

The Wolf That Would Forgive

And Other Fables of Experience

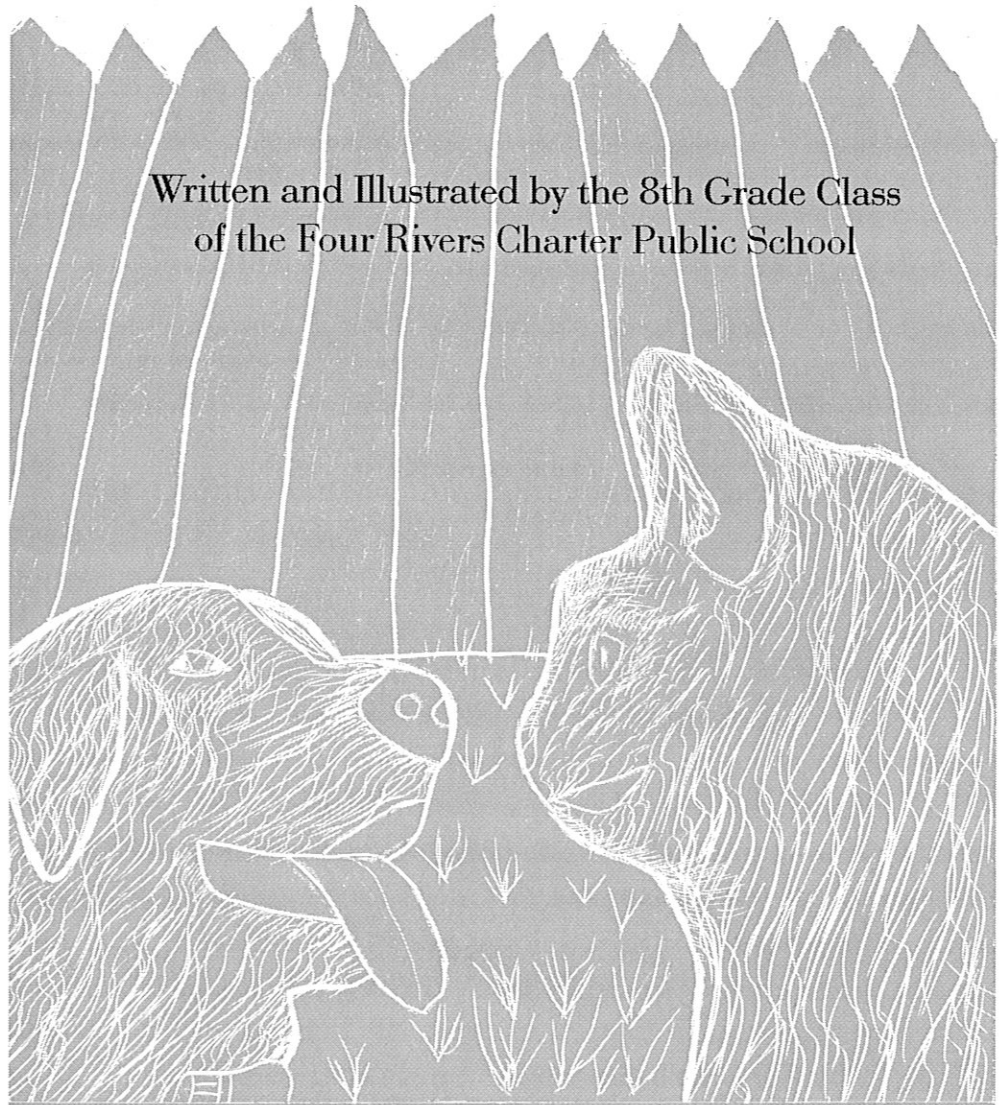


Written and Illustrated by the 8th Grade Class
of the Four Rivers Charter Public School

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Rapids Press

III

The Wolf That Would Forgive, Fables

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A Little More Than Just People: Monologues of Community Cultivators

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Acknowledgements

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We couldn't have done it without you!

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Introduction

The creation of this project was no small task. Draft after draft was looked over, and it took a lot of editing and teamwork to finally complete it.

The very first step we took was simply to write down a story from our lives; something that happened to us, something that we learned an important lesson from. We refined and molded our writing until we had the first drafts of our Personal Narratives. The Personal Narratives themselves were a major writing project, and we studied the important characteristics that every Personal Narrative had to have: background, a pivotal moment and a resolution. Our Personal Narratives were short stories, not fables. We had yet to learn formally what a fable was. As we learned more about fables, we tried to shape our stories into something like them.

Fables have simple, often animal, characters with one specific personality trait that leads to a conflict. In order to convert the characters in our Personal Narratives into fable characters, we had to identify the main personality trait in our main character and create an animal character with identical traits. In order to change the plot of our stories to make a fable with animal characters, we had to come up with a very general summary of the plot in our Narrative, such as "this story is about a character that lost something important." This gave us the flexibility to come up with an entirely new story based on the same theme, with the same lesson learned

as in our Personal Narratives. We altered and improved our fables over many, many drafts receiving critique from our peers, our teachers, our parents and others in the community until they were the best that they could be.

At the same time we were working on our fables, we were also perfecting our skills in an art form known as scratchboard. Our inspiration for this project came from a book of fables called Fablesauce, written by local author Pat Lessie and illustrated by local artist, Karen Gaudette. Scratchboards give the visual effect of woodcuts; however, they are an easier medium on which to craft compositions. There are many different levels of complexity at which you can do this and it was our goal to find out which would make our scratchboards the best that they could be. Over three critique sessions of professionally scratched illustrations, we slowly learned the elements of good composition, texture and value. It was with this new understanding, after many drafts on paper that we began our illustrations on scratchboard with the help of none other than Karen Gaudette herself. Ms. Gaudette shared her experience and knowledge with us and we did several practice boards before beginning work on our final, with good quality scratchboard.

When we were satisfied, we sent our work to be published at a print shop, and recieved many copies. The results are the pages in this book.

Moral: Revisions yield worthy results.

Moving Out: A Personal Narrative

There I was, saying goodbye, the expression on his face like none other I had ever seen in my whole thirteen years of life. His eyes were a balancing act of excitement and fear. And they also looked very sad, sadness I had never seen before. I helped him finish packing up the Uhaul, the exhaust beating fresh out of the truck against my legs. That smell, that rancid smell, which usually made my nostrils burn and my eyes water, didn't bother me one bit today. I was too overtaken by the fact that my older brother Kyle was moving out.

During the last few years I'd grown closer to him than I had been in my entire life. At times when he needed to go to the store or to get a part for his car, Kyle would ask if I wanted to go, which I always did. Even if I was in the middle of the most important thing in the world, I would just drop it and go with him to the grocery store or the car parts store. It was just those everyday things that meant the most to me, like when he helped me with homework or helped me fix things that I had broken.

He would also take me to the skate park; it was as if I wasn't an embarrassment to him the way I was when I was little. Skating was something we both enjoyed. On a skateboard you could control every little movement, you could make it flip turn, you could make it do anything your heart desired and I think that we both just loved that feeling of control. It was also that feeling of movement, the freedom of movement.

Kyle would only be back for major holidays and other vacations. I can imagine how hard it must have been on my dad: his son was moving out all the way to a little town called Blairsville, Pennsylvania, almost nine hours away. For me, though, it was one of the hardest moments I've ever lived through: that feeling of movement nothing else could compare to, the feeling of freedom and despair.

By Graham Driver-Schroeder

Foreword

Little children of the earth
These fables are for you.
The boys and girls who wrote them
Were once little too.

These pages tell of animals
Who meet with wondrous things,
Like shiny stones and river roars
And new found diamond rings.

And in the forests of this book
A mouse never squeaks.
For even air and water talk
And every creature speaks.

Some stories end in smiles
While others end in sorrow
So take the wisdom at the end
Which you are free to borrow.

Little children of the earth
These fables are all true
Because the boys and girls who wrote them
Were once little too.

The Little Sparrow

One night, Little Sparrow was really hoping to be allowed to fly but his mother told him he could not.

"It's too dark at night," she told him. "You will not be able to see and you will injure yourself." Little Sparrow was stubborn and did not see why he could not fly at night, so he hatched a plan. He would fly only when his mother was asleep at night, and then he would come back before she would awaken. The next evening, right after a fine supper of birdseed, Mother Sparrow said she was tired.

"I'm going to sleep now," she told Little Sparrow who replied, "I'll stay up for a while. There's no need to wait for me. I'll fall asleep soon."

After she left, he hitched up his wings and took off, spinning in the air joyfully. He did a few loops around a tree and soared gleefully through the forest. All of a sudden, Little Sparrow sailed straight into a branch that he hadn't seen coming in the dark. He fell in a heap on the ground, for he had broken his wing and would not be able to fly again for a long, long time. He realized that if he had not been so foolish and listened to his mother he would not have injured himself so badly.



Most of what your elders say is true.



Bear and Fox

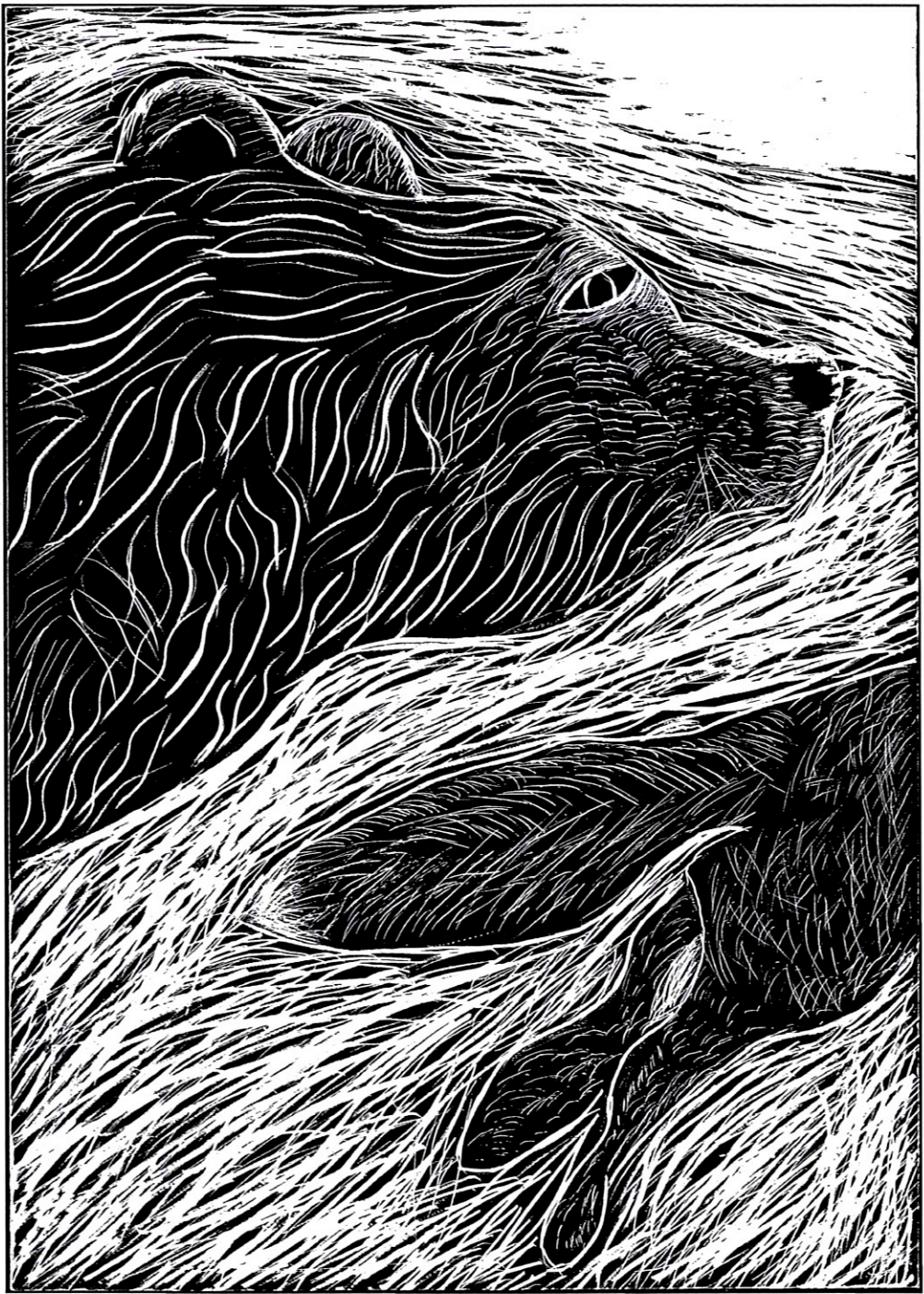
Once there were two young friends, Bear and Fox, and they both lived in the same small grove of trees. One day they decided to go out to the field to get something to eat. They set out together and soon arrived at the field. Fox began chasing and sneaking up on the mice, while Bear began gathering berries in the bushes. When they looked up, they saw that it was getting dark and cloudy so they decided to go home before the storm came and got them all wet. On their way home, as they were going by the lake, Fox had an idea.

"Let's have a race down at the lake," he suggested. Bear wasn't sure if they should because of the storm coming, but because of Fox's enthusiasm, he grudgingly agreed.

"Okay let's go," Fox shouted happily. They were off in a chaotic whirl of fur, but the two hadn't gotten very far when it started to pour. There was lightning and thunder and they both got soaked. Bear was trying his hardest to keep up with Fox, but he slipped in a puddle and got all dirty. The two friends were cold for the rest of the journey home. After that, Bear was not happy with Fox, because he knew that they should have just gone home instead of having the race.



Trust yourself.



The Stubborn Young Bear

There was once a stubborn young bear that vowed he would never sleep. To him, rest was just a waste of time when you could be out enjoying yourself. After all, what did anyone ever accomplish while they were asleep? But when winter came, Bear naturally grew more and more tired. He would start to nod off and then force himself to wake up.

"Come to rest," the older bears said. "If you don't, you won't be able to wake in the Spring." Despite these warnings, Bear forced himself to stay awake and he kept himself alert. Before long he was the only bear with his eyes still open, and he was feeling very lonely. Bear's eyes grew heavy with sleep, and as he drifted off, he realized it was actually quite pleasant. Bear fell into a calm, deep slumber. As he slept, the leaves on the trees turned green, flowers budded, the snow melted and all the other bears woke up. One by one, they went out into the Spring without the sleeping bear. When they came back to their caves at night, they were happy, with honey on their faces. When Bear finally awoke from his long slumber, there was no honey left for him, and he only wished he had gone to bed when the older bears had told him to.



Listen carefully to what your elders have to say.



The Wolf That Would Forgive

Wolf and Bobcat were hunting together in the woods for rabbits. After a bit of sniffing around, Wolf smelled one and ran off towards it!

"Wolf!" yelled Bobcat as he chased after her. He had lost sight of his friend, so he decided to go off on his own. Up ahead, in a clump of bushes, he saw a tuft of grey fur. Thinking it was a rabbit, Bobcat leaped upon it and took it in his mouth. That little tuft of rabbit fur turned out to be a big tuft of wolf fur. Wolf had just caught her rabbit, but after Bobcat's surprise attack, Wolf dropped the creature she was holding. The rabbit ran away into the woods. Watching the small meal hop away made Wolf angry. She growled at Bobcat, but she saw the shame in his eyes and she felt pity for her.

"It's all right, we'll just go find another one," Wolf said. And they walked away to find more food.



Bad luck tests true friendship.



Monkey and Her Friends

There was once a monkey who was very nervous. Where she lived, there were very few bananas, so she decided she should go and find more. Monkey was worried about traveling alone, so she went to her good friend Chimp.

"Will you join me in finding some more bananas?" Monkey asked.

"Of course I will," Chimp replied. "You know I'll do anything for a good banana!" The two went to ask the ape for help getting through the thick jungle. Of course, Monkey was scared of Ape, and she didn't want to talk to him alone, so both she and Chimp talked.

"What do I get out of this?" Ape demanded of them. The two told him they would let him have as many bananas as he could eat. "Then what are we waiting for?" Ape yelled out. That evening, they got ready to set off, but Monkey was scared.

"I can do it, I can do it," she told herself. The three set out searching for bananas. After a long while of searching, out of nowhere, a banana fell on Monkey's head. "Hey, a banana!" she shouted happily. When they looked up, they saw so many bananas they lost count, and Monkey, Chimp, and Ape had all the bananas they could ever need.



The power of friends is greater than any other.



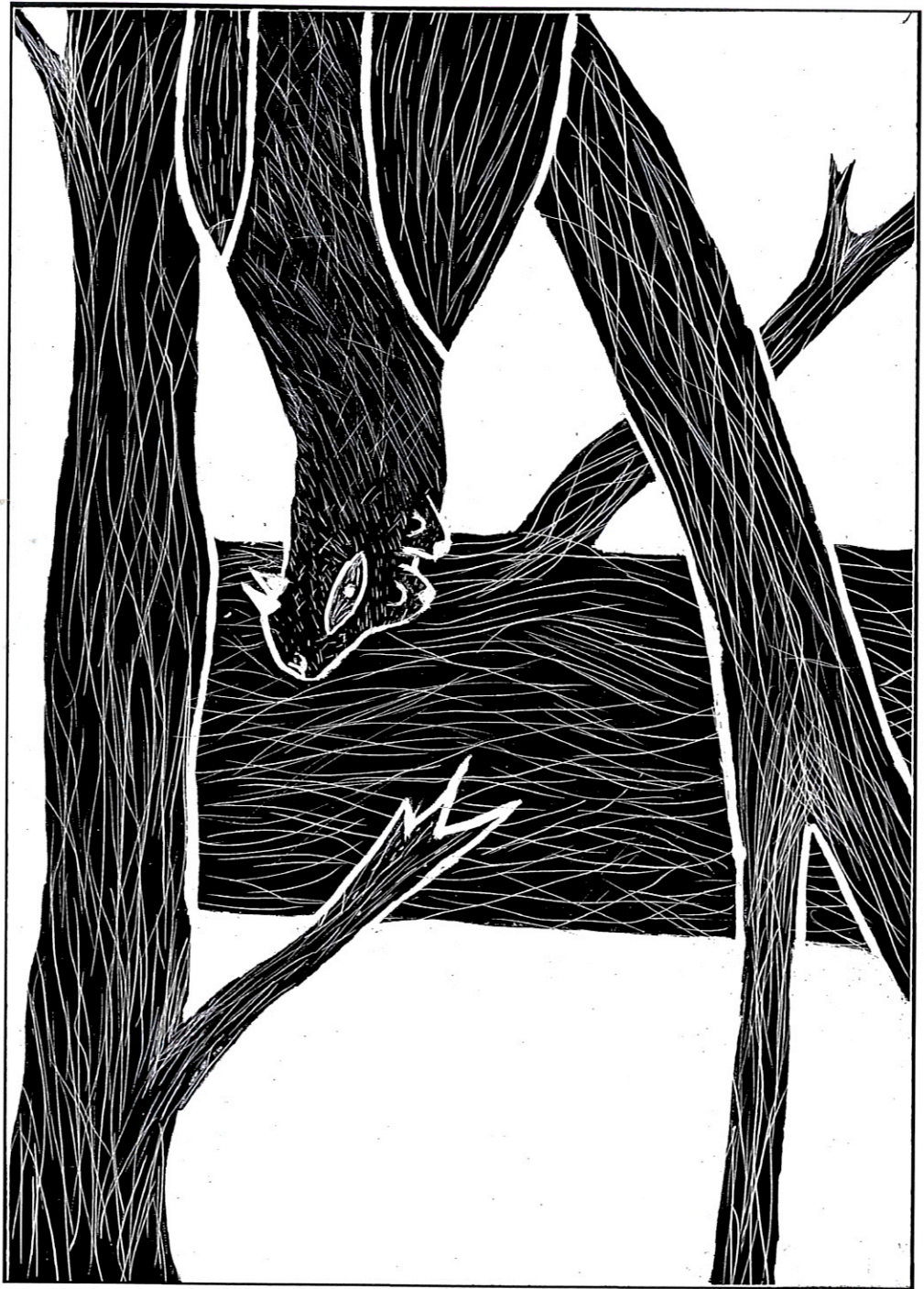
The Friendless Bat

Once upon a time, there was a Black Bat who didn't know if he was a bird or a beast. When he got near the other animals, the bat hesitated and shivered. He tried really hard to be a bird and tried to fly in the same ways they did. In this way, he tried to make friends with the birds. When he asked if he could go up into the apple tree with them, they said to leave them alone. They didn't want him to join them, because he looked nothing like them even though he could fly. Then, he tried to be a beast. He walked over, mimicking the large, scary beasts and asked to join them. They snarled and hissed at him.

"You're just too small and not scary enough to be a beast." one of them explained. The beasts left him alone, and he flew sorrowfully back to his home. That evening, staring up at the stars, Bat spotted someone who looked just like him. When he flew off to investigate, he found it was another bat. The two flew off together and became best friends.



Don't try to be somebody that you're not.



Chipmunk's Victory

On one sunny afternoon, Hedgehog, Rabbit and Chipmunk were walking in the forest enjoying the day. Chipmunk decided to race Rabbit even though Rabbit had much longer legs. Rabbit agreed and Hedgehog was then made the judge. They chose a spot for the race and then Hedgehog shouted, "Go!"

As expected, Rabbit pulled ahead with his long legs pounding, but Chipmunk was loaded with tons of energy. He was just a small step behind as they sprinted towards the finish! As they neared the finish line, Chipmunk decided to dive past Rabbit to win the race. As he flew over the finish line and won, he slid straight into a huge patch of rotting mushrooms!

"Yuck!" Chipmunk screamed in disgust. He stood up victorious, but he was very stinky.



Look before you leap.



The Alligator That Fought Air and Water

Alligator lived at the end of the river, but he wanted to live upstream where the water was clean and the fish were big. To get there, however, he would have to travel a long and dangerous journey. The first day he set out he met the fierce rapids.

"Will you let me through to the top of the river where the water is clean and the fish are big?" Alligator asked the rapids.

"Yes, but not without a fight," the rapids replied. They sucked him under and threw him against rocks, and when they were finished with him he was so worn out that he could only float back down the river. The next day, still sore from his struggle, he decided to walk along the river banks.

"Will you let me through to the top of the river where the water is clean and the fish are big?" Alligator asked the air politely, for he didn't want to dry out.

"Yes, but not without a fight," Air replied. Almost right away, he started to feel dried out. His skin felt too tight, and he could go no further. He jumped into the rapids and floated home once more.

"Today I will win," Alligator said the next morning. He moved quickly as air heated up and dried his skin out, and the rapids crashed and thundered below. He felt dry but kept going, so dry in fact that his strength almost left him completely. He could finally see the big river just ahead and jumped back in the water with relief. After his long journey, Alligator finally found a new home, where the water was clean and the fish were indeed big.



If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.



The Curious Dog

Once there was a curious Dog who was walking through the forest when he spotted something on the top of a tree. It looked like a big gray ball. Dog wanted to go play with it. He looked up and saw that he would have to wait for the big gray ball to come down from the tree. Dog walked around the tree many times during the day, waiting for the curious object to come down.

Finally, in the early evening Dog noticed that the big gray ball was slowly moving down the tree. Dog was tired, but this was the moment he had been waiting for. When the big gray ball reached the ground, Dog's curiosity got the better of him and he sniffed it. He didn't smell anything so he batted the ball with his paws. The ball turned around and Dog whimpered. Many sharp needles pierced his paw. It was not a big gray ball at all! It was a porcupine!



Don't stick your nose where it doesn't belong.



The Monkey That Tried To Be Nice

One day, Rat and Snake were talking while looking into the sky, when a single, big, bright yellow banana caught their attention.

"Wouldn't it be nice to eat that banana?" Rat asked. "If I could climb the tree I could get to the banana."

"Yes," Snake agreed, "and if I had two paws, I could pull it down." They wanted the banana very badly, but neither of them had the ability to get it. After much thought, they asked Monkey for help. Monkey agreed, so she climbed the tall tree and found the banana, but she could not decide to whom she should give it.

"Give it to me!" snarled Rat, "I am the one who should eat the banana."

"No, I am your best friend!" hissed Snake. "I deserve the banana!" Snake and Rat growled, hissed, and snatched at each other. All their yelling and screaming terrified Monkey, who split the banana in two and offered Rat and Snake each a half.

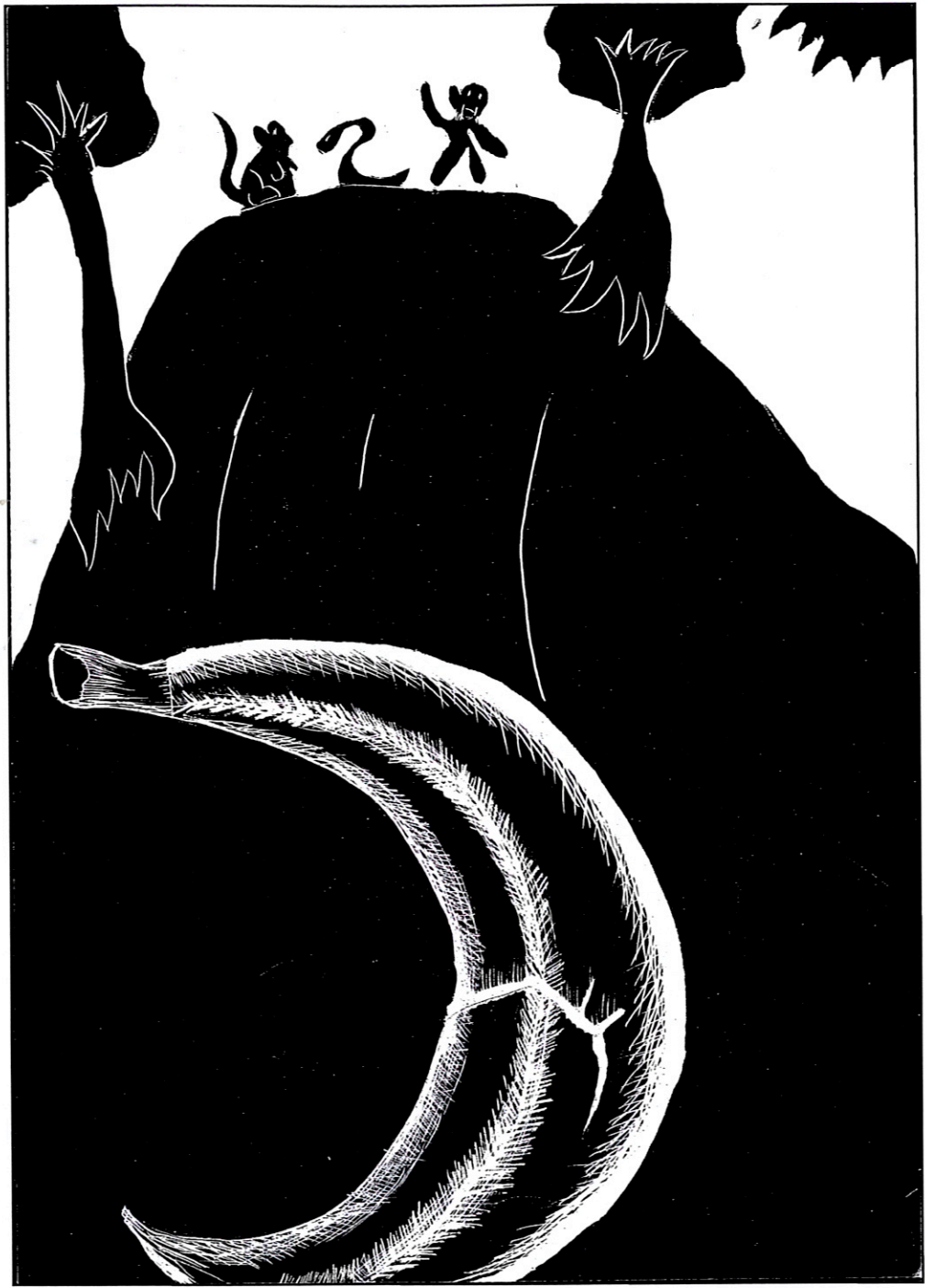
"What have you done?" Snake asked.

"You ruined a perfectly good banana!" Rat yelled.

The two were so mad that Rat scratched Monkey and Snake bit her. After tending to her injuries, Monkey wondered why give the banana to anyone if no one will be pleased? So she threw the banana over a cliff.



Try to please all and you will end by pleasing none.



Turtle and Heron

One day, a lonely Heron was walking along when he saw Turtle flipped over on his back. Heron thought this was a strange way for a turtle to behave so he went over and found that Turtle was stuck. Heron helped Turtle back onto his feet, and Turtle thanked him for being so caring.

The next day, Turtle saw Heron standing by the pond, as still as a statue. Turtle went over and asked what was wrong. Heron said he had been trying to catch a fish to eat since morning. Turtle told Heron to wait a minute and then splashed into the water only to return a few minutes later with a big, juicy fish.

After that, Turtle and Heron were constantly playing and helping each other in new ways. They built a strong and caring friendship throughout the summer. When it started getting colder, Heron knew it was time for him to migrate south. Turtle and Heron said their good-byes and Heron left. Even though Heron was incredibly sad, but he knew that he would return to his great friend as soon as it was warm again.



Happiness is temporary but it always comes back.



The Hermit Crab and His Ring

Hermit crab was playing under the sea when he suddenly felt something fall heavily onto his shell. He looked above him and saw a shiny diamond ring. He shuffled rapidly to Seahorse and showed him his treasure.

“Seahorse, look at this ring that fell on my shell!” Crab said.

“Crab, are you crazy? Go away,” Seahorse said through his laughter. Crab ran to Shrimp.

“Shrimp, look at my beautiful ring! It just suddenly fell on my shell this morning.” Crab stated proudly.

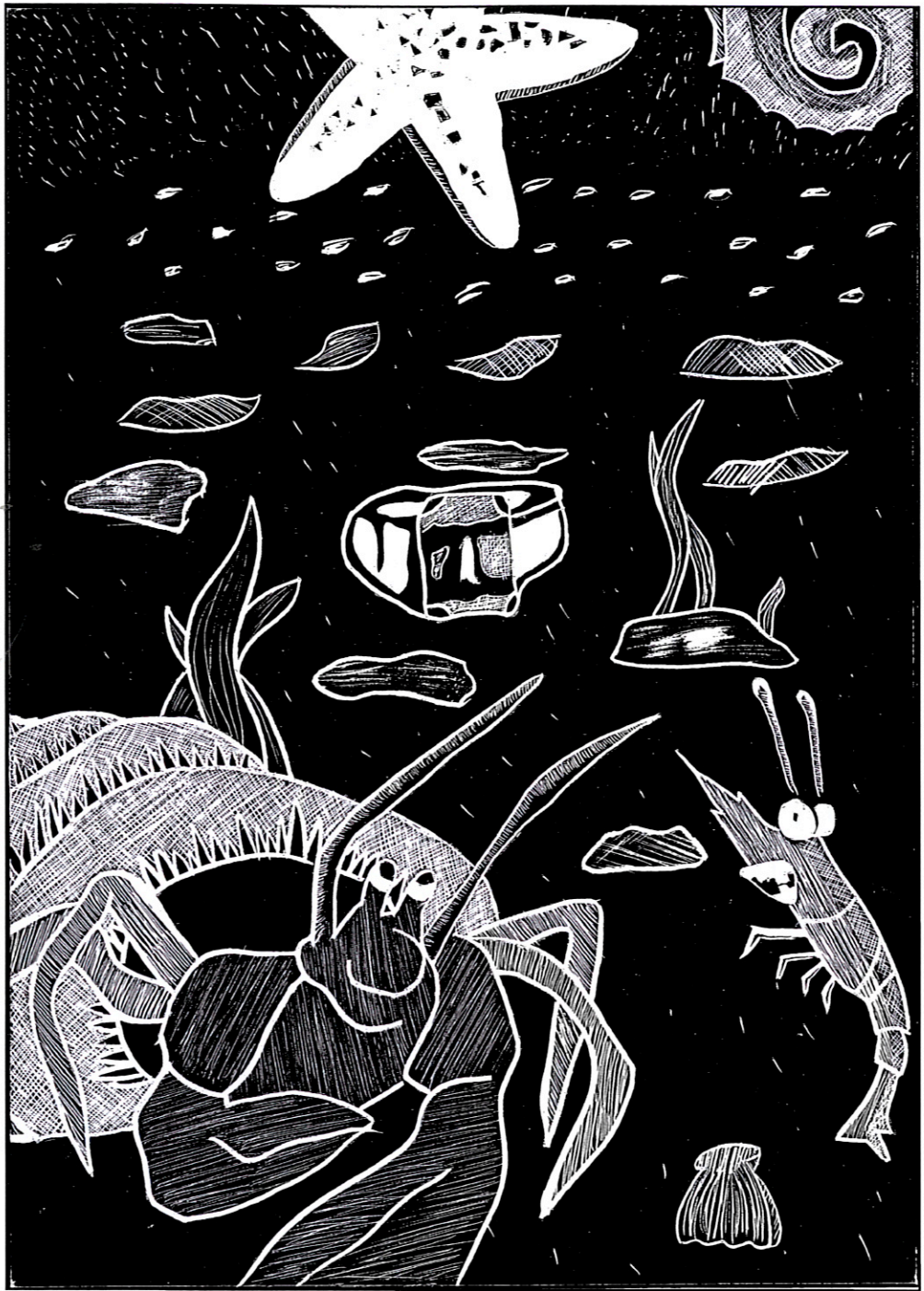
“There’s nothing on your...” Shrimp managed to say before she began laughing so hard that she couldn’t speak. Crab couldn’t figure out why they were laughing at him. He knew that a ring had fallen on his shell, and he went to show Starfish.

“Starfish, look at this ring that fell on my shell today,” Crab said boastfully.

“What ring are you talking about? There isn’t anything on your shell,” Starfish informed him. Very puzzled, Crab looked up and saw no shine as he had before. A ring had indeed once fallen on his shell, but in all of his excitement, Crab had lost it.



Pay attention to what is important to you.



Sheep and Cow

There was once a Sheep who thought he had many reasons to feel sorry for himself: he was sad because he had lost a friend who had strayed too far from the flock, because in the fall his coat would get muddy in the rain and because every spring the farmer would shear his beautiful white wool. One bright and sunny day, while Sheep was feeling sorry for himself, he saw a cow that was new to the pasture. He walked across the field, over to this new cow and said,

“You must be new here. Welcome.”

“Thank you,” was all Cow replied in a sad voice. Sheep asked him what was wrong, and Cow told Sheep his unfortunate story.

“Alas, before I came here, my family and I were going to be sold together. The farmer didn’t want all of us, so they took me but not the rest of my family. I don’t know if I’ll ever see any of them again.” As Sheep listened to the tale, he realized that for all his own troubles, Cow’s troubles were much worse.



There is always someone with greater troubles than your own.



The Mouse and His Cheese

Mouse arrived home one day to an awful odor. He went to go check on the cheese that he had been saving for a long time, and there were greenish blue dots all over it.

"Mold!" he said angrily. The cheese was no longer good to eat, so he knew what he had to do. Mouse wrapped the cheese in a piece of torn cloth. While finding a place to bury it, he came upon his friend Rat.

"What is that in your cloth?" Rat puzzled.

"It's cheese that has mold on it," Mouse said sadly.

"I'll eat the cheese! I love rotten cheese!" Rat exclaimed excitedly. Mouse offered the cheese to Rat. He quickly grabbed it and ate the moldy mess. Mouse stared at Rat in awe and realized that what was disgusting to him was delicious to Rat.



One's trash is another's treasure.



The Tricky Rat

One day, Skunk stole a piece of cheese from Rat. In his anger, Rat decided to seek revenge. So Rat plotted the perfect plan, which was to take a piece of cheese and roll it up with honey to throw at Skunk. Rat rushed to Chipmunk's tree and told him about his plan. While they were talking, Rat spotted some cheese on Chipmunk's nose and naturally became suspicious.

"Where did you get that cheese?" he asked. Chipmunk told Rat that Skunk gave it to him in exchange for his friendship.

"I agreed with the bargain and took the cheese," he said.

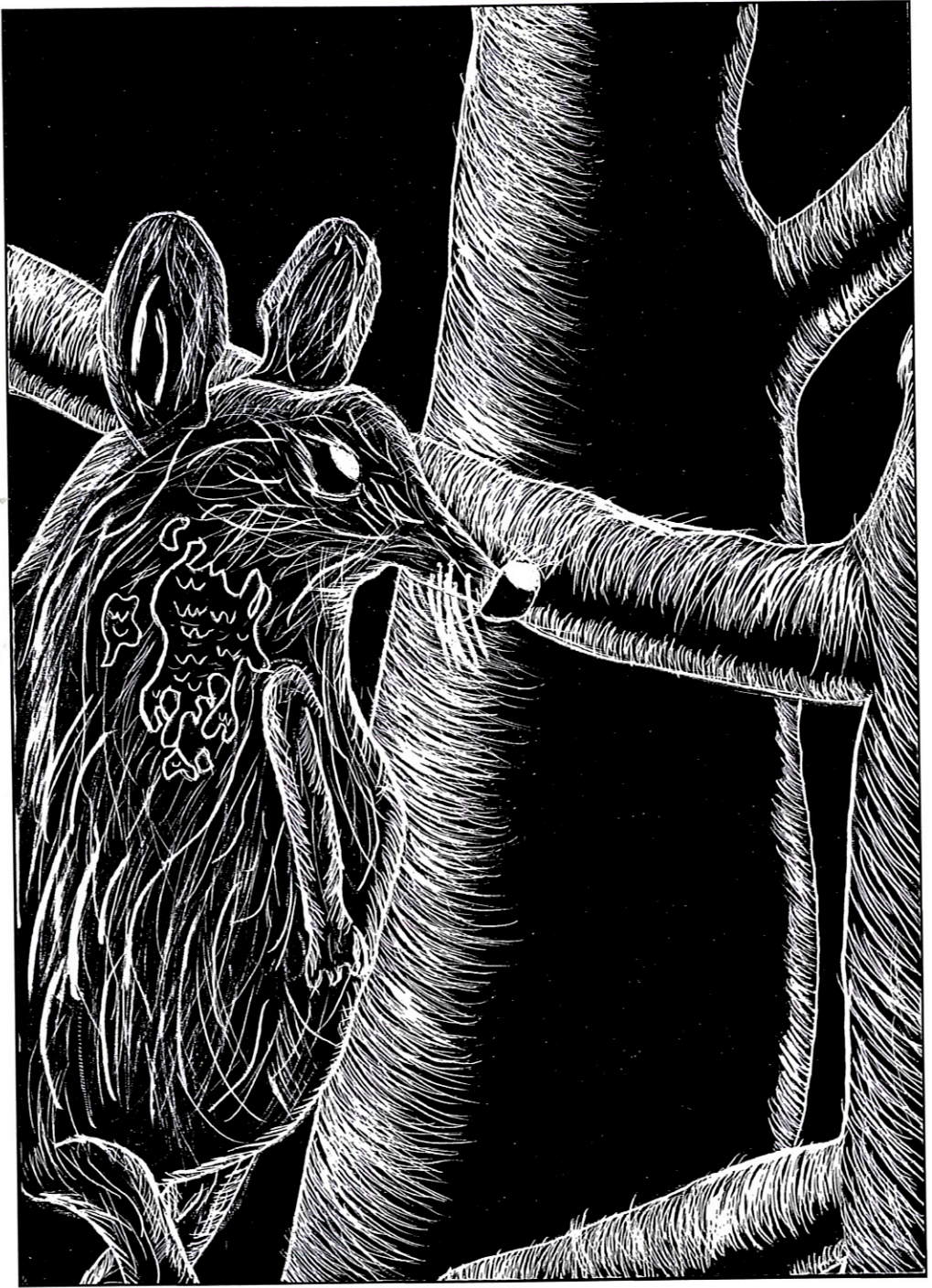
"That was my cheese!" Rat shouted.

"I didn't know!" Chipmunk pleaded, "I would have never taken it if I had known." Rat only grinned playfully.

"Okay," he said, "if Skunk wants cheese, we'll give him cheese." Chipmunk agreed to proceed with the trick. Rat was hiding behind a bush waiting when it was time to throw the sticky cheese. He heard a branch snap and turned around as the ball of cheese exploded honey all over his chest. Chipmunk had played a dirty prank on Rat, who didn't think it was funny at all.



He who plays a trick must be prepared to take a joke.



The Mockingbird's Stone

Mockingbird was flying through the forest when he passed a stream and saw the shiniest stone he had ever seen. He picked it up and thought about what a delightful stone he had found. So off he flew to Woodpecker's nest and he showed him the fine treasure that he had found. But Woodpecker was not impressed.

"That's not a very nice stone, it's too shiny," he said. "I have a better stone for you." Woodpecker went into his nest and looked around. He then pulled out a rough, dirty stone and said, "I will kindly give you this stone in exchange for the ugly one you have found." Mockingbird accepted the trade, although he wasn't sure that it was as fair as Woodpecker would have him believe. On Mockingbird's way home, he realized that the treasure he had given away was more valuable than the one he was now taking home. His friend had given him just an ordinary stone and had kept the special one for himself.



Trust is easier broken than mended.



The Bear That Assumed Too Much

There was once a very excitable and easily fooled Bear who came upon a possum lying on the ground. The possum wasn't moving at all. In fact, at a glance, he looked quite lifeless. Immediately, Bear assumed the worst.

"Oh no!" she cried. "Possum is dead! I must go and let all the forest know what has happened." She went off to spread the word and soon met Deer.

"Deer! The worst thing has happened: Possum has died!" said Bear. Next she met her friend the Salamander.

"Oh Salamander, Possum is dead!" wailed Bear. As Bear was walking home, feeling sad about the Possum's death, she spotted the very same Possum ambling down the path.

"Possum!" shouted Bear, "What are you doing? You're supposed to be dead!" Possum looked at Bear and laughed.

"Did you honestly think that? I didn't die; I faked it to fool the fox passing by. Before you assume, you had better make sure you are right!" Possum wisely said. Bear thought of all the animals that she told, and how they were sure to laugh at her when they heard that she'd been fooled. She regretted ever assuming that Possum was dead.



Question your assumptions or you may end up feeling foolish.



The Naughty Otter

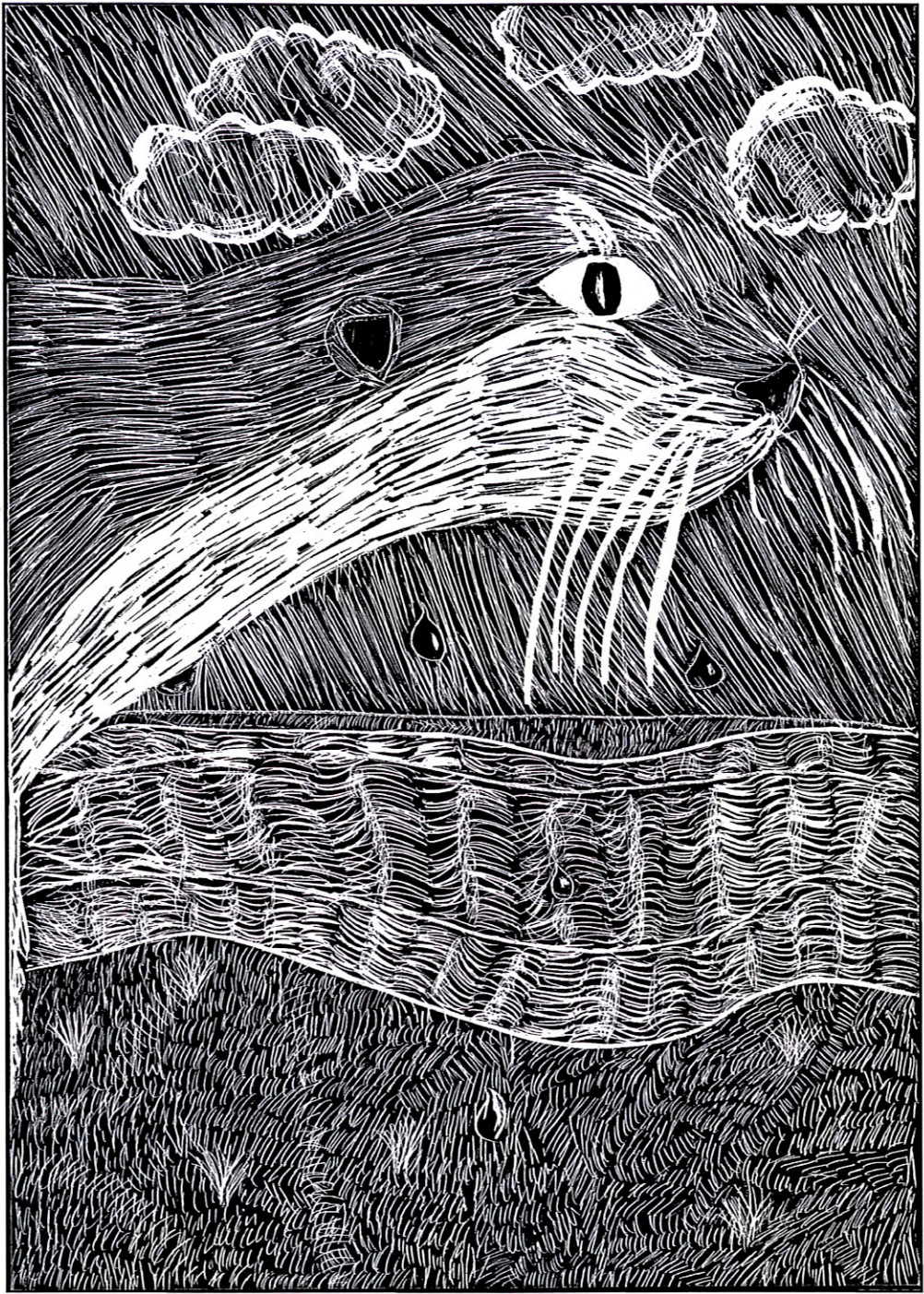
There once was a Baby Otter who never listened. She always thought that she knew best so she never took advice or suggestions from others. Big Otter promised Baby Otter that he would take her for a swim in the river. Baby Otter was the most excited she had ever felt. When the big day came, the river was wild and stormy. Big Otter said that they would try again the next day, but he warned Baby Otter, saying,

“Don’t go out too far into the current. It is still very strong and you’ll be swept away.” Baby Otter didn’t heed his warning and swam out into the big river. Without warning, the current tried to swallow her. She couldn’t call out for Big Otter, because the river filled her mouth every time she opened it. Baby Otter was soon far away from her beach, and she couldn’t see her home anymore. She was very scared. Just when she realized there was no hope of making it back, she felt strong paws pulling her out.

“Next time,” Big Otter scolded, “listen to someone who is older than you, or you may not get so lucky.”



Listen to those who are wiser than you.



Bear and Coyote

One day, Coyote and Bear were playing in the woods. They had been wrestling for a really long time. Bear grew tired and he wanted to rest and get a drink of water, but Coyote still wanted to wrestle. Even though Bear had quit playing, Coyote tackled him one last time from behind and Bear fell. Coyote yipped with glee. Bear got up, extremely angry.

"I was done wrestling!" Bear said angrily, "Don't you ever listen?" and he thumped Coyote as hard as he could on the head. Coyote yelped in pain and Bear, now feeling sorry for him, gave him some water. When Coyote came to his senses, he felt a patch of fur missing from the top of his head and a huge lump sticking out of the missing patch.

"Next time, I'll consider the consequences before I strike," thought Coyote.



Think before you act.



The Squirrel That Did Not Succeed

Once upon a time, there was a flying squirrel who just could not glide. Try as he might, the determined fellow just couldn't do it. He hurt himself, landing roughly on the ground, and sometimes he crashed into a tree while trying to land on it. It frustrated him so much that he stopped trying.

"It can't be done," he muttered darkly to himself. Then, one day, he saw a group of other squirrels jumping from tree to tree, having a great time. Seeing what he was missing, and not being one to miss out on fun, Squirrel redoubled his efforts, and tried his hardest to glide successfully once again. He leaped from his perch with a cry of triumph, but as fate would have it, he landed once again in a heap. Sadly, Squirrel gave up the idea, thinking it was impossible, once again.



Sometimes things work out, sometimes they don't.



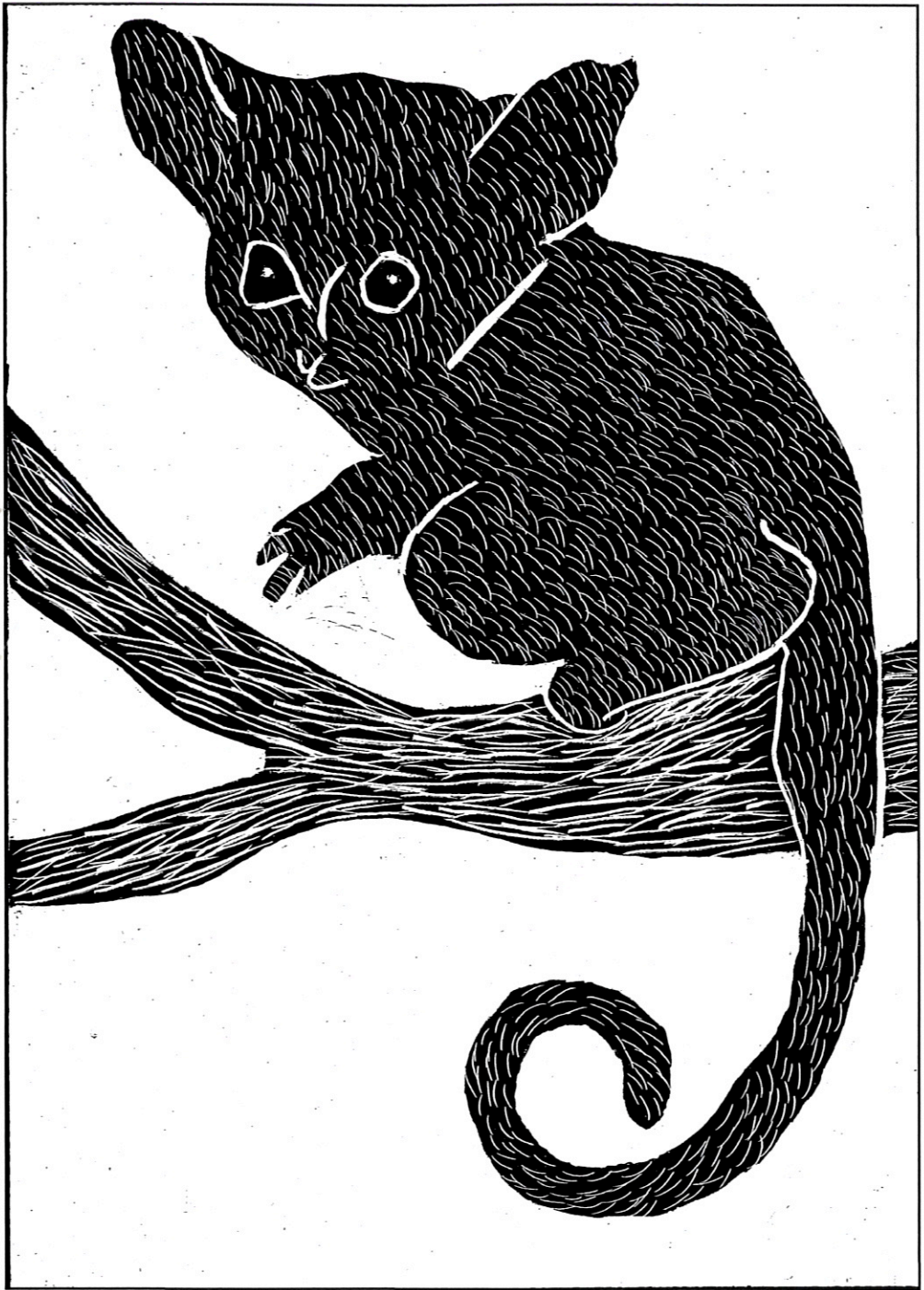
Bush Baby and Koala

There once was a Bush Baby who often moved from one gum tree to another to eat the delicious, juicy leaves that grow on them. One day, she met Koala in her gum tree eating her leaves. Bush Baby worried that Koala would eat all of the leaves and there wouldn't be any left for her so she yelled at Koala to stop eating her leaves. Koala could have been angry, but she wasn't.

"I am sorry for eating your leaves, Bush Baby. Can we share them?" was all she said. Bush Baby realized that Koala was right; there were enough leaves to share, so she invited Koala to come and eat with her in the same tree. They began eating the gum leaves, and after that, they moved from tree to tree together. Because of Koala's kindness, Bush Baby and Koala became best friends.



Treat others the way you want to be treated.

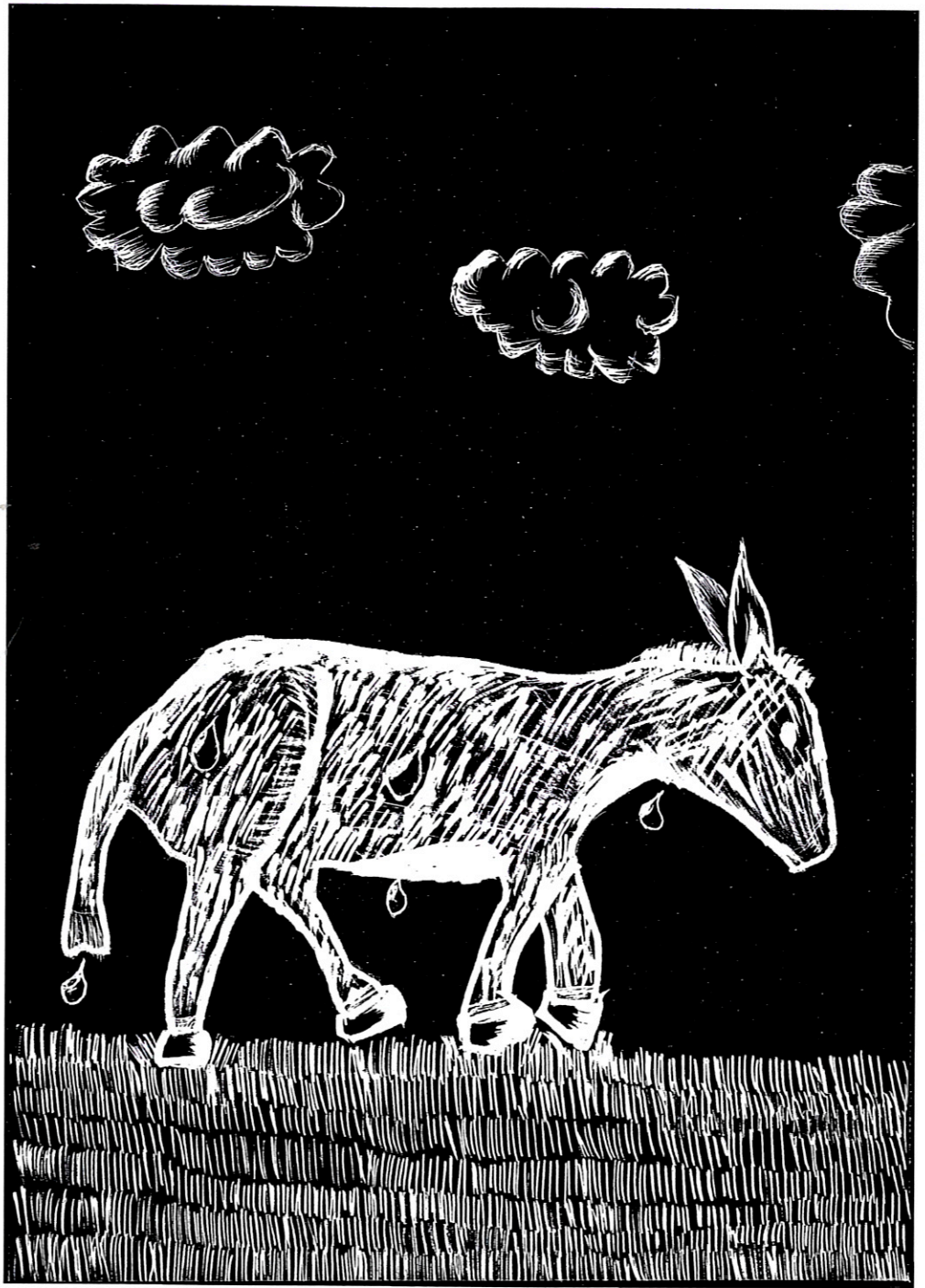


The Annoying Donkey

Little Donkey was walking across a bridge when he saw Big Donkey on the other side. Little Donkey was known to be a pest and today he was feeling naughty, so he decided to have some fun and play a trick on Big Donkey. Little Donkey hid behind some bushes and waited. When Big Donkey was about to pass by, Little Donkey jumped out from behind the bushes and screamed loudly in her ear. On hearing this, Big Donkey jumped, and after settling down a little, she became angry with Little Donkey. In her anger, she butted him off the bridge and into the icy, rushing water below. Little donkey swam to the bank, cold and shivering, and decided that he would always treat others with respect, because that is how he would like to be treated in return.



If you feel naughty, expect the worse.



Bear and Duck

Bear and Duck were the best of friends. In summer, Duck would hide from Bear and then leap out and surprise him. They would swim in the lake, and Duck would disappear under the water and then pop up and startle Bear. In the Fall, they loved to watch the sunset over the lake, while geese and other birds flew overhead going south for the winter. One day, as a chilly wind was blowing, Bear and Duck had to say a tearful good-bye. Duck was leaving for his winter home in the south. Bear and Duck were both very sad to have to leave each other for the long winter, but Bear really struggled to say good-bye. Then, one day, when he was down by the lake, he saw the most beautiful sunset, just like the ones he used to watch with Duck. When Bear saw this, he remembered being with Duck and the fun times they had together and Bear just smiled.



Don't cry because it ended, but smile because it happened.



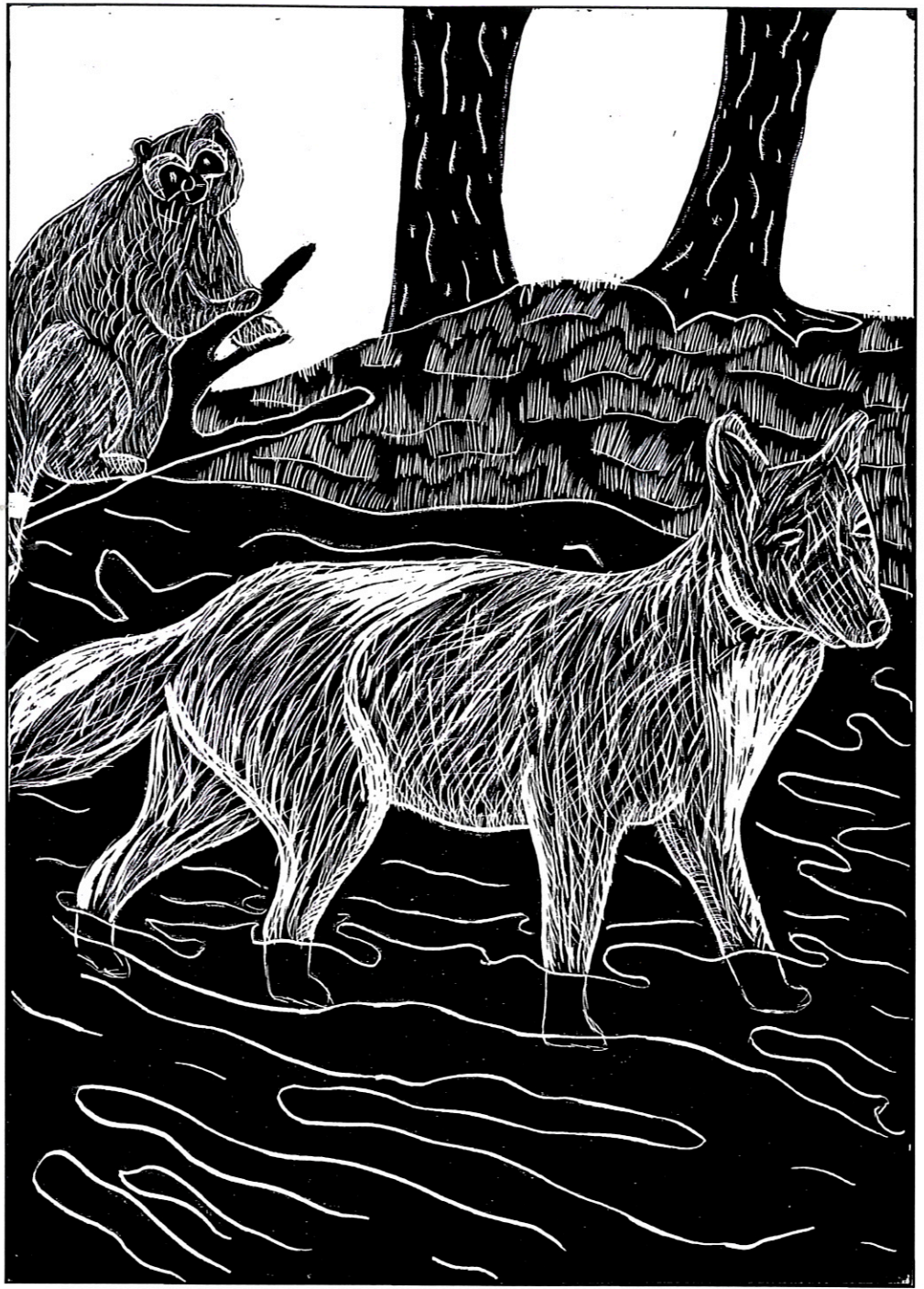
Fox and the Raccoon

Fox had been trying to catch fish all afternoon. He thought he was quick, but he realized he wasn't quick enough. Each time his paws landed on what he thought was a fish, it darted away. Fox was stumped. He didn't know what to do. Fox noticed that Raccoon was able to scoop the fish out of the water, but he was too afraid of the water, so raccoon was stuck eating the little fish at the edge of the pool. It occurred to Fox that there was a way to catch bigger fish with Raccoon's help. He approached Raccoon with his idea.

"If we team up," he explained, "we can get those fish. I'll scare them over to you, and then you scoop them out." It was this method of working together with each other's strengths that made them most successful, and they caught fish all day.



Two heads are better than one.



The Ape and the Vine

Ape and his friends were playing on a high cliff that looked over a rushing stream. Ape's friends challenged him to climb across a vine from the high cliff they were on to the cliff on the other side of the water. Ape started crossing, but halfway across he became very frightened. Looking down at the water very far below caused him to tremble and shake. Ape didn't know if he should go back or keep going, yet he wanted to show the other apes that he could cross over to the other cliff. The other apes were standing on the cliff banging their fists on their chests and howling,

"Ooh, ooh! Ooh, ooh!" Ape decided to keep going. When he reached the large thorns that grew on the vine, he kept going, even though they stuck into the flesh of his hands. Holding on to the vine was very painful for Ape. Ape wanted to prove his bravery, so he slowly managed to make his way across the thorny vine to the other side. He turned around, banged his fists on his chest, and with a big smile on his face, exclaimed,

"Ooh, ooh! Ooh, ooh!"



Whatever you do, do with all your might.

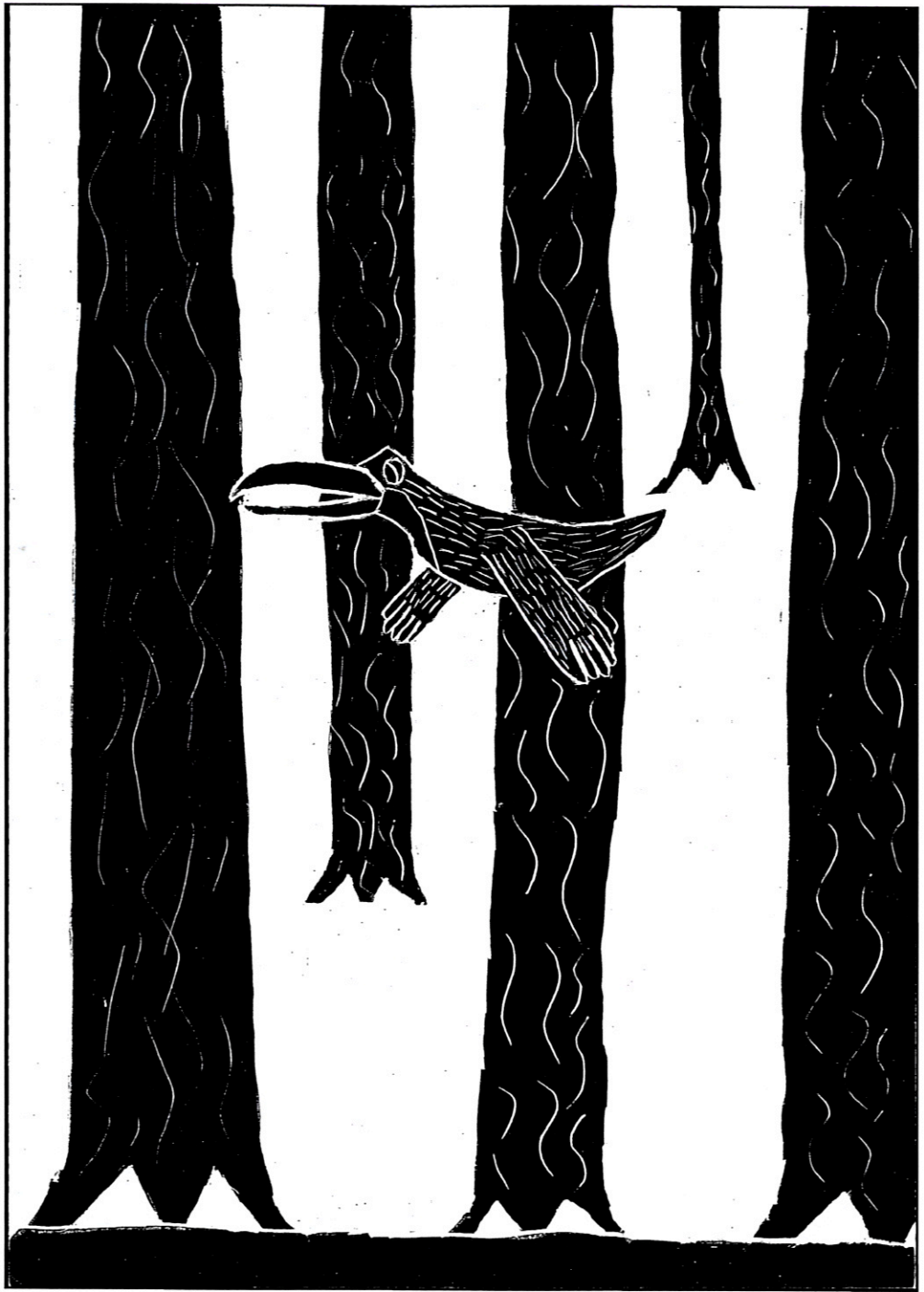


The Toucan That Nearly Lost Everything

One day, when Toucan was flying in the jungle, he spotted a ripe and juicy papaya laying on the ground. This was a lucky find indeed! It wasn't every day Toucan ate papaya. He glided over, picked it up and flew off with it. On his way home, he admired its beautiful colors which reminded him of the colors in his own beak. When Toucan returned to his tree, he laid the papaya carefully out in his nest in preparation for tonight's meal. He went out to find more fruit to go with the papaya, but when he returned, Toucan found that to his dismay, his nice, beautiful, juicy papaya had disappeared! Something had stolen his wonderful fruit, ruining his meal that evening. The rest of that day, Toucan's beak was turned down in sorrow. He was depressed but he learned the hard way that you should always treat everything as if it would be gone tomorrow.



Appreciate what you have while you have it.



The Greedy Ladybug

Ladybug and Caterpillar were eating the big plump, juicy leaves of the maple tree. Ladybug looked at the sky and saw a storm coming.

"Hey Caterpillar," Ladybug said, "Let's take some of the leaves to my house where we can eat them and be dry during the storm." Caterpillar agreed and both were very pleased by Ladybug's idea, because now they still could enjoy the leaves while it was raining hard outside.

It was such a clever idea that Ladybug saved many leaves for himself, giving none to Caterpillar. Ladybug hardly ate any for he did not want to spoil all his hard work gathering the leaves. Ladybug's greed made Caterpillar sad however, and he decided that he would not go over to Ladybug's house until Ladybug stopped being so greedy.

A long time passed and Ladybug grew very lonely. Ladybug was so lonely that he was truly sorry and wanted to tell Caterpillar how selfish he had been and that he would never do it again. Ladybug rushed over to where Caterpillar lived to apologize, but when she got there, all that was left was an empty cocoon. Caterpillar had turned into a butterfly and had flown away, and was never to return. Ladybug felt sad and wished he had never been so greedy, because he lost a good friend.



Greed is the source of all sorrow.



The Chipmunk and the Acorn

One day, Chipmunk, a very reckless little animal, was walking with Squirrel when he saw an acorn in the road. Chipmunk pointed the nut out to Squirrel who said, "I dare you to run and go get that acorn."

"Okay, I will go get it," Chipmunk agreed. He hadn't thought about what was safe or not, and while he was talking, a carriage with four galloping horses came barreling down the road. Unfortunately, Chipmunk did not see or hear it coming. He ran toward the acorn. When he reached it, he heard the sound of exploding thunder over his head. He knew he would be a Chipmunk pancake if he didn't hurry, so he snatched up the acorn and... Clippity Clop! The carriage thundered by, but Chipmunk thought that he was okay. Squirrel, however, noticed something different about Chipmunk. Chipmunk felt a strange twitch of pain, and he looked around to see that part of his tail was missing. He ran home and never took foolish dares again.



Look before you leap!



The Cautious Penguin

There once was a cautious Penguin who was terrified of the water, because it looked bitterly cold and also, he imagined that there were sea monsters that could eat him down there. The other penguins laughed at Penguin's fears when they brought him fish to eat, knowing that sea monsters would not be able to catch fast penguins. Still, each day, Penguin would sit and watch, while all the other penguins played and splashed about in the water.

On one particularly chilly day, Penguin was sitting on the ice when he was startled by a gigantic, hungry seal who climbed onto the ice floe. Penguin tried to waddle away but the only place to go was into the icy, dark water of which he was so afraid. The seal flopped towards Penguin, chomping its teeth and Penguin knew there wasn't much time before the seal would catch and eat him. Without another thought, Penguin jumped off the edge of the ice into the water.

No sooner had his feathers touched the icy surface, then his flippers wriggled with delight. In spite of his former fears, Penguin found the freezing water delightful. He realized how foolish he had been to fear the water before he had even tried it.



Don't be afraid of things you haven't tried yet.



The Hungry Fox

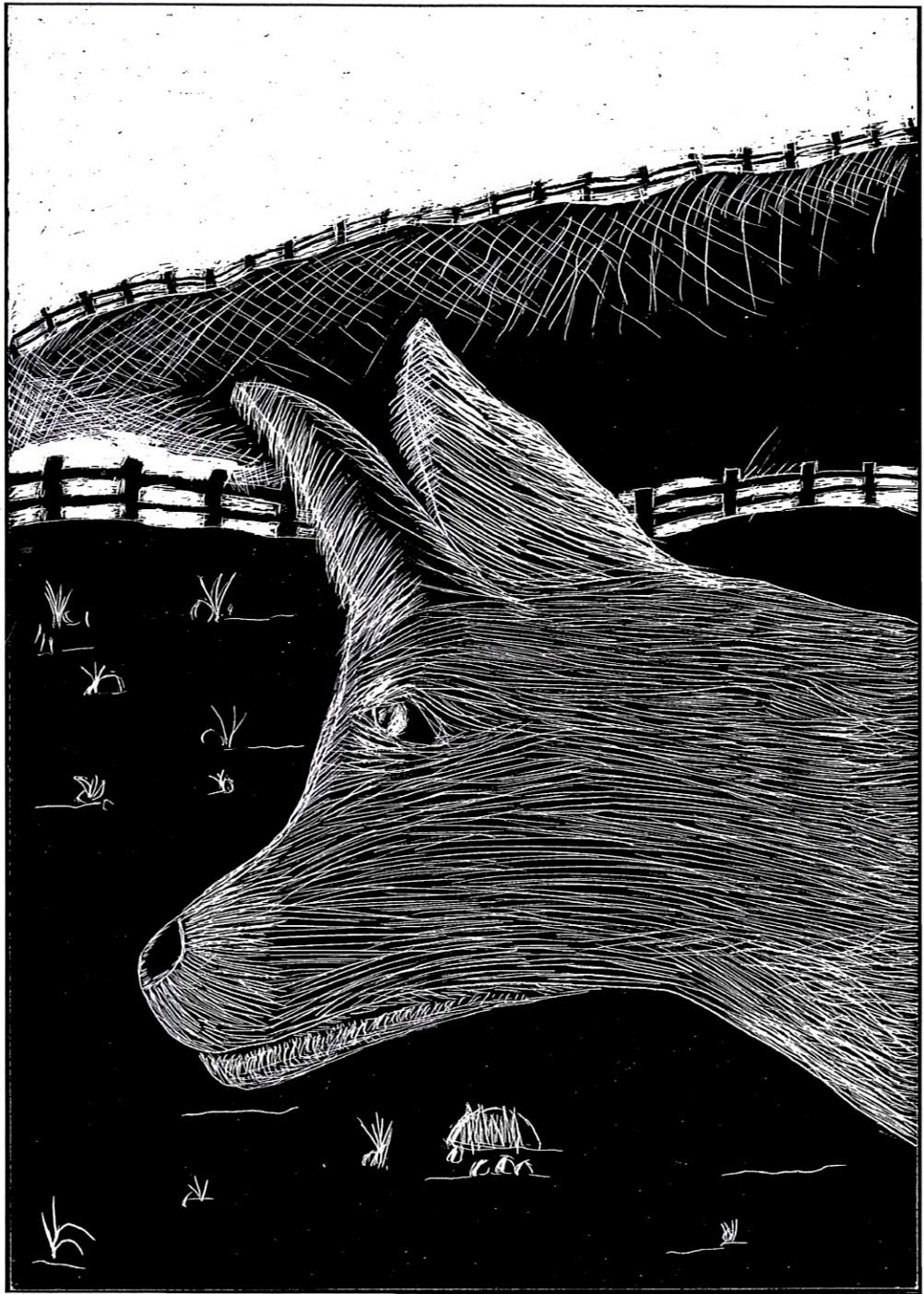
One day, a hungry fox came upon a farmer's chickens. Fox knew that if he tried to catch them, there was a good chance he would get caught by the farmer, so he was reluctant to try. But Fox couldn't give up a chance to eat a delicious, tender dinner, because he hadn't eaten a good meal in three days.

He picked out the biggest, plumpest chicken of the bunch and started chasing after it. The other chickens squawked in alarm when they spotted the hungry fox, and soon enough, the yard was a blur of white feathers and red fur. In the middle of the chase, Fox thought he heard the sound of footsteps coming from inside the house, but in his excitement, he decided that it must have just been the wind. He chased the big chicken through the barnyard and leapt at it, snatching its neck in his mouth.

Suddenly, Fox felt a sharp pain in his hind leg, turning around to see the farmer picking up a second rock to throw. Fox dropped the chicken, and ran back into the woods, deciding that if he stayed, the farmer might do him greater harm than good.



Follow your instincts.



Baby Blue Jay and Mother Crow

Once upon a time, in a forest far, far away, in a tall tree, there lived a mother crow. Most of the other woodland birds laughed at her because she wasn't beautiful, but that didn't stop her from living happily and in harmony with her neighbors.

One day, she was flying casually to the cornfield when she heard a noise down below. She swooped down to see what was happening and saw a baby Blue Jay lying on the ground, chirping, with a broken wing. Stunned to see such a young Blue Jay alone and out in the open, she landed beside him, picked him up and flew home as fast as she could to ask the other birds if they knew anything about the little blue jay's family. She found out from Robin, her neighbor, that Baby Blue Jay's mother had died. Mother Crow felt sorry for the blue jay, so she told him that she would take care of him and teach him how to fly once his wing was healed.

The weeks passed by and Mother Crow began to notice a difference in how the other birds treated her. They mocked and teased her much more than they ever had before. She realized this was because she was helping a bird that looked completely different from her. But Mother Crow was proud of herself and her family because they didn't judge the little Blue Jay by his feathers.



Do not make fun of others because of what they look like.





The End