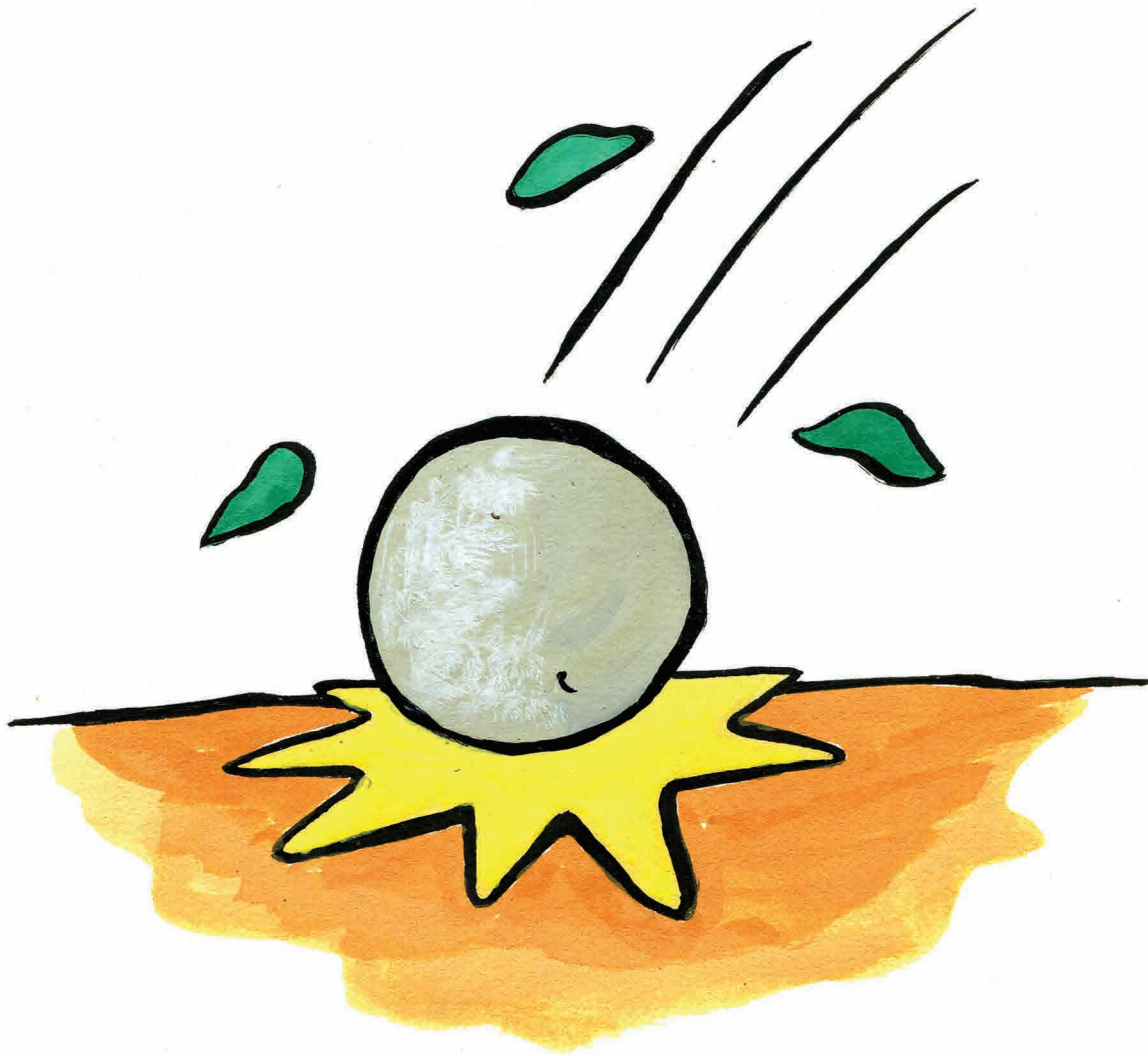


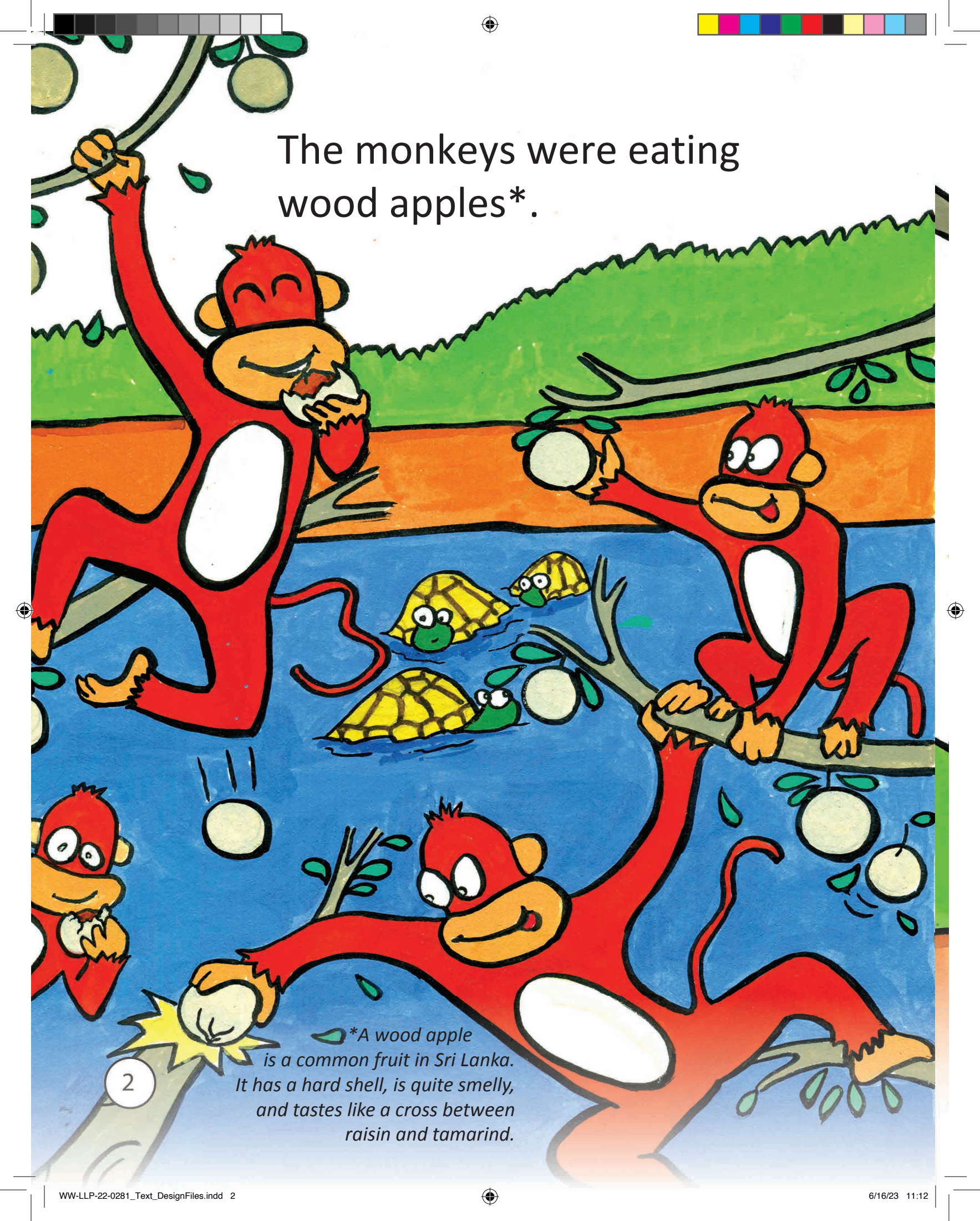


The Clever Tortoise



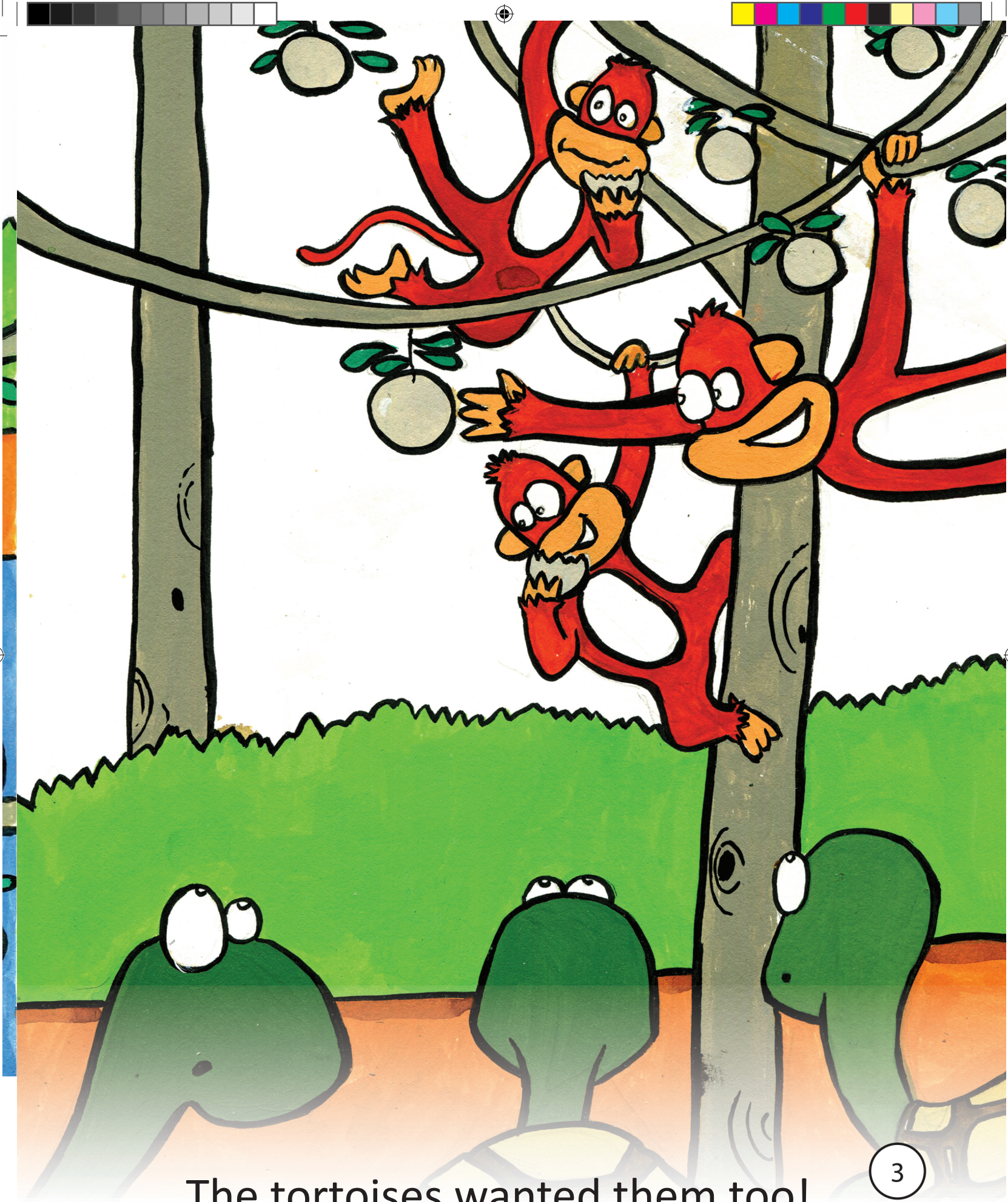
Author: Prashaanth Uncle
Illustrator: Athulasiri Uncle





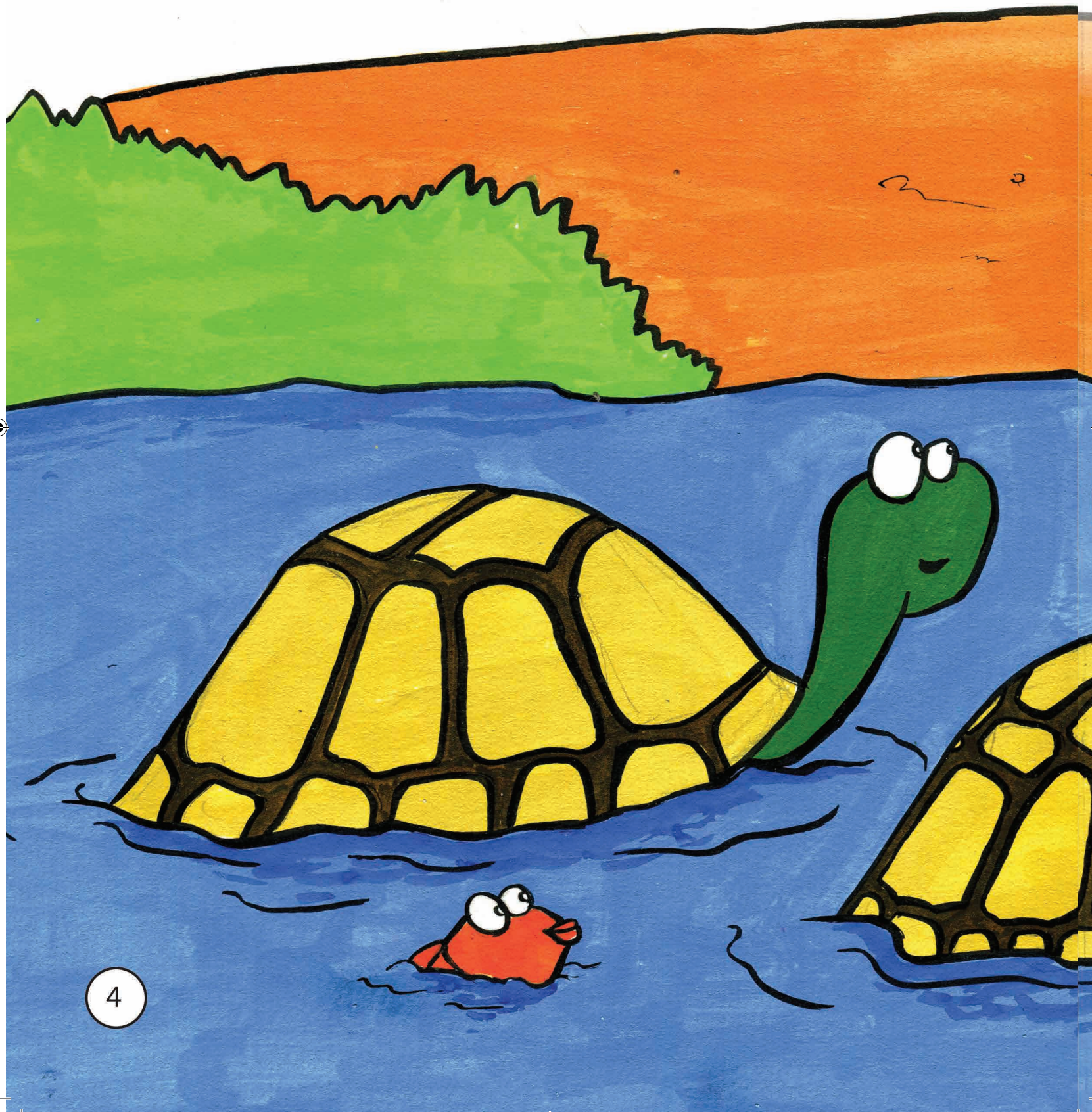
The monkeys were eating wood apples*.

**A wood apple is a common fruit in Sri Lanka. It has a hard shell, is quite smelly, and tastes like a cross between raisin and tamarind.*



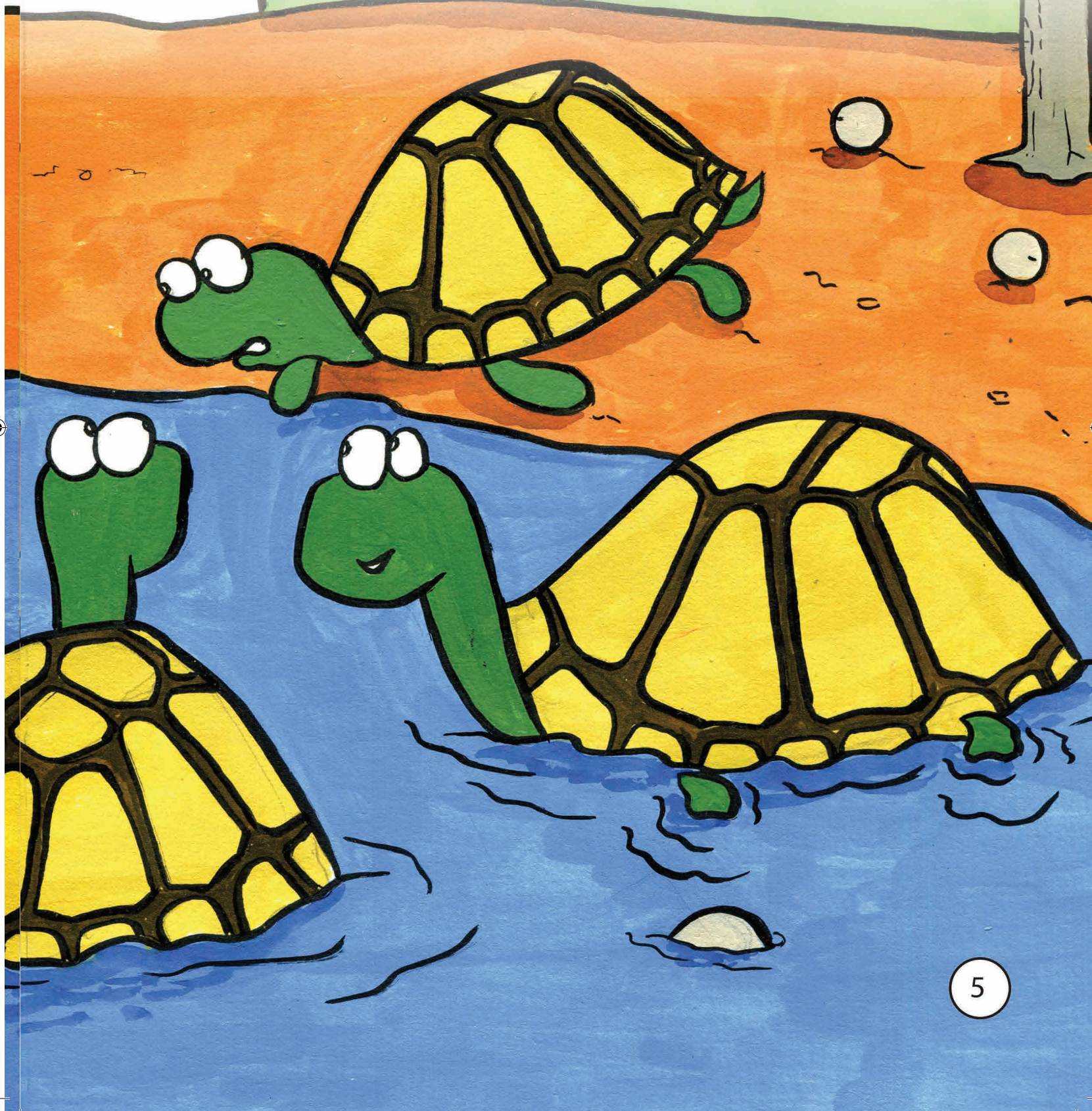
The tortoises wanted them too!

“We want tasty wood apples too!”
said Kibba the Tortoise.



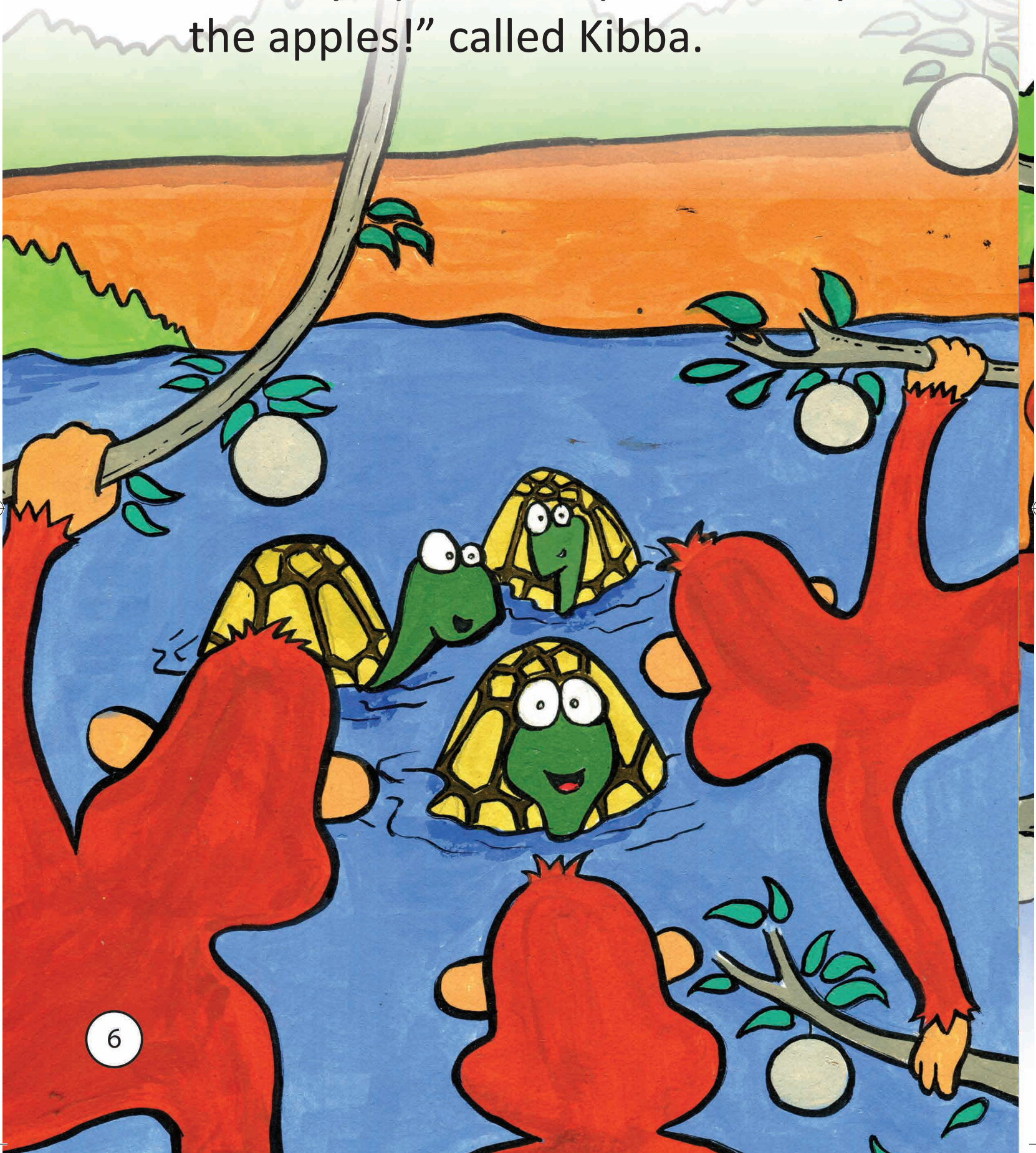


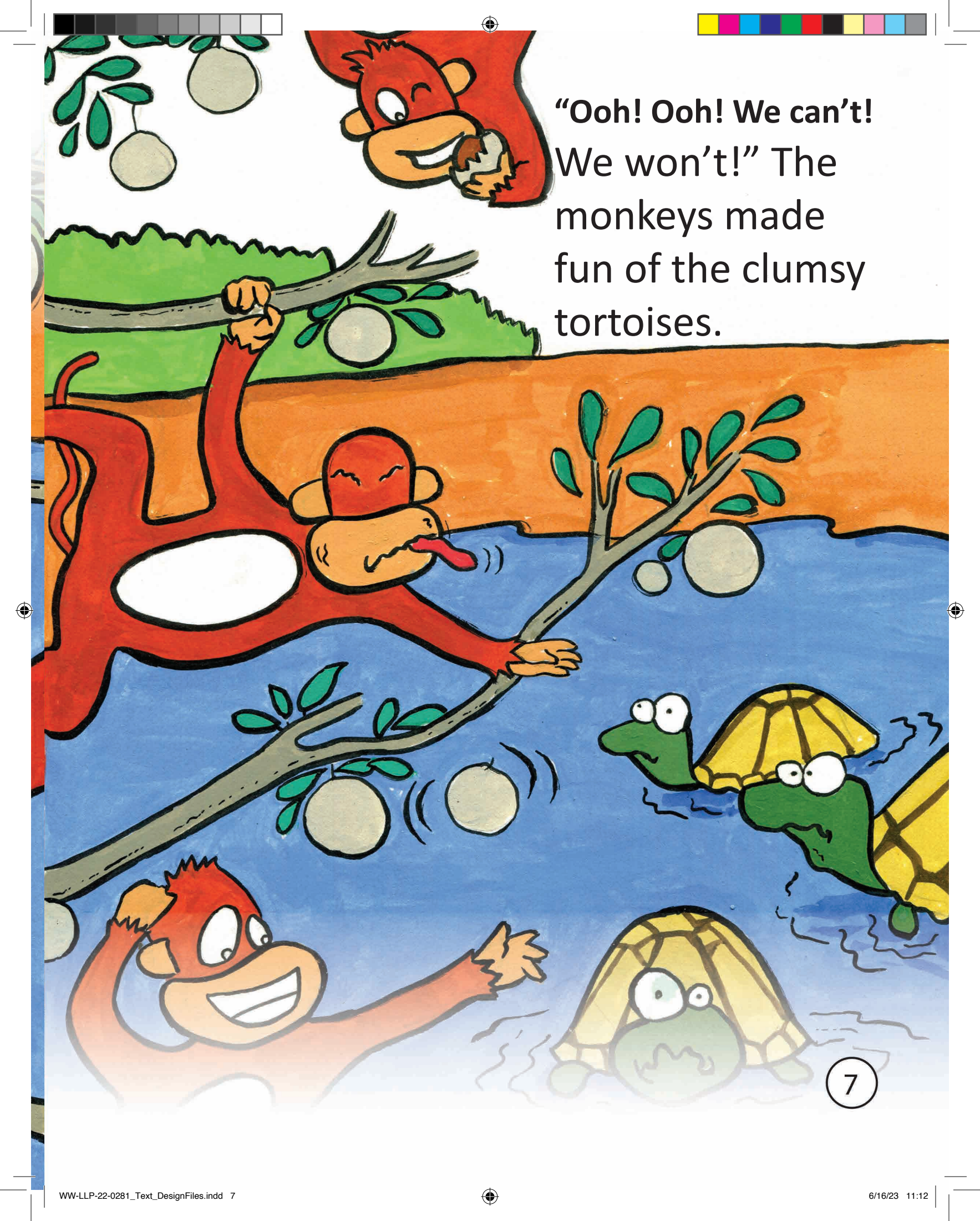
“But how do we crack them open?” asked the others.



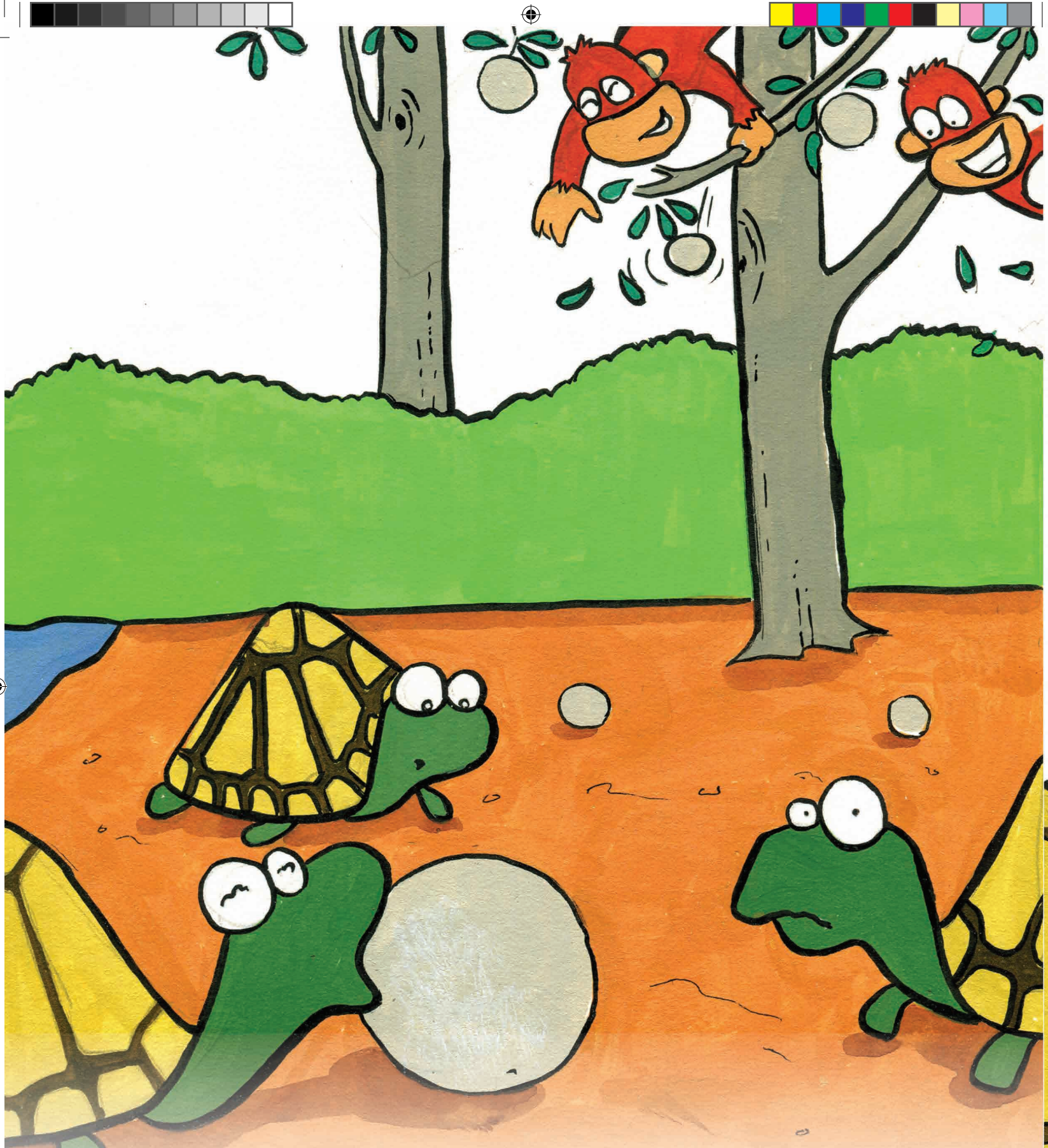


“Monkeys, please help us crack open the apples!” called Kibba.





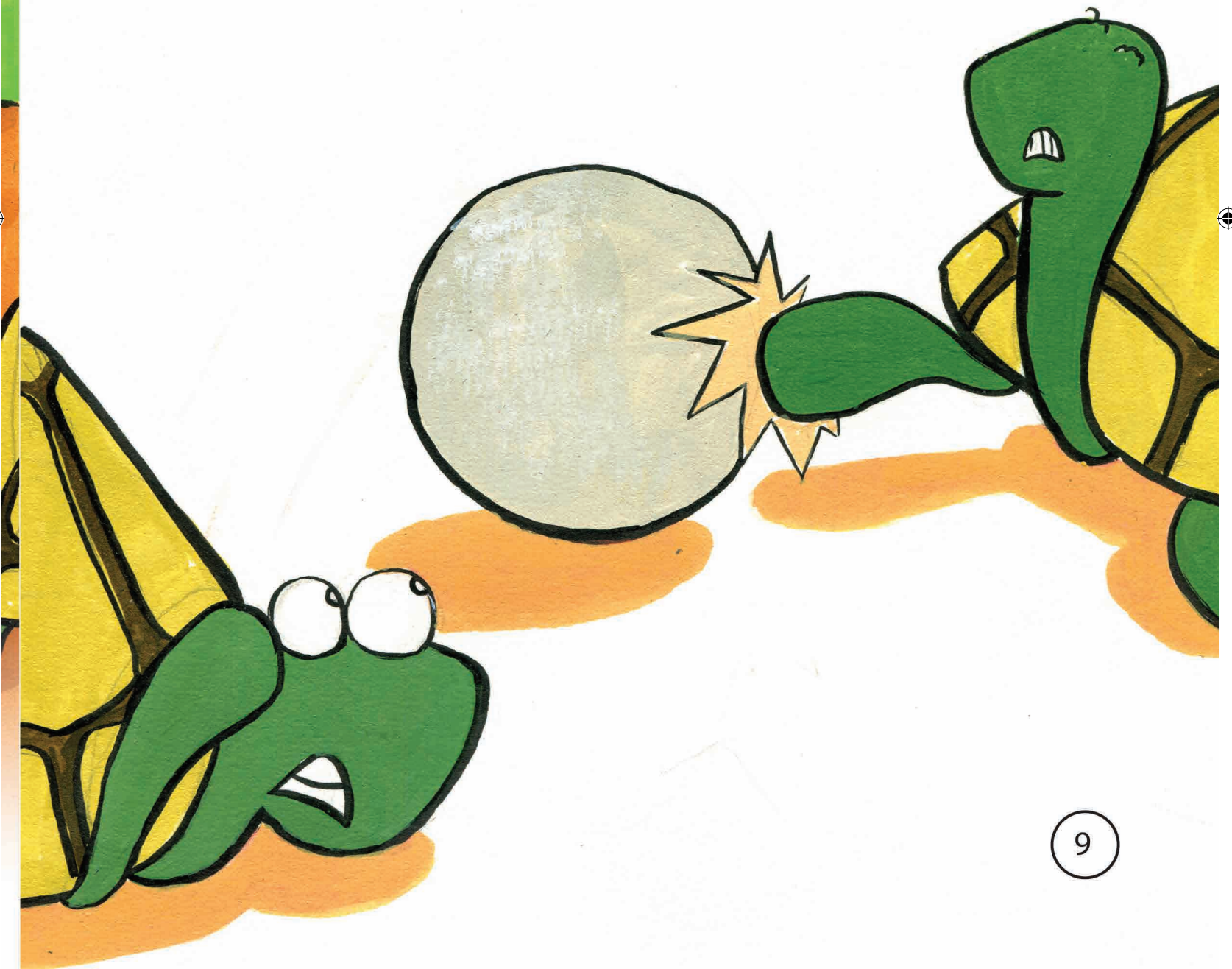
“Ooh! Ooh! We can’t!
We won’t!” The
monkeys made
fun of the clumsy
tortoises.



8

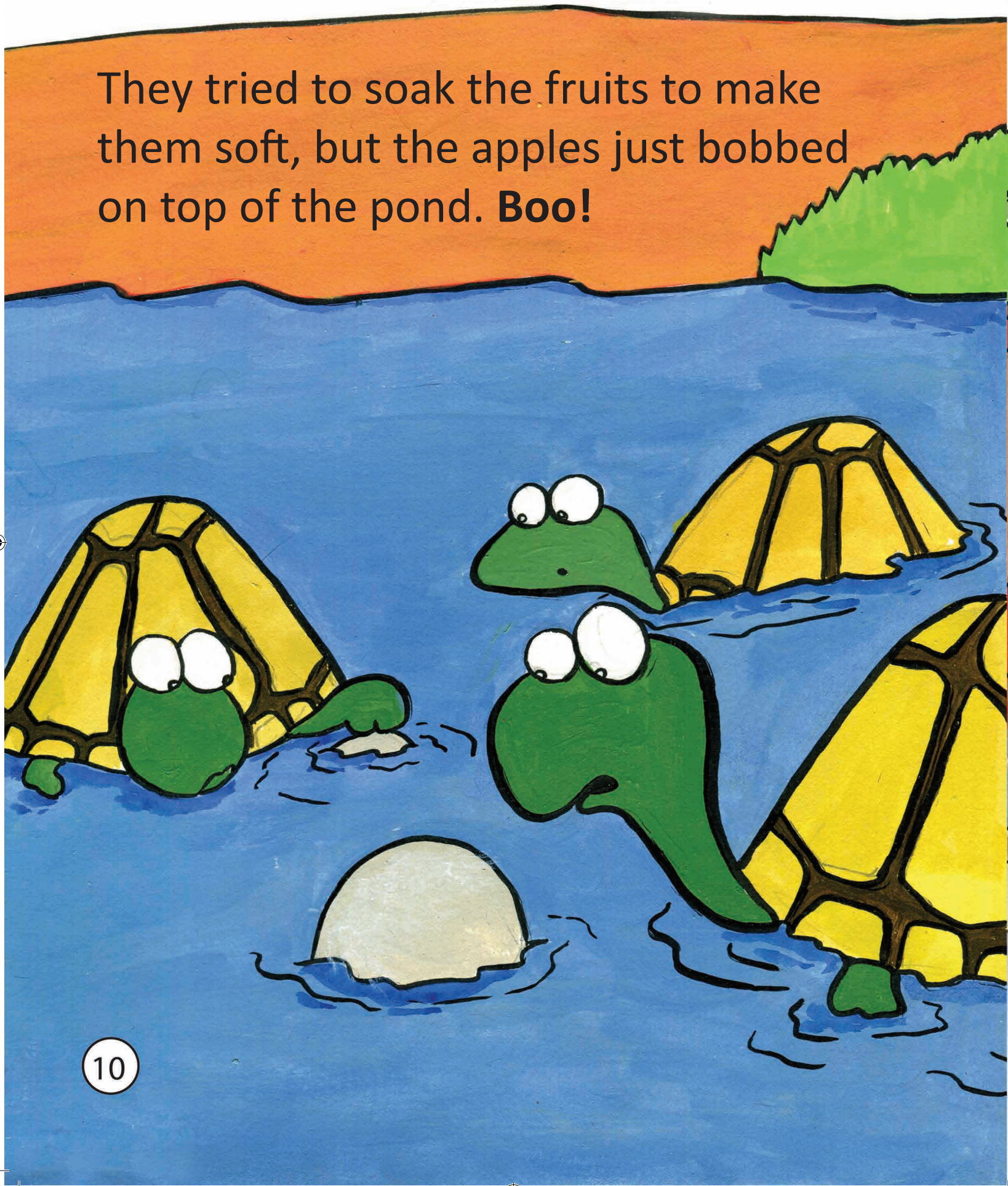
The tortoises tried to bite into the fruits. But they couldn't! **Boo!**

They tried to knock the fruits open with their awkward tortoise feet. **Boo!**





They tried to soak the fruits to make them soft, but the apples just bobbed on top of the pond. **Boo!**

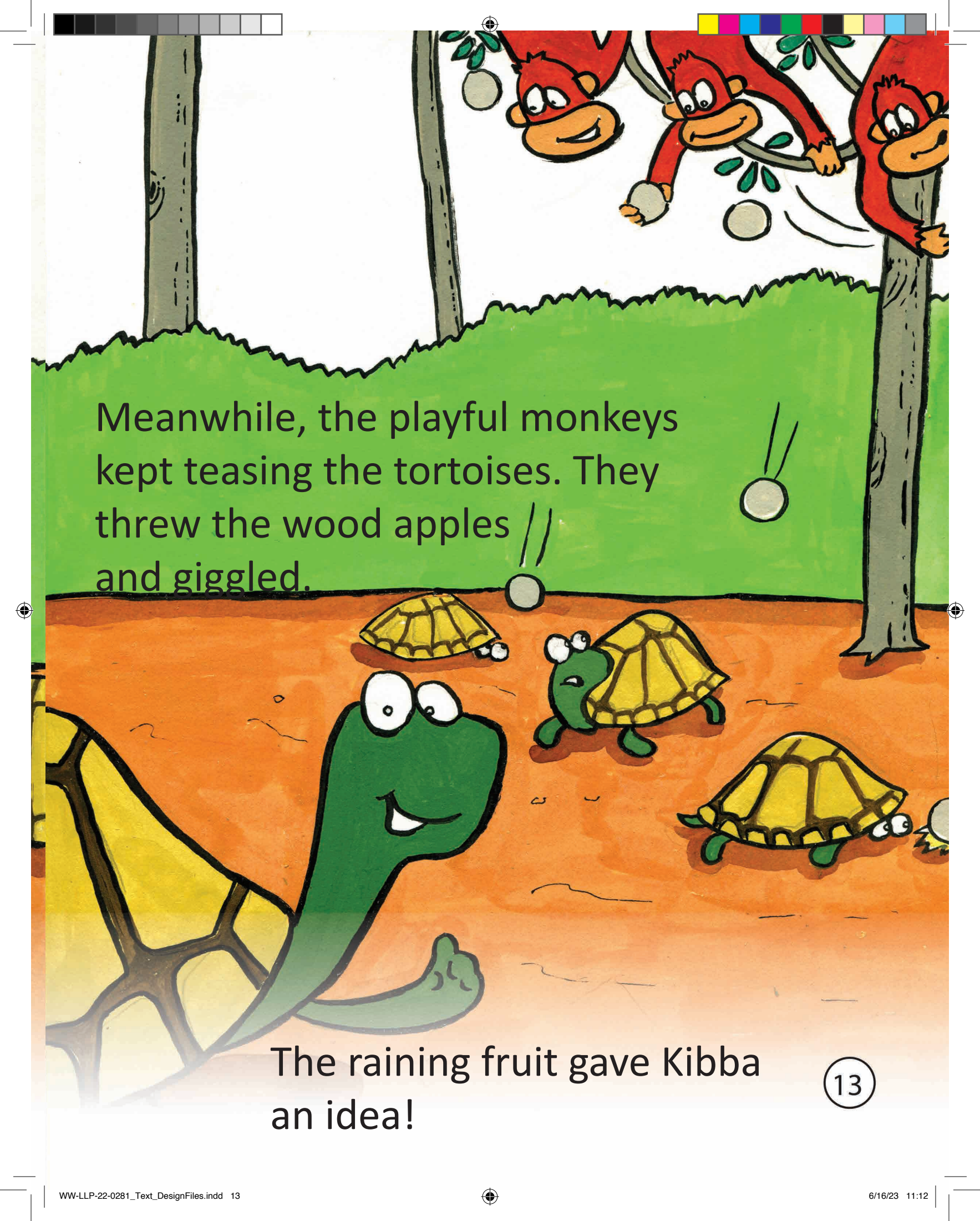




They tried to break the fruits open with their heads. **Boo!**



Boo! Boo! Boo!
“We want to try the tasty wood apples!” all the tortoises cried.

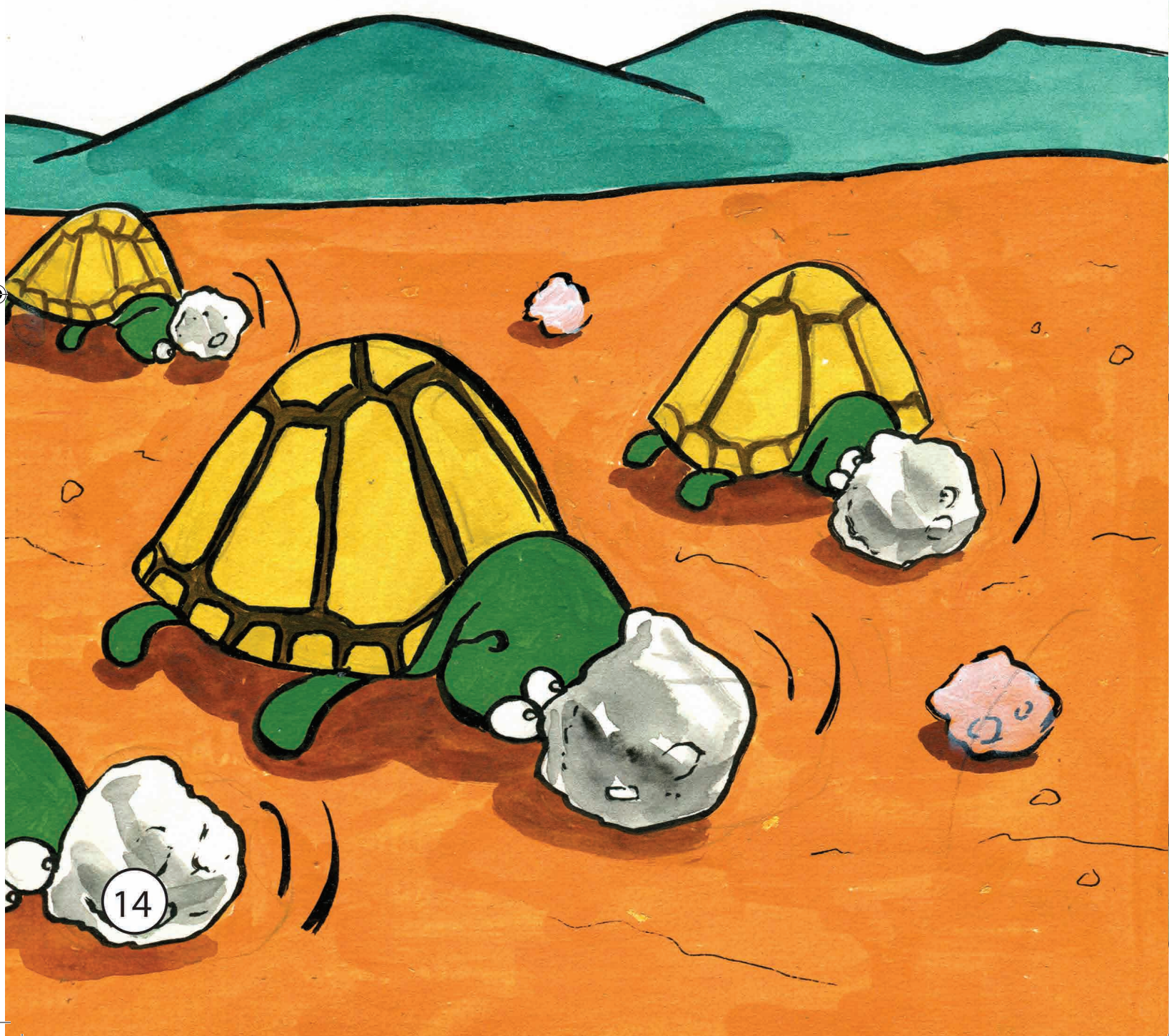


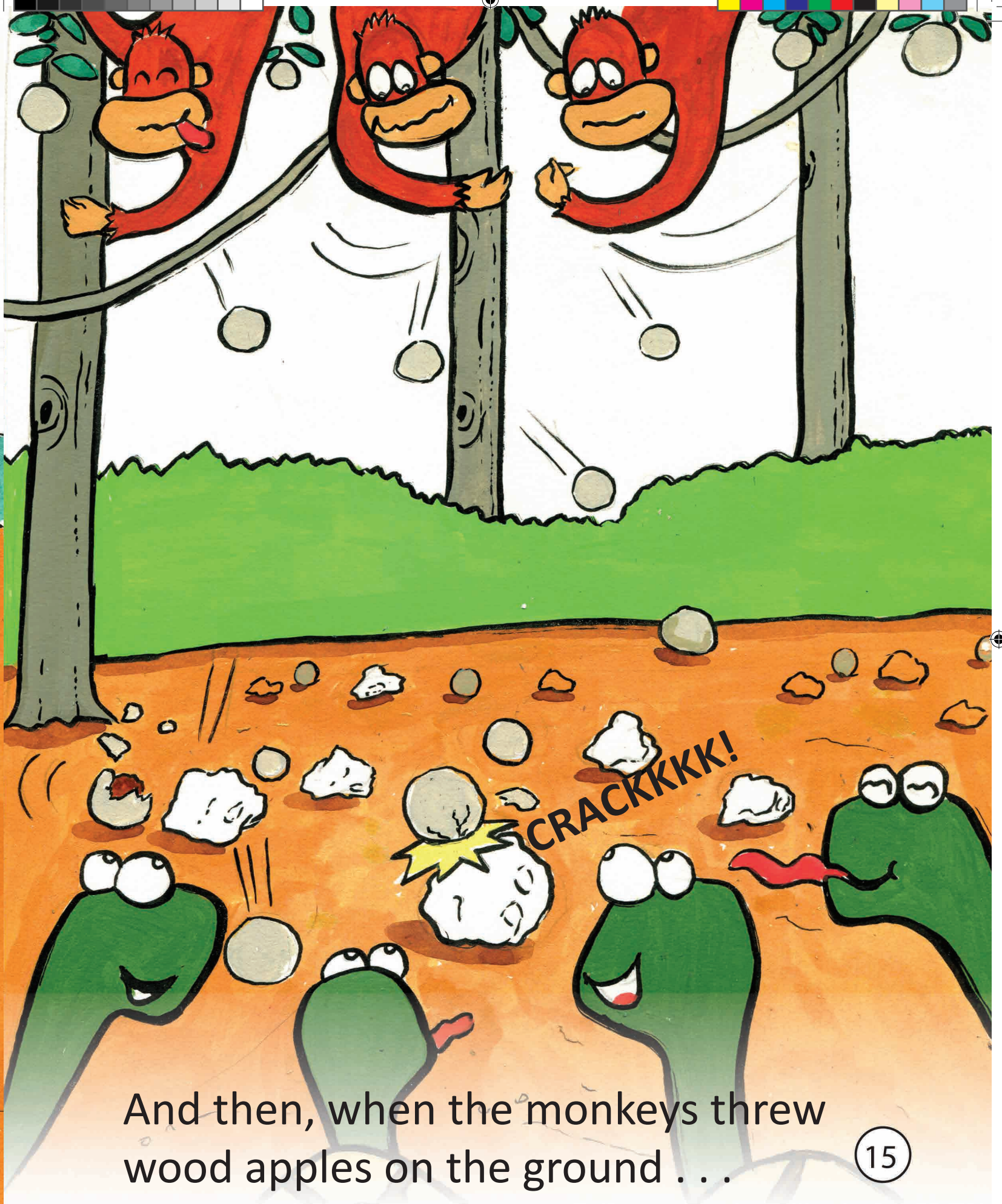
Meanwhile, the playful monkeys kept teasing the tortoises. They threw the wood apples and giggled.

The raining fruit gave Kibba an idea!



Kibba told his friends to spread stones under the trees.





And then, when the monkeys threw wood apples on the ground . . .



Yum! Yum! Yum!

At last, the tortoises
could have their tasty treats!