



Penny's Lagoon Rescue

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Edward Public School





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.

Penny's Lagoon Rescue

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School: Edward 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.



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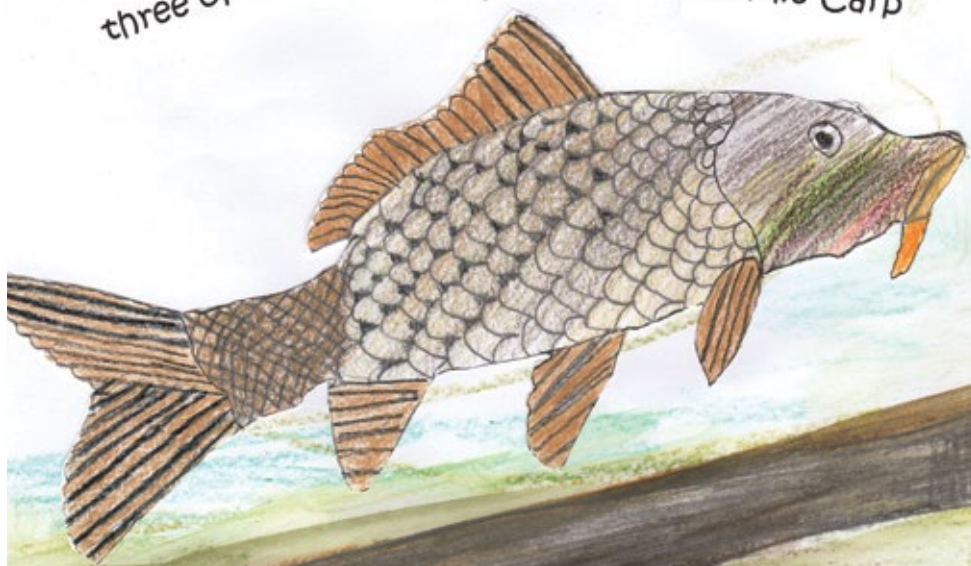


From around a huge submerged log

swam

three of the nastiest bullies in the lagoon.

Charlie Carp



Gemma Goldfish,



Gambusia
and Garry



they were disliked by all the fish that

went to the Waring Gardens School for Fish.

It wasn't long before they began teasing Penny and her friends about being so small and saying they were useless to have around.

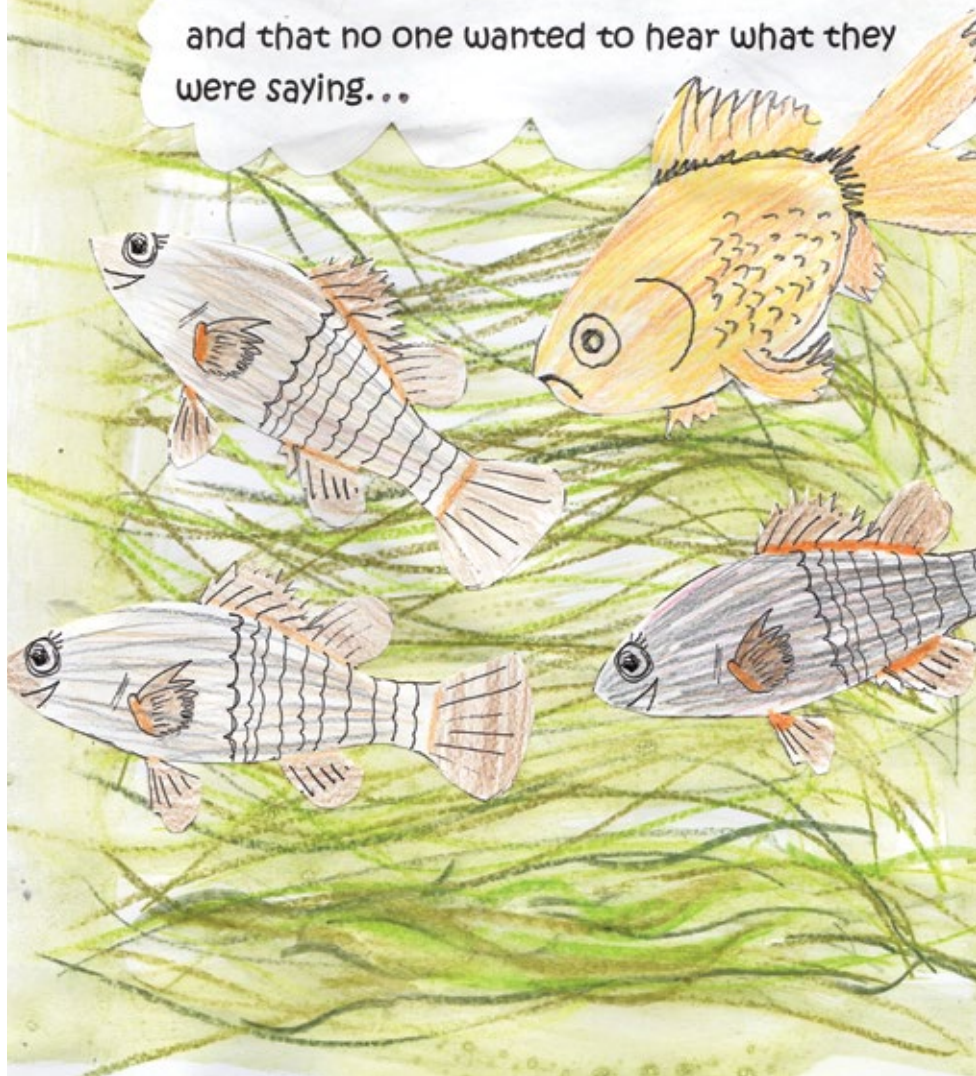
Penny silently moved towards the back of the school.

Those bullies really scared her.



Her friends came to the rescue and started
telling the bullies to leave them alone

and that no one wanted to hear what they
were saying...



Gemma replied with, "You just wait, you'll pay for talking like that to us". Then they all swam off with a **swish** of their huge tails.



As Penny sadly swam home to her reeds
she cursed herself for being such a chicken.

Why couldn't she **stand up** for herself
like her friends had?

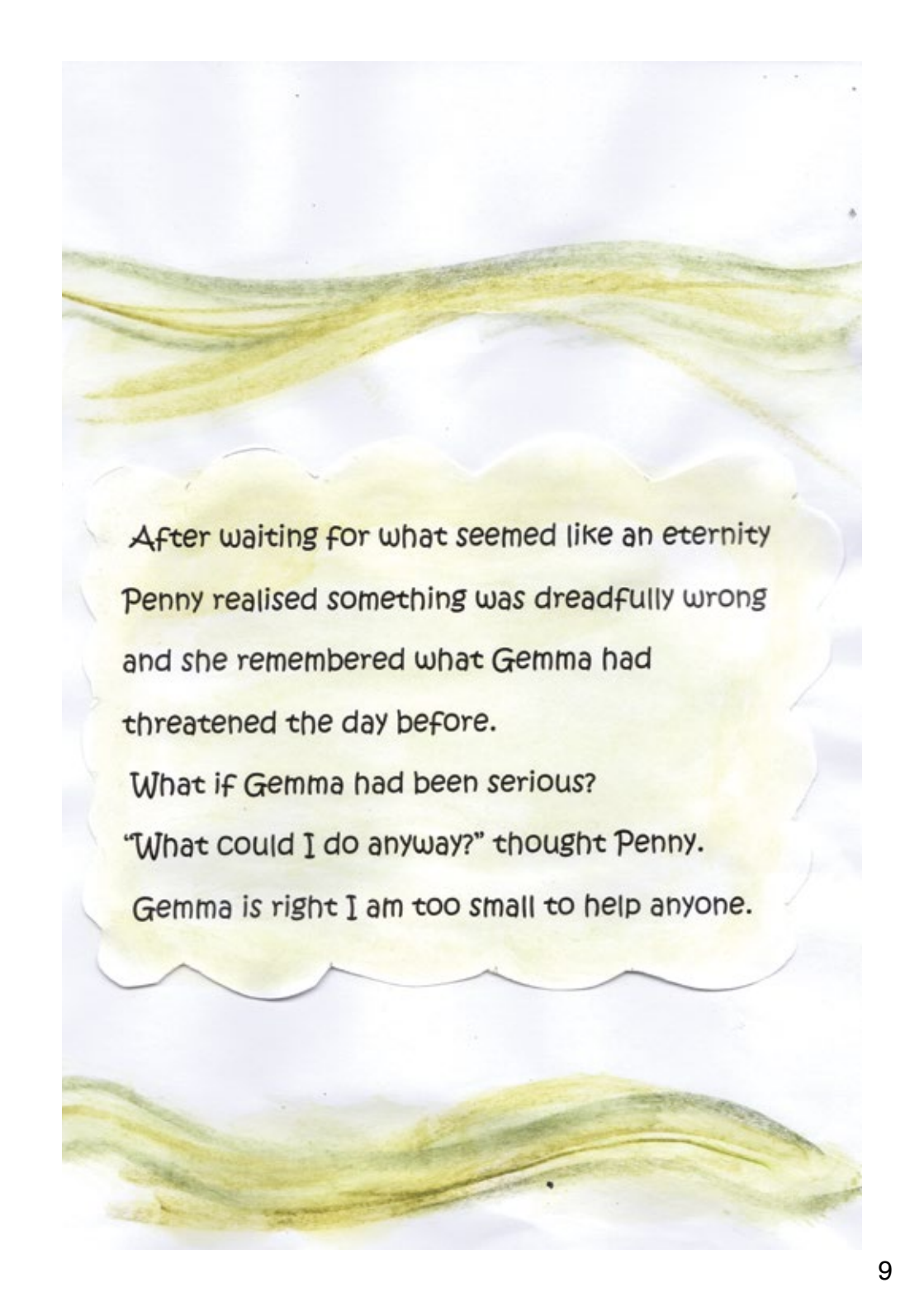


The next sunny day dawned and Penny was up bright and early ready to begin another day at school. She was determined that if she ran into Gemma, Charlie and Garry she would **stand up** and be counted.



With a new found **swish** in her swim Penny arrived at school ready to play with her friends.

“That’s funny,” thought Penny, “It’s pretty quiet here today. I wonder where everyone is?”.

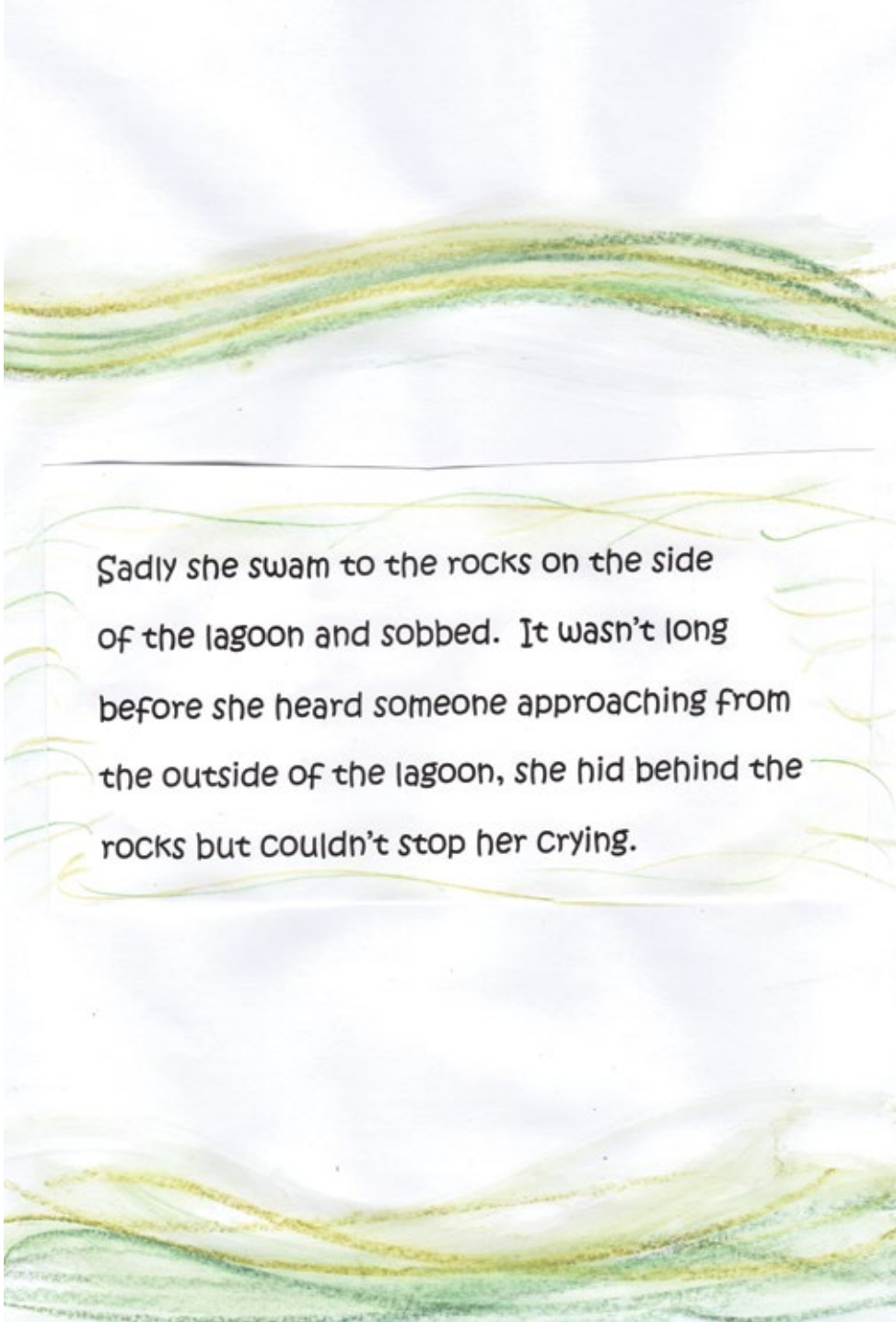


After waiting for what seemed like an eternity Penny realised something was dreadfully wrong and she remembered what Gemma had threatened the day before.

What if Gemma had been serious?

“What could I do anyway?” thought Penny.

Gemma is right I am too small to help anyone.



Sadly she swam to the rocks on the side of the lagoon and sobbed. It wasn't long before she heard someone approaching from the outside of the lagoon, she hid behind the rocks but couldn't stop her crying.


Dr John was a scientist that was visiting the Waring Gardens Lagoon to collect water samples to take back to his lab. He knelt beside the lagoon and scooped up a sample of the water.

“Ah what do we have here?” he said noticing the small fish at the bottom of the bucket.

As he peered closer into the bucket he heard quiet sobs.

“Well what’s wrong with you little fella?” he asked.






Shocked and very scared that he could hear her, Penny tried to swim away, but was trapped by the plastic bucket.

Quietly a voice in her head told her to tell this man what was wrong, her friends had stood up for what they believed in and now this was her turn!

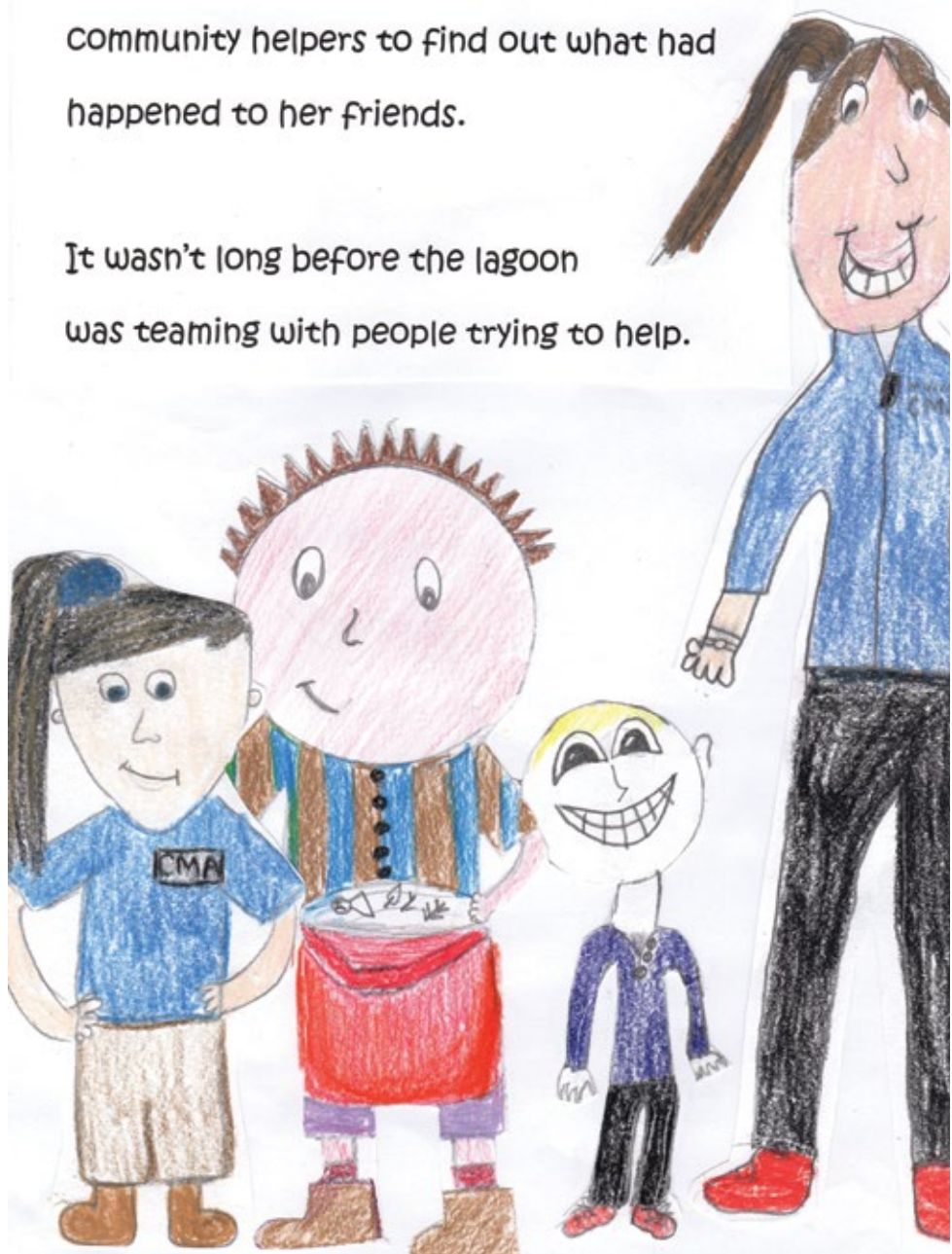
“I need your help,” she said. “My friends are all missing and I seem to be the only Pygmy Perch left in the whole lagoon”.





After Penny had finished telling Dr John about the bully fish Dr John called on his community helpers to find out what had happened to her friends.

It wasn't long before the lagoon was teeming with people trying to help.



Dr John tested the water and discovered that the bully fish were making the water an unhealthy environment. He began to catch the culprits and remove them from the lagoon.



"It shouldn't be long now and your friends will start returning. The water quality is better and we are making the lagoon a safe place once again for you and all the other Pygmy Perch".

"You should be proud of yourself Penny. You stood up for yourself and your friends. You didn't just stand by and do nothing. You saw a problem and you helped fix it."





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