

# The Muddy Animal Picnic

Animals Love Their Habitats

Kindergarten

Student name:



STEM Tot®  
Next Generation Science

**K-ESS3-1 Earth and Human Activity:** Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals (including humans) and the places they live.

# Meet the stars of the story!



## Kaya Kangaroo

Kangaroos eat grass and live in dry grasslands. Their strong legs help them travel to search for food. A kangaroo mother carries her babies in a soft pouch on her belly.



## Pamela Possum

Possums have sharp claws and strong tails for climbing. They live in forests. They stay safe from predators by climbing high into trees. A possum mother carries her babies in a tiny soft pouch on her belly. When the babies get older, they ride on her back!



## Susie Scorpion

Scorpions have strong claws and a tail for stinging. They live under rocks in deserts where they can catch bugs to eat. A mother scorpion carries her babies on her back.



## Callie Crocodile

A crocodiles has a large, flat, powerful tail for swimming. They live in lakes, rivers and swamps. Their strong jaws and sharp teeth help them catch food. A crocodile mother carries and protects her babies by letting them ride inside her mouth. When young crocodiles get older, they ride on her back.



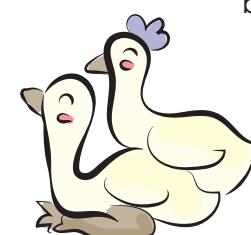
## Sabina Swan

Swans have webbed feet for swimming and can float. They live near lakes and streams. They travel in search of food and warm weather. Baby swans follow their mother closely.



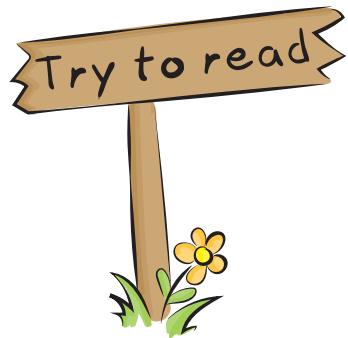
## Simran Sloth

Sloths have long claws and strong arms for holding onto branches. They live in forests. They stay safe from predators by climbing high into trees. A mother sloth carries her babies on her back. The babies cling to her fur.



# The Muddy Animal Picnic

Aysha Imtiaz • Jake Hunter • Beth Hunter • Bella Hunter



The animals go on a raft.

**Read to me:**

On a warm, sunny day, all the animal mothers decided to travel to an island! Cally Crocodile's scales glistened like green emeralds. Simran, the three-toed sloth, styled her long, coarse hair. Kaya Kangaroo packed some snacks for the trip in her pouch. Susie Scorpion looked gorgeous in her deep burgundy 'outfit'. Pamela Possum, hanging upside down from her tail, looked the most comfortable of all. Sabina Swan, swam peacefully.

How many babies does each animal have? Can you count them?





Try to read

They like to play.

What things does the island  
have that the animals need  
to be happy?

Think,  
Pair,  
Share!



## Read to me:

They brought all of their adorable baby animals with them! The island had everything they needed—food to snack on, fresh water to drink and cozy places to rest and stay warm. They played fun games together.





They play in the mud.

### Read to me:

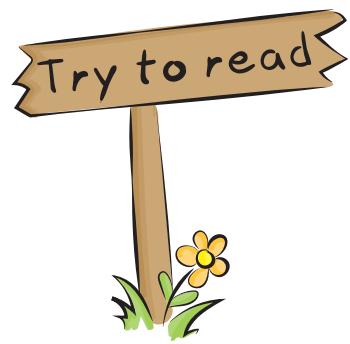
They rolled around in the mud and they tickled each other. Mother animals can be very messy too! They were just as muddy as their babies. They were all covered with mud from head to tail.

Who is making the mud balls? Which animal looks like it does not want to get muddy?



Think,  
Pair,  
Share!





## Can Mom find her baby in the mud?



### Read to me:

When it was finally time to go home, the mommies looked for their babies but could not recognize them. They were all covered with mud, sticks and leaves! The mommies were worried.

"Are you my baby?" Simran Sloth asked muddy little Joey Kangaroo.  
"Climb up on my back."

"Wait! You don't have a pouch for me to ride in!" answered the baby kangaroo.

The animals are all muddy. Can you tell who is who?







Are you my baby?  
Get on.

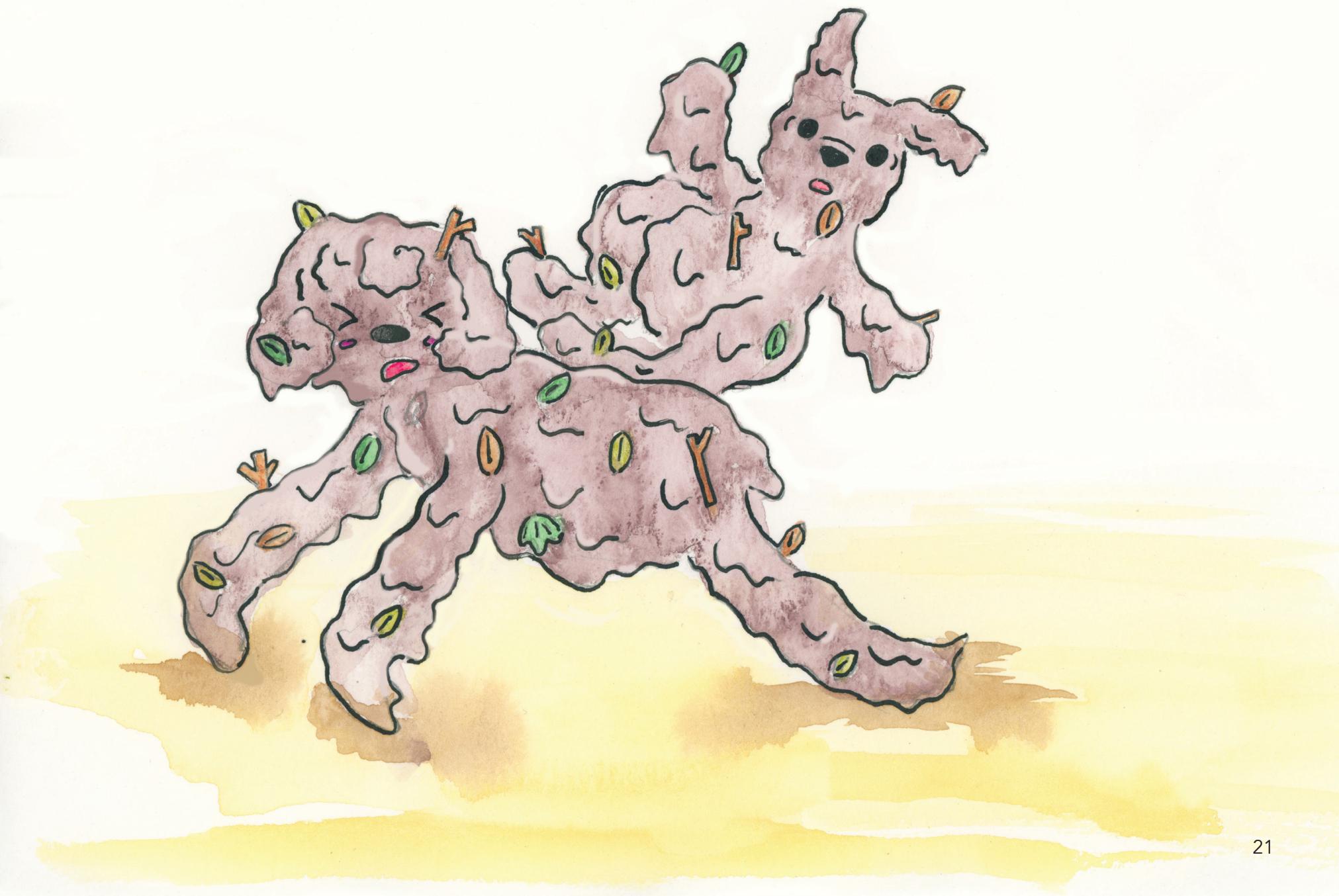
### Read to me:

"Just grab onto my fur and hold on tight like always when we climb through the trees!" Simran Sloth answered.

"I've never tried to climb a tree!" said Joey Kangaroo. With one great bound, little Joey hopped onto Simran Sloth's back. This startled Simran. She leapt forward and little baby Joey tumbled back down to the mud with a splat!

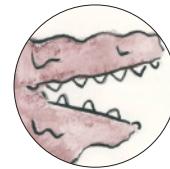
Why is Simran sloth not able to care  
for baby Joey Kangaroo?







Are you my baby?  
Get in my mouth.



Read to me:

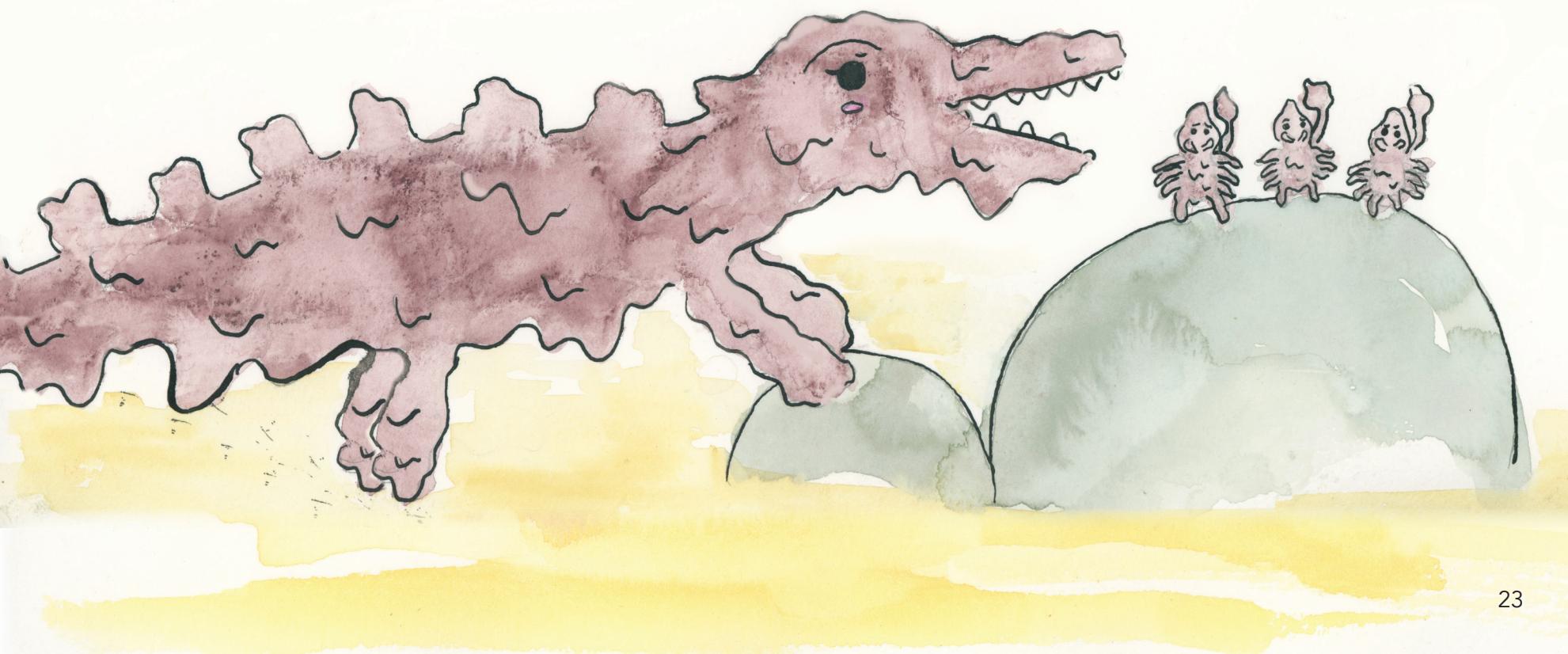
Cally Crocodile saw the muddy baby scorpions scuttling across the ground. "Are you my babies?" she asked. "Crawl into my mouth and I will keep you safe."

The baby scorpions did not want to go inside. "Your teeth are much too scary! We won't go in there!" said the baby scorpions. "Our stingers are sharp and we don't want to sting your mouth!"

Why is Calie Crocodile not able to care for the baby Scorpions?

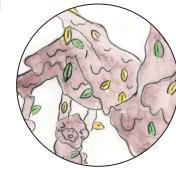


Think,  
Pair,  
Share!





## Are you my baby? Hop in my pouch!



### Read to me:

Pamela possum scurried over to Joey Kangaroo's side. "You must be *my* baby!" she cried. "Climb inside my soft pouch! You can take a nap while we hang upside down. You must be very tired," she said.

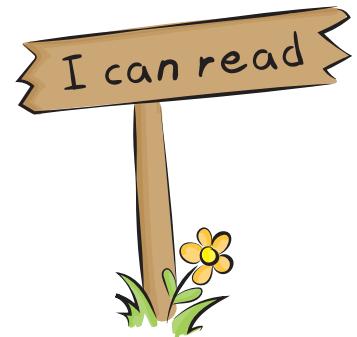
She gave him an insect to snack on.

"I don't eat insects. I eat grass! And I don't want to hang upside down!" said Joey as he tried to squeeze inside Pamela's tiny pouch, but he just couldn't fit.

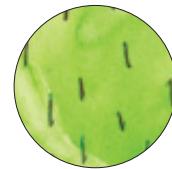
Why is Pamela possum not able to care for baby Joey Kangaroo?







Are you my baby?  
Do you like grass?



### Read to me:

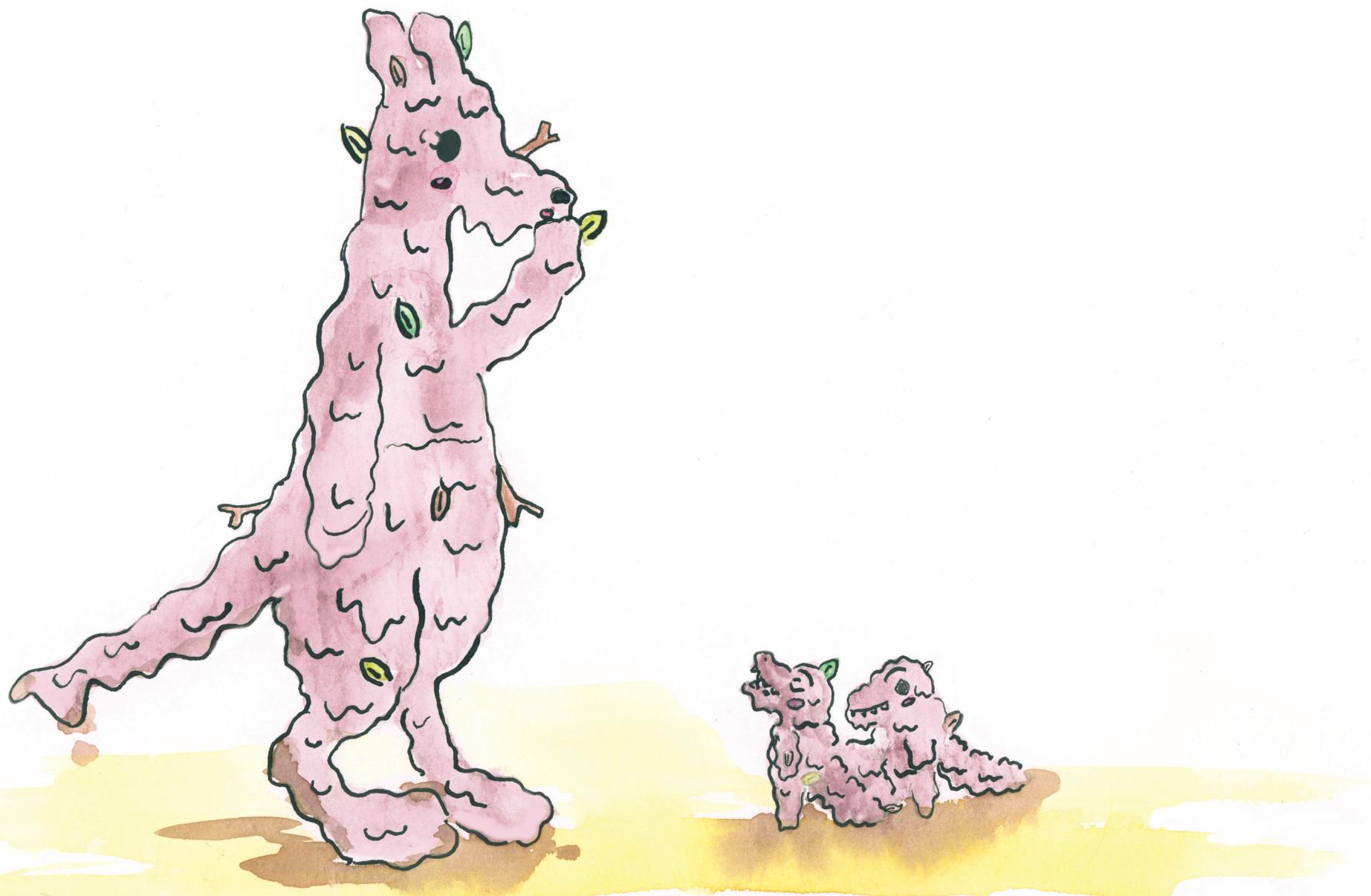
Kaya Kangaroo rushed up to the muddy baby crocodiles.

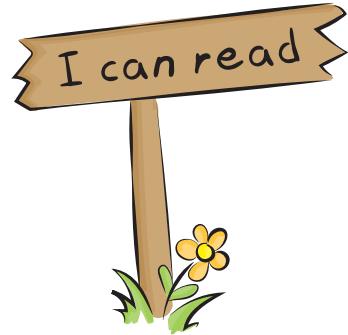
"Are you my babies?" she asked them. "You must be hungry. I'll take you to eat your favorite grass patch to eat a snack."

"Grass? Yuk! Our favorite foods are fish and frogs!" said the baby crocodiles while showing off their sharp white teeth.

Why is Kaya Kangaroo not able to  
care for the baby crocodiles?







You are not my baby.  
My baby is not bad!

### Read to me:

Sabina Swan gracefully approached the muddy possum babies. "Come on! It's time to go! Swim by my side and follow me closely," she said.

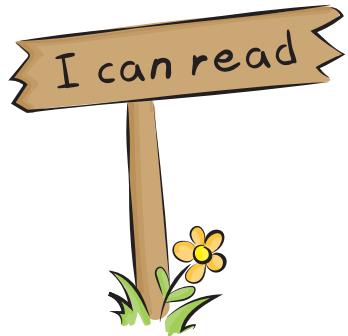
"We can't swim!" said the possum babies. "Can we ride on your back?"

"Well, okay," Sabina said as they crawled up on her back. The possum babies pulled at her feathers and made her go crazy!

Why is Sabina swan not able to care  
for the baby possums?







## Where is my baby? I am sad!

### Read to me:

All the mommies sat down and cried. Just then, a friendly frog crawled onto a rock. She had an idea.

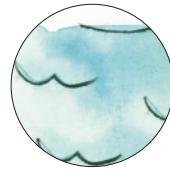
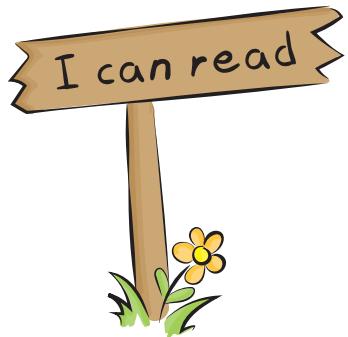
"Everyone! Step into my puddle and I will help you find your babies," said the friendly frog.

All the animal mothers and babies rushed into the puddle. Just as they did, the frog disappeared beneath the surface of the water.

How could the friendly frog help them  
find their babies?







"Get wet," said the frog.

### Read to me:

"Where did that frog go?" asked the mothers with disappointment. "I thought she was going to help us."

Then, one by one, each of them let out a giggle as they felt a little tickle on their feet.

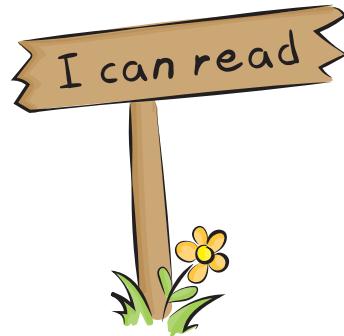
Finally, the frog's head popped up out of the water. "Now you are ready!" the frog exclaimed. "Get out of my puddle and go find your babies!"

The confused animals stepped out of the puddle. They looked back at the helpful frog who was smiling back at them from ear to ear.

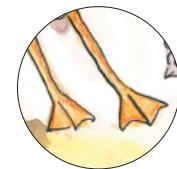
Why do you think the frog is smiling?







You can see your baby!  
Look at the feet.



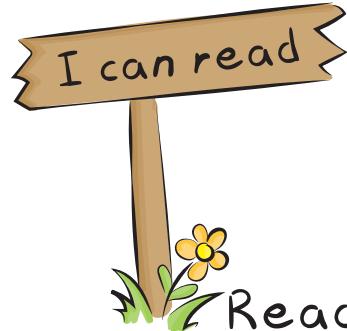
### Read to me:

All of the animals watched as the baby swans ran to their mother, Sabina Swan. Her beautiful webbed feet glistened in the sunlight because they had been cleaned by the helpful frog. Sabina swan was so happy she let out a big honk and immediately began to preen the feathers of her little swans.

How did Sabina's babies  
recognize their mother?







Look! No mud!  
This is my baby!

Read to me:

All of the other animals looked down at their own feet in amazement. Their feet had been cleaned by the helpful frog. Excitedly, the muddy babies ran to their mothers.

After everyone was clean and happy all the animals returned to the wonderful frog's puddle to say thank you.

(Let's say it all together, 1-2-3)

**"Thank you, friendly frog!"**

Which of the animals should feel most  
at home sitting in the puddle?







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Student Edition

ISBN 9781952346071



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