

A person with long, dark hair is seen from behind, looking out over a vast, blue ocean. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is serene and evocative, suggesting a connection to nature and the sea.

THE SEA IN STORIES AND LEGENDS



*We dedicate this booklet
to all the people who like stories and legends...
Enjoy every moment of the magical realm of childhood
and remember to dream! Thus, life will be more beautiful!*





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ONCE UPON A TIME ... THE SEA

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*"How far is the kingdom of children!
They project their dreams on the clouds;
and without worries, without interest, without burdens,
they believe in stories and are happy"*
Paul Hazard

Childhood cannot be conceived without the imaginary world offered by fairy tales, stories and stories, which are more than just stories. The child discovers that there is a permanent struggle between good and evil, which are the consequences depending on his choice and he learns his behaviors.

He understands early on how stories give meaning and meaning to the environment in which we live, identifying how certain concrete life situations can find their way through, without having to go through a negative experience. Moreover, the child's access to new words and expressions is facilitated, thus contributing to the development of both language and thought.

And, what is very important, is enriching his emotional state, which is closely related to the unfolding of the incident. The child becomes sad and worried when a character is in difficulty, enjoying the victory of the one with whom he identifies. Give a child a topic to write a legend and you will find how easily his imagination is stimulated, how much broadens his horizon of knowledge through the many aspects of the surrounding environment to which he appeals.

The project "ONCE UPON A TIME ... THE SEA" proposed "The sea, in stories and legends". How creative were the students of the partner schools in Romania, Italy, Spain and Portugal, you will be able to discover only by browsing the following pages.





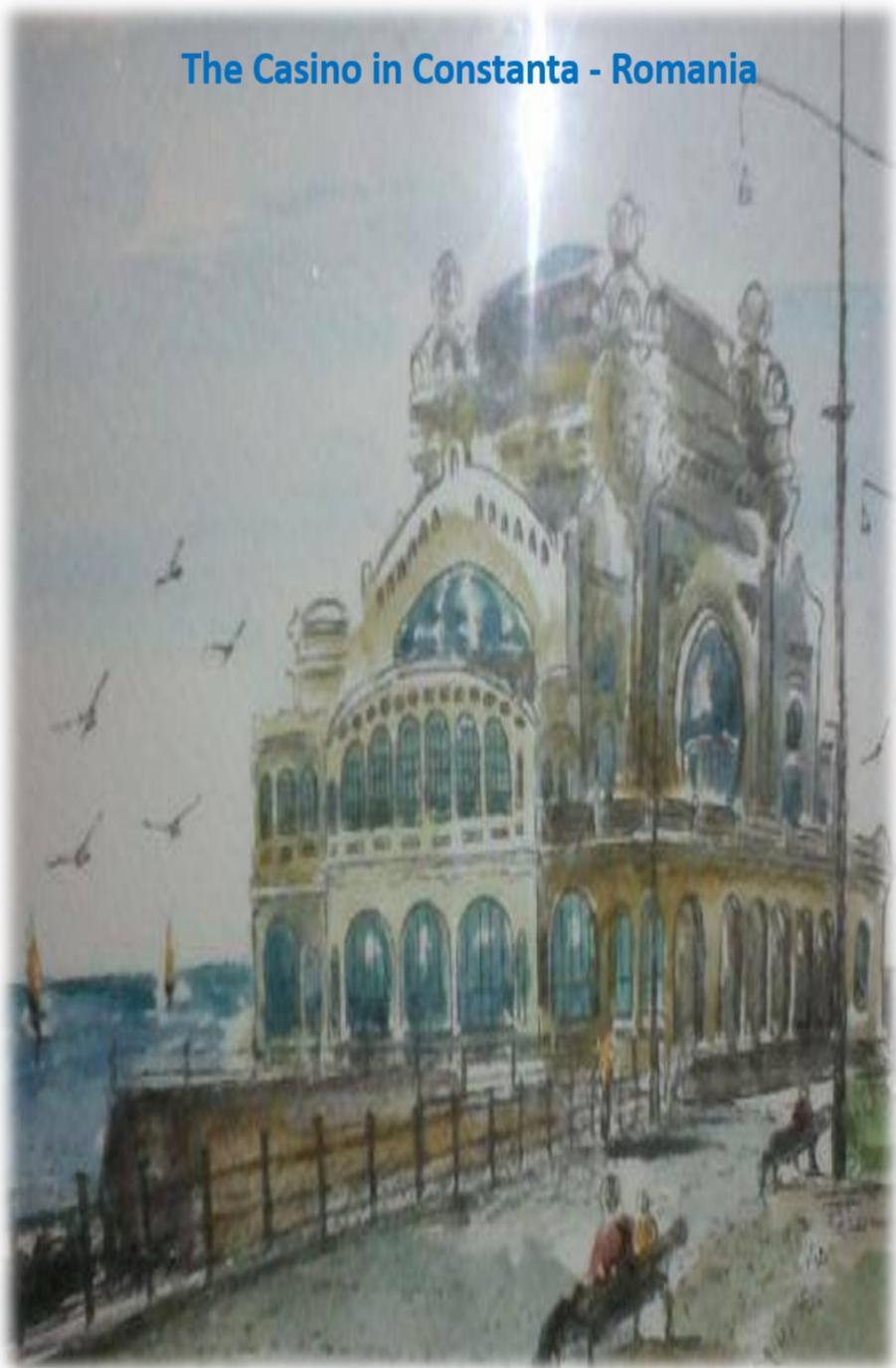
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A MYTH-LIKE LOVE

The story goes that when the Universe was divided, Neptune was given the Water Kingdom. As a young man, he felt a deep thirst for enrichment. By sinking ships, he gathered numerous treasures. But when he fell in love with a human being, all his attention was focused on the richness of nature. After marriage, God appreciated his generous heart and blessed him with a daughter. The girl was well-known and admired for her beauty. She had long black hair and blue eyes, like the clear summer sky.

Unfortunately, her fate was tragic. In those times, as she was mistress over the waters, she could at any time take the form of a mermaid, which was not accepted by the Earthlings. That is why people have tried by all means to make her disappear. So it came to pass that one day a prince, urged by the king, went in search of her. The girl was the first to see him and she fell in love; soon a beautiful love story would happen between the two.

Neptune, old and sick, told her with his dying breath: "The love between mermaids and men is always cursed!" But what young woman in love listens to her parents.

Left alone, the mermaid set off in search of the prince, and upon entering his dreams, invited him to follow her. He was deeply impressed by the places they explored together due to the unmatched flora and fauna, the caves and rocks that emerged from the waters, the islands, which were true open space museums. They had discovered a real tourist Paradise.

It so happened that one time, as a heavy storm began, she got too close to the ship.

A servant of the king saw her and sent a harpoon directly into her heart. With her last powers she started humming a song. Hearing her voice, the prince came out on deck and, seeing that she was in danger, threw himself into the waves, trying to save her. But they both disappeared into the depths. Since then, the water remained dark and was given the name "The Black Sea".

Maria Camelia Pistol (14 years old)







TRITON AND NEGREU

Once upon a time, in a deep-water castle, Triton, a brave young man, lived with his parents. His father was Poseidon, the Master of the Seas.

His mother was also very proud of her handsome, friendly and brave son. He had discovered, from an early age, that he could talk to any sea creature.

Triton was in love with a lovely mermaid named Meriem, who shared his love. They all wanted the two young ones to get married one day.

But in that land, away from everyone's eyes, lived Negreu, who had a vile character and was very envious of Triton. As days went by, *his vengeful desires* grew stronger.

One day, the kingdom was celebrating something of great importance. All the creatures of the sea, whether big or small, have gathered, for Poseidon to announce the news that his son will unite his destiny with the mermaid Meriem. Suddenly, everything darkened and, in thunderous noise, Negreu appeared. Taking a harpoon, he plunged it into the heart of the beautiful mermaid. As the two began to fight, the waters swirled, thunders raged, the earth shook. When the trident reached Negreu's heart, the sea water also turned dark. Thus, the Kingdom of Triton became the Black Sea.

However, on clear summer days, the water acquires shades of azure blue, after the bright soul of its master.

Daria Andreea Volintiru (11 years old)







Sunken Treasure

Once upon a time there was a king and a queen, who lived happily with their two sons, who were handsome, kind, hard-working and valiant.

One day, the king heard a story told by a fisherman about a treasure from the depths of the sea. At first he didn't give it any importance, however, his thoughts began to torment him: what if it is true? What if someone takes possession of the treasure? What if it's worth more than the kingdom? How did it get there? How can he find it?

Thus, from a good and loving man, he turned into an unrecognizable one: glum, angry, silent. One morning, he called his sons and commanded them to leave at sea and to not return without the treasure, if they ever again wanted him to think of them as his children. The queen begged him not to send his sons away from home, but to no avail. There was no way to make the king change his mind

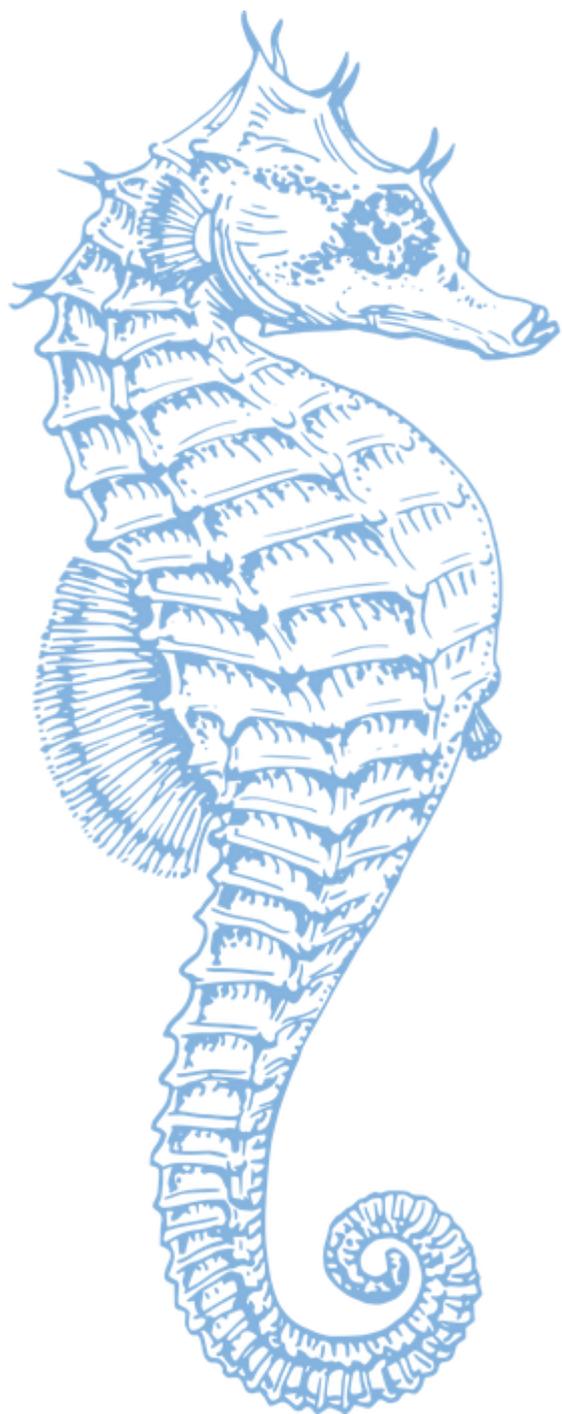
The two young men roamed the sea far and wide, wandering the water for weeks, months, years, but there was no trace of the treasure. They could hardly reach the depths of the water... But how to return home, if their father forbade them.

When the king realized what a great mistake he had made, he set off desperately in their pursuit. Only then did he realize that the two boys were his true treasure. But no matter how hard he tried, he could never find them again. At one point, while they were far from the shore and exhausted by hunger and fatigue, a great storm began, which swallowed the ship. Only one fisherman escaped alive and delivered the sad news to the kingdom.

Legend has it that the sea has been salted ever since, from the tears of the king who cried so much for the children who never returned.

Eduard Bone (11 years old)







LEGEND OF THE SEAHORSE

A long time ago, there was a horse herd on a sunny beach. The sand was as yellow as gold and the sea was calm. The horses ran with their mane in the wind, leaving behind them a trail on the sand.

In the sea lived a Triton who had a wife and twelve daughters. The youngest of the family was gentle, calm, good and very fond of the horses, but the others were cold-hearted.

One day, the girl's sisters came up with an evil plan. They went to a witch and asked for a potion that could create a very strong wind. They swam to the surface and saw the horses running free and their sister with them. They were very jealous, thus they acted out their plan. Because of the whirlwind, the horses ended up in the sea. They were sinking deeper and deeper. They had no chance... The youngest daughter was desperate.

The little mermaid knew that the only way the horses could survive was for her to cast a spell and turn them into deep-sea creatures. She immediately went and gathered snails, multicolor algae, shells and pearls. She mixed them all up, turned them into a magical dust and blew it over the horses that were struggling in the depths. The once majestic animals turned into creatures as small as a finger. She also gave them a tiny tail to help them eat, and their big, beautiful mane turned into a funny crest above their heads.

The girl went quickly to her father and told him the story. For their wickedness, the sisters were turned into sea foam.

The Triton's subjects named the amazing creatures "sea horses". To this day they bring smiles and joy to those that look at them.

Maya Ștefania Barbu (9 years old)







ANOTHER LEGEND OF THE SEA...

Once upon a time, in the old days, there was an old man in the land of Dobrogea, forgotten by the weather and time itself.

He lived alone on a strip of golden sand in a reed hut. He always sighed because apart from the fish he sometimes caught, there was no one else around. He heavily sighed once more, talking to the sea:

- Oh, you, troubled sea, how lonely am I! Your foamy waves rejoice my look, but not my soul!

The troubled sea, as if it had heard him, rushed wailing towards the shore... and, all of a sudden, near the old man, appeared a White-Horse, gorgeous in its wilderness.

The oldman was astonished when he saw not one, but a lot of horses brought by the sea. They began to graze the sparse patches of grass, and the old man's soul was lit. However, the first horse was nowhere to be seen. The old man could only hear it.

One day at noon, the sun suddenly darkened and a bizarre storm engulfed the sand and the sea. The horses were gone. The old man then prayed to God:

- Lord, help me find my dear horses!

All of a sudden a neigh was heard and the great White-Horse of an unearthly beauty came, flew to the lost horses and guided them back to the old man.

No one knows what it told them, but since then all the horses run on the wet strip between the sand and the sea, like moving arches. It looks like they are in their own paradise...

Watch them once! They are alike a moving dream.

Such a unique and thrilling view, isn't it?

Luca Daniel Ștefan Ropotan (9 years old)





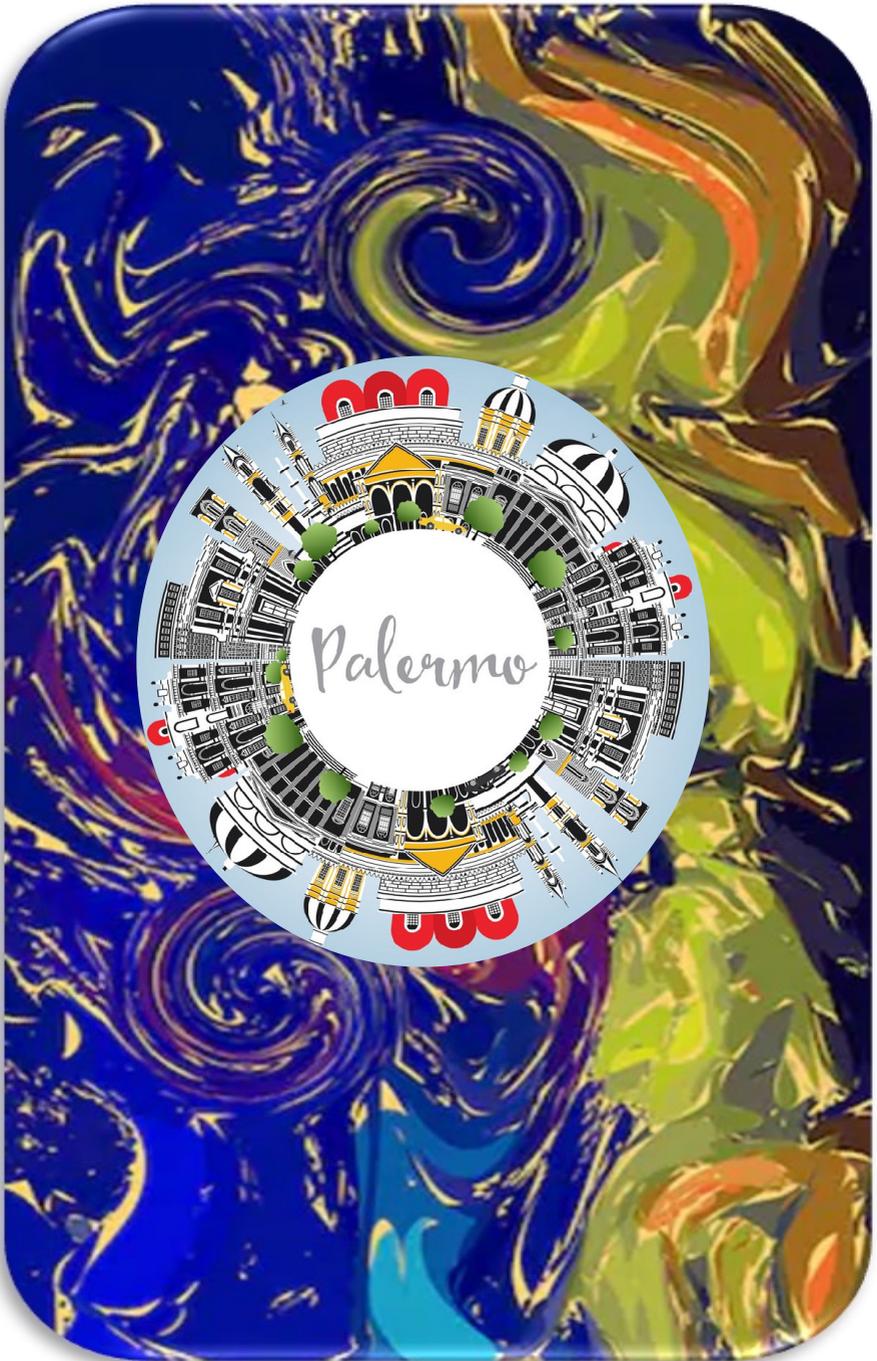
ISTITUTO COMPRENSIVO STATALE *FRANCESCO RISO*

ISOLA DELLE FEMMINE (PALERMO) – ITALY



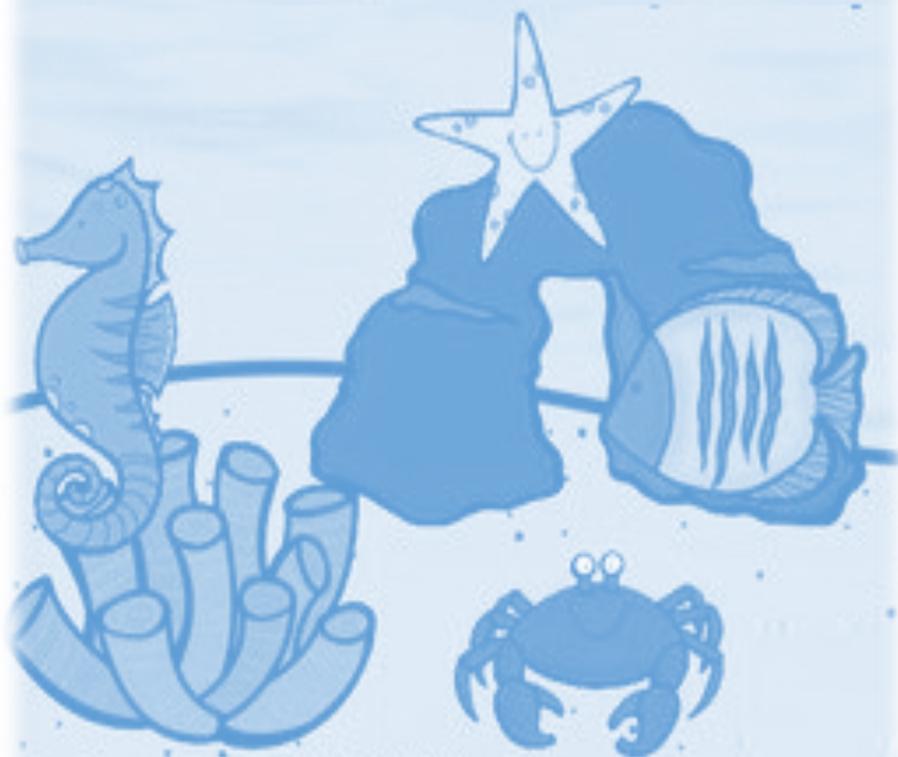
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Sea of Emotions





A sea of emotions

It was a hot summer day and, as usual, the dolphins swam and played in the water surrounding the island of Lampedusa.

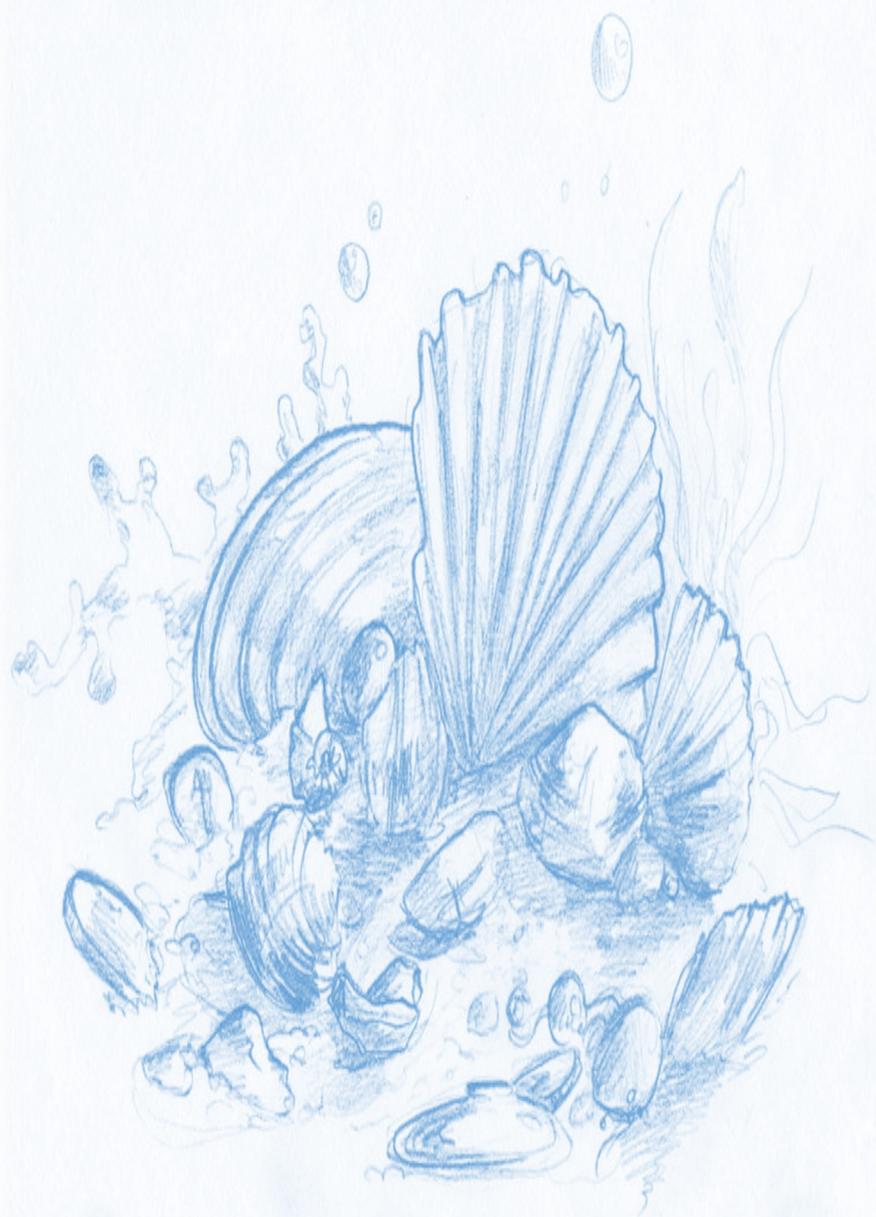
In this climate of serenity and happiness, suddenly the waves of the sea began to shake more strongly than usual due to the arrival of a ship. Something strange was happening. A few cries for help drew their attention: it was a ship full of refugees who, escaped from control, sank. Many of the passengers did not know how to swim.

Dolphins, considered the smartest animals, which were taught by scientists to recognize a 40-sign language, similar to humans, sensed the danger and reacted. Using the broad spectrum of sounds and vocalizations with which they were endowed, they began to make so much noise that residents immediately gathered, managing to board refugees in their boats. Thus, their playful nature, friendly behavior and remarkable intelligence have led to the saving of so many human lives.

The refugees settled on Lampedusa island and since then, children who spend a lot of time in the company of their rescuing heroes, the dolphins, swimming and having fun together can be seen on the beach.

Beatrice Vassallo (13 years old)







Adventure in Smeraldia

There were once three friends: a sea urchin, a starfish and a crab. They were very different, but they had the same dream: to explore the territories outside the city of Smeraldia, where they lived. In addition, they had heard that there was a treasure in the underground caves. So they started on the road. They went a long way: among the colorful corals, green algae and many beautiful pearls hidden in the shells.

Unfortunately, however, they encountered many obstacles. A huge octopus guarded the entrance to the cave. Being small, they slipped between her tentacles. They entered and found a wreck where there were lots of shiny objects. While they were arguing how to divide them, a fierce shark appeared, with long, sharp teeth. The three friends were very scared. They escaped by taking refuge in a tunnel. Then they saw a trunk. They also found a key. When they opened it they saw 5 objects: a gold ingot, a jewel, a diamond, an ivory pearl and an old parchment that was written: "These are the gold of happiness, the jewel of sadness, the diamond of fear and the pearl of anger. They will allow you to experience emotions in harmony with yourself, with calm and wisdom." Signed, Triton.

The four learned in this way, an important life lesson: if we are united and work in a team, ignoring all the shortcomings and adversities that we meet them in life, we will succeed in obtaining everything that will be useful to us, sometimes experiencing a feeling of happiness, sometimes of sadness!

Carlo Messina (13 years old)







A stroke of cunning

One day Joe the Pirate and his buddy Captain Barbarossa clashed with another group of terrible pirates hungry for money and luck. The Mediterranean Sea became the center of a tremendous naval battle. And unfortunately the oil started to come out of the ship. Some fish having seen this black speck float, got scared.

Fortunately it started to rain, the oil gradually dissolved in the water and the fish began to live with a little more tranquility. But when everything seemed to have calmed down, a bad fish attacked all the small fish, trying to take possession of their waters. Joe the pirate and captain Barbarossa had noticed changes, in fact the water was no longer blue as before and above all they didn't see the small fish anymore. Then they decided to drop a net, hoping that something could happen. Two wise fish seeing the net, they understood that it could be their salvation therefore they attracted with the astuteness and the deception the bad fish that unbeknownst to him ended up in the net of the two pirates. Now the marine kingdom was free.

Vemiglio Giuseppe,
Silvestri Rebecca,
Luna Francesco
(11 years old)







Arianna

There was once a princess by the name of Arianna, who was forced to marry a man she did not love, to become queen of the entire empire. Desperate, she asked for a fairy, which turned her into a mermaid. After the death of her parents, being left alone, she decided to go and live in the ocean.

But one day he met a charming, handsome prince. He requested her in marriage and organized a beautiful underwater wedding with lots of colorful fish. They soon had children, so they created a real large family. They lived happily together enjoying the beauty of the ocean. But, unfortunately, some kind of sticky blanket began to darken the water, and the princess realized that something very bad was happening, especially since some of the fish had disappeared.

The princess knew that all this was caused by humans, so she decided to return to earth. As soon as they got out of the water, they met pirates who asked for their help. During the day they remained on the surface and at night they returned deep. They crossed the seas and oceans collecting all those points that blackened the water. It took a long time to do this, but in the end they succeeded...

Candela Ludovica,
Mannino Giuseppe,
Lo Vetro Yana,
Minnella Marta
(11 years old)







Corallianopoli

It was a time when all marine creatures were very happy. Until on the surface of the sea water, near the town of Corallianopoli, a large, variously colored spot was observed. The corals began to lose their luster, the seaweed to dry. It was then found that the fish were suffocating because of some semi-transparent objects, with an indefinite shape.

Detective Anemonastro decided to investigate the case and resolve the incident. He discovered that everything was due to an invisible beast that had a name - plastic. They were man-made objects. Plastic, in various shapes, sizes, colors that invaded Corallianopoli. Removing invisible beasts had become a real problem. The only ones who found a solution were the people when they began to have reproaches of conscience and finally realized that because of their negligence, the sea is no longer the same and that all its living beings suffer.

So they decided to take the necessary measures against pollution. It will take some time until the fish will be able to swim again in pure and clear water.

Federica Barretta,
Alessandro Lo bello,
Iacuzzi Francesco
(11 years old)







CROKEN

Long ago, when the gods were the rulers of the world, in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, a pirate ship was floating. She was attacked by a monstrous creature, CROKEN, an animal that resembled an octopus. After a heavy battle, the monster managed to wrap the ship and take it into the abyss. Poseidon was very upset, because all the ships that met Croken had the same fate.

Only this time the entire crew was rescued by a group of navy soldiers, armed with a trident. The pirates drank a magic potion that Poseidon himself gave, which allowed them to breathe underwater. He asked them to help him defeat Croken, his enemy and the entire sea kingdom.

The pirates, helped by all the inhabitants of the sea, created a large cage of corals, beautiful, red, pink and white. Croken did not resist its beauty and decided to take it. But too late he realized he was a trap: entering the cage, the door closed and he was killed.

The crew managed to return to the surface and received an invaluable treasure from Poseidon, who thanked them with great joy for the success of their mission. Finally, the sea kingdom was released.

Cristiano Aiello,
Gaspere Cardinale,
Valerio Amoroso,
Tashin Ahmend
(11 years old)





ESCOLA GABRIEL CASTELLÀ I RAICH

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Basland and Reciland

Many years ago, there were two neighboring cities on the seaside: Basland, where so many plastics and rubbish were found everywhere and Reciland, renowned for its cleanliness.

At one point, a fierce battle broke out between their inhabitants. To get rid of the debris that dominated the beach, the people of Basland threw them into the water and within a short time they spread to the shores of the neighboring town.

People began to get sick, especially children and no one could take advantage of a beautiful bath in the sea. The leaders of the two cities met and decided that there is only one solution: to organize working teams to ensure cleanliness and especially to educate the population to keep it. In a short time they became so famous for the beauty and order that prevailed everywhere. We could say, an example worth following today.

Susi M.Shiels (11 years old)







BOCABOA ISLAND

A long time ago, when the sea was not salty, a boy named Llorenç, arrived in the mysterious area of the Bermuda Triangle, known for its large number of storms, hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes and large waves. After being taken by a sea current, it reached an aerial dome, on a submerged island surrounded by mountains that had the shape of a boa snake's mouth and therefore gave it the name of Bocaboa. Starting in the search of the land, he encountered a monster: a kind of huge squid, with sharp teeth on the beak, dozens of arms and tentacles, being endowed with incredible power. Llorenç, who was very clever and agile, already had a plan: he took the monster into the mountains, with the thought of eliminating it. But he was misled and the monster managed to destroy everything around and escaped through the air dome.

Llorenç entered in a green viscous substance from which he could not get out. Since then, anyone who passes through the Bermuda triangle remains a prisoner of this viscous mass.

Lluc Ferrer (11 years old)







DRAGON'S CRYSTAL

Once upon a time, it was on an island called VilaRey, a dragon, believed to be very dangerous. His name was Slopegue.

One day, when the king's daughter swam quietly in the sea, he came close to her, and, without saying a word, he looked at her with tenderness. Only when he noticed that he had a very long tail, the girl got scared and left running to the house to warn her parents.

The next day, the king decided to send her an army of knights to exterminate the daring dragon. But when they saw him closely, to the astonishment of all, it was discovered that he was half, man. Slopegue died slowly and a beautiful blue crystal appeared from his heart.

The men ran to catch him, because at that time, all the bright things were considered treasures.

Later, the girl found out that if you really love someone, your heart resembles a luminous crystal. She understood that in fact, the dragon had fallen in love with her. And from that moment she realized that the most important thing is what lies in the heart of the person you love.

Belinda Ojide (11 years old)





NUTO ISLAND

Many, many years ago, there were some people who were living on the island of Nuto. Unfortunately, many of them could not survive on this island because of a sea monster, but which was having miraculous powers only during the night.

One of the bravest inhabitants, proposed to the others to prepare many weapons and try to fight with him until dawn. As if feeling its end near, it remained in the deep waters when it was dark outside. People kept awake, hoping they would kill it. Early in the morning, the monster came to the surface, and when the sun's rays came, it burned until it completely melted.

Since then the island of Nuto is a paradise in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

Oussama Bourkhissi (11 years old)







THE UGLY MERMAID

There was once a very ugly mermaid and that's why she was very lonely and unhappy.

One day, one of her sisters proposed to meet a fairy, who had magical powers and could bring beauty to her face. No wonder she was so surprised when she learned that only a prince should kiss.

A few days later, the girl saw a prince aboard a boat. When it started to rain with thunder and lightning and a strong wind blew, his ship sank. The siren found him in the water. First she saved his life and then kissed him. Suddenly she felt that all the features of her face had transformed. She became so beautiful that the young man, when he saw her, fell in love at first sight.

There is a saying that love can work wonders ...

Malak Daoudi (11 years old)





AGRUPAMENTO DE ESCOLAS DE VALE DE OVI

BAIÃO - PORTUGAL



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PORTO







Charming mermaids

In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, a Portuguese ship was sailing in calm waters. Only three sailors were on deck when suddenly they seemed to see a few people swimming. As they approached, they realized that they were actually mermaids who sang a kind of mysterious song. They were so astonished that they bent too far overboard and fell into the water. The mermaids gave the sailors special powers to breathe underwater and took them to the depths of the sea, imprisoning them in a castle. After revealing their names: Star, Light and Shell, they told about the curse that had fallen on them, which they could not escape unless 3 mortals remained in the ocean.

The sailors were very grieved because they had wives and children and wanted to return to their families. So, at night they started planning their escape. They waited until the mermaids fell asleep and swam to the nearest beach. When they woke up and realized that the men weren't anymore in the castle, they knew that soon, under the same curse, they would be turned into stones.

Even today, anyone passing through that place can see three mermaid-shaped stones.

André Azevedo (12 years)







Sea urchins

One day something strange happened in *The Clean Sea*. There was a huge amount of seaweed everywhere and the fish had no place to swim.

Lolito, the octopus and Nita, the squid, wanted to play, but they couldn't get, with so much seaweed around.

After carefully researching, they found that many sea urchins had been clinging to the roots of the algae, and when these ones were released, they were taken by the sea currents.

Lolito and Nita had to do something to clean the sea. They used Googletide to find a solution and discovered that the otters are feeding with hedgehogs. So they went on their quest. They invited whole families to the table. There were so many urchins that the otters were their guests for days.

The algae did not expand anymore and as time went on, the sea became cleaner. Nita and Lolito could play happily.

Salvador Coutinho (8 years old)







The Guardian of the Sea

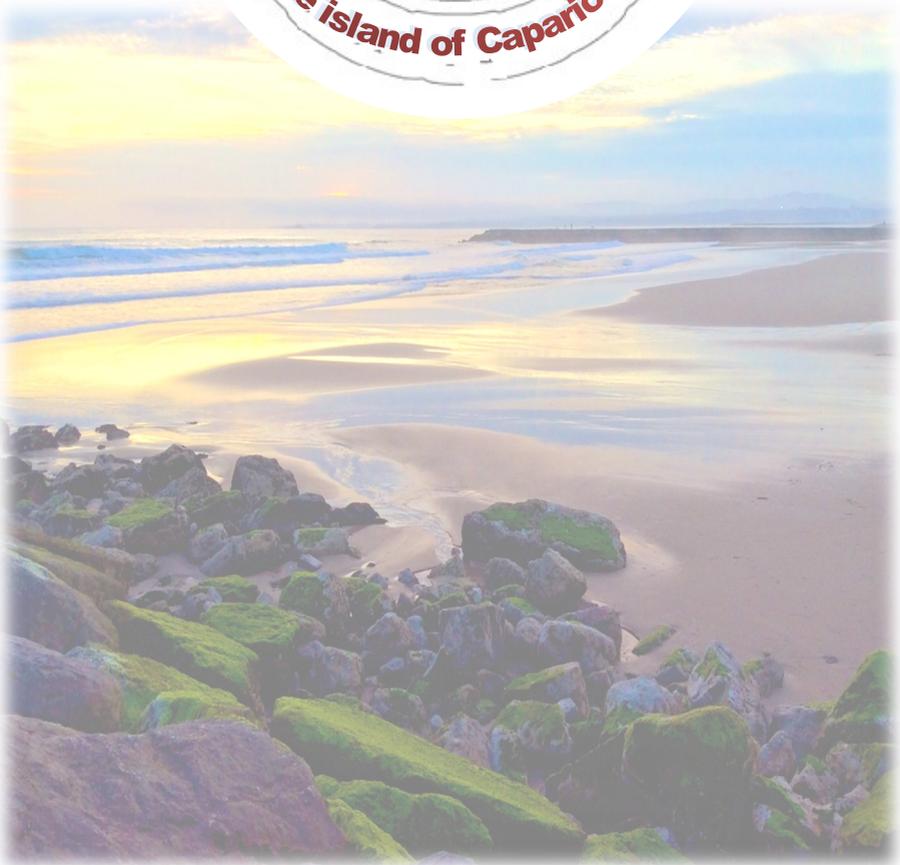
Many years ago, Triton, the God of Waters, lived in a palace in the depths of the ocean. He was relentless in defending his territories, especially as he had learned that many villains were secretly meeting in order to destroy the marine environment. He found two of them one day near a dark cave. Triton wisely thought about starting a friendly conversation with them about pollution, to find out their intentions. So he told them:

- Nowadays this huge ocean is not what it used to be! There is a lot of waste everywhere. In the water and on the shores, as well.
- This is true! But we do our duty every day! - said one of them, very prompt and arrogant.

As Triton did not quite understand what their work consisted of, he decided to invite them to have dinner together and continue the conversation. He made a delicious meal of shrimps and pieces of seaweed, which contained a substance through which he could find out all the hidden thoughts of the two criminals. They were the special envoys of a monster who had planned to destroy much of the fish species. Triton then called an army of sharks, whales, sea horses and they went in search of the monster. Even though they killed him, he has not escaped the threat. He continues to be very concerned about the planetary ocean, from which many marine animals permanently disappear, due to pollution and waste thrown by humans.

Francisca Pinheiro (12 years old)







THE KINGDOM OF DISCOVERIES

Once upon a time it was a sea full of swirls and was therefore considered inaccessible to ships trying to bypass it. Nestor, the god of the seas, mastered all stretches of water with islands altogether.

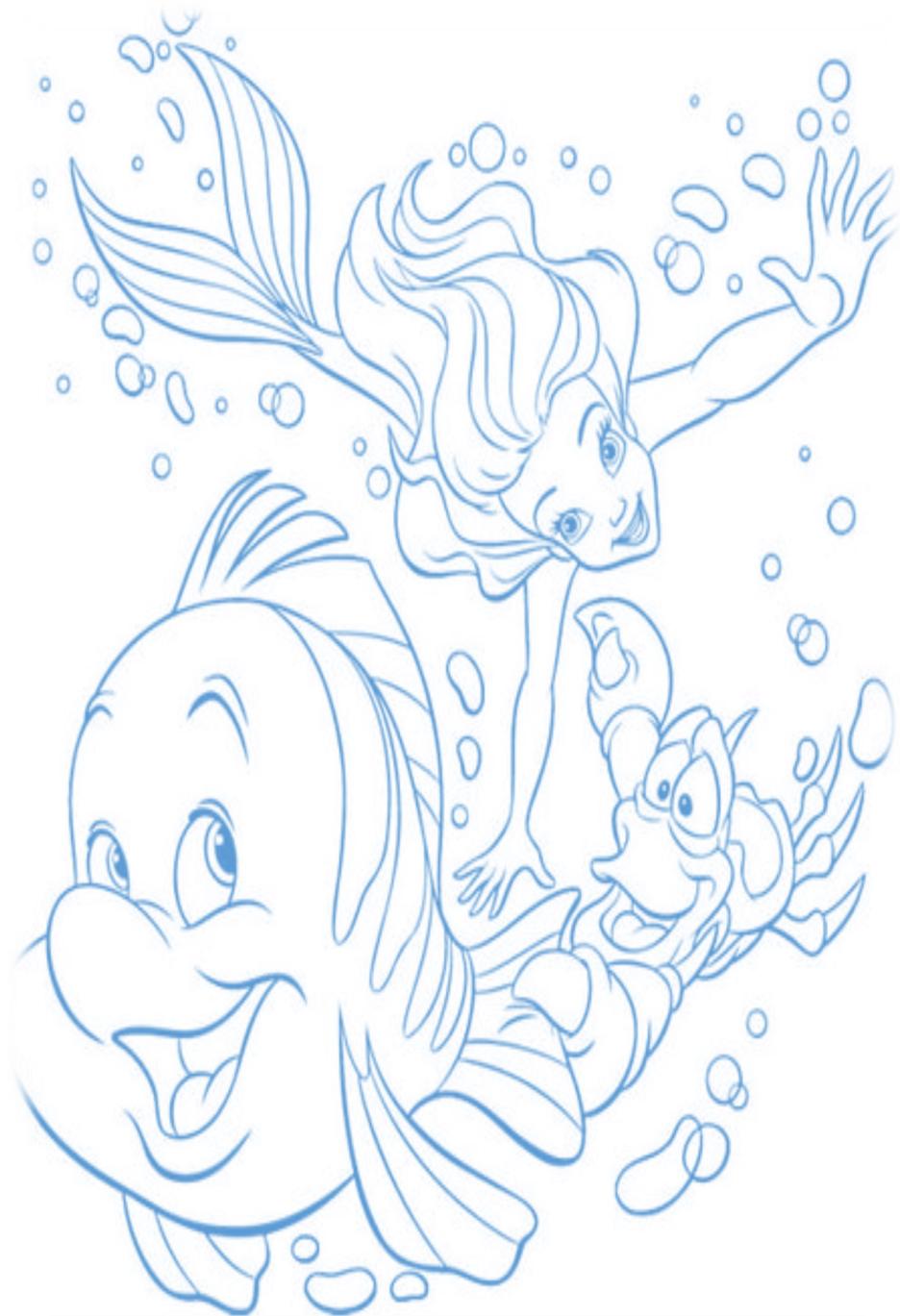
It was rumored at that time that most of the world's treasures were hidden in Caparinas. Unfortunately, you could only reach them if you managed to cross the sea.

One day, the King of the Land of Discoveries sent his best knight, João Lisandro Carvalho, in search of treasures on this island. The brave knight chose his best sailors and embarked on the ship "God of the seas" to complete this difficult mission.

They fought the whirlwinds, managing to overcome them with great effort. The most difficult was the meeting with Nestor, which they defeated and finally reached the island of Caparinas. They found the treasure, which they brought to the king. Thus the Land of Discoveries became the richest in the world and the island of Caparicas was given to the sailors, who transformed it into a true paradise.

Jorge Teixeira
Fábio Nogueira
(12 years old)







Treasures or objects without owner?

The three friends, Ariel, Sebastian and Flounder swam daily beyond the walls of Atlantis to reach the place of treasures. Ariel was fascinated by objects that belonged to people. But what she called treasure was, in fact, the garbage left by people to reach the depths of the sea. One day, Ariel was walking around the palace combing her hair with a fork. King Triton, her father, asked her:

- Where did you find this object?
- Beyond the walls of Atlantis is a place full of treasures like this! Ariel replied.

King Triton, very worried, went to investigate those things which were not his own.

He returned to the palace and called all the people of Atlantis to whom he said:

- In the sea, live all kinds of fish, turtles, seals, whales, dolphins, algae, starfish, corals. What people threw in our house is just garbage, which we will return to the owner. So we will gather it and transport it to the beach so that people understand our message.

Lara Pereira (9 years old)

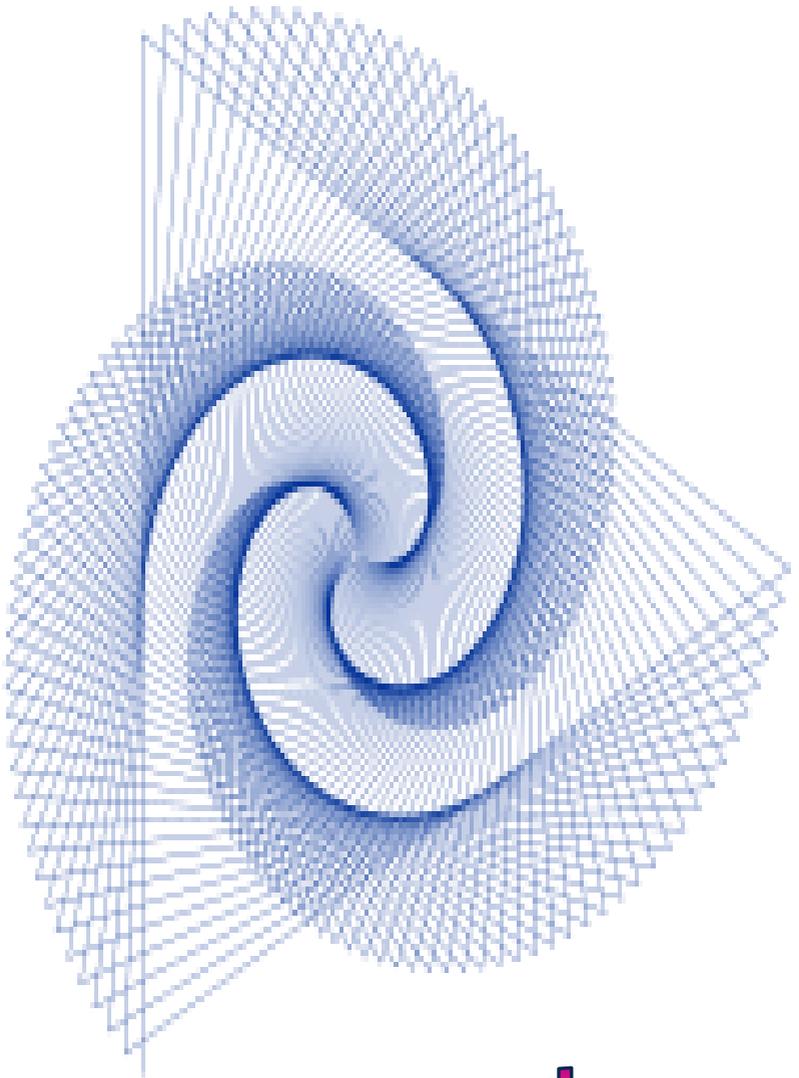




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The SEA...



...is a legend
that is reborn every day ...