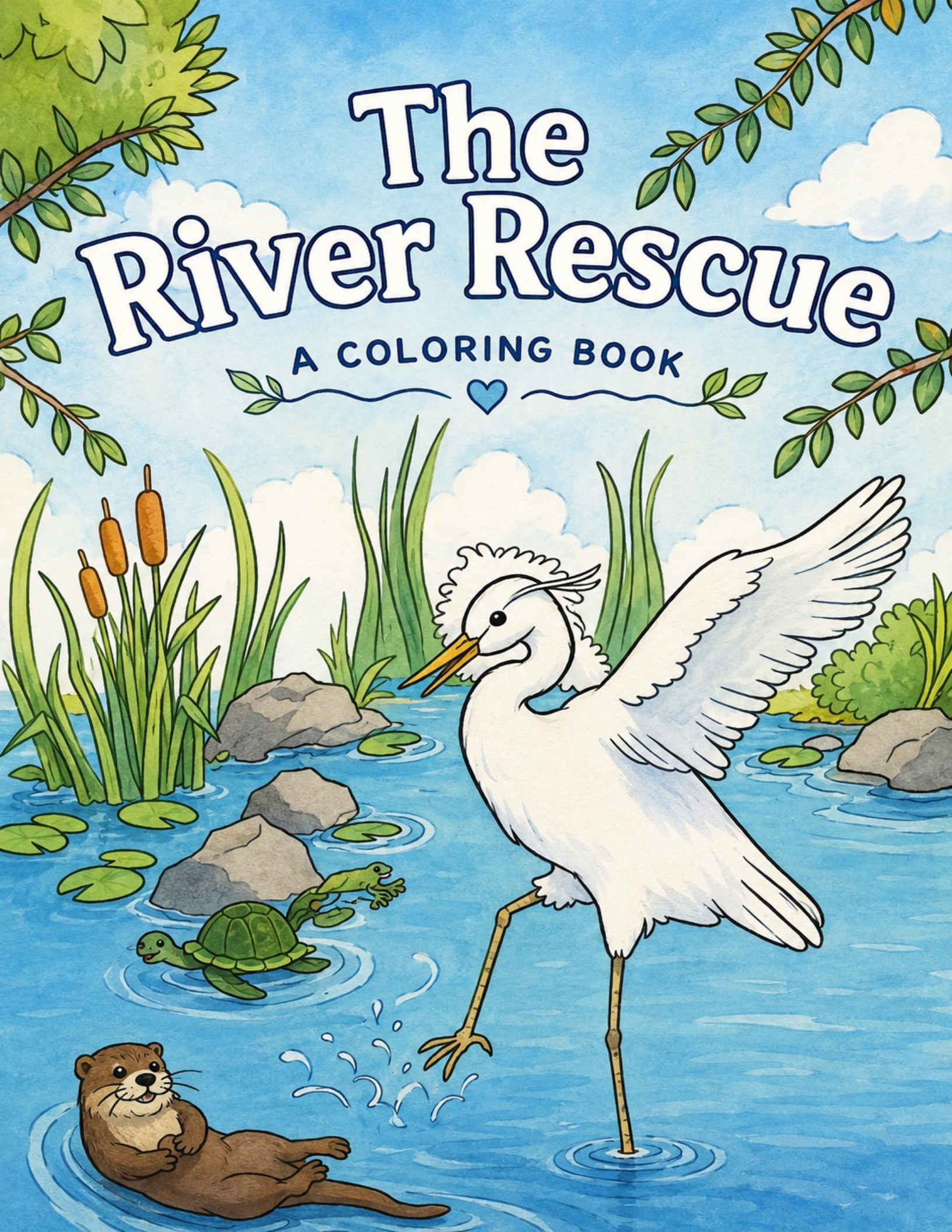
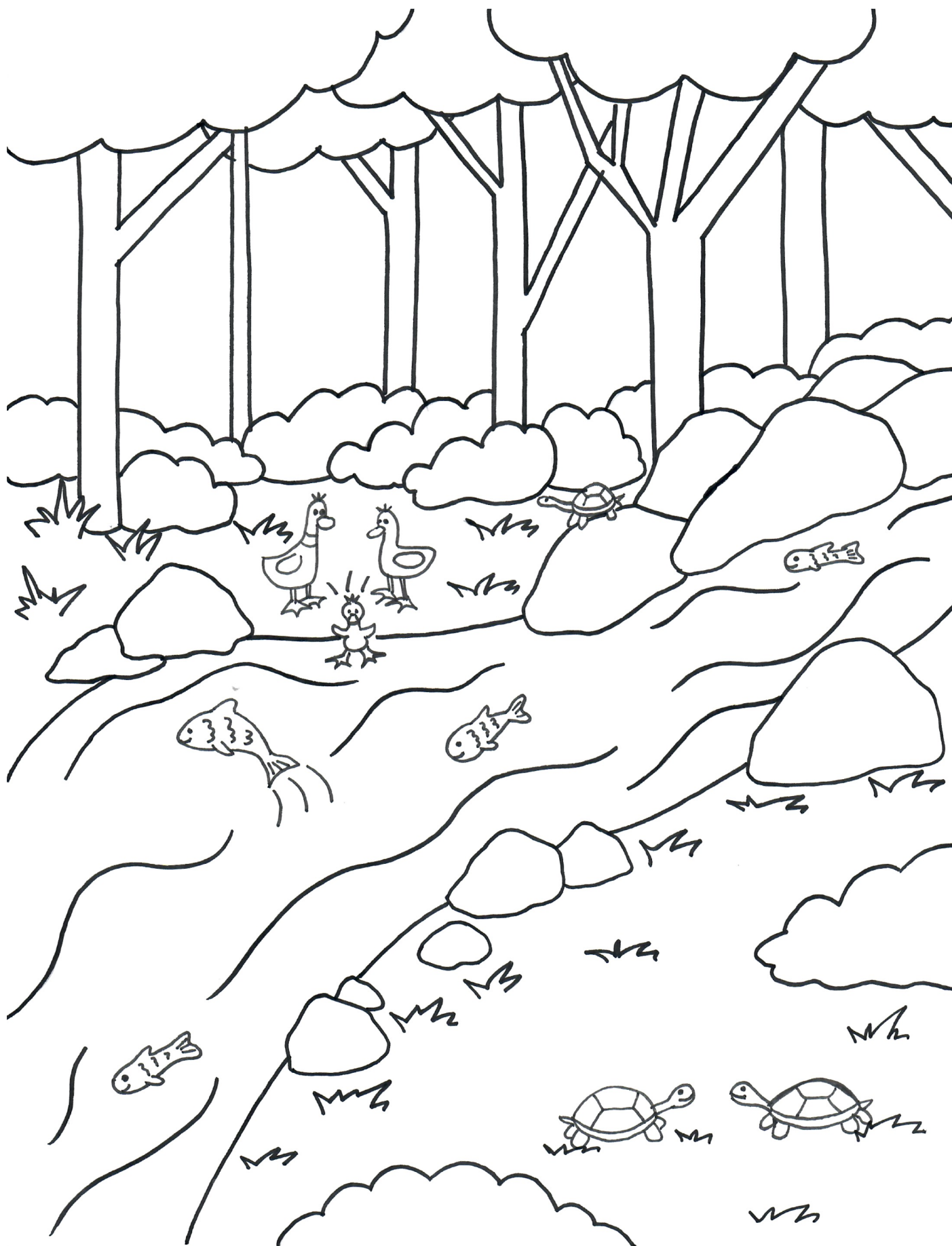


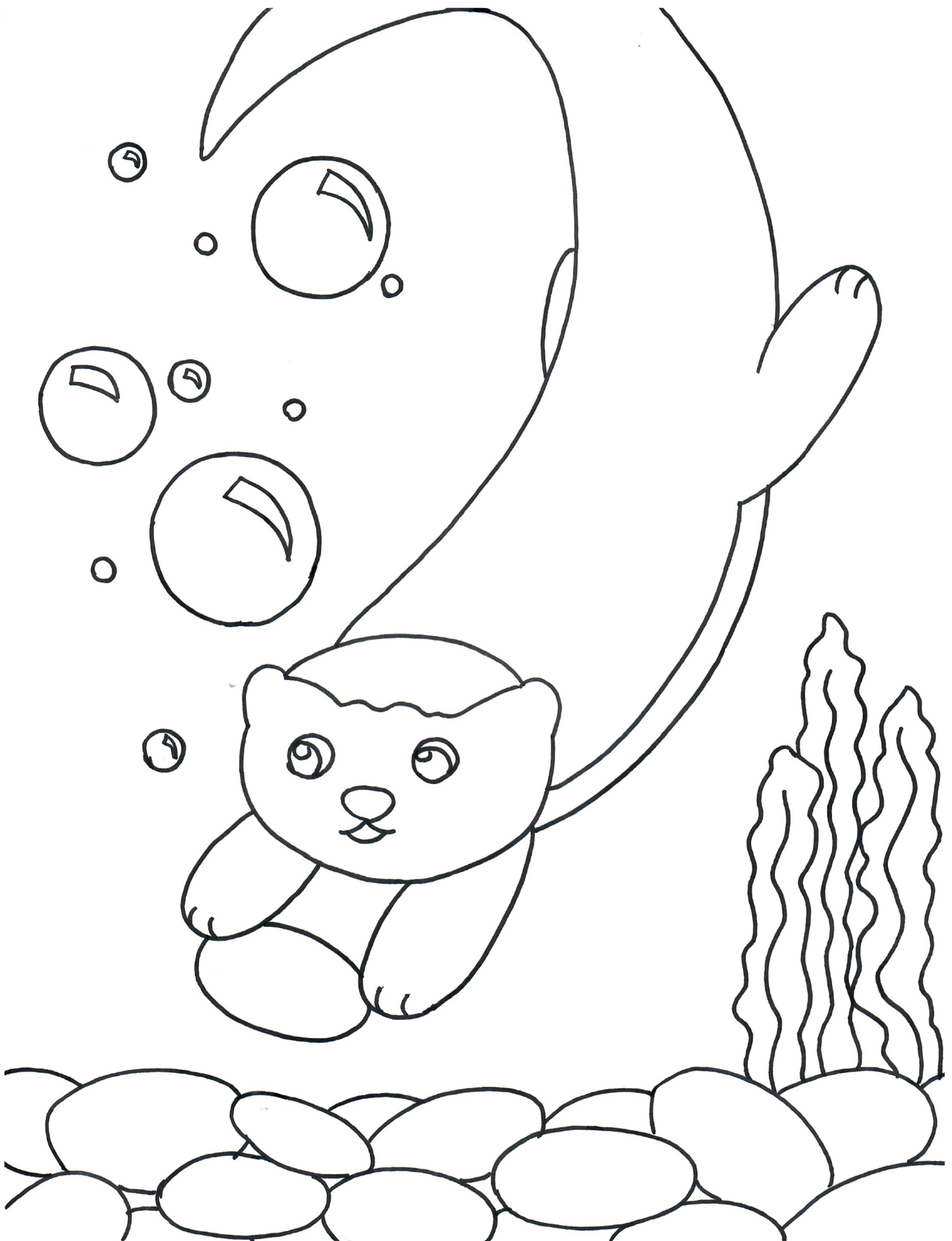
The River Rescue

A COLORING BOOK





Evie Otter lived on a beautiful river that flowed through the woods. Fish swam below the surface. Ducks played and turtles sunned themselves. It was a happy home for everyone.



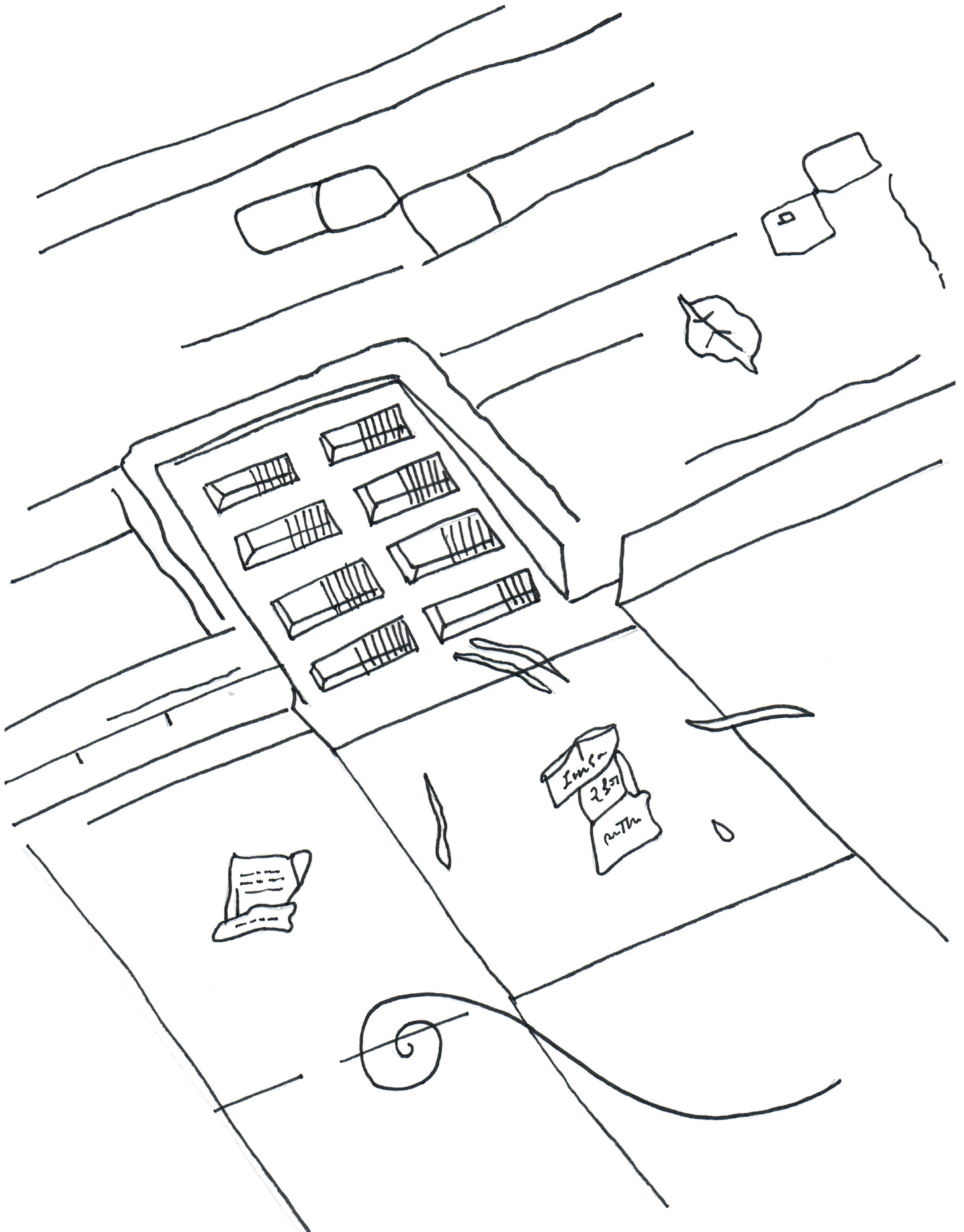
Evie loved exploring the river. Every day she swam through the water looking for smooth pebbles and visited her friends: Harry Heron, Tilly Turtle and Fergus Frog. The river was their world.



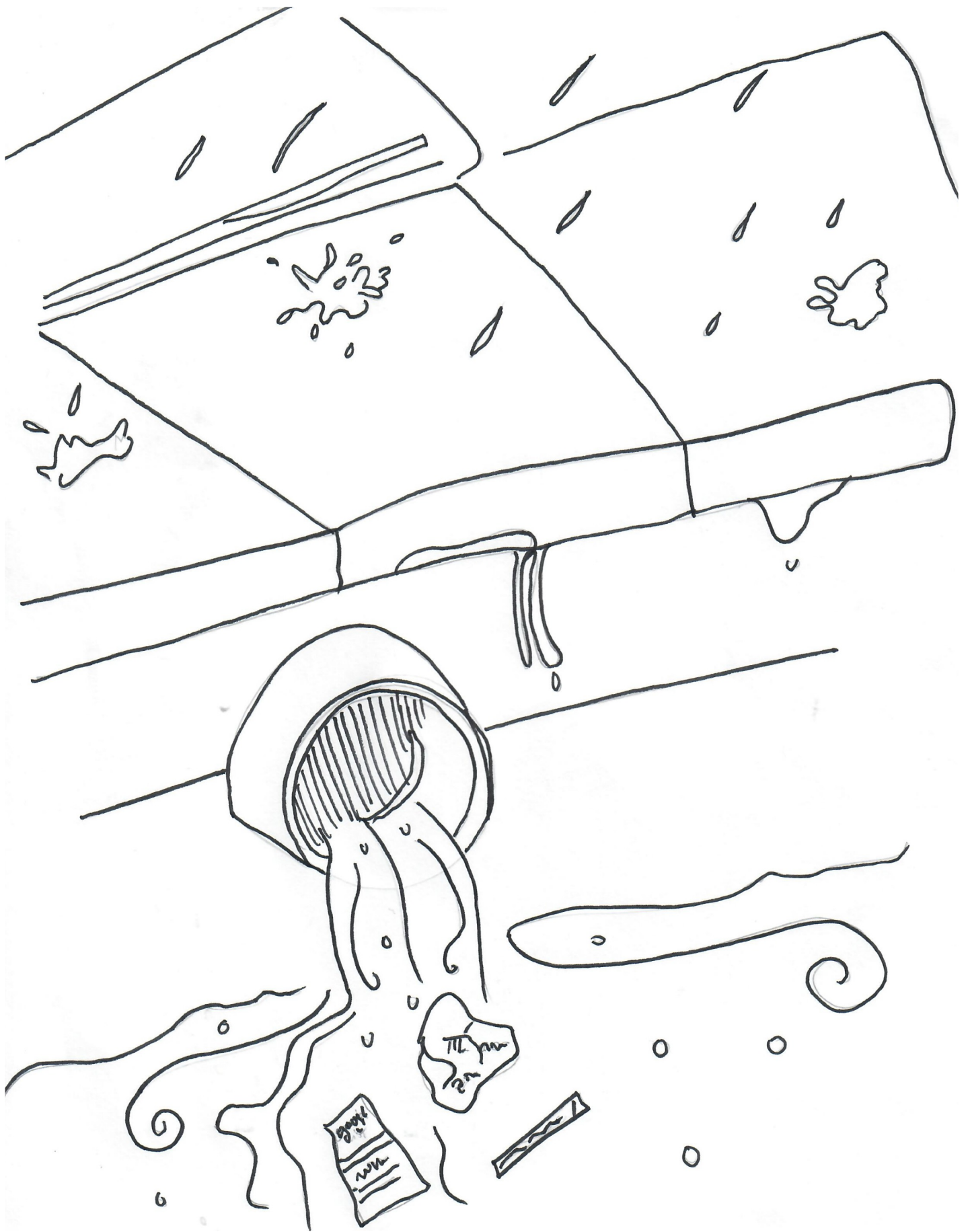
**One morning, Evie noticed something strange floating by.
Evie nudged it with her paw and watched it drift away.**
[Evie's River Rescue Tip: Trash doesn't belong in the river.]



Over the next few days, more trash appeared – wrappers and plastic bags and cans. Evie and her friends grew worried. “We need to find out what’s going on,” Evie told them.



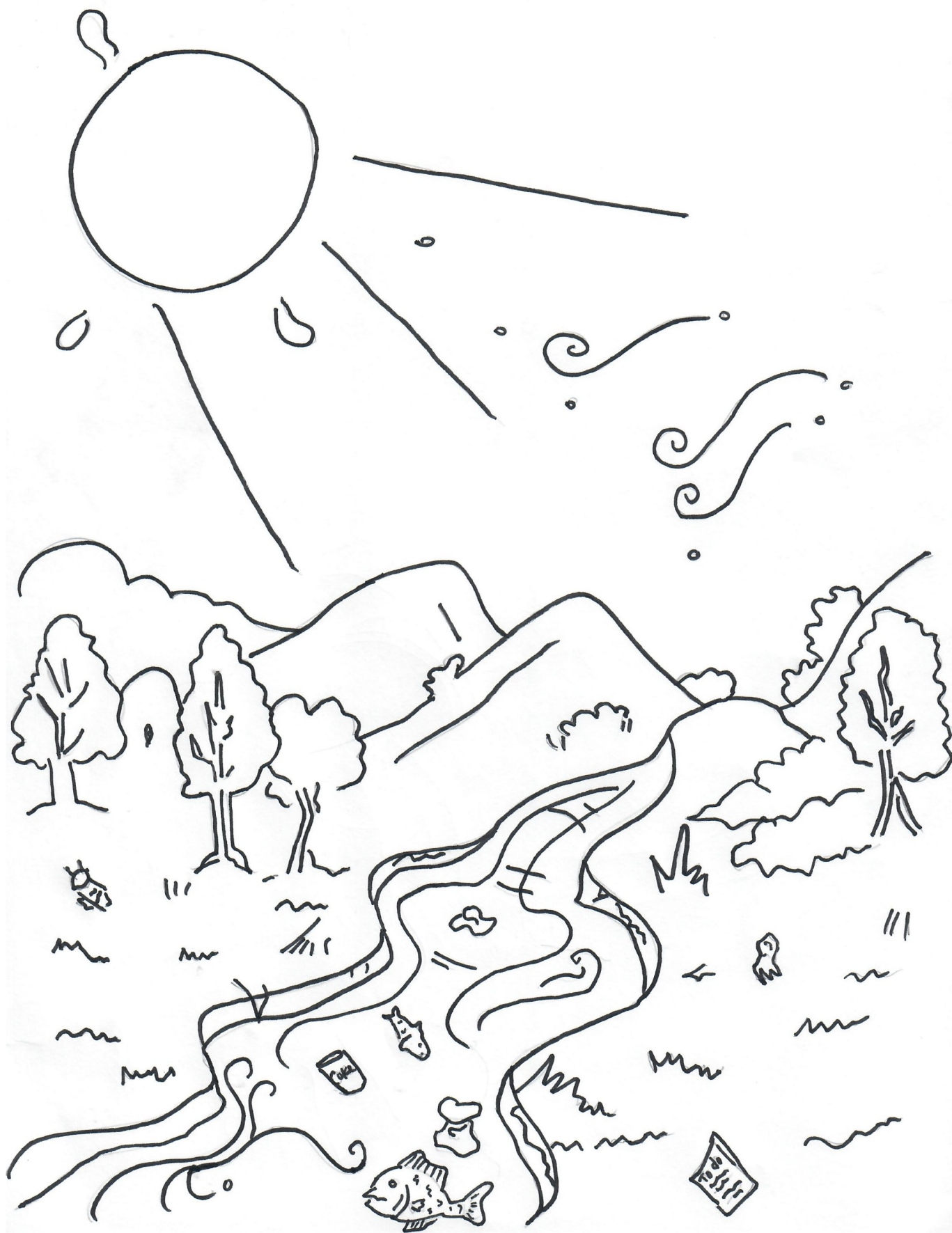
Evie climbed up the riverbank and watched a trash bag fly out of the back of a truck. Before long, the wind carried it across the street. As rain began to fall, it was washed into a storm drain.



In most cities, storm drains aren't designed to filter trash. They empty straight into streams, rivers, lakes and oceans. That means litter dropped on roads, sidewalks, playgrounds or parking lots can become water pollution. And harm wildlife.



[Evie's River Rescue Tip: Storm Drains are for water....not litter!]



Evie followed the water downstream. But it wasn't just the water that was traveling toward the neighboring bay, it was the trash too.



Floating trash was everywhere. Evie could see a fish trapped in plastic rings. And seabirds and other animals were mistaking plastic for food. Evie was afraid. She knew they needed help.



It was a student on a school field trip who noticed the dirty river. He told his teacher and his classmates what he saw. They agreed to come back the next day to collect trash to help the animals.



Everyone worked together as a River Rescue Team! And little by little the river got cleaner.
*[Evie's River Rescue Tip: Always bring an adult when you're cleaning a waterway.
Wear gloves and be careful around broken glass. If it looks suspicious, ask for help!]*



Evie learned something important that day: Cleaning up trash helps, but preventing litter is even better.



The River Rescue: A Coloring Book

was created in 2026 as an Eagle Scout project by Charlotte Barnes of Alexandria Virginia's Scouting America **Troop 130**.



Many volunteers provided their time and artistic talents to support this advocacy campaign, which is available to educators and parents as a free digital download and is intended to educate k-4 school children on the dangers of water pollution, for animals and humans alike.

Thanks go out to the project's non-profit sponsor: St. Stephen's & St Agnes School in Alexandria, Virginia. And to fine arts teacher Thomas Bunnell, science teacher Debra Garcia, kindergarten teacher Leslie Williams and her students for enthusiastically testing the book's pages, as well as artists: Kaia Corens, Willa Johnson and Grace Laha.

For more information, email River.Rescue.Coloring.Book@gmail.com



Be Part of the River Rescue Team and Always Remember:

- ✓ Trash your trash.
- ✓ Recycle whenever possible.
- ✓ Bottles, caps and cans go into bins.
- ✓ Never throw trash from a car.
- ✓ Think twice before dropping gum.
- ✓ Keep storm drains clear.
- ✓ Use reusable water bottles and other containers.
- ✓ Join community clean-up days. You can organize your own!