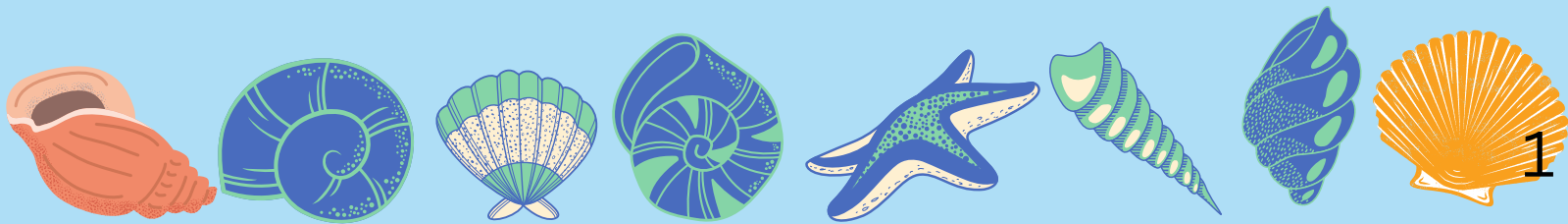


# SVARA'S OCEAN ADVENTURES



Hello there, my name is Svara and I am an explorer. Today, we are going on an adventure, we will explore an incredible place, it's blue, it's deep and you will definitely need some goggles. Can you guess where we are going?

We are going to the Caribbean Sea. We will snorkel around to meet some of my best friends!



First, let's go explore the reef!

Oh look over there it's my friend Fiona the Flamingo Tounge Snail!

Hi there Fiona, how are you? Why don't you introduce yourself to my new friend!

Hi there! I am a Flamingo Tounge Snail, I am found in the deep ocean, I feed on toxic corals and I can store those toxins in my tissue to use as a defense mechanism which protects me.

I'm quite valuable to the reef, if I do say so myself.

Let me introduce you to my friend Sally!



# Here comes Sally the Strawberry Grouper!

Hi there Sally!  
How are you?

Hi Fiona and Svara, great to see you again!  
I wish I could say that I'm doing well but unfortunately, I am having a rough day.





Oh no Sally, what seems to be the matter?

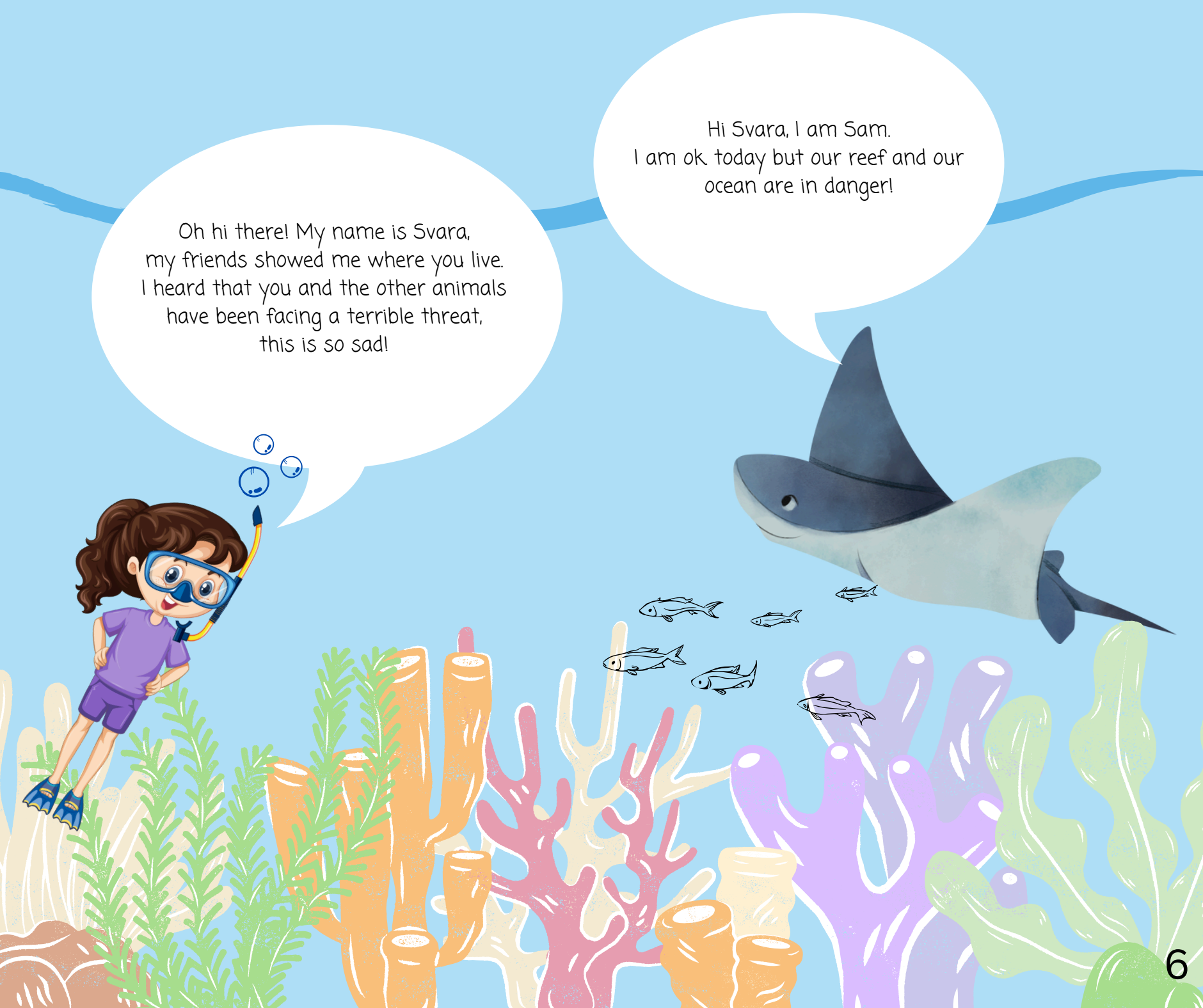
My home is being destroyed, every day it gets worse, the reef is my home, it's my family's home, my friend's home and the home of thousands of other species.



Oh no Sally!  
This is terrible news.  
What can I do to help?

We can start by asking my other friends  
about what they are seeing!  
Come on, follow me this way, I know the reef  
better than anyone!





Oh hi there! My name is Svara,  
my friends showed me where you live.  
I heard that you and the other animals  
have been facing a terrible threat,  
this is so sad!

Hi Svara, I am Sam.  
I am ok today but our reef and our  
ocean are in danger!

Just look down below. Our beautiful, vibrant corals are turning white. This is called coral bleaching, the temperature is getting hotter every day, and the coral reefs are under too much stress. This is killing the corals and even causing many of my friends like Bhavit the Bottlenose Dolphin and Willow the White Marlin to move away in search of a new home. This is not good news!



There are also these odd-shaped creatures that are floating around. Well, at least I thought they were creatures, luckily, Fiona told me they are plastics, and I should stay very far away from them. They are not good for us animals down here. I always bump into them when trying to make my way down to the bay. One time I saw George the Green Sea Turtle trapped in a plastic bag. He was really scared, but luckily I was there to set him free.






Every day I see more plastic items. They are flushed through the rivers into the ocean and even sometimes I see humans throw them into the water. Do they think our home is their garbage disposal?

I have been alive for a long time Svara, and I know that these plastics do not go away. They even break down into smaller bits and pieces called microplastics which contaminate our food.





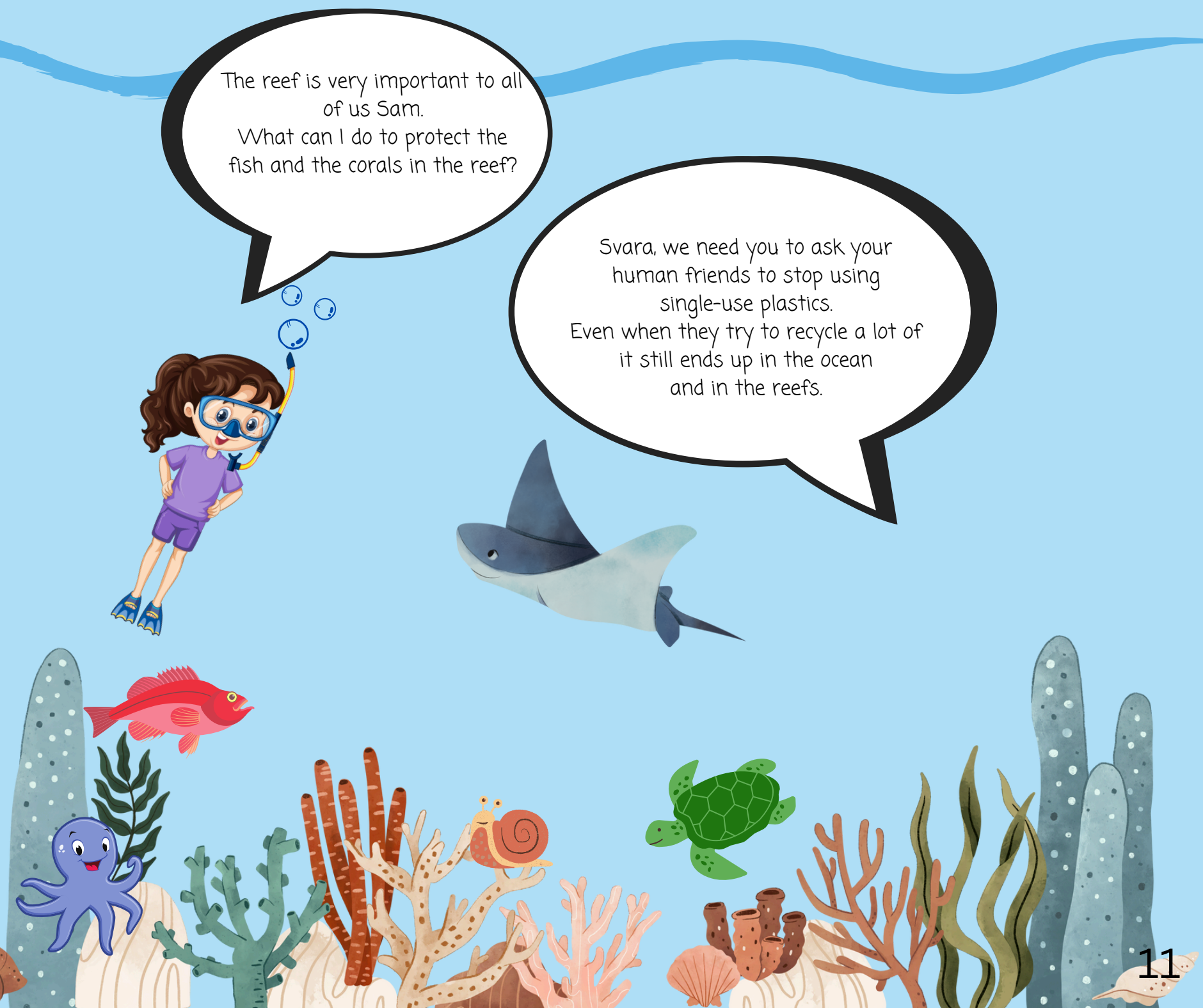
Sam, I am so sorry, the humans have been careless. We have taken advantage of your beautiful home and now we have put you and your friends in danger.

Yes, Svara seeing what is happening to my home makes me feel sad. The humans are not only hurting us but they are also hurting themselves. Come with me, my friend Octavia the Octopus will tell you a bit about how humans are affected.

Hi Octavia, my name is Svara. My friend Sam tells me you know a lot about the reef and what is happening to it. Can you please tell me how humans will be affected?

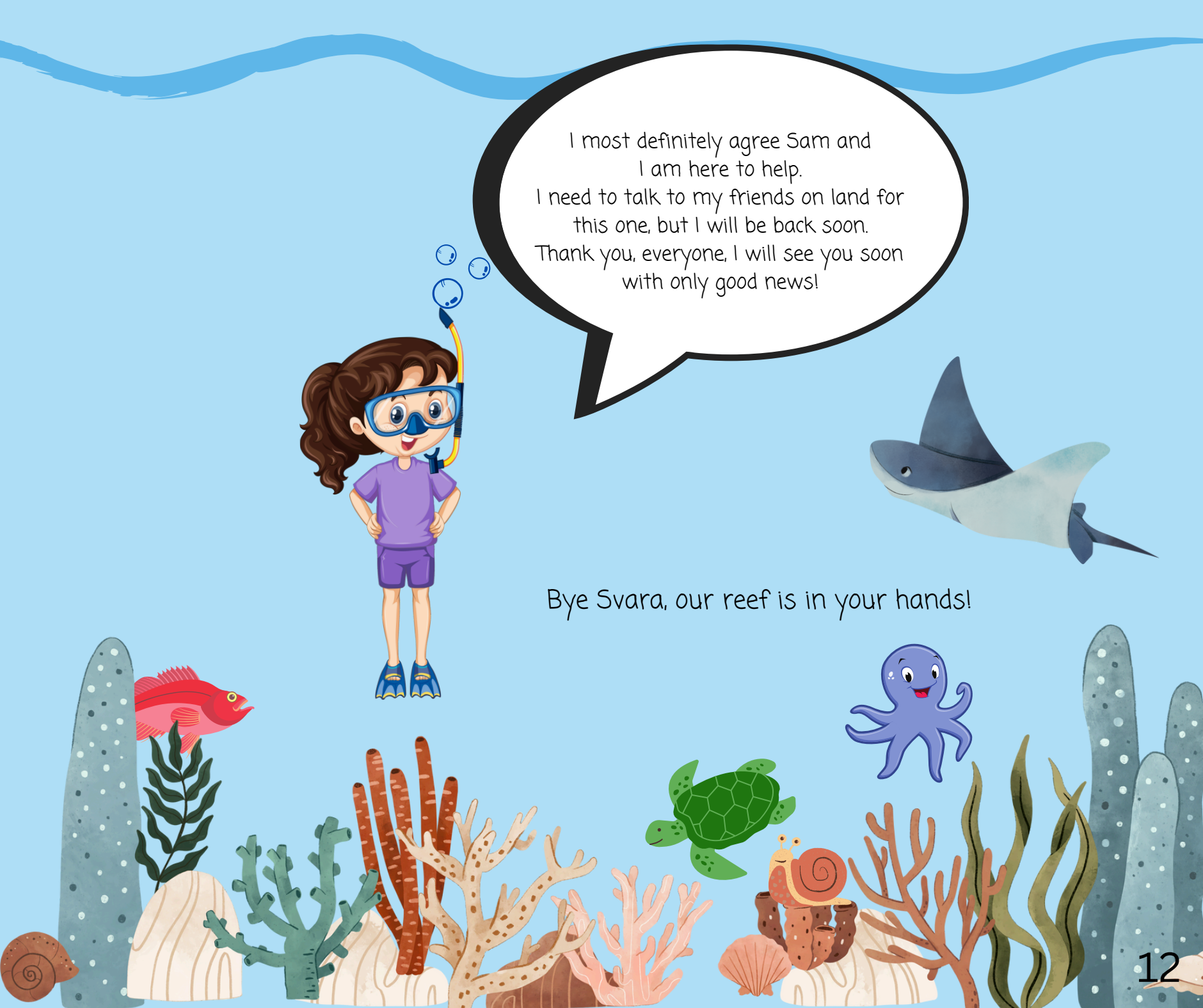
Well Svara, humans rely on the reefs to survive. When there are hurricanes, the reefs help protect coastlines from flooding. Humans also get food from the reefs when they fish, and they get medicine from some of the sea creatures and plant life. Unfortunately, our reefs are being attacked and now humans cannot rely on us as they used to.





The reef is very important to all  
of us Sam.  
What can I do to protect the  
fish and the corals in the reef?

Svara, we need you to ask your  
human friends to stop using  
single-use plastics.  
Even when they try to recycle a lot of  
it still ends up in the ocean  
and in the reefs.



I most definitely agree Sam and  
I am here to help.  
I need to talk to my friends on land for  
this one, but I will be back soon.  
Thank you, everyone, I will see you soon  
with only good news!

Bye Svara, our reef is in your hands!

Our reef and the animals that call it  
their home need our help.  
I know we can do it!  
Each one of us has an important role to play.  
There are also many easy steps to work towards  
achieving a healthy and vibrant reef.  
I plan to live a zero-waste life where I will not use any  
single-use plastic or disposable items.  
What about you?  
What will do you today to make  
the reefs healthy again?

