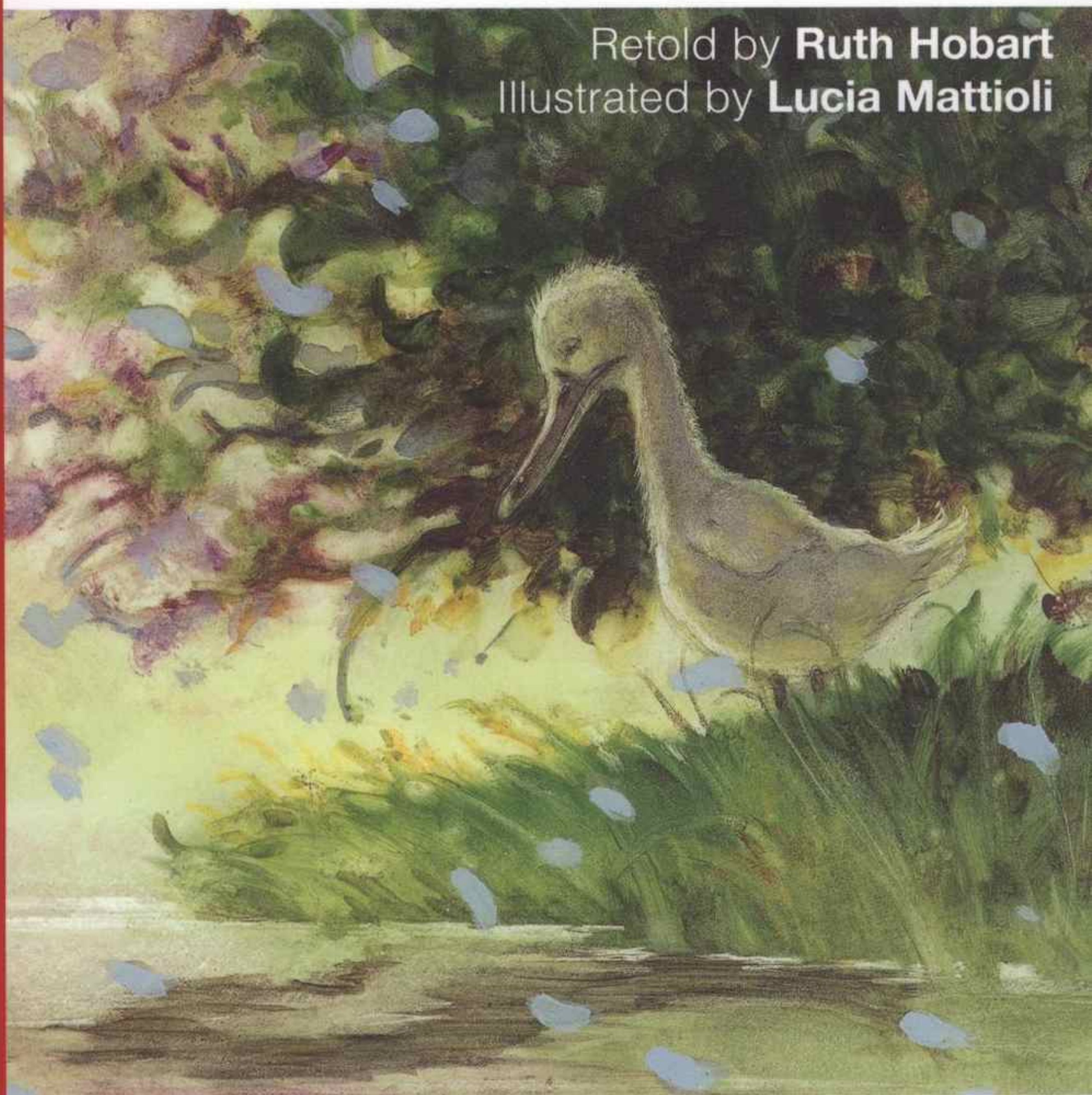


earlyreads

Level
1

The Ugly Duckling

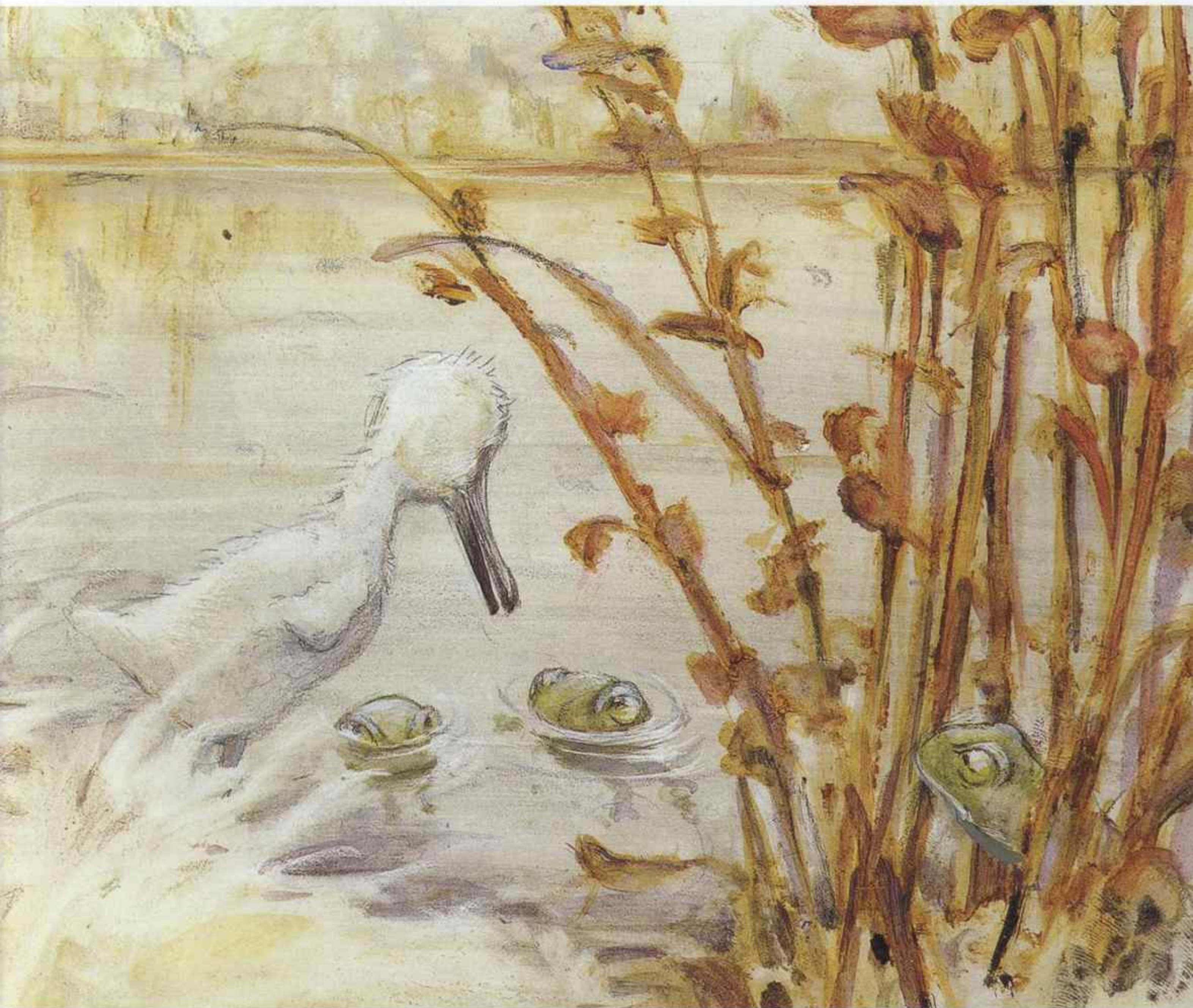
Retold by **Ruth Hobart**
Illustrated by **Lucia Mattioli**

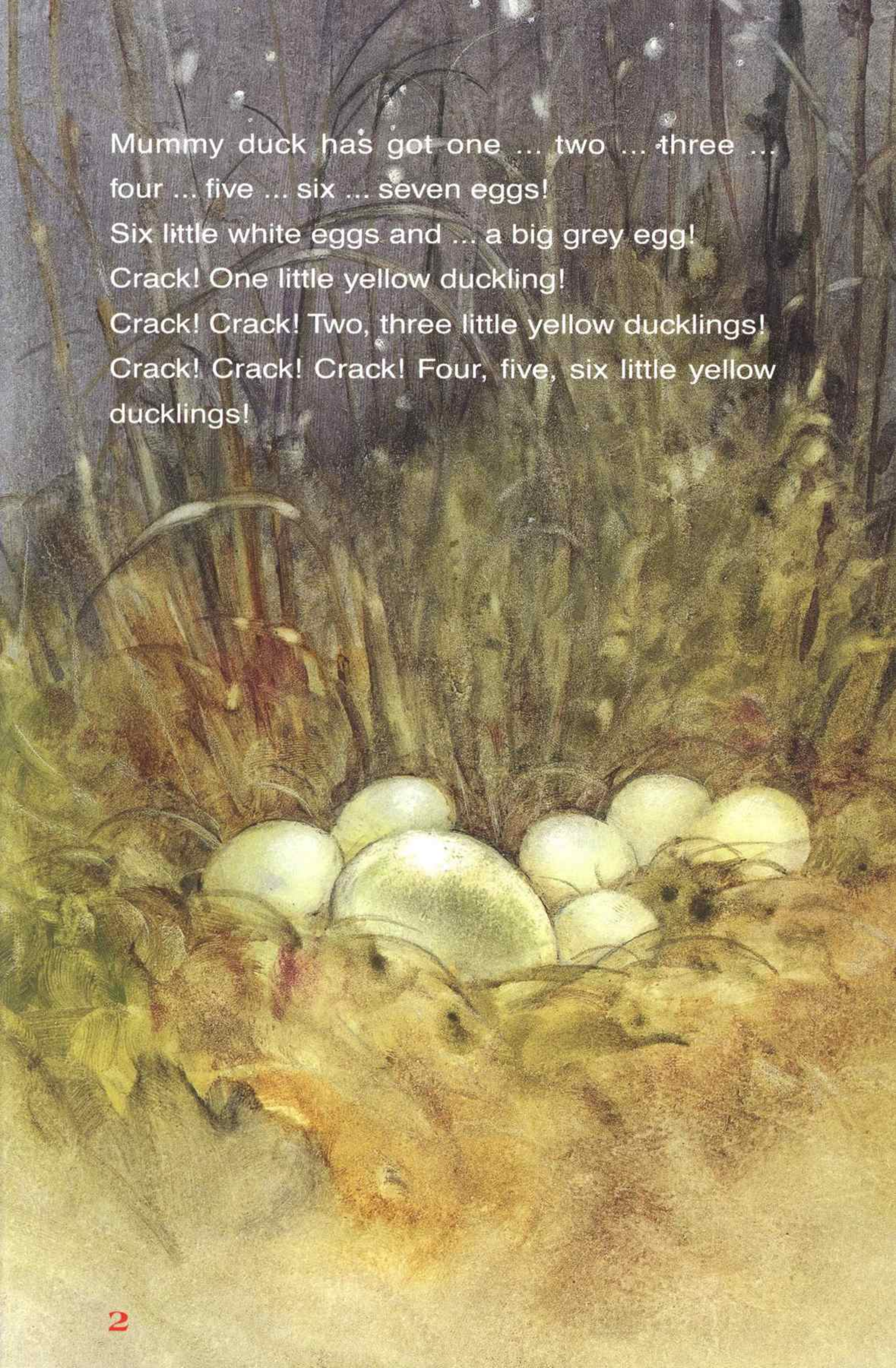


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The Ugly Duckling



The background of the page is a painting of a duck's nest. The nest is situated in a field of tall, dry grass and reeds. In the foreground, several white eggs are visible, some of which are cracked open, revealing yellow ducklings. The painting is done in a soft, painterly style with visible brushstrokes. The colors are muted, with a lot of browns, yellows, and greys, suggesting a natural, somewhat somber environment.

Mummy duck has got one ... two ... three ...
four ... five ... six ... seven eggs!

Six little white eggs and ... a big grey egg!

Crack! One little yellow duckling!

Crack! Crack! Two, three little yellow ducklings!

Crack! Crack! Crack! Four, five, six little yellow
ducklings!



‘One, two, three, four, five, six little yellow ducklings,’
says Mummy duck.

‘But one egg is different. It’s big! It’s grey!’



CRACK!

'Mummy! He's big!' says a little duckling.

'Mummy! He's grey!' says another little duckling.

'Mummy! He's ugly!' says another little duckling.

'Yes, he's different,' says Mummy duck, 'but he's your brother!'



Mummy duck and the seven little ducklings are at the pond.

SPLASH! SPLASH! SPLASH! One, two, three little ducklings go into the water.

‘QUACK! QUACK! QUACK! The water’s lovely!’ say the ducklings.

SPLASH! The big grey duckling goes into the water!

‘QUACK! The water’s lovely,’ says the big grey duckling.





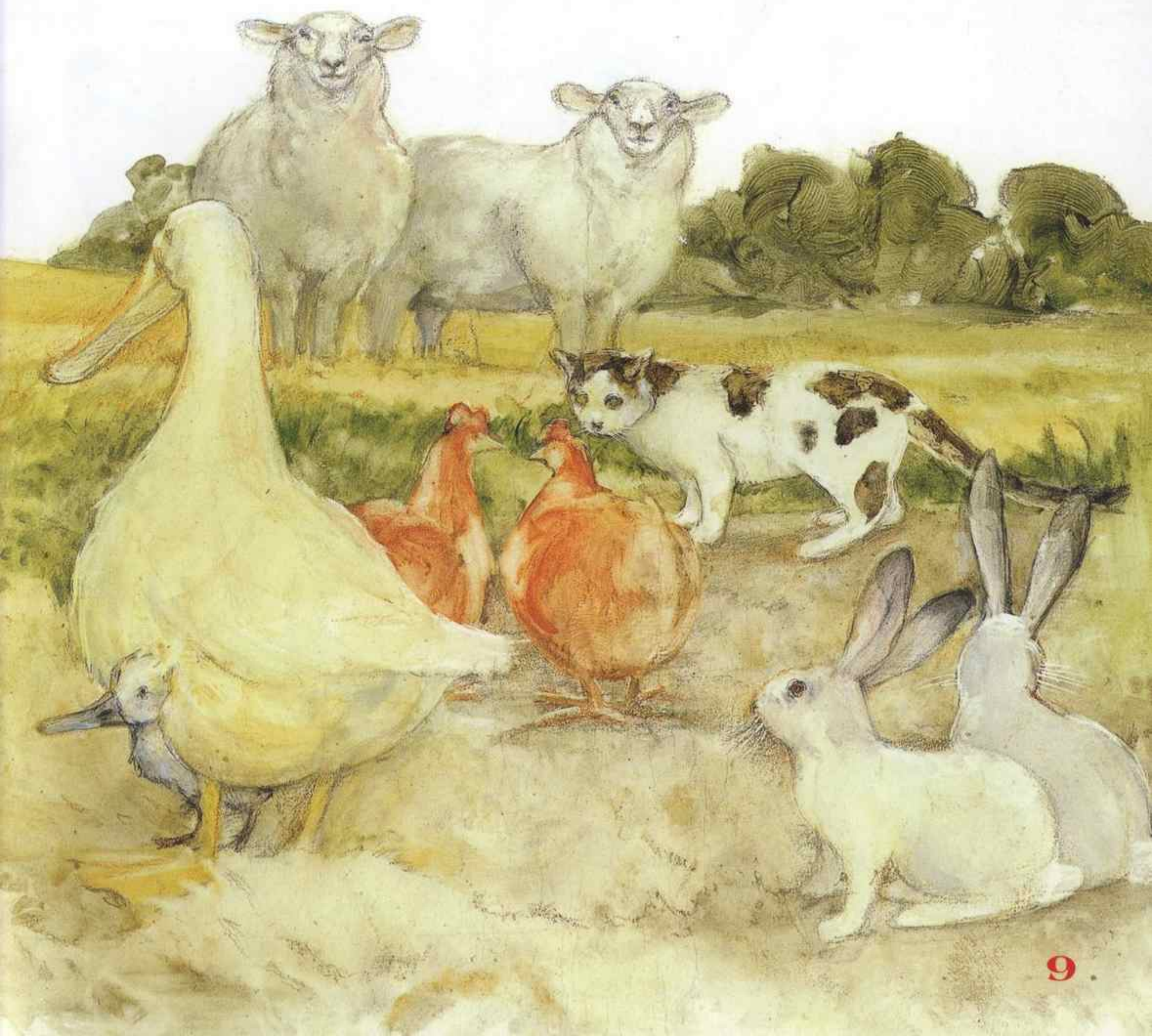


It's summer.

Mummy duck and the ducklings go to the farm.

'Hello,' says Mummy duck. 'Here are my seven little ducklings'.

'No, NOT seven little ducklings!' says the old chicken. 'Six little yellow ducklings ... and one big, grey, ugly duckling!'

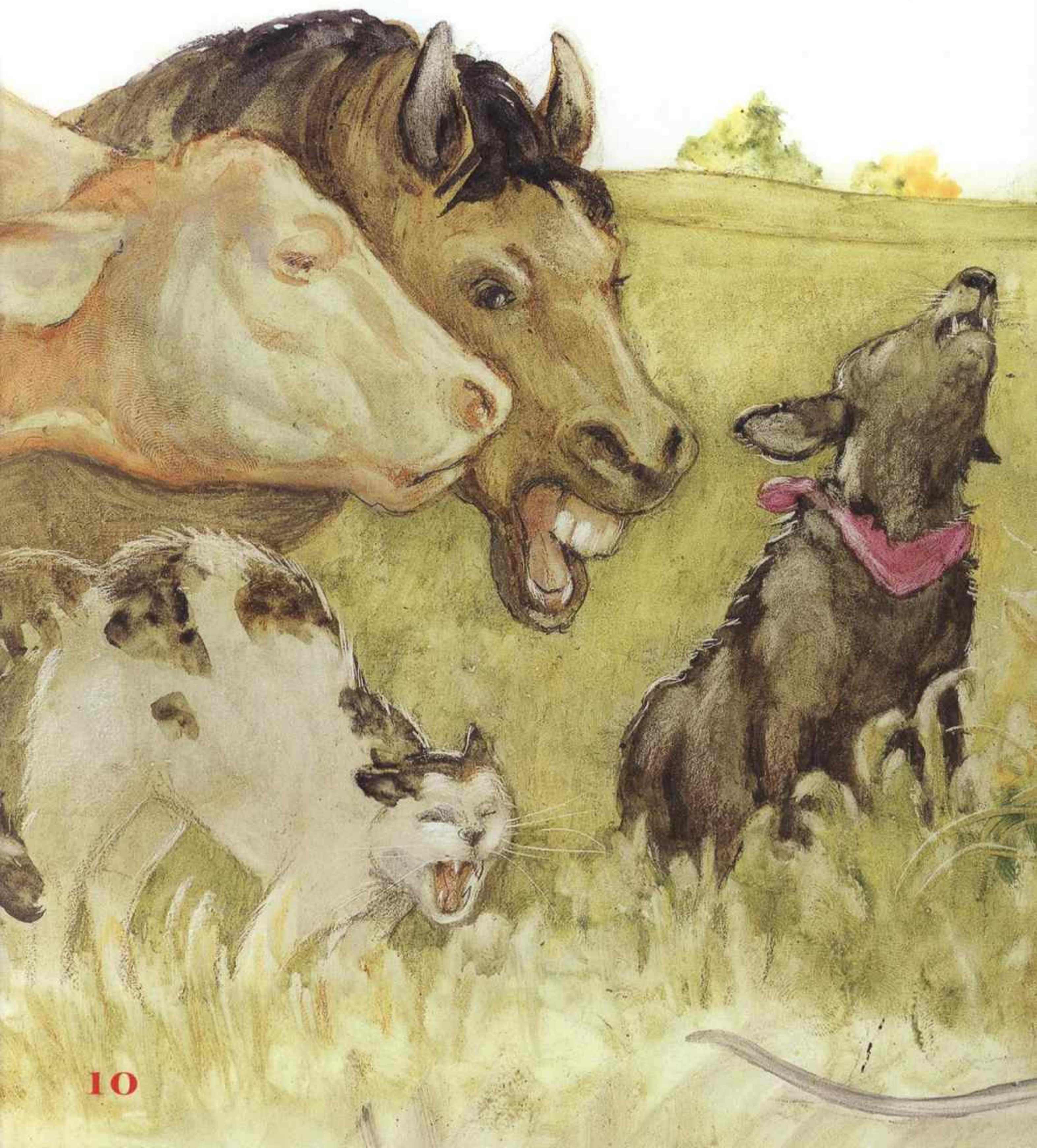


'You're a big duckling!' says the cow.

'You're a grey duckling!' says the dog.

'You're an ugly duckling!' says the horse.

'You're a big, grey, ugly duckling!' says the cat.



‘Ha! Ha! Ha! Look at the Ugly Duckling,’ says a rabbit.
‘Ugly Duckling, go away!’ say the animals, ‘Ugly
Duckling, go away!’



The Ugly Duckling is sad.

The Ugly Duckling goes away from the farm.

‘Hello,’ say the frogs. ‘Who are you?’

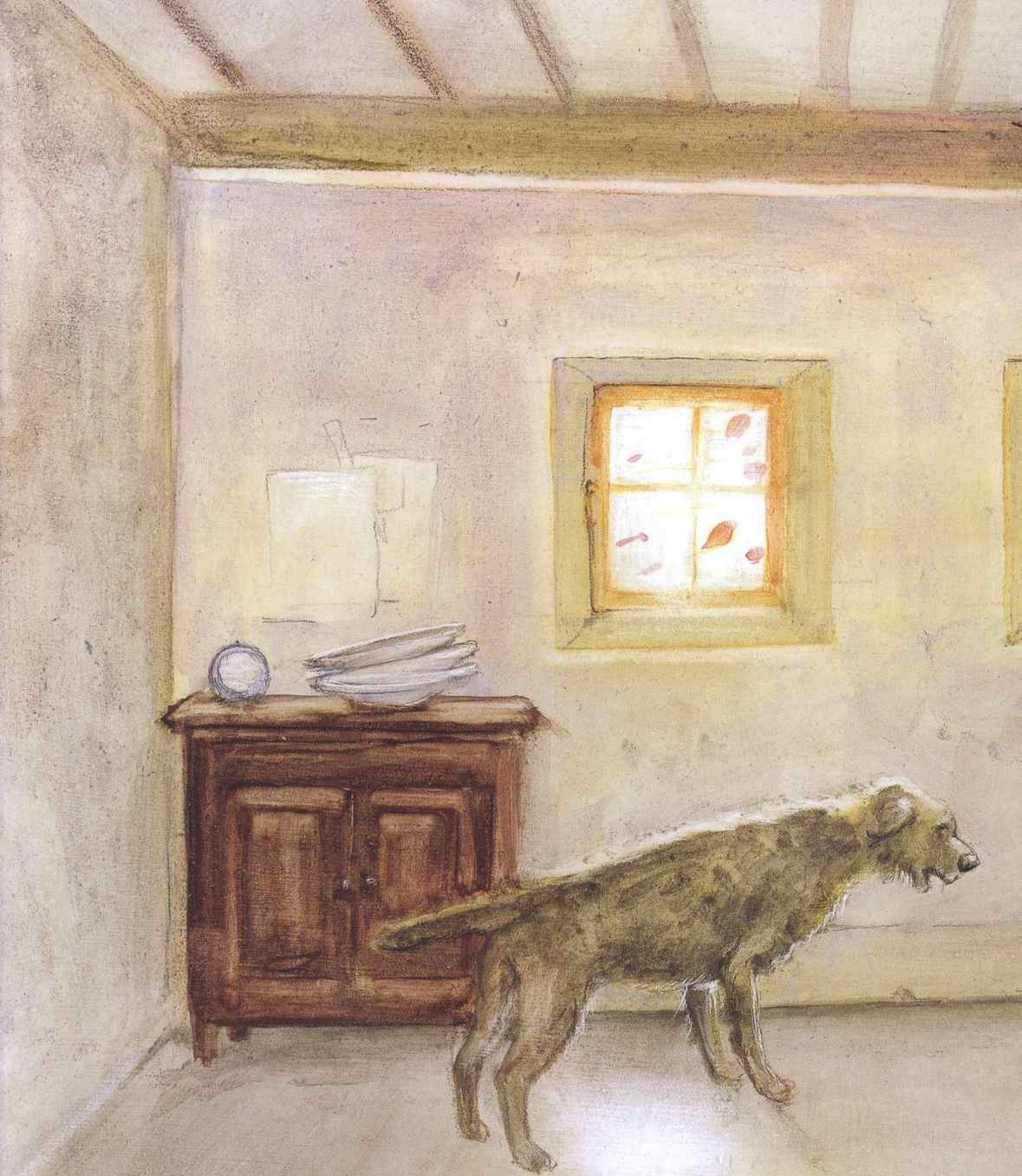
‘Hello, frogs,’ says the Ugly Duckling. ‘I’m the Ugly Duckling.’

‘Oh! You’re big ... and grey ... and ugly!’ say the frogs.

‘Ugly Duckling, go away!’ say the frogs, ‘Ugly Duckling, go away!’







It's autumn.

The Ugly Duckling is sad and tired.

He goes into a house.

'Hello, old lady,' he says, 'Hello, dog. Hello, cat.'

'Who are you?' says the old lady.



‘I’m the Ugly Duckling,’ says the Ugly Duckling.

‘Oh! You’re big’ says the old lady.

‘Oh! You’re grey!’ says the dog.

‘Oh! You’re ugly!’ says the cat.

‘Ugly Duckling, go away! Ugly Duckling, go away!’



It's winter.

The Ugly Duckling is cold and tired.

He goes into a farmhouse.

'He's ugly!' say the children.



‘Yes, he’s ugly. But he’s cold and tired,’ says the farmer. ‘Let’s give him some milk.’

‘Let’s play with the Ugly Duckling,’ say the children.

‘No! Let me go!’ says the Ugly Duckling.

SPLASH! He goes into the milk!

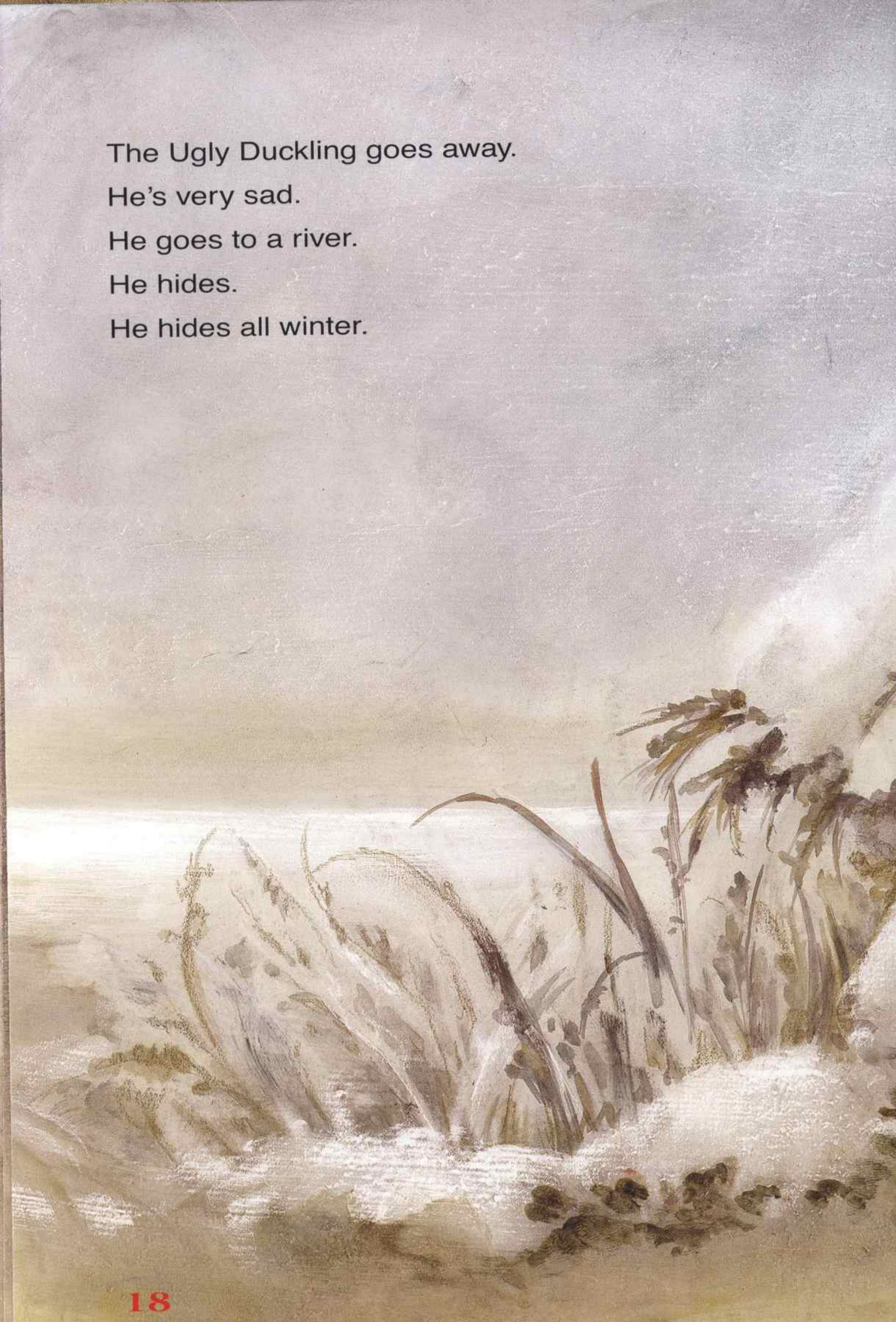
The Ugly Duckling goes away.

He's very sad.

He goes to a river.

He hides.

He hides all winter.





It's spring.

'What a beautiful swan!' says a swan.

'A beautiful swan?...Where?' says the Ugly Duckling.

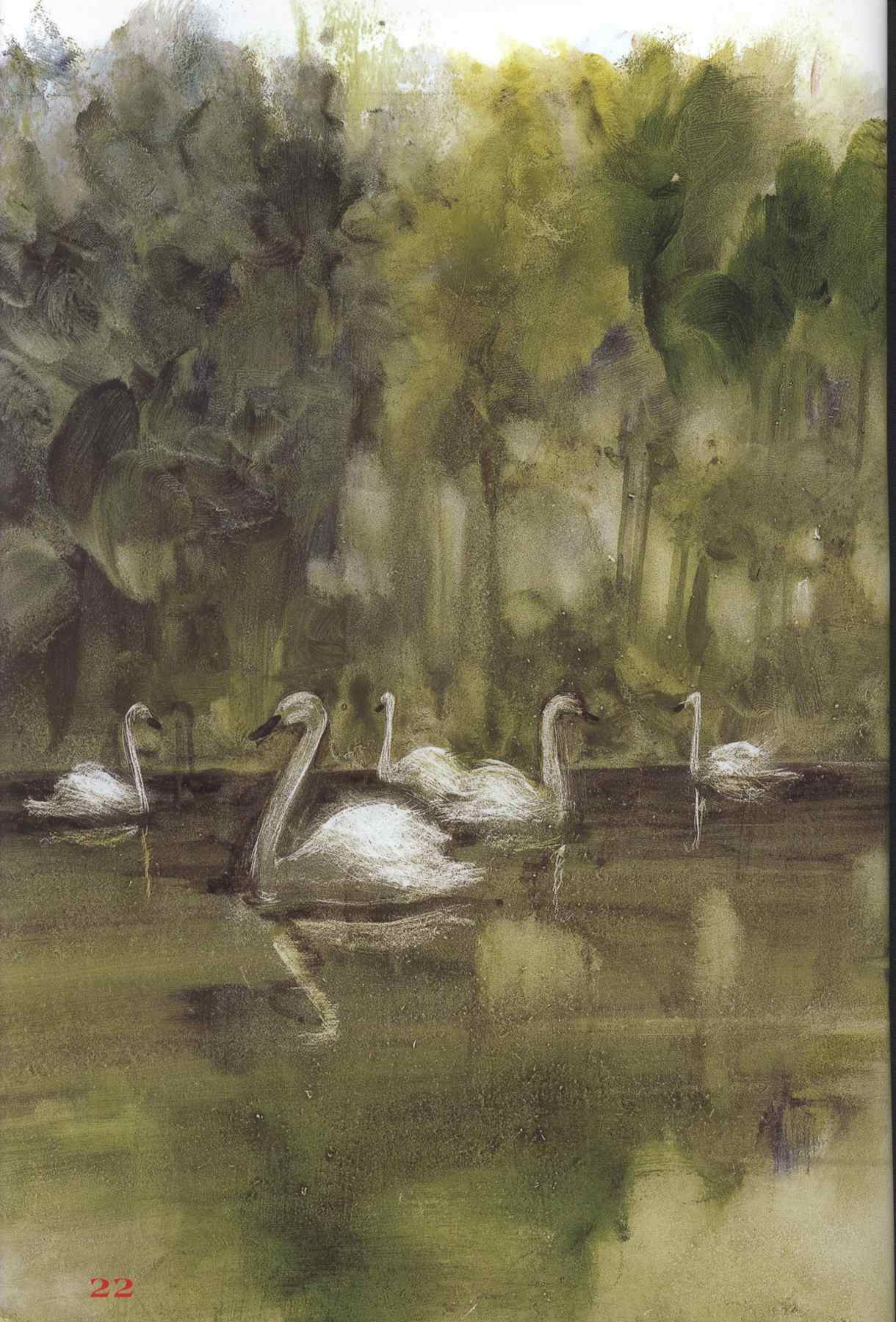
'You're the beautiful swan!' says another swan.

'No, I'm not a swan! I'm an ugly duckling!' says the Ugly Duckling.

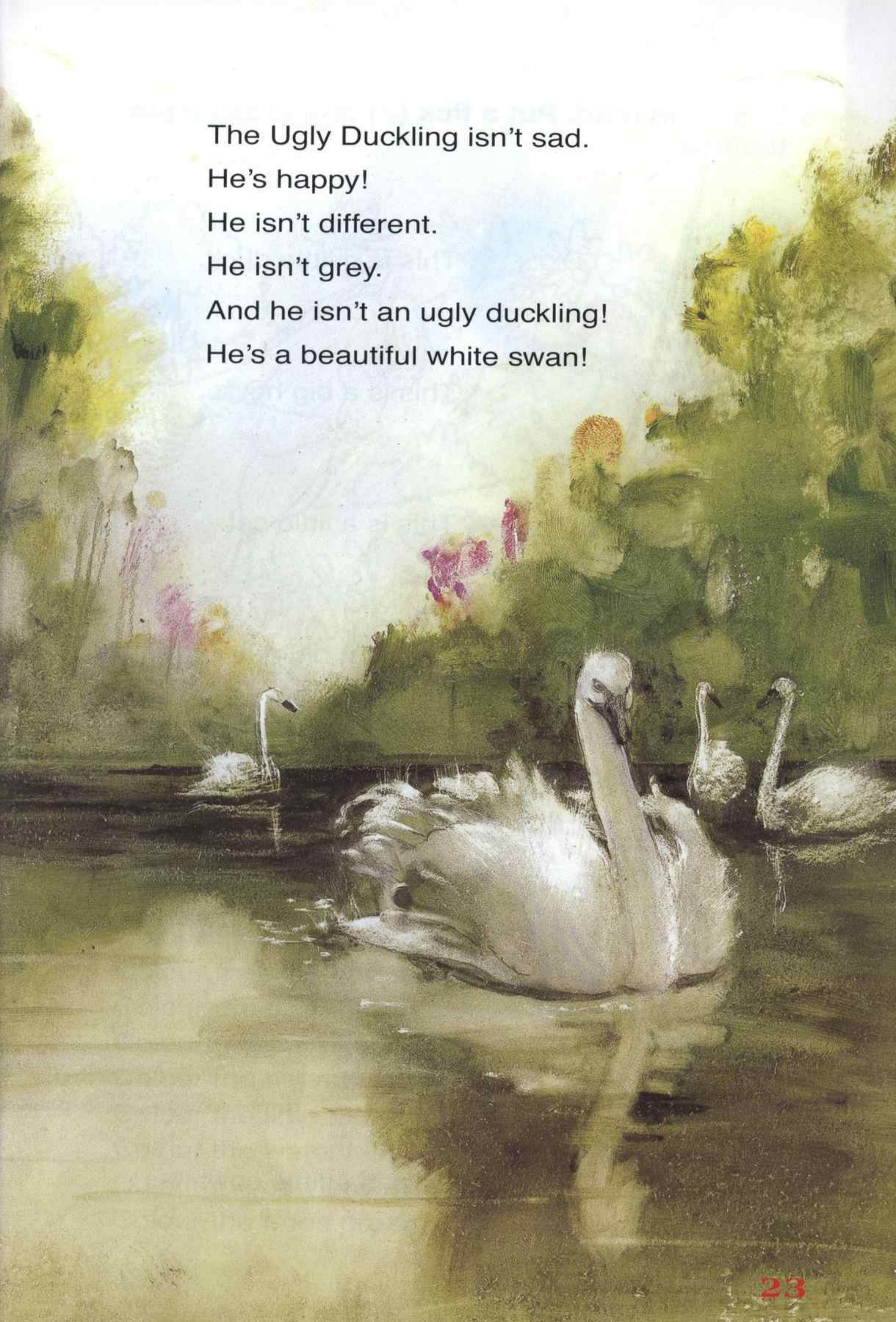


‘No, you’re not an ugly duckling. You’re a swan. A beautiful swan!’ say the swans. ‘Look in the water!’
‘Oh, yes! I’m a swan!’ says the Ugly Duckling, ‘I’m a beautiful white swan!’





The Ugly Duckling isn't sad.
He's happy!
He isn't different.
He isn't grey.
And he isn't an ugly duckling!
He's a beautiful white swan!



1 Look and read. Put a tick (✓) or a cross (X) in the box.



This is a little duck.



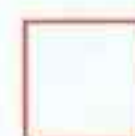
This is a big horse.



1.



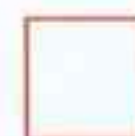
This is a little cat.



2.



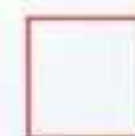
This is a big duckling.



3.



This is a big horse.



4.



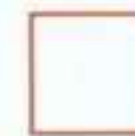
This is a little rabbit.



5.



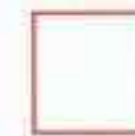
This is a big swan.



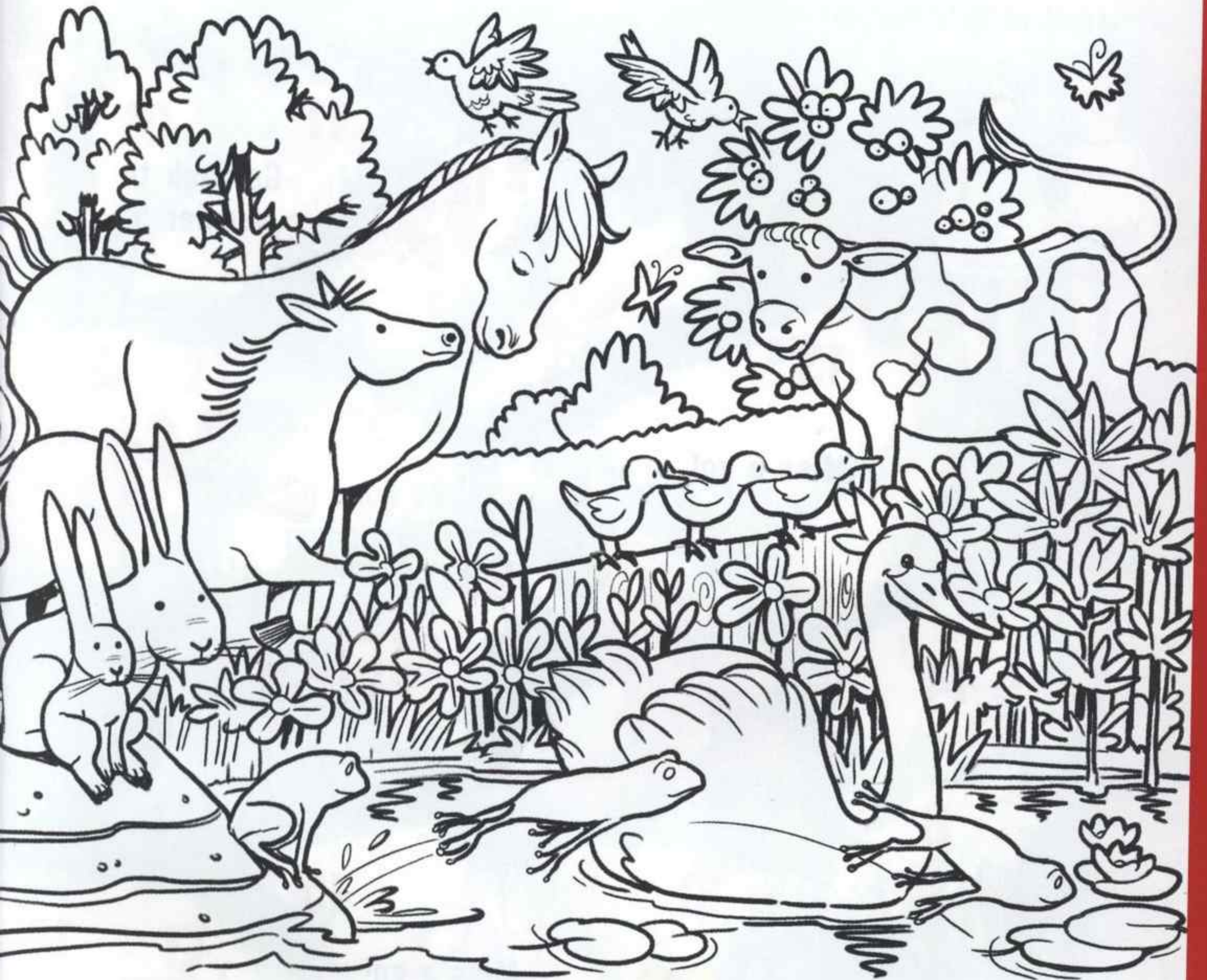
6.



This is a little cow.



2 Read and colour.



Colour the big horse brown.
Colour the little horse black.
Colour the flowers red, yellow and blue.
Colour the ducklings yellow.
Colour the big rabbit grey.
Colour the little rabbit brown.
Colour the water blue.
Colour the cow brown and white.
Colour the frogs green.

3 Board game

You need a dice  , counters 
and a friend or two!



13

Miss a go!

14



START

1

12



11

Go back to
number 5

22



23

FINISH

15

Miss a go!

16



2





10

9

8

Miss a go!

21

20

Go back to
number 15

7

19

6

Go back to
number 2

18

17

Go to
number 21

5

4

Go to number 6

3

4 Join the pictures to the words.

OLD LADY

EGG

SWAN

FROG



HOUSE

DUCK

HORSE

RIVER

Picture Dictionary

cat :



chicken :



cow :



dog :



duck :



duckling :



frog :



horse :



rabbit :



swan :



beautiful :



ugly :



big :



little :



cold :



happy :



sad :



tired :



brother :



children :



farmer :



one : 1
two : 2
three : 3
four : 4
five : 5
six : 6
seven : 7

farm :



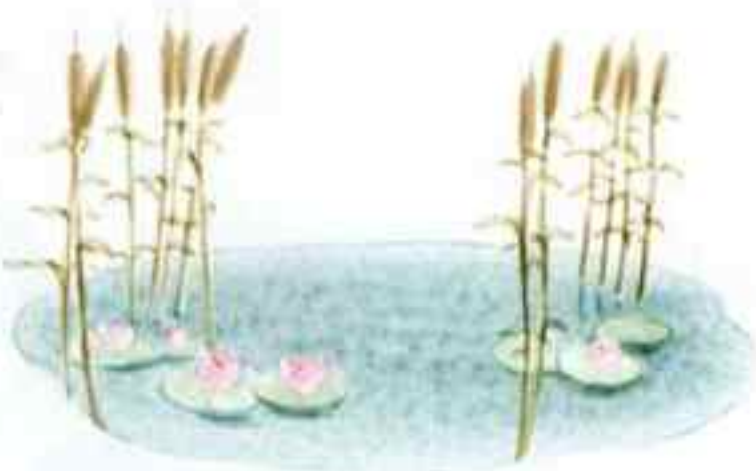
farmhouse :



house :



pond :



river :



give :



hide :



look :



play :



grey :



white :



yellow :



autumn :



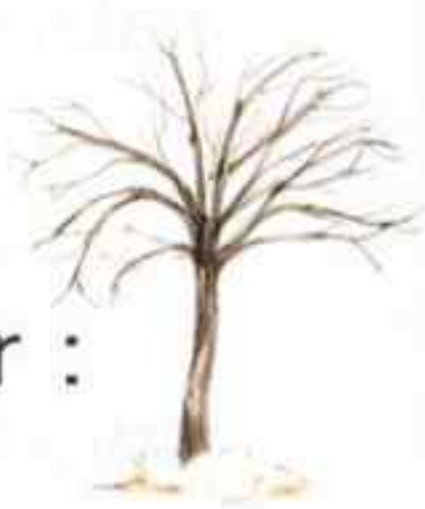
spring :



summer :



winter :



Key

Activity 1: 1. X; 2. X; 3. ✓; 4. ✓; 5. ✓; 6. X

Activity 4:



SWAN



HORSE



OLD LADY



EGG



FROG



RIVER



DUCK



HOUSE

Editor: Robert Hill

Design and art direction: Nadia Maestri

Computer graphics: Simona Corniola

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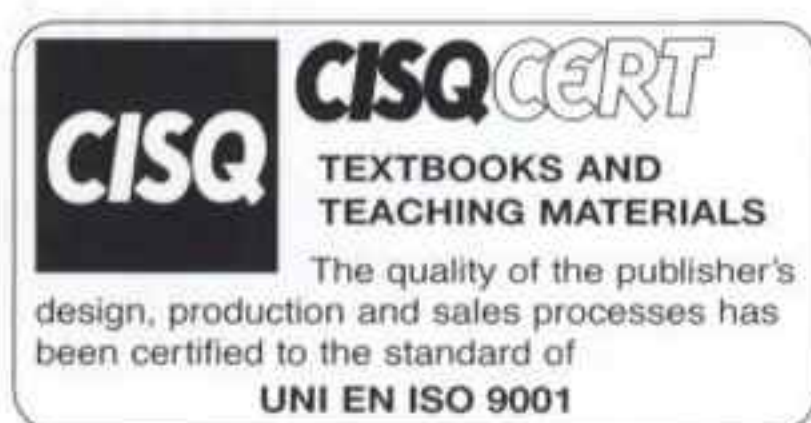
First edition : January 2006

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ISBN 978-88-530-0494-9 Book

Printed in Italy by Litoprint, Genoa





This much-loved story is about a little duckling who is different from the other ducklings. Everyone laughs at him, animals and humans alike, and only his mum loves him. But when spring comes, he sees his reflection in the water, and ... what a change has taken place!

- Beautiful illustrations captivate the imagination and make understanding easy
- Simple, repetitive language will soon have children memorising the story
- Games and language activities after the story make practising English fun
- A picture dictionary at the end of the book encourages vocabulary acquisition
- An audio recording of the story in full is downloadable free of charge from the Black Cat website: www.blackcat-cideb.com
- A playscript of the story is available on the website



Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

Level 5

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ISBN 978-88-530-0494-9
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