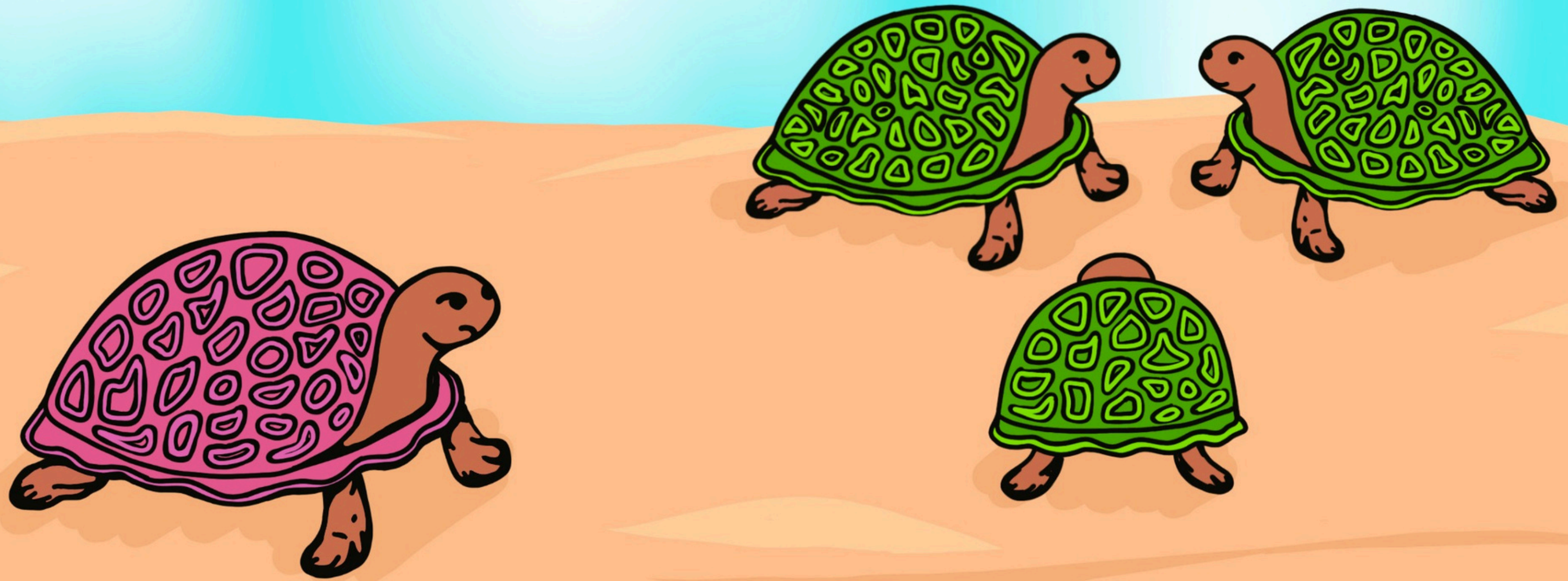


THE GREAT PAINT OF SAMMIE AND ANNIE

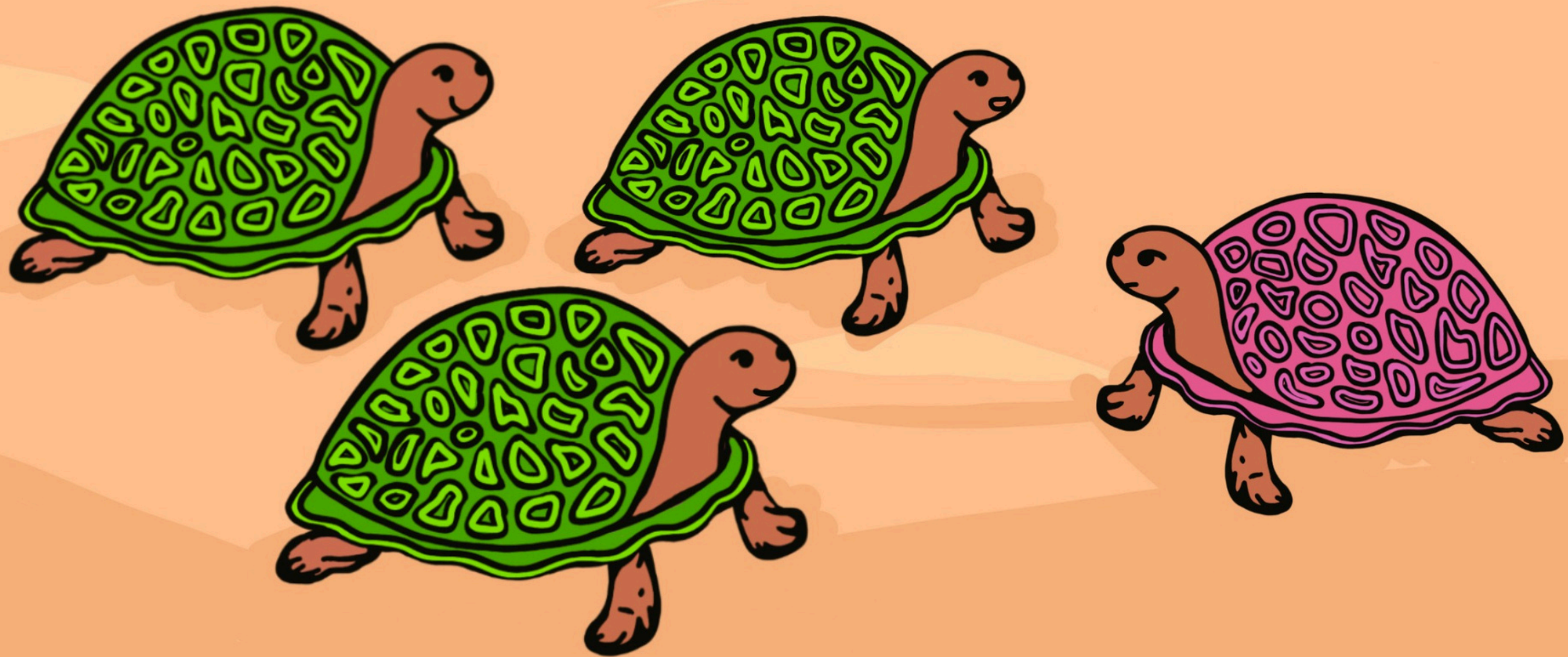


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There once was a turtle named Sammie. Sammie lived in a classroom with 3 other turtles- but she was a little different. Her shell wasn't Green like the other turtles. Hers was a bright Pink.



Sammie listened to her turtle friends talk and talk all day, but never joined in.



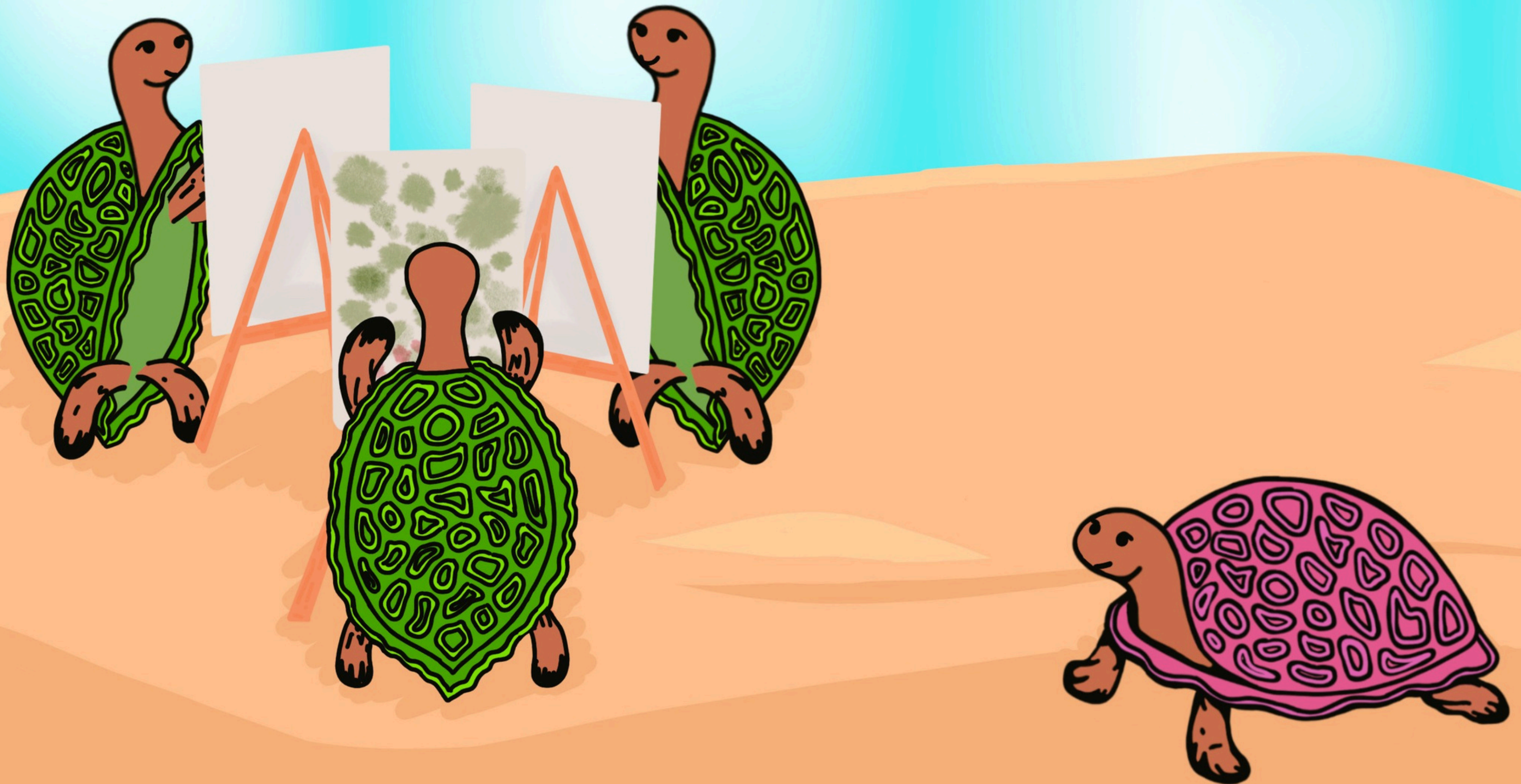
The green turtles loved to talk and talk all day long. Sammie listened but didn't join them, staying curled up in her shell. Sammie wanted to make friends but she was just too shy.



One day, the other turtles decided to play a game of football. They laughed and cheered, but Sammie stayed curled up in her shell.



One evening, the turtles decided to have a painting session together. Sammie listened in silence, curled up in her shell.



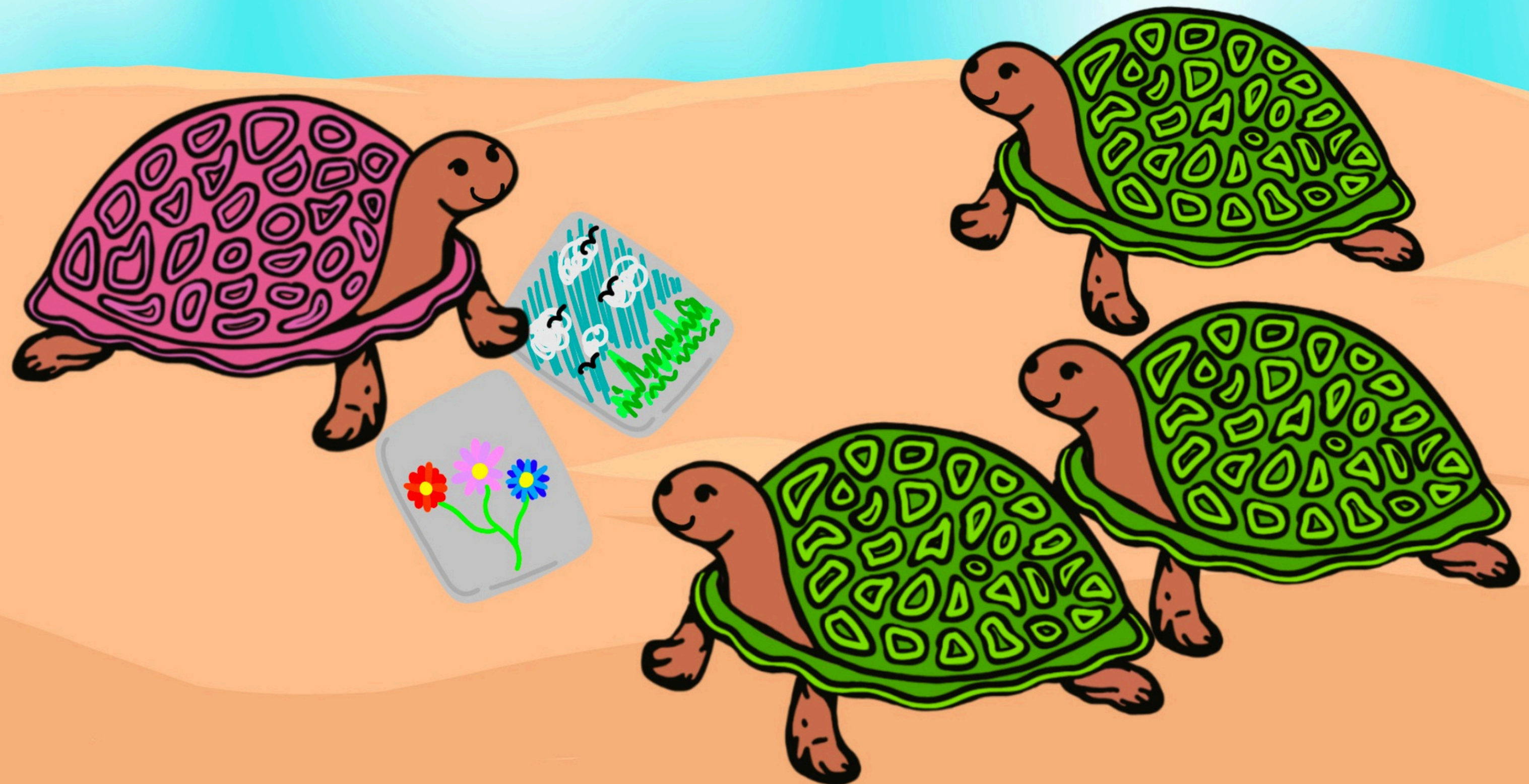
Slowly, Sammie stuck her head out and pulled out a canvas and paintbrush. She silently began to paint as the other turtles gathered around one another.



Sammie smiled. She had always loved art. It was all she did while staying curled up in her shell. Soon, she was showing the turtles all of the paintings tucked away inside her shell.

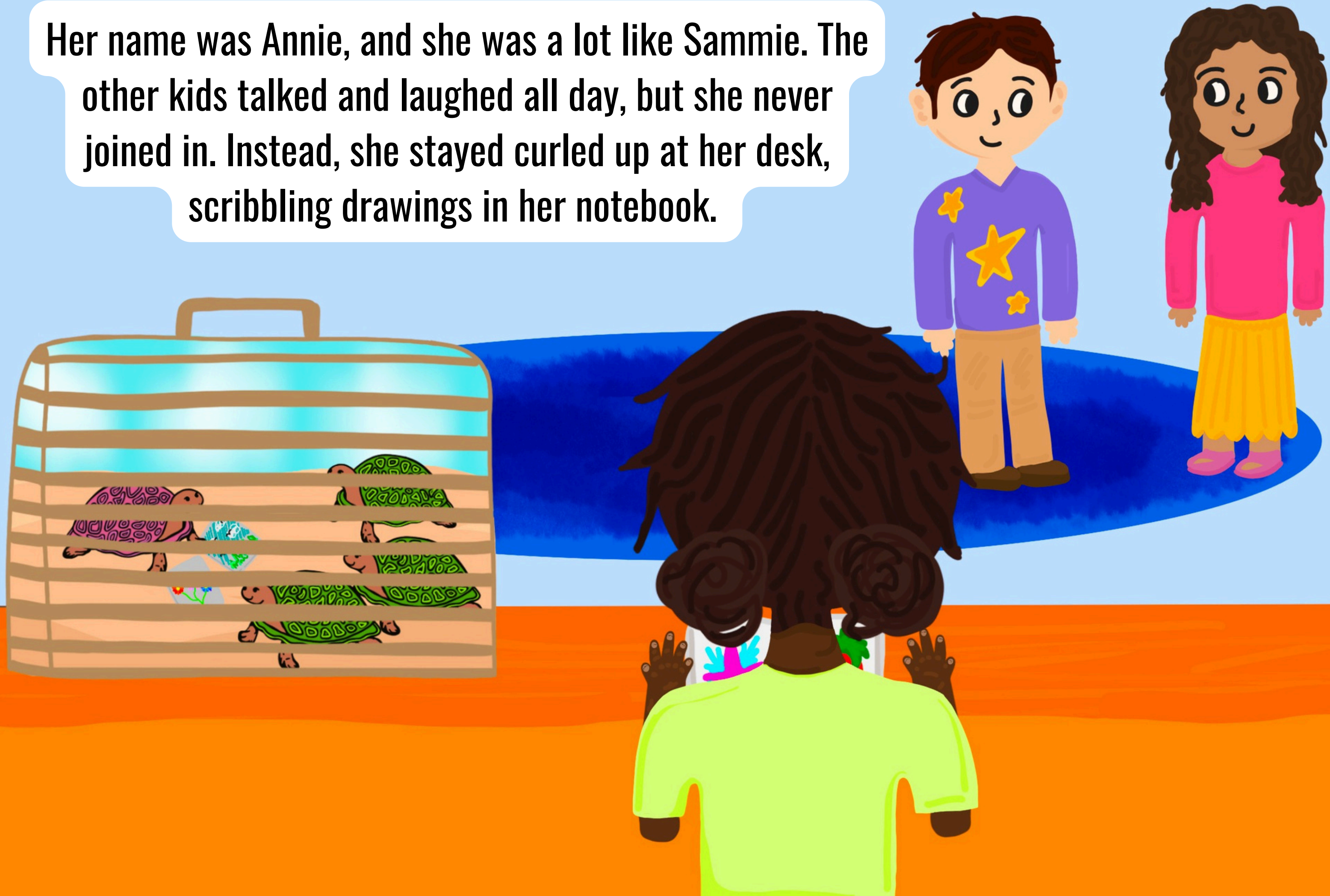


They ooh'ed and aah'ed as she whipped her paints out. She starting telling them about her favorite paintings and artists. Soon, she was yapping just like the rest of them.



One of the students in the classroom had been silently watching Sammie come out of her shell.

Her name was Annie, and she was a lot like Sammie. The other kids talked and laughed all day, but she never joined in. Instead, she stayed curled up at her desk, scribbling drawings in her notebook.



After seeing Sammie make friends, Annie slowly went up to all of her classmates and showed them her painting.



Now, it was only a matter of time before Annie had started her own art club and made tons more friends. Sammie and the student had each learned how to come out of their shell in their own way.





Annie has been having a hard time making friends, and spends most of her time with her art. But, by learning from an example set by Sammie, maybe Annie just might get the courage to show off her skills.

A Teach4Speech novel dedicated to promoting diversity in literature and equity in education.