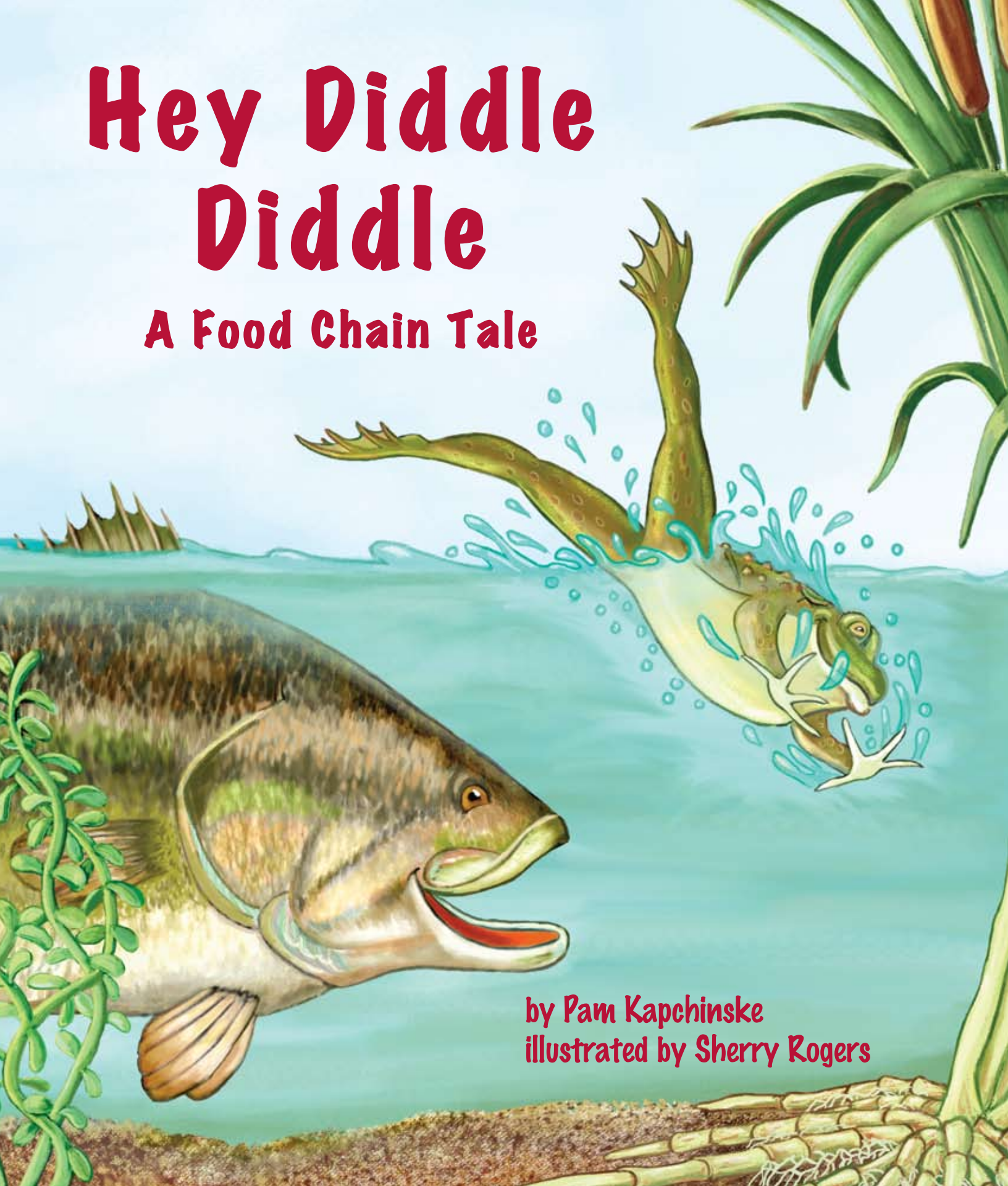


# Hey Diddle Diddle

A Food Chain Tale



by Pam Kapchinske  
illustrated by Sherry Rogers

front flap

back flap

# Hey Diddle Diddle

## A Food Chain Tale

Sing along to this light-hearted romp while learning about different food chains within a single ecosystem. Which animals come out on top, and which animals end up as snacks? *Hey Diddle Diddle* teaches children about the food web, the circle of life, and the part that each living creature plays within an ecosystem. This book is so much fun, kids will have a hard time believing they're actually learning. You'll be singing long after you close the book.

Animals in the book include: beetle, snake, hawk, frog, bass, lizard, caterpillar, and bobcat.

It's so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. Whether read at home or in a classroom, we encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives. Free online resources and support at [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com) include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):
  - Herbivore or Carnivore?
  - Predator or Prey?
  - Food Chains: True or False?
  - Animal Classification
  - Animal Adaptations Matching
- Teaching Activities (to do at home or school):
  - Reading Questions
  - Language Arts
  - Science
  - Math
  - Geography
  - Coloring Pages
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State Standards (searchable database)
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio available for purchase online.

Thanks to Loran Wlodarski, Science Writer at SeaWorld Orlando, for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book.



**Pam Kapchinske** (pronounced Cap-Chin-Ski) is a freelance writer and editor of educational materials, a science content specialist for Discovery Education Science, and writes K-12 web based tutorials for the Parent Tutor Corporation. Pam holds a B.S. in Biology and taught elementary and secondary education science in the Peace Corps in Zimbabwe. Pam lives with her husband and two boys in San Diego. *Hey Diddle Diddle* is her debut picture book.

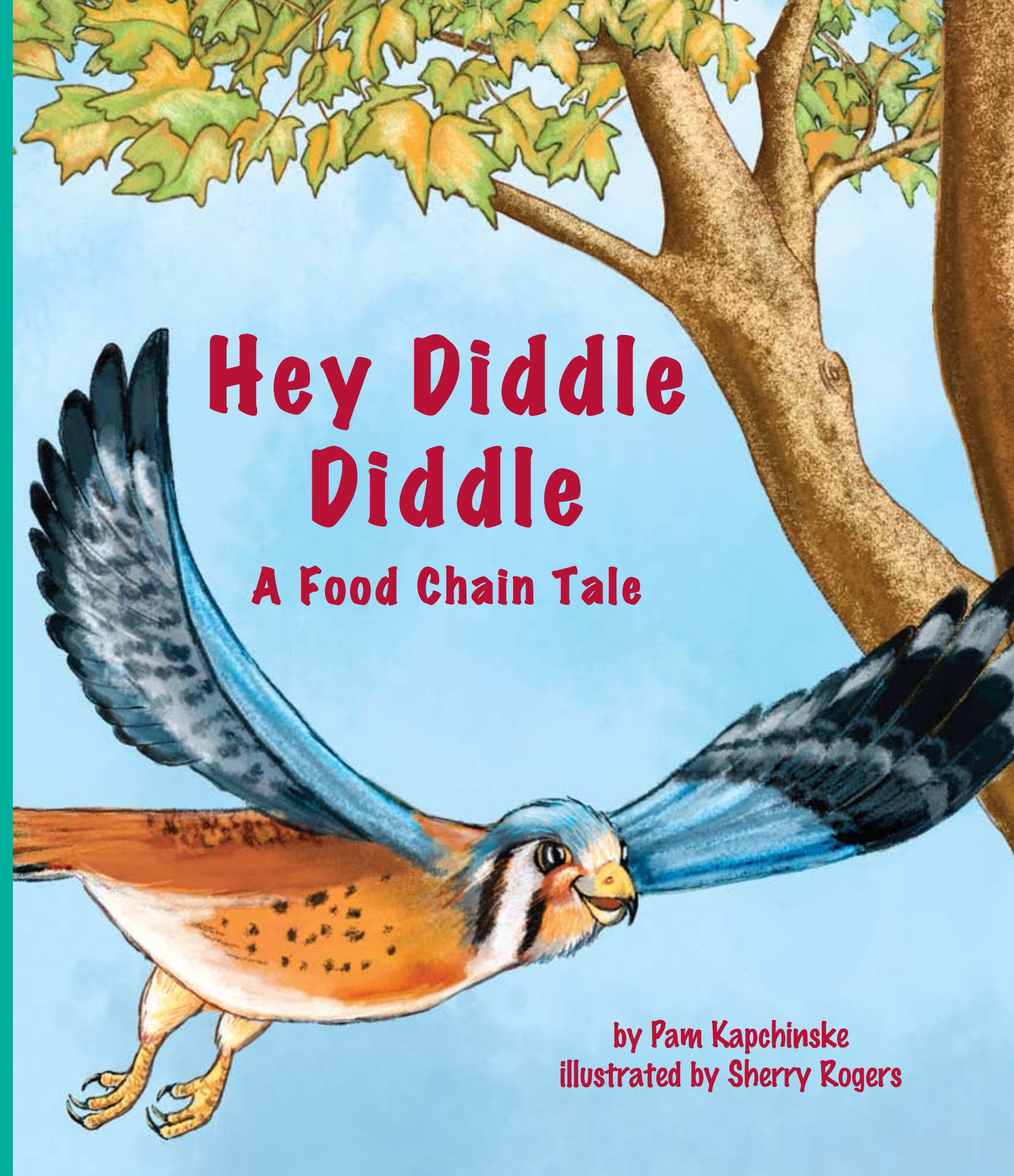
**Sherry Rogers** spent twelve years as a corporate graphic designer and artist before "leaving it all behind" for the freelance world. In addition to illustrating *Ten For Me*, Sherry has illustrated *Hey Diddle Diddle*; *Newton and Me*; *Moose and Magpie*; *Paws, Claws, Hands & Feet*; *Sort It Out!*; *Kersplatypus*; *Burro's Tortillas*; and *If You Were a Parrot* for Sylvan Dell. Sherry, her husband, and their two children live in Northern California.



Pam Kapchinske



Sherry Rogers

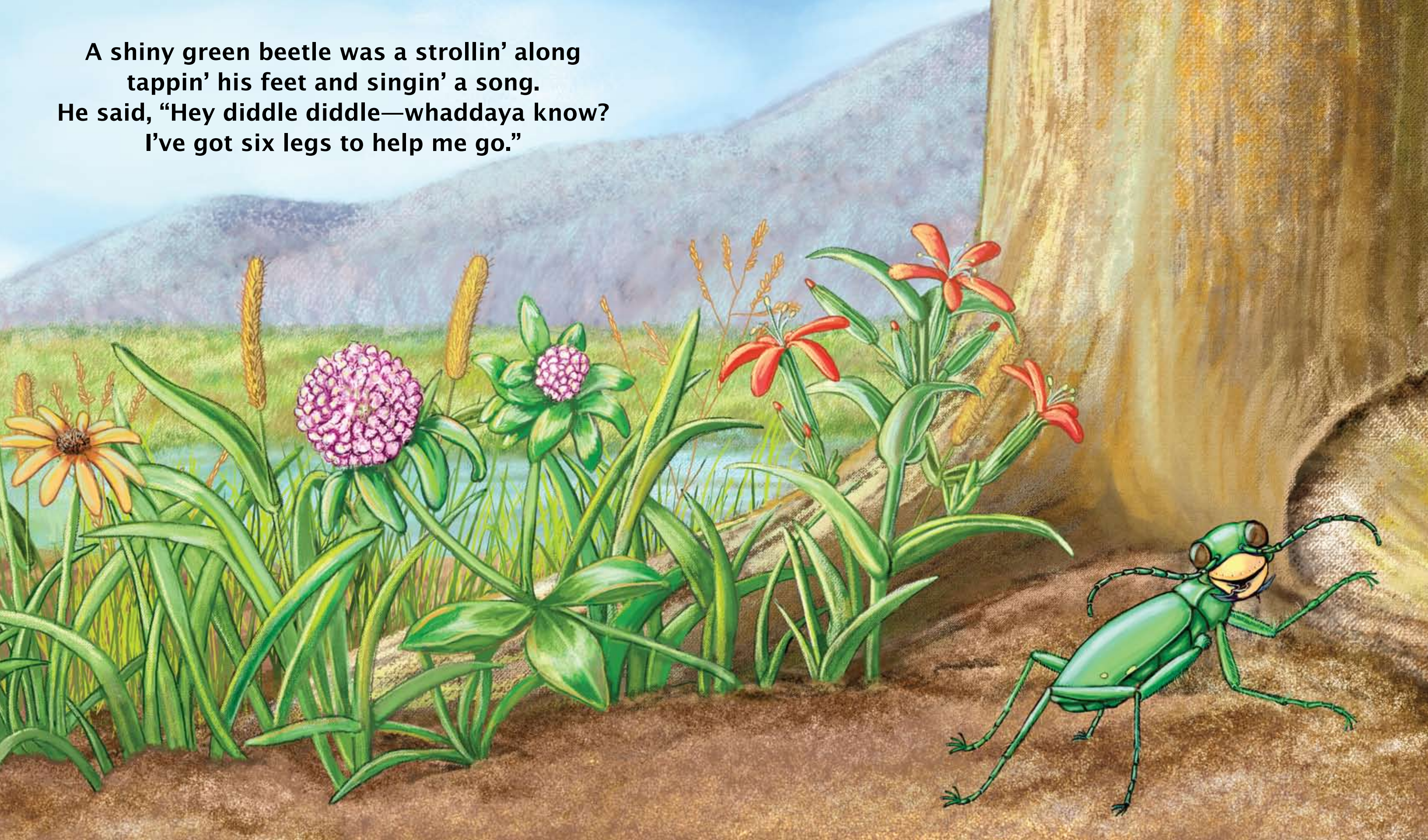


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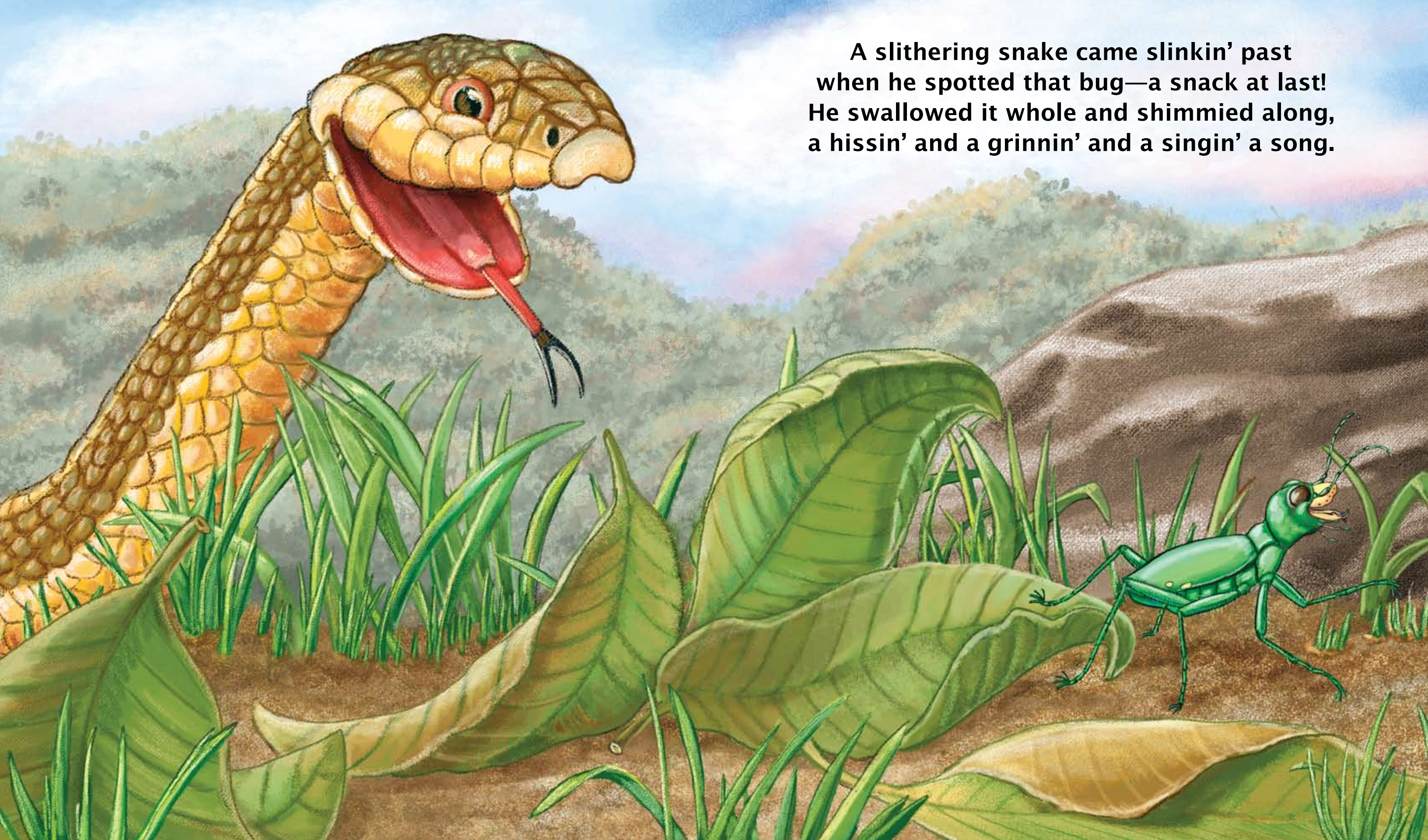
## A Food Chain Tale

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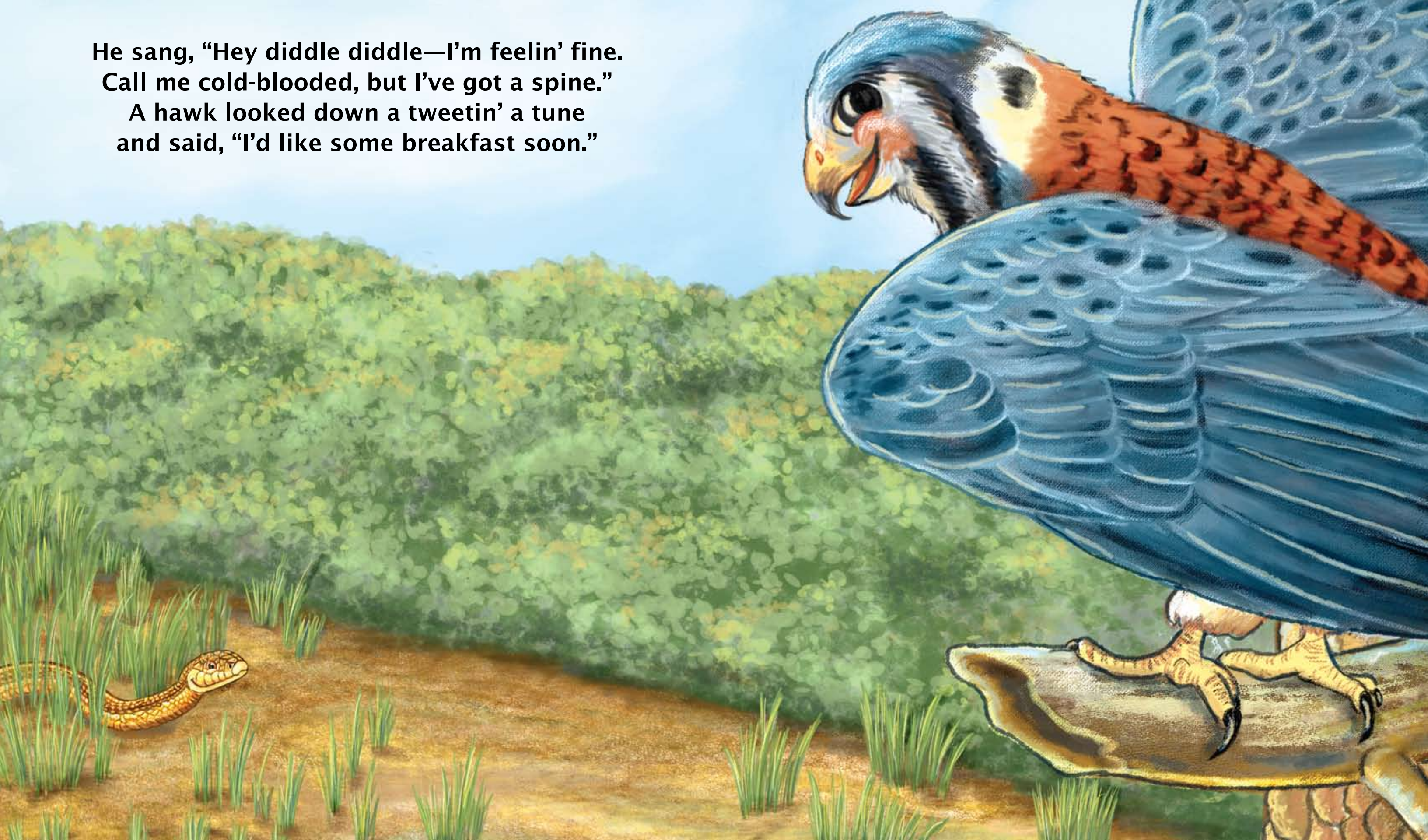
A shiny green beetle was a strollin' along  
tappin' his feet and singin' a song.  
He said, "Hey diddle diddle—whaddaya know?  
I've got six legs to help me go."

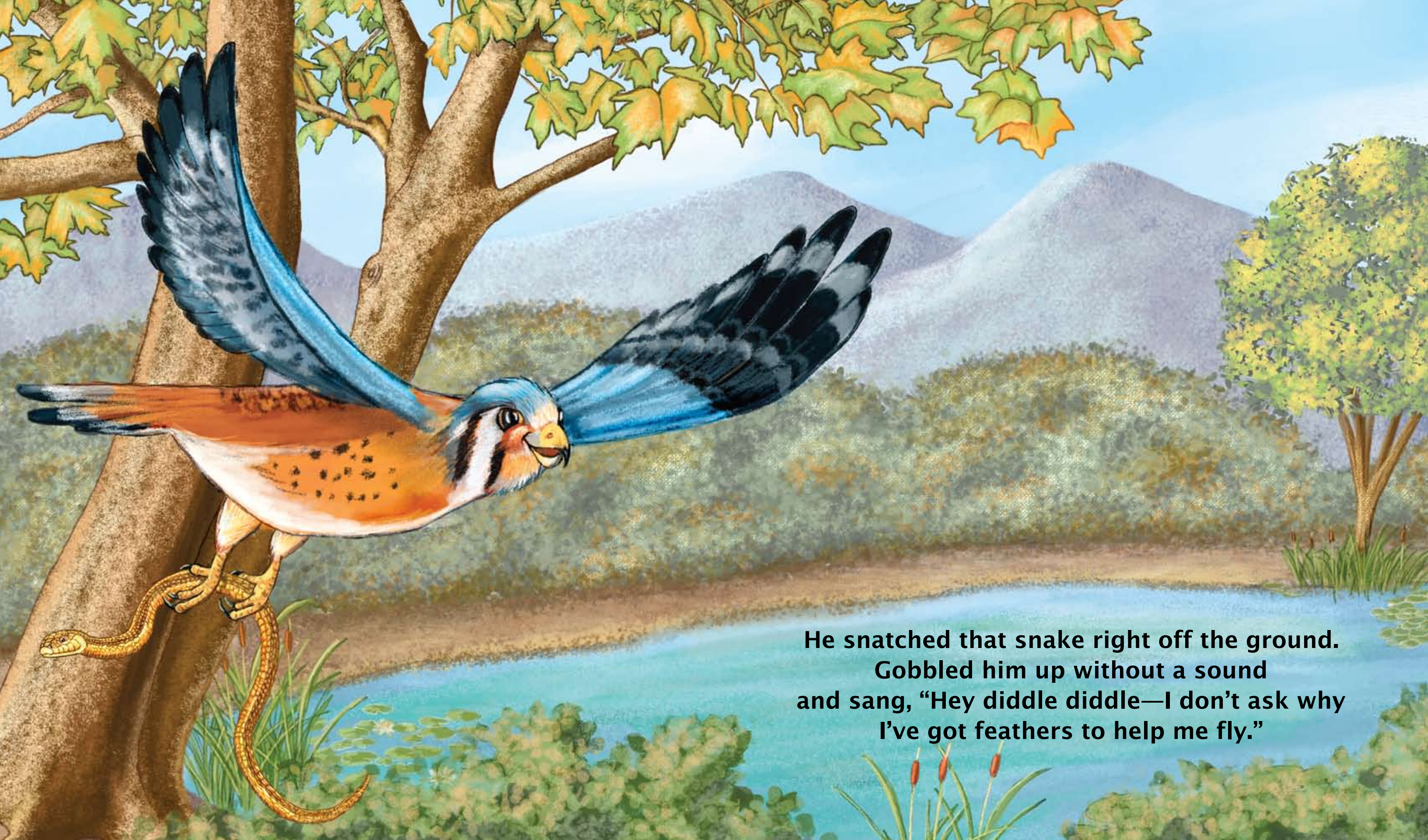


**A slithering snake came slinkin' past  
when he spotted that bug—a snack at last!  
He swallowed it whole and shimmied along,  
a hiss'n' and a grinnin' and a singin' a song.**



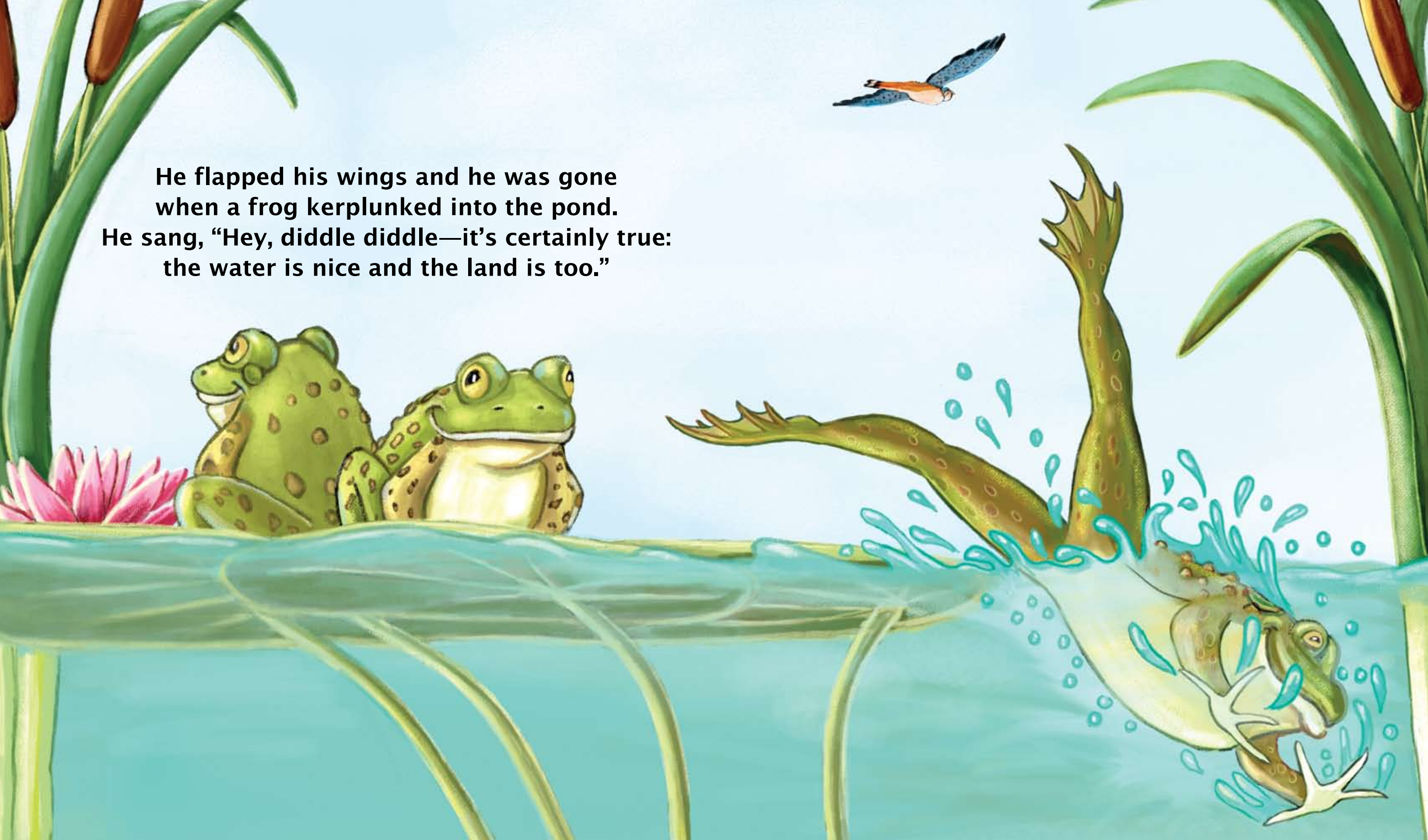
He sang, "Hey diddle diddle—I'm feelin' fine.  
Call me cold-blooded, but I've got a spine."  
A hawk looked down a tweetin' a tune  
and said, "I'd like some breakfast soon."





**He snatched that snake right off the ground.  
Gobbled him up without a sound  
and sang, “Hey diddle diddle—I don’t ask why  
I’ve got feathers to help me fly.”**

He flapped his wings and he was gone  
when a frog kerplunked into the pond.  
He sang, “Hey, diddle diddle—it’s certainly true:  
the water is nice and the land is too.”



# For Creative Minds

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Use the information in the story to answer the following questions. Answers are upside down.

## Herbivore or Carnivore?

Plants (**producers**) make their own food from sunlight (**photosynthesis**). Most plants absorb nutrients from soil using roots. Soil nutrients come from decaying things that were once alive.



Animals that eat plants are called **consumers** or **herbivores**. Which animal in the story is an herbivore? What part of a plant was it eating?

Animals that eat other animals are **carnivores**. The bobcat is a carnivore. What animal did it eat?

## Predator or Prey?

A carnivore is a **predator** that has to find other animals to eat (**prey**). A predator of one animal might be prey for another animal. Which is predator and which is prey?



beetle and snake

snake and hawk

bass and frog



caterpillar and lizard



lizard and bobcat

Answers: Herbivore or Carnivore?: The caterpillar eats leaves. The bobcat ate the lizard. Predator or Prey?: beetle: prey/snake: predator; snake: prey/hawk: predator; bass: predator/frog: prey; caterpillar: prey/lizard: predator; lizard: predator; bobcat: predator

## Food Chains: True or False?

All of the plants and animals that are eaten by or that eat a particular animal are part of that animal's **food chain**. A habitat will have many different food chains that are linked together, called a **food web**. The plants and animals in this book all live in or around freshwater. Using the information in the book, see if you can figure out which statements are true and which are false.



- 1 The hawk, fish, and bobcat are shown in the same food chain.
- 2 A healthy adult animal is at the top of its food chain if it does not have natural predators. The snake is at the top of its food chain.
- 3 Nothing eats animals that are at the top of their food chain.
- 4 Habitats are communities of plants, animals, and non-living things that interact in certain locations. In order for plants and animals to be in the same food chain, they must be in the same habitat.

Answers: 1) False: They are shown in separate food chains. If the snake ate the frog or the frog ate the caterpillar, that would link food chains together in a food web. 2) False: The hawk is the top predator shown in that food chain. 3) False: This is a trick question. There are no predators to kill the top animals that are healthy adults. Predators may go after young animals or adults that are ill or injured. When they die, as all animals do, bacteria and scavengers eat the dead and decaying body. That returns nutrients to the soil for plants to grow—starting the cycle all over again. 4) True.

## Animal Classification

Use the information in the story to identify the animal. Then use the clue(s) and the animal classification information to figure out to which animal class the animal belongs. Answers are upside down, below.

Vertebrates are animals that have backbones.

Invertebrates do not have backbones.

Warm-blooded animals make their own heat and have a constant body temperature.

Cold-blooded animals' body temperature comes from their surroundings.

Reptiles (vertebrates) have dry scales or plates, are cold-blooded, use lungs to breathe oxygen from the air, and most young hatch from eggs.

Mammals (vertebrates) have hair, fur, or whiskers; are warm-blooded; use lungs to breathe oxygen from the air; and most are born alive.

Birds (vertebrates) are the only animals with feathers, are warm-blooded, use lungs to breathe oxygen from the air, and all young hatch from eggs.

Amphibians (vertebrates) have soft, moist skin and are cold-blooded. Most young (tadpoles or larvae) live in water and use gills to breathe; adults live on land and use lungs to breathe.

Most fishes (vertebrates) have wet, slime-covered scales. All fishes are cold-blooded, use gills to breathe, and can either be born alive or hatch from eggs.

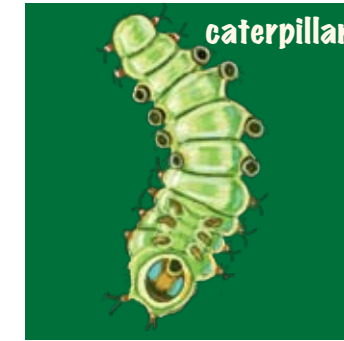
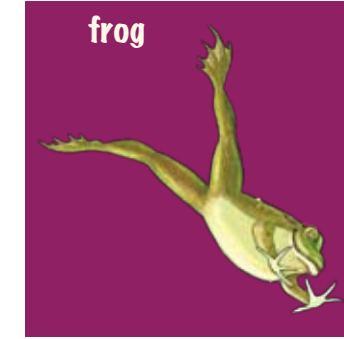
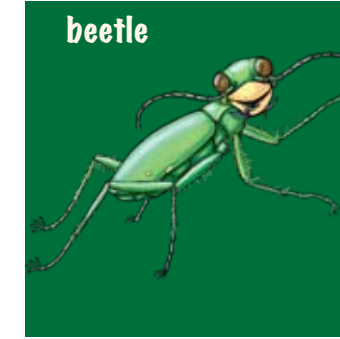
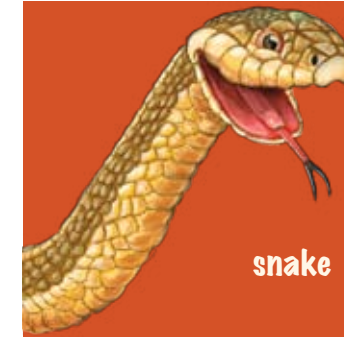
Insects (invertebrates) have hard outer covering. Adults have three body parts: head, thorax, & abdomen; three pairs of (six) legs, usually two pairs of wings and one pair of antennae. Most hatch from eggs but some have live birth.

- Which animal has six legs?
- Which animal is cold-blooded and has a spine (another word for backbone)?
- Which animal has feathers to help it fly?
- Which animal likes land and water?
- Which animal has gills and wet scales?
- Which animal has dry scales?
- Which animal has fur?

Answers: 1) beetle/insect, 2) snake/reptile, 3) hawk/bird, 4) frog/amphibian, 5) bass/fish, 6) lizard/reptile, 7) bobcat/mammal

## Animal Adaptations Matching

Can you match the animal to its description? Answers are upside down.



- I'm a young insect. When I grow up, I'll be a moth or a butterfly.
- My back feet have webs to help me swim through the water.
- I don't have any legs so I slither on the ground. I use my forked tongue to sense what's around me.
- I use my tail to push me through the water.
- I use my sharp teeth and claws to catch my prey.
- I shed my skin when I grow and use my tongue to help smell what's around me, just like a snake.
- I don't have bones but I do have a hard outer shell to protect me.
- I use my sharp talons to grab prey and to hold onto tree branches.

Answers: 1) caterpillar, 2) frog, 3) snake, 4) bass, 5) bobcat, 6) lizard, 7) beetle, 8) hawk

To my sons, Noah and Kai—PK

To my wonderful Father, who always kept me safe and secure. I will cherish his memory always—SR

The author is donating a portion of her royalties to support the efforts of Project Wildlife of San Diego County.

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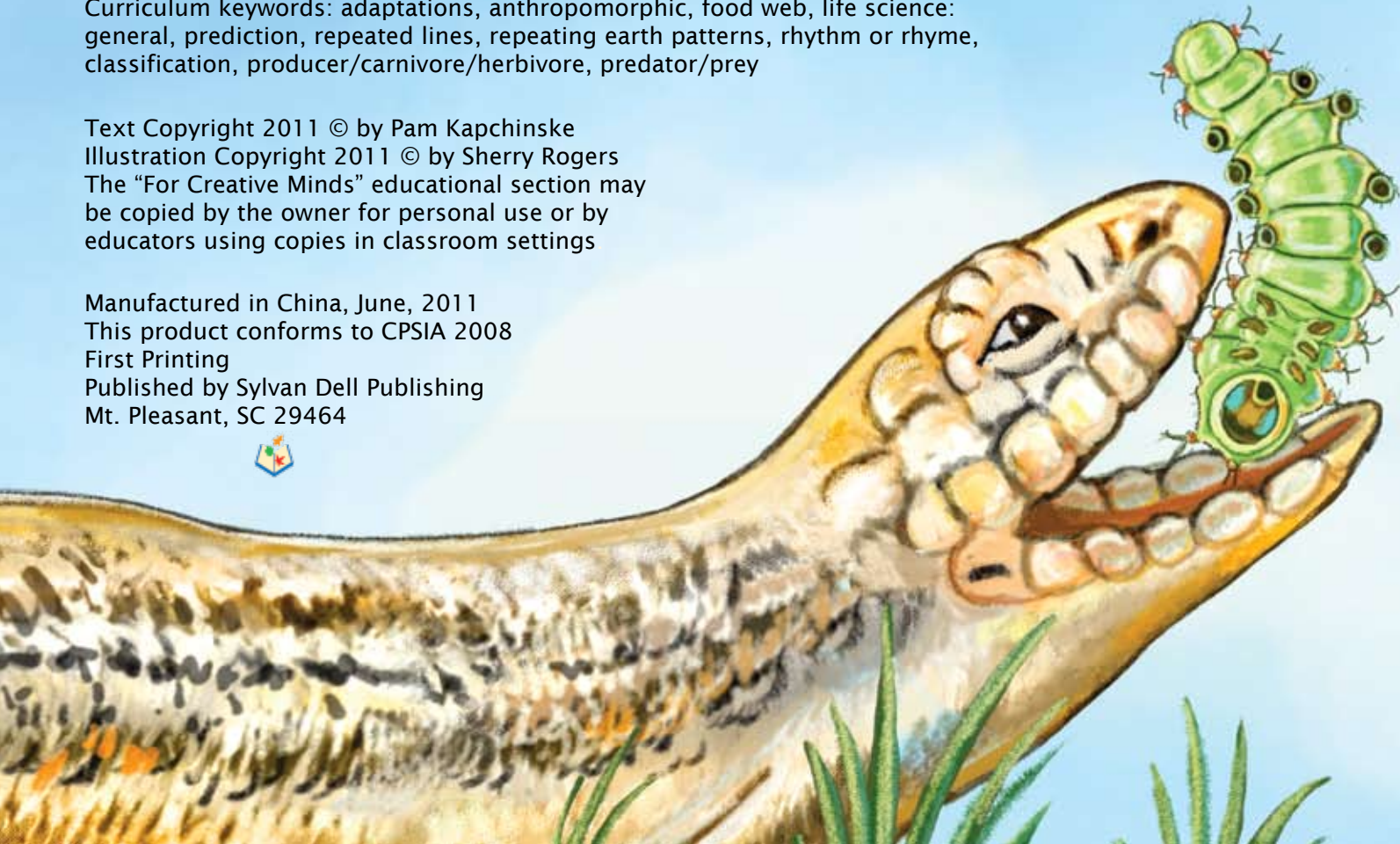
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