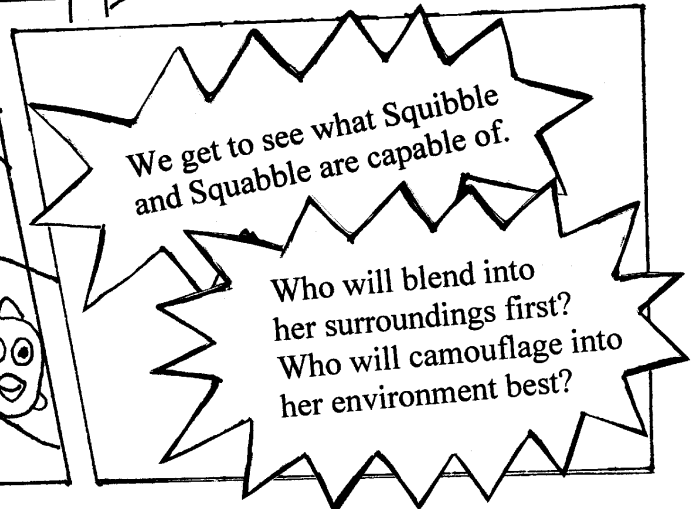
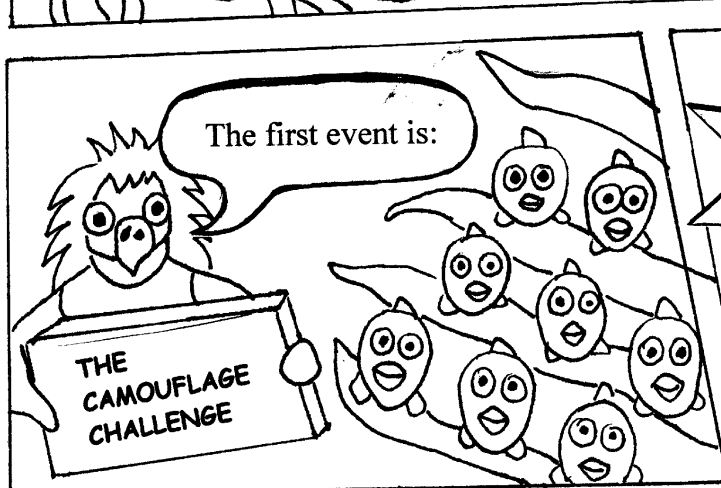
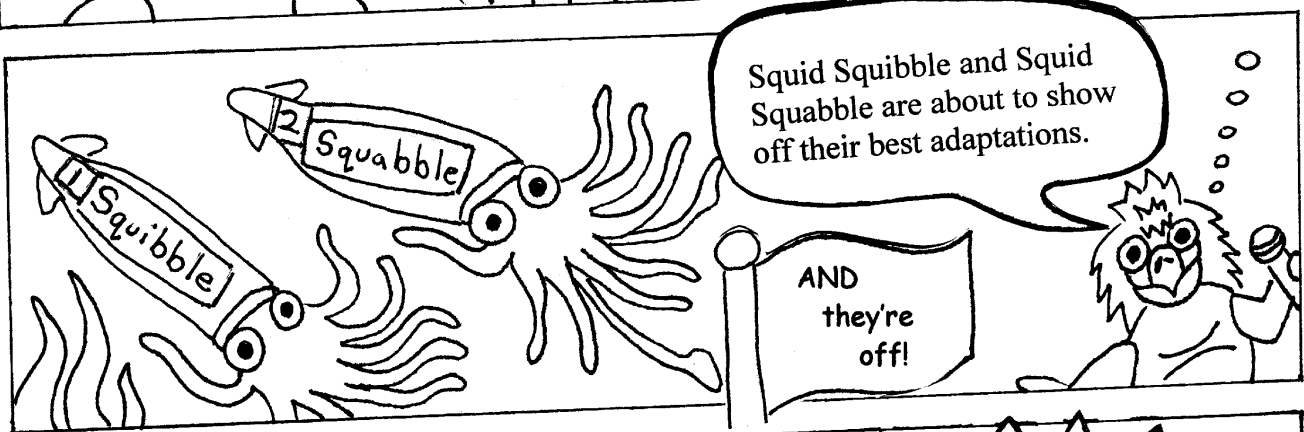
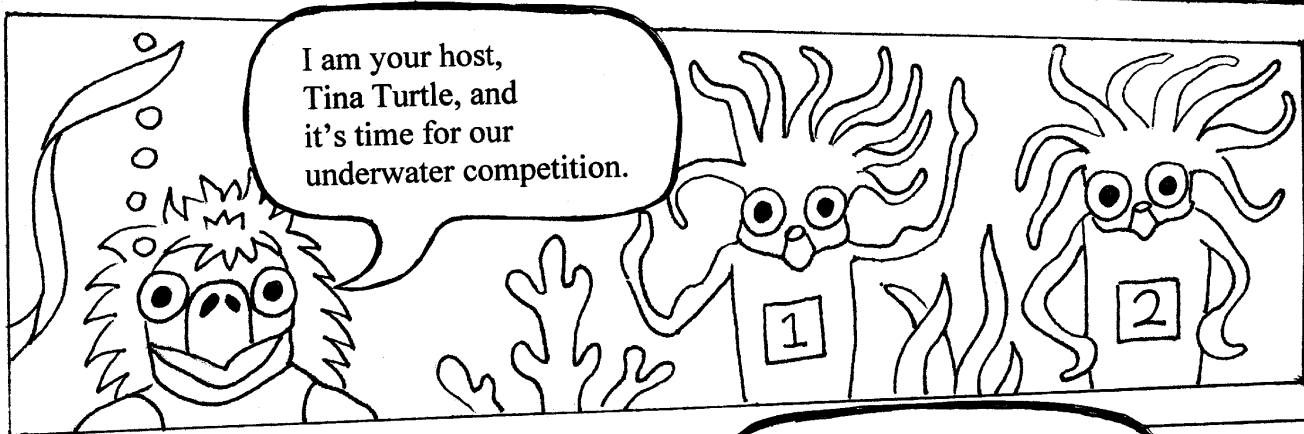
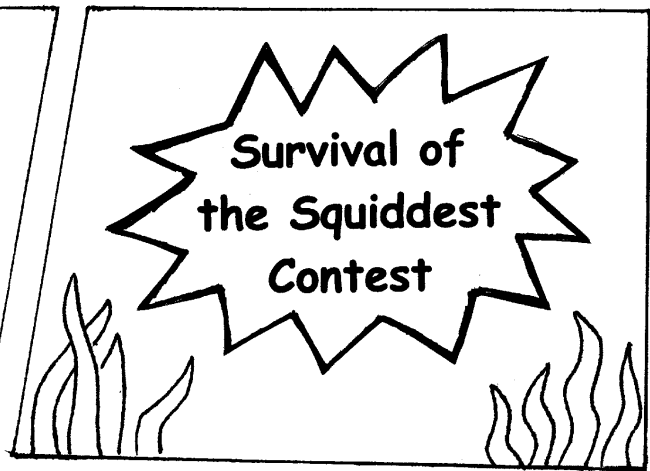
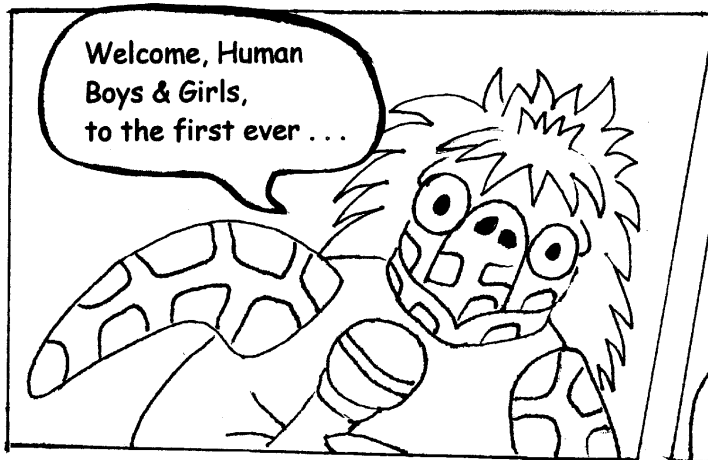


Survival of the Squiddest

By
Karen Pawson-Smith

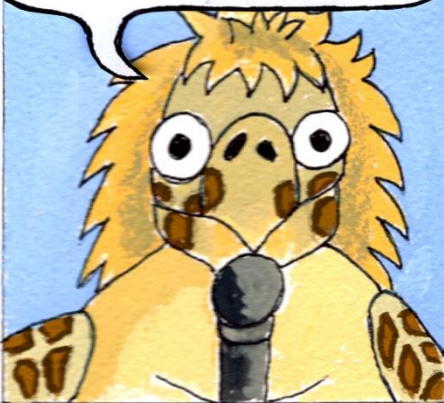




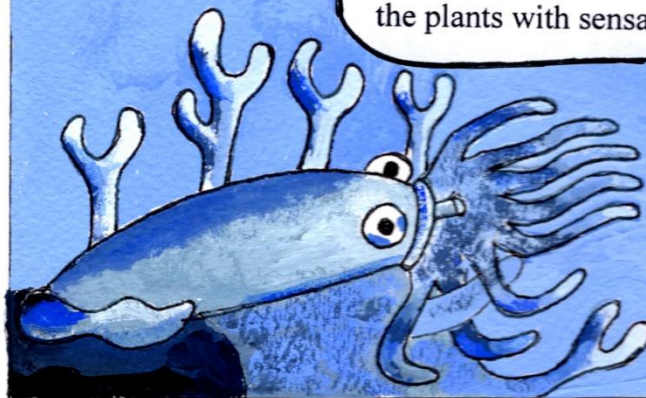
That in itself is an outstanding achievement.

What an extraordinary thing to watch!

Look at this concentration and strength!
Creating matching patterns with these colorful sea plants.



Squibble is the first to blend into the plants with sensational speed.



Squabble is right behind her—matching a pattern of kelp with great focus and control.

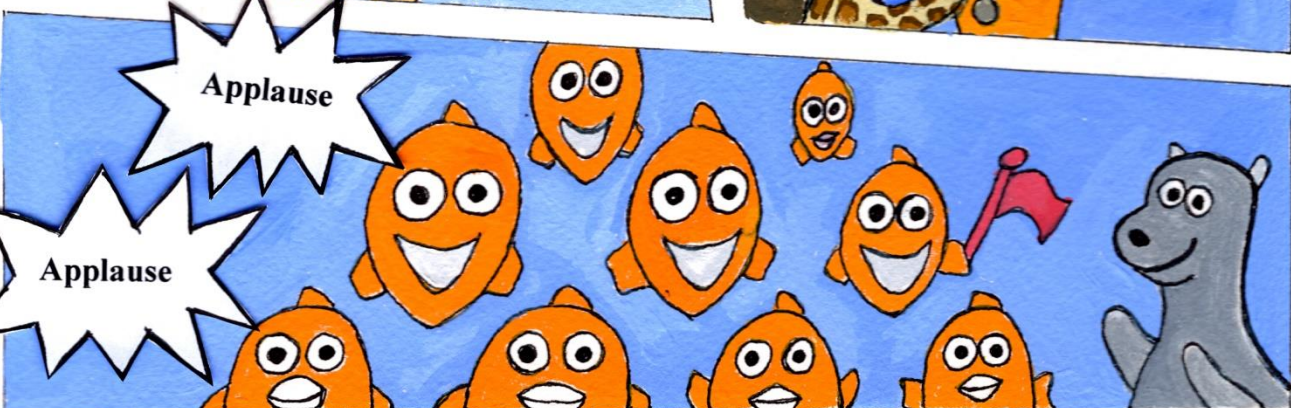


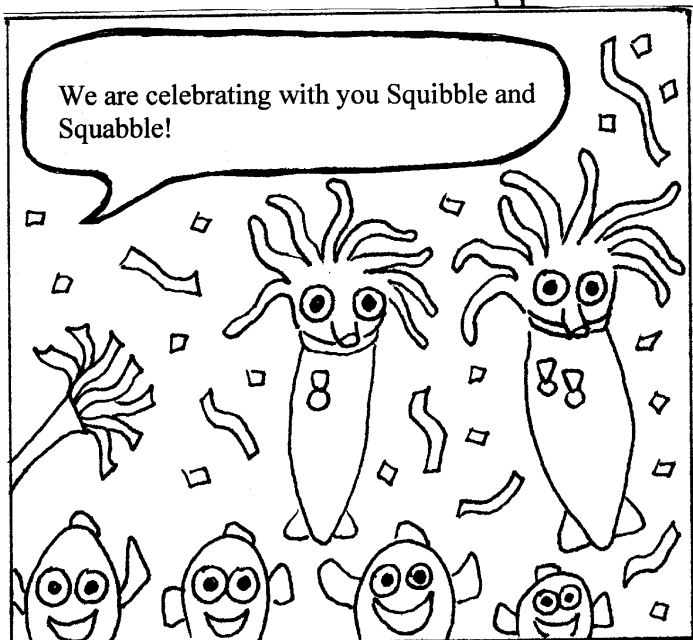
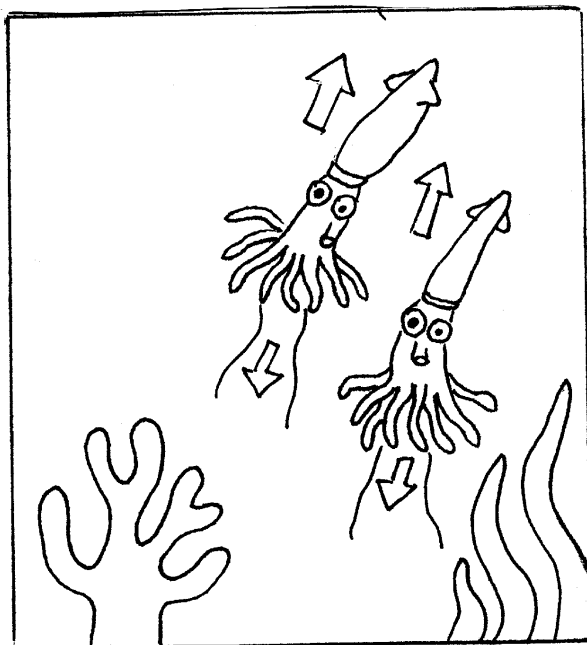
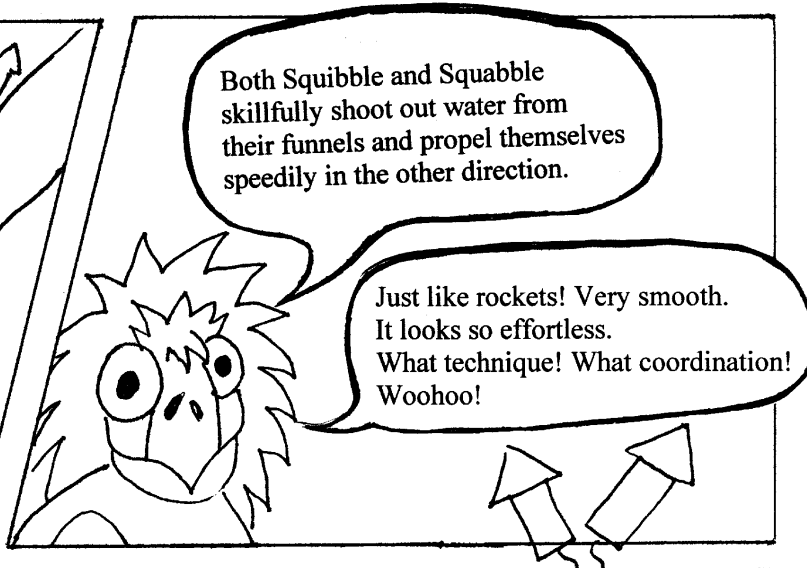
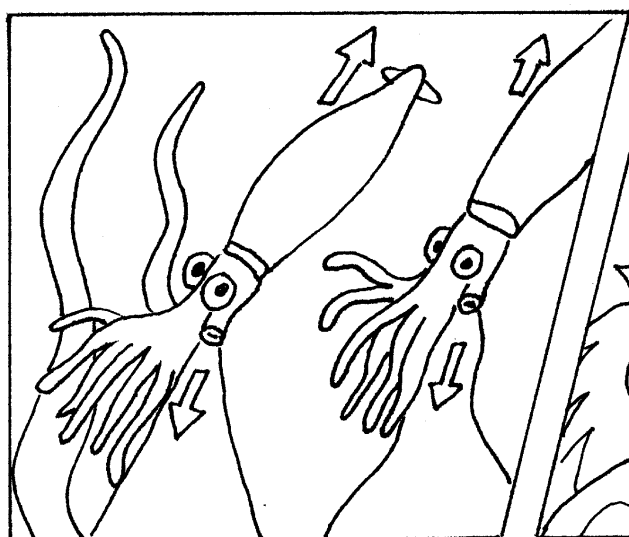
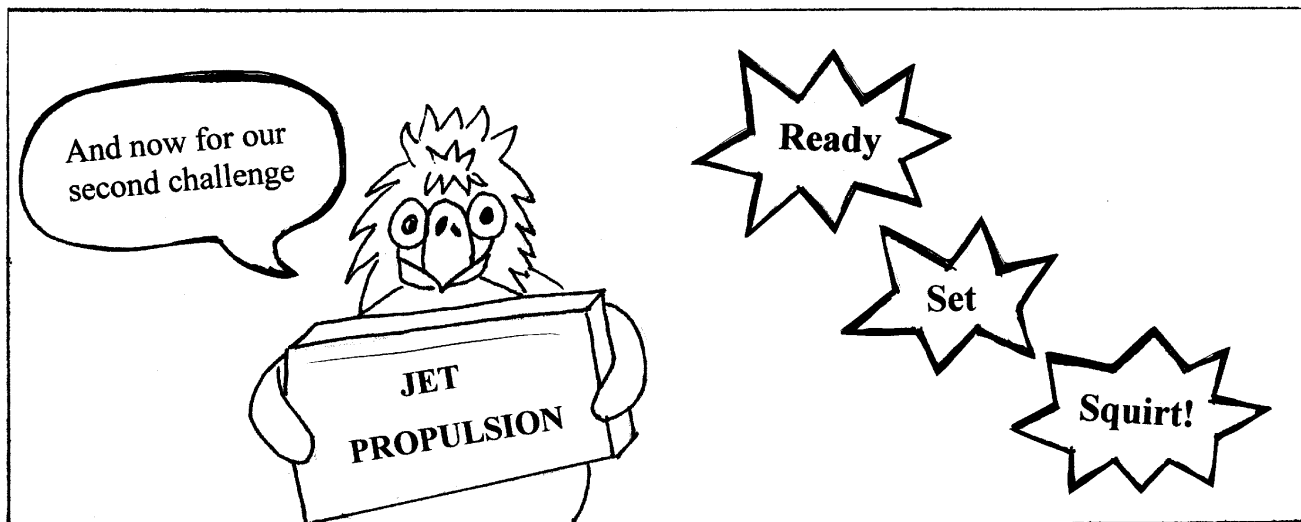
You've got this one Squabble! Well done.

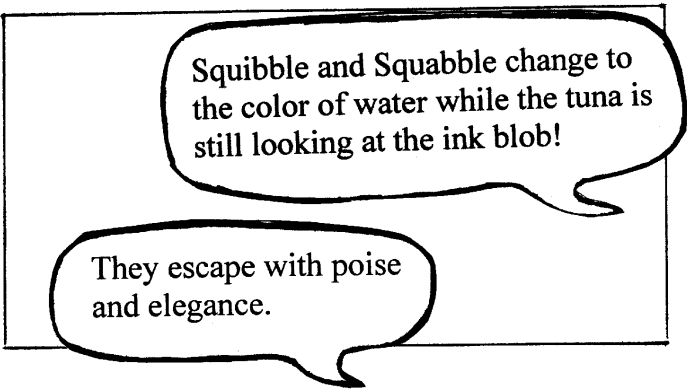
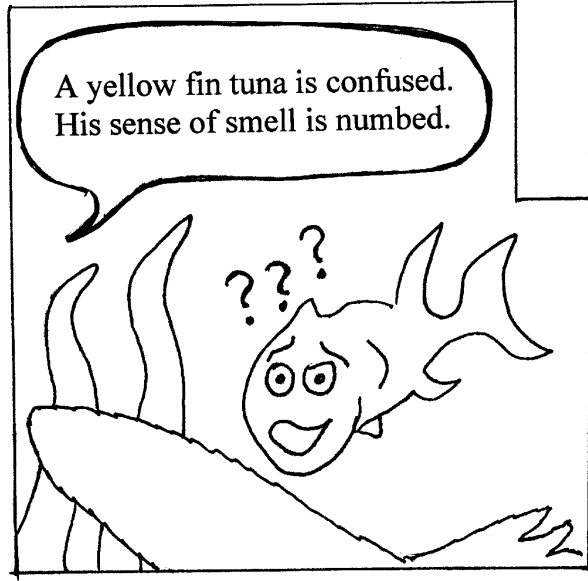
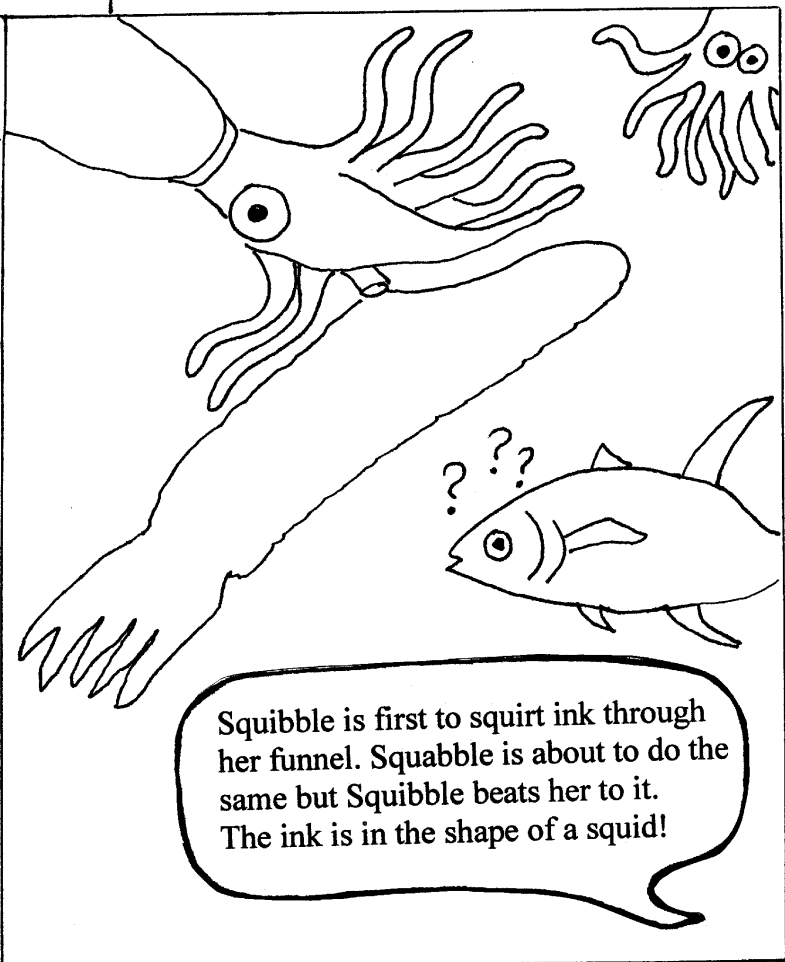
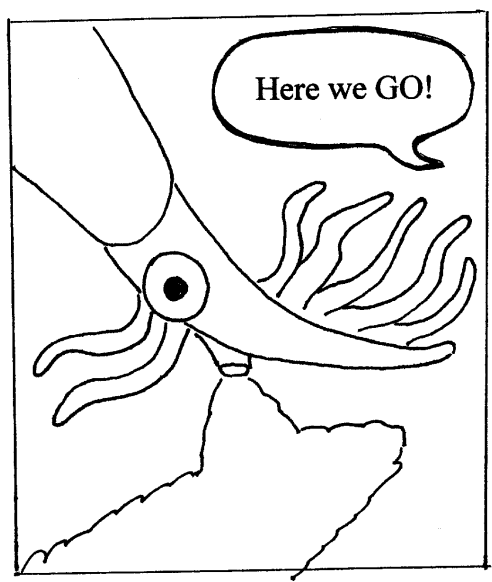
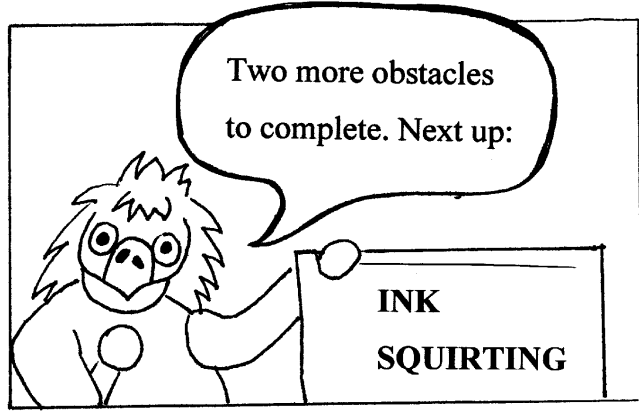
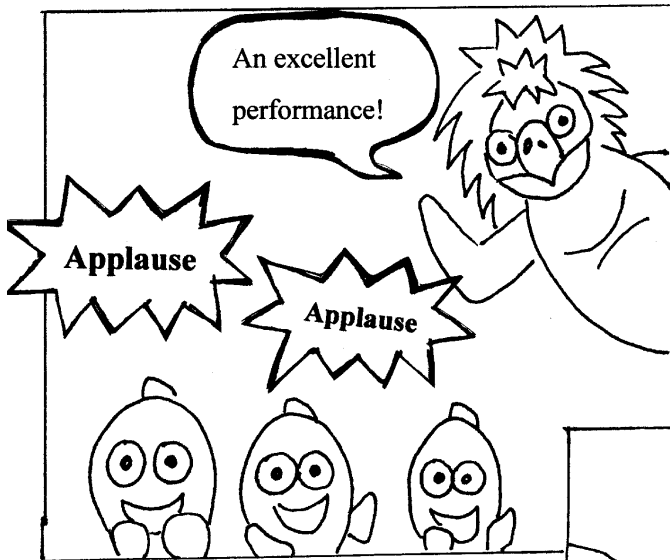


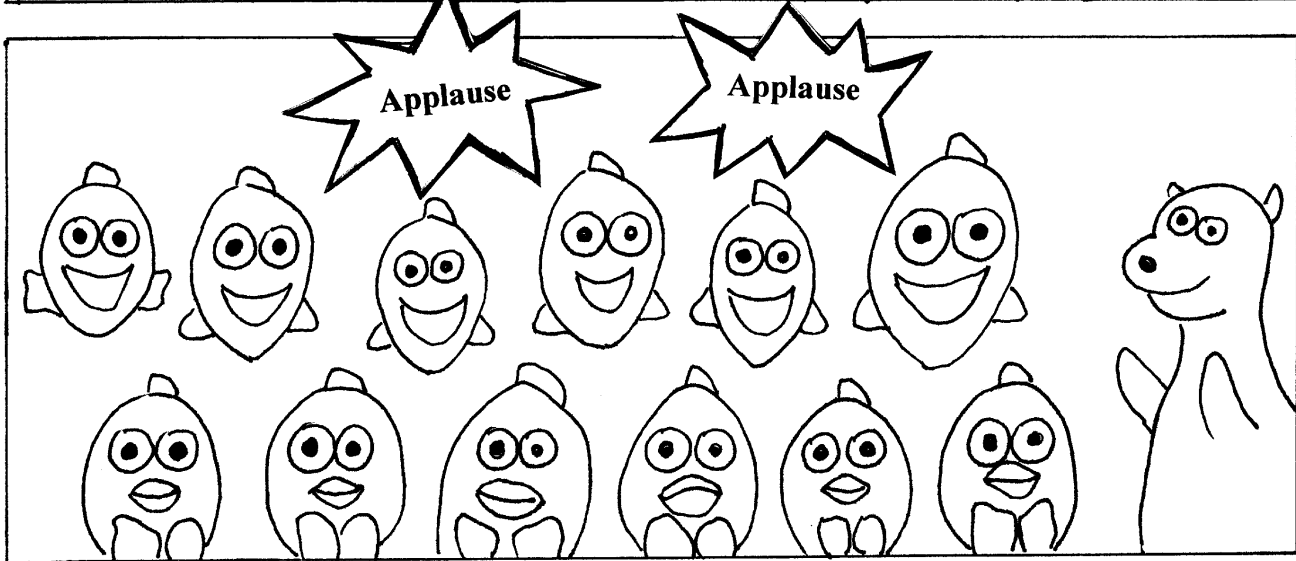
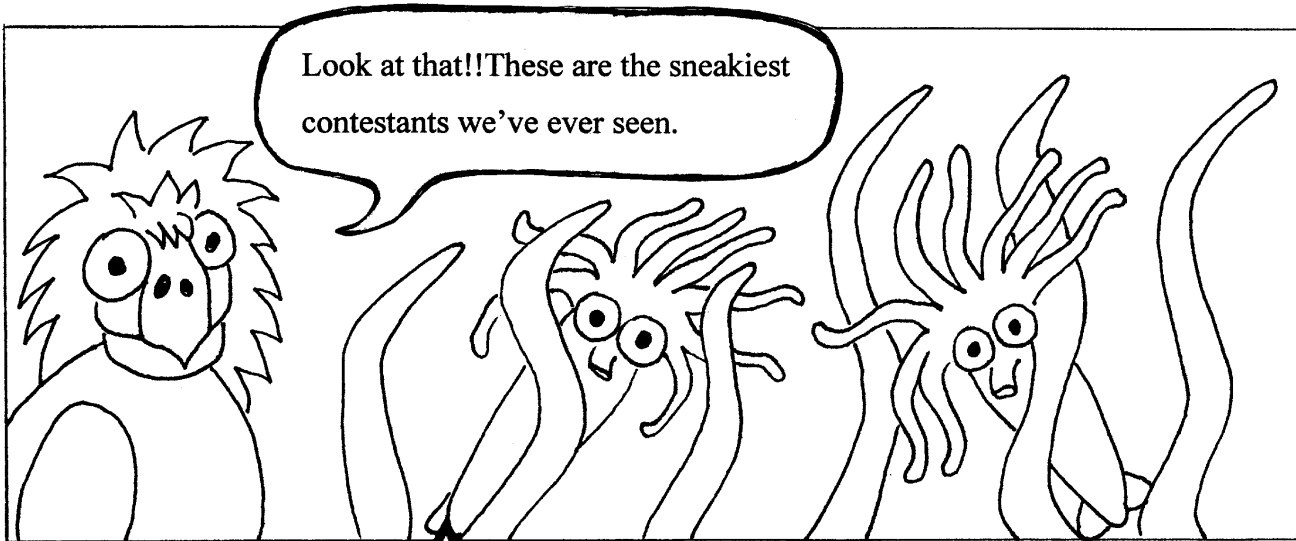
Applause

Applause



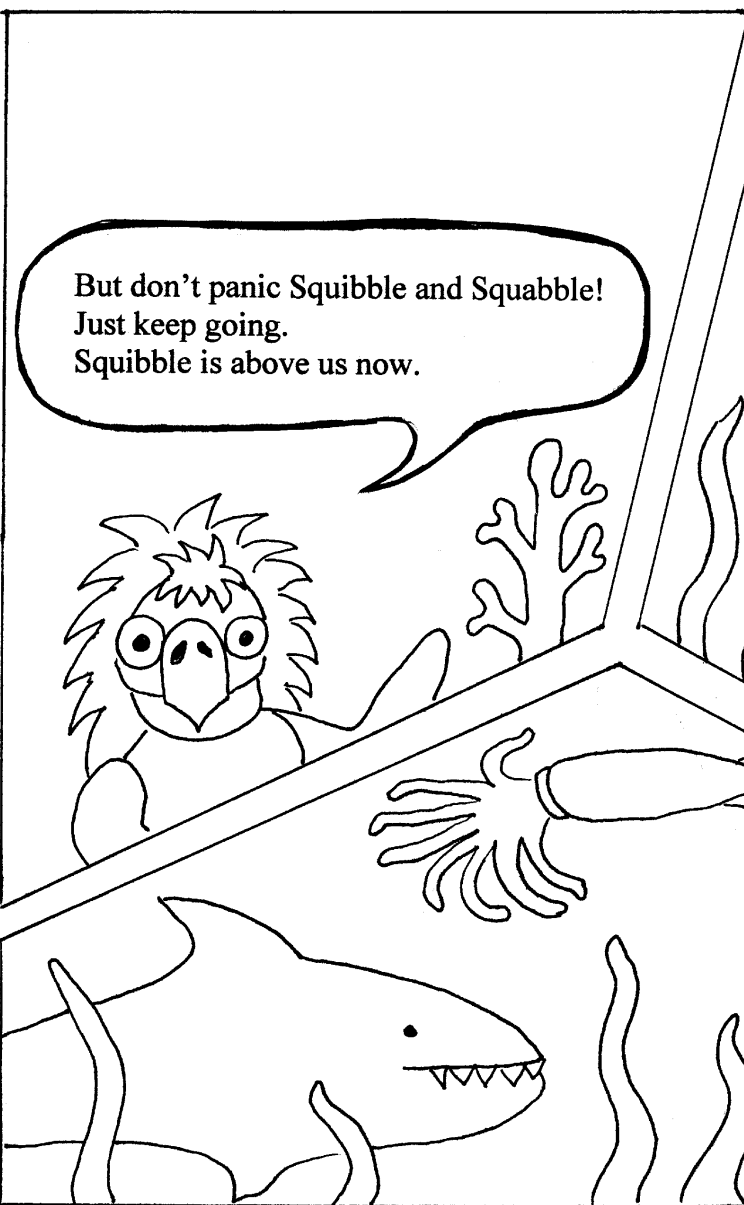
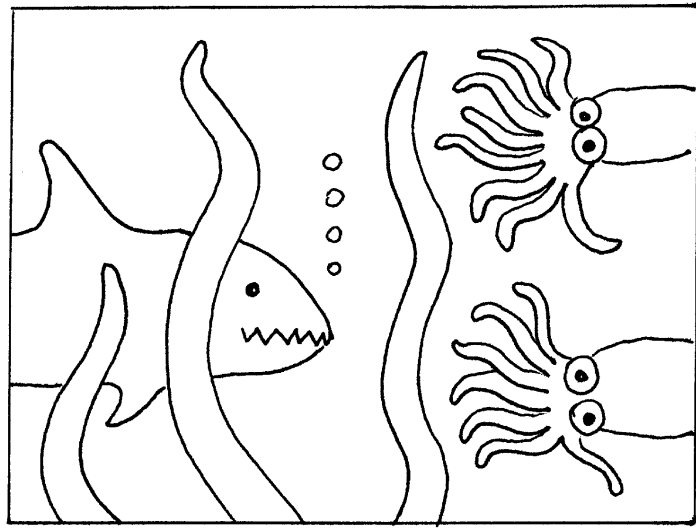




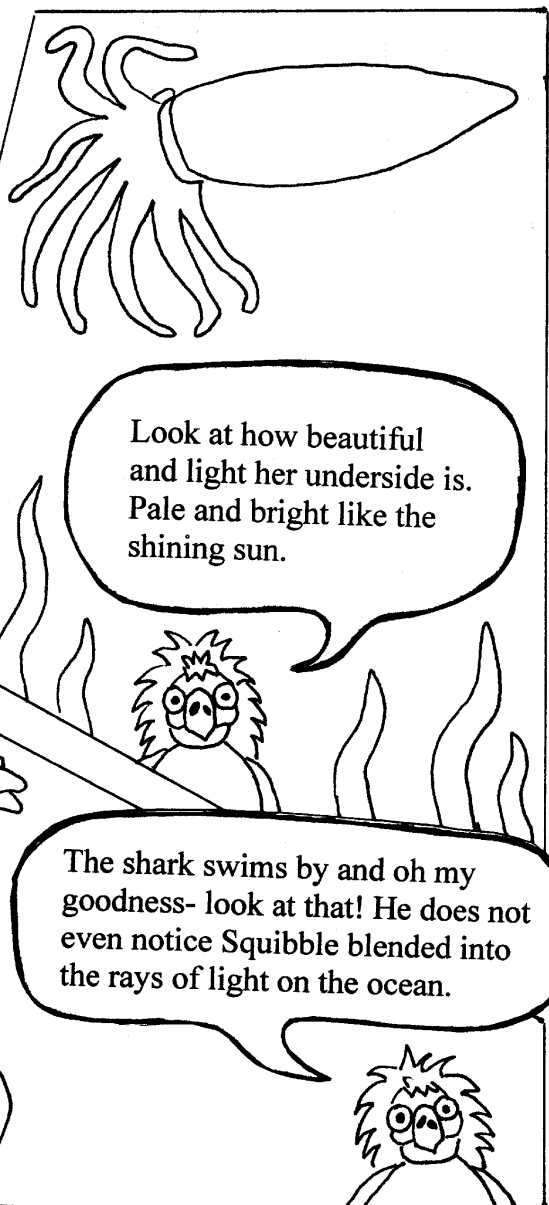


A shark is swimming by
and Squibble is above him—
Squabble below.

It is time for the big test.
We want to see them do it!
It won't be easy . . .



But don't panic Squibble and Squabble!
Just keep going.
Squibble is above us now.

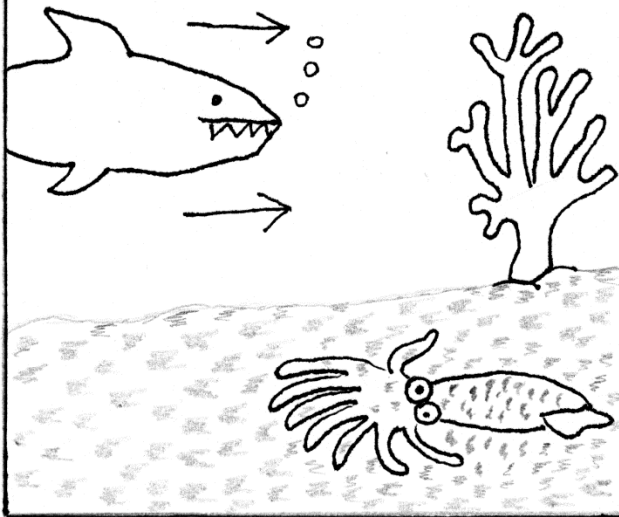


Look at how beautiful
and light her underside is.
Pale and bright like the
shining sun.

The shark swims by and oh my
goodness- look at that! He does not
even notice Squibble blended into
the rays of light on the ocean.

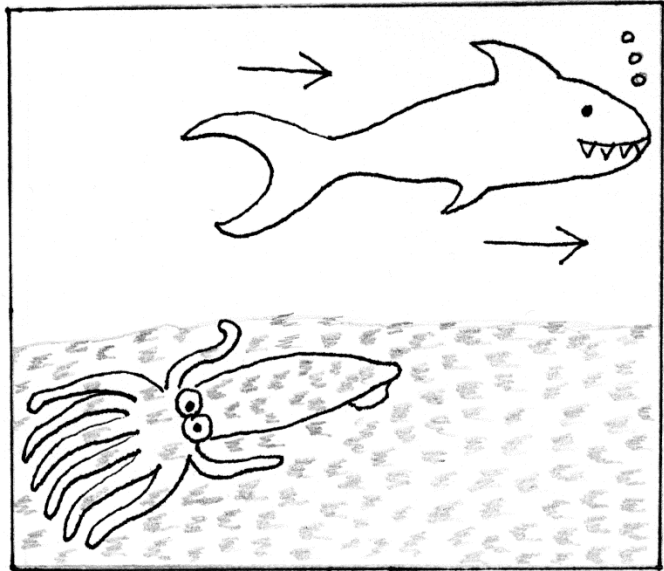
Here we go with
Squid Squabble.

Look underneath us and you will
see how shaded and beautiful and
speckled her back is— like the
grains of sand on the bottom of
the deep dark ocean below.

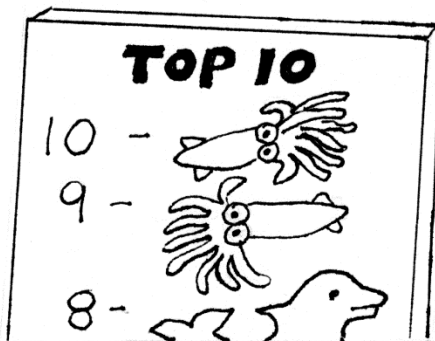
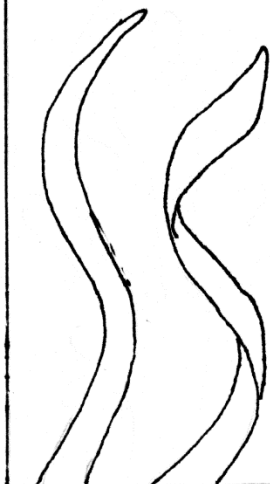


Such precision. Such greatness.
She is mysteriously camouflaged
by the countershade coloration of
her skin. Her darker colors blend
into the bottom of the sea.

Look at this. LOOK AT THIS!
The shark again swims by and
doesn't even see her.



These exceptional moves are
putting both Squibble and
Squabble in the top 10.



You go,
squids!!!

Listen to the crowd.

Applause

Applause

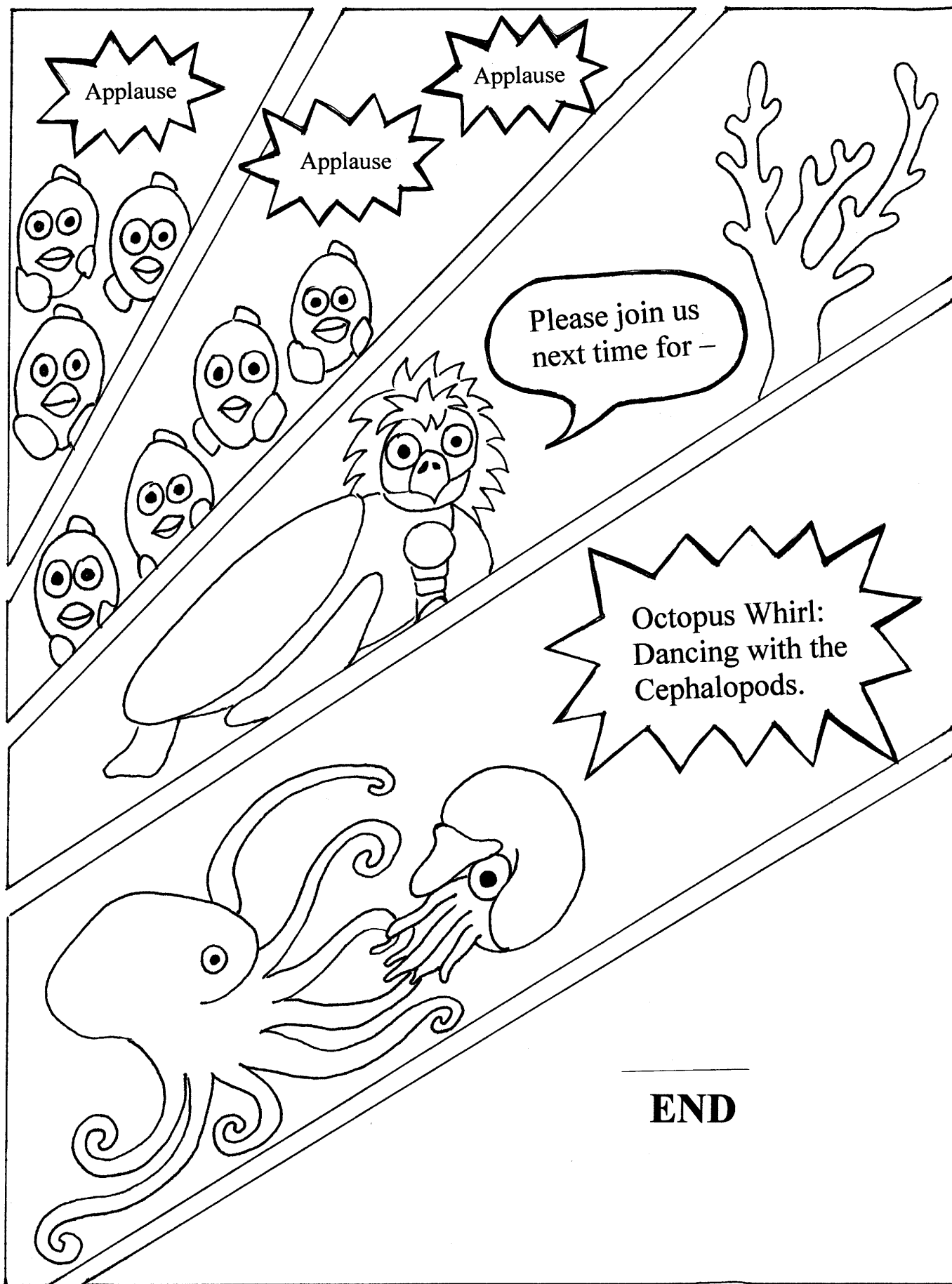
Applause

And that concludes our events. Squids Squibble and Squabble are both winners who demonstrate survival techniques against the predators surrounding them . . .

Wait a minute!
There are 70 egg capsules
glued to plants and rocks
on the ocean floor.

Squibble laid these
eggs from her funnel!

Squibble—
by multiplying your population,
you are the clear winner of
Survival of the Squiddest!



Adaptations are body features or behaviors of animals that allow them to better live and survive in their environment.

These are some adaptations of the squid:

- Torpedo shaped bodies enable them to dart quickly through the water and escape predators. (Predators are animals that hunt squid)
- Ink squirting confuses predators and allows the squid to escape.
- Blanching is the process of turning ghost white, so they become less visible in some environments.
- Squid can camouflage in a more complicated way than even a chameleon in order to match the colorful patterns of their surroundings.
- Countershade coloration.

Countershade coloration or countershading means an animal is darker on the upper side of its body and lighter on the underside. Fish, squid, sharks, seals, whales and many other sea creatures have countershade coloration. When other creatures can not see them because their light underside blends in with the sun shining into the ocean, or when their darker upper side blends into the dark bottom of the sea, they are able to hunt for prey or escape from predators more freely.

Squid are one of the most intelligent invertebrates. (Invertebrates are animals with no backbone). They have a highly developed nervous system that signal chromatophore muscles beneath the skin's surface when it has strong feelings such as being frightened or hungry. When chromatophore muscles expand, a squid darkens in color. When these muscles contract and become smaller, the squid looks lighter.

(Illo: Pointing out the chromatophore muscles and showing expansion and contraction)

Squid are known as cephalopods and so are the octopus, cuttlefish and nautilus.

(Illo: One Illustration for each species)

More than one squid can be referred to either as squid or as squids.

A group of squid (or squids) can also be called a squad.

Squid have survived on earth for millions of years.