

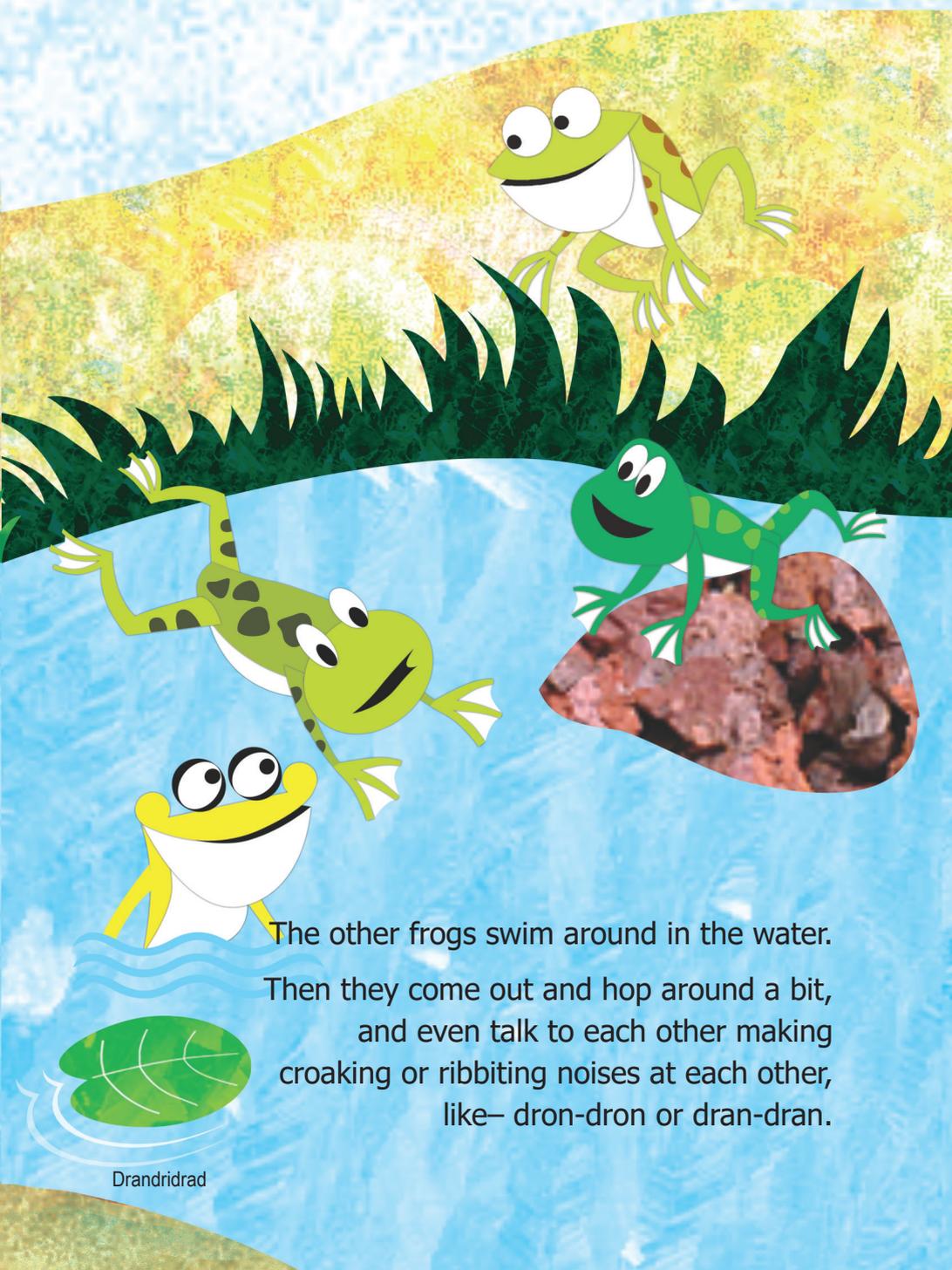
Drandridrad



There was once a frog
named Drandridrad.

He loved sitting on a large stone
by the riverbank.

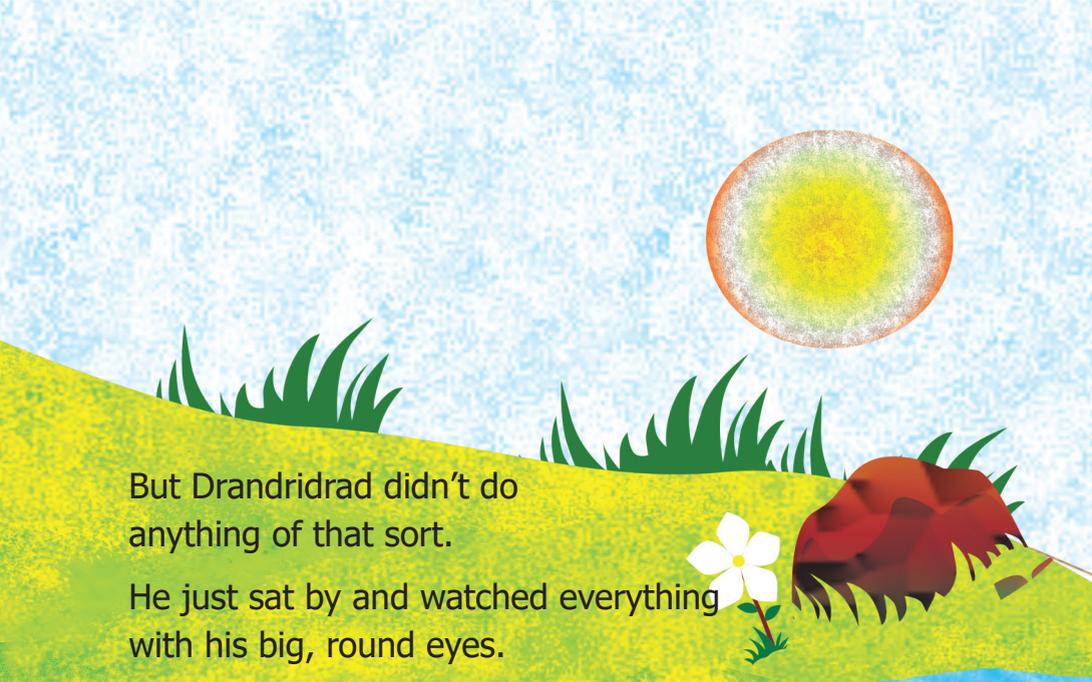




The other frogs swim around in the water. Then they come out and hop around a bit, and even talk to each other making croaking or ribbiting noises at each other, like— dron-dron or dran-dran.

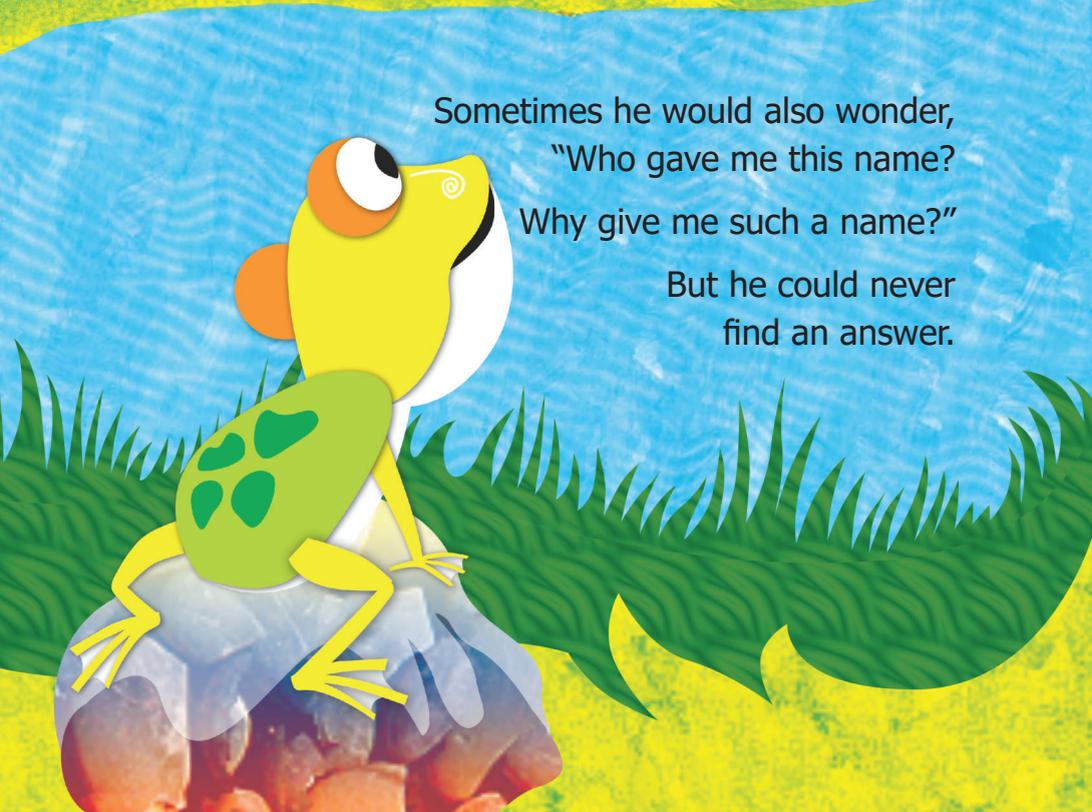


Sometimes,
they stick their
long tongues out and
catch an insect.



But Drandridrad didn't do anything of that sort.

He just sat by and watched everything with his big, round eyes.

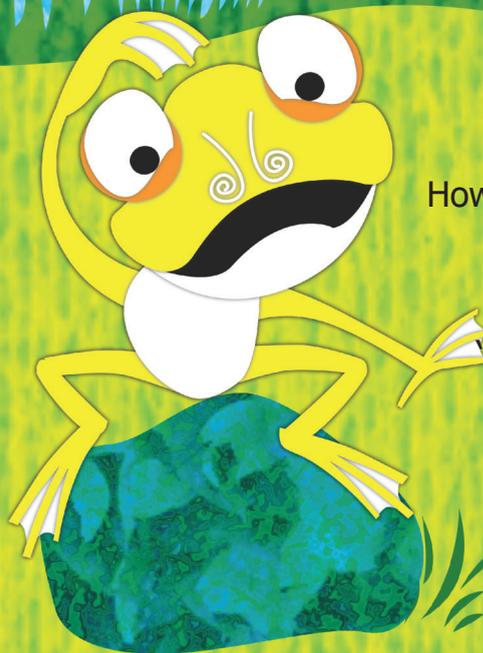


Sometimes he would also wonder,
"Who gave me this name?
Why give me such a name?"

But he could never find an answer.

Drandridrad

One day, he was sitting on his rock, as usual.
His wet skin glistened in the sunlight.
And then, suddenly it happened!
He forgot his own name!
He tried very hard to remember.
But he just couldn't recall his name.



He became really scared.

How was he going to manage
without a name?

At times he would think,
Could my name be Drum?

No. not at all.

Or maybe it's Drill?

No. Doesn't sound like it.

Is it Drake?

No. Still doesn't feel right.'

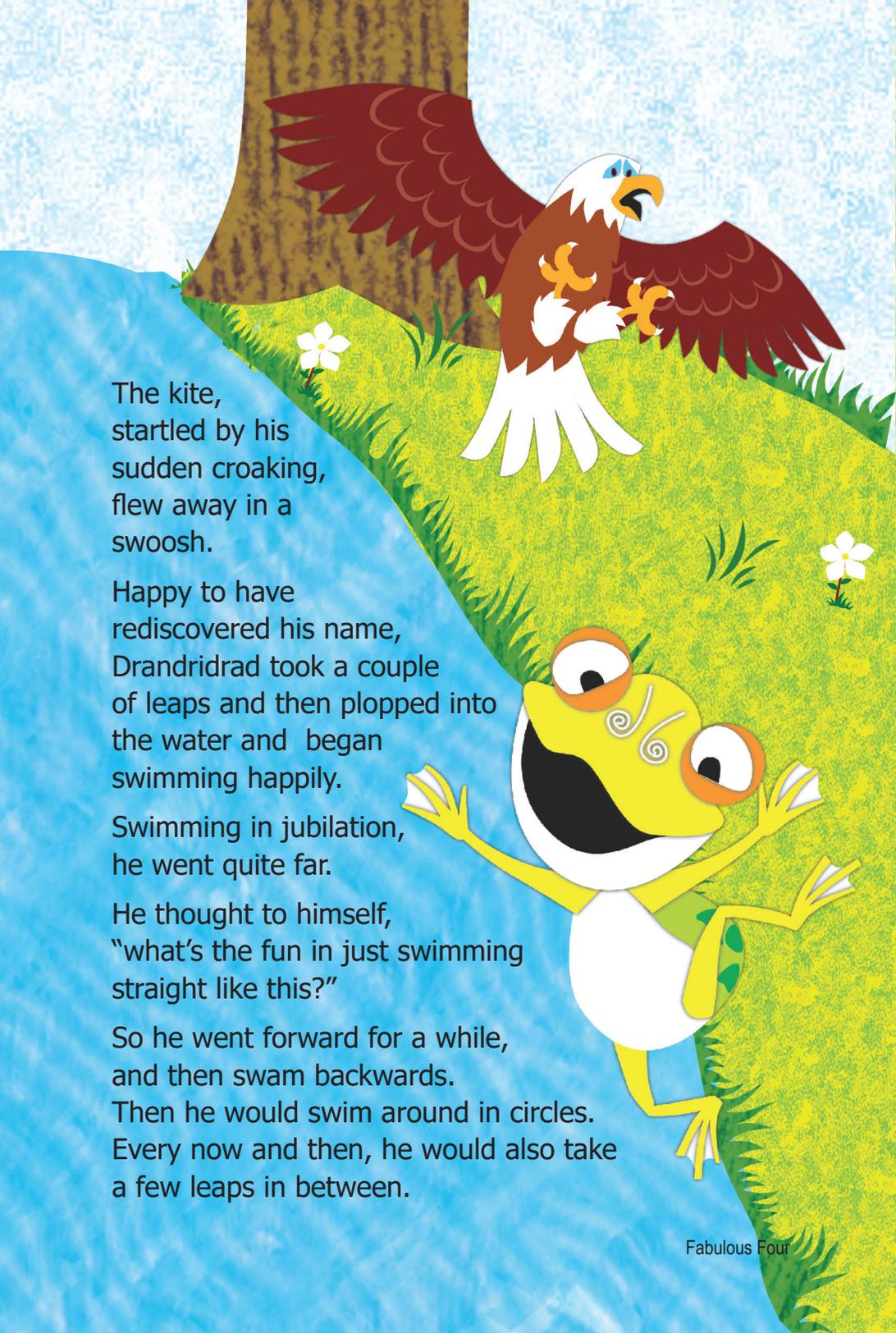


The poor fellow sat all alone,
lost in such thoughts,
when suddenly, a kite circling in the sky
above spotted him.

It thought, "What a nice, fat frog!
Let me catch him and eat him!"

It swooped down right at him.
And just as its beak was about to grab him,
Drandridrad suddenly remembered his name!

Overjoyed, he shouted loudly,
"Drandridrad! Drandridrad!"



The kite,
startled by his
sudden croaking,
flew away in a
swoosh.

Happy to have
rediscovered his name,
Drandridrad took a couple
of leaps and then plopped into
the water and began
swimming happily.

Swimming in jubilation,
he went quite far.

He thought to himself,
“what’s the fun in just swimming
straight like this?”

So he went forward for a while,
and then swam backwards.
Then he would swim around in circles.
Every now and then, he would also take
a few leaps in between.

Just then,
he heard someone laughing.
He saw some white flowers
growing on the shore.

A little frog was sitting
amidst them.

She was watching
Drandridrad's antics and laughing.

Drandridrad swam up to her
and asked, "Why are you laughing?"

She leaped a a few steps away
and laughed again.



Drandridrad asked,
"What's your name?"

"Drindrila!", she replied.

"Huh! What kind of name
is that?" Drandridrad asked.

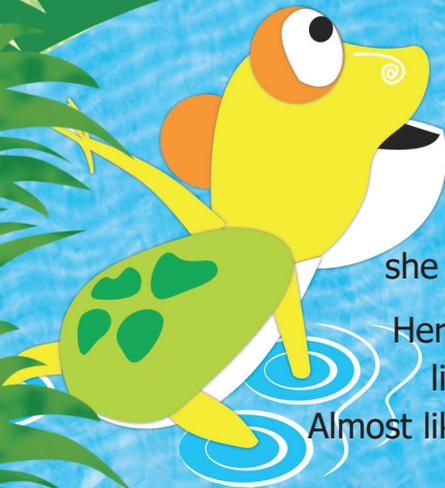
"Just the kind of name it is,"
she said a little louder, "Drindrila!"

Her cheeks inflated on either side
like peacock coloured balloons.

Almost like round, shiny, soap bubbles!

Drandridrad just stared.

He had never seen anything like that before.



He asked,
"Will you teach me how to do that?"

"Do what?" she asked.

"How to inflate balloons like that."

"Well, I don't inflate them. It happens on its own,"
said Drindrila, laughing loudly, which made the
blue bubbles appear again before disappearing.

"I really like this", Drandrirdrad said.

"Then come with me,"
said Drindrila and jumped into the water.

Drandrirdrad also started swimming beside her.

He was once more swimming straight.

"I want to see this.
I want to see it every day,"
he said out loud.

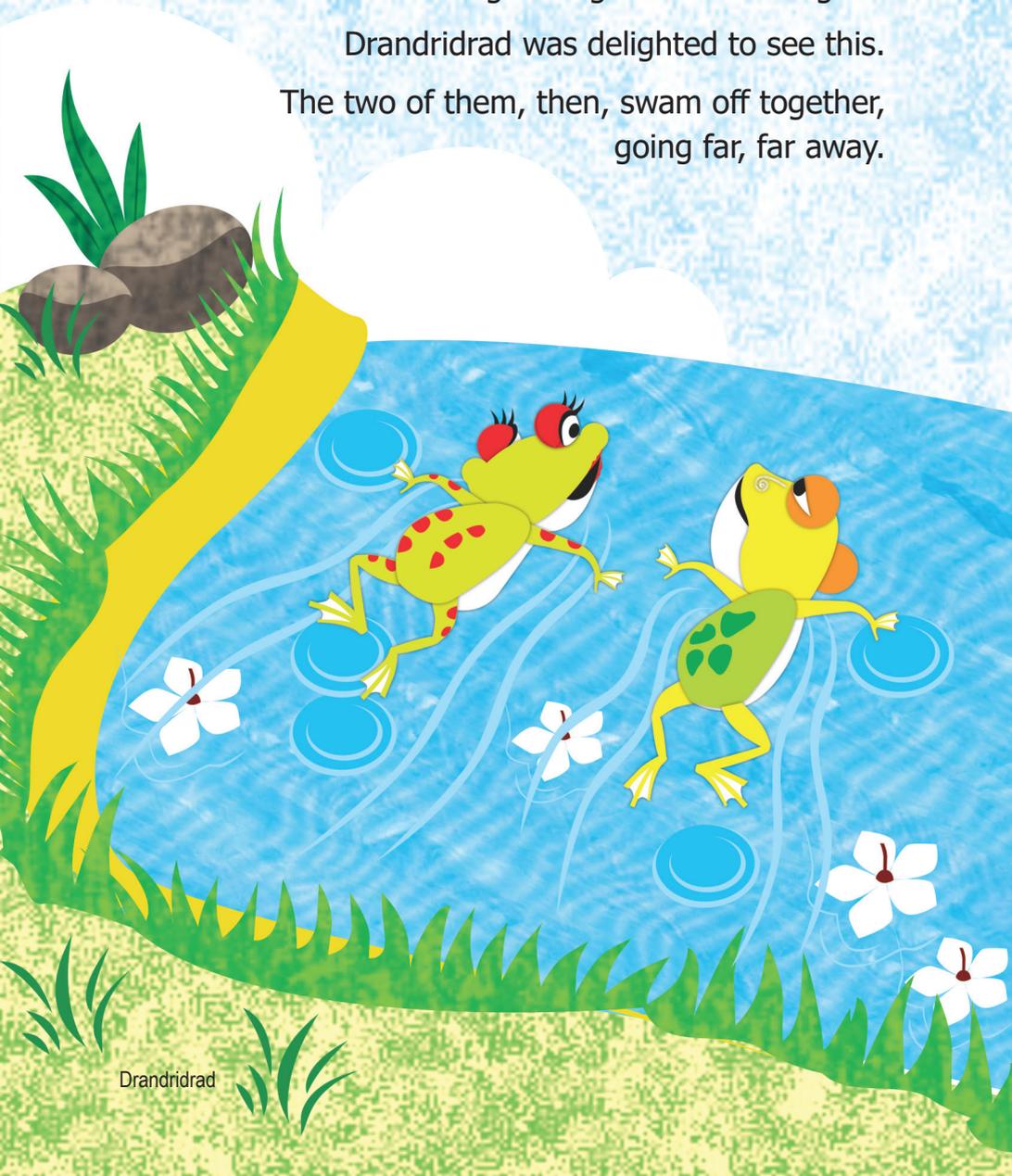


“What’s your name?”, Drindrila asked.

“Drandridrad!” he croaked.

Drindrila laughed heartily,
with balloons swelling through her cheeks again.

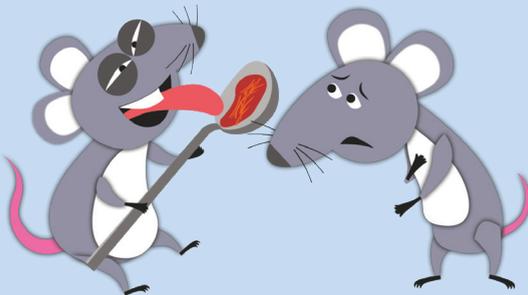
Drandridrad was delighted to see this.
The two of them, then, swam off together,
going far, far away.



In a secret hole nestled deep within a kitchen, lived two little friends named Kaku and Maku.

Kaku was a whiskery mouse, always eager for a crumb, but Maku was truly something special. He possessed a glorious tail—it was thick and long. Poor Kaku would watch it swish and sway, sighing a tiny mouse sigh, wishing more than anything that his own thin, ordinary tail could be just as splendid.

Naughty Maku knew exactly how much Kaku longed for a long and thick tail, and he decided to use that wish to his advantage. Maku began setting Kaku all sorts of impossible chores, promising that each task was the secret to tail growth. But if Maku thought he could trick Kaku forever, he was wrong! Soon, Maku's own selfishness was about to get him wrapped up in a tangle that would cost him his very own, magnificent tail.



*Kaku Maku
and
a tale of tail*



There was a house.
In it was a kitchen.
And in the corner of the kitchen was a hole.
Two mice lived in that hole.



One was named Kaku,
and the other was named Maku.
Maku's tail was very thick and long.
Because of this, he used to taunt poor Kaku a lot.
Kaku used to wish every day –
How nice would it be
if my tail was also thick and long!

One day he asked Maku,
'Maku! How did your tail get so big?'

Maku laughed heartily and said,
'I'll tell you if you get me a laddu.'

Poor Kaku sneaked onto the table and
stole the laddu from the Baby's plate.

Handing it over to Maku, he then asked,
'Maku! Now tell me. How did your tail get so big?'

Taking a large bite from laddu, Maku said,
'You see that dining table? My tail has grown because
I climb up and down that table ten times a day.
Do that, and your tail will also grow like mine.'



Kaku Maku

Kaku began climbing up and down the table exactly ten times every day.

Yet, his tail didn't grow any bigger. He asked Maku, 'Tell me the truth. How did your tail grow so big?'

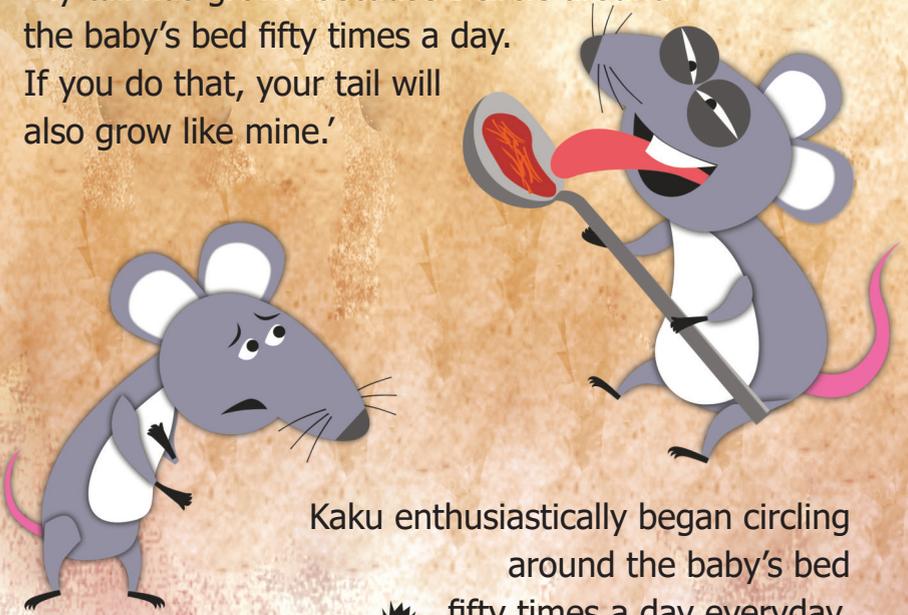


Maku, wagging his thick tail, said, 'Go and get me some marmalade. Then I'll tell you.'

Poor Kaku climbed onto the shelf and stole some marmalade from the glass jar.

'Maku! Now tell me, how did your tail get so big?' he asked.

Licking the marmalade off his whiskers,
Maku said with a smile,
'My tail has grown because I circle around
the baby's bed fifty times a day.
If you do that, your tail will
also grow like mine.'



Kaku enthusiastically began circling
around the baby's bed
fifty times a day everyday.



Even when the baby spotted Kaku and began screaming, Kaku didn't get scared.

He kept running.

He really wanted to make his tail grow!

But the tail didn't grow at all.

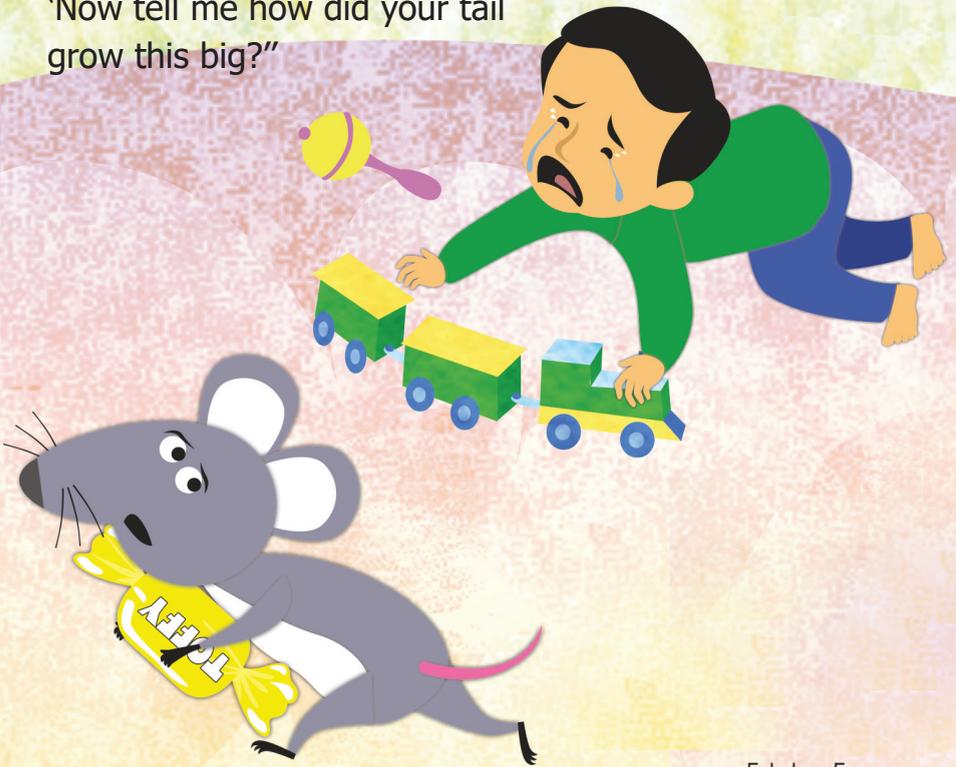
Poor Kaku started to cry. Once more he asked Maku, 'Tell me the truth, how did your tail grow this big?'

But Maku was a master of lies.

He said, 'Go, bring me the chocolate from the Baby's pocket. Then I'll tell you.'

And so, once more Kaku did what Maku asked.

And as gave Maku the chocolate, he timidly asked, 'Now tell me how did your tail grow this big?'



'It's not that big a deal' The fat Maku said, sniffing the chocolate.

'The secret is in the rat trap. When they set the rat-trap at night, place your tail in it. Then see what happens.'

'Really?' the naive Kaku asked.

'Of course. Look, how nice my tail is! How long it is! How thick! If you want to have a tail like mine, you must get up at night when everyone is asleep, and put your tail inside the mouse trap. Then see what happens!'



Kaku Maku

'Oh and I forgot to tell you!
Once your tail gets caught in the trap,
you have to run as hard as you can.'

'But Maku, I don't have that much strength.'

'It's not that hard! If you lift your right leg first,
you can pull as much weight as you want.'

'Huh?' Maku asked angrily.

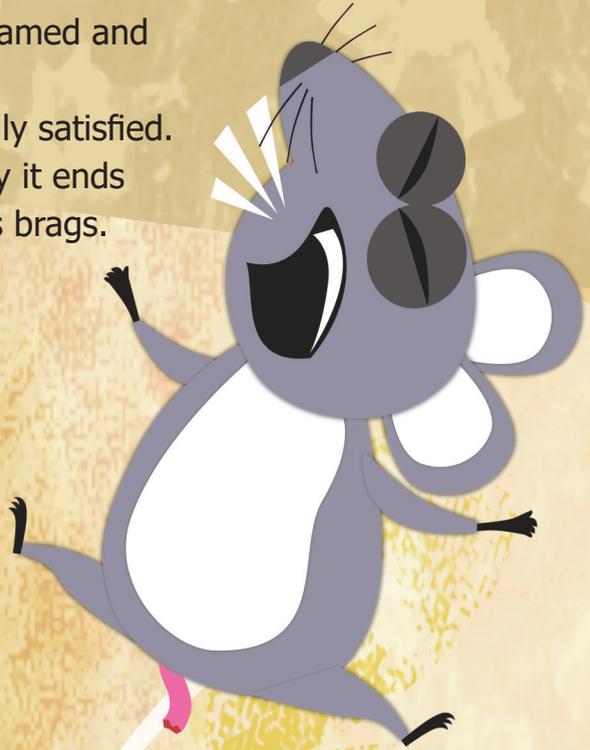
'Yes, really! I'll show you how to do it tonight,'
Maku said.



Later that night,
Maku discreetly came out,
as quiet as a thief,
while Kaku sat and watched smiling.

Twang! The trap fell.
And Crack! Maku's tail snapped.

Maku became ashamed and
ran into the hole.
But Kaku was finally satisfied.
And this is the way it ends
for the one always brags.
Understand?



Now Kaku struts around
waving his little tail,
while his big brother Maku,
hides out of shame!

Because as we all know,
every mouse likes to have its tail
as long and thick as possible.



And other mice also respect
a mouse with a big tail.

So who will respect the tailless Maku?

Now Maku only comes out
at night, eats whatever
food he finds and quietly returns
to his burrow.

Poor Maku!

