



bookdash.org

Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five. To that end, Book Dash gathers creative volunteers to create new African storybooks that anyone can freely print, translate and distribute. Then we work with partners to give those books to preschool children to own.

To find out more, and to download beautiful, open-licensed, print-ready books, visit bookdash.org.

What's happened to our water?

Illustrated by Megan Naudé

Written by Sue Adams

Designed by Sinomtha Sikunyana

Edited by Angela Briggs

with the help of the Book Dash participants in Cape Town on 20 September 2025.

ISBN: 978-0-948602-61-0

Typeset in Titan One and Quicksand

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence
(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

You are free to share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material) this work for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the following license terms:

You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. No additional restrictions: You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

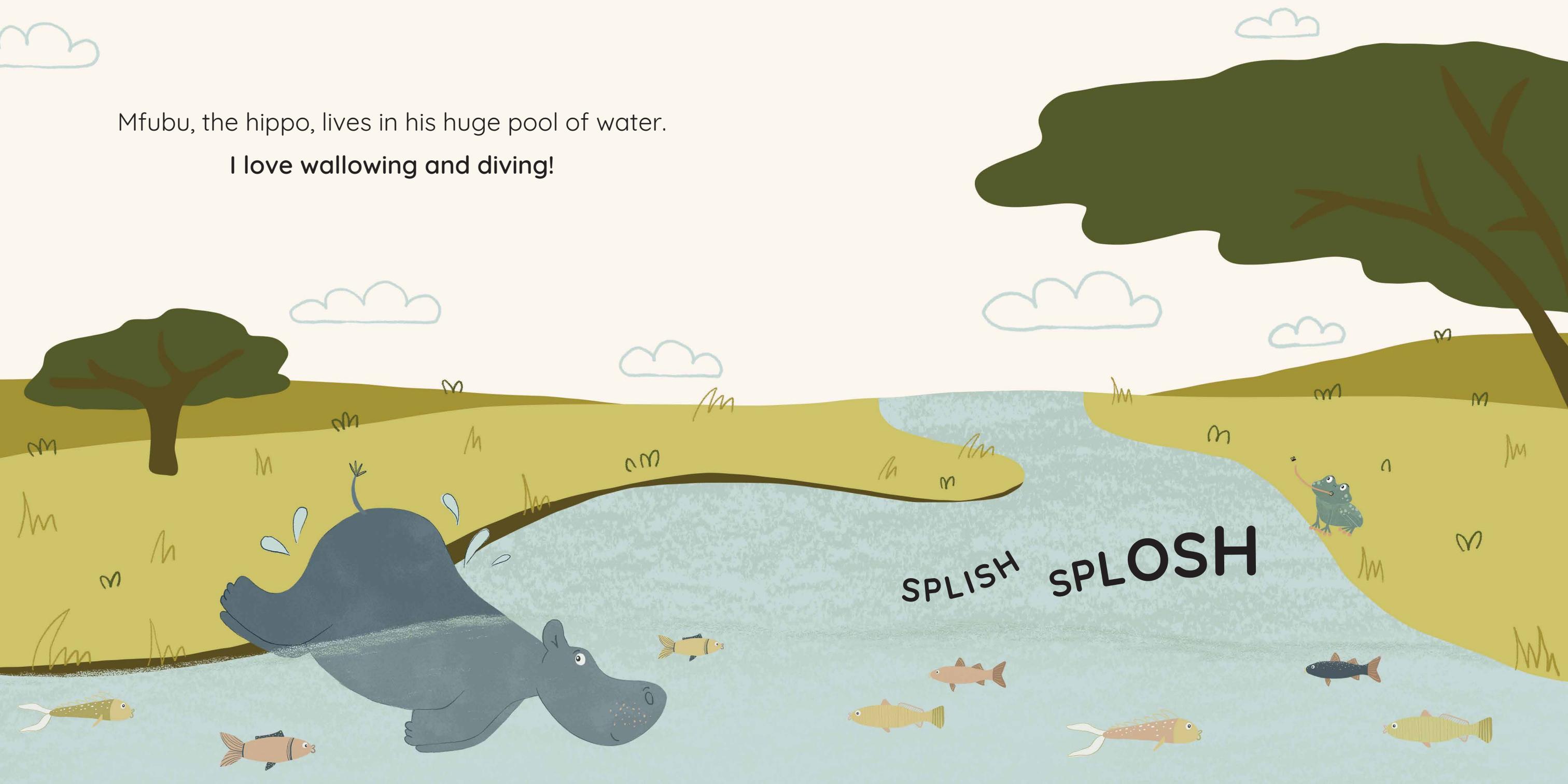
What's happened to our water?

Megan Naudé • Sinomtha Sikunyana • Sue Adams



Mfubu, the hippo, lives in his huge pool of water.

I love wallowing and diving!



But now there is a big problem.



The water is so dirty, I can't see.
Look at all this scum!



I feel sad. I need my friends
to help me find the problem.



**SPLISH SPLOSH
YUCK!**

First he finds Hoppy Heron.
She is sad too.

The water is so smelly!
The fish are dying!
I have nothing to eat!



Let's go up the river
to see if we can find the problem.



**HOP
FLAP**

EW!

SPLISH

SPLOSH

YUCK!

They meet Jambo, the elephant.
He is looking miserable.

The water tastes so horrible,
I can't drink it.



Let's go up the river
to see if we can find the problem.



**SPURT
SPRAY
ICK!**

**HOP
FLAP
EW!**

**SPLISH
SPLOSH
YUCK!**

When they get near where the people live,
they stop and stare.

It's the people polluting the river.

YUCK!



Hello! Why do you look so sad?

Your stinky mess is making our river dirty!
It makes us sick.

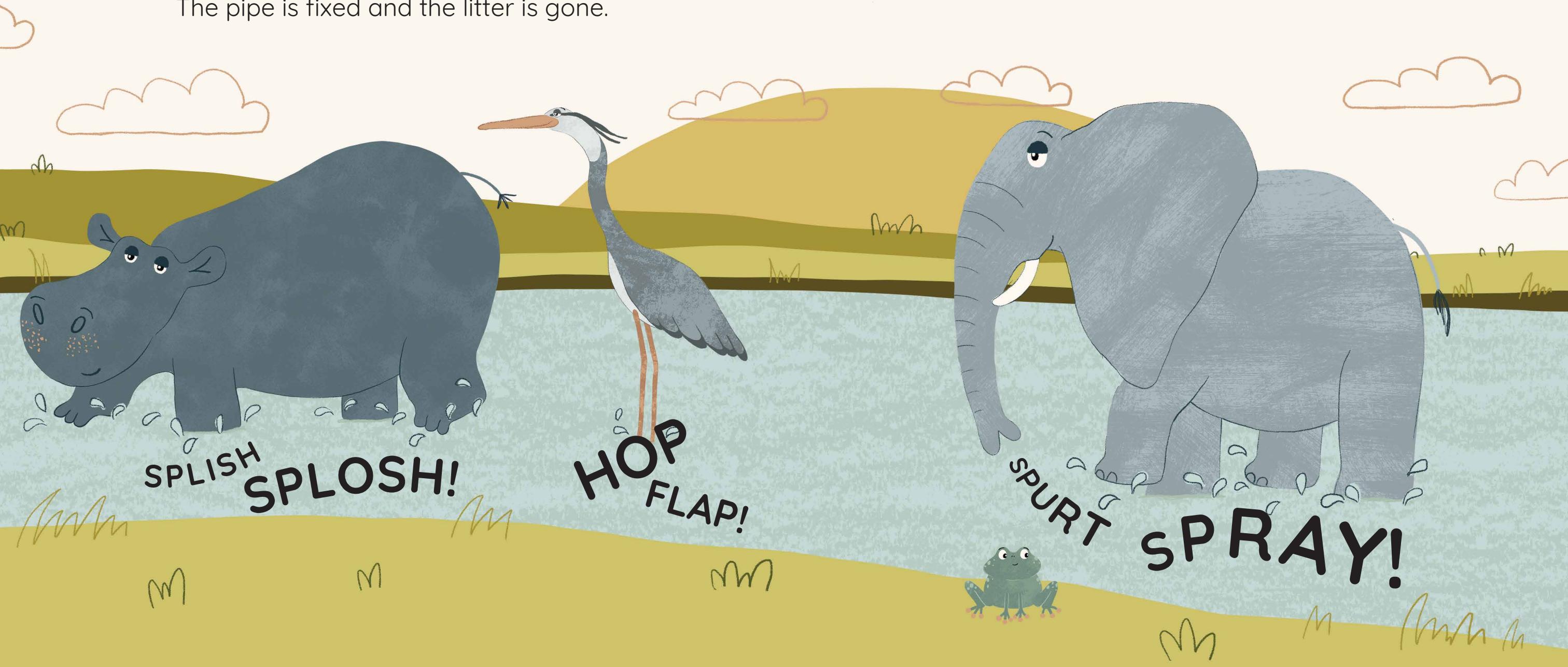


We're so sorry! We must get help to fix this.



It's getting late ... and the animals are tired.
The pipe is fixed and the litter is gone.

And now we can go home.



**SPLISH
SPLOSH!**

**HOP
FLAP!**

**SPURT
SPRAY!**



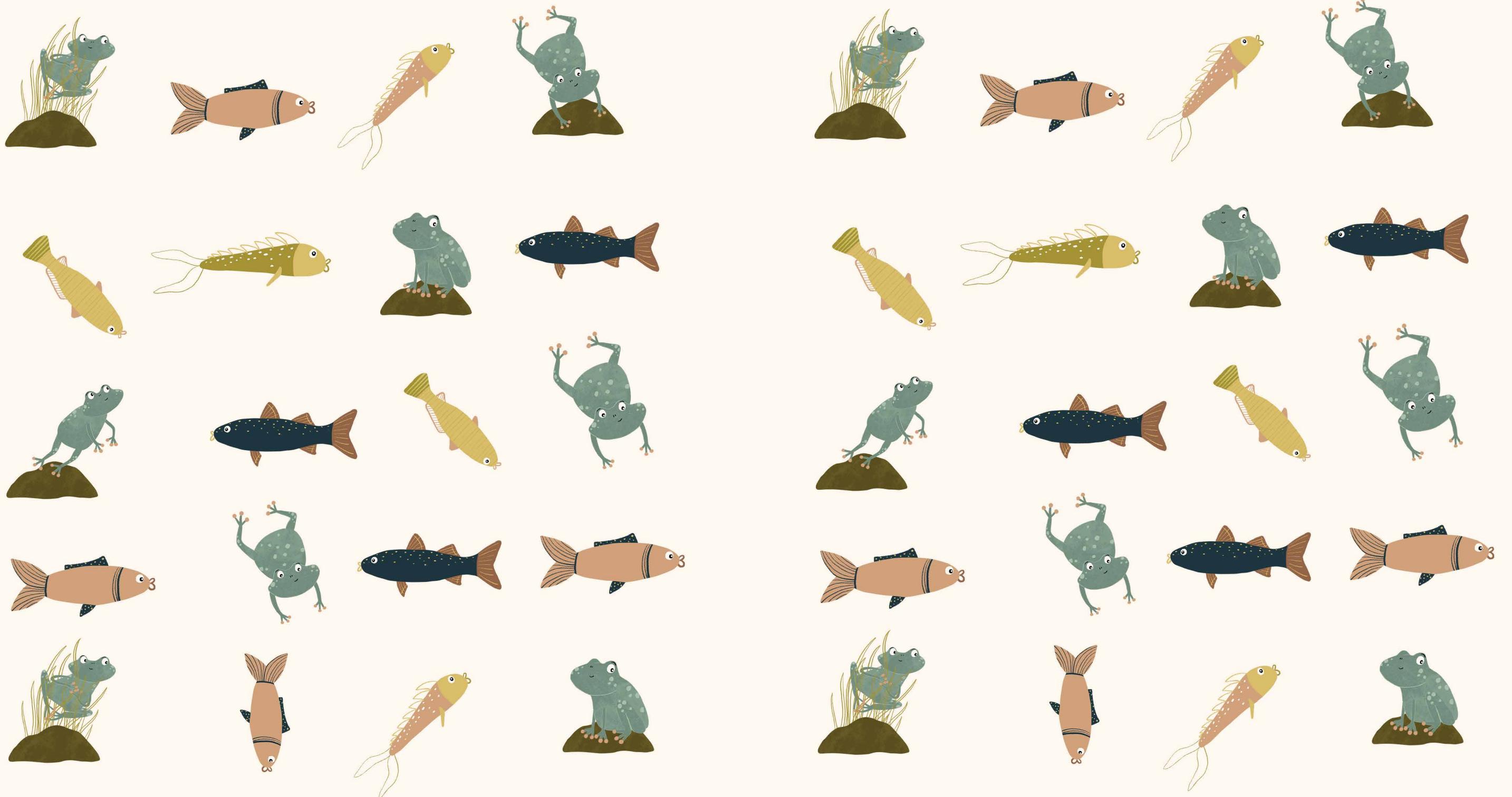
Guess what?
The pool is already
cleaner.

Guess what?
The water already smells
better.



Guess what? The water already tastes cleaner.

It's been a good day.





This book is shared online by Free Kids Books at <https://www.freekidsbooks.org> in terms of the creative commons license provided by the publisher or author.

Want to find more books like this?



<https://www.freekidsbooks.org>

Simply *great free books* -

Preschool, early grades, picture books, learning to read,
early chapter books, middle grade, young adult, OER textbooks
Pratham, Book Dash, Mustardseed, Open Equal Free, and many more!

Always Free – Always will be!

Legal Note: This book is in CREATIVE COMMONS - Awesome!! That means you can share, reuse it, and in some cases republish it, but only in accordance with the terms of the applicable license (not all CCs are equal!), attribution must be provided, and any resulting work must be released in the same manner. Please reach out and contact us if you want more information:

<https://www.freekidsbooks.org/about>

This page is added for identification.

Image Attribution: Wesley van Eeden, Sinde and the Moon CC-BY-SA.