

The Rainbow Fish

Author: Jayashree Deshpande

Illustrator: Monappa

Translator: Divaspathy Hegde

Raju lived in the city. But every summer, when school was out, he headed straight for his Ajja's house in the village.

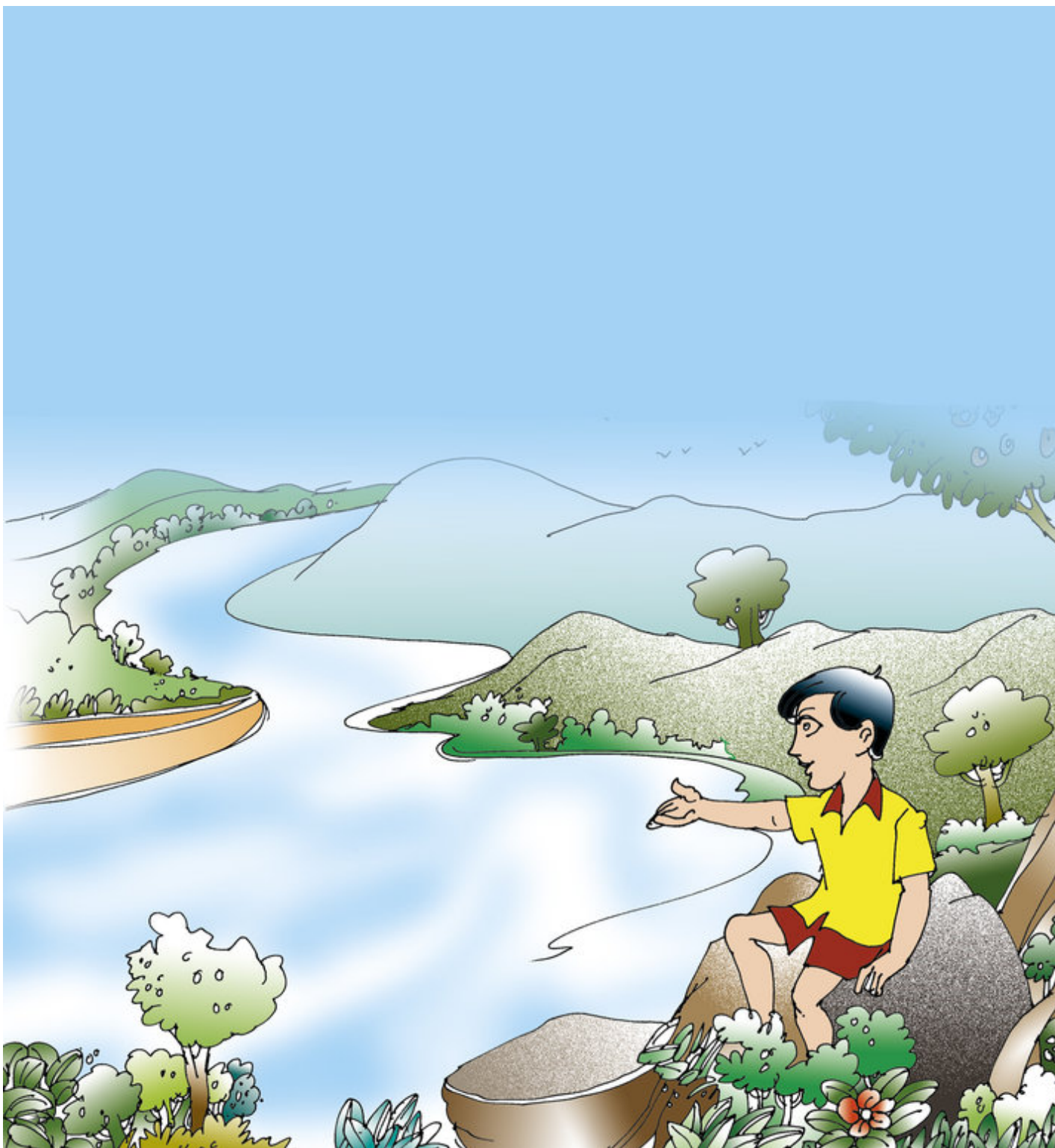
One summer, Raju decided it was time he learnt to swim.

"Ajja, I want to learn to swim," he said to his Ajja.

"Will you teach me?"

"That's wonderful!" said Ajja. "I shall take you down to the river tomorrow, and Mallanna Sir will teach you."



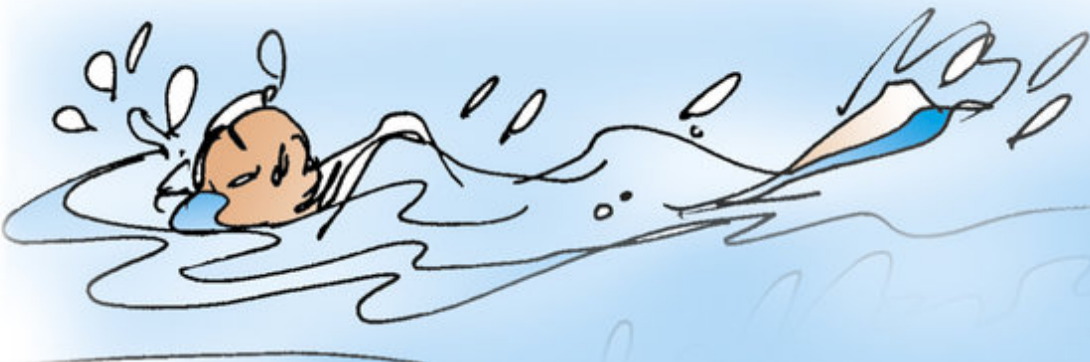


That night, Raju's dreams were full of happy thoughts about learning to swim.

When Raju and Ajja went down to the river the next morning, they saw that the river was full of children learning to swim. "Have you come to join Mallanna Sir's classes?" one of them called out to him.

“Yes,” said Raju. “I want to learn to swim like you all. But I’m a little scared, sometimes...”

“Don’t be,” said the children. “Soon you will be swimming like a fish.” Saying this, the children climbed on to the top of a rock and began to leap into the water one after the other. No sooner had they landed than they began swimming strongly.





Raju wasn't ready to jump in yet. He sat on the rock, dangling his feet in the cool water. Then he gave a sudden start: something was tickling his feet!

Looking down into the water, he saw that it was full of little fish - green ones, yellow ones, and brown ones. They all had long thin tails.





As he watched, Raju saw a large rainbow coloured fish swimming quickly up to him. "What are you doing here, Raju?" asked the fish.

"I want to learn to swim like you," answered Raju. "You are all such fabulous swimmers!"

The fish laughed. "We'd better be!" said the rainbow fish.
"The water is our natural environment. We are very happy here.
But you humans spoil everything by trapping us in your nets."

"You're right," said Raju. "I have read that fishermen catch fish
like you and sell them in the market."





"What else have you read?"
asked the rainbow fish.

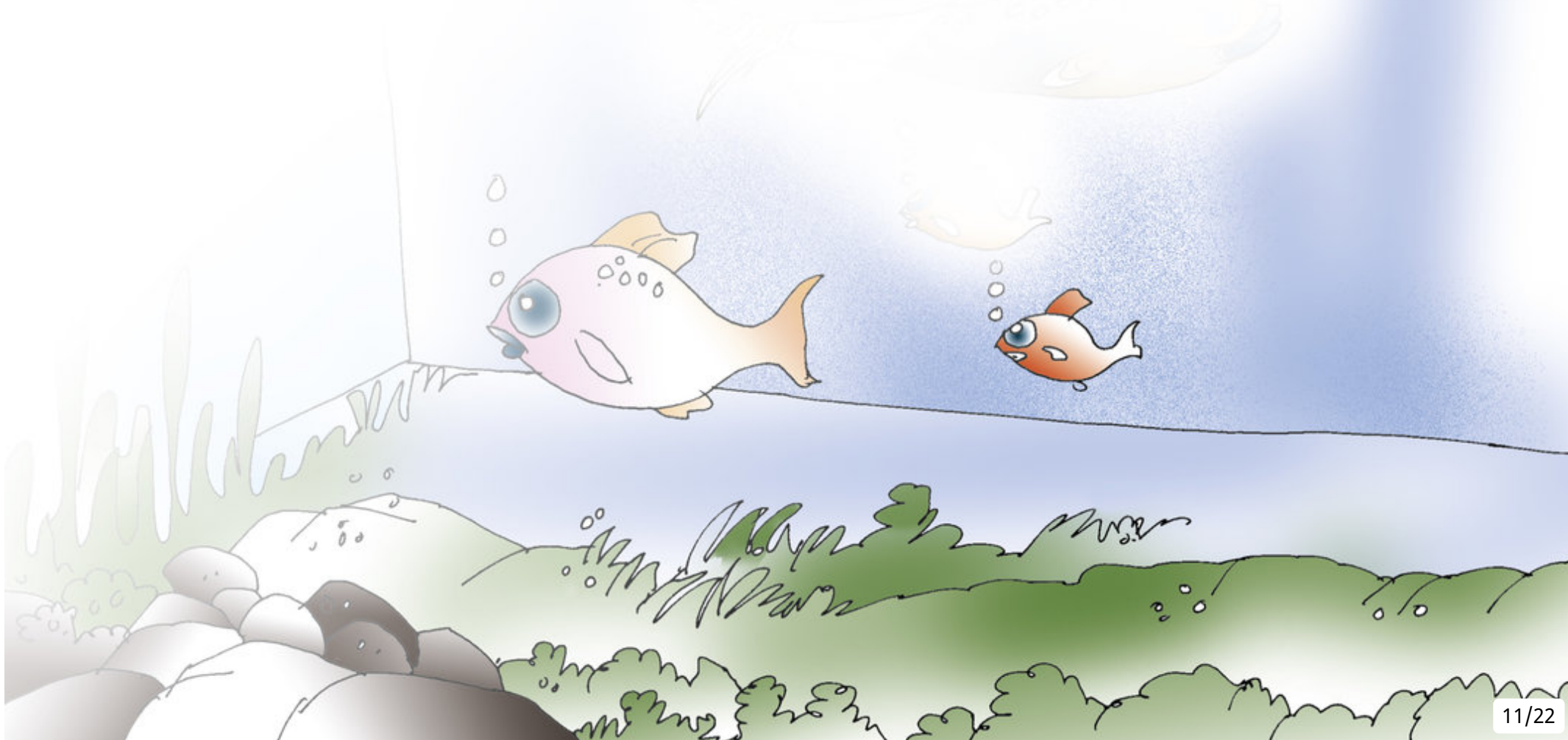
"Do you have any idea how
many kinds of fish there are
in the world?"

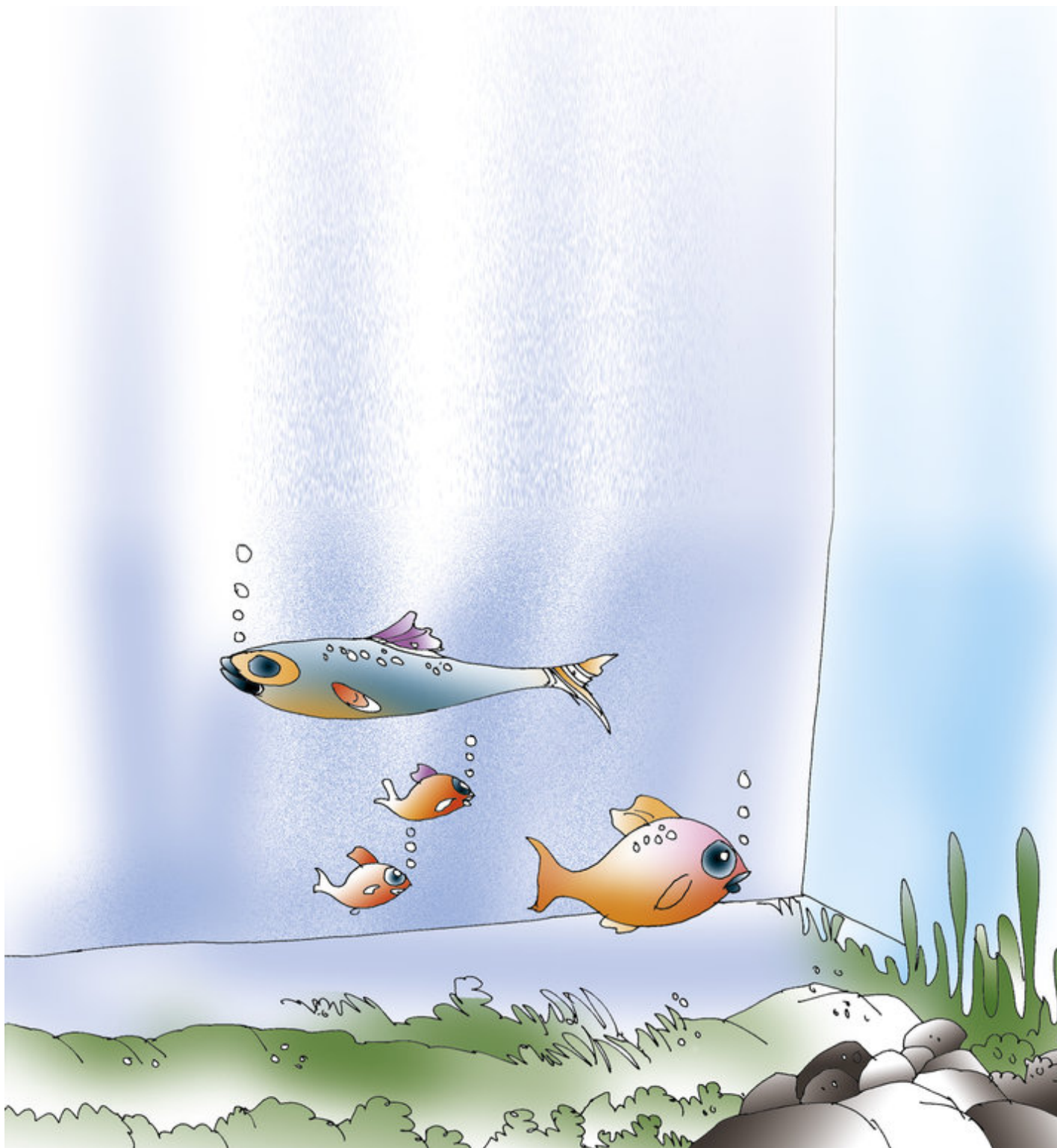


"Sort of," replied Raju. "We have a fat book at school with pictures of hundreds of kinds of fish."

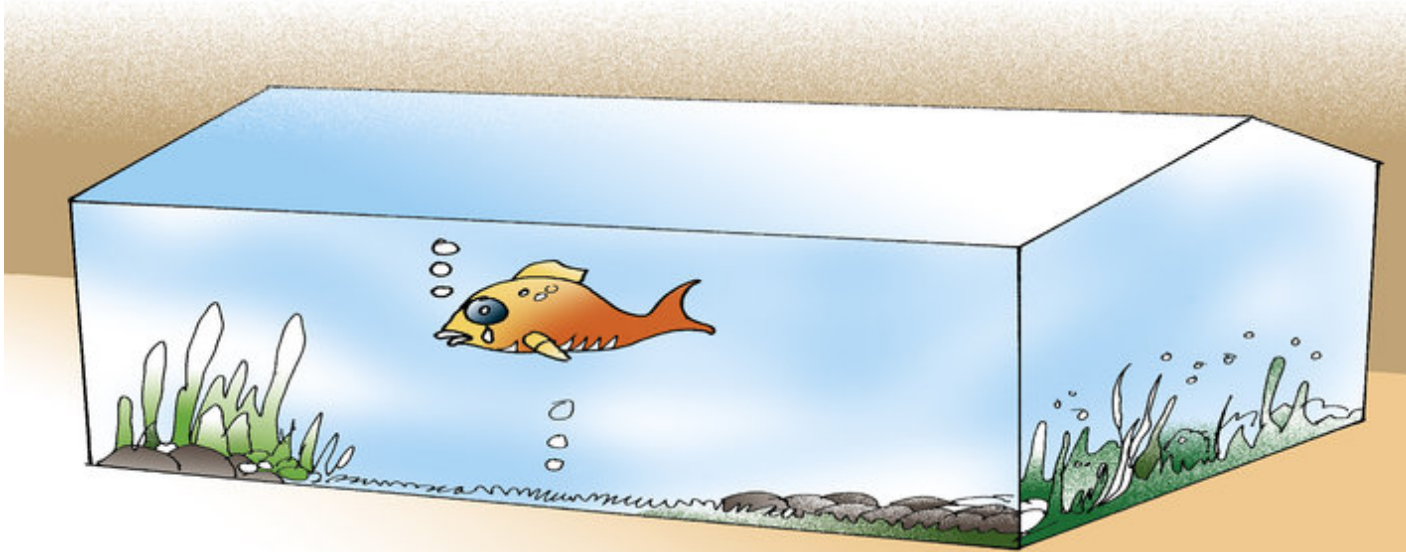
"Then you probably also know of the glass boxes that people imprison us in," said the rainbow fish.

“Do you mean fish tanks?” asked Raju. “Of course I know about them. There is a building called an aquarium in our city that is full of glass boxes with different kinds of colourful fish.

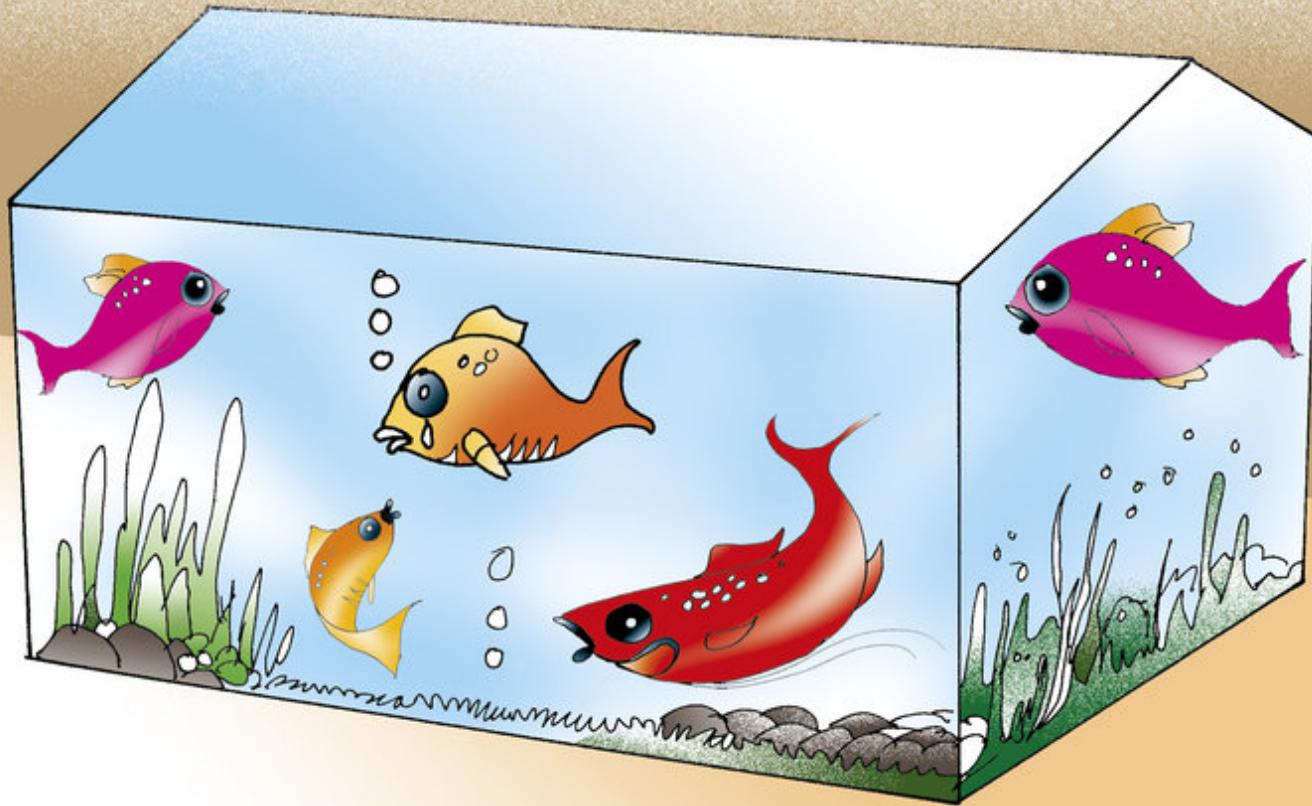




Why, I have a little fish tank
in my own house full of the
prettiest little fish!"

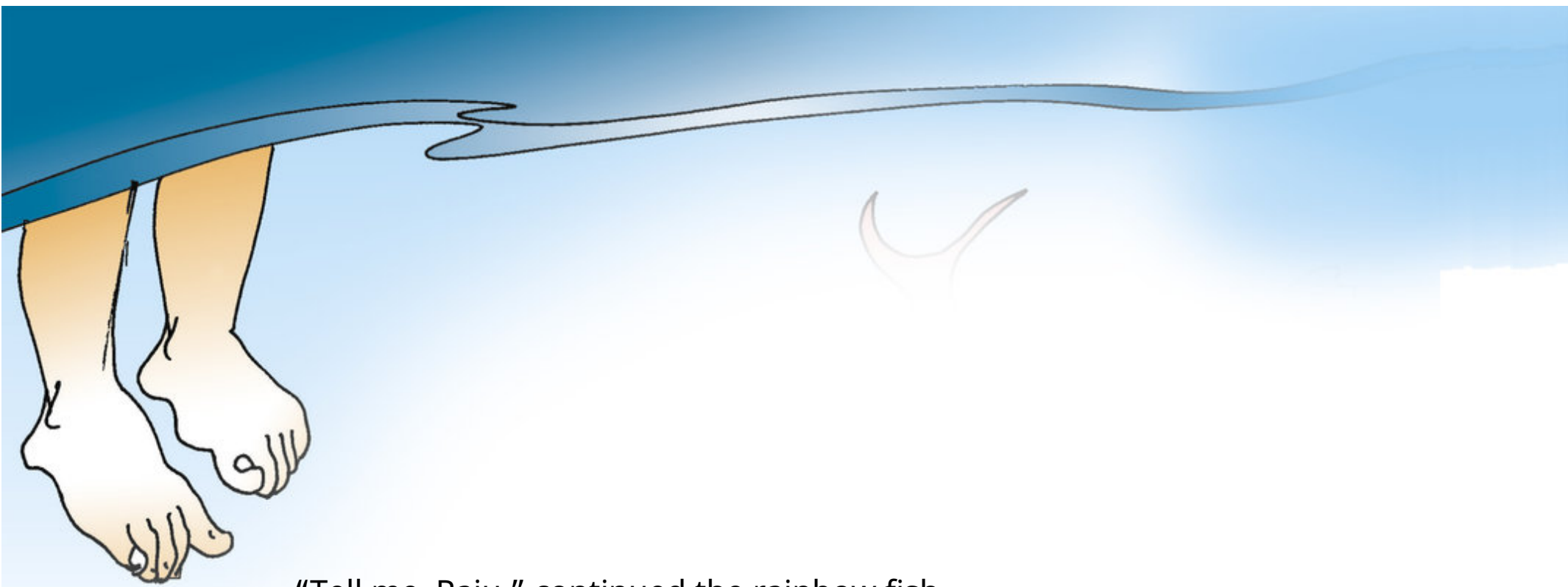


The rainbow fish sighed.
"Yes, Raju," he said.
"Mother Nature blessed us
with bright colours and
beautiful shapes. We wish
no one any harm. All we
want is to be left alone, to
enjoy our rivers and lakes
and our oceans and seas...



But you humans simply do not let us live freely and fearlessly."

"You're right, Rainbow Fish," agreed Raju.



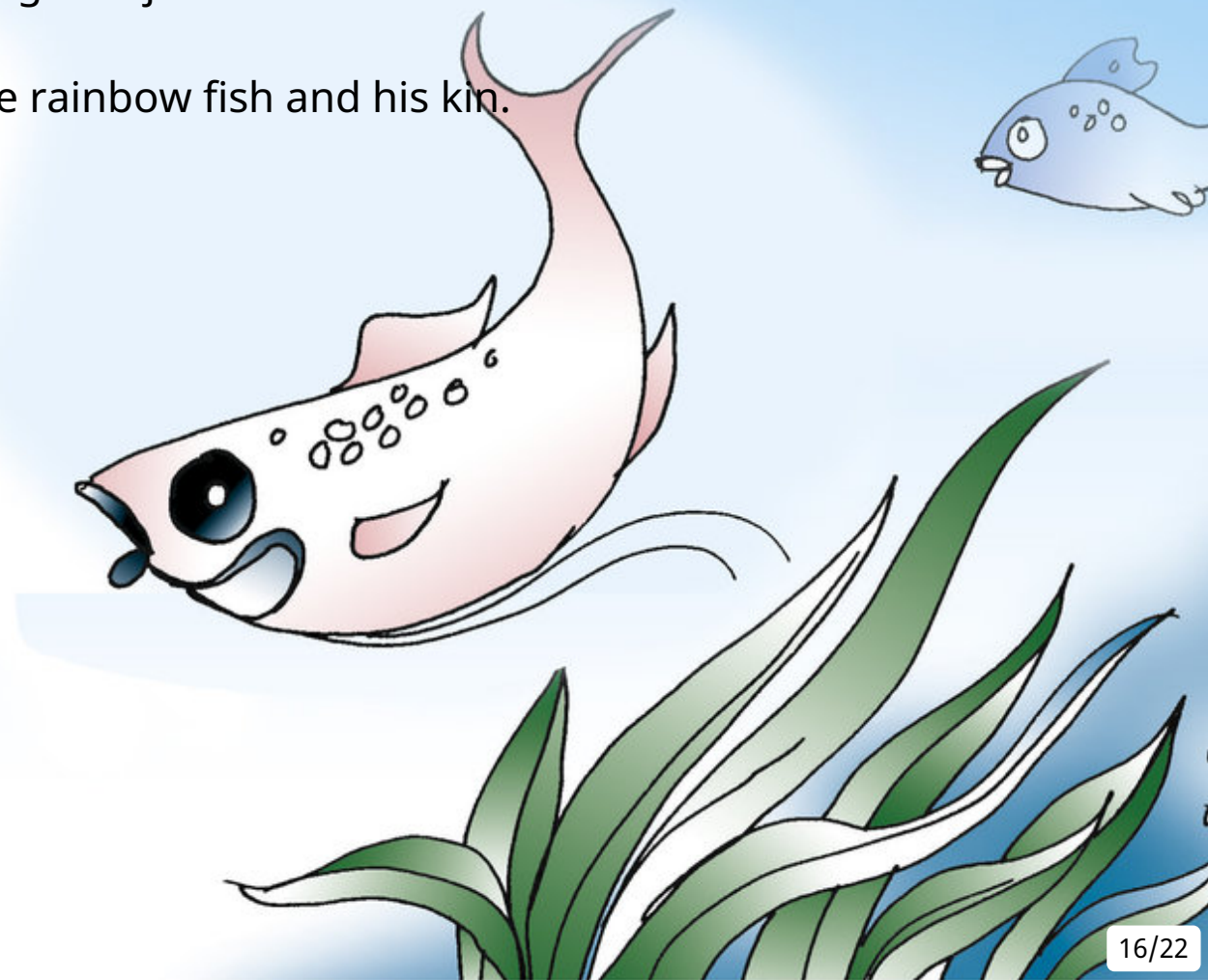
"Tell me, Raju," continued the rainbow fish.

"Would you like to live in a little glass box where there isn't enough room to move about, not enough natural food, and no friends or relatives anywhere in sight? We don't. We hate it.

But you humans simply do not understand!"

Raju thought about it. He didn't think he would enjoy being trapped in a glass box at all. It was a terrible thing to imprison any living creature, thought Raju.

He felt very sorry for the rainbow fish and his kin.





Raju turned to the rainbow fish. "When I go back to the city, I shall let all the fish in my tank go," he promised.

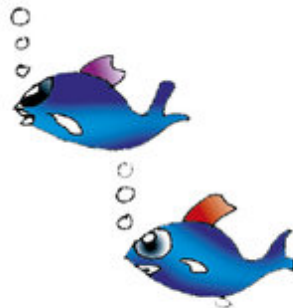
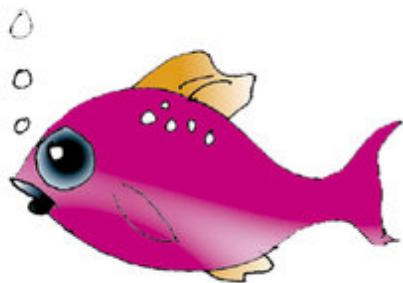
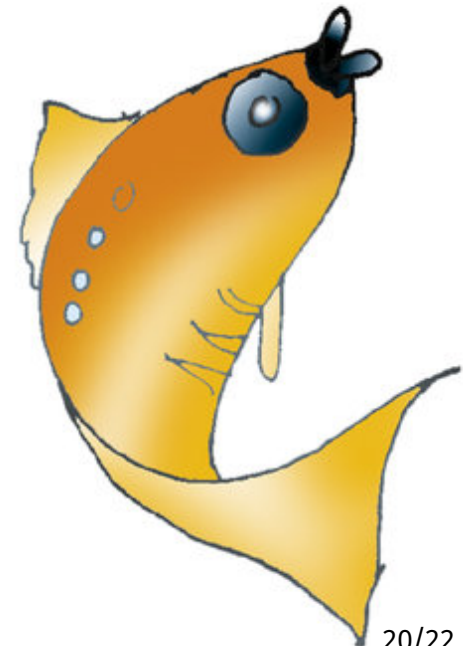
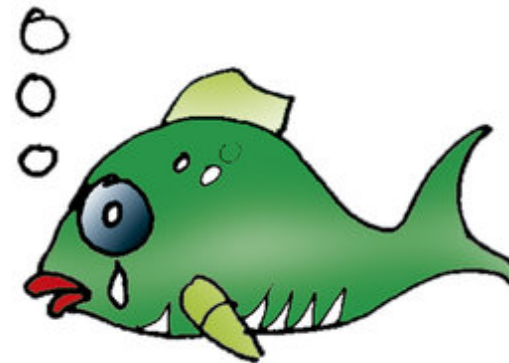
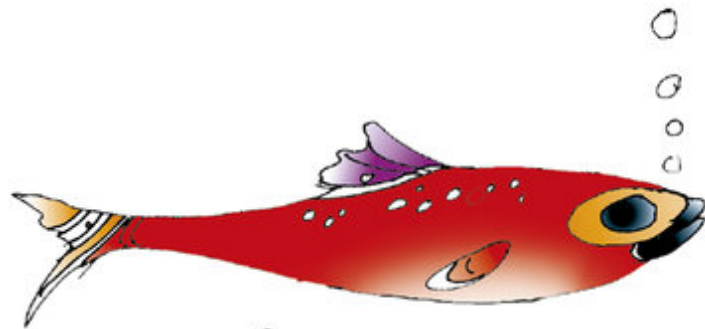
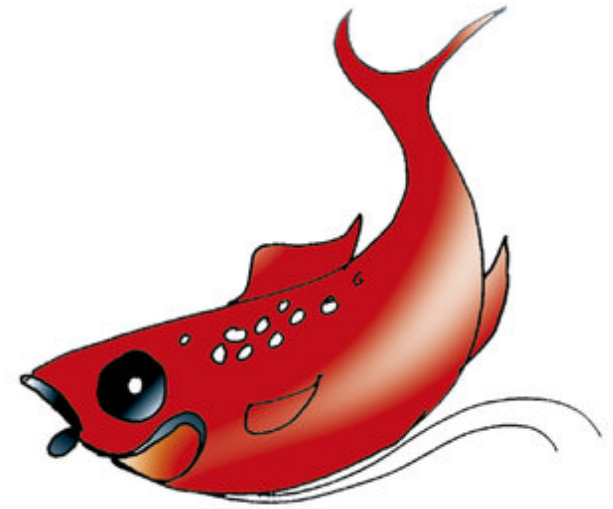
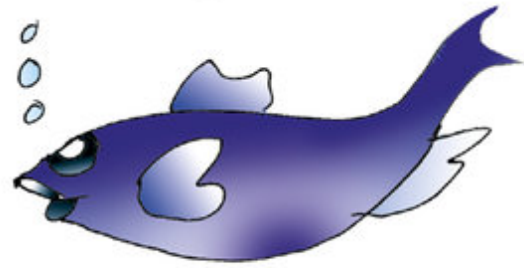
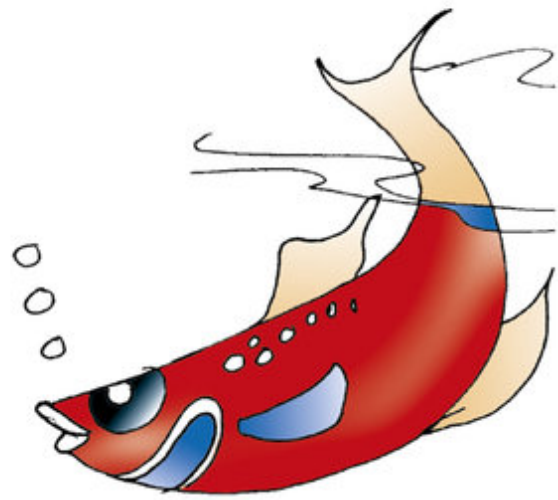
"And I will tell all my friends to do the same. Are you happy now, Rainbow Fish?"

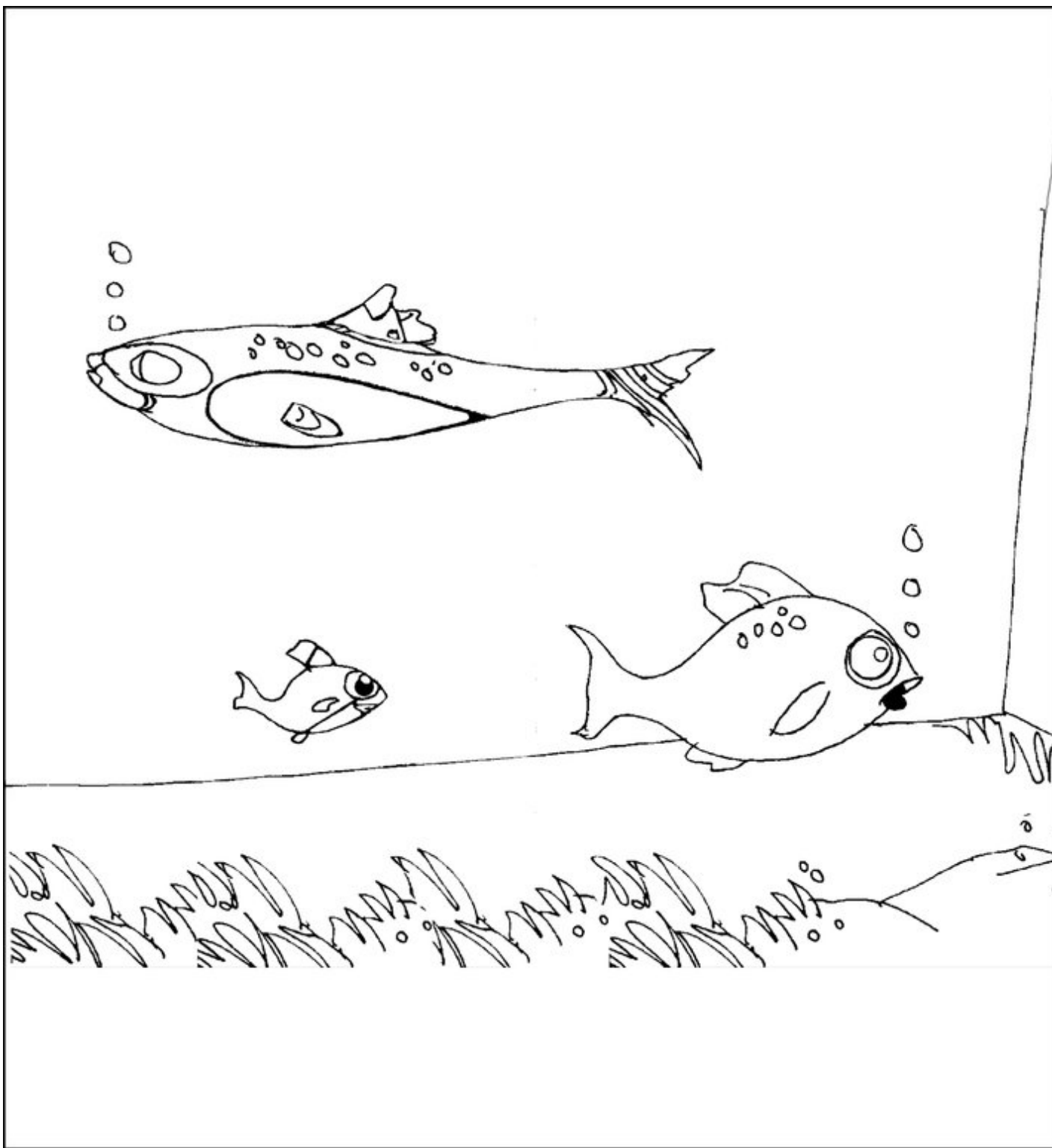
“Yes, Raju,” smiled the fish. “You are an understanding child, and you have a kind heart. Thank you.”

All the fish swam past Raju’s feet, tickling them again in a final goodbye, before they plunged once more into the depths of the river.

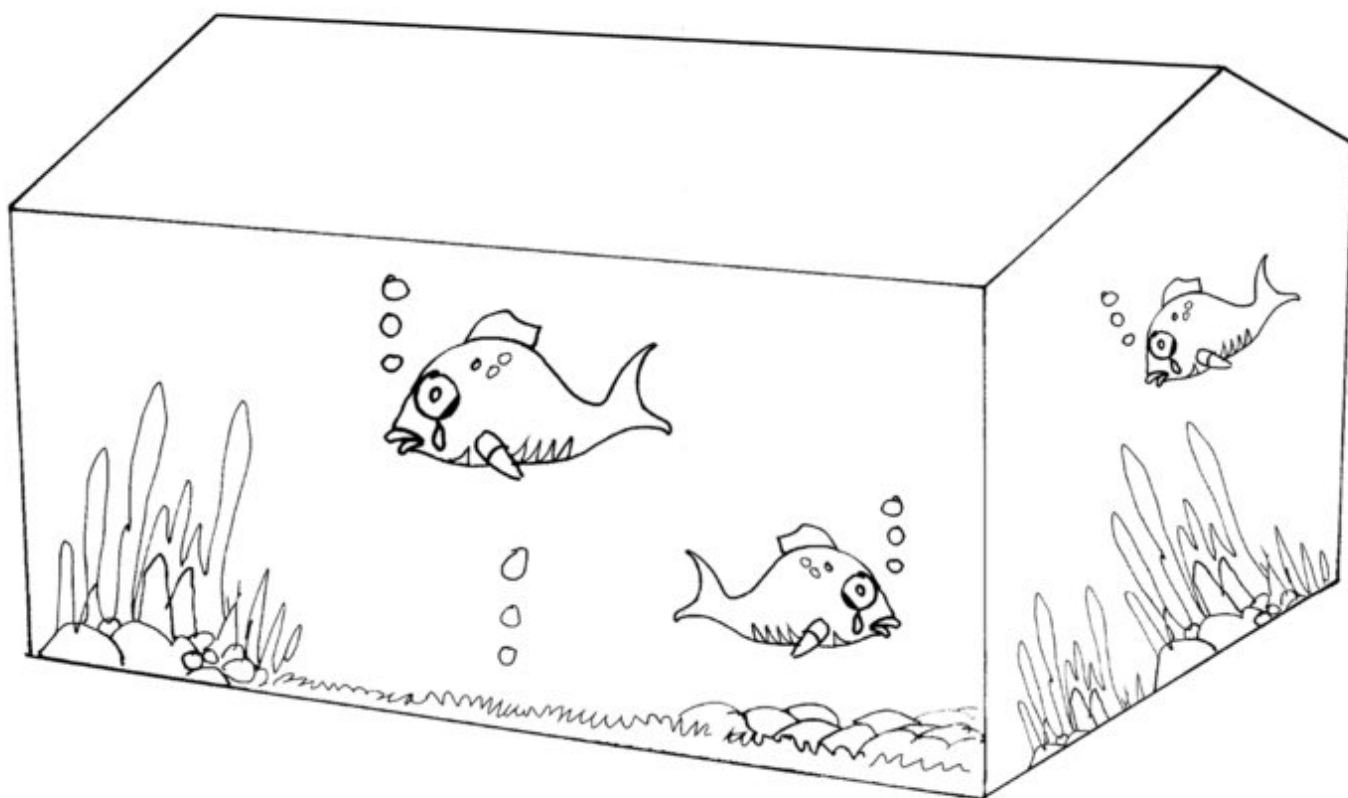








Use your imagination and colour this picture any way YOU like.



Use your imagination and
colour this picture any way
YOU like.

Story Attribution:

This story: The Rainbow Fish is translated by [Divaspathy Hegde](#). The © for this translation lies with Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Based on Original story: 'ಬಣ್ಣದ ಮೀನು', by [Jayashree Deshpande](#). © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Other Credits:

'The Rainbow Fish' has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. The development of this book has been supported by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. www.prathambooks.org

Images Attributions:

Cover page: [Boy and a fish](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [Marine plants](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [Boy pointing out towards a river](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [Water splashes](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [Boy diving into water](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [Two fishes](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [Boy with his feet dipped in water](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [Shrubs](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [Boy dreaming and relaxing on a rock](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [Boy reading a huge book](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Images Attributions:

Page 11: [Two fishes in aquarium](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 12: [Four fishes in aquarium](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [One fish in aquarium](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [Five fishes in aquarium](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: [A pair of feet](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: [Two fishes swimming together](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 17: [Boy sitting on a rock](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 18: [Shrubs in a corner](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 19: [Boy releasing a fish in the water](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 20: [Ten colourful fishes](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 21: [Three fishes swimming in an aquarium](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 22: [Three fishes in an aquarium](#), by [Monappa](#) © Pratham Books, 2004. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

The Rainbow Fish

(English)

All of us enjoy watching fish, especially bright and colourful ones, swimming around in tanks that we keep in our homes. But do the fish enjoy it as much? Let's listen in on the conversation Raju and the rainbow fish have in this book, and find out.

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



Pratham Books goes digital to weave a whole new chapter in the realm of multilingual children's stories. Knitting together children, authors, illustrators and publishers. Folding in teachers, and translators. To create a rich fabric of openly licensed multilingual stories for the children of India and the world. Our unique online platform, StoryWeaver, is a playground where children, parents, teachers and librarians can get creative. Come, start weaving today, and help us get a book in every child's hand!