



# FLORA THE FISH

And The Plastic Plight



Written and Illustrated by Teya Knightingale











Meet Flora the fish.  
She lives under the sea  
along with her grandma,  
ol' lady Emily.

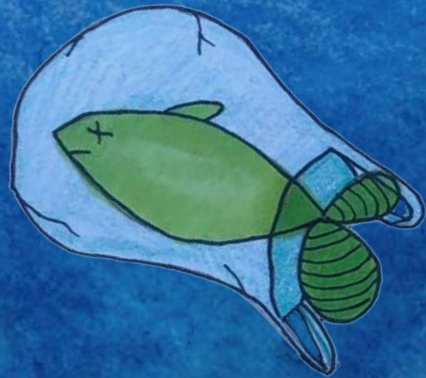


"Now this is truly a problem,  
this absurd plastic craze!"  
Emily told her dear Flora,  
reading news in a daze.





Flora took the Tuna Tribune  
"The next BEST thing" she read.  
She could not understand,  
plastics leave fish for dead!



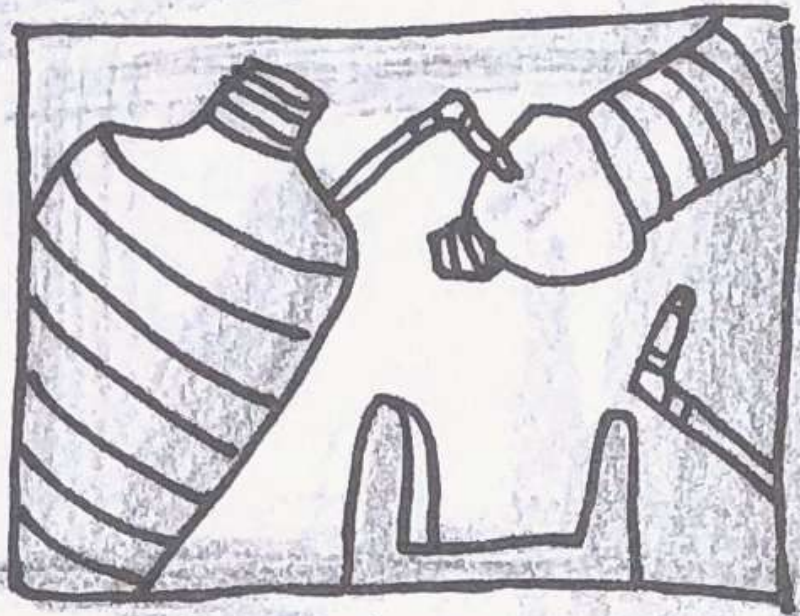
So then Flora continued  
to read and to see,  
what other fish had to say,  
but she couldn't agree.



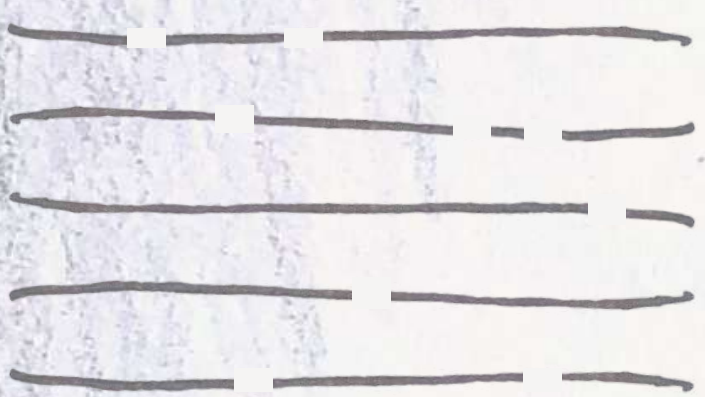
PLASTIC

THE NEXT BEST  
THING

**You can eat it and wear it!  
It is fun, fast, and free.  
There's more than ever before  
filling up our big sea.**



**How could you resist it?  
Plastic's shiny, and it's bright.  
An endless variety,  
find it in blue, green, and white!**





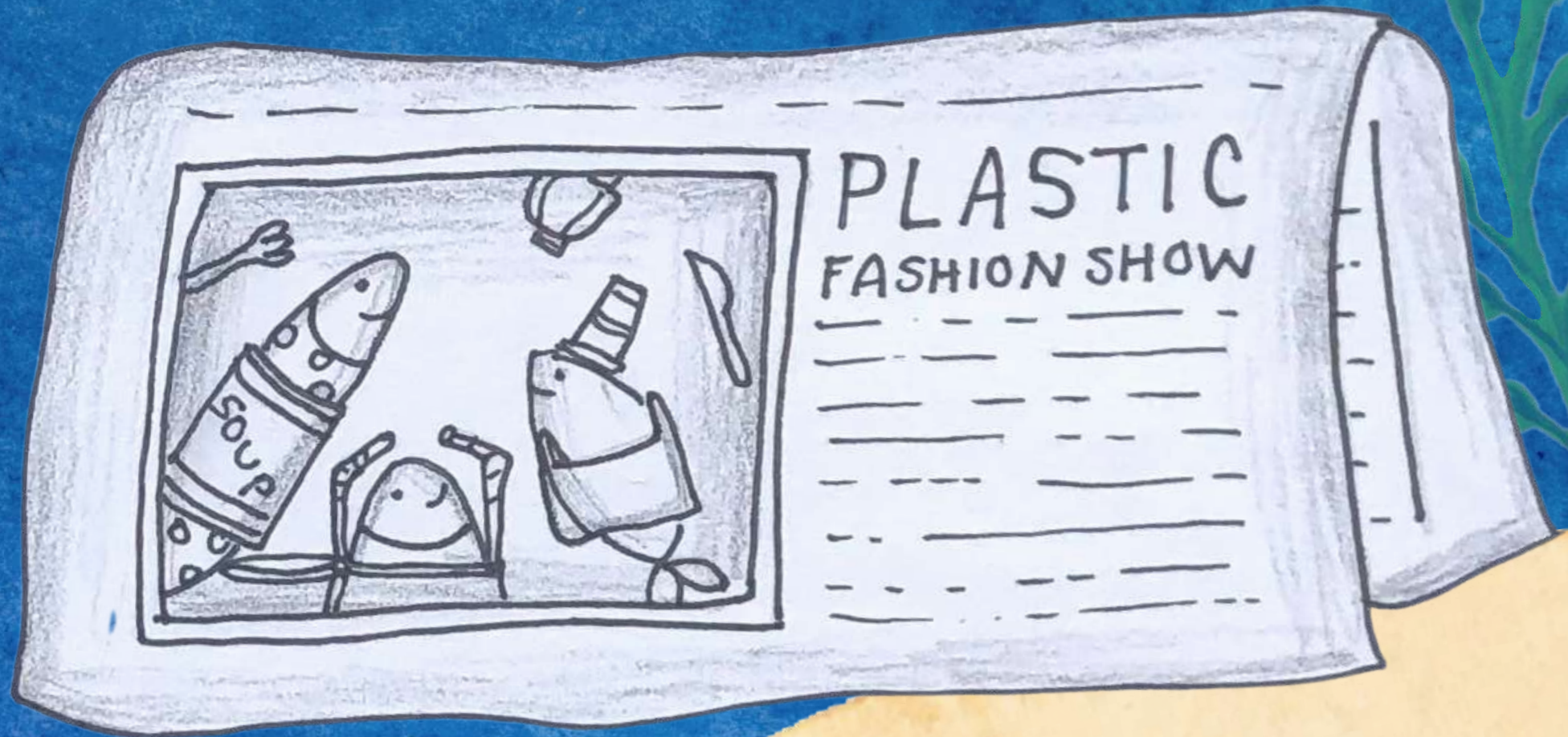
"Fun"? Flora thought.  
"How can they write such a thing?  
Plastics are dangerous,  
and what fun could they bring?"



Her grandma took back the paper  
with anger, frustration, and dismay  
at the sea now littered by plastic  
with waters murky and more grey.



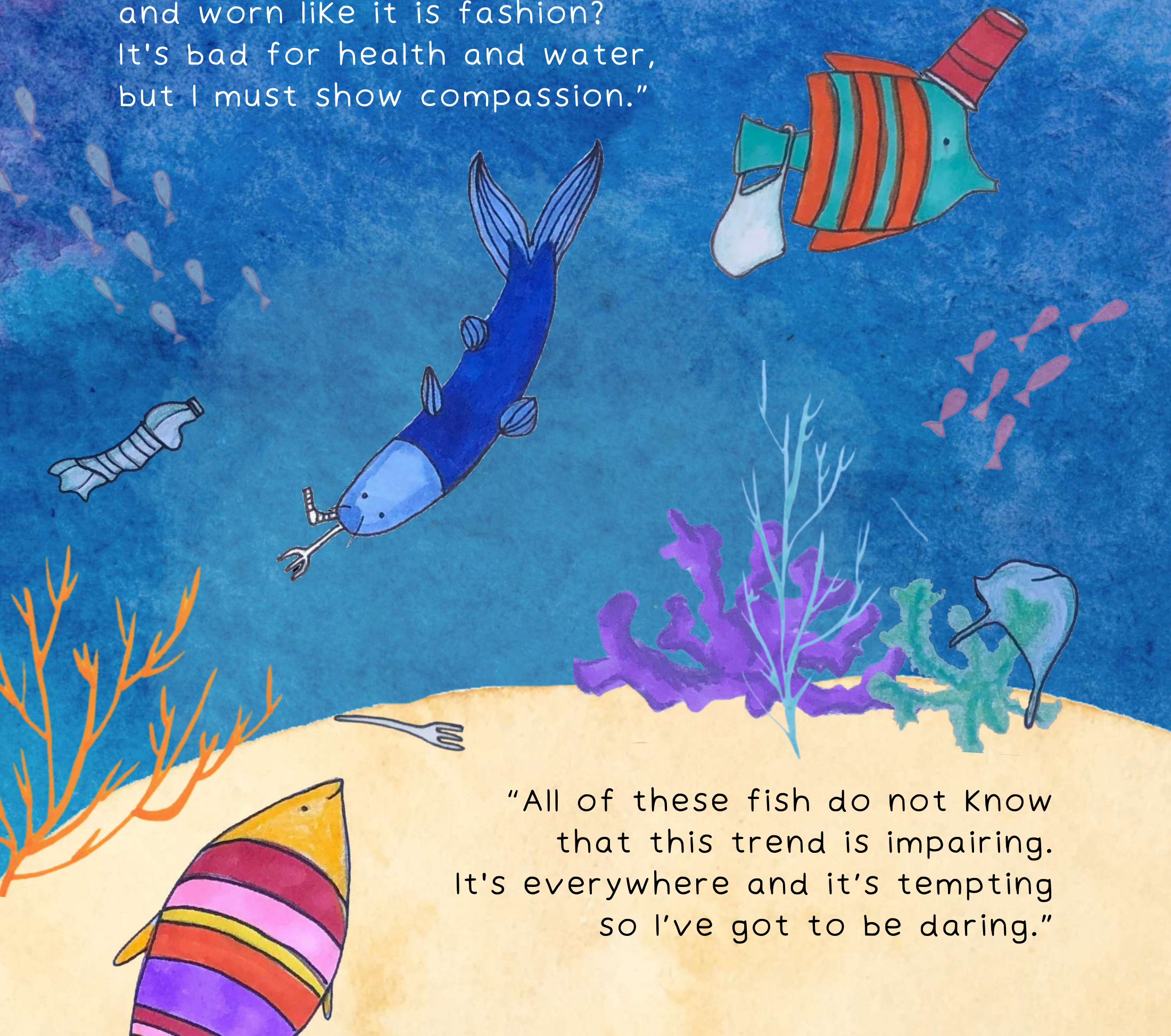
she then read out an ad  
from the bottom of the page,  
"New Trend: New Fashion Show  
See Straws and Bags Up On Stage."



Flora was quite saddened  
by what she had heard.  
Her anger was building,  
her vision near blurred.



"Why is it treated like food  
and worn like it is fashion?  
It's bad for health and water,  
but I must show compassion."



"All of these fish do not know  
that this trend is impairing.  
It's everywhere and it's tempting  
so I've got to be daring."



Flora hatched up a plan,  
then collected supplies.  
She created a sign,  
and was ready to surprise.



The Plastic Fashion show  
was on tonight at eight.  
Flora had to start swimming,  
or else she would be late.





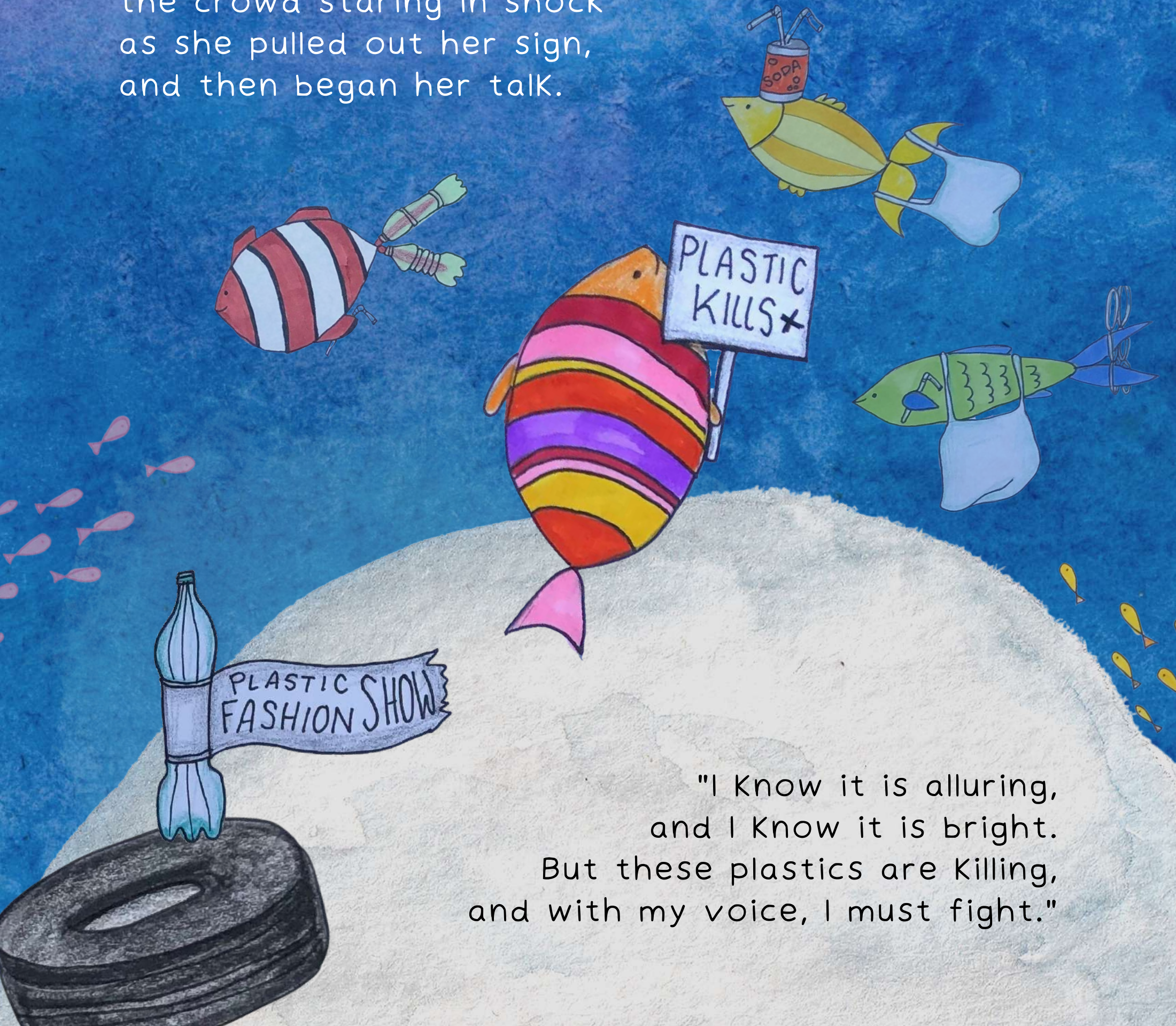
At a quarter to the hour,  
the stage was just in view.  
Flora Knew what was right,  
and she Knew just what to do.



The fish began to swim  
across the big rock stage,  
their outfits all displayed,  
deepening Flora's outrage.



Flora swam front and centre,  
the crowd staring in shock  
as she pulled out her sign,  
and then began her talk.



"I know it is alluring,  
and I know it is bright.  
But these plastics are killing,  
and with my voice, I must fight."



"My grandma Emily tells me  
there was a past of clear seas,  
where coral was healthier,  
and fish lived with ease."



"Because there was a time  
where bottles and cans were so rare,  
and fish lived much longer,  
I only wish I were there."



"But we can not go back,  
so we must move ahead,  
and warn others of plastic.  
The word; we must spread!"



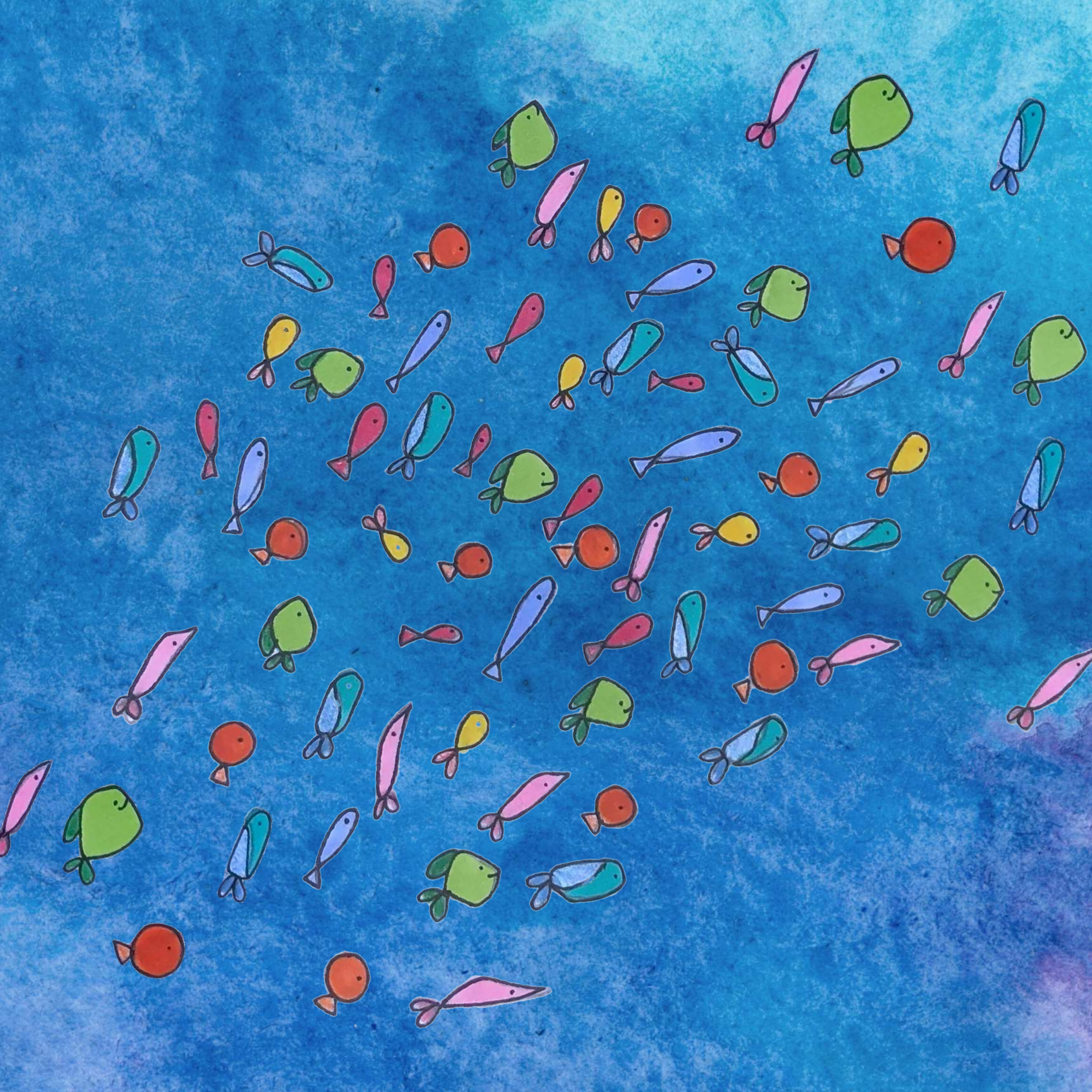
Then the crowd began cheering,  
Flora still, and in awe  
as the models removed  
each bag and clear straw.



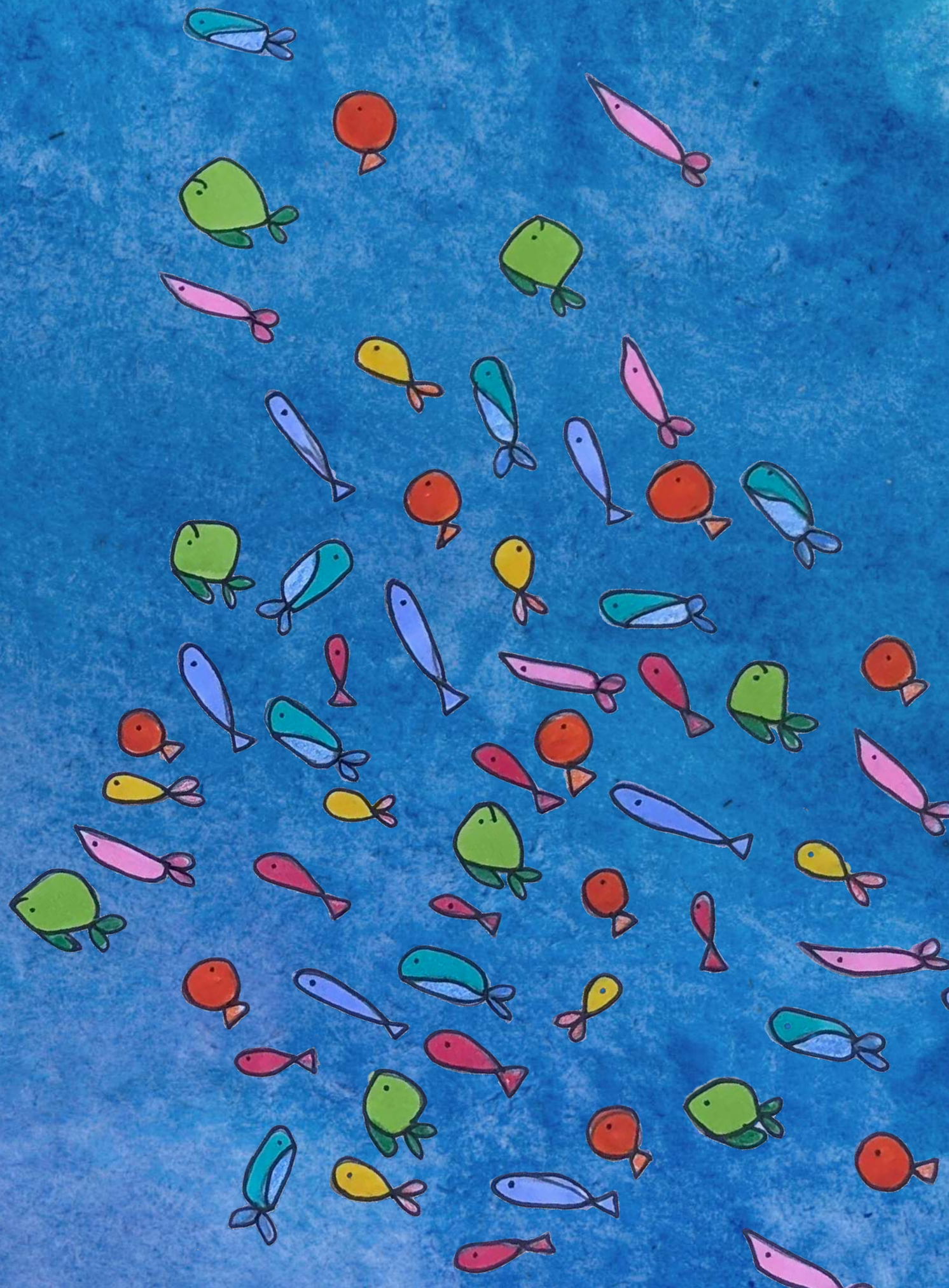


From this very day forward,  
Flora continued her fight,  
advocating for fish and sea,  
doing what she knew was right.













# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Teya Knightingale is a 16-year-old with a deep passion for the environment and creativity. She volunteers weekly at her local sustainable garden, growing and harvesting produce for the foodbank. From donating money for tree planting within a student-run company to leading a climate art contest in her city, Teya's goal is to take her love and share it with her community and planet. Teya recently had the opportunity to speak as a youth advocate at a global environment day event where she shared her voice working to inspire other youth, much like dear Flora.





# EXPLORE MORE



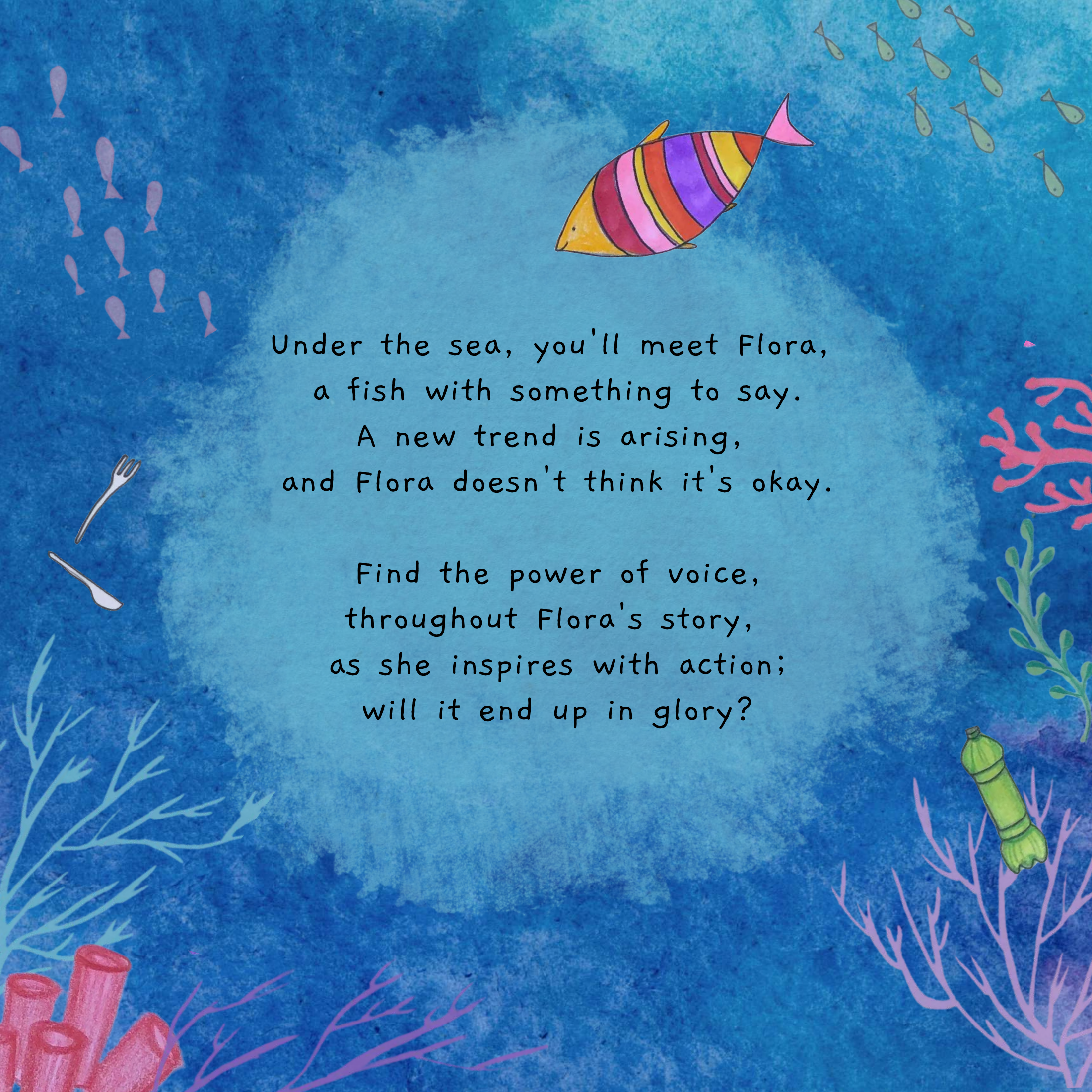
To watch a video  
read-along and to find  
printable worksheets visit

Here

([sites.google.com/view/florathefish](https://sites.google.com/view/florathefish))







Under the sea, you'll meet Flora,  
a fish with something to say.

A new trend is arising,  
and Flora doesn't think it's okay.

Find the power of voice,  
throughout Flora's story,  
as she inspires with action;  
will it end up in glory?