

The Bug Story

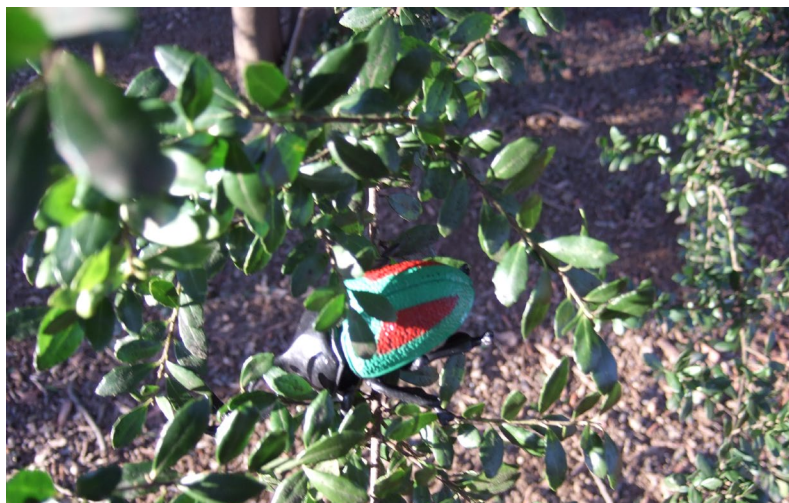
Book 5

The Water World

By Jonathan

Photography by Zoe,

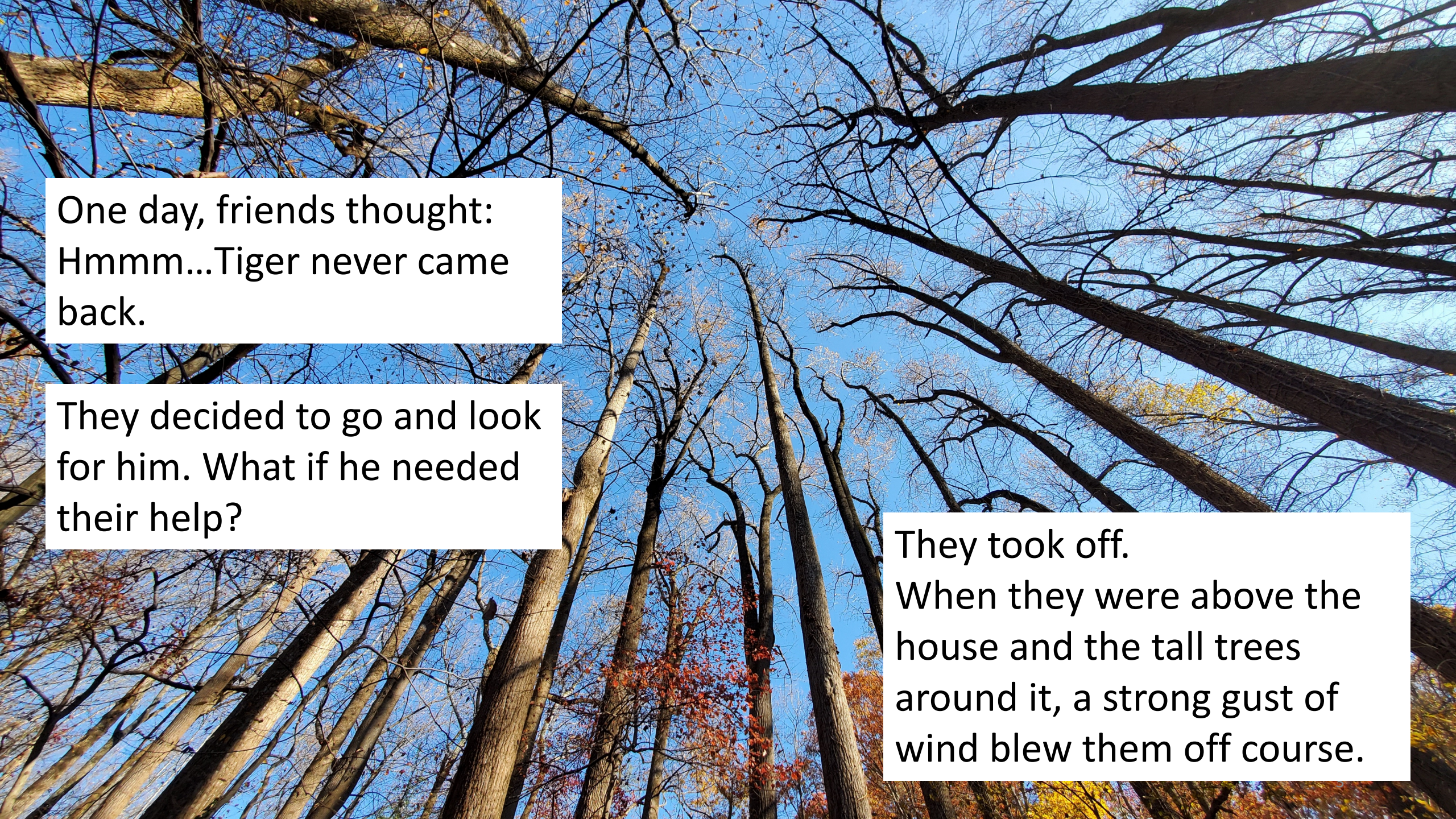
guest photo by AlanMurphyPhotography.com



After their adventure at the house, the six bugs spent weeks playing hide-and-seek and air-tag in the garden.



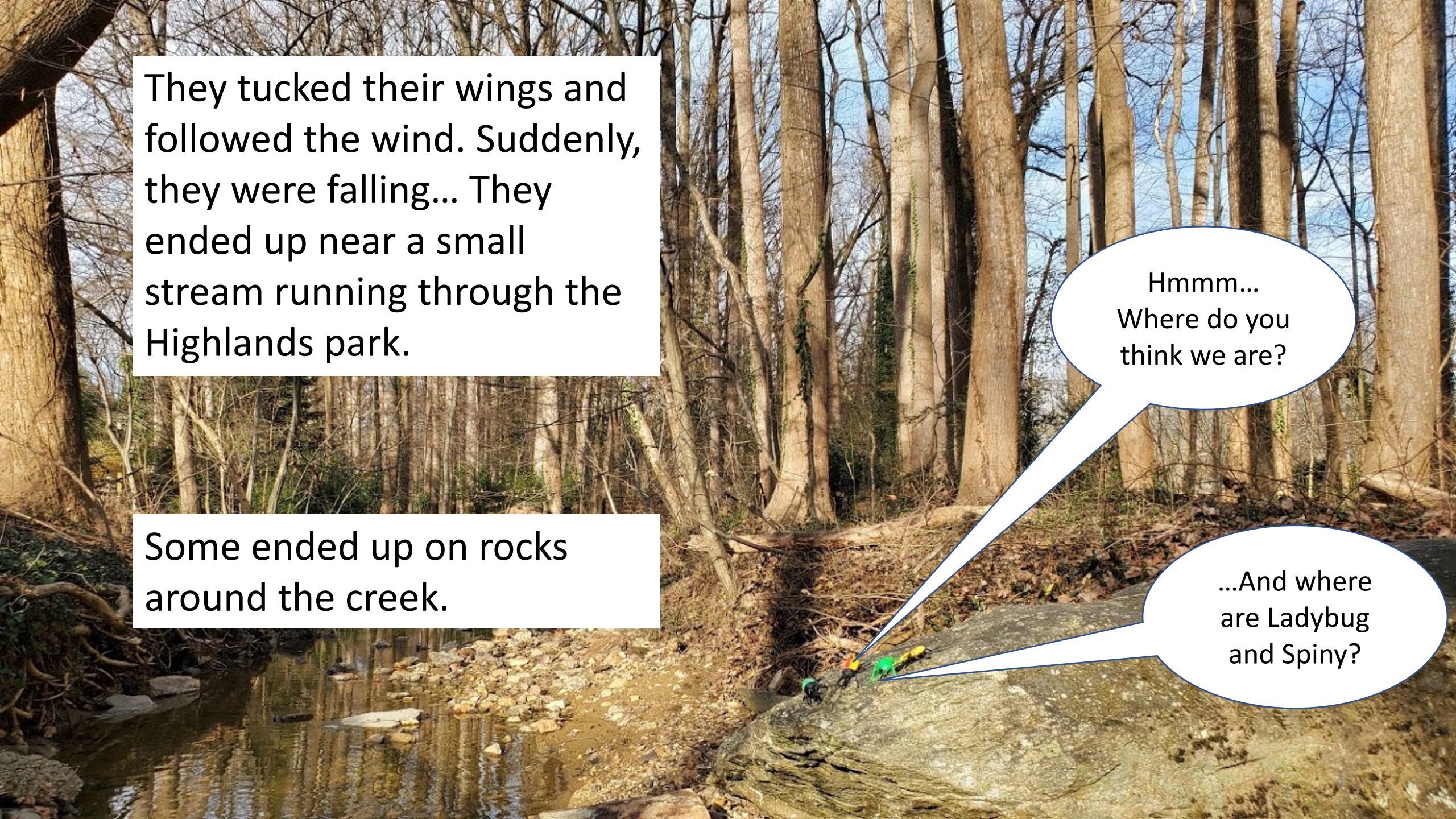
But they often wondered what had happened to Tiger...



One day, friends thought:
Hmmm...Tiger never came
back.

They decided to go and look
for him. What if he needed
their help?

They took off.
When they were above the
house and the tall trees
around it, a strong gust of
wind blew them off course.

A photograph of a forest stream with a rocky bank. Several colorful ladybugs (red, green, and black) are on a large, flat rock in the foreground. The background shows a dense forest of tall, thin trees with bare branches, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The stream flows from the left towards the center of the frame.

They tucked their wings and followed the wind. Suddenly, they were falling... They ended up near a small stream running through the Highlands park.

Some ended up on rocks around the creek.

Hmmm...
Where do you think we are?

...And where are Ladybug and Spiny?

Ladybug and Spiny were struggling on the surface of the creek.


Giant fishing spiders appeared out of nowhere. They were fast and light on water.

The spiders prepared to eat them...

Blurf.... don'tblurf.... eat us! We are bugs, like you!... Blurf...

Don't fishing spiders eat fish?!




A scene in a pond with a purple frog, a green frog, a ladybug, and a fishing spider. The purple frog is on the left, looking towards the center. The green frog is on the right, looking towards the purple frog. A ladybug is on the right, near the green frog. A fishing spider is on the left, near the purple frog. The pond is filled with water and some leaves.

Suddenly, they saw that one of the spiders was Tiger. Tiger was coming from the water!

TIGER??!!!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!!
(Blurrrrfff....)

Tiger scared away the fishing spiders and a frog ate them.

A photograph of a stream in a forest. The water is shallow and brownish. A large, mossy rock sits in the middle of the stream. In the foreground, two beetles are in the water. One is red and black, and the other is orange and black. The background is filled with tall, thin trees and some fallen branches.

Tiger dragged the two wet bugs to the shore.

Did you just save us?!

Where did you come from?!

Spiny and Ladybug climbed on a rock.

Tiger was still in the water, when a kingfisher appeared out of nowhere.

It was a Belted Kingfisher. Tiger thought she was diving straight for him.

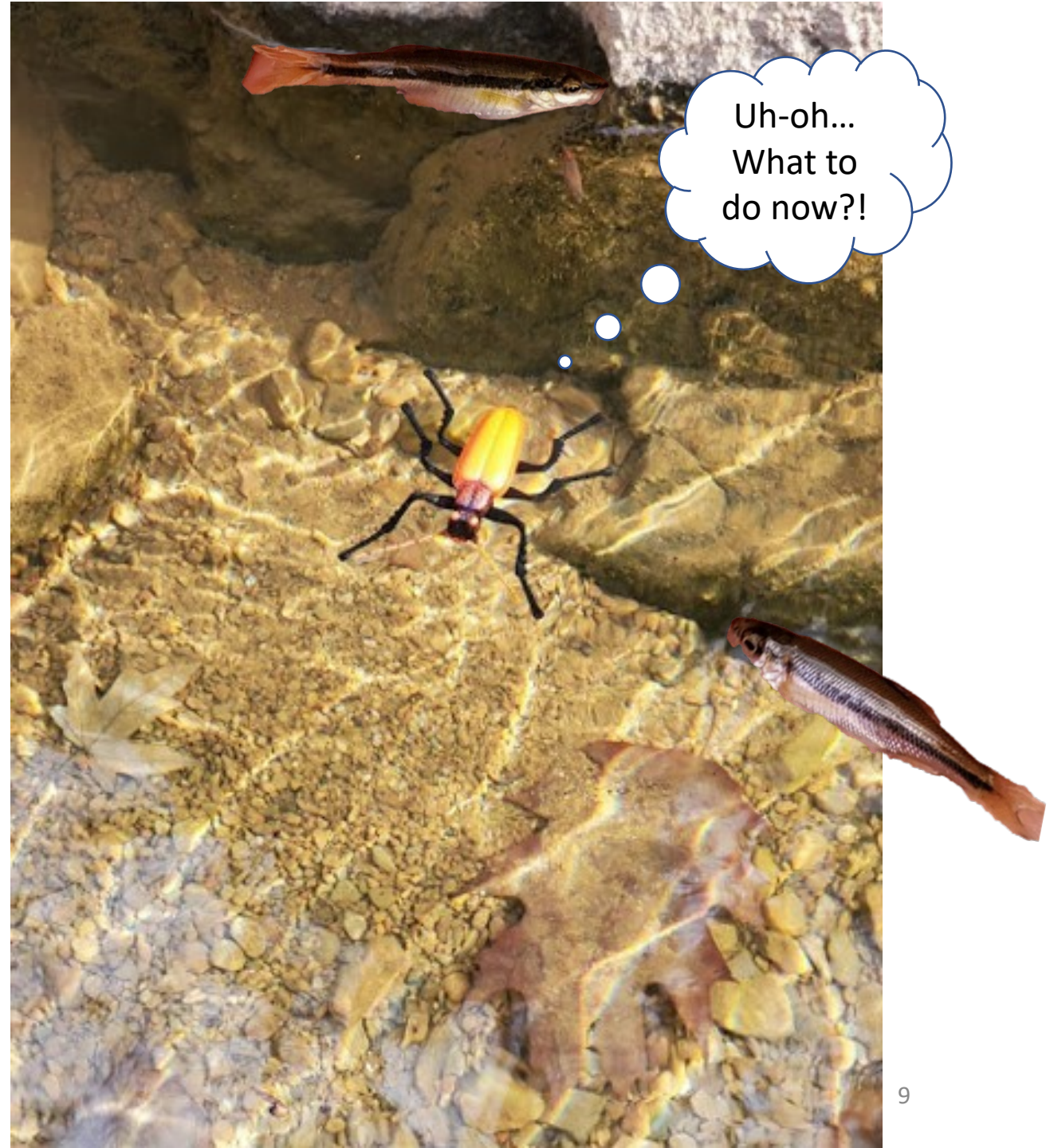
Tiger did not know what to do...



He remembered that Giant taught him gaping, and he dived under water with air under his wings. Then he grabbed onto a rock.

He saw a Blacknose Dace and thought that the fish wanted to eat him up too!

The fish was coming closer, and closer, and closer...



..."And where is the kingfisher?",
thought Tiger. And she broke
through the water instantly.

But she was not aiming at Tiger...
She was going for the fish!

Tiger saw how Kingfisher caught the
fish, and then backed-out of the
water, holding it in her beak.

It was scary and beautiful at the
same time.

Wow!
Blurp....
Blurp....
Blurp...

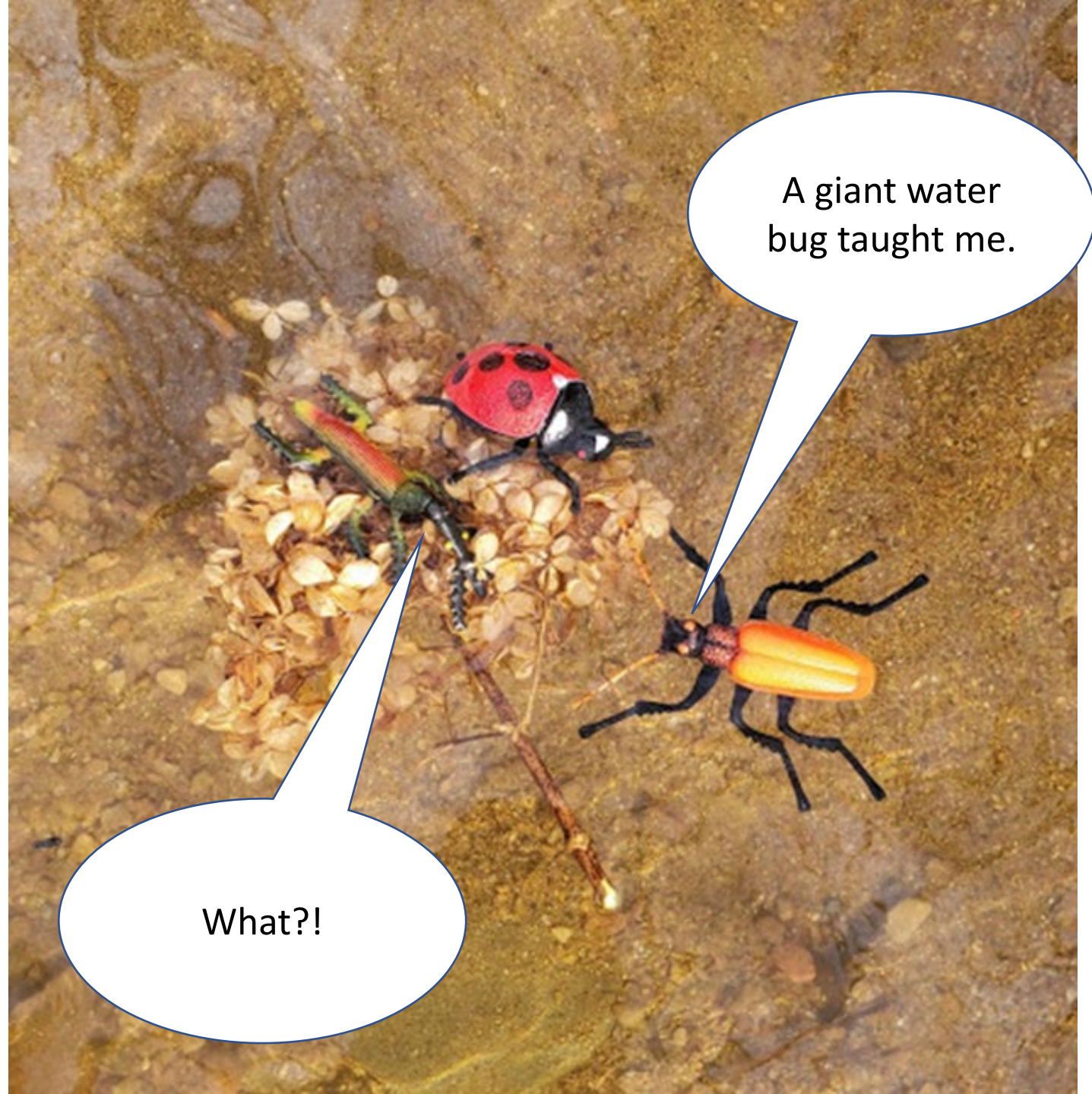


“Phew! That was close!”
said Tiger. And he
swam ashore.

“How can you do all this
stuff?” said Ladybug.

“Yeah...” said Spiny.

“Okay, I will explain!”
said Tiger.



“I will explain,” said Tiger.

And he told them all about his adventures with Grabs and Giant.

He also told them how he learned to swim and escaped from the Belted Kingfisher and a Blacknose Dace.



And then,
the fish
attacked!!!!

Weren't
you
afraid?!!

Since nobody knew how to get back to the house with pink flowers, the bugs decided to stay at the creek.


Maybe they could spend the winter here? It was getting quite cold. Fall was coming.

We need to find a home fast!

May be...we should learn to swim first?


And they all wanted to learn
to breath under water!

And Tiger taught them.

A collection of colorful toy beetles is scattered on a forest floor covered in dry leaves and twigs. The beetles include a red one with black spots, a bright green one, a yellow one with a red stripe, a black one with a yellow stripe, a black one with a green stripe, and a black one with a red stripe. A speech bubble is positioned in the center-right of the image.

Let's see what
kind of home can
we have here, in
the water world.

After a while, they were ready to go and look for homes
under water! The bugs were so excited!

A photograph of a stickleback fish swimming in a stream. The fish is green and brown with a prominent red stripe along its side. It has a large eye and a slightly open mouth. The background shows a stream with rocks and some green moss or algae.

Spiny heard of a fish that made homes from twigs, seaweed, and moss.

Tiger said it was the Stickleback fish.

They peered inside, but it was too small for them. Besides, it was full of eggs!

They swam away before father Stickleback could spot them.

Spiny suggested to look for a Caddisfly home. These homes are beautiful and decorated with shells and shiny river stones.



It was perfect for Spiny! But... the Caddisfly was still inside. Hmmmm.... Spiney thought it was too tight for him anyway. And too crowded.



Then, Ladybug saw a big crayfish. “Let’s go and see the crayfish house,” she said. “I heard that they sleep there during winter!”

These holes in the riverbank looked nice. But there were crayfish living there already.

“I bet these get filled with water from time to time,” said Green.

So the bugs decided to look for other homes...

Tiger thought: what kind of house does a kingfisher have?

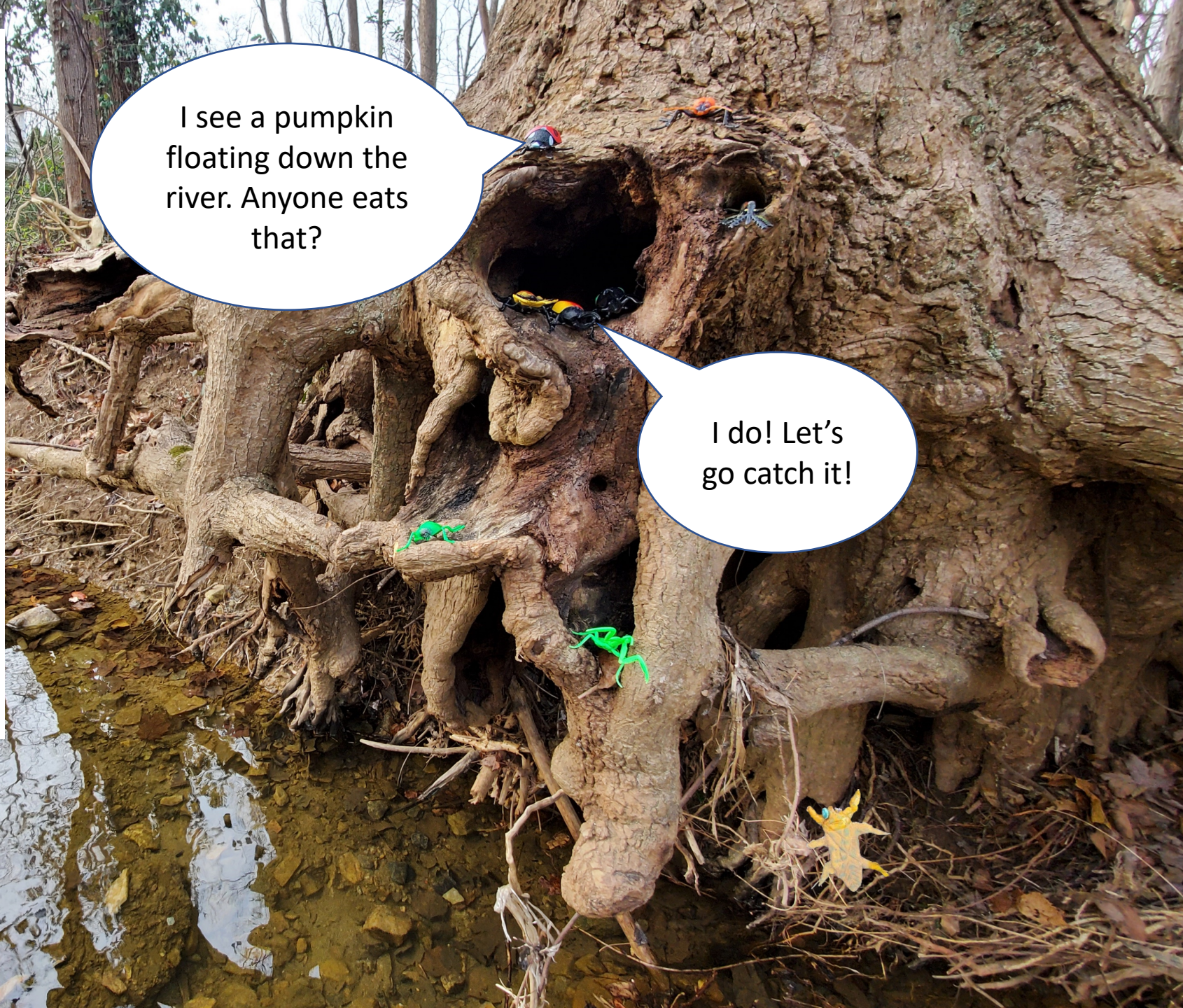
They found the kingfisher again and followed her to her house. It was a burrow in the riverbank! Inside, it was very dark. And it was dangerous, because kingfishers eat insects sometimes.



Finally, they found a nice tree with a hollow trunk and many roots that were hanging from the riverbank.

The tree was far from kingfishers and other predators.

It looked perfect!



I see a pumpkin floating down the river. Anyone eats that?

I do! Let's go catch it!

Giant moved his house to the lower branches of the tree to be closer to his new friends.

The eight bugs: Tiger, Grabs, Spiny, Ladybug, Green, Rhino, Hercules, and Stag...

...lived happily ever after in the roots of the tree, by the little river at the Highlands park.



A photograph of a forest in autumn. In the foreground, a large, weathered log lies horizontally across the frame. The background is filled with tall, thin trees, many of which have lost their leaves, while others still have vibrant yellow and orange foliage. Sunlight filters through the branches, creating a bright, hazy effect in the center of the image. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and small rocks.

The End

Turn the page for fun facts about Ladybug, Spiny, Belted Kingfishers, and Caddisflies.

Ladybug



Superpower:

Can make stinky smell from their limbs, so a bird doesn't eat it

Food:

Aphids and other plant-eating insects. One ladybug can eat up to 5 thousand insects in its lifetime.

Other facts:

Ladybugs are not only red with black dots: they can be black with red dots, orange, have stripes instead of dots, or have no pattern at all!

Ladybugs hibernate during winter.

Spiny Leaf Insect



Superpower:

Camouflage:

- pretend to be ants when they are nymphs,
- pretend to be leaves when they are adults,
- pretend to be a peanut-butter-smelling scorpion when attacked

Food:

Eucalyptus leaves

Other facts:

Can grow to 20 cm long.
Females can clone themselves.

Caddisfly



Superpower:

They build houses for their larvae, which pupates in them and then eats their way out of the house and swims to the surface.

Food:

Leaves, algae, and other plants

Other facts:

They are important for aquatic food chains: they break down leaves and many animals eat them.

There are many caddisflies, and they build houses from different materials: rocks, wood, leaves, and even vegetables!

Belted Kingfisher



Superpower:

They can plunge-dive into water and swim backwards to get out

Food:

Fish and other water-dwelling animals, like dragonflies or crayfish

Other facts:

They dig deep, upward sloped, burrows in the riverbank with their feet, usually about 3-6 feet, but can be up to 28 feet!

The belted kingfisher's females are more brightly colored than males.

Belted Kingfisher is one of the two kinds of kingfishers in North America.

The oldest fossil of Kingfisher genus was found in Florida and is 2 million years old (Tertiary period).

The Bug Story

THE END

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