



Message in the Sand

Charmaine Aserappa

Roel Obemio



letsreadasia.org

The author, illustrator, and CANVAS encourage the sharing of this book and translation of the text, but we request that the images themselves not be altered. Thank you.



Miguel lived near the beach
and loved the sea.



But one day he found a number of beautiful fish dying on the shore.

His mother told him that a local mining company was dumping waste into a river which led to the sea.



'Who can stop them?' Miguel asked.

'You,' she replied.

'Me?'

'It's always up to us,' said his mother. 'Send them a message.'



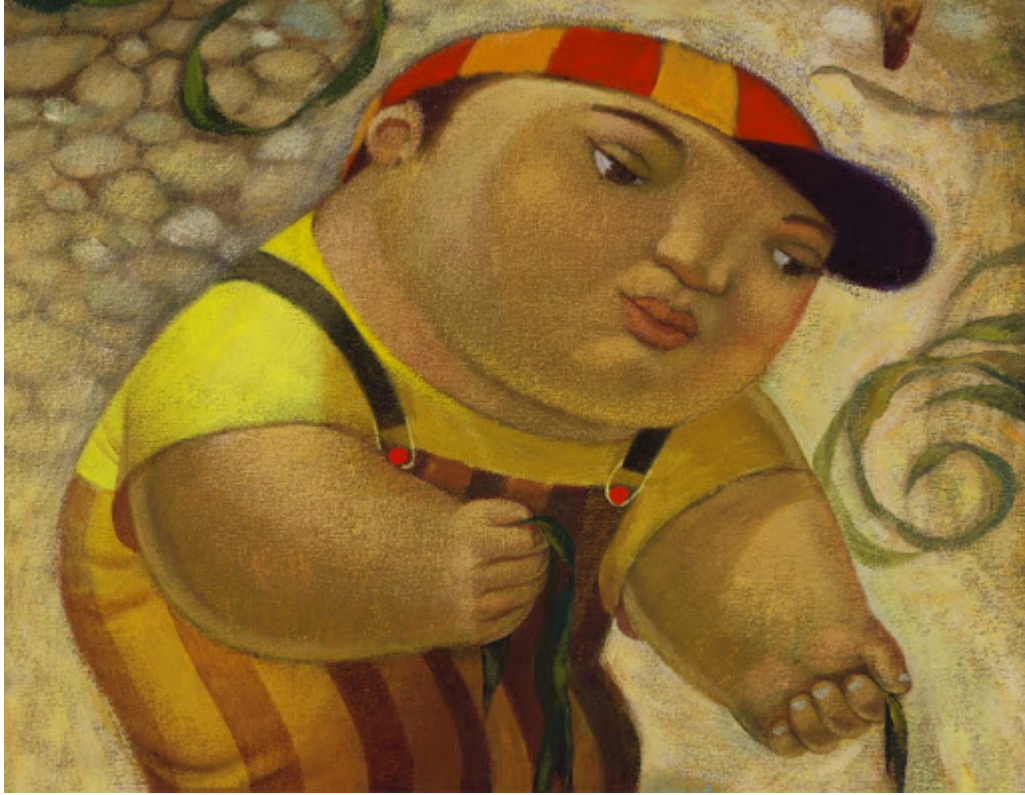
Miguel found a stick and wrote a message in the sand:

S.O.S.

'Save Our Seas,' Miguel said to himself.



Then the tide roared in. It washed away his words.



Over and over, Miguel wrote
the message.

He wrote it in seaweed.



He wrote it using broken seashells.



Over and over, the waves
washed away the words.



'It's just no good. Nobody will ever see my message,' Miguel sighed.

'Try again,' his mother encouraged him. 'Pray, and be patient. Never give up. One day someone will see your message and things will change.'



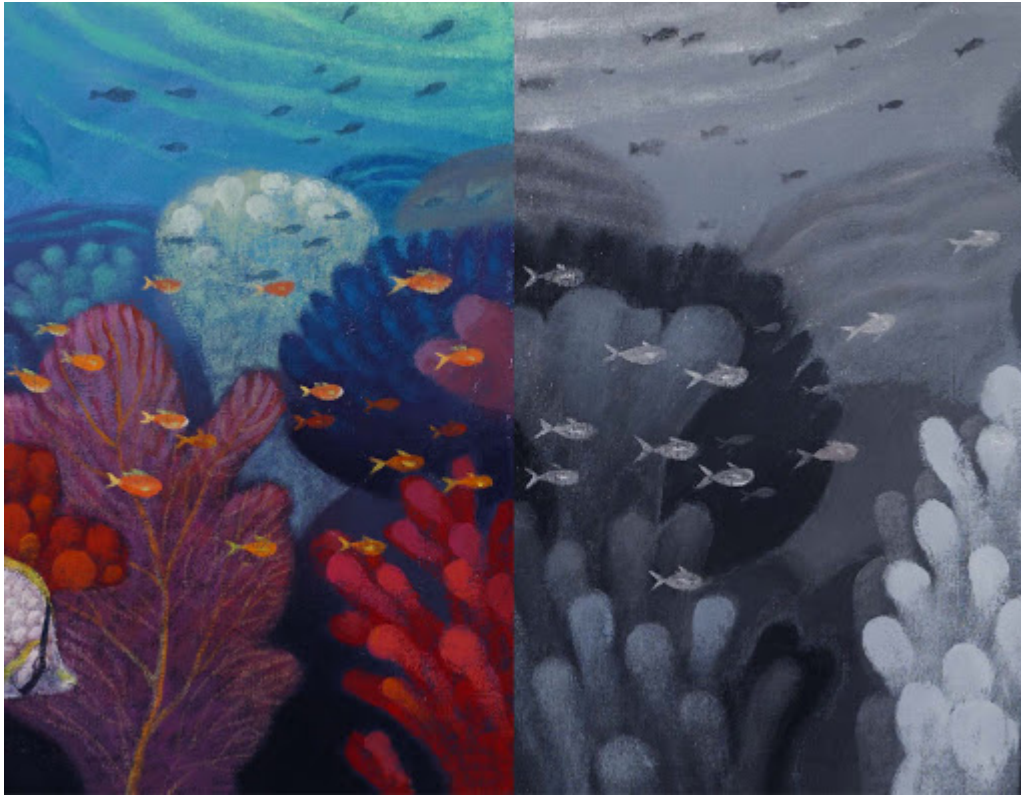
Not long after, a shiny black car pulled up to their home. Two men in business suits and sunglasses got out.



'Every morning, when the president of our mining company flies his airplane over this beach, he sees your message in the sand below,' said one of the men. 'He sent us here to find out what S.O.S. means.'



'Tell your president that S.O.S. means Save Our Seas,' said Miguel. 'Tell him to stop dumping his waste in the river.'



'The river leads to the ocean. The waste poisons the fish and plants. It makes the water and beach dirty. It makes the birds sick. And that makes me sad.'



The men left, and Miguel continued to pray. And every day he wrote the message in the sand.



And every day the sea
roared up and washed away
his words.



Then one day, Miguel's mother showed him the newspaper headline:
MINING COMPANY GETS THE MESSAGE. WASTE DUMPING TO STOP.



Miguel smiled, ran out to the beach, and found a stick. He wrote a new message in the sand:
THANK YOU



The sea roared up and washed away his words. It carried them to lands far away.

Brought to you by



The Asia Foundation

Let's Read! is an initiative of The Asia Foundation's Books for Asia program that fosters young readers in Asia. booksforasia.org

To read more books like this and get further information about this book, visit letsreadasia.org

Original Story

Message in the Sand, author: Charmaine Aserappa. illustrator: by Roel Obemio. Published by CANVAS, <http://www.canvas.ph/art-and-stories/message-in-the-sand> © CANVAS. Released under CC BY 4.0.

This work is a modified version of the original story. © The Asia Foundation, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0.



For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>