

Bella and the Lonely Puddle

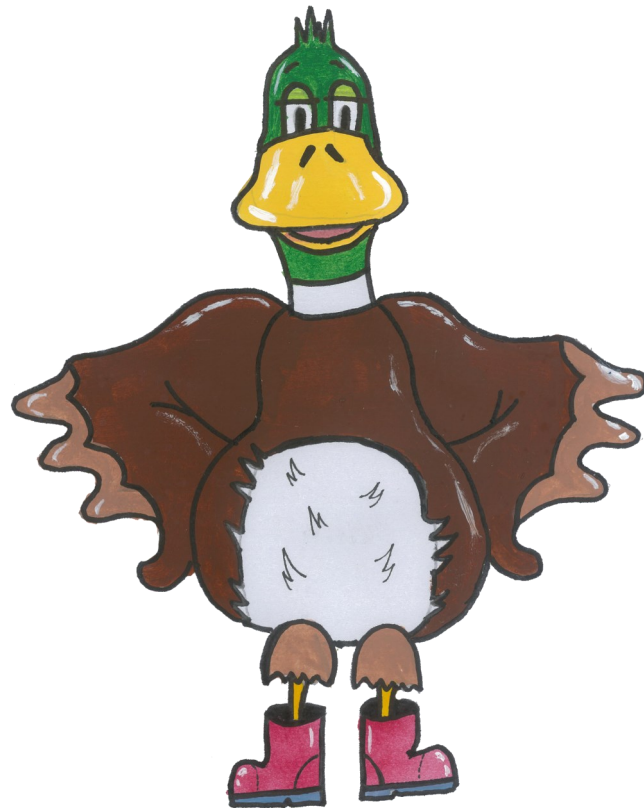


by
Grace and Eleanor
Bastable



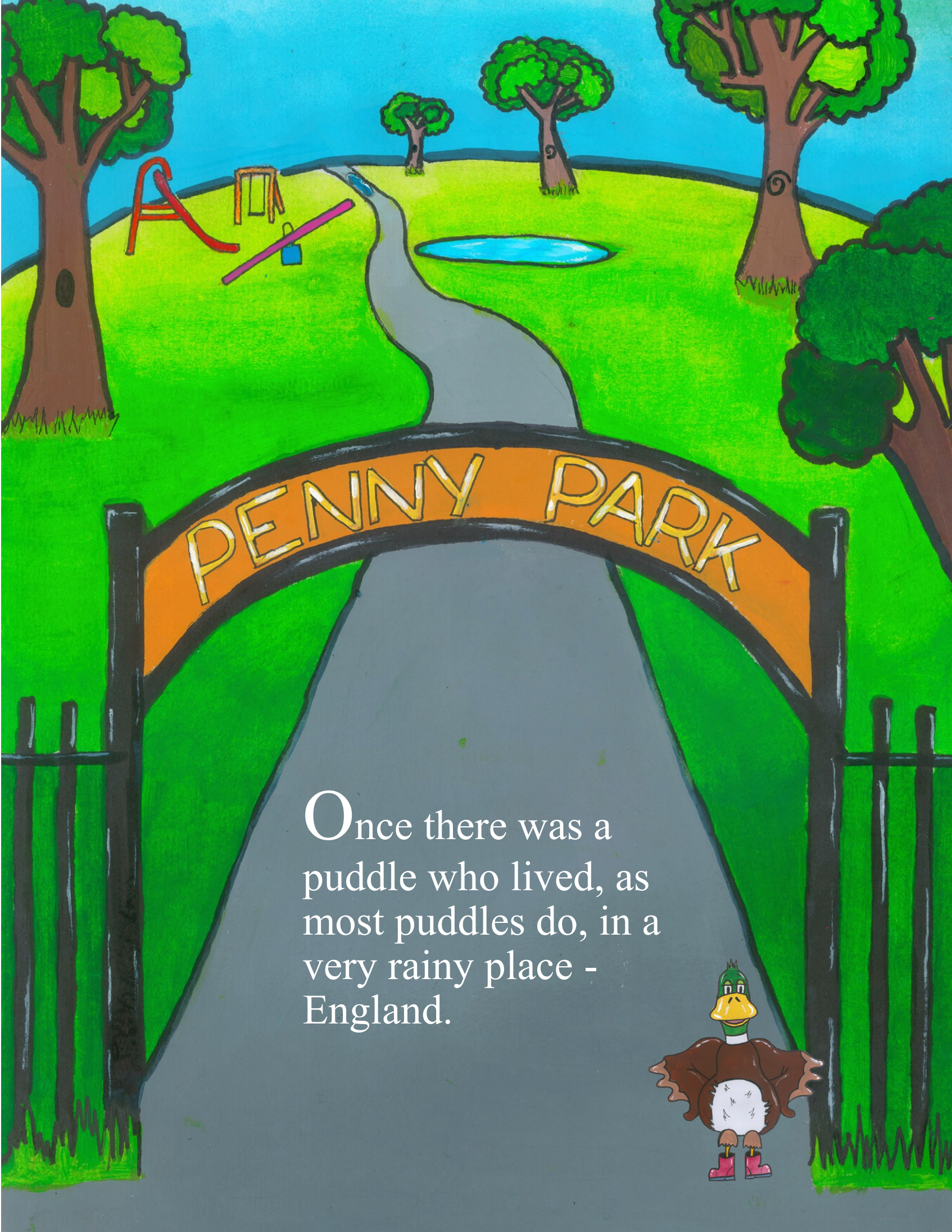
Hello! I'm Eric.

What's your name?



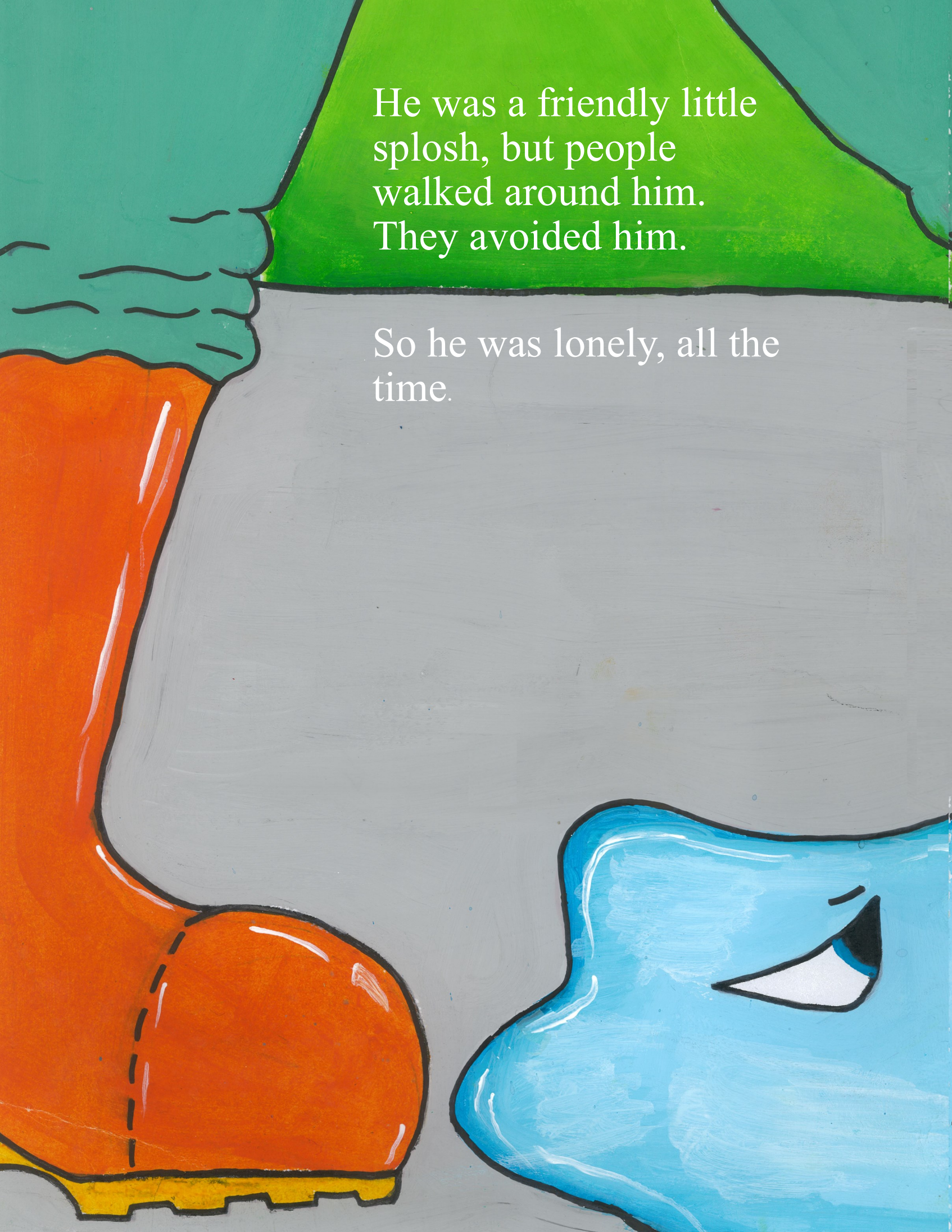
I'd like to tell you a story.

It starts off sad but it ends happily.



Once there was a puddle who lived, as most puddles do, in a very rainy place - England.





He was a friendly little
splosh, but people
walked around him.
They avoided him.

So he was lonely, all the
time.



Almost every day he would see raindrops having fun together in the sky.

They teased him.

“You’re too heavy to fly,” they said.

The puddle would cry and cry, making him heavier and even less likely to fly.



One day a little girl came to
the park.

Her name was Bella.

She was dressed in odd
rubber boots and a red
plastic raincoat.







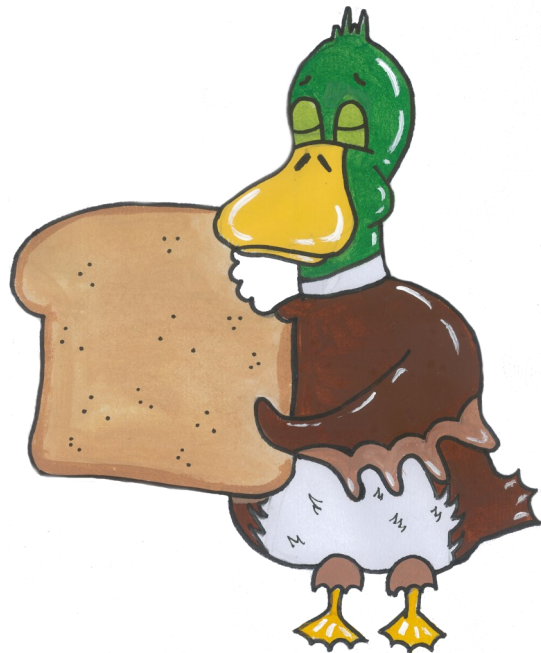
Bella fed the ducks.





Then she went on the
swings.

And then...

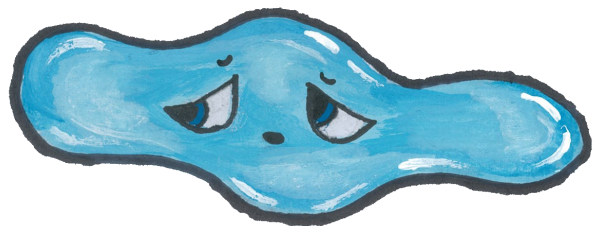


...Bella ran back along the path.



“Bella!” her mother shouted.

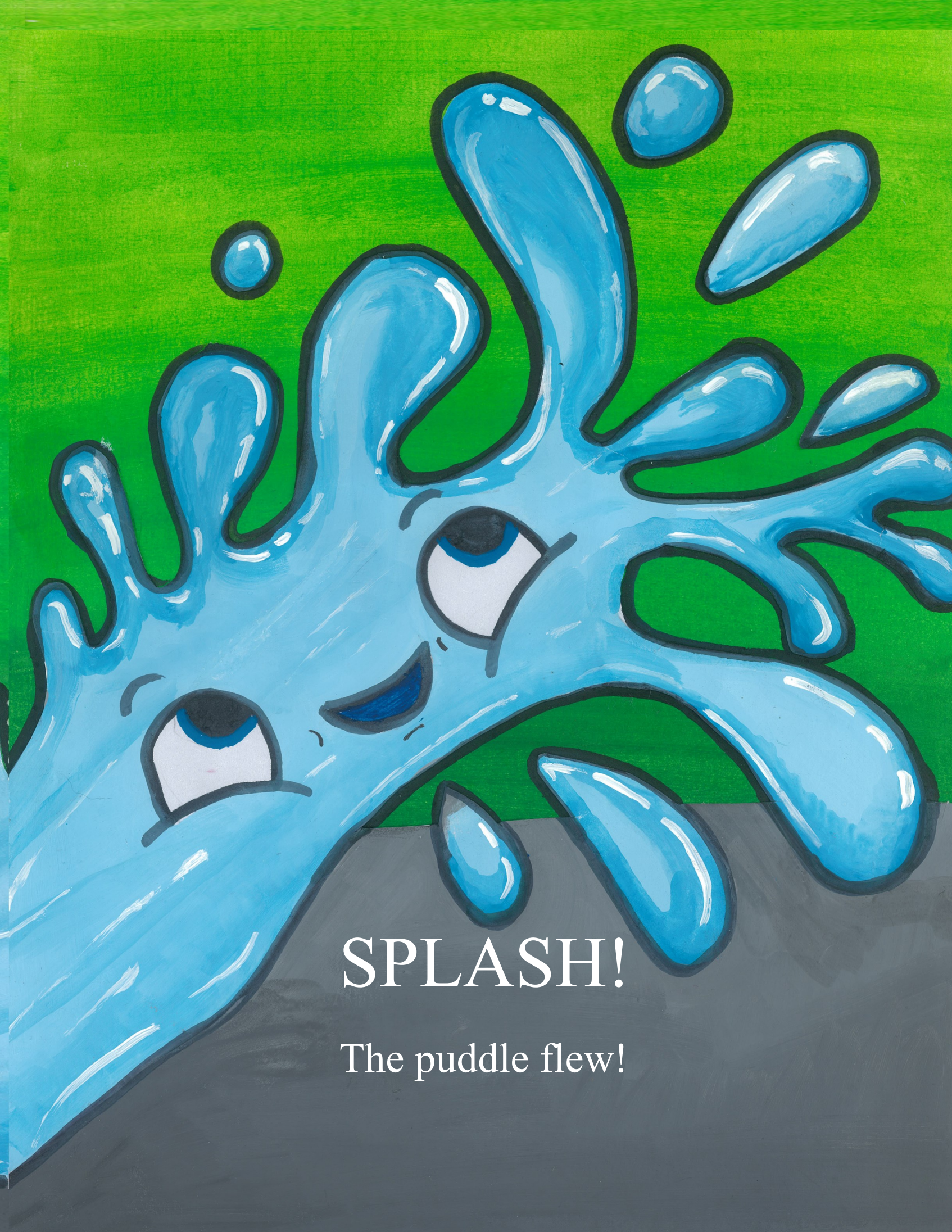
“Don’t you dare jump in that...”



Whisper



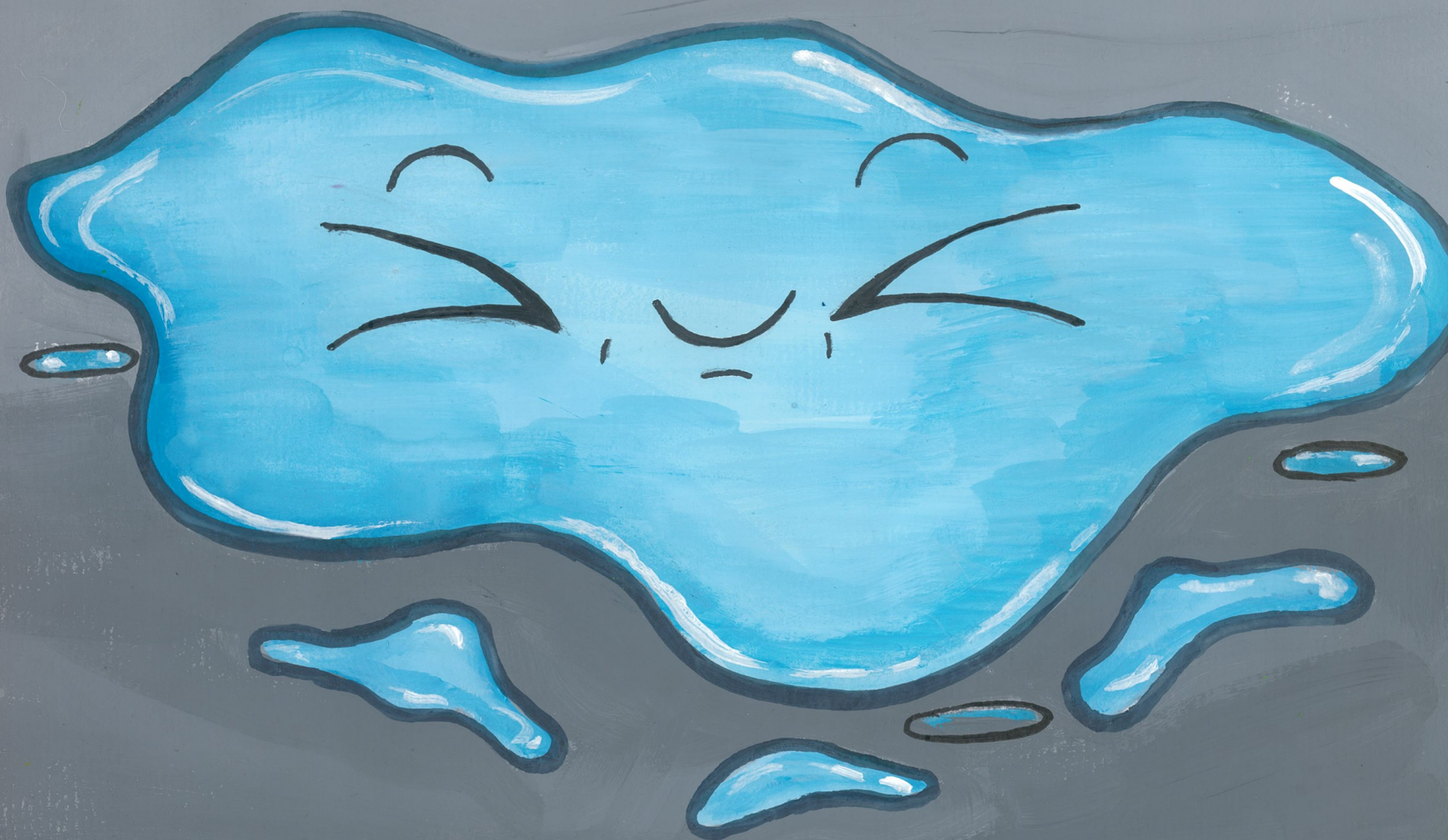




SPLASH!

The puddle flew!

As he pulled himself
together, the puddle was
so happy.



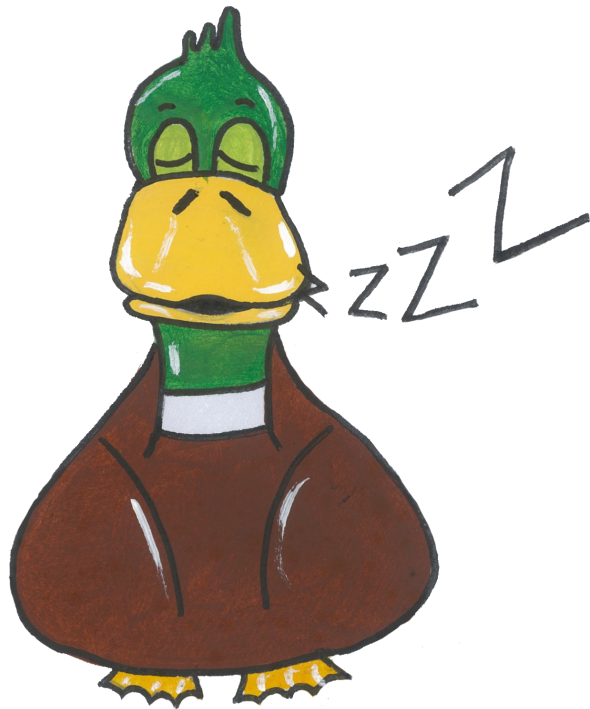
He hoped that tomorrow
Bella would come to the
park to play again.



I hope you liked my little story.

Now it's time to go to sleep.

Goodnight! Sleep tight!



The story behind the story

Bella and the Lonely Puddle was written by Grace Bastable when she was eleven. She wanted to create a story that would address the problem of bullying.

Grace's sister Eleanor, who was fourteen, thought the story would appeal to small children as a picture book, and she began to work on illustrations.

There was no intention to publish. But parents who saw the pictures and read the story were very encouraging, and urged the girls to make *Bella* available.

What with schoolwork and the general stuff of family life, it took three years to complete and to design the book. But here it is at last. Eleanor and Grace - in their late teens now (2020) - are delighted that their story is out there in the world being enjoyed.



Would you like to colour the pictures?

Start with Bella running...

