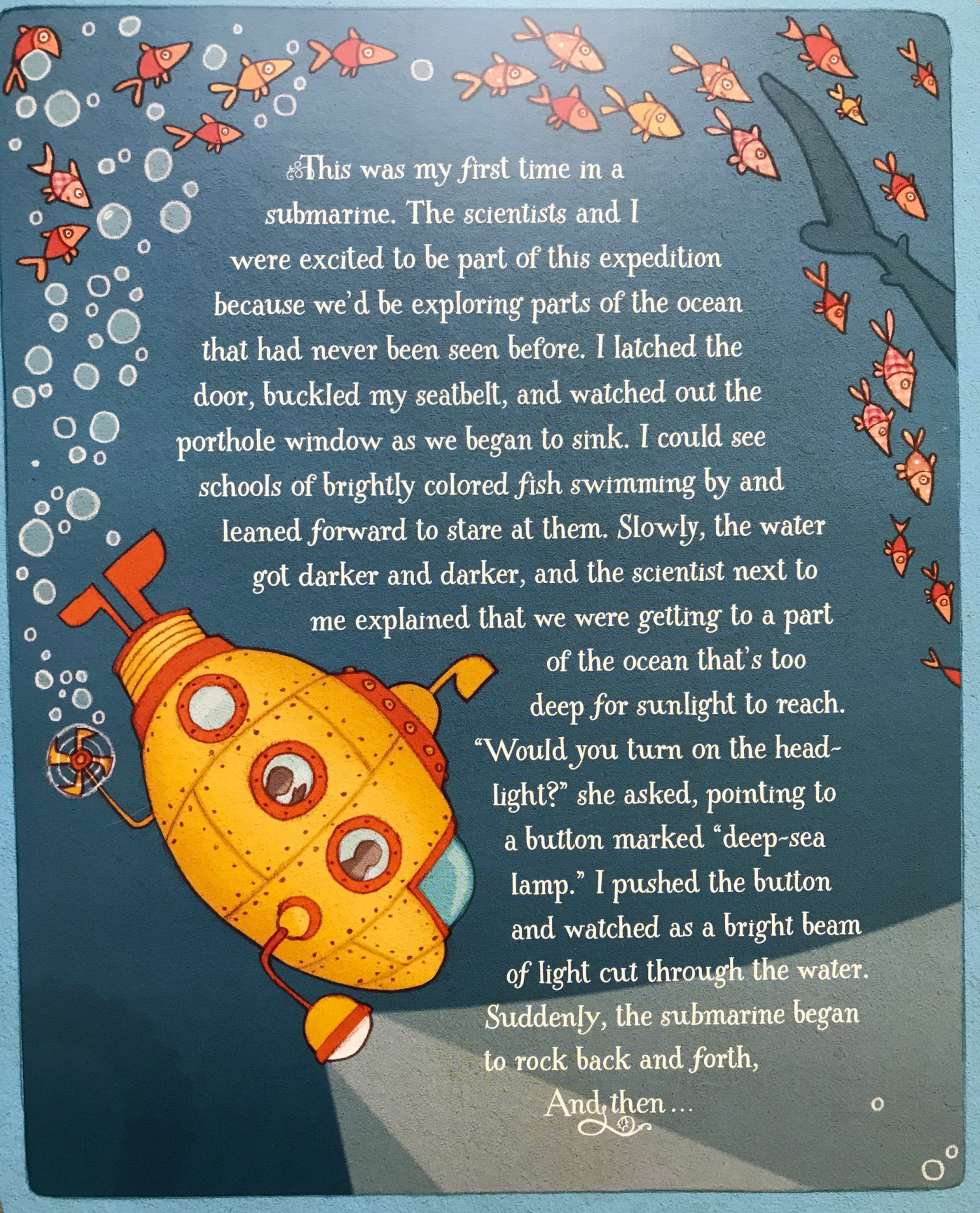


Dragon Mountain is my favorite place to spend a summer day. When we go, we pack a picnic lunch and hike to someplace new, where we spread out a blanket, drink our lemonade, and eat a sandwich or two. We find animal shapes in the clouds, discover lots of wildflowers, and search for hidden trails. The last time we went, I wandered over a hill after lunch and came upon a patch of blackberry bushes that smelled candy-sweet and were loaded with perfectly ripe berries. I popped one sun-warmed berry after another into my mouth, fingertips turning purple from the juice. I was stretching to reach a high branch, when I noticed that it was shaking. Ever so slightly, it seemed like the earth was moving under my feet.

I turned around
to look back
over the hill,
And then...





⌘ This was my first time in a submarine. The scientists and I were excited to be part of this expedition because we'd be exploring parts of the ocean that had never been seen before. I latched the door, buckled my seatbelt, and watched out the porthole window as we began to sink. I could see schools of brightly colored fish swimming by and leaned forward to stare at them. Slowly, the water got darker and darker, and the scientist next to me explained that we were getting to a part of the ocean that's too deep for sunlight to reach. "Would you turn on the headlight?" she asked, pointing to a button marked "deep-sea lamp." I pushed the button and watched as a bright beam of light cut through the water. Suddenly, the submarine began to rock back and forth,

And then ...