

Zaza Abzianidze

ANIMALARKY

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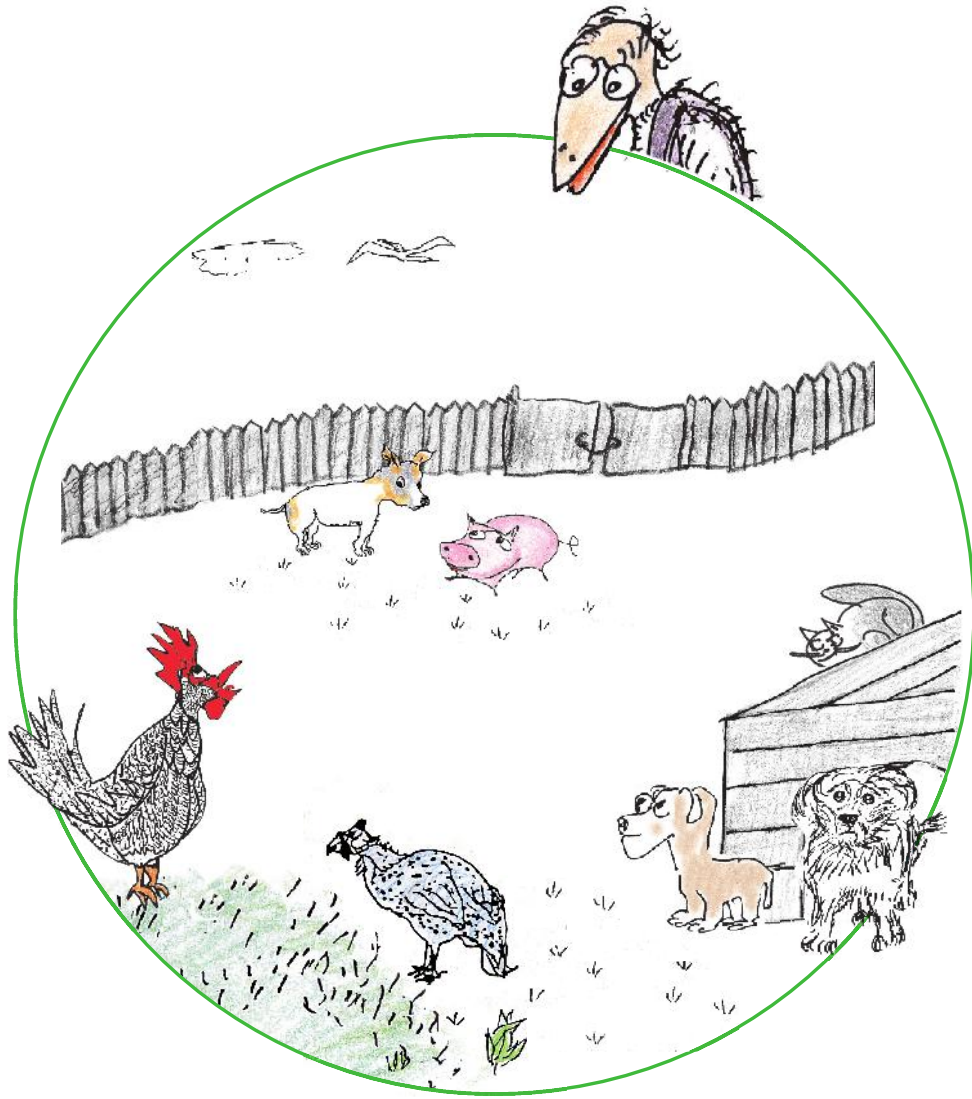
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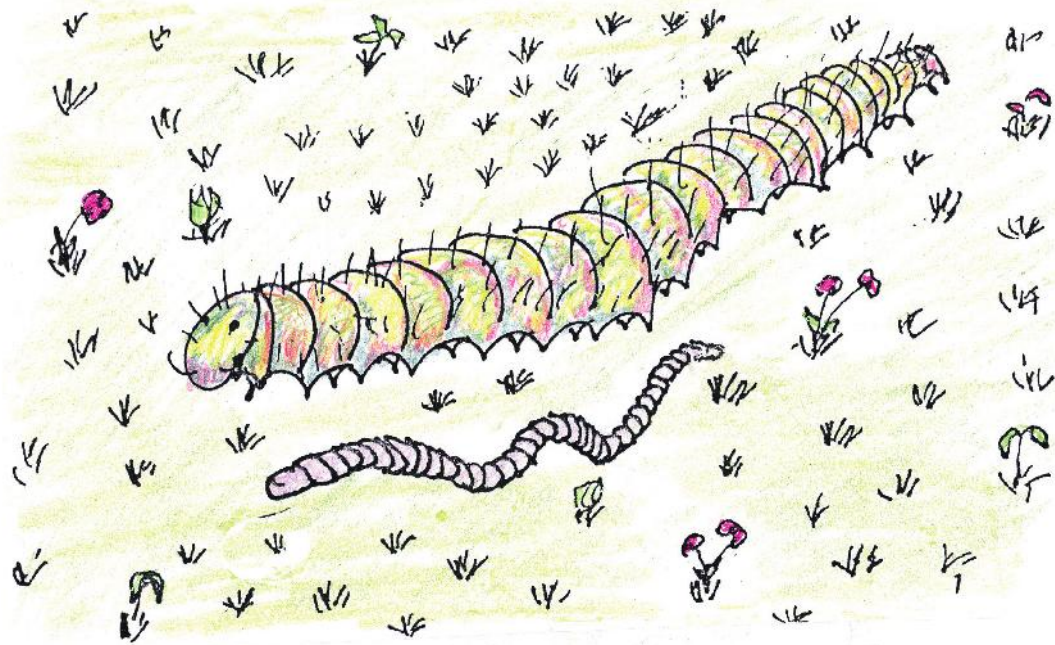
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Garden we grow, Yard
we mow, House we owe!





In the garden
we begin
with two worms
one fat, one thin
Said the fat worm
to his friend
"You're too skinny,
end to end."
Said the thin one,
"Please don't chide me -
I have got a worm
inside me."





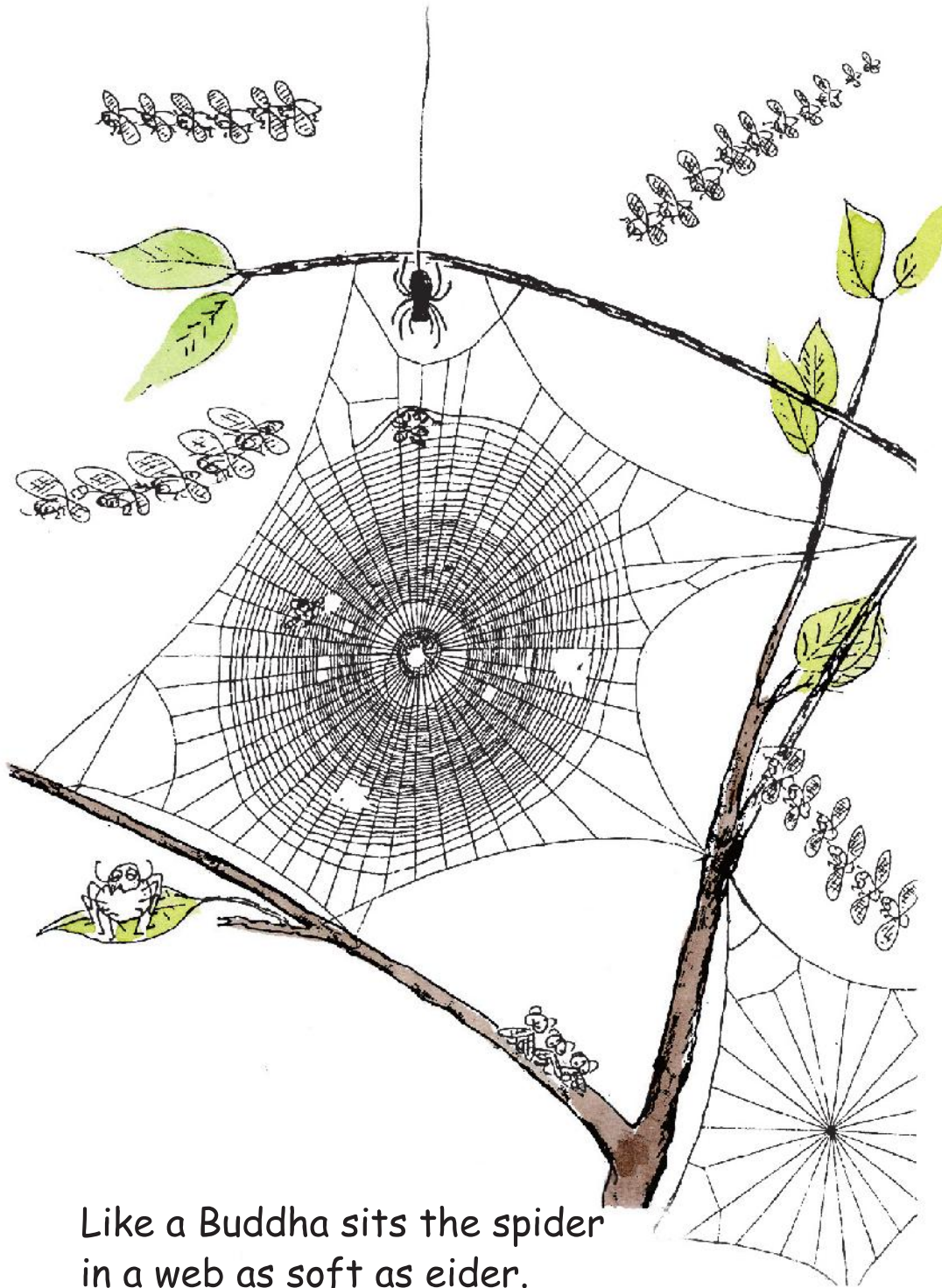
Wind is blowing in the yard,
Beetle finds the going hard.
He goes slowly through the wheat
Limping on his five good feet.





What has got the worm so focused?
The arrival of a locust.





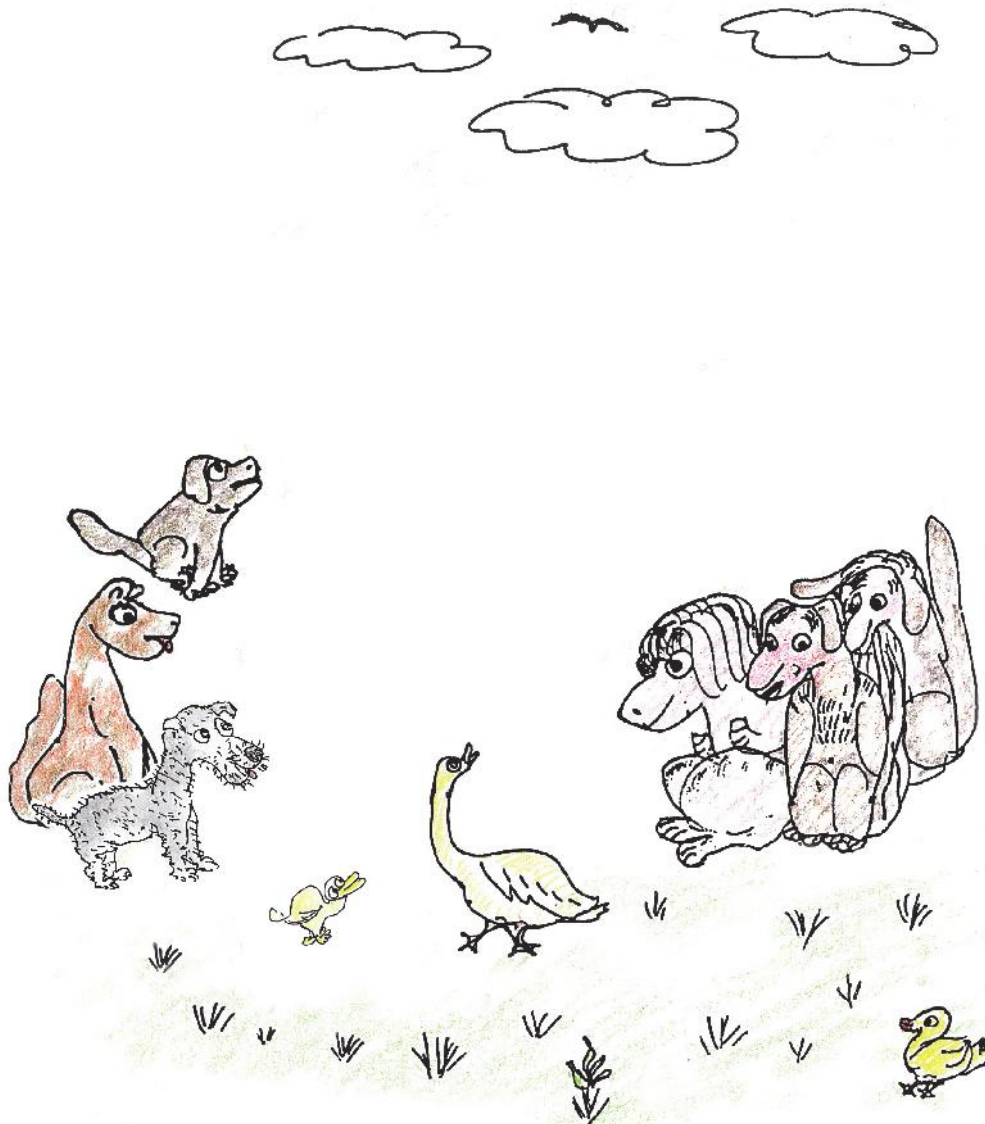
Like a Buddha sits the spider
in a web as soft as eider.
Fly comes buzzing like a plane
(Aeronautically, he's vain.)

Though he's sky high on endorphins,
soon his children will be orphans.



Gray, our little grey greyhound -
chased a pair of hares around.
Fooled by hare-splitting, you see,
he missed not one, not two, but three!

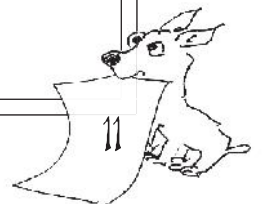




The Dogs have not attacked the Duck.
because he's smart, though out of luck.
He tells them Ducks jump really HIGH
The truth is Ducks surrounded - LIE!

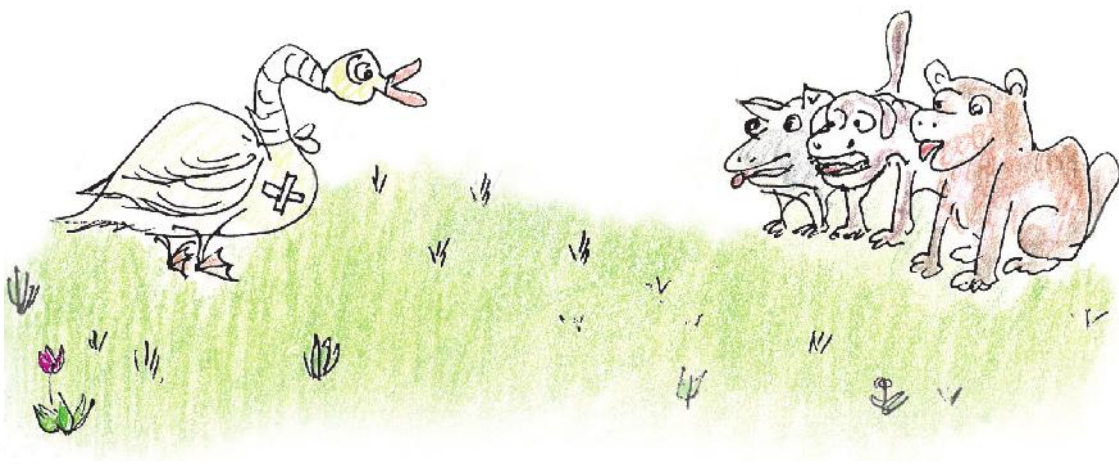


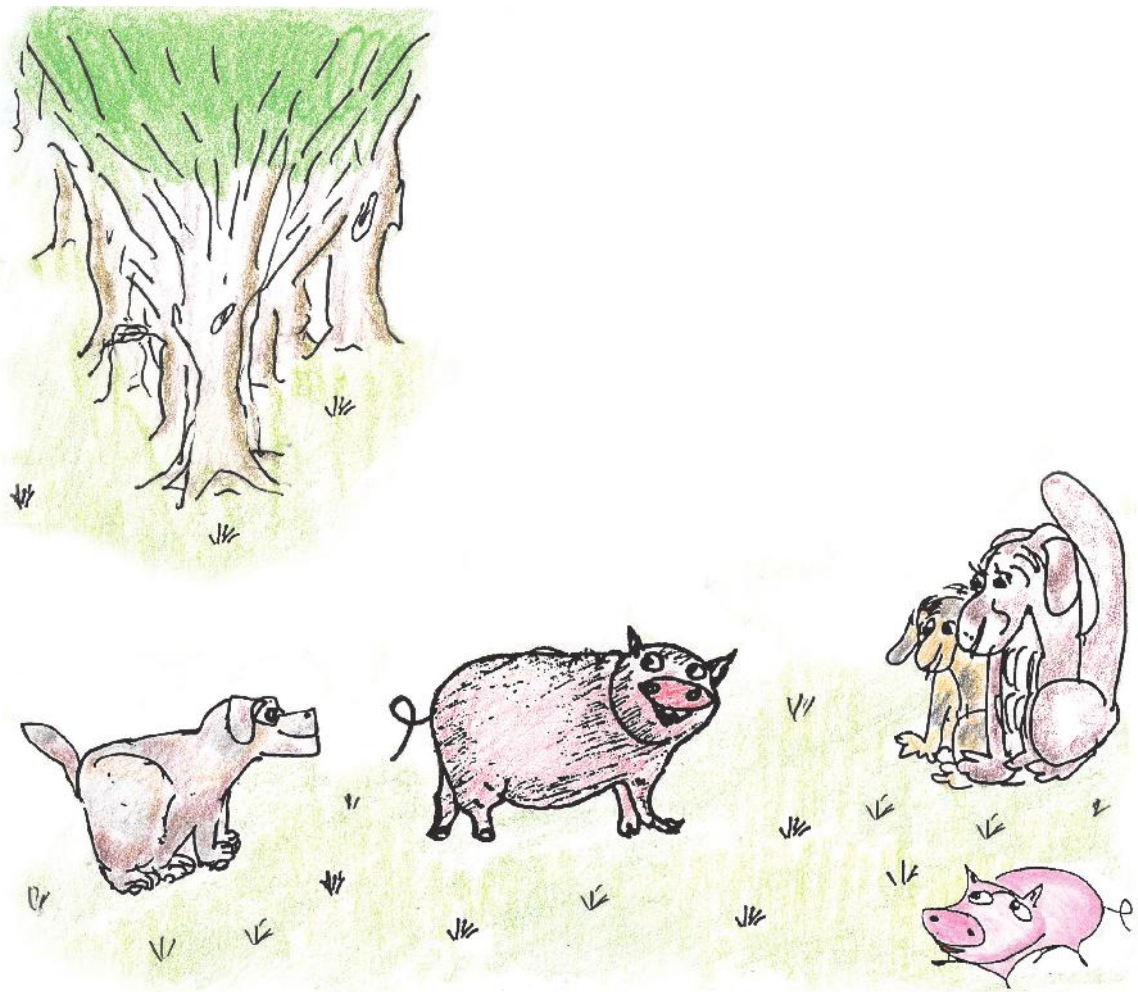
Red-faced Turkey in the park
First forbids the Dogs to bark
Then sits with them on the grass
Telling tales to make time pass.
"Have you seen me dance or not?
I could Can Can, I could Trot.
My square dance was far from square!
I was fowl, but I was fair!
I danced dances, I flung flings -
Light as if I'd sprouted wings!
Suitors stood in line to love me!
Women were so jealous of me!
...Now I'm old, I'm no spring lotus:
Thank you if you didn't notice.
Since I'm fat, some would ignore me
My great weight does nothing for me.
I'll not brag again, forsooth -
Don't remind me of my youth!"





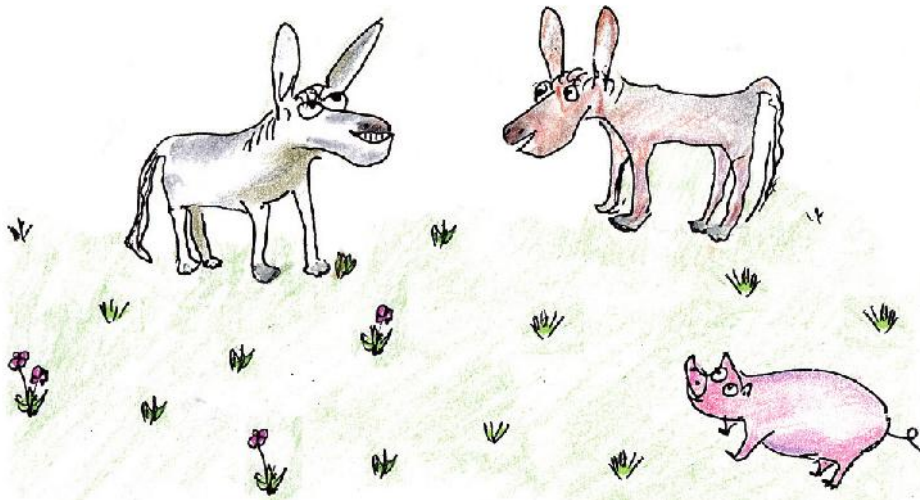
I suffered an attack today
While I went my peaceful way.
I've been wounded - I have gashes
Give the evil doers lashes!
Even in their masks, I knew them
And I beg you to pursue them.
It was Lamb who made me wail -
His accomplice? Horrid Quail!



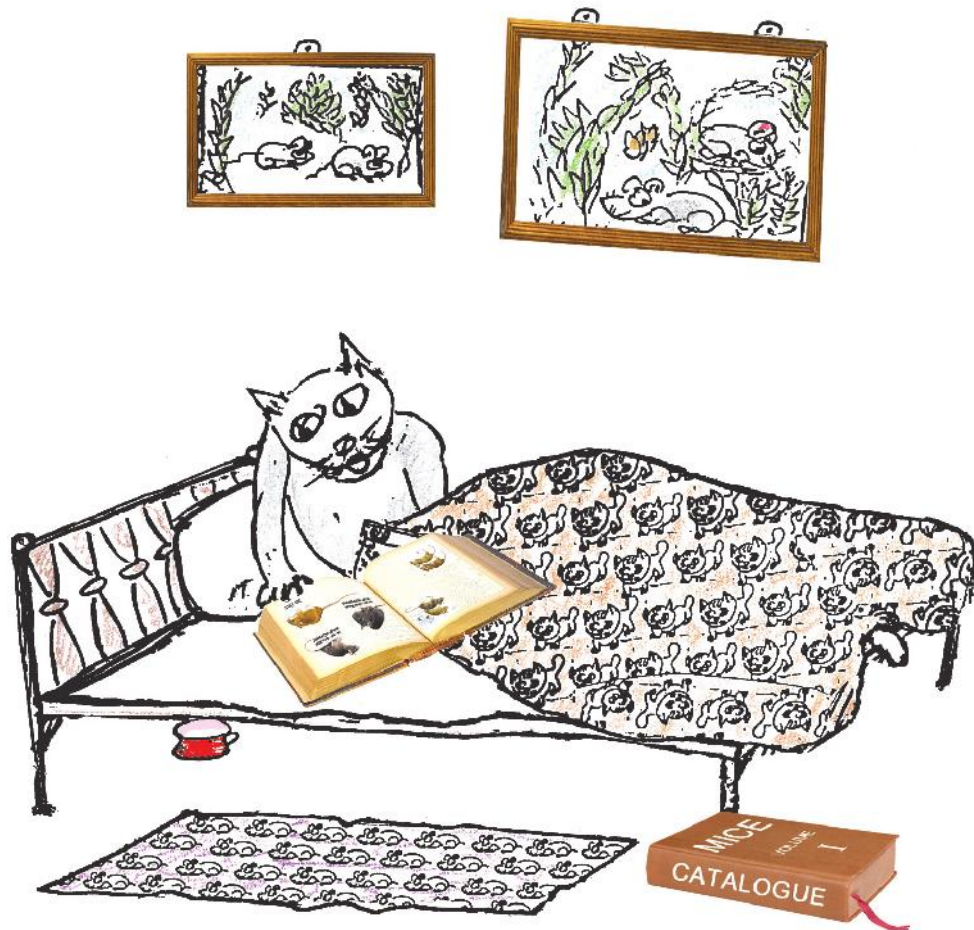


Trembling Pig lied like a sinner
Wanting not to be Dogs' dinner.
"Royal blood flows in my veins
Hence my beauty and my brains."

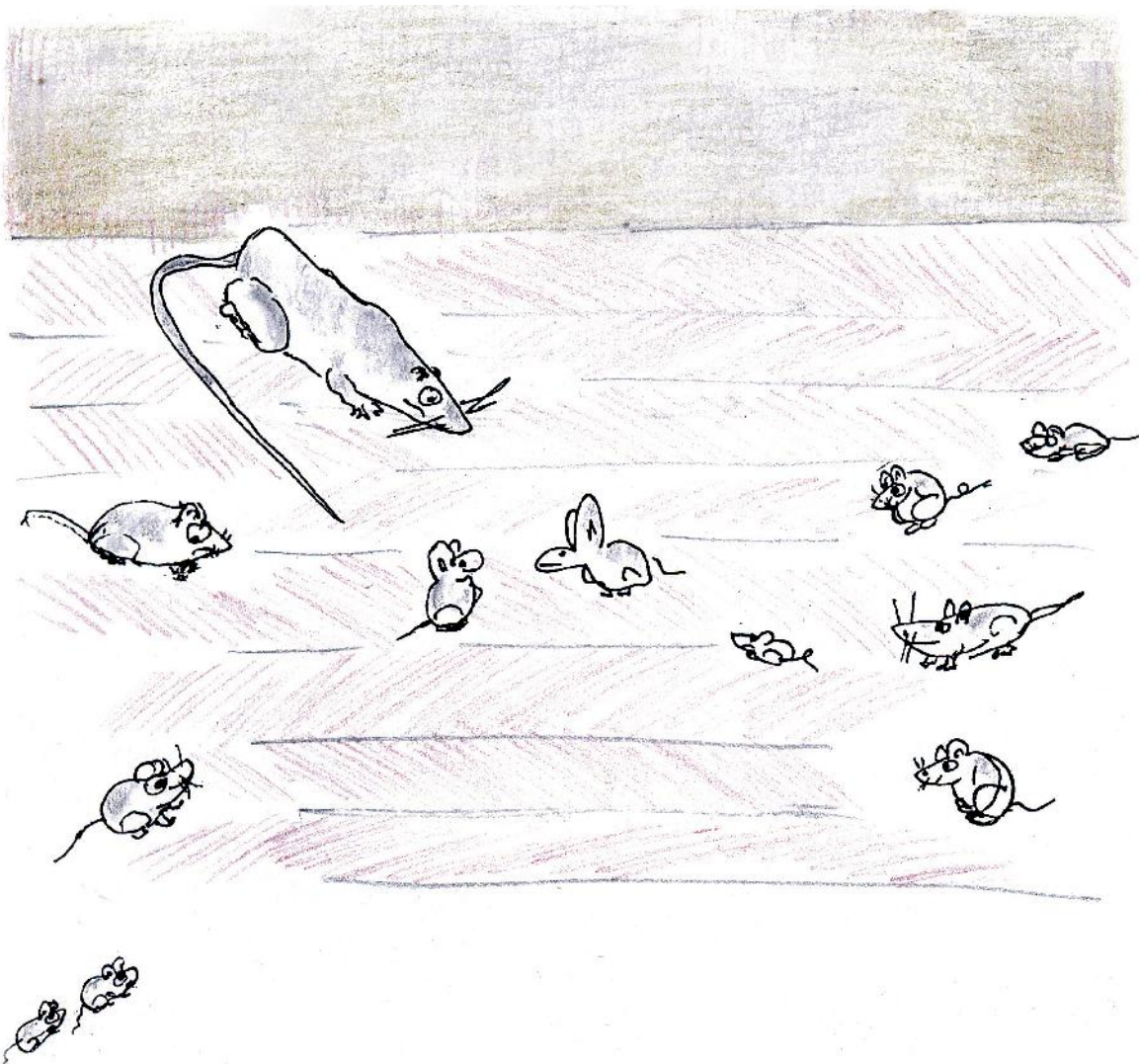
Hanging out their tongues, those Dogs!
Hanging on the words of Hogs!
Such stupidity befell them -
To believe what elders tell them!



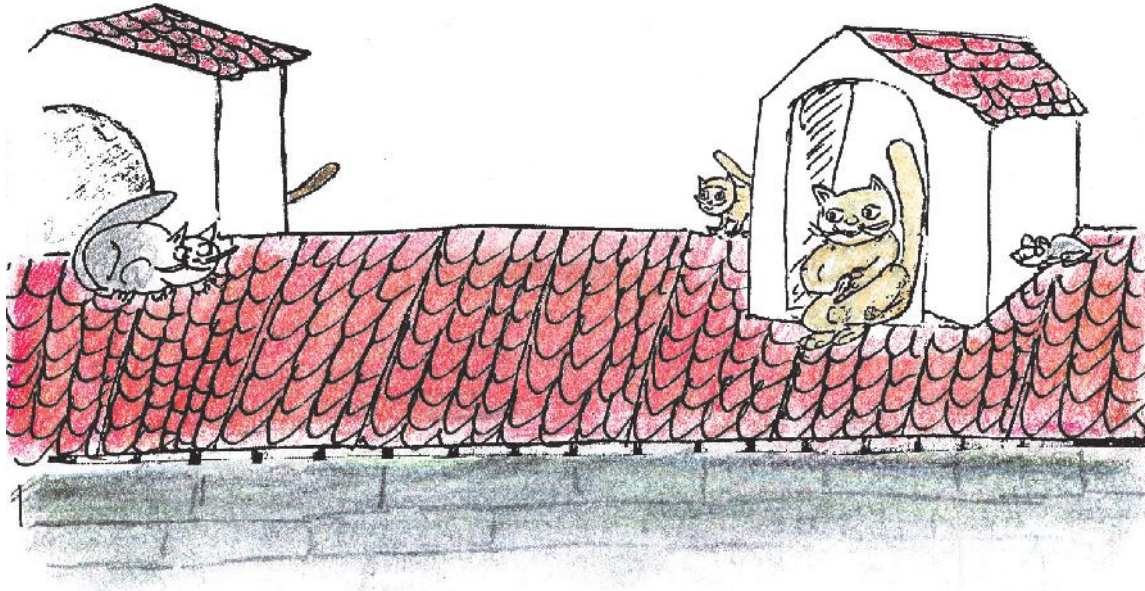
Here two Donkeys try debating
One holds forth, the other's waiting.
Says the one more deeply gray:
"I'm Donk-Quicksote, you might say.
First to feel, and first to bray."
Said the other louder, stronger.
"Donkey, you could not be wronger.
I bray first and best and longer."



The cat caught sick aboard the ship
On her normal winter trip.
She let her looks go to the dogs
And stayed in bed with catalogs.

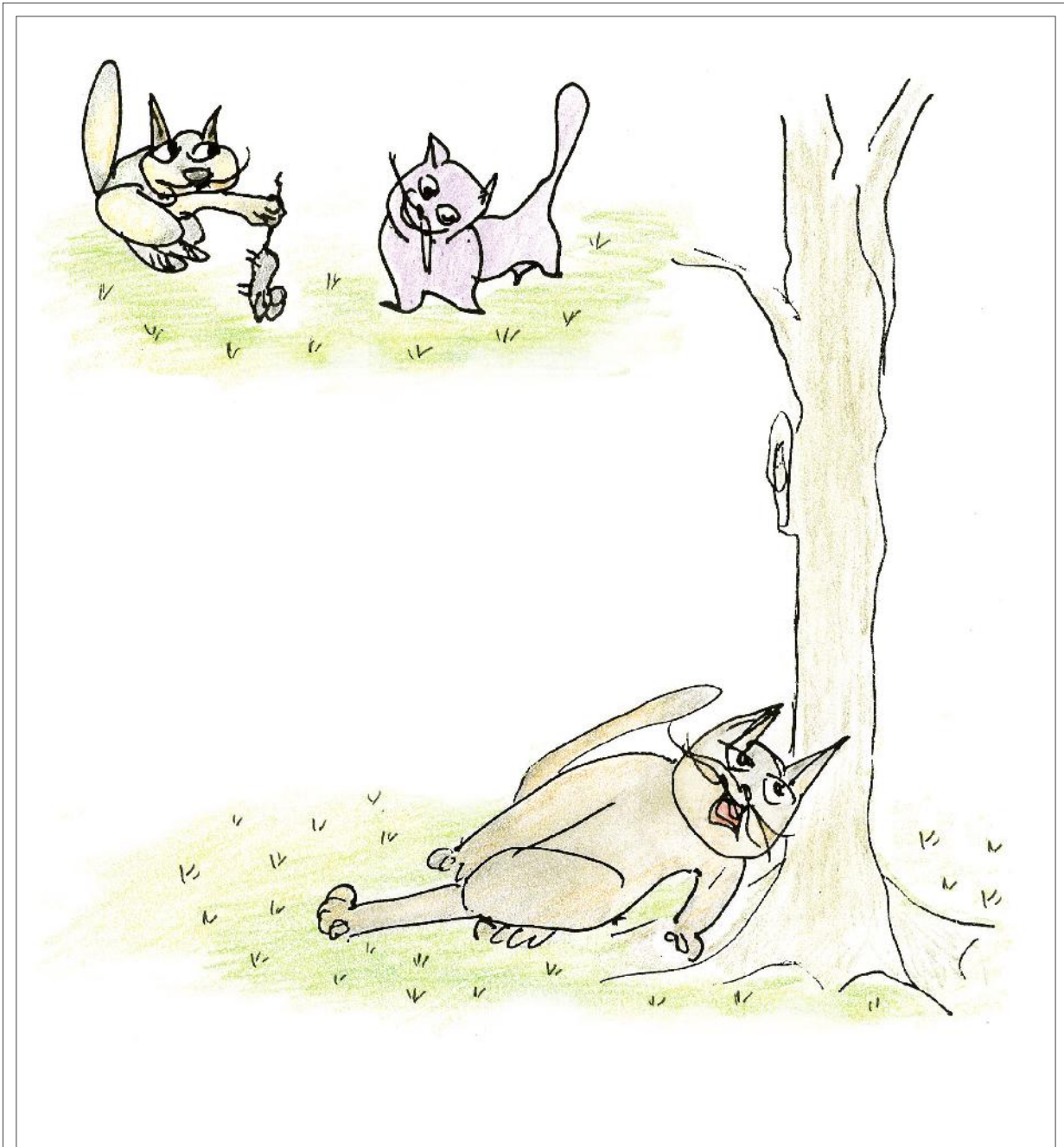


Rat is giving good advice
To the mousy little mice.
"Guys, be wise! To get ahead
You've got to steal your daily bread."

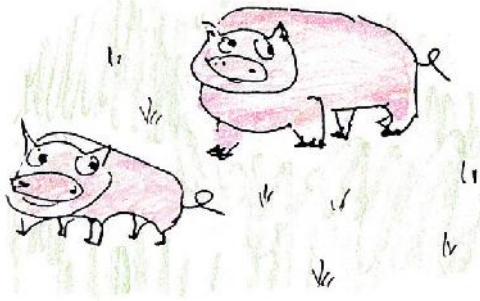


Cat gets dinner on the house,
But won't vouchsafe his friends a mouse.
He says, "I am just a debtor
Not some naive debt-forgetter."



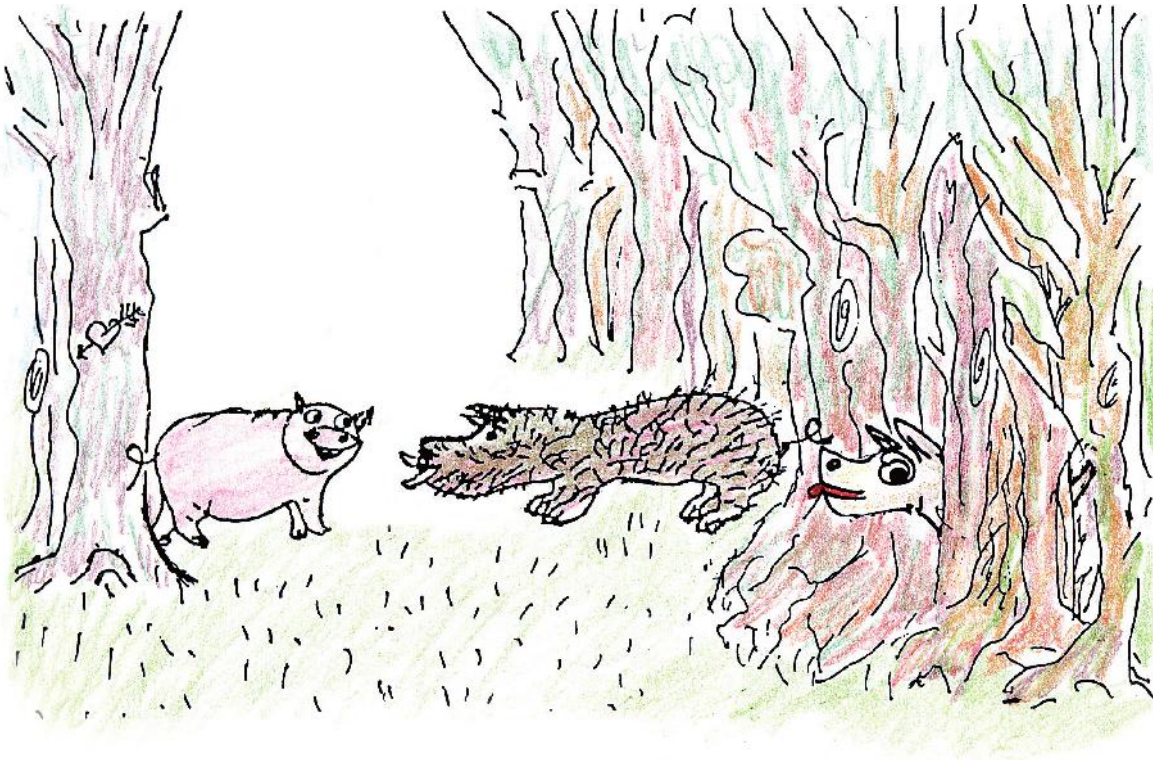


Most cats check and mate in Spring
Then go do the mother thing.
But the one cat we know well
Has another tale to tell.
"Love walked once within these fences.
Let's dispense with monthly menses!"



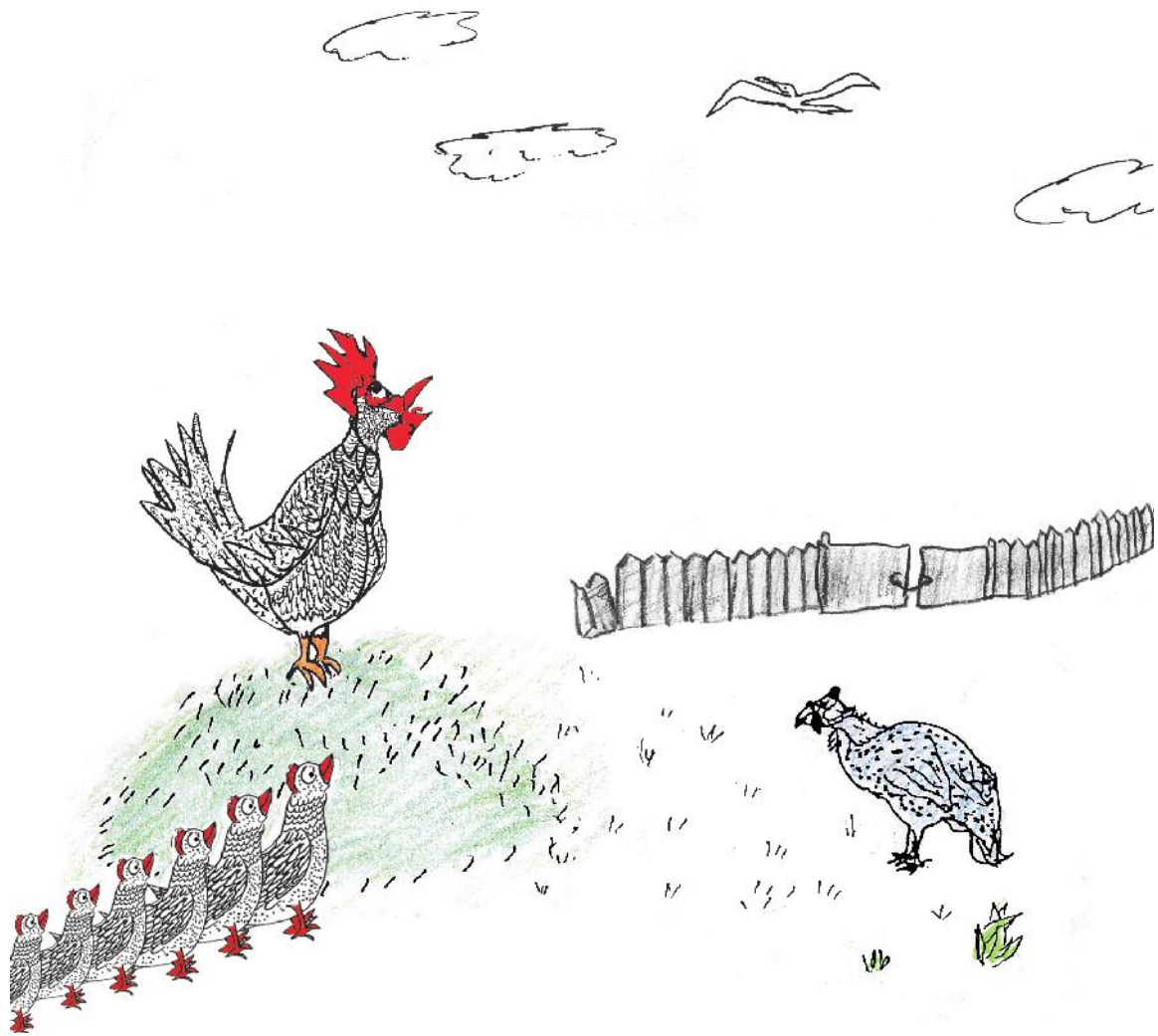
Jackal fell for little Pig
He fell hard and he fell big.
But her parents told the lass
To ignore the Jackal's pass.
"When he comes at night to meet you.
We suspect he wants to eat you."





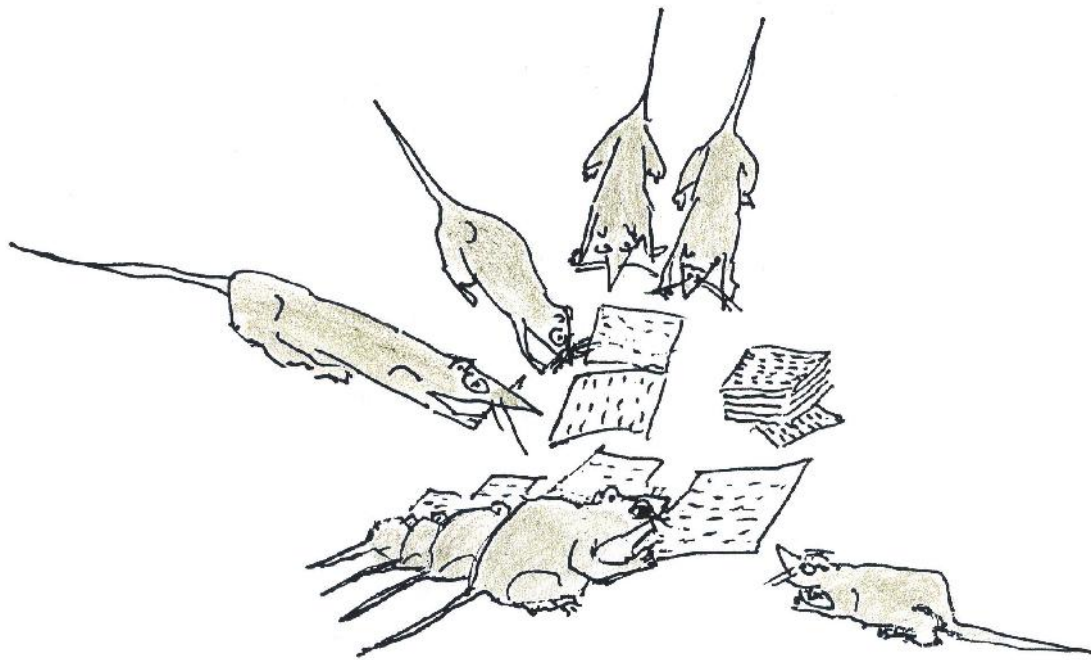
Another Pig has met a Hog
long and slippery as a log.
"He came to us from the wood,
Says he likes our neighborhood.
There he stands - unshaved, unwitty.
Says he finds our daughter pretty.
Says that love has wrecked his life.
Wants to make our girl his wife."





Yet another love-struck twoster:
Quail has fallen for the Rooster.
She's in love and thinks his voice
An occasion to rejoice.
Alas, she loves to no avail
Rooster's mind is not on quail.
He with many wives, so regal
Is enamored of a Seagull.
"Cock-a-diddle-doodle-dee
You're the only Gull for me!"

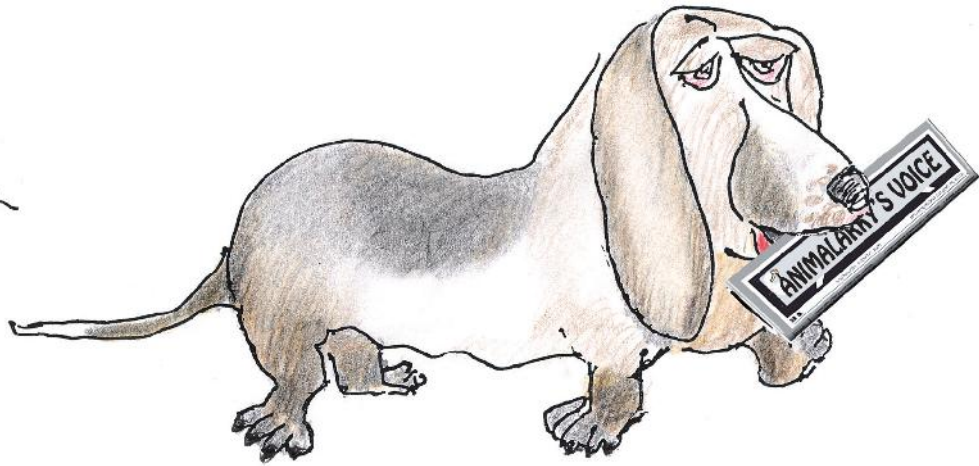
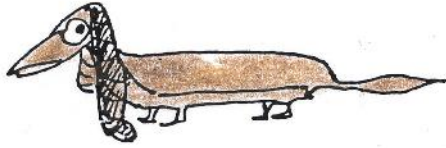




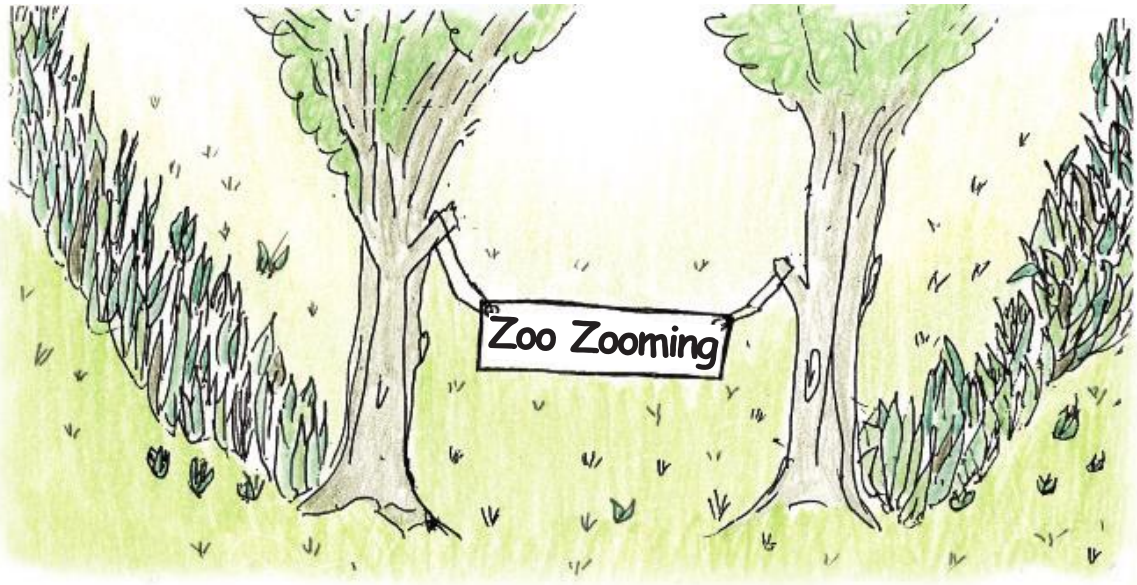
Rooster plays 'em fast and loose -
Here a Duck and there a Goose.
With a host of little ruses
He makes sure he never loses.
Love Adventures all nocturnal
He recorded in his journal.
Though he hid it with some skill,
Rat still found it as Rat will.
That long story for the ages,
Rat tore into ragged pages.
Now Rat reads with lowered lids
Love Tales to his wife and kids.

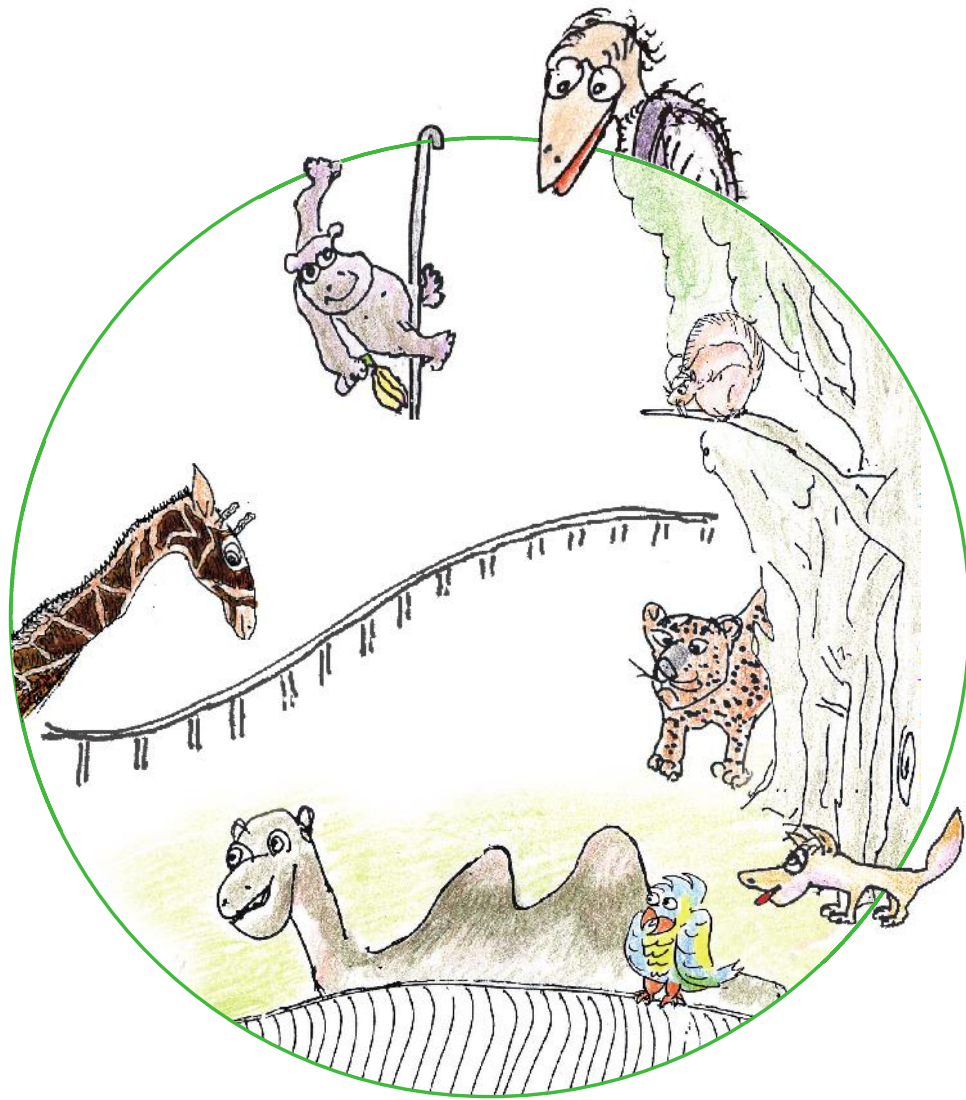


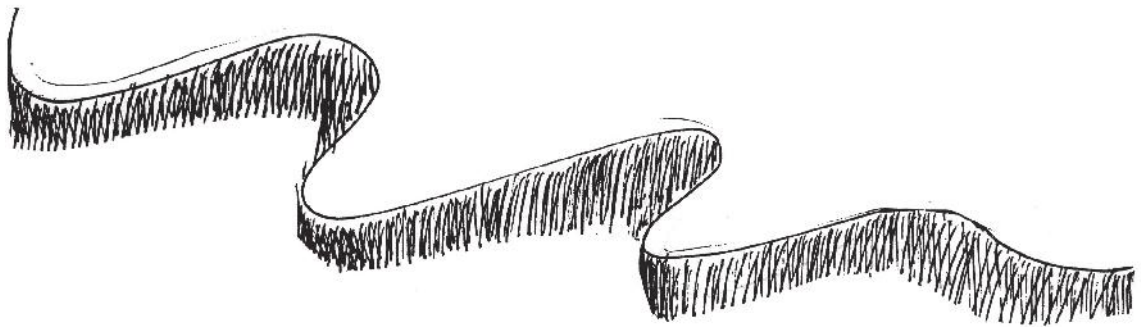
Max is such a happy hound!
See him run and jump around!
Nothing but good meat for Max!
There is nothing which he lacks!
Good wood house both high and wide
With his girl friend chained inside.



Basset trots up from the yard -
In his mouth, his business card.
Except his Gramps, no other Bassets
show such new newsworthy assets.

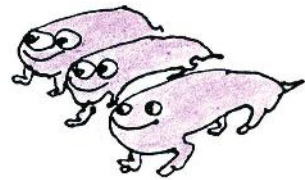
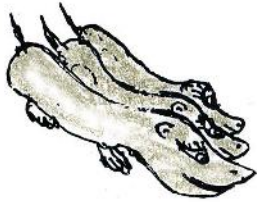
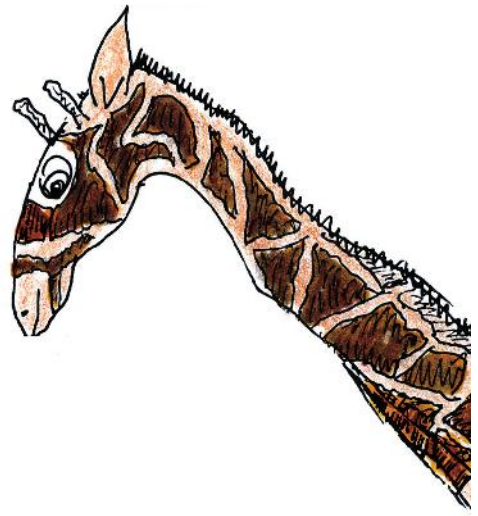






An elephant was born today
How many kilos does he weigh?
At "120" he weighed in
Sorrowful mom says, "You're so thin!"





More moles, holes, Hamsters too -
Dug their way out of the zoo.
More moles, more holes, more hamsters too
Giraffe might now escape the zoo!



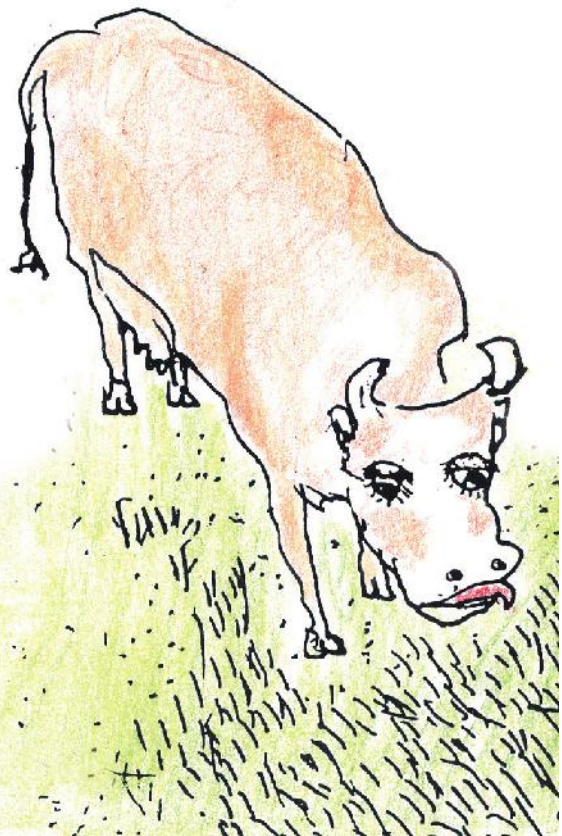


A little Ape with orange rear
Eats an orange carrot here -
He mentions often with regret
Bananas which he used to get.





Cow grazes where
it isn't fenced.
This makes Leopard
quite incensed.
"I'll eat you up!"
the Leopard roars.
The Cow is knowing
and keeps going —
"No, you can't get
out of doors."





The baby Leopard cries a lot.
Mom questions her, as who would not?
"How could you dare to make a stir
When you wear such pretty fur?
And baby says: "I'd rather not
Be peppered so with spot, spot, spot!"



Tapir wants to punish Jackal
He thinks maybe an attack'll.
What made Tapir think of force?
Jackal's nickname "cartoon horse."





Macaque looks silly in his cage.
His mood is mixed despair and rage.
He eats thrown fruit that's smeared with grime
Asks in song, "What is my crime?
I don't merit life in hell,
Such a dark and dirty cell."
Turkey joins in Macaque's song:
"Can't you people see what's wrong?"

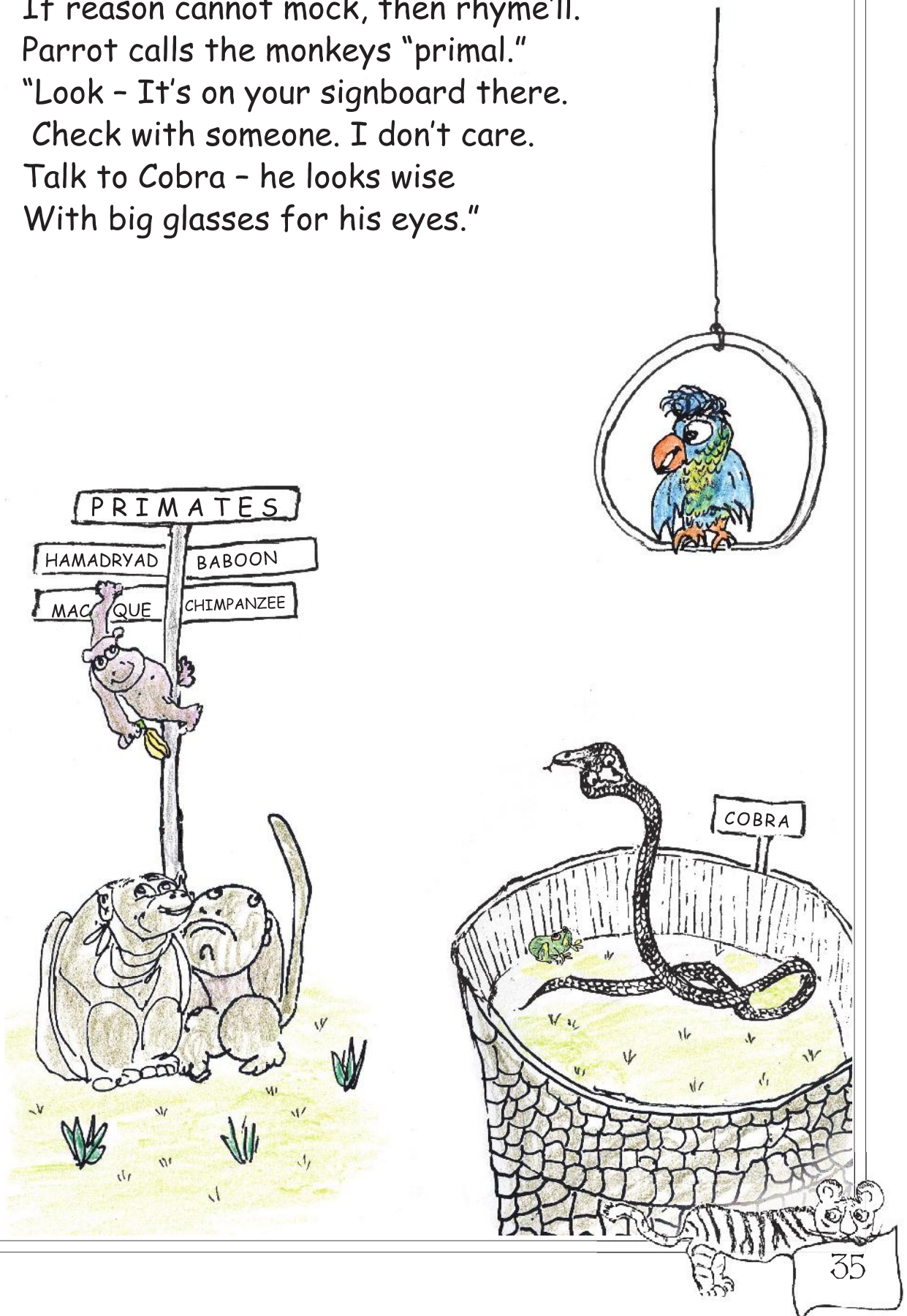


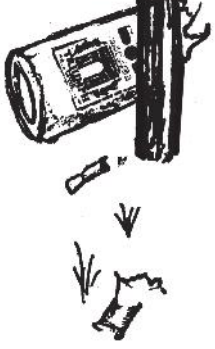
Macaque's portrait here you see:
She's in love with Chimpanzee.



Macaque eats the pizza crust
as politeness says she must.
If her sauced-up lips offend,
Chimp has handkerchiefs to lend.
Now a cigar - he's quite a smoker
Elegant as any broker.
He holds it lightly, does not grab it
Like a man with one bad habit.

If reason cannot mock, then rhyme'll.
Parrot calls the monkeys "primal."
"Look - It's on your signboard there.
Check with someone. I don't care.
Talk to Cobra - he looks wise
With big glasses for his eyes."





The guards are drunk - Not one but all -
First they quarrel, Then they brawl.
Next day, tickled by the breezes,
Parrot sees the Chimp and teases -
"You're cousin to the human race.
What could be a worse disgrace?"



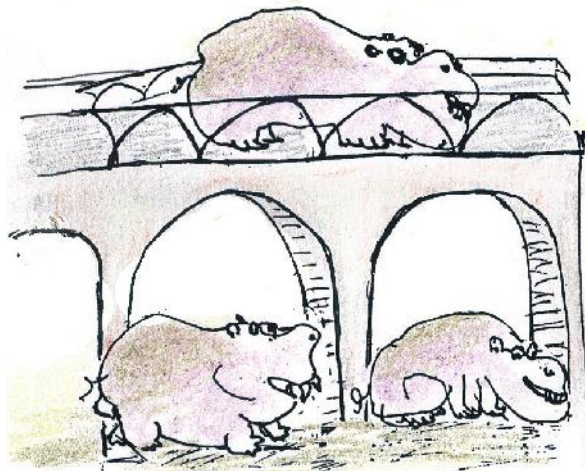
Poll mocks Zebras with delight -
"You see things in black and white."
Cockatoo writes in his blog:
"They swapped Piglet with a Hog!"



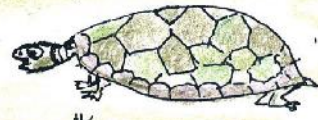
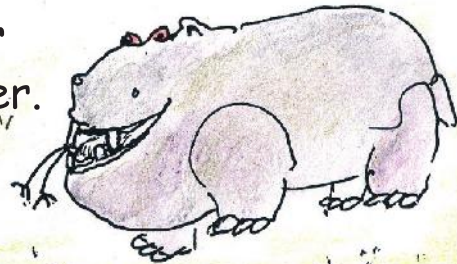


Parrot now is mocking Eagle
Such insults should be illegal.
"Since you love to eat dead meat,
There is lots here you can eat.
You're the symbol of our nation
Eating corpses with elation.
This slaughterhouse was made for you,
Add skulls and a complex or two -
You'll be the Hamlet of our zoo!"





You can't ask without disaster
Just how wealthy is our master.
Those with stables and a pool
Have some money as a rule,
But the tortoise asks the Rat
"How big is he? As big as that?"
And when dinner parties cease
People say "That guy's obese!"

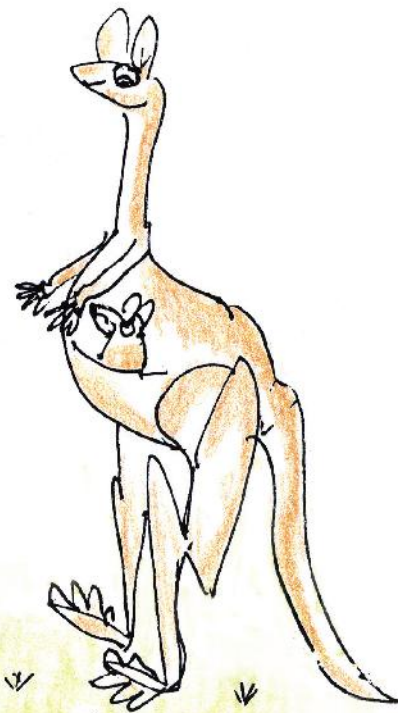
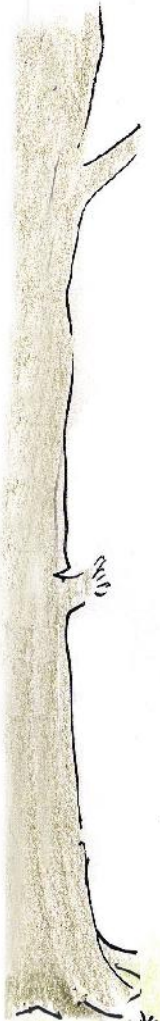


Worried Owl, who started teaching
Corrects a Parrot's over-reaching
"Poll, you should curb your tongue,
Or you'll end up in the dung.
Since these days you can't fly off,
Better not to mock and scoff.
Praise to snakes and eagles give
Praise the zebras - You might live!"

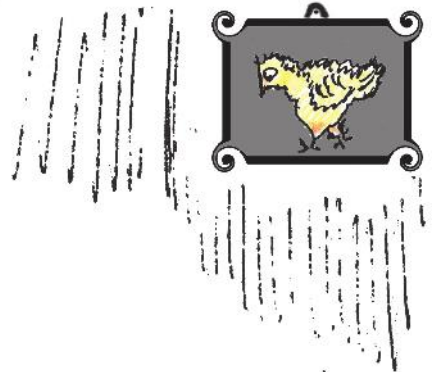
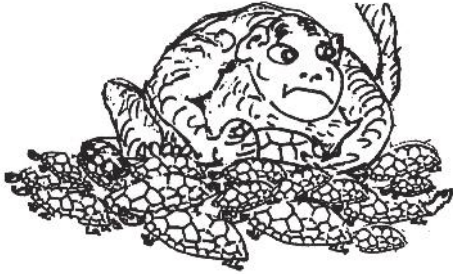




Poll the Parrot pestered Kango
With a flatteringly verbal Tango:
"Oh so orange, pouchy Roo!
Let me vouch sweet things to you.
I am love's unstopping Parrot
Make me happy, hopping carrot!"



COMPLAINT



My ex-friend, I must report
Tried to kill me with a tort -
With a tortoise shell I mean
My friend hit me on the bean!
I am charged with stealing wrongly
I object - and very strongly.
My opponents killed the hen -
She and I went way back when.
They gave me a thigh, that's all -
And that thigh was very small!
Then my old friend from a tree
Threw a tortoise shell at me.
To his evil, I've awoken
But I think my head is broken!



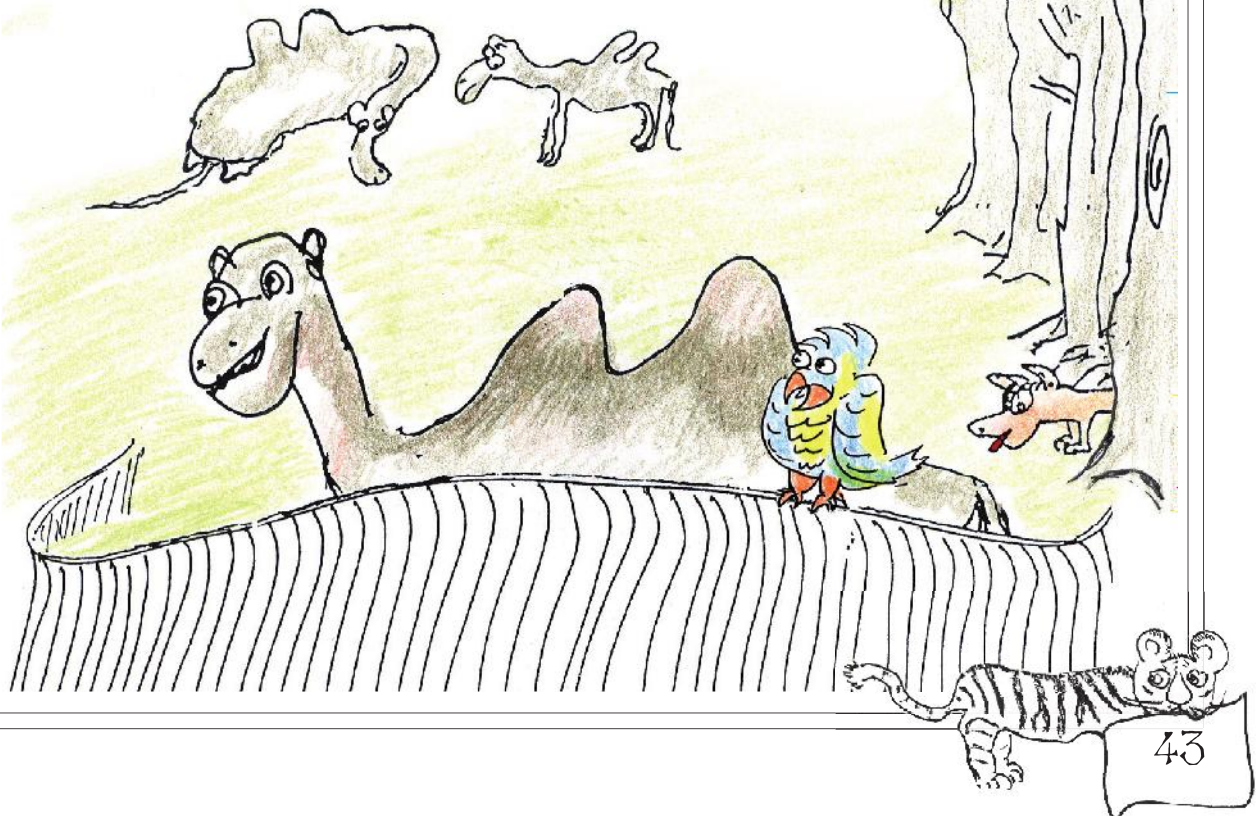
Jackal



COMPLAINT

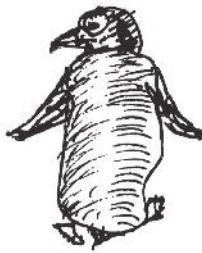
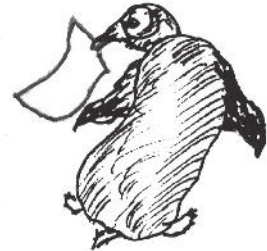
Am I less than other creatures?
Even camels have good features.
I have silly Squirrel inquisitors
They throw nuts at all my visitors.
Jackal smiles as he grows thinner
And invites me home for dinner.
Here I am among baboons -
Listening as Parrot croons.
I can't sleep, my life so gross is -
And I suffer from neurosis.

Camel



COMPLAINT

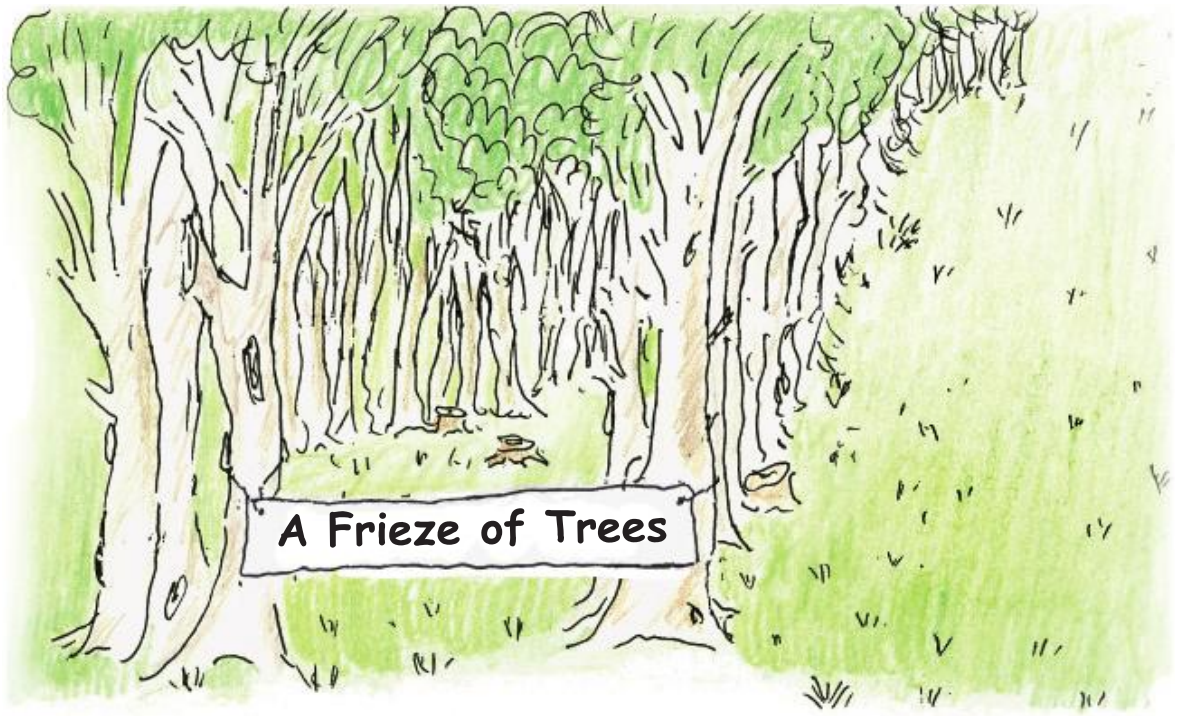
DIRECTORS OF THE ZOO ►



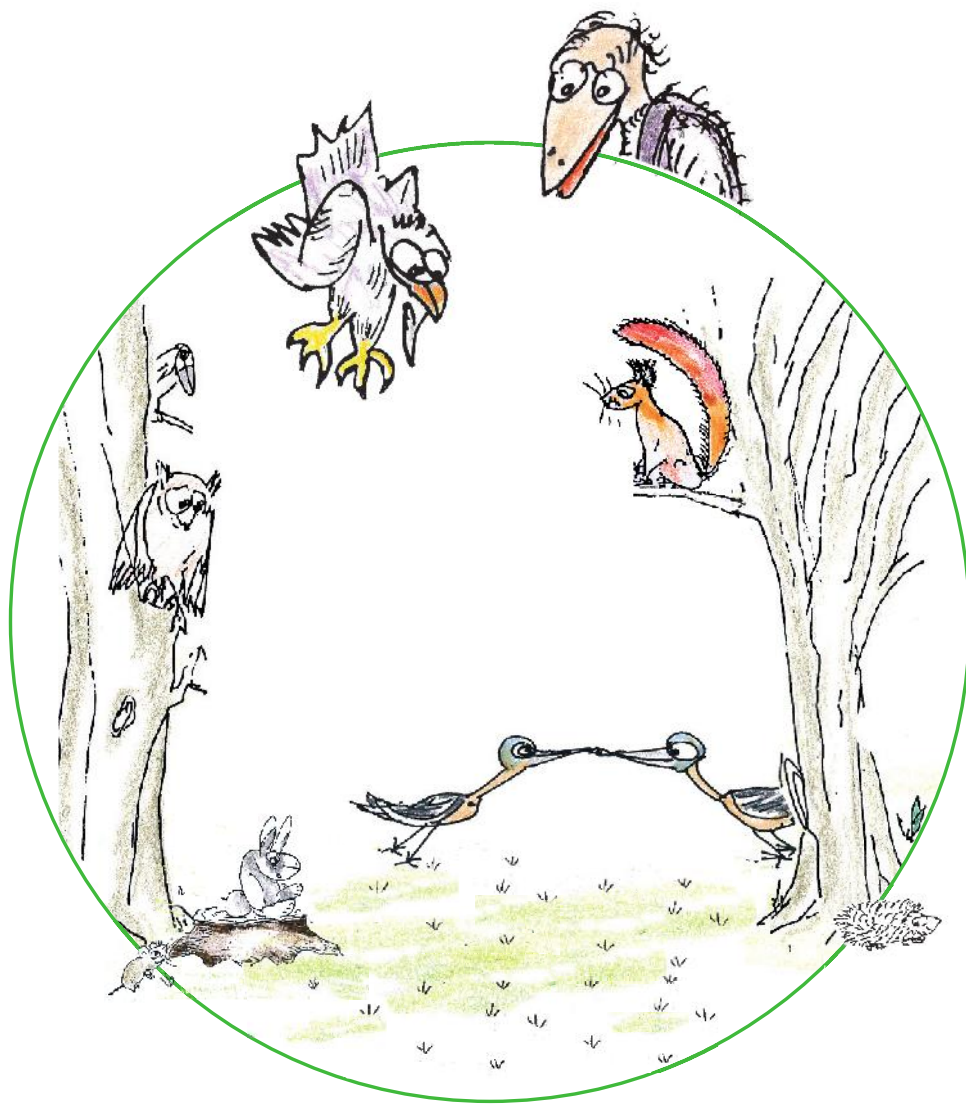
Tendered in a Letter to
The Directors of the Zoo:

We, the Penguins next to Parrot
Have to say We Cannot Bear It!





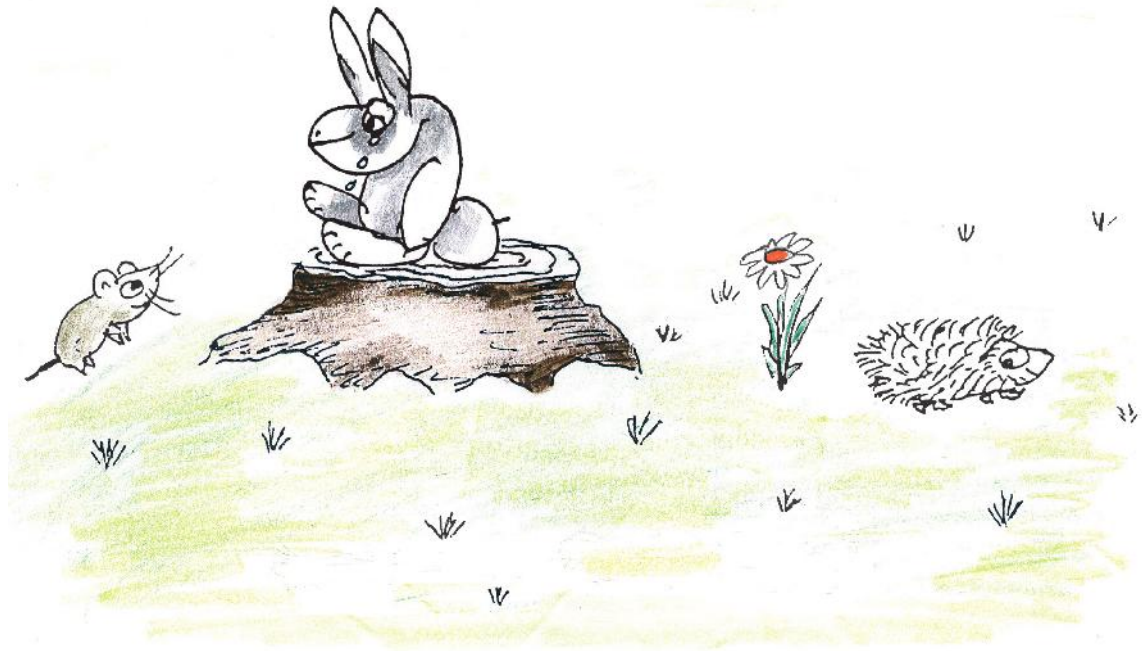
A Frieze of Trees



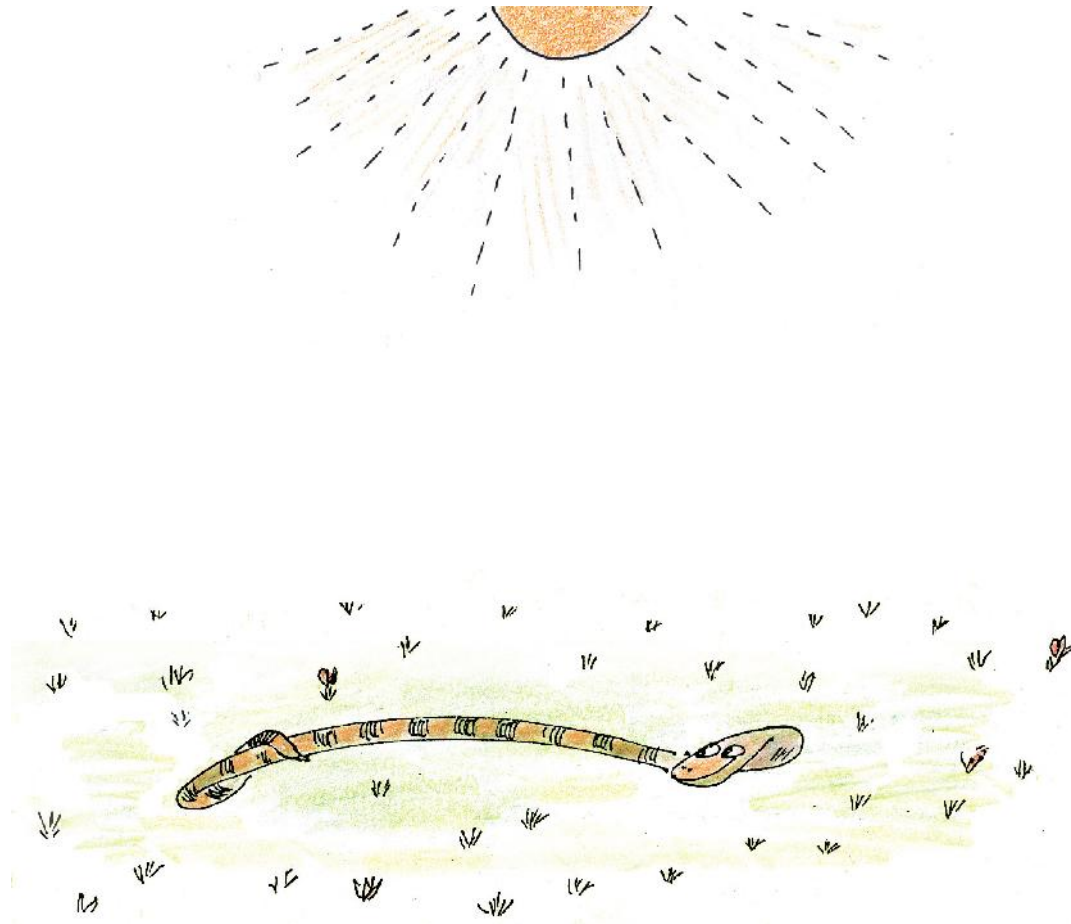


The trees here are so high
They almost touch the sky.
I live with no cross words
with Badger, Bear and Birds.
Come visit - Bring your dogs -
Bring your dogs and hogs
Come stay among our flocks -
But please do not bring Fox!

Wolf



Rabbit's crying on a log
He got fresh with Miss Hedgehog.



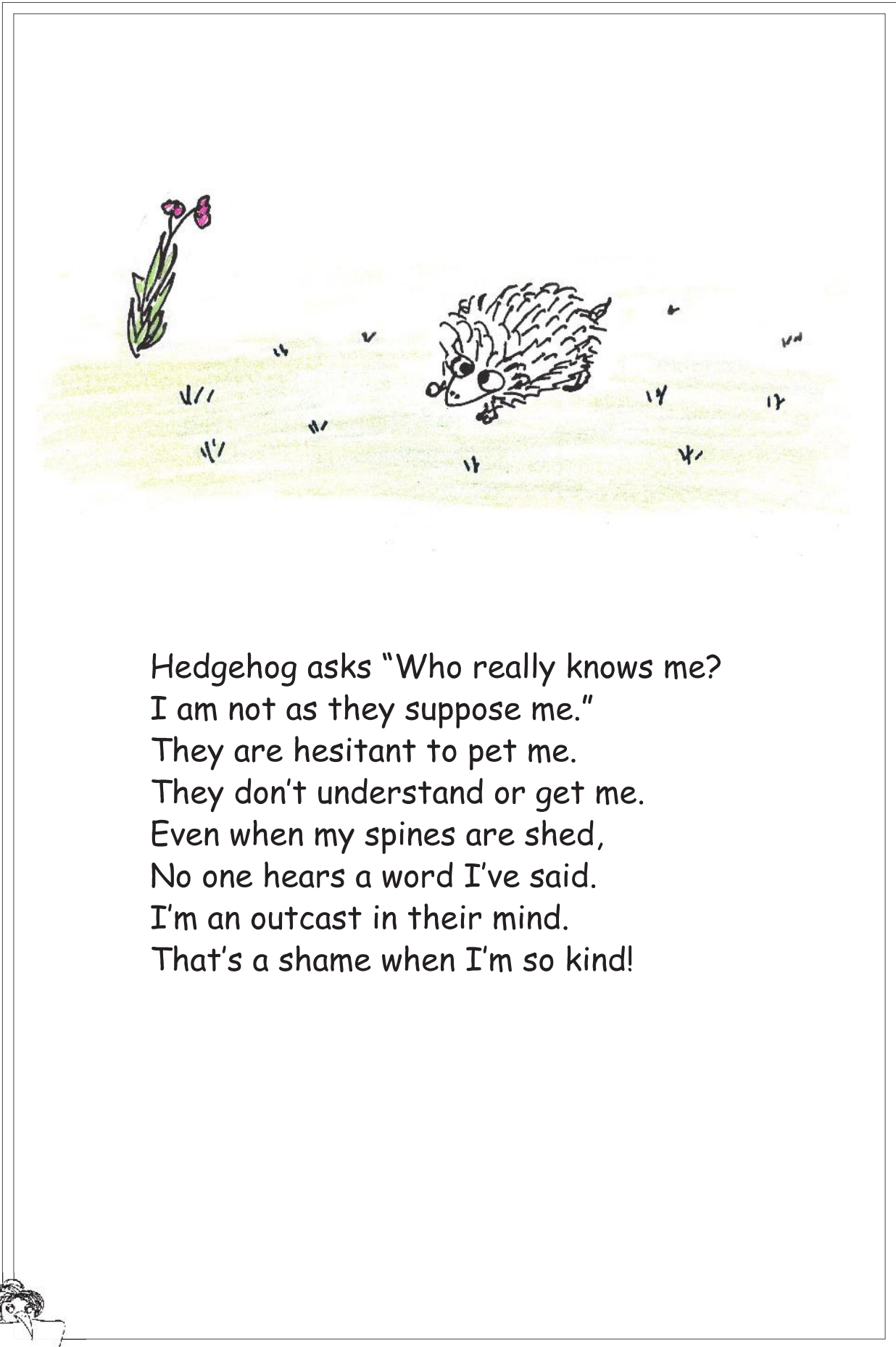
The Snake in the Sun stretches level
See how he suffers, poor devil!
Last night, wet ground was chilling him
Now lumbago's killing him!



Jackal wants to take the throne.
See how mad the Lion's grown:
"Jack, you'll never be the ruler:
You're more clever but I'm crueller."



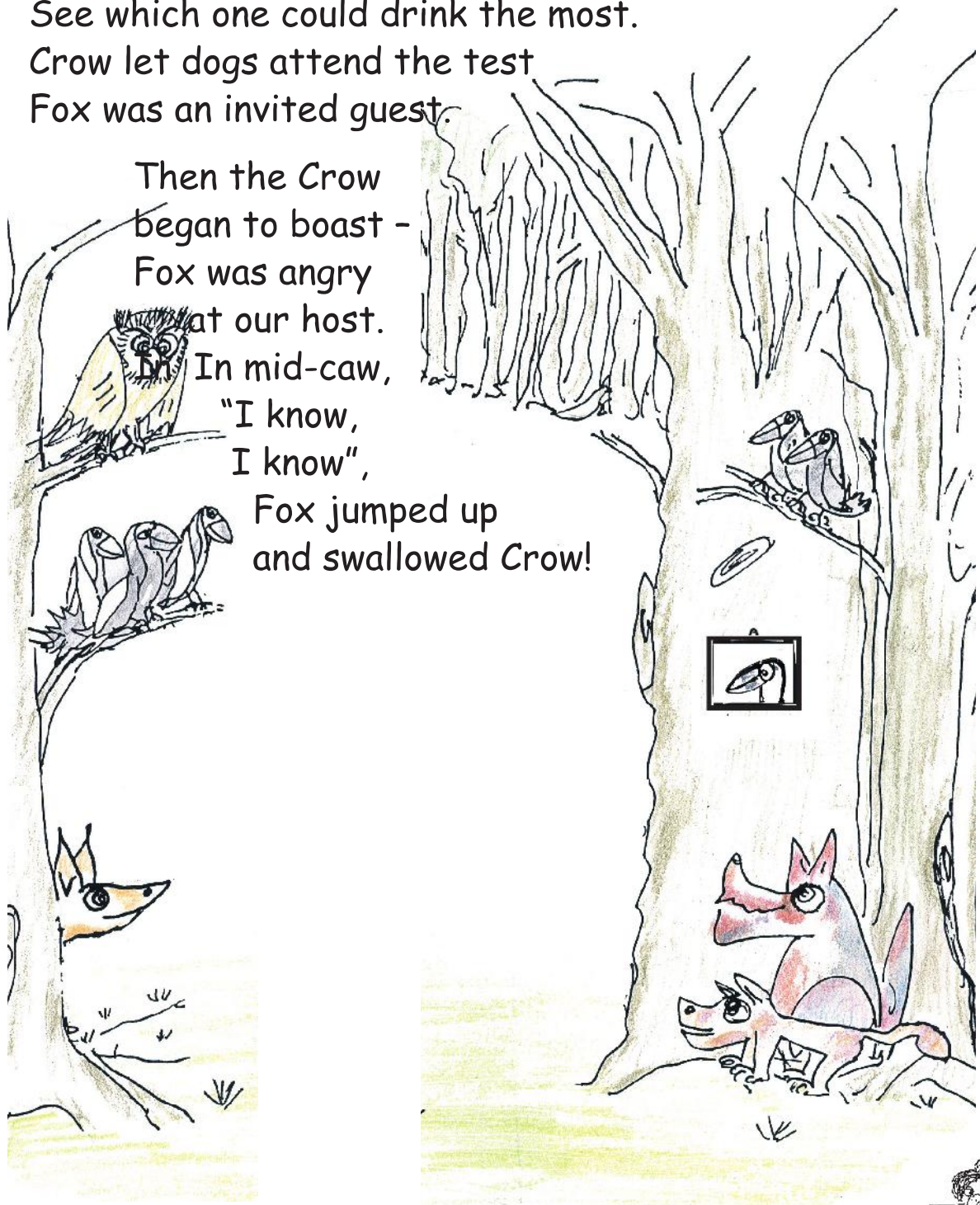
To his friends the Hedgehog hurried -
He was nervous, he was worried.
"If my spines keep up this falling.
I'll be naked and appalling."
Crow flew down and said, "I'll hug you.
Maybe then the loss won't bug you."
Owl, though, showed a lack of tact:
"You are silly - that's a fact.
Stop your worry, Ding-a-ling!
You lose spines with every spring."



Hedgehog asks "Who really knows me?
I am not as they suppose me."
They are hesitant to pet me.
They don't understand or get me.
Even when my spines are shed,
No one hears a word I've said.
I'm an outcast in their mind.
That's a shame when I'm so kind!

Owl spoke of his own volition,
"There was once a competition.
Crow agreed that we would toast -
See which one could drink the most.
Crow let dogs attend the test
Fox was an invited guest.

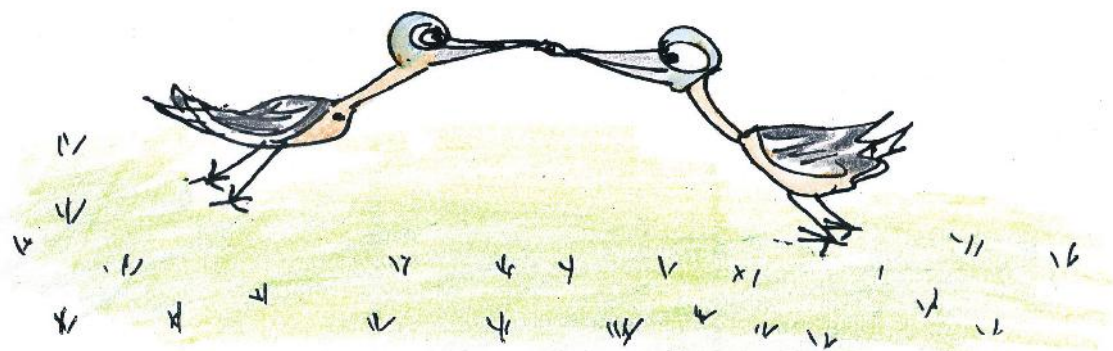
Then the Crow
began to boast -
Fox was angry
at our host.
In mid-caw,
"I know,
I know",
Fox jumped up
and swallowed Crow!





Crows are on a limb (just try it) -
One is noisy, one is quiet.
Loudmouth seems a wicked fellow
While the other one looks mellow.

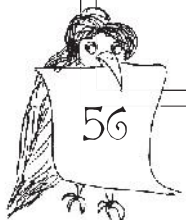
But Old Mellow on his perch
Sitting as one might in church -
He is worse, since he's a fraud -
Acting like he's never cawed.

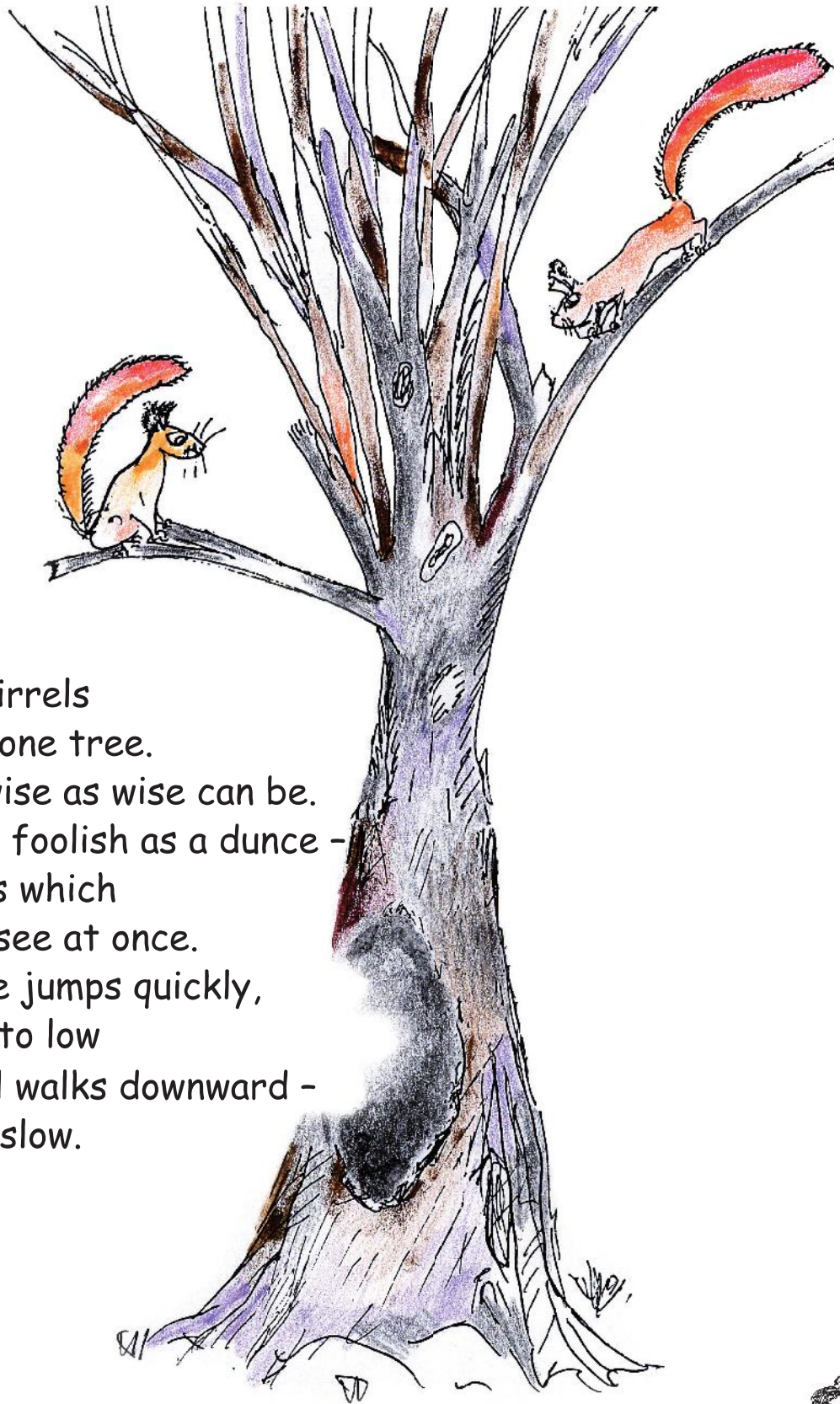


See the furious fighting Finch
Neither one will give an inch!
Younger wins the test of might -
And won't give his bro a bite!
Says the older - "You're no winner.
You're dumb not to share your dinner!"
Young one - "I don't like that term.
I won't share filet of Worm!"

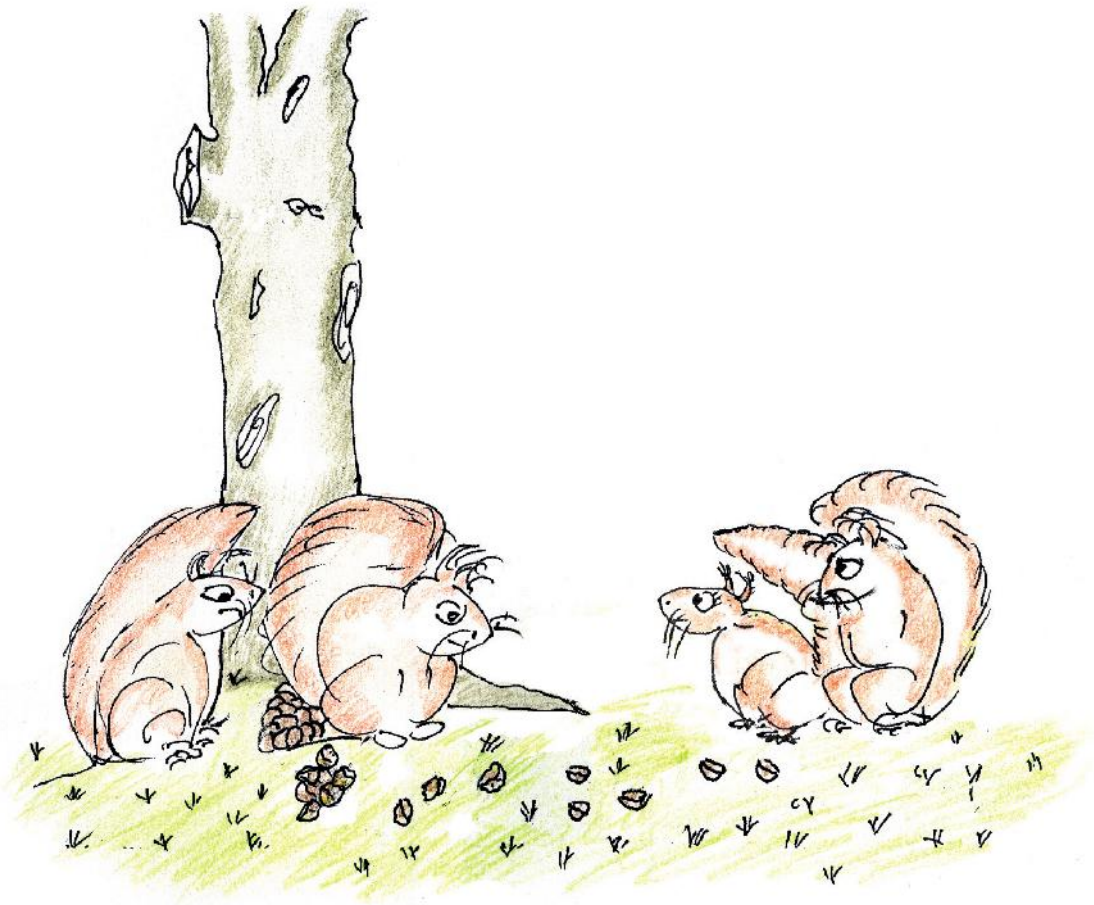


When the Kite has shed its claws,
Quail will trust in nature's laws.

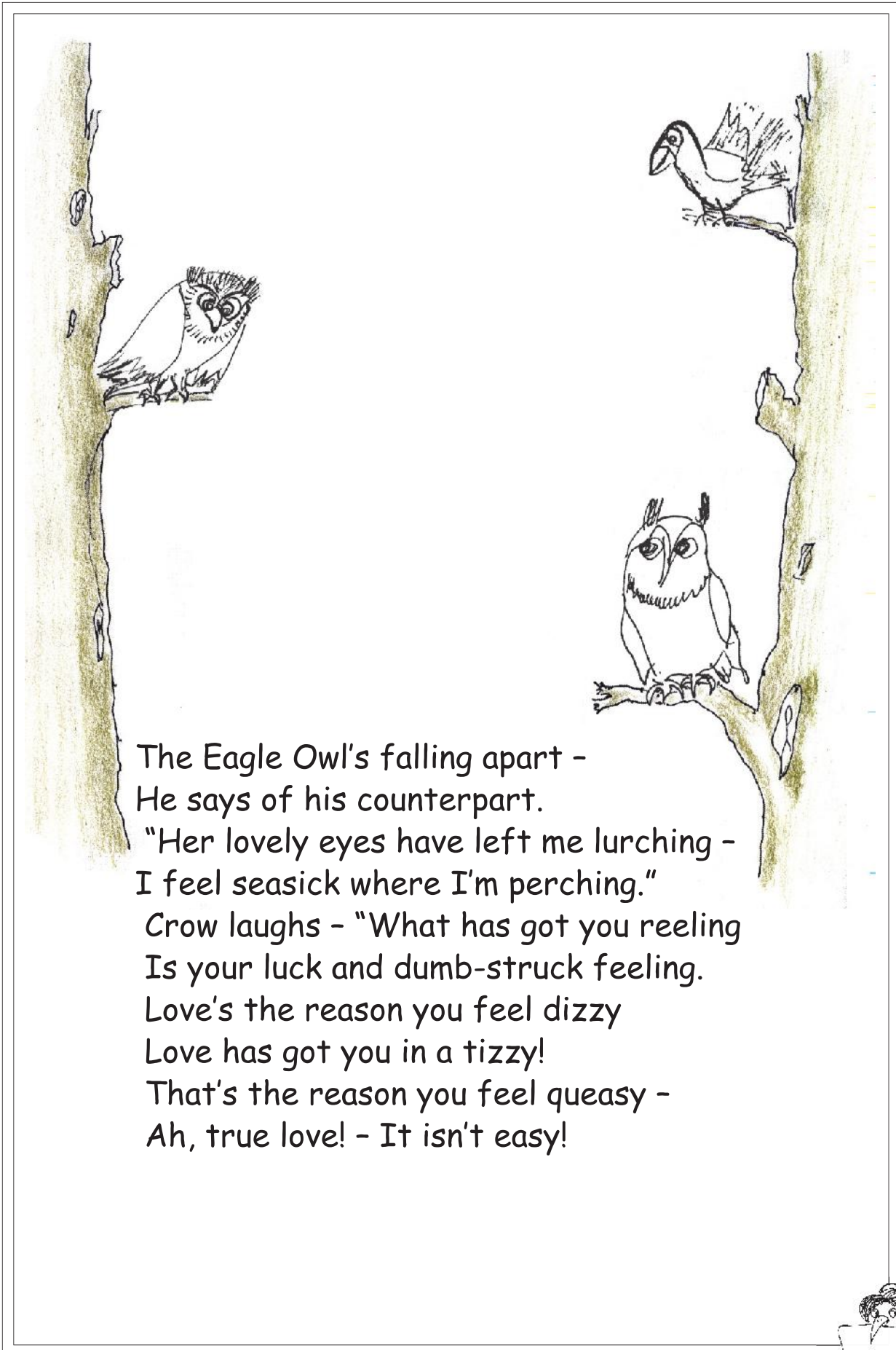




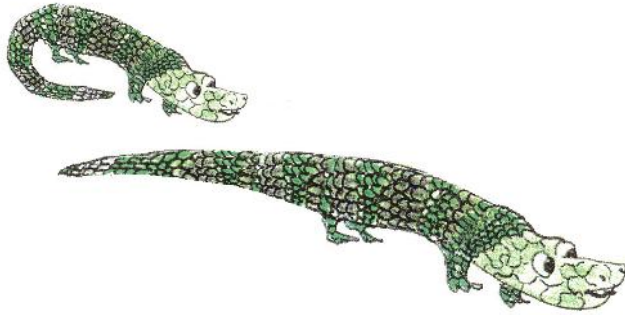
Two squirrels
living in one tree.
One is wise as wise can be.
One's as foolish as a dunce -
Which is which
 you see at once.
The wise jumps quickly,
 high to low
The fool walks downward -
 very slow.



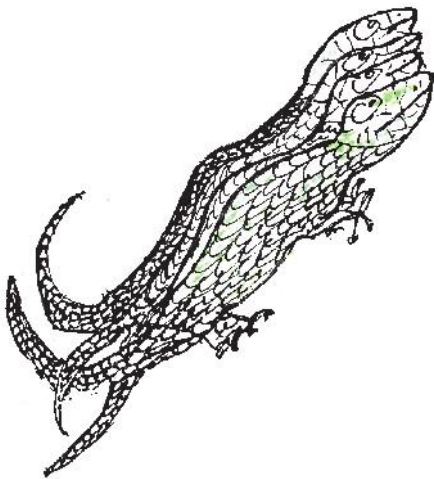
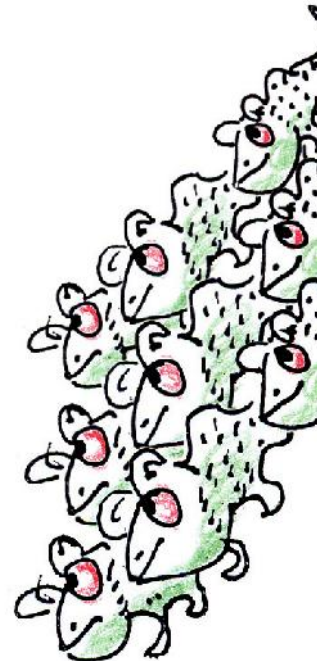
Squirrel cracks nuts without an end -
Half for his girl, half for his friend.
How much time does he have to spend?
Half for his girl, half for his friend.
His wife beseeches, but there's no end.
Squirrel's a cracker all the time -
First a nut, and then a rhyme.



The Eagle Owl's falling apart -
He says of his counterpart.
"Her lovely eyes have left me lurching -
I feel seasick where I'm perching."
Crow laughs - "What has got you reeling
Is your luck and dumb-struck feeling.
Love's the reason you feel dizzy
Love has got you in a tizzy!
That's the reason you feel queasy -
Ah, true love! - It isn't easy!



We are Lizards, brave and cunning -
Our defensive ploy is stunning.
When the enemy starts stalking,
We sit four abreast, not talking -
Our dumb attacker starts to feel
He has got an easy meal.
But the Lizard's stone-still waiting
Is in fact a kind of baiting.
We are famous for our splitting
Nor is it the least unwitting.
This Lizard ploy, it never fails -

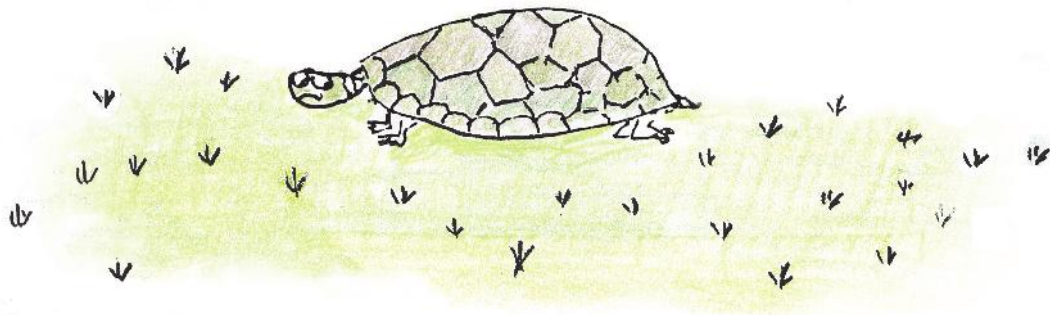


We use our heads, we use our tails!
He attacks - each Lizard laughs -
He just got our lesser halves!





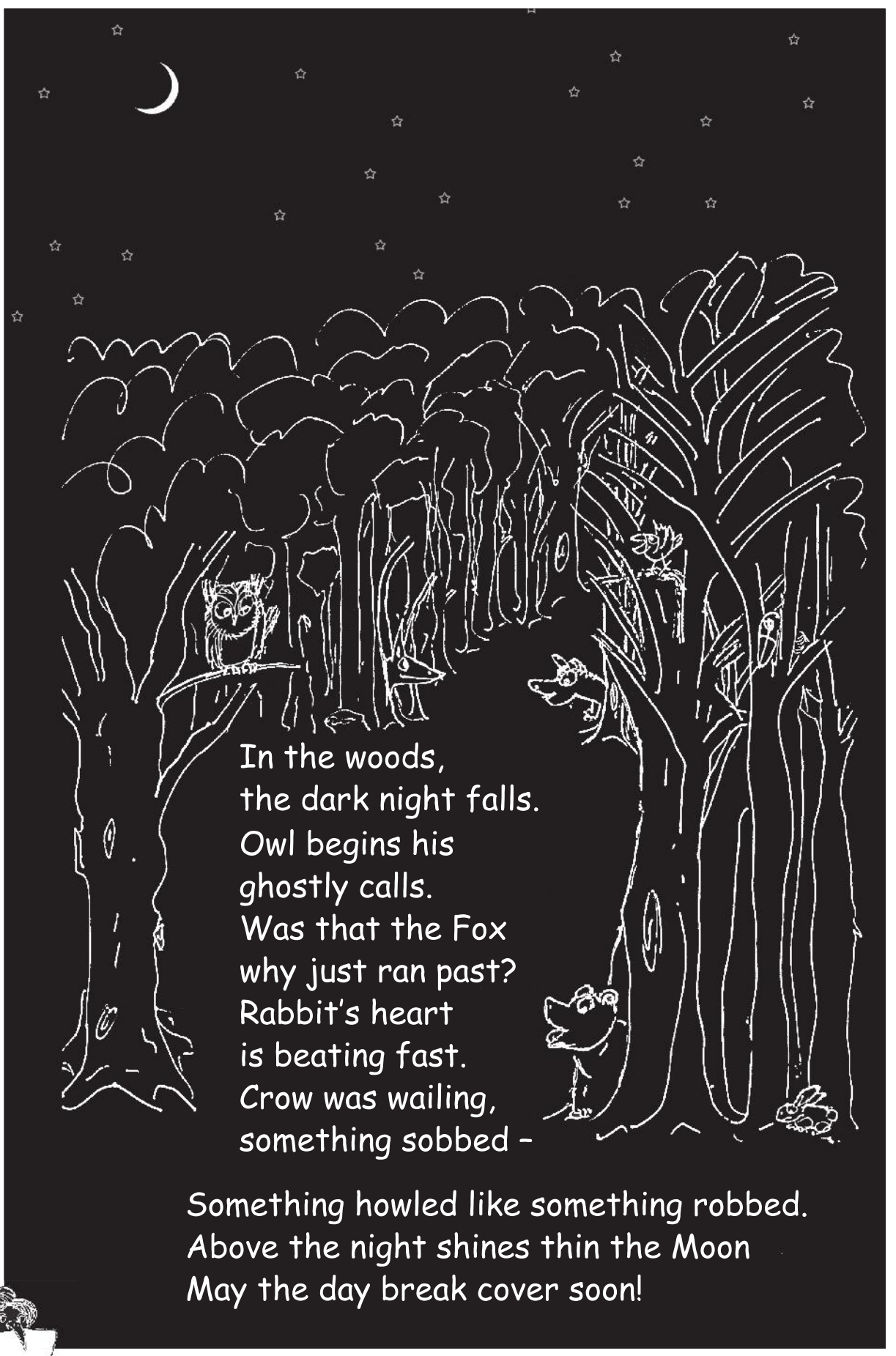
Many times the big Brown Bear
informed his Cub - "You'd best beware.
Stick your nose in hollow tree,
Sorrow comes eventually.
'Live let live' includes the bees -
Even those who live in trees."
But Cub, was curious, not wise -
Now he runs to mom and cries.



Poor Ms. Tortoise fixed up her flat.
And couldn't sleep because of that.
Then thoughts of her prospective groom -
Swept out doubt and banished gloom.

Now, though, she feels even glummer -
In the last dog days of summer.
No groom shows as days go by
Her painted ceiling starts to dry.



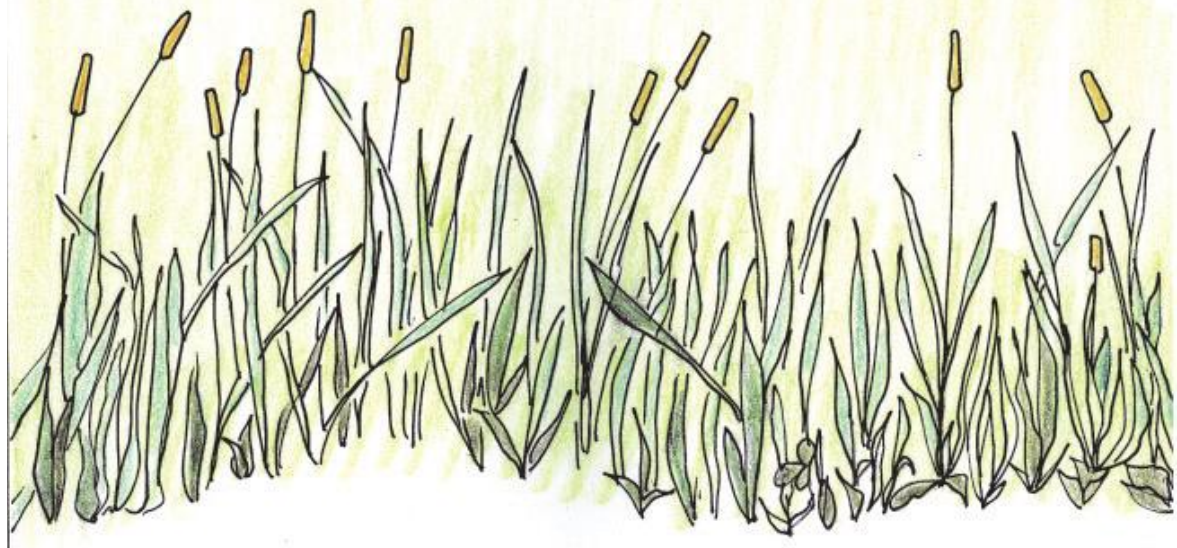


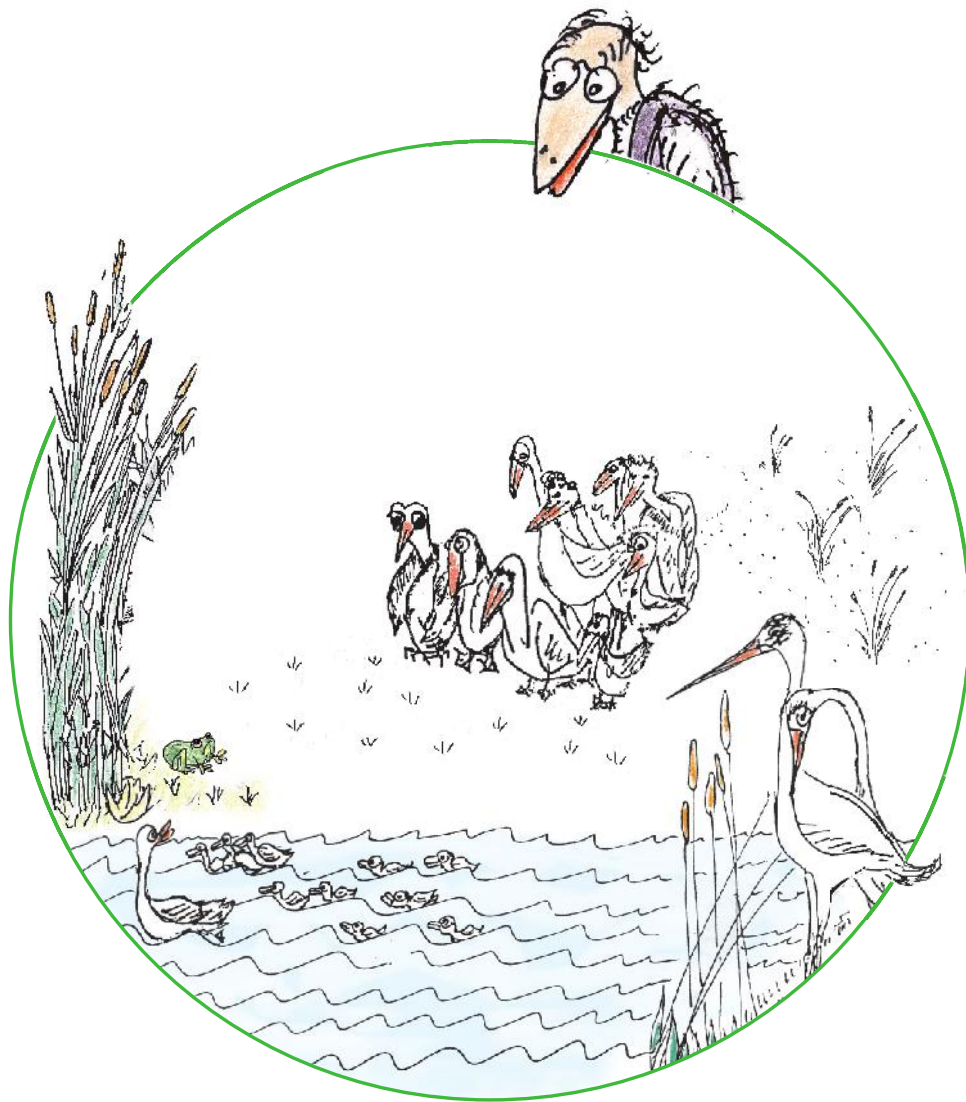
In the woods,
the dark night falls.
Owl begins his
ghostly calls.
Was that the Fox
why just ran past?
Rabbit's heart
is beating fast.
Crow was wailing,
something sobbed -

Something howled like something robbed.
Above the night shines thin the Moon
May the day break cover soon!



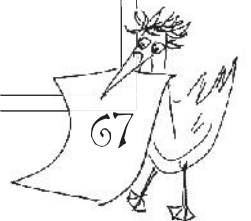
**The Notion of
Ocean Motion**





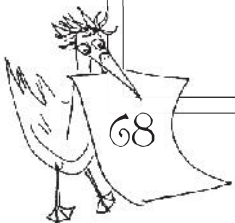


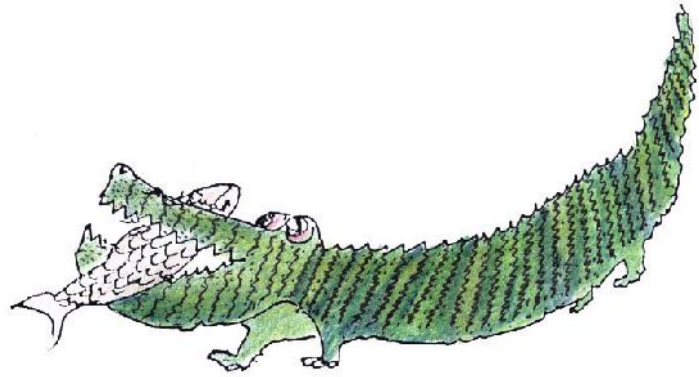
Flamingo says - "Don't go away.
I want Frog legs - s'ils vous plait!"





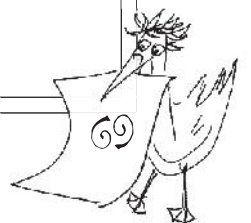
Hippo standing by the water -
"I wish I'd been another daughter.
Thin is in, we all know that -
Yet my parents made me fat!"

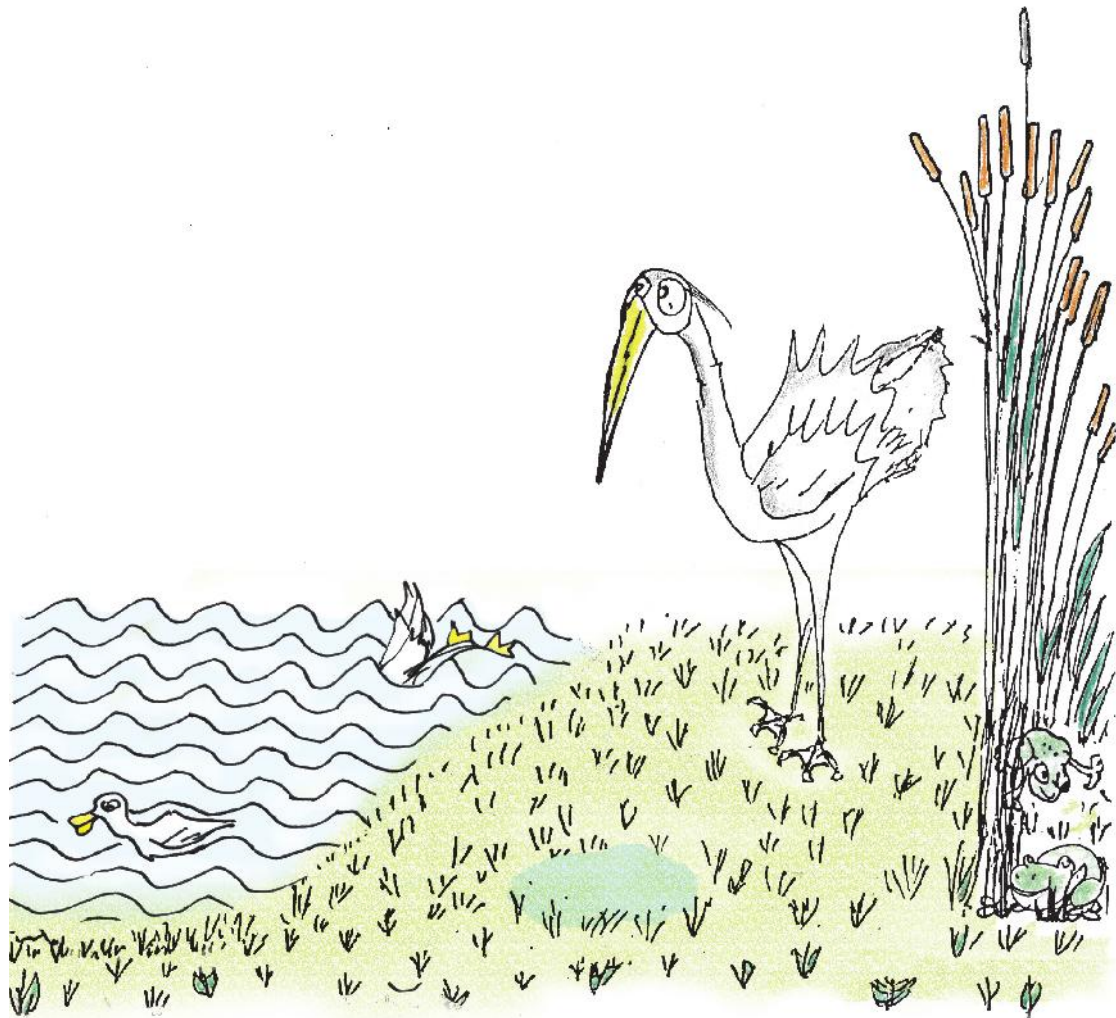




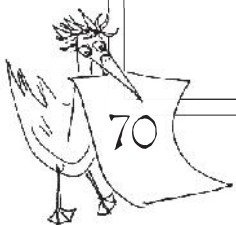
Loved and adored by Crocodile
Pelican can speak with him a while.
Crock, to prove he is a winner
Brings her now a fresh fish dinner.

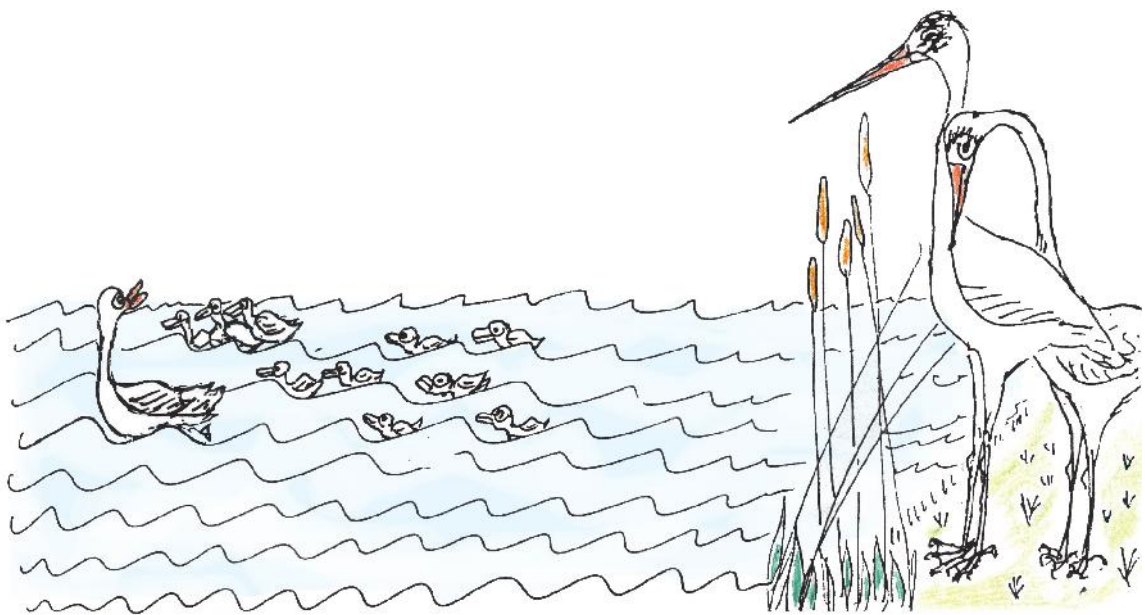
Pelican says - I'm adored by you,
But some call me "big mouth" - yes, they do.
If I were Goose and very tall,
Different suitors then might call."



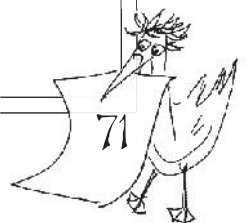


Heron's hunting in the marsh,
But life today is very harsh.
When, alas, no marsh Frogs croak.
Heron's hunger is no joke.





How many goslings? There are nine -
Following Goose in a wavy line.
Were there ten the other day?
Maybe, but it's hard to say.
"Goslings? Well, I tend to batch them.
I lose count after I hatch them."



Duck is staring up - says Crane -
"Your neck's out of joint in vain.
Stretching you had best abort -
You can't get to long from short."

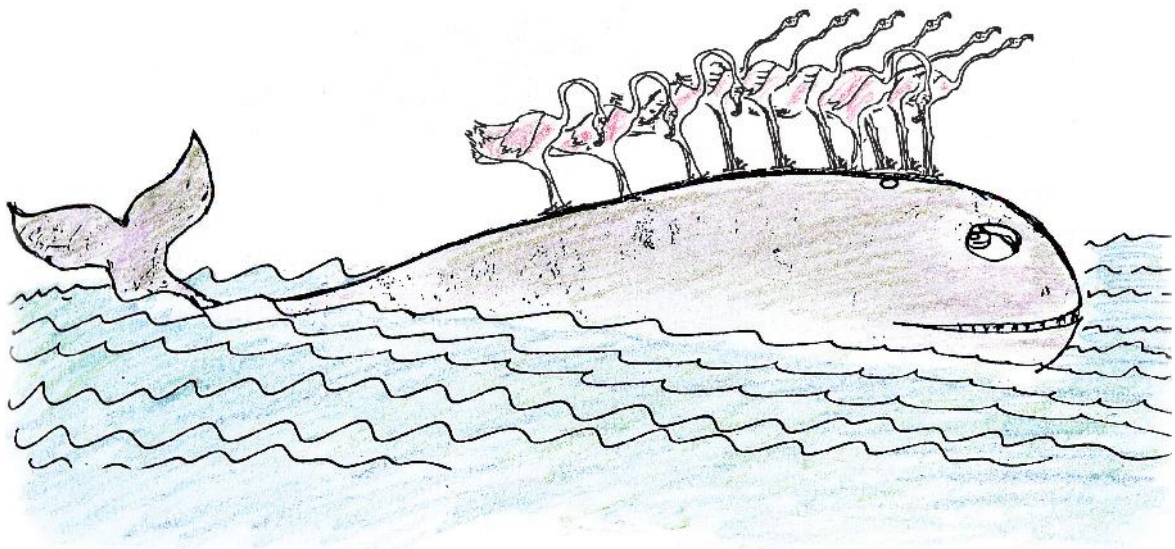


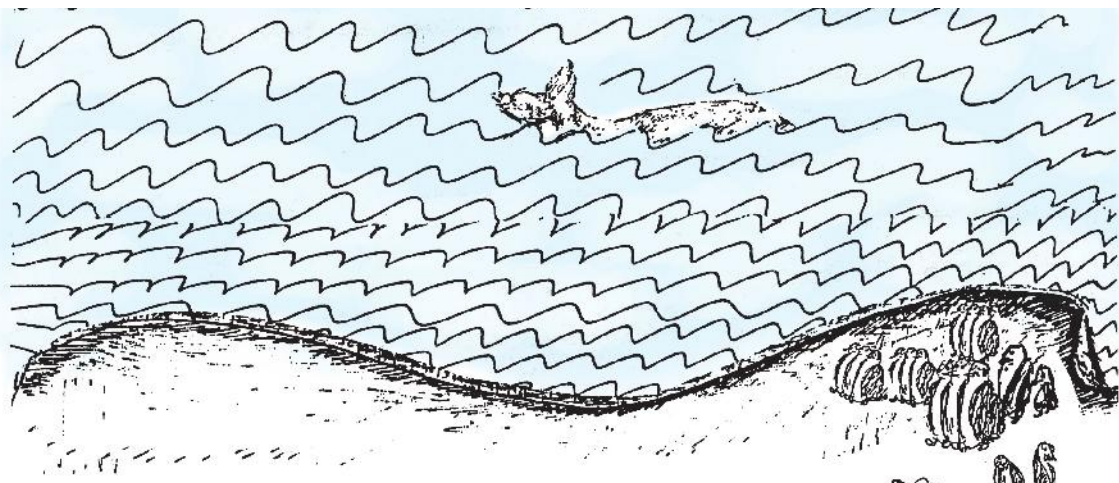


Frogs are known to be quite proud,
When they gather in a crowd.
They conferred with froggish pomp,
And elected "Mrs. Swamp."
Then, to give her marsh renown,
They bestowed on her a crown.
Flamingoes jested at the scene
"How should we address your queen?"



See the slowly moving Whale,
Flamingoes on her, head to tail.
Ten Flamingoes - many hues -
On an oceanic cruise.
"Though it's faster far to fly -
Boats don't fall out of the sky.
We face boredom without rancor
On our own Flamingo tanker."



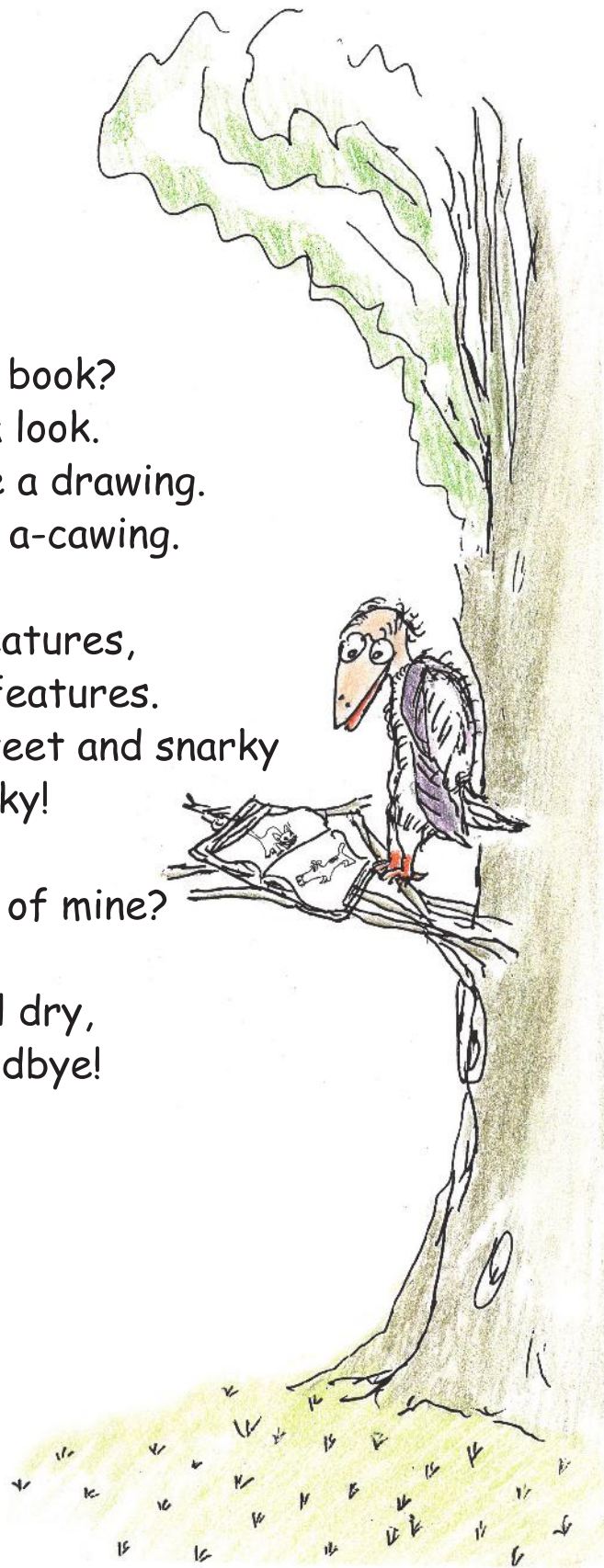


In Bird Market, there's a flurry -
Another mother wracked with worry.
Another nestling disappeared
It's the very thing she feared!
But the Elders understand
Such things happen, and they planned.
When mom finds her darling's locus -
He's the object of their focus.
Mom thinks they're providing strictures.
No, amusing him with pictures!

Don't ask me: What is a book?
Part the covers - take a look.
Here a rhyme and there a drawing.
Snakes a-slither, Crows a-cawing.

Tales of fascinating creatures,
Charming and alarming features.
Grownups, kids, both sweet and snarky
Bray and say - Animalarky!

How'd I write this book of mine?
Willy-nilly, line by line.
Ink like ceiling paint will dry,
Till we meet again - Goodbye!



INDEX

(with commentary*)



Author — 4, 26, 46, 66, 76



Badger — (hiding in the forest, so not seen in the book) — **47**



Basset hound — (a kind of dog rarely found here) — **24**



Bear — (hidden in the woods, sleeping) — **47, 62**



Bear cub — **62**



Beetle — **6**



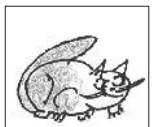
Black Kite — **56**



Buddha — on Sanskrit language "enlightened". The founder of Buddhism — Siddhartha Gautama (623-544 B.C.) — **8**



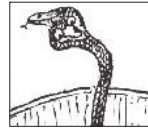
Camel — 26, **43**



Cat — 4, **15, 17, 18**



Chimpanzee — our distant cousin, according to Darwin — **34, 36**



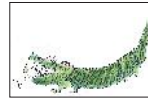
Cobra — **35**



Cow — **30**



Crane — 66, 71, **72**



Crocodile — **69**



Crow — 46, **51, 53, 54, 59, 64**



Dog — 4, **10, 11, 13, 23**



Donkey — **14**



Duck — 10, **72**

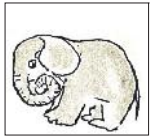


Eagle — **38, 40**

* Bold indicates characters mentioned in the text, while those in illustrations are given in normal type.



Eagle owl — 59



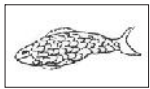
Elephant — 27



Funny — (the author's lovely fox terrier, on the cover)



Finch — (brothers) — 46, 55



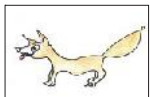
Fish — 69



Flamingo — 67, 74



Fly — 8



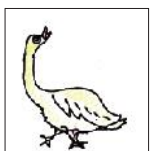
Fox — 47, 53, 64



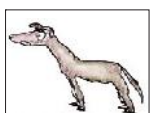
Frog — 66, 67, 70, 73



Giraffe — 26, 28



Goose — 12, 66, 71



Greyhound — 9



Gosling — 66, 71



Hamlet — the hero of William Shakespeare's (1564 — 1616) famous play — 38



Hamster — 28



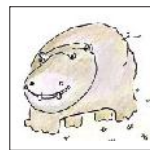
Hedgehog — 46, 48, 51, 52



Hen — (one of the Zoo hens, had been eaten) — 42



Hedgehog — 46, 48, 51, 52



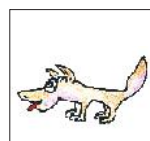
Hippo — 39, 68



Hog — 20, 37



Horse — 37



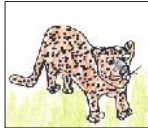
Jackal — 19, 26, 32, 42, 43, 50



Kangaroo — 41



Lamb — 12



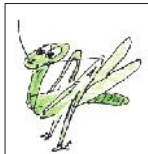
Leopard — 26, 30, 31



Lion — 50



Lizard — 60, 61



Locust — named Costa Bravo — 7



Macaque — 26, 33, 34, 35



Max — the author's non-fox terrier — 23



Mole — 28



Mouse — 15, 16, 17, 48



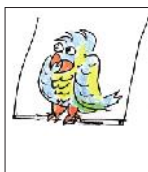
Nestling — 75

Neurosis

— Happens to people and also to animals if somebody or something makes them nervous systematically — 43



Owl — 40, 46, 51, 53



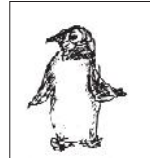
Parrot Poll— scolds creatures in five languages — 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41



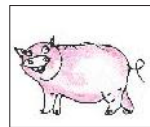
Pascualina — member of the author's family, a kind and shy dog — 4, 23



Pelican — 69



Penguin — 44



Pig — 13, 19, 20, 37



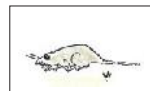
Piglet — 4, 13, 19



Quail — 4, 12, 21, 56



Rabbit — 9, 46, 48, 64



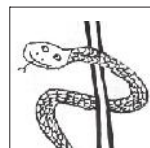
Rat — 16, 22, 39



Rooster — 4, 21, 22



Seagull — 4, 21



Snake — 40, 49



Spider — Flies are afraid of Spider, which is understandable. But it is not clear why people are scared of them. There's even a sickness called arachnophobia) — 8



Squirrel — 26, **43**, 46, **57**, **58**



Whale — **74**



Tapir — As for Tapir, zoologists don't agree with the Jackal arguing that Tapir looks more like a cow — **32**



Worm — **5**, **7**



Tortoise — (she finally got married) — **39**, **40**, **63**



Zebra — (tends to see things in black and white) — **37**, **40**



Turkey — **11**, **33**

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