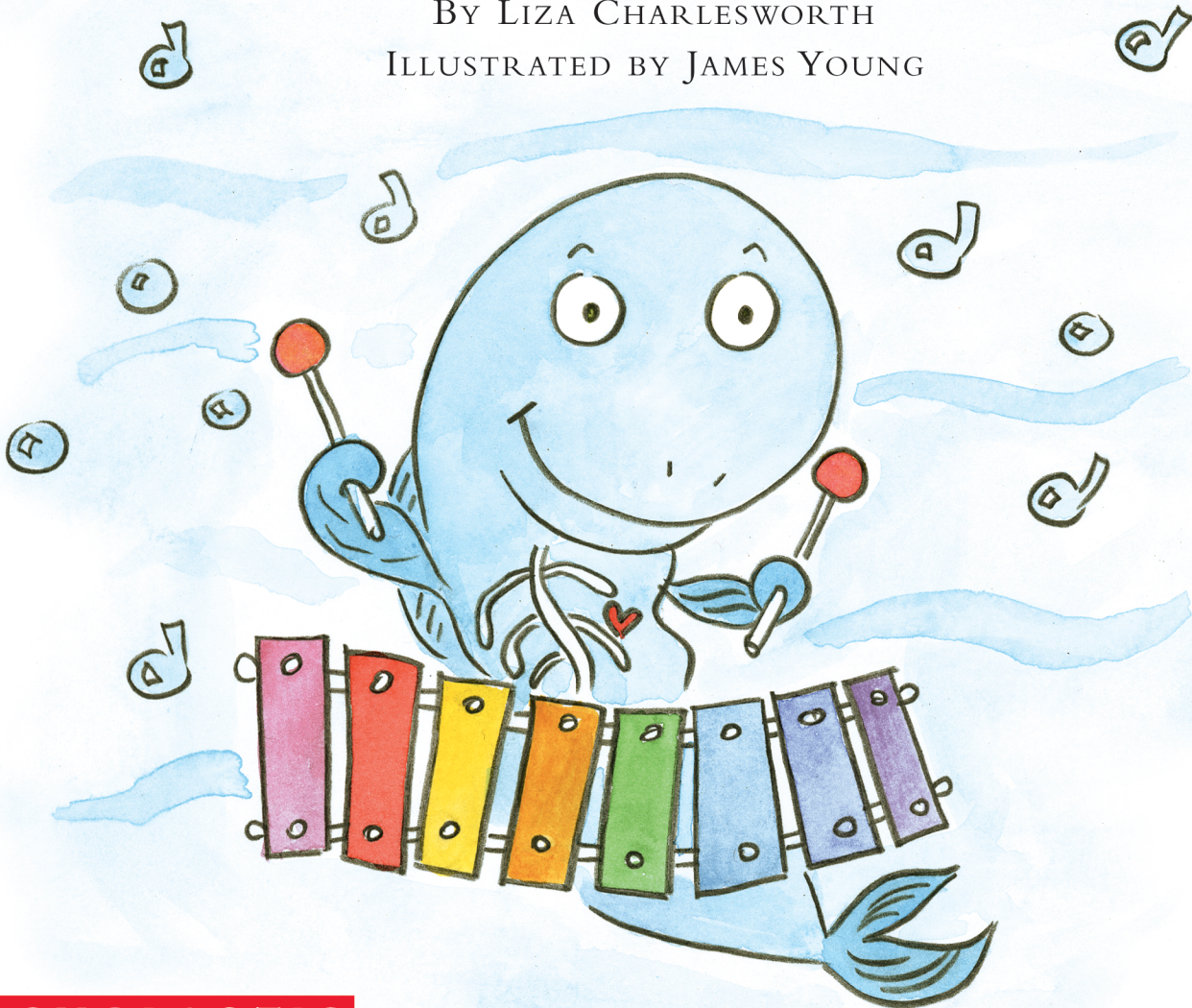


A Xylophone for X-Ray Fish

BY LIZA CHARLESWORTH
ILLUSTRATED BY JAMES YOUNG



To my eXcellent mom, Sylvia Charlesworth —
XOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOX!



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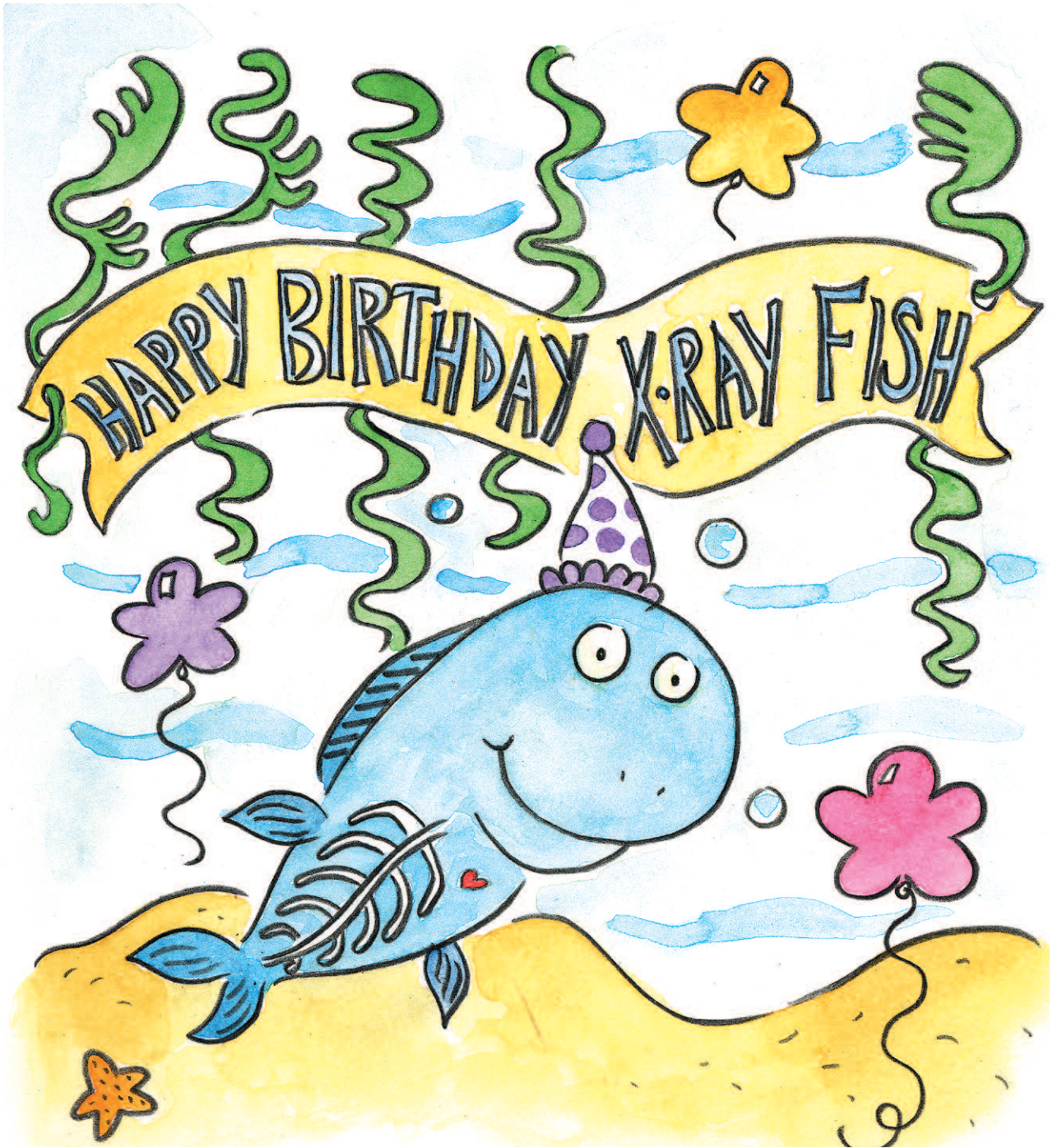
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Today, X-ray Fish feels extra special.
It is his birthday!
X-ray Fish is expecting friends for a party.



The party is extremely fun.
Everyone plays pin-the-tail-on-the-seahorse
and other exciting games.



At last, it is time for X-ray Fish to open his gifts. He knows exactly what he wants—a xylophone!



X-ray Fish has x-ray vision.
He uses it to examine each gift before
he opens it. Angelfish gives X-ray Fish a present.
Is it a xylophone?



No, but it is an excellent gift!
“Thanks for the ball!” exclaims X-ray Fish.



Next, Blowfish gives X-ray Fish a present.
Is it a xylophone?



No, but it is an excellent gift!
“Thanks for the boat!” exclaims X-ray Fish.



Then Tigerfish gives X-ray Fish a present.
Is it a xylophone?



No, but it is an excellent gift!
“Thanks for the teddy bear,”
exclaims X-ray Fish.



There is one present left to open. The tag says, "To X-ray Fish from Mom. XOXOXOXO." "All those X's mean I love you," his mom explains. Will this present be a xylophone?



It is a xylophone!

“Thank you for the excellent gift,” says X-ray Fish. Then he unwraps it. “It is exactly what I wanted!”

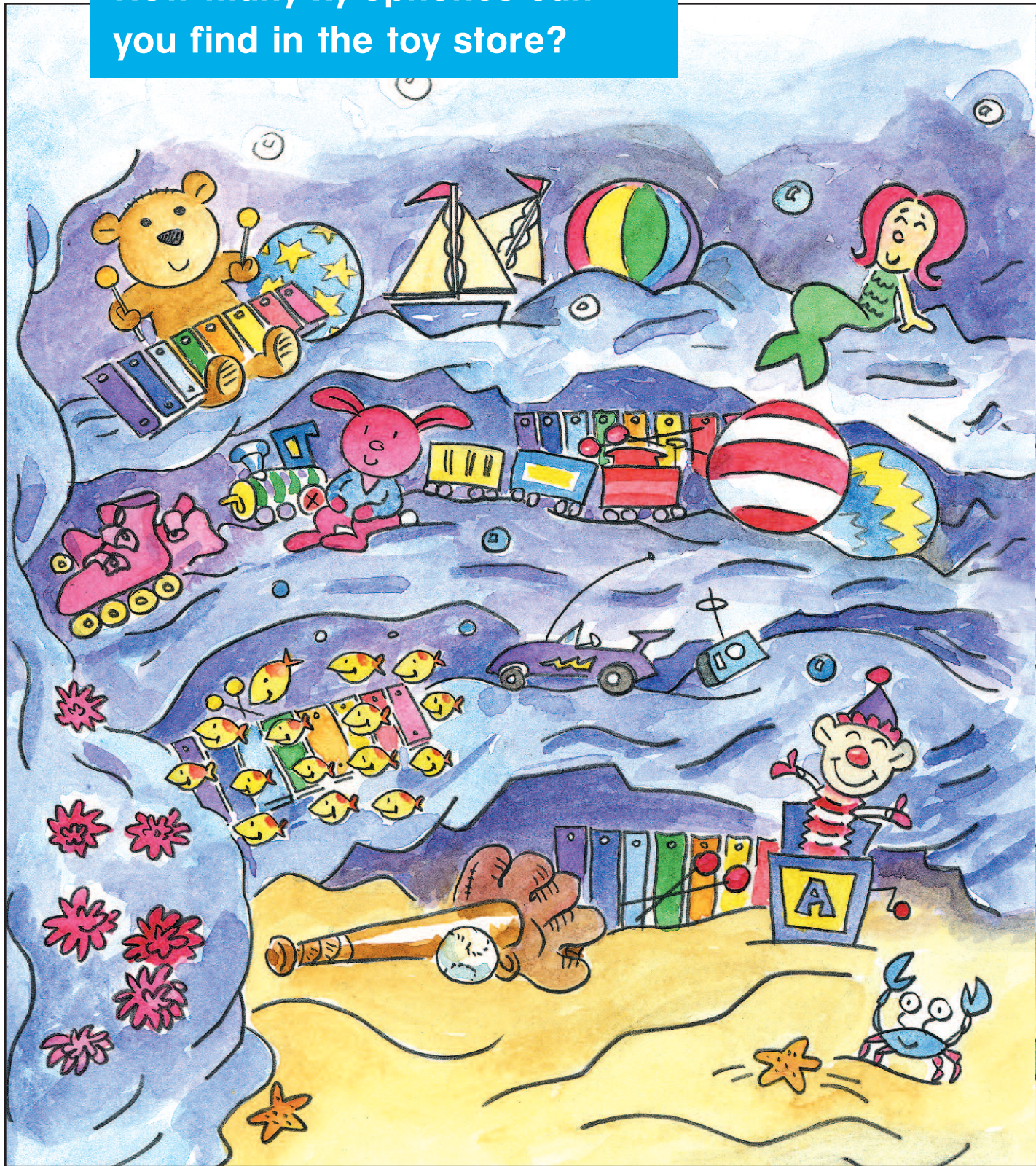


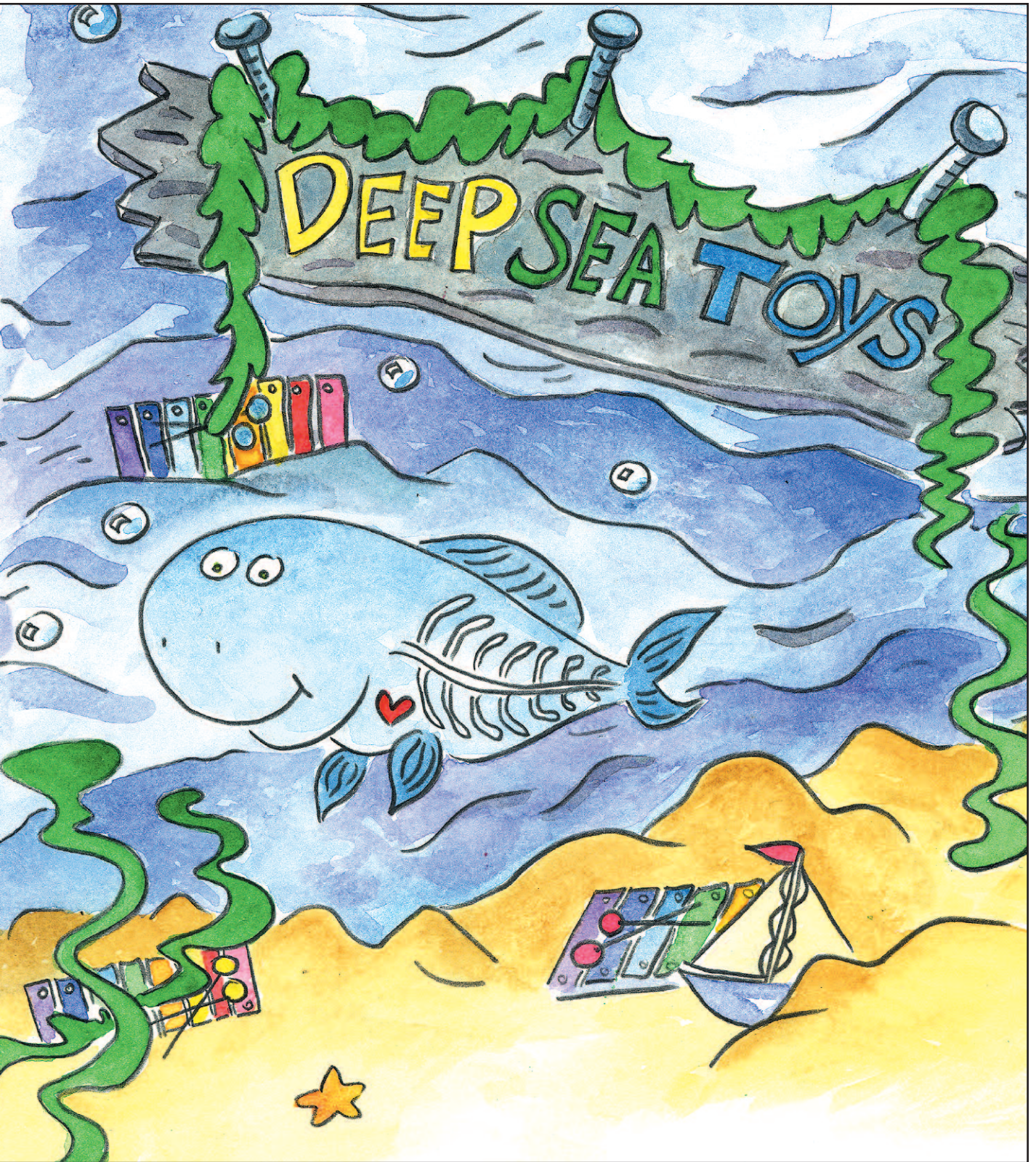
X-ray Fish plays “Happy Birthday”
on his new xylophone.
All his friends sing extra loud.



Then it is time to eat cake.
X-ray Fish is excited. With his x-ray vision,
he can see it is his favorite kind—
chocolate with seaweed filling!

How many xylophones can you find in the toy store?





See page 19 for answer.

Xx Cheer

X is for x-ray fish, swimming along

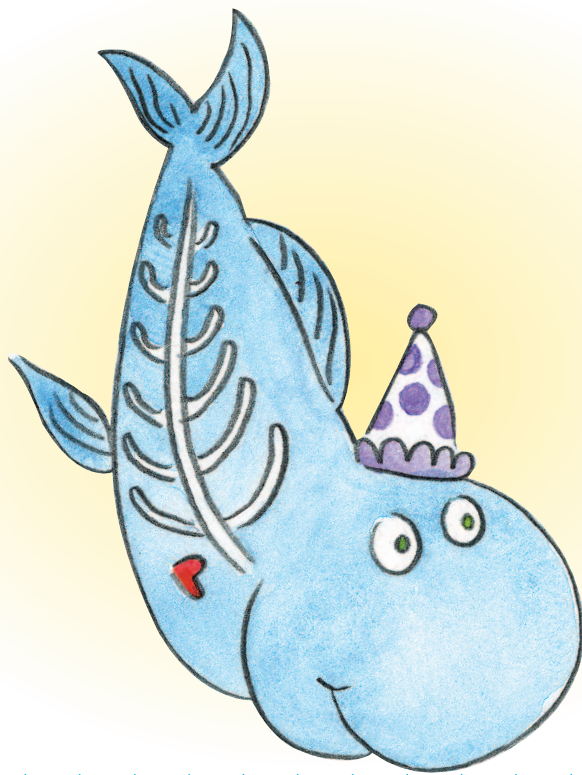
X is for xylophone, to play a song

What else starts with **X**? Not a whole lot.

But in tic-tac-toe, **X** marks the spot.

Hooray for **X**, big and small—








the most exceptional letter of all!



Reading Tips



Here are some quick and fun ways to use this story to help children build important alphabet recognition skills.

-  Ask children to find big X and small x at the top of the front cover. Review the sounds X/x makes (both /eks/ and /z/) with children. Can they find two words in the title that begin with the letter X/x? Read the title aloud, emphasizing the X/x sound as appropriate.
-  Flip the book over and read the story summary on the back cover. Ask children to point out words they hear or see that begin with X/x and Ex/ex. Explain that the story you are about to read includes many more words that begin with the letter X/x and with Ex/ex. Can they help you find them?
-  Read the story aloud once for pleasure and enjoy together the whimsical illustrations. Then reread the book, emphasizing the initial X/x sound in the appropriate words. Ask children to listen closely for and identify all the words that start with X/x and Ex/ex. Point out these words in the text, and make a list of them.
-  Write each of the words from your list on an unlined index card. Read each word on the cards aloud with children. On another reading of the story, children can match the words on the index cards with the words in the story.
-  Pages 16-17 of the book depict a busy scene in which seven xylophones are hidden. Can children find them all?
-  Read aloud the cheer on page 18 several times, with lots of energy and enthusiasm. Invite children to join you in reciting the cheer when they feel ready. Encourage them to find any new X/x and Ex/ex words in the cheer. Again, add these words to your list.
-  Don't let your exploration of the letter X/x end with the story! Display your list of words in a place where children can easily see it. During the rest of the day or week, children can add new X/x and Ex/ex words that they encounter in other books, on signs, on food labels, and so on.

X x

X-ray Fish is excited about his birthday party.
But will he get the new xylophone he wants?
Come to the celebration and see!



AlphaTales are humorous stories designed to help young children recognize letters and the sounds they make. Lay the foundation for reading success with these kid-pleasing books — one for each letter of the alphabet!