

# Umbango Creek Platypus



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Humula Public School





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



**[www.envirostories.com.au](http://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.

# Umbango Creek Platypus

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School: Humula 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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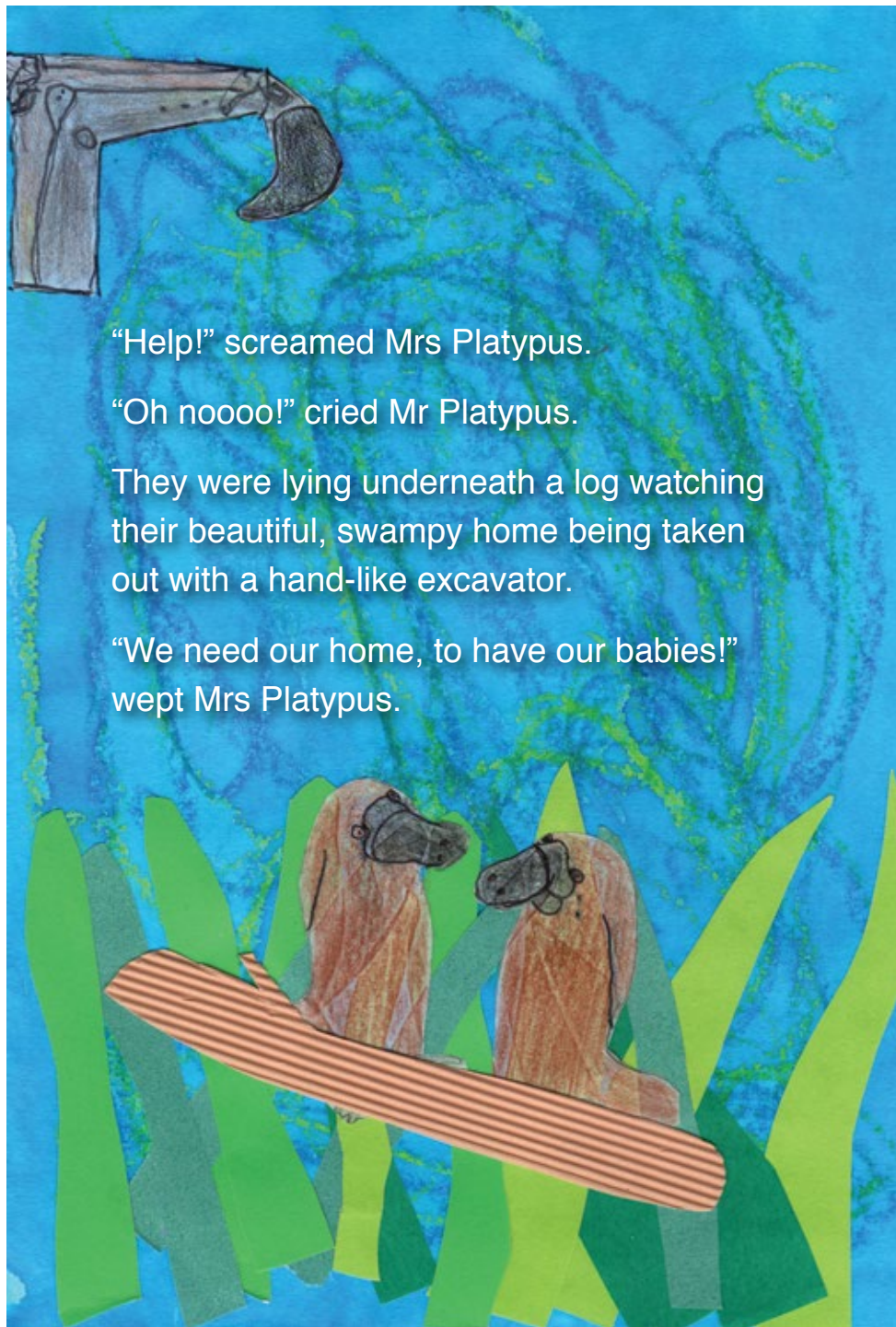


**Catchment Management  
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“Help!” screamed Mrs Platypus.

“Oh noooo!” cried Mr Platypus.

They were lying underneath a log watching their beautiful, swampy home being taken out with a hand-like excavator.

“We need our home, to have our babies!” wept Mrs Platypus.






After watching their home  
being demolished, they sadly  
walked over to Frog, who was  
watching the lizard family's  
home being demolished.

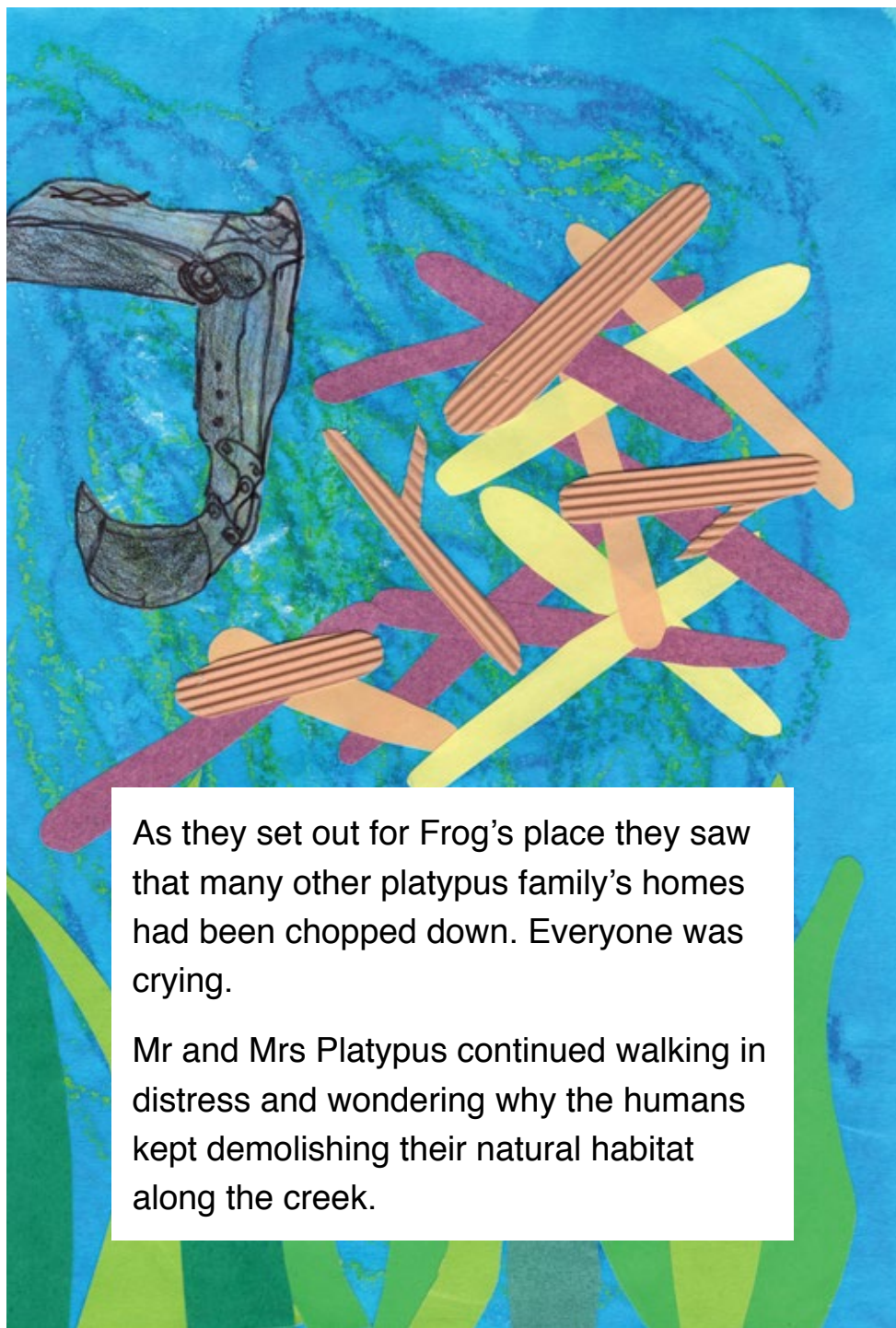
"Excuse me frog," Mrs  
Platypus asked politely.

"Yes," Frog replied.



"Would it be possible if my husband and I  
stay at your house for a little while?" Mrs  
Platypus asked whilst trying not to cry.

"No not at all," replied Frog.



As they set out for Frog's place they saw that many other platypus family's homes had been chopped down. Everyone was crying.

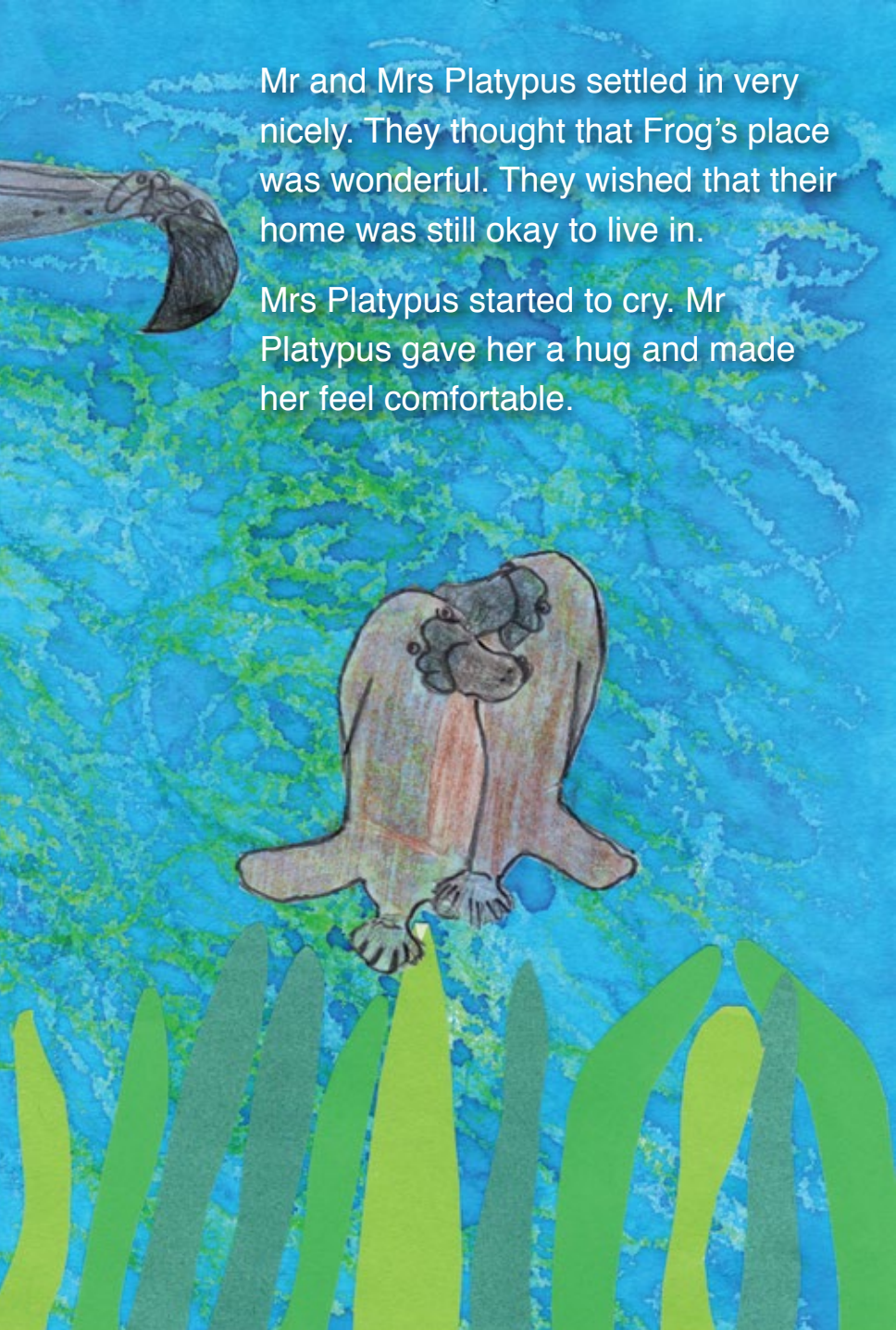
Mr and Mrs Platypus continued walking in distress and wondering why the humans kept demolishing their natural habitat along the creek.



Eventually they found Frog's place. It was a big lily pad floating on top of an amazingly shiny pond.

Mr Platypus said, "I don't think we will fit on top of these lily pads, we'll just have to bunk in the pond." They all laughed.



The background of the page is a watercolor-style illustration of a pond. The water is a mix of blue and green, with darker blue patches and lighter green areas. In the upper left, a brown, curved object, possibly a branch or a piece of wood, extends into the water. In the center, a platypus is depicted with its head and front paws visible, looking towards the right. At the bottom, there are several green, pointed shapes representing lily pads or reeds. The text is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font.

Mr and Mrs Platypus settled in very nicely. They thought that Frog's place was wonderful. They wished that their home was still okay to live in.

Mrs Platypus started to cry. Mr Platypus gave her a hug and made her feel comfortable.

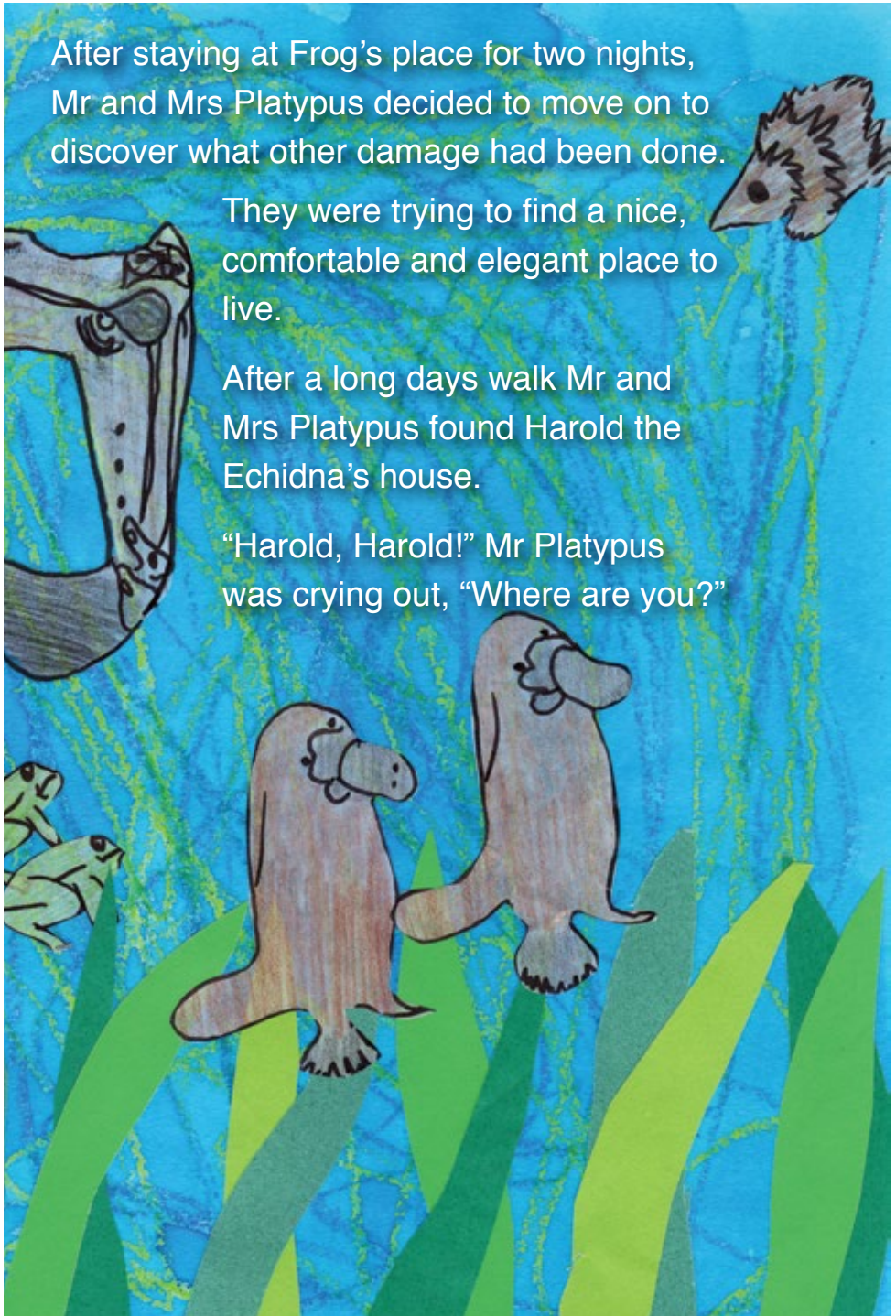



After staying at Frog's place for two nights, Mr and Mrs Platypus decided to move on to discover what other damage had been done.

They were trying to find a nice, comfortable and elegant place to live.

After a long days walk Mr and Mrs Platypus found Harold the Echidna's house.

"Harold, Harold!" Mr Platypus was crying out, "Where are you?"



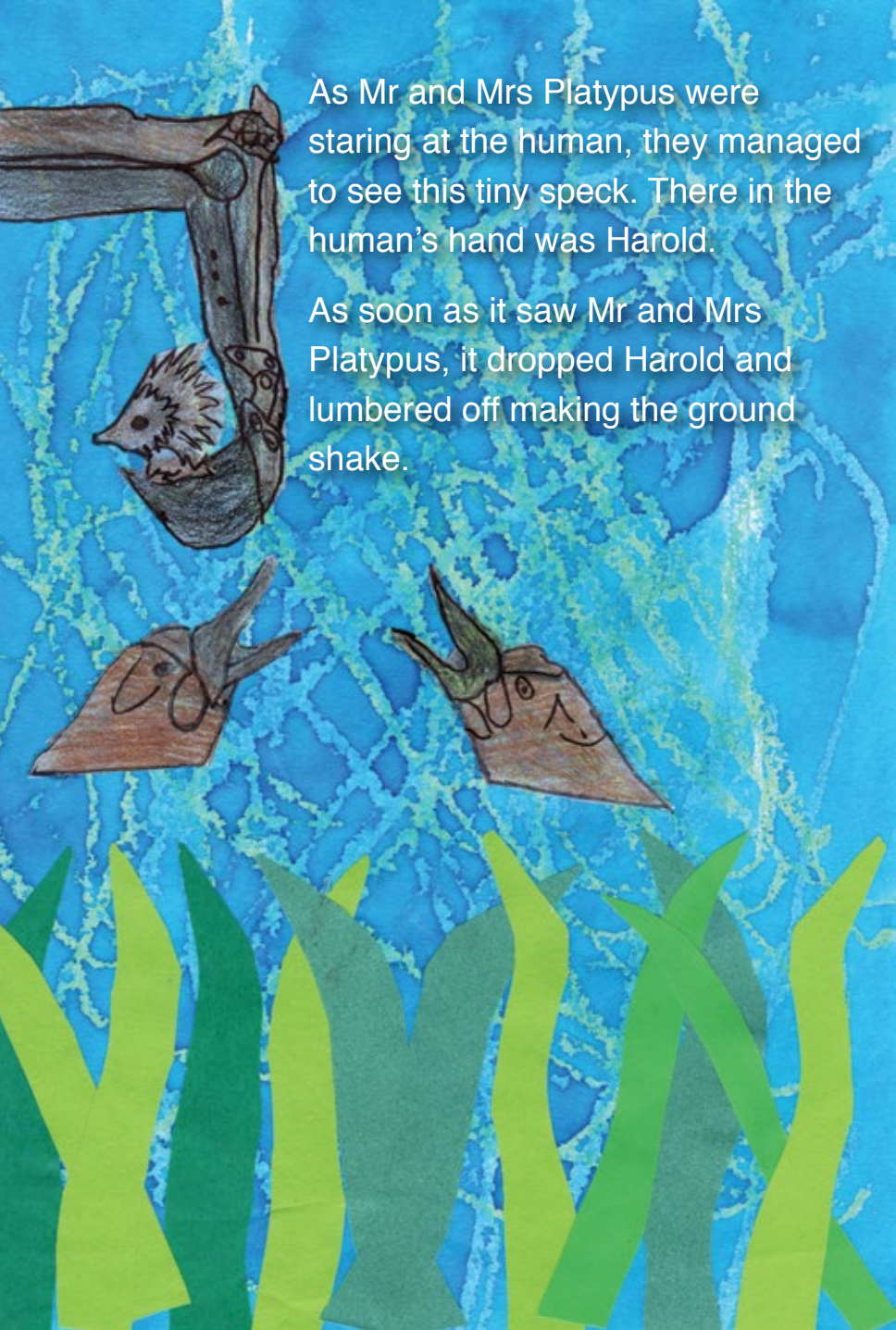


Mr Platypus turned around and there stood the biggest, tallest and ugliest thing he had ever seen. Mr and Mrs Platypus slowly looked up. It had massive, wormy-like arms that were used to pick up anything that it saw or got in its way.

It was MASSIVE!



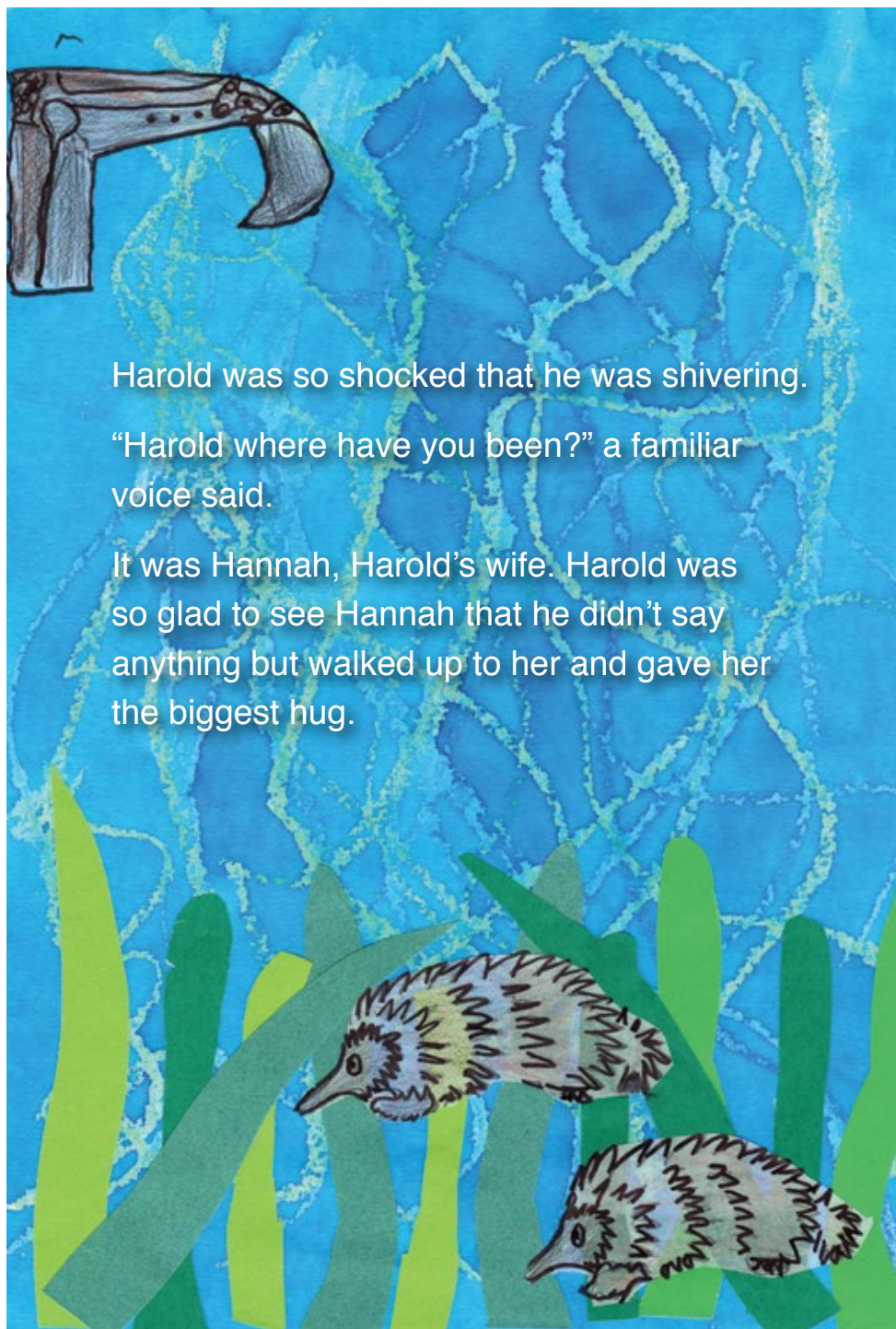




As Mr and Mrs Platypus were staring at the human, they managed to see this tiny speck. There in the human's hand was Harold.

As soon as it saw Mr and Mrs Platypus, it dropped Harold and lumbered off making the ground shake.

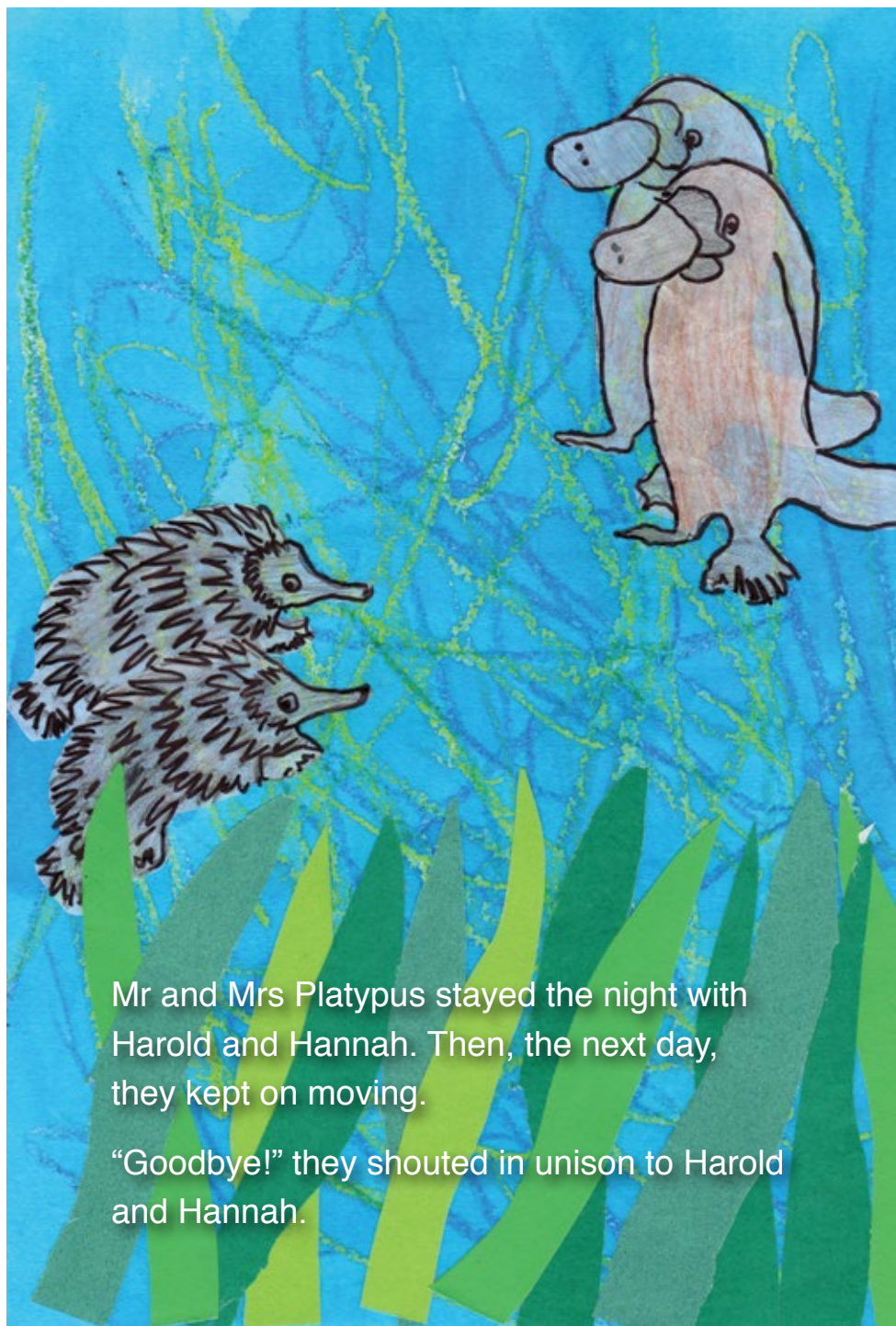




Harold was so shocked that he was shivering.

“Harold where have you been?” a familiar voice said.

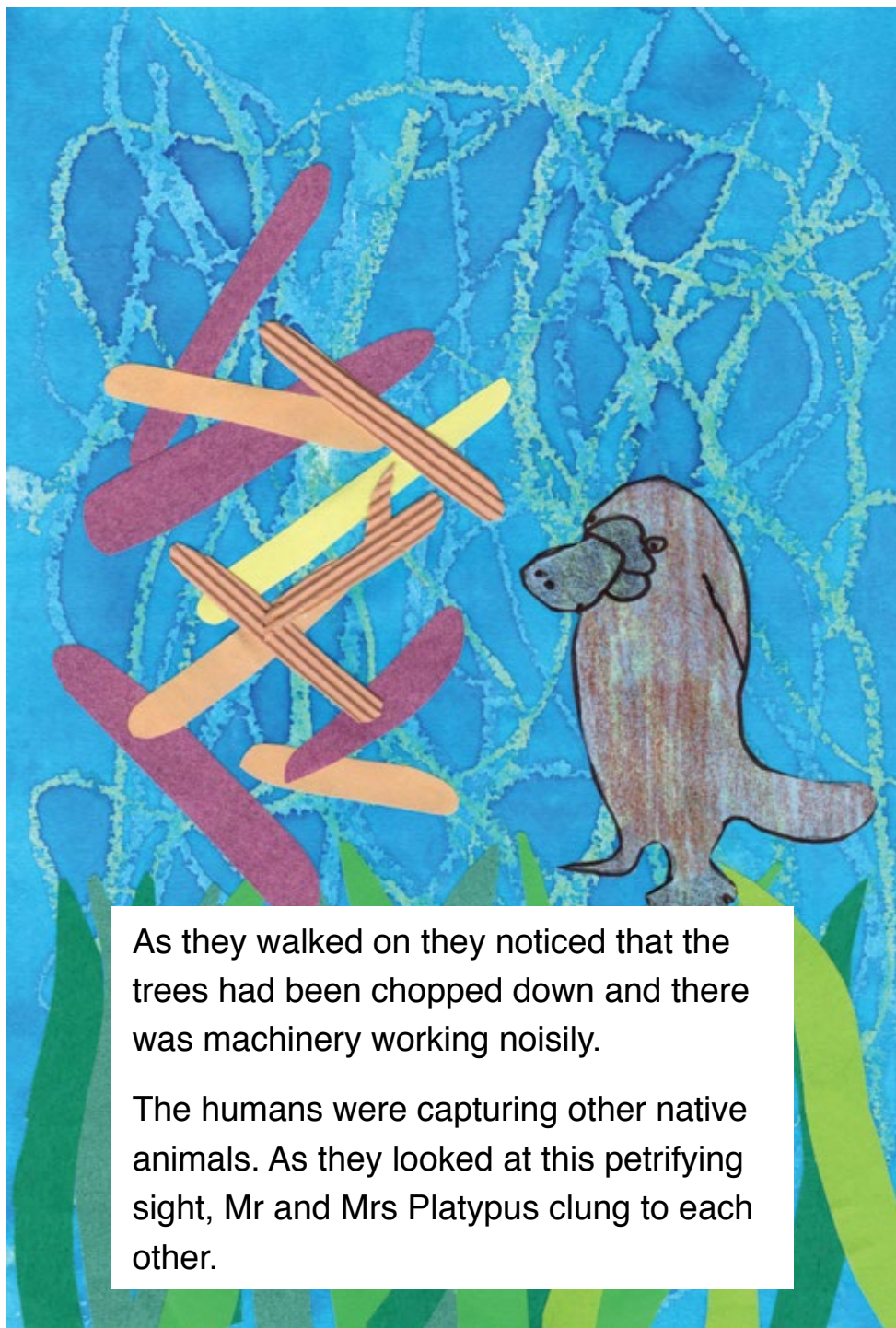
It was Hannah, Harold’s wife. Harold was so glad to see Hannah that he didn’t say anything but walked up to her and gave her the biggest hug.



Mr and Mrs Platypus stayed the night with Harold and Hannah. Then, the next day, they kept on moving.

“Goodbye!” they shouted in unison to Harold and Hannah.

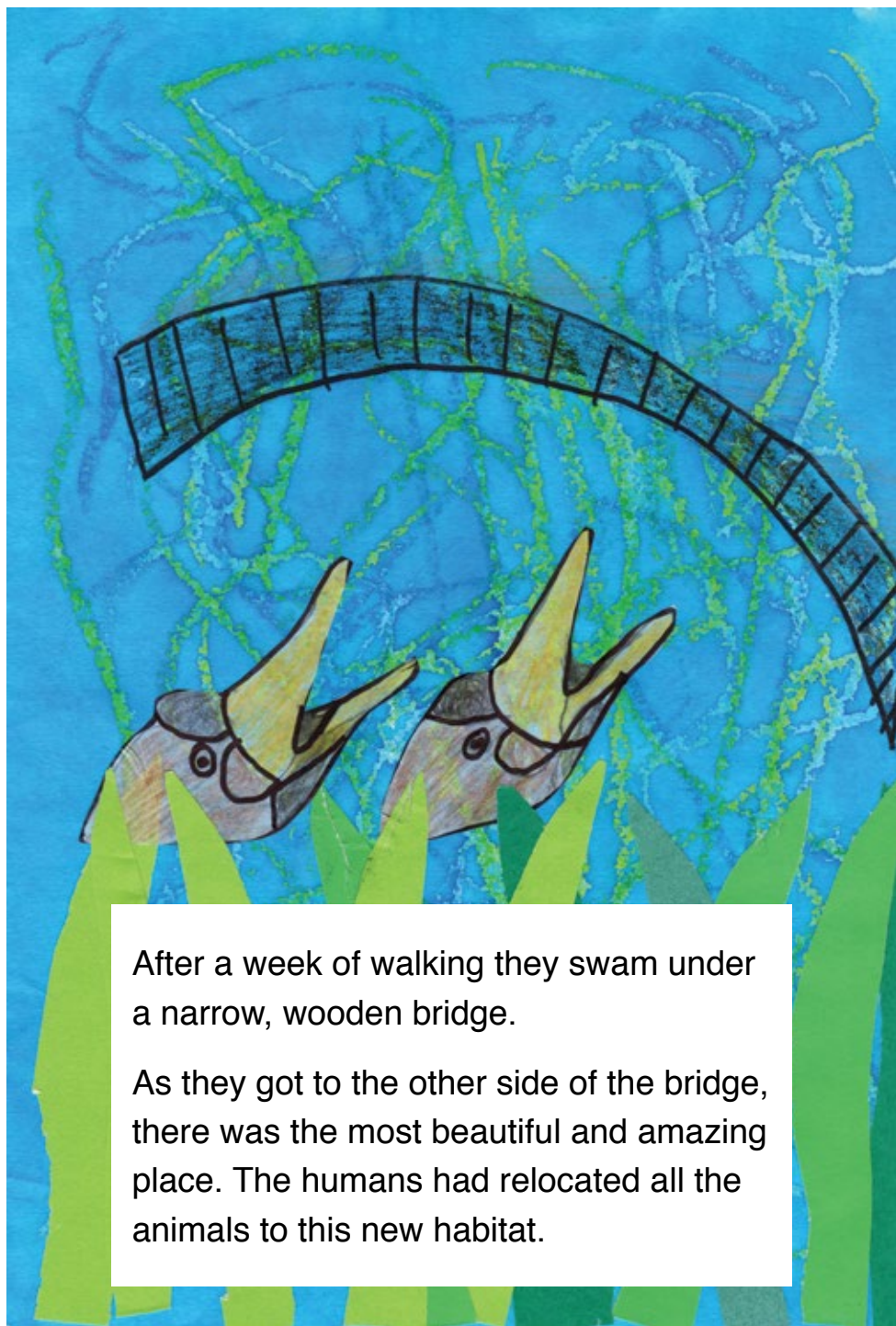




As they walked on they noticed that the trees had been chopped down and there was machinery working noisily.

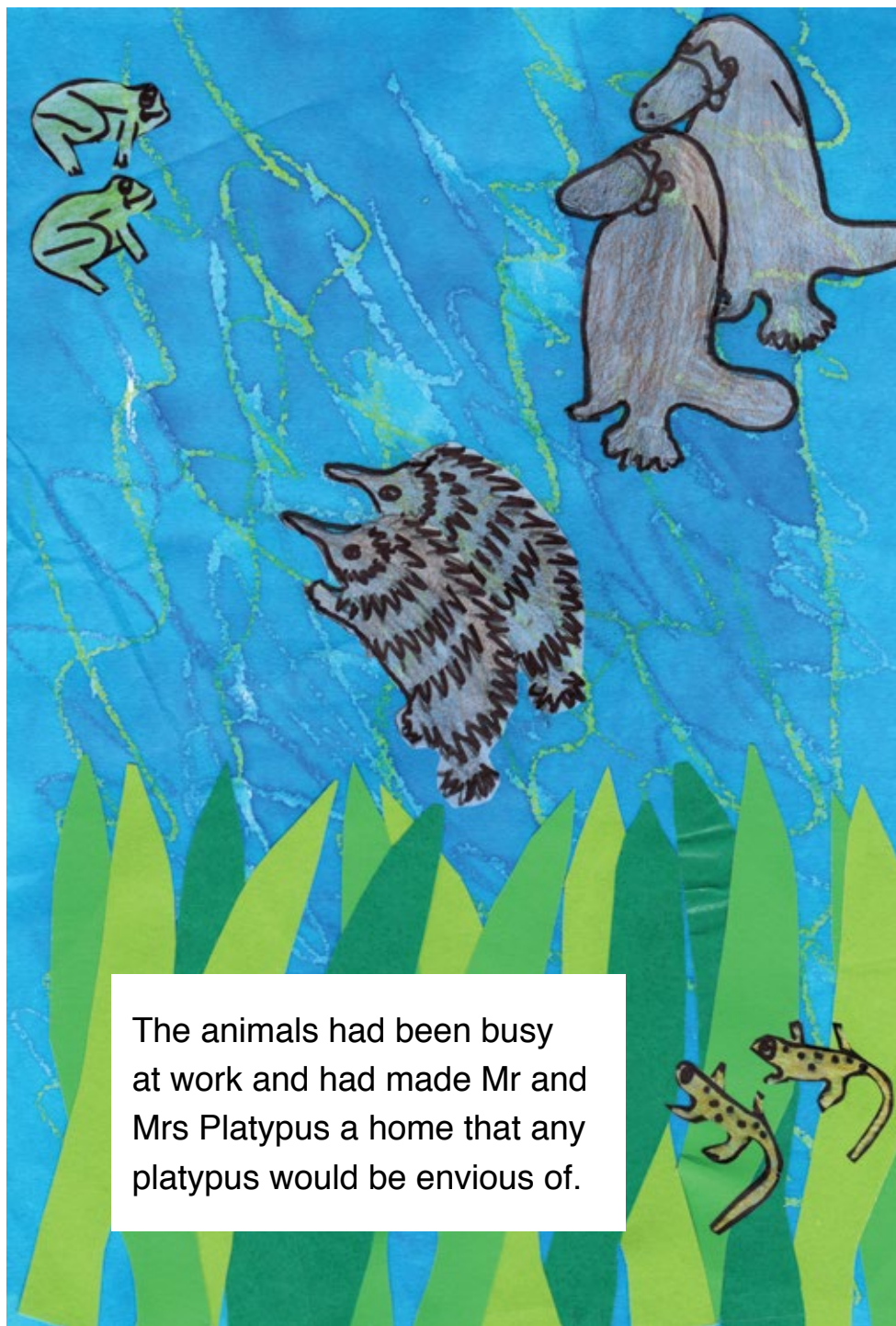
The humans were capturing other native animals. As they looked at this petrifying sight, Mr and Mrs Platypus clung to each other.





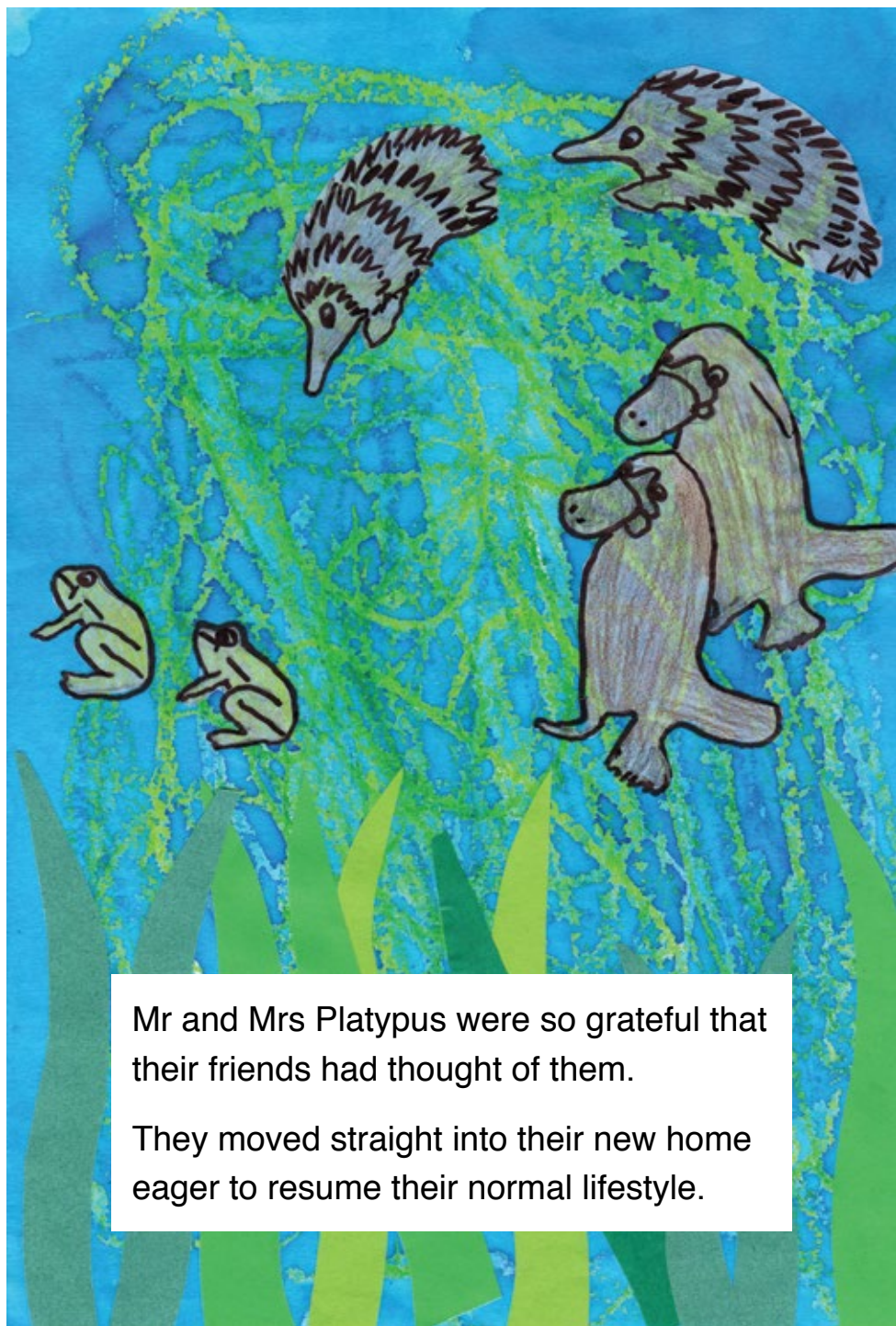
After a week of walking they swam under a narrow, wooden bridge.

As they got to the other side of the bridge, there was the most beautiful and amazing place. The humans had relocated all the animals to this new habitat.



The animals had been busy at work and had made Mr and Mrs Platypus a home that any platypus would be envious of.





Mr and Mrs Platypus were so grateful that their friends had thought of them.

They moved straight into their new home eager to resume their normal lifestyle.



A month later...

"Come on children, dinners up," Mrs Platypus cried. The puggles ran from behind a water reed. They were all fighting over which plate was there's.

"Dad's home!" they all cried out.

"Isn't this perfect!" Mrs Platypus said with exhaustion to Mr Platypus.

"Yes it is," replied Mr Platypus.

They lived happily ever after and NEVER heard of those humans again!







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