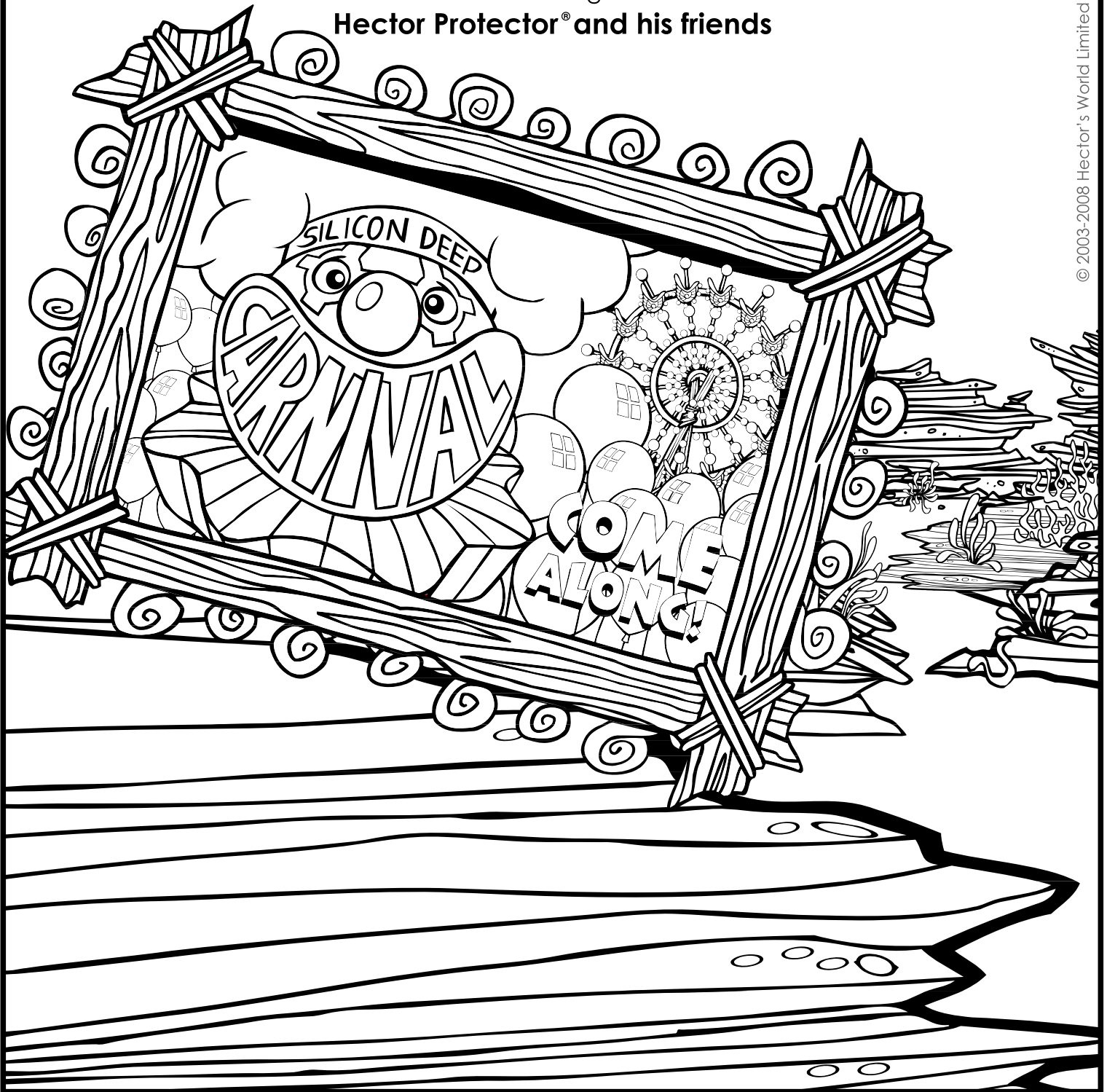
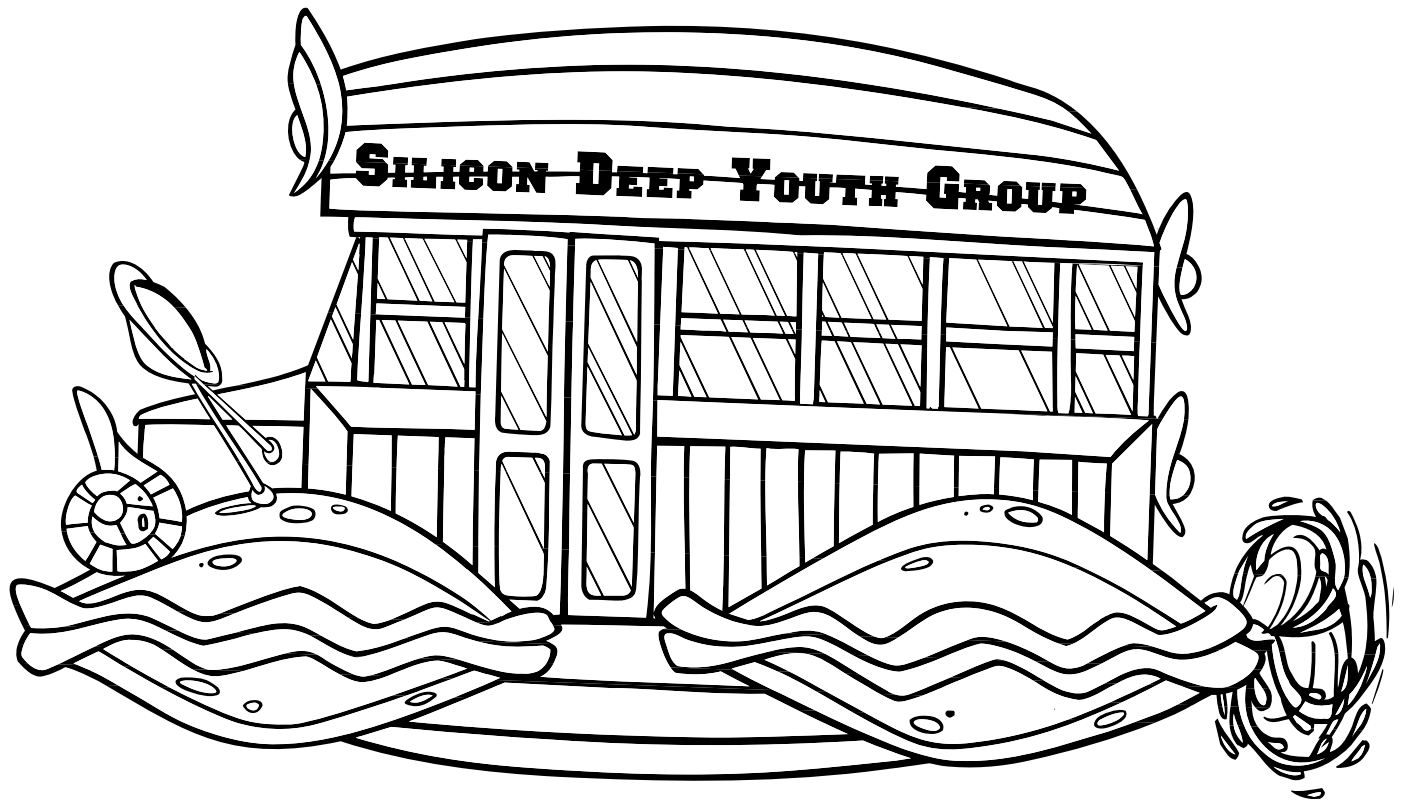


# "Welcome to the Carnival"

featuring

**Hector Protector® and his friends**



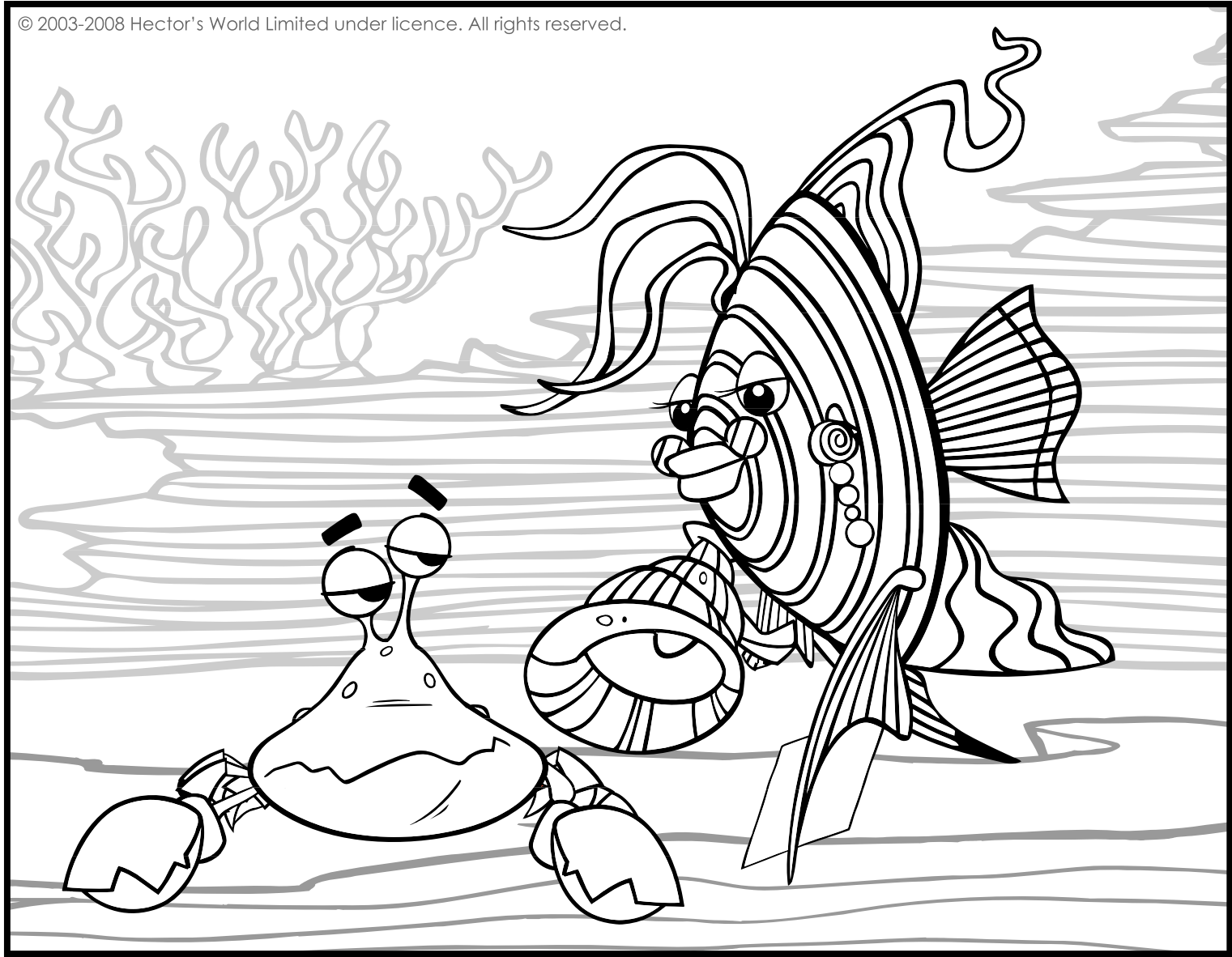


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Today was an especially exciting day for Hector. The carnival had come to Silicon Deep, and Hector and his friends had been invited on a carnival trip with their local youth group.

Hector watched as the bright yellow youth group bus appeared in the distance. It glided around the coral and through a field of sea grass, until finally slowing to a gentle hover.

As Hector swam on board, he was greeted by the warm smiling face of Miss Finney, the youth group leader. He was also greeted by the excited cheers of his friends, Ming, Tama, Sprat and Ranjeet. As Hector made his way to the seat his friends had saved for him, Miss Finney reminded everyone to have their permission slips ready so she could collect them as they left the bus. Ranjeet was pleased with himself, as he had remembered to bring his permission slip, and had been very careful to make sure that it was filled out correctly.

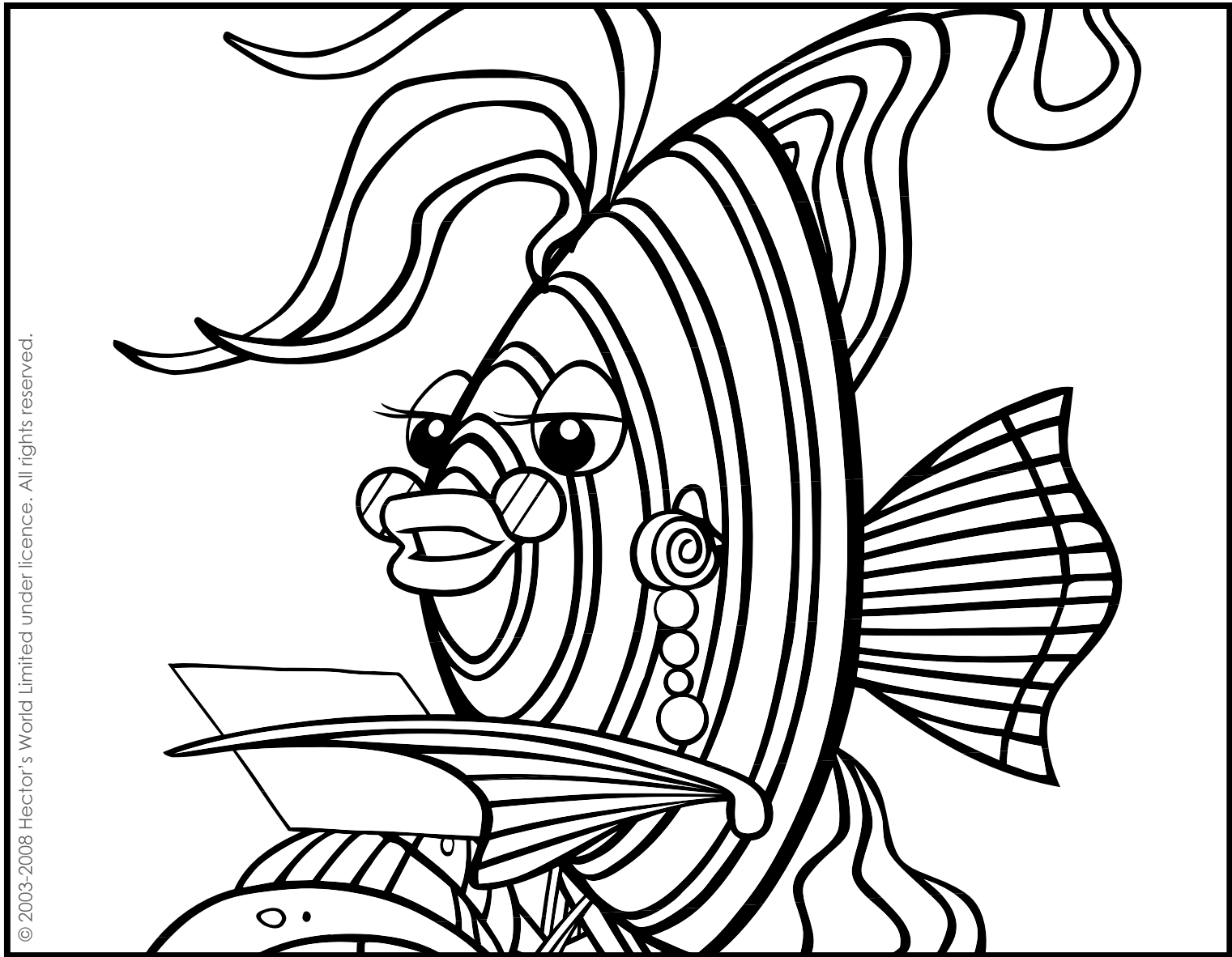


Hector was having so much fun on the bus, he hadn't noticed that they had stopped outside the carnival's main entrance.

The doors burst open and everyone spilled out of the bus. They all handed their permission slips to Miss Finney and zommed off toward the huge smiling face that framed the entry gate.

Just as Ranjeet was about to zip through the entry gate, Miss Finney's voice echoed through her shell-o-phone, "RANJEET THE CRAB!"

Ranjeet skidded to a halt. "Yes, Miss Finney," he replied, a little puzzled.

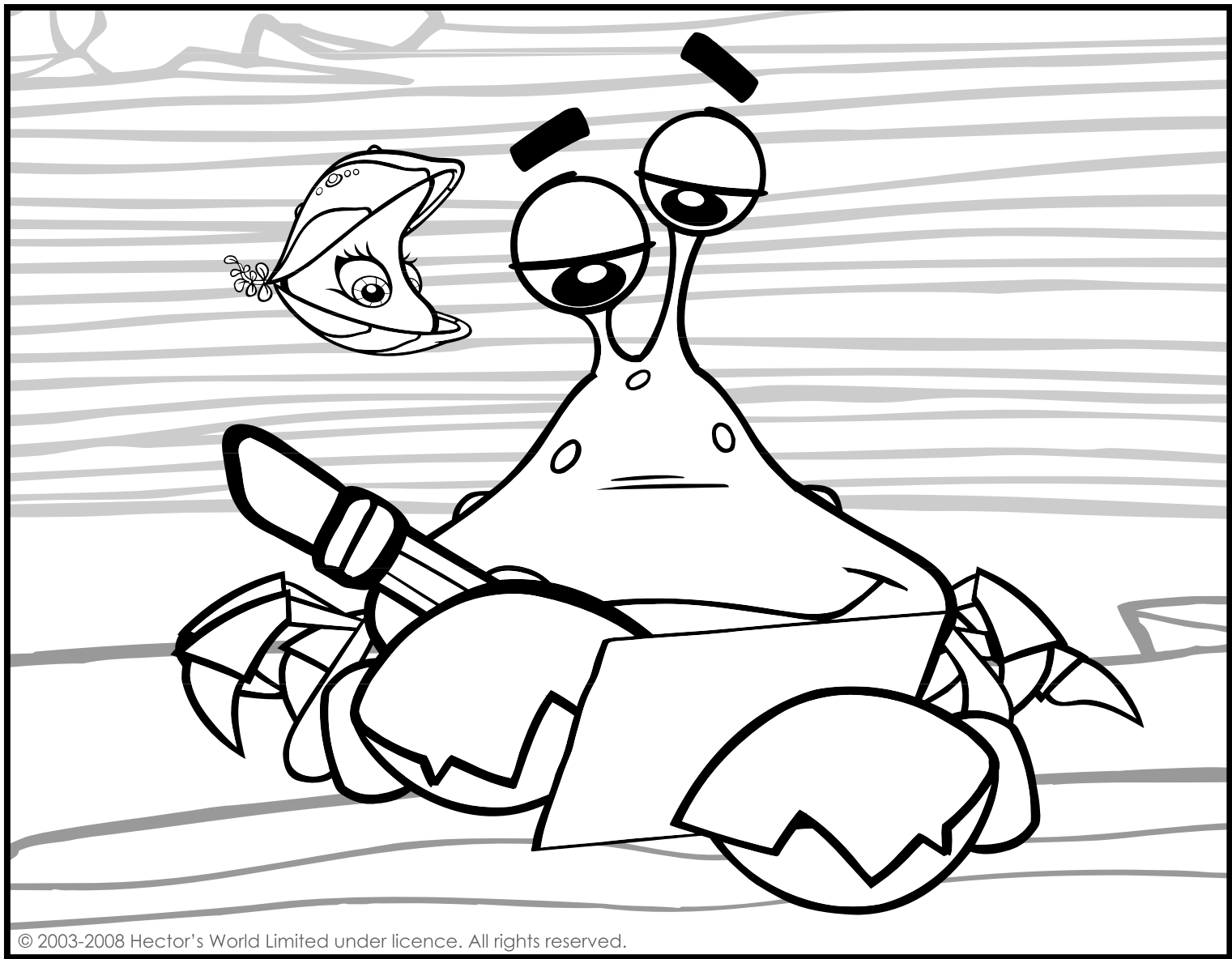


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“Your permission slip is signed, but all of your personal details have been crossed out,” said Miss Finney.

Recently Ranjeet had learned a valuable lesson about giving out his personal information online. He thought he was being very clever by not entering his personal information on his permission slip.

However, this was a problem for Miss Finney. She knew Ranjeet wanted to go to the carnival, but she couldn't let him in without a properly completed permission slip.



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Luckily, Ming had overheard the whole thing and swam over to help. She explained to Ranjeet that, while it was important to protect his personal information, Miss Finney was an adult they all knew and trusted. Ming also went on to explain that Miss Finney needed their personal details in case of an emergency. Ranjeet finally understood. He quickly completed his permission slip and handed it back to Miss Finney, before zooming off in a swirl of bubbles towards the carnival.

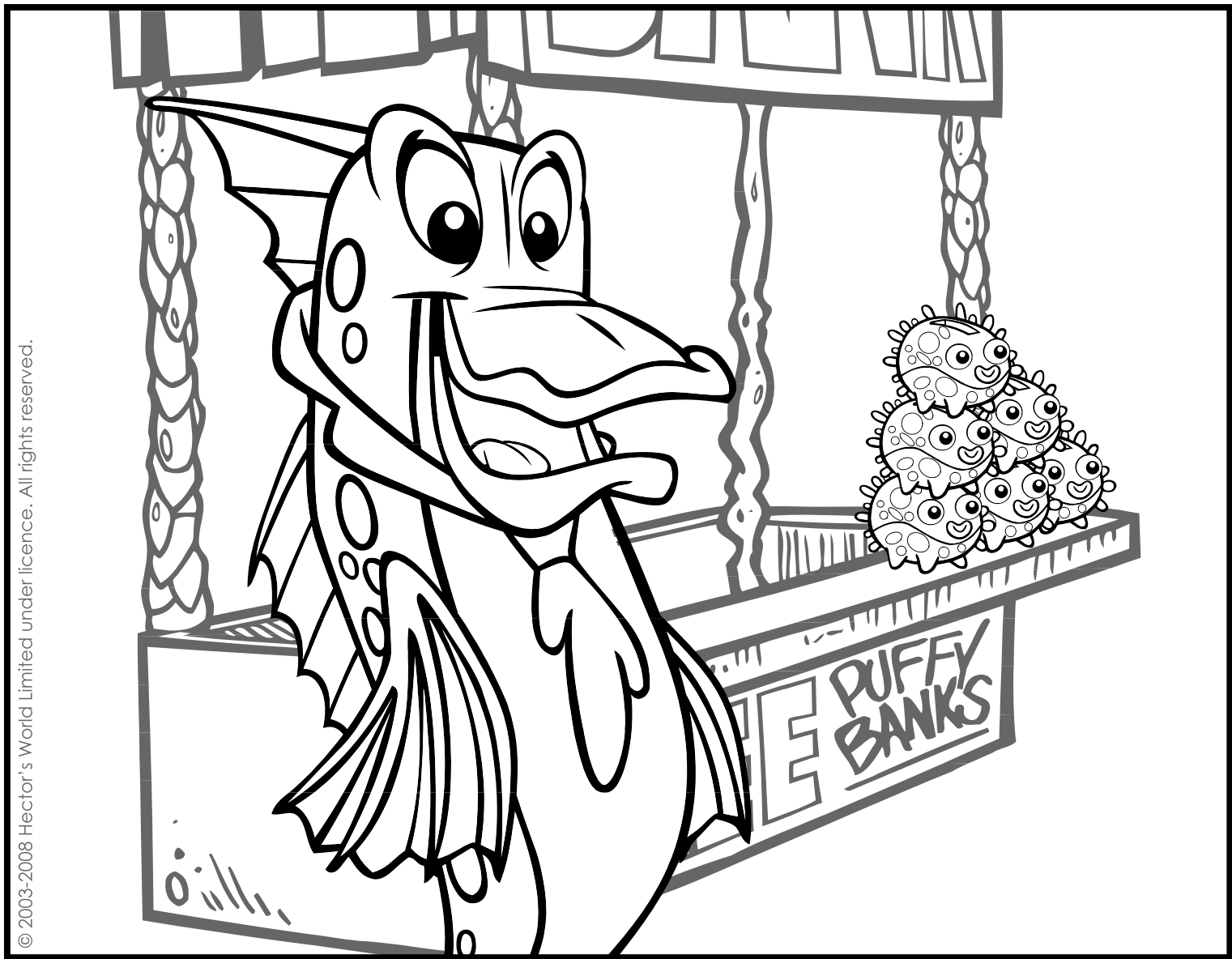
Ming rolled her eyes, knowing that it would not be the last time she'd have to explain such things to her enthusiastic friend.

Miss Finney checked over Ranjeet's details and sighed when she realised he'd written his nickname, 'SUPERCRAW', in the name space.



Ranjeet and Ming quickly caught up with Hector, Tama and Sprat inside the carnival. The rides, games, stalls, smells, colours, lights and music were even more fantastic than Ranjeet had imagined. Suddenly he spotted a clown (Ranjeet loved clowns), and took off after them.

PC Jim swam over and welcomed the new arrivals in his usual friendly manner. Tama noticed that Mr Gurnard, his parents' friend and bank manager, had set up a stall next to PC Jim's. Tama decided to swim over and say hello.



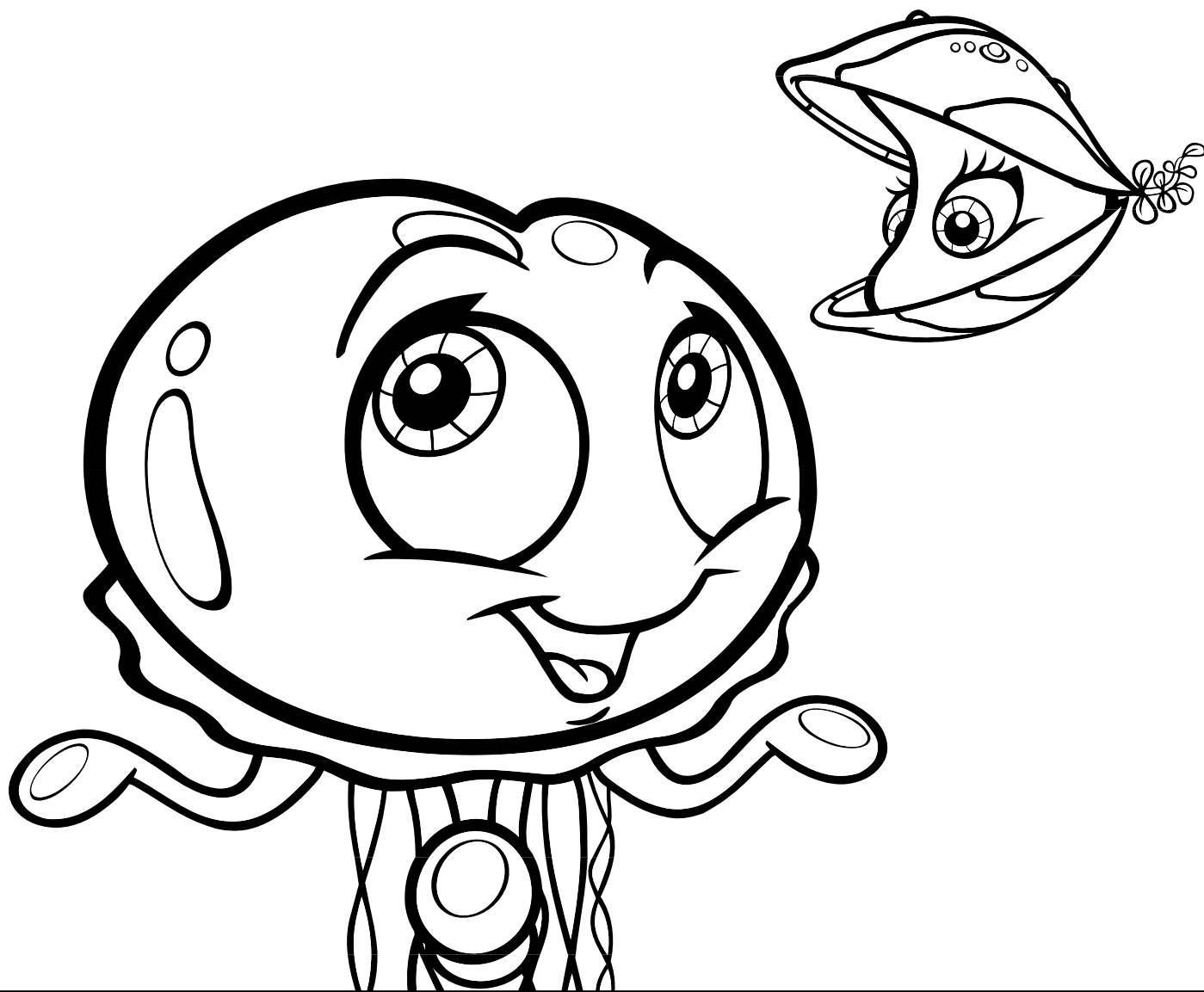
“Hi, Mr Gurnard,” said Tama.

“Well hello there young Tama,” replied Mr Gurnard with a beaming smile.

Tama noticed that Mr Gurnard had a stack of Puffy Banks piled on his stand. Tama had always wanted a Puffy Bank. They were much cooler than an ordinary old money box. Mr Gurnard explained that he could give Tama a Puffy Bank for free if Tama signed up to receive information about the bank’s new Tiny Saver’s account. Tama was very keen.

Ming had been listening to Tama’s conversation with Mr Gurnard and decided it was time to step in.

“Excuse me, sir,” Ming said to Mr Gurnard as she swam up next to Tama. “But what exactly do you intend to do with Tama’s information?”

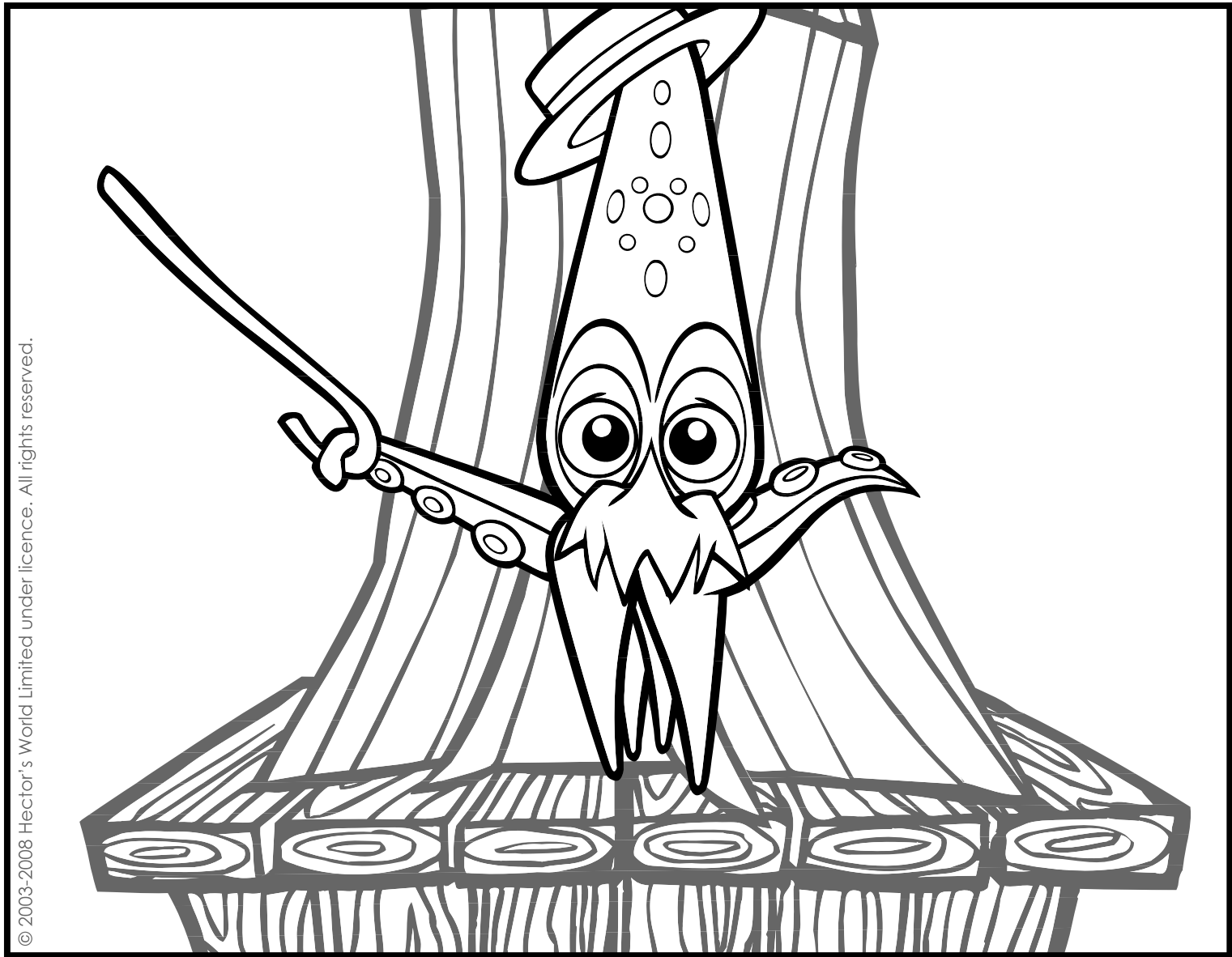


Sensing that Ming was a little suspicious of Mr Gurnard, Tama explained that Mr Gurnard was his parents' friend and bank manager, and that it was okay to give him Tama's information.

Mr Gurnard explained to Tama that Ming was being a very good friend by looking out for him and asking questions about how his personal information would be used. He then showed them both his bank's Terms and Conditions board, which was out in the open for everyone to see.

It was very easy to read and explained exactly what would happen if Tama signed up for a free Puffy Bank.



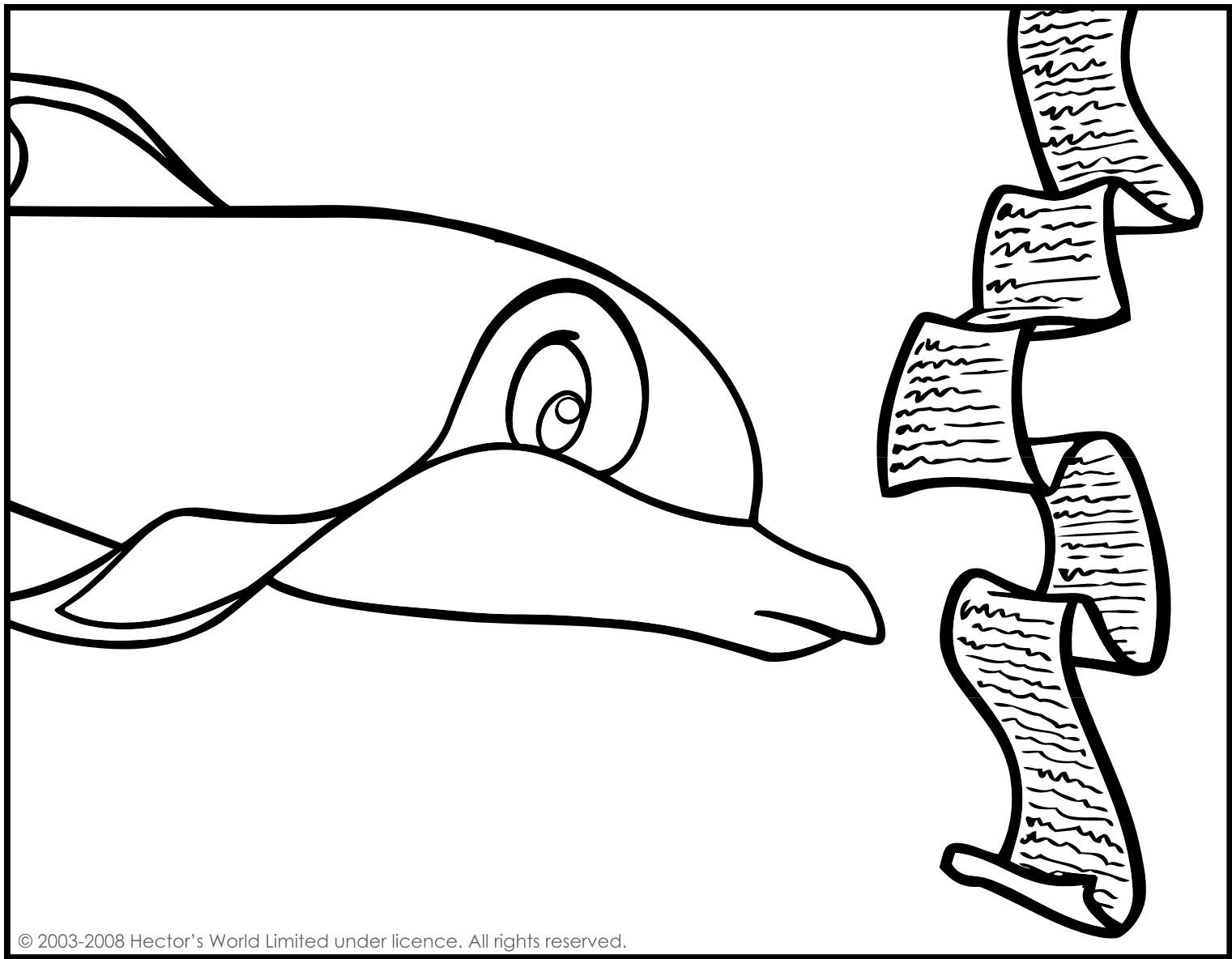


Suddenly, a booming voice echoed throughout the carnival, “Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, step right up to win the prize of a lifetime!”

Everyone looked towards the small stage with the red and white striped tent that seemed to have appeared out of nowhere.

“Ten, yes ten, free music downloads of your choice. All you have to do is sign up here and you’re in the draw!”

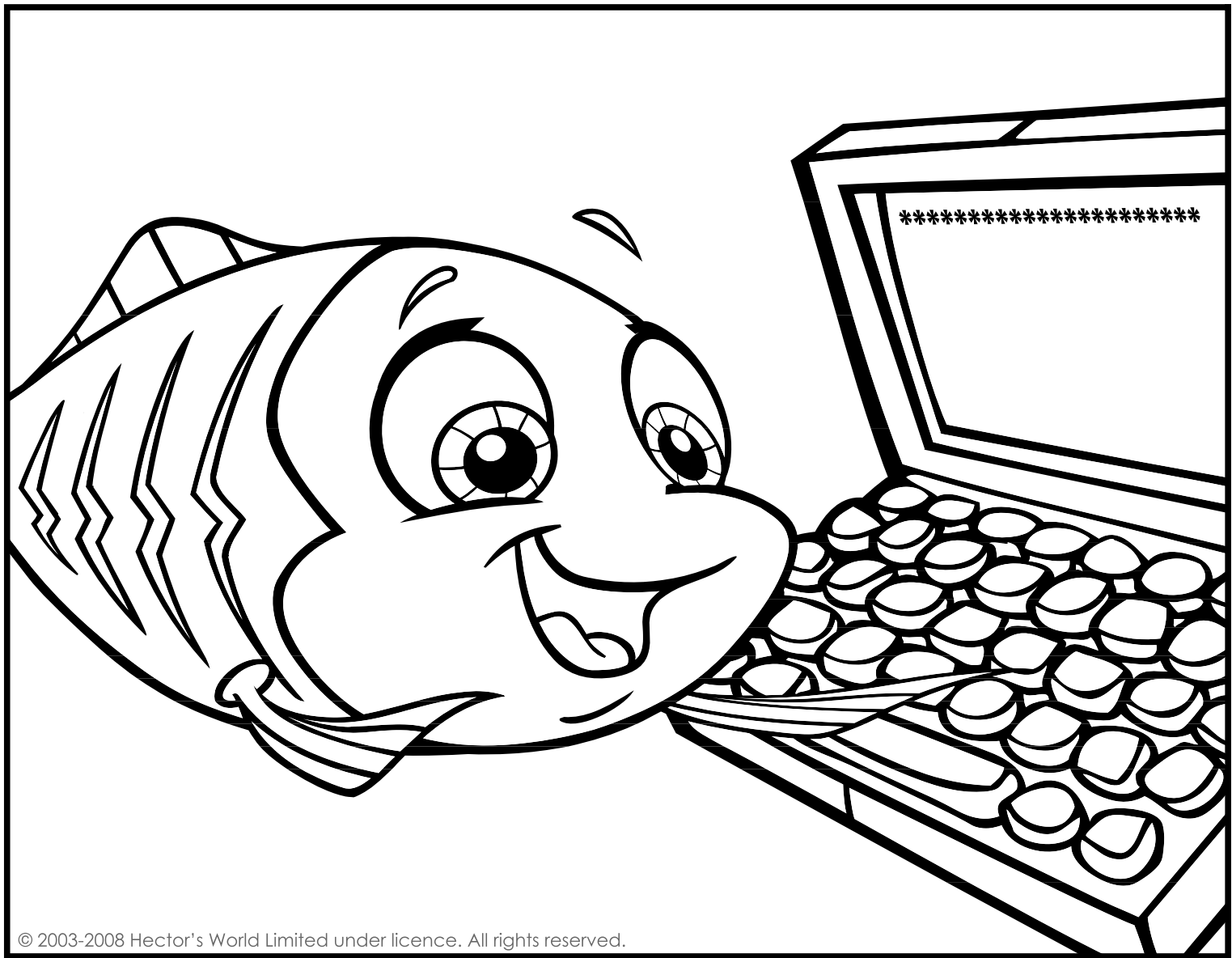
The large voice was coming from a rather short squid with a big moustache, funny little hat and long cane. He also had a laptop computer that he was using to collect the information of anyone who wanted to enter the competition. Hector and Ming noticed that Sprat and Tama were heading off in the Squid’s direction, and raced off to join their friends.



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Hector asked Squid if he could look at the Terms and Conditions of the competition. Squid huffed and pulled out a scrappy piece of paper that was very hard to read. When Hector tried to read it, Squid sneakily squirted black ink into the water, so Hector couldn't see anything. Squid snatched the paper back before the water cleared.

Hector and Ming were now convinced that Squid was up to no good.



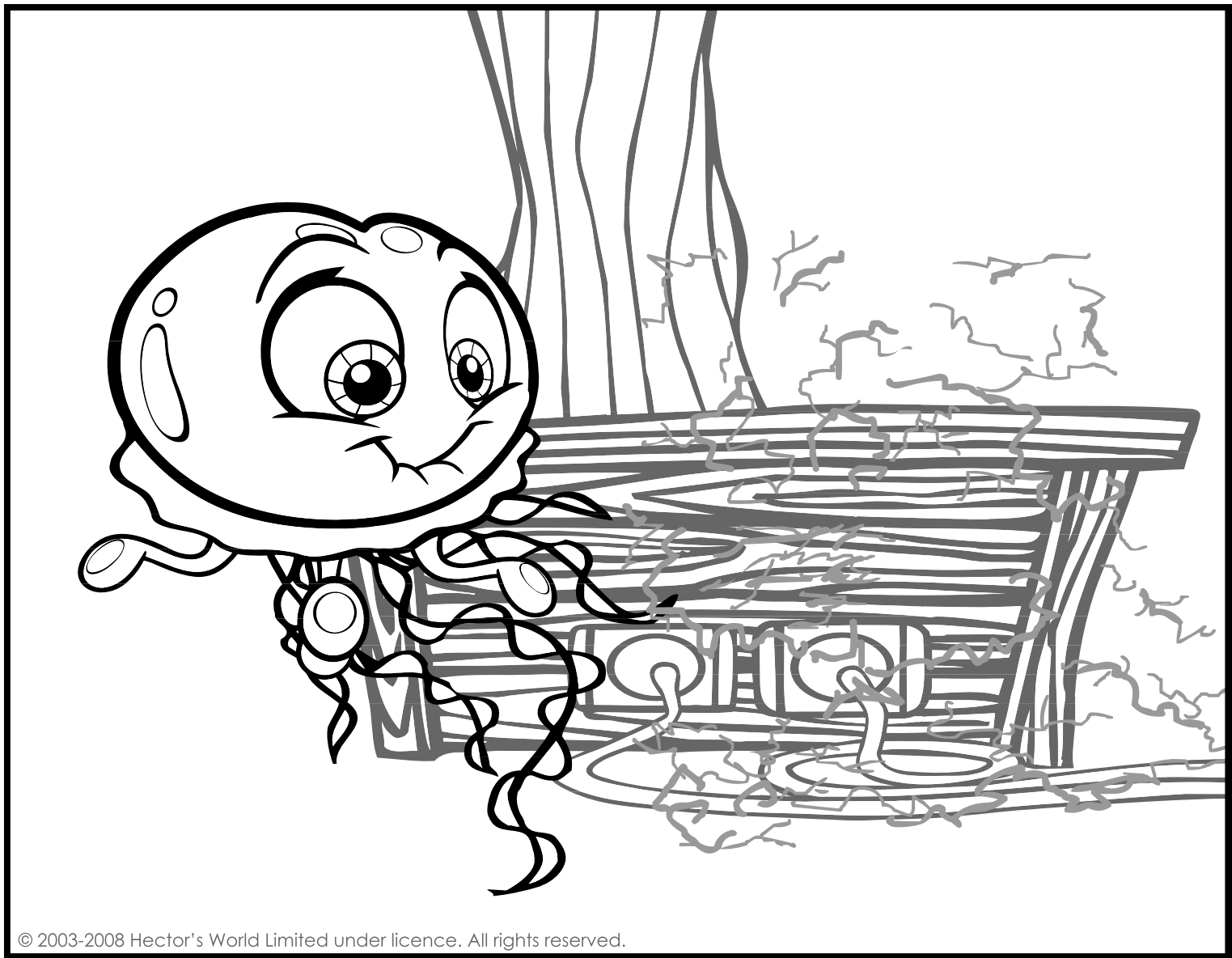
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Sprat looked very excited and signed up as soon as he could reach Squid's laptop. Hector wasn't sure it was such a good idea, but Sprat had signed up before he had a chance to stop him.

When Ming swam up next to Hector, she noticed that he looked concerned. When Sprat rejoined them, she knew why.

"Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls," came Squid's booming voice once more, "our first winner of the day is.....SPRAT!"

Sprat just about leapt out of his scales. He couldn't believe that he'd won!

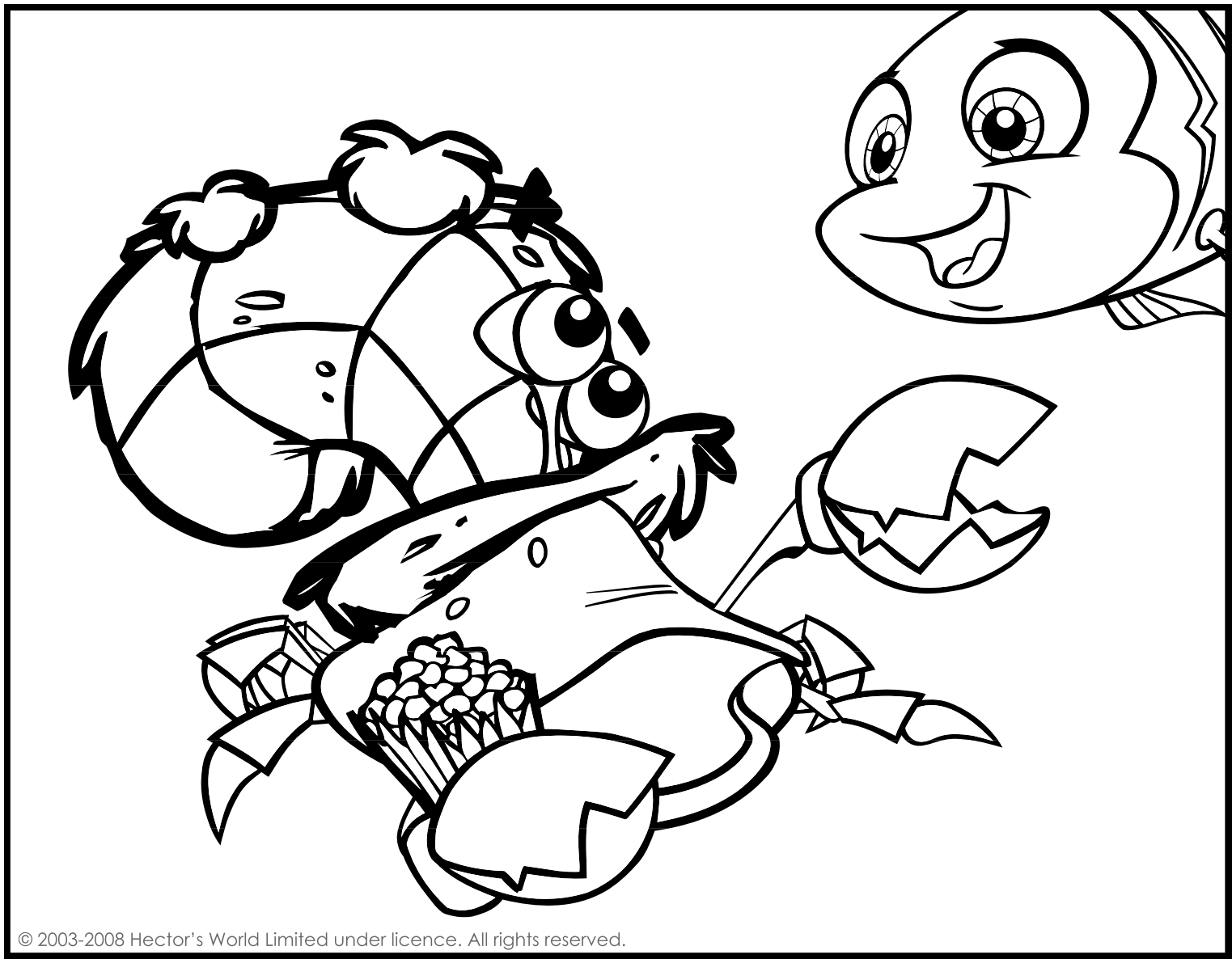


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Almost immediately, a large screen mounted on top of the tent pole flickered to life. There, in full colour, was a live image of Sprat, along with all his personal information that he'd just entered into Squid's laptop.

Now Hector and Ming were very concerned. They looked around at the large crowd, and realised that everyone could see Sprat's personal information. They were scared that someone in the crowd could misuse Sprat's information and put him in real danger.

Suddenly Ming had an idea and whispered it to Tama. Tama nodded and snuck over to the side of the stage where the screen's power cord was plugged in. Gathering all his energy, Tama zapped it sending a surge of electricity up through the cord and into the large screen. The screen flickered... and then went black.



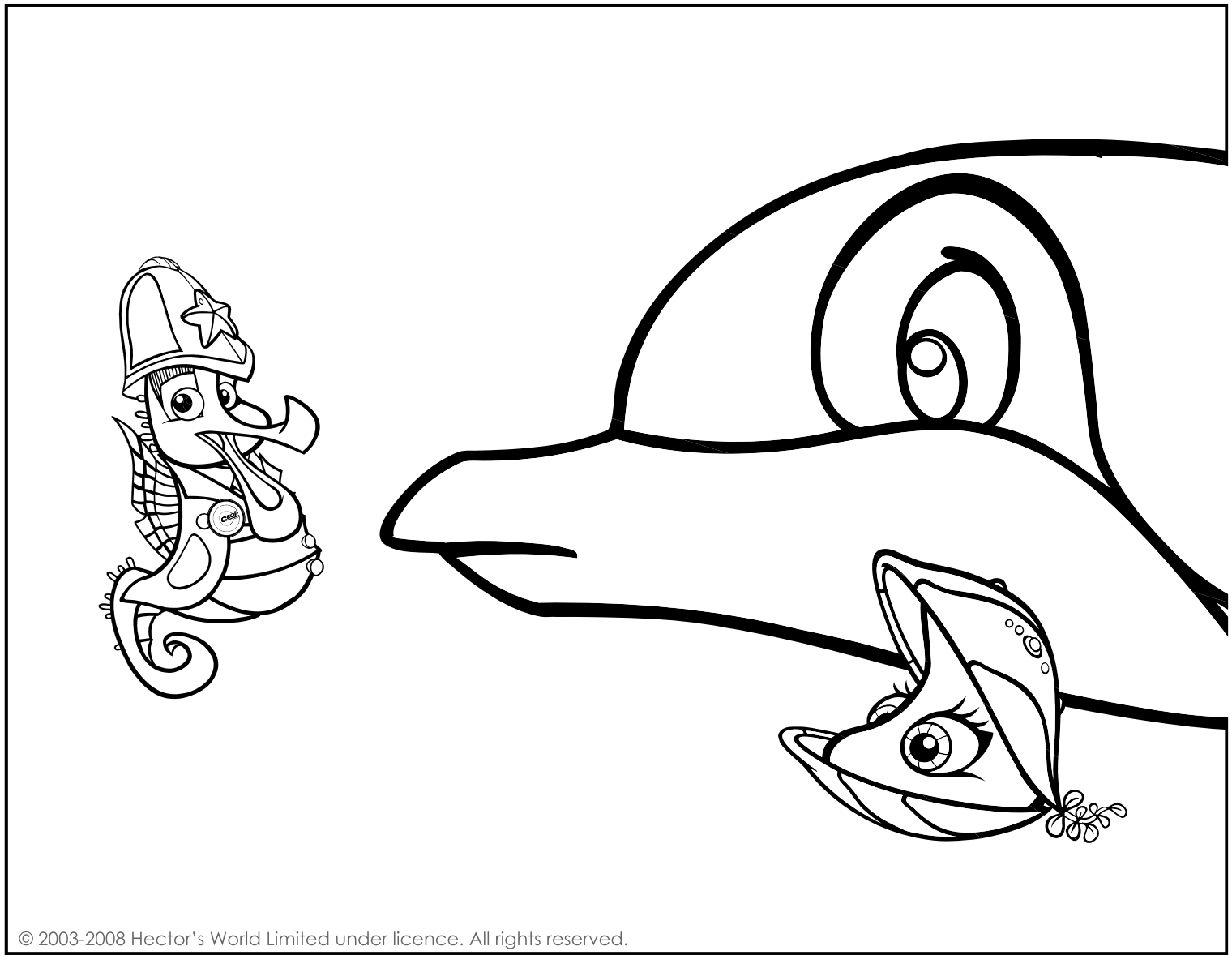
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Ming and Hector were very pleased with Tama, but Squid was not impressed. Throwing some tatty old music vouchers at Sprat, Squid packed up his tent and disappeared. Ming was going to chase after Squid just as Ranjeet turned up in a silly red, white and green hat. She could barely understand what he was saying through his mouthful of popcorn.

“Hey,” Ranjeet called to Sprat, “I could see you all the way from the other side of the carnival.”

Seeing Ranjeet, Sprat forgot all about Squid and how his personal information had been shown to everyone at the carnival. All he wanted to know was where Ranjeet had found his cool hat. Ranjeet dragged Sprat off to show him.

Hector, Ming and Tama began to head off after their friends, just as PC Jim swam into the scene.



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PC Jim had been watching Squid and didn't like how he had been running his competitions. PC Jim suggested that Ming and Hector keep a friendly eye on Ranjeet and Sprat, just to make sure they didn't get themselves into any more trouble. He knew that Sprat and Ranjeet could be forgetful when they were having fun, and didn't want them to get hurt.

As PC Jim raced off to do some more investigating, Hector, Ming and Tama swam into the crowd, determined to keep a protective eye on their friends and enjoy the rest of their day at the Silicon Deep Carnival.

To be continued...



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