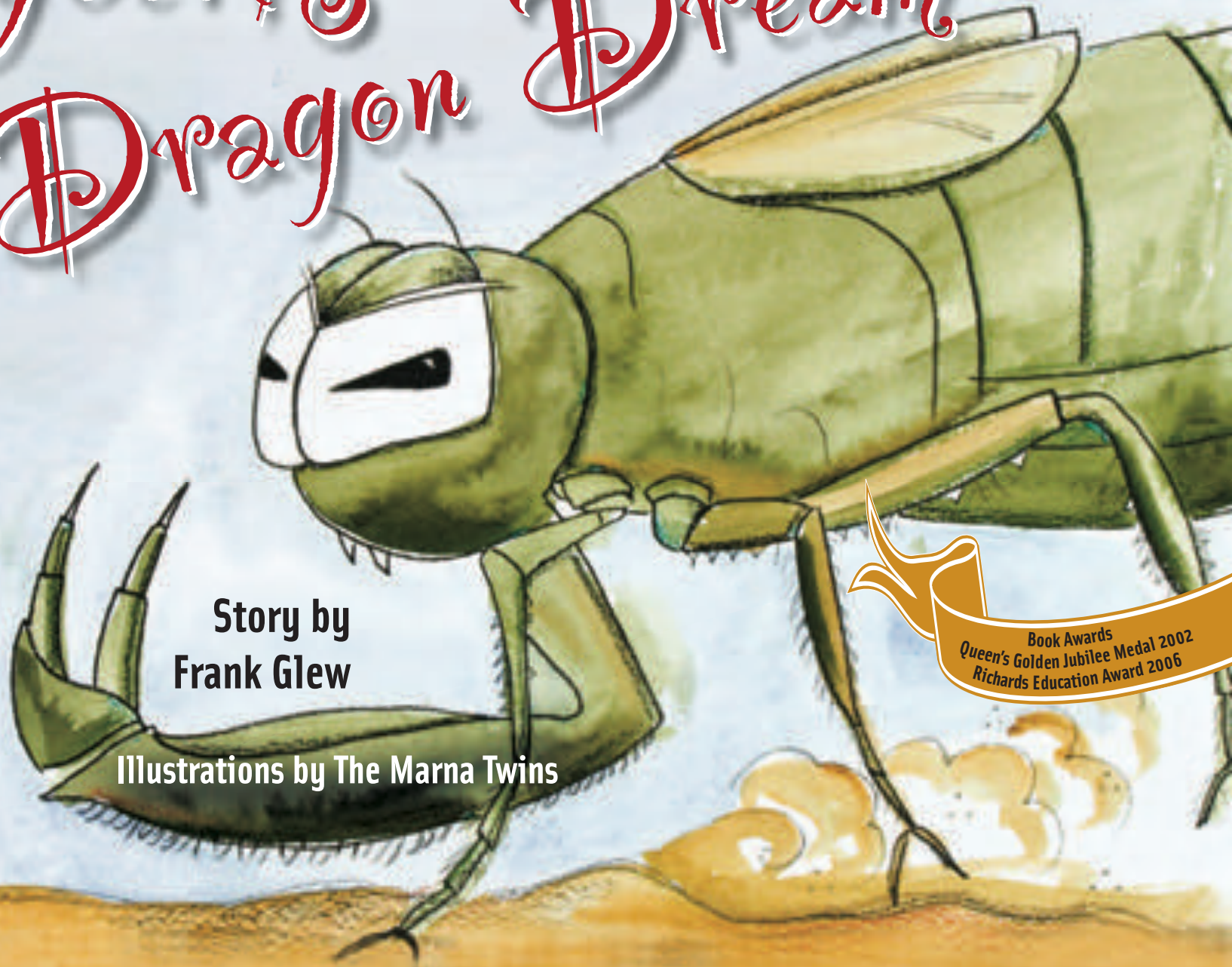


Egbert's Dragon Dream

Story by
Frank Glew

Illustrations by The Marna Twins

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



Blue dasher Dragonfly

P.R.

**This book is dedicated to my much loved
grandchildren Samuel, Kaleb, Kalista and
Sophie to encourage them to be all that
they can be.**

***The whole point of being alive is to evolve into
the complete person you were intended to be.***

— Oprah Winfrey

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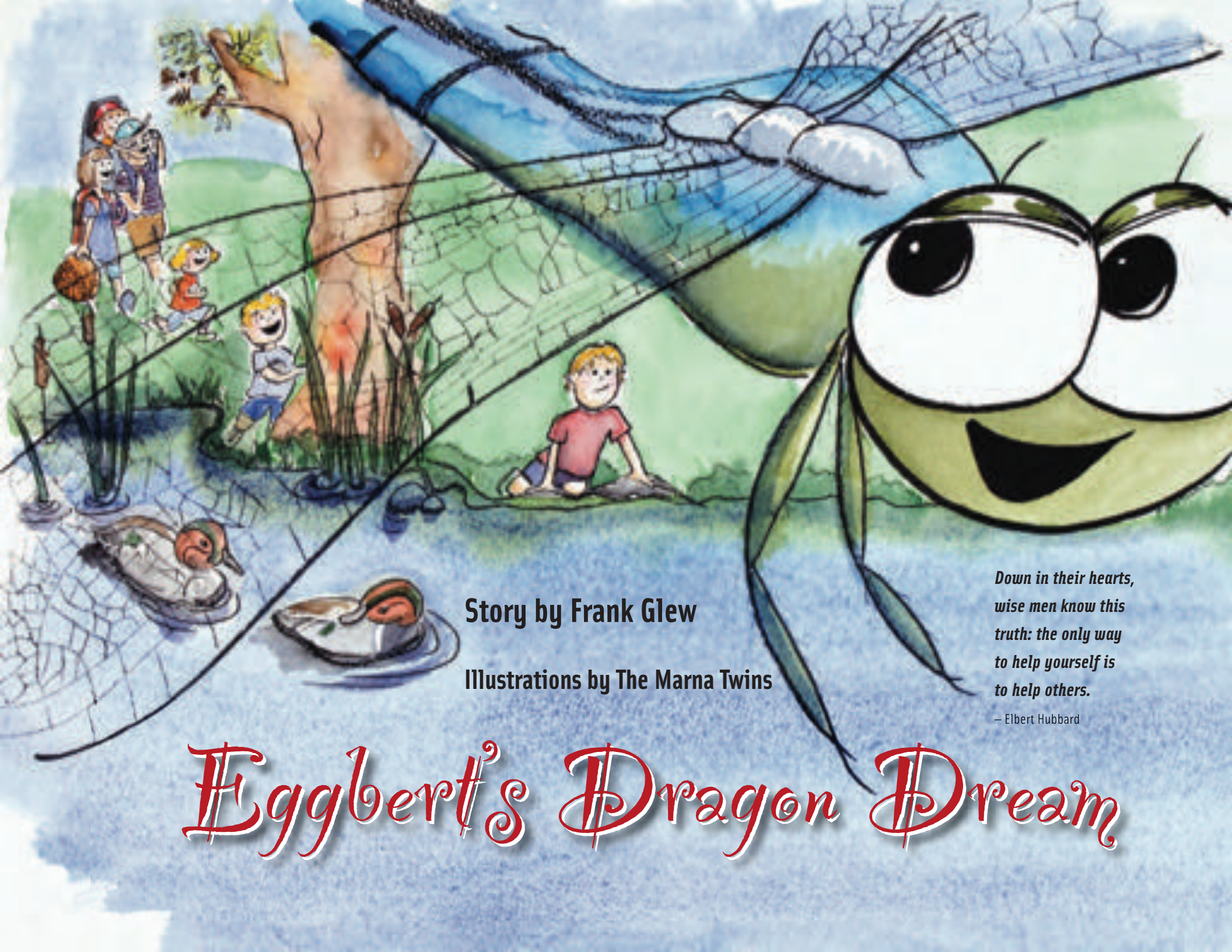
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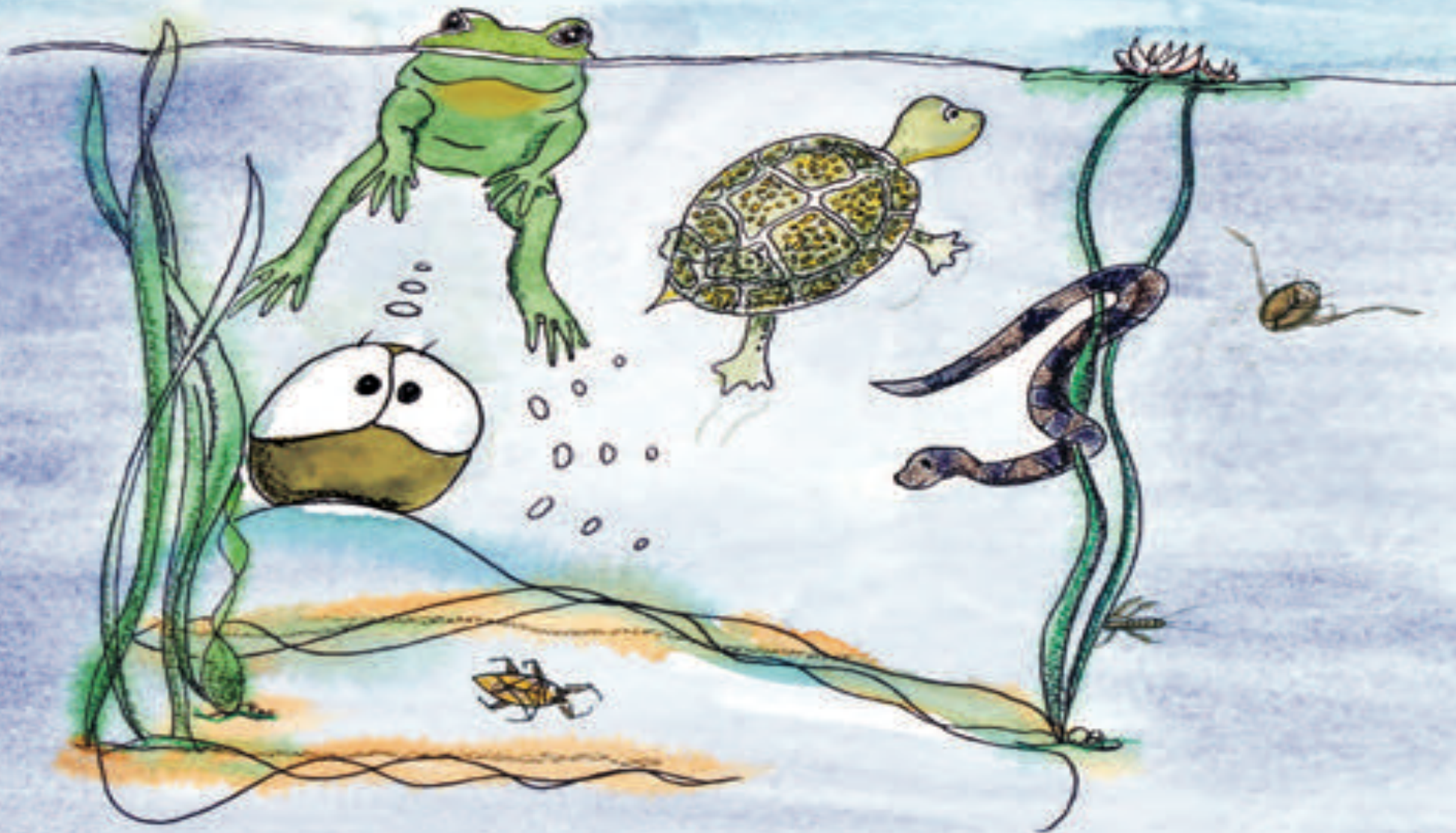
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*Down in their hearts,
wise men know this
truth: the only way
to help yourself is
to help others.*

— Elbert Hubbard

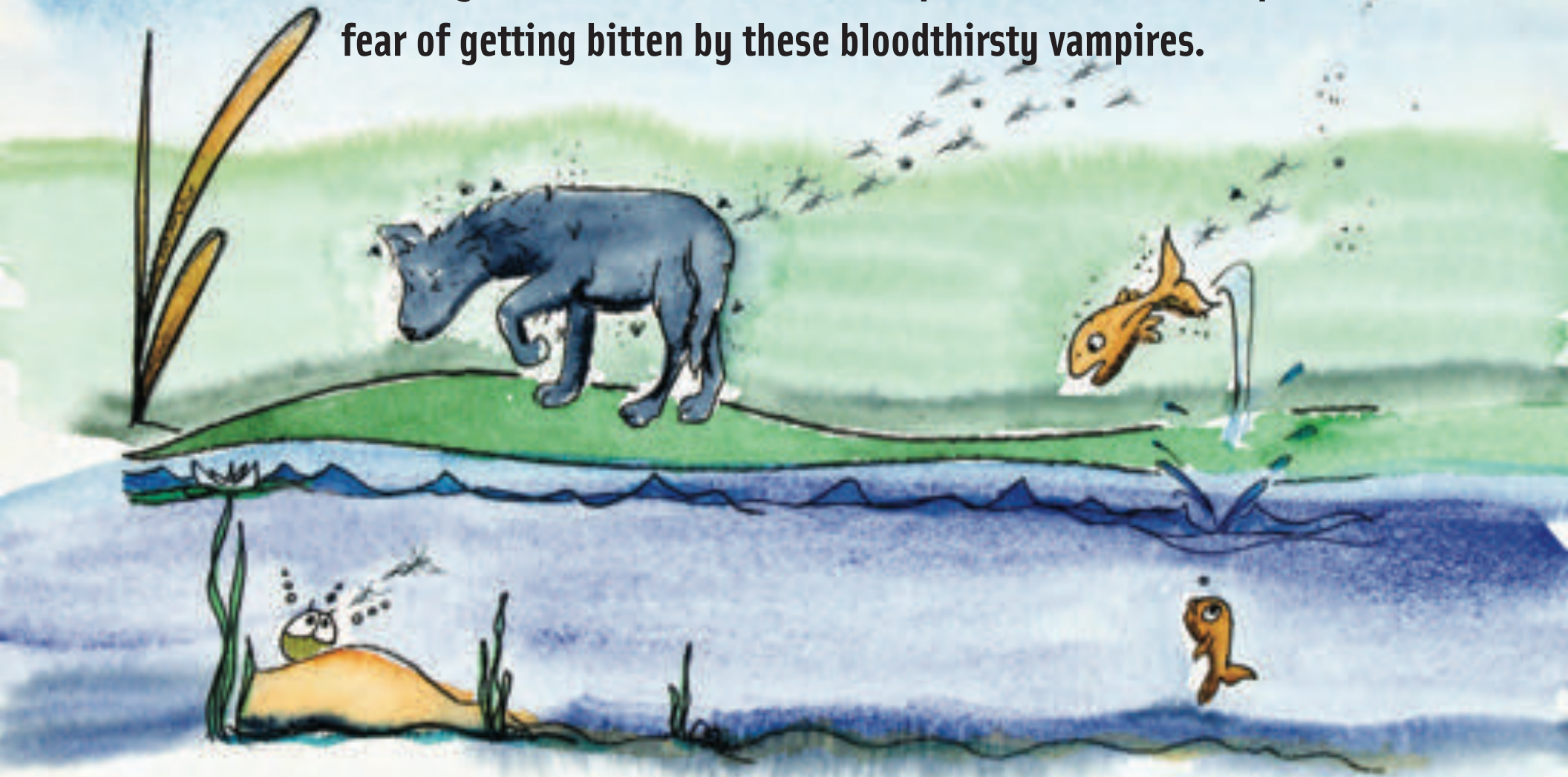
Eggbert's Dragon Dream



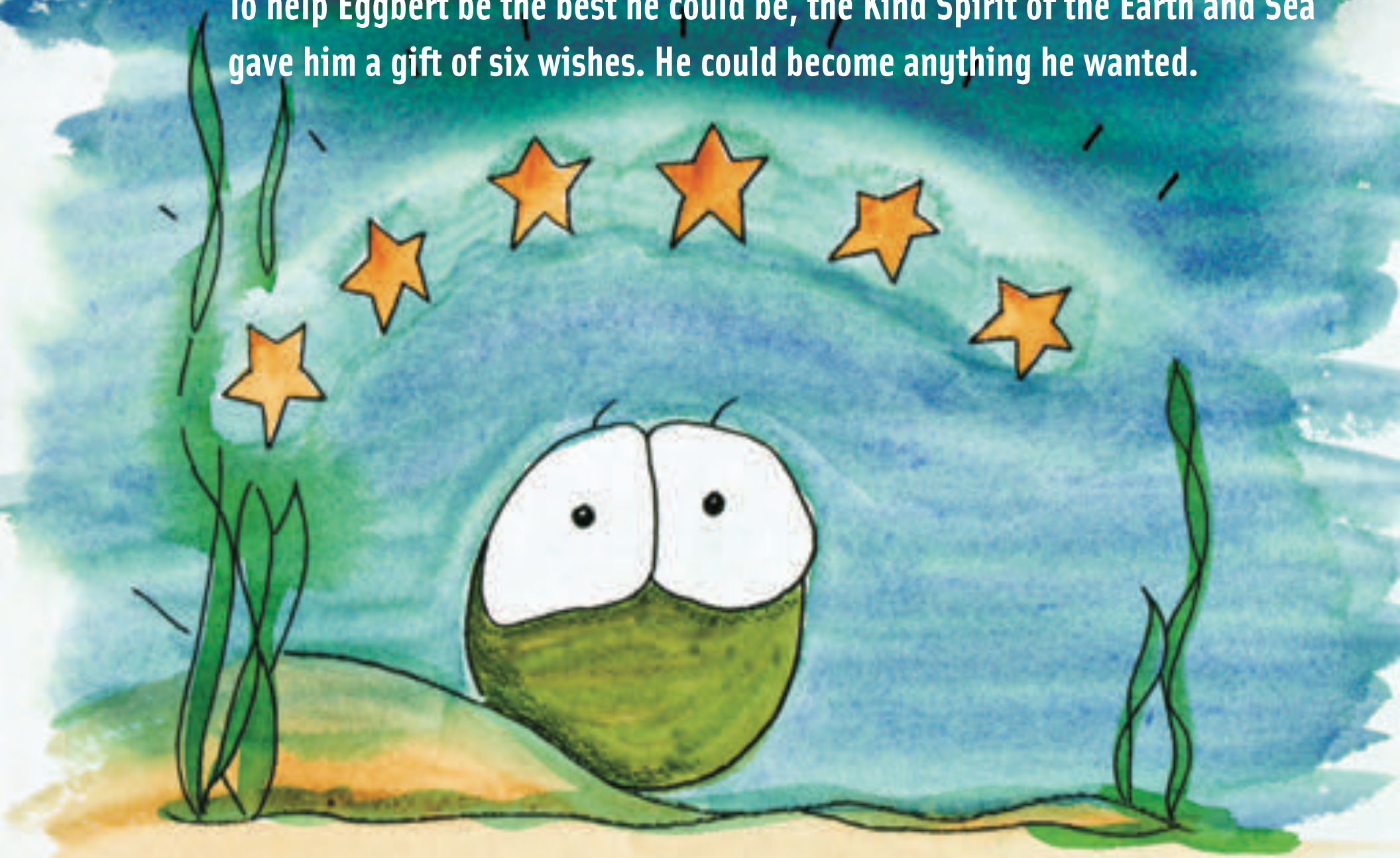
Eggbert! Eggbert! Eggbert! What on earth are you going to be? Little Eggbert was just a tiny egg. He was, however, no ordinary egg. Eggbert was given a special gift from the Kind Spirit of the Earth and Sea to be anything he wanted.

As Eggbert gazed out on his wetland he wondered, "Will I be a croaking bullfrog or a special turtle? Maybe I'll be a water snake or a giant water bug."

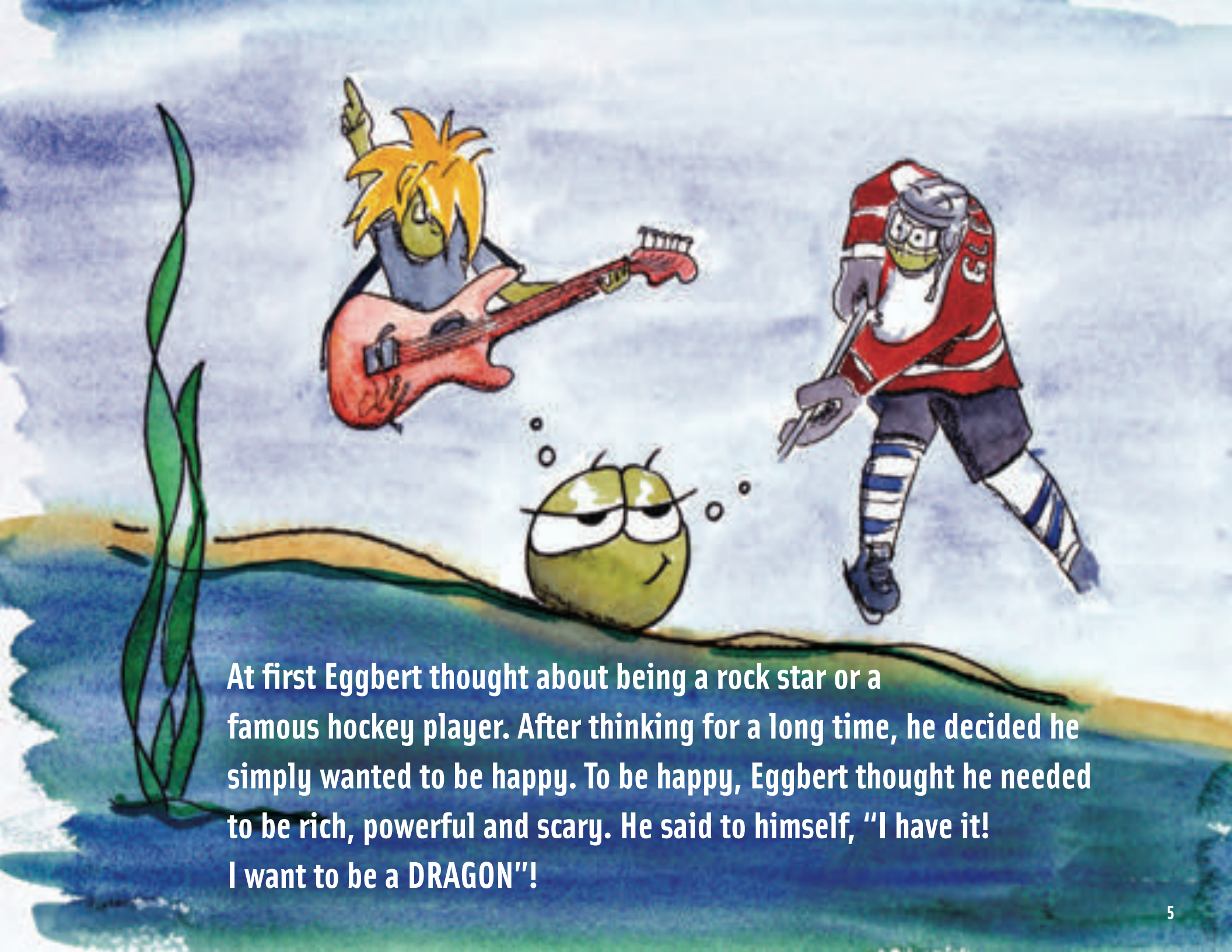
Perhaps Eggbert might be a stinging insect like a mosquito, black fly or a big horse fly. They buzzed hungrily around the pond feasting on animals with blood. People never visited the pond for fear of getting bitten by these bloodthirsty vampires.



To help Eggbert be the best he could be, the Kind Spirit of the Earth and Sea gave him a gift of six wishes. He could become anything he wanted.



It was simple. All Eggbert had to do was ask.



At first Eggbert thought about being a rock star or a famous hockey player. After thinking for a long time, he decided he simply wanted to be happy. To be happy, Eggbert thought he needed to be rich, powerful and scary. He said to himself, "I have it! I want to be a DRAGON"!

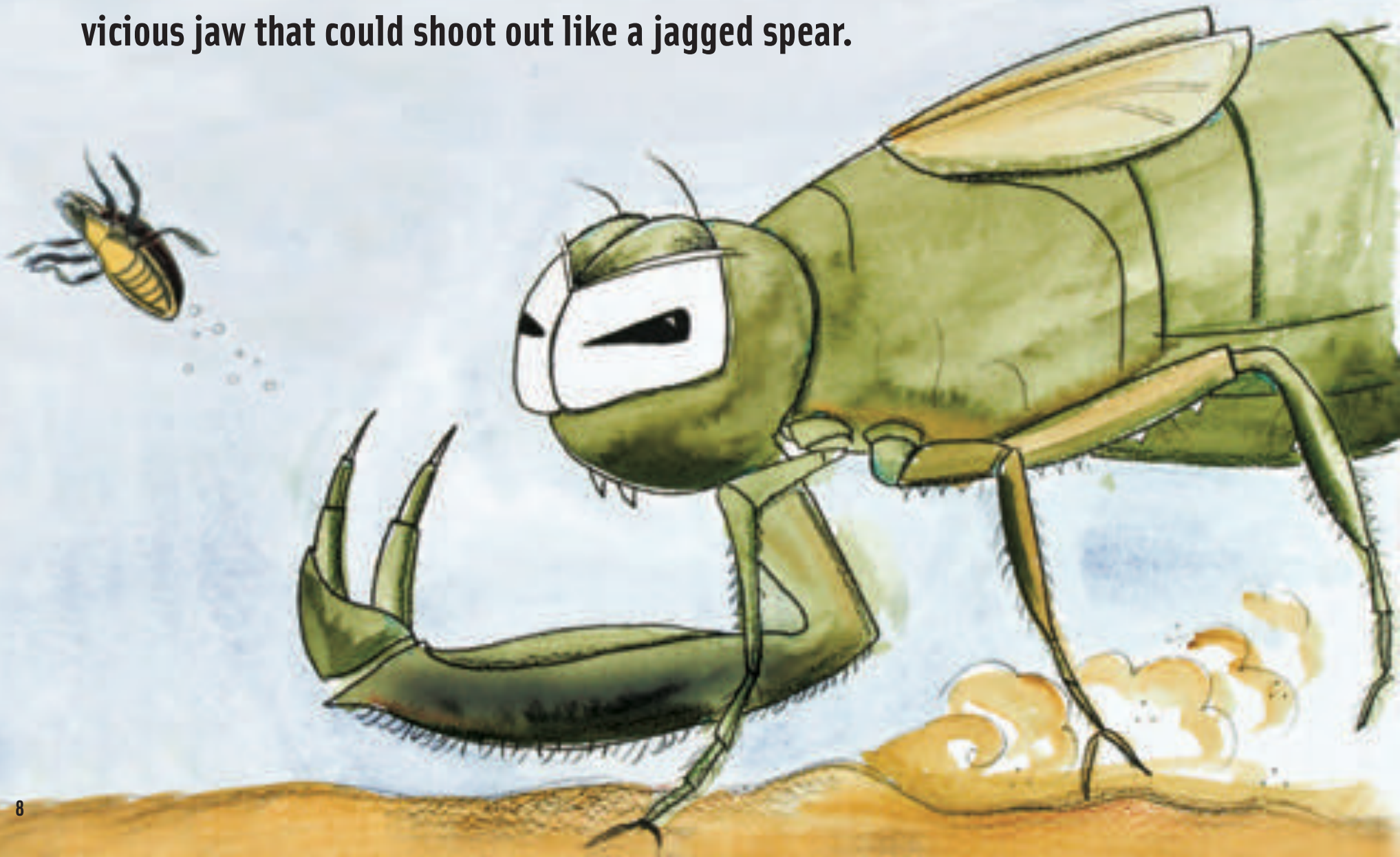


Eggbert gazed high up into the sky and said, "Kind Spirit of the Earth and Sea, please make me all that I can be; a DRAGON". There was a sudden, strange flash of light and Eggbert turned into a scary, little dragon.



Eggbert certainly was a creepy-looking dragon. He had six hairy legs covered with sharp spikes. He had two bulging eyes sticking out of his shrunken head. His jagged body was made of thick, mossy armour. Eggbert looked ferocious! He dashed around the pond catching small mites and water fleas with his fierce, grabbing mouth.

Eggbert was very scary but he wanted more power. Using his second wish, he roared out, "Kind Spirit of the Earth and Sea, make me a jaw from which all will flee". There was a booming explosion and Eggbert instantly grew a vicious jaw that could shoot out like a jagged spear.





Eggbert captured animals by firing out this long, hinged jaw and stabbing them from both sides. All the small pond insects were deathly afraid of this eerie killing machine. The water boatman and backswimmers swam away in terror when Eggbert appeared.



Now Eggbert felt more powerful. All the pond creatures feared him. Eggbert was getting rich in food. His dream was quickly coming true.

**Eggbert, however, was not satisfied!
He was powerful and had plenty of food
but he wanted much more.**



**Eggbert wanted speed so he
could ambush any animal in
the pond. He bellowed out,
"Kind Spirit of the Earth and
Sea, make me faster than a
bumble bee".**



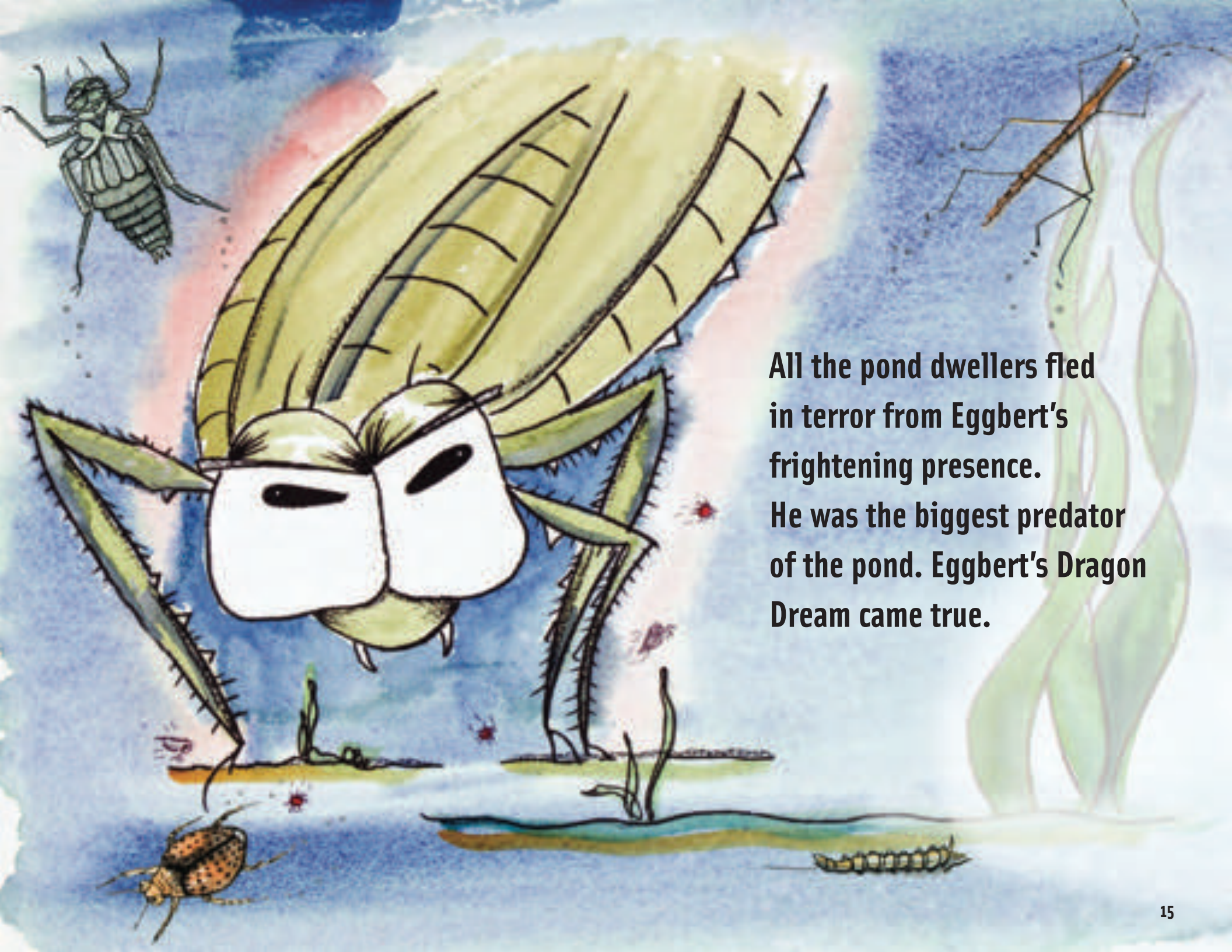
As quickly as lightning could shoot across the sky, Eggbert formed a sleek, jet-engine body. Now he could overpower the faster pond life such as water beetles. With his swift body and dreadful jaw, Eggbert became the feared bully of the pond.



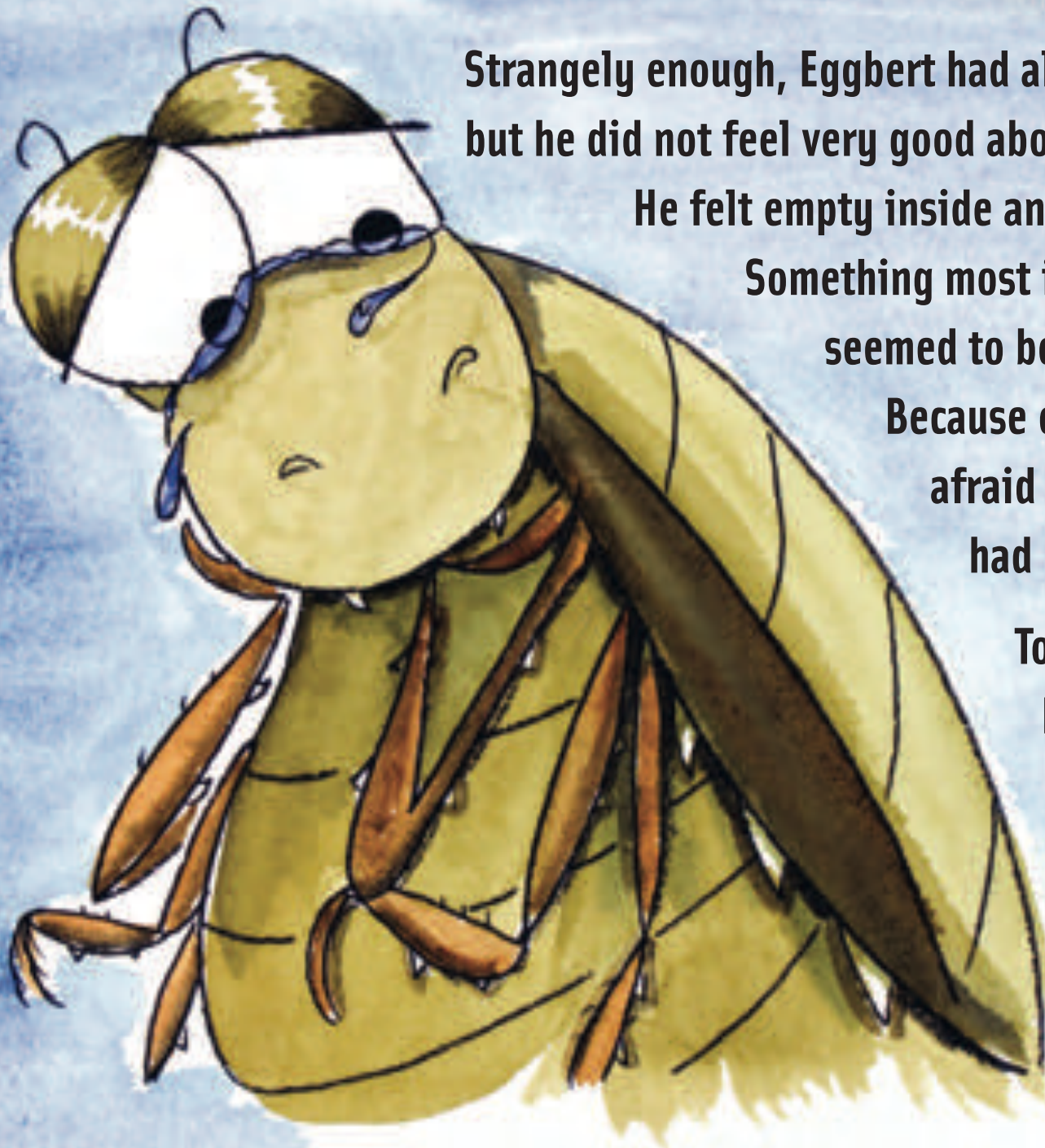
Eggbert was proud of his hideous jaw and high speed but he still was not satisfied. He wanted to catch larger animals. Eggbert shouted out, “Kind Spirit of the Earth and Sea, make me huge like a redwood tree”. A loud sound like a firecracker filled the air. Eggbert’s body split open and out popped a freakish, larger dragon. Eggbert turned into a gigantic, drooling monster.



Like a nightmare ready to happen, Eggbert prowled around the pond capturing bigger animals such as fish and water scorpions. Now he could eat anything in the pond anytime he wanted. Eggbert was very wealthy in food and was the most powerful animal in his world.



All the pond dwellers fled in terror from Eggbert's frightening presence. He was the biggest predator of the pond. Eggbert's Dragon Dream came true.



**Strangely enough, Eggbert had all he wished for
but he did not feel very good about himself.**

He felt empty inside and very lonely.

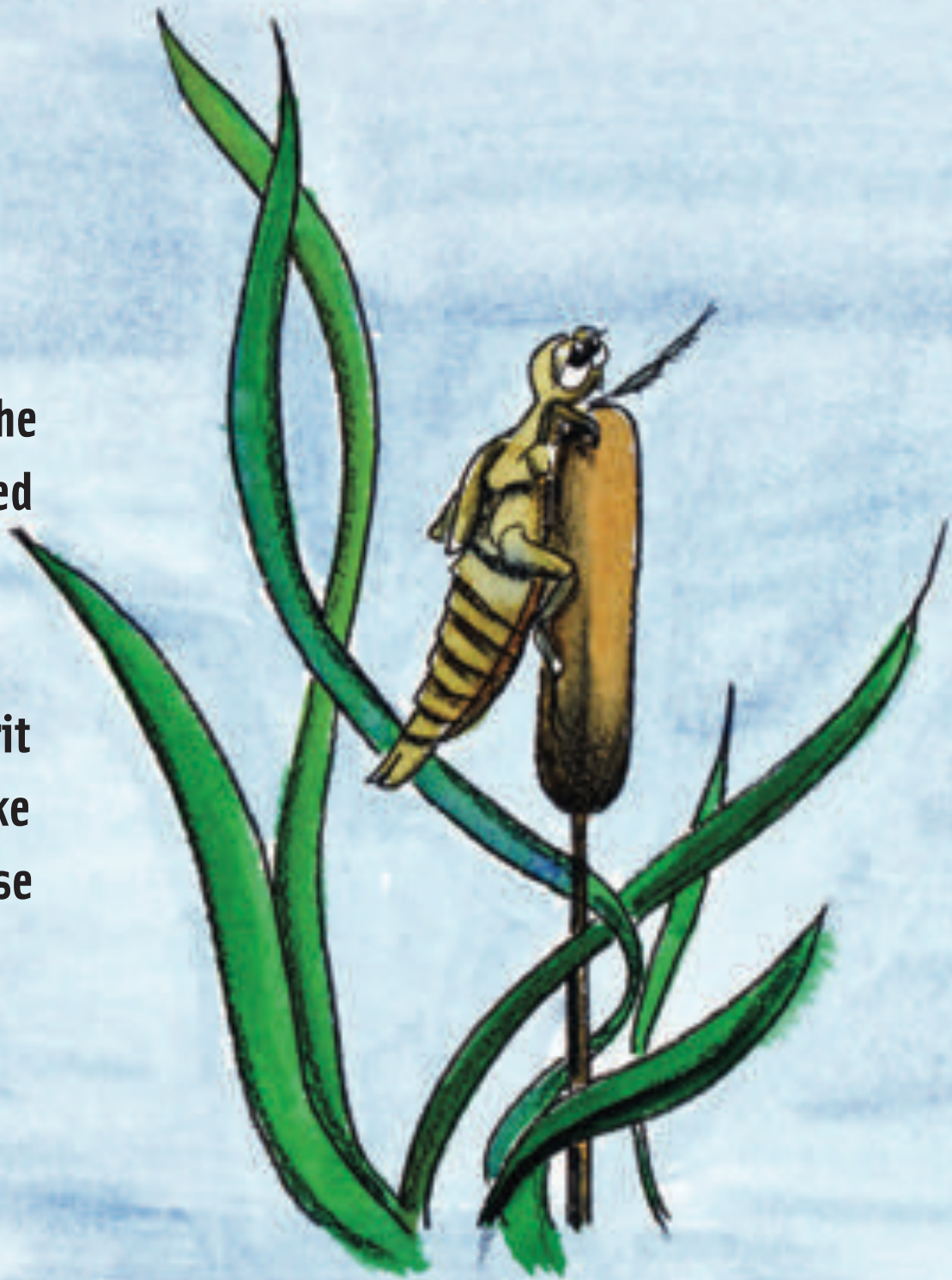
**Something most important
seemed to be missing.**

**Because everyone was
afraid of him, Eggbert
had no friends.**

**To Eggbert's surprise,
he was not happy
at all!**

Eggbert climbed up on a cattail stem high above the water line. He sadly stared above the clouds and made another wish.

He whispered, "Kind Spirit of the Earth and Sea, make me all that I can be. Please make me truly happy".

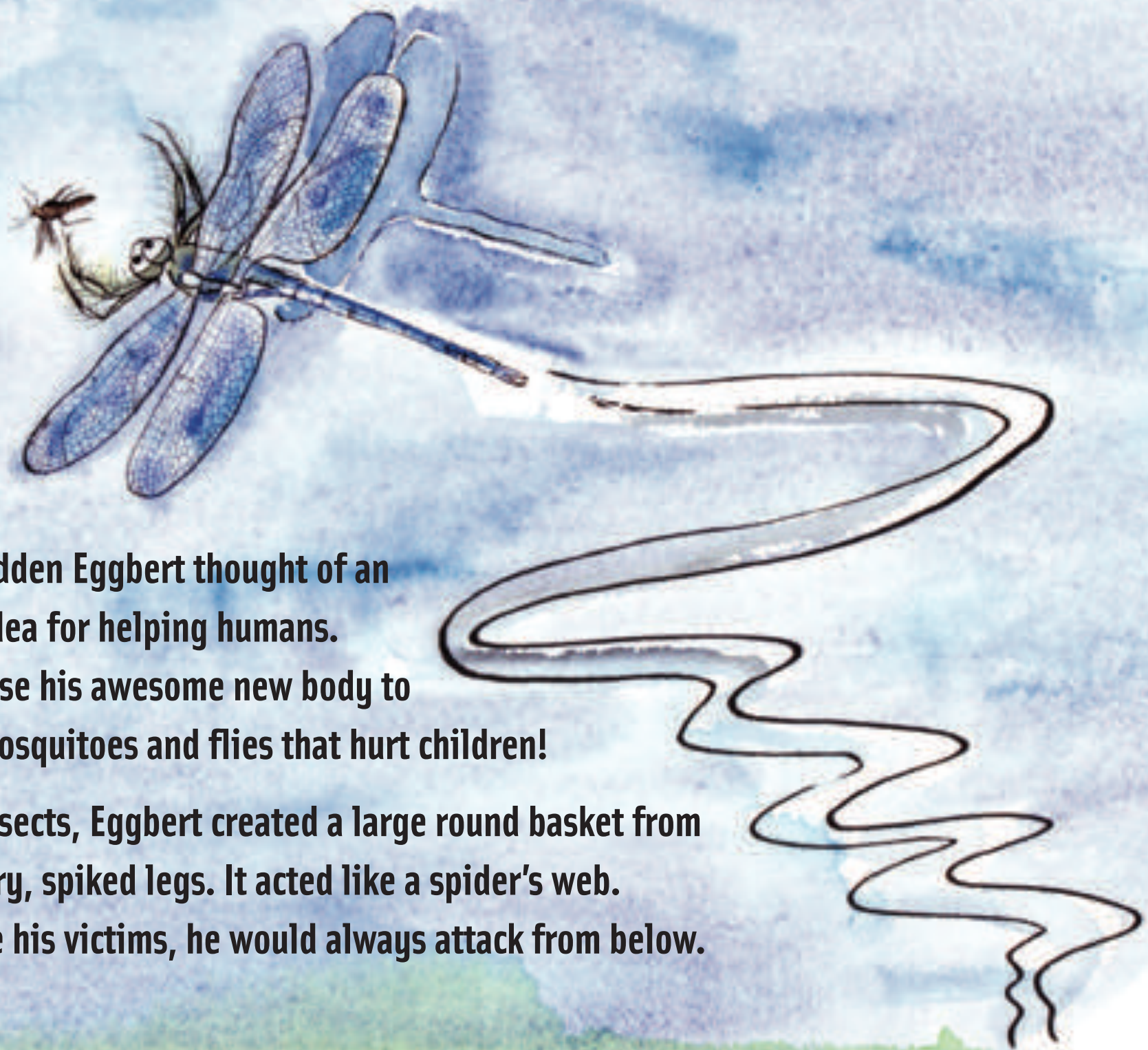




There was a blast of light like a rainbow. A much different Eggbert sprang out of his old shell. In fact, a miracle unfolded! A new jewel-like slender body that changed colour with the light emerged. He had four shimmering wings that glistened like the stars in the Milky Way. Eggbert transformed into a beautiful dragonfly!



After Eggbert had spread out his sparkling wings to dry in the warm sun, he zoomed around the pond like a helicopter. With his see-through, angel wings, Eggbert could change speed quickly and dash in all directions: forward, backward and sideways.



All of a sudden Eggbert thought of an amazing idea for helping humans. He could use his awesome new body to trap the mosquitoes and flies that hurt children!

To catch insects, Eggbert created a large round basket from his six hairy, spiked legs. It acted like a spider's web. To surprise his victims, he would always attack from below.



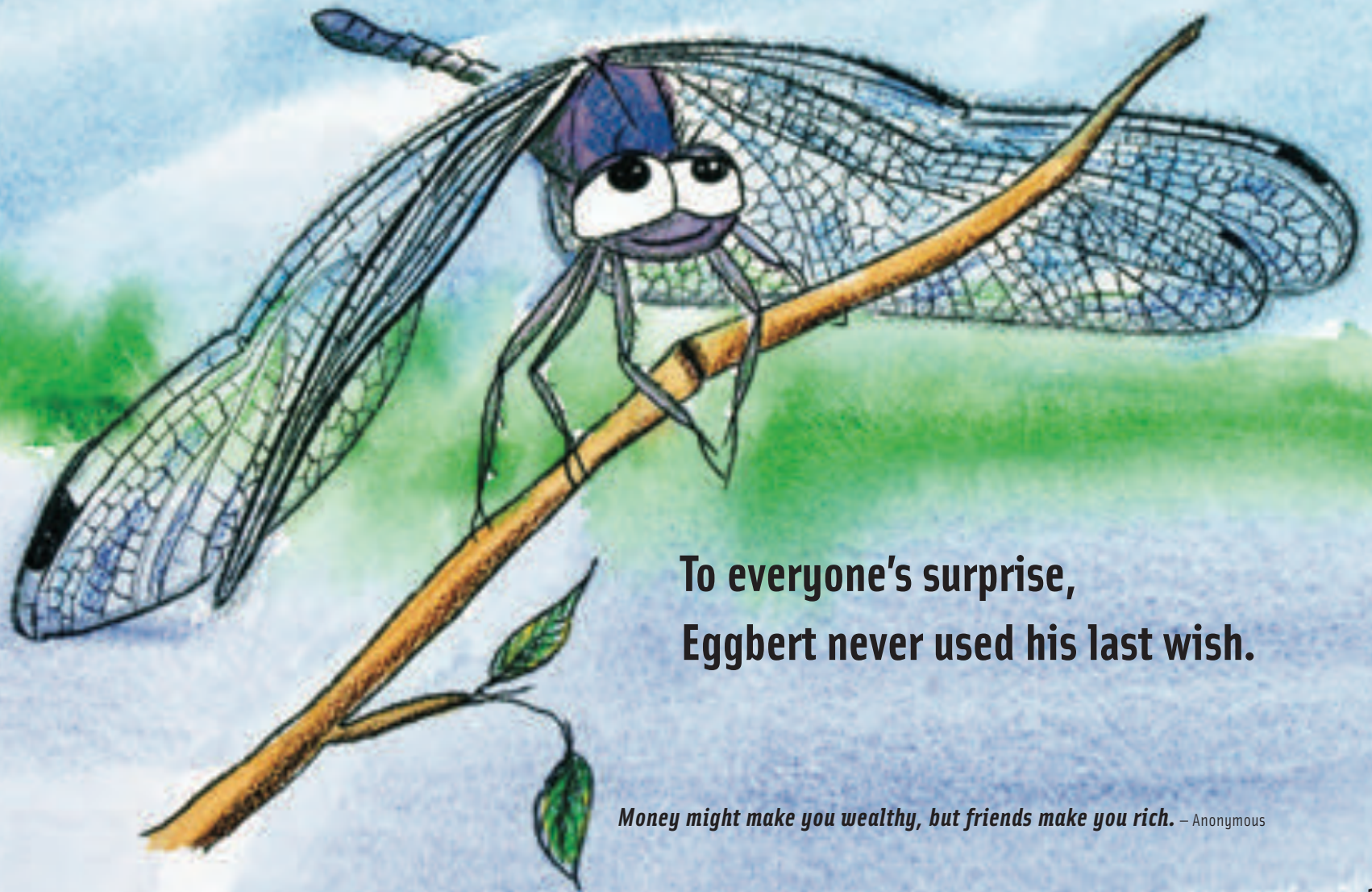
With the speed of light, Eggbert darted over the pond in a zigzag motion scooping up the biting insects in his basket-shaped legs. He became an expert at netting his favourite meal of flies and mosquitoes.

After two days of catching most of these dreaded pests, Eggbert noticed more visitors enjoying his pond. People came for picnics. Children loved to watch Eggbert zipping over the pond protecting them from the stinging insects.



Eggbert was so overjoyed with his new friends he put on a big smile and perched on their heads. Helping others made him see the world with kind eyes. Eggbert felt wonderful!

Eggbert's Dragon Dream finally did come true. He understood happiness in a new light. He looked upward and softly said, "Thank you Kind Spirit of the Earth and Sea; this is all I want to be".



**To everyone's surprise,
Eggbert never used his last wish.**

Money might make you wealthy, but friends make you rich. – Anonymous



Twelve spotted Skimmer Dragonfly
(wings horizontal when landed) P.R.



American rubyspot Damselfly
(wings vertical when landed) P.R.

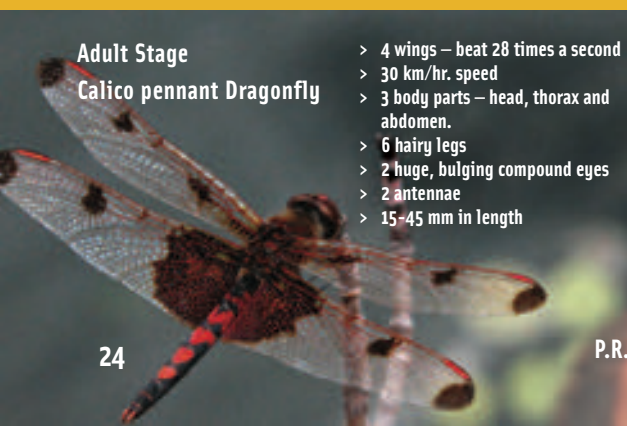
Dragonfly Facts

- > Nymphs are ferocious predators and are even cannibalistic.
- > Nymphs can eat 3000 mosquito larvae in a season.
- > The outline of adult wings is seen on the nymph stage.
- > Water drawn through the mouth acts like a jet when expelled out of the abdomen.
- > Water can drive the nymph forward, rocket-style, for 30 cm.
- > A perfect colourless replica of itself is left on the plant during the last molt.
- > Adults attack from below with using their six basket-shaped, hairy legs.
- > Spikes on their legs help form the net-like basket.
- > Adults eat mosquitoes, black flies, deer flies, horse flies and midges.
- > Dragonflies capture and eat their prey while in mid air.
- > Males defend their territory but never harm people.
- > Predators are Red-winged Blackbirds, frogs and turtles.
- > Some migrate south for the winter.
- > They can change colour as they mature.
- > Each dragonfly eye contains up to 30,000 lenses.

- > Special combs on their legs clean their eyes.
- > Adults can see moving objects up to 40 metres. (44 yards)
- > Adults can rotate their head for 360 degree vision.
- > Aviators study them to find their secrets of flight.
- > The muscles which operate a dragonfly's wings are one-quarter of its total weight.
- > Fossil dragonflies had a wingspan measuring up to 70 cm. (28 inches)
- > The longest present-day wingspan is about 19 cm. (7½ inches)
- > Dragonflies represent the souls of dead to Native Americans.

Mosquito Facts

- > Adult mosquitoes are the deadliest animals on Earth.
- > They kill well over 2 million people each year.
- > Adults spread malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever and West Nile disease.
- > Only the female mosquitoes sting for blood.
- > Dragonflies are their main predator.



Adult Stage
Calico pennant Dragonfly

- > 4 wings – beat 28 times a second
- > 30 km/hr. speed
- > 3 body parts – head, thorax and abdomen.
- > 6 hairy legs
- > 2 huge, bulging compound eyes
- > 2 antennae
- > 15-45 mm in length

Nymph Stage
with jaw extended

- > 10-60 mm long
- > 3 body parts – head, thorax and abdomen.
- > 6 legs
- > biting mouth parts
- > huge jaw is 1/4 length of body
- > can see wings forming



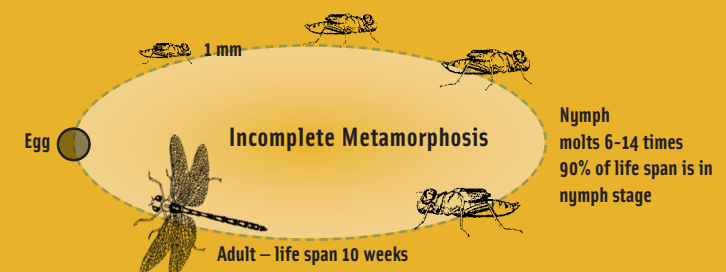
Friends are the sunshine of life. – John Hay (1871)

Eggbert Questions

1. Why did Eggbert not use his last wish?
3. What did Eggbert think would make him happy at first?
4. Why was Eggbert unhappy?
5. What finally made Eggbert happy?
6. Why do we need friends?
7. How do you feel when you help others?
8. What would you wish for if you had Eggbert's last wish?
9. What do you think makes most people happy?
10. What does it mean to see the world with kind eyes?
11. Eggbert saw happiness in a new light which means he was enlightened. He had a complete change of mind about something. Has this ever happened to you? Explain.
12. How do we go through stages in life like Eggbert?
13. What would you like to be when you are an adult? Why?
14. How could we help others, other animals and the Earth?
15. This book is called "info-fiction" which means the facts are true but the storyline is not. What facts are true? (transform from egg-nymph-adult dragonfly; large, hinged jaw; hairy spiked legs; food; attack from below; use legs as basket; pond animals; molting; jet speed; fierce predator)

When God made mosquitoes, it made flies seem like a blessing. – Anonymous

Dragonfly Life Cycle – can take up to 4 years





"Raison d'être"

The author and his four grandchildren Samuel, Kalista, Kaleb and Sophie. (photo by Jody Palubiski)



The Marna Twins

(Self portrait –Marlene and Myrna McBrien of Muskoka) The illustrators are avid naturalists, artists, educators, singers, actors, and caring mothers, who like Eggbert, have transformed into wonderful compassionate human beings.

Education is the most important powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. – Nelson Mandela

Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together. – Woodrow Wilson

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. 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.

Author's Note

The dragonfly is an ancient Native American symbol for light and transformation.

"The bright colours take time to develop, reflecting the idea that with maturity our own true colours come forth." (Animal-Speaks, Ted Andrews) Dragonflies remind us that we are light/energy and we can reflect light in powerful ways. They teach us to let our own light shine through and to be the best we can be. Children are often full of passion and emotion but may lose this as they age. With less passion and emotion, good intentions may get buried and lost. Eggbert falls into the same trap that many humans have for centuries. His life became motivated by **fear, greed and the desire for power** not unlike some human leaders who have caused much social misery, unhappiness and many serious environmental problems. Thankfully, Eggbert learned by experience what true happiness really is. Like Eggbert, we can all learn to recognize the real qualities of happiness and develop into all we can be. We greatly underestimate children's ability to learn and understand. This book might be a stepping stone for discussion and enlightenment even at this early age. Values are usually established before age ten. Teaching the core values of **respect and responsibility** for self, others, other species and the Earth can result in widespread positive societal/environmental impacts. The three best ways to teach values are **example, example, example. Attitudes are caught not taught!**



**Meadowhawk
Dragonfly**

80% of brain is
devoted to the
use of eyes.

P.R.



Eggbert's Dragon Dream – (An ACTION story with a good message) Eggbert's dream is to be happy. At first he thinks being rich, scary and powerful like a dragon would make him happy. The kind Spirit of the Earth and Sea gives him wishes to help. Eggbert quickly learns a most important lesson. Being rich and powerful does not make friends or happiness. Finally, Eggbert uses a wish that truly solves his problem. By using the real life cycle of the dragonfly, this story teaches a valuable lesson about our need for friends and helping others. It encourages children to aspire to be all they can be in life.

Other books by the same author and illustrators

That Chickadee Feeling

ISBN 0-9688494-4-X, 2001,
2002, 2004, 2007

Ce Frisson de mesange

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

The wonderful, magical feeling of having a Black-capped Chickadee feeding out of a child's hand is captured in print and is related to all happy memorable events shared in a child's 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 an example of good literature for **"Train the Trainer"** primary and junior literacy workshops. Chosen by the Region of Waterloo as its favourite children's book for 2007.

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

ISBN 0-9688494-2-3, 2002

The author, through rich rhyme, uses humour and a delightful easy-read story line to highlight all the positive characteristics of a dog, such as unconditional love. It shows why dogs are human's best friend. 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

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" people 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

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. The book brings out the many benefits of trees to humans and other animals through a very humorous but meaningful story.

BOOMer Rules

ISBN 978-0-9688494-4-7-7,
2007

BOOMer Rules is an inspiring 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.**

Feed the Good Wolf

ISBN 978-0-9688494-8-4, 2008

A young wolf, who is having a dreadfully bad day, learns why it is much better to look on the positive side of things and make good decisions. Little wolf's wise old grandfather teaches how a simple thing like choosing to **feed the good wolf** inside us can change life for the better. The story is based on a native legend that shows how the elders used stories about animals to teach optimism and right from wrong. The story line also brings out the plight and natural characteristics of the much maligned wolf.

It is never too late to become what you might have been. – George Eliot

