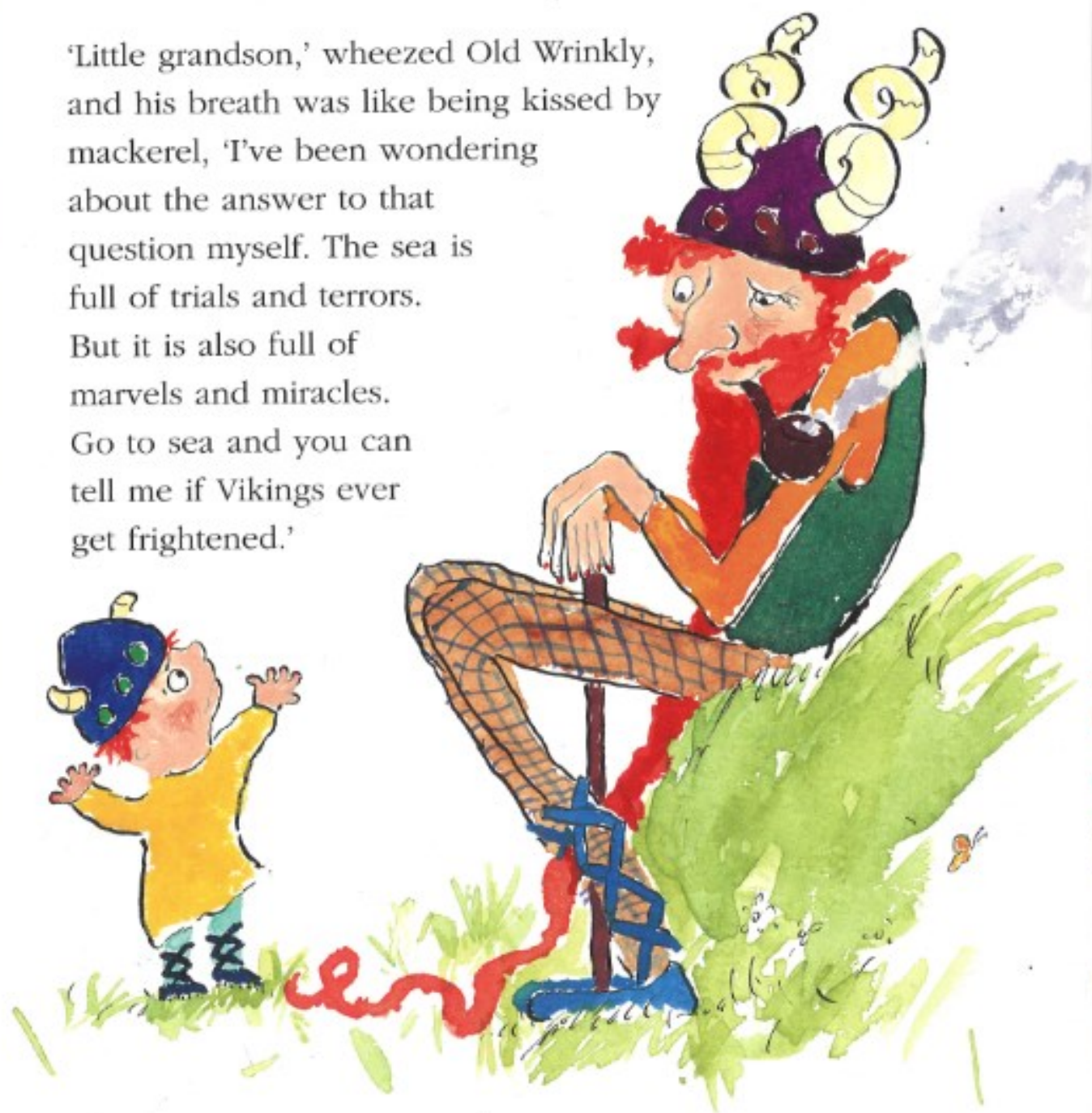


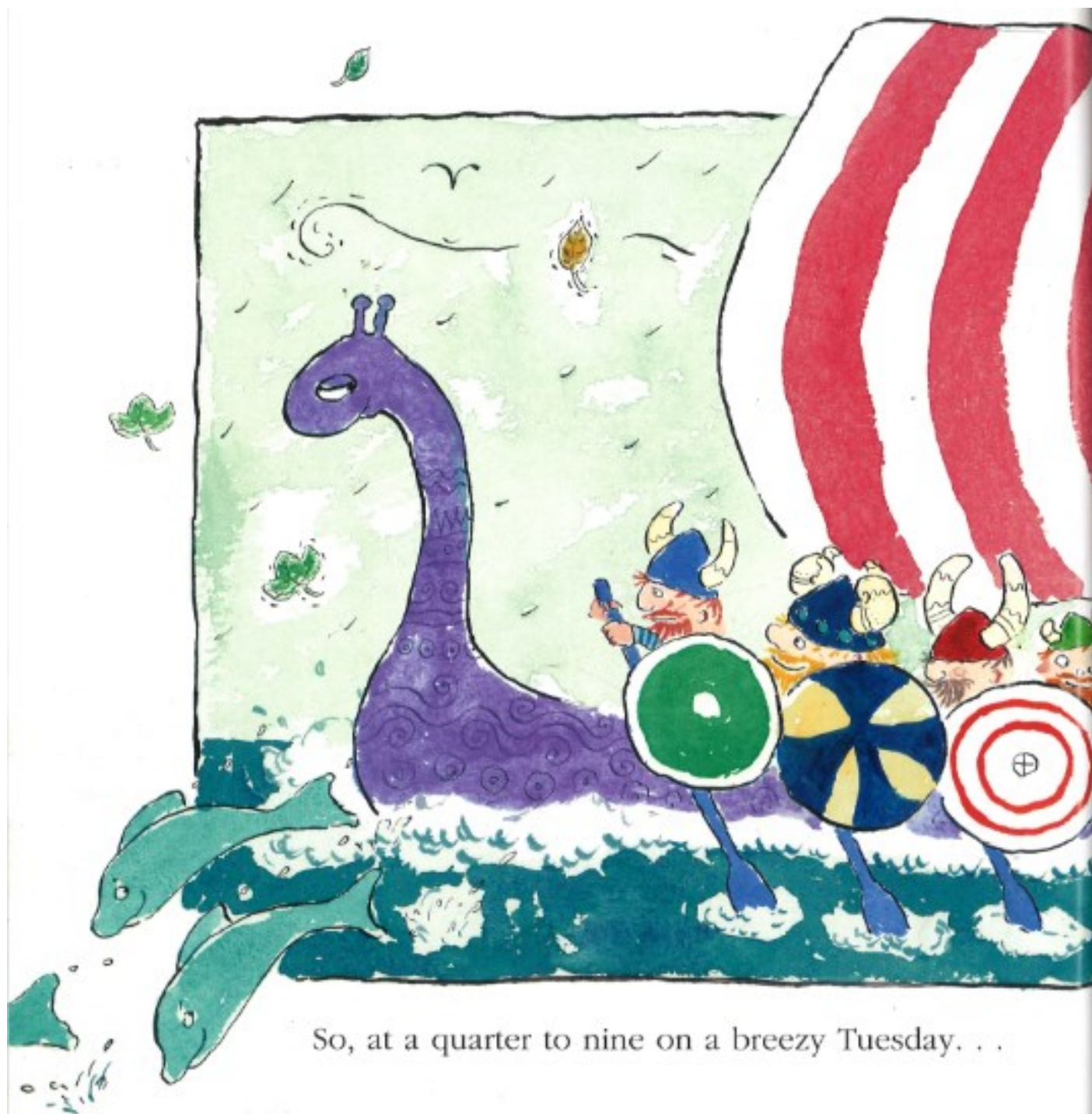
He patted Hiccup on the head and went off to do  
three hundred press-ups before breakfast.  
'Oo-er,' thought Hiccup. 'It all sounds very dangerous.'



So Hiccup went to see the oldest Viking of all, Old Wrinkly himself, whose barnacled beard fell down to his toes. 'Your Saltiness,' he whispered (for Hiccup had beautiful manners), 'do Vikings ever get frightened?'

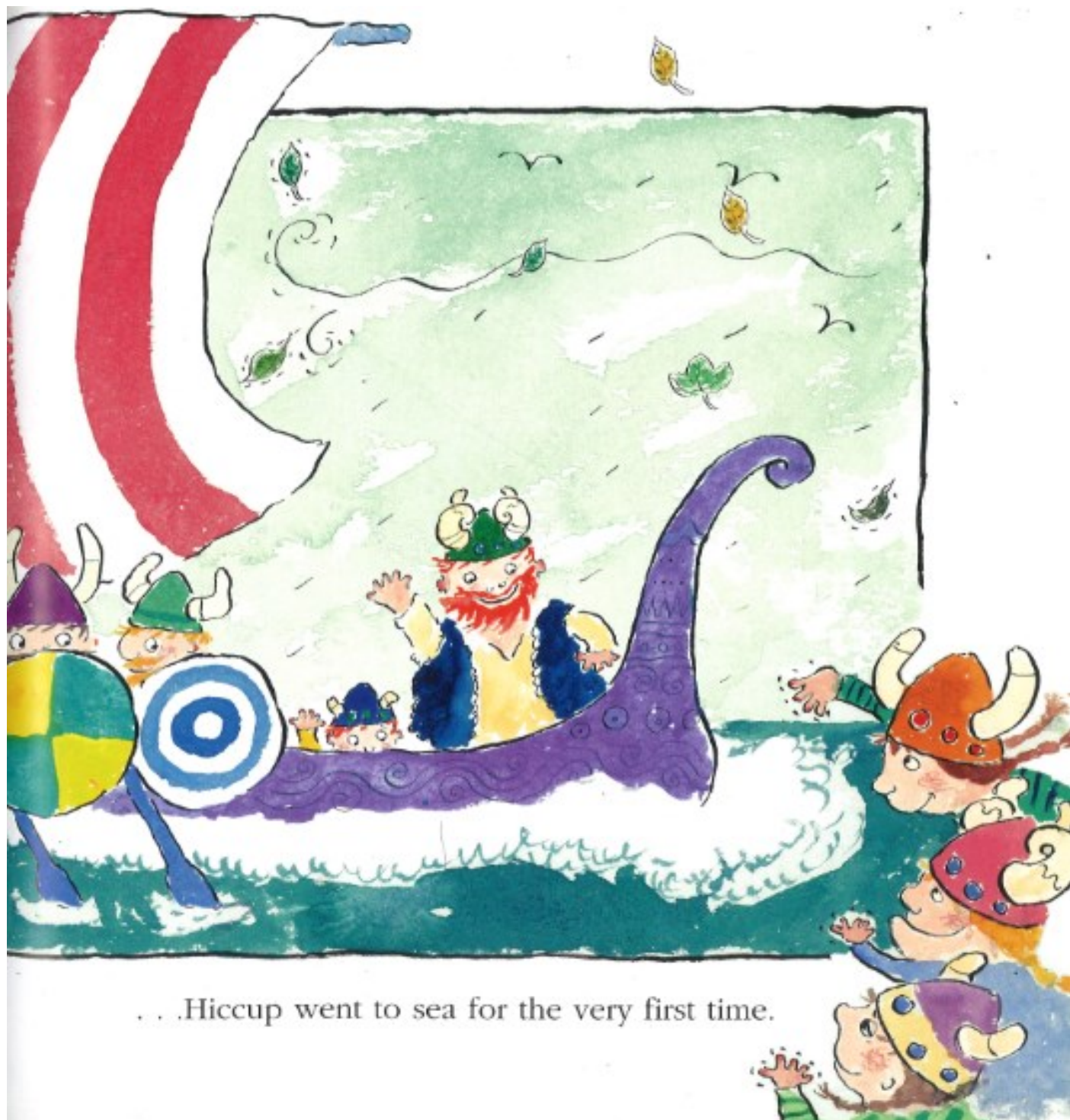
'Little grandson,' wheezed Old Wrinkly, and his breath was like being kissed by mackerel, 'I've been wondering about the answer to that question myself. The sea is full of trials and terrors. But it is also full of marvels and miracles. Go to sea and you can tell me if Vikings ever get frightened.'





So, at a quarter to nine on a breezy Tuesday. . .





. . .Hiccup went to sea for the very first time.

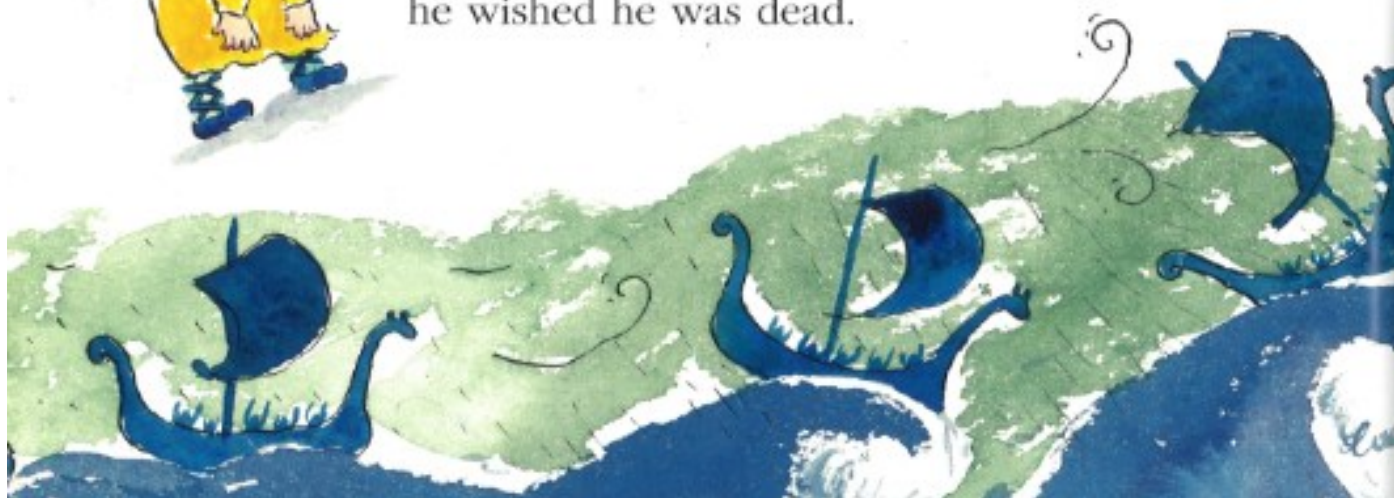


At half past nine, Hiccup  
was wishing he hadn't  
eaten those two smallish  
haddock for breakfast.

At a quarter  
to ten he was feeling  
very peculiar indeed.

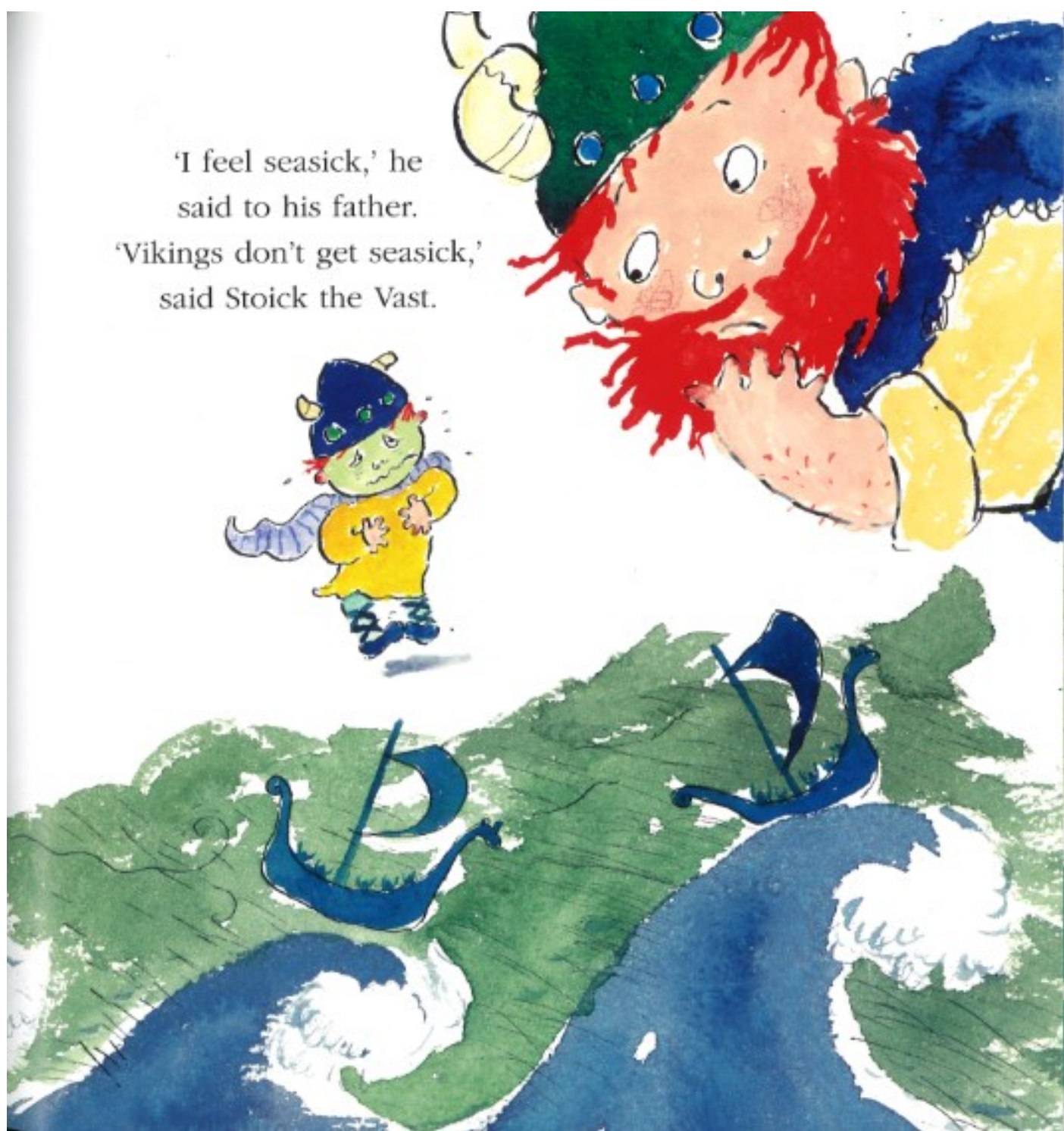


And, at half past ten,  
he wished he was dead.





'I feel seasick,' he  
said to his father.  
'Vikings don't get seasick,'  
said Stoick the Vast.





But this one was, all over Stoick's feet.

Hiccup got sicker and sicker. . .

. . .and the storm got wilder and wilder.

Stoick the Vast sang the Viking Song at the storm.

But the storm took no notice.

A great wave came up and soaked him.





One mighty wave picked up that whole Viking ship as if it were a matchstick and threw it fifty miles to the south. And one mighty blast from the gale picked up that whole Viking ship as if it were a piece of seaweed and threw it fifty miles to the west.





And a terrible black wind went shrieking all over the lonely ocean and turned that Viking ship upside down and inside out and went shivering down every single Viking's spine.





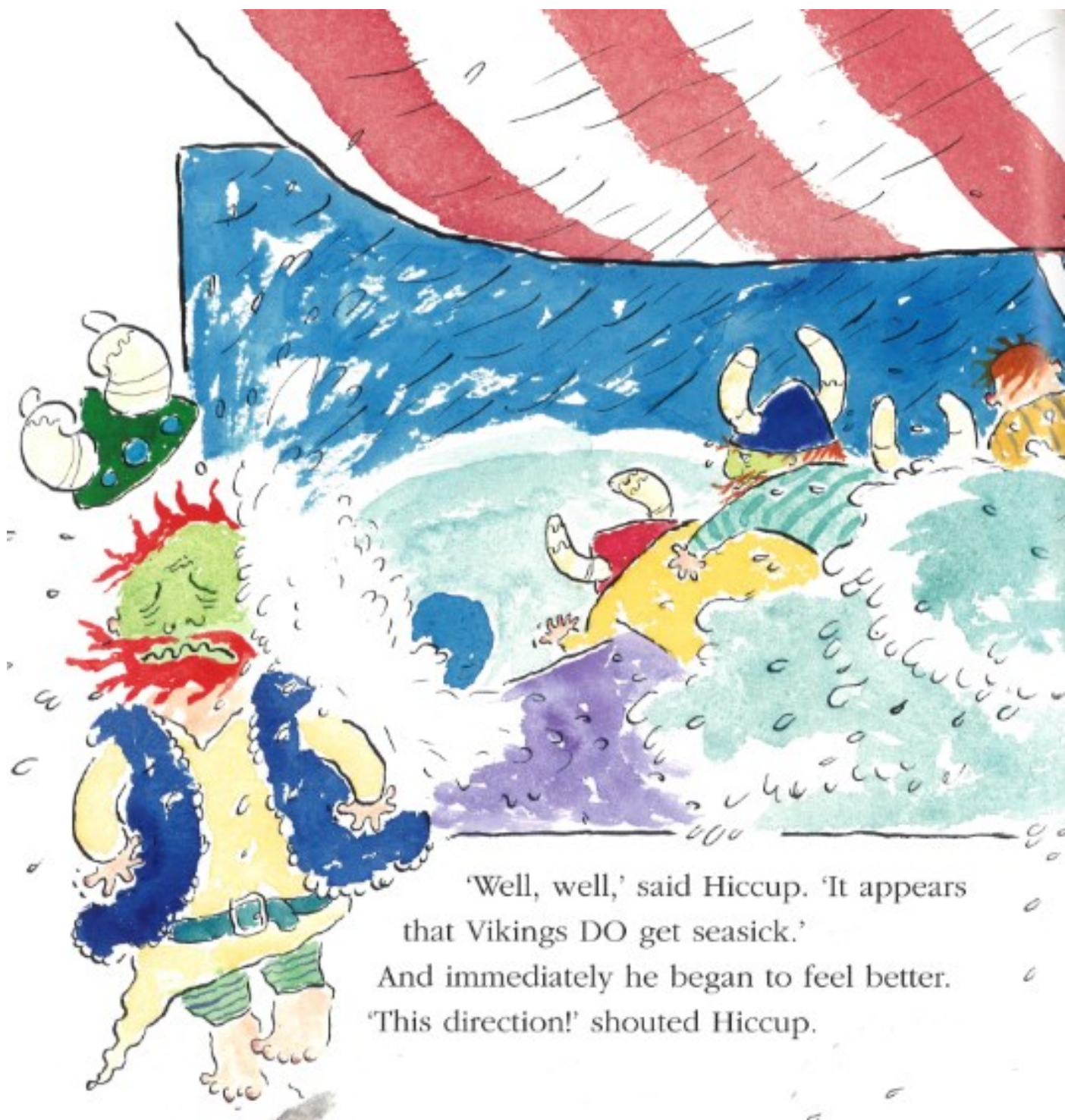


'We're lost,' said Stoick the Not-So-Vast-After-All. And a funny thing happened. His face began to turn a greenish hue, and he thought of the thirty-seven largish haddock he had had for breakfast. . . and his stomach began to heave.



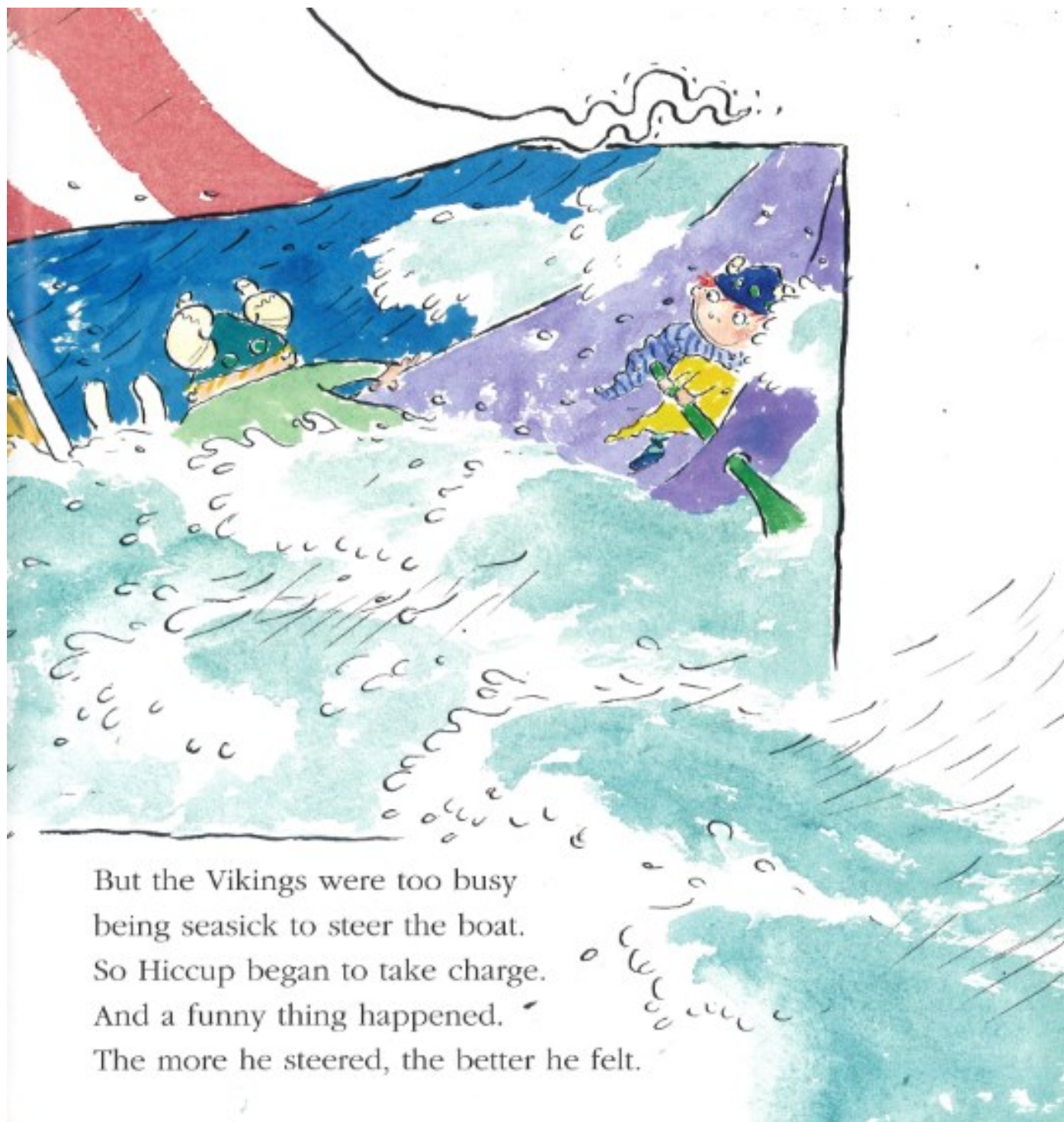


And then all the Vikings turned a pretty green colour and all their stomachs heaved and with an almighty rush they ran to the side. . .



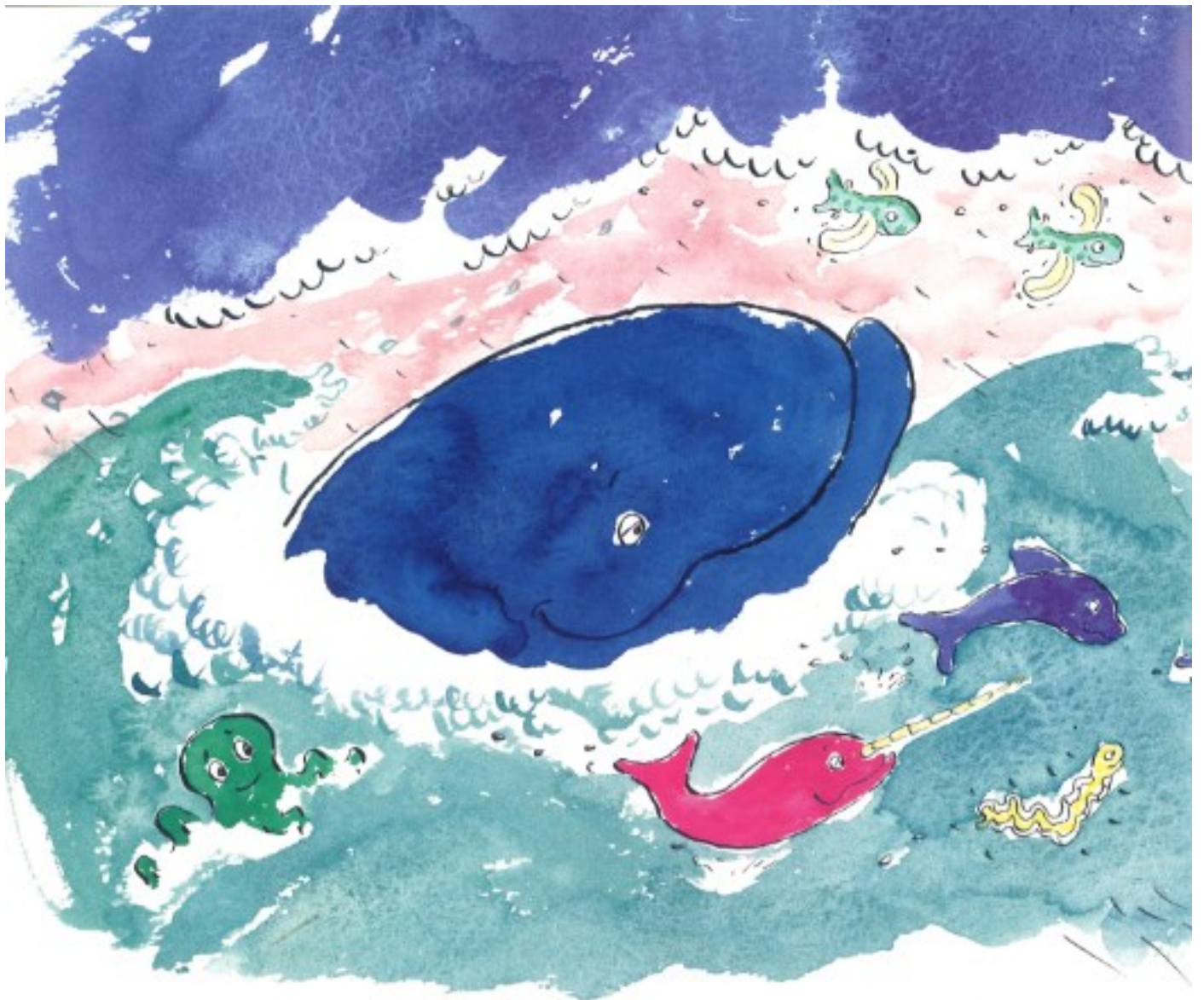
'Well, well,' said Hiccup. 'It appears  
that Vikings DO get seasick.'  
And immediately he began to feel better.  
'This direction!' shouted Hiccup.





But the Vikings were too busy  
being seasick to steer the boat.  
So Hiccup began to take charge.  
And a funny thing happened.  
The more he steered, the better he felt.





As he headed for home that stormy wind filled the sails, and the boat skimmed over the ocean at one thousand miles an hour. Out of the depths of the sea came shoals of flying fish, and leaping dolphins, and strange whales with horns like unicorns.



There were eels that lit up like lightbulbs, and nameless things with enormous eyes that no one had ever seen before – all following Hiccup the Viking as he steered that ship at tremendous speed towards home.