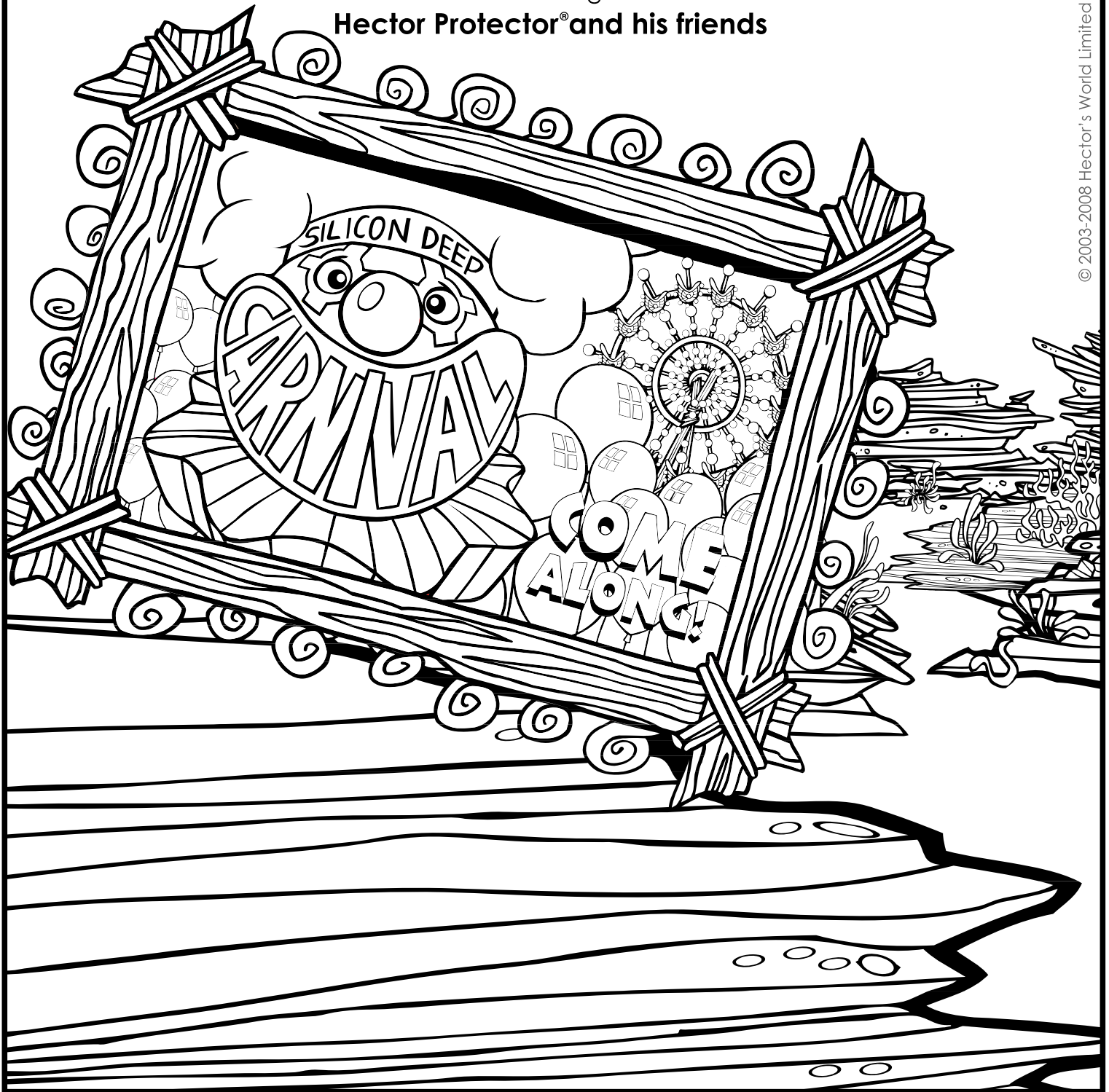
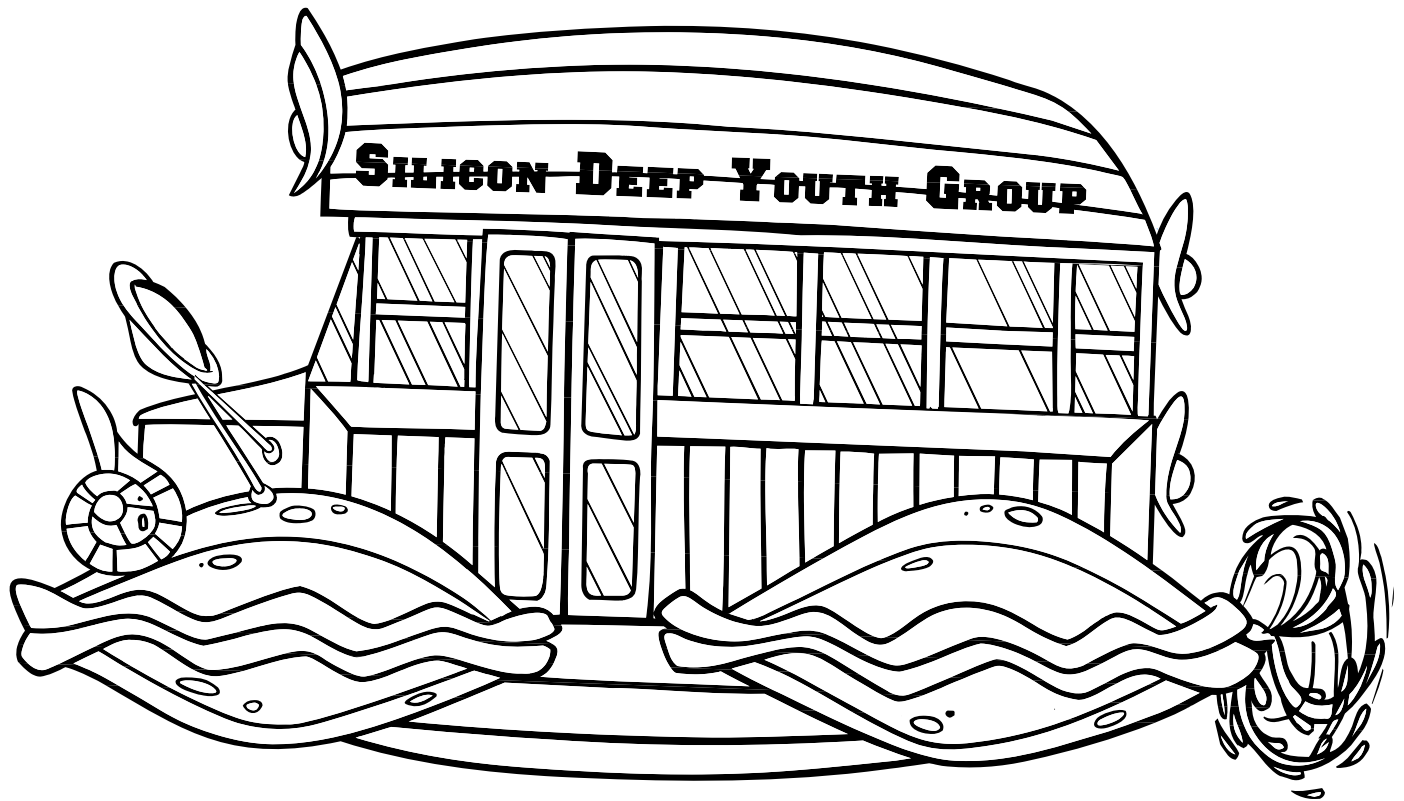


# Welcome to the Carnival

featuring  
**Hector Protector® and his friends**



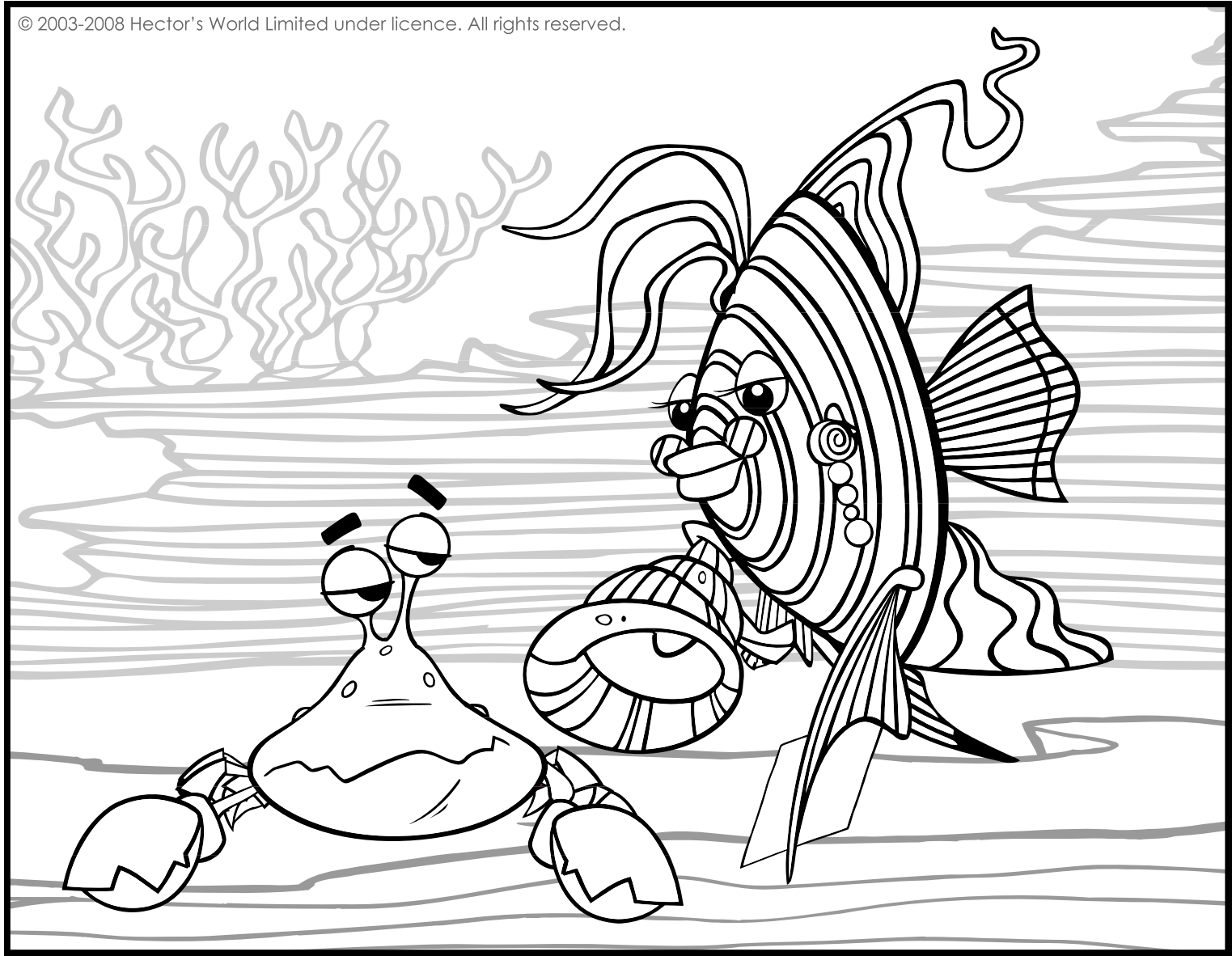


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Today was an especially exciting day for Hector. The carnival had come to Silicon Deep, and Hector and his friends had been invited on an all-day carnival trip with their local youth group.

The bright yellow youth group bus was almost full by the time it arrived to pick up Hector. His friends Ming, Tama, Sprat and Ranjeet were already on board.

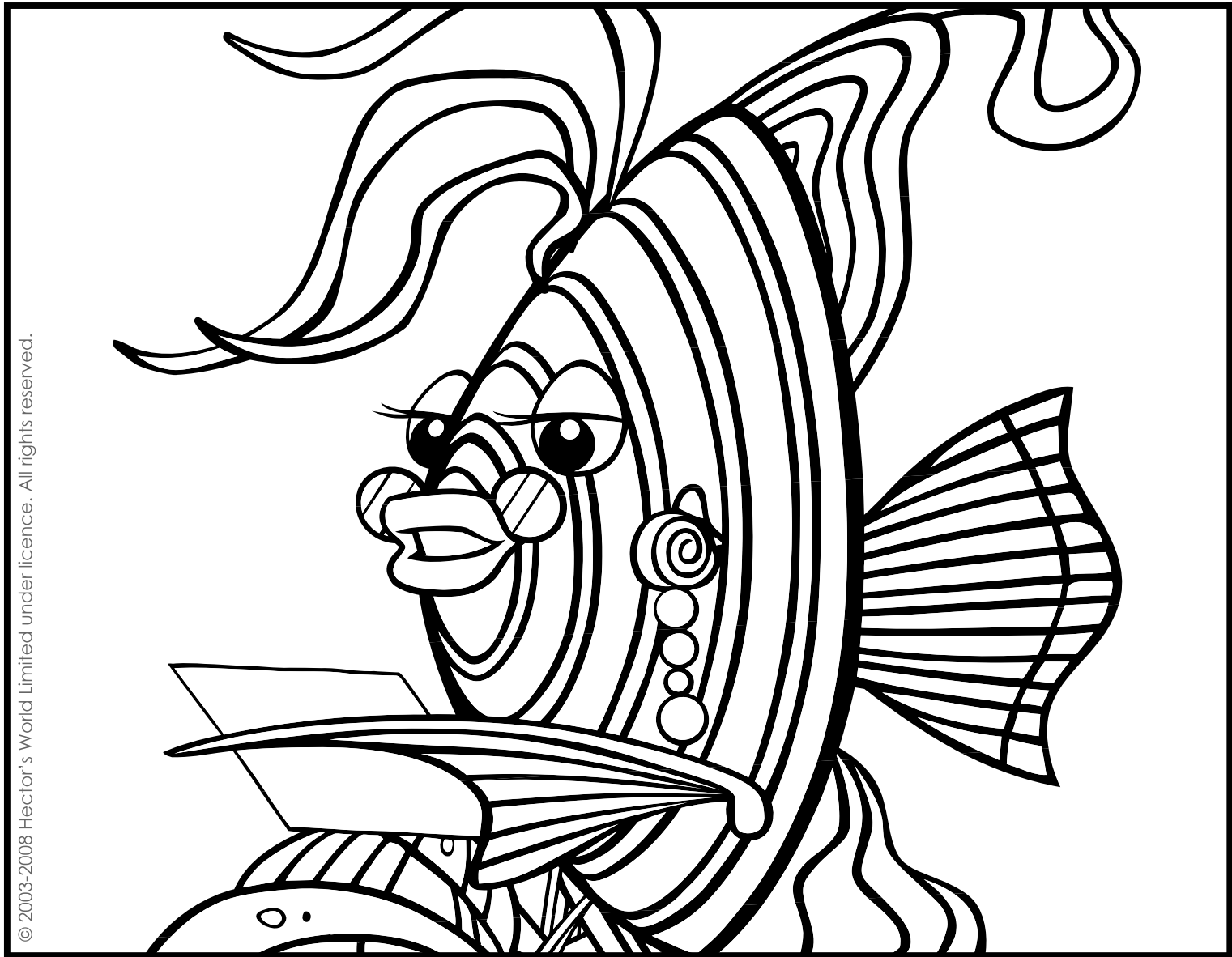
Miss Finney, the youth group leader, reminded everyone to have their permission slips ready, so she could collect them as they left the bus. Ranjeet looked particularly pleased with himself, as he had remembered to bring his permission slip, and had been very careful to make sure that it had been filled out correctly.



After a short bus trip, Miss Finney announced that they had arrived at the carnival. The bus came to a stop just as the doors burst open and everyone spilled out of the bus towards the carnival entrance. They all handed their permission slips to Miss Finney as they zoomed off towards the huge smiling face that framed the entry gate.

Just as Ranjeet was about to enter the carnival, Miss Finney's voice shrieked through her megaphone, "Ranjeet the crab!"

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

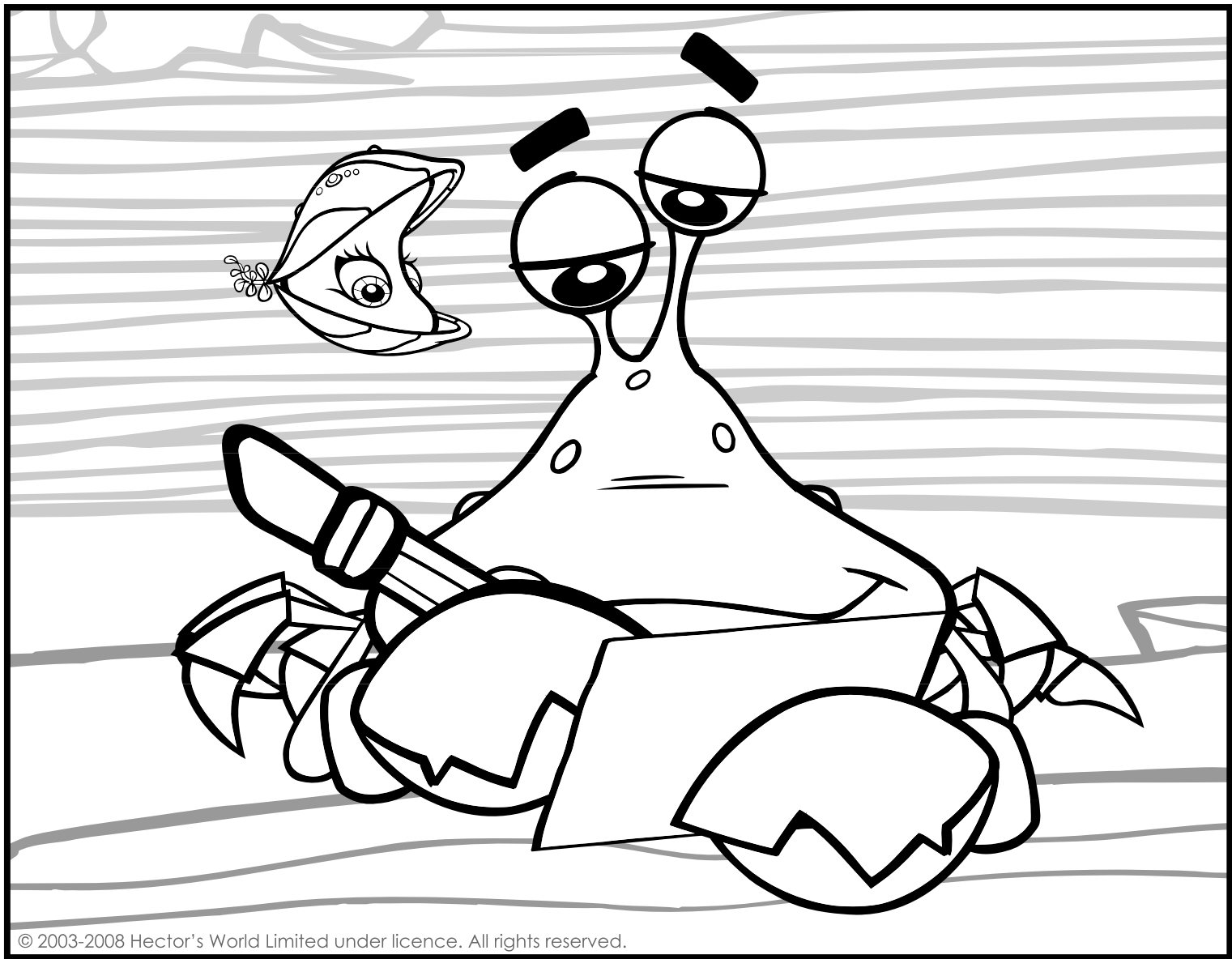


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"Your permission slip is signed, but all your personal details have been crossed out," replied Miss Finney.

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.

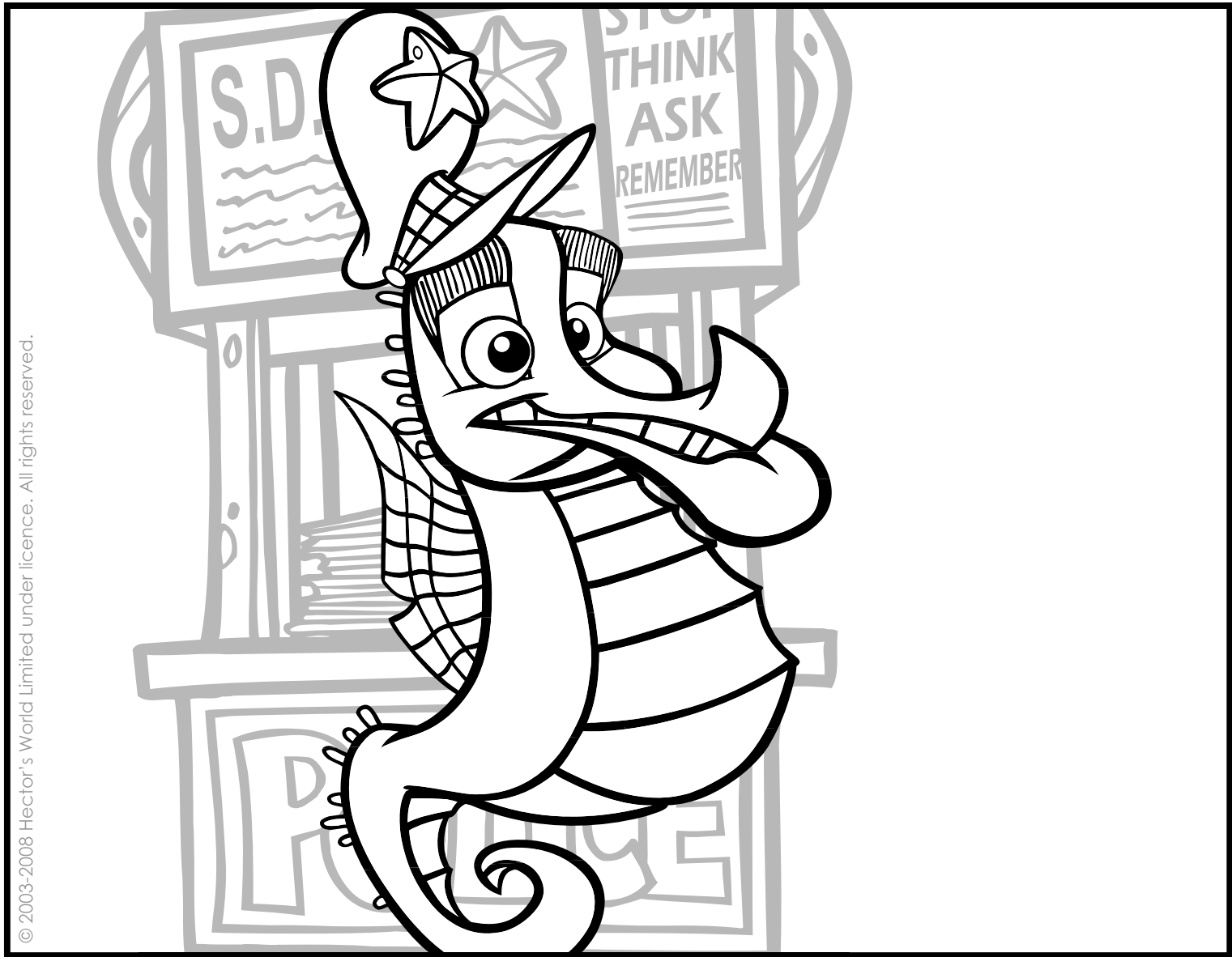
However, this was a problem for Miss Finney. She knew Ranjeet wanted to go to the carnival, but she couldn't let him in without a properly completed permission slip.



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.

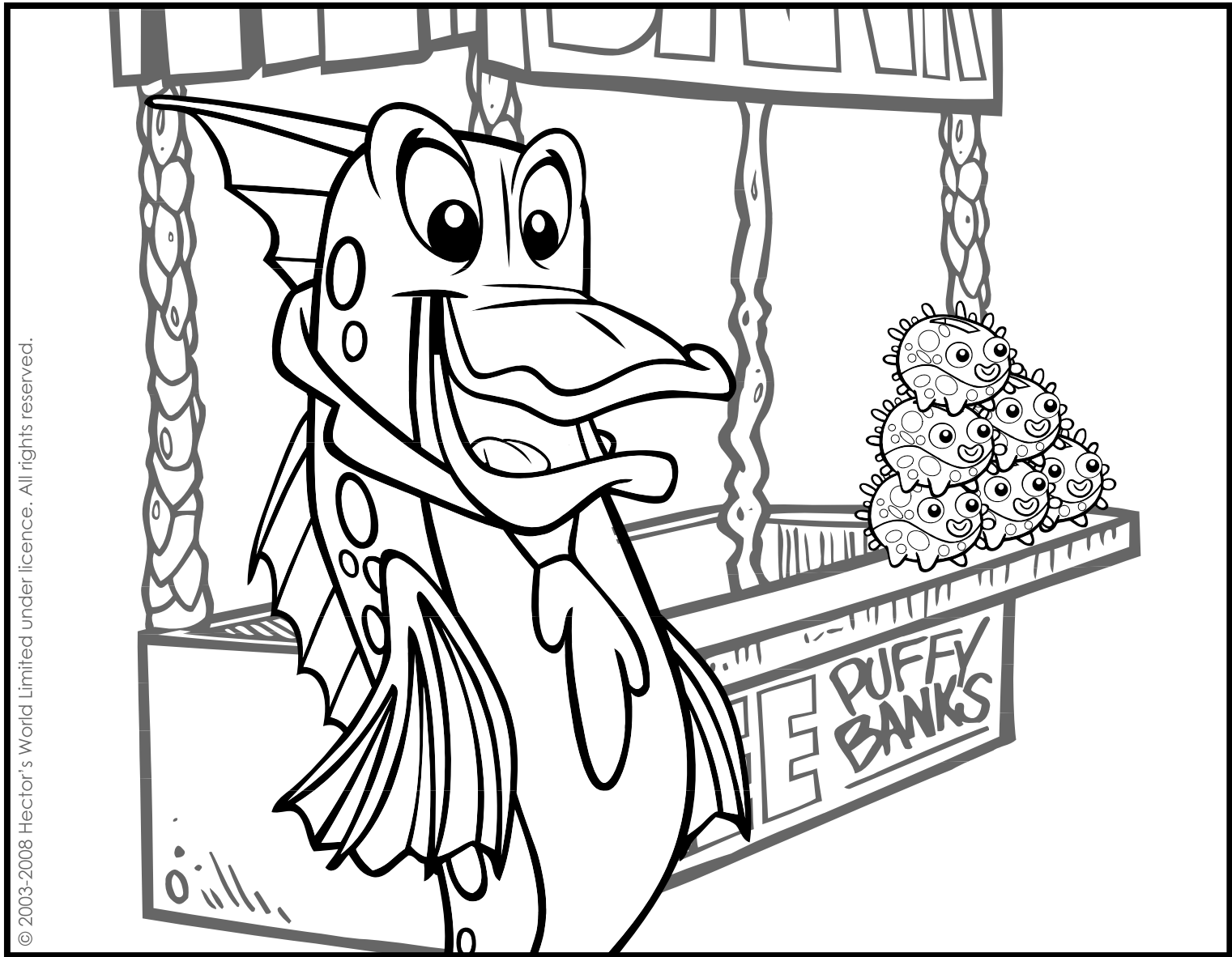
Ming rolled her eyes, knowing that it would not be the last time she'd have to explain such things to her enthusiastic friend Ranjeet.

Miss Finney checked over Ranjeet's details and sighed when she realised he'd written his nickname, 'SUPERCAB', 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.

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



"Hi, Mr Gurnard," said Tama.

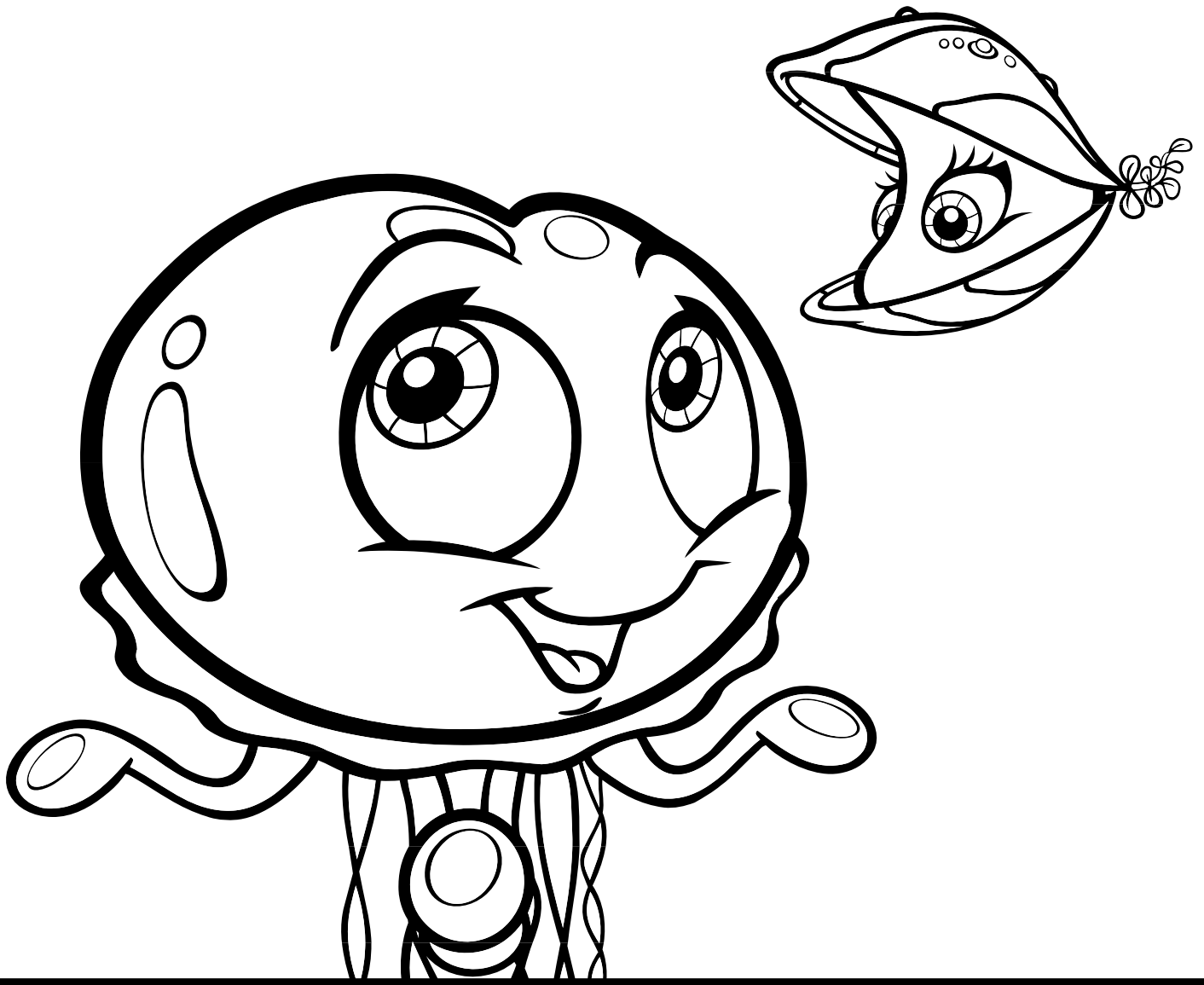
"Well hello there young Tama," replied Mr Gurnard with a beaming smile.

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.

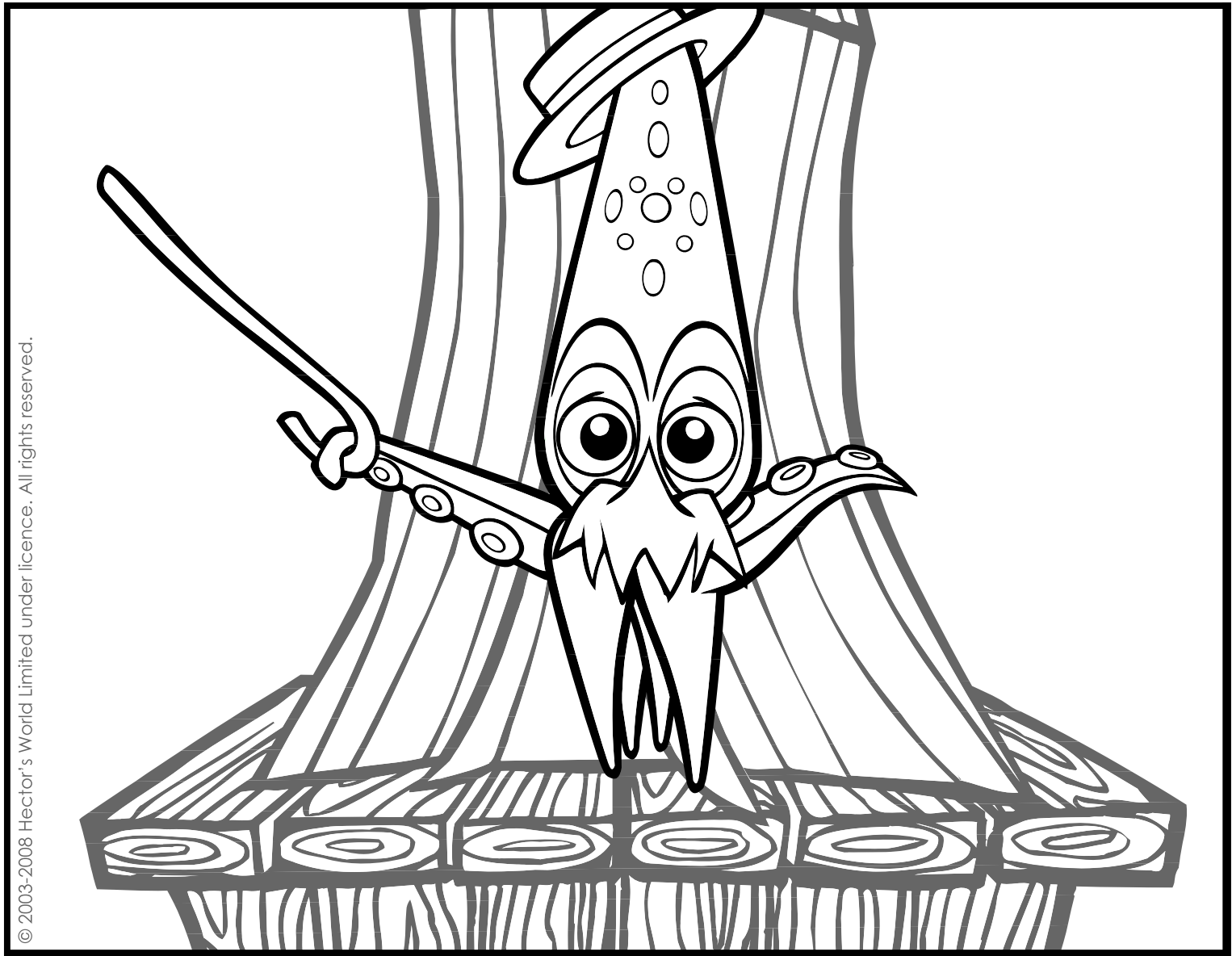
"But what exactly do you intend to do with Tama's information?"



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 told 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 pointed them both towards the 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.

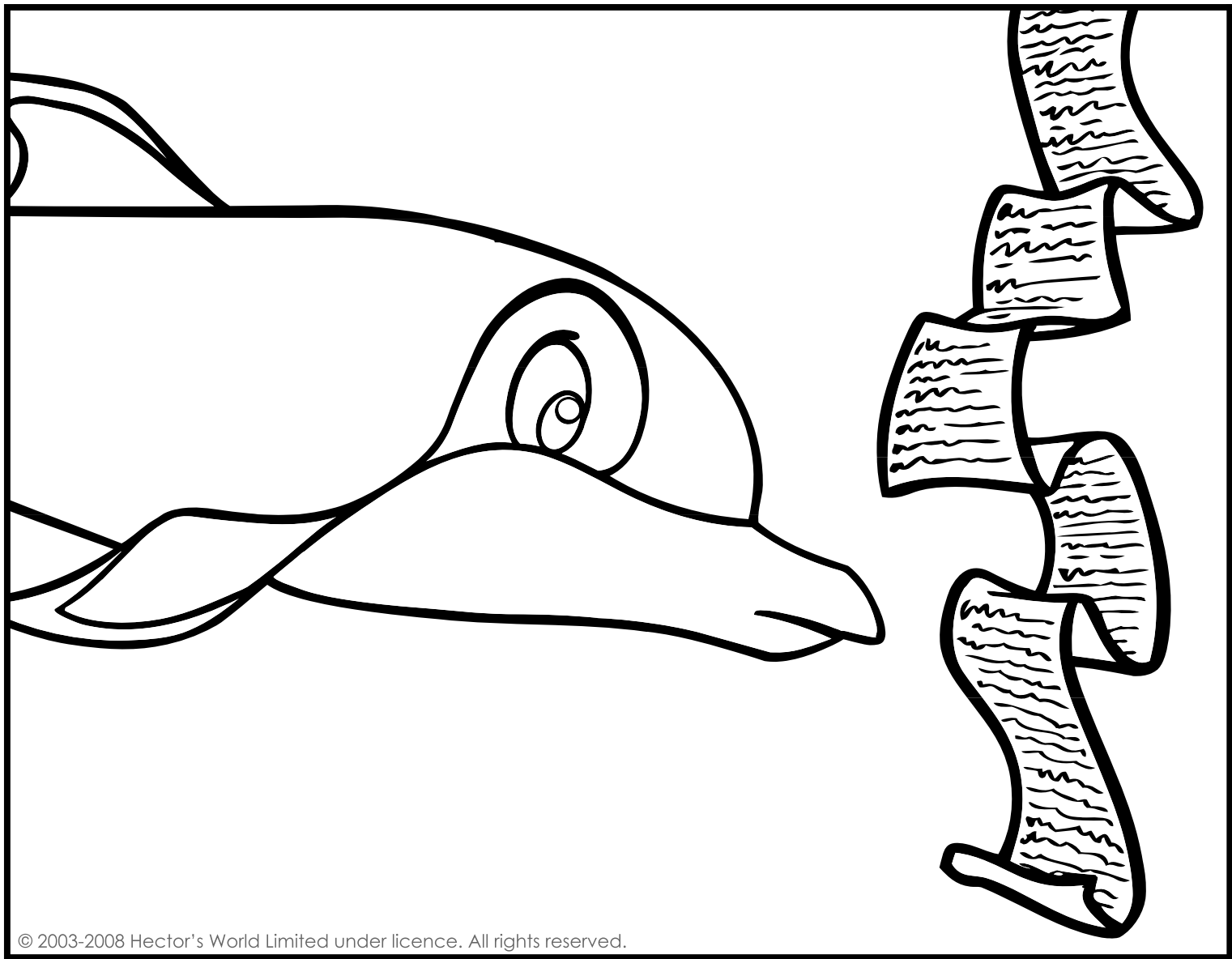


Suddenly, a booming voice echoed across the carnival, "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, step right up to win the prize of a lifetime!"

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!"

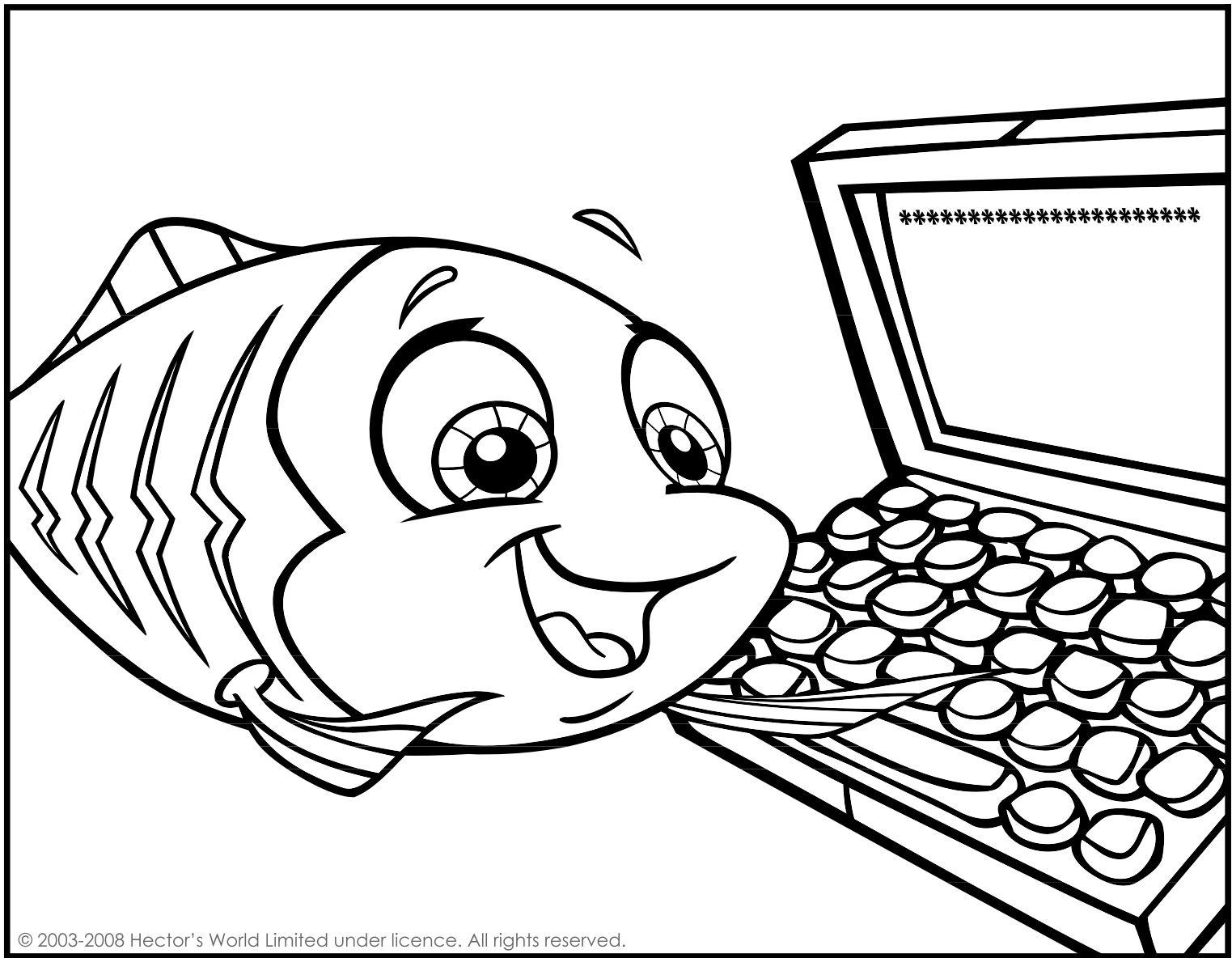
The large voice was coming from a rather short squid with a big moustache, funny little hat and long cane. He also had a laptop computer that he was using to collect the information of all those who wanted to enter the competition. Hector and Ming noticed that Sprat and Tama were heading off in the Squid's 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 a thing. Squid snatched the paper back before the water cleared.

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



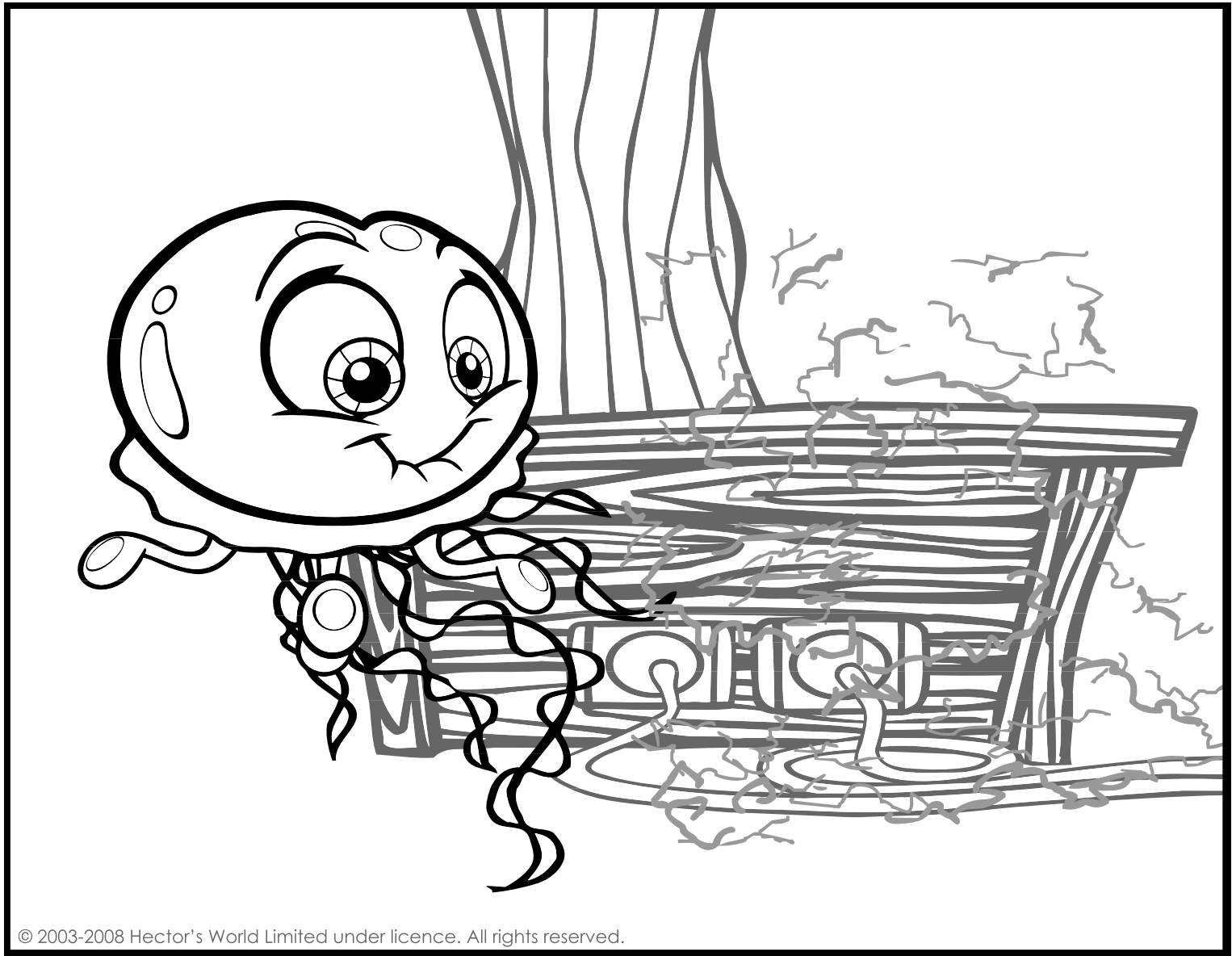
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Sprat looked very excited and signed up as soon as he could reach Squid's laptop. Hector wasn't sure it was such a good idea, but Sprat had signed up before he had a chance to stop him.

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!

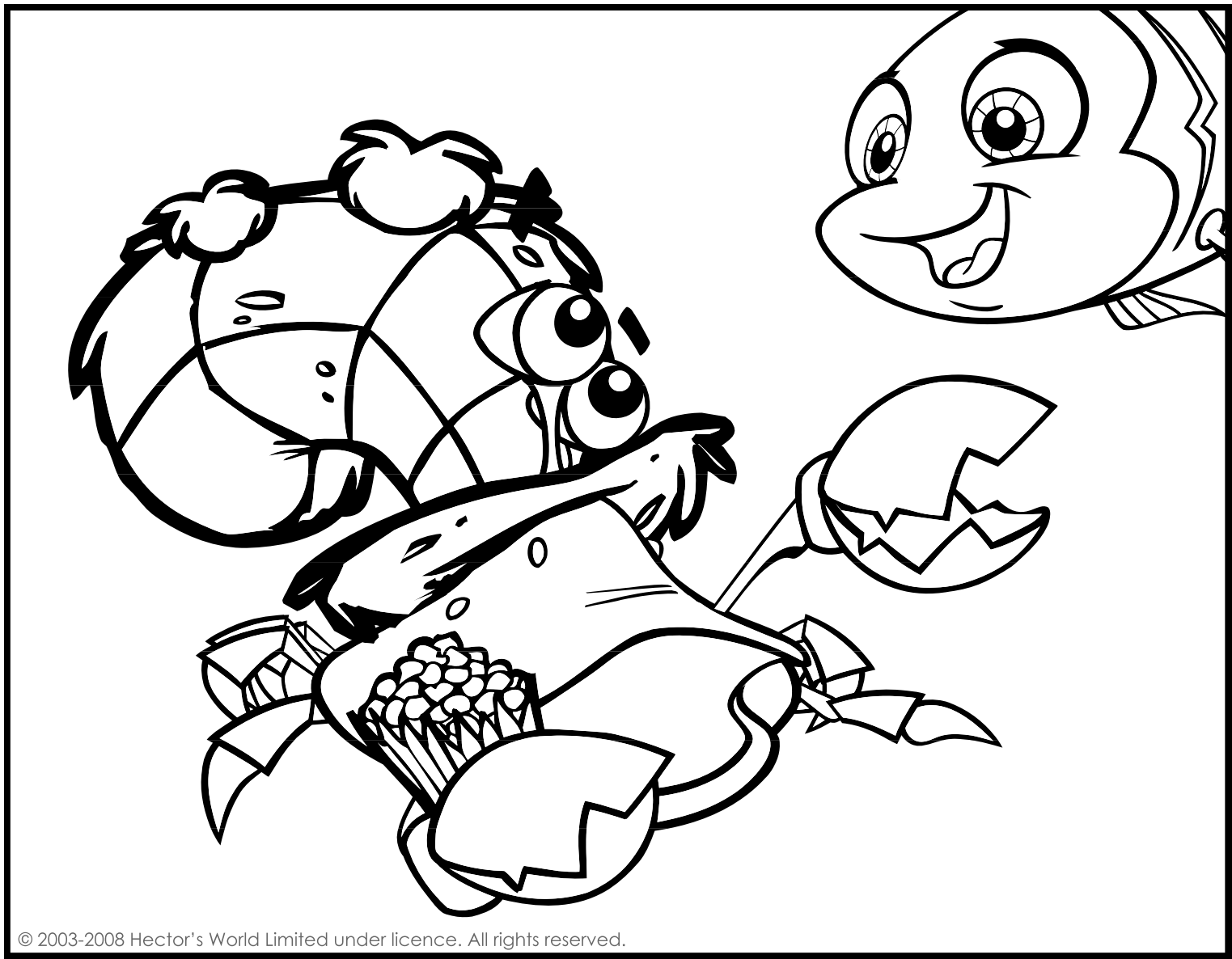


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Almost immediately, a large screen mounted on top of the tent pole flickered to life. There, in full colour, was a live image of Sprat, along with all his personal information that he'd just entered into Squid's laptop.

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 a few times and then went black.



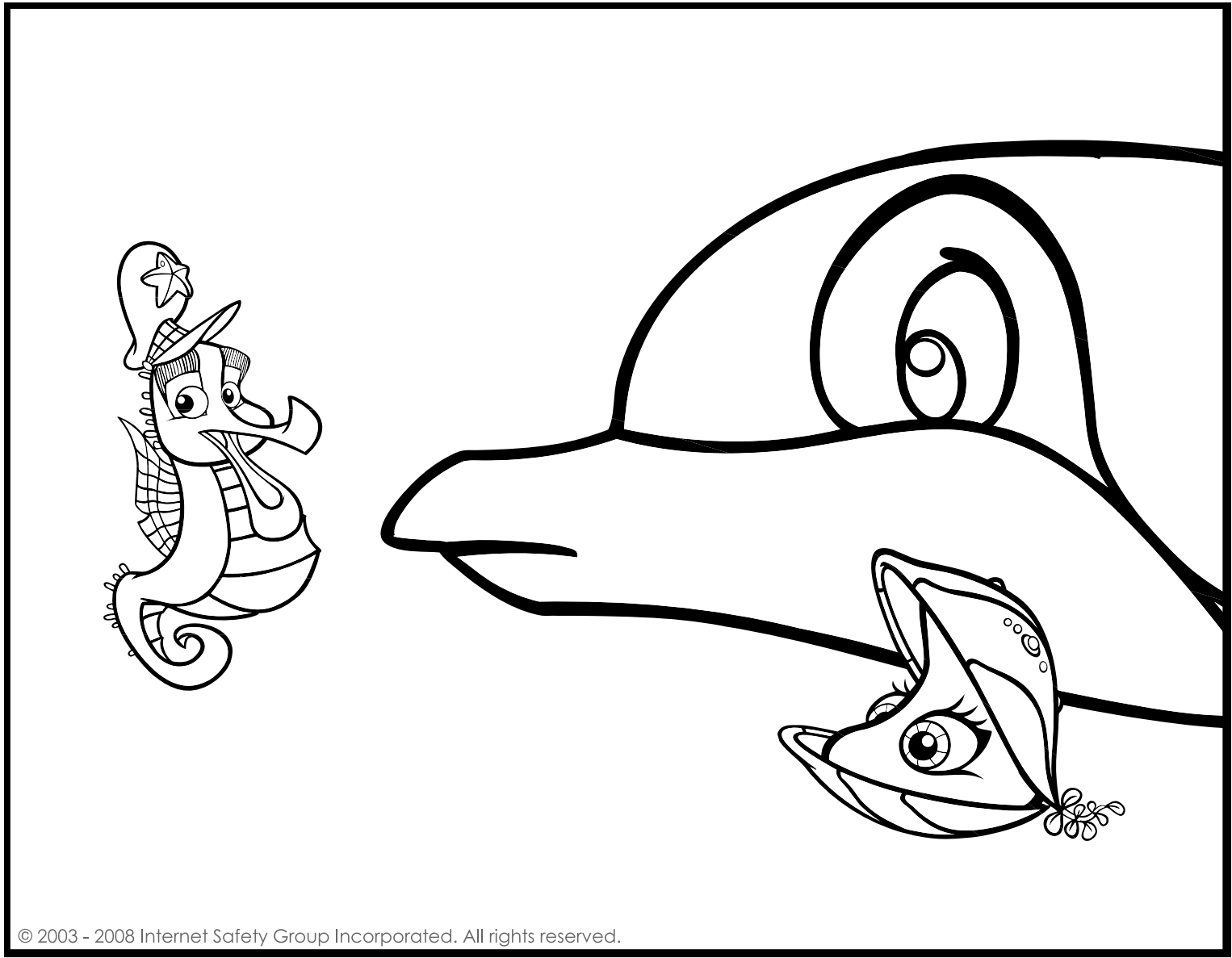
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Ming and Hector were very pleased with Tama, but Squid was not impressed. Throwing some tatty old music vouchers at Sprat, Squid packed up his tent and disappeared. Ming was going to chase after Squid just as Ranjeet turned up in a silly red, white 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 his disappointment about how Squid had treated him. He even forgot that his personal information had been shown to everyone at the carnival. All he wanted to know was where Ranjeet found his cool hat. Ranjeet dragged Sprat off to show him.

Hector, Ming and Tama began to follow their friends, as Constable Solosolave swam into the scene.



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Constable Solosolave had been watching Squid and didn't like how he had been running his competitions. Constable Solosolave suggested that Ming and Hector keep an 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 Constable Solosolave zoomed 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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