



The Caterpillar and the Polliwog

by Jack Kent

Readers Theater script
by Kate Gramling

Images adapted from *The Caterpillar and the Polliwog*

Cast of characters



Hippopotamus



Snail



Narrator



Turtle



Caterpillar



Fish



Polliwog



Butterfly



New caterpillar




Frog




HIPPOPOTAMUS: When you and I get older, we get bigger. But not caterpillars. They turn into butterflies. Turning into something else like that is not a thing just anybody can do.




NARRATOR: Down by the pond there lived a very proud caterpillar. She bragged about being different to all her friends.


 CATERPILLAR: When I grow up, I'm going to turn into something else.


 SNAIL: That's nice.


 CATERPILLAR: When I grow up, I'm going to turn into something else.

 TURTLE: I don't blame you.


 CATERPILLAR: When I grow up, I'm going to turn into something else.


 POLLIWOG: What fun! What are you going to turn into?


 NARRATOR: But caterpillar had already hurried away to tell someone else her secret. Polliwog swam in the pond.

 POLLIWOG: I wish I could turn into something else when I grow up!

 FISH: You will. All polliwogs do.


 POLLIWOG: What am I going to turn into?

 NARRATOR: But the fish swam away to catch a tasty bug. Meanwhile, the caterpillar had circled the pond.


 CATERPILLAR: When I grow up, I'm going to turn into something else.

 POLLIWOG: So am I!


 CATERPILLAR: You?!


 POLLIWOG: The fish said so. Fish know things. They go to school.

 NARRATOR: Caterpillar was upset.

 CATERPILLAR: I thought only caterpillars could do it.

 POLLIWOG: What are we going to turn into?

 CATERPILLAR: Well, I'm going to turn into a butterfly!

 POLLIWOG: Then I guess I will, too. What fun! Let's do it together.

 CATERPILLAR: Alright. But I get to go first.

 POLLIWOG: Okay. I'll watch you.

 NARRATOR: When the time came, caterpillar started to spin a cocoon.



CATERPILLAR: This is the tricky part.



NARRATOR: Polliwog watched until only her head was uncovered.



CATERPILLAR: Now I close the lid. When I come out, I will be a butterfly.



POLLIWOG: Go ahead! I want to see you do it!



CATERPILLAR: It will take a while.



NARRATOR: Caterpillar was soon out of sight in the cocoon. For a long time, nothing happened.



POLLIWOG: I am patient.



NARRATOR: Polliwog watched, and watched, and watched. For days, and days, and days.



FROG: At last!



NARRATOR: There was activity in the cocoon. The end opened and out climbed a



FROG: Butterfly! You are a beautiful yellow butterfly!



NARRATOR: Polliwog was so excited, he hopped up and down with delight. He stopped in surprise.



FROG: Look! I can hop! I was so busy watching you, I didn't notice what was happening to me.



BUTTERFLY: You are a very handsome frog.



NARRATOR: Butterfly flapped her wings and flew away.



FROG: I thought I was going to be a butterfly.



NARRATOR: Just then a little caterpillar crawled to the side of the pond.



SECOND CATERPILLAR: When I grow up, I'm going to turn into something else!



NARRATOR: But frog wasn't listening. He was admiring his reflection in the water.

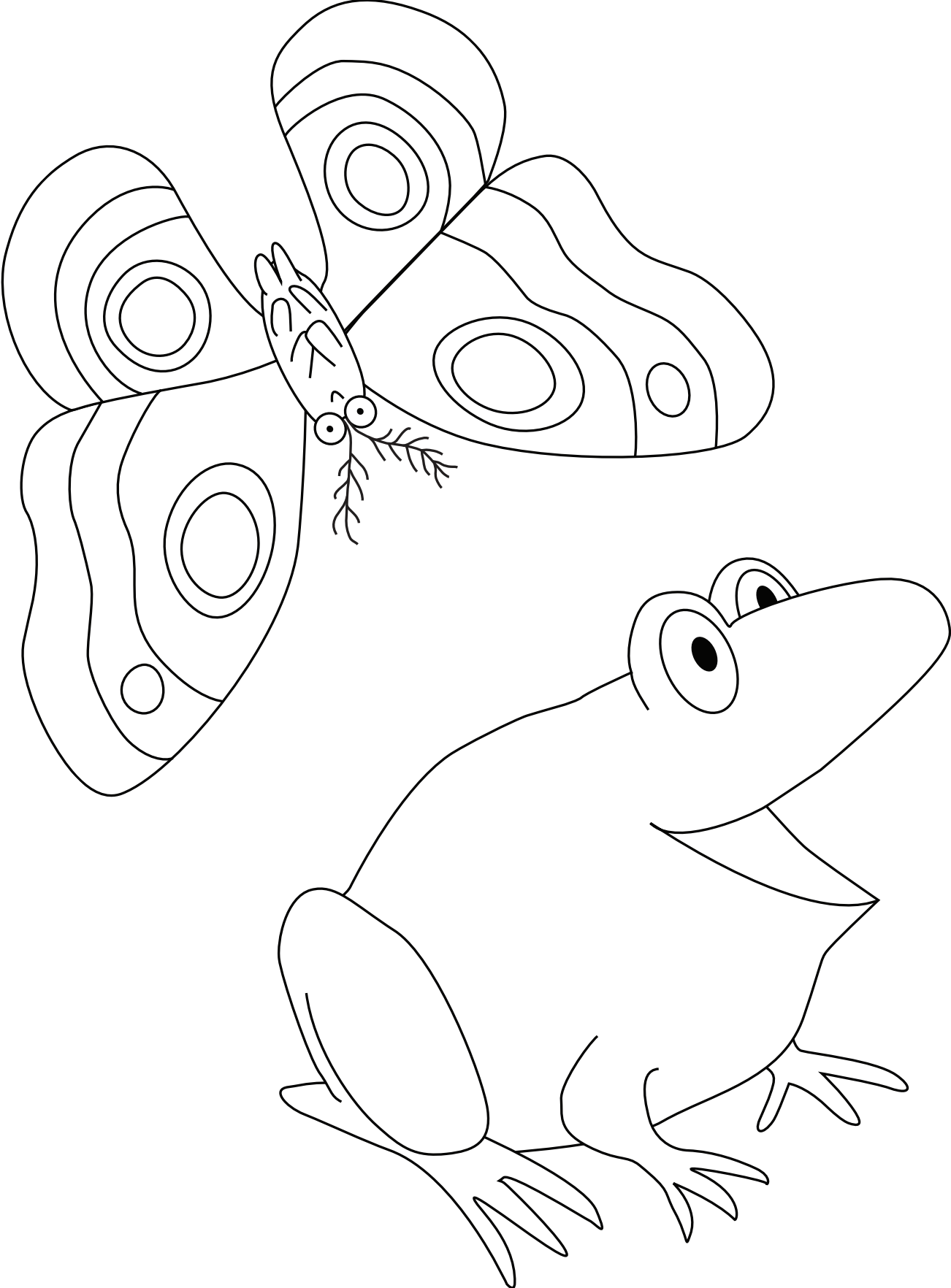


FROG: I am, you know, a very handsome frog.

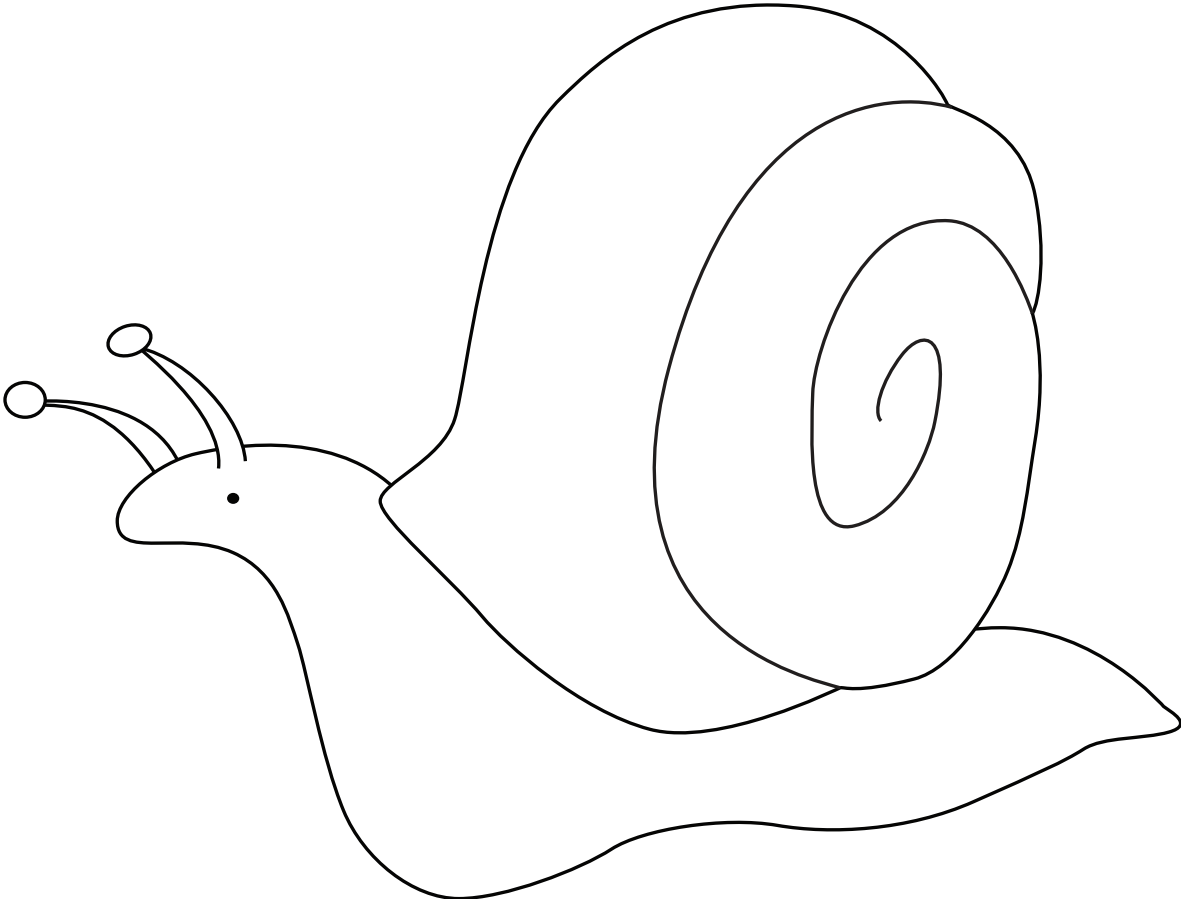
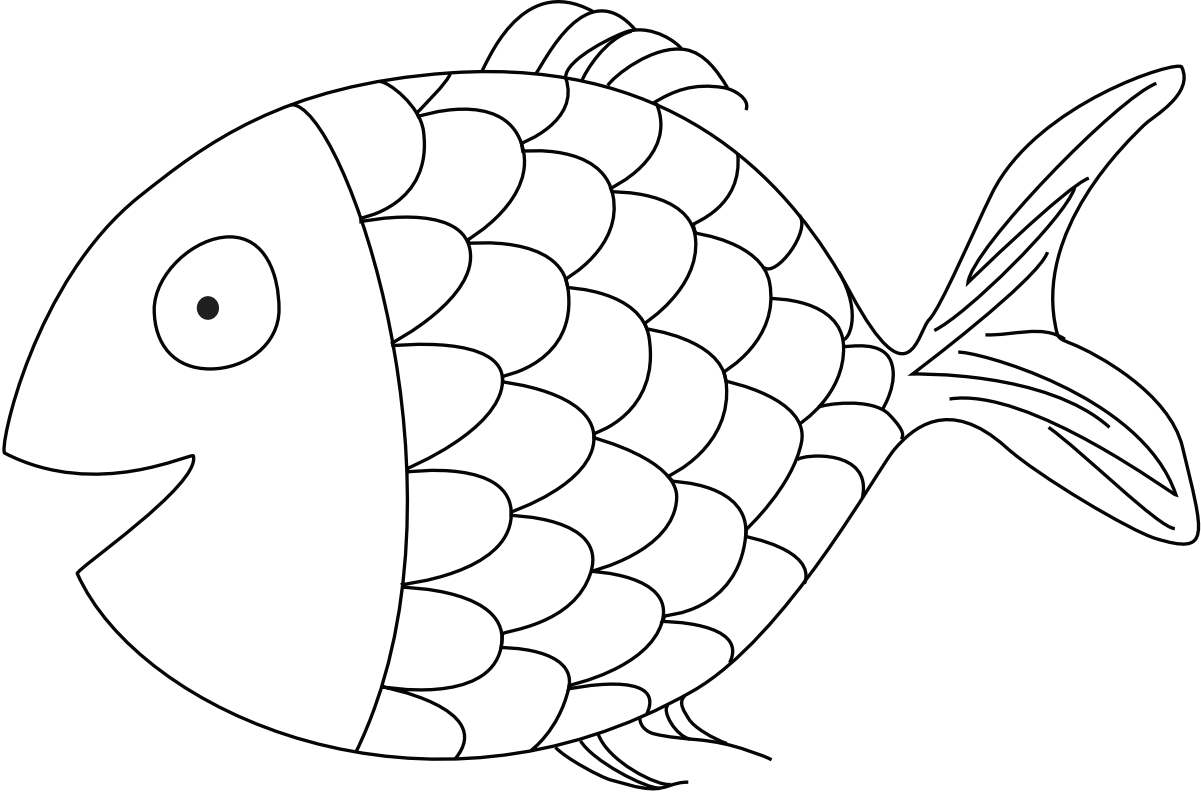
The Caterpillar and the Polliwog



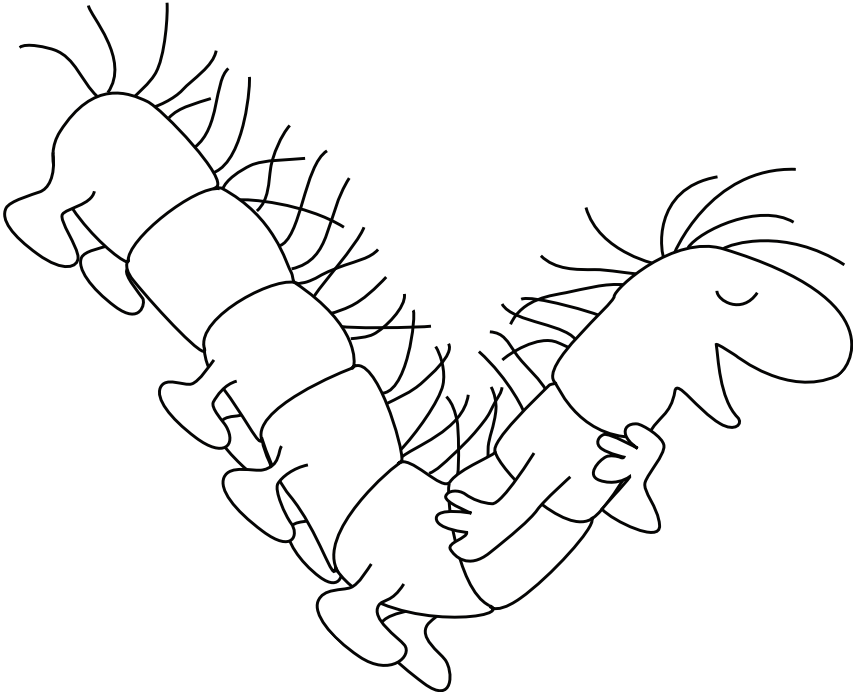
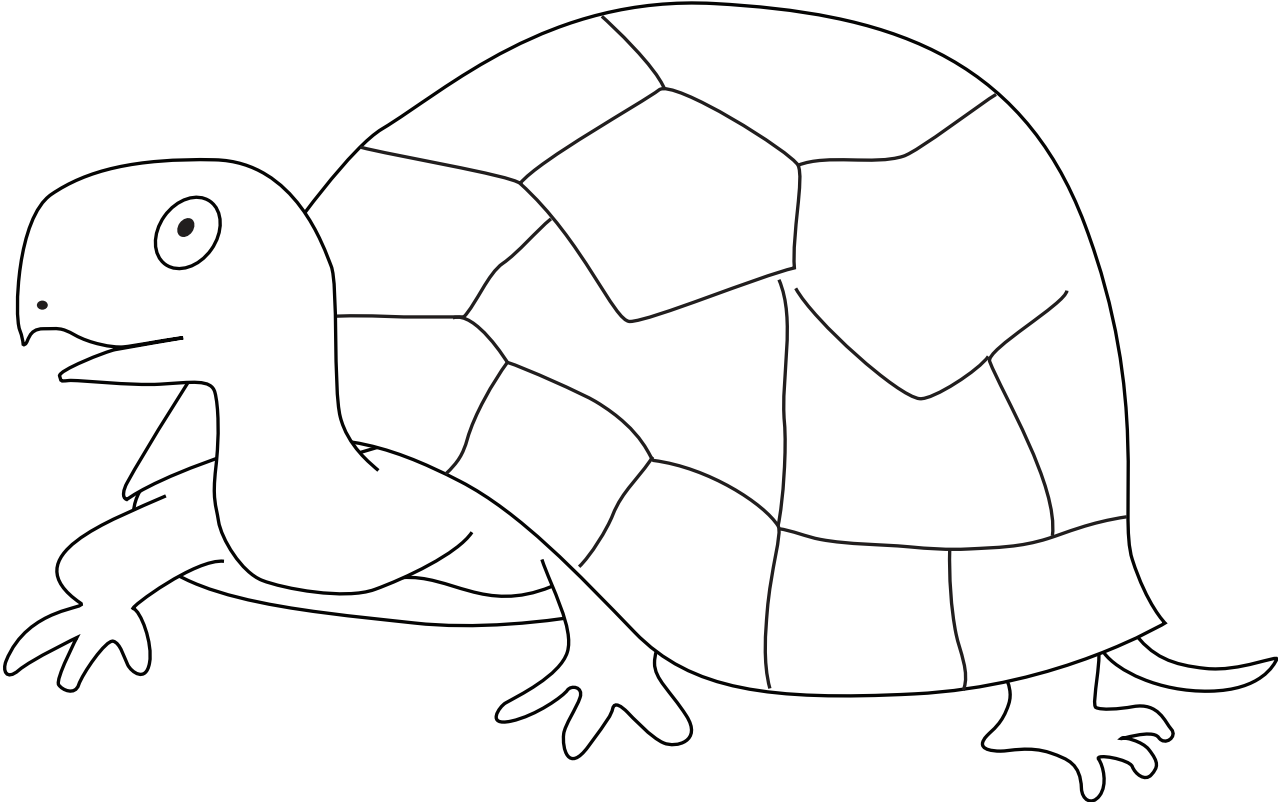
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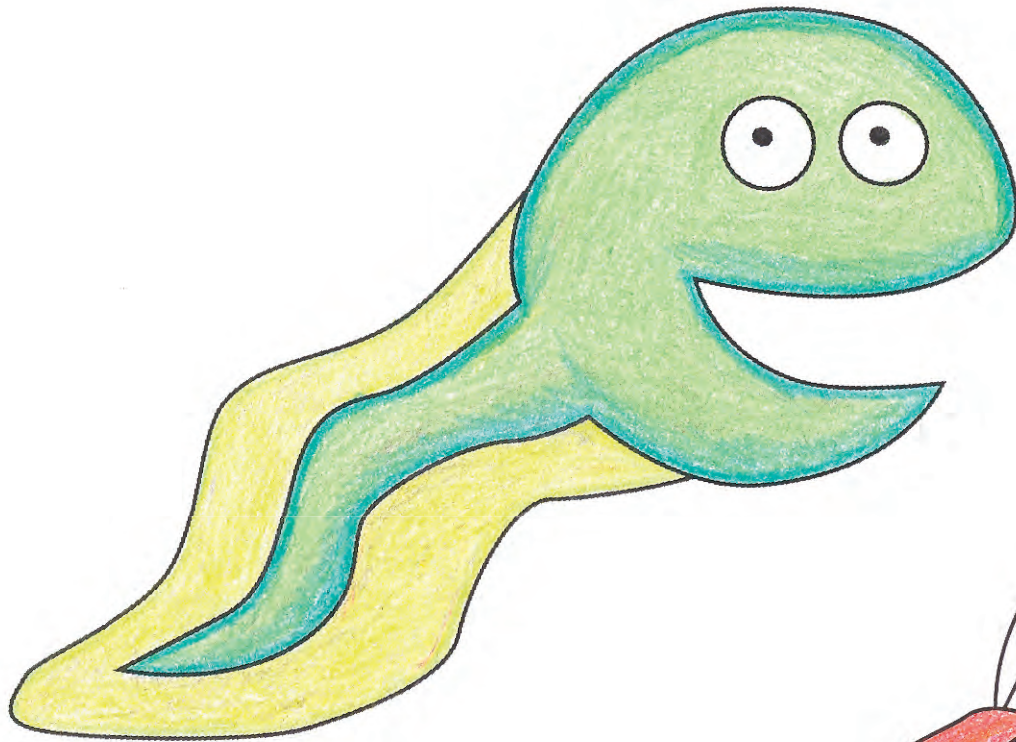
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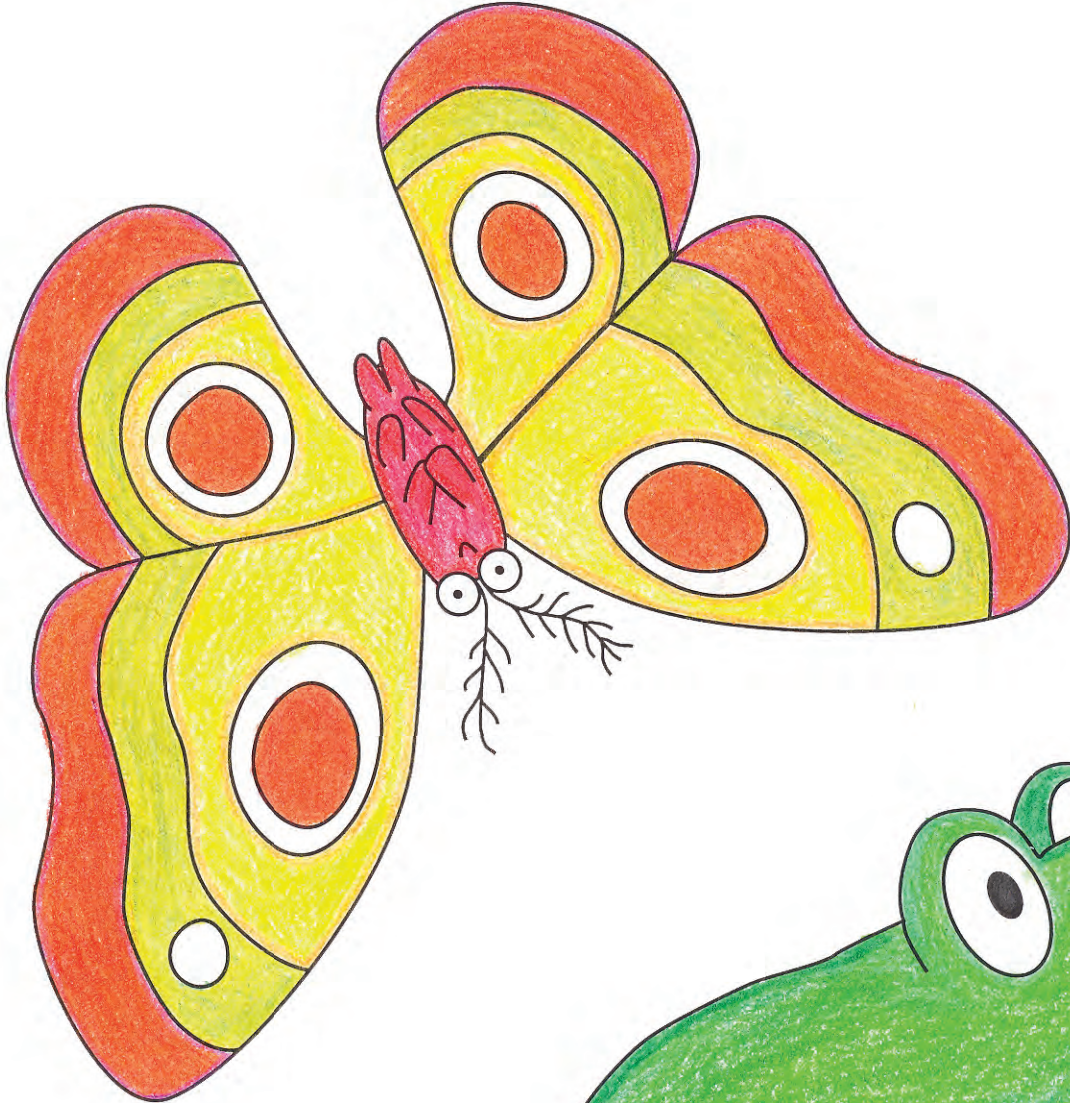
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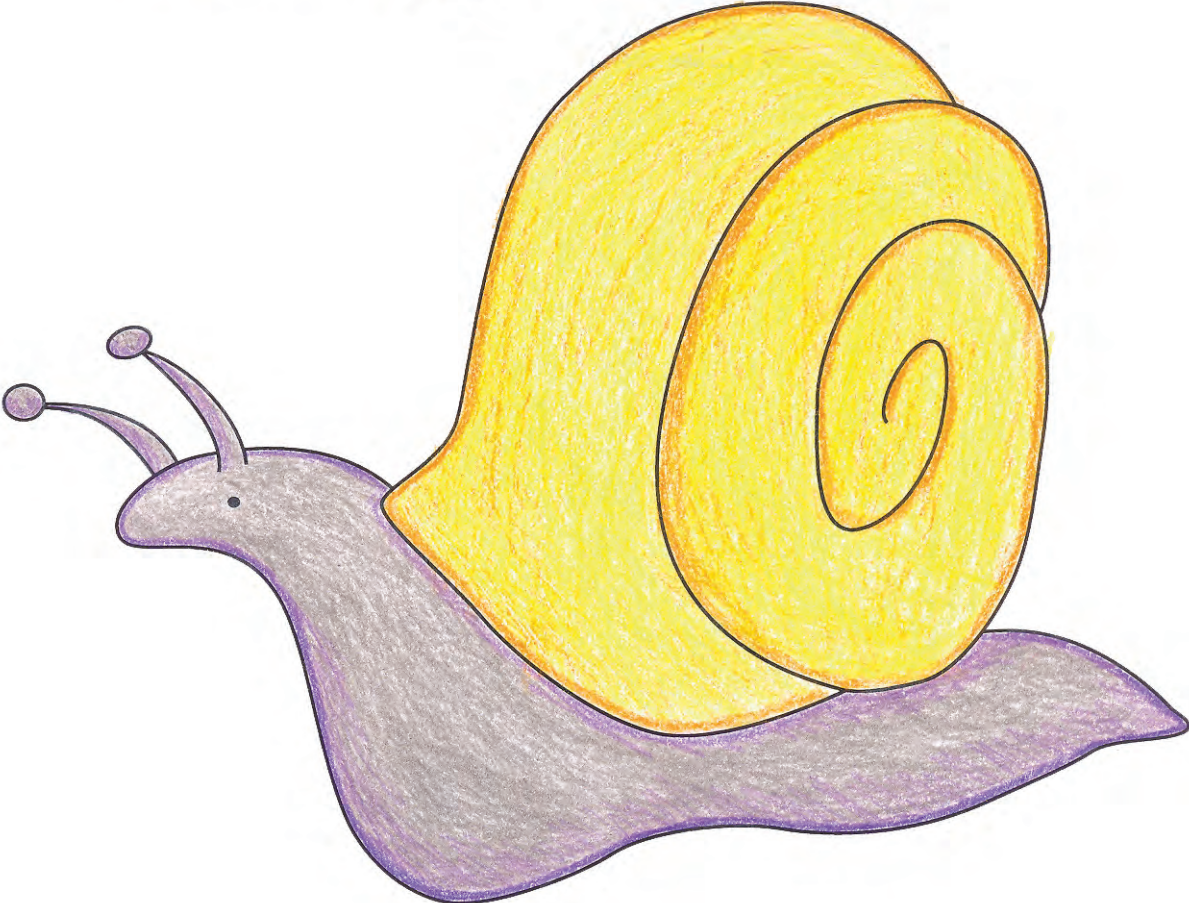
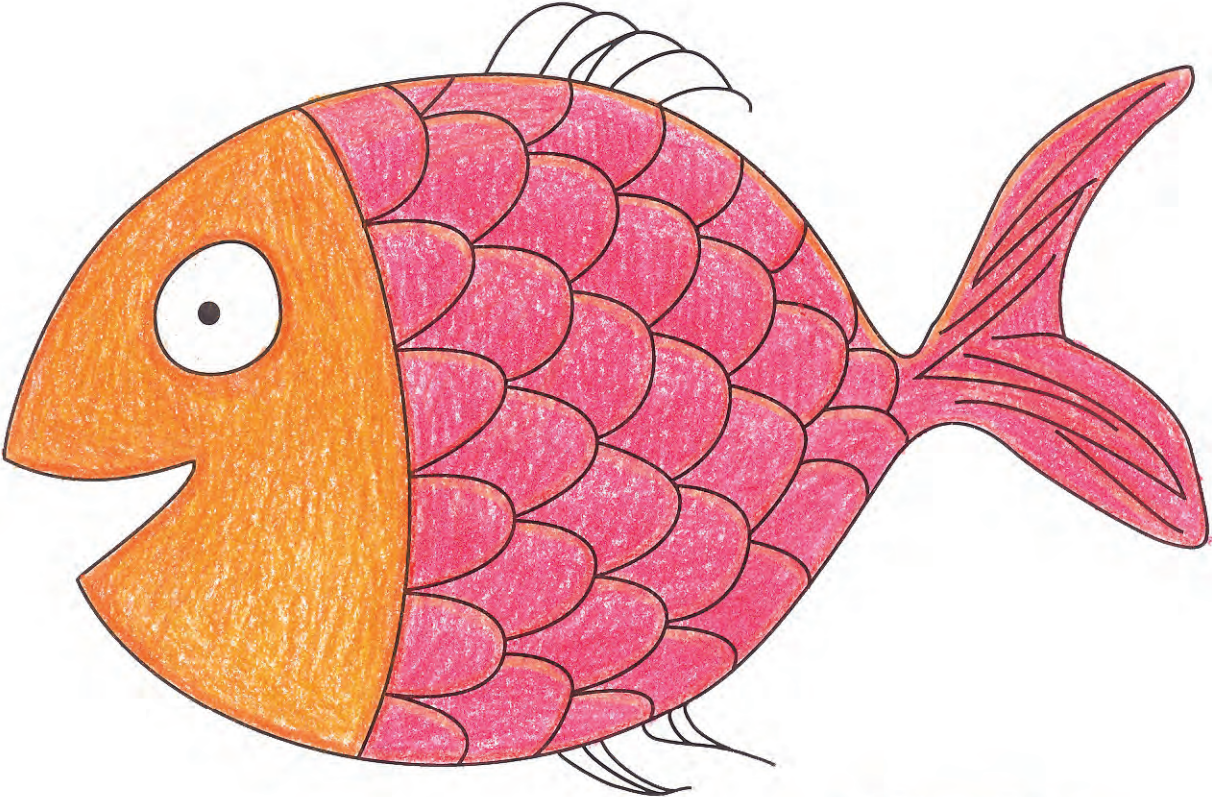
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