

Category 5 Group 05-22

Project Released: Into the Wild

Comic Strip A5 size

Why did we do this:

Our main rationale for embarking on this project is to remind audiences not to release their pets into the wild, and also to raise awareness of the consequences of irresponsible pet keeping.

We decided to do a comic due to comics being friendly to audiences of all ages, and they have the capability to engage audiences better in the various scenes as compared to books at times. It is also easier to communicate values through a visually appealing comic, and can express our creativity at the same time. Most importantly, a comic can be easily understood by young audiences.

Our main themes in the comic are **“Maintaining ecosystem balance”** and **“The Adaptability of Animals”**.

Artist References:

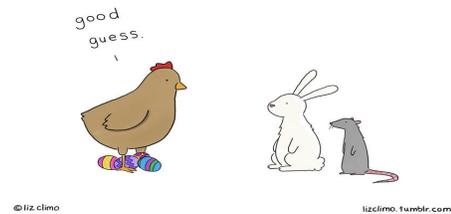
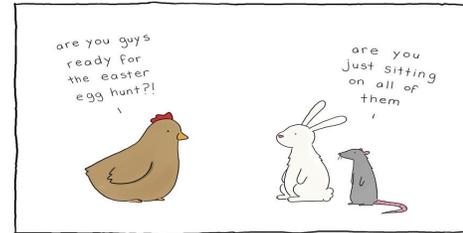
Arven92 (Panthera Arven)

Panthera Arven is a DeviantArt artist that has obtained some fame illustrating animals (particularly canines and felines) with colour pencils and computer editing and using them in stories. As such, due to our project being about the comical illustration of animals in wildlife environments, we decided to refer to her work as inspiration to illustrate comics using colour pencils as a medium.

Liz Climo

Liz Climo is a character artist that also juggles the responsibilities of being a storyboard revisionist for the Simpsons and also creates simplistic cartoons of animals at home in her free time. Her creations are cutely and simply drawn, yet often convey strong ideas through the personification of animals, being friendly to all ages. Funny to the children, but thought-provoking for the adults. We took to her comic idea and also designed our characters to

be more “comical” and less literally drawn to not only save effort, but create a design of our own that is more friendly to younger audiences.



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lizclimo.tumblr.com

Sample drawings of artists on above left: Panthera Arven ; Above right: Liz Climo

Ideas we want to convey:

It is important to care for your pets well once you have bought them.

It is because of the owner deciding to release his pets after buying them (and for quite a hefty sum in the case of the leopard gecko) that all the suffering of the animals was caused. Animals have a life too, and this should be taken into consideration when deciding whether or not to buy a pet. One should not buy a pet on impulse, and should not release the pet irresponsibly when he loses interest in caring for the pet or is unable to care for the pet anymore.

Ecosystem Balance is essential

In our comic, our main plot is about two different animals non-native to the Singapore ecosystem being released into nature. One of them ruins the ecosystem balance completely, by competing with local fauna for food, while the other dies an undeserved death due to failure to

adapt to an unfamiliar new environment and unsuitable living conditions. This shows how introducing feral animals into any environment will definitely be detrimental to at least one party, be it the feral animal itself or local fauna.

Alternative ideas:

At first, we wanted to do a story about a domesticated fox being released into the wild, with the story set in the United States. However, we then decided to change our story as it is not impactful enough, only shows one side of the problem and Singaporeans cannot relate to that story. We did do some experimental sketches on the fox, when we were still planning to do this story.



Above are some of the sketches we did, with the one on the bottom left being a literal sketch, the one on the top right being different cartoon version drawings with different colors as we were trying to figure out which colors were the best, and the top left is the proposed finalised cartoon character with the finalised color for that story.

Finalised idea

Our final product consists of an A5 sized 30 page comic book to be read from right to left. We chose to produce our project in such a style as we wanted to follow the Manga style of reading. The book was produced to be A5 size as we felt that a larger book would be too clunky. We bound and printed the book ourselves.

Characters and Observational Sketches

Our characters include:

Leopard gecko and red eared terrapin (main characters)

Other terrapins

Little grebe

Malayan water monitor

Kukri snake

Adult toman and its young

Crickets, guppies, rat (food for predators).

Malayan box turtles

Sun skink

These are some observational sketches we have done.

First, these are some sketches we did based on the actual animals.



(left: little grebe, right asian roach)



(terrapin)

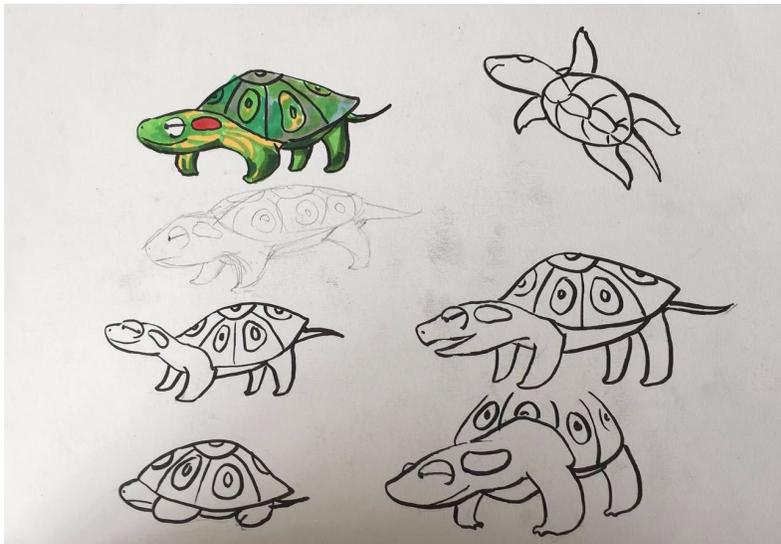


(toman)

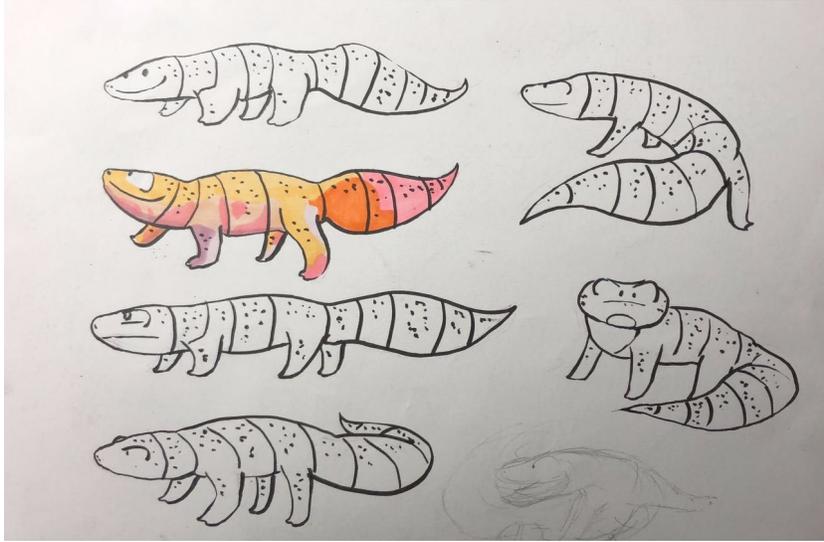


(kukri snake)

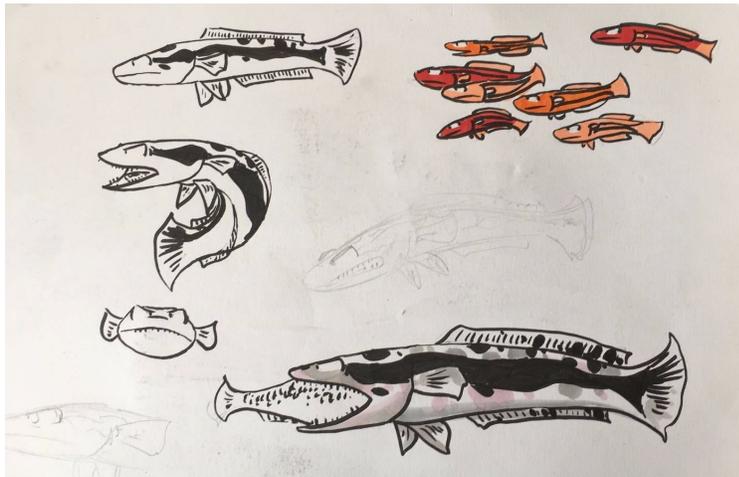
Next are the designs for the characters to be drawn in the comic.



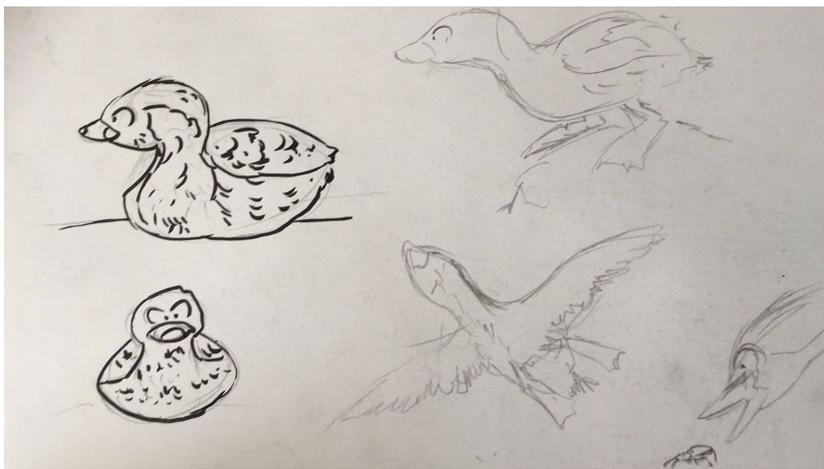
(terrapin)



(leopard gecko)

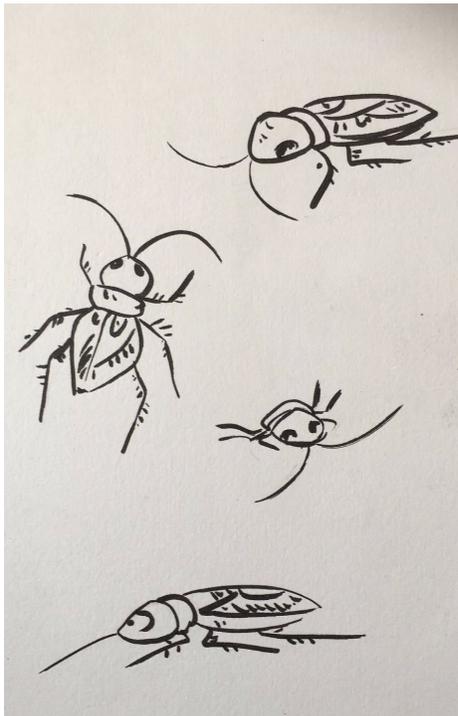


(above: toman, below: little grebe)





(kukri snake)



(cricket)

Medium experimentation

We also did medium experimentation with different types of drawing material.



(color pencil)



(pencil)

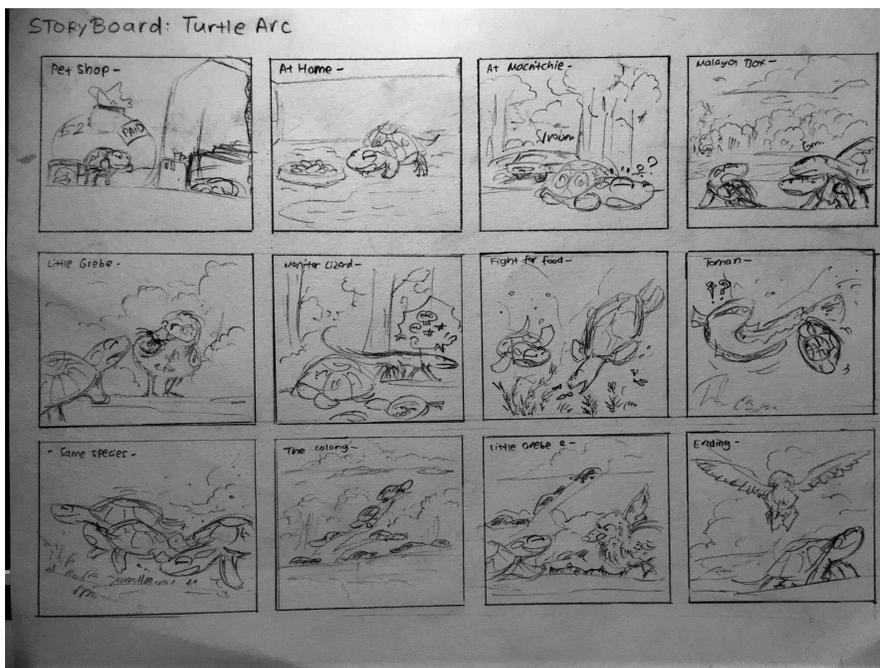


(watercolor)

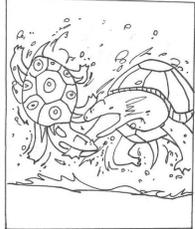
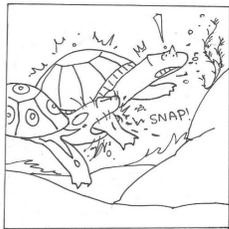
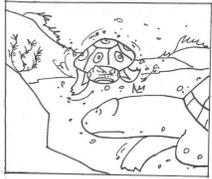
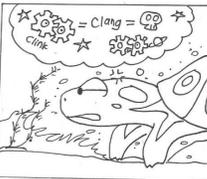
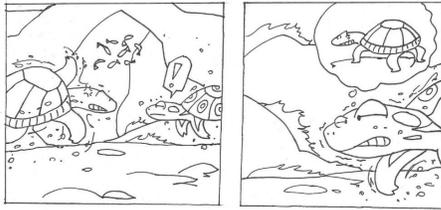
Illustration process

Our comic is hand drawn and coloured initially. Spaces are left out for speech bubbles. The product is then scanned onto the computer for some touching up on the colours as well as input of speech.

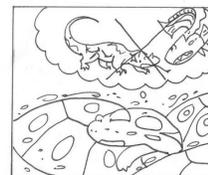
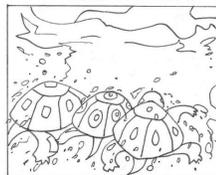
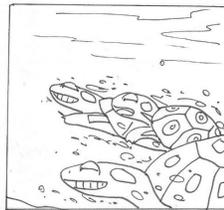
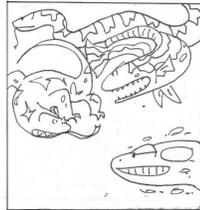
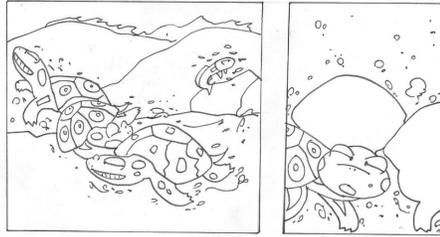
Here are some pictures of our comic in its different stages of completion.



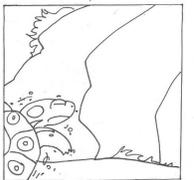
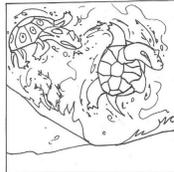
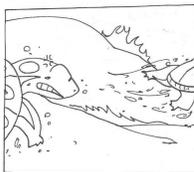
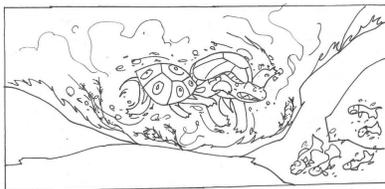
(rough sketching)



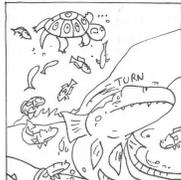
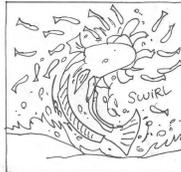
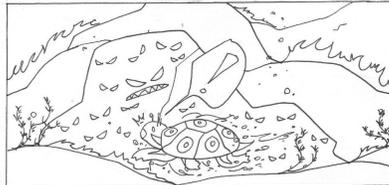
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(outlining) (sample pages)



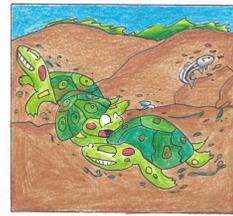
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(colored-sample pages)

After adding speech bubbles with photoshop, we compiled the whole comic together into one book, and added a cover and back page.

Group Reflection

Despite the many difficulties in the project, we managed to face them and conquer our challenges. There were many takeaways from this project.

We planned out our schedules wisely and were on the right track. We prioritized our work and made sure we were productive when doing work.

However, we also faced challenges. Sometimes, we would underestimate our workload. This resulted in slow progress of work. As it drew nearer to the evaluation(s), we were all really stressed upon our progress, that we had not actually done anything much. Only at that time would we be focused

As a group, our perseverance was definitely a strength. This perseverance and our forehand experience helped us to push through and complete our final products successfully. We also had good teamwork. We shared our opinions and had open minded discussions with our mentor. Advice was given and we would alter our product until it was presentable and we were happy.

To the local community, as a group we feel that the comic we have made would express the plight of both local and foreign animals when the local ecosystem is affected by the introduction of foreign species.

Member Reflections

Man Jun Cheng: I worked on a comic project in my fourth year in category 5, tasked with character designs and drawing out the comic. As I have gained a lot of experience and skills from my past 4 years in category 5, I underestimated the workload and started drawing rather late. My overconfidence and tight schedule caused a delay in the completion of comic and all our future plans. Thankfully everyone did their part and we pulled it off. I learnt that one must never be overconfident no matter how experienced he is and to always plan ahead well.

Que Bowen: I was tasked to colour the entire comic for this IS, using colour pencil as the medium. This was the most tiresome experience I had, as colour pencil colouring is not only a slow process but in order to achieve the full radiance of the colours, a lot of blending has to be done, resulting in more time taken to colour the comic. To complete the colouring process in limited time, while hounded by exams and lessons, I had to develop proper time management skills and self-control. Of course, other art making skills were learnt, helping me to grow.

Yeo Zhe Yong: Among other duties, I was also in charge of the production of the actual comic book. I thought that this would be an easy task so I did not pay it much heed. However, I underestimated the number of details there were involving the binding and printing of the

product, and upon discussion, my group could not come to an agreement initially. Thankfully, after holding an IS meeting with our mentor, our group came to a full agreement about how we would publish our final product. From this, I learnt that we should be decisive and not hesitate to consult others competent enough.

Lin Jiayuan: I was in charge of research, doing all the written work and digital touchups on our comic. I did not organise my time properly initially when we started on the touchups before mid-term evaluations, and ended up slightly rushing my work. From this, I learnt to prioritise my tasks and have good time management. Additionally, during the planning, we scrapped an idea that we initially worked a lot on, but we were able to produce a better storyline loosely based on the original idea. This taught me that failures can indeed help us succeed better.

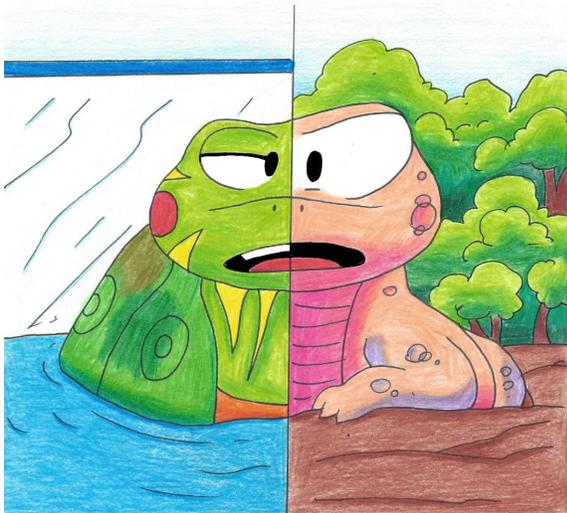
References:

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Pompili, Arven Maura (2008), #AnimalComic, Retrieved August 14, 2018 from

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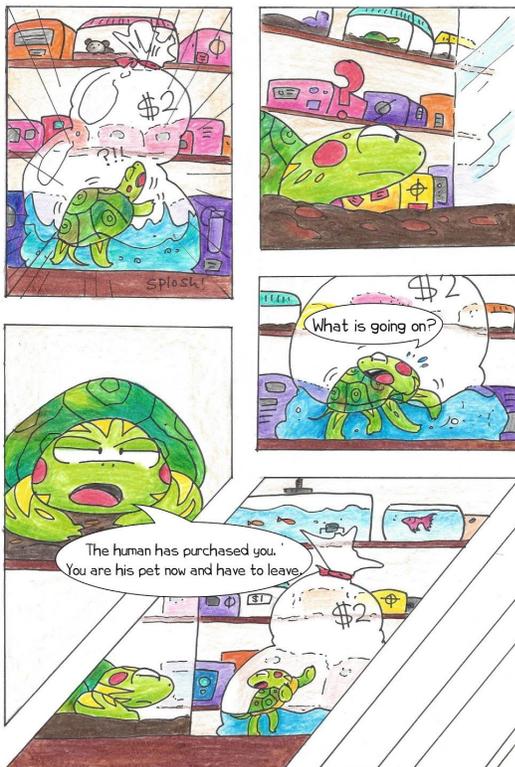
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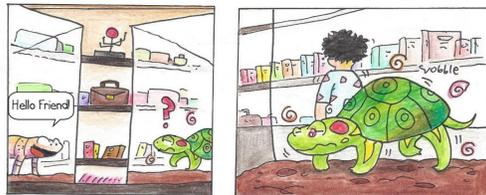
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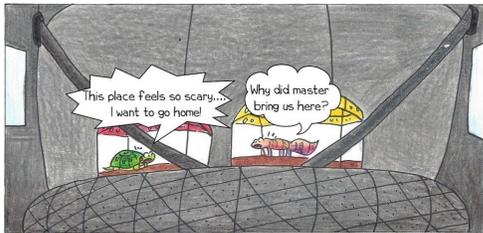
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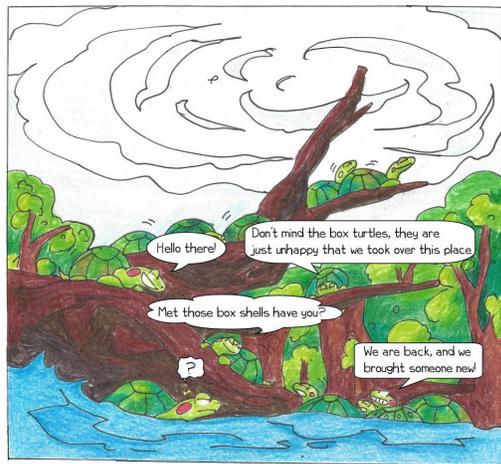
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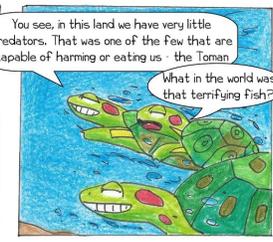
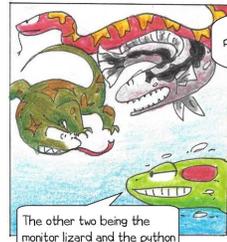
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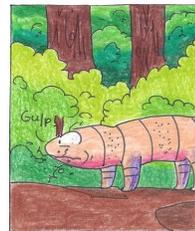
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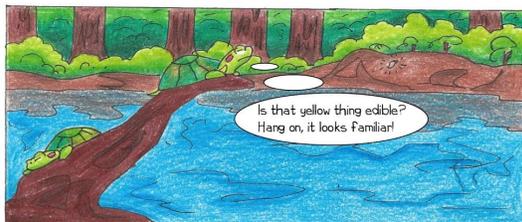
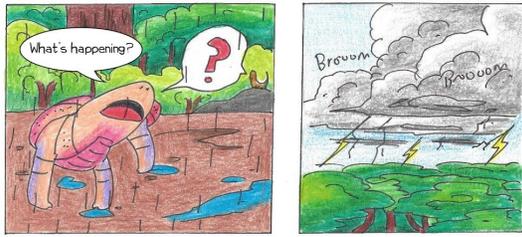
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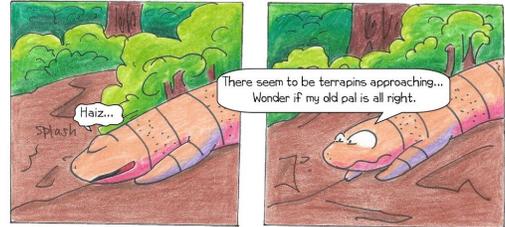
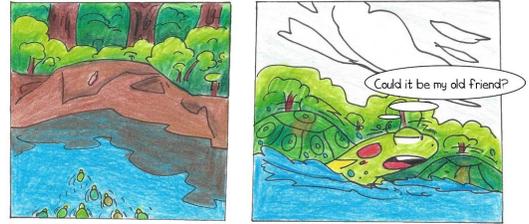


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THE END

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