

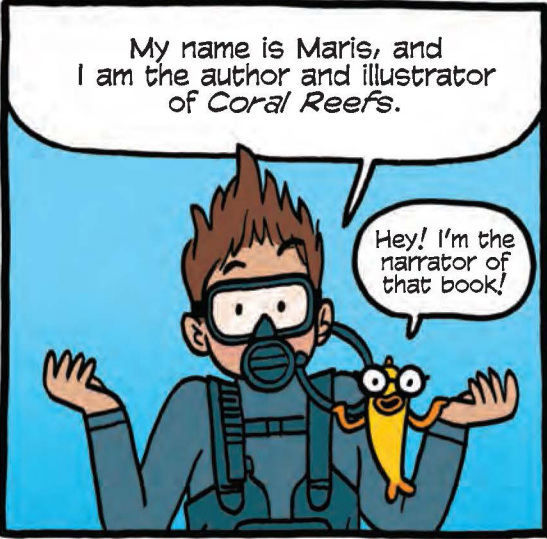


Hi there!

You might be wondering:
Who is this person?

And why is she just
hanging out in the ocean?

Yeah, what're
you doing in my
backyard?



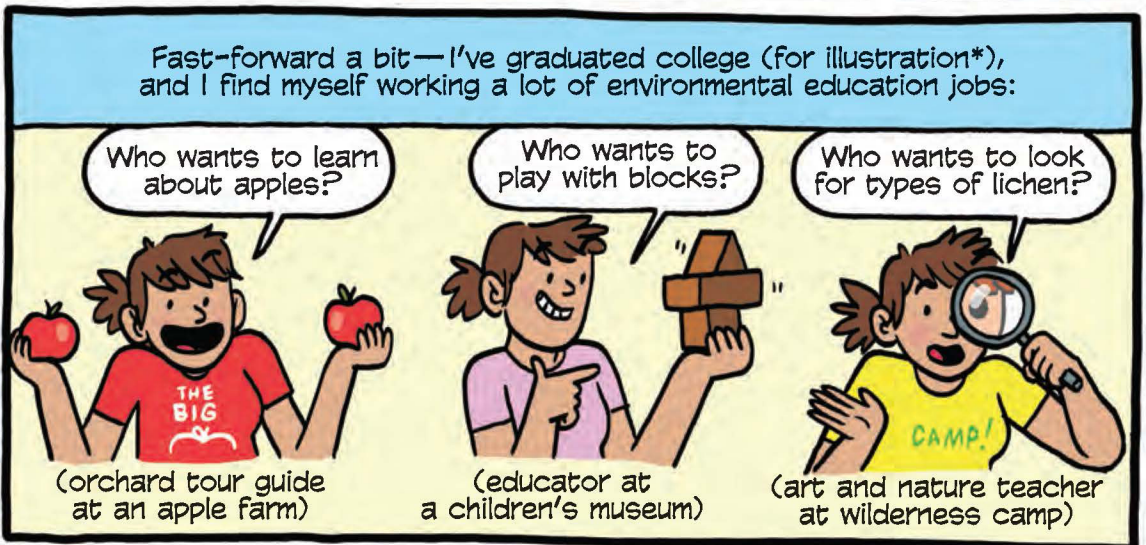
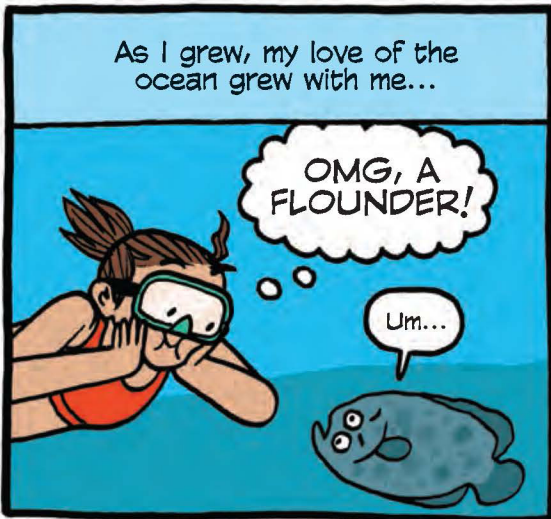
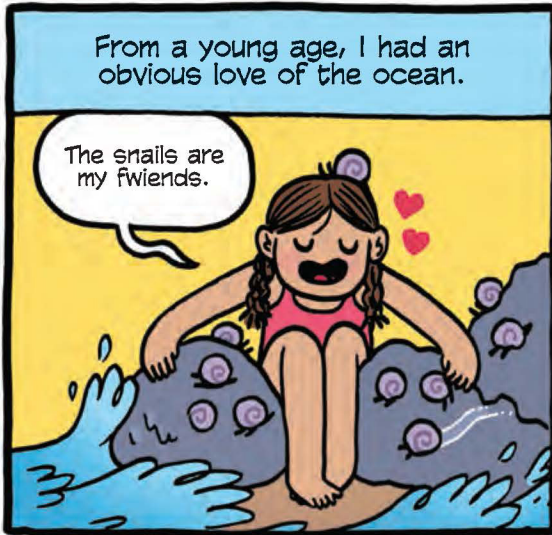
My name is Maris, and
I am the author and illustrator
of *Coral Reefs*.

Hey! I'm the
narrator of
that book!



To understand WHY
I'm chillin' with this coral reef,
we have to go back in time...

Oh!
I like time
travel!



* This is often the variety show of occupations that one with a BFA in illustration holds.

Recognizing WHY and HOW we protect and preserve our environment is just as important to us as it is to the animals that live there.



On a global level, we all live in the same place—Earth!

I can only hope that the *Coral Reefs* book...



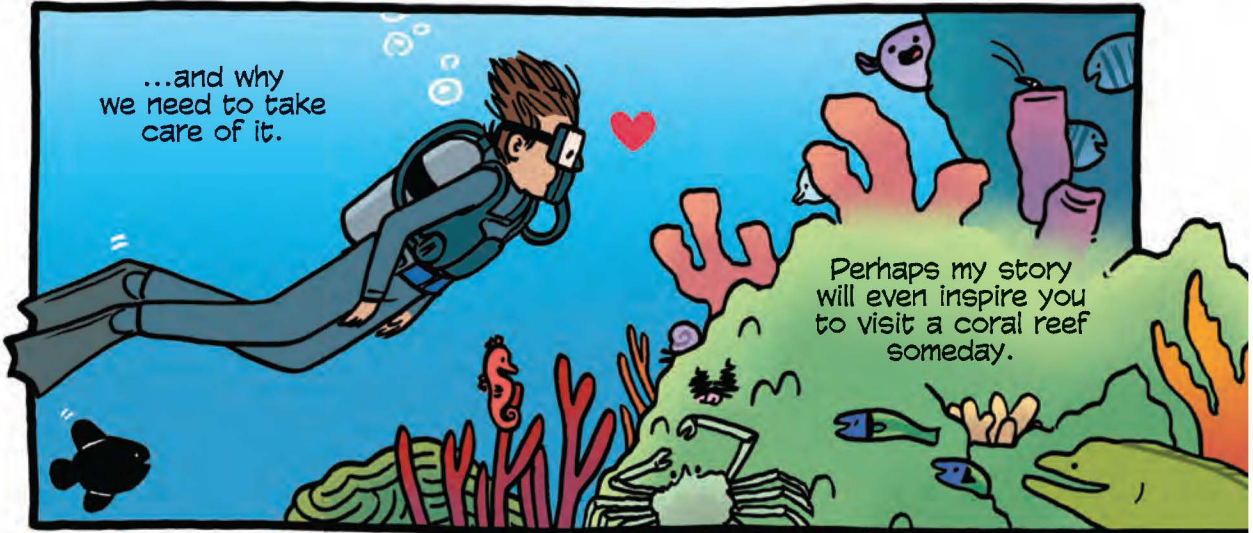
Snails are awesome!

Totally!



...or my interactions with visitors will spark an interest in how totally awesome our planet is...

...and why we need to take care of it.



Perhaps my story will even inspire you to visit a coral reef someday.



The only way we can stay warm is by burning what others left behind.

Not by relying on this dead planet.

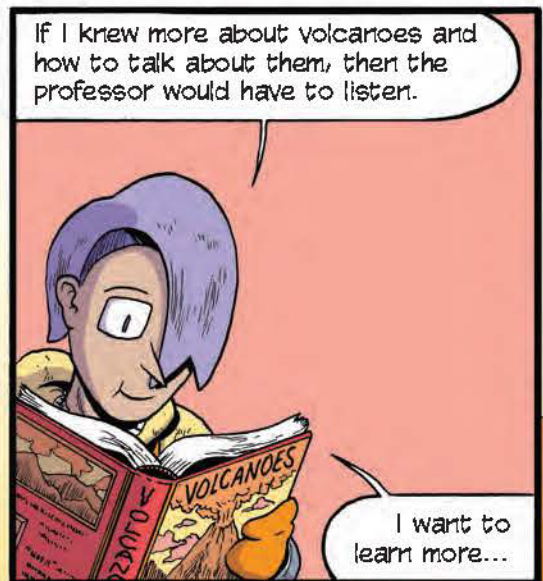


So stick to what's important and finish breaking down those tables.

Yes, professor...



Hmph! She doesn't understand! There really are openings in the Earth that let heat escape.



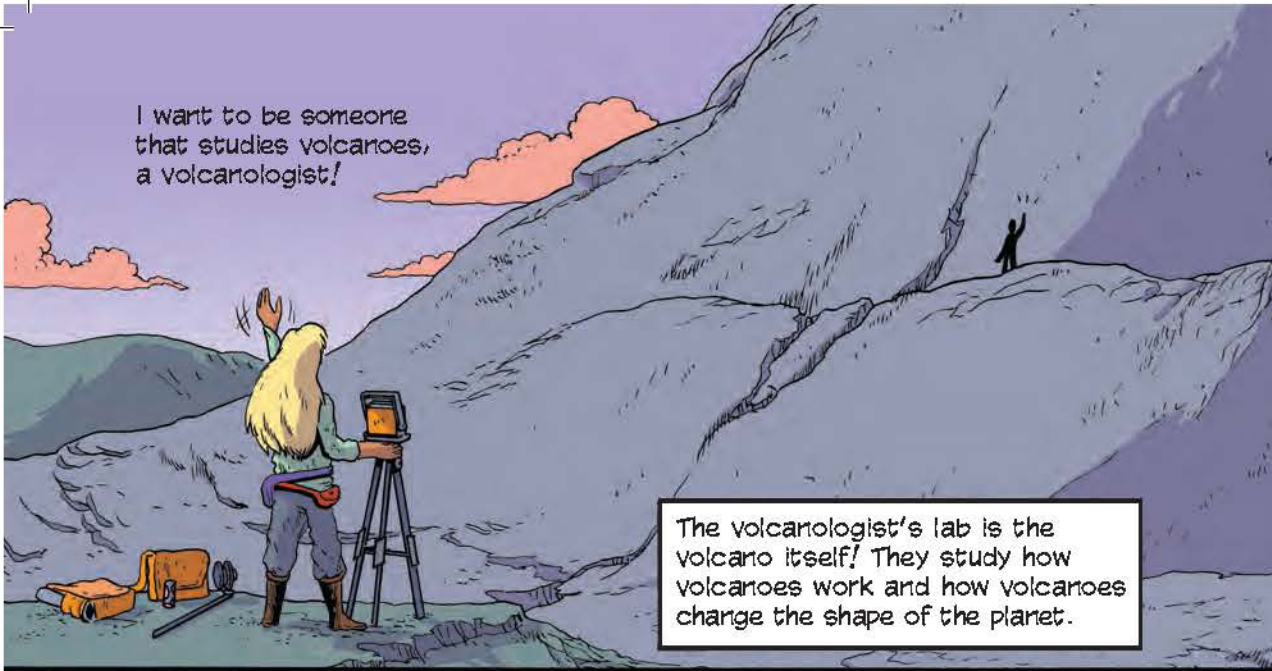
If I knew more about volcanoes and how to talk about them, then the professor would have to listen.

I want to learn more...

Volcanoes are very real and have existed on this planet since it was formed, but humans have not always understood what they were...

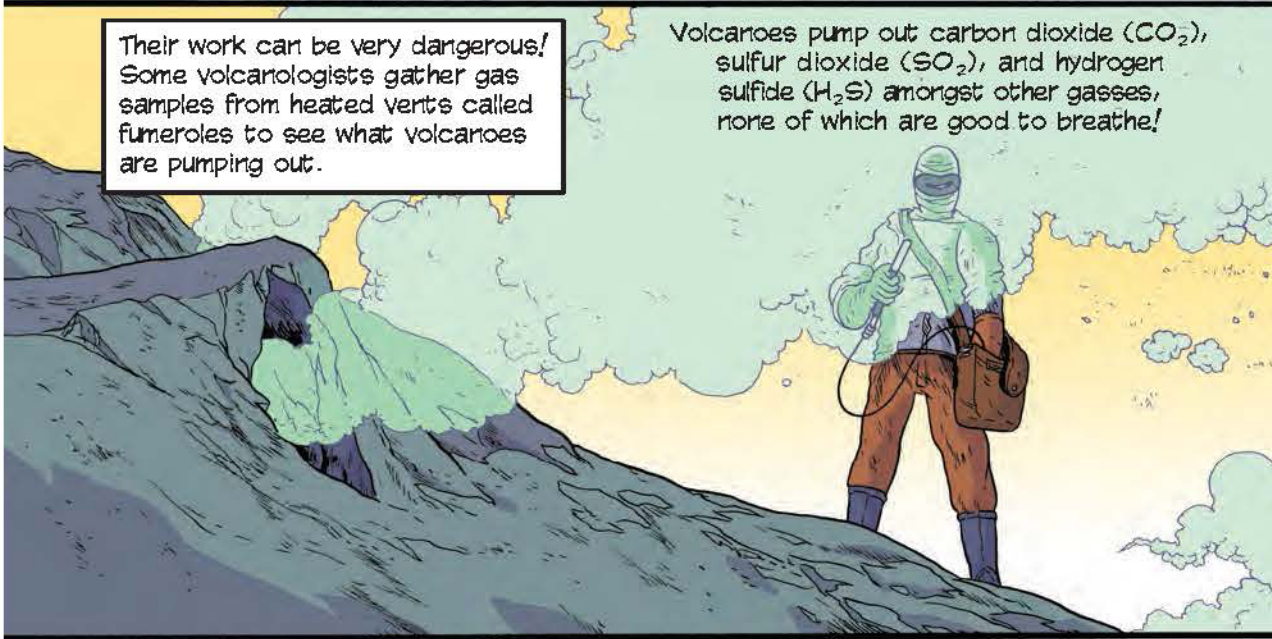
...or what caused them.

Take Mt. Etna, for instance. It's the tallest active volcano in Europe. It's built up in layers of ash and lava and is known as a stratovolcano.




I want to be someone that studies volcanoes, a volcanologist!

The volcanologist's lab is the volcano itself! They study how volcanoes work and how volcanoes change the shape of the planet.



Their work can be very dangerous! Some volcanologists gather gas samples from heated vents called fumaroles to see what volcanoes are pumping out.

Volcanoes pump out carbon dioxide (CO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) amongst other gasses, none of which are good to breathe!



They take lava samples to see how runny (viscous) it is and what its composition is.

Lava can have a temperature of around 700 to 1,200 degrees Celcius, so getting close to it is no joke.