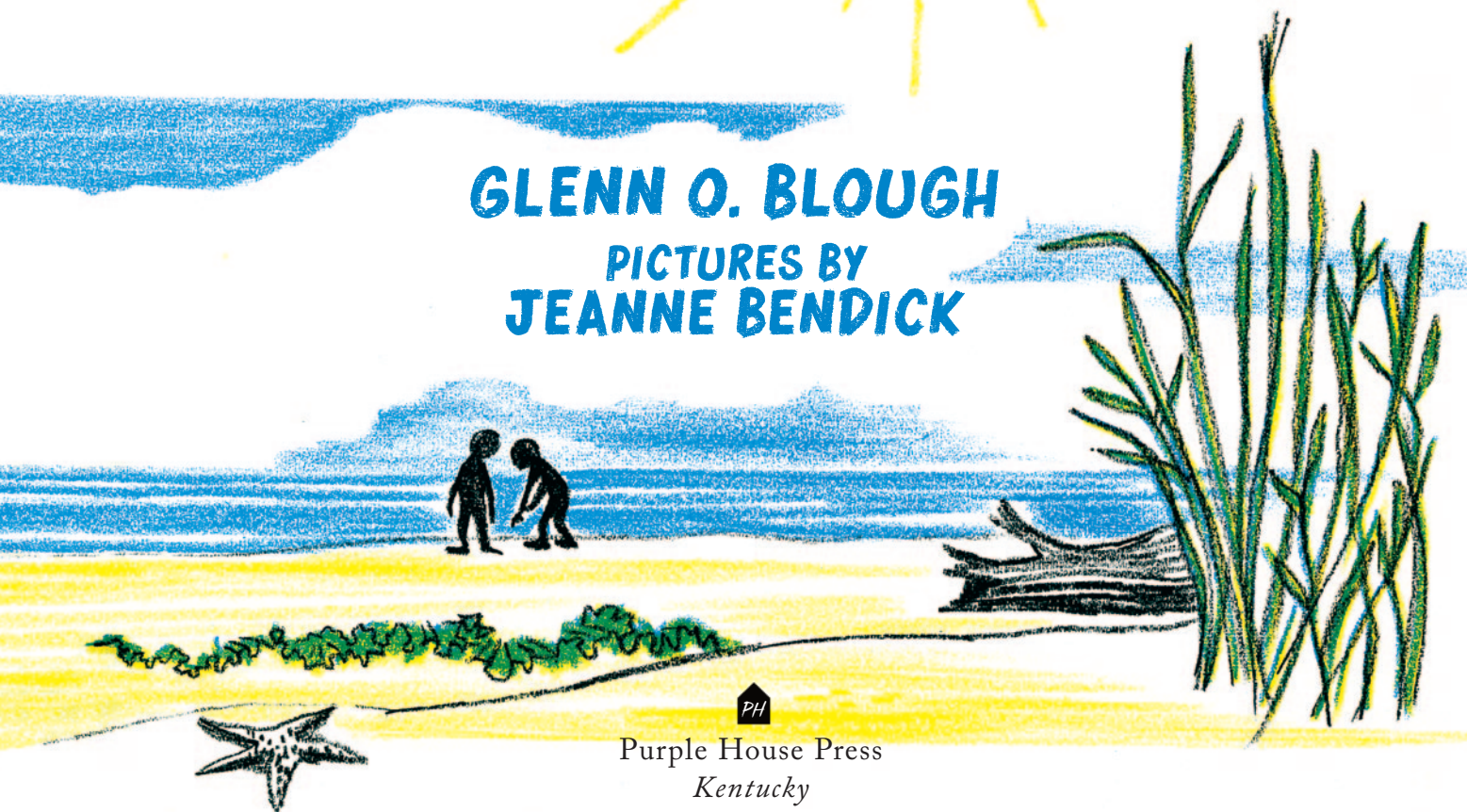


WHO LIVES AT THE SEASHORE?

Animal Life Along the Shore

GLENN O. BLOUGH

PICTURES BY
JEANNE BENDICK



PH

Purple House Press
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WALKING ALONG THE SEASHORE

If you walk along the seashore on a bright summer day, you will feel the sun warm on your head and feel the tingle of sea spray cool on your cheeks, but all around nothing may seem to move except the water that is lapping at your feet. Then, suddenly, a bird calls, and you look up at the blue sky to see gulls sailing overhead. As you watch, they may flap their wings and dive toward the sea, and you may think, “Gulls live by the shore but I don’t see anything else.”

Some strange and wonderful things happen along the seashore. But many of the creatures are hard to see unless you know where to look.

If you look down at the sand you may see a starfish or two in a pool. They are often washed upon the shore. You may think, “Gulls and starfish live by the shore, but that’s about all.”

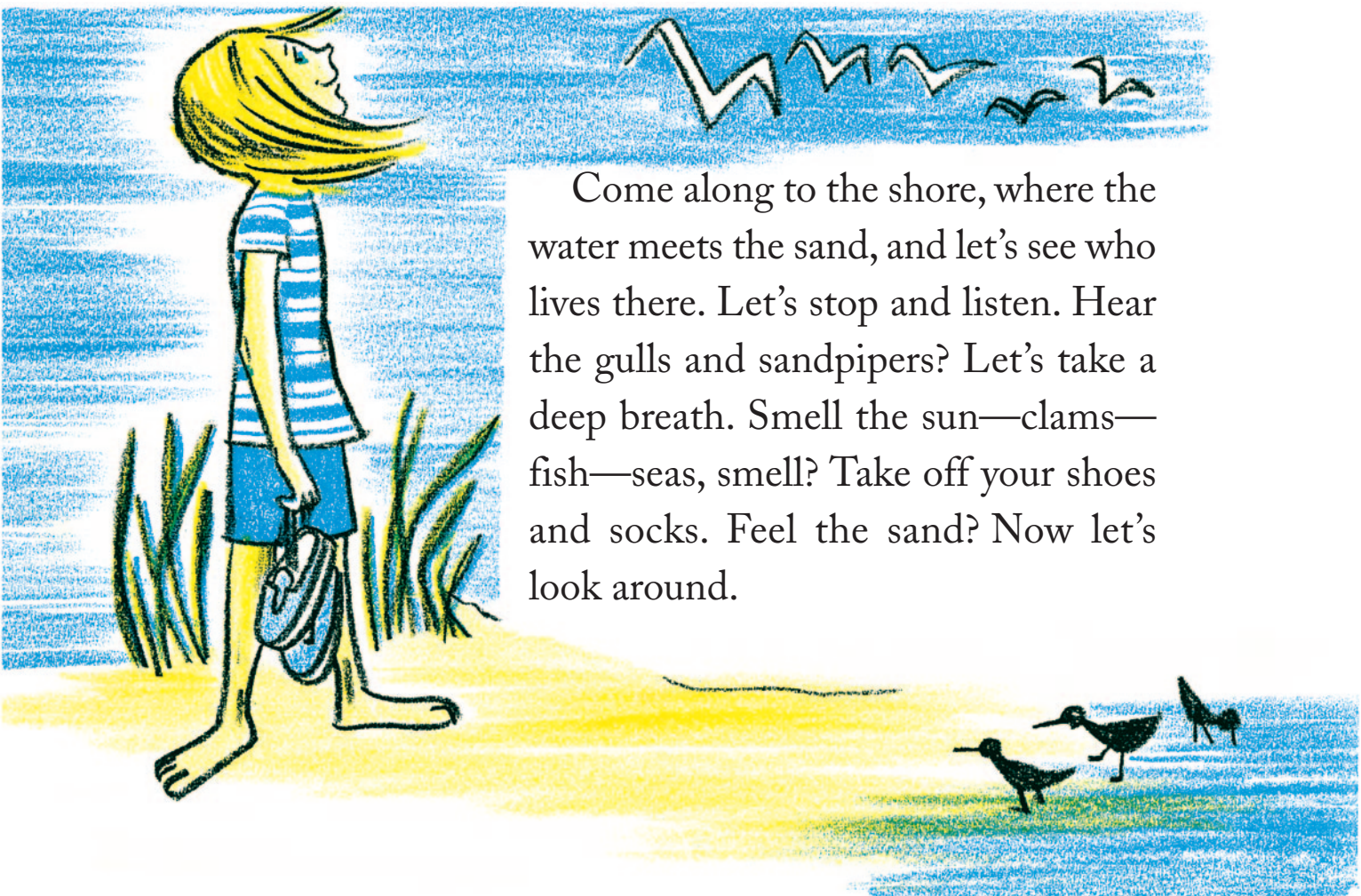
If you dig down in the sand in the right place you may find clams buried in the wet sand, and then you may say, “Gulls and starfish and clams live by the shore, but probably that’s about all.”

If you look closely at rocks and pieces of wood, you may find barnacles (**bar-nuh-kuhls**) fastened to them and find some seaweed. Then you may say, “Gulls and starfish and clams and barnacles and seaweed live by the shore, but probably nothing more.”

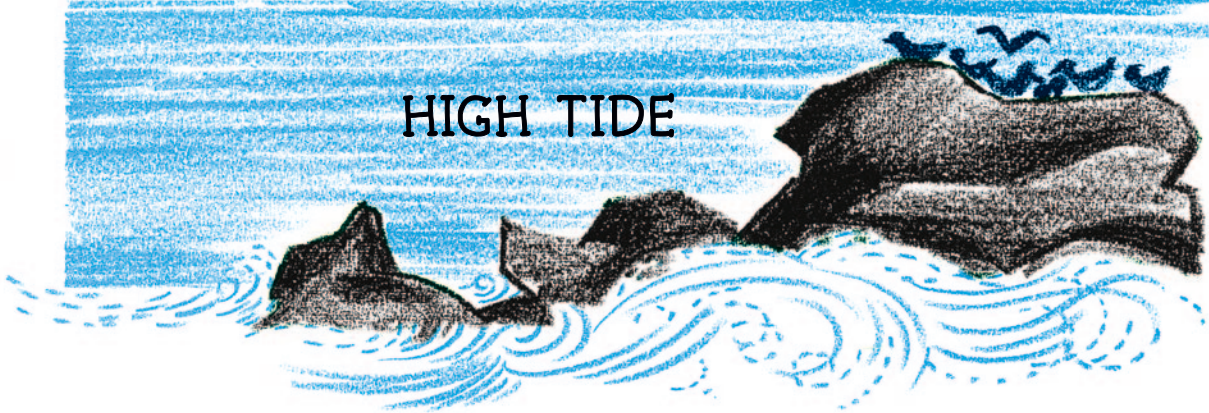


As you walk along where the tide comes and goes you may find shells of different kinds. Some are empty. Some have animals in them. By now you will know that many animals live on the shore where the water meets the sand and the sky is blue. But it takes quite a lot of looking to find these animals.

You may discover an animal that has no house of its own. It lives in the house of another animal. You may see an animal drop clam shells on rocks to break them open. You may even see an animal that pushes its stomach out of its mouth when it eats. It usually has five arms. If one gets broken off it can grow a new one.



Come along to the shore, where the water meets the sand, and let's see who lives there. Let's stop and listen. Hear the gulls and sandpipers? Let's take a deep breath. Smell the sun—clams—fish—seas, smell? Take off your shoes and socks. Feel the sand? Now let's look around.



HIGH TIDE

WATCHING THE TIDES

All day long and all night long the tide comes and goes at the seashore. When the tide is coming in, the water begins to cover the sand and the stones and everything else that is near the edge of the sea. The water keeps coming in and coming in and getting higher and higher on the shore. When the water stops getting higher we say that it is high tide.

When the tide is on its way out, the water keeps going out and going out and getting lower and lower on the shore. The sand, the stones, and everything near the edge of the sea where the water has been look dark and damp, but you can walk on them now. When the tide stops getting lower we say that it is low tide.

LOW TIDE

