

Your Personal Information Online

Episode 1

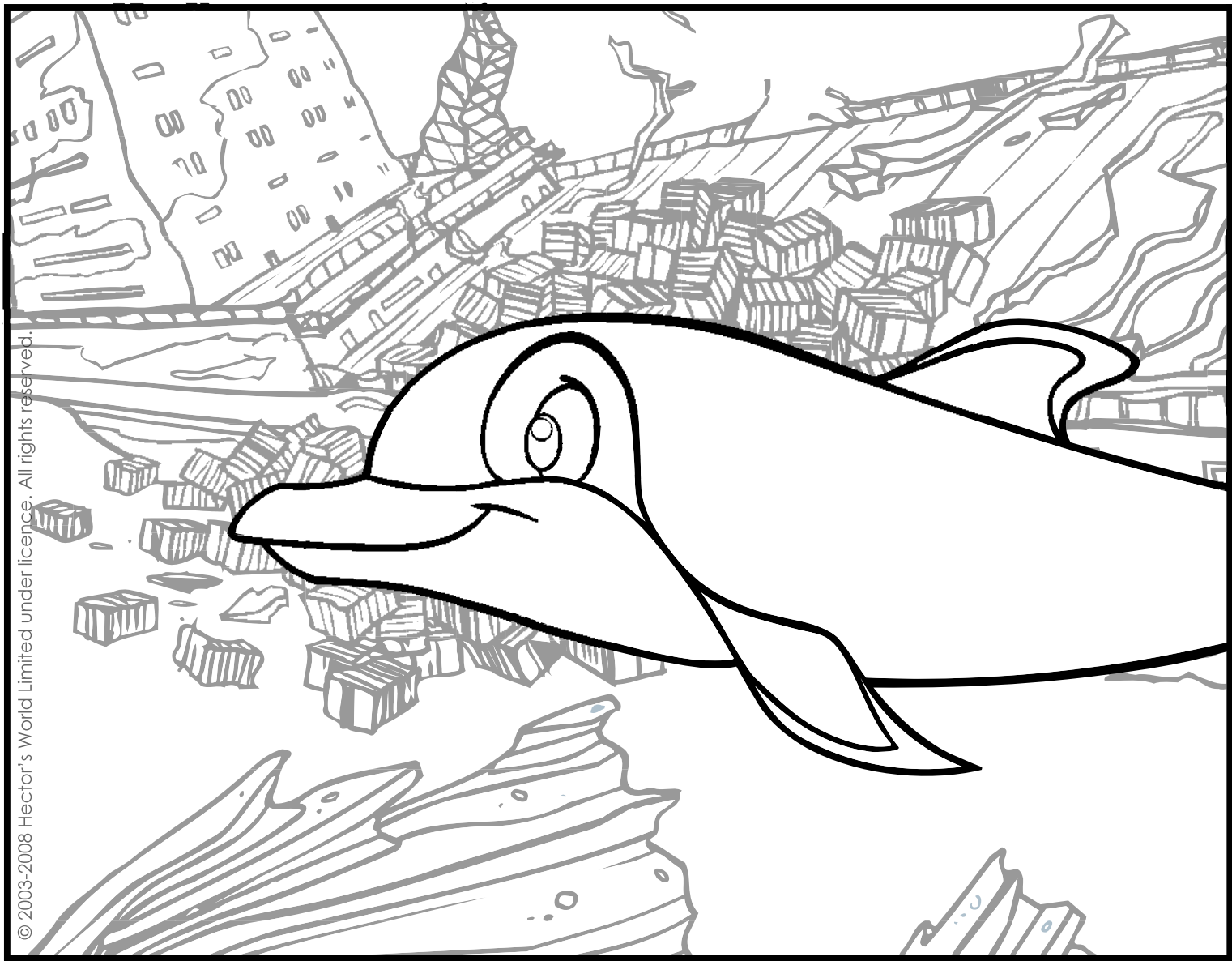
Details, Details...

featuring

Hector Protector® and his friends

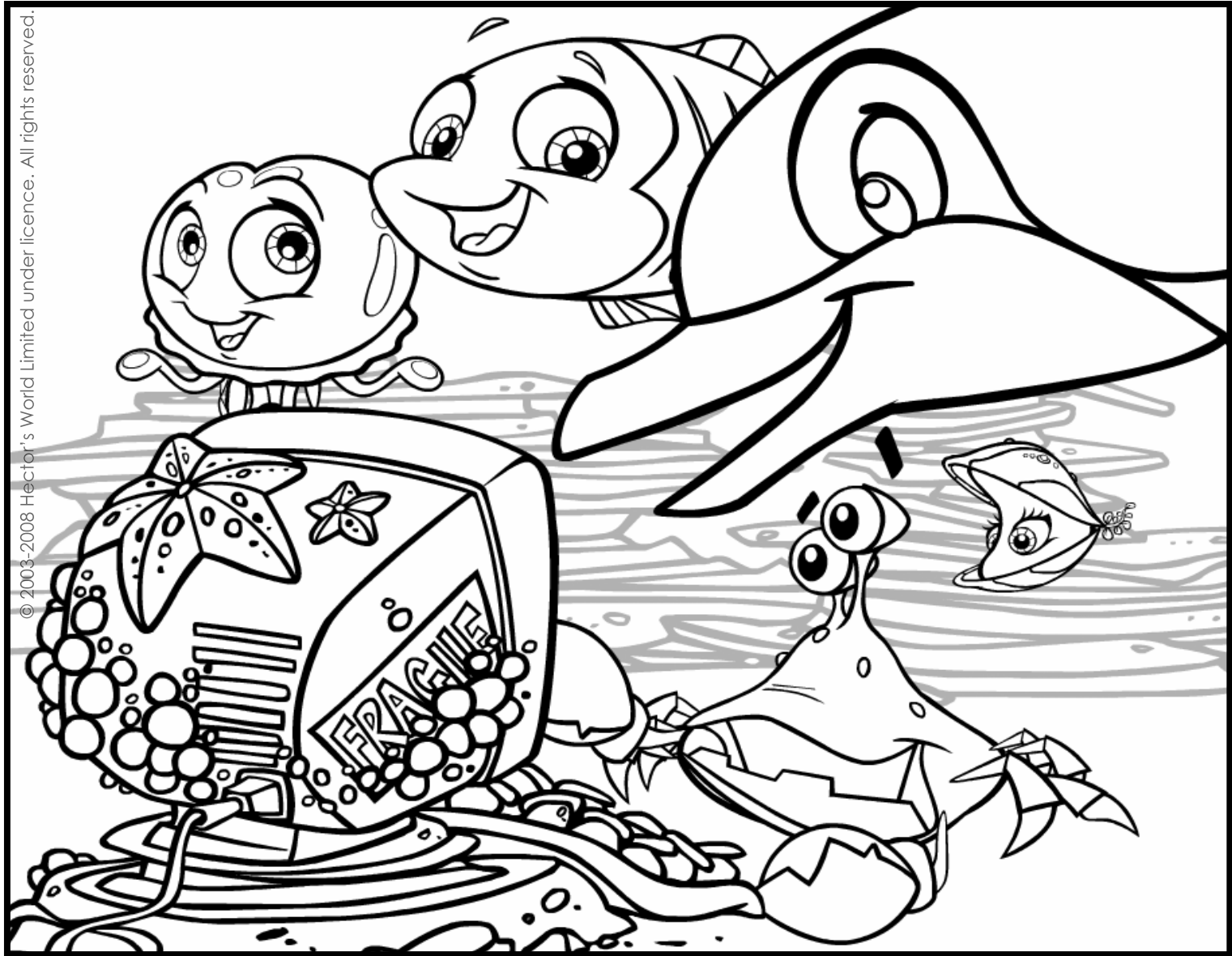


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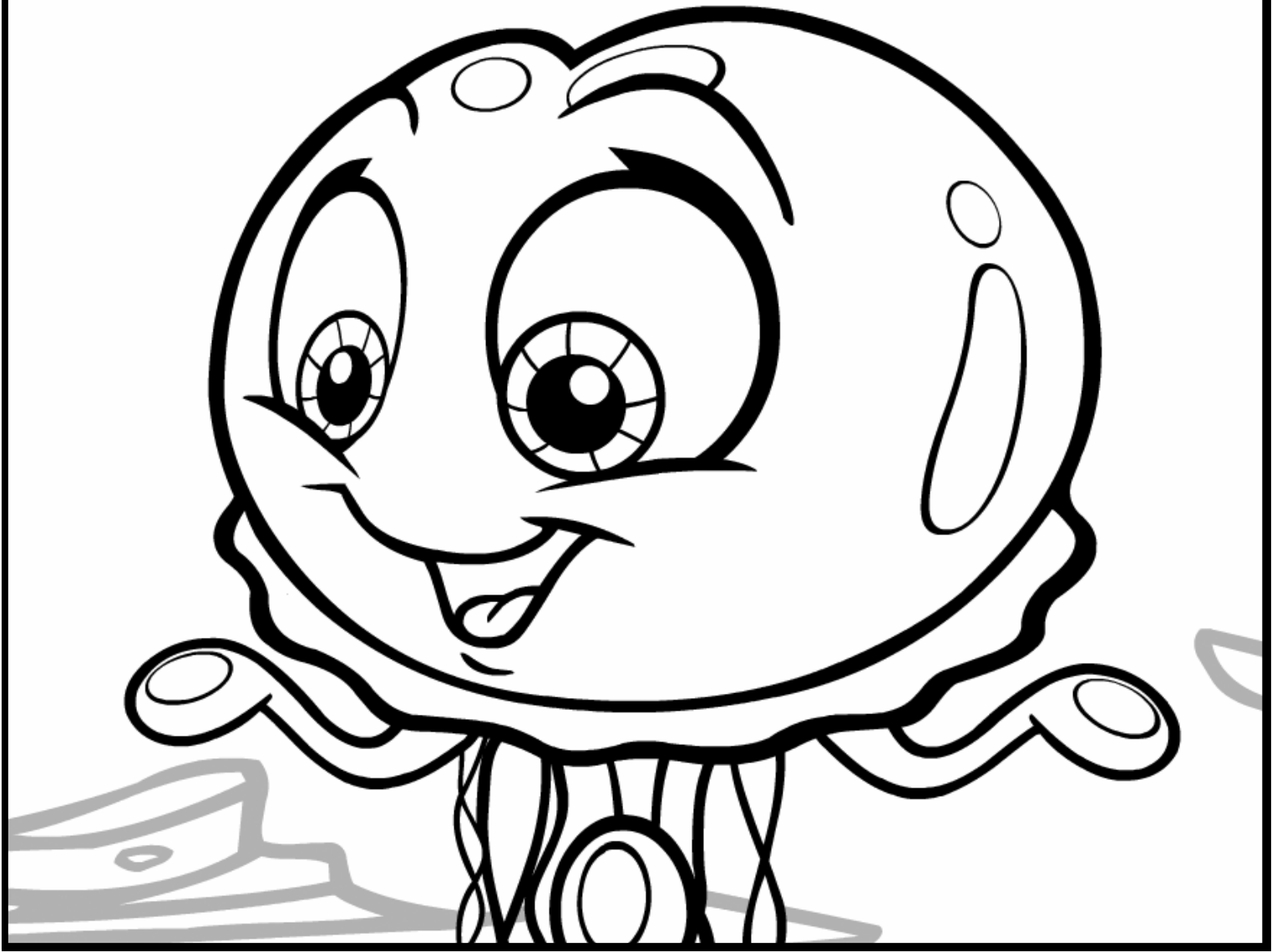
Amongst the sunken wreckage of a container ship, the thriving undersea community of Silicon Deep made the most of the many different technologies which had scattered across the ocean floor.

Hector Protector the dolphin lived in Silicon Deep, and his friend Ranjeet the crab had just finished piecing together his very first computer. Ranjeet was very excited about being able to hook up to the internet and meet all kinds of new and wonderful ocean dwellers online.

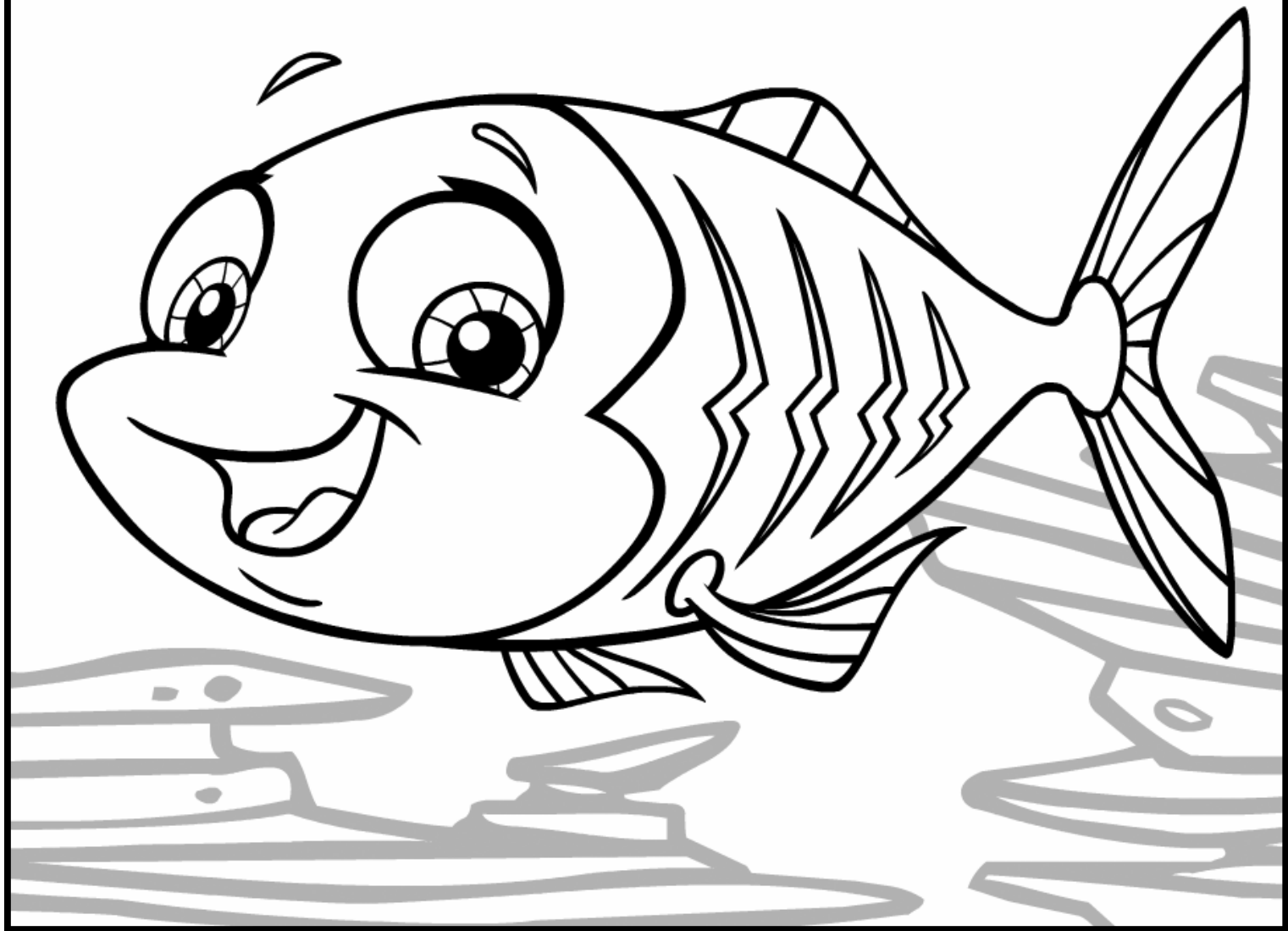


When Hector found Ranjeet, their friends Ming, Sprat and Tama were already watching Ranjeet start up his new computer.

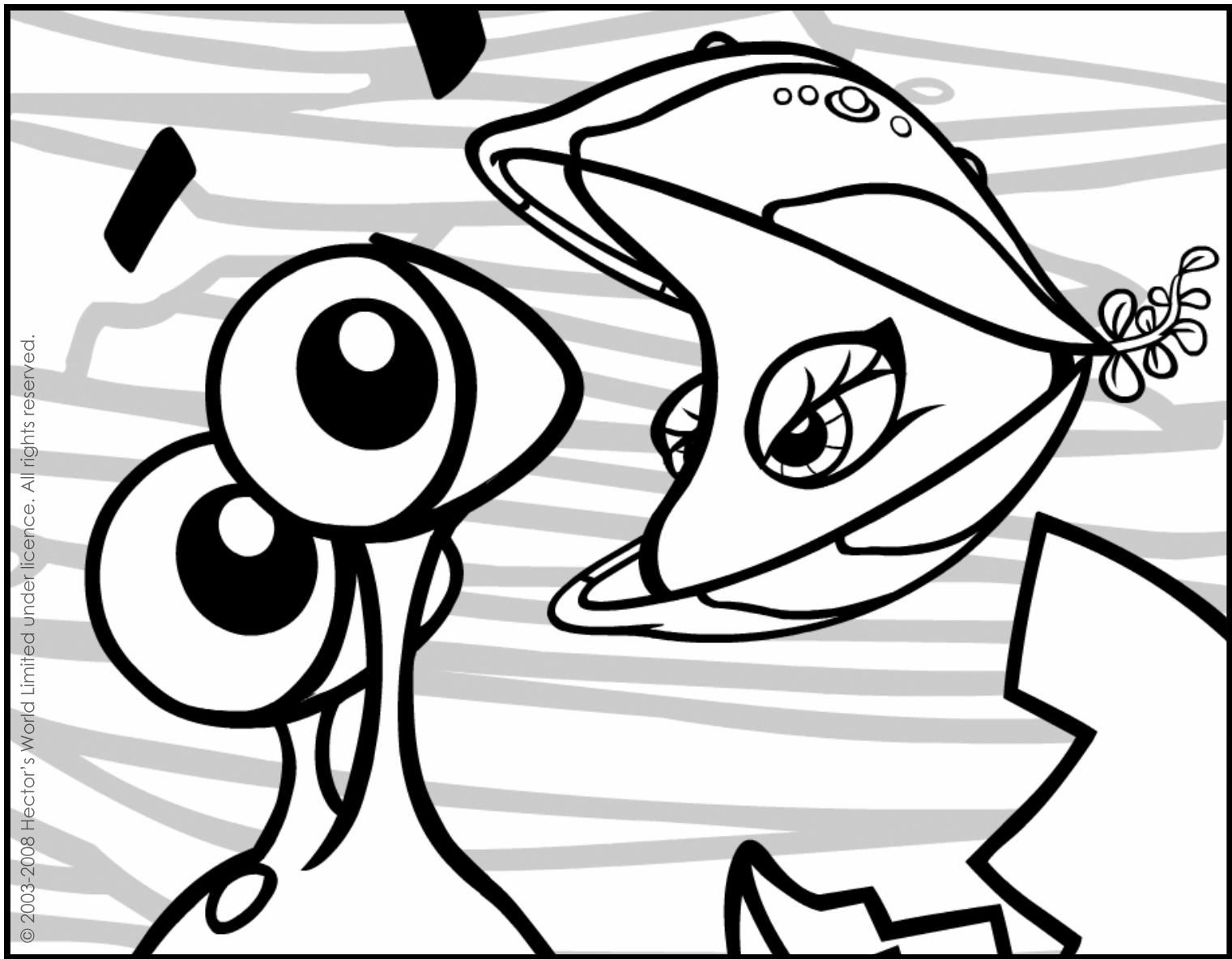
Everyone, especially Ranjeet, was happy to see Hector. Tama, the youngest member of their group, told Hector that Ranjeet was about to go chatting online.



All the friends were excited to see what Ranjeet was doing on his computer, but nobody was as excited as little Tama, who had never seen anybody go online before.



Sprat couldn't wait to see what kind of cool games were being played online. He hoped to set up his own computer so he could join in. He thought that maybe he could even team up with Ranjeet!



Ming however, was worried that Ranjeet was going to send too much of his personal information across the internet, especially when Sprat suggested that Ranjeet type in the name of his school! But that was Ming, and her heart was in the right place.



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Suddenly Hector heard the sound of a whale in the distance. The whale song soon became a voice.

“H e c t o r... H e c t o r...” it called.

Hector felt the ocean start to swirl around and around. When he opened his eyes, he was in a strange new place. He was just starting to feel a little frightened and confused when the large shape of an ancient whale glided past in the distance, and a soothing, grandmotherly voice echoed through the water.

“I am Kui,” said the voice. “I am here to help.”

Hector wasn't aware that he needed any help, but listened with great interest.



Kui explained that a new power had entered their world. A power that had the potential for great good, but if it was misused, could be harmful as well. That power was the internet, something that the residents of Silicon Deep were already beginning to explore.

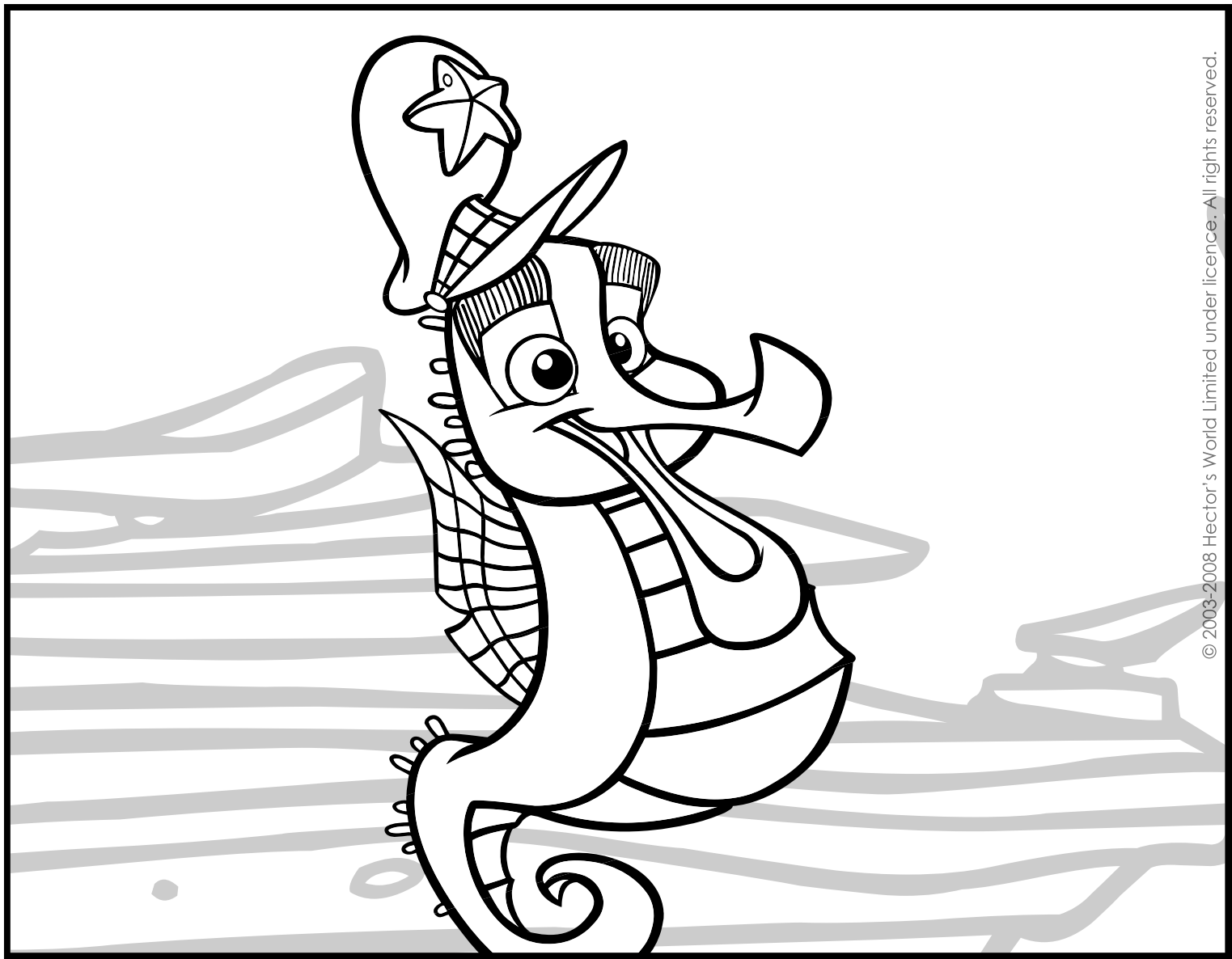
Kui told Hector that his friend, Ranjeet, was about to share important personal information about himself across the entire ocean. Suddenly the swirling water was filled with images of ferocious monsters, the same creatures who might be able to find out all about Ranjeet on the internet!

Hector suddenly realised that once Ranjeet shared his personal information over the internet, he had no control over who read it. Even worse, some people might actually use the information to harm Ranjeet.

No sooner had Hector decided he had to help his friend, than the ocean changed again, and he found himself back at Ranjeet's computer. Luckily, he was just in time to warn Ranjeet against pressing the ENTER key and sending his personal information across the entire ocean. But Ranjeet didn't seem very interested in listening to the warning.

Ming tried to stop Ranjeet but his claw kept getting closer and closer to the keyboard. He was about to hit the ENTER key when Hector called out to Tama to zap the computer with his tentacles. Tama reacted swiftly, reaching the computer just in time. The computer sparked and flashed and made crackling noises before it finally went dark.

Ranjeet was not very happy with Ming, Hector and Tama.



They all looked up as a familiar whinny broke the silence. Constable Solosolave the seahorse had been watching them from a distance. He reminded them that they had to be careful on the internet. He didn't want to have to deal with any nasty creatures they might attract by telling them who they were, where they lived and where they went to school.

"Now play safe, eh!" Constable Solosolave reminded them, before swimming away to patrol the rest of Silicon Deep.

Everyone felt a little silly, especially Ranjeet.

Suddenly Hector had an idea. Maybe if Ranjeet used a nickname and left out some of his personal information, he could still go online and meet new sea dwellers more safely.

Ranjeet loved the idea and they all had fun coming up with nicknames for Ranjeet like "Crab Man", "The Claw" and "Super Crab".

Just then, Constable Solosolave surprised everyone by leaping out from behind the computer.

"Boo!"

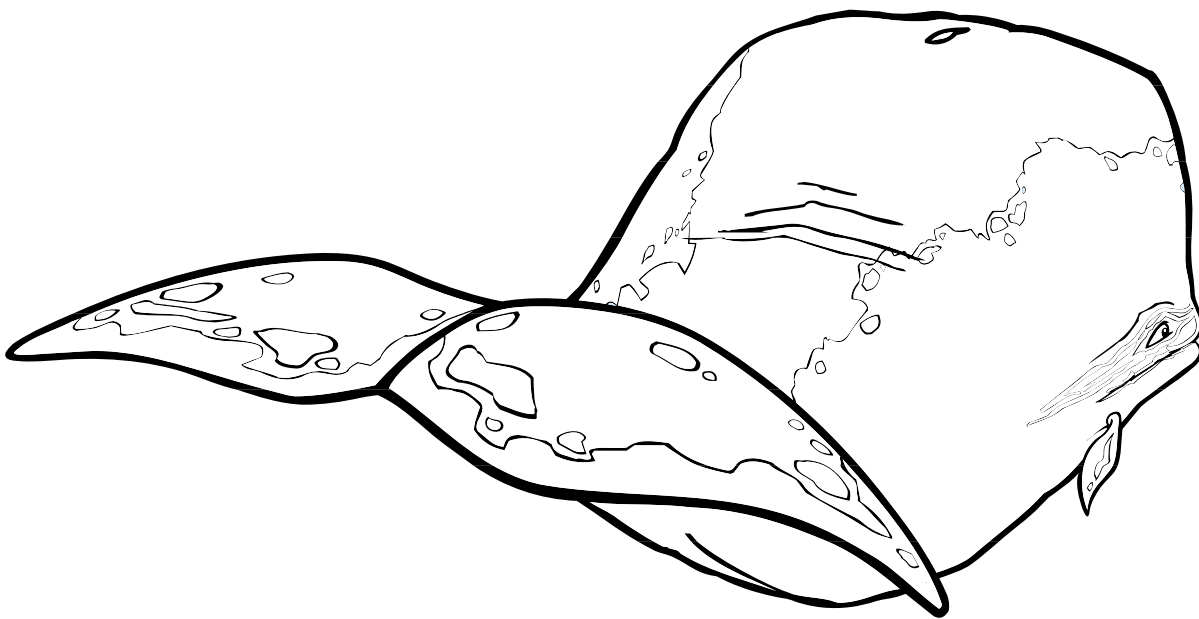
He thought their reaction was very funny and burst into his famous horse-like laugh. It wasn't long before everyone else was laughing too.

Hector thought over the valuable lesson they had learnt about the dangers of sending personal information across the internet where anyone can read it. Just as he decided that he was going to help his friends use their computers safely, Hector heard the soothing voice of Kui once again in his mind.

"Well done, young Hector", she said.

Hector felt very proud, and he had the feeling that they would see each other again soon.

To be continued.....





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