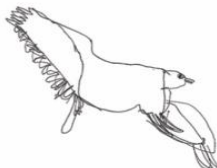
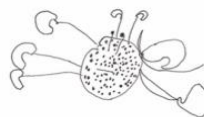
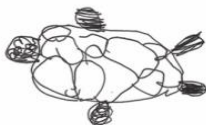
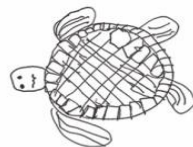
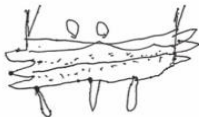
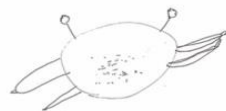
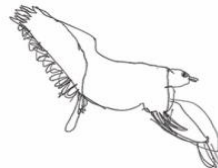
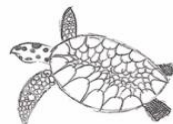
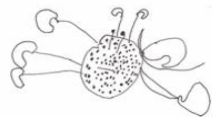
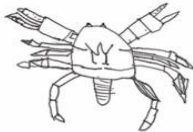
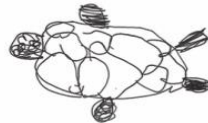
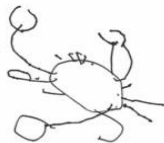
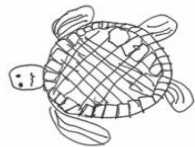
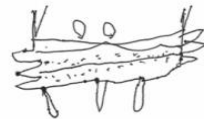


Champions of the Mangroves

Rebecca Kent






Champions of the Mangroves



Written and Illustrated by Rebecca Kent

This book is dedicated to all past, present and future students at The KAUST School, who will inherit this planet and hopefully take positive environmental actions to make it a more sustainable natural world. I also dedicate it to teachers everywhere who promote and make connections to raise global awareness in the classroom.




Champions of the Mangroves
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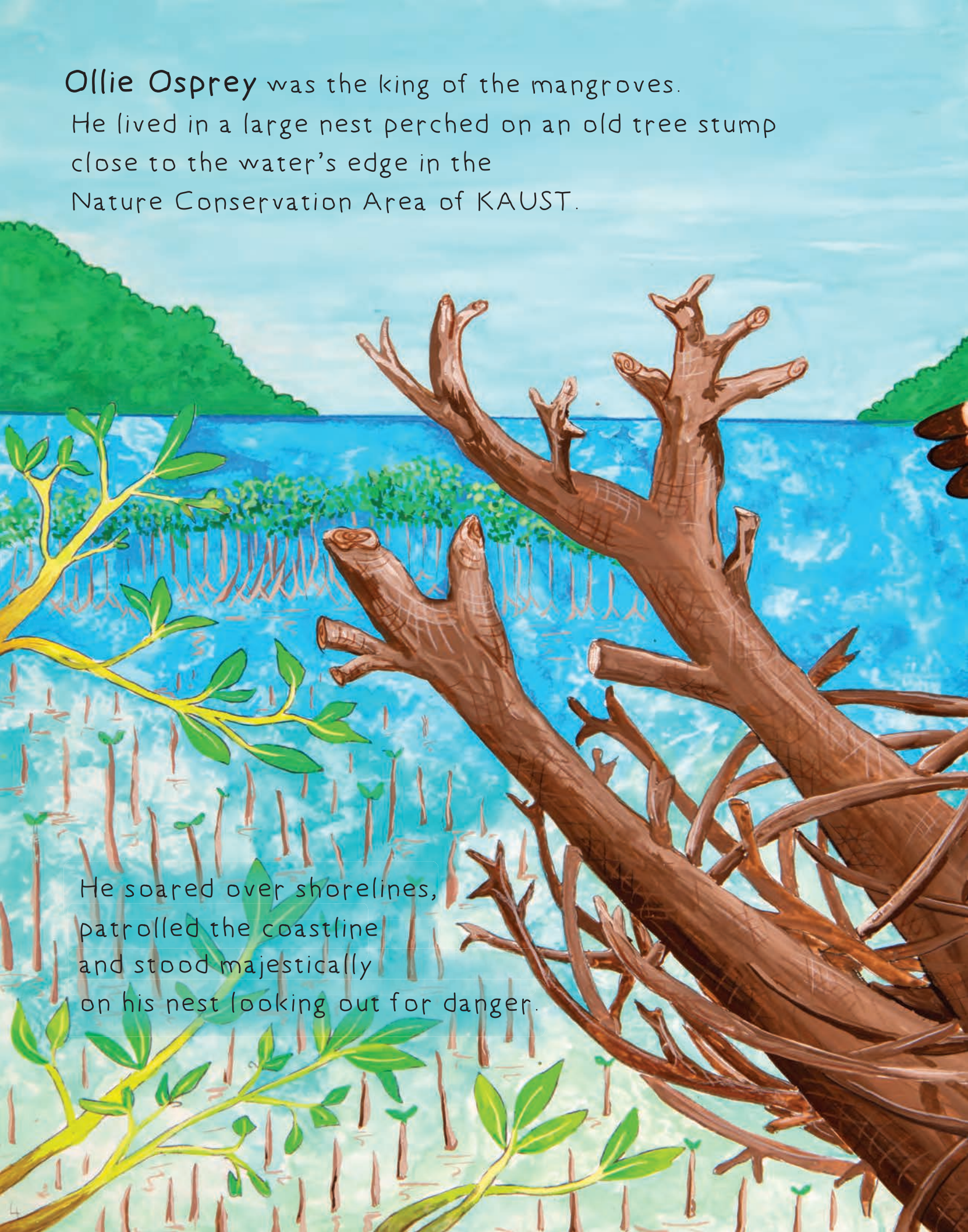
Acknowledgements by Rebecca Kent

As a K3 Kindergarten teacher at The KAUST School, I understand the importance of encouraging our young learners to develop an understanding about saving the planet. I would like to offer my thanks to the KAUST Health, Safety and Environment team who gave me the opportunity to write and illustrate this picture book.

This shows KAUST's commitment to educating the community about the mangroves, and the diverse life that inhabits this amazing environment. I am particularly grateful for the support of Brian James, Ana Costa, Choungyoun Park, Shahzad Ghauri, Sufyan Khan and Mohamed Omar, the visionaries behind this project.


I wish to acknowledge and thank my K3 class and some Grade 5 students for their unique animal drawings. Finally, I would like to thank my husband and best friend, Jez, for supporting me through the painstaking process of producing this book.

Ollie Osprey was the king of the mangroves.
He lived in a large nest perched on an old tree stump
close to the water's edge in the
Nature Conservation Area of KAUST.



He soared over shorelines,
patrolled the coastline
and stood majestically
on his nest looking out for danger.





Katie Crab and the mangroves
were the best of friends.
They lived together in perfect harmony.
Katie hid from predators amongst the
mangroves.

When she burrowed under the mangrove
roots for food, she helped them
get oxygen to breathe better.

Katie and Ollie were the
champions of the mangroves.



They worked together with a team of trusted
friends to keep the mangroves safe and clean.

Hadi Hoopoe Bird lived at the far end of the community park. He liked the trees and the grass. He did not like the sea but his friends lived there.



On Monday night there was a HUGE storm.
Lightning lit up the KAUST sky,
followed by great crashes of thunder.
Hadi flew to the beach to see if everyone was okay.

Hadi found his friends sheltering and shaking under Ollie's nest.
He told them silly jokes and sang to them until the storm subsided.

Huddled together,
they slept until
the sun rose
the next morning.



They awoke on Tuesday morning
to find the beach littered with rubbish
which would damage the mangroves.

They needed to work together
to protect their habitat.



Hadi wanted to help but
he did not like the salty water.
It stung his eyes and
he thought it tasted horrible!

Nature Conservation Area

In June 2017, KAUST set aside 152 hectares of protected land as a Nature Conservation Area near the King Abdullah Monument at the northern side of the University. This formal designation is a clear testimony of the University's commitment to protecting and enhancing the unique local biodiversity within the University.

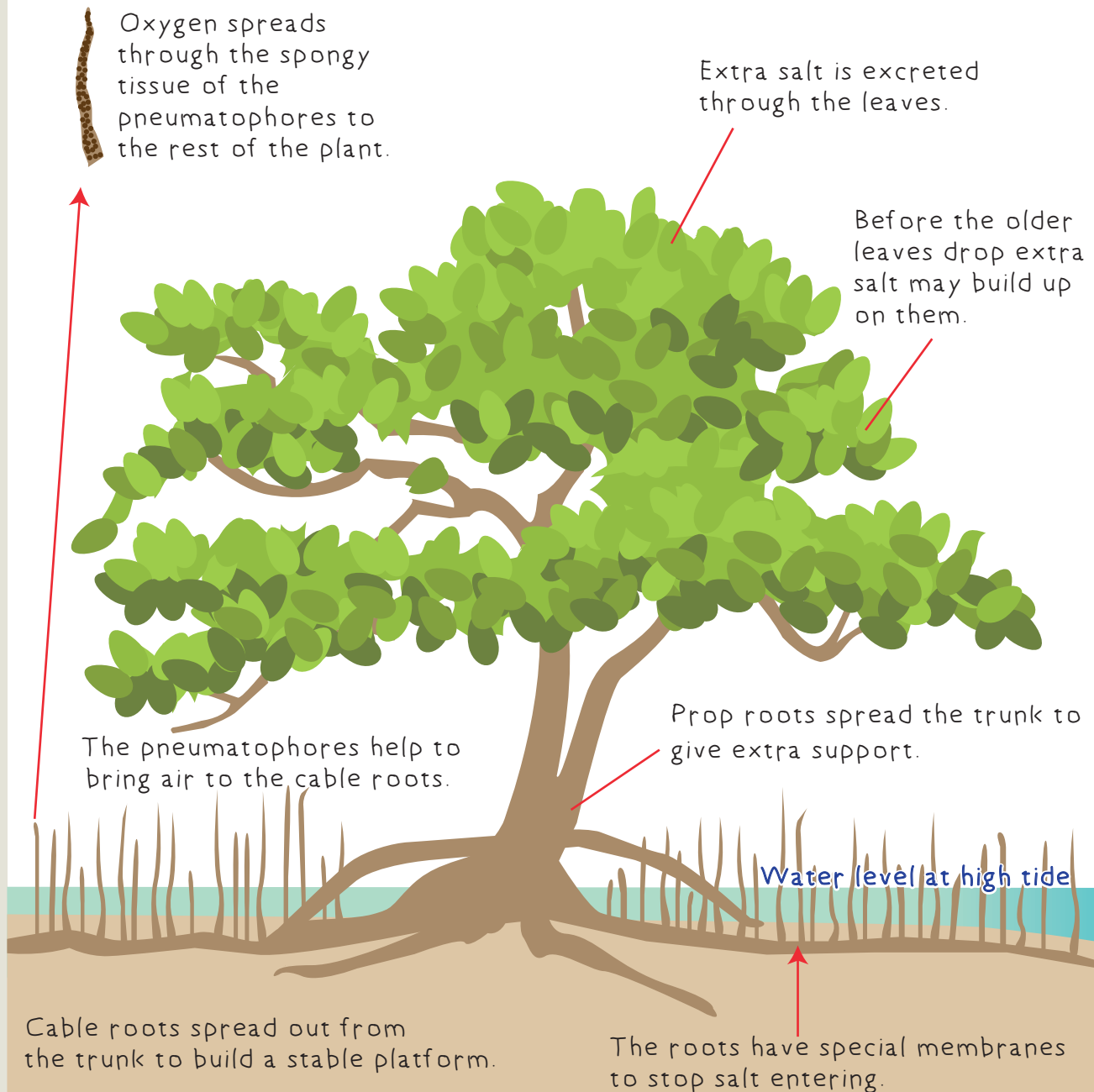
This area is home to a well preserved mangrove forest, seagrass, shallow banks, crabs, and a variety of birds. The dominant mangrove species in the area is "*Avicennia* marina*", also known as the grey or white mangrove. This mangrove forest supports a unique local ecosystem by:

- Acting as an important nursery for juvenile fish;
- Providing habitat for crabs, shrimps, shell fish and birds;
- Supplying nutrients to neighboring ecosystems, including coral reefs and sea grass beds;
- Sequestering and storing carbon and so decreasing the effects of global warming;
- Stabilizing shorelines and preventing erosion.

*The scientific name of this mangrove plant is attributed to one of the great Muslim philosophers and natural historian, Abu-Ali Al-Husayn Ibn-Sina, known to the western world as Avicenna. He was one of the early scientists who described the natural history of the Red Sea including the life cycle of the mangrove species. One of the main KAUST campus buildings bears his name Ibn-Sina Building.

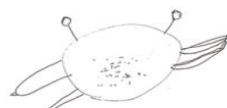
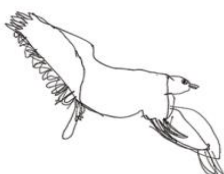
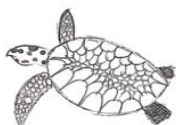
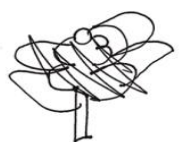
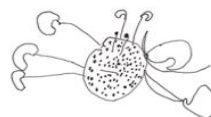
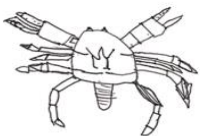
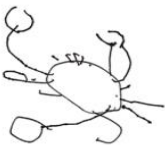
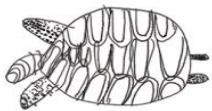
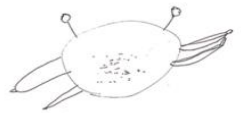
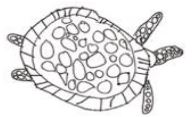
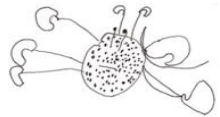
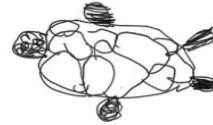
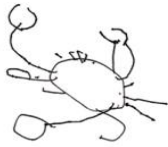
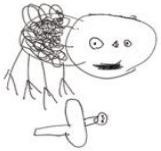
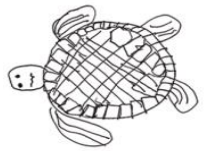
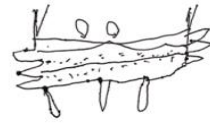
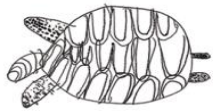
Mangrove Adaptations

The mangrove plant found at KAUST, '*Avicennia marina*' has unique adaptations that enable it to thrive in such a harsh saline habitat.



Drawings by The KAUST School Students

Ahmed Alshamrani, Salma Mitwally,
Reem Ba Wazir, Noor Alhaji,
Athena Manalastas, Abdulrahman Attar,
Anthony Arzel, Whard Khayat, Raphael Zielke,
Awad Baessa, Lana Allehaibi, Cliona Mallon,
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Abdullah Aldubayan, Layana H. Ghyrani,
Lucy Ryan, Reina Kuwaha,
Nora Avello, Jana Hoteit,
Kirsten Bindoy,
Abdullah Bukhari





Meet the "Champions of the Mangroves"
whose habitat is being damaged and endangered
by rubbish that does not care!

Join their challenge as they strive to clean up
the mangroves and put the rubbish in its place!