

What Shines Beneath

a collaborative poem by member artists and teaching artists
at Creative Clay

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What I treasure from the land:
the beaches with their buffets of shells,
or any starfish by the shore.
And from deep in the sea:
swordfish swimming at top speed,
orange-striped clown fish.

I see you,
tiny sea otter
floating in the sea—
you cuddle your baby
and you eat your sea food.

Look at all the jellyfish—
the way they move like bubbles floating.
And all those colorful fish—
bright blues and reds, yellow ones
that shine like suns in the sea.

And the octopuses—
look at all those legs,
how they twist and dance
to the rhythm of my dreams.

Hey there, Beautiful.

Did you know
the dolphin likes to look at me
and I like to look at the dolphin
because we're beautiful.

Tiny jellyfish
sleeping in the sand.
So, so beautiful
except when they sting.

Oh, to sail around
in the wind
when the boat is rocking,
waves crashing.
Sandwiches and lemonade
and a friend by my side—
this is where I like to be.

I got the feeling
this is a party—
par-tay!

Little harp seals
as cute as can be.
I like to see them.
They make me so happy.

I'm really good with sea life stuff.
You didn't know this.
For two years
I was in the Stingray program,
and I took classes
that didn't sting.
I knew it was because
I know about sea life.

Love letter to a manatee:
Dear manatee,
look at you,
the way you float around
being vegetarian
so calm and peaceful.

Oh, and did you know
that manatees are related to elephants?
You can tell by their nails...

Let's talk about hammerhead sharks!
They are so cool—
eyes on the sides of their heads,
how they scan the ocean
seeing everything.

My mother used to take me to the beach.
And now, every time I see the water,
I think of her.
They put her ashes
in the water.
The waves keep going.
And that's the way it is.
There's my story.

The way I feel about starfish—
they're beautiful.
And that is my poetry today.
The starfish:
the star of today,
a dream come true—
what shines beneath