

Rock Pool Rambles

If one day you want to walk
(or really just to amble)
Why not head down to the coast
To do a Rock Pool Ramble?

For there you'll see a multitude
Of inter-tidal creatures,
Bathing in their salty pools
Carved out of rocky features.

Because the waves are powerful
There is no place to hide,
So you should only go there
When the sea is at low tide.

When you go, just take your time
To simply stop and stare,
For then you'll see a hundred things
Of which you weren't aware

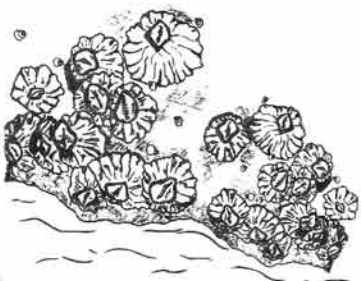
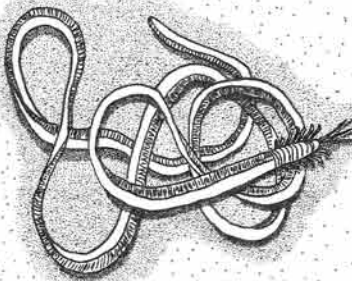
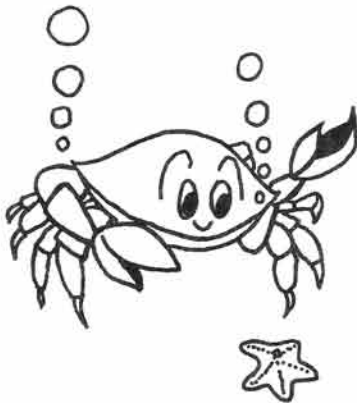
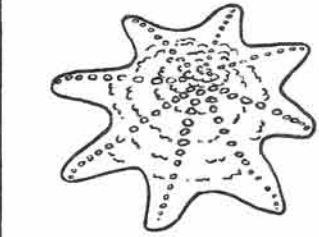
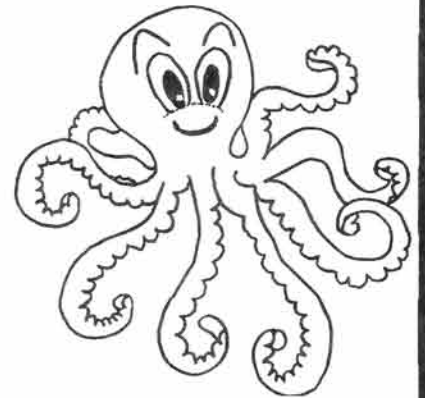
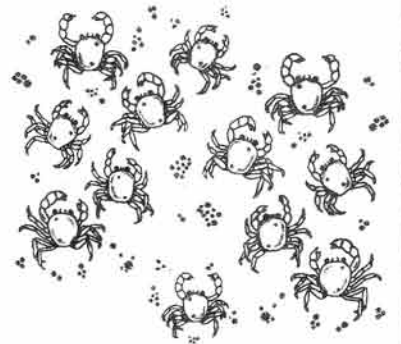
You may see some starfish,
Lots of limpets clinging tight,
Perhaps some whelks and barnacles
And small crabs that run in fright.

You're sure to see anemones,
And chitons are just great,
But urchins and their spiny coats
May make you hesitate.

But.....

There's something to remember
And that's to take great care
To leave these wondrous creatures
In the pools that they all share.

That way they will still be there
When next you want to amble
By the boulders and the bays
On another Rock Pool Ramble.



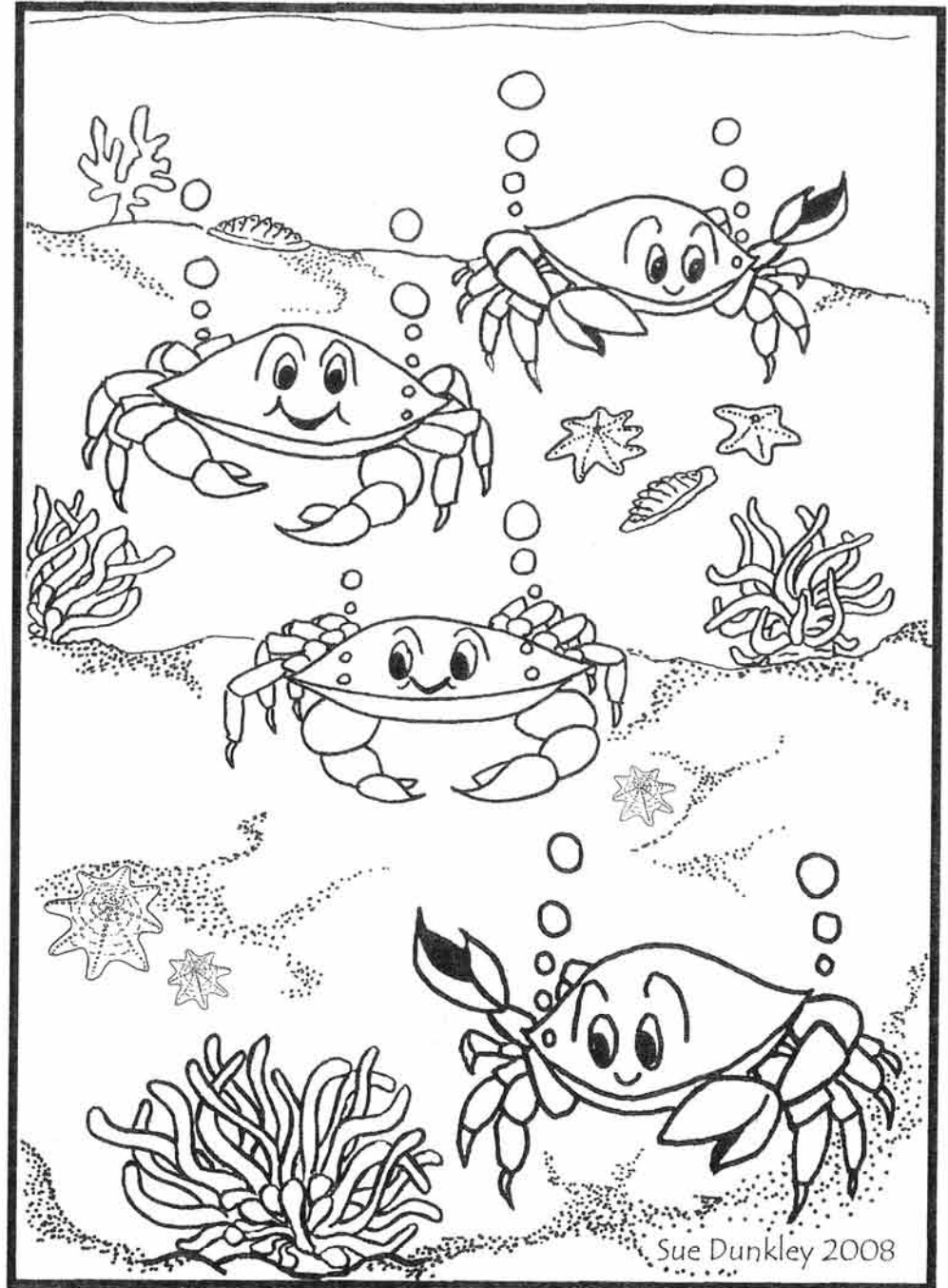
Crabs

Crabs that live down by the sea
Can use their claws so easily
To climb and crawl from crannies
tight

And crevices that get no light
To catch their prey for dinner.

And when a tasty treat is caught
It's crushed and cracked and then
it's brought
Into its mouth by those great claws
then crunched and chomped by
steely jaws
No guessing who has been the
winner!

Sue Dunkley 2008



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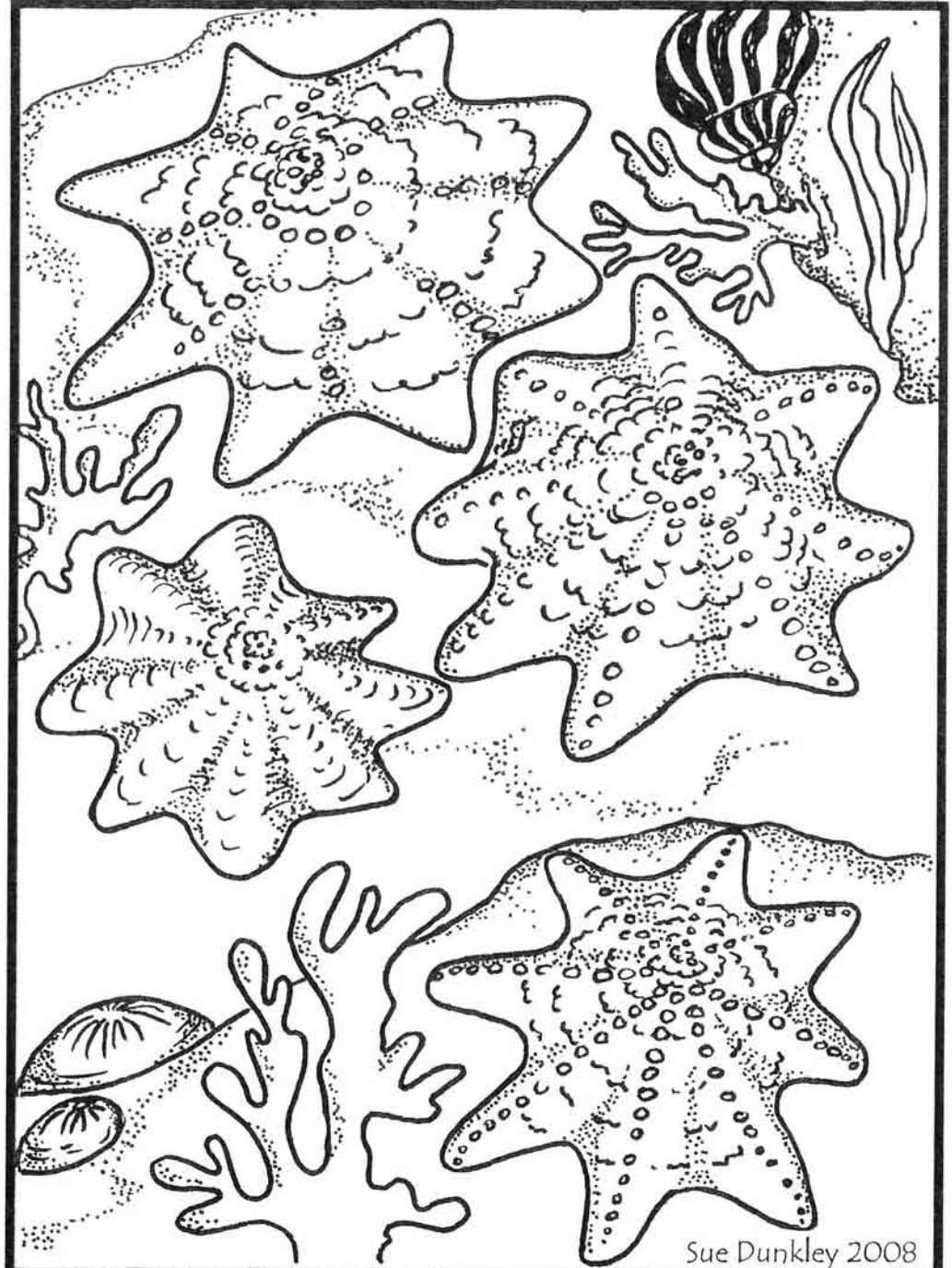
Starfish

I am an eight armed starfish
My home's a seaside pool
So please don't take me out of there
'cause that's what keeps me cool.

On days when waves come crashing in
I grip the rocks real tight
But when my pool is like a pond
You'll see me in the light.

And if you look around me
You'll see many, many more
Red and blue and green and brown
Starfish by the score.

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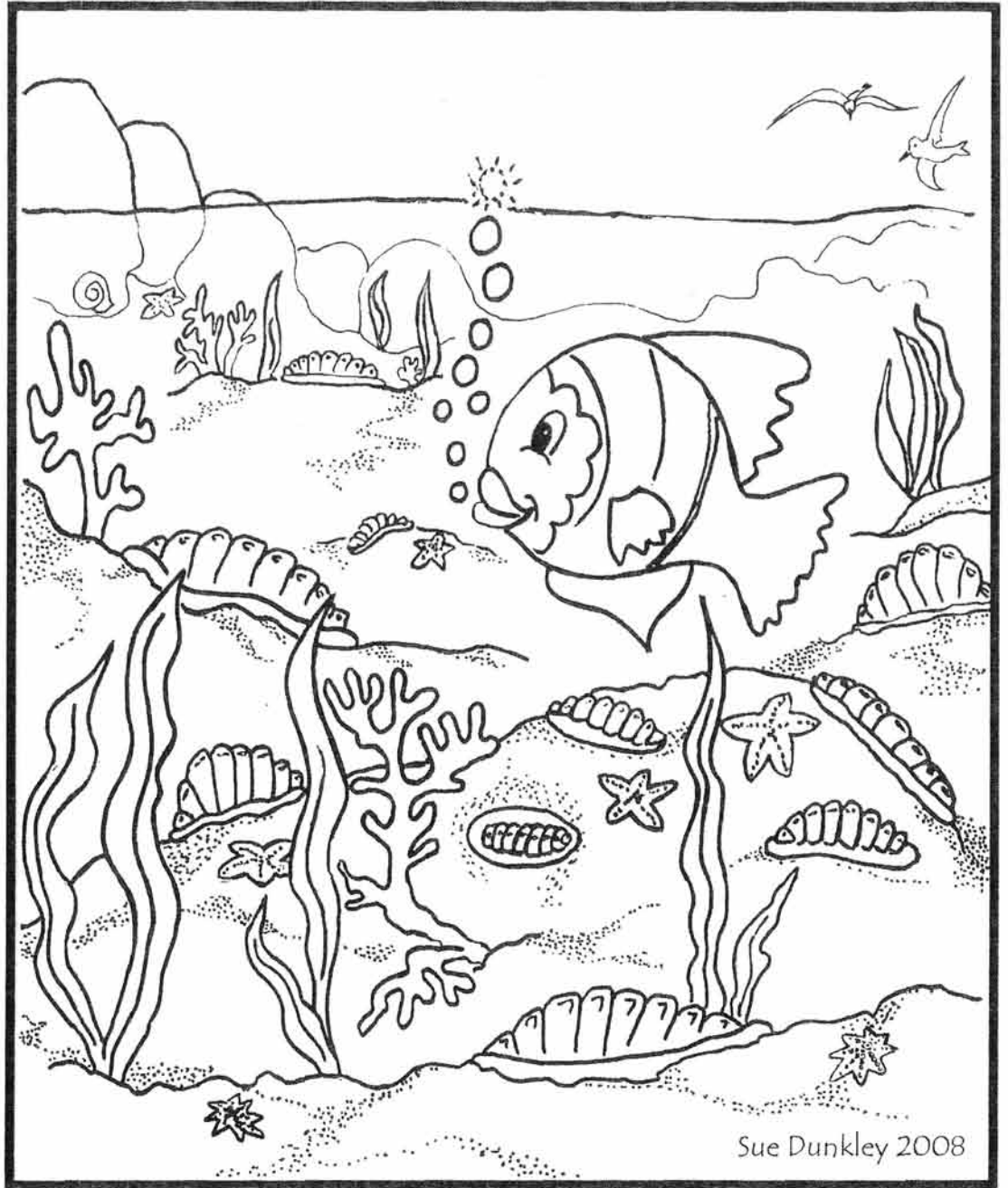
Snakeskin Chiton

My name is Snakeskin Chiton
And when the sun is bright
You'll see me in my rock pool
Where I hold on really tight.

And when the seas are crashing
And the waves are very rough,
I need lots of protection
So my shell is very tough.

It's also very striking as
Each stripe's a shiny plate
And if you care to count them
You'll find that there are eight!

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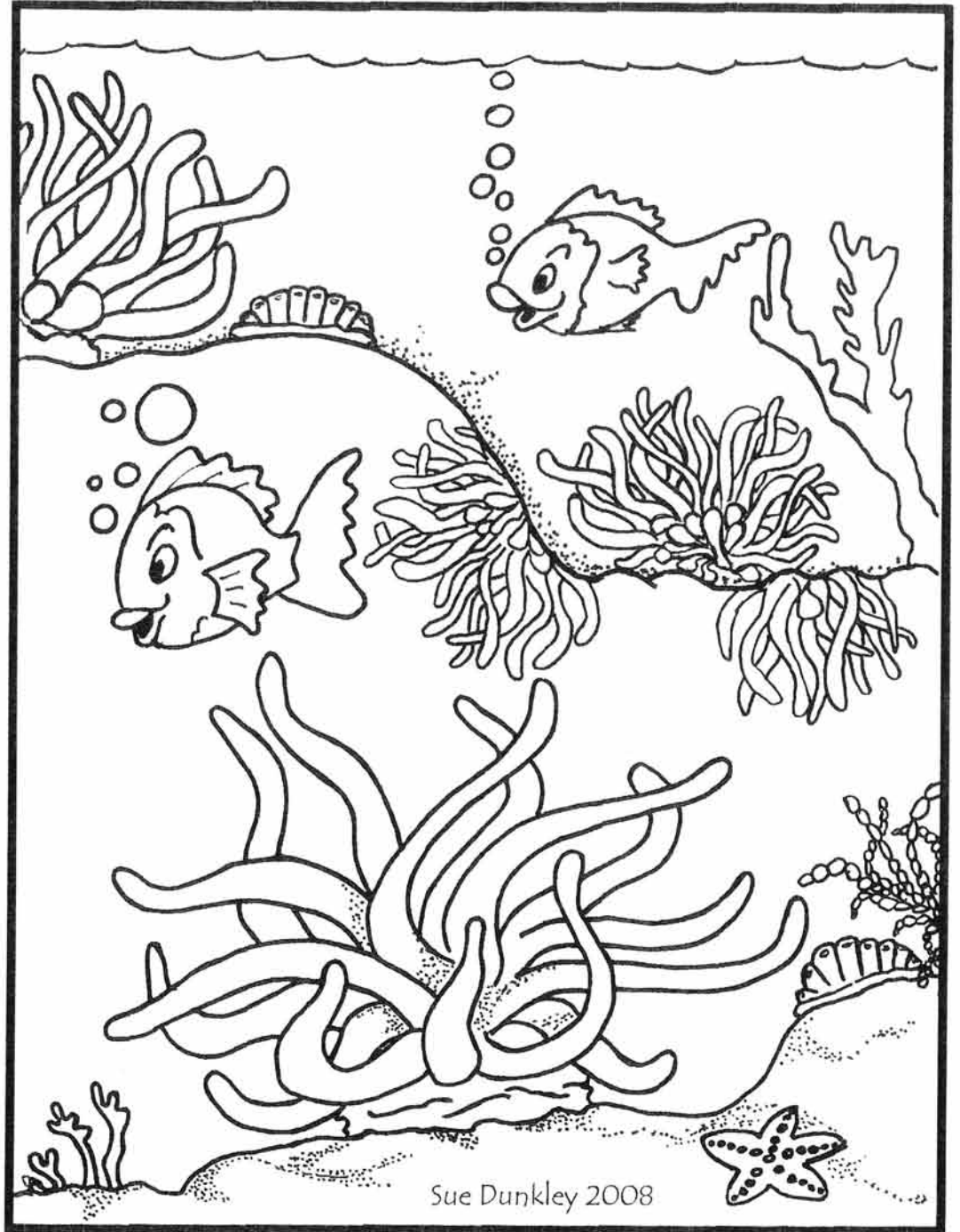
Sea Anemones

If one day you have the time
Over boulders you should climb,
To find the sea anemone
In rocky pools down by the sea

These clever sea anemone
Are armed against an enemy
With many, many stinging cells
Full of poison that repels.

Some have tentacles of red
That seem to spring right from their
head
To weave and wave about so much
And then retract at just a touch.

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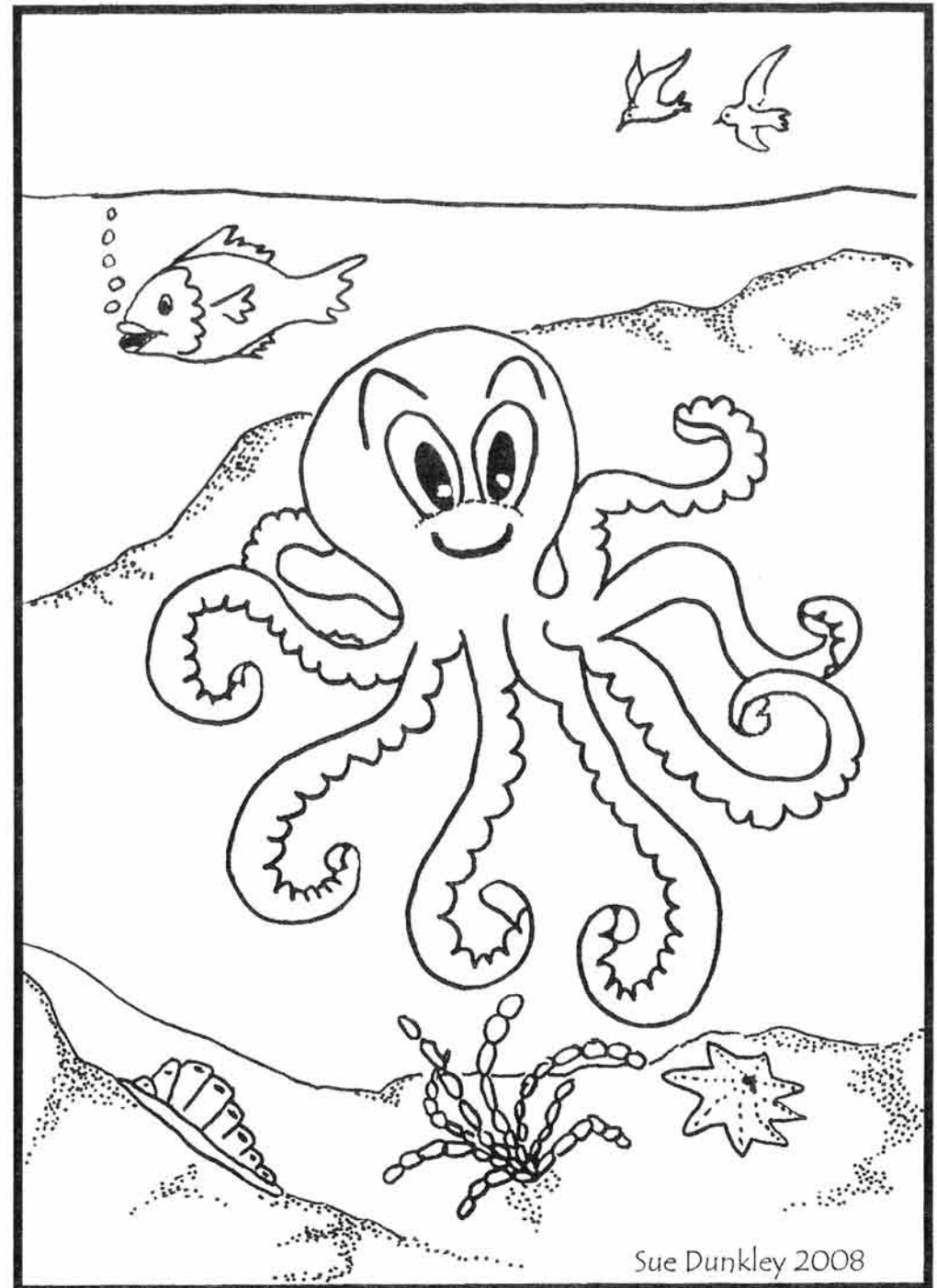
Blue Ringed Octopus

Blue ringed octopus may live
In pools down by the sea
So you must be so careful
If an octopus you see.

For though they're very pretty
With their rings of pulsing blue
Their bite is highly venomous
And will surely poison you.

So stand back and admire them
As they swim and move about
But never, never touch them
Or try to take them out!

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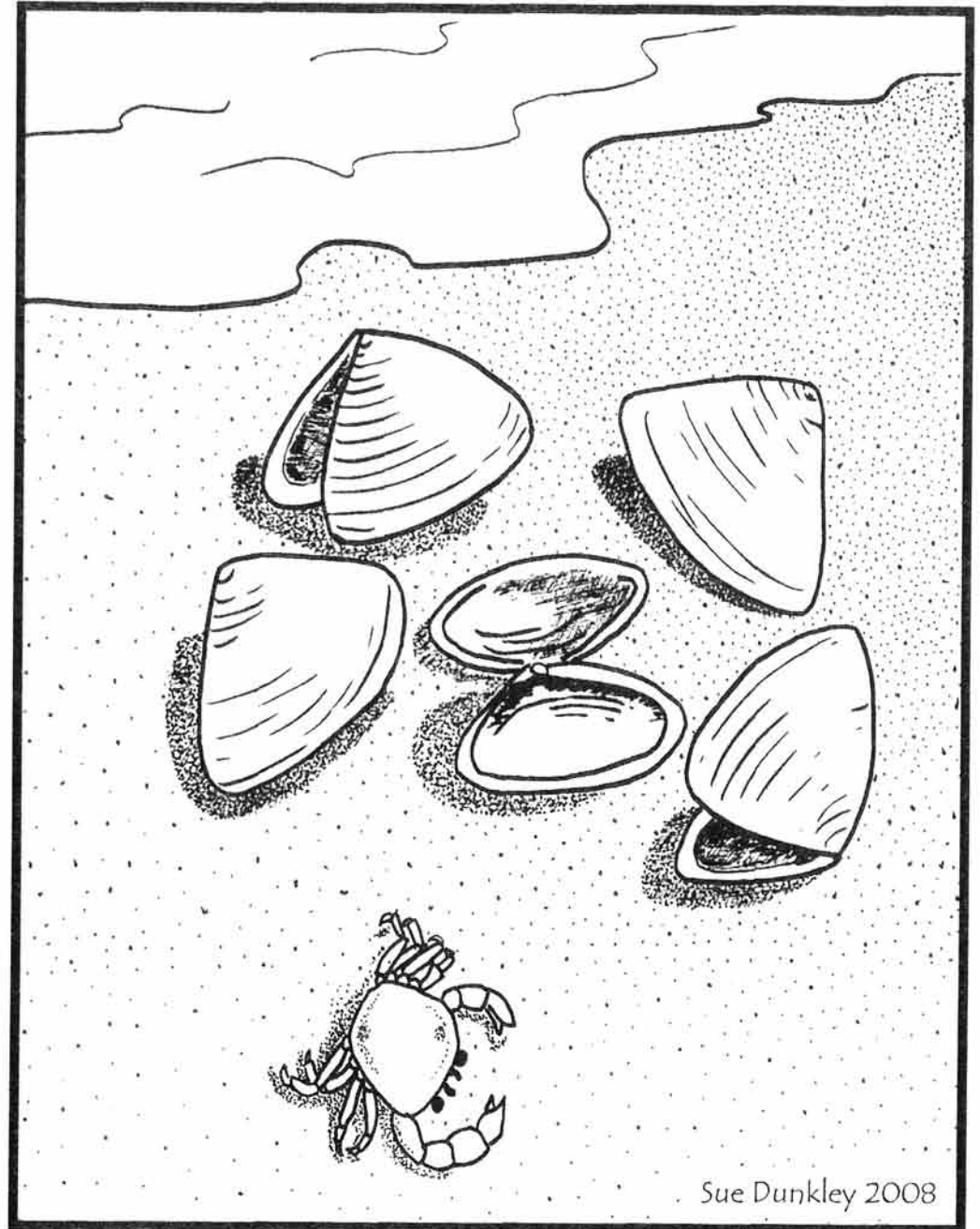
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Pipis

Pipis are so pretty
In their shells of mauve and pink,
The inside's shiny purple
Just so perfect, don't you think?

They like to hide beneath the
sand
Away from you and me,
They're worried we will make them
bait
Or eat them up for tea.

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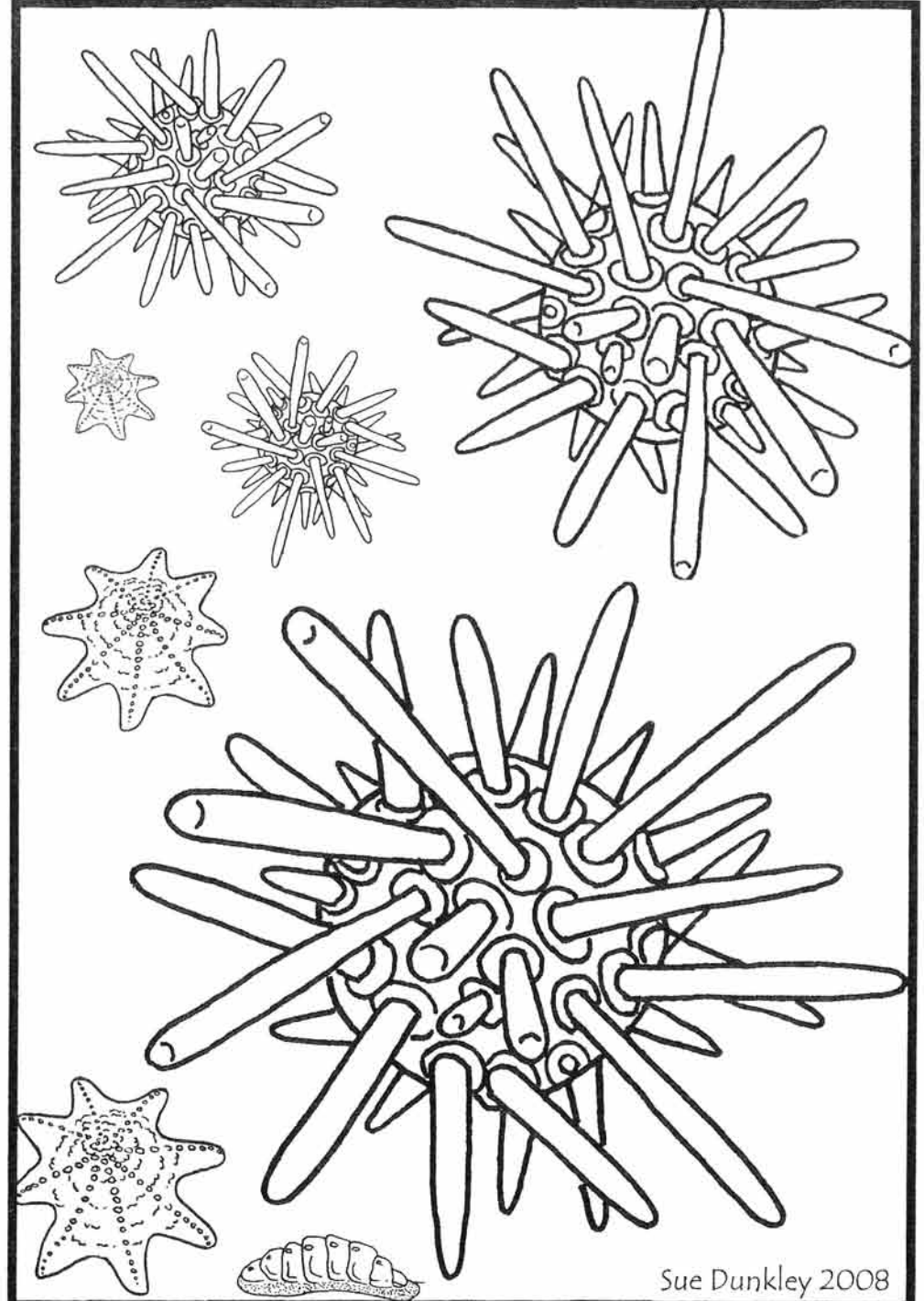
Sea Urchins

Sea urchins look just great
When you see them in their home
In nooks and crannies in the rocks
Beneath the salty foam.

On sunny days when seas are calm
You'll see their shiny spines
Moving slowly round and round
(they look like little mines!)

The spines help to protect them
From the predators who wish
To eat them up for dinner
.....Just another fishy dish!

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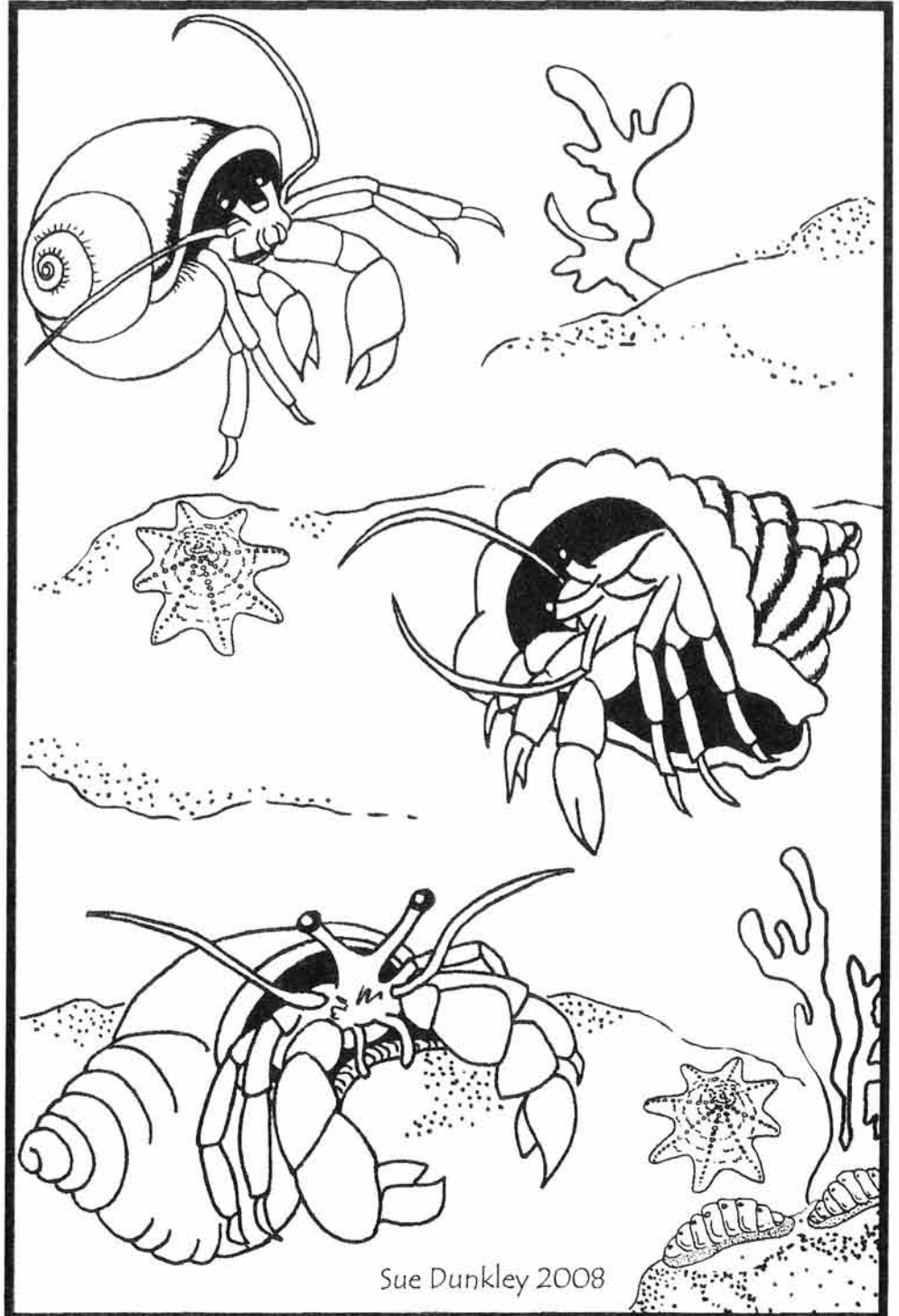
Hermit Crabs

A hermit crab is clever
When she's looking for a home
She simply grabs an empty shell
Then hides inside the dome.

She's very, very careful
'cause her body's very soft
So she scuttles and she scurries
As she quickly climbs aloft.

So when you see some hairy legs
And then some beady eyes
Remember, on that borrowed shell
The hermit crab relies.

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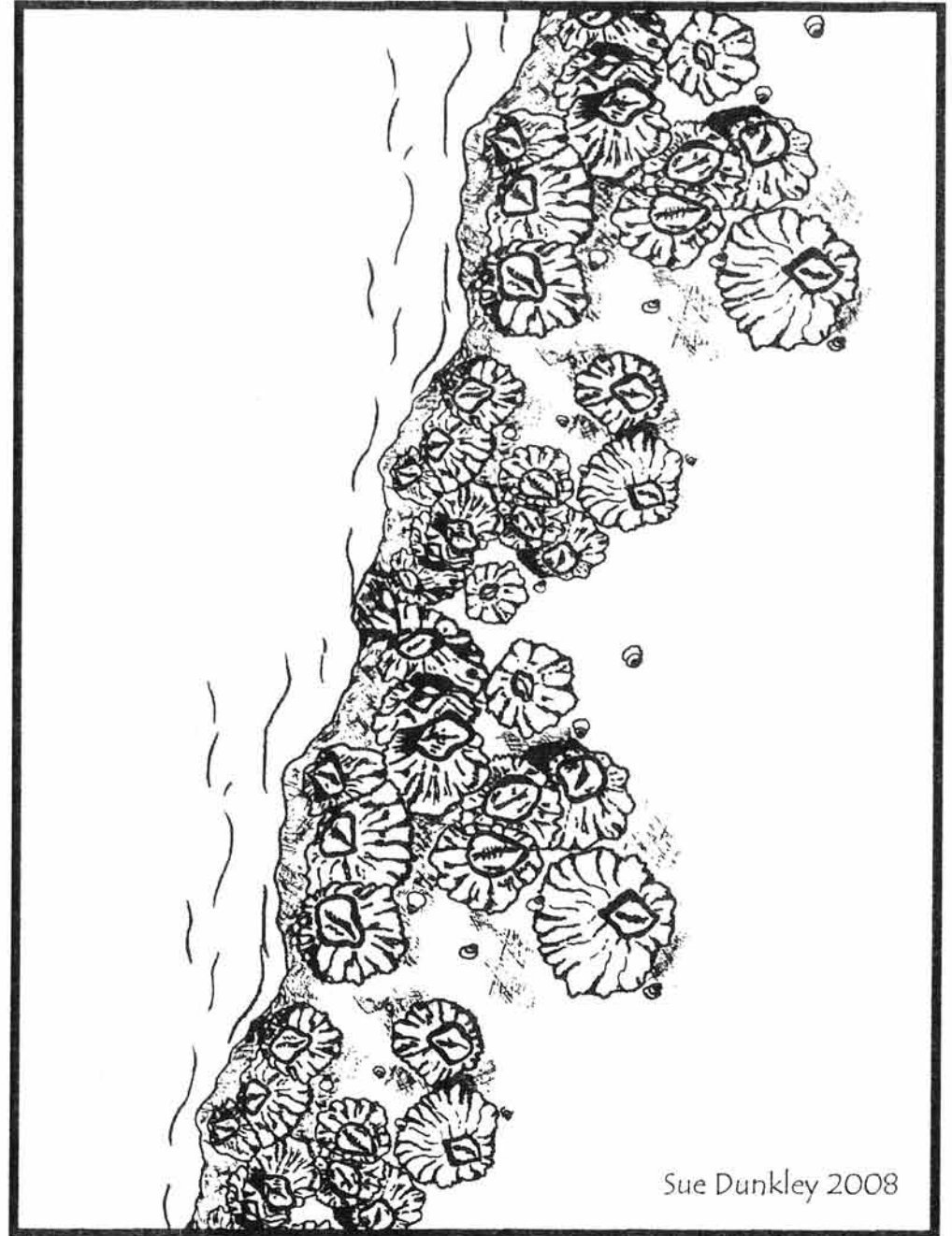
Barnacles

Barnacles are beautiful
As by the beach they bathe
In bubbles bright and briny
Bashed and battered by the waves.

And high above the boulders
Where the breakers barely breech
Another band of barnacles
Broods down upon the beach.

But when the sun is beating
And the boulders bake and burn
The barnacles must bare it
Until the tides return.

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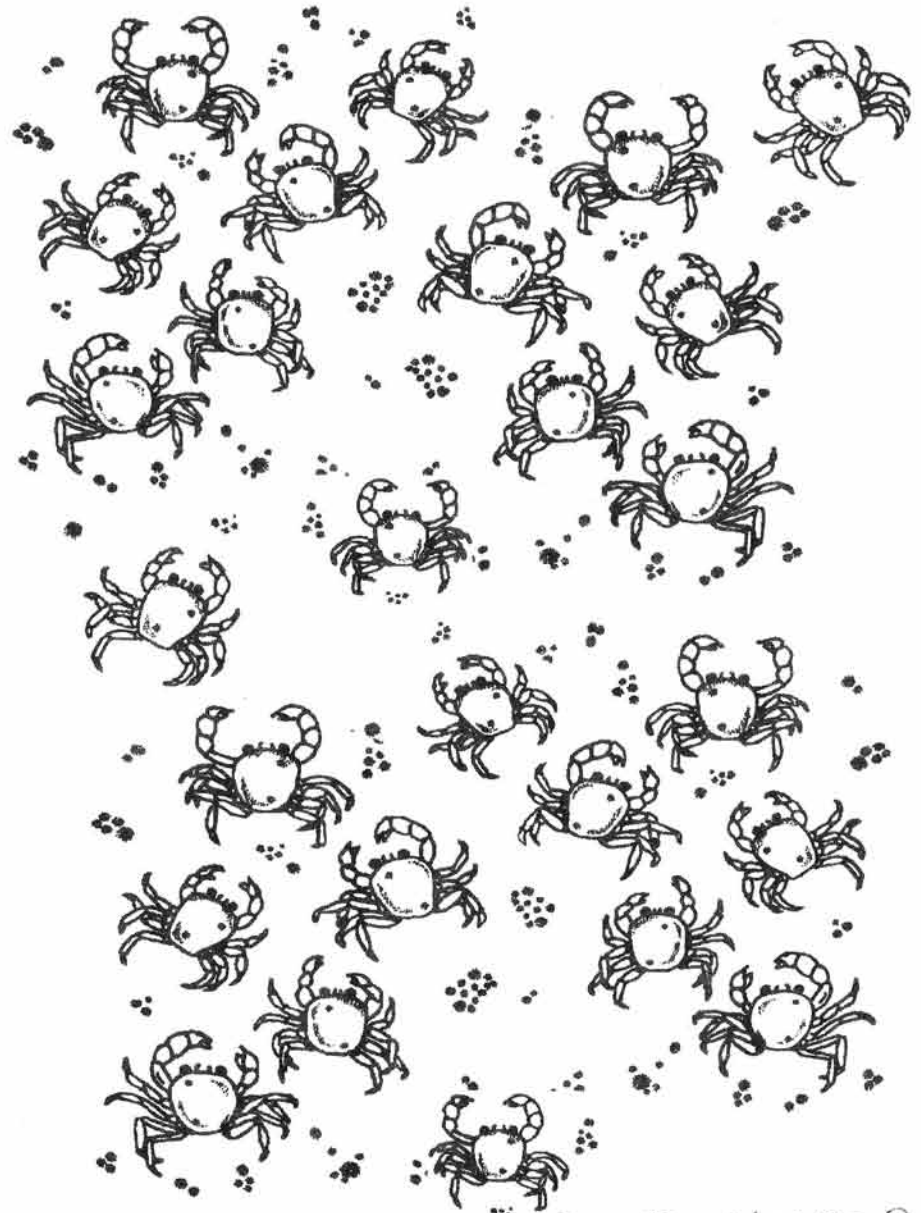
Army Crabs

*Some day when you're walking
At low tide down by the sea
You may see an army of
Small creatures just like me.*

*We're very, very handsome
In our shells of palest blue
And we'll jump & bump & hustle
As we run away from you.*

*We spit out balls of sticky sand
As we dig ourselves a home
Then all our pretty baubles
Just get washed away by foam.*

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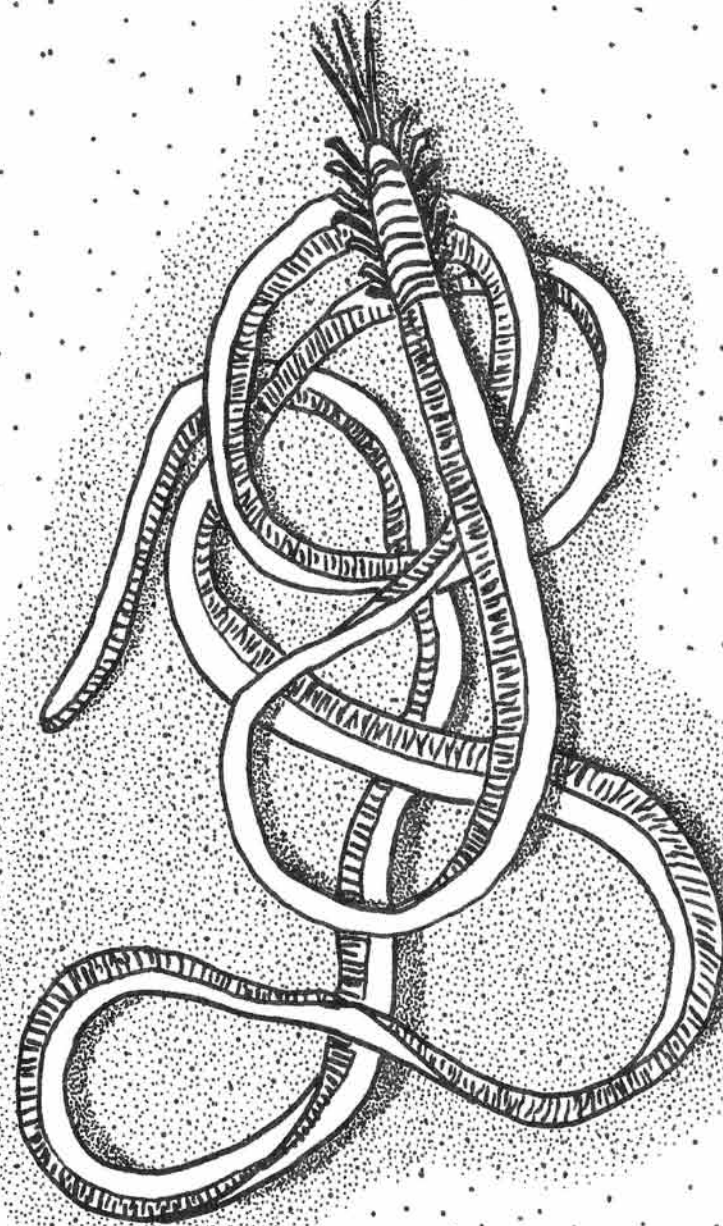
Beach Worms

Beach worms hide beneath the sand
For most are very shy,
They spend their time just hoping
That we'll all pass them by.

They have no body armour
They have no safety gear,
They simply keep their heads down
And try to disappear!

They're frightened we will catch them
And drag them from their holes,
Then thread them onto fishing hooks
As bait in fishy shoals!

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