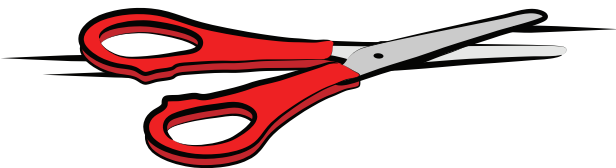


# JOURNEY to the



**BIG TIME RECYCLING  
EXTRAVAGANZA!**



This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

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Parents,

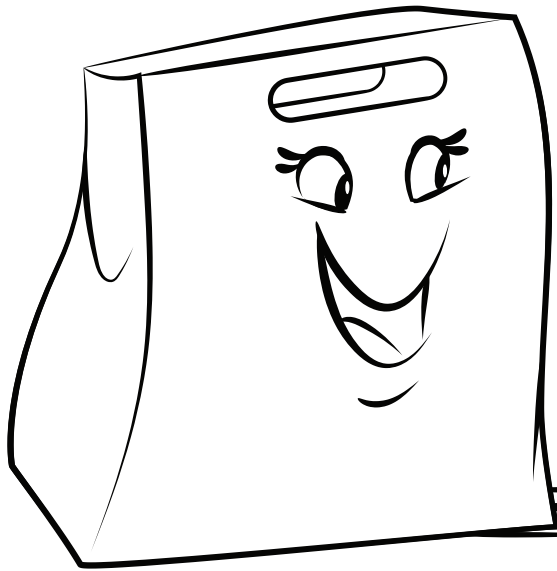
We are pleased to share this coloring and activity book with your family. It is our hope and intention that they will lead the next generation in efficient and sustainable use of single and reusable plastic bags. As a plastics manufacturer, we not only use virgin resin but also post-consumer resin from our recycling processing plants. Together, we can ensure that bags are reused and recycled.

### **Your Friends at Inteplast Group**

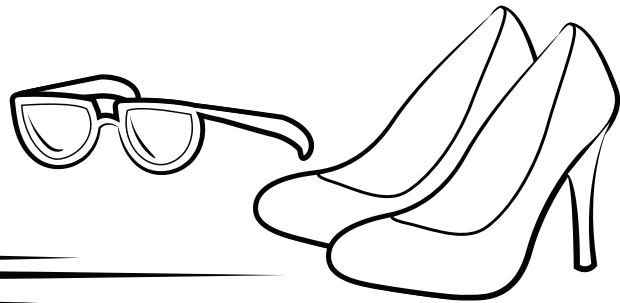


We began as a trio in Mr. And Mrs. Green's pantry where they stored all of their recyclable items.

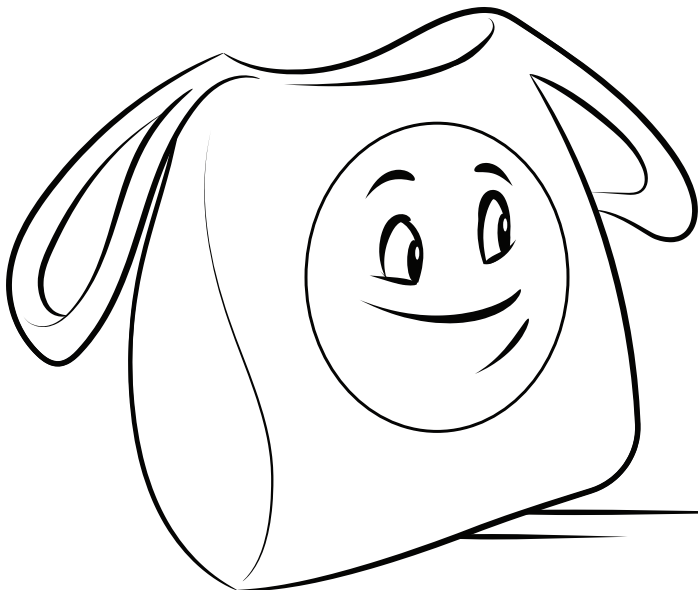
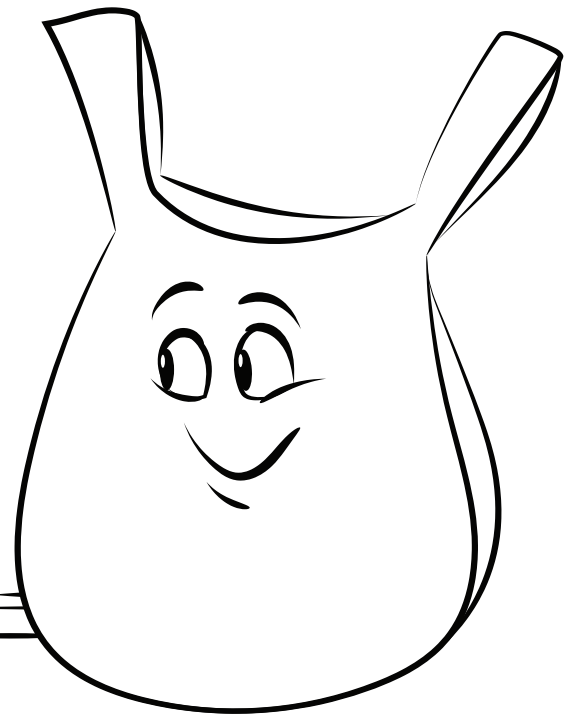
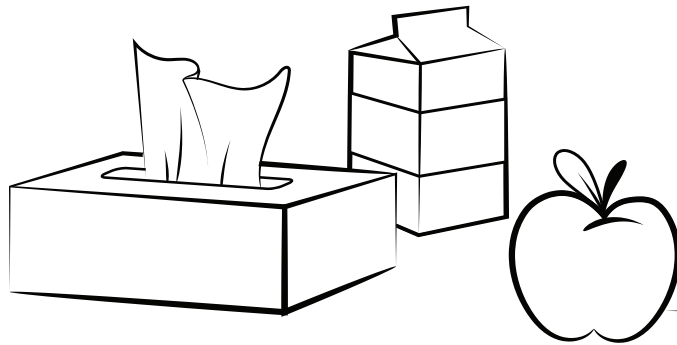




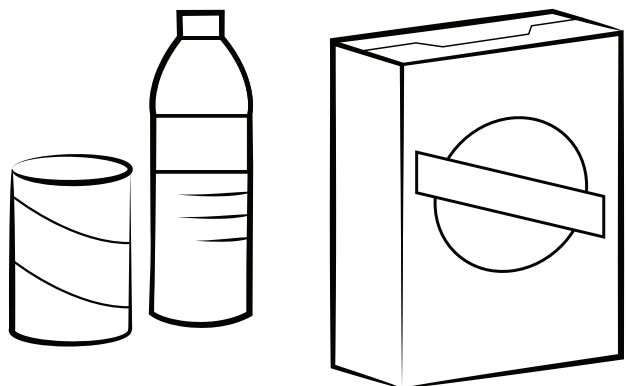
Polly was a fabulous bag from FancyFares.



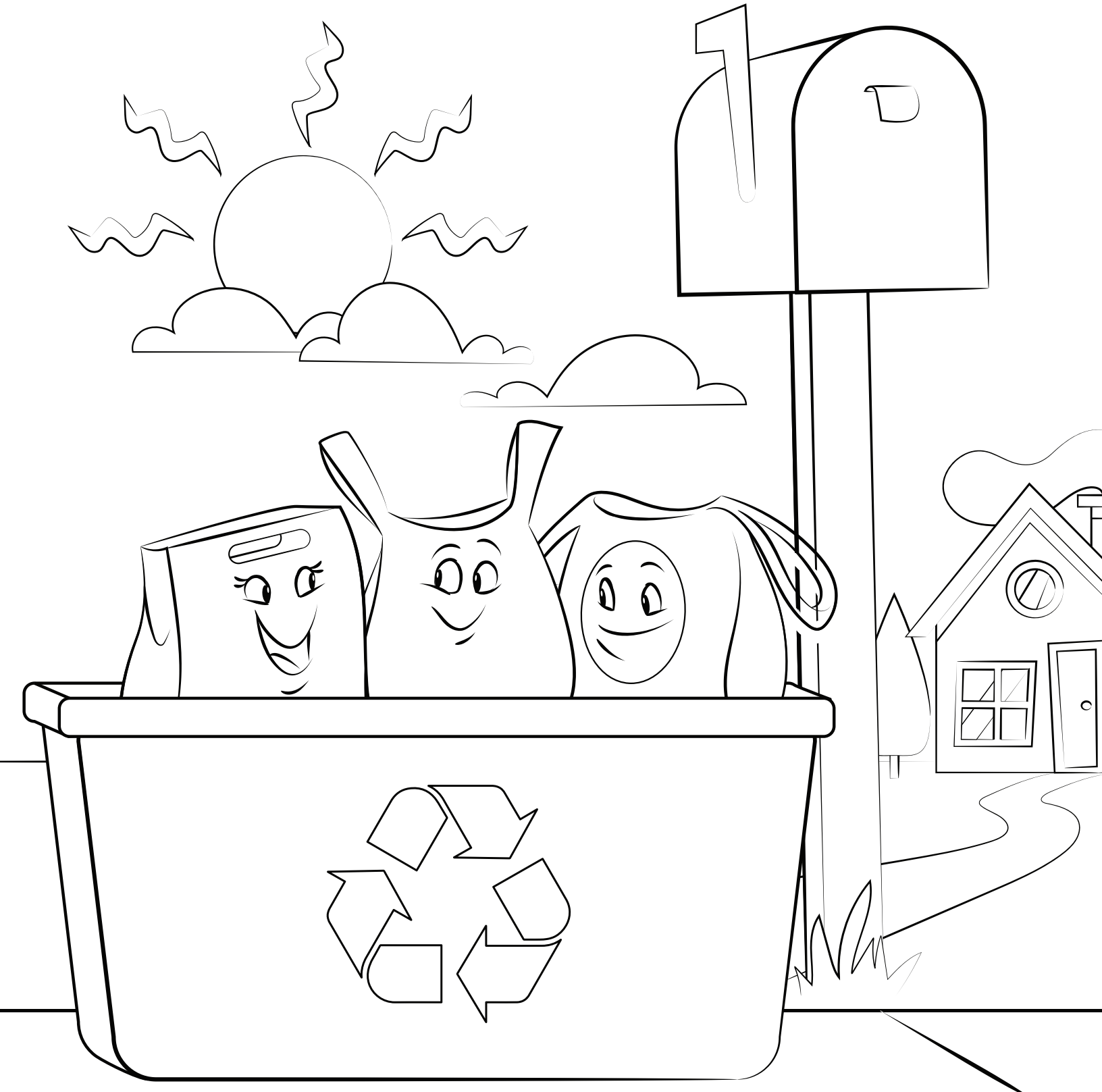
Ethel was a courageous grocery bag who had seen many apples, tissue boxes, and milk cartons in her day.



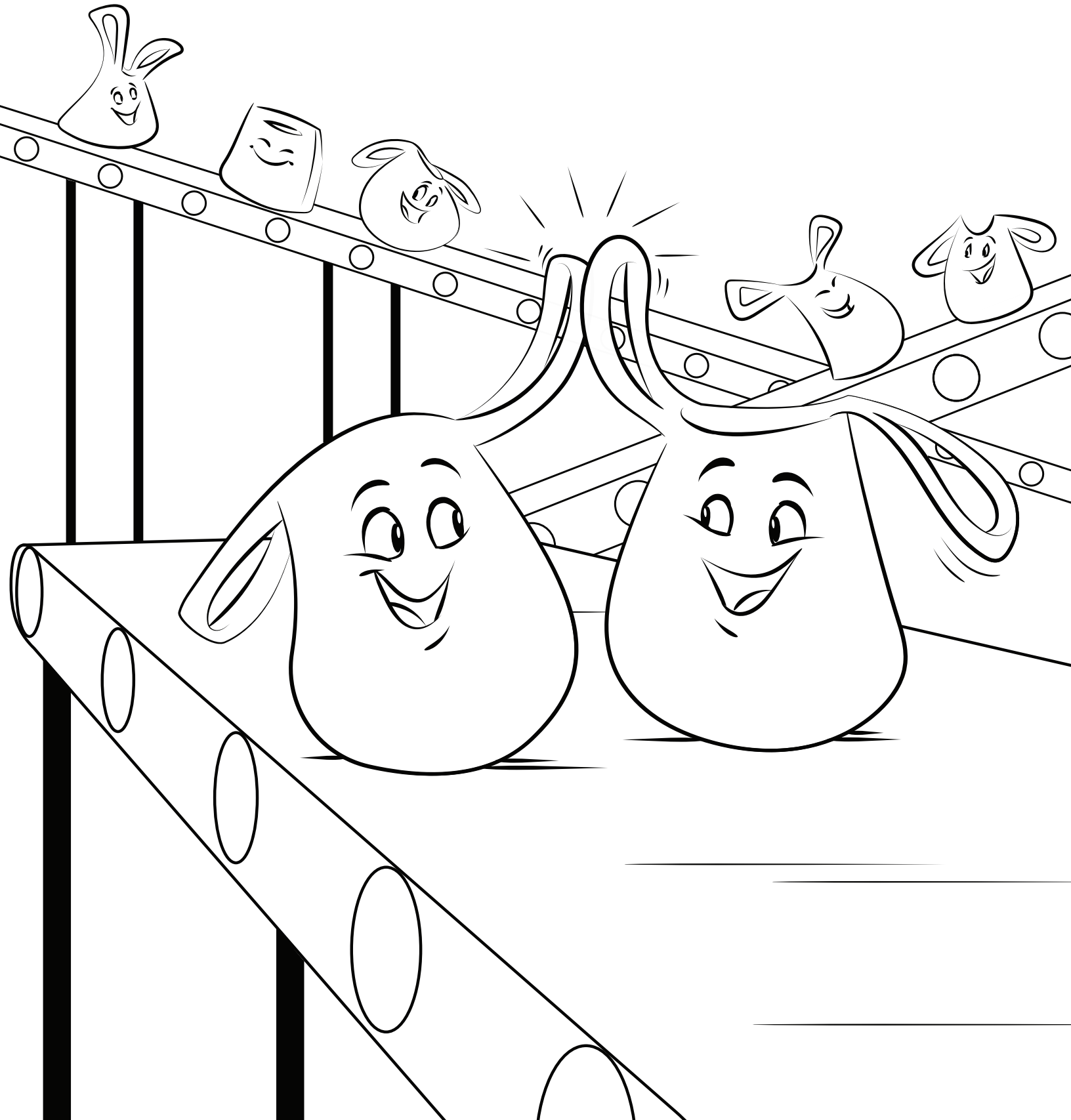
And I'm Lenny - the bag with the smiley face and the Thank You tattoo.



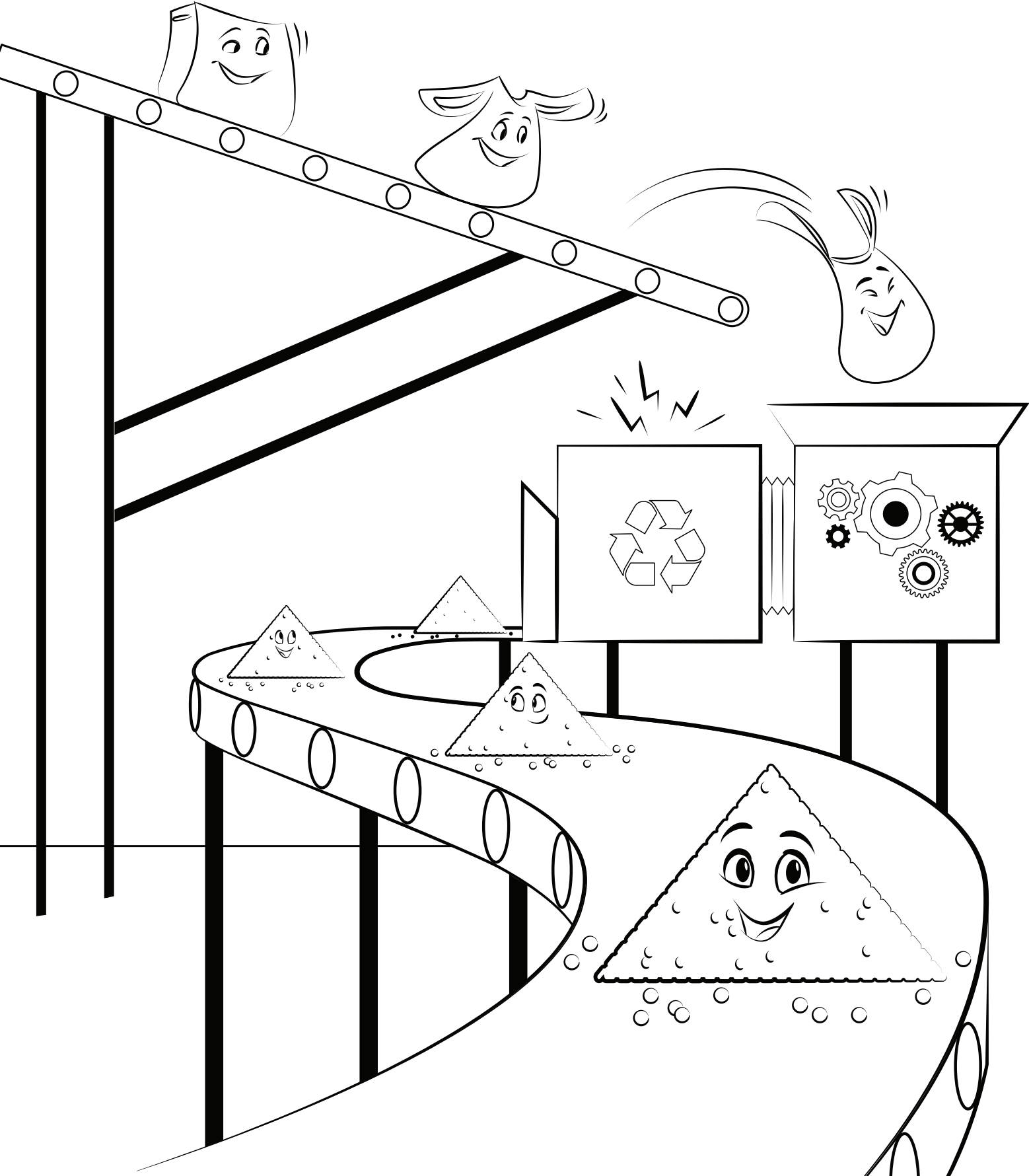
One day, Mr. Green took us to the curbside, where all recyclables get ready for the Big Time Recycling Extravaganza (humans call it the recycling processing center). We were so excited!



You see, at the Recycling Extravaganza,  
it's the biggest bag reunion ever. You  
get a chance to chat, laugh, and hug  
your old friends.



And then the magic happens! Our plastic is turned into powerful pellets so that we can find new adventures with new families as recycled plastic bags.

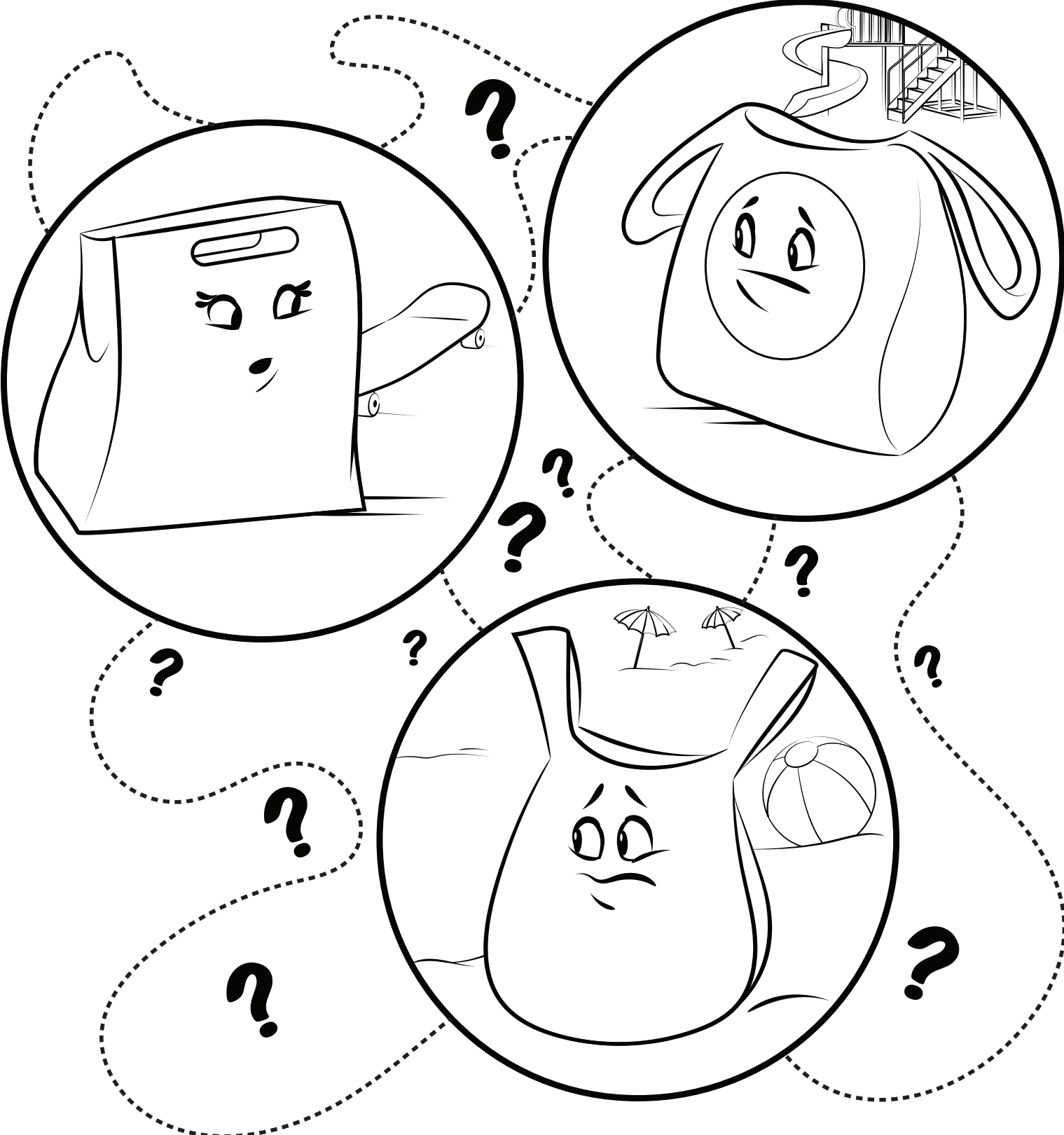




**But Ralph the raccoon, came along and just couldn't keep his paws to himself. With a gust of wind - Ethel, Polly, and I were blown away!**



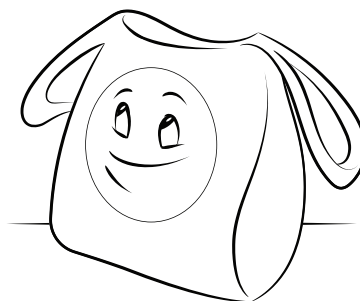
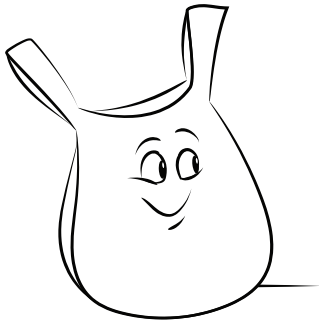
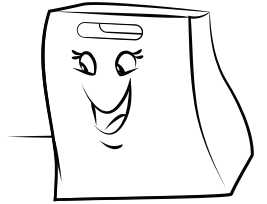
The three of us, the good old pantry bag gang, were now separated, lost, and alone. How would we ever get to the Big Time Recycling Extravaganza?



Let's take a break and find these words!

**Polyethylene, recycle, plastic, bags, grocery, beach, extruder, resin, upcycle, sustainable, reuse**

Z G U J N S H D F O P E  
M V O C A U V E H B N Y  
X S Z Z I S X R A N N R  
P O L Y E T H Y L E N E  
E S U E R A S B C E A C  
E V B U E I S A E Q W O  
I Y D Z S N B G L A H R  
R E C Z I A C X A P C G  
R Q Z S N B P H E B S H  
T O M S E L C Y C E R L  
R N T F U E C J K L Z N  
Y G P X M U P C Y C L E



Polly landed on a fence near a library. A cool kid, Mike, picked her up and decided to use her to carry his library books. At first, she wasn't thrilled. But then she learned how glamorous reading could be!



Polly was made of LDPE\* and was strong and shiny. She carried library books and kept them dry when Mike got caught in the rain. Ethel and I were made of HDPE\*, which meant our plastic looked a bit different than Polly's.



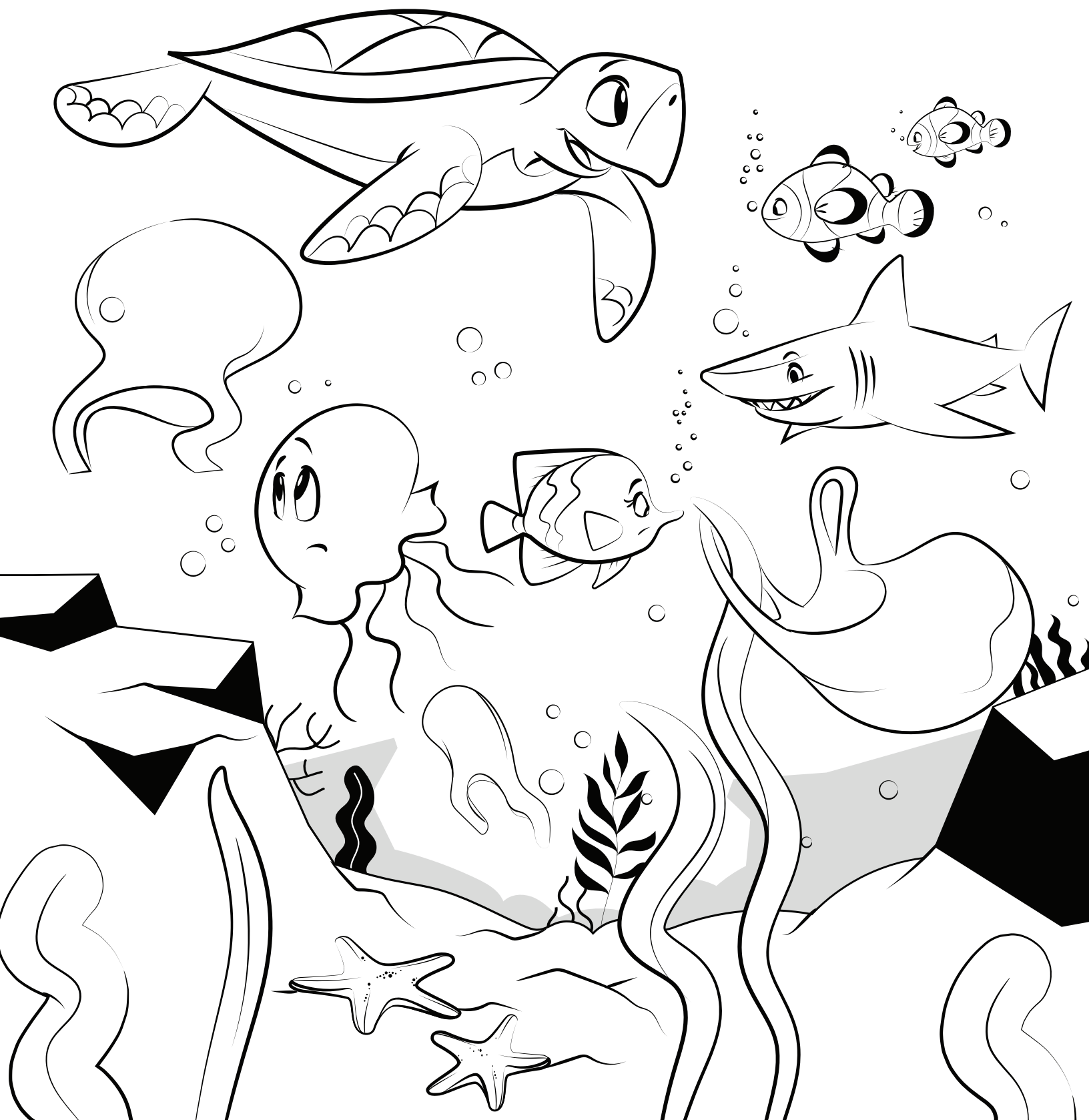
At FancyFares, Polly carried clothing, shoes, ties, and perfume boxes. Books were fun, but Polly really, really was ready to be recycled.



Ethel ended up in the scariest of places for plastic bags - the beach! It's where bags are sometimes left all alone, not placed in recycling bins, and taken out to sea, never to see the Big Time Recycling Extravaganza!

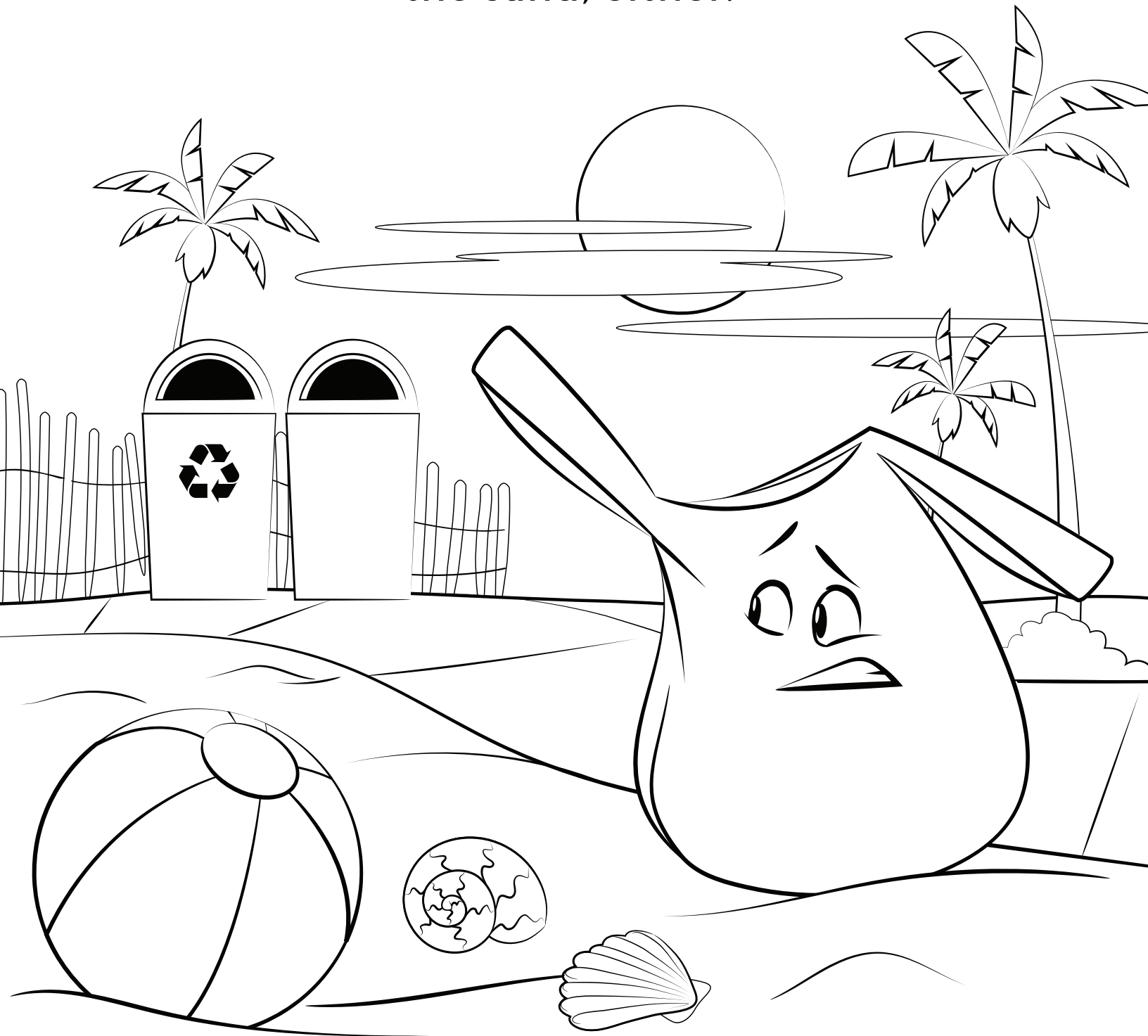


There were bags who even ended up being eaten for lunch by fish, tangled in seaweed, or floating never to help another human again. Ethel did not want to stay at the beach.



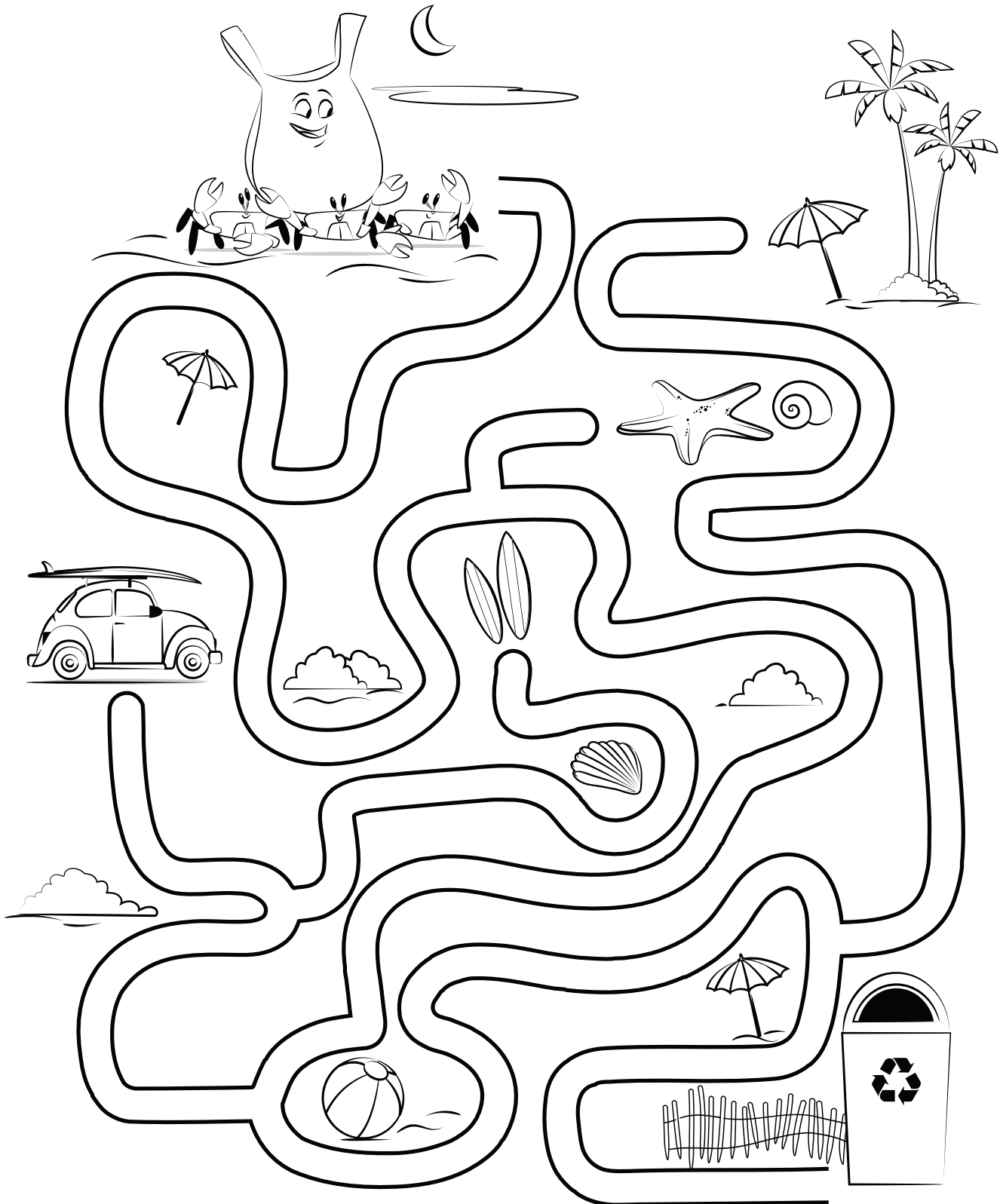


Ethel saw a recycling bin and hoped the wind would give her a gentle push near it. She hoped and hoped and hoped but there was no wind that day. No one picked her up from the sand, either!

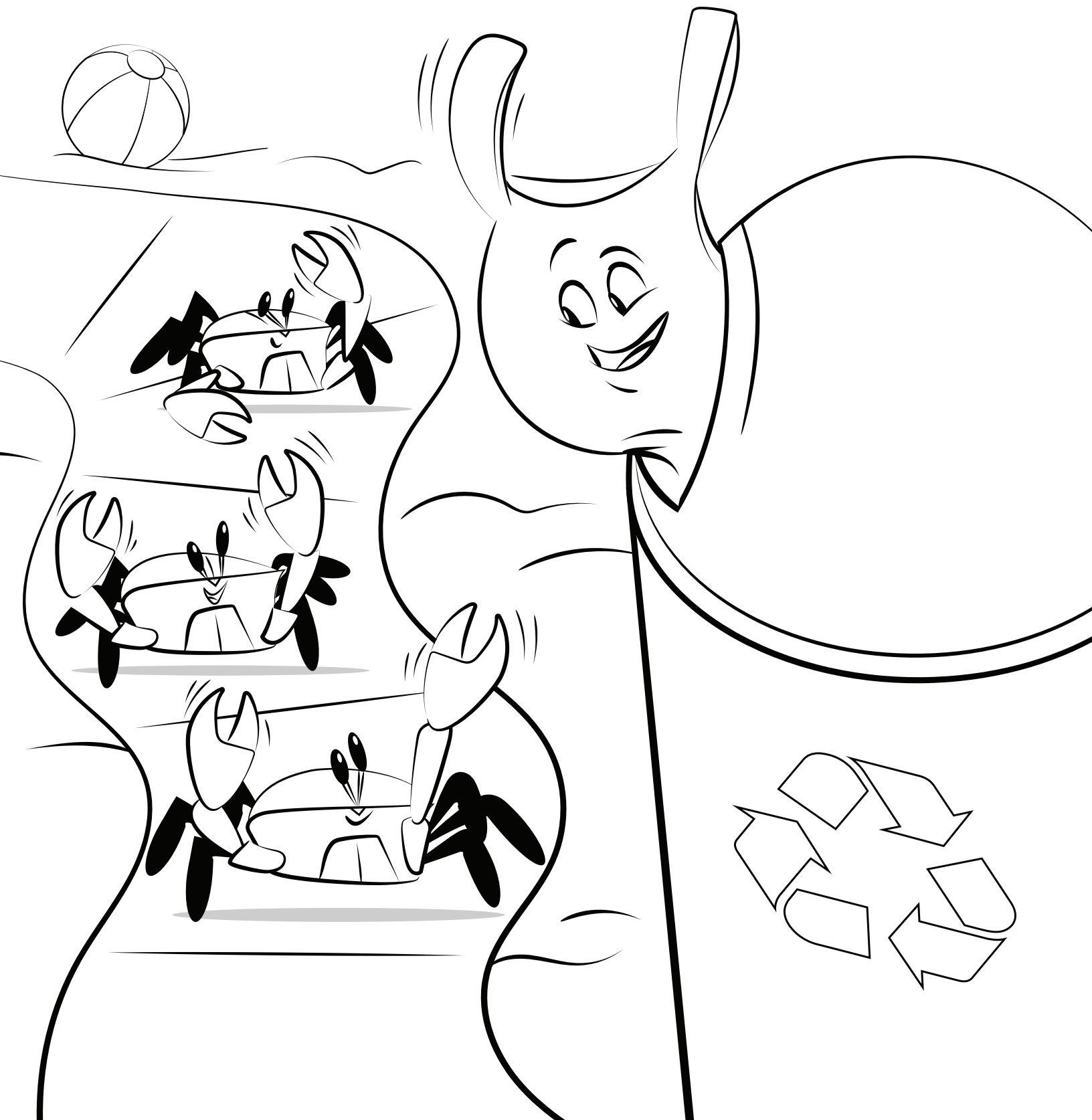


Alone on the beach, Ethel looked up at the moon.  
A cast of crabs crawled up to her and the leader  
asked, "Need a lift?" "Yes," she said. "The nearest  
recycling bin please!"

**Help the crabs bring Ethel to the recycling receptacle!**



And the crabs rallied together and pulled Ethel to a recycling container. With a lot of teamwork, she landed safe and sound. "Thank you, sea friends!" she said, waving goodbye.



Here's what happened to me, Lenny. I became a plastic wreath. A teacher, Ms. Knackity, found me near a playground, along with several other bags who were lost and alone.



Ms. Knackity brought us to her classroom and used me - little old Lenny - to make a plastic wreath for her door. I was used to smiling and thanking humans, but now, I was welcoming them!



I looked different and had a new home.  
Also, turning into strips didn't hurt at all  
and all of my pieces of film made the  
wreath look so nice. But I was still worried  
about Ethel and Polly.



When Global Recycling Day came around, I felt like the luckiest upcycled\* bag in the world! Ms. Knackity and her students dismantled the wreath and put me and other bags in the school recycling bin. I was on my way!

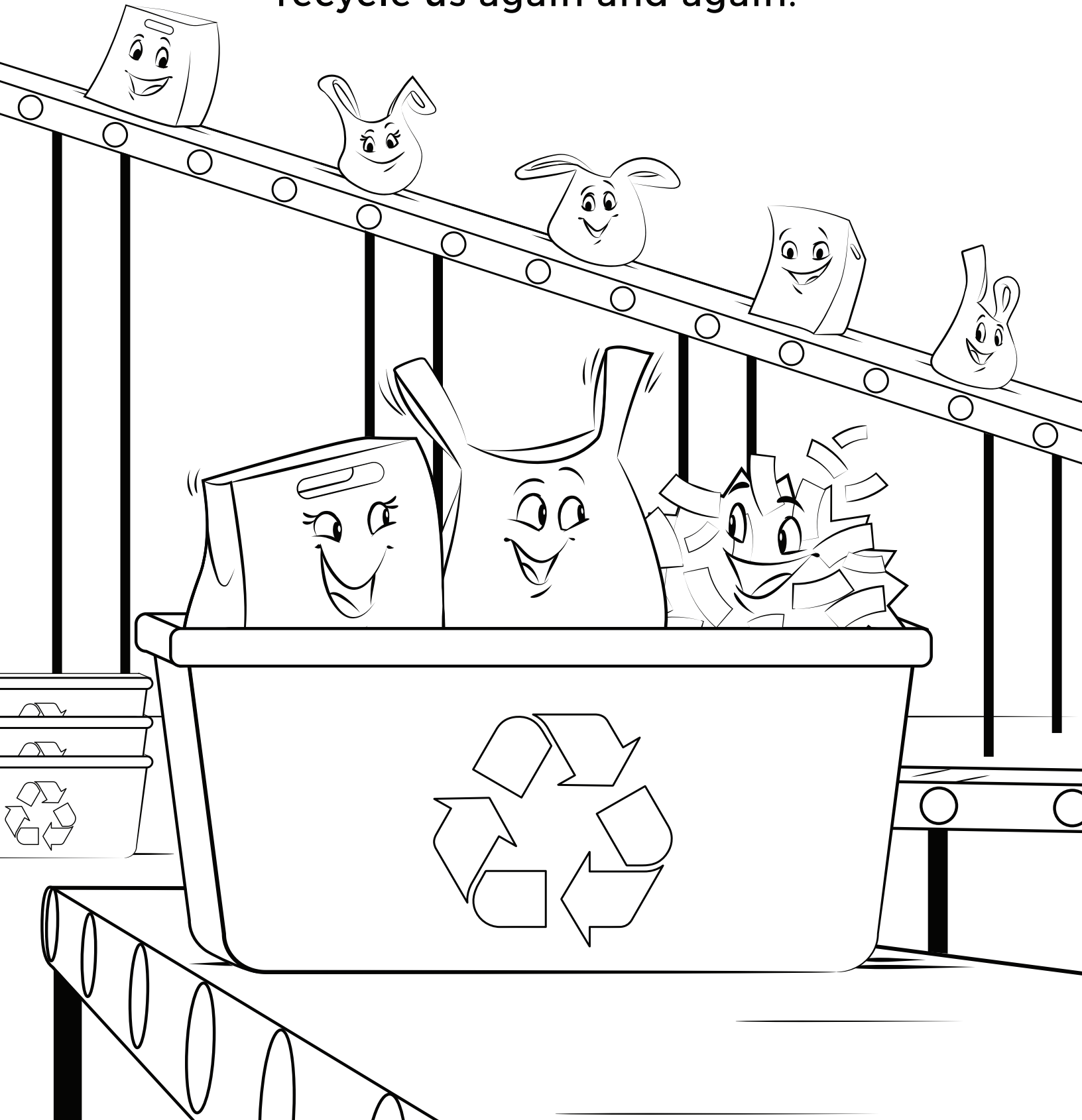


In the meantime, Polly had many adventures.  
But her strong plastic handles began to  
weaken so Mike's parents placed her in the  
recycling container for bags at the grocery  
store. She was on her way to the Big Time  
Recycling Extravaganza!





We all made it! Polly, Ethel, and me were together again and couldn't wait to be turned into post-consumer resin\* so that we could become new bags, helping more of our human friends, who we hoped would do their best to recycle us again and again.



# Glossary

## **Extruder**

This is a machine that resin pellets are fed into and then pushed out of an opening under mechanical force while being heated to form the film that is used to make plastic bags.

## **High density polyethylene (HDPE)**

From T-shirt plastic bags to bottles, HDPE is a type of polyethylene and has good tensile strength.

## **Low density polyethylene (LDPE)**

LDPE is a type of polyethylene that can be used for juice packets, retail shopping bags, and bubble wrap, among many things. It is not as strong as HDPE, but is clearer and glossier in films, giving those products a better appearance.

## **Polyethylene**

A plastic polymer made up of a chain of ethylene monomers and can come in many different types, with a wide range of properties.

## **Post-consumer resin**

This kind of resin comes from plastic products purchased and used by people (called consumers). After these people no longer need the plastic, they recycle the items so that they can be melted and turned into pellets again.

## **Recycle**

When we take an item or a group of things that we no longer need and transform them into items that are new and ready to be safely used again, we are recycling.

## **Recycling plant**

This is a facility that collects used plastic items, sorts and washes them, and reheats and the plastic so that post-consumer resin can be created.

## **Resin**

Resin is the base material used to make plastic products, e.g. HDPE resin. It is poured into the extruder and extruded to form the desired product.

## **Sustainable**

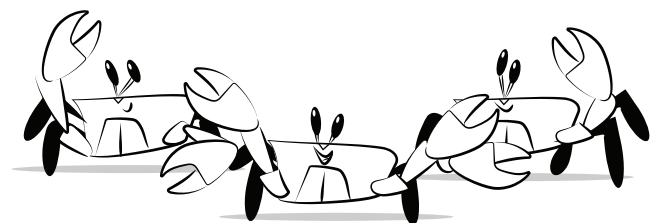
This word means to be able to use something for a long time in a way that is responsible. We try to make sure we don't misuse resources from our planet (like trees, clean water, or fresh air) by making sustainable choices.

## **Upcycle**

When we upcycle an item - no matter what it is made from - we avoid throwing it away by finding a new and different way to use it. If and when we no longer need it, we can often recycle our upcycled things.

## **Virgin resin**

Is resin that have never been used or recycled. Sometimes they are mixed with post-consumer resin to make bags and other items.





# Certificate of Achievement



HEREBY CERTIFIES THAT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

### CAN NOW TEACH YOU A FEW NEW FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING!

(write down two things you learned about in this story)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



HOMETOWN \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOURCES

To learn more about recycling visit:

[www.globalrecyclingday.com](http://www.globalrecyclingday.com)

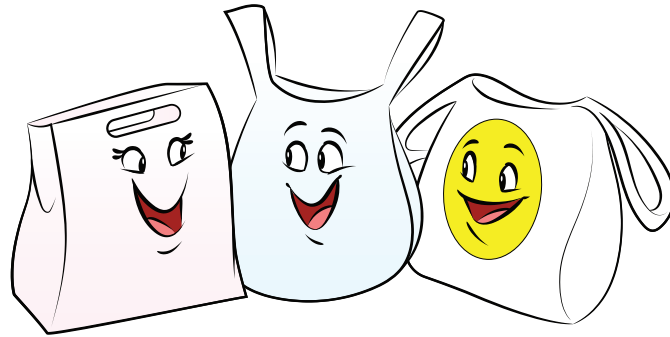
[www.opcleansweep.org](http://www.opcleansweep.org)

[www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org)

[www.americanchemistry.com](http://www.americanchemistry.com)

## About Inteplast Group

Inteplast Group is a leading integrated plastics manufacturer founded in 1991. Its 575-acre flagship plant is located in Lolita, Texas, and its corporate headquarters is in Livingston, New Jersey. With more than 54 facilities throughout North America, including its joint venture recycling processing centers, Inteplast Group manufactures plastics for many industries, such as retail, grocery, medical, agricultural, construction, and more.



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