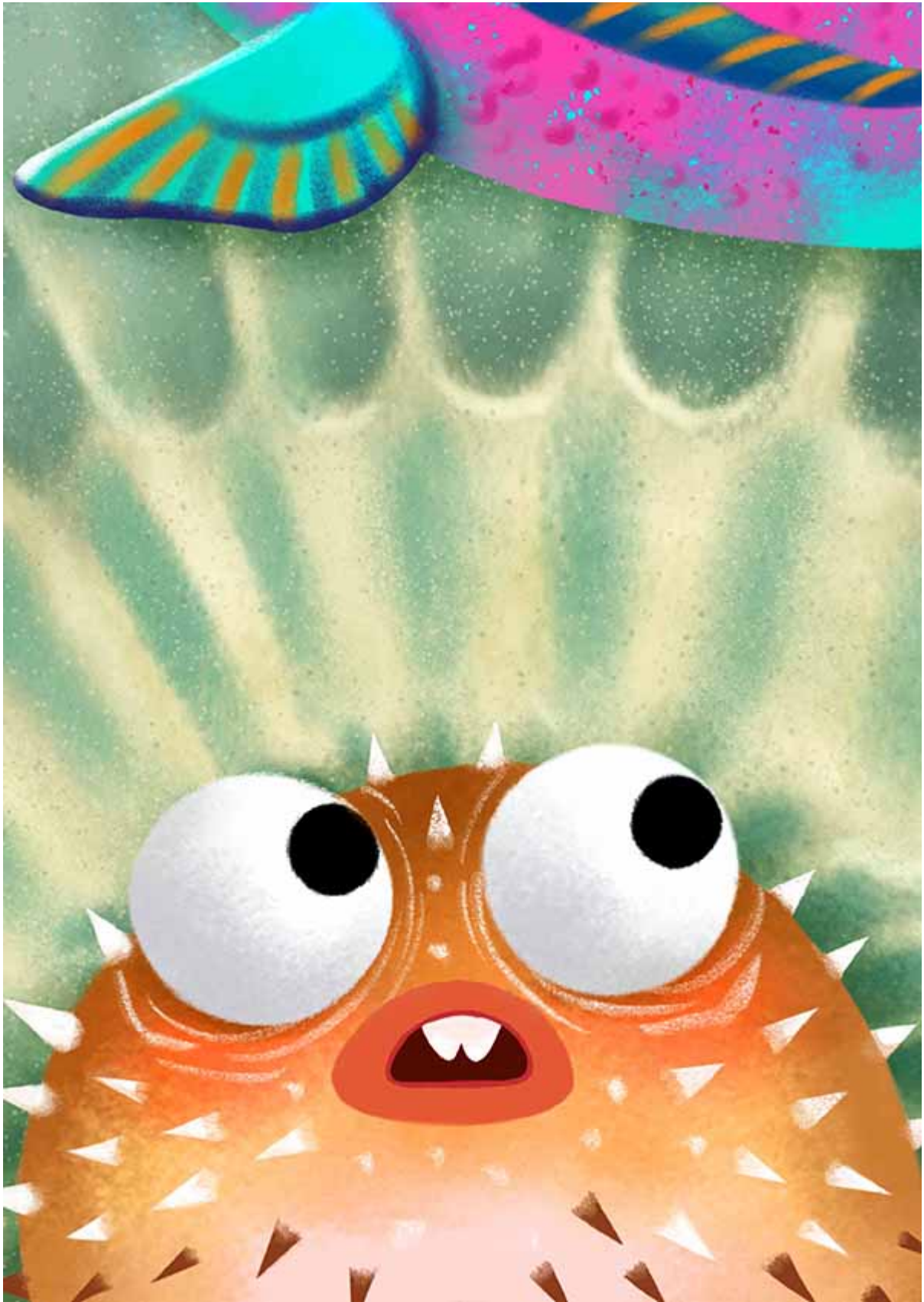




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## **A Special Friend**

Samu is preparing a gift for his special friend. Suddenly, there is a disturbance. Who is causing it?



A Special Friend  
Eka Yuliaty

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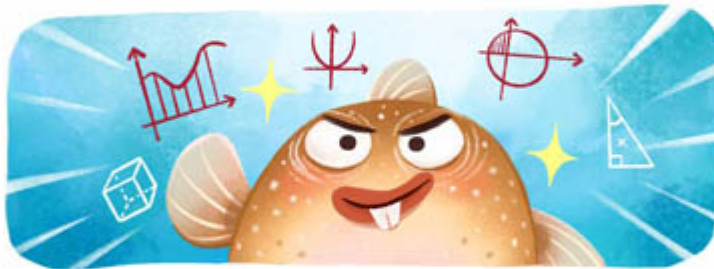


# Let's Read

 **The Asia Foundation**



For days, Samu has been swimming up and down, forward and backward, and round and round. He is preparing a gift for a special friend.



With a complex formula, Samu churns and organizes the sand. Like a great artist, Samu works on his masterpiece.



His creation has to be perfect.Hmm...what can make it more impressive?

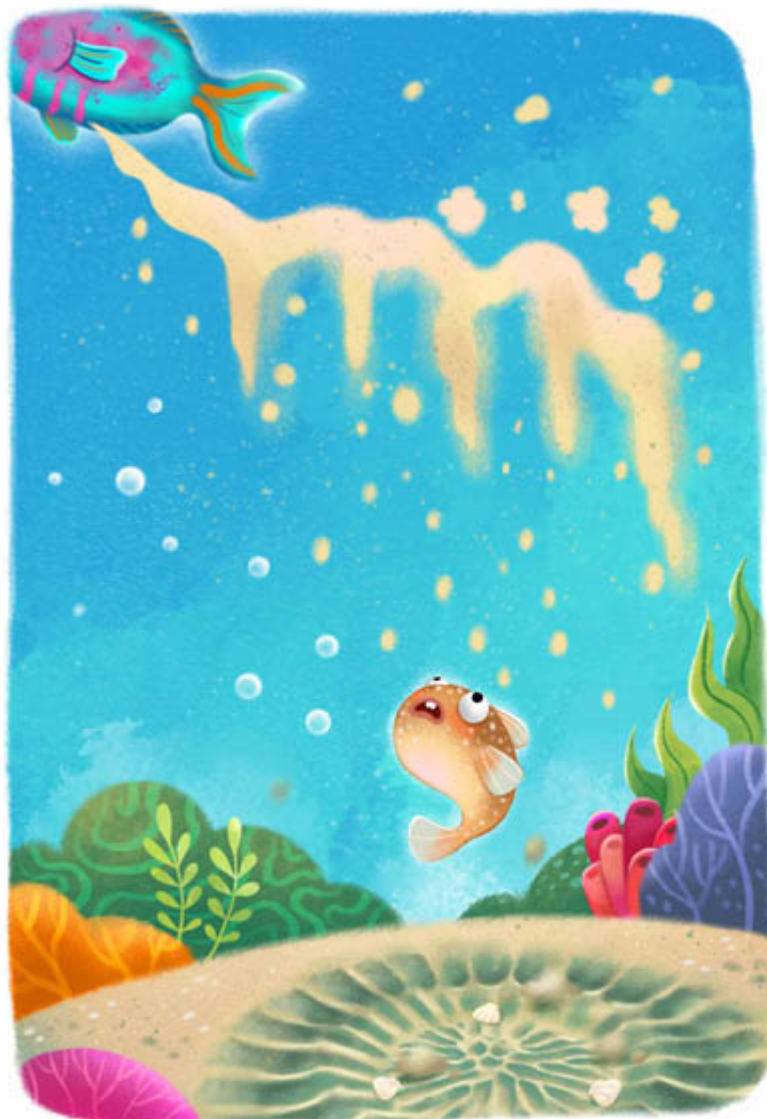


The fan-shaped scallop shells can be used as ornaments. But these algae will have to go.





The mid-section must be filled with the smoothest sand so his special friend will feel comfortable.



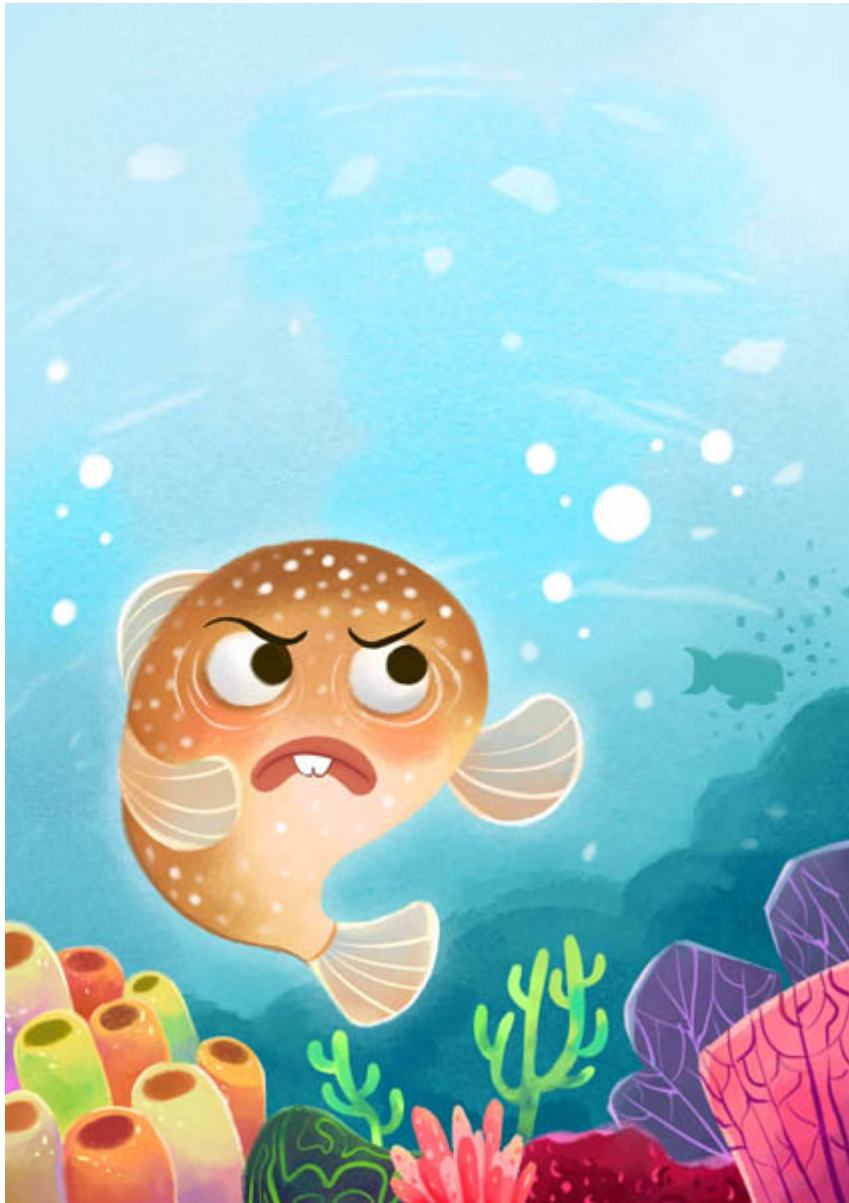
Oh, grains of sand fall all over Samu. Has his special friend arrived?



Oh no! More and more grains of sand fall. At this rate, Samu's masterpiece will be ruined! He must fix it immediately.



Suddenly, Samu hears a strange noise. Can that be Samu's special friend? It's not possible.



The noise gets louder and annoying. Samu worries that it will scare away his special friend. Samu has to find the source.



Oh, the noise is coming from there! A big fish is chewing the coral. Who is it?



Its head is big, its eyes are round. Samu's head and eyes are also round.



Its pout is like a beak.Samu's pout is also like a beak.

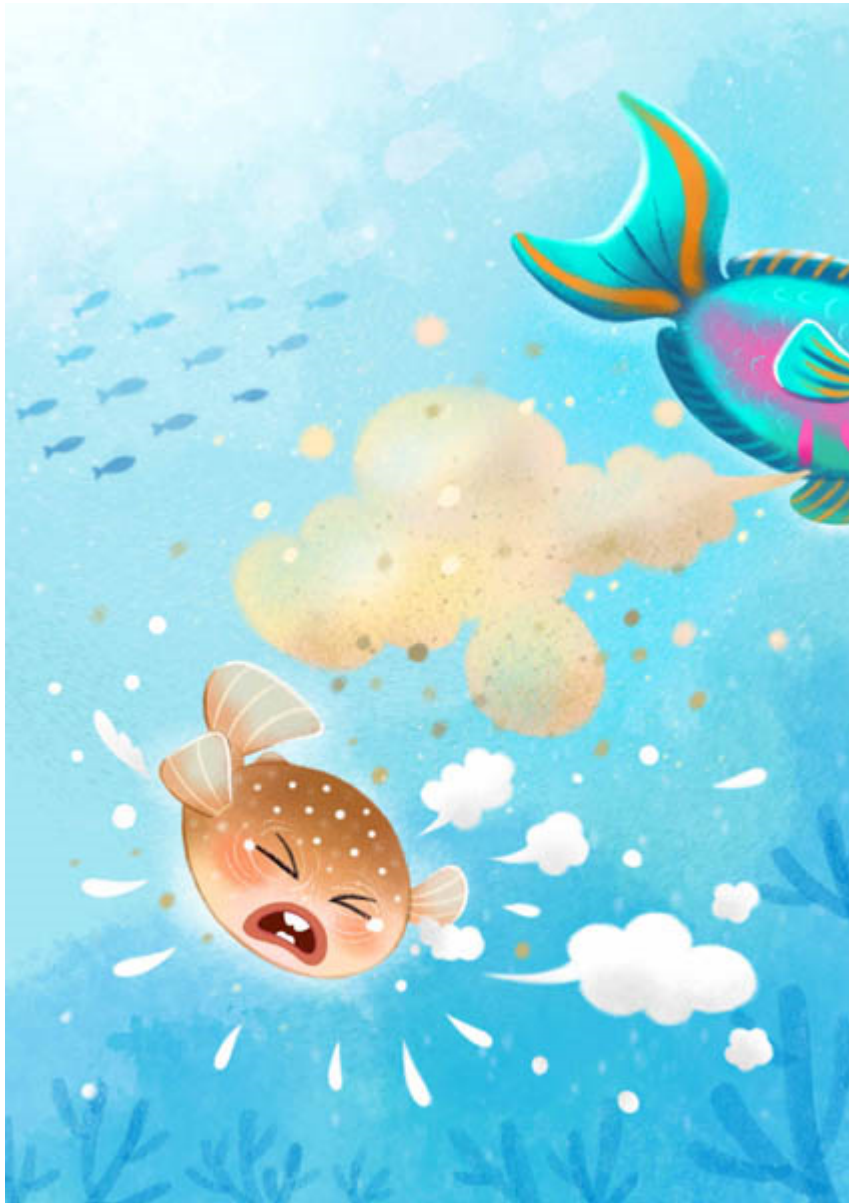




That fish has big teeth. Samu also has big teeth. Oh, perhaps that's the special friend Samu has been waiting for.



Samu swims closer. He wishes to greet that fish.



Ouch! What's this? Sand covers Samu's vision!



Samu is frightened.He swallows a lot of water.



Samu's body bloats and floats. He cannot control his movement. Argh, Samu is annoyed.



Bloating and floating are not pleasant at all. Samu needs to rest, so his body deflates. Samu does not like to be startled. That fish is definitely not Samu's special friend.



But Samu is surprised. That fish lets out sand just like the sand on his masterpiece. Reminded of his work, Samu hurries back.



Hey, there's a fish in the middle of his creation. Is she waiting for Samu?





Wow, it looks like the pretty fish really likes Samu's gift. It seems she is the special friend Samu has been waiting for.



So, together, they dance and play. But who was that big fish Samu saw earlier?



Getting a Closer Look Samu is a pufferfish. When alarmed, a pufferfish will inflate its body to protect itself. It also has poisonous spikes around its body to further protect itself. Some types of pufferfish create beautiful circular patterns on the ocean floor to attract females. The middle section contains softer grains of sand where females lay their eggs. The big fish in the story is a parrotfish. It eats the algae that grow in corals. When parrotfish feed, coral gets eaten as well. This coral is digested and later let out as grains of sand. However, this does not mean that all the sand in the ocean has been created by the parrotfish.

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