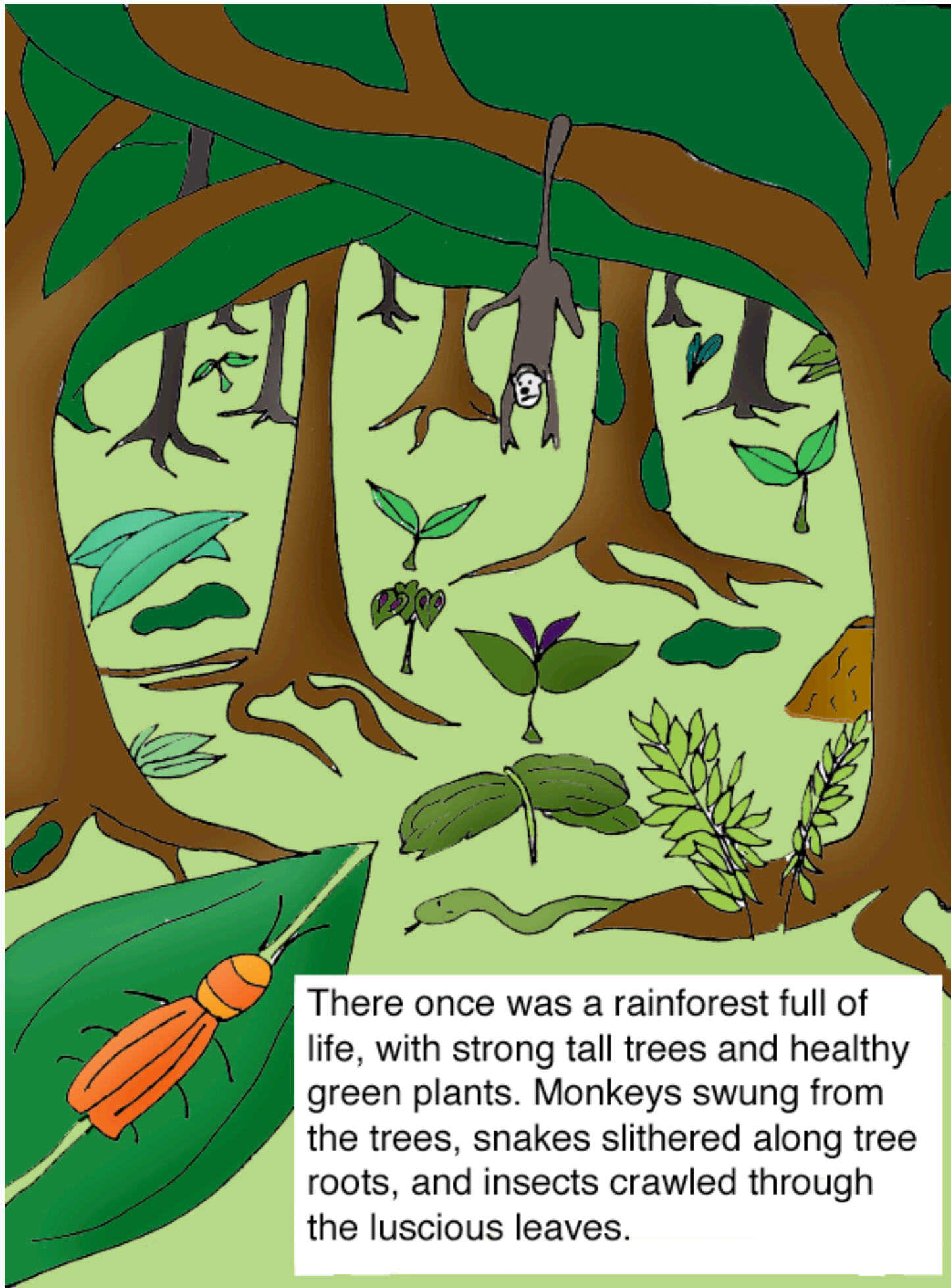


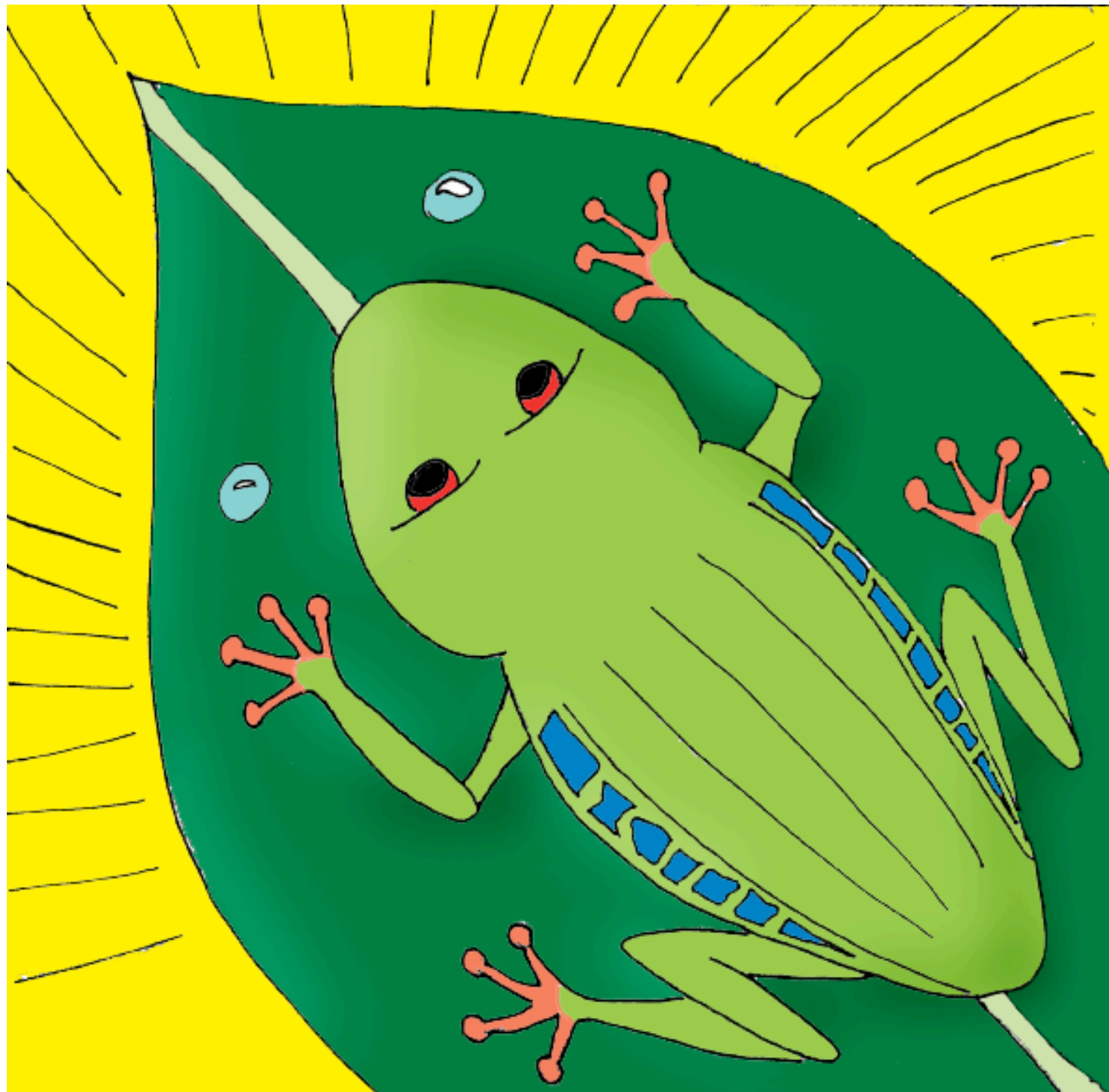
Tree School Friends



by Sierra Yuen



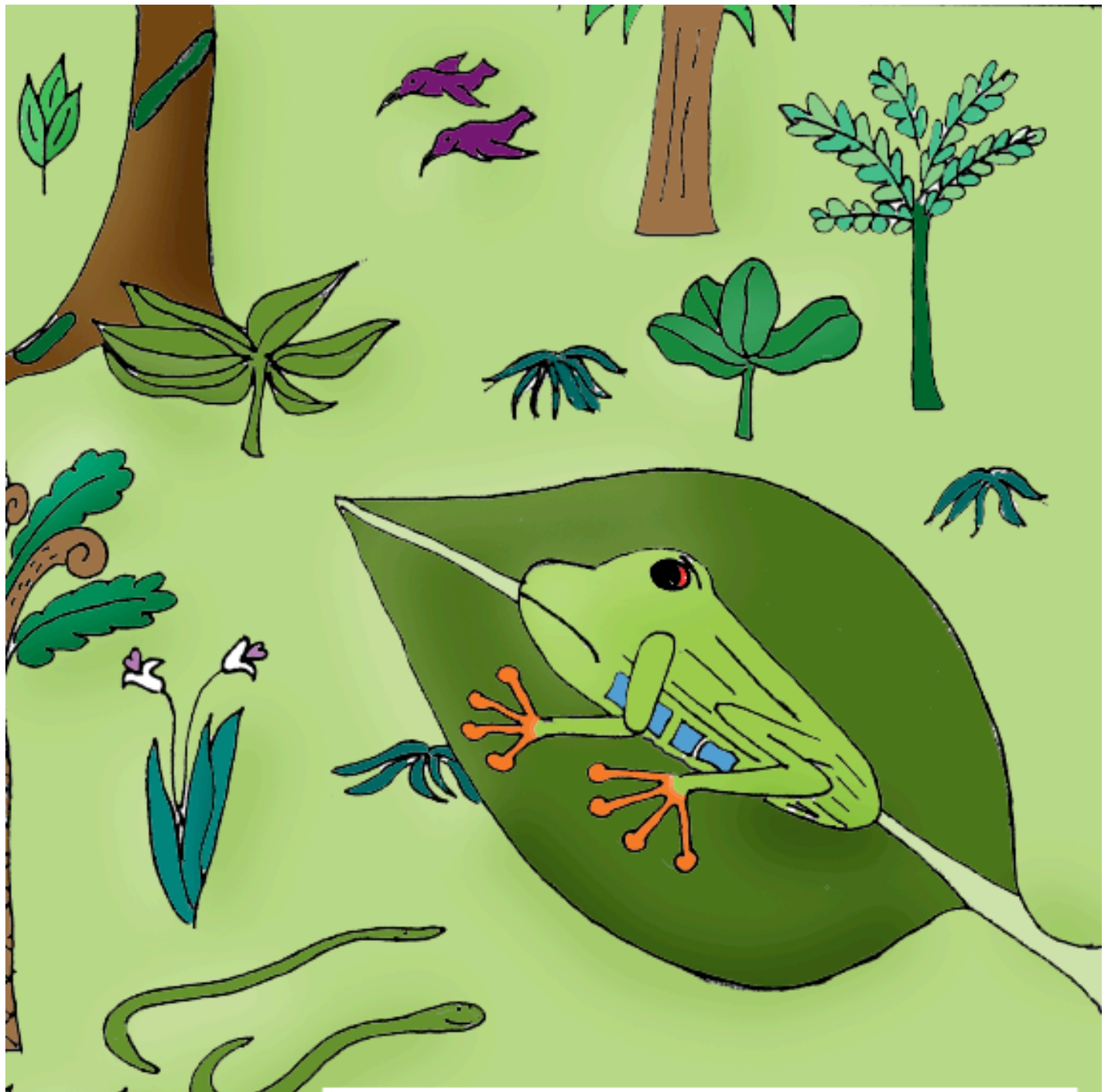
There once was a rainforest full of life, with strong tall trees and healthy green plants. Monkeys swung from the trees, snakes slithered along tree roots, and insects crawled through the luscious leaves.



Among these exotic creatures lived a frog. He was small in size, had a blue-green body, long orange toes, and shocking **red** eyes. His name was Reid and he was a red-eyed tree frog.



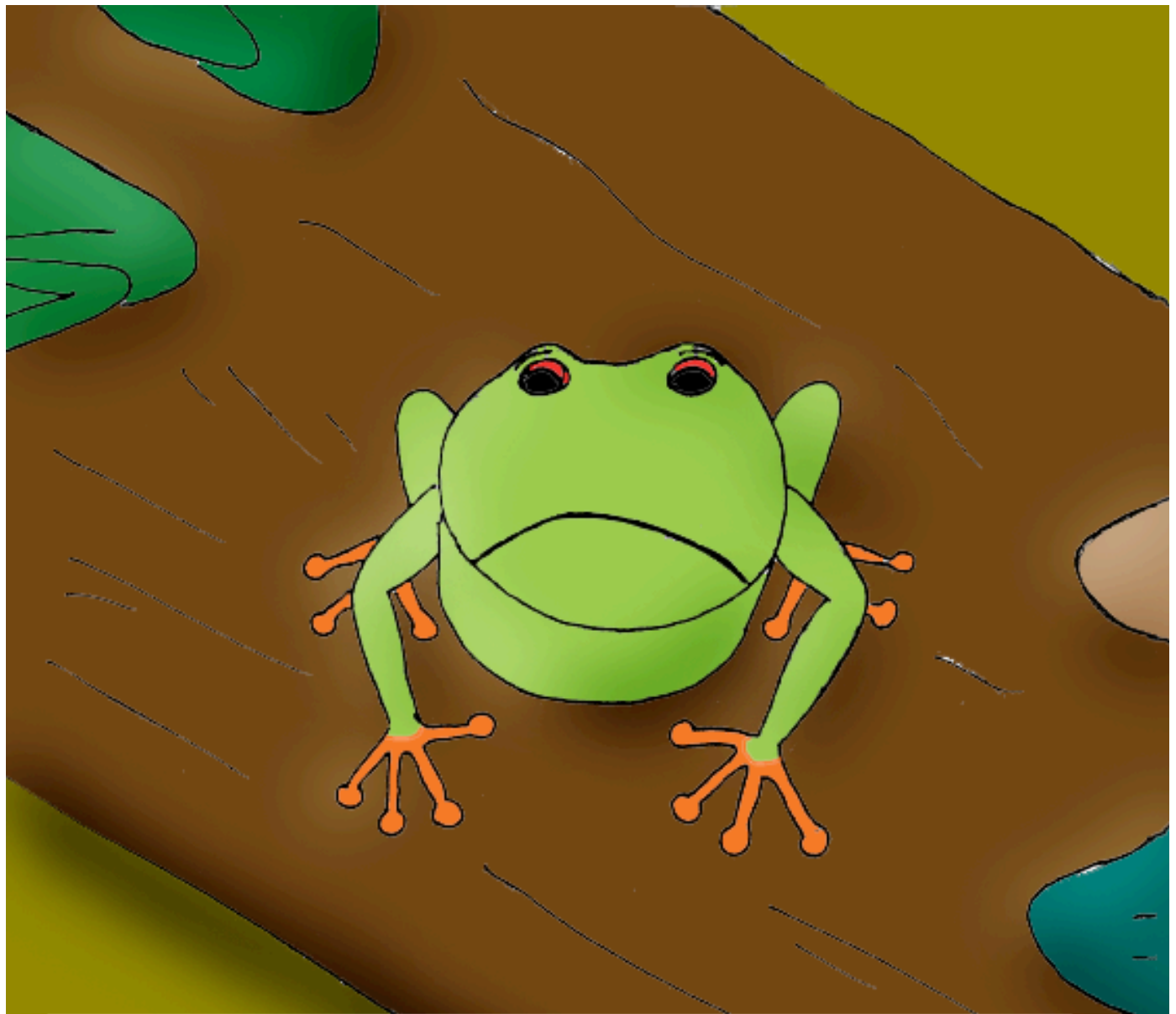
Reid, the red-eyed tree frog, was born in the forest and left to live by himself. Red-eyed tree frogs are not raised by their parents, so he was all alone.



Reid did not have any friends either, because of his eyes. A red-eyed tree frog's eyes are so shockingly red that predators think twice about eating them. Unfortunately, Reid's eyes also scared away possible friends. Reid was getting very lonely.



One day, Reid decided to go to school. He hopped from tree to tree, over to the Tree School ready for some fun.



However, school was not what Reid expected. Everyone seemed scared of him and tried to stay away. Everyday, he longed for a friend.



A few weeks later, a new student enrolled in the Tree School. Her name was Tory, and she was a tomato frog. Tomato frogs are big and red. All of the other little frogs were frightened of her. She too, was all alone.





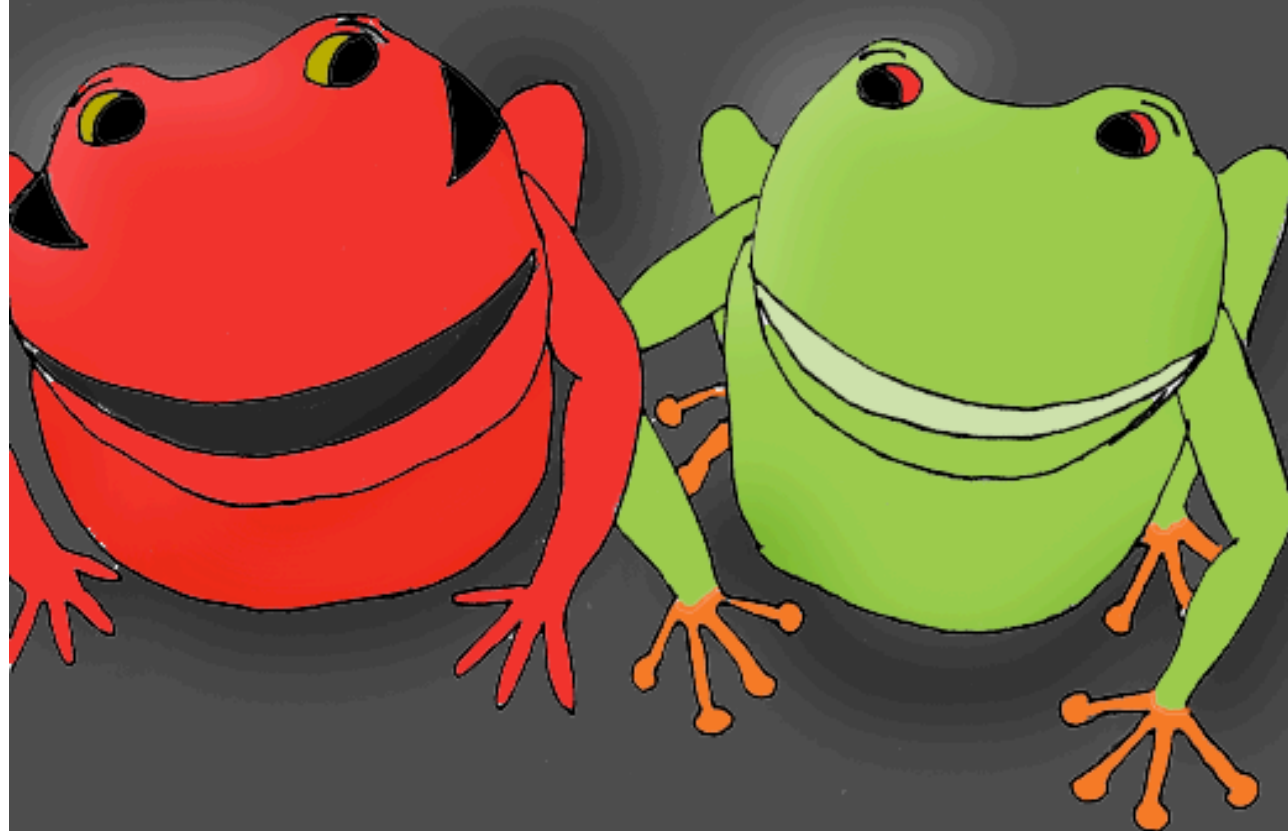
Reid was so miserable and lonely, that one day, he decided to hide in the Tree School's base. He hopped into the base, hoping to burrow there forever. Suddenly, he felt something wet and slimy. As his eyes adjusted to the darkness, Reid discovered two eyes staring back at him.



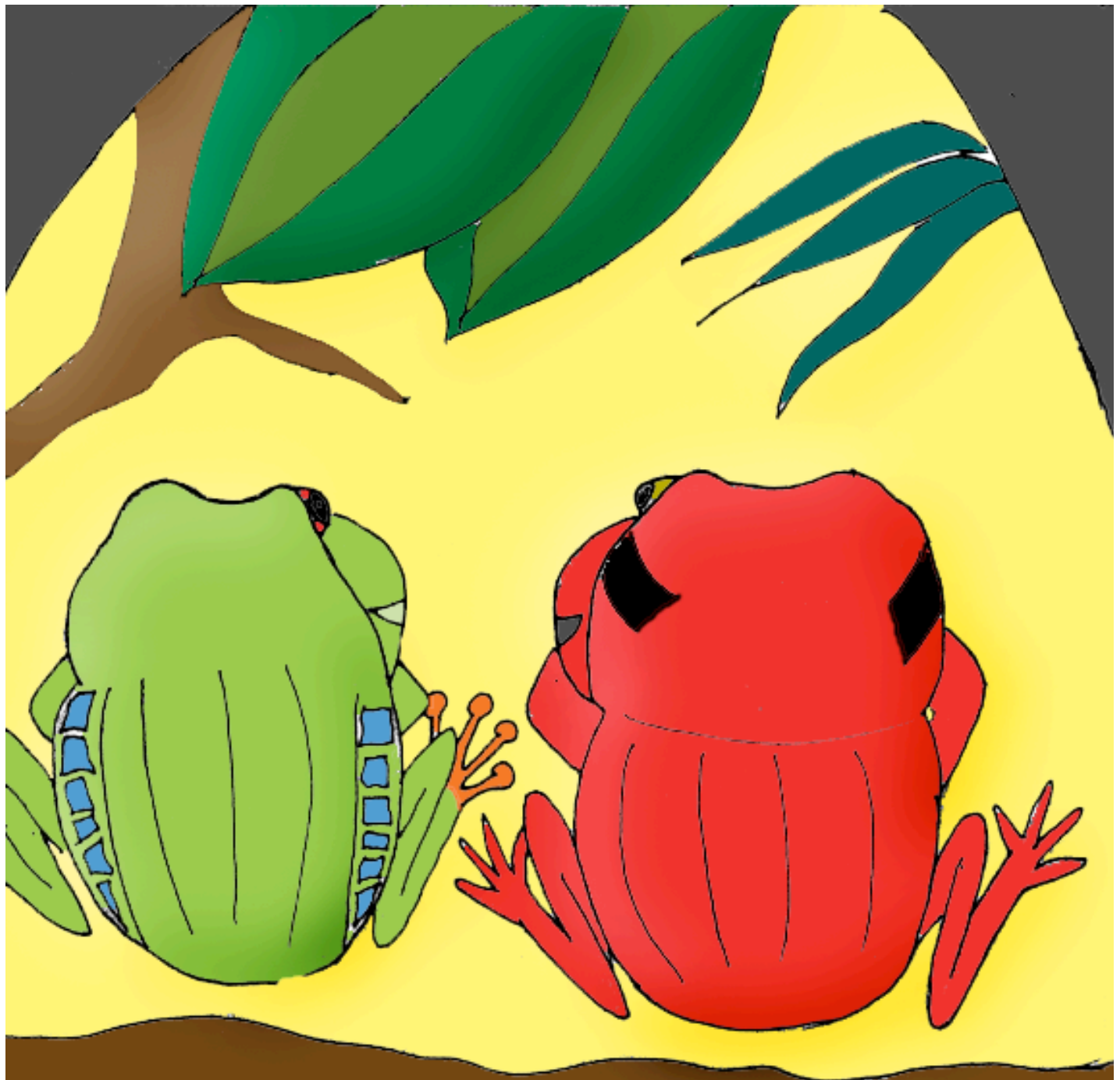
“Hi,” said Tory glumly, “I didn’t think anyone would find me here.”

“Why are you here and not with the other frogs?” asked Reid.

“No one here is my friend. Everyone is too afraid to come near me, so I decided to hide” said Tory, sadly looking away. Reid understood how Tory felt and decided to do something to change it.



“You know what?” said Reid, “You and I can be friends. It doesn’t matter what we look like on the outside. What matters is who we are on the inside”.



“I’d like to be your friend,” said Tory, smiling warmly. Together, Tory and Reid hopped out of the trunk’s base and became best friends. They were never lonely again.