

Carl the Carp



Joseph Pereira
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Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeeKdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

Central West Local Land Services

The Central West Local Land Services region is home to around 110,000 people and covers the central west slopes region around Grenfell, Forbes and Wellington to the western plains of Nyngan and Coonamble.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centralwest

Central Tablelands Local Land Services

The Central Tablelands Local Land Services region is located in central New South Wales and covers an area of approximately 31,365 km². It includes the major towns of Bathurst, Blayney, Cowra, Lithgow, Molong, Mudgee, Oberon and Orange.

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/centraltablelands

Invasive Animals CRC

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) is Australia's largest integrated invasive animal research program. The Invasive Animals CRC creates new technologies and integrated strategies to reduce the impact of invasive animals on Australia's economy, environment and people.

www.invasiveanimals.com | www.pestsmart.org.au

Carl the Carp

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- Billy's Great Escape
- Carl the Carp
- Farmer Bob and the Red Fox
- Just Too Feral for Meadow Flat
- Nigel the Nasty Rabbit
- Rabbits Running Rife
- Some Help for Harry
- The Invasion
- The Twins and the Mouse Plague
- Who got the Chickens?

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In the Lachlan River, there was a very naughty carp that was a great pest.



One day, Christen the Carp had a baby. She called it Carl. She raised him to be a pest so it really wasn't Carl's fault. Everyone knows that carp are HUGE pests. It's due to their destructive bottom feeding habits.



While all carp are destructive, Carl was one of the worst. Carl's mother would say, "I know we're carp, and we can't help stirring the sand up when we eat, but don't stir up sand just for fun. The other fish get angry because they are breathing in the mud."



"It's bad enough breathing algae,
but mud as well," warned Gill, the
oldest cod in the river. "You'll get
caught out one day my boy."



However, Carl would not listen to the old, wise, smart fish.

"I'll do what I like," said Carl, and he went back to kicking up mud.



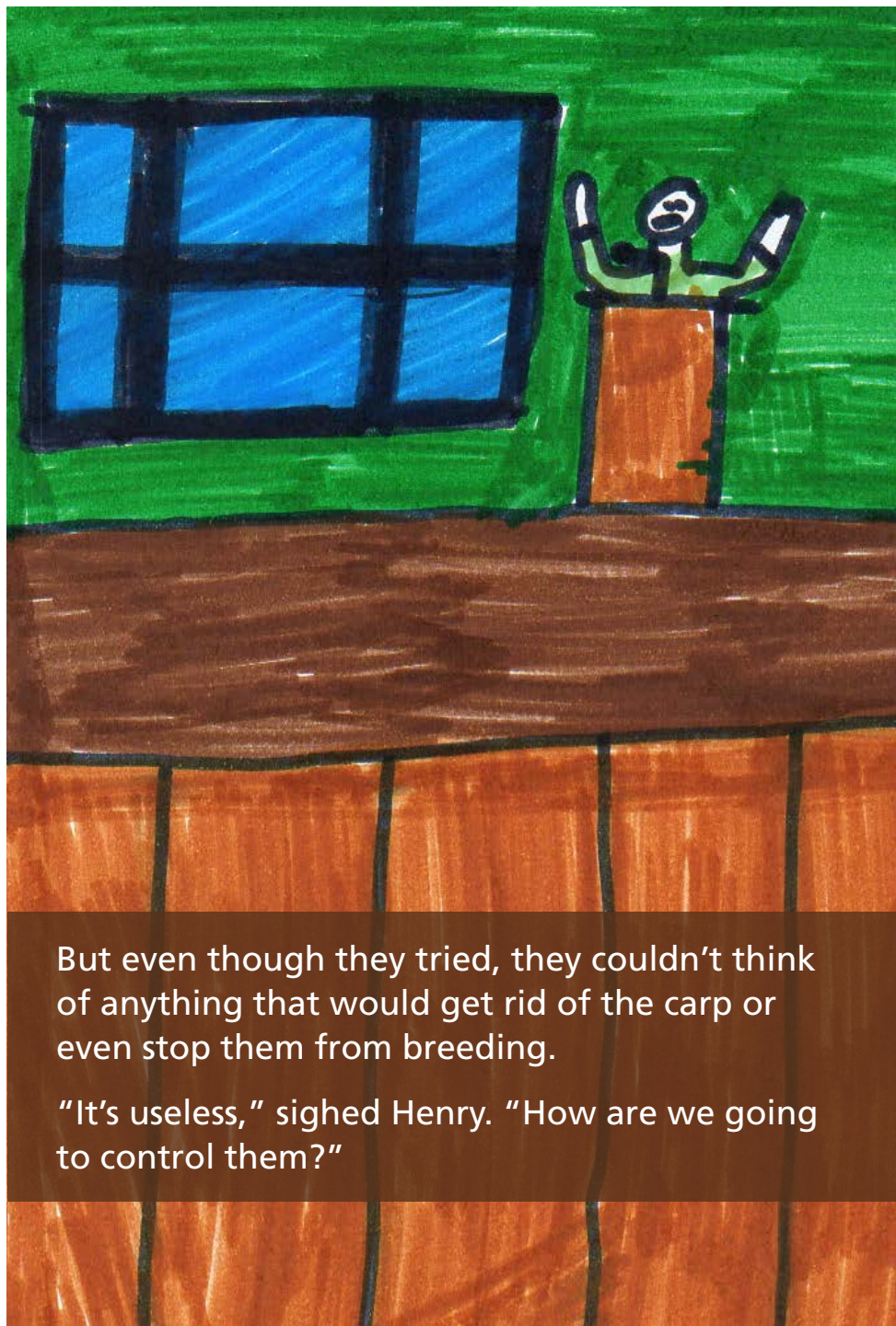


Henry, the human leader called a town meeting.

“We have to stop those carp stirring up the river!” exclaimed Henry.

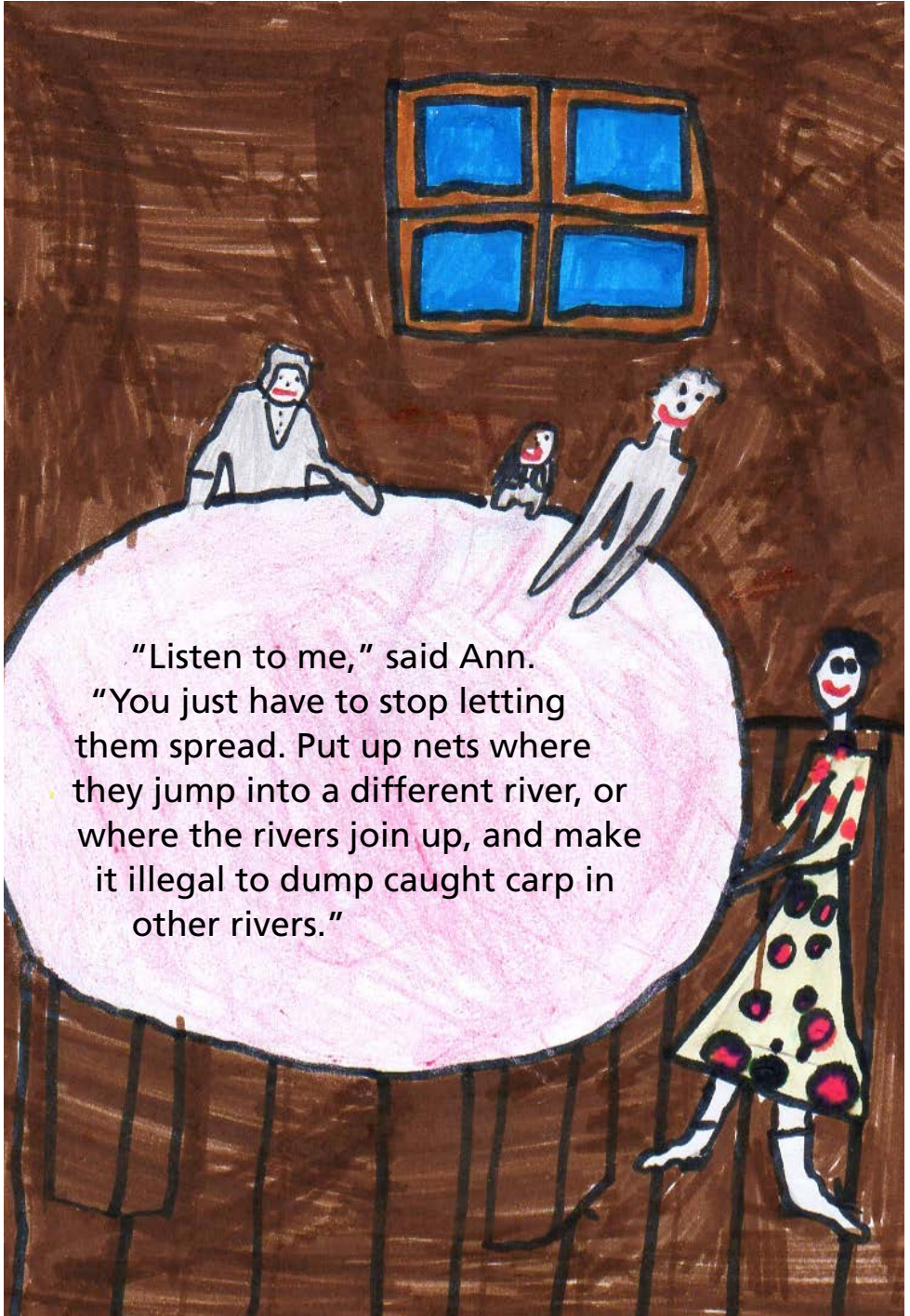
“I know what we can do,” replied a young boy.
“We can poison them.”

“That won’t work, it will poison all the other fish,” said Henry.



But even though they tried, they couldn't think of anything that would get rid of the carp or even stop them from breeding.

"It's useless," sighed Henry. "How are we going to control them?"



“And when you fish a carp out of the river, you cannot put it back,” said a little girl called Samantha.

“Why don’t we have a ‘carp catching’ competition to raise money for the installation of the nets,” said Kevin.



“That’s a great idea,” said Henry. “It’s a great way to get kids out there fishing, and it’s fun. Who doesn’t like fishing? Let’s go home now and I hope to see all of you on Sunday at the river.”





Meanwhile, in the river all the fish were complaining.

“Why were those carp put in the river?” asked a cod. “They breed in their thousands. We’ll be over-run quite quickly. Let’s ask the humans, they will know what to do.”

So on Sunday, when the humans came in their numbers, the fish told the humans how destructive the carp were. The humans promised to help them.

“I hope they can get rid of the carp, don’t you?” said another cod.

“Welcome to our fishing competition,” said Henry. “Enjoy the fishing, but please remember to leave the other fish alone. This is a carp catching competition. The person who catches the most carp wins. The prize will be a brand new fishing rod.”



So the humans had a lovely time catching as many carp as they could.

The other fish watched with enthusiasm as even Carl the cheeky young carp was pulled out of the river. The native fish took pleasure in the thought that getting rid of this pest would help their habitat return to the beautiful place it once was.



The humans had a special campfire where they cooked marshmallows to celebrate the success of the competition. They had all worked together to help save the river and they had fun doing it.

They even collected the carp to be sent off to be made into fertiliser. This would make good use of the carp by helping their crops and gardens flourish.

Guess who won the competition?



... *Samantha!*



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Services



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