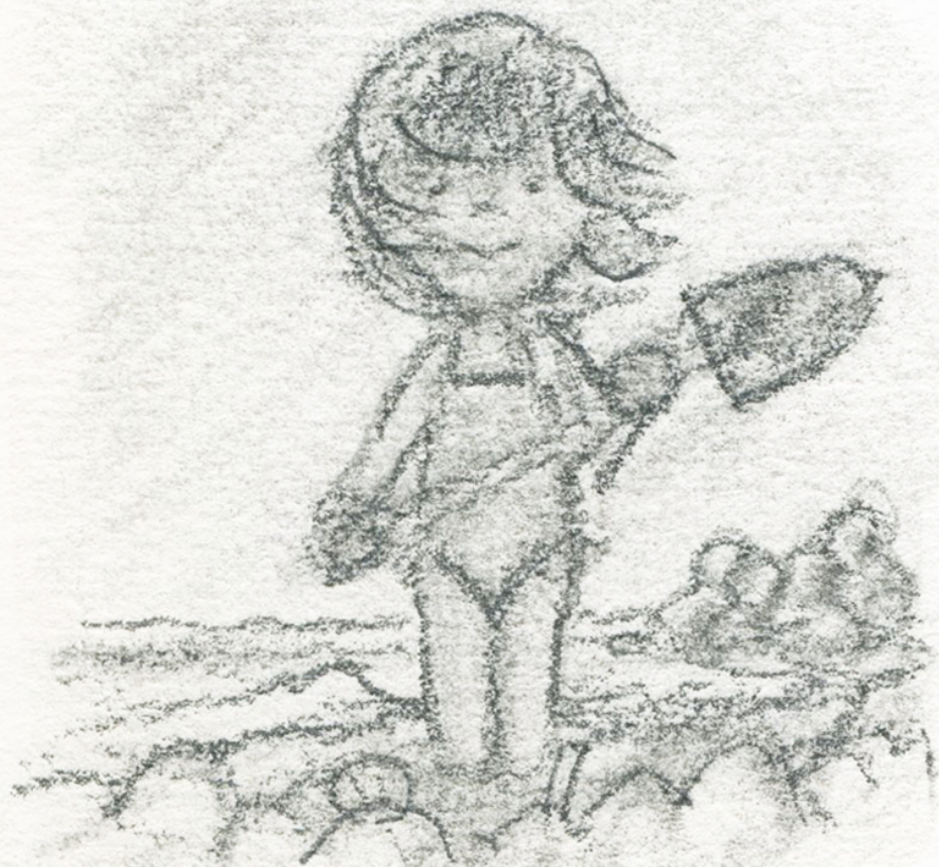
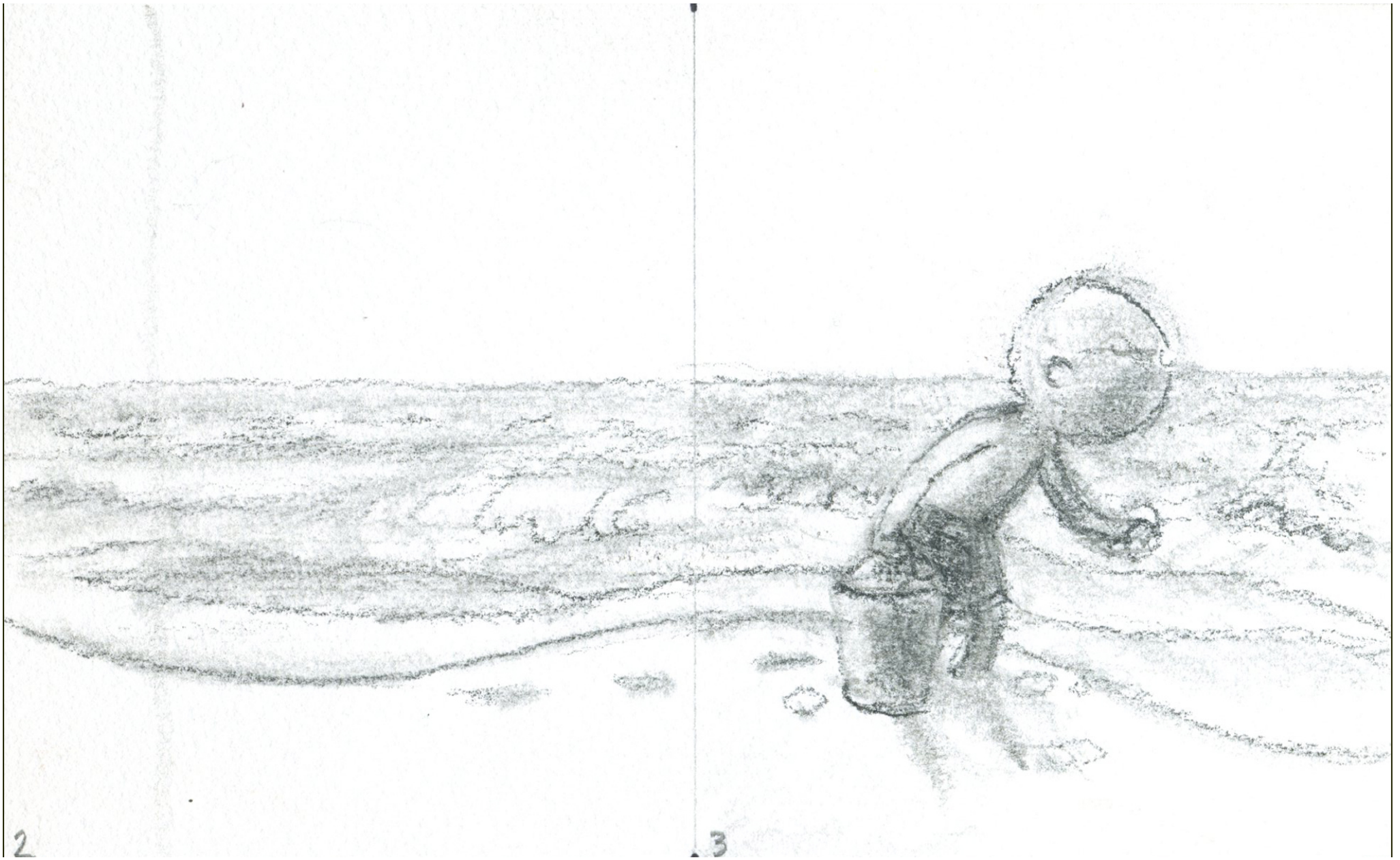


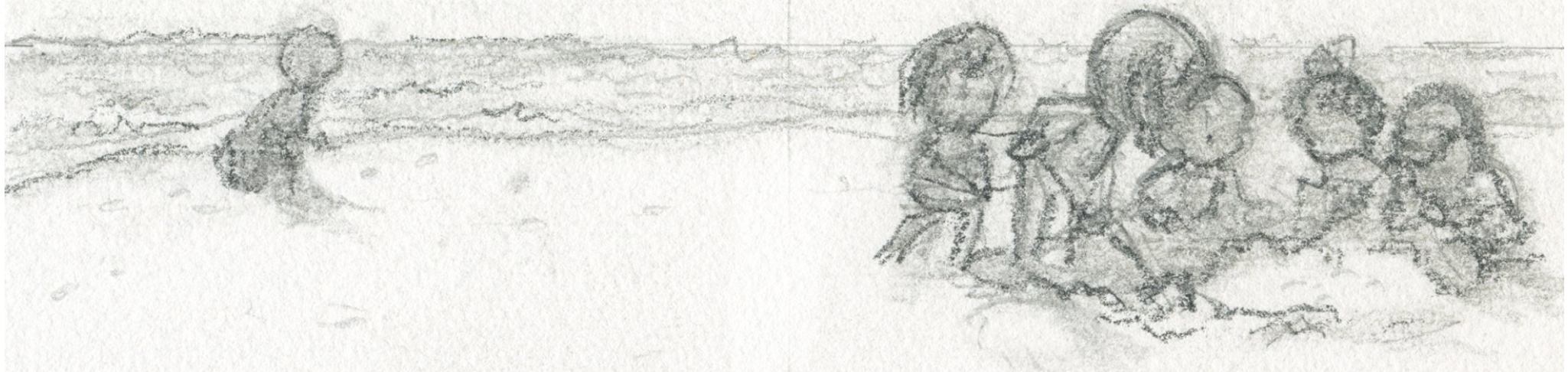
THE GIRL WITH THE
METAL SHOVEL



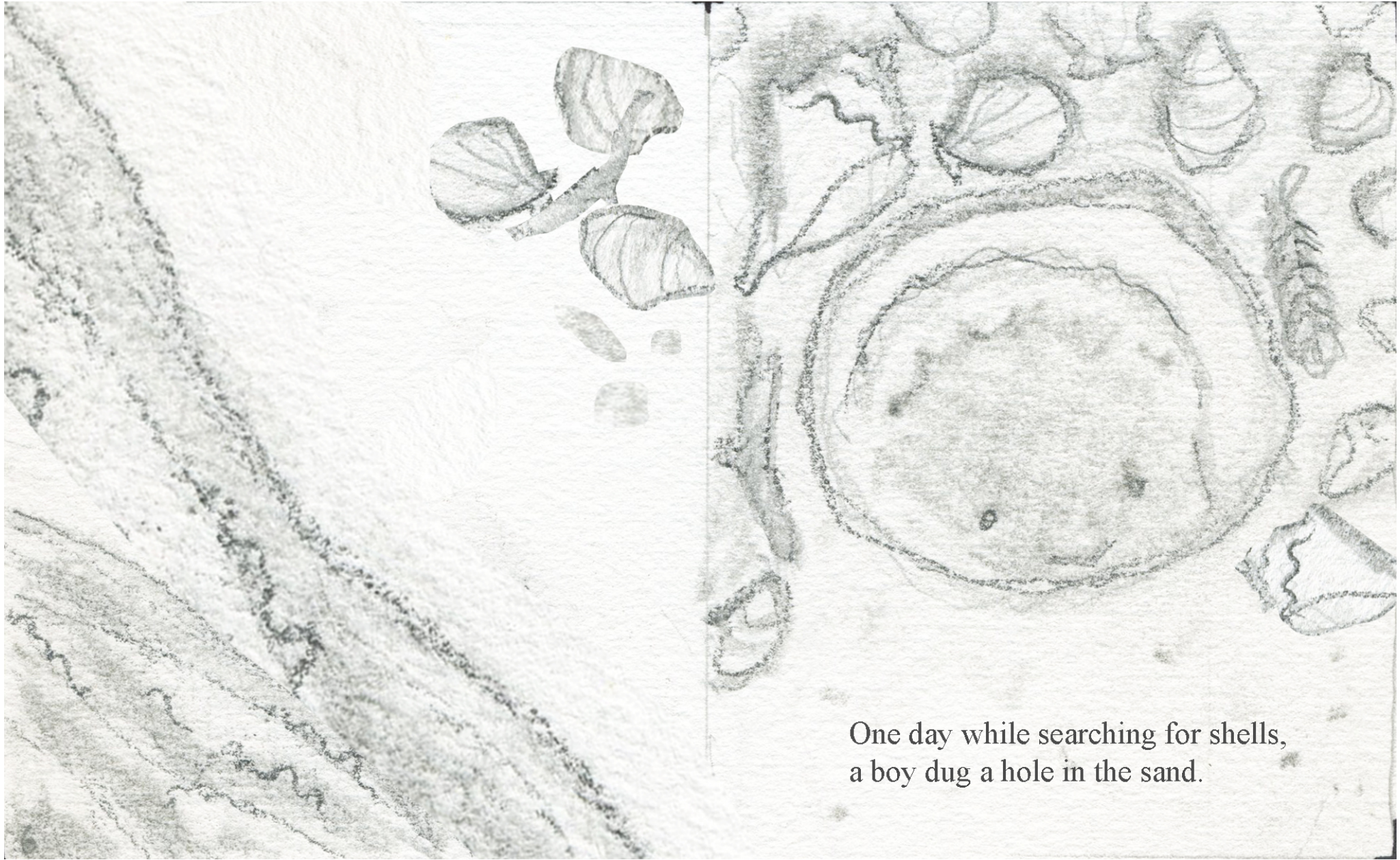
BY LEE HARPER



The Girl With The Metal Shovel

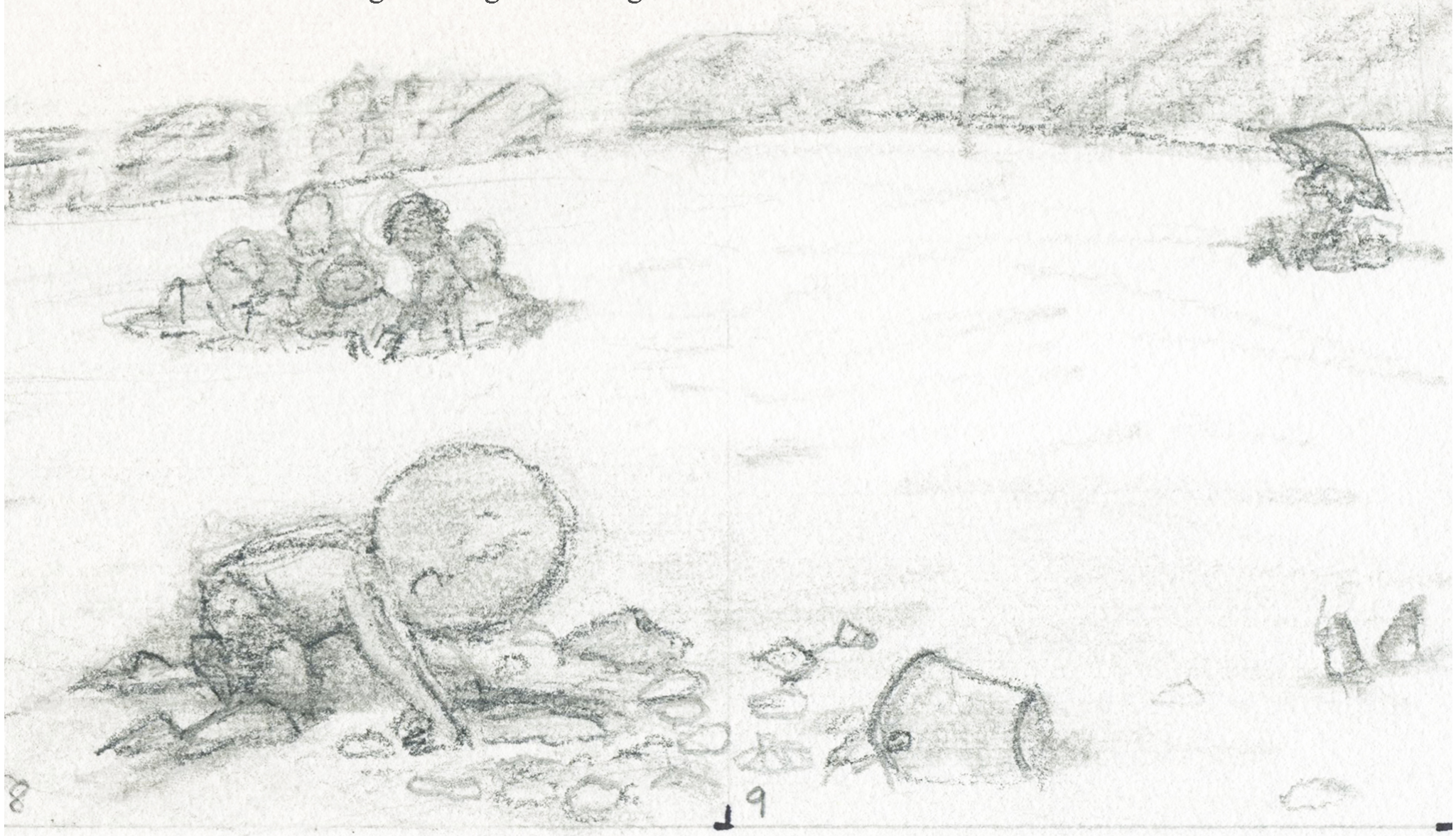


Lee Harper



One day while searching for shells,
a boy dug a hole in the sand.

He heard waves crashing and seagulls cawing.

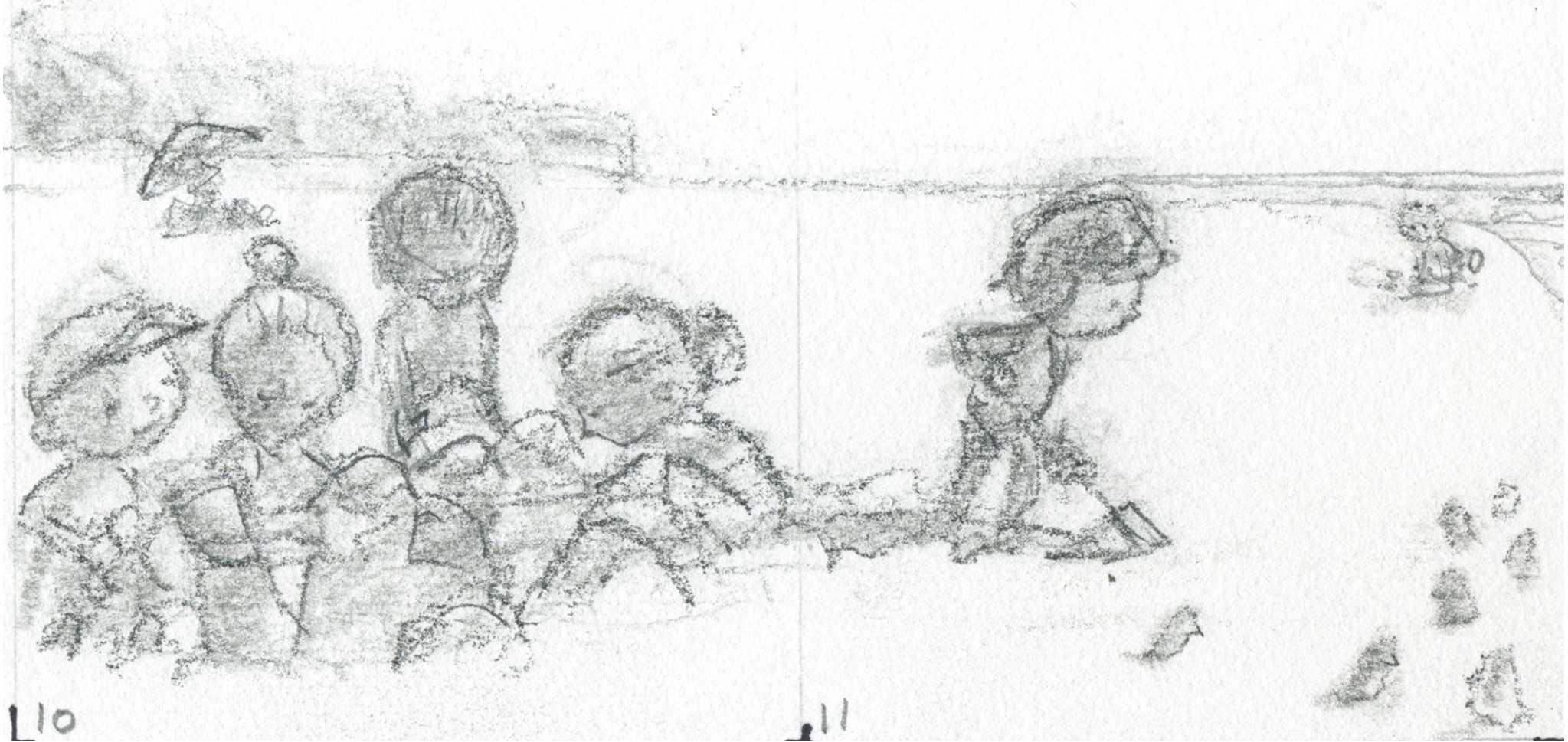


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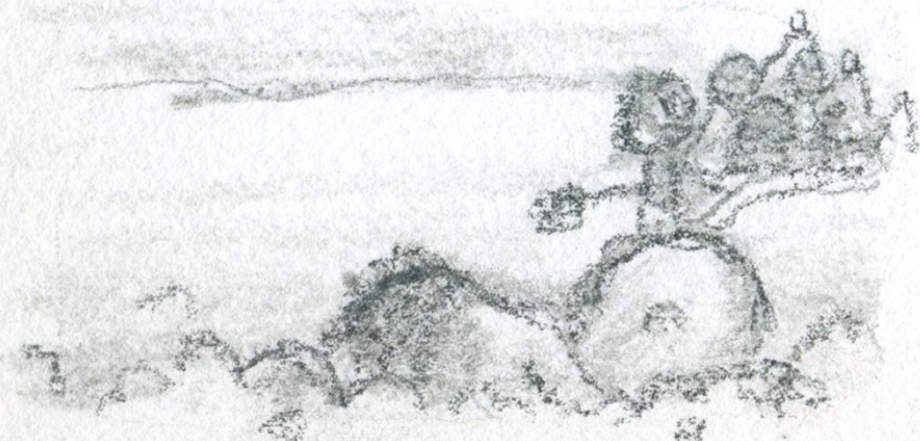
He saw other children building a castle...

and a girl with a metal shovel digging a channel to the sea.





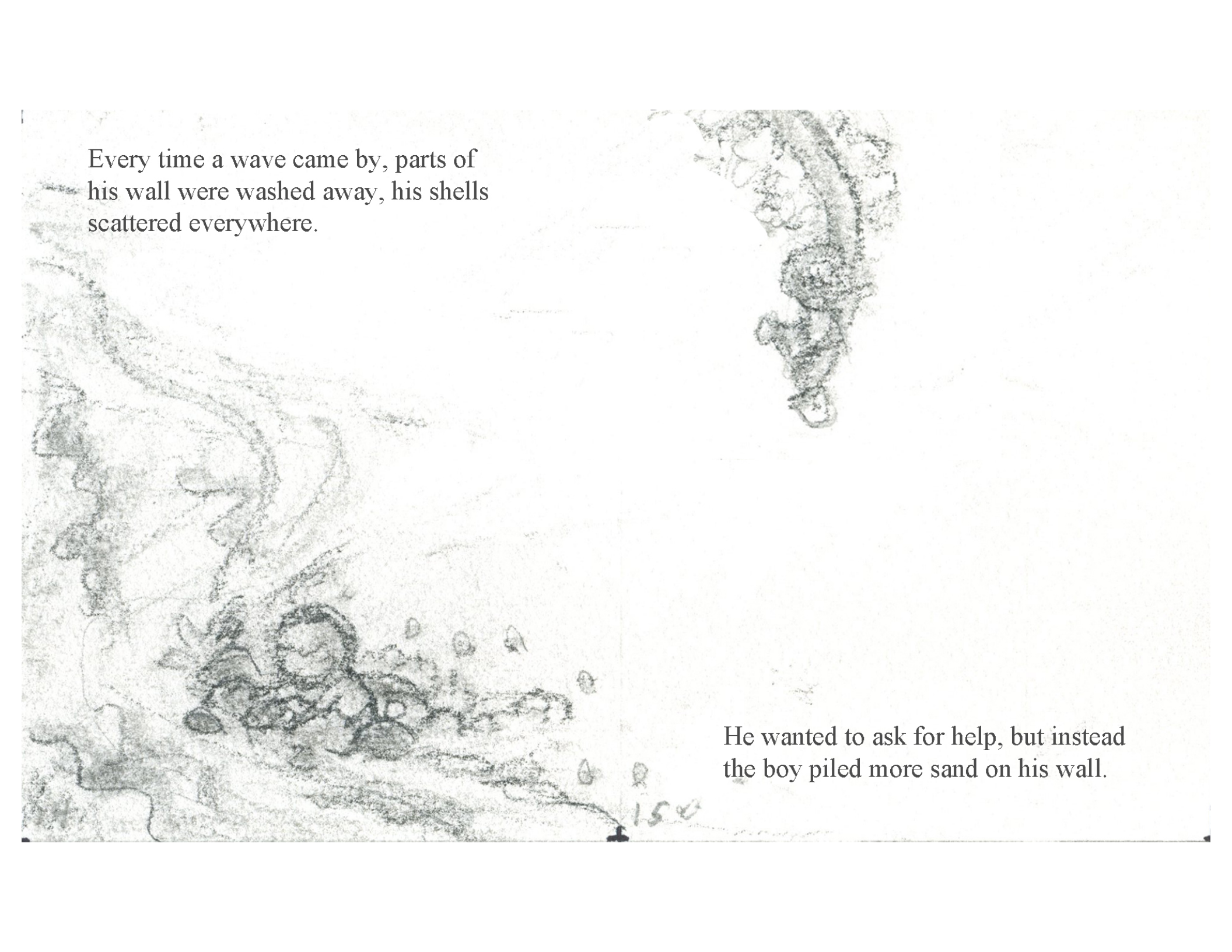
He wanted to join them, but...



instead he dug his hole deeper.



He used the sand from his hole to build a wall.
His shells stood guard.



Every time a wave came by, parts of his wall were washed away, his shells scattered everywhere.

He wanted to ask for help, but instead the boy piled more sand on his wall.

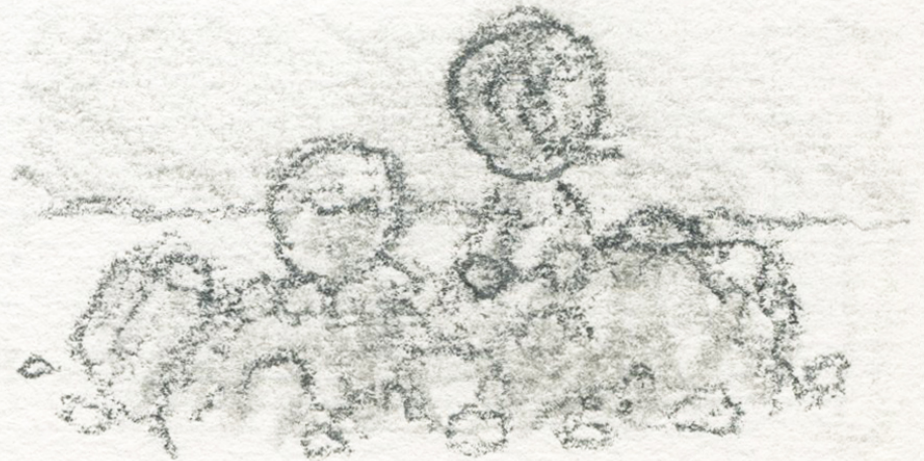


Suddenly, the girl with the metal shovel was standing right next to him.

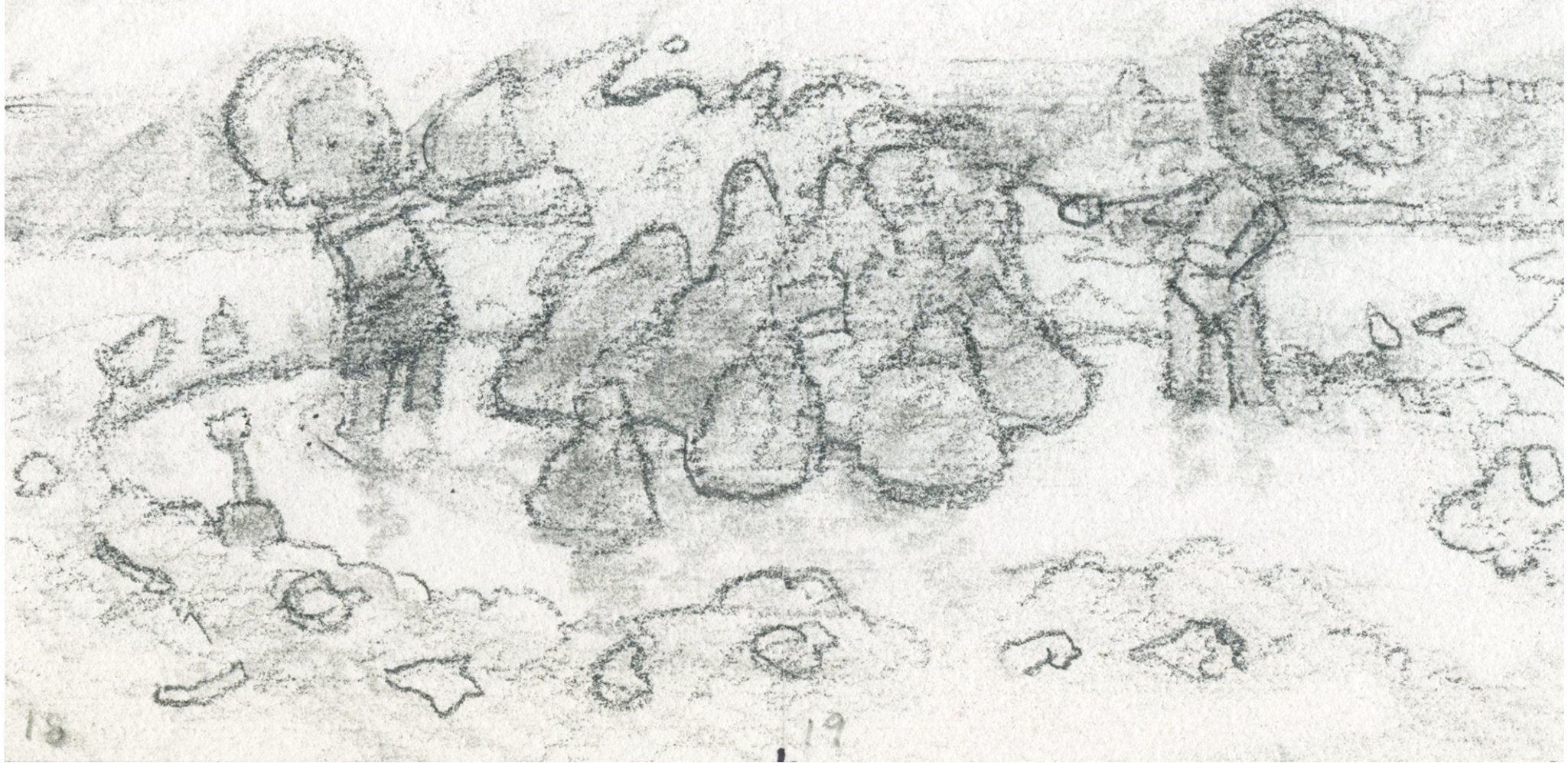
She began to help him with his wall.



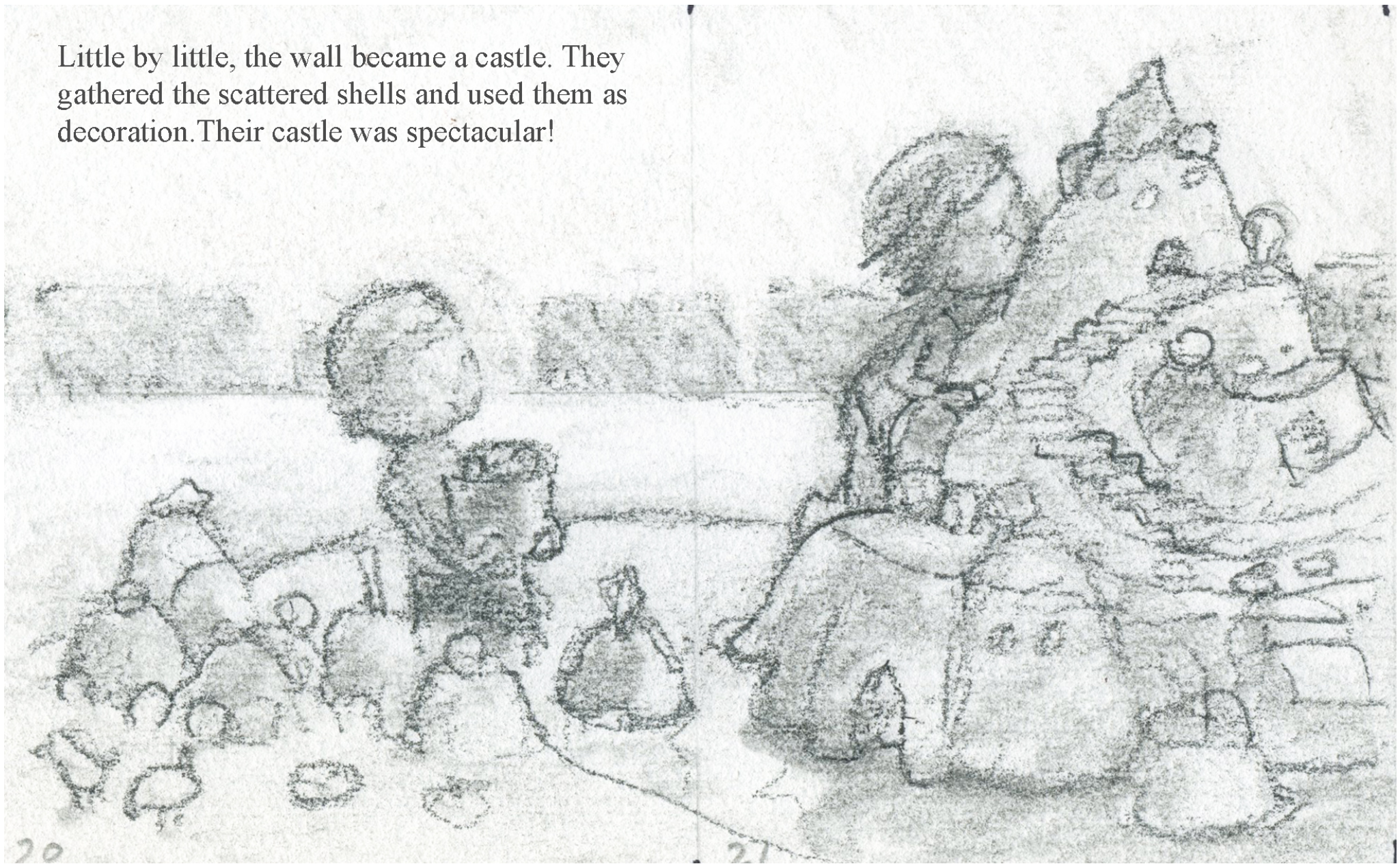
The boy liked having someone helping him, especially someone with a metal shovel!



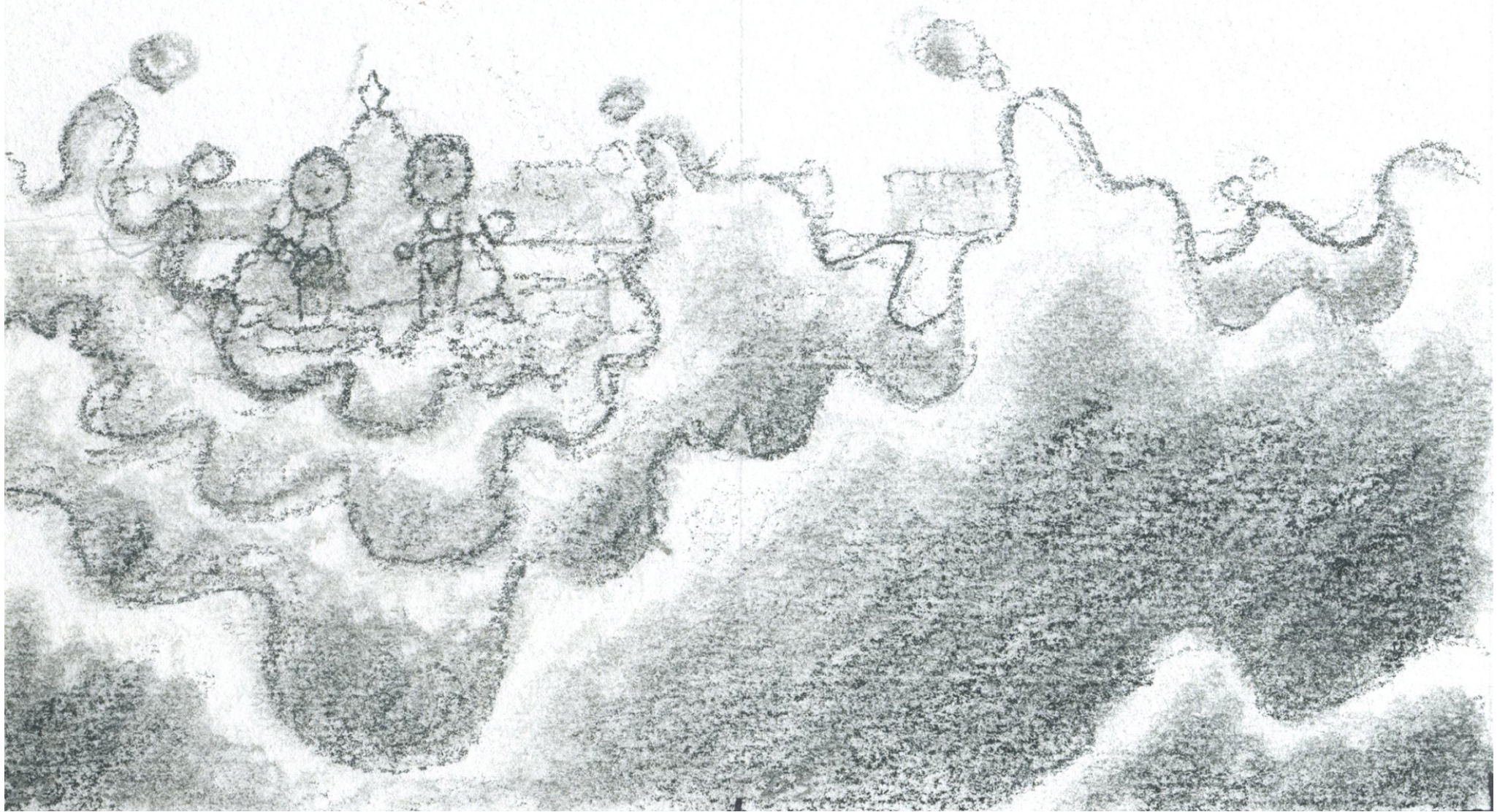
Together they rebuilt the wall, better than before.



Little by little, the wall became a castle. They gathered the scattered shells and used them as decoration. Their castle was spectacular!



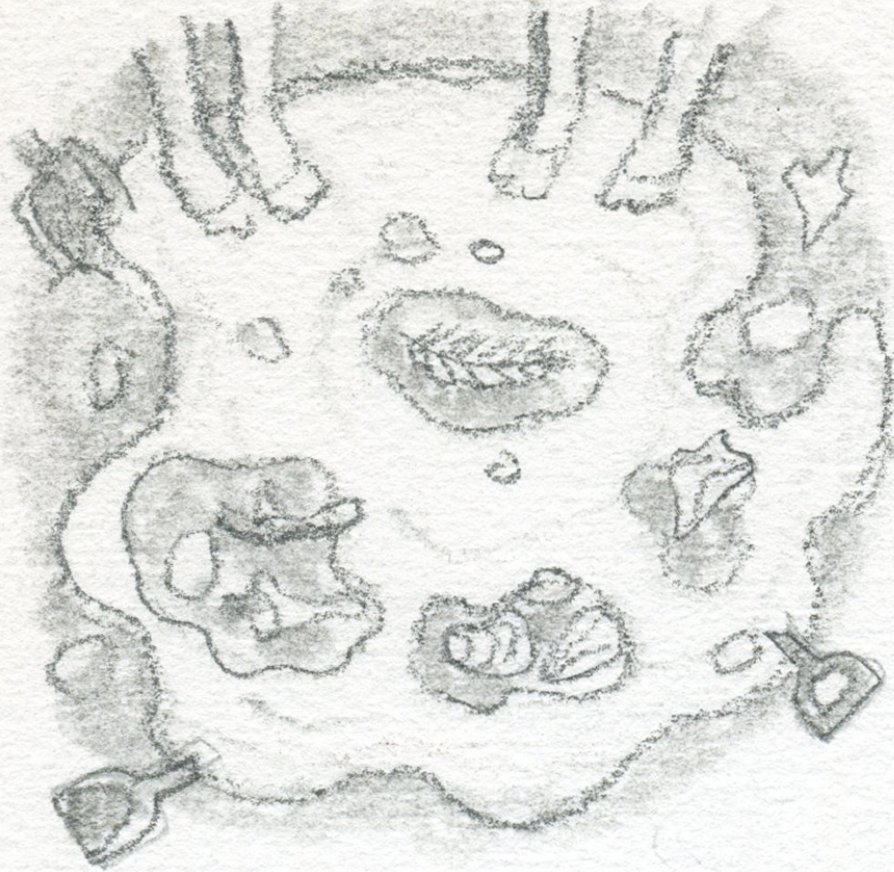
But the waves grew bigger.



Soon their castle was engulfed by the waves.

They worked faster and faster to save it,
but they couldn't keep up. The boy's plastic
shovel broke so he dug with his bare hands.



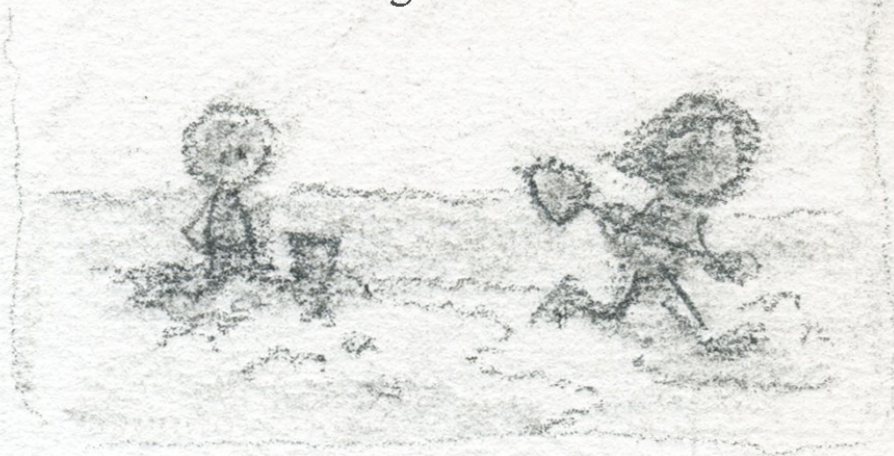


Alas, their castle lay in ruins.

They loaded the shells into the lifeboat.

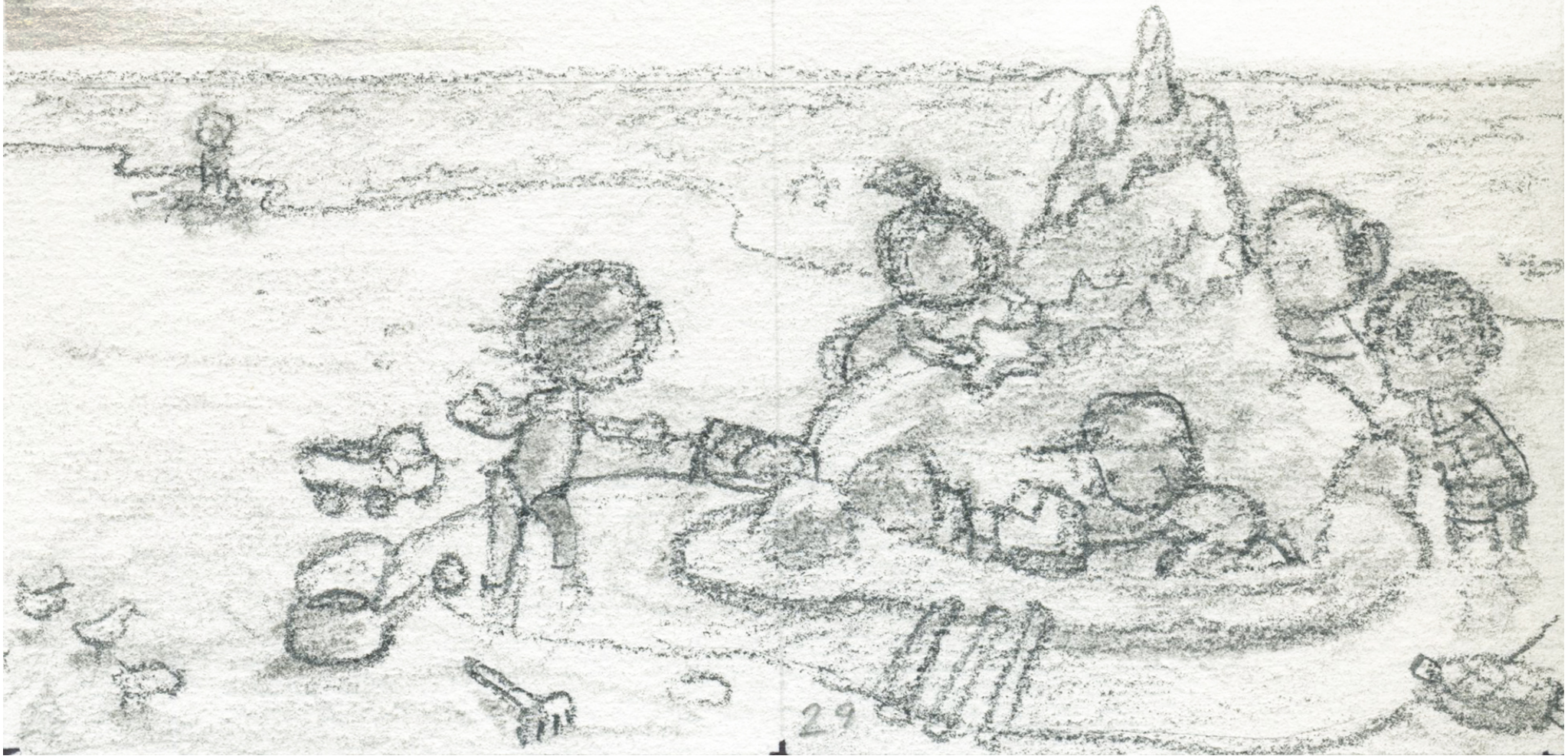


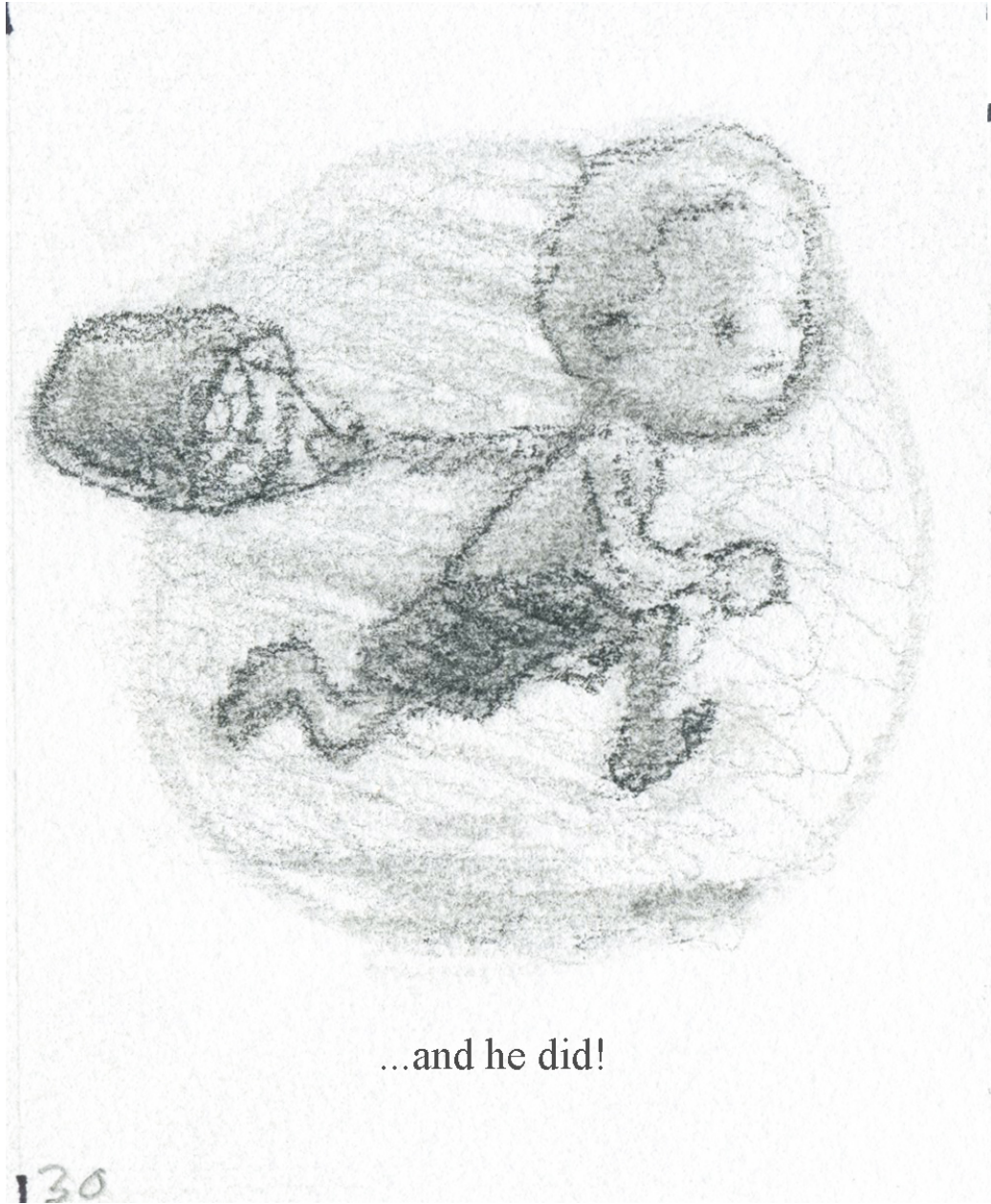
The girl ran to help the other kids, who were having troubles of their own.



But then the boy was alone again.

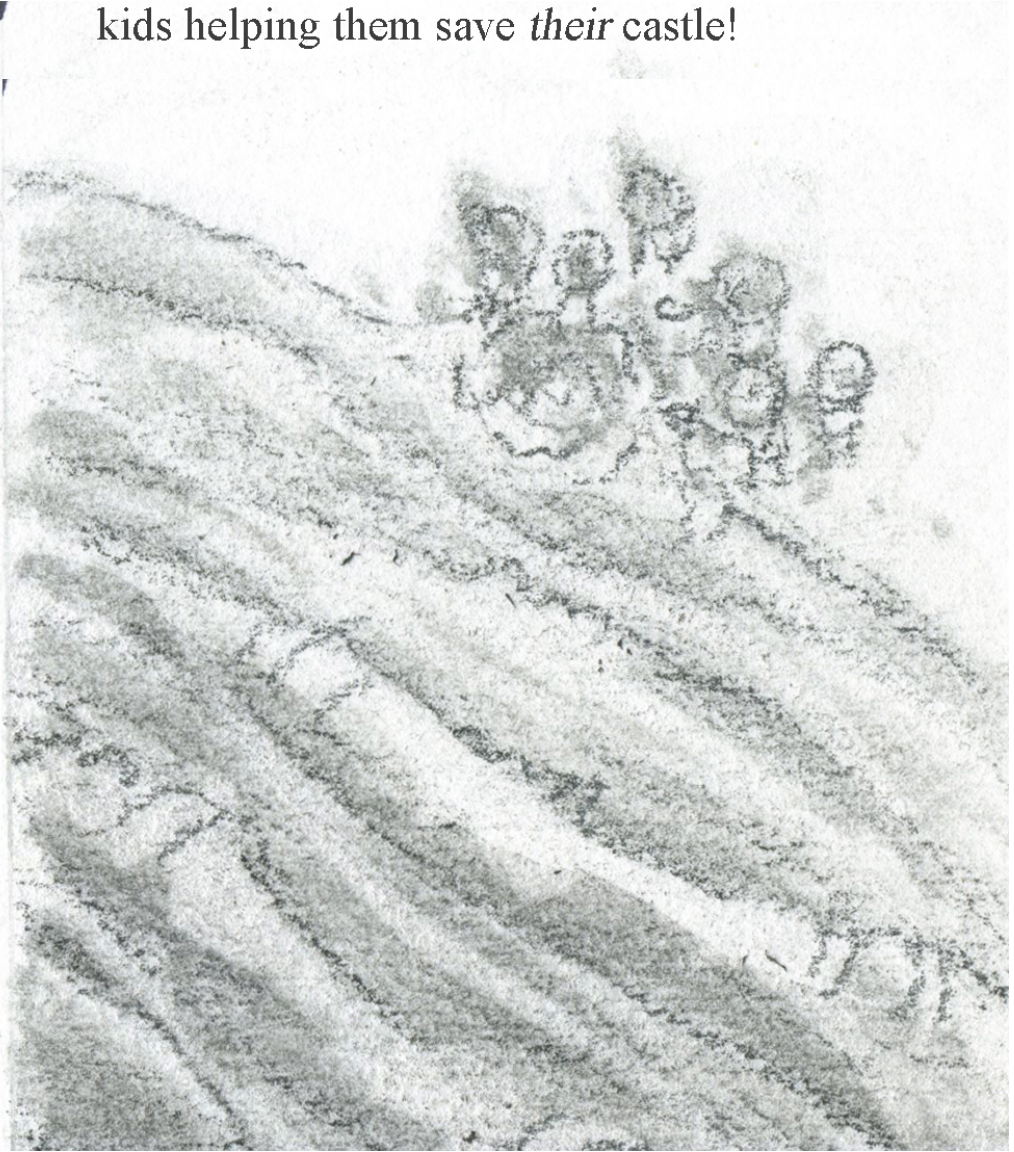
He thought about going to help the others...





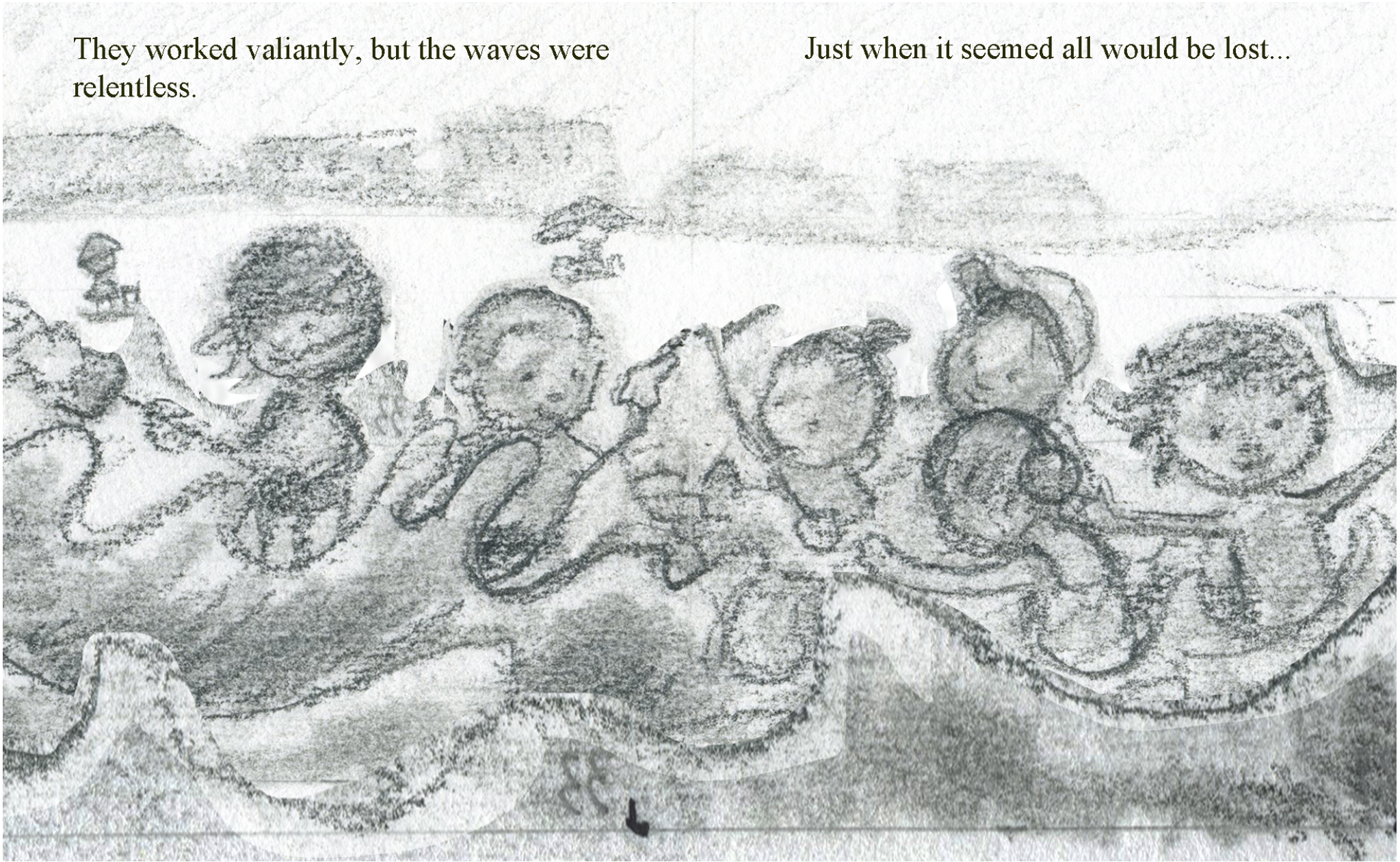
...and he did!

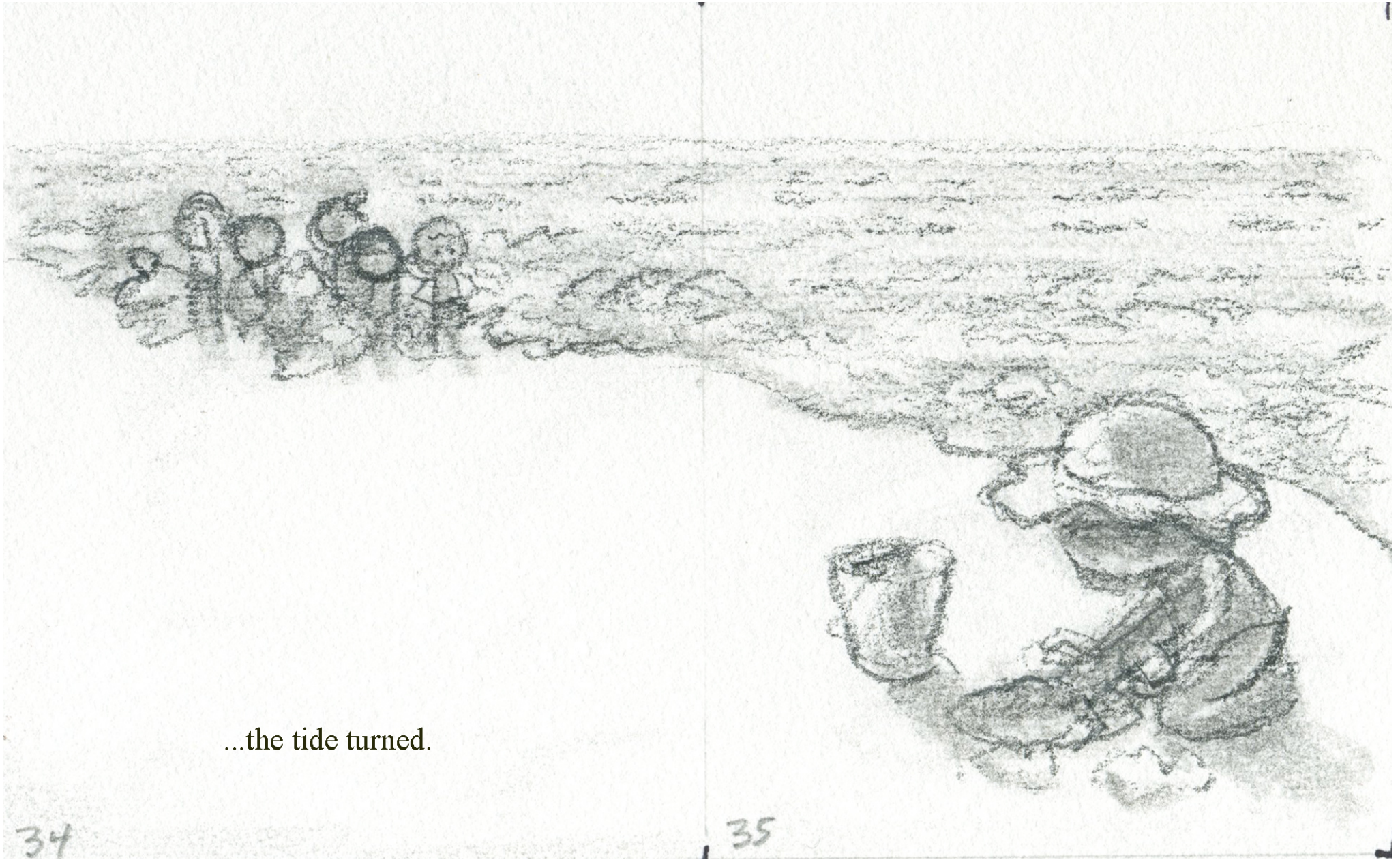
Now he was working together with the other kids helping them save *their* castle!



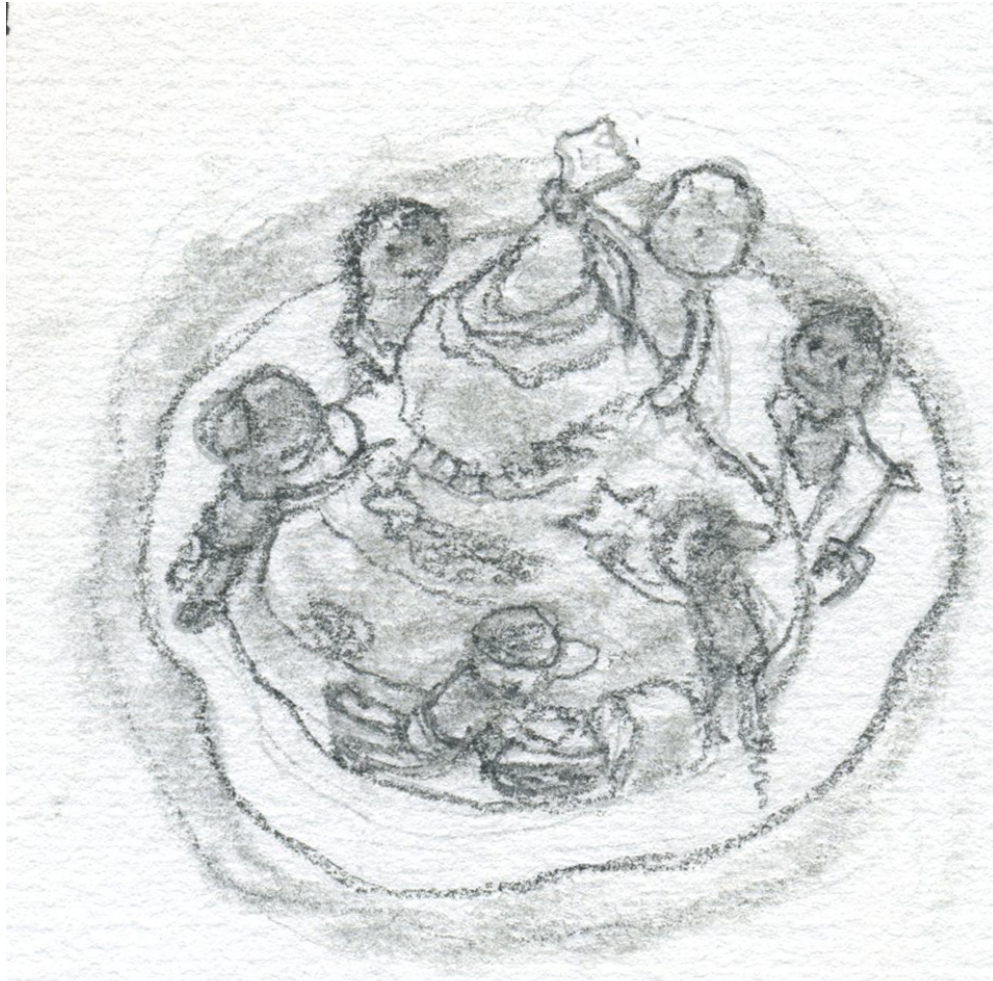
They worked valiantly, but the waves were relentless.

Just when it seemed all would be lost...



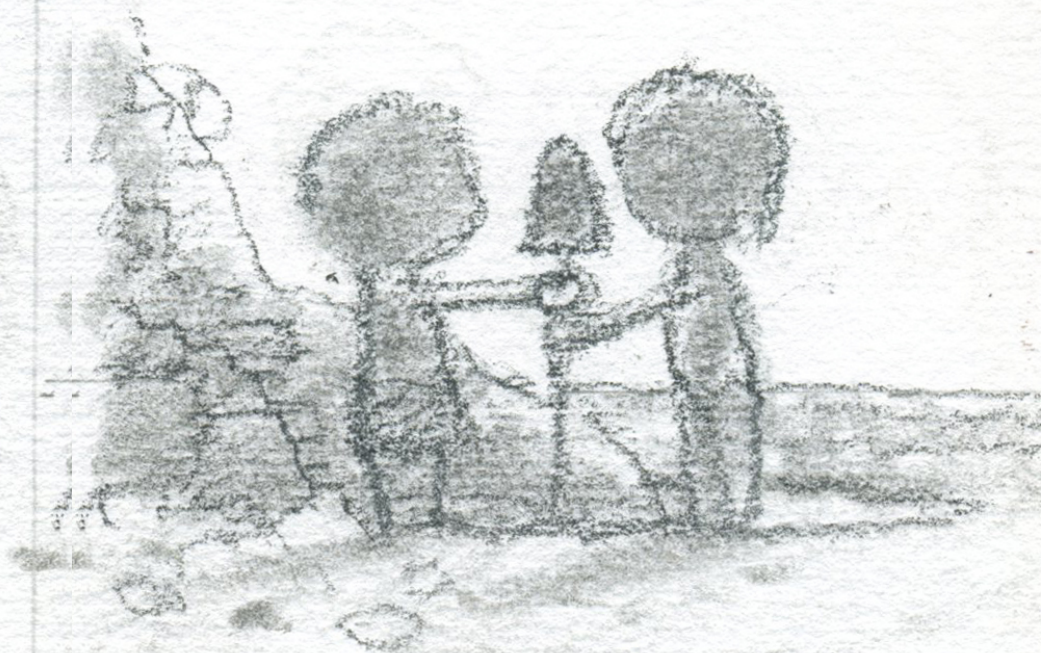


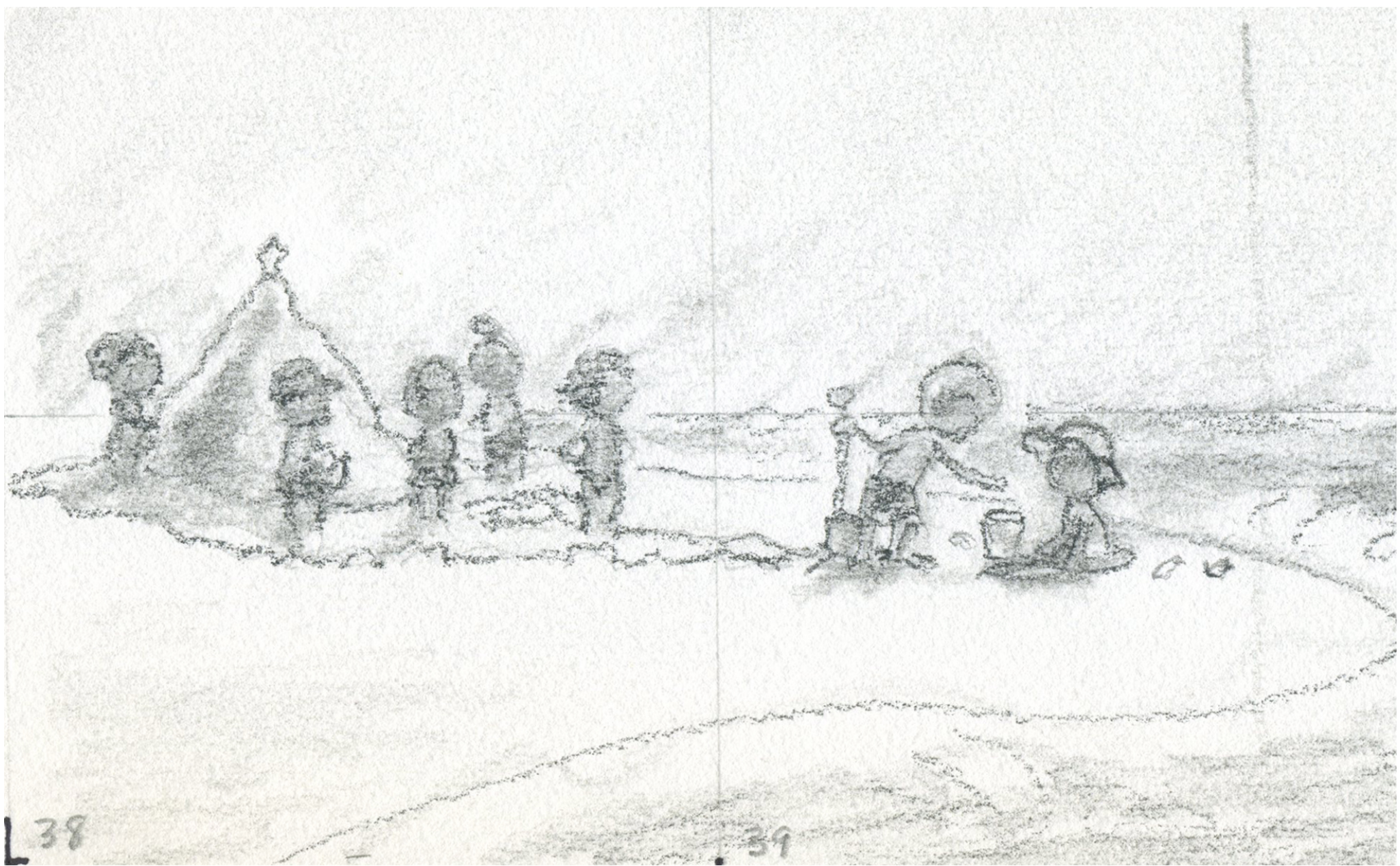
...the tide turned.



The castle was rebuilt better than before, the shells making a nice new addition.

And now it was the boy's turn with the metal shovel.





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