

Children Storybook
WORDS National
Competition 2019

Big Sharkie and Little Remor

1st Winner

FULBRIGHT

AMINEF
American Indonesian Exchange Foundation

WORDS

Future
of
Indonesia



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Foreword

As Director of AMINEF, the binational Fulbright Commission in Indonesia, I am pleased to provide a few words of explanation and encouragement for this series of three books, which represents one of the outcomes of the Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETA) Program this year, 2018-2019.

American ETAs work together with local co-teachers of English in various secondary schools throughout the archipelago. The program is now in its 15th year in Indonesia.

In 2007, the fourth cohort of ETAs came up with the idea to hold what they called a “WORDS Competition” at the schools where ETAs are placed and then to bring together for a national competition the student winners of those local contests. In previous years, this has mostly meant a speech and talent contest and has since its beginning always been an exciting part of the AMINEF year. The 10th or 11th-grade students got to demonstrate their prowess in spoken English (helped of course by their ETA and co-teachers over the previous months) as well as to tell their personal stories and to show off local cultural riches and their own talents. This format was fine-tuned by last year’s cohort into a storybook and story-telling competition instead of a speech and talent contest.

This year’s cohort of 22 ETAs – who by the way come from all over the US and are very diverse in background and interests, and are spread out in 22 schools in eight provinces in Indonesia – together with the AMINEF American Program staff who work closely with them came up with this year’s story-telling theme “The Future of Indonesia.”

The national competition was held in Jakarta on April 4th at @america. Each of the 22 students participating had to first win their local school competition to qualify for the national competition. In addition to the competition itself, there were also evening activities (bowling at a local bowling alley), a trip to Monas, and a visit to the newly built US Embassy in Jakarta. Other sessions focused on peace education and tolerance building in collaboration with Ayu Kartika Dewi, a Fulbright Visiting Student alumna who is currently Managing Director of the Indika Foundation and co-founder of SabangMerauke.

But the real excitement of the event was in the oral presentation of the stories and the judging of the presentations and the physical books themselves. The jury consisted of Americans and Indonesians and included Aziza Noor, a graphic book artist, and Fulbright Visiting Student alumna; Brad Horn, Regional English Language Officer at US Embassy, Jakarta; Peggy Shaw, Education Coordinator, Public Affairs Section, US Embassy, Jakarta; Aditio Tantra Danang of Dongeng Toleransi, and Theresia Pratiwi, Fulbright Visiting Student alumna and English language specialist.

The three books are “Big Sharkie and Little Remor” by Tiara Fitra Ramadhani Siregar (SMAN 1 Padang Sidempuan, North Sumatra), who was the grand-prize winner; “Bella, The President” by Carina Hakim (SMA Don Bosco Padang, West Sumatra) who took home the second prize; and “Unexpected Journey” by Laksmi Anindita Kusnanto (SMAN 1 Temanggung, Central Java) who garnered third place.

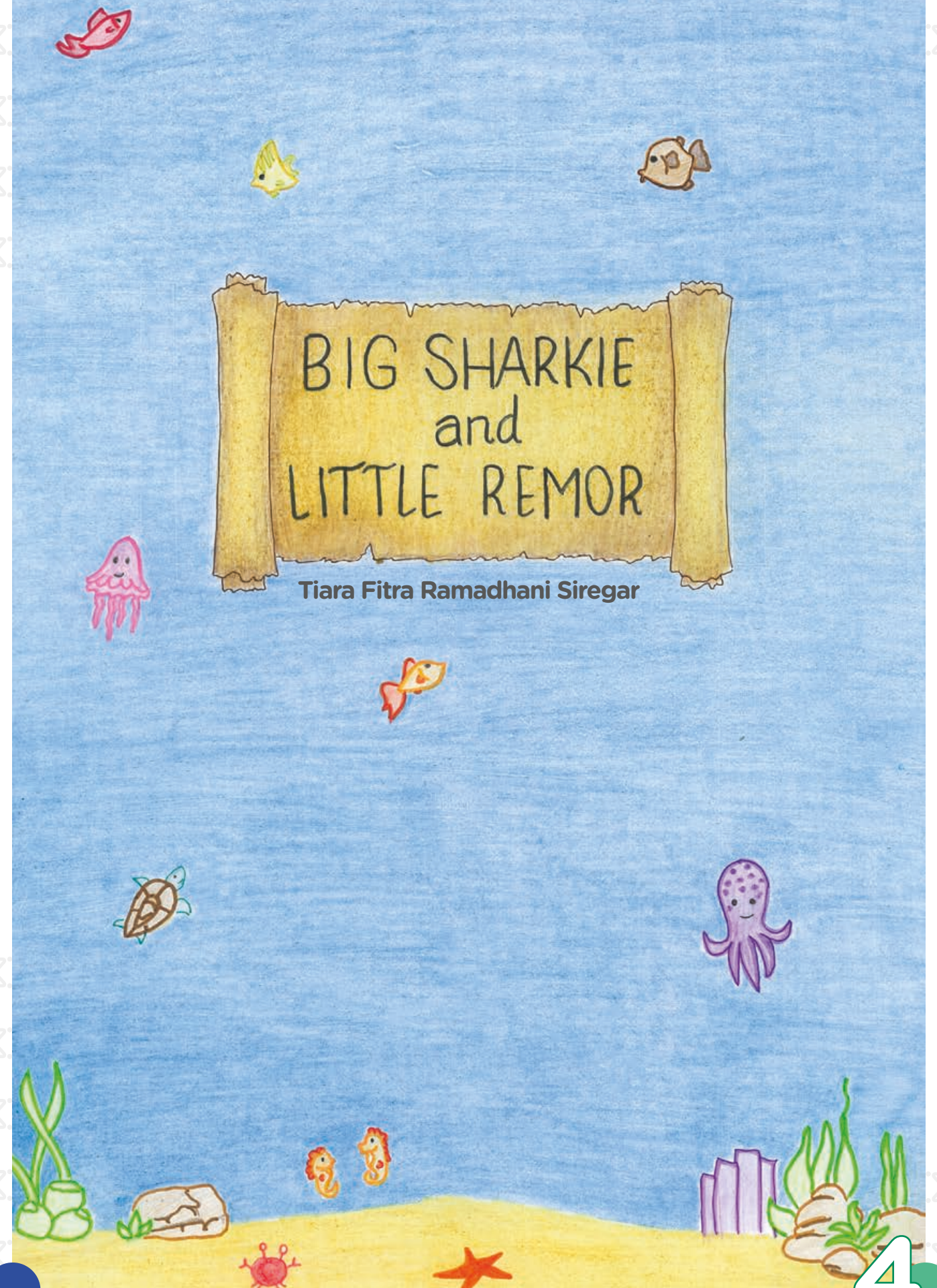
Another change in this year’s competition concerns the prizes. AMINEF chose to work with Ferdinandus ‘Nando’ Watu, a Community College Initiative Program alumnus. Nando is involved with ecotourism efforts in his hometown of Detusoko, Ende, East Nusa Tenggara. The winning storybooks are combined in a collection of story books that AMINEF is donating to the Taman Bacaan Masyarakat Ende and RMC Detusoko libraries in Ende. The three national winners, Tiara, Carina, and Laksmi, and their ETAs will travel to Ende to lead reading and writing workshops for these communities, among other activities.

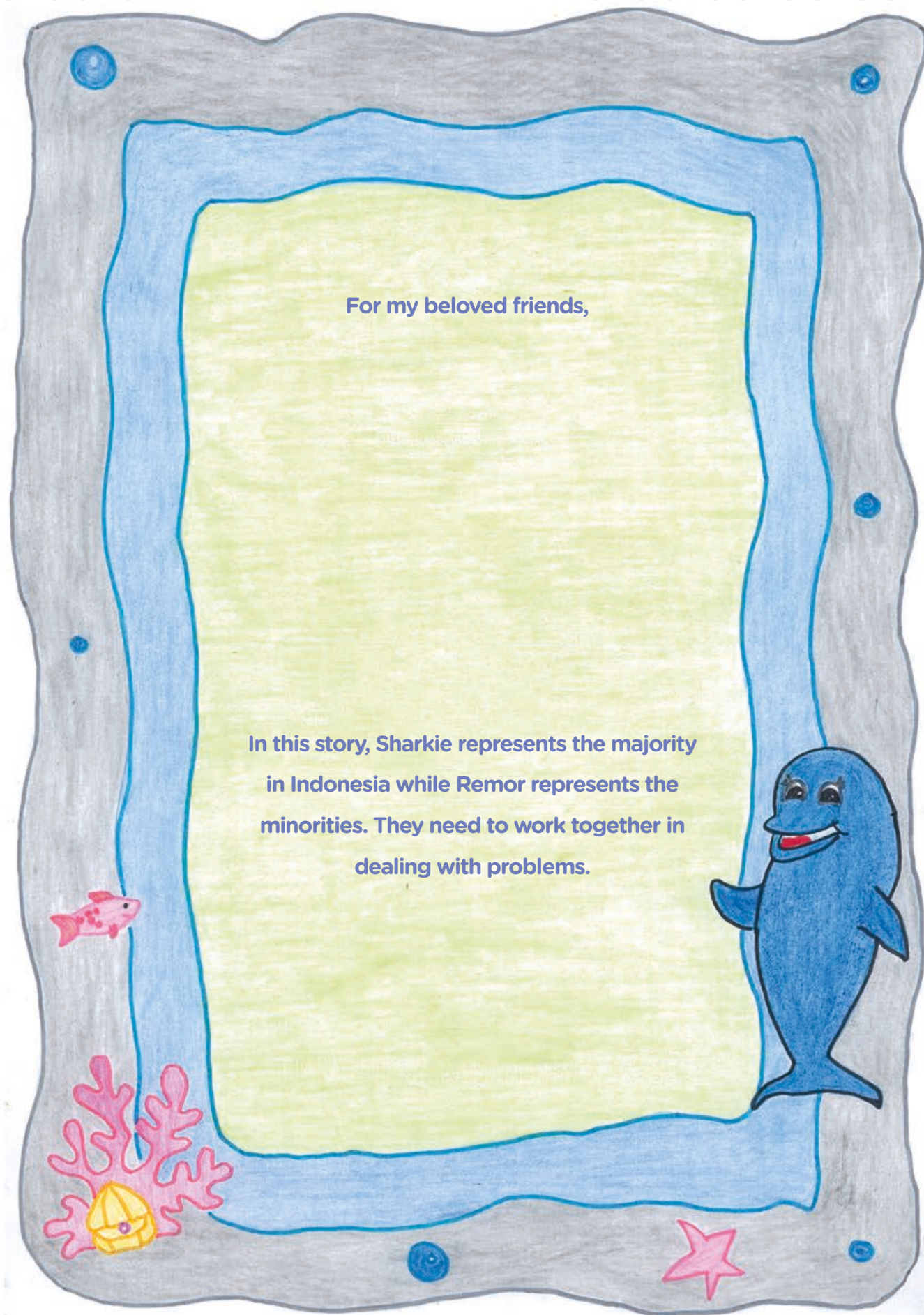
I want to congratulate here the student winners of the competition and to salute all the 22 student participants for their creativity, enthusiasm, and high spirit. I also want to thank all the judges who gave of their time to help make the WORDS competition a success. The 2018-2019 ETAs did a tremendous job in conceptualizing and realizing the whole project and showed dedication and enthusiasm at all stages. Finally, my thanks to this year’s ETA Coordinator Arshelle Carter, and the tireless staff of AMINEF’s American Program led by Astrid Lim: Ceacealia Dewitha, Muhammad Rizqi Arifuddin, Thasia Rayinda.

Alan Feinstein,
Executive Director,
AMINEF

BIG SHARKIE and LITTLE REMOR

Tiara Fitra Ramadhani Siregar



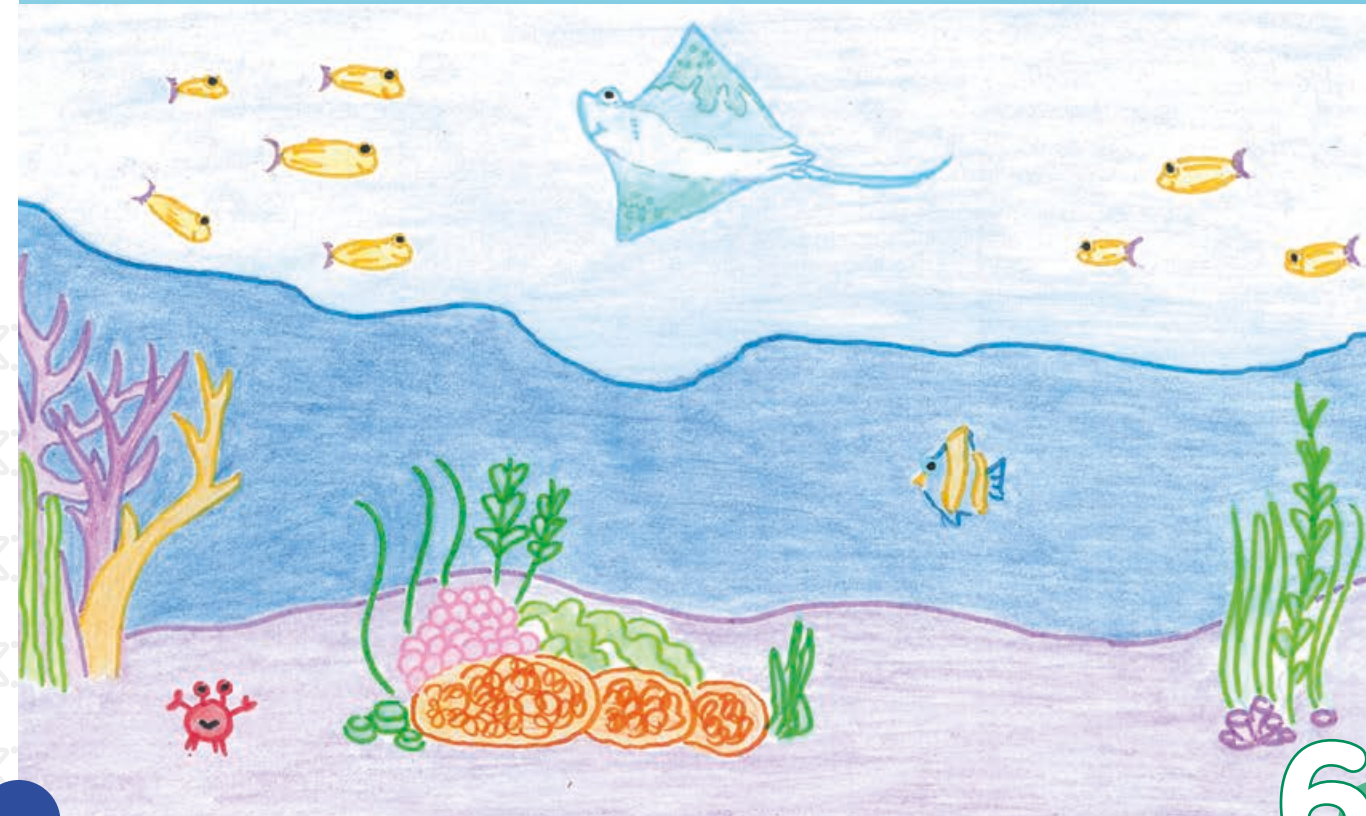


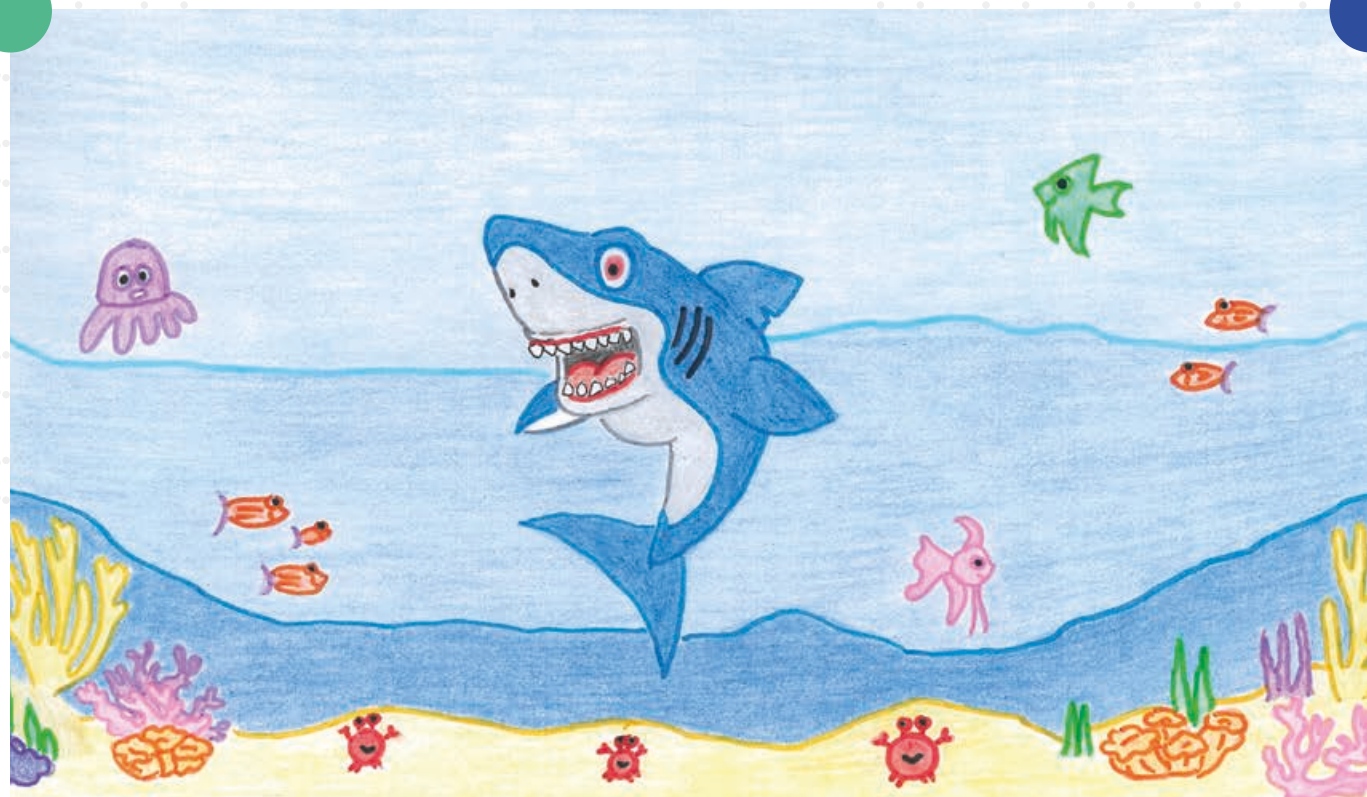
For my beloved friends,

In this story, Sharkie represents the majority
in Indonesia while Remor represents the
minorities. They need to work together in
dealing with problems.



Once there was a calm, light, wide ocean called the Sumatera Sea.
Deep down below the surface, where it was a little darker,
lived Sharkie and Remor.

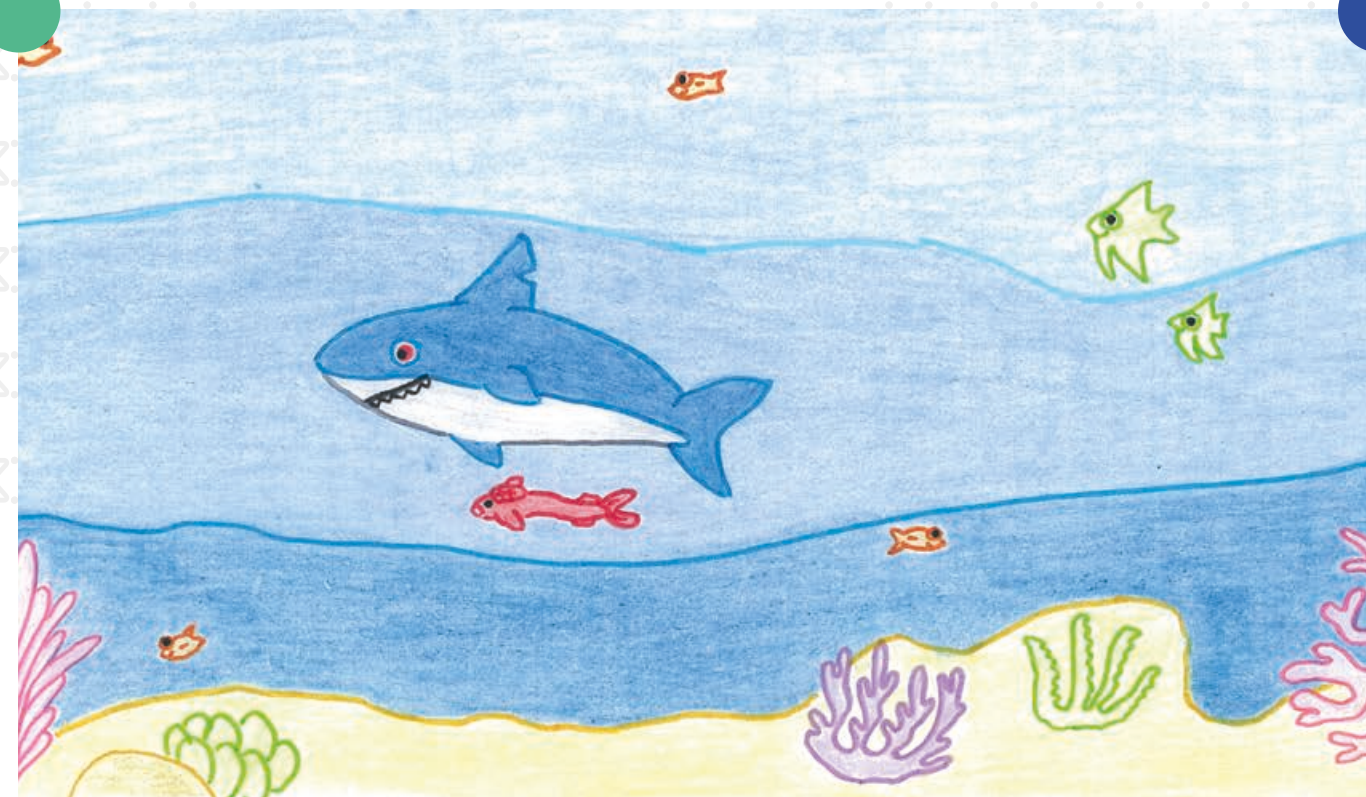




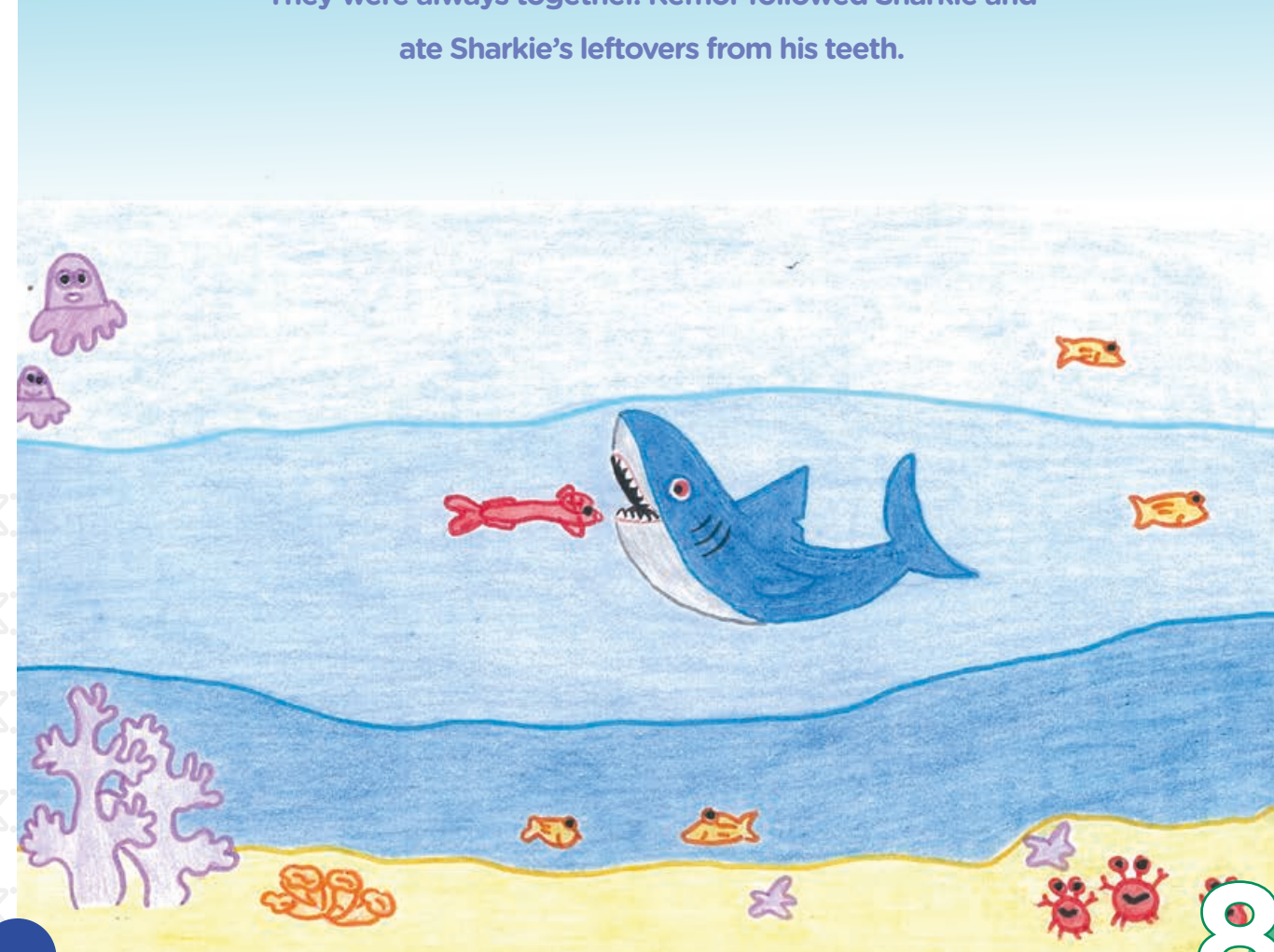
Sharkie was a strong and respected great white shark.
He had strong teeth, sturdy fins, and sharp eyes.

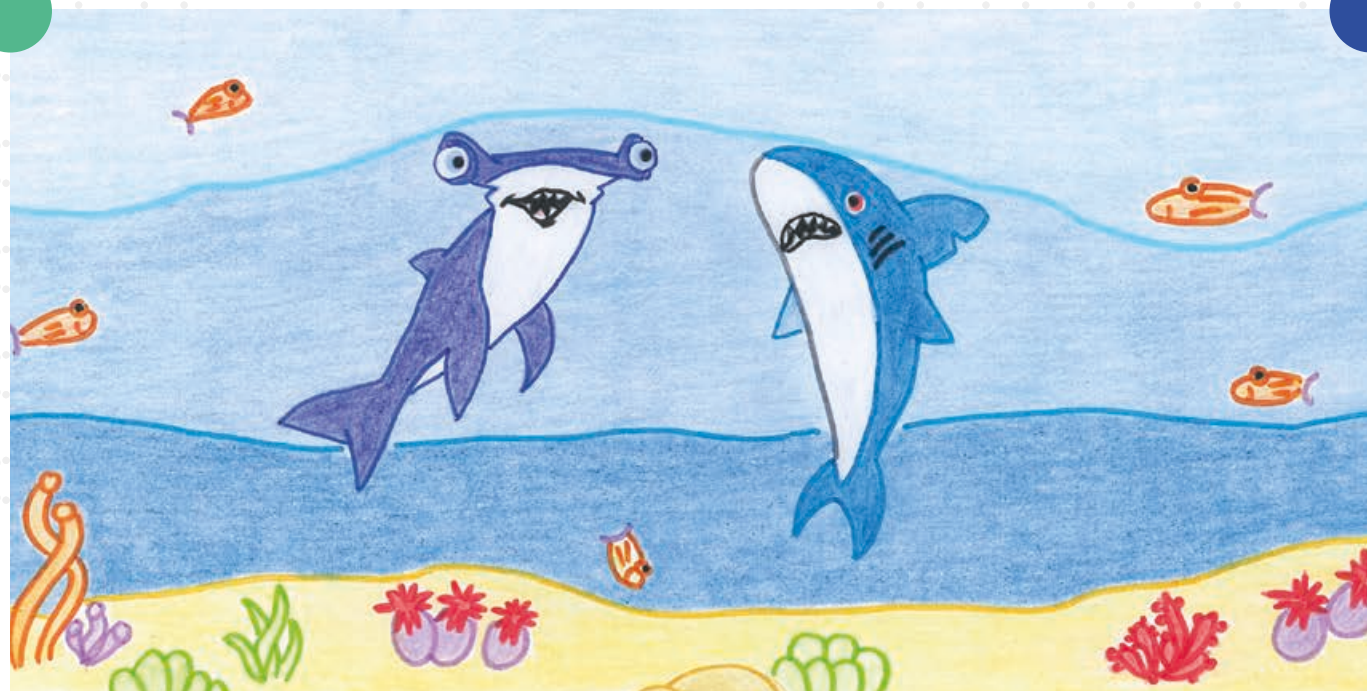


While Remor was a cheerful and weak remora fish.
He had less sturdy teeth, small fins, and big eyes.

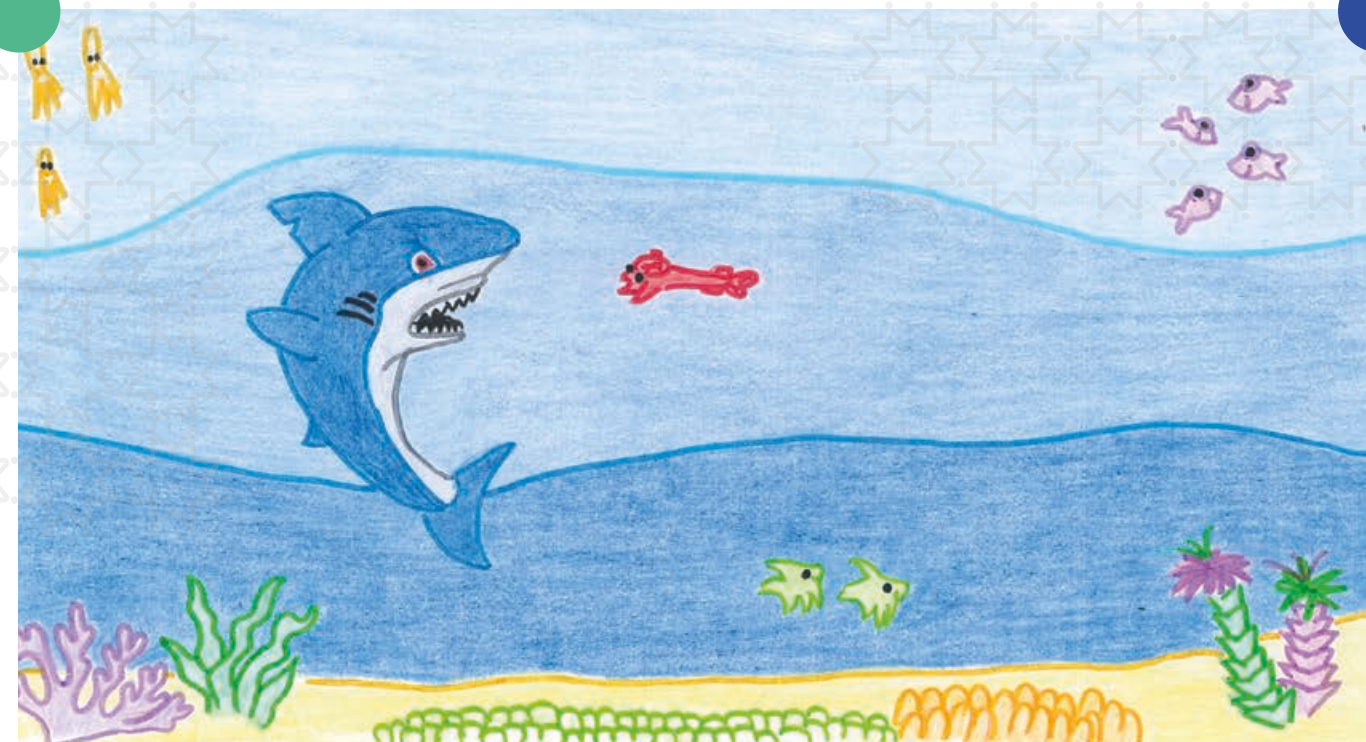


Sharkie and Remor had been friends since they were little.
They were always together. Remor followed Sharkie and
ate Sharkie's leftovers from his teeth.





One day when Sharkie was alone, he bumped into a friend named Hammer. Hammer chuckled and said, "Sharkie... the strongest great white shark who is always with a weak remora fish. You know what? He has been using you!! He just wants to eat your leftovers. And because of that, you bring shame to us. Sharkie, you better cut it off before it's too late!!" Then he left. Sharkie was wrathful, and he searched for Remor.



"Remor!! You are wicked!! You used me. You just want my leftovers and because of you, I have brought shame to my population!! I thought we were best friends. Now, I don't want to see your face anymore!! Be gone!!" Then Sharkie left.

Remor was shocked by the words of Sharkie, he was speechless and then burst into tears.

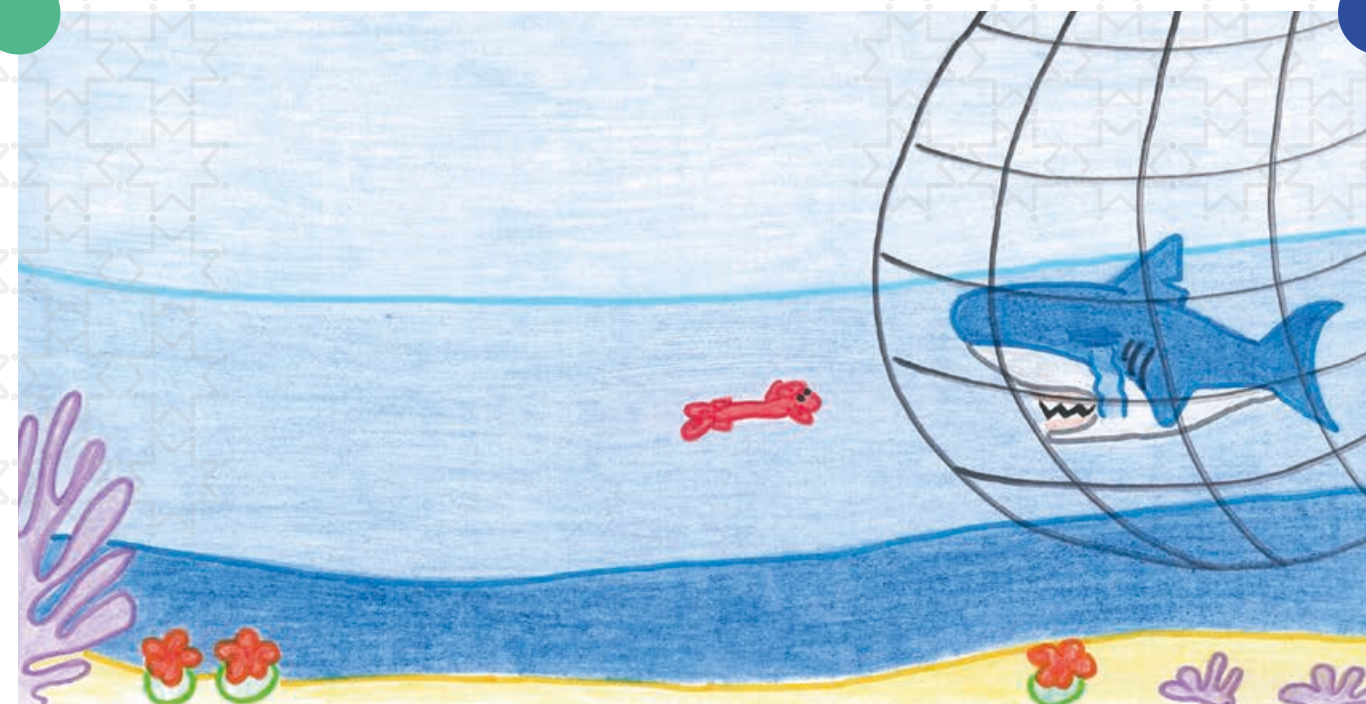




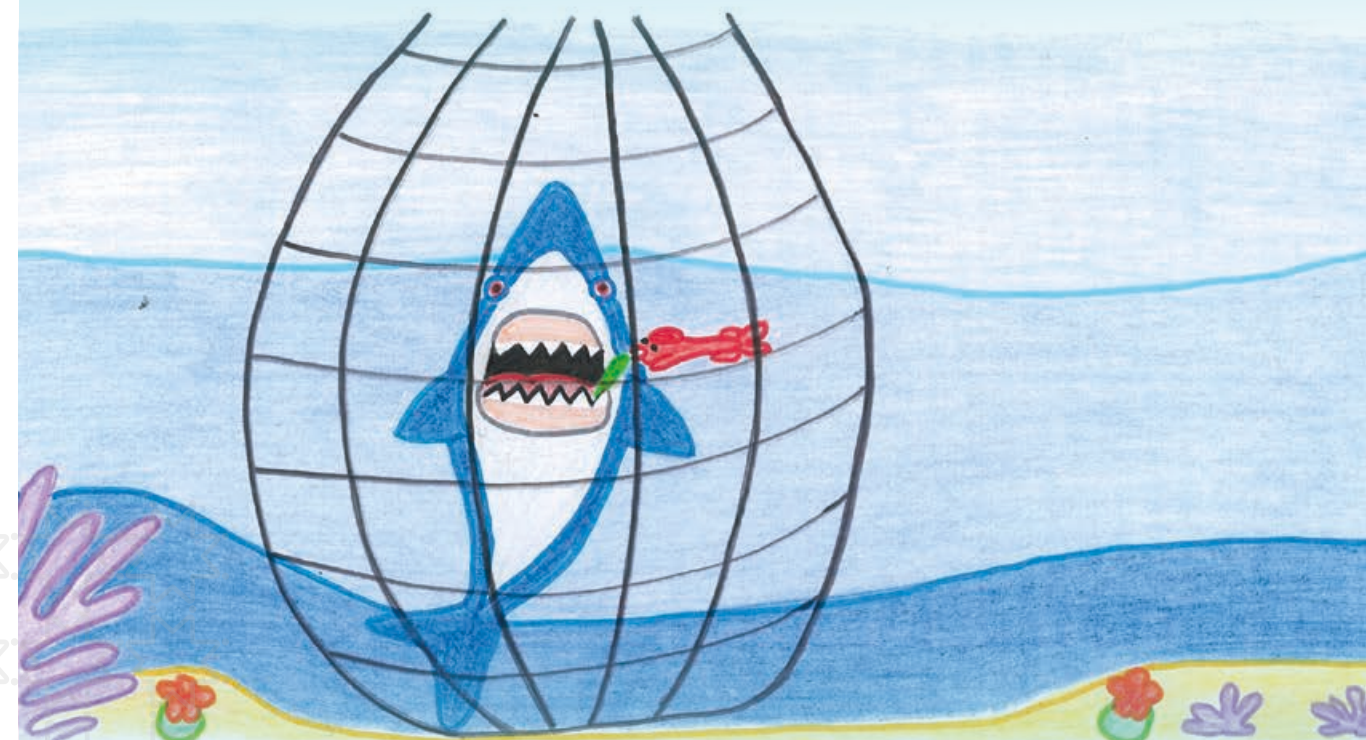
The next morning, Sharkie went through the days like usual, but without Remor.
 After he had eaten his prey, he left something stuck in his teeth,
 he tried to remove it but he failed.
 Sharkie's gum started to swell.
 He couldn't bite anything.



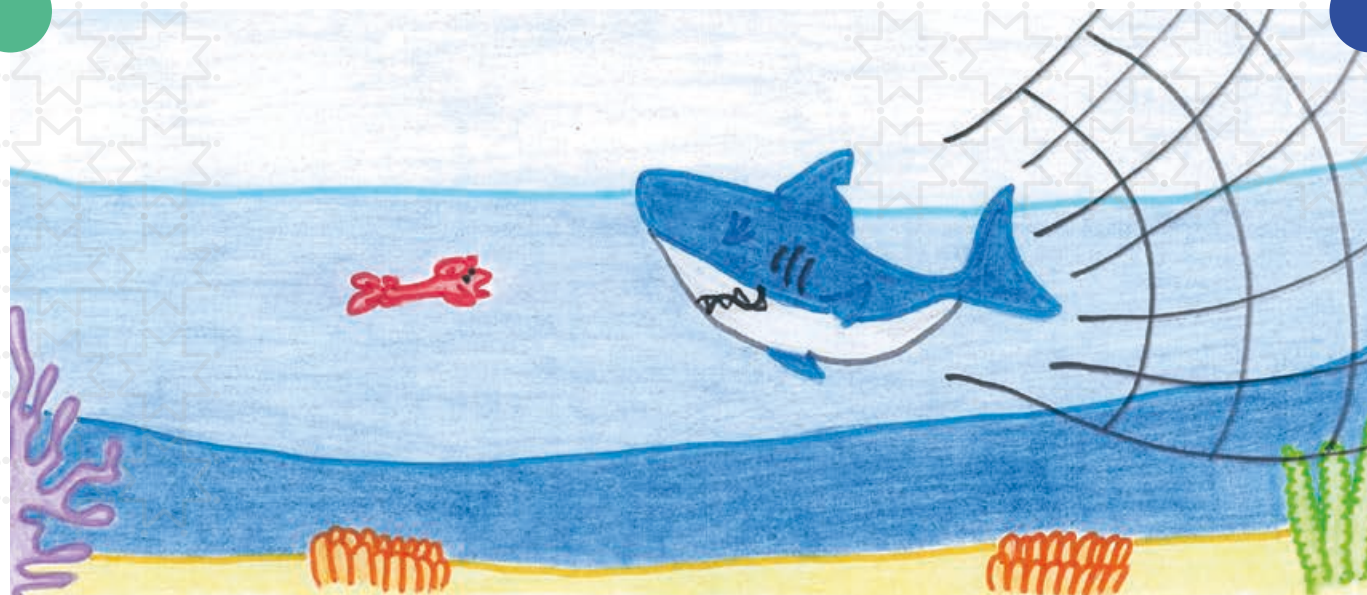
Suddenly, a net came into the sea.
 Sharkie didn't expect that. The net caught him.
 He tried to bite the net but he couldn't.
 He panicked and swam around randomly.
 He saw a little fish from a distance.
 He screamed for help. "Help...you there...please help me...!"



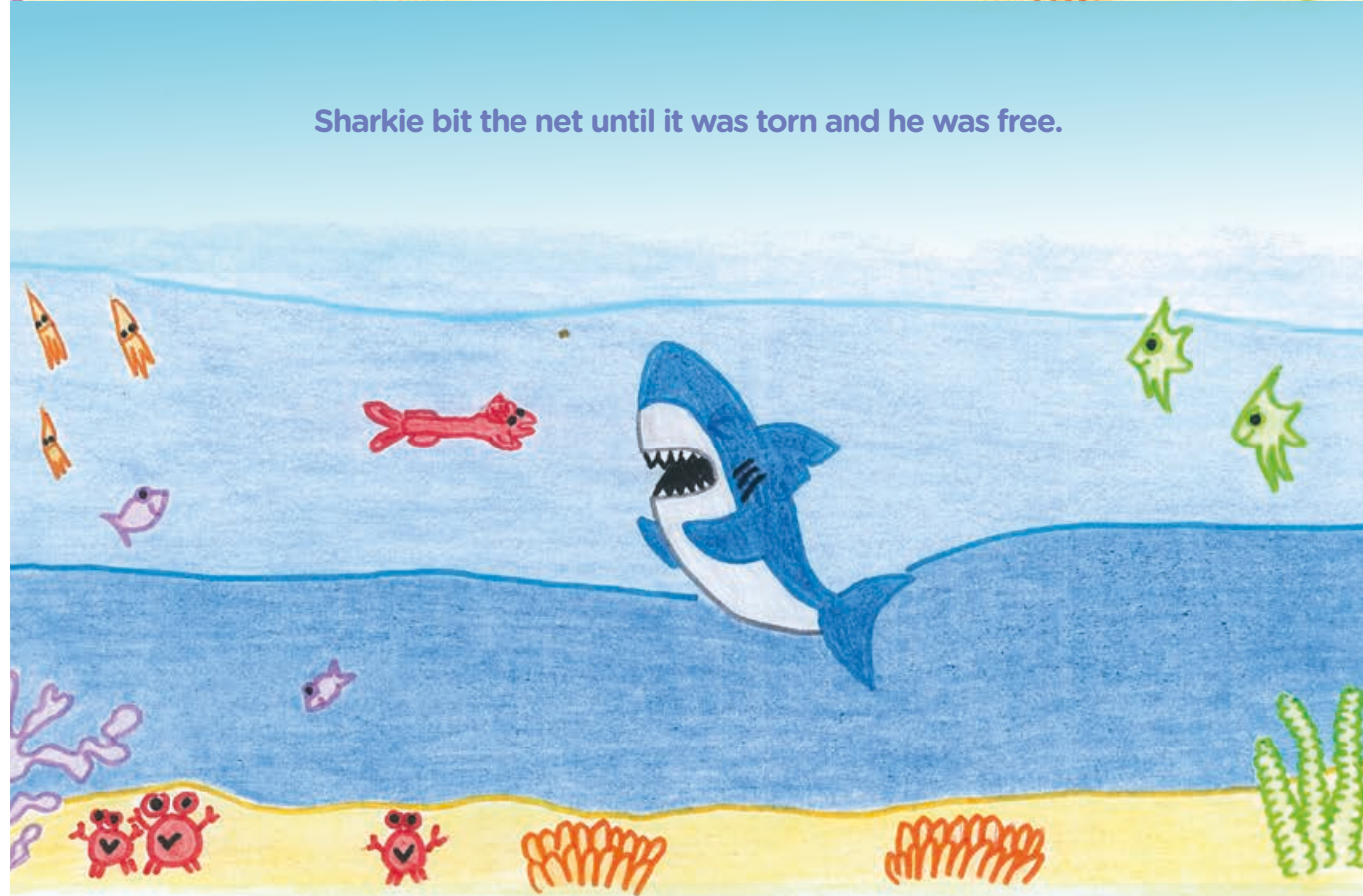
The little fish swam quickly towards him. It was Remor.
 Then Remor said, "OMG, Sharkie... just bite the net.
 You can do it. Your teeth are sharp!!"
 "I can't bite anything! My gum is swollen. Something is stuck in my teeth."



"Open your mouth! I'll fix that."
 Then Remor took the leftovers from Sharkie's teeth.

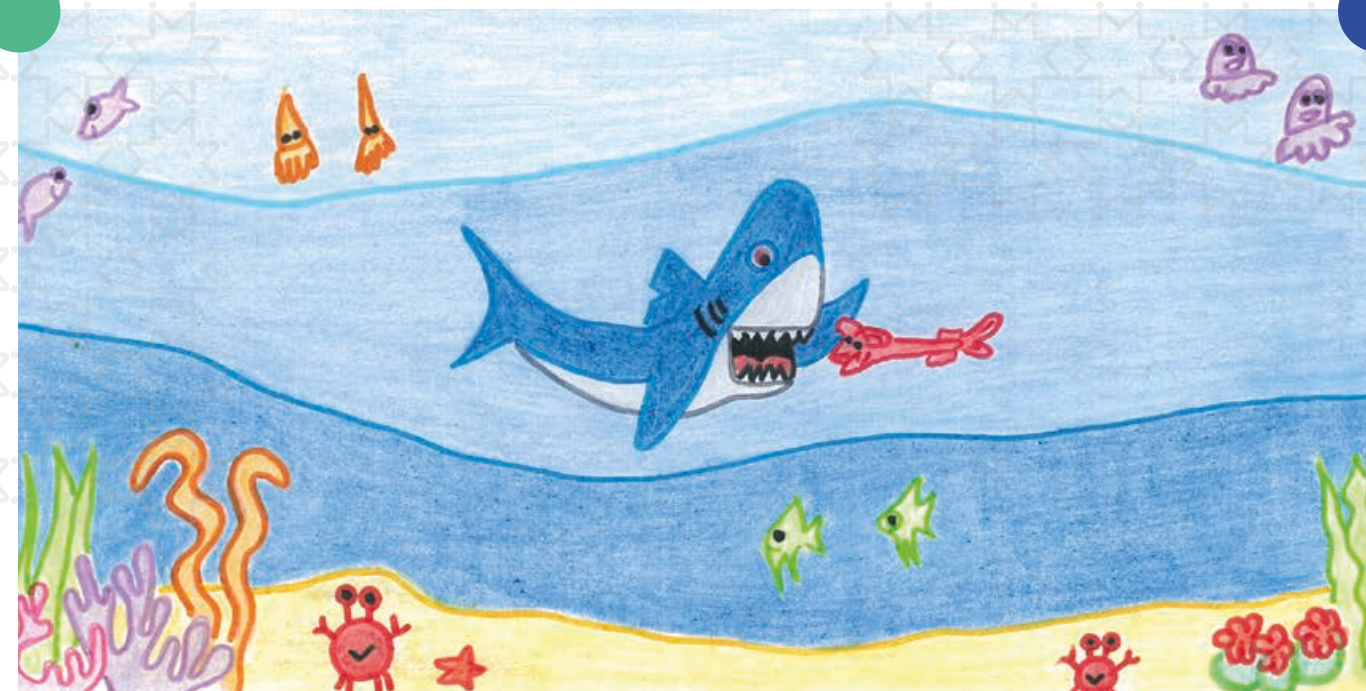


Sharkie bit the net until it was torn and he was free.

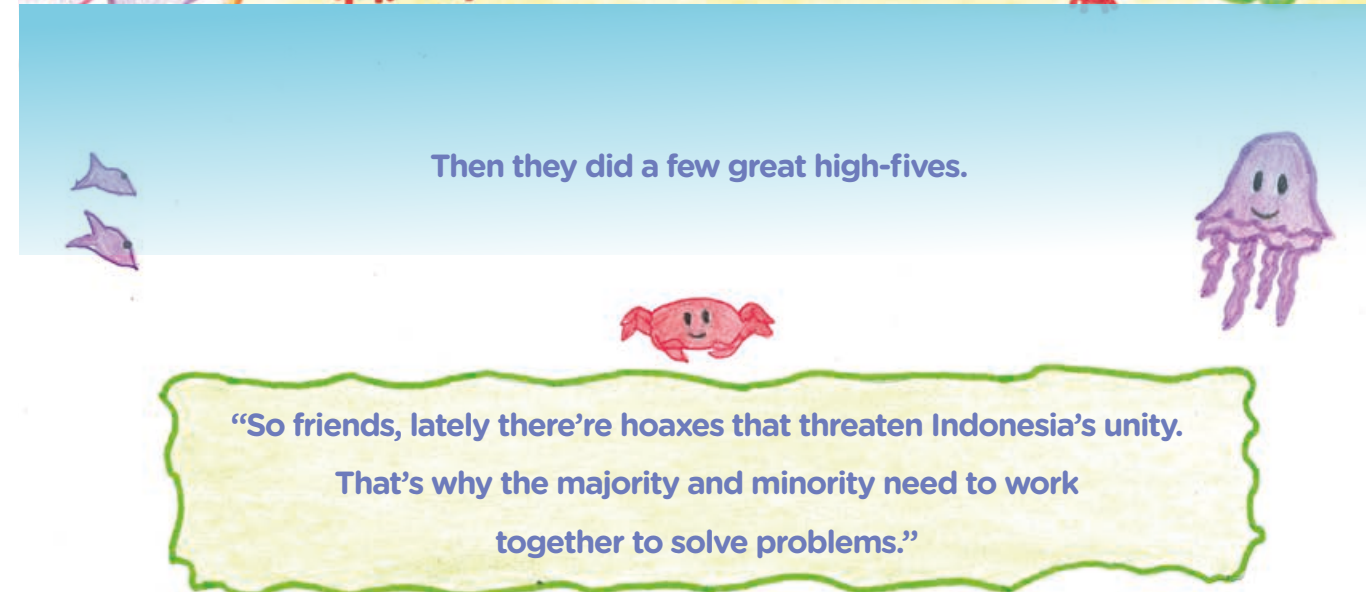


Then, Sharkie said to Remor, "Remor, I'm really sorry about everything.
It's okay to eat my leftovers. And you didn't bring shame to anyone.
And, thank you so much. I know I have hurt you so bad,
but can you give me another chance to fix this?"

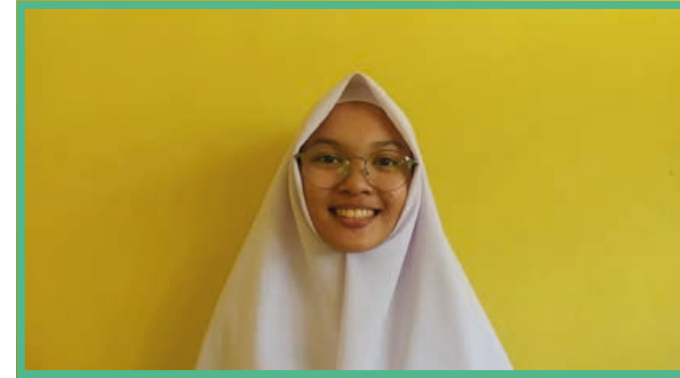
"Of course, my friend", said Remor.



Then they did a few great high-fives.



About the Author



Hello, My name is Tiara Fitra Ramadhani Siregar, but you can call me Yaraa. I am sixteen years old and was born on December 5th, 2002. I attend SMAN 1 Padangsidempuan and am in class 10 MIA 2. I live in a small city called Padangsidempuan in Northern Sumatra. I have no siblings. My hobby is drawing and singing even though my voice is not very good. When I grow up I want to be the Indonesian Finance Minister.

About WORDS Competition

In 2007, the fourth cohort of ETAs came up with the idea to hold what they called a “WORDS Competition”. They planned competitions at the schools where they were placed. Then, the first place winners of the local competitions along with their ETA’s gathered in Jakarta for a national competition.

Following this same format for ten years, the WORDS Competition was a speech and talent competition. In 2018, WORDS was revamped as a storybook and storytelling competition and includes a service-learning component.

Since the beginning, the WORDS Competition has always been an exciting part of the AMINEF year. The 10th or 11th grade students demonstrate their prowess in spoken English (helped of course by their ETA and co-teachers during months of preparation) as well as to tell their imaginative stories to show off local cultural riches and their own talents.

2019 marks another Indonesian presidential election. Capturing this moment, the theme for this year’s WORDS competition is “The Future of Indonesia.” The top 3 winners of the national competition and their ETAs will participate in a service-learning trip to Flores Island. For the service component, the students and ETAs will volunteer their time to share their storybooks and engage with community members in Ende, Flores.

About AMINEF

The American Indonesian Exchange Foundation (AMINEF) is the binational Fulbright Commission for Indonesia. For twenty-five years AMINEF has carried forward the vision and mission of the Fulbright program in Indonesia, which in 2017 celebrated its 65th anniversary. AMINEF’s many programs for educational exchange have increased mutual understanding between the United States and Indonesia and strengthened the ties that unite our two countries. Since 1950, 2,815 Indonesians and 1,120 Americans have participated in exchanges. Approximately 80 percent of the Indonesians received graduate degrees at the master’s or doctoral levels from American universities. The remaining 20 percent participated in non-degree exchanges administered by AMINEF.

About the Fulbright ETA Program

The Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program, one of US State Department-funded Fulbright programs carried out in many countries throughout the world, places recent college graduates and young professionals as English teaching assistants in primary and secondary schools or universities overseas. The program helps improve foreign students' English-language abilities and knowledge of the United States while increasing the US student's own language skills and knowledge of the many host countries around the world.

In Indonesia, the Fulbright ETAs are placed in high schools (both SMA, SMK and madrasah) where they assist local English teachers. The program has now been going for 15 years and has affected many thousands of Indonesian students and their communities across the archipelago over that period. AMINEF, in charge of the Fulbright program in Indonesia since 1992, works closely with the Indonesian ministries of Education and Culture and Religious Affairs to administer the ETA program in Indonesia.

