

# Curly the Murray Cod

Melanie Wright, Breannon Hall,  
George Leov and Michael Harris

Culcairn Public School





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



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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.

# Curly the Murray Cod

Authors: Melanie Wright, Breannon Hall, George Leov and Michael Harris

Teacher: Craig Allibon

School: Culcairn Public School

## “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**  
Murray



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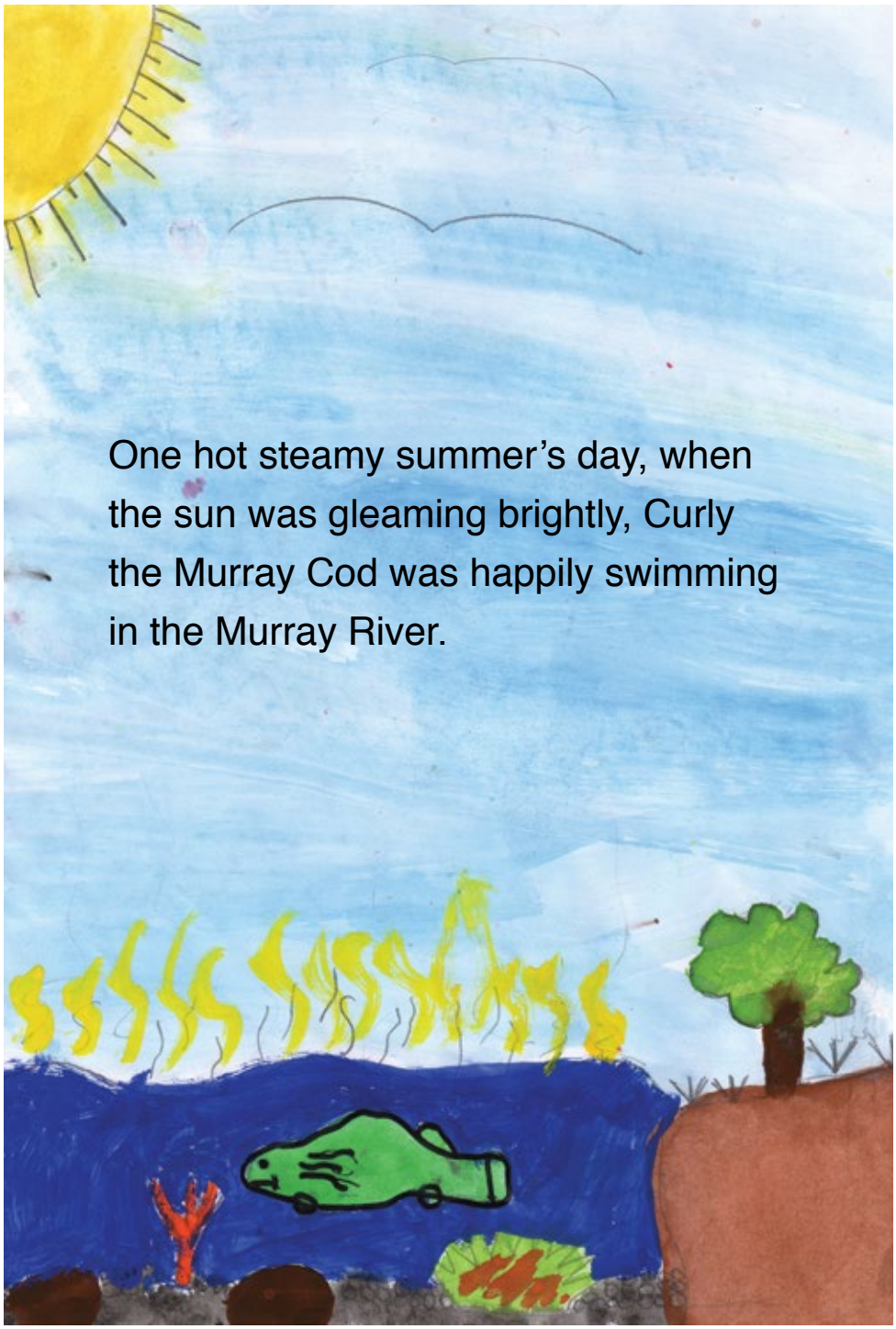


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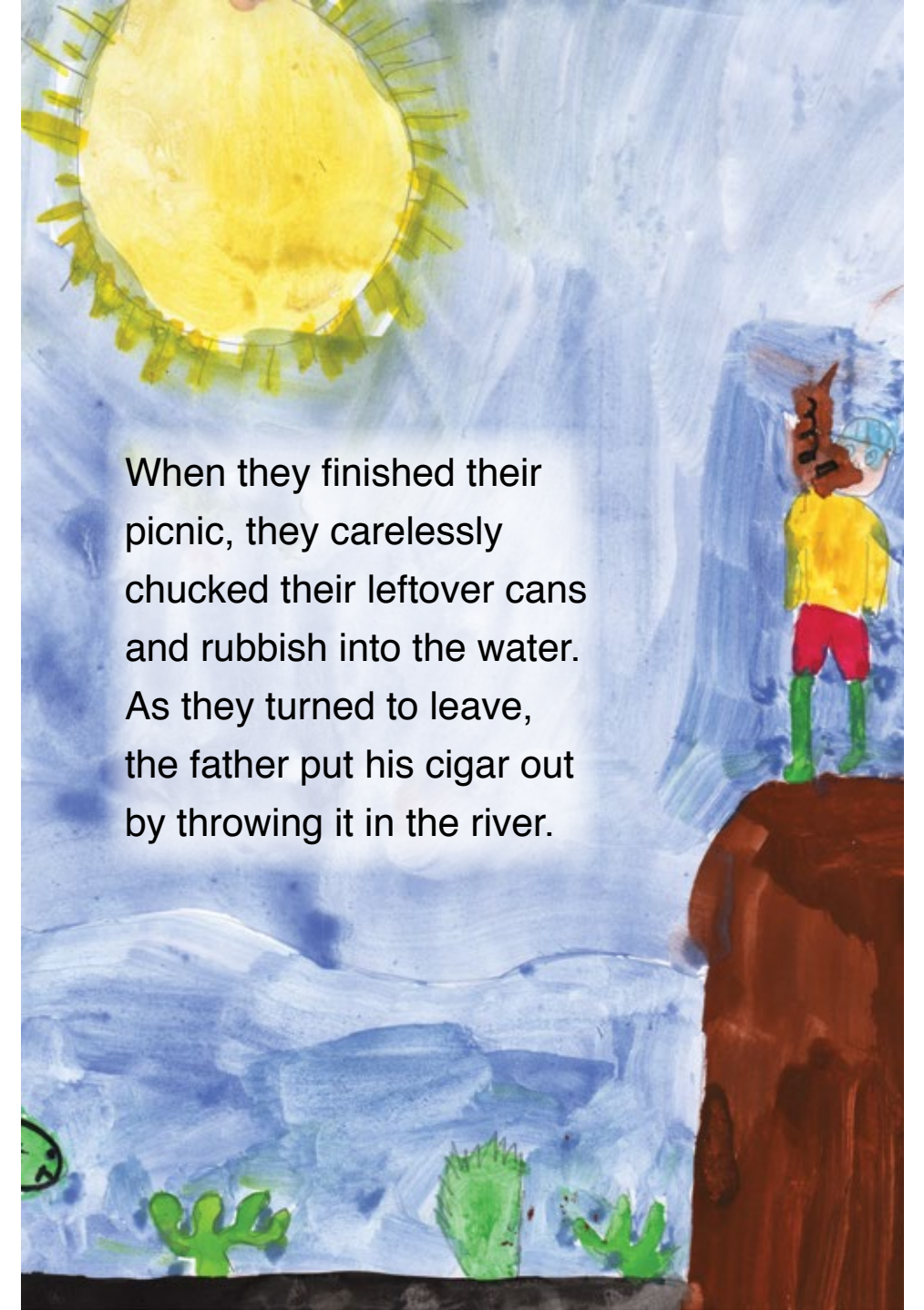
A child's drawing on a light blue background. In the top left corner, a large yellow sun with black rays is partially visible. Two simple black curved lines represent birds in flight. The bottom of the drawing depicts a river scene. The water is a solid blue color. A green fish with black outlines and fins is swimming towards the left. To the left of the fish, there is a red, branching coral-like structure. Below the fish, there is a small green patch with red markings. On the right side of the river, there is a brown, rounded bank with a single green tree. In the background, behind the river, there are yellow, flame-like shapes and a white, mountain-like shape.

One hot steamy summer's day, when  
the sun was gleaming brightly, Curly  
the Murray Cod was happily swimming  
in the Murray River.

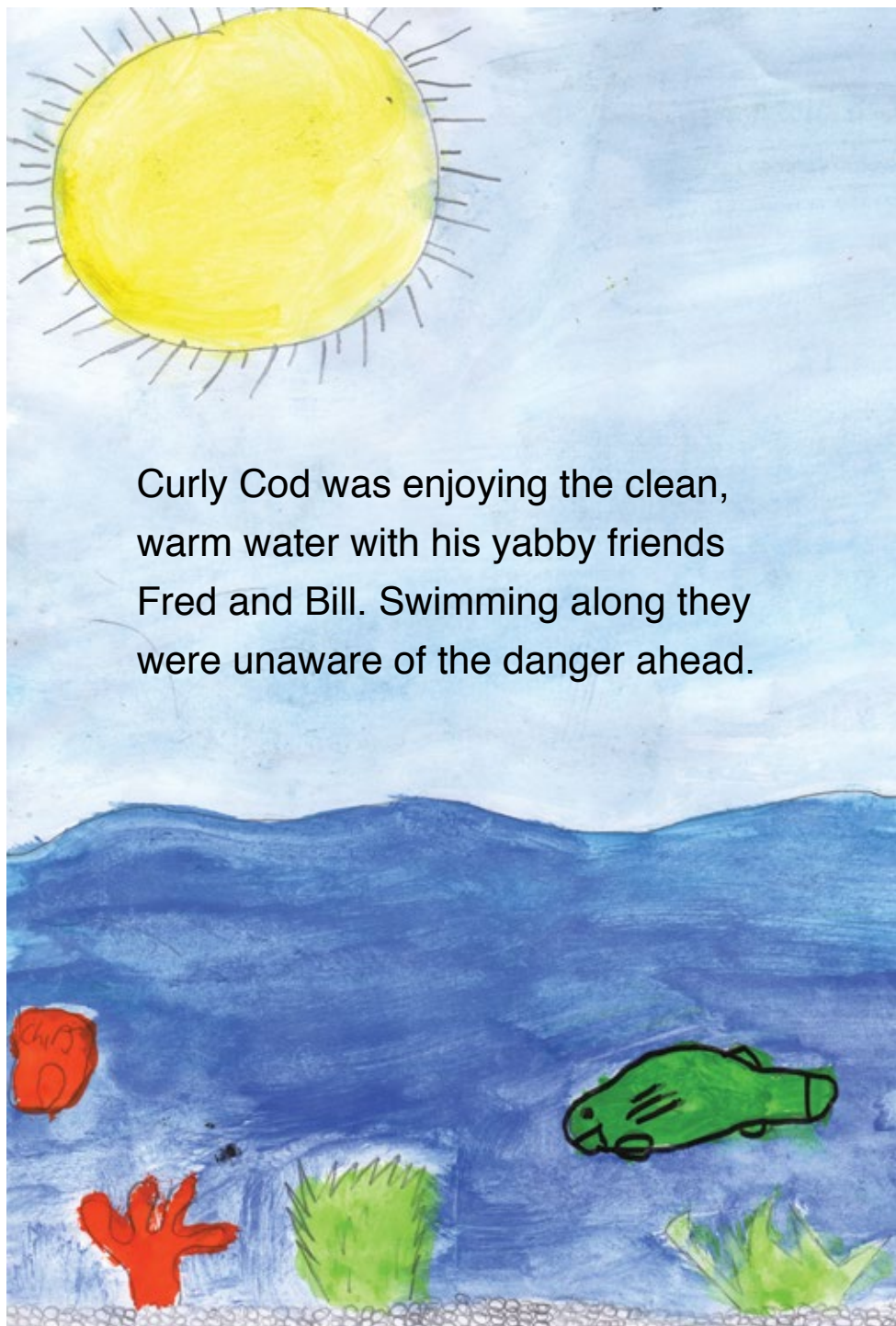


Whilst Curly Cod was happily swimming, a family of three humans were having a picnic on the river's edge. They were happily enjoying a picnic of fish and chips, drinking some Coca Cola and the father was even smoking a cigar.



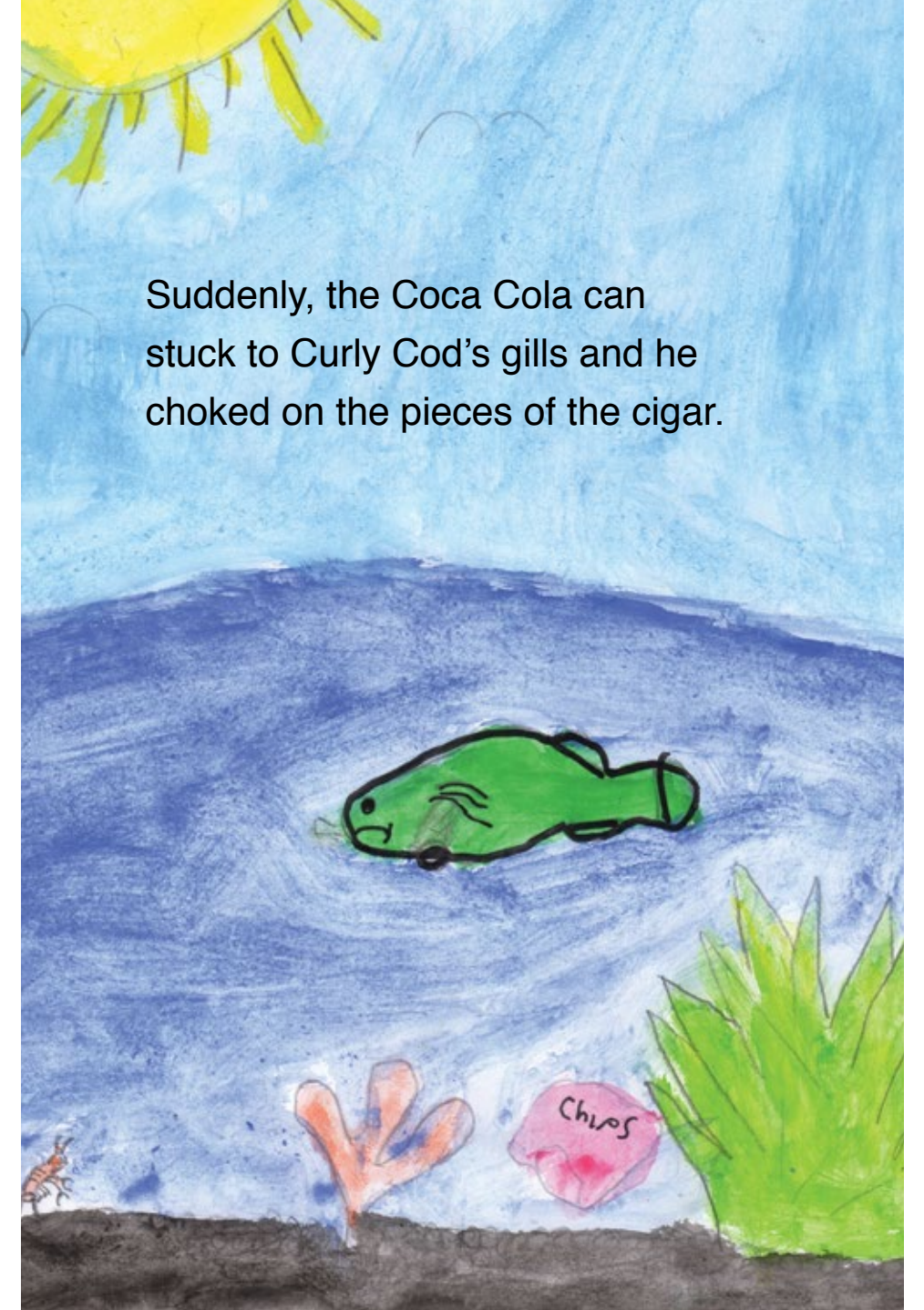
A child with brown hair, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt, red shorts, and green boots, stands on the edge of a brown cliff. The child is looking down at a blue river below. A large, bright yellow sun with green rays is in the sky. The background shows blue mountains and green bushes at the bottom.

When they finished their picnic, they carelessly chucked their leftover cans and rubbish into the water. As they turned to leave, the father put his cigar out by throwing it in the river.



Curly Cod was enjoying the clean,  
warm water with his yabby friends  
Fred and Bill. Swimming along they  
were unaware of the danger ahead.



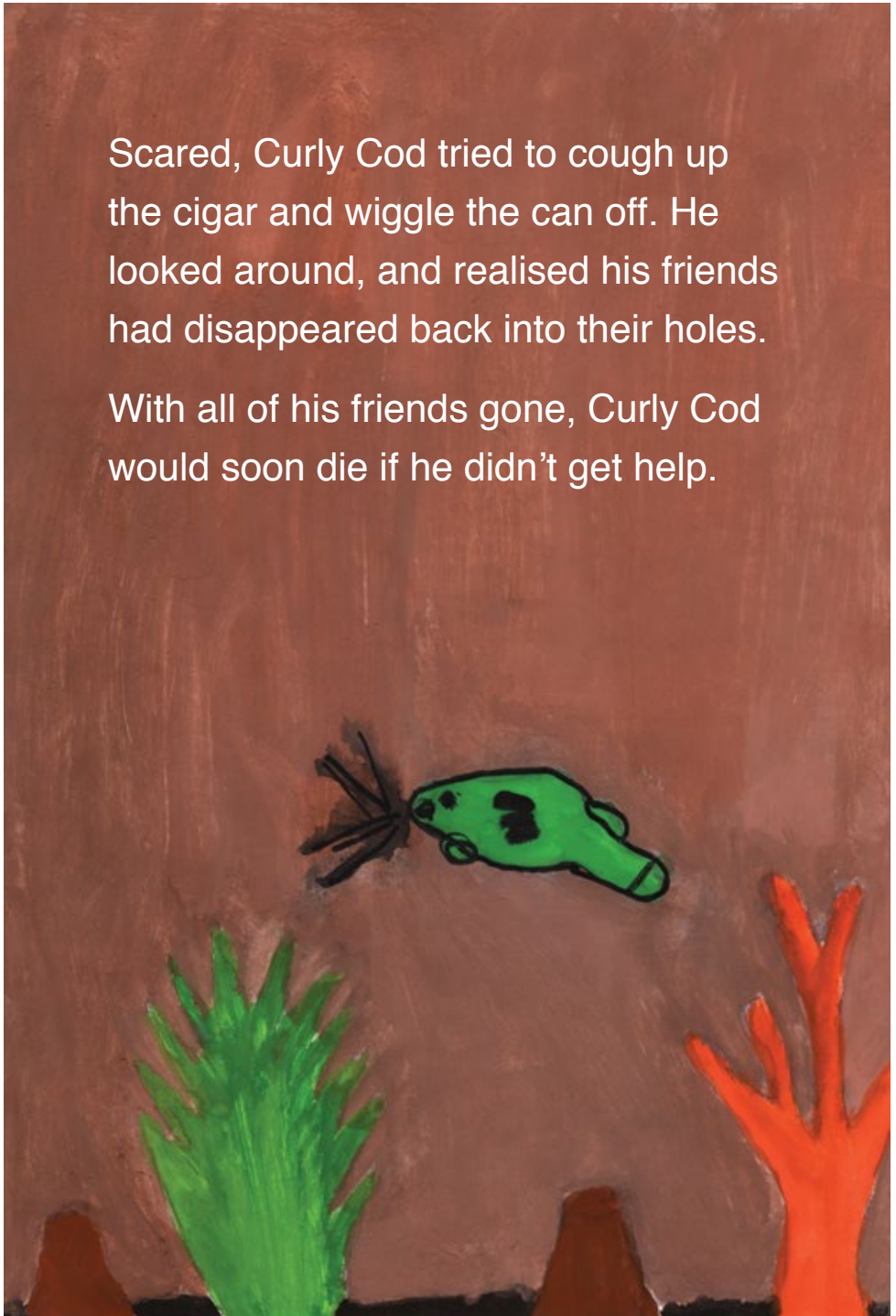


Suddenly, the Coca Cola can  
stuck to Curly Cod's gills and he  
choked on the pieces of the cigar.

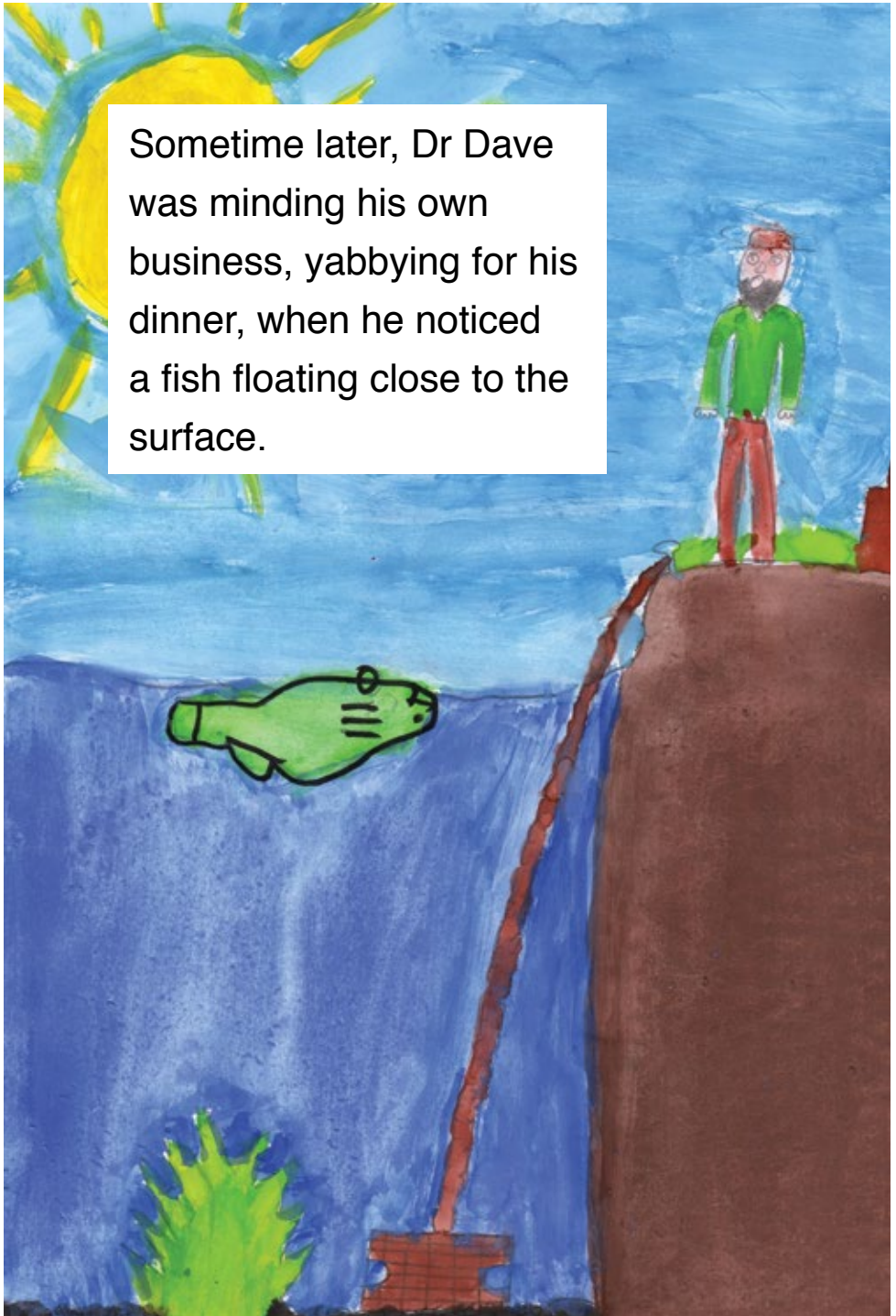


Scared, Curly Cod tried to cough up the cigar and wiggle the can off. He looked around, and realised his friends had disappeared back into their holes.

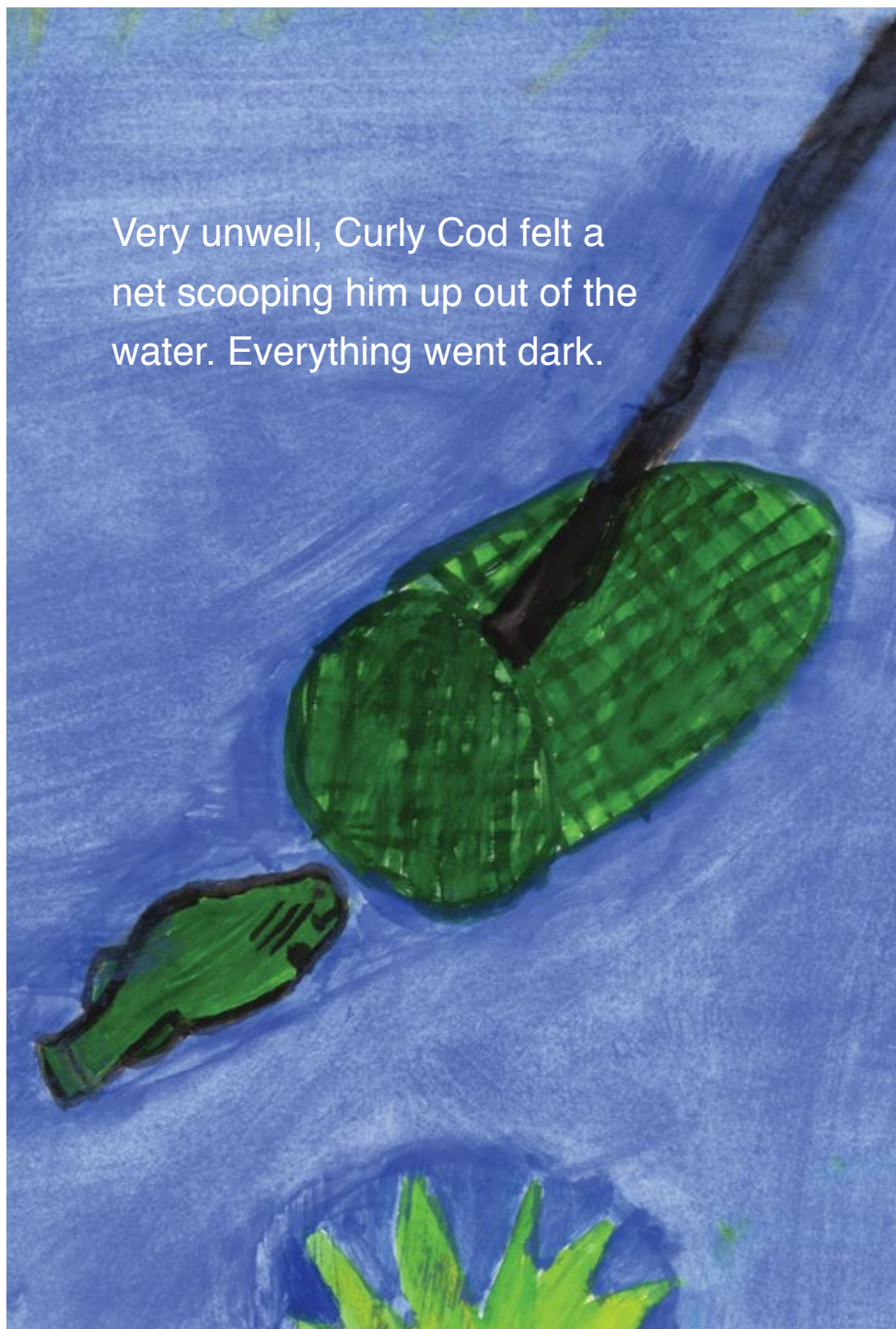
With all of his friends gone, Curly Cod would soon die if he didn't get help.



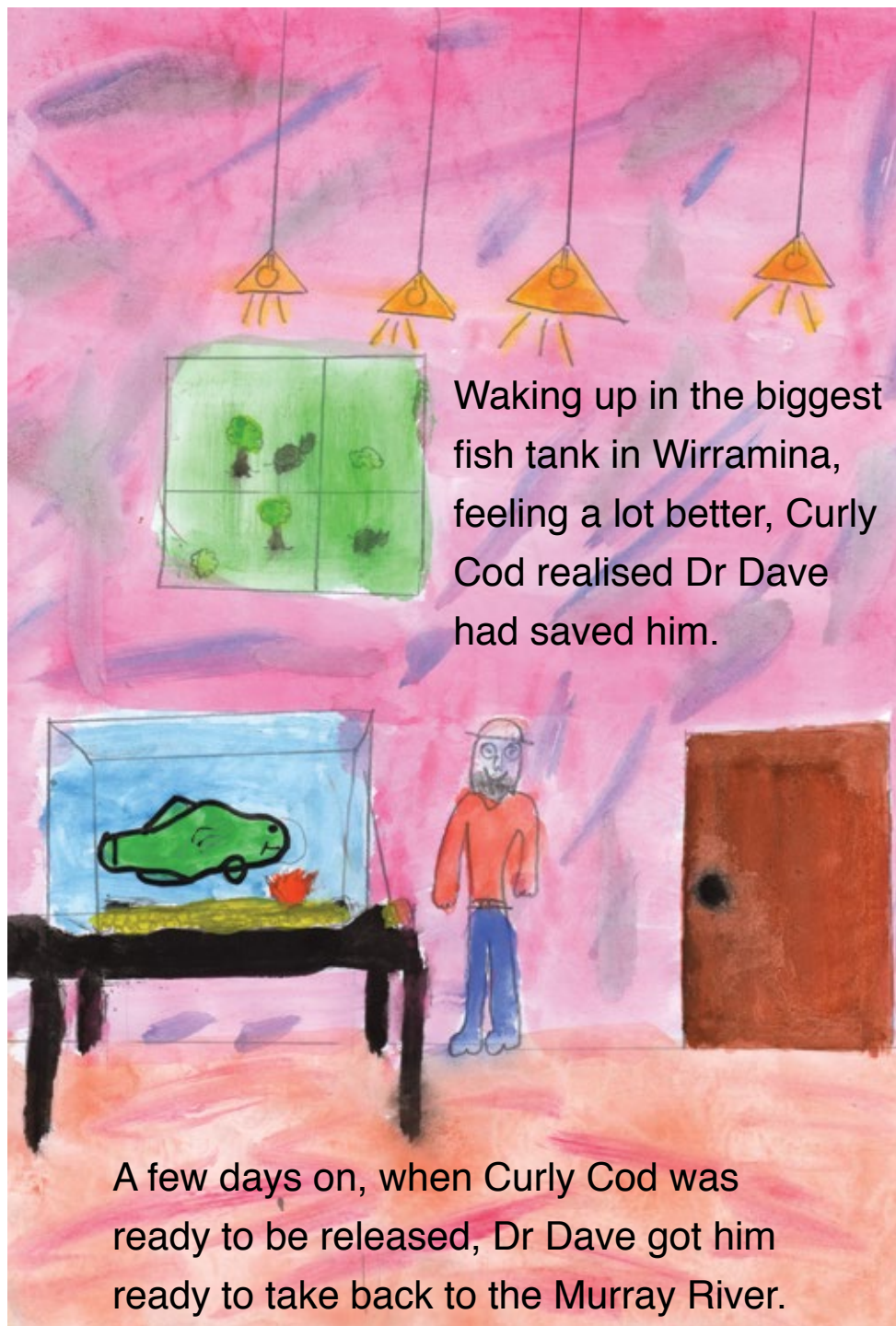
Sometime later, Dr Dave was minding his own business, yabbing for his dinner, when he noticed a fish floating close to the surface.



Very unwell, Curly Cod felt a net scooping him up out of the water. Everything went dark.

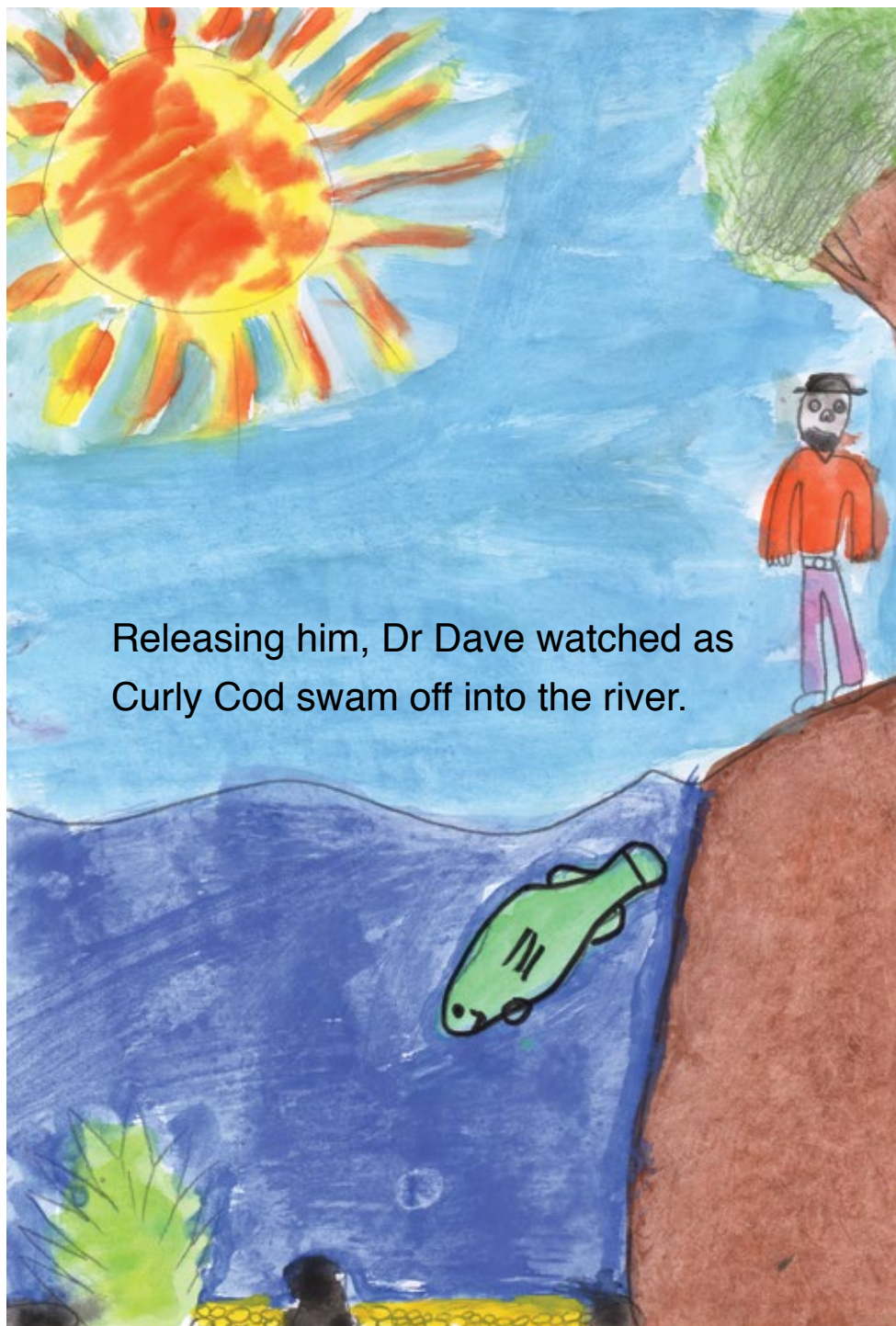






Waking up in the biggest fish tank in Wirramina, feeling a lot better, Curly Cod realised Dr Dave had saved him.

A few days on, when Curly Cod was ready to be released, Dr Dave got him ready to take back to the Murray River.



Releasing him, Dr Dave watched as  
Curly Cod swam off into the river.





Swimming along, Curly Cod came across the yabbies Fred and Bill. Curly Cod was really happy that he could swim in his clean river once again.



## WILD FACTS

- The Murray cod's scientific name is:  
*Maccullochella peelii peelii*
- The Murray cod is the largest Australian freshwater fish reaching over 100 kilograms and 1800 mm length.
- They eat fish, crayfish and frogs.
- The Murray cod can live up to 30 years in the wild.
- Over fishing is the Murray cod's biggest threat.



George Leov, Michael Harris, Melanie Wright  
and Breannon Hall,

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