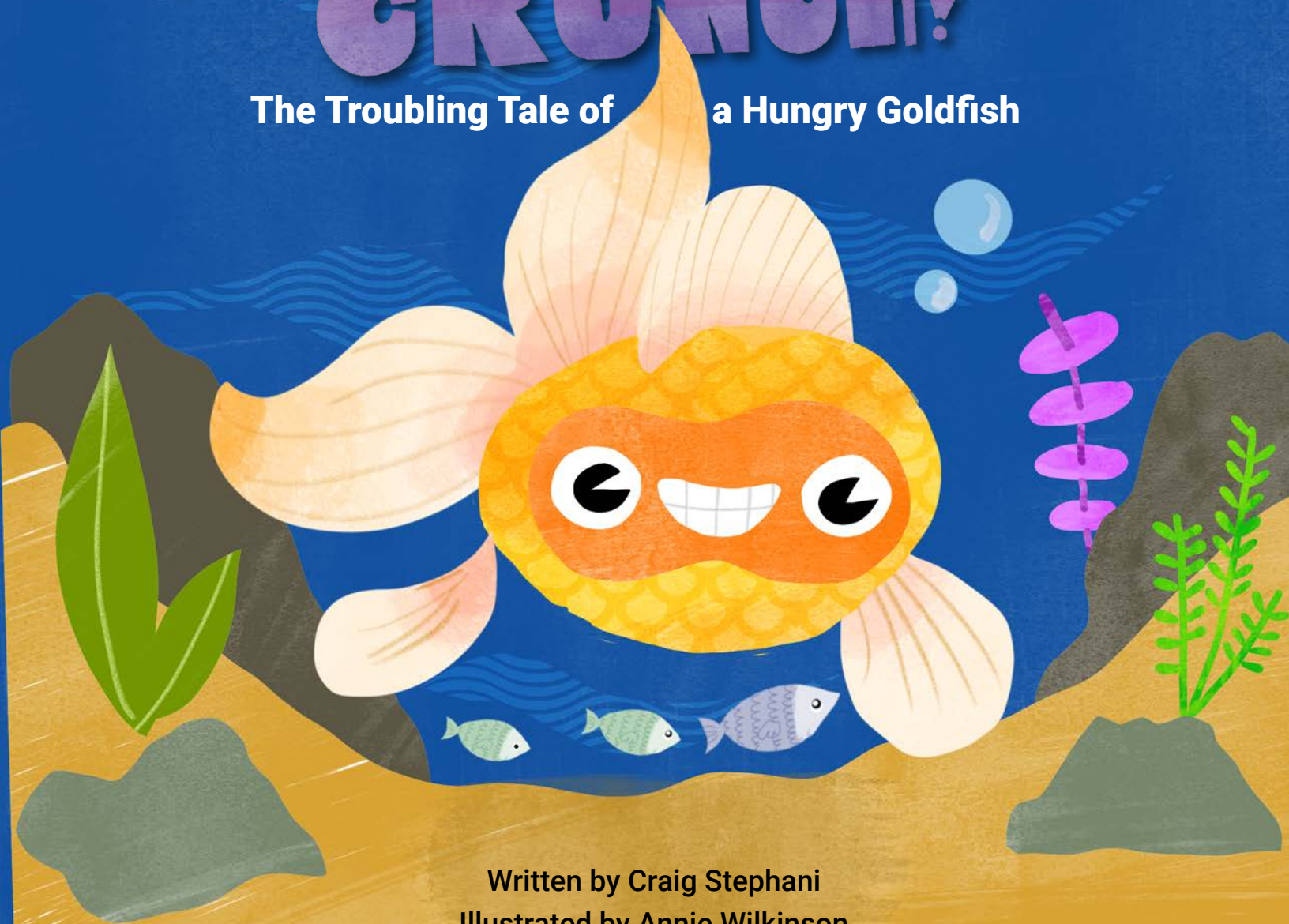


# munch MUNCH GRUNCH!

The Troubling Tale of a Hungry Goldfish



Written by Craig Stephani  
Illustrated by Annie Wilkinson



# munch MUNCH CRUNCH!

## The Troubling Tale of a Hungry Goldfish

Written by  
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Illustrations by  
Annie Wilkinson

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*The Invasive Species Council of BC gratefully acknowledges the territories of the Indigenous Peoples of BC  
where we live and work to maintain healthy ecosystems for all.*

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In a tank, at a home, is a Goldfish named Munch.  
He eats all day long saying, "I love it a bunch!"

I'll eat pellets and flakes,  
lettuce, spinach or kale.  
I'll gobble it all up—I'll even eat a snail!"





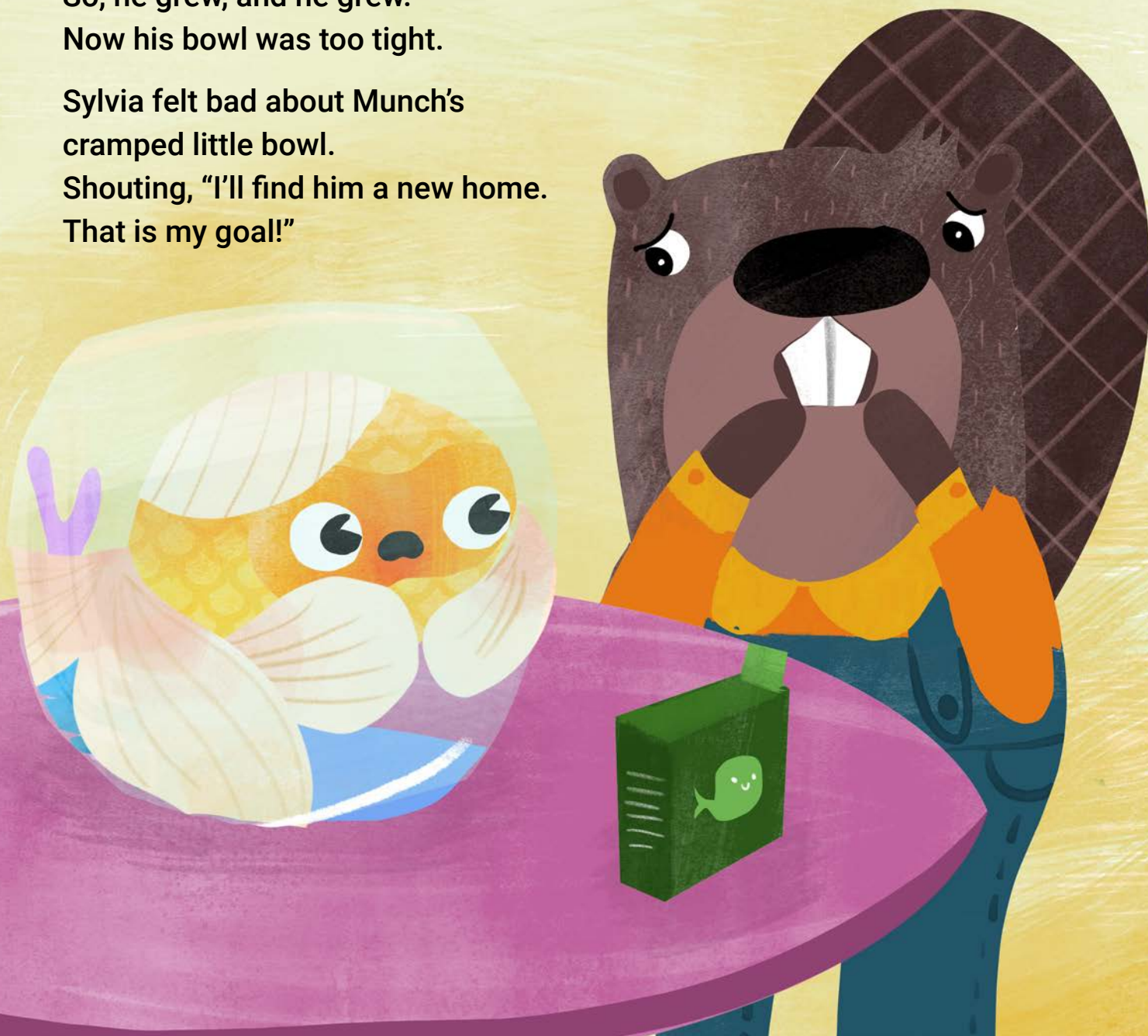
And this girl right here is proud Sylvia Chew.  
She has been friends with Munch, ever since she was two.

She used to carry Munch everywhere that she'd go,  
but not anymore...that time passed long, long ago.



You see Munch ate and he ate,  
all day and all night.  
So, he grew, and he grew.  
Now his bowl was too tight.

Sylvia felt bad about Munch's  
cramped little bowl.  
Shouting, "I'll find him a new home.  
That is my goal!"







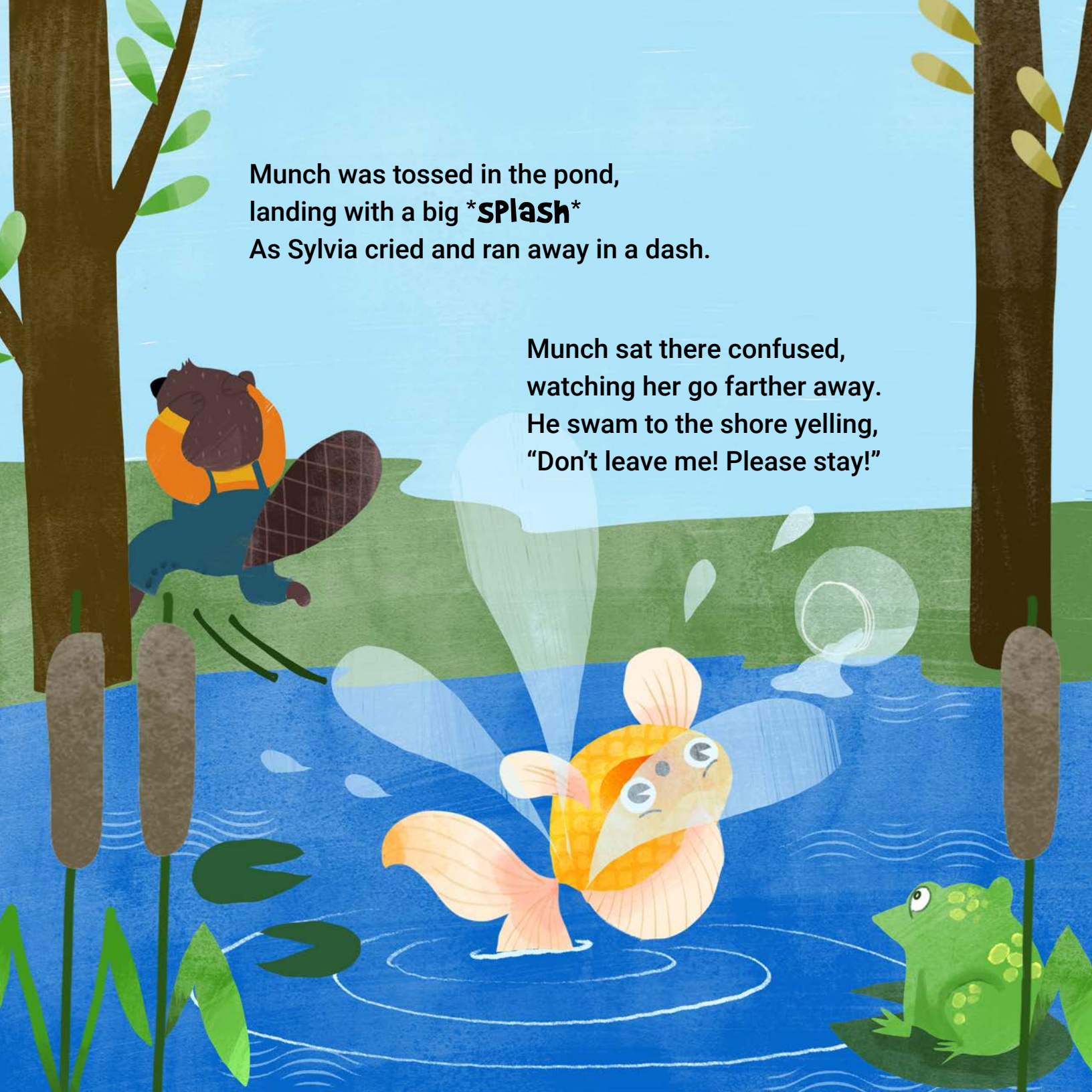
Sylvia grabbed Munch in his bowl  
and off they both went.  
She got ready to search,  
it would be quite the event.

They looked in the woods  
for a place Munch could call home  
until they found a large pond,  
a spot he could roam.



Munch was tossed in the pond,  
landing with a big **\*SPLASH\***  
As Sylvia cried and ran away in a dash.

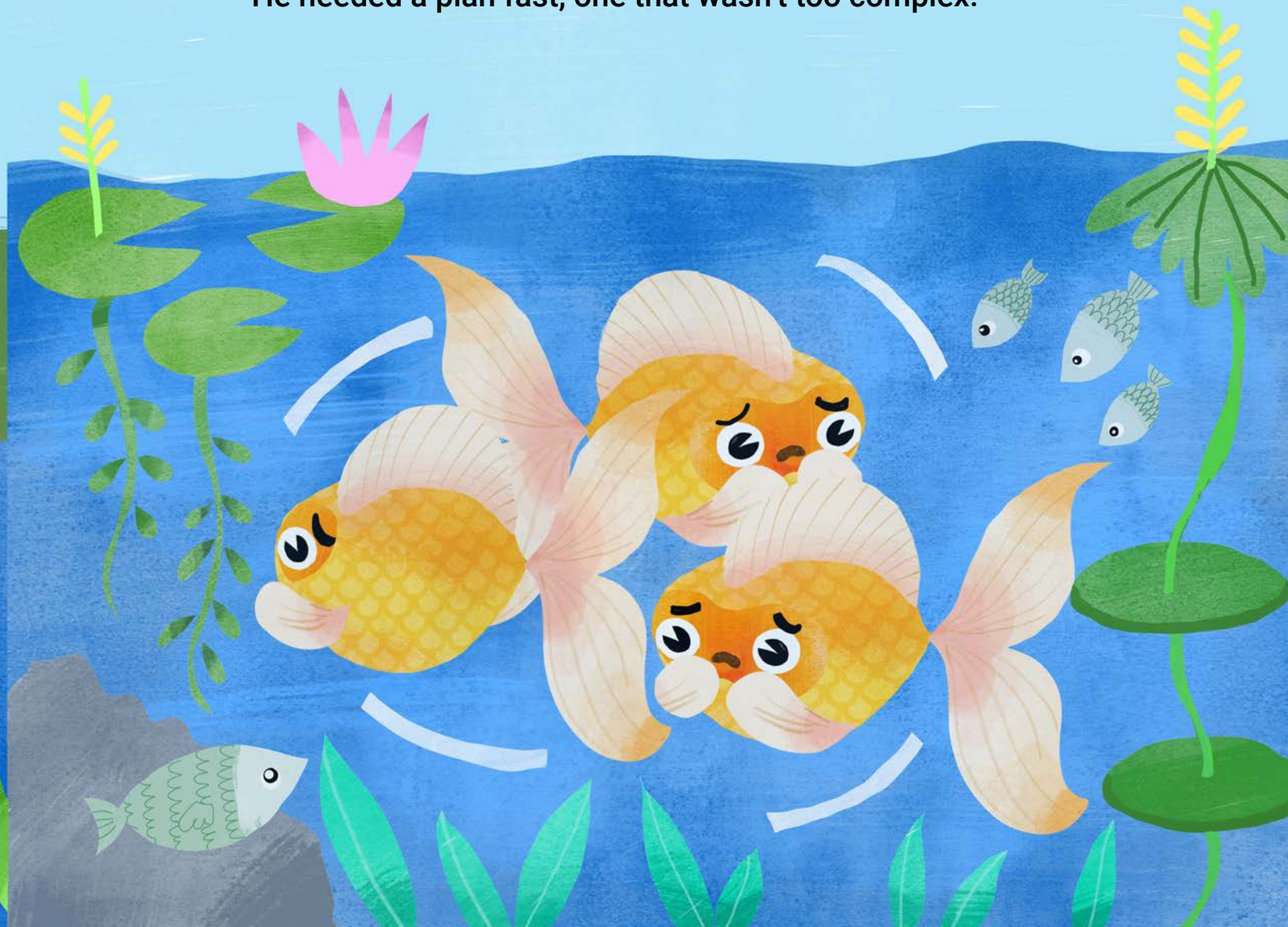
Munch sat there confused,  
watching her go farther away.  
He swam to the shore yelling,  
“Don’t leave me! Please stay!”

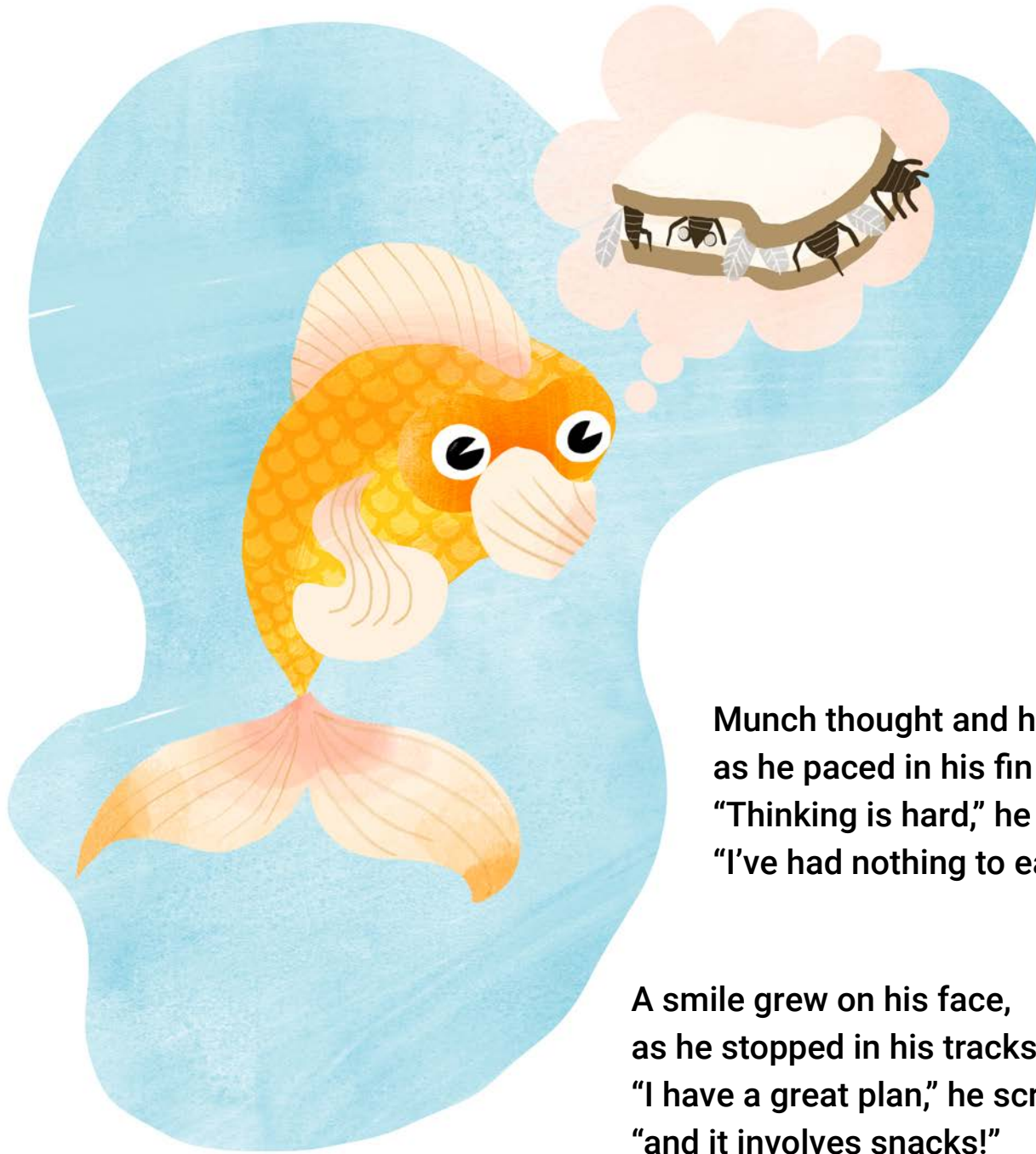




Munch was alone and scared and didn't know what to do.  
He was in a new place, there was no one he knew.

Munch swam in a circle thinking what to do next.  
He needed a plan fast, one that wasn't too complex.





Munch thought and he thought  
as he paced in his fin feet.  
“Thinking is hard,” he said,  
“I’ve had nothing to eat!”

A smile grew on his face,  
as he stopped in his tracks.  
“I have a great plan,” he screamed,  
“and it involves snacks!”



**“I’ll eat a ton of food, so I grow big and strong,  
then Sylvia can find me when she comes along.”**

**Munch’s plan would allow him to be spotted with ease.  
And since he loved to eat, his plan would be a breeze.**





So, Munch started his journey to get big and round,  
he looked everywhere for any food to be found.

All of a sudden, from the corner of his eye,  
Munch saw something moving. It was a caddisfly!





**Munch turned to the fly, with his target now in sight,  
he dashed towards his prey and ate it in one bite.**



**Munch then looked all around  
and to his great surprise,  
what he saw surrounding him  
was many more flies!**



Wanting to eat some too, were little Rainbow trout,  
but were frozen in awe as they watched Munch pig out.

Munch darted left and right and ate all bugs he saw.  
His mouth was so wide, he dislocated his jaw!





The other fish stared as Munch ate in a flurry.  
They watched the bugs vanish which caused them to worry.

Munch just pushed through them all  
saying, "It's time for brunch!"  
As he gobbled the last flies with a...





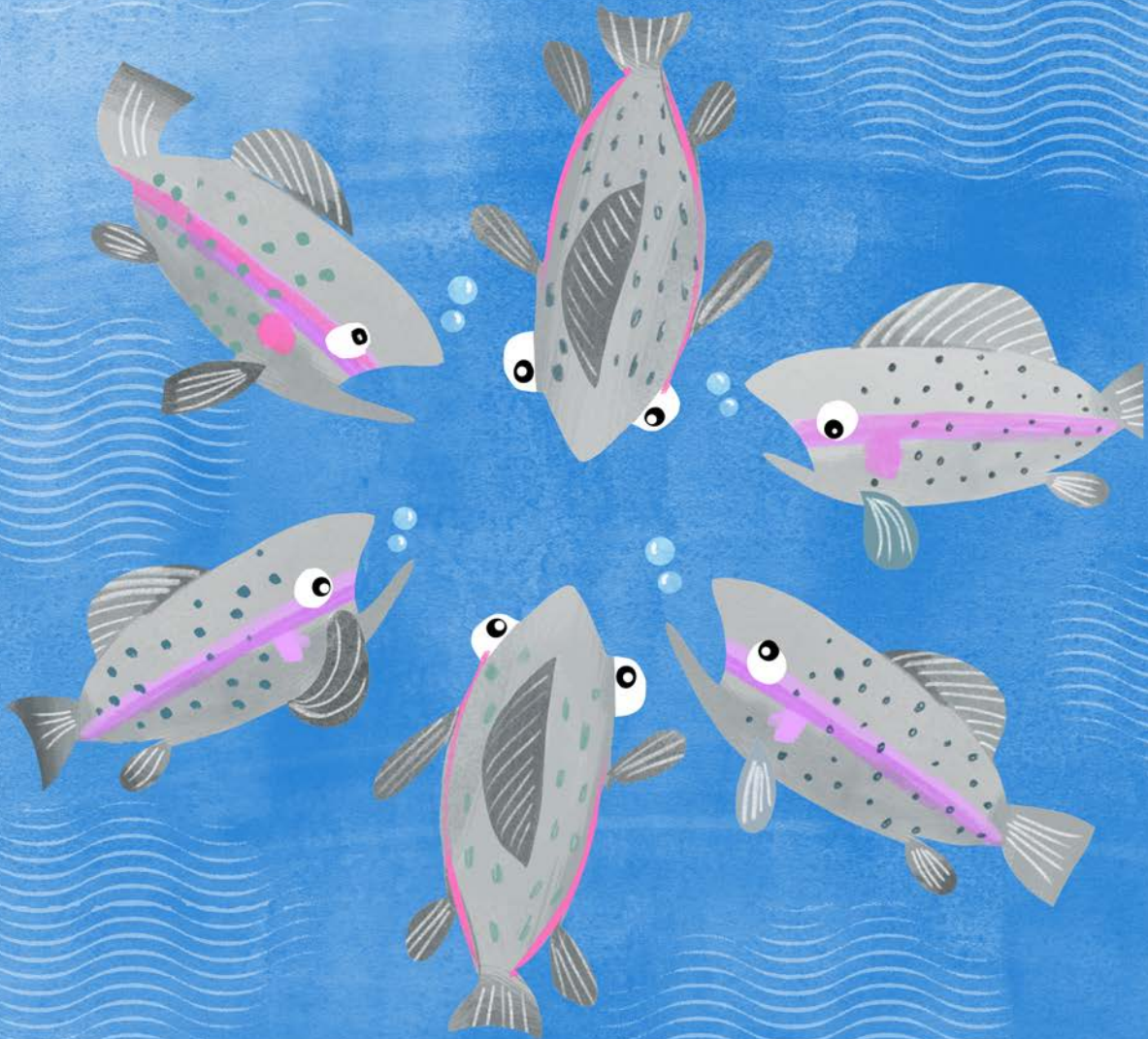
Munch had now grown to be many sizes bigger,  
with all the food he devoured as his growth trigger.

As nothing was left here, Munch started to move on,  
not thinking twice about the trouts' food being gone.



The trout were sad that they had no flies for their food,  
then one yelled to the other, "That fish was quite rude!"

They nodded and discussed all the mess that was made.  
"Quick," another said, "before our food has been preyed!"





As Munch began his search for his next bite to eat,  
he looked for something light to balance out the meat.

Then off in the distance Munch spotted some pondweed.  
“If I eat all this,” he said, “I’ll surely succeed!”





Munch slurped up the leaves as if they were spaghetti,  
as small bits he had missed, floated like confetti.

A few birds floated and watched the mayhem below.  
Of Munch pigging out, as he continued to grow.





The geese, ducks and swans all watched as it disappeared.  
Soon there would be no food left is what they all feared.

Munch swam right below them shouting, "It's time for lunch!"  
As he mowed through everything with a...







Munch's belly was full, so he decided to rest.  
After a brief stop, he would continue his quest.

The birds and the fish all glared at him in anger.  
They had enough of this new gluttonous stranger.

The pond critters gathered  
to see what to do now,  
with this giant Goldfish  
that did nothing but chow.




They tried hard to think  
what they could do about Munch,  
but they all drew a blank  
without even a hunch.





Then a Northern leopard frog cried out from behind,  
"Leave it to me, I'll give him a piece of my mind!"

She swam up to Munch and gave his belly a poke.  
"Hey, you listen to me now!" she said with a croak.



"You came to our pond and  
caused a big commotion,  
eating our food like this  
was an endless ocean."


"Now open your eyes," she said,  
"look at what you've done.  
What should we eat now  
because you have left us none!"





Munch was frozen in shock  
and thought, "This couldn't be me."  
Then soon he recalled  
what had been done on his spree.


"I didn't mean to cause you harm,"  
Munch said as he frowned,  
"I just wanted to be big,  
so I could be found!"



Sylvia at home, thought of how much she missed Munch.  
She knew he missed her too,  
it was more than a hunch.

Through the forest she ran  
to visit Munch's new pond.  
"When he sees me,"  
she wondered,  
"how would he respond?"





When she arrived,  
she gasped at the mess that was there.  
Everything had been eaten, it was nearly bare.

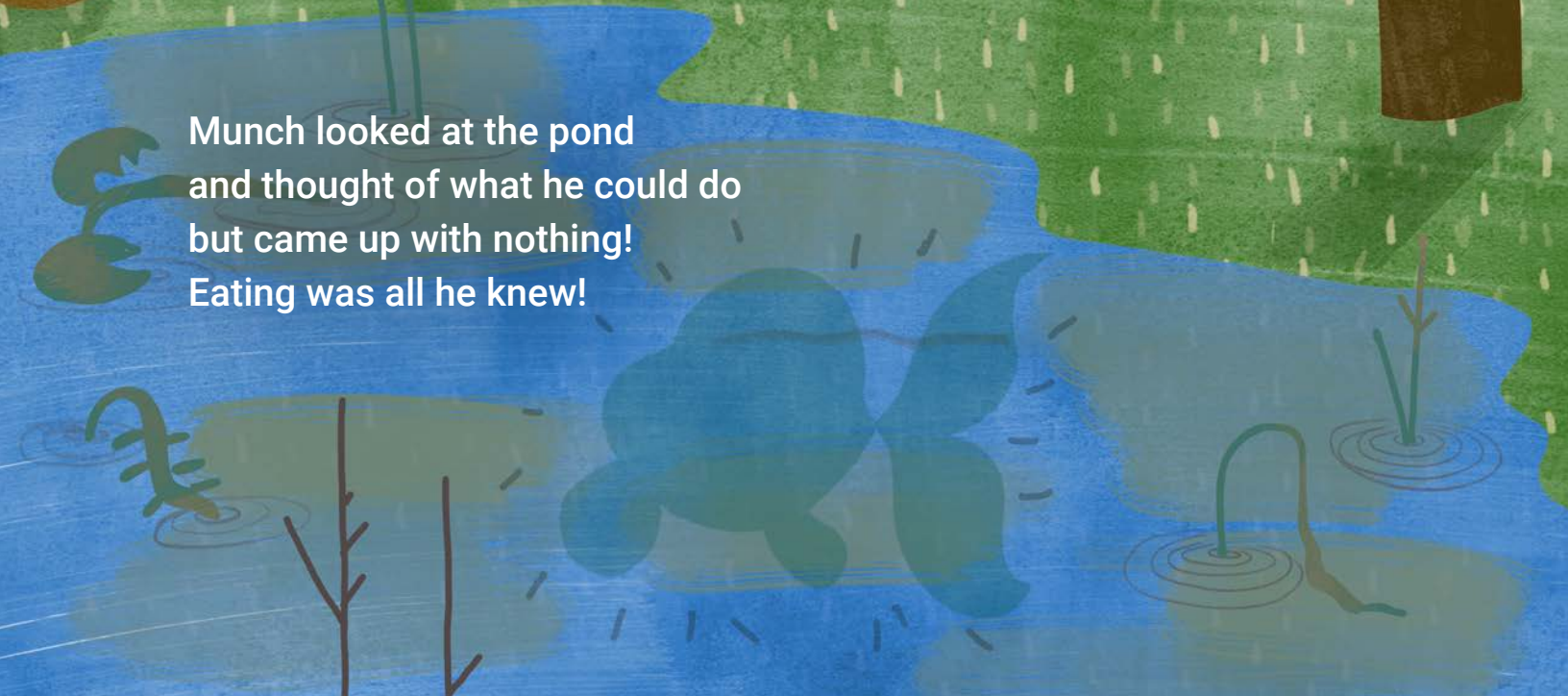
She looked at the pond  
and saw a gigantic fish.  
"I need to fix this fast,"  
she thought,  
"that is my wish!"



She turned and ran home  
so quick she looked like a blur.  
She wanted to be fast so no one could see her.



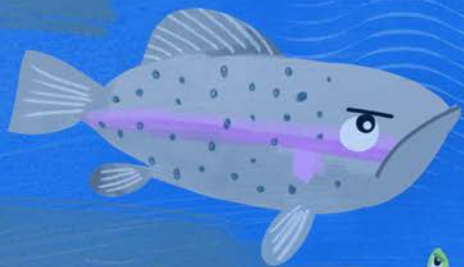
Munch looked at the pond  
and thought of what he could do  
but came up with nothing!  
Eating was all he knew!





"I'm sorry," he cried,  
"I don't know what I can do.  
Tell me what can be done  
so your food can renew."

"Stop eating so much!"  
the pond critters all shouted.  
"But I need to be found!"  
Munch said as he pouted.





All of a sudden,  
Munch was scooped up in a net.  
It was Sylvia!  
She had come back for her pet!

They went back to her home,  
where she bought him a new tank.  
Munch was glad to be back  
and had Sylvia to thank.







As the days went by, the pond started to regrow  
but even without Munch, this process was still slow.

The wild isn't for pets, it's for animals like Moose.  
So with your pet, make sure you 'Don't Let It Loose'!

Munch was happy at home in a tank he could fit,  
he liked it much better than the pond he'd admit.

As Sylvia watched Munch and fed him his dinner,  
Munch thought to himself how this meal was a winner.





"I love pellets and flakes, lettuce, spinach and kale.  
I love all my snacks at home, even when it's snail!"

Munch then looked at his food that he loved a bunch  
and ate it all up with a loud...

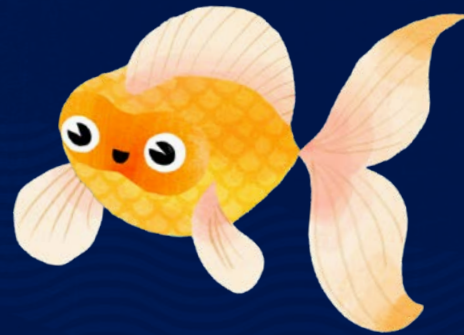


# Goldfish Facts!

- » Did you know that Goldfish come in a variety of colours? They can be everything from olive to silvery-white to gold and orange.
- » Goldfish can grow pretty big! In Dragon Lake, BC, Goldfish were found that were 300 mm long and weighed 650 g. That's a bit bigger than a football!
- » How can you tell the difference between Koi and Goldfish? Koi have feelers (barbels) that resemble whiskers around their mouths, Goldfish don't!
- » Goldfish can survive in water temperatures as hot as 41°C and as cold as 0°C. That's cold enough for your skin to change colours in a matter of minutes!
- » Did you know that Goldfish can lay eggs that are identical clones of the mother? That means one female Goldfish can infest an entire ecosystem by itself!
- » Goldfish are very messy eaters! They stir up the mud while they eat, making it difficult for sunlight to reach aquatic plants.

**If you have an unwanted Goldfish, remember to never let them loose. Here are some options for you instead:**

- » See if friends or family can take your Goldfish.
- » Talk to the place you bought your pet from and see if they can take it back.
- » Reach out to local science centres, zoos or aquariums to see if they can use the animal for educational purposes.
- » If all else fails, talk with a veterinarian about what to do next.





## Healthy landscapes and communities free of invasive species

The Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) is a registered charity and non-profit society that is making a difference in the lives of all British Columbians. Our mission is to take action to build healthy landscapes, including habitats and communities, through education and responsible practices to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Invasive species can out-compete native species for food and space, damage ecosystems, disrupt food sources, introduce parasites and disease and cost British Columbia and Canada billions of dollars per year. Some of the most serious invasive species were originally sold as pets or plants for water gardens and aquariums. That's why it is important to play your part and Don't Let It Loose!

Never release your plants and animals into the wild or dump aquariums or water garden debris into rivers, streams, lakes or storm sewers. Learn what you can do instead by visiting [bcinvasives.ca](http://bcinvasives.ca)



**DON'T LET IT LOOSE**

# munch MUNCH CRUNCH!

Munch, a pet goldfish, finds his way into the wild. Read along and find out what can happen when a pet is released into the wild.

Check out these fun games and activities!

