

Barry's Water Problem

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Enviro-Stories is an environmental education program that has been developed by PeeKdesigns.



www.envirostories.com.au

This program provides an education and learning experience for kids through their active engagement with natural resource and catchment management issues. The final product is a published story written about local issues, by local kids, for local kids and future generations.

Barry's Water Problem

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“Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program

In 2012, the Creative Catchment Kids program delivered the “Biodiversity of the Murray Catchment” Enviro-Stories Education Program. The project was initiated by the Murray Darling Association and Burrumbuttock Public School. It was generously funded by the Murray and Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authorities, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Teys Australia, Wagga. Additional support came from the Wirraminna and Riverina Environmental Education Centres.



Catchment Management
Authority
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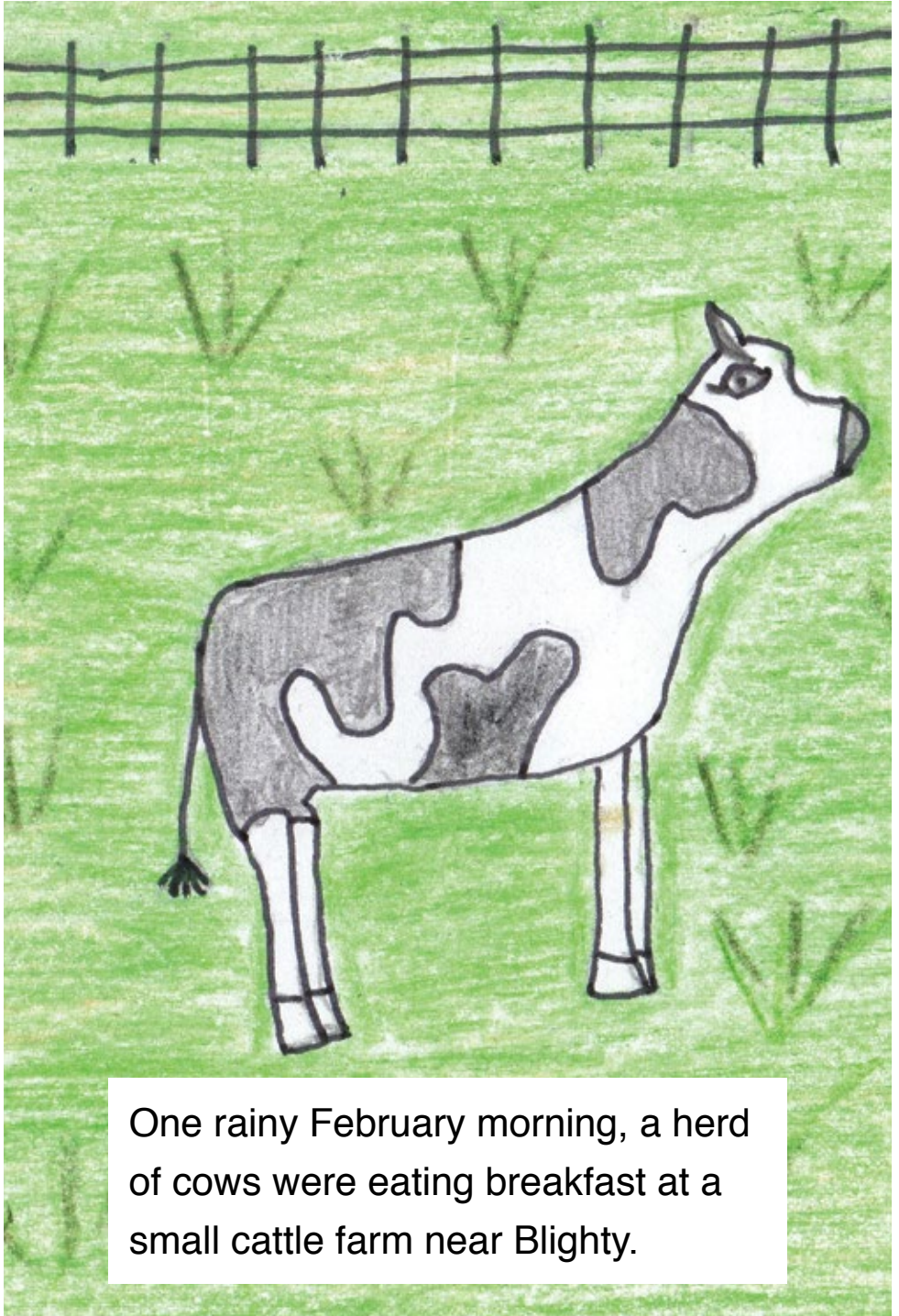


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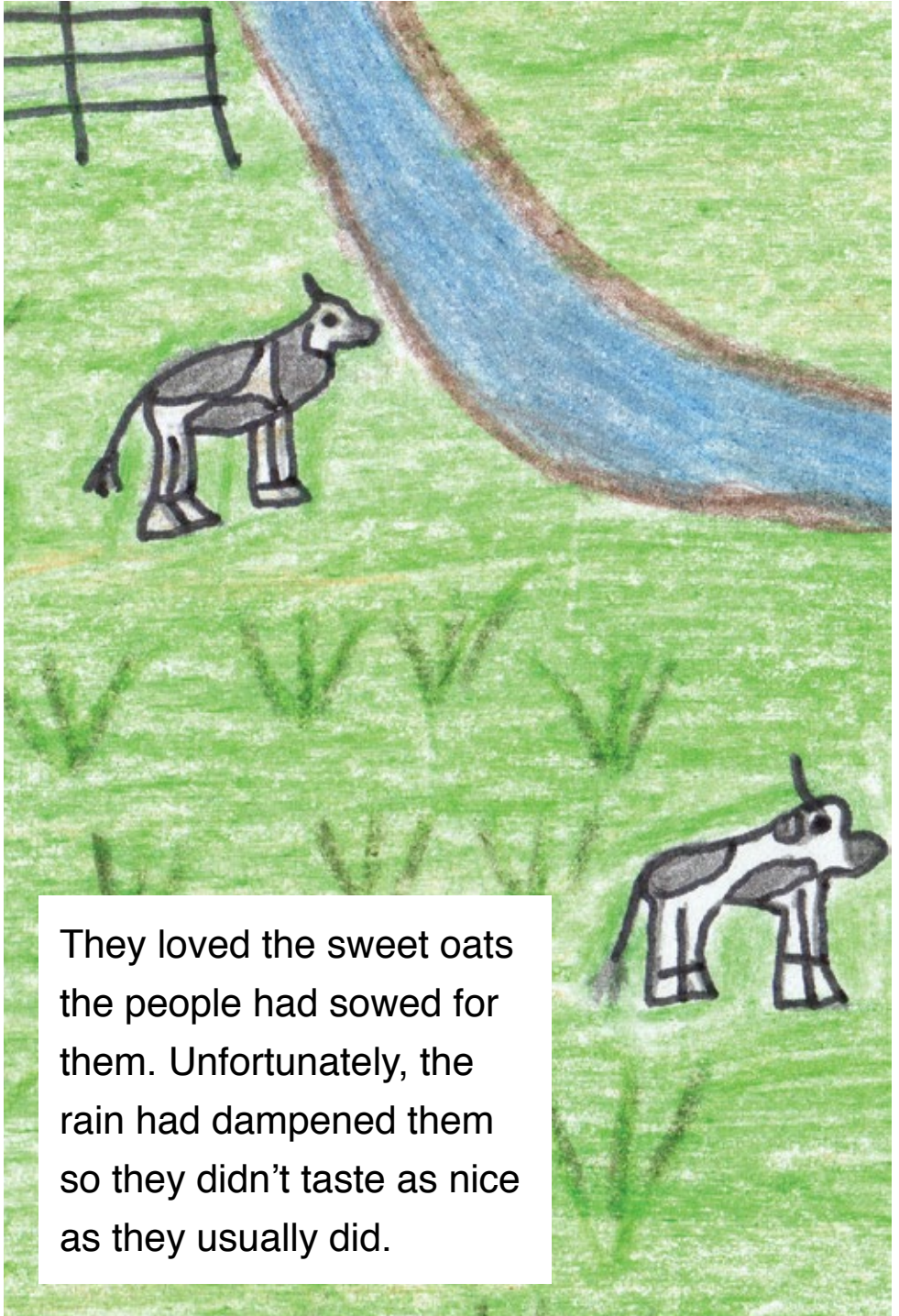


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One rainy February morning, a herd of cows were eating breakfast at a small cattle farm near Blighty.



They loved the sweet oats the people had sowed for them. Unfortunately, the rain had dampened them so they didn't taste as nice as they usually did.



In the afternoon, the rain started getting heavier and the banks of Box Creek were about to break.

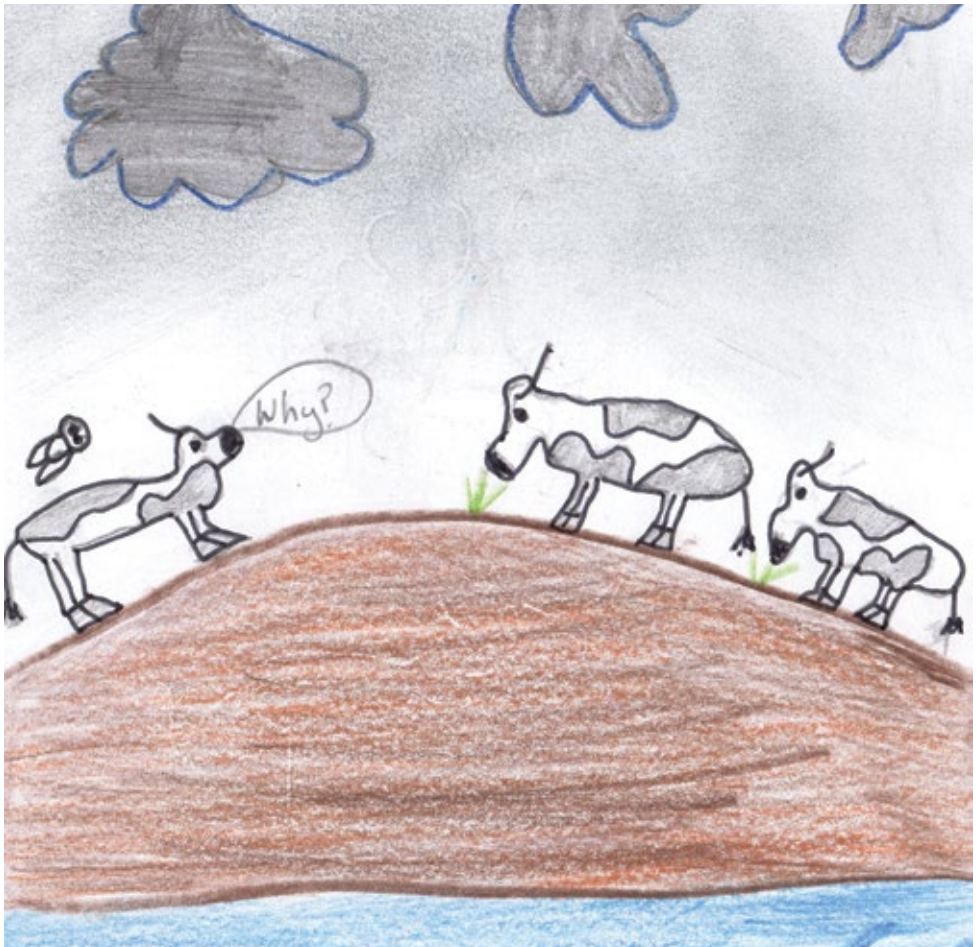
Ned the bull was worried about the herd, so he asked the leader of the herd, Barry, if they should move into the safe paddock. Barry replied confidently, “The rain will stop soon, we will be fine.”

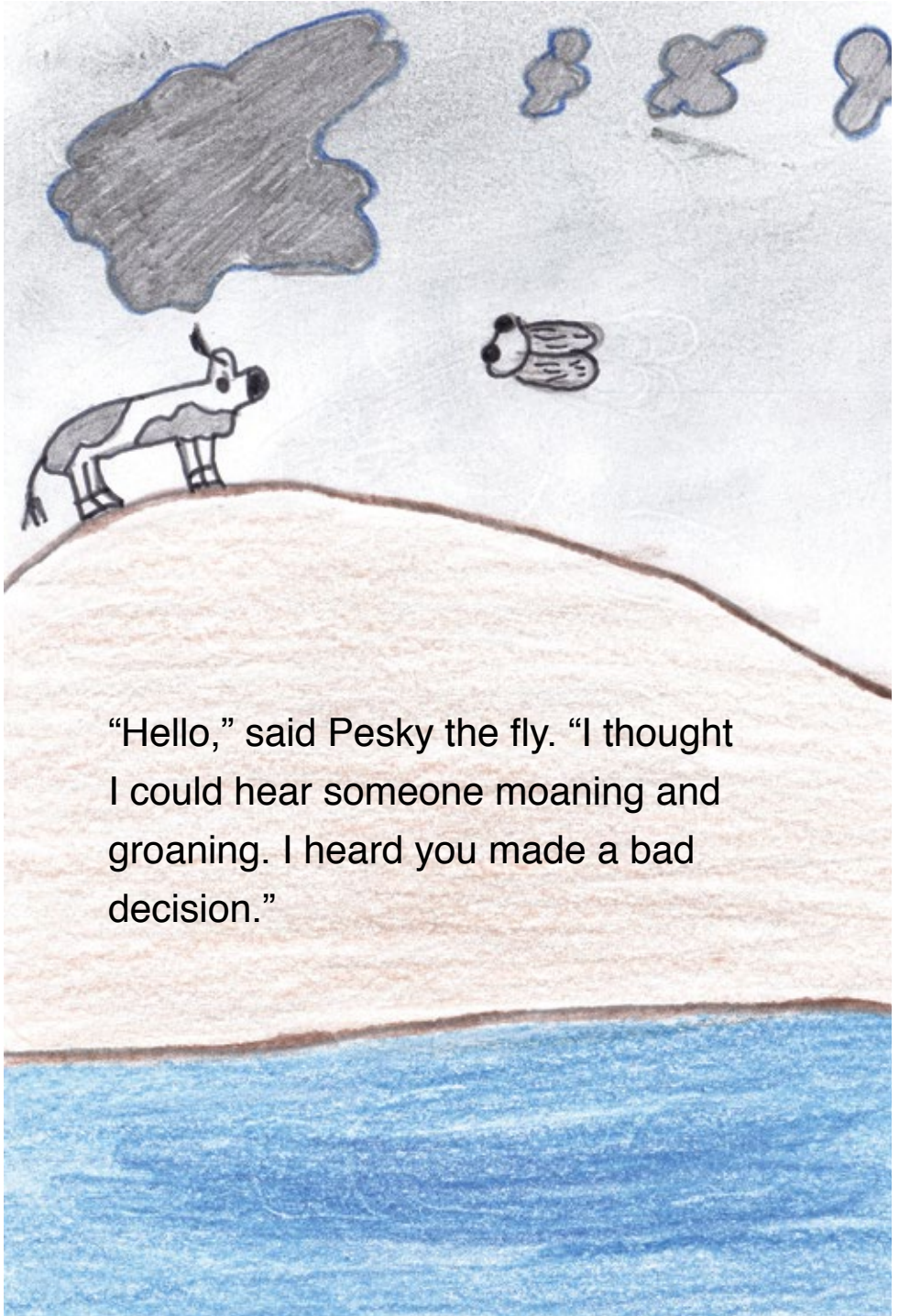


But Barry was wrong. The Box Creek flooded and the whole herd had to evacuate onto a dam bank. They were in grave danger.

By now, Barry the leader was starting to regret his decision. He was so worried about the safety of the herd that he began talking to himself.

He moaned, “Why didn’t I move the herd? They wouldn’t be hungry and they wouldn’t be wet if I had only listened to Ned.” He didn’t know that a little fly was listening nearby.





“Hello,” said Pesky the fly. “I thought I could hear someone moaning and groaning. I heard you made a bad decision.”

“Leave me alone,” Barry whined, “I’m cold, I’m wet and I’m hungry.”

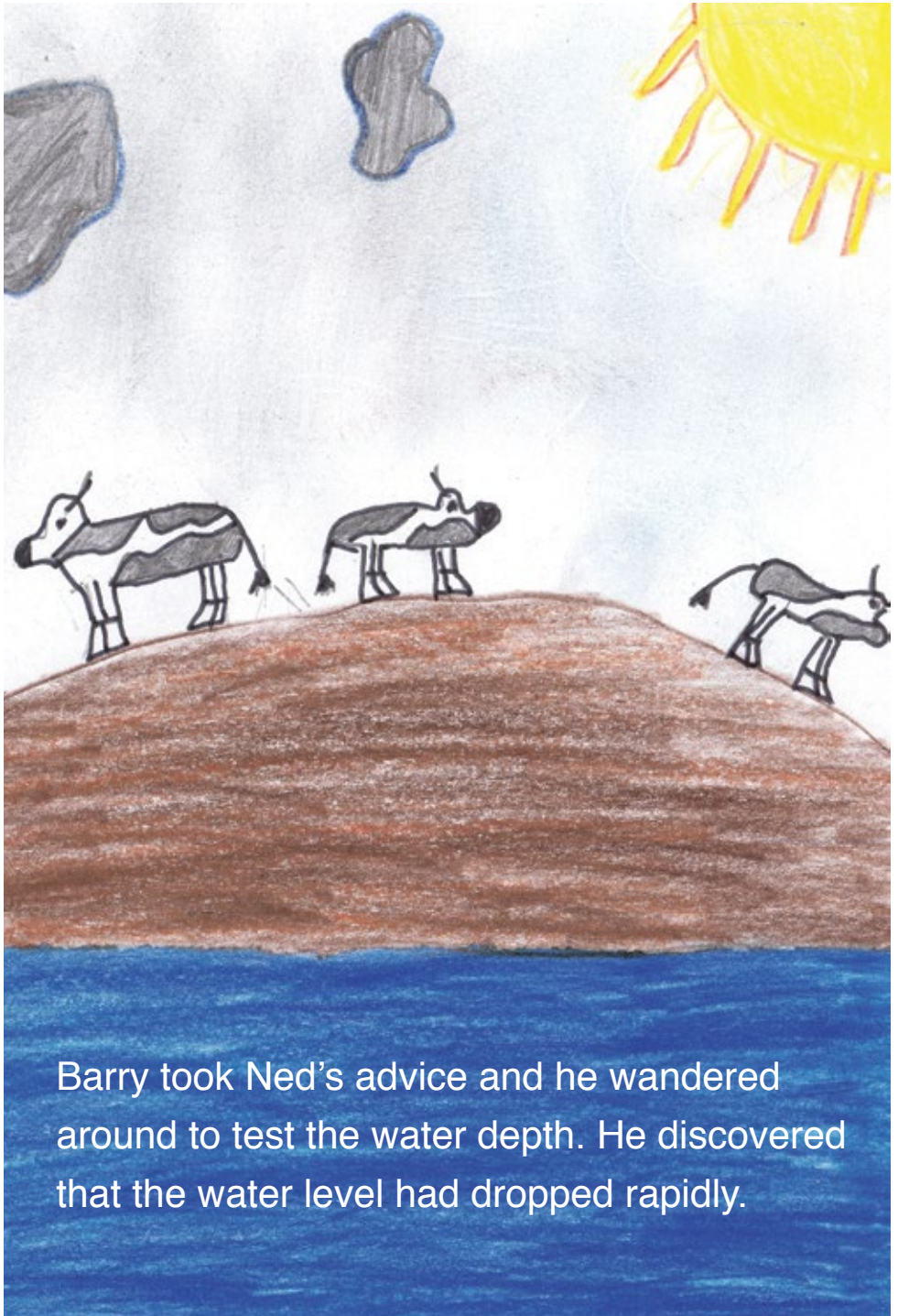
“Oh, I nearly forgot,” said Pesky annoyingly. “While I can fly away and get food, you’re stuck here.” After a few minutes more of teasing, Pesky flew away.



At this stage Barry was desperate. He didn't know what to do, so he asked his best friend Ned for advice.

“Just wait and try to stay calm. Moving now would be too risky,” suggested Ned.





Barry took Ned's advice and he wandered around to test the water depth. He discovered that the water level had dropped rapidly.

By the next morning, the water was virtually all gone. The first thing the cows did was eat the grass that hadn't died. Then the herd called a meeting.



“Barry,” said Ned. “We are going to take the leadership from you because of your risky decision not to move us to a safe paddock.”

Barry replied solemnly, “I accept the herd’s wishes and I have learnt my lesson. I am very sorry and furthermore would like to recommend Ned as our new leader.”



Ned became the new leader of the herd. They all went back to munching on the pasture in the paddock and everyone was happy.



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