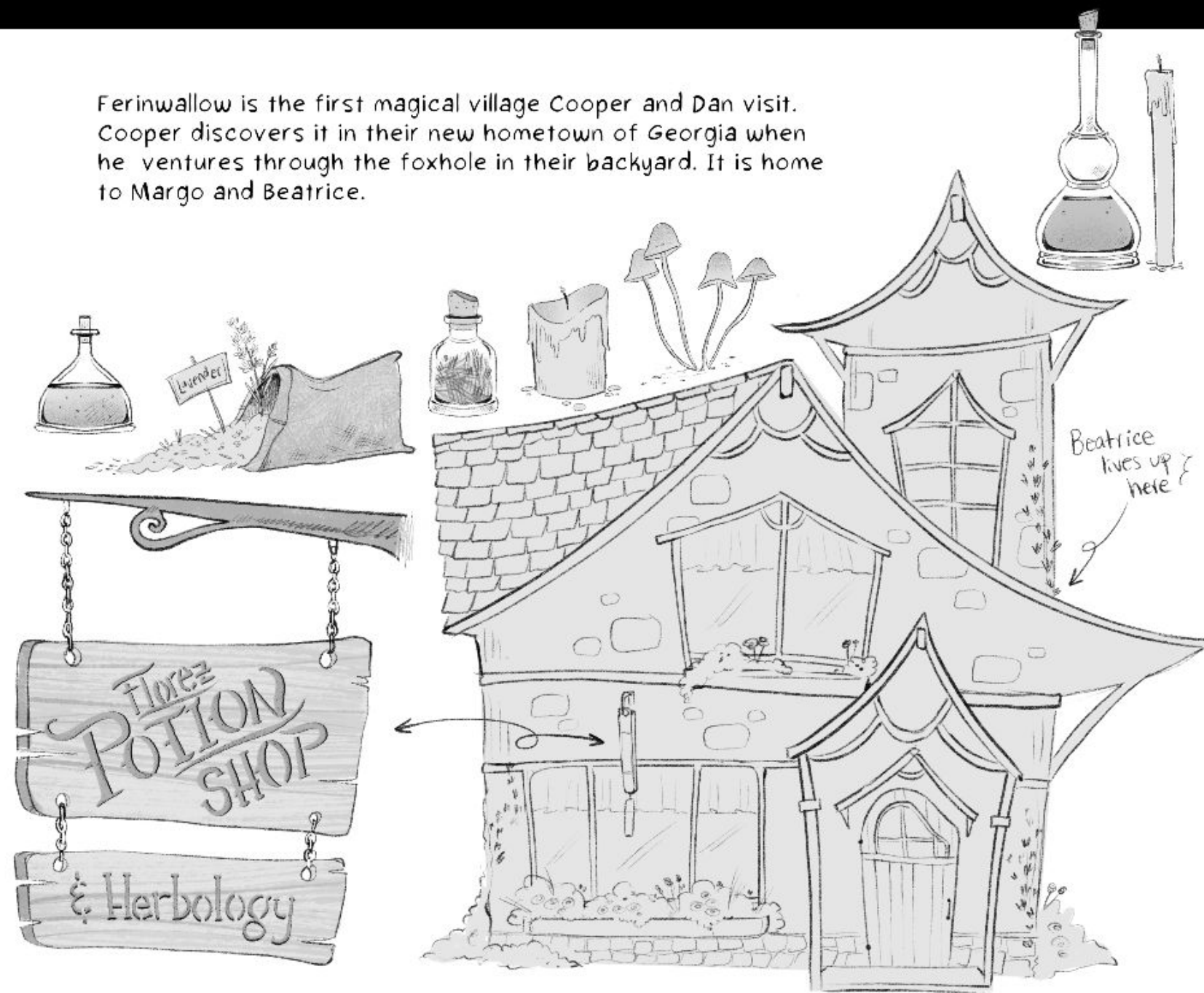
The Guardian is a Cerisskel, which is a creature related to a stragtid. The Guardian had been loyally guarding Lady Salma's house for decades.



Ferinwallow

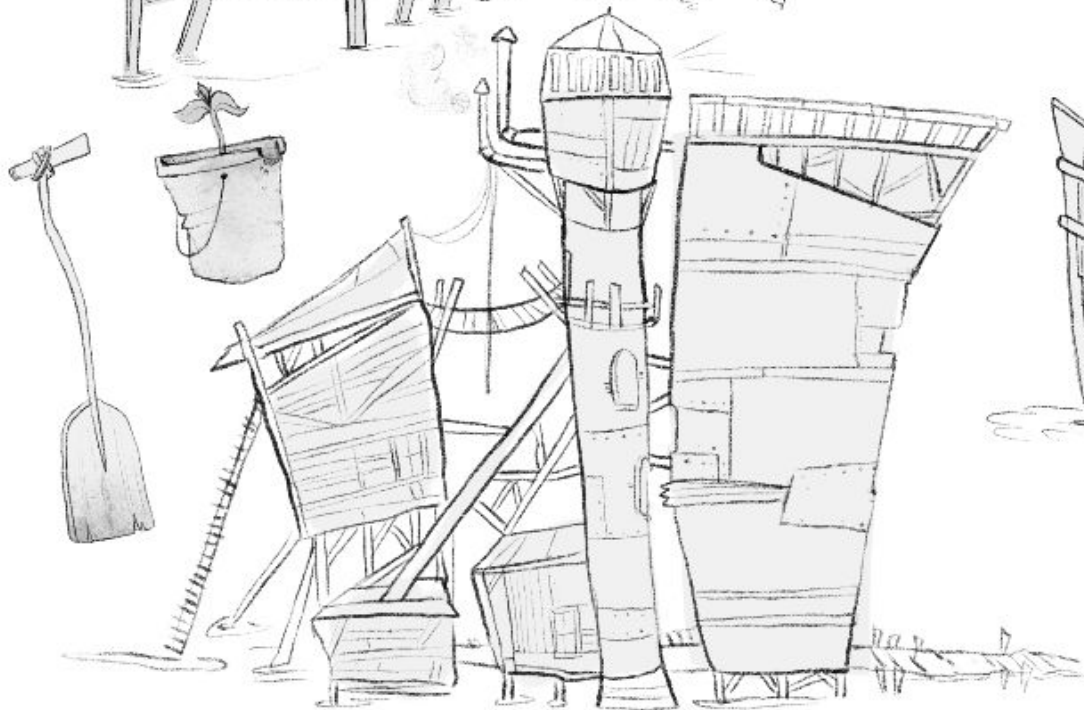


Ferinwallow is the first magical village Cooper and Dan visit. Cooper discovers it in their new hometown of Georgia when he ventures through the foxhole in their backyard. It is home to Margo and Beatrice.

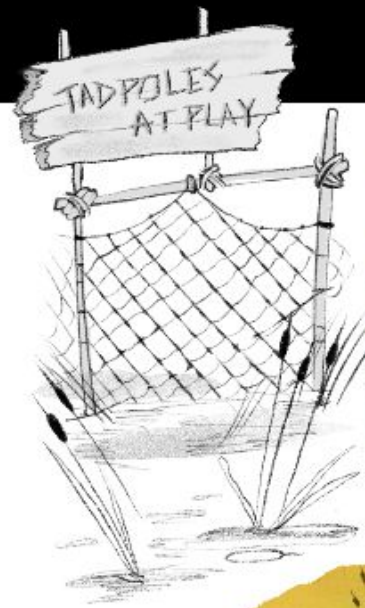


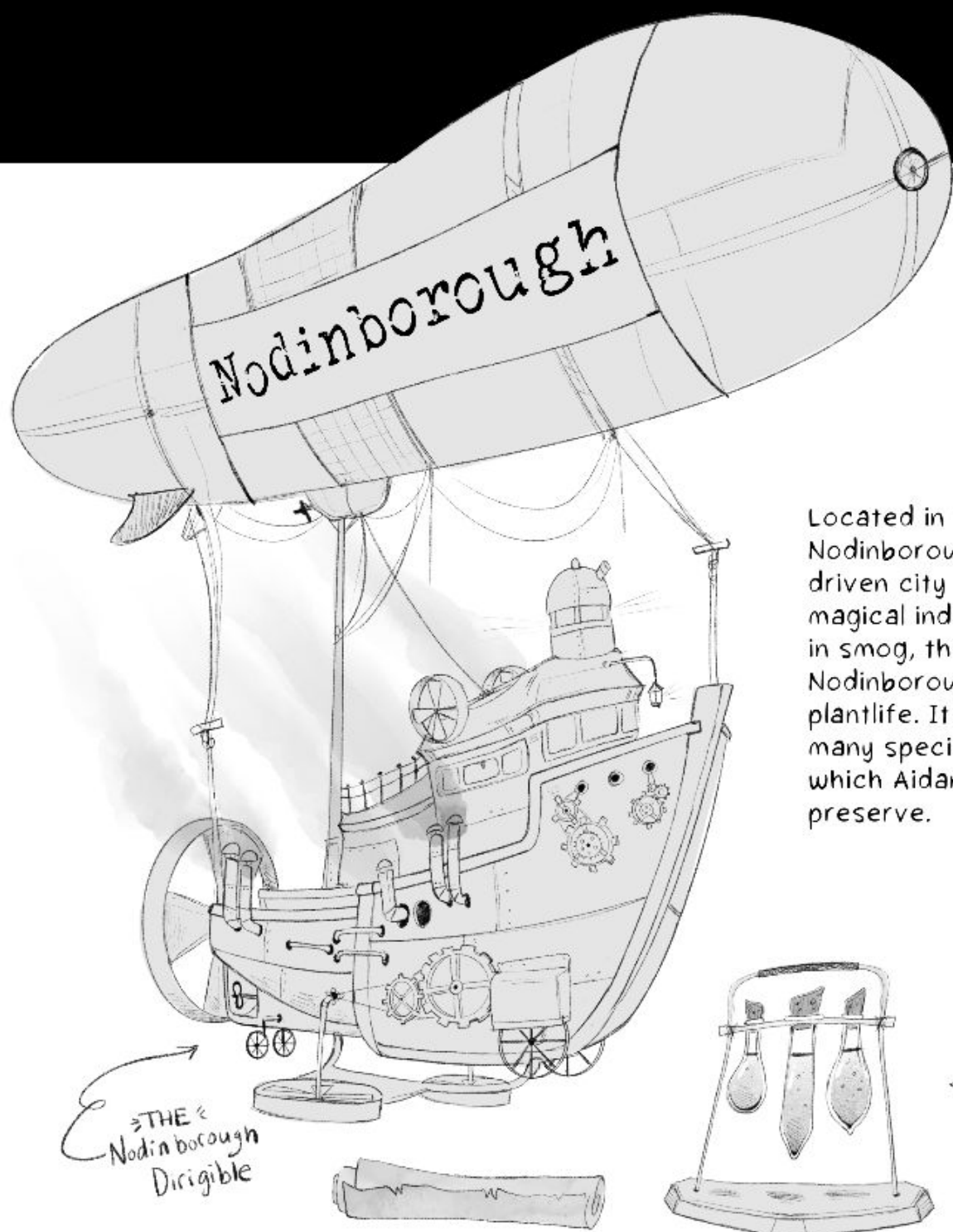


Walderon is a swampland located along the Mississippi River, and the second magical village the group visits. It is home to P'Lipa, K'Plunk and Whenelope.

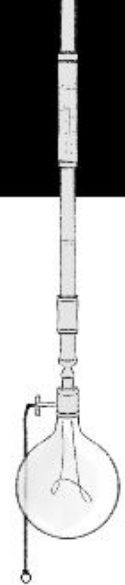


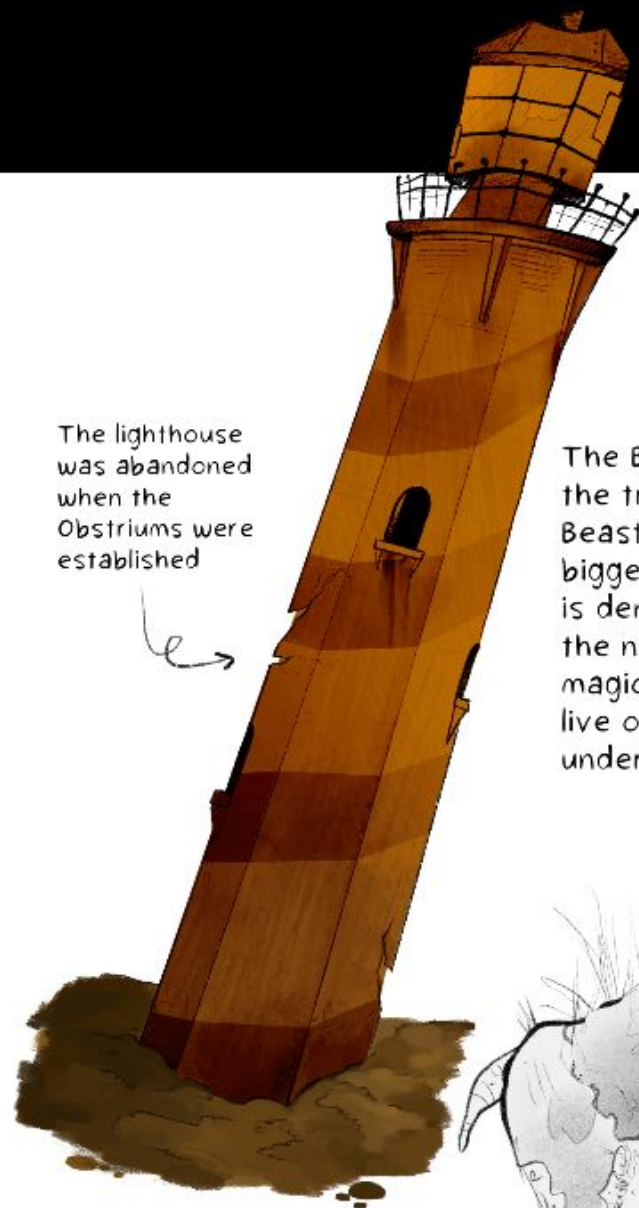
Because of its frequent flooding, the buildings of Walderon are built and rebuilt many times, making their structural integrity questionable.



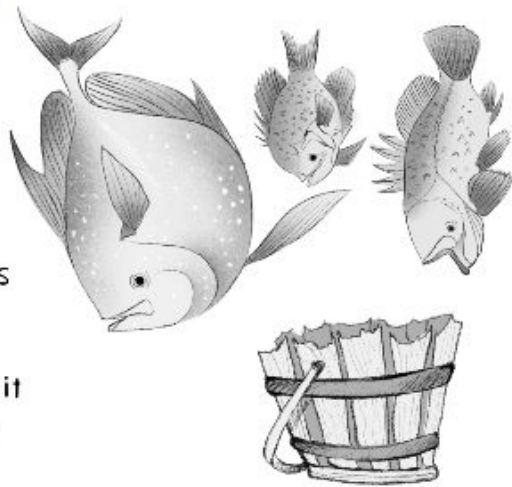


Located in Colorado, Nodinborough is a technologically driven city in the middle of its magical industrial age. Shrouded in smog, the town of Nodinborough is no place for plantlife. It used to be home to many species of magical plants, which Aidan now works to preserve.





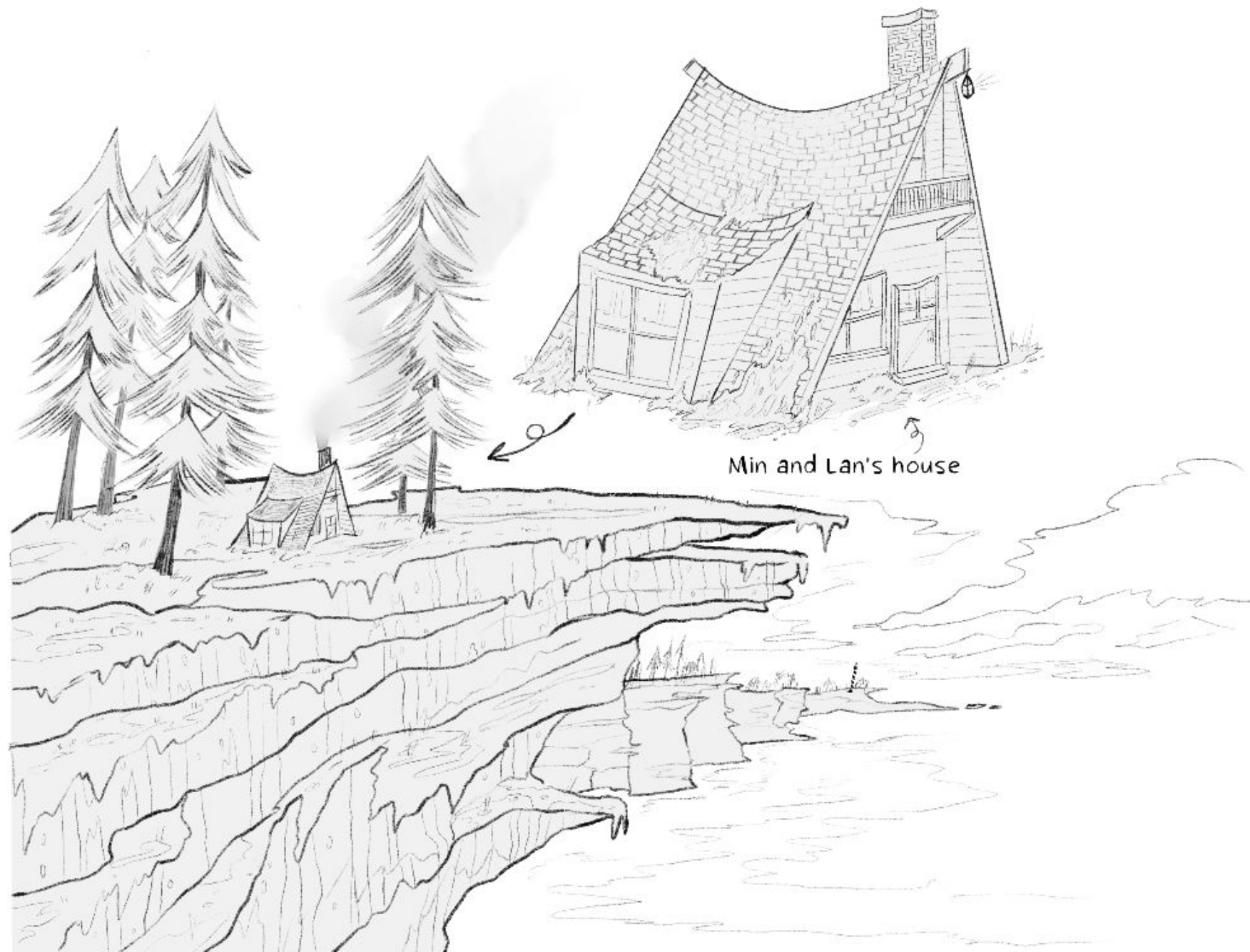
The lighthouse was abandoned when the Obstriums were established



The Beastlands of the Oregon Coast is the trip's final destination. The Beastlands is contained within the biggest Obstrium ever made. Because it is densely populated by beasts (hence the name), it is difficult for human magic-beings to live there. Min and Lan live off the land and tend to the beasts under their care.



Mosshog!
-Actually a rodent
-so sedentary that they become small landmasses, and foliage grows all over them
-Very docile



Min and Lan's house



Thank You