



A Suitable Shell

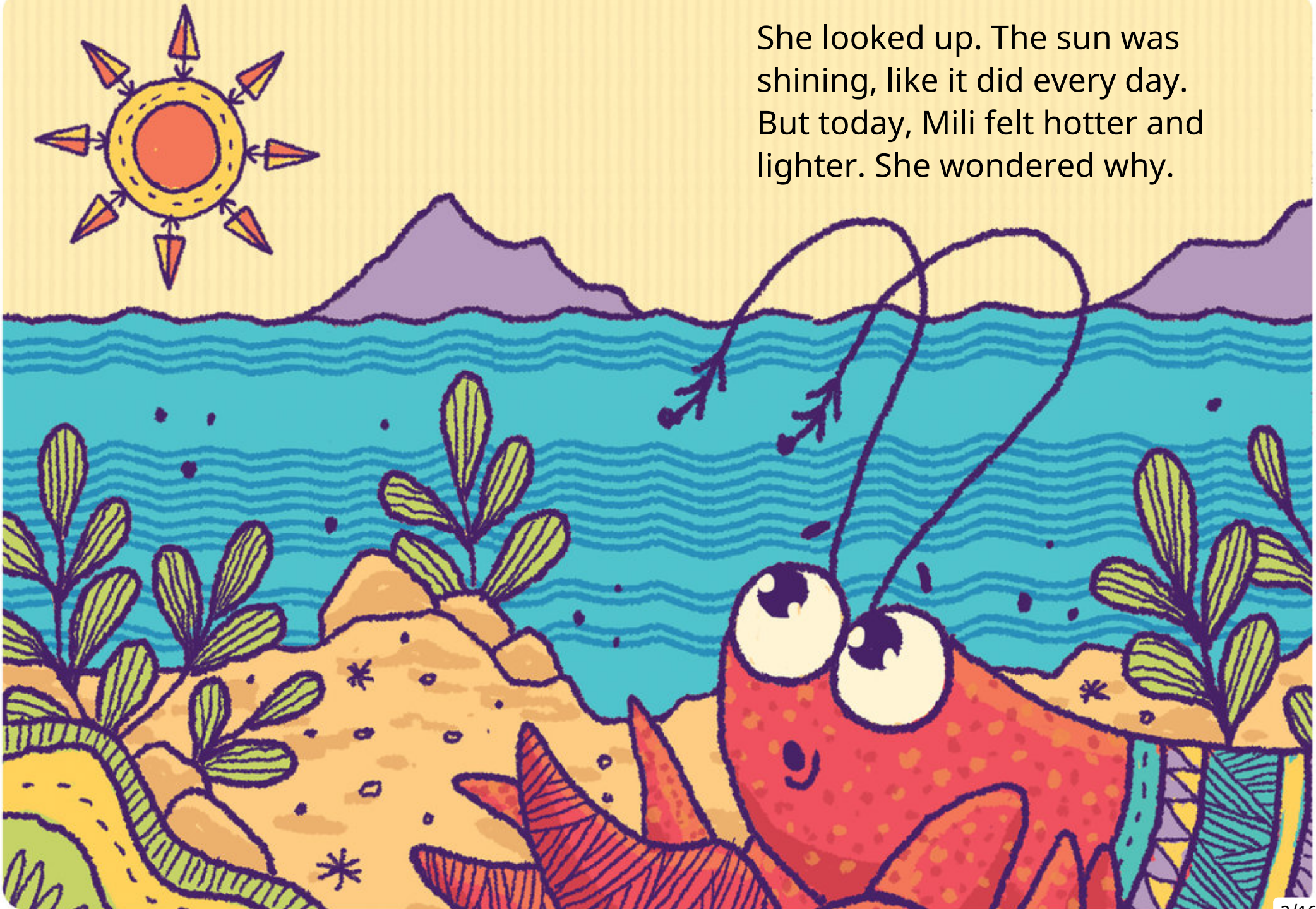
Author: Radha Rangarajan

Illustrator: Rohan Dahotre

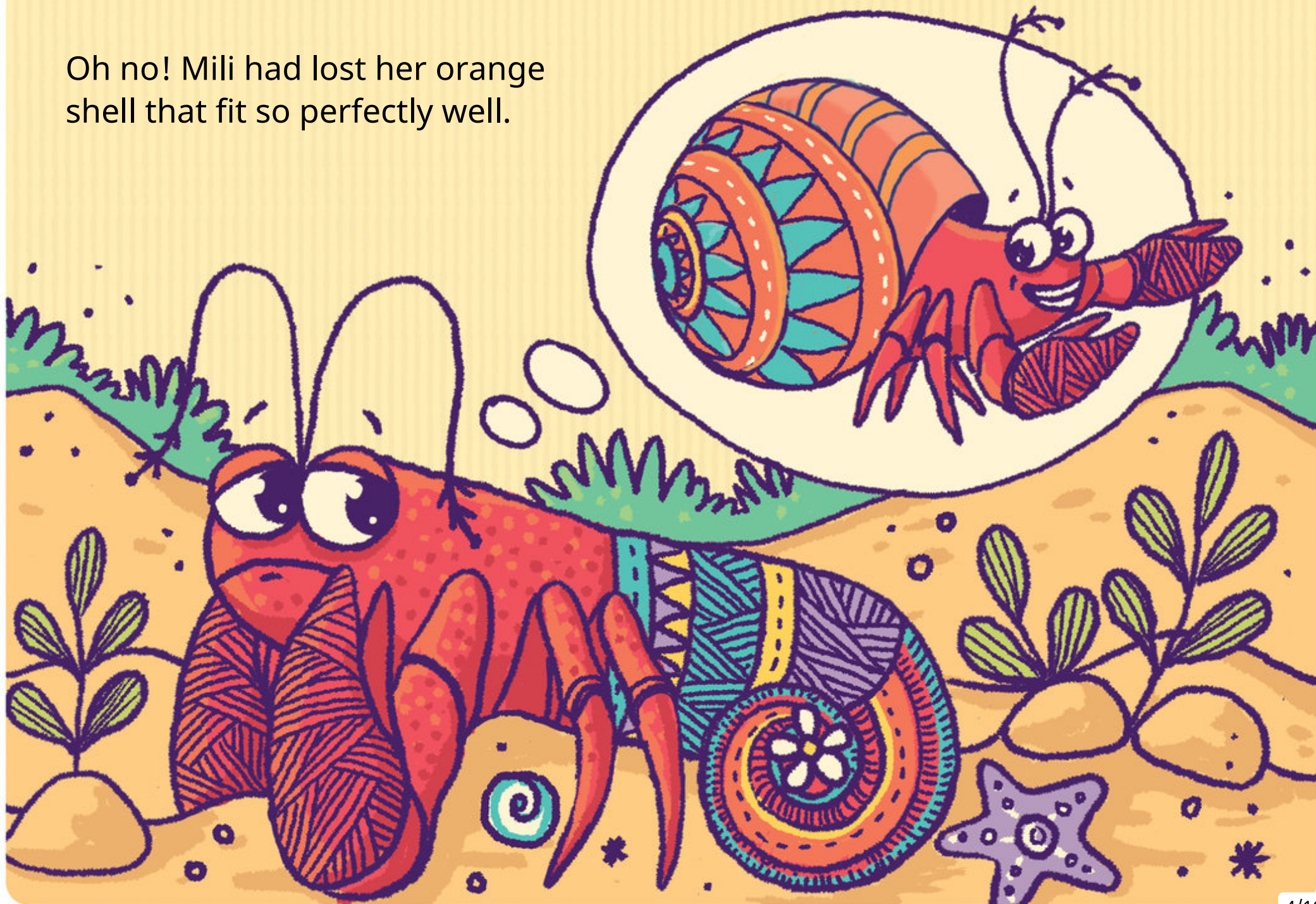
Mili woke up and fell straight into the sand.



She looked up. The sun was shining, like it did every day. But today, Mili felt hotter and lighter. She wondered why.



Oh no! Mili had lost her orange shell that fit so perfectly well.



Mili had no time to lose. She had to find a new shell before it became too hot or a bird gobbled her up!



Mili found a black shell and tried to snuggle into it.
“Go away!” an angry voice said. “I’m in here, and I need to sleep.”
She left the snail alone and went out on the beach.



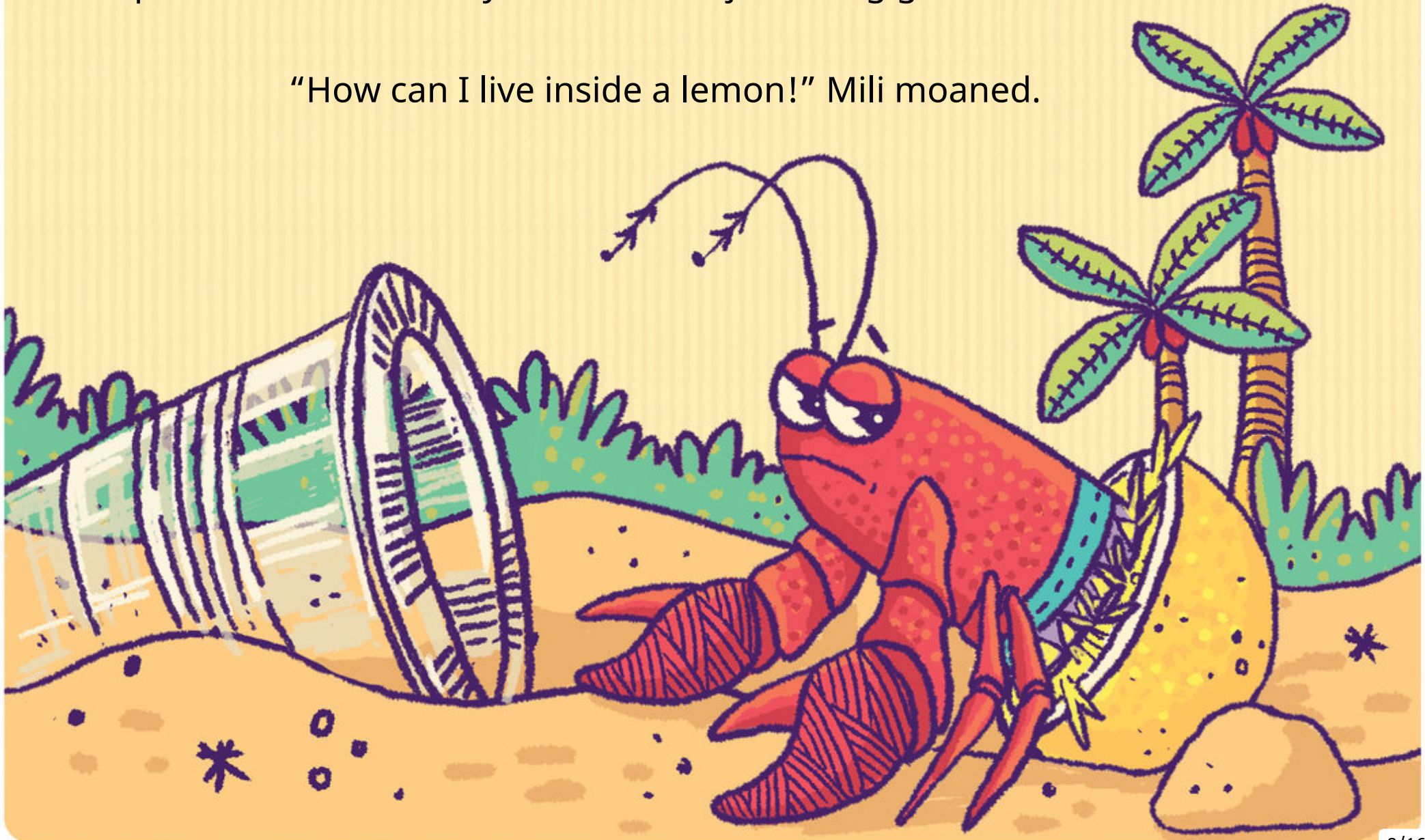
Mili saw a blue shell and ran that way. But a shell it was not.
It was a plastic cap, its bottle hidden in the sand.

"That won't fit me!" Mili mumbled.



Mili saw a yellow shell and ran this way. But a shell it was not.
A squeezed-out lemon lay there, all the juice long gone.

“How can I live inside a lemon!” Mili moaned.



Mili saw a white shell and ran back. But a shell it was not.
It had belonged to an egg, the yolk eaten.

“This shell will just crumble!” Mili complained.

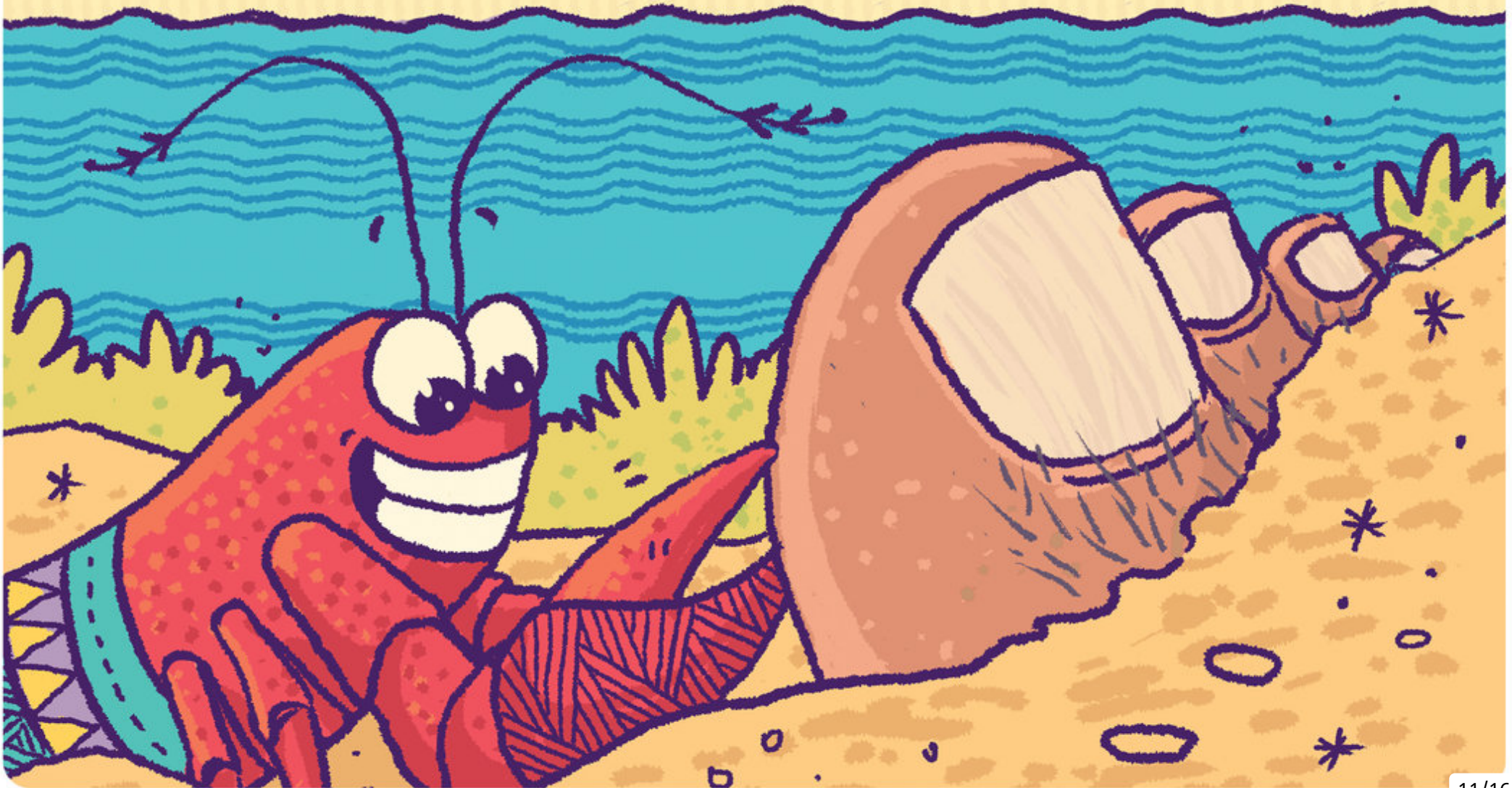


Mili saw a purple shell and ran ahead. But a shell it was not.
The chocolate had been eaten, the cover tossed away.



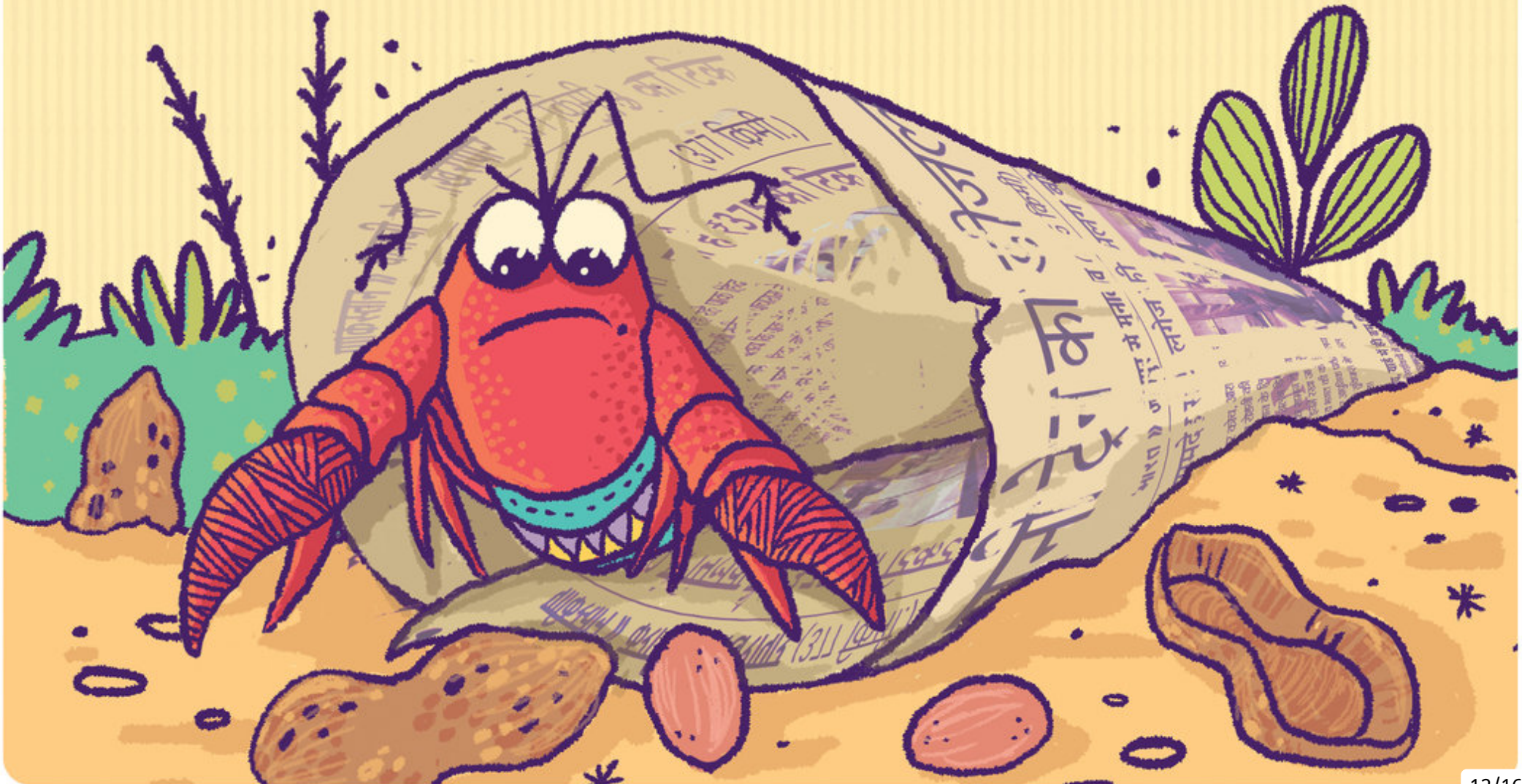
"I thought it was
a shiny shell!"
Mili sighed.

Mili saw a pink shell and stopped. But a shell it was not.
A toe moved, followed by a foot. It was the giant leg of a man
asleep on the beach!
“I think I tickled him!” Mili giggled.



Mili saw a brown shell and ran up. But a shell it was not.
The groundnuts had been snacked on, the empty shells strewn around.

“It will fly away with the wind!” Mili grumbled.



Mili met a broken bulb, a wafer packet, and a rusty button.
But shells they were not.

“Why are there no suitable shells on this beach?” Mili cried.



Mili saw her friend Toya sliding into a new shell.
“This new shell fits me better!” Toya said, leaving behind her old one.



Mili tried the old green shell. It fit her just fine.
A happy Mili walked away, hugging her new shell hard!



Mili is a hermit crab. Unlike other crabs, hermit crabs don't have a hard shell. This is why they find empty shells left by snails and make them their new homes. As they grow, their shells get tight, and they need to look for bigger shells to fit into!

Poor Mili had a tough time finding an empty shell because of all the garbage she found on the beach. Plastic and metal waste like straws, bottles, bags, fishing nets, and cans often end up in our rivers and oceans. All of this is harmful to marine life. We can help Mili and her friends by keeping our oceans clean.



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A Suitable Shell

(English)

Mili the hermit crab has lost her shell. She combs the beach for a suitable shell, but all she meets is litter, people, and angry snails. Will Mili find a shell before it gets too hot?

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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