

gave Swimmy his name.

Swimmy

by Leo Lionni

Dragonfly Books — New York

A happy school of little fish lived in a corner of the sea somewhere.
They were all red. Only one of them was as black as a mussel shell.
He swam faster than his brothers and sisters. His name was Swimmy.



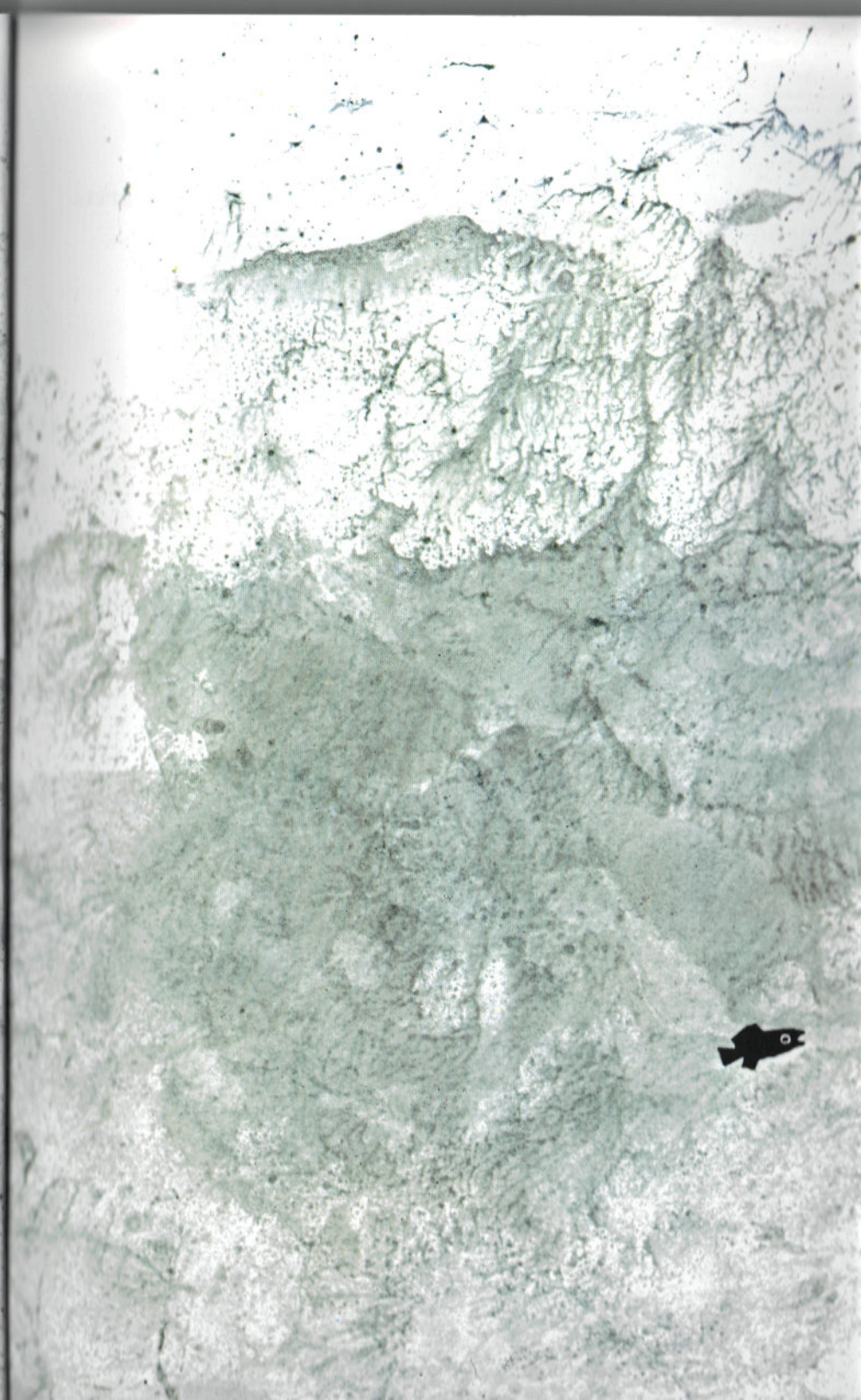


One bad day a tuna fish, swift, fierce and very hungry, came darting through the waves. In one gulp he swallowed all the little red fish. Only Swimmy escaped.





He swam away in the deep wet world. He was scared, lonely and very sad.



But the sea was full of wonderful creatures, and as he swam from marvel
to marvel Swimmy was happy again.

He saw a medusa made of rainbow jelly.



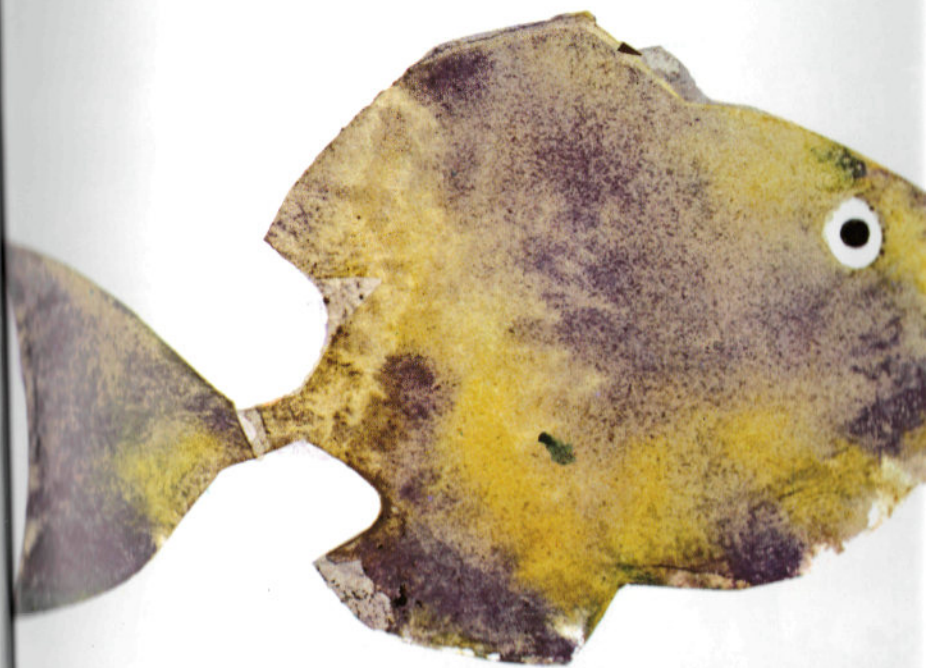
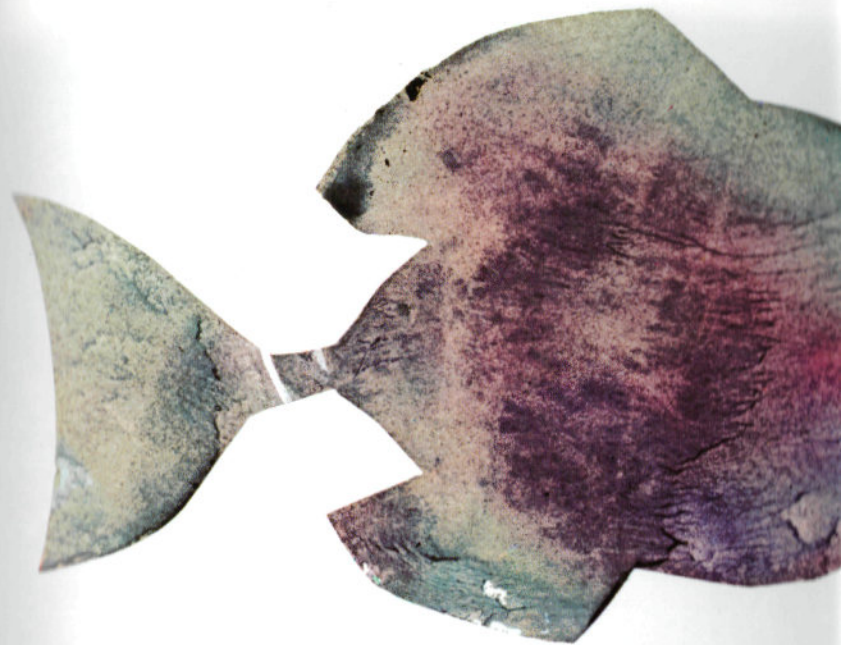


a lobster, who walked about like a water-moving machine...





strange fish, pulled by an invisible thread...



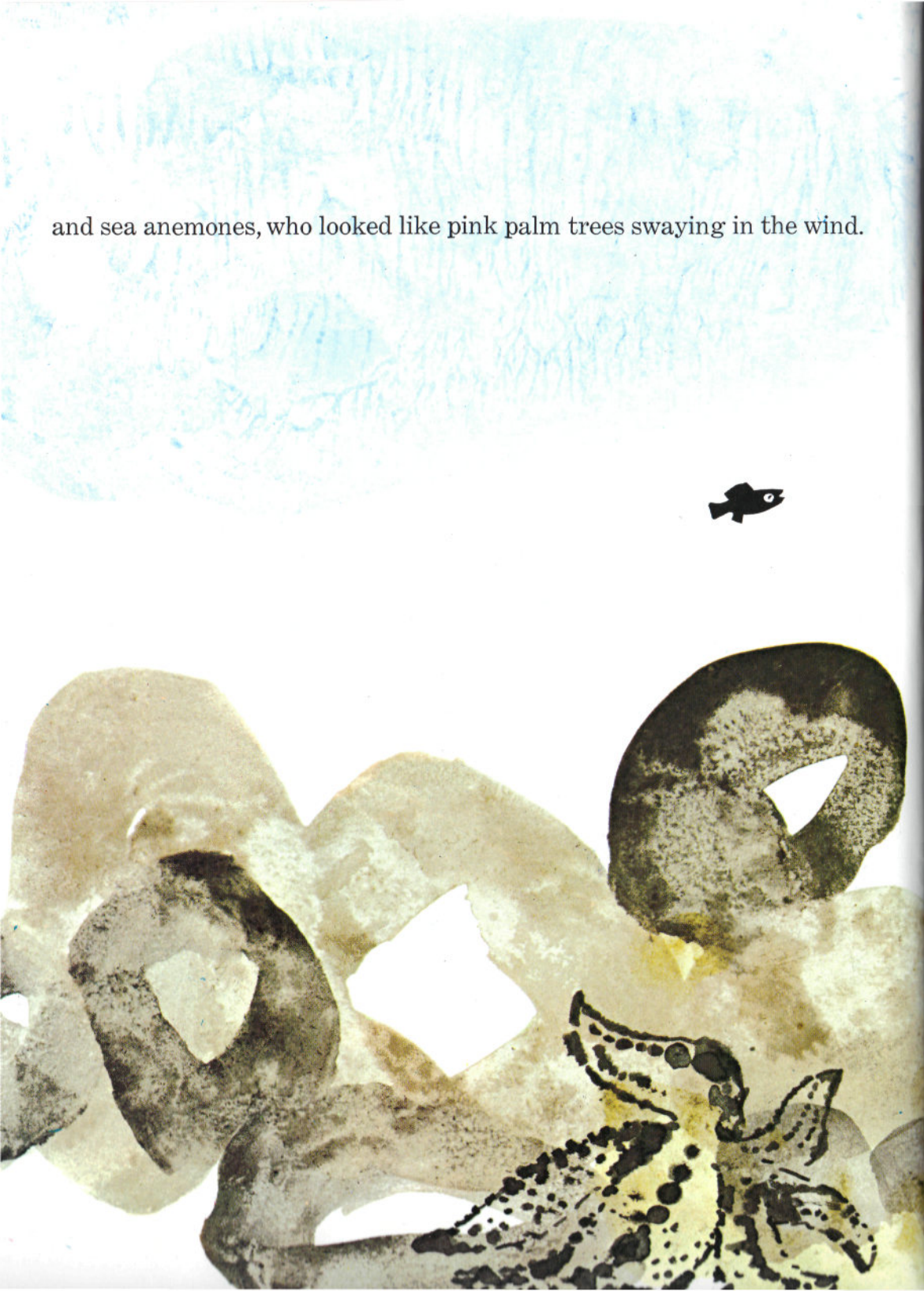


a forest of seaweeds growing from sugar-candy rocks...

an eel whose tail was almost too far away to remember...



and sea anemones, who looked like pink palm trees swaying in the wind.



Then, hidden in the dark shade of rocks and weeds, he saw a school of little fish, just like his own.

“Let’s go and swim and play and SEE things!” he said happily.

“We can’t,” said the little red fish. “The big fish will eat us all.”

“But you can’t just lie there,” said Swimmy. “We must THINK of something.”

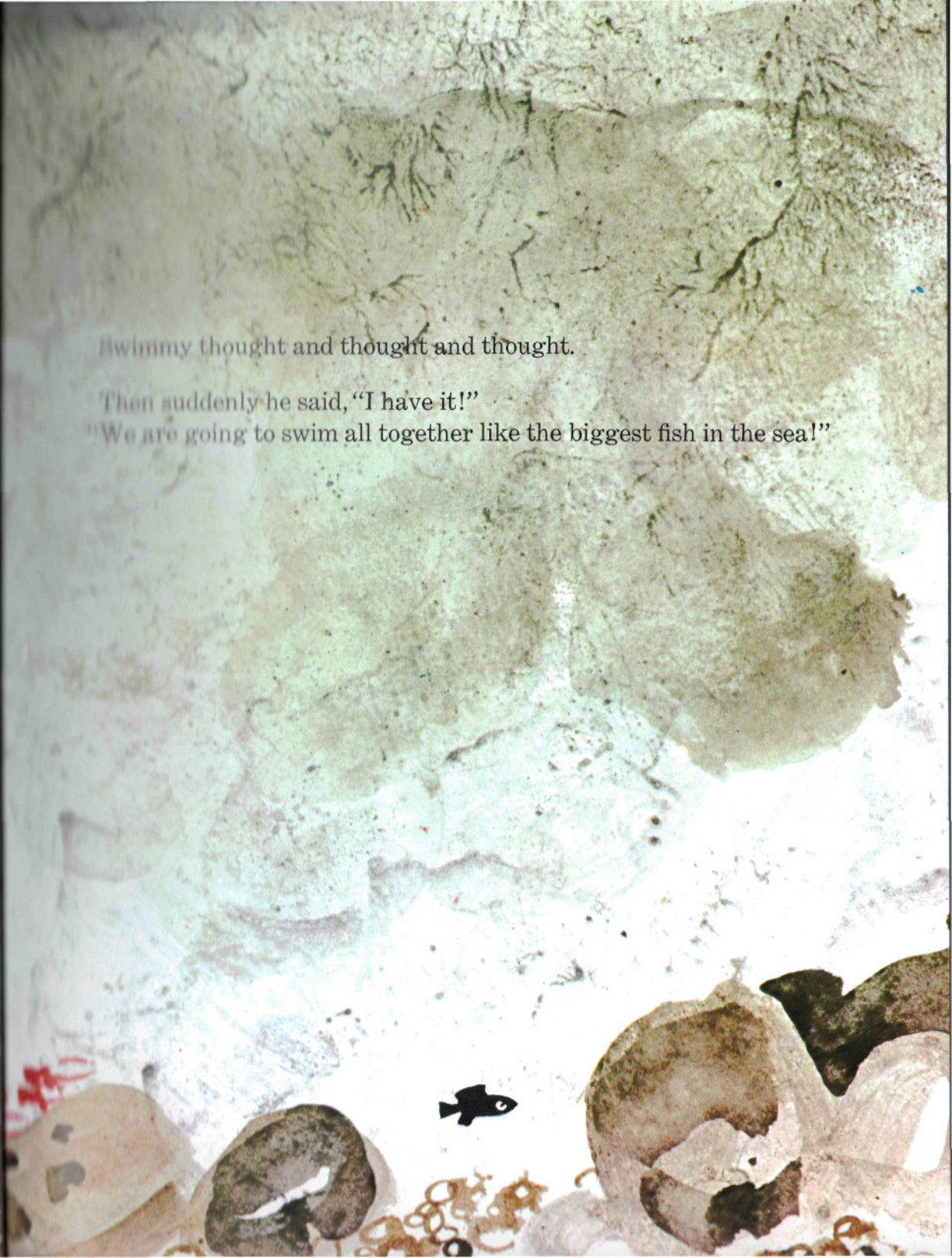




Swimmy thought and thought and thought.

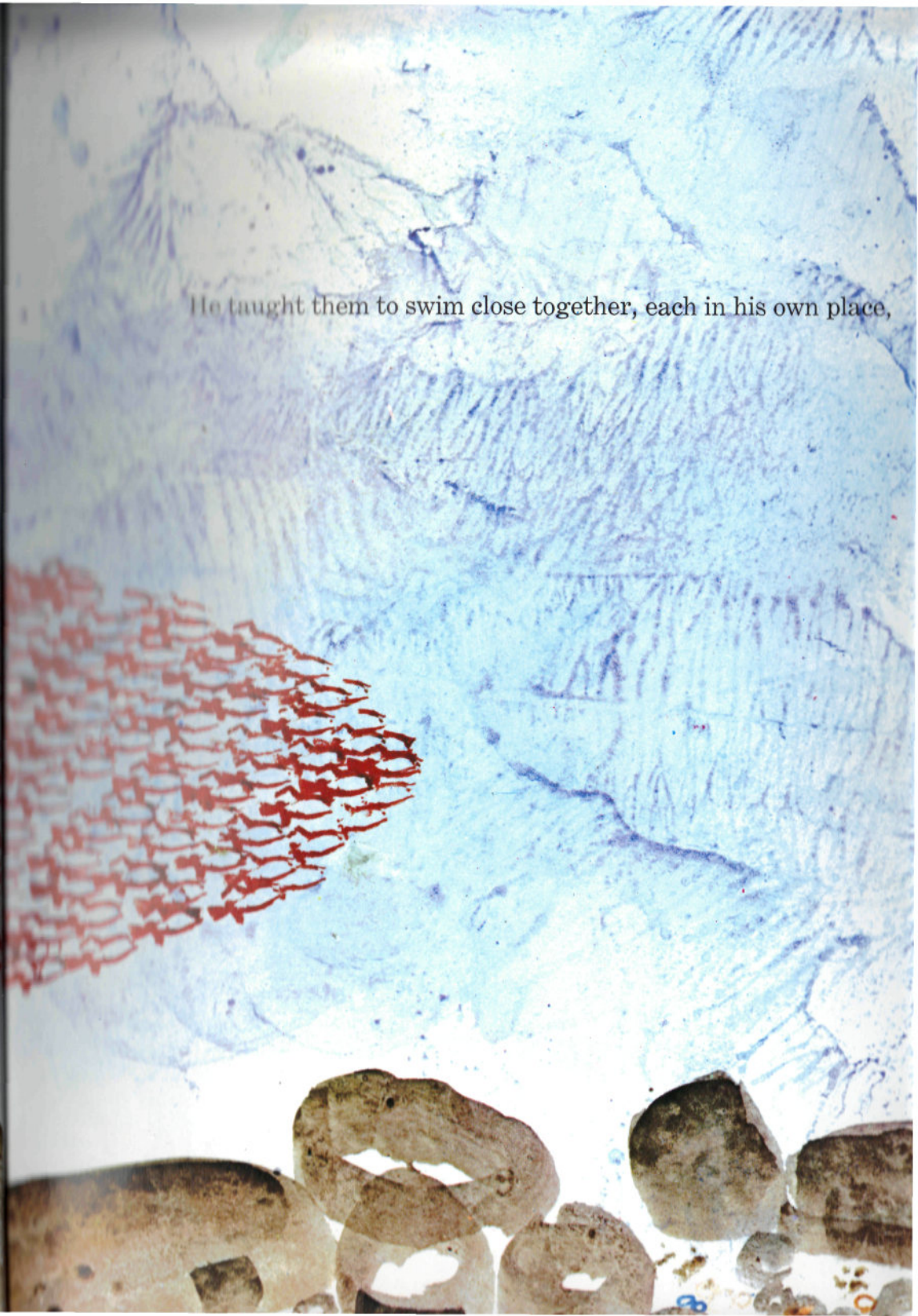
Then suddenly he said, "I have it!"

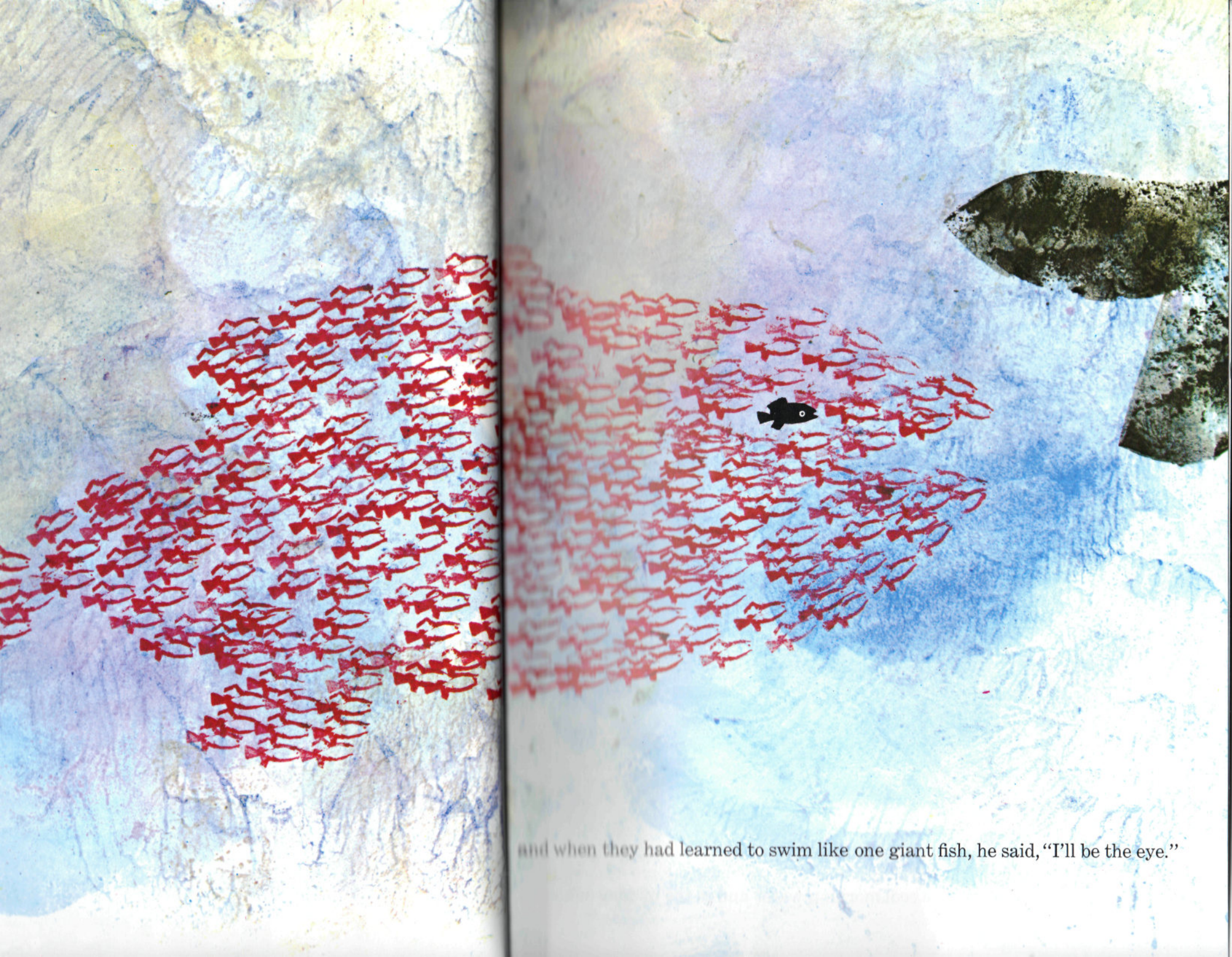
"We are going to swim all together like the biggest fish in the sea!"



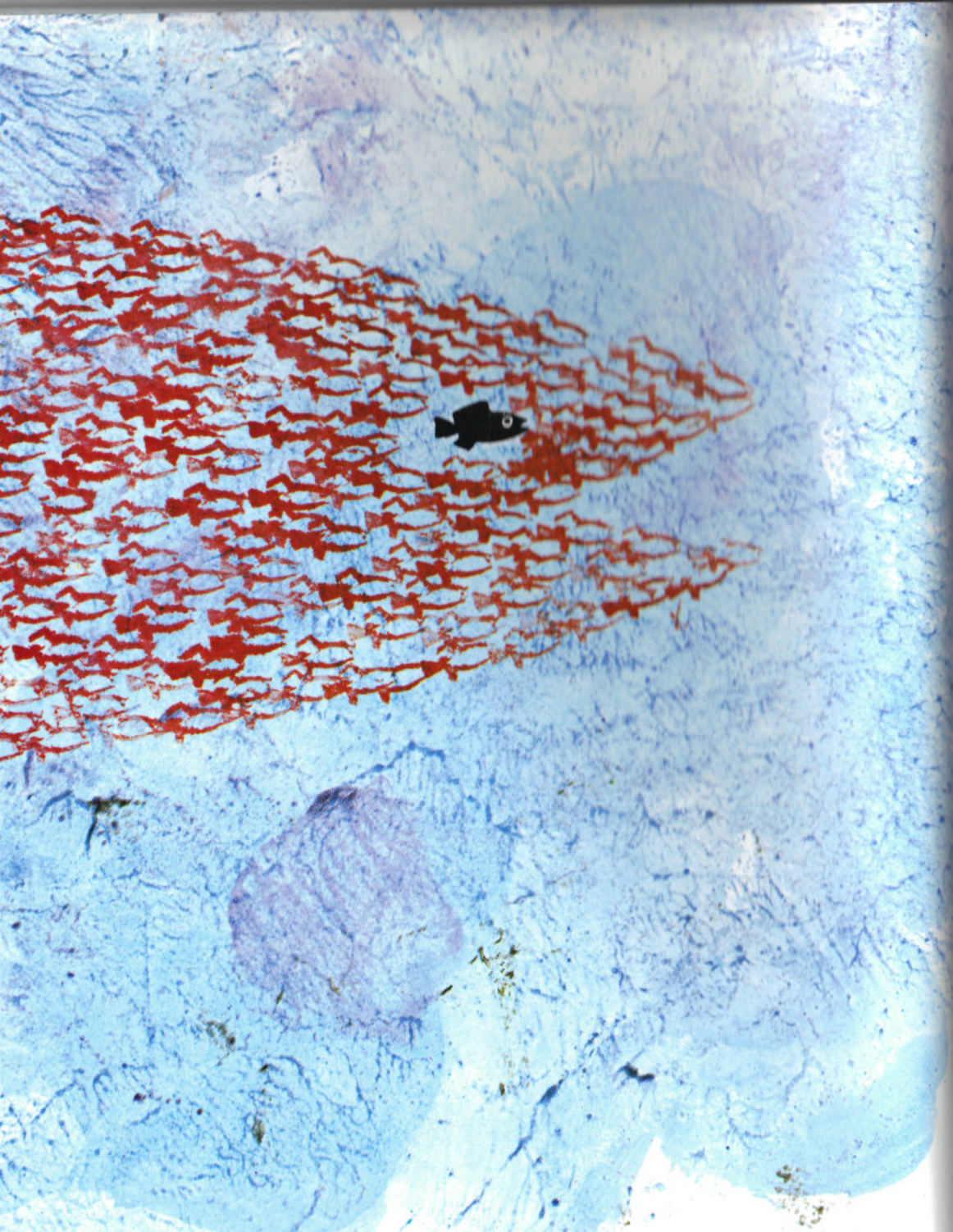


He taught them to swim close together, each in his own place,





and when they had learned to swim like one giant fish, he said, "I'll be the eye."



And so they swam in the cool morning water and in the midday sun and



chased the big fish away.

About the Author

Leo Lionni, an internationally known designer, illustrator, and graphic artist, was born in Holland and studied in Italy until he came to the United States in 1939. He was the recipient of the 1984 American Institute of Graphic Arts Gold Medal and was honored posthumously in 2007 with the Society of Illustrators Lifetime Achievement Award. His picture books are distinguished by their enduring moral themes, graphic simplicity, and brilliant use of collage, and include four Caldecott Honor Books: *Inch by Inch*, *Frederick*, *Swimmy*, and *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse*. Hailed as "a master of the simple fable" by the *Chicago Tribune*, he died in 1999 at the age of 89.

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an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York.
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The Library of Congress has cataloged the hardcover edition of this work as follows:
Lionni, Leo. / *Swimmy*. p. cm.
ISBN 978-0-394-81713-2 (trade) — ISBN 978-0-394-91713-9 (lib. bdg.) — ISBN 978-0-394-82620-2 (pbk.)
PZ10.3.L6465 Sw
63008504

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58 57 56 55 54 53 52 51 50

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