

Snap's Pond

Once upon a time there lived a crocodile named Snap. He was green and scaly, and had a long snout and lots of pointy, jagged teeth.

He swam just below the surface of his pond, so that his big, beady eyes poked out of the water. He would watch the whole pond as he swam around.

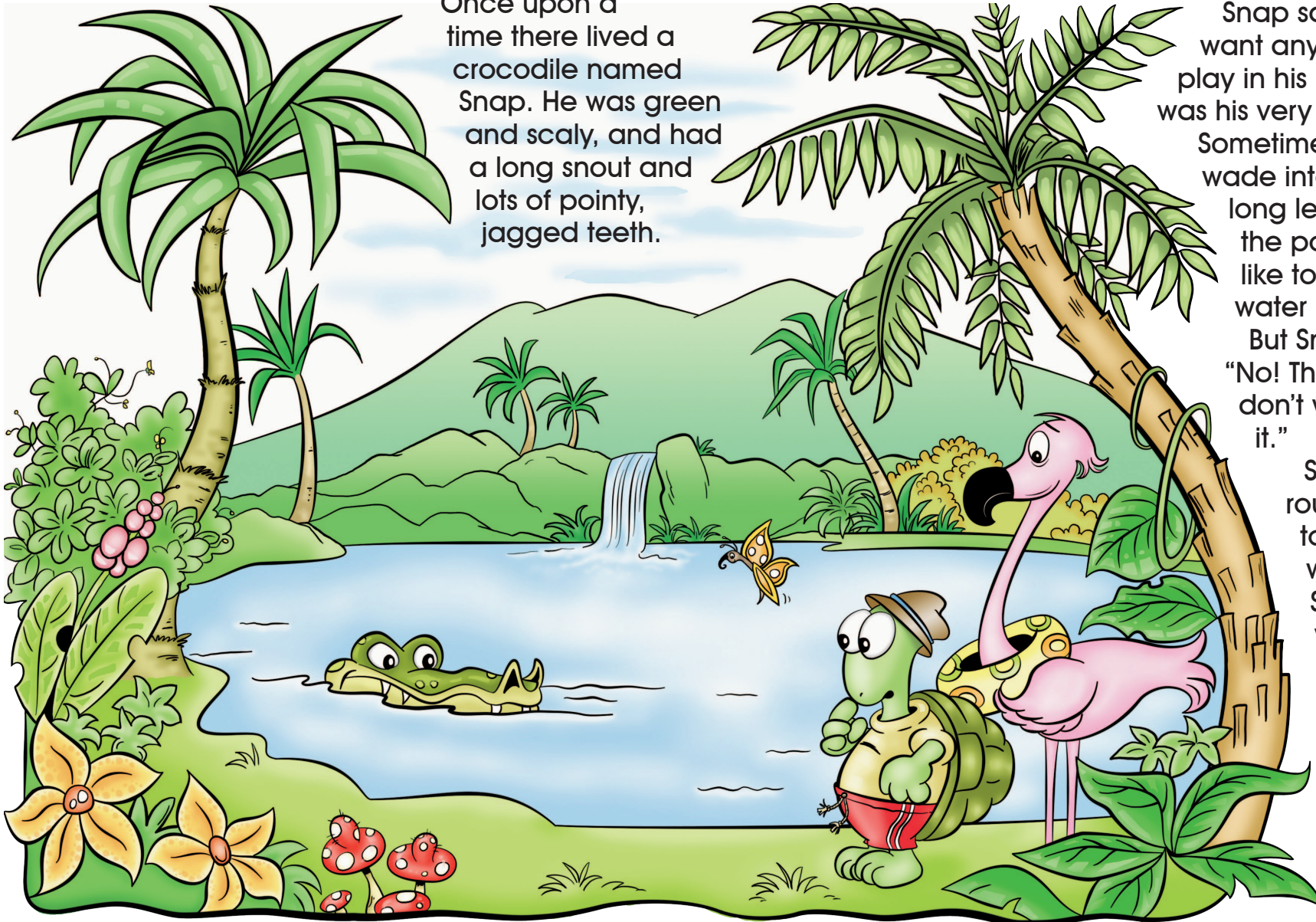
"This pond is my home," Snap said to himself. He didn't want anyone else coming to play in his pond. He thought it was his very own.

Sometimes the flamingos would wade into the water on their long legs. "Can we come into the pond for a while? We'd like to play and drink some water here."

But Snap would go "snap"! "No! This is my pond, and I don't want any flamingos in it."

Sometimes the big, round, hard-shelled tortoises would come waddling up. "Hey, Snap! Do you mind if we go sit in the corner of the pond, where the shallow water is?"

Snap snapped again, "No, I don't want you cluttering up my pond! This is my special pond and only I can stay in it."



It wasn't long before Snap began feeling lonely because nobody came around the pond anymore. Snap would just swim by himself to one end of the pond, and then he would swim back. He had worked so hard at protecting his pond, but now he was very lonely.

One day, he thought, *I'm going to explore the area and see what else is around.*

He waddled across the turf. Soon he arrived at another pond. The pond was pretty small and the water was very murky, but it was full of animals!

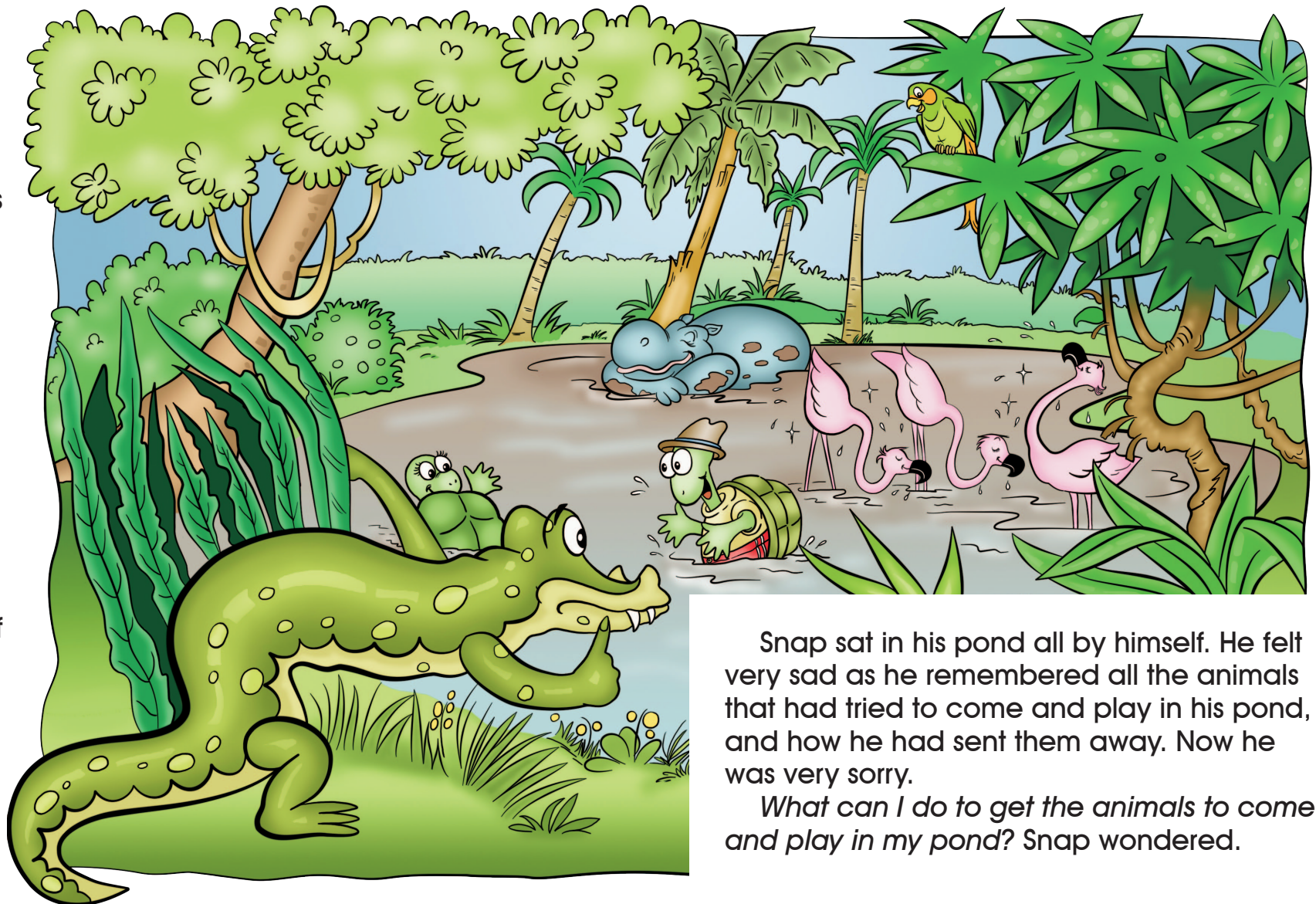
They were having so much fun. A great, round, chubby hippopotamus was rolling over and over in the mud. A couple

of tortoises were playing tag, chasing each other up and down the side of the pond. A bunch of tall, beautiful

pink flamingos were standing and splashing in the water. Snap hid himself in a bush just outside the pond and watched

everybody playing. They seemed to be having such a good time. Snap was afraid they might see him and send him away,

like he had sent them away, so he soon crawled out of his bush and went scurrying back to his own pond.

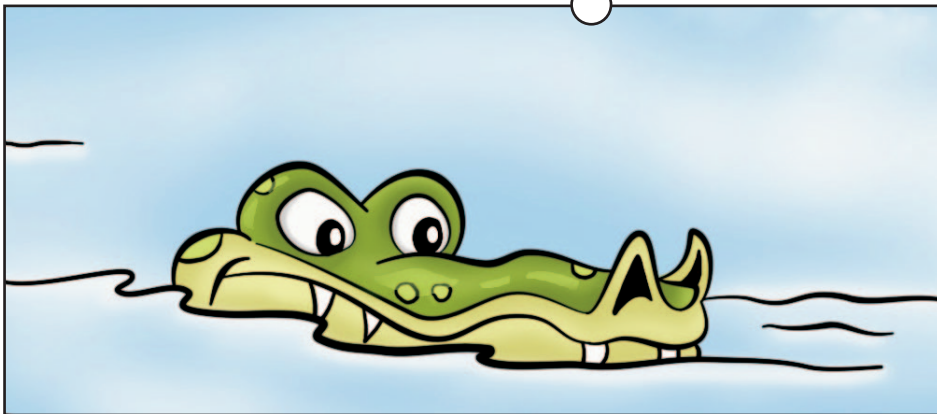
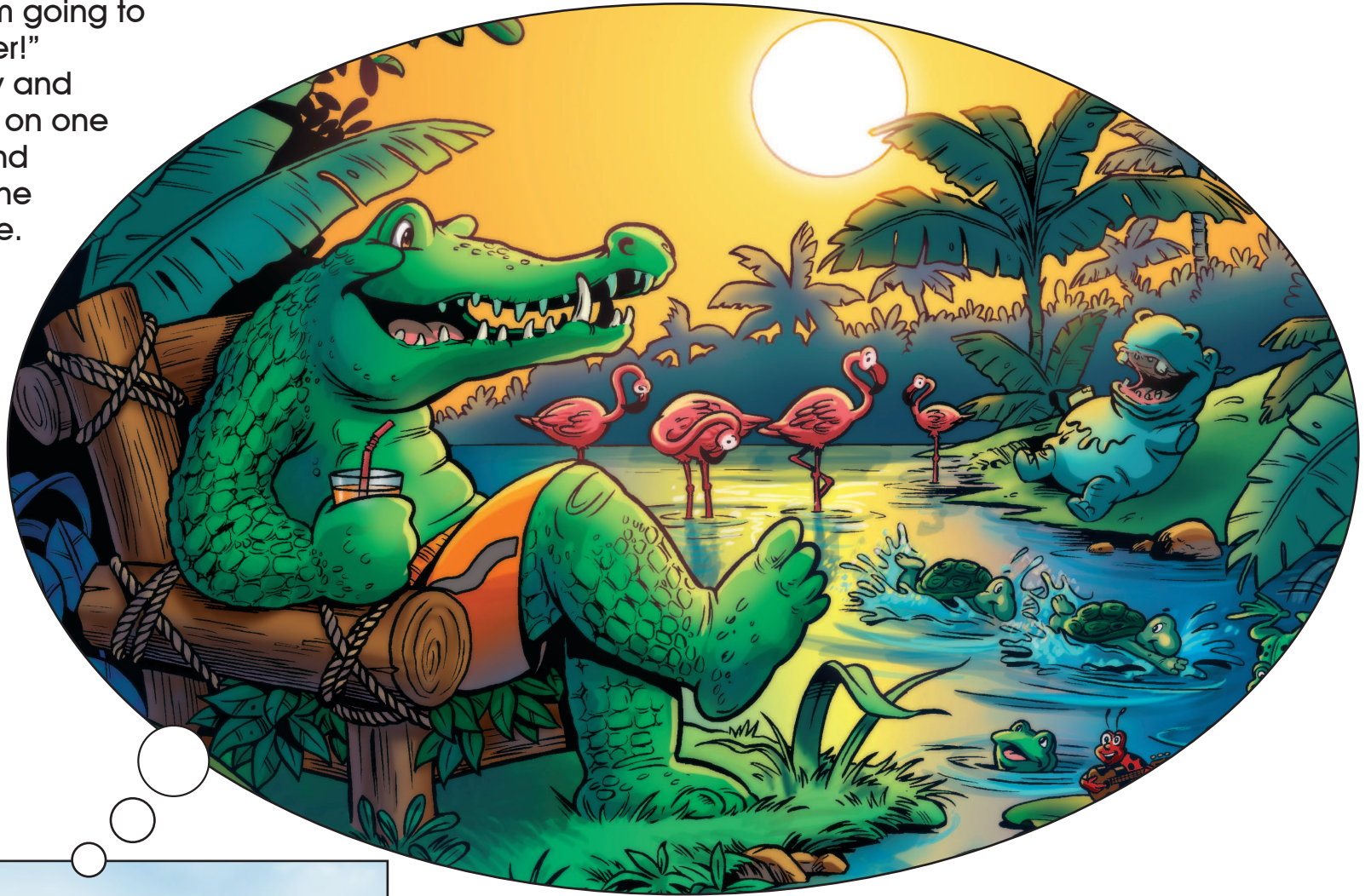


Snap sat in his pond all by himself. He felt very sad as he remembered all the animals that had tried to come and play in his pond, and how he had sent them away. Now he was very sorry.

What can I do to get the animals to come and play in my pond? Snap wondered.

Then he had an idea. "I'm going to make this the best pond ever!"

Snap got busy right away and started digging a mud hole on one side of the pond. He dug and dug in the soft ground until he had made a huge mud hole.



Then he opened his great jaws and grabbed a bunch of leaves that were lying along the ground, and he set them in a pile. There were many fruit trees surrounding his pond, so he grabbed some of the fruit that had fallen from the trees and set it all on the pile of leaves. At last everything was ready.

Snap went waddling back over to the other pond. As soon as he got there, he stuck his head out of the bushes and went “snap”! All the animals stopped what they were doing. They slowly looked around. For a moment they were worried, and thought, *Oh no! What is Snap coming to tell us now?* They thought he might have more nasty things to say to them.

But Snap was different now.

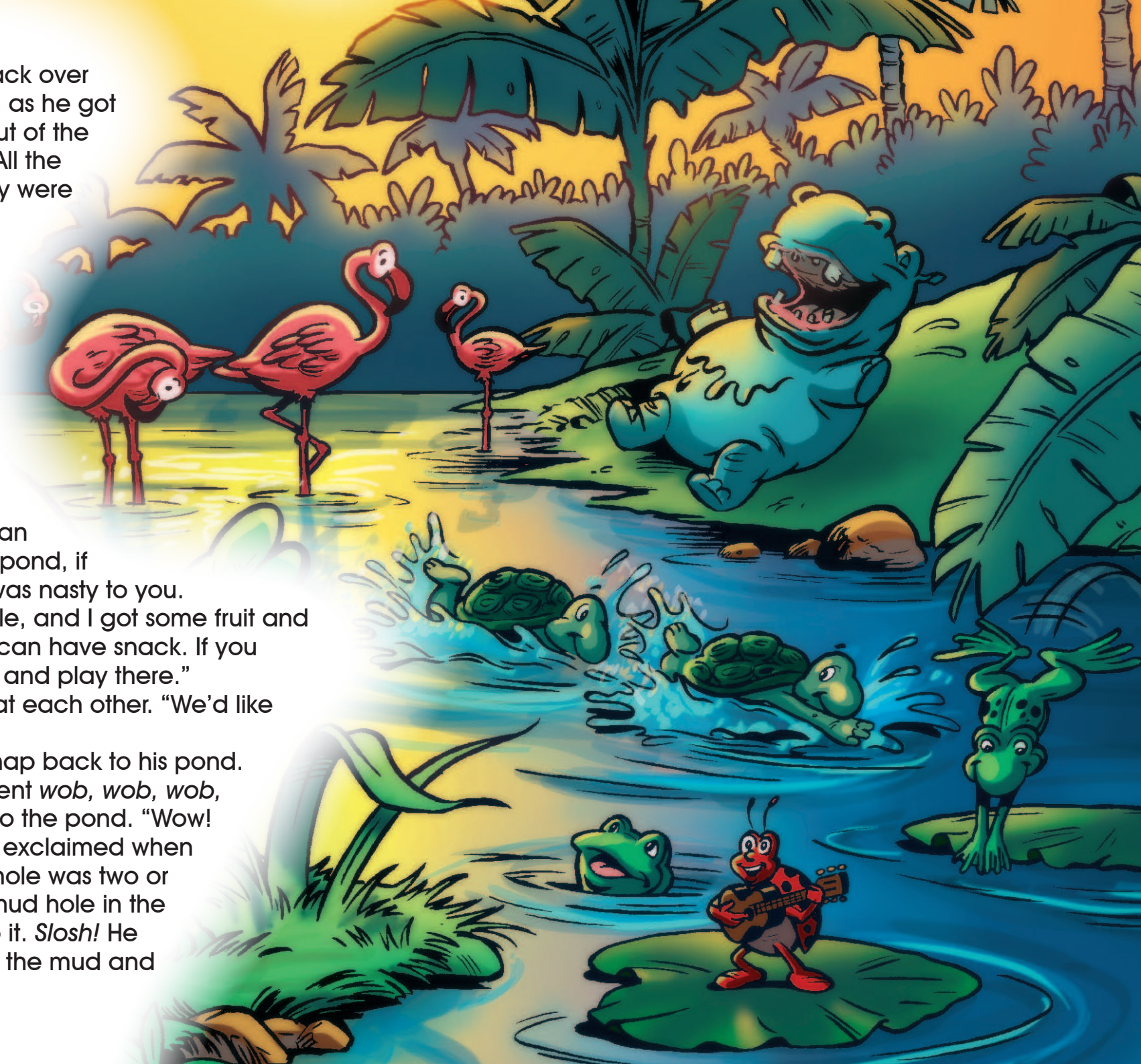
“Hey, everybody! You can come and play in my big pond, if you’d like. I’m sorry that I was nasty to you.

“I made a nice mud hole, and I got some fruit and leaves so that everybody can have snack. If you want, you can come over and play there.”

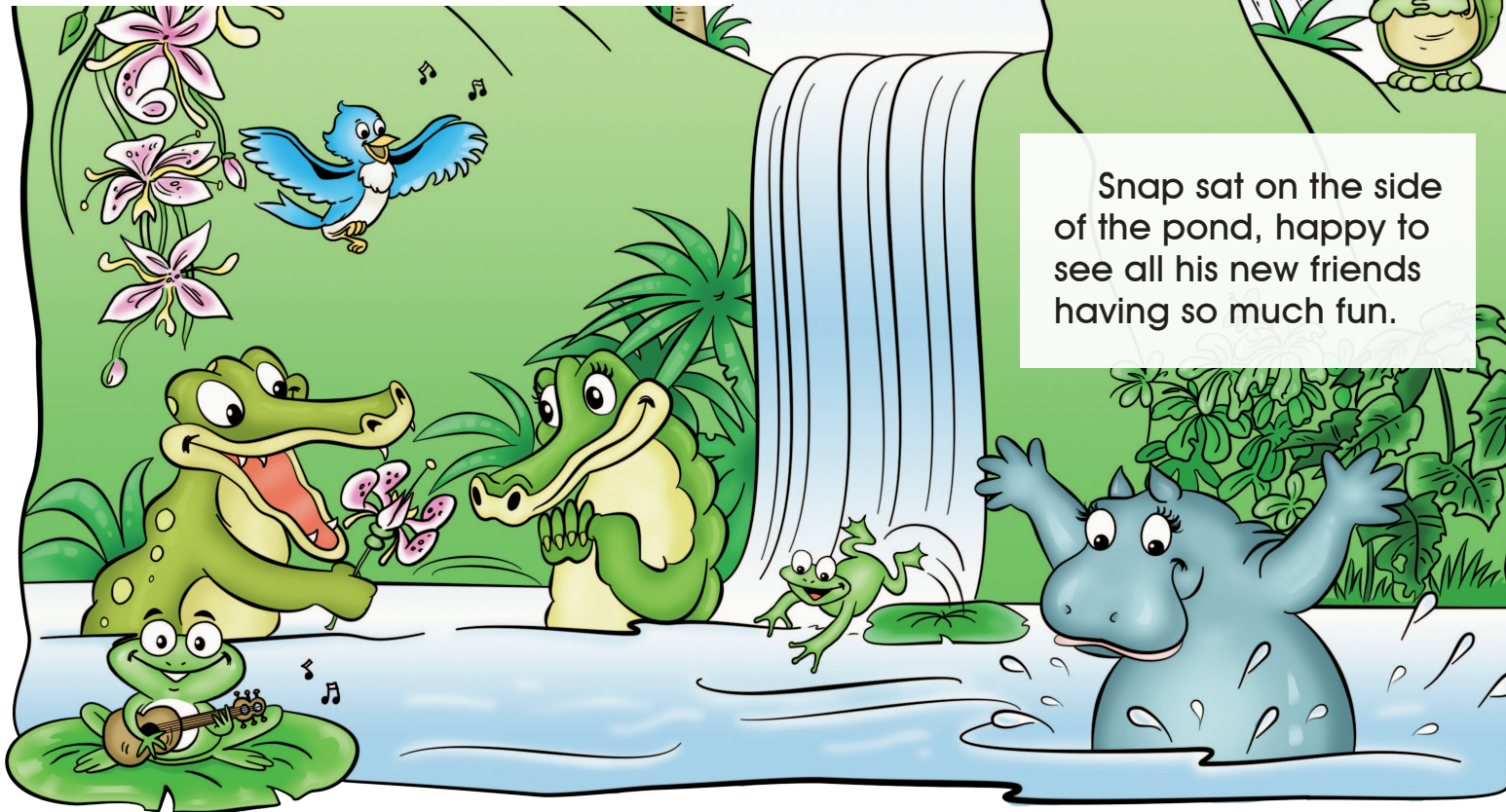
The animals all looked at each other. “We’d like that!” they all chorused.

The animals followed Snap back to his pond.

Henry, the big hippo, went *wob, wob, wob, wob* as he wobbled over to the pond. “Wow! Look at this mud hole!” he exclaimed when he saw Snap’s pond. The hole was two or three times as big as the mud hole in the old pond. Henry dove into it. *Slosh!* He slipped and slid around in the mud and had so much fun.



The four graceful flamingos were delighted to join Snap's lovely pond, as they'd always wanted to. And as for the tortoises, they had a great time chasing each other up and down the pond.



Snap sat on the side of the pond, happy to see all his new friends having so much fun.

Moral: When you share, it not only makes others happy but it also makes you happy.

In the days that passed, more and more animals came by Snap's pond. Word had spread that it was the best pond in the area.

One day Snap noticed another animal slowly coming across the marsh towards his pond. His eyes lit up: It was a lady crocodile!

"Hello! What's your name?" she said, as she came near.

"I'm Snap," he replied.

"I'm Flora. I heard that your pond is the place to be. Do you mind if I stay here for a bit?"

"I would love to have you stay!" Snap exclaimed. "We could be friends."

"Oh yes," said Flora. "I think I will be very happy here. You seem like such a kind crocodile."

And so Snap and Flora lived happily together.

Snap was very happy that he had learned to share, because when he shared, he was blessed with friends in return.