Ella Saves The Beach

Written by: Madison Hodgdon
Illustrated by: Leena Aly
The day Ella was born the sun shone brightly and sparkled off of the ocean water. Ella and her siblings were very lucky to live near a big hiding rock and could play in the water anytime they wanted.

The baby crabs would crawl across the soft white sand and chase each other all the way to the pier.
Ella was a beautiful, deep red and she grew to appreciate her special hiding rock and the splash of the turquoise water over her. She grew and grew and loved the clean, soft sand most of all. As Ella got older, her siblings decided to travel away, but she loved her home so much. She decided she would never leave.
One day Ella was cooling off under her hiding rock and watched some children play in the water. They had so much fun, and she loved that children could come and spend time with their own families like she used to. The children bounced on floats, kicked and splashed with their Noodles, and dove under the clear blue water.
Ella spent many days quietly watching the children. She realized more and more families were starting to visit the beach. She hid under her rock when too many people were running and throwing things.

One particularly warm morning, Ella opened one eye to peek at what was making a strange noise. Ella was shocked to see a seagull limping toward her. He was covered in a plastic bag. Ella knew she couldn’t help the seagull. She had to watch as the seagull cried and tried to fly away. Ella was so sad.
The next day, Ella decided she would come out from the hiding rock a little bit earlier. She crouched quietly as she watched a young couple stroll by. Suddenly, she was hit on the back with something soft. The young man had taken gum out of his mouth and threw it at her. Ella was so sad.
Later that day, Ella ventured out to feel the warm sand and splash in the beautiful blue water. Ella saw the children that she always loved to see. They were also splashing in the water and running back and forth to their bright towels. Ella was shocked when one child ran back to the water and threw a plastic ring into her sparkling ocean. She began to think she would have to leave her home because it was too dangerous to live at this ocean. Ella was so sad.
Several days later, Ella woke to another strange noise. Ella cried out in shock when she saw a gentle seal at the edge of the water. The seal was making a noise she had never heard. Ella scrambled over to the seal to see what she could do to help. As she got closer, she could see the baby seal had the plastic ring stuck around her mouth. The baby seal was crying and crying. “Where is her Momma?!” Ella thought, hysterically.
Ella knew she was too little to help, but she scurried to the nearest person as fast as she could. "What can I do? What can I do?" Ella pinched the man as hard as she could, and he jumped in the air and turned around. Ella scampered as fast as she could toward the seal. The man looked at Ella and then noticed the seal himself. He ran as fast as he could to help. The baby seal was still crying and very scared. The man tried to keep the seal calm and slid the plastic ring off of her mouth. Ella was very happy.