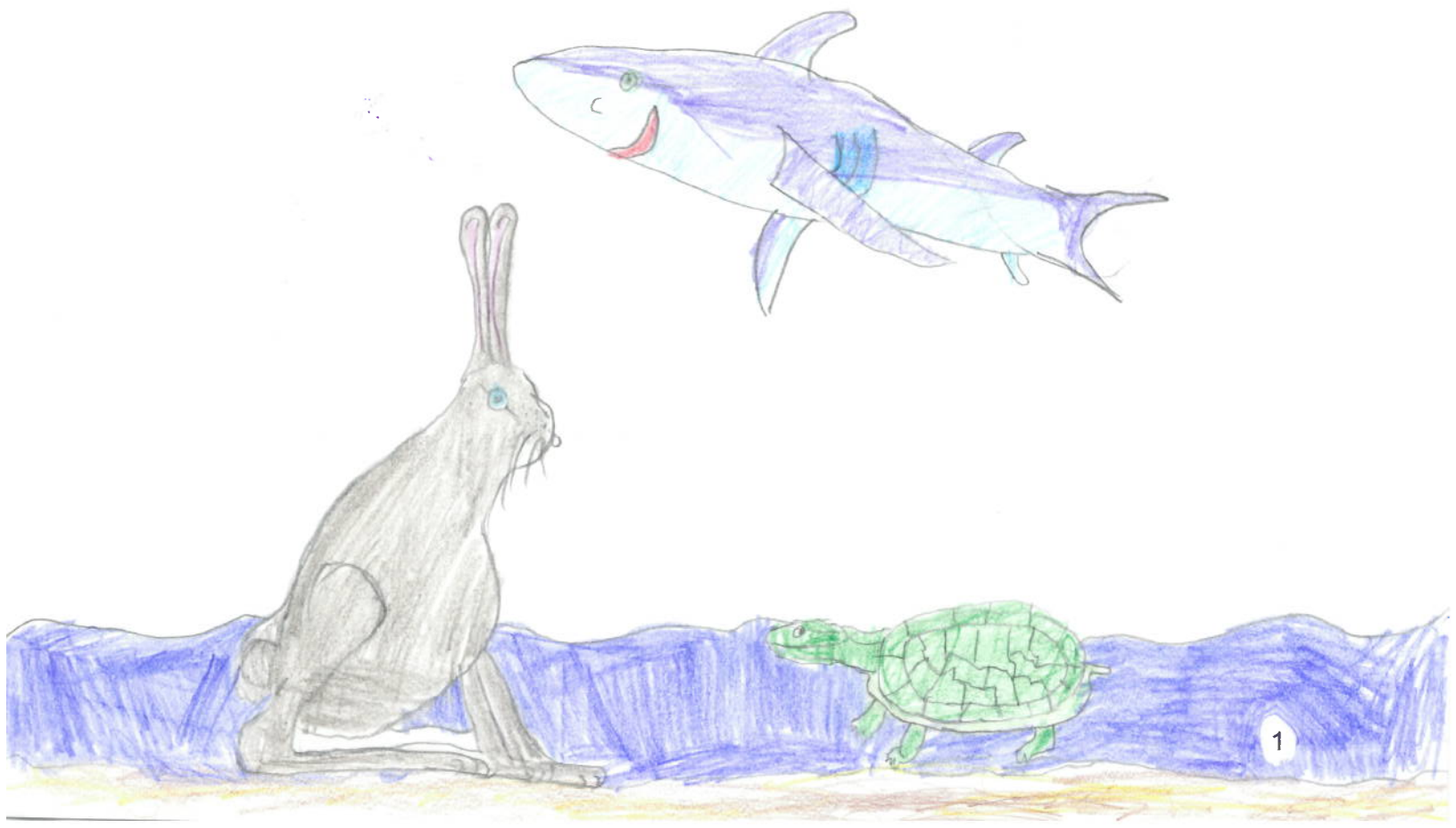


# The Turtle and His Friend

By Waylon Thomas



Once there was a turtle and he liked swimming. Everyday he would walk to the sea from his house, which was inside a hollow oak on the shore of the sea, but because turtles are so slow it took him a long time.

After his walk one day he was sitting on the shore watching the sunset when he saw something poke out of the water. He thought it was a fin of some kind. That night he was thinking about the fin. We all know what that fin was but the turtle had never heard of a shark before. The turtle thought, 'could it be an underwater monster? Maybe it was only a dolphin.' He doubted it.

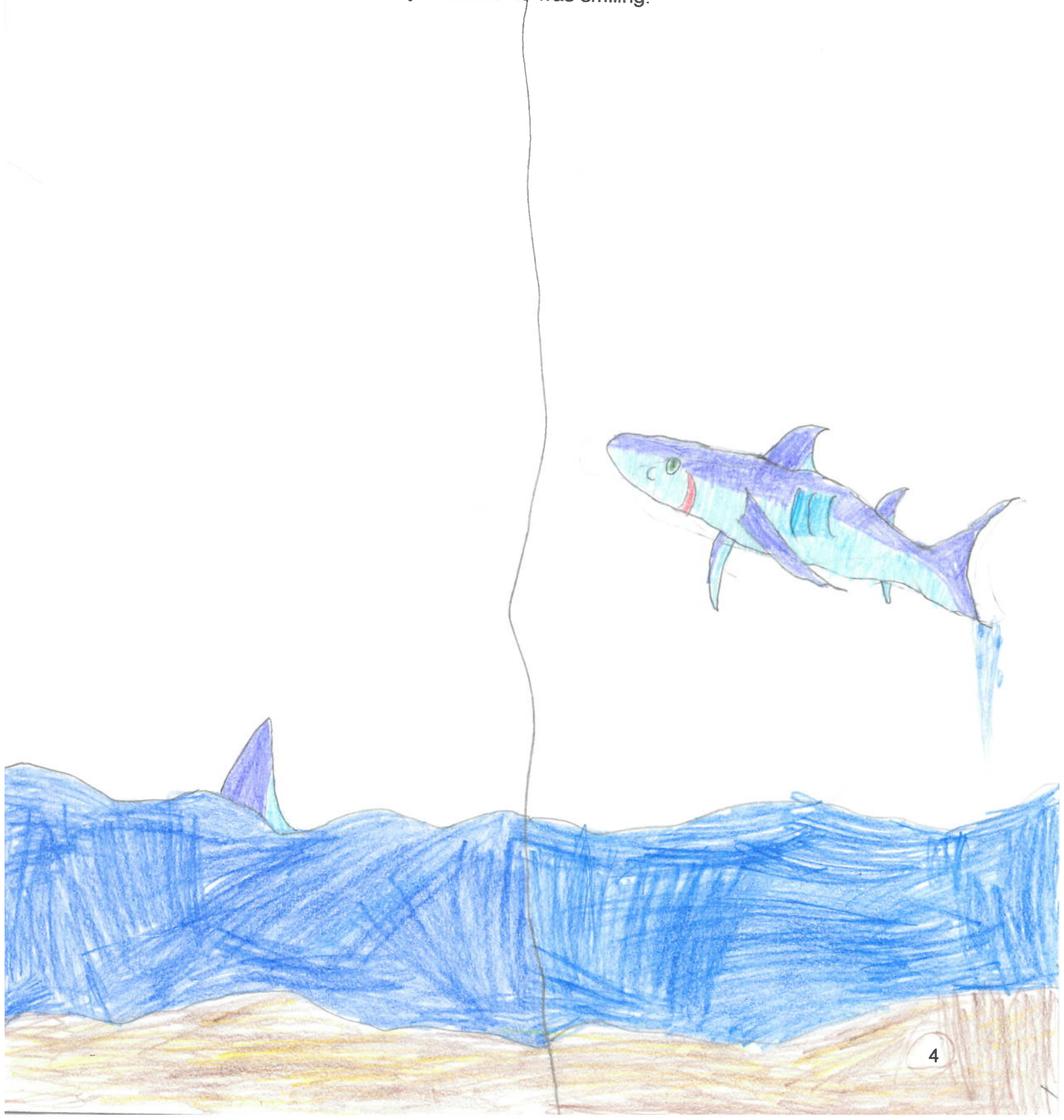


The next day when he started walking to the beach he was scared it was an unknown sea monster who comes up to the surface of the sea only to eat turtles like him.



When he got to the beach he sat down on the warm sand to take a nap. He dreamed that it was harmless. He woke up and the first thing he saw was a fin disappearing under the waves and then a spectacular thing happened.

The monster leaped out of the water. It was not a monster, it was a friendly shark. He knew it was friendly because he was smiling.



Suddenly there was a horrible sound. The shark had hit the sand and his smile vanished. The turtle ran to get to the shark but even while running he was so slow. When he got there he pushed and pulled at the shark but he couldn't budge him.

Then he saw something in the distance. It was a rabbit and it was coming straight for him. When the rabbit got there the turtle said, "Could you help me by pushing on this shark with your strong legs?" The rabbit pushed while the turtle pulled. Inch by inch he slid toward the water. Finally, they reached the water. He said thank you and the turtle and his friend lived happily ever after.

