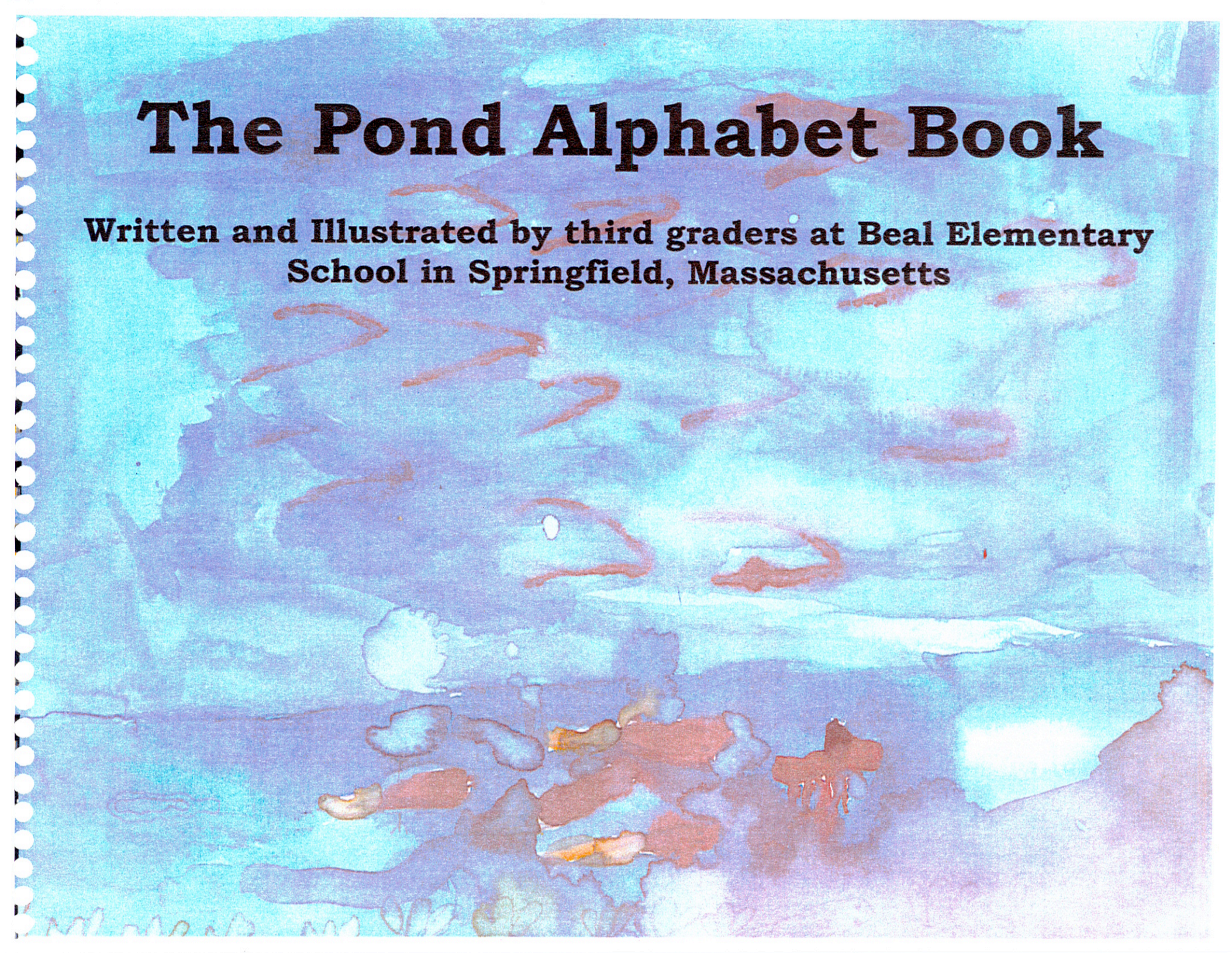
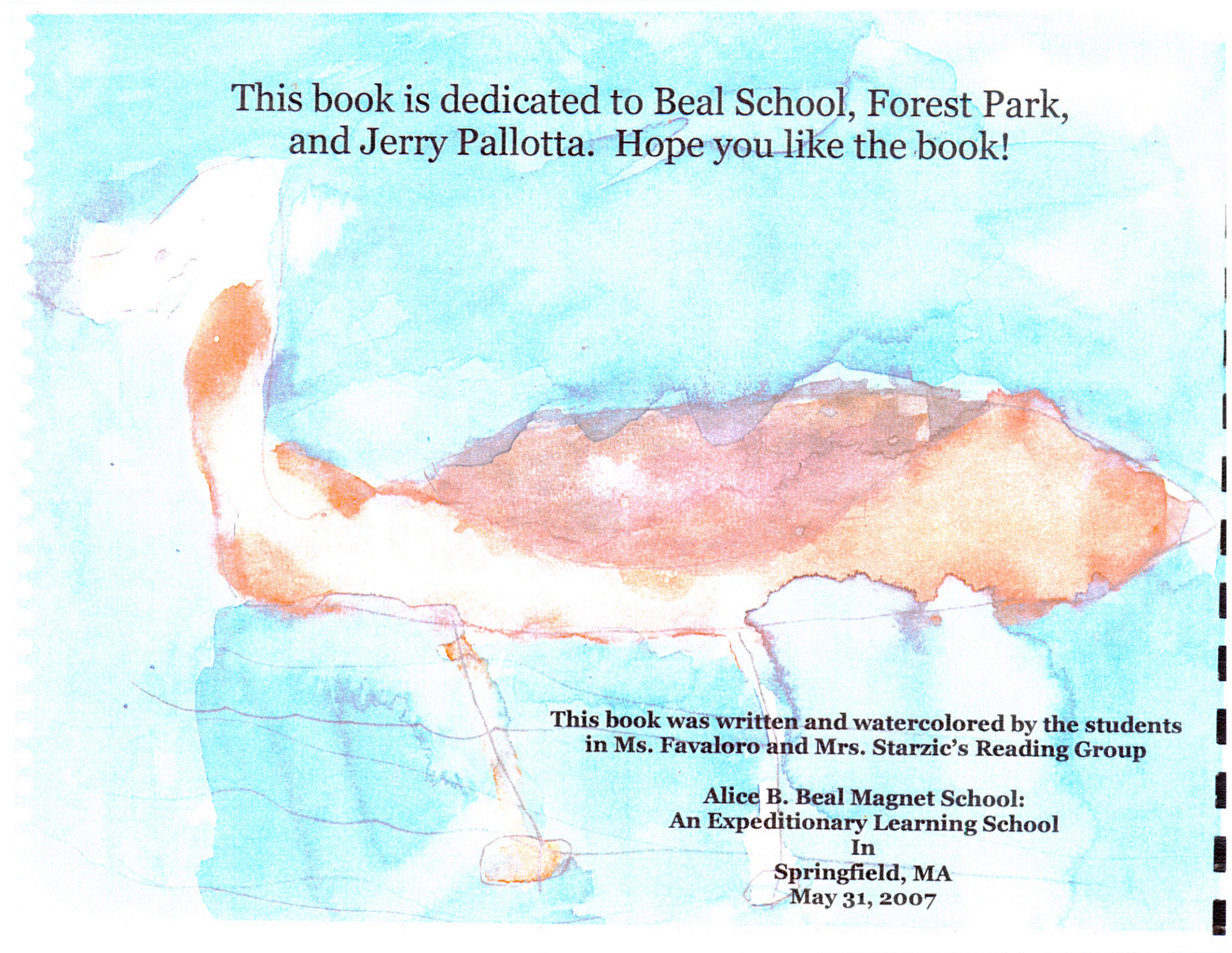


The Pond Alphabet Book

**Written and Illustrated by third graders at Beal Elementary
School in Springfield, Massachusetts**



A watercolor illustration of a person in a boat. The person is wearing a white shirt and a brown hat, and is holding a long pole. The boat is brown and is on a blue body of water. The background is a light blue sky. The entire illustration is done in a soft, painterly style with visible brushstrokes and color blending.

This book is dedicated to Beal School, Forest Park,
and Jerry Pallotta. Hope you like the book!

**This book was written and watercolored by the students
in Ms. Favaloro and Mrs. Starzic's Reading Group**

**Alice B. Beal Magnet School:
An Expeditionary Learning School
In
Springfield, MA
May 31, 2007**

A a

A is for amphibians. The word *amphibian* means double life. Amphibians spend part of their lives under water and spend the other part on land.



B is for birds. Some birds nest at the top of trees. They lay eggs that are big, small, colorful, or not colorful. I'm glad that the eggs in my refrigerator aren't colorful.

B b

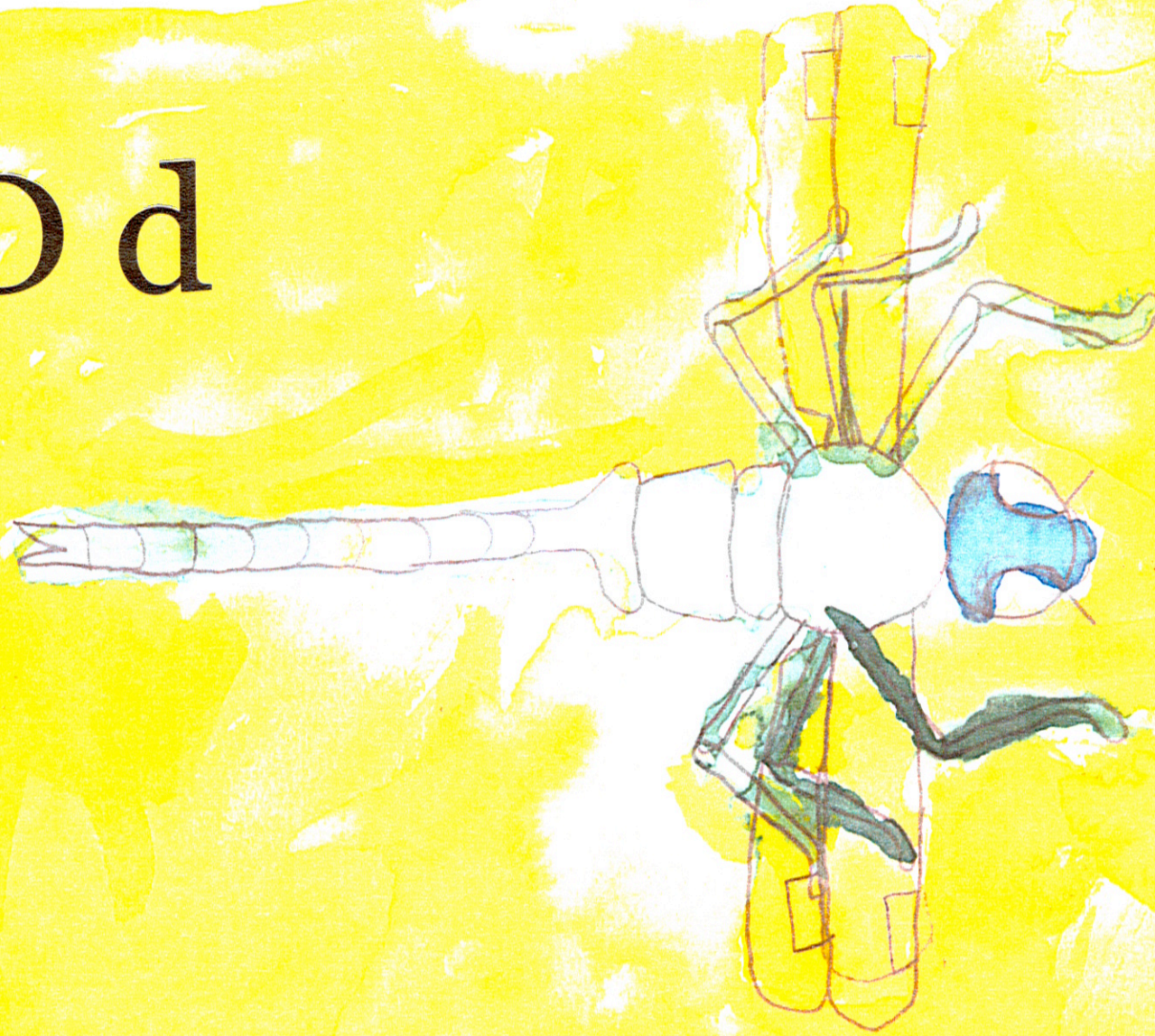




C c

C is for cattails. In late spring mostly all cattails grow to 9-12 feet tall. Painted turtles live among cattails.

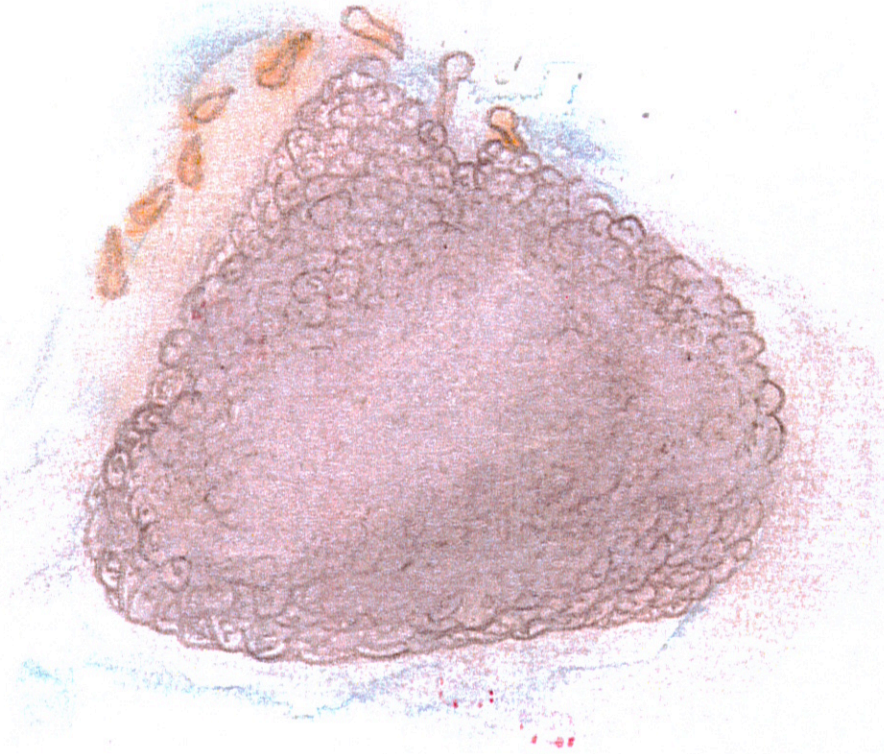
D d



D is for dragonflies.

Dragonflies have a head, thorax and abdomen. If they did not have a head, thorax, and abdomen, they would not be alive.

E e



E is for eggs.

As some of us know, frogs lay their eggs in clusters and toads lay their eggs in chains.

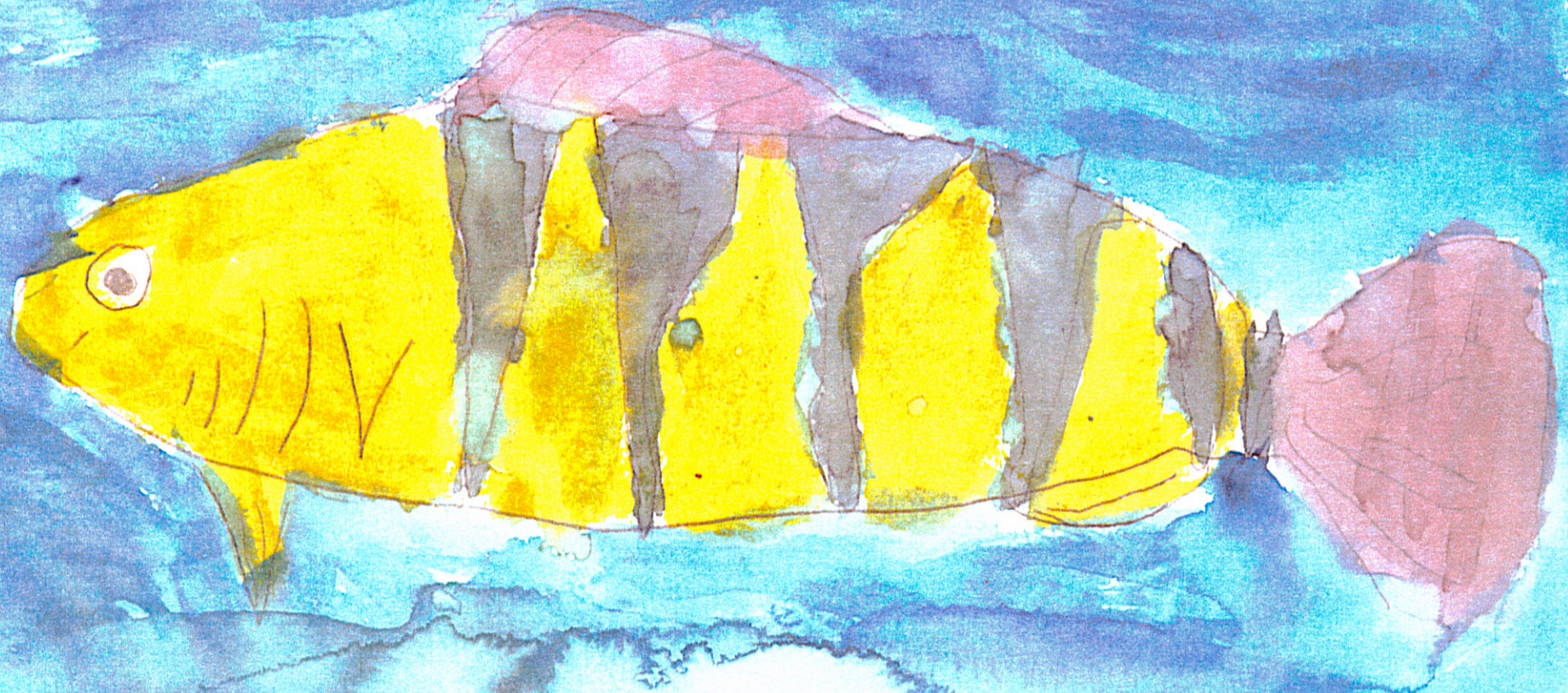
F f

F is for fish.

There are many types of fish, like catfish, golden shiner, and yellow perch.
Even though they are all different, one thing is common, they all have a
fin to swim!



G g



G is for gills. Gills help some organisms that breathe underwater. Tadpoles have lungs and gills at different times in their lives.

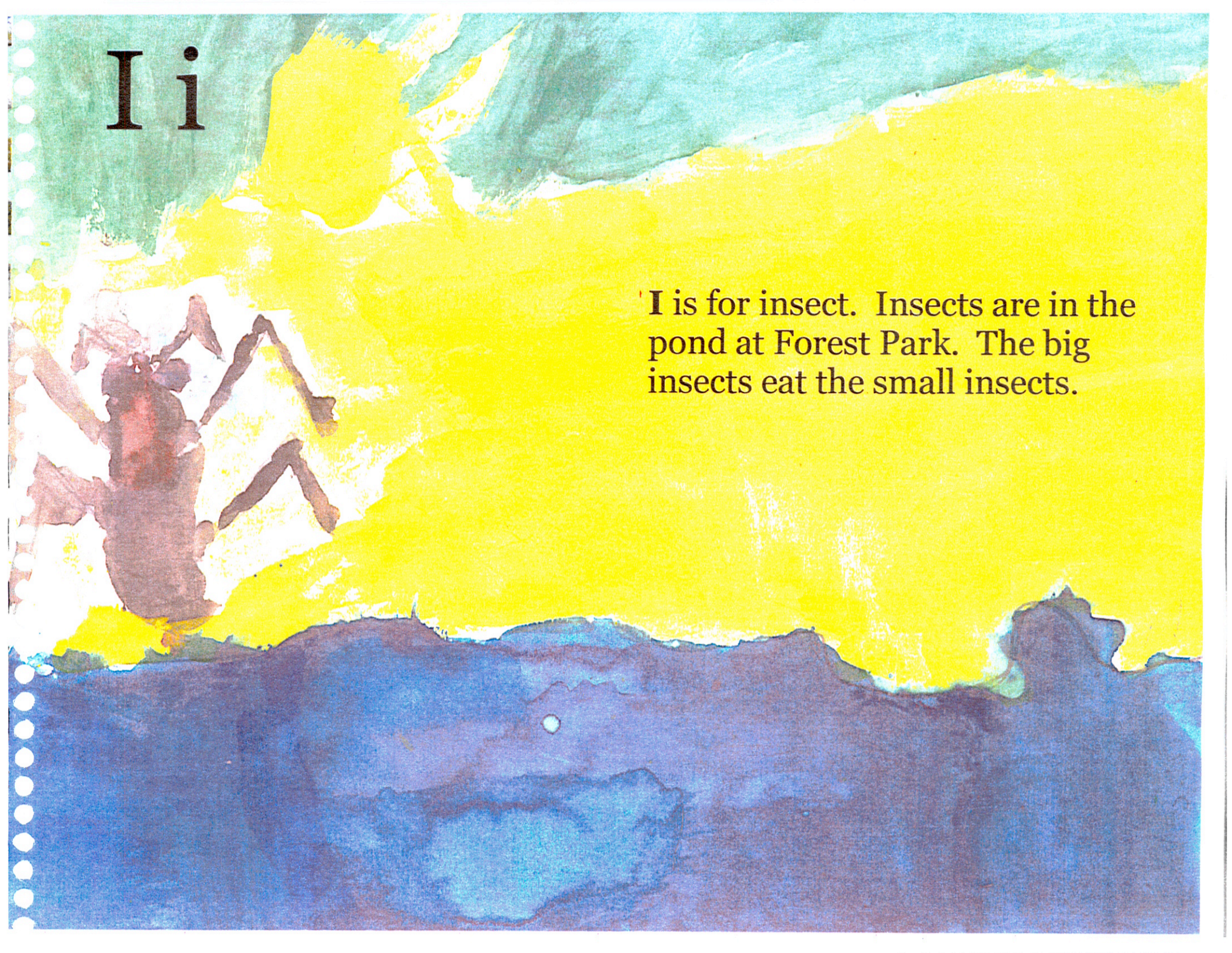
H h

H is for habitat. A habitat is where an organism lives. Plant life, amphibians, birds, insects, and mammals... they all make their homes at Forest Park.



I i

I is for insect. Insects are in the pond at Forest Park. The big insects eat the small insects.



A watercolor illustration of a pond scene. A large, gnarled tree branch arches over the water. A frog is perched on the branch, looking towards the left. In the center of the pond, a yellowish frog is jumping, with its back legs extended and its body angled upwards. The water is depicted with soft washes of blue, green, and pink. The background is a mix of red, pink, and blue washes, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall style is soft and artistic.

J j

J is for jumping. Frogs are better jumpers than toads because frogs have longer back legs.

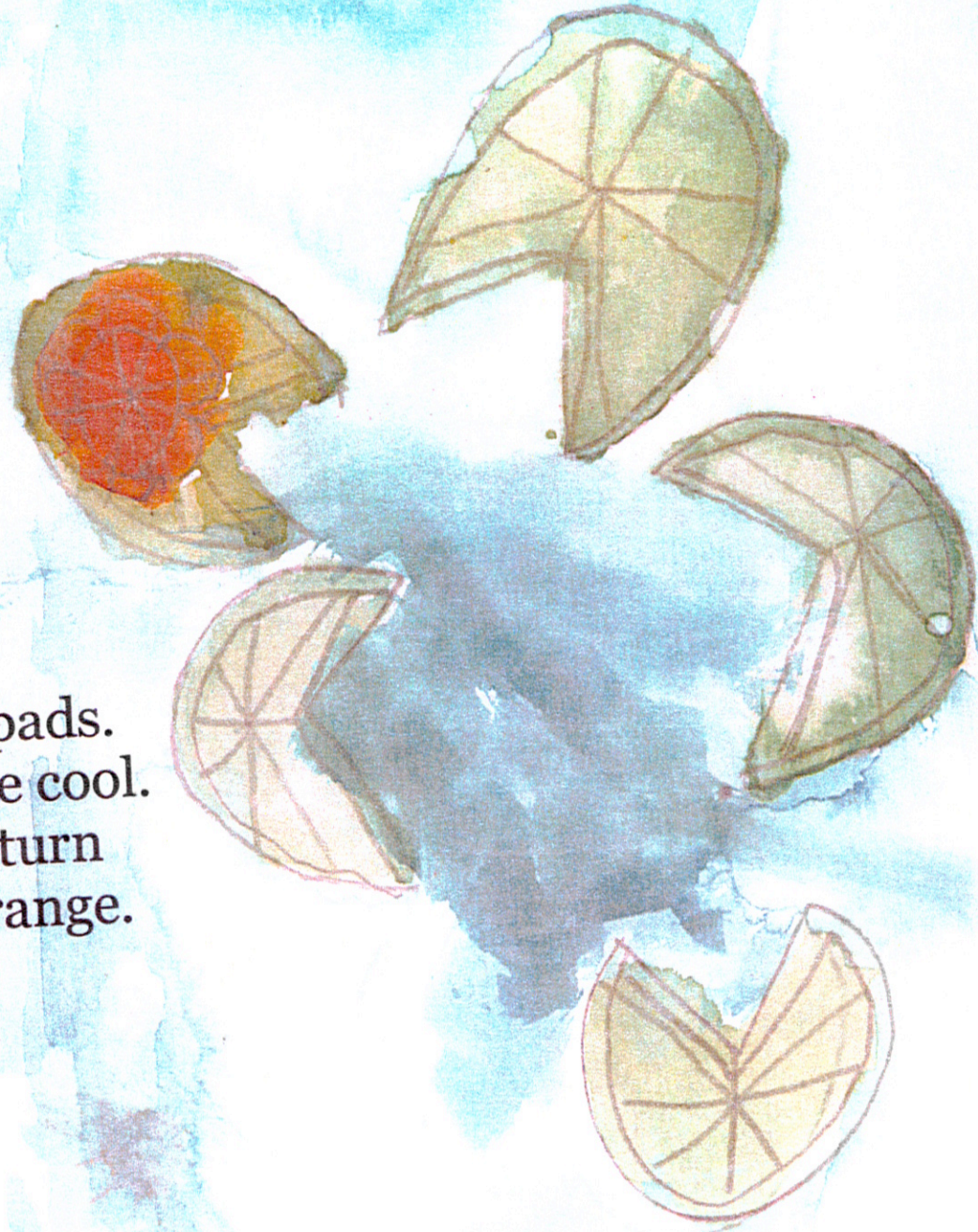
K k



K is for kids. Kids go to the park to observe the creatures in the pond for our brochure groups. You will enjoy our pond book.

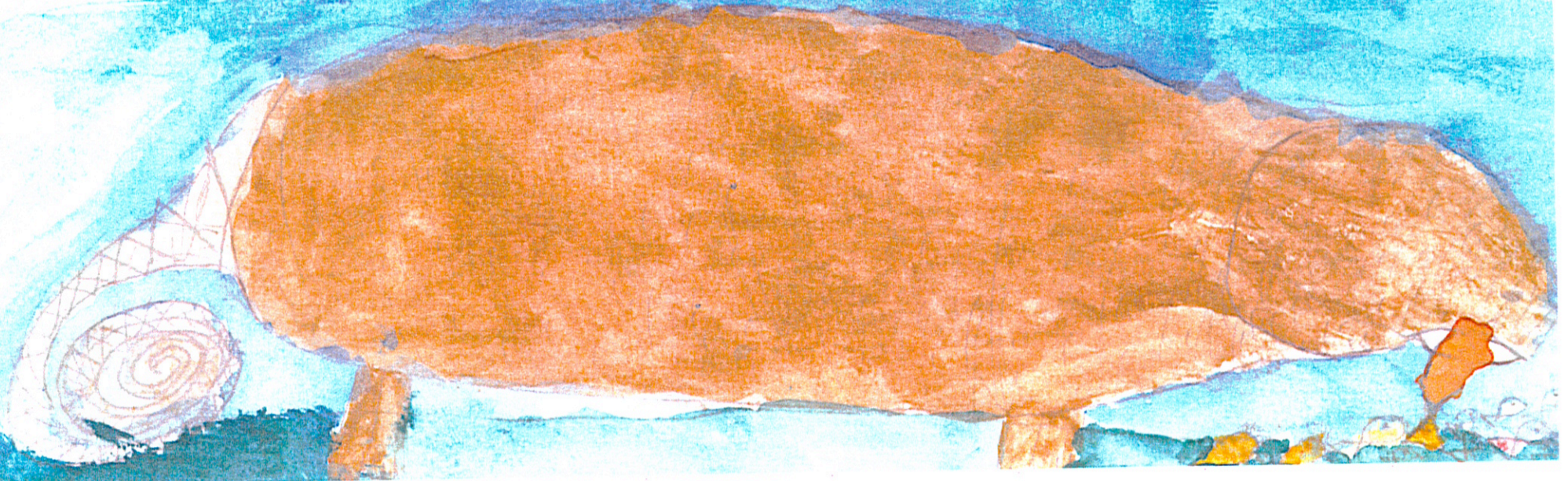
Ll

L is for lily pads.
Lily pads are cool.
They get to turn
yellow or orange.



M m

M is for muskrats. Muskrats are mammals that have brown thick fur.
Muskrats have webbed feet.





N n

N is for nocturnal. Nocturnal means to sleep in the daytime and awaken at nighttime. Red foxes are nocturnal.

O o

O is for observations.
Look at the creatures to
find out where they live and
what they look like.





P p

P is for phragmites. Phragmites grow up to twelve feet tall and can be taller than you! (Or maybe your own teacher! That's so cool, huh?)

Q q

Q is for questions.

Where do spring peepers lay their eggs?

How long is a frog's tongue?

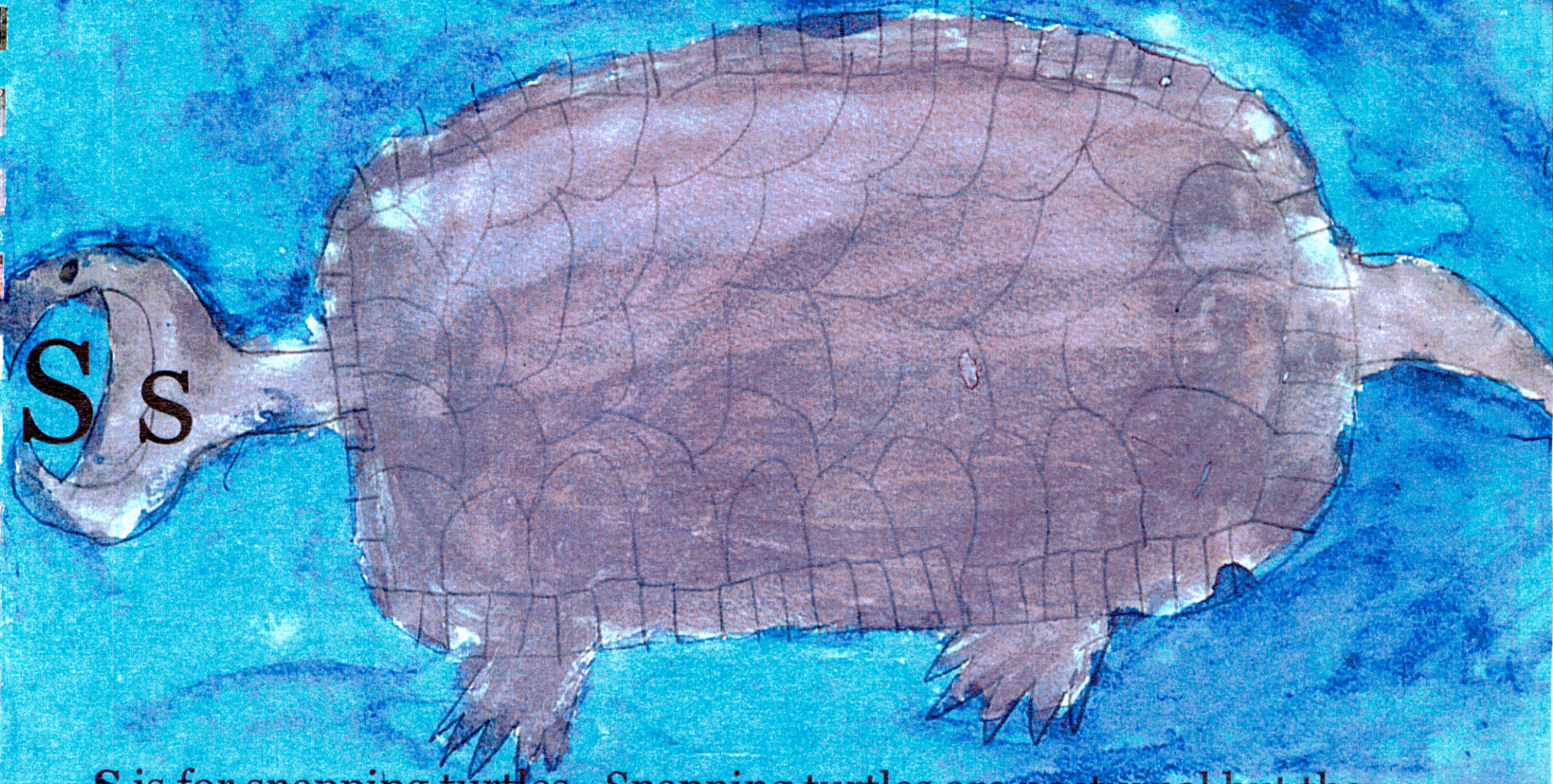
What do leeches eat?



R r

R is for reptiles. They have scales for their skin. Some reptiles live underwater and some live on land. Reptiles lay eggs and mammals don't lay eggs.

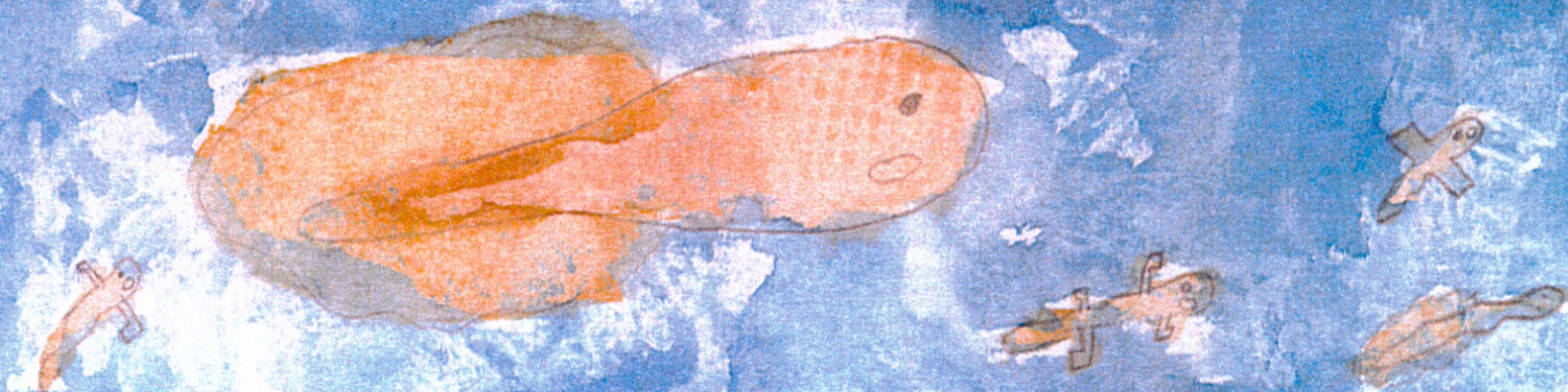




S is for snapping turtles. Snapping turtles are nocturnal but they sometimes come out during the day. They catch their food at night. You won't usually see a snapping turtle.

T t

T is for tadpole. It has slimy and gooey skin.
It also can swim really fast. A tadpole is a baby amphibian.





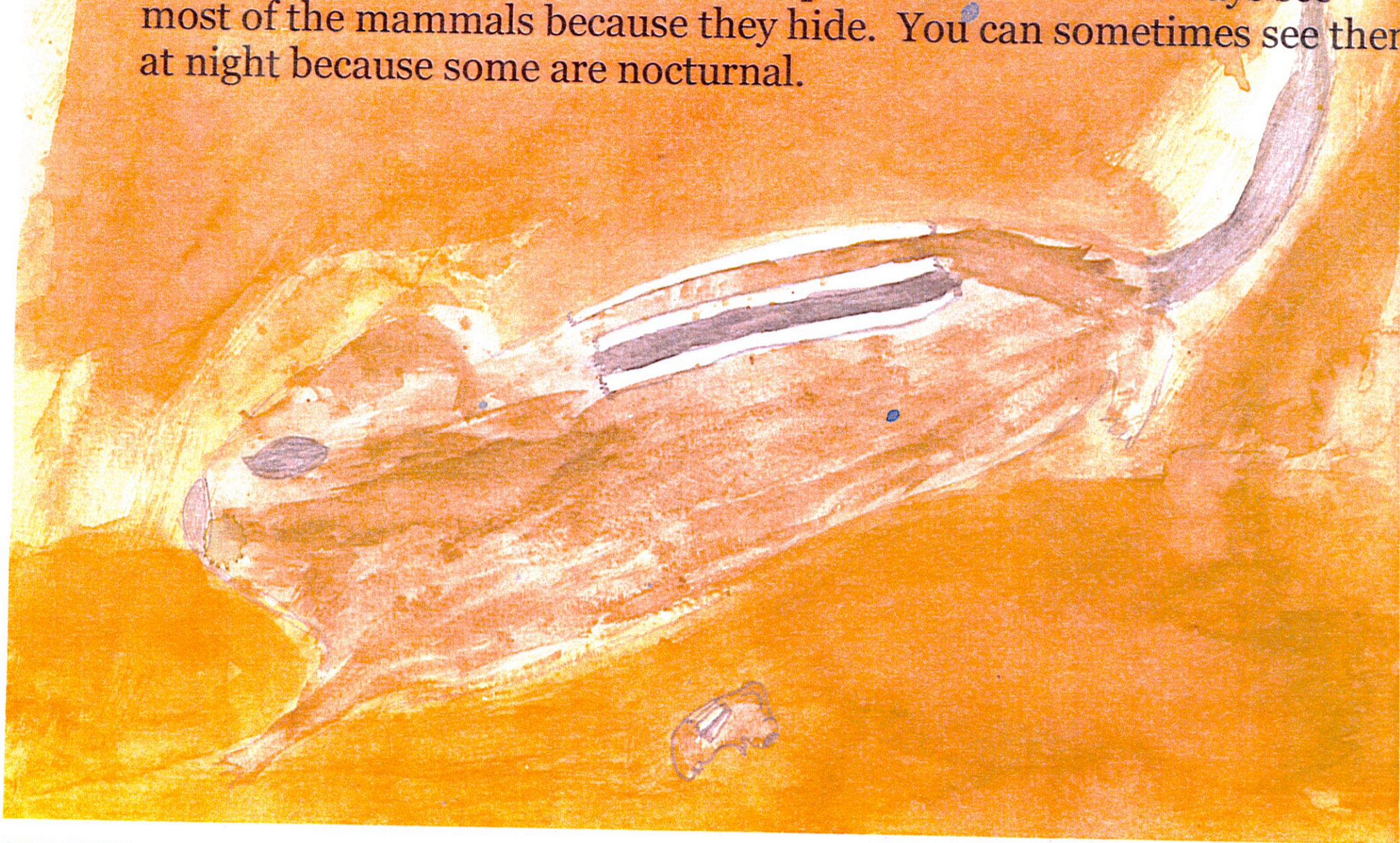
U u

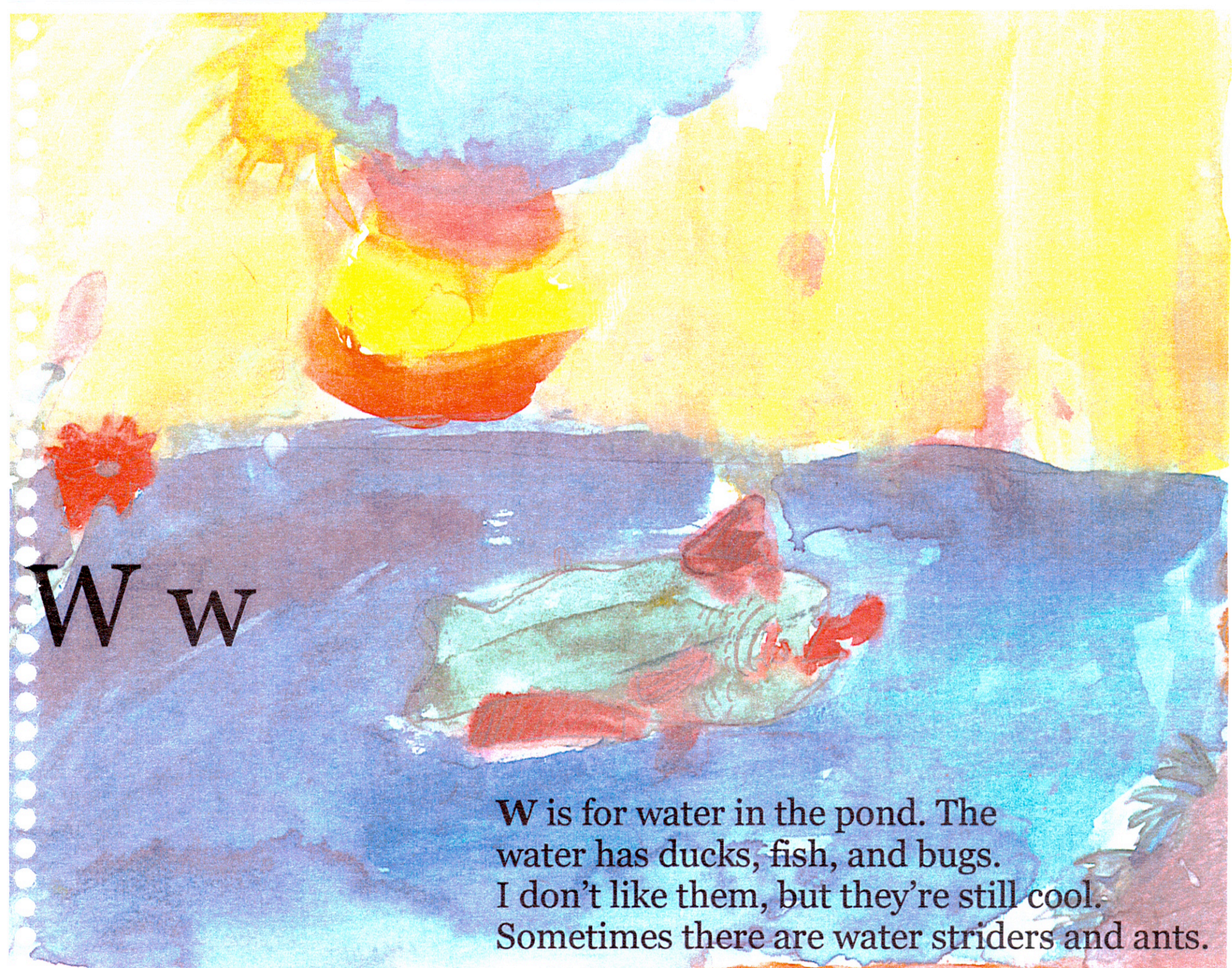
U is for underwater.

There are lots of
fish, snails, and frogs
underwater. Look
in the pond and
you'll find creatures
living, but watch
out for the leeches!

V v

V is for a variety of mammals. You can find white tailed deer, chipmunks, muskrats, red fox and squirrels. You can't always see most of the mammals because they hide. You can sometimes see them at night because some are nocturnal.

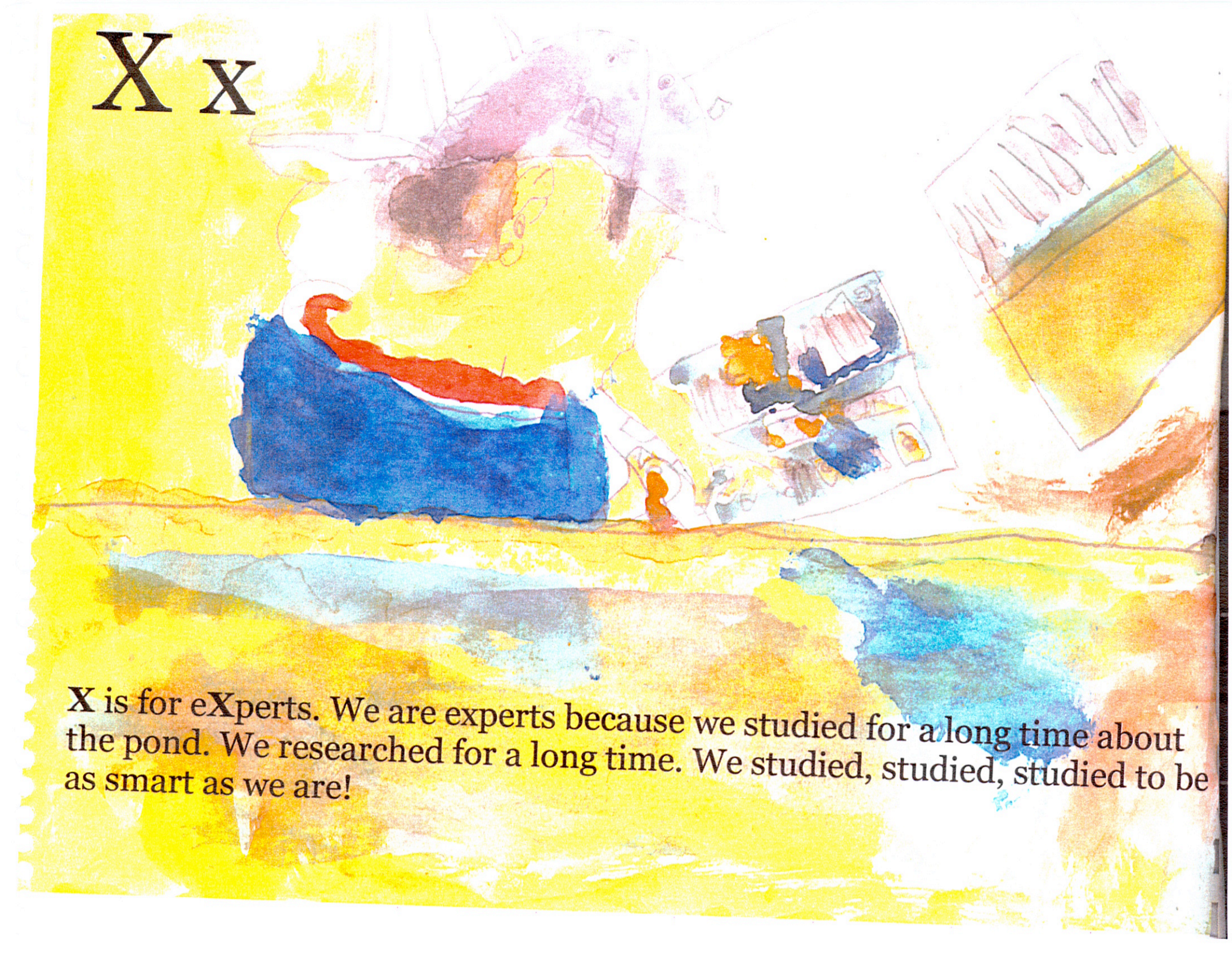




W w

W is for water in the pond. The water has ducks, fish, and bugs. I don't like them, but they're still cool. Sometimes there are water striders and ants.

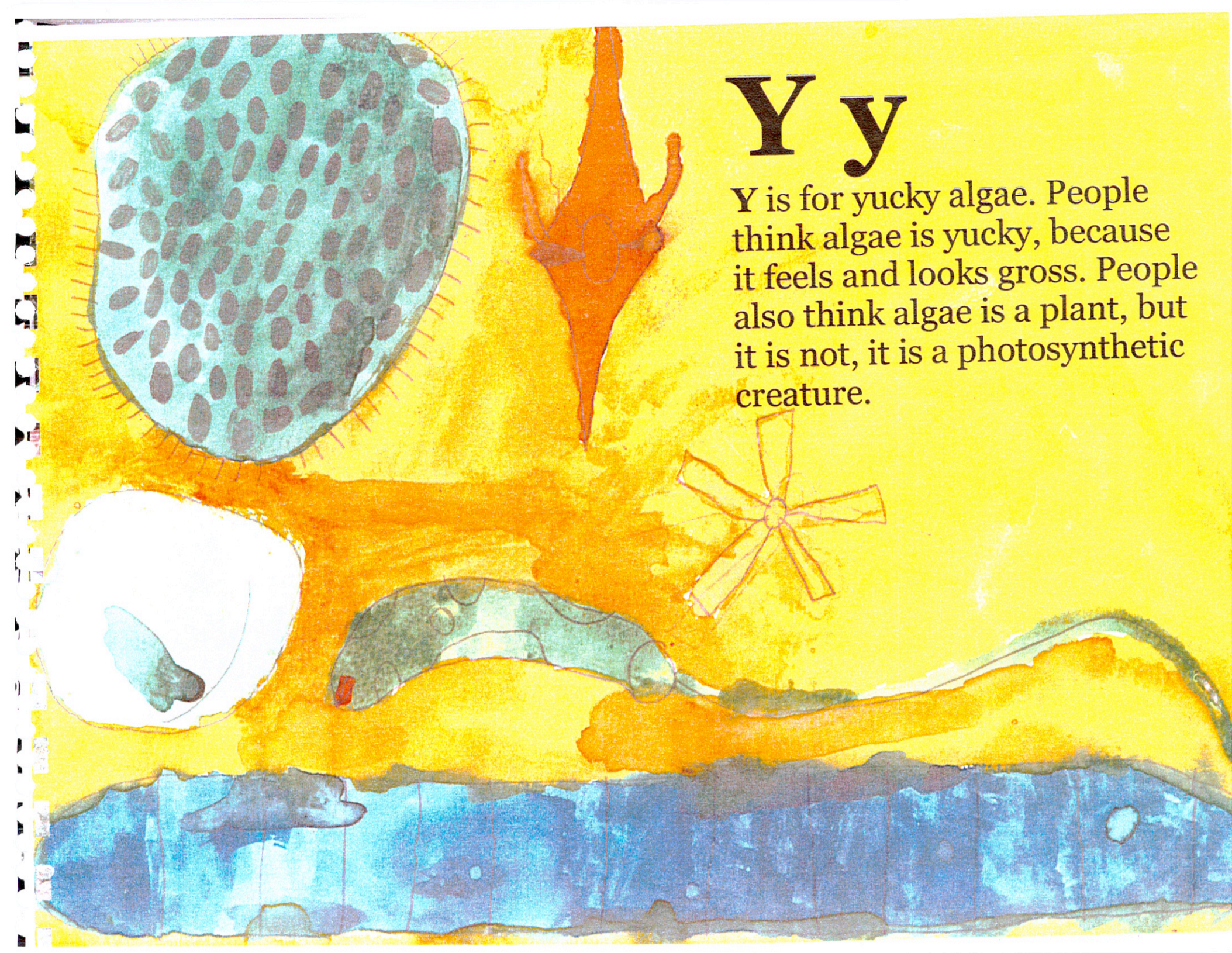
X x



X is for eXperts. We are experts because we studied for a long time about the pond. We researched for a long time. We studied, studied, studied to be as smart as we are!

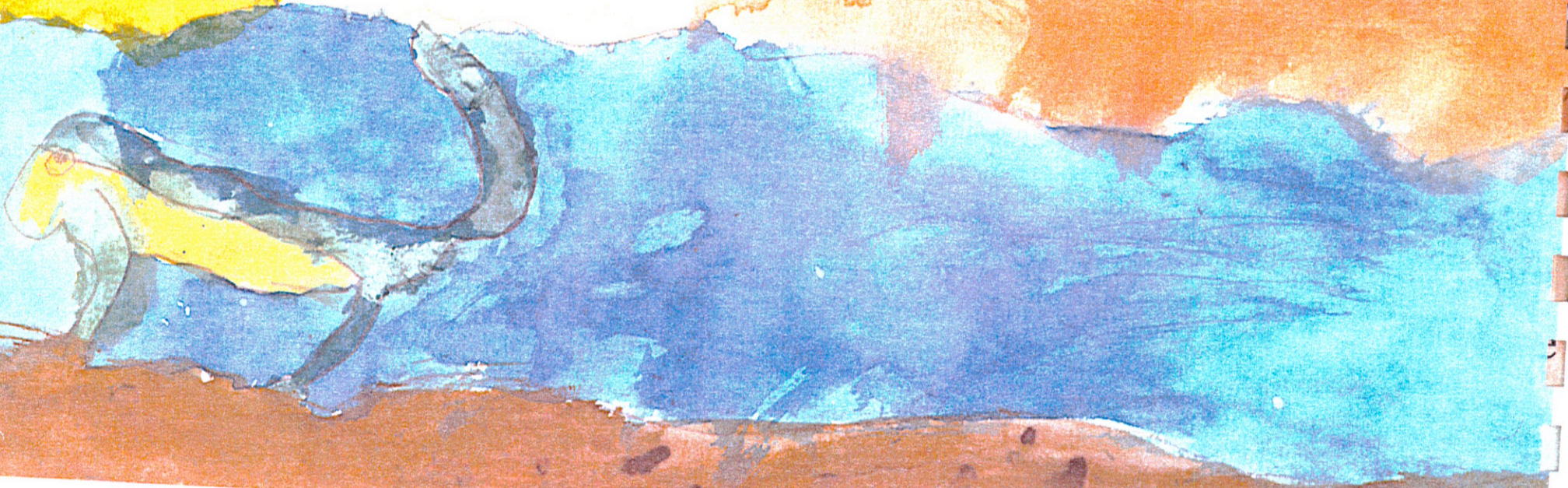
Y y

Y is for yucky algae. People think algae is yucky, because it feels and looks gross. People also think algae is a plant, but it is not, it is a photosynthetic creature.



Z z

Z is for zillions of organisms. Organisms are living things like newts, frogs, birds and insects. They're not the only organisms, because we are too.





May, 2007