

Boomer Rules



Story by
Frank Glew

Book Awards
Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal 2002
Richards Education Award 2006

Illustrations by The Marna Twins



BOOMer Rules is dedicated to three remarkable friends: Fraser Gibson, Ken Quanz and Dennis Wendland. Each, in his own way, has actively and endlessly promoted environmental education both in his career and in retirement. Each one has a deep sense of the need and responsibility to respect nature, especially for the sake of future generations. They have given me much appreciated support and encouragement for the writing of children's books. Like BOOMer in this story, they represent the voice of the Earth.

I give my deepest gratitude to Elizabeth King who has worked enthusiastically with me during the editing of my stories.

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he (she) seeks." – John Muir, 1877

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Illustrations by

The Marna Twins (Marlene and Myrna McBrien)

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BOOMer Rules!

BOOMer Rules!

BOOMer Rules the River!

Story by Samuel and Papa (Frank Glew)

(Samuel, my four-year-old grandson,
gave me the ideas for pages 12, 13 and 14.)

**Illustrations by
The Marna Twins**

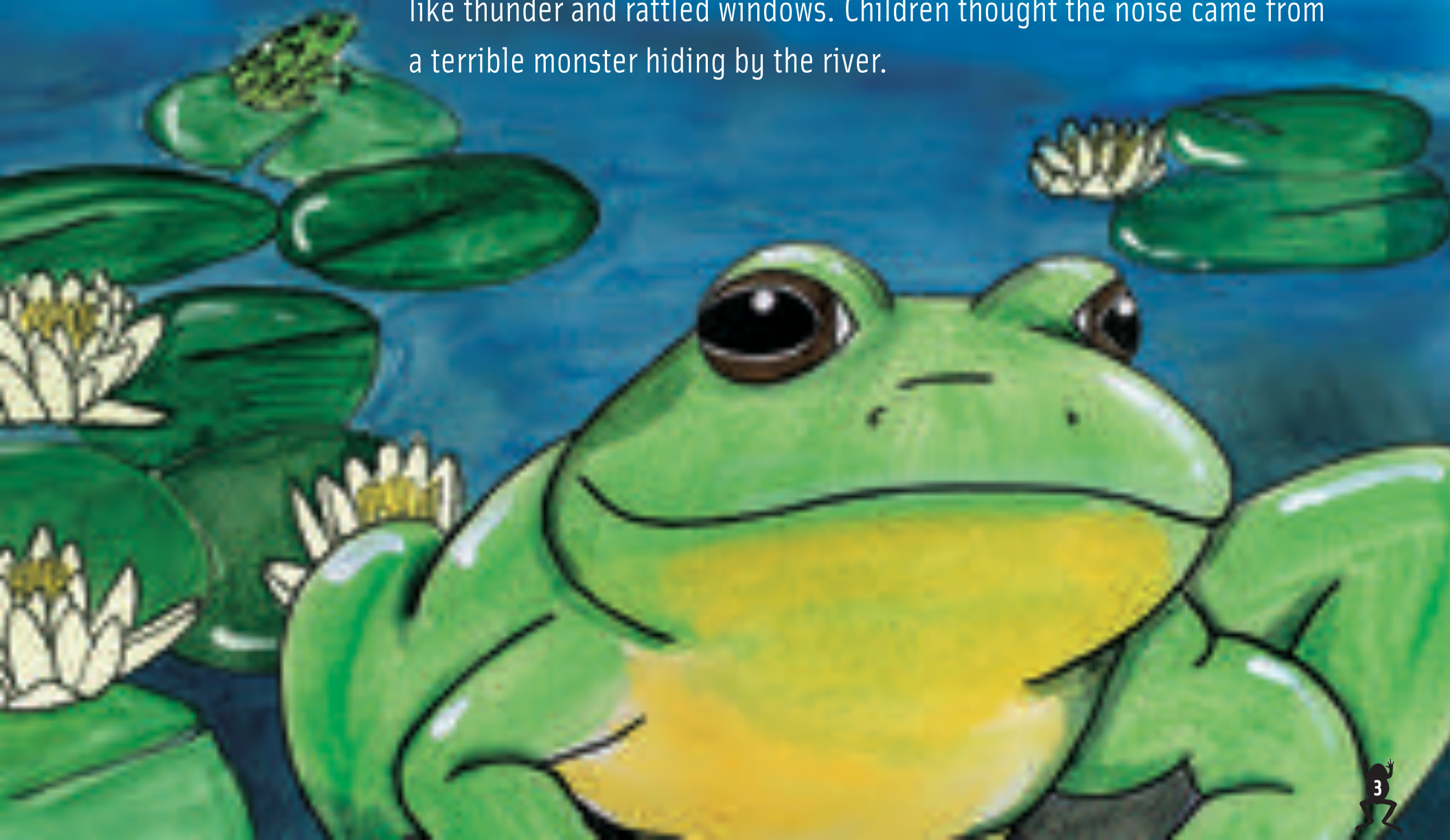
**"A frog does not drink up the pond
in which it lives" – native proverb**

The background of the page is a dark, stylized illustration of a village at night. Several houses with glowing yellow windows are visible against a dark sky. In the foreground, a large green frog with large yellow eyes is partially visible, looking towards the right. The frog is sitting on a dark surface, possibly a log or a rock. The overall mood is mysterious and slightly spooky.

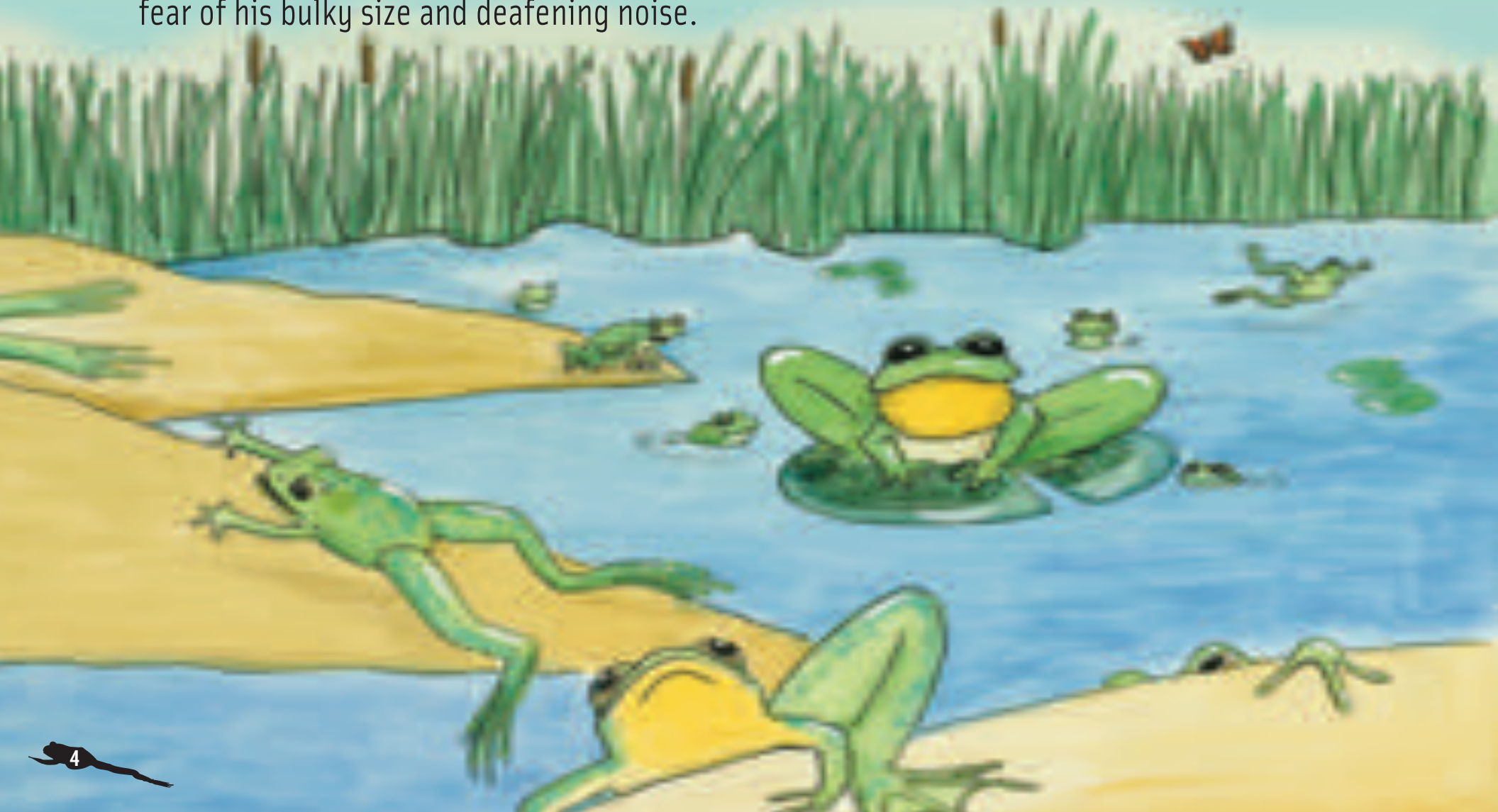
**Jugarump! Jugarump! Jugarump Rump Rump,
Jugarump! Jugarump! Jugarump Rump Rump!,**

Every night, especially in the spring, people living near the beautiful Grand River heard this loud thunderous noise. Most people thought it was the sweet sounds of nature. Others thought it was only a loud, annoying noise that made dogs bark and babies cry.

The blaring sounds came from gigantic bullfrogs living among the perfume-scented water lilies. The loudest sound of all came from the king of bullfrogs, **BIG BOOMer**. **BOOMer** had beautiful brown eyes sticking out of his head like two bulky bubbles. He had large, round, pancake patches for ears. When **BOOMer's** earth-shaking song bellowed out of his enormous smiling mouth, it sounded like thunder and rattled windows. Children thought the noise came from a terrible monster hiding by the river.



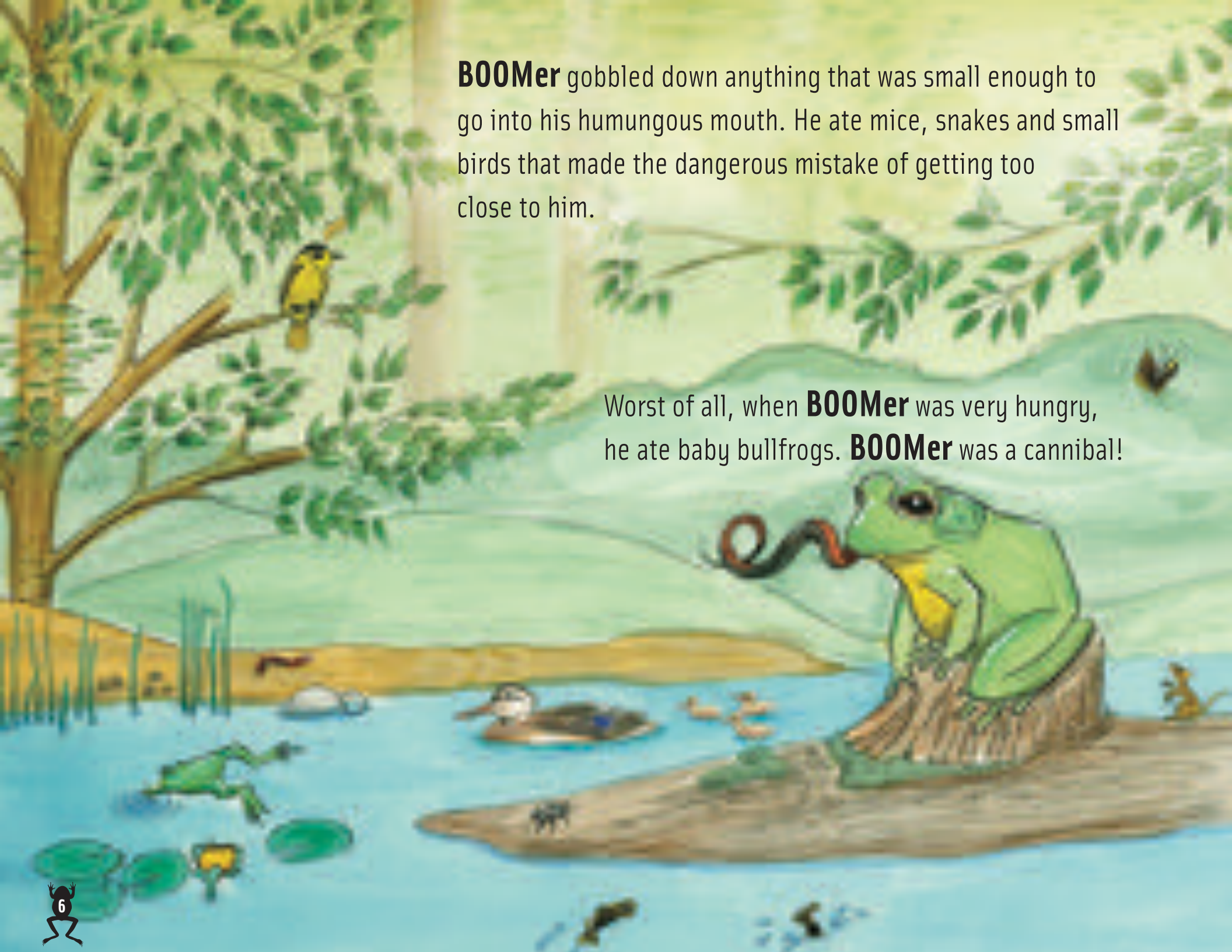
BOOMer was not only big and loud; he was big, loud and handsome. Even though he had a crooked olive-green back and a slimy, bright yellow belly, he looked quite attractive to girl bullfrogs. When **BIG BOOMer** sang out, "**Jugarump! Jugarump! Jugarump! Rump! Rump!**", all the female frogs immediately fell madly in love with him and wanted to be his special girlfriend. Boy bullfrogs hopped frantically away from **BIG BOOMer** in fear of his bulky size and deafening noise.



BOOMer found lots of delicious food in his wetland.

He devoured pesky mosquitoes, tasty flies and crunchy bugs. He was an expert at shooting out his long, sticky tongue to catch food. After he caught his prey, **BOOMer** would push his large eyeballs downward. The eyes worked like a plunger to force the food quickly from his large mouth into his enormous stomach.

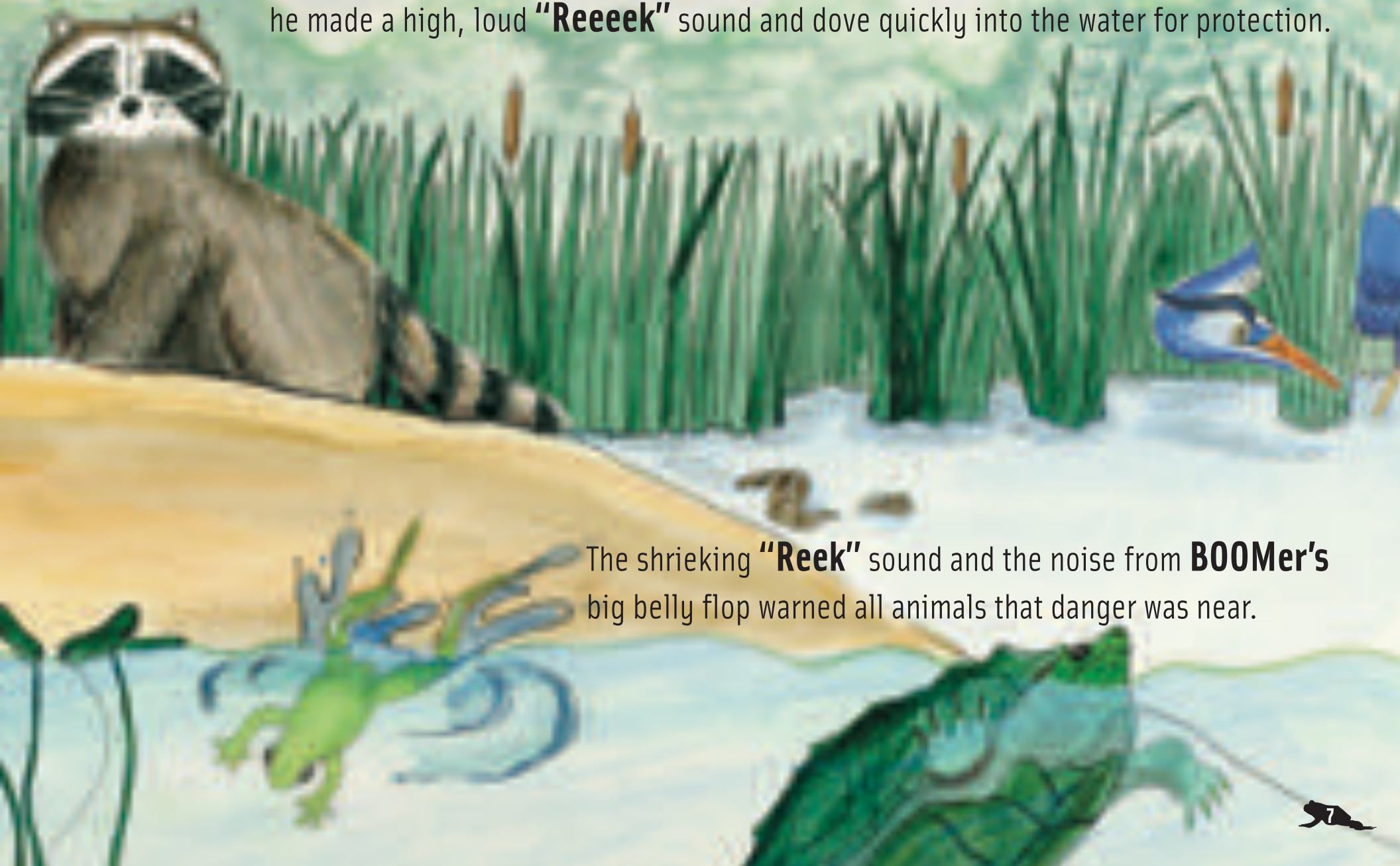




BOOMer gobbled down anything that was small enough to go into his humungous mouth. He ate mice, snakes and small birds that made the dangerous mistake of getting too close to him.

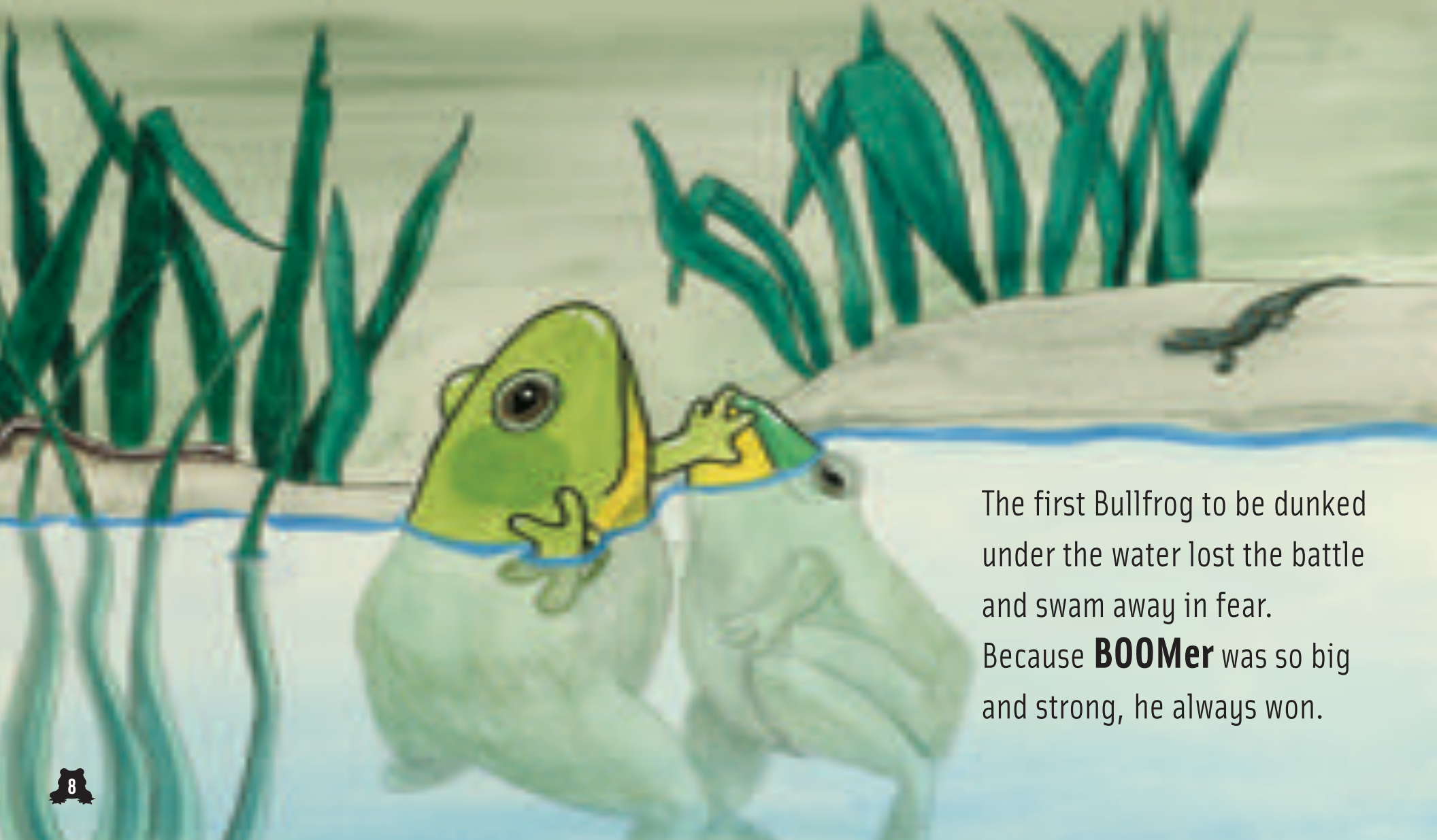
Worst of all, when **BOOMer** was very hungry, he ate baby bullfrogs. **BOOMer** was a cannibal!

BOOMer had to be very careful not to attract too much attention. Many animals living in his kingdom would love to eat him for a delicious lunch. He had to watch out for the Great Blue Heron, Snapping Turtle, Water Snake and Raccoon. Whenever **BOOMer** saw one of these enemies, he made a high, loud **"Reeeek"** sound and dove quickly into the water for protection.




The shrieking **"Reek"** sound and the noise from **BOOMer's** big belly flop warned all animals that danger was near.

Sometimes frisky boy Bullfrogs tried their best to ambush **BOOMer** and capture his territory. First, they challenged him to a singing duel by trying to out-croak him. When that did not work, they attempted to push **BOOMer** out of his home with their big bellies. The Bullfrog battles looked like two grunting Sumo wrestlers shoving and banging their bloated bodies against each other.



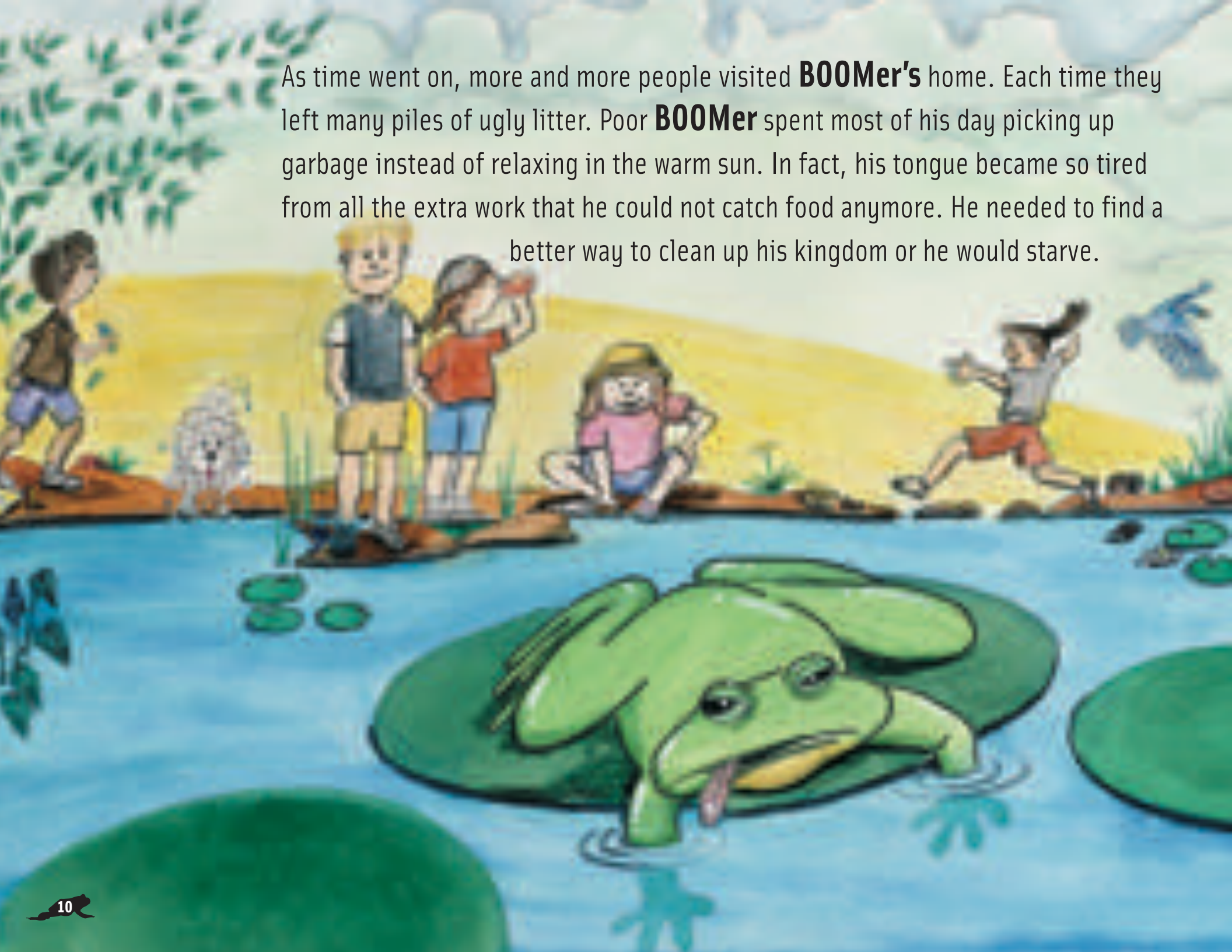
The first Bullfrog to be dunked under the water lost the battle and swam away in fear. Because **BOOMer** was so big and strong, he always won.



Many people visited the river just to watch the exciting Bullfrog wrestling matches. **BOOMer** did not like this because visitors would leave piles of garbage around his home.

Each day **BOOMer** had to clean up their mess. He used his long, sticky tongue to pick up litter and dunk it into the trash can as if he were a basketball player. **BOOMer** became very good at doing an early morning cleanup.


As time went on, more and more people visited **BOOMer's** home. Each time they left many piles of ugly litter. Poor **BOOMer** spent most of his day picking up garbage instead of relaxing in the warm sun. In fact, his tongue became so tired from all the extra work that he could not catch food anymore. He needed to find a better way to clean up his kingdom or he would starve.





One day a group of children skipped happily down to the river to have a picnic. **BOOMer** eyed the boys and girls suspiciously. He saw some of the children throw candy wrappers on the ground.

BOOMer was waiting for this moment.



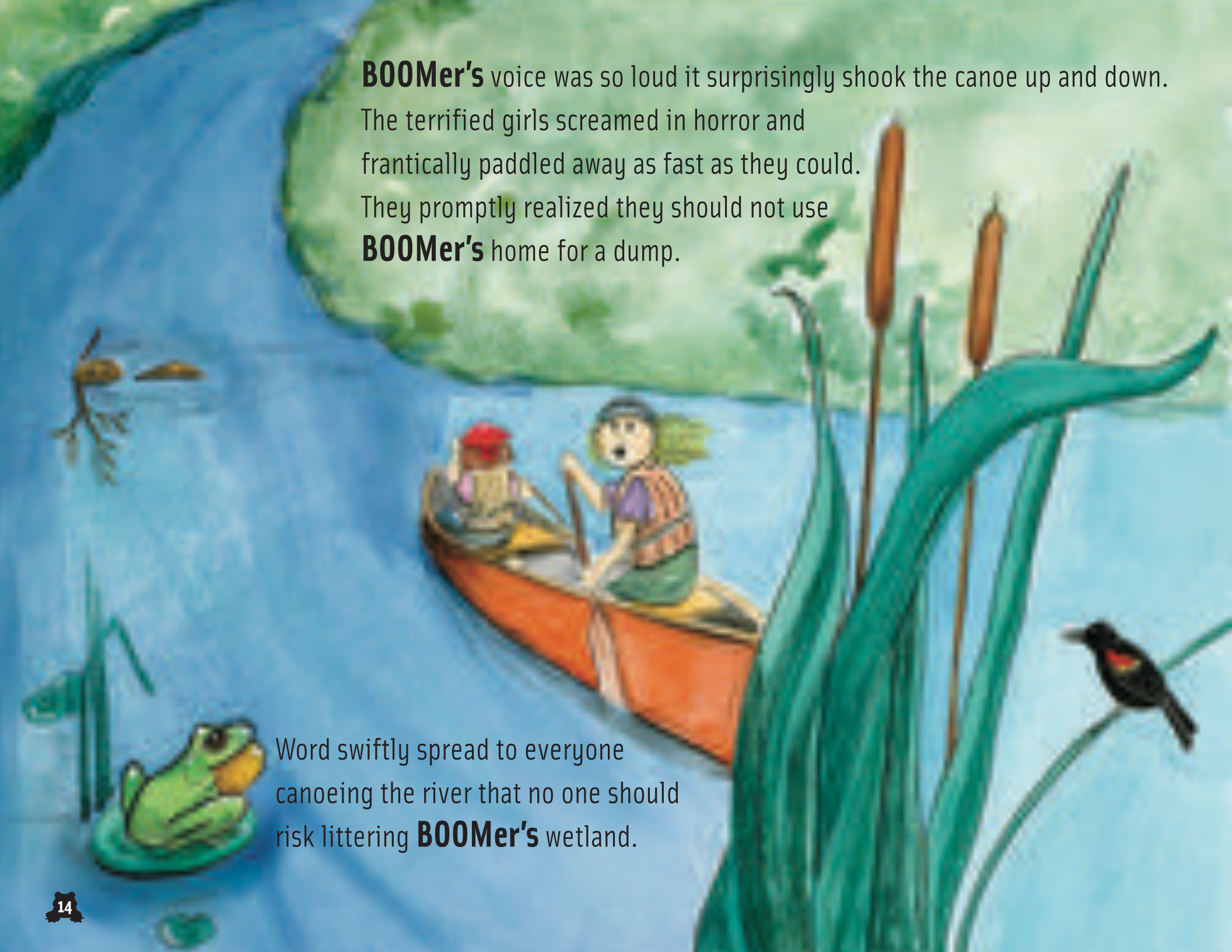
He puffed out his bright yellow chin as big as a balloon and then let out an ear-piercing roar, "**Jugarump! Jugarump!** My home is not a dump!"



The loud **"Jugarump"** noise startled the boys and girls so much they jumped in surprise and instantly picked up all their garbage. Word soon spread around the neighbourhood that no one should dare leave litter in **BIG BOOMer's** wetland. **BOOMer** was proud of this victory. Now he did not have to pick up any more garbage, plus he had a clean home again.

While **BOOMer** was sitting on his favourite lily pad the next day, two young girls paddled close by his home in a canoe. One girl threw an empty plastic water bottle into the water. **BOOMer** was furious! He shot out his long tongue like an arrow to catch the bottle and rapidly fired it back at the shocked girls.

As soon as the bottle
bounced into the canoe,
BOOMer yelled out,
“Jugarump! Jugarump!
My home is not a dump!”

A colorful illustration of a river scene. In the center, a red canoe with two people inside is moving down a blue river. The person in the front is wearing a red cap and a pink shirt, while the person in the back is wearing a purple shirt and a green skirt, and is paddling. To the right, there are tall green reeds with brown seed heads. In the bottom left corner, a green frog is sitting on a lily pad. In the bottom right corner, a small black bird with a red patch on its chest is perched on a reed. The background shows a green hillside.

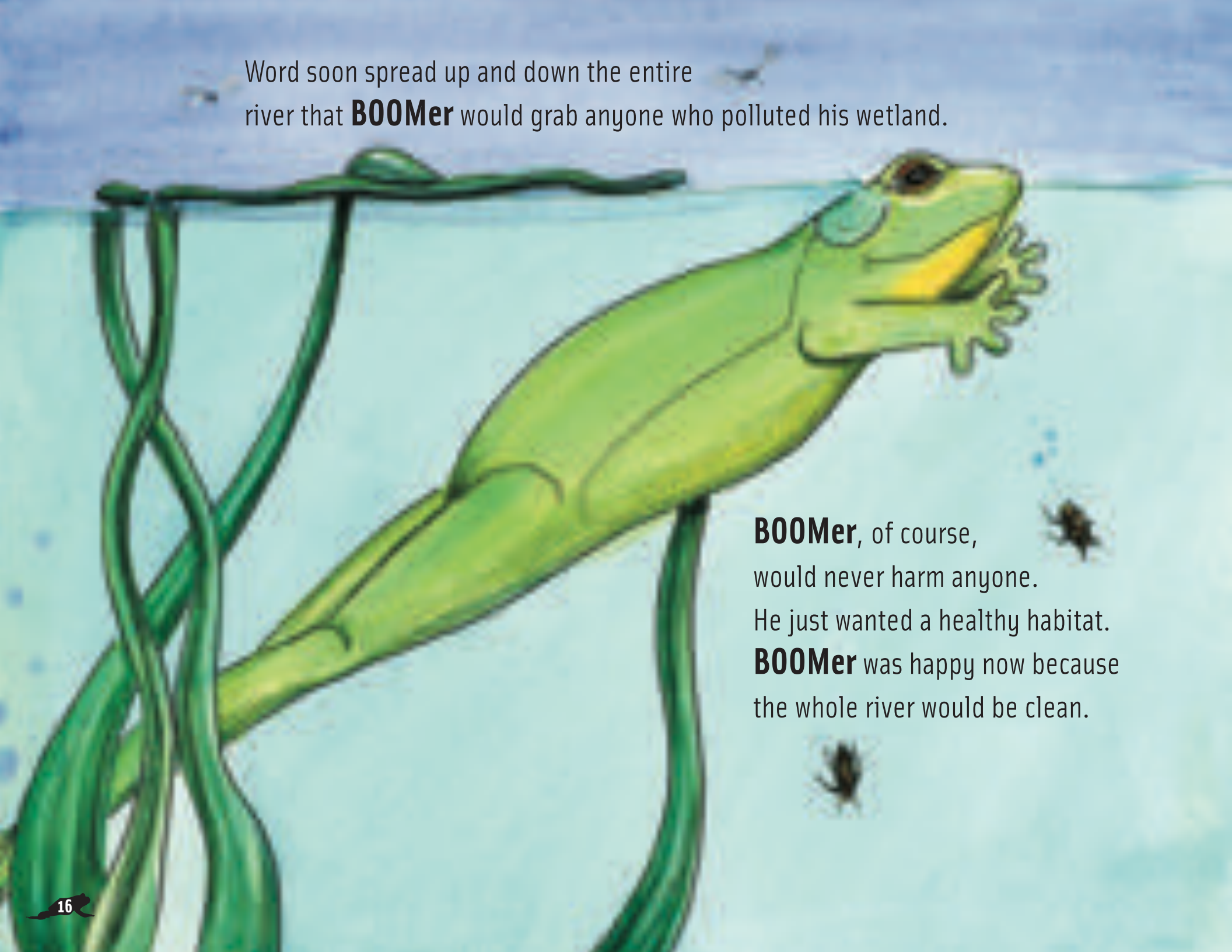
BOOMer's voice was so loud it surprisingly shook the canoe up and down. The terrified girls screamed in horror and frantically paddled away as fast as they could. They promptly realized they should not use **BOOMer's** home for a dump.

Word swiftly spread to everyone canoeing the river that no one should risk littering **BOOMer's** wetland.

Later in the afternoon, two young boys anchored their boat near **BOOMer's** home in hope that they might catch a delicious trout for supper. A plastic bag was dropped into the water. **BOOMer** quickly shouted, "**Jugarump! Jugarump! My home is not a dump!**" The boys shook in panic! They thought the terrible river monster was going to catch them so they hastily tried to escape. **BOOMer** shot out his tongue like a bullet and caught the boat. No matter how hard the boys tried to get away, the boat did not move.

One of the shocked boys instantly stretched out a net and picked up the plastic bag. Only then did **BOOMer** let them go. Much to the boys' surprise he gave them a big, sly, friendly smile as they were leaving.

Word soon spread up and down the entire river that **BOOMer** would grab anyone who polluted his wetland.



BOOMer, of course,
would never harm anyone.
He just wanted a healthy habitat.
BOOMer was happy now because
the whole river would be clean.

BOOMer was not only big, loud and handsome; he was big, loud, handsome and caring. He decided to change his nightly song to **“Jugarump! Jugarump! The river is not a dump!”** It was important to keep the whole river clean because this was the main source of drinking water for city people. **BOOMer** was very proud of his new plan.





When other Bullfrogs learned of **BOOMer's** success, they eagerly wanted to be part of his choir. **Boomer** was very popular among all the Bullfrogs in the rivershed. Each night at dusk every Bullfrog joined in the singing of **BOOMer's** new song, "**Jugarump! Jugarump! The river is not a dump!**"

The entire rivershed became beautiful again. When **BOOMer** heard this good news, he proudly puffed up his big yellow throat even more while singing his evening song.

BOOMer was the undisputed leader of the rivershed. Every Bullfrog watched him eagerly and quickly copied whatever he did. **BIG BOOMer was their hero!** Each morning when this huge amphibian appeared on the riverbank, his admiring friends would shout, "**BOOMer Rules! BOOMer Rules! BIG BOOMer Rules the River!**" Many people came from far-away towns and cities just to hear **BOOMer** and his fellow Bullfrogs sing their wonderful song.



BOOMer was surprised to hear a mother say to her son, **"Jugarump! Jugarump! Your bedroom is not a dump!"** He was happy to hear a child who was talking about a television commercial say, **"Jugarump! Jugarump! My mind is not a dump!"** **BOOMer** liked the idea that his message was used for other good reasons. When some people were reluctant to help, **BOOMer** sang another message, **"Jugarump! Jugarump! Don't sit on your rump!"** Boys and girls soon learned the loud, scary noise did not come from a horrible river monster. The noise came from a kind and friendly Bullfrog who was just trying his best to make his home and the world a better place.



BOOMer was not only big, loud, handsome and caring; he was big, loud, handsome, caring and wise. Mother Earth seemed to be getting warmer and warmer because of the dumping of waste into our air. He was worried about the air children breathe and the effects of the Earth getting hotter each year. This was not healthy for plants or animals, including humans. **BOOMer** thought if his song worked well to make the rivershed better, it might work just as well to make the whole Earth better. He made up a new song, **"Jugarump! Jugarump! Our Earth is not a dump!"** The other Bullfrogs rapidly

learned his new song and sang it extra proudly so all could hear.



BOOMer was surprised to hear people singing his new song on most television stations. This made **BOOMer** very happy.



His "**Jugarump**" song was being used by concerned people all over the world to keep the water, land and air clean. He never thought his song would be so popular and important. **BOOMer** was very pleased that one frog could make such an enormous difference.















People everywhere appreciated what **BOOMer** did to make the Earth a better place. They wanted to reward him for creating the wonderful **BOOMer** song. They decided to give him the highest possible award ever given to a frog, the special **Noble Frog Peace Prize**. **BIG BOOMer** really did not care about awards. His only wish was that any time people were making poor choices, they would hear his song in their heads and make better choices.

Jugarump! Jugarump! Our world is certainly not a dump!





The Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)

-  largest frog in Ontario
-  eats anything small enough to go into its mouth
-  the bigger the frog, the deeper the voice
-  males are bright yellow under the chin
-  wrestle for territory
-  more aquatic than other frogs
-  longest jumping distance 6.2 metres
-  brown eardrum bigger than the eye in males
-  life span 4–16 years
-  habitat: ponds, fens, marshy bays
-  tadpole takes two years to develop into a frog
-  eggs are a floating, gooey, one-metre raft on water
-  eggs taste terrible so animals will not eat them
-  endangered species

BOOMer's Nature Questions

1. What animals did BOOMer eat for food?
2. How did BOOMer catch his food?
3. What is a cannibal?
4. What animals were BOOMer's enemies?
5. How did BOOMer keep his home clean?
6. What was BOOMer's famous song?
7. Why did all the Bullfrogs think BOOMer ruled the river?
8. How did BOOMer keep other boy Bullfrogs out of his territory?
9. Would you be afraid of BOOMer? Why or why not?
10. Why was BOOMer given the **Noble Frog Peace Prize**?
11. Describe how BOOMer meets his habitat needs under these headings; food, water, shelter, space, air, warmth and clean home.
12. Finish and illustrate this sentence, "**Jugarump! Jugarump! The _____ is not a dump.**" (desk, classroom, school ground, backyard, park, road, forest, neighbourhood, lake, park, air, road, ocean, street, outer space, etc.)
13. Why is it important to keep our habitat clean, especially the river? (source of human drinking water, food and air)
14. Explain the following statements; "**My mind is not a dump**", "**Don't sit on your rump**".
15. Why are Bullfrogs becoming endangered species? (directly exposed to water, land, air pollution, global warming, habitat loss, ozone depletion, predator fish and are used for human food.)
16. Why was BOOMer worried about Mother Earth having a fever? (rising water levels, less land space, bad weather and less life support for all living things-animals, plants, trees, humans)
17. What can we do to lower Mother Earth's temperature? (learn more about nature, lifestyle changes in: *transportation* – electric/hybrid car, walk, trains, buses; *energy use* – florescent lights, energy-saving appliances, insulation; *alternative energy sources* – solar, wind, voltaic cells, hydro)
18. Do you think one person can make a big difference in the world like BOOMer did?
19. Do you know any people like BOOMer? (maybe you?)
20. Go on a nature hike to observe frogs and bond with all of nature.



The author and his grandson Samuel observe one of BOOMer's friends, a Green Frog. (photo by Lisa Glew)

Frank Glew, the author, has his doctorate in Environmental Science and is the recipient of ten environmental awards including the **Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal**, 2002 and the Nature Ontario's, **Richards Education Award**, 2006 for his books on nature. He has taught all grades from one to university during his 35 years as a teacher. He is retired and living in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada where he is pursuing his life-long dream of writing children's environmental picture books, travelling, playing hockey and enjoying being an active part of his grandchildren's lives.



The Marna Twins (Marlene McBrien and Myrna McBrien from Muskoka) The illustrators are avid naturalists, artists, educators, singers, actors and caring mothers who "walk their talk". Their positive, "up-beat" attitude towards life is treasured by everyone who meets them. They are the talented illustrators of all the author's books. Without their kind help, creativity and support, this series of six books would not have been possible.

Author's Note

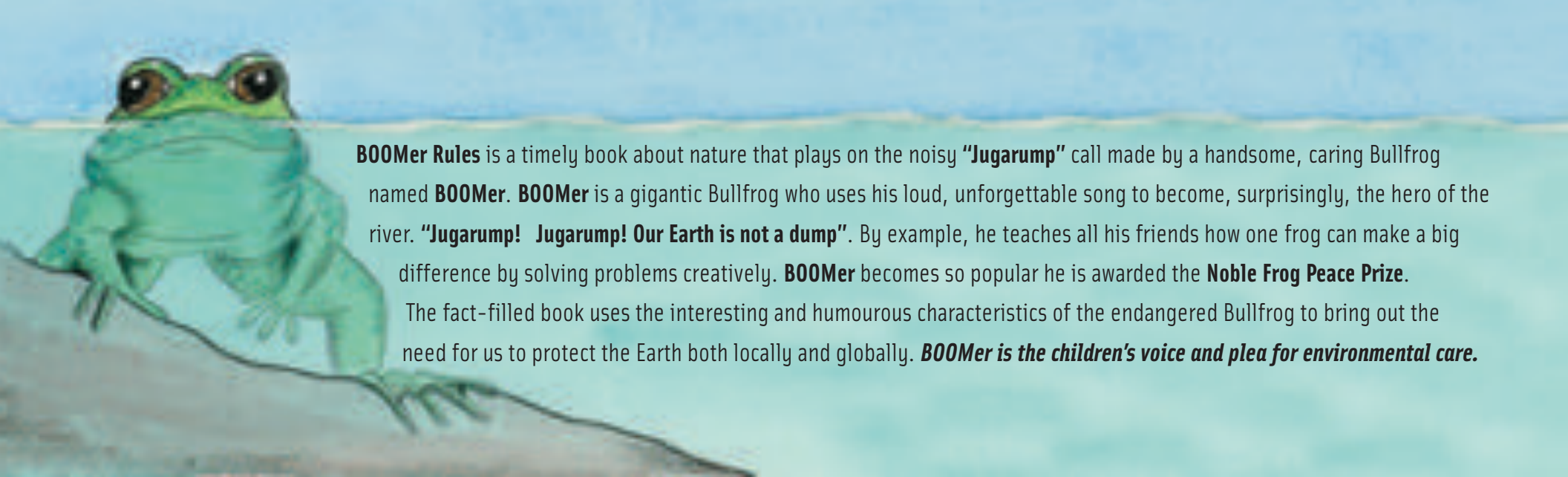
The idea for this book came from hearing years of foreboding and unheeded warnings about potential global issues. Many altruistic people who dedicated their lives to teaching why and how we should look after our precious habitat were never taken seriously. Now as **global warming** becomes a frightening household word, **will** we and our governments listen to these warnings and react in time to change our path of habitat destruction? I hope the call to action, like **BOOMer's** call, will be heard and have a profound effect upon our lifestyles to promote the present and future healing of this planet. The worst atrocity we could ever commit is to ruin the Earth for our children, grandchildren and future generations who are not able to speak for themselves. **BOOMer is the children's voice for awakening our environmental conscience.**

I feel it is important to address environmental issues even at a child's level. This book is an open invitation to initiate children in positive dialogue with each other and adults at an appropriate level of understanding and sensitivity. Children often feel like helpless victims who can do nothing to help. Teachers and parents should always emphasize the positive ways to lower our ecological footprint upon this fragile planet especially with this age group. This could start by simply sharing nature with children. Engaging children with nature offers opportunities for play, learning and the development of a much needed, connecting bond.

See www.cnaturenet.org or www.an-inconvenient-truth.com

Frank Glew

"It is no longer the survival of the fittest but the survival of the compassionate." – Terry Tempest Williams



BOOMer Rules is a timely book about nature that plays on the noisy “Jugarump” call made by a handsome, caring Bullfrog named **BOOMer**. **BOOMer** is a gigantic Bullfrog who uses his loud, unforgettable song to become, surprisingly, the hero of the river. “Jugarump! Jugarump! Our Earth is not a dump”. By example, he teaches all his friends how one frog can make a big difference by solving problems creatively. **BOOMer** becomes so popular he is awarded the **Noble Frog Peace Prize**. The fact-filled book uses the interesting and humorous characteristics of the endangered Bullfrog to bring out the need for us to protect the Earth both locally and globally. ***BOOMer is the children’s voice and plea for environmental care.***

Other books by the same author and illustrators

That Chickadee Feeling

(rating 5 stars, bestseller for 6 years)
ISBN 0-9688494-4-X, 2001, 2002, 2004

The wonderful, magical feeling of having a Black-capped Chickadee feeding out of a child’s hand is captured in print and related to all happy memorable events shared in life. The story brings out a special connection and bonding of child, parent and nature. There are 29 winter birds hidden in the illustrations. The Ontario Ministry of Education uses this book as the example of good literature for “*Train the Trainer*” primary and junior literacy workshops.

Ce Frisson de mesange

ISBN 0-9688494-1-5, 2002, 2006,
French Version

When I Grow Up, I Want To Be Just Like My Dog

(rating 5 stars, best seller)
ISBN 0-9688494-2-3, 2002
(best seller for 3 years)

The author, through rich rhyme, uses humour and a delightful easy-read story line to highlight all the positive characteristics of a dog that we humans should have. It begs the question, “What type of person do you want to be when you grow up?” All pet lovers will identify with this story.

Butterfly Wishes

(rating 5 stars, best seller)
ISBN 0-9688494-5-8, 2003

This book reveals the life cycle and the migration miracle of a Monarch Butterfly named Elzine who travels to Mexico for the winter. It shows the critical importance of the Monarch’s only food source, Milkweed. Elzine makes dreams come true for everyone she “zip zaps” with her curled tongue as she travels on her quest to find a mate in Mexico. It also has a wonderful altruistic message hidden in its text.

Samuel’s Most Important Message

(rating 5 stars, best seller)
ISBN 0-9688494-3-1, 2005

This story is a positive, inspirational and timely environmental book for younger children. It is based on a true experience by the author. Samuel the turtle, hero of the story, shows how people no matter what age can change their world for the better. Samuel teaches us the importance of looking after our habitat by using the well-known native myth that the earth is like a turtle shell.

I Need a Hug

ISBN 0-9688494-6-6, 2006

Saphira, who had never had a hug in 2007 years, cleverly learns how to wave her branches magically in the air to create words. She finally persuades a park visitor to give her that much needed hug by saying, “***I need a hug, I need a hug, I need a hug, hug, hug***”, despite the trickster wind who keeps changing her message to words that rhyme with hug. Saphira, a giant Redwood Tree, teaches children the importance of a caring hug no matter how old or how big you are. The book brings out the many benefits of trees to humans and other animals through a very humorous but meaningful story.

“The most earth-friendly resource ever discovered to warm heart and home is the engaging smile of a child.” – Frank Glew