

## Proverbs teachers guide.

Life is like a jungle, full of potential dangers and pitfalls. God does not want us to sink, he wants us to swim. God is concerned for every area our life. Not just eternal things but also the practical day to day. He calls us to be wise as a serpent as well as innocent as a dove.

Proverbs is packed full of God breathed wisdom about our day to day living. Not all wisdom and advice is to be trusted, but we can trust in this book. However, this trust must be balanced with understanding what type of book it is. It is not a book of promises. It is a book of principles. The Proverb 'the fear of the Lord prolongs life' (Proverbs 10:27) is not a promise that no one who fears the Lord will die young. Rather, it is a principle that if we obey God, we will avoid some of the life destroying consequences of sin.

What is wisdom? It is not the same as knowledge. Many are clever but not wise. Wisdom cannot be imparted to us through just knowing things. We also have to act it out, and this is how we grow.

Jesus acted with the greatest wisdom, and was discerning in all situations. At his trial he was silent because God had called him to be. At other times he spoke out because God had called him to. At times he spoke strongly and rebuked, at other times he spoke with the greatest gentleness. He did not have knee jerk reactions. Instead he displayed the full spectrum of emotions and healthy behaviours according to what was best for each interaction and situation.

God wants to equip us to do the same. This is no easy task, and it takes far more than looking at a WWJD wrist band. This is something that we need God's help and guidance every day. God wants to give it to us (James 1:5). We can pray and ask him for help. And we can also deeply immerse ourselves the book of Proverbs.

### But how do I teach this to kids?

Proverbs relates so much to our every day life. As adults, we can hear a proverb and it can bring to mind a situation that we are dealing with. However, children do not tend to be at the developmental stage of being able to make this personal application of a general Proverb.

I find that the best way to teach a proverb is to tell a story. This gives it context, and enables a child to really engage with it and apply it to their own situation.

I like to divide the book into several categories suitable for children:

- Obey your parents
- Pick good friends

Watch your words  
Don't tell lies  
Don't be lazy  
Don't be proud  
Watch your pennies

I would pick one theme per week, pick a Proverb of the day, and then tell a story to understand the Proverb better.

A children's introduction to Proverbs

(you will need a bowl, mix of random ingredients, and a recipe book)

I love to bake! I want to bake a cake. I love cakes

Now, someone told me that I needed to use a recipe book. Urgh, recipies. They are so full of rules. Do this, don't do that, put this in leave that out. I hate being told what to do.

I want to do it my way. I know what's best, and I want to put in the things that I love.  
I love, tomatoes ketchup, yogurt, ect

(mix it up, it looks disgusting)

Oh no, my cake, it looks horrible, it smells horrible.

I should have followed the recipe book. That is how to make a beautiful cake.

God does not want us to make a mess of our lives. He has given us his recipe book for us, the Bible. He wants us to follow it, and do what it says, so that we can live the life that he has for us.

The Bible is not just one book. It is a library. And over the next few weeks we are going to be looking at the book of Proverbs, all about how to be wise.

What is wisdom?

It's knowing what to do and doing it.

Who can we ask for wisdom?  
God.

Is it about making God love us more? No

Is it worrying about God loving us less? No.

It is about following Gods recipe for our lives.



# Don't be proud

Proverbs recap: Is it about making God love us more? Is it about worrying about God loving us less? No

Proverbs is about following God's recipe for our life.

What is wisdom? Knowing what to do and doing it?

Who can we ask for wisdom?

Proverb of the day: Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom Proverbs 11:2

Let's tell us a story about pride

1. Percy the peacock was the most beautiful of all animals.
2. And he knew it. Everyday he would gaze into the mirror and whisper to himself, 'I cannot believe I am so beautiful. And that was not all...
3. He was the best at art
4. He was the best at sport
5. He was the best at swimming
6. He was the best at singing
7. In fact, he was the best at everything.
8. So he couldn't understand why no one wanted to play with him. He was too proud.
9. One day the animals were having a campfire
10. Percy started to dance. He loved the way his feathers shone in the light of the flames. He danced and danced
11. But he danced too close. His tail set on fire.
12. Elephant ran to the lake and took a big drink with his trunk
13. And he ran back and sloshed the water all over Percy, putting out the fire.
14. Percy ran away without so much as a thank you.
15. He gazed into the lake and saw his reflection. His eyes filled with tears. I cannot believe I am so ugly. He wailed, I am the most ugly of birds. He was still being proud, because he was still thinking of himself.

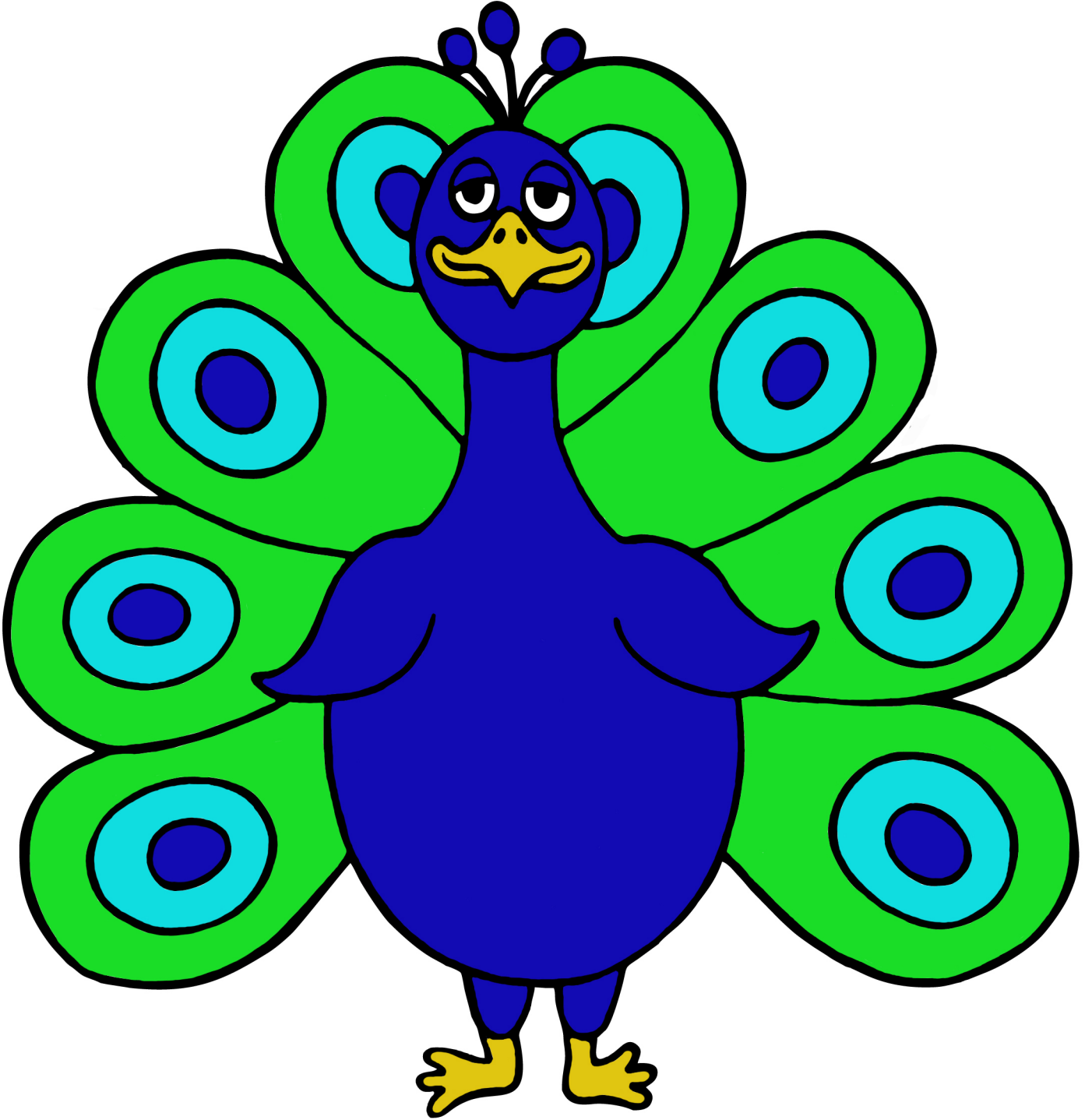
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16. He looked up and saw rabbit crying. She had dropped her teddy in the water.
17. Percy had an idea. I am a good swimmer, he thought. And he didn't want to show off. Instead, he wanted to use his swimming to help.
18. He dived into the water
19. And rescued the bear
20. Rabbit was so happy she gave him a great big hug. Percy had never had a hug before. He never had a friend before, and he liked it.
21. He liked it so much, that even though his feathers never grew back the same, he didn't care.

Key teaching point: Pride is about more than boasting and thinking you're the best. Percy was being no less proud when he was thinking that he was the worst. Pride is the love of self first.

What is humility? Is it saying that we are the best? No  
Is it saying that we are the worst? No

It's about thinking of ourselves less.

When Percy saw someone in need he was able to recognise what he was good at and use it to help others.

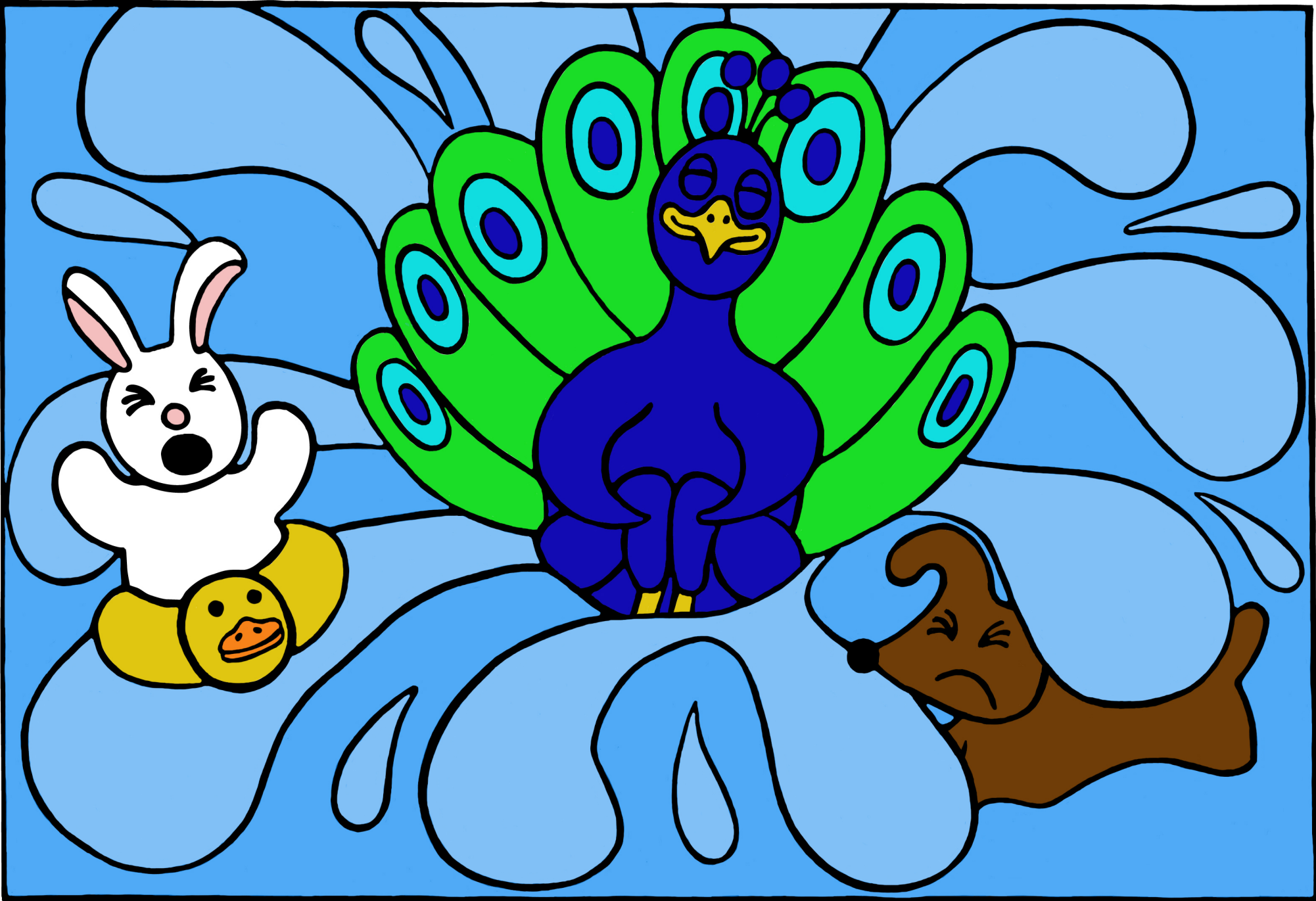


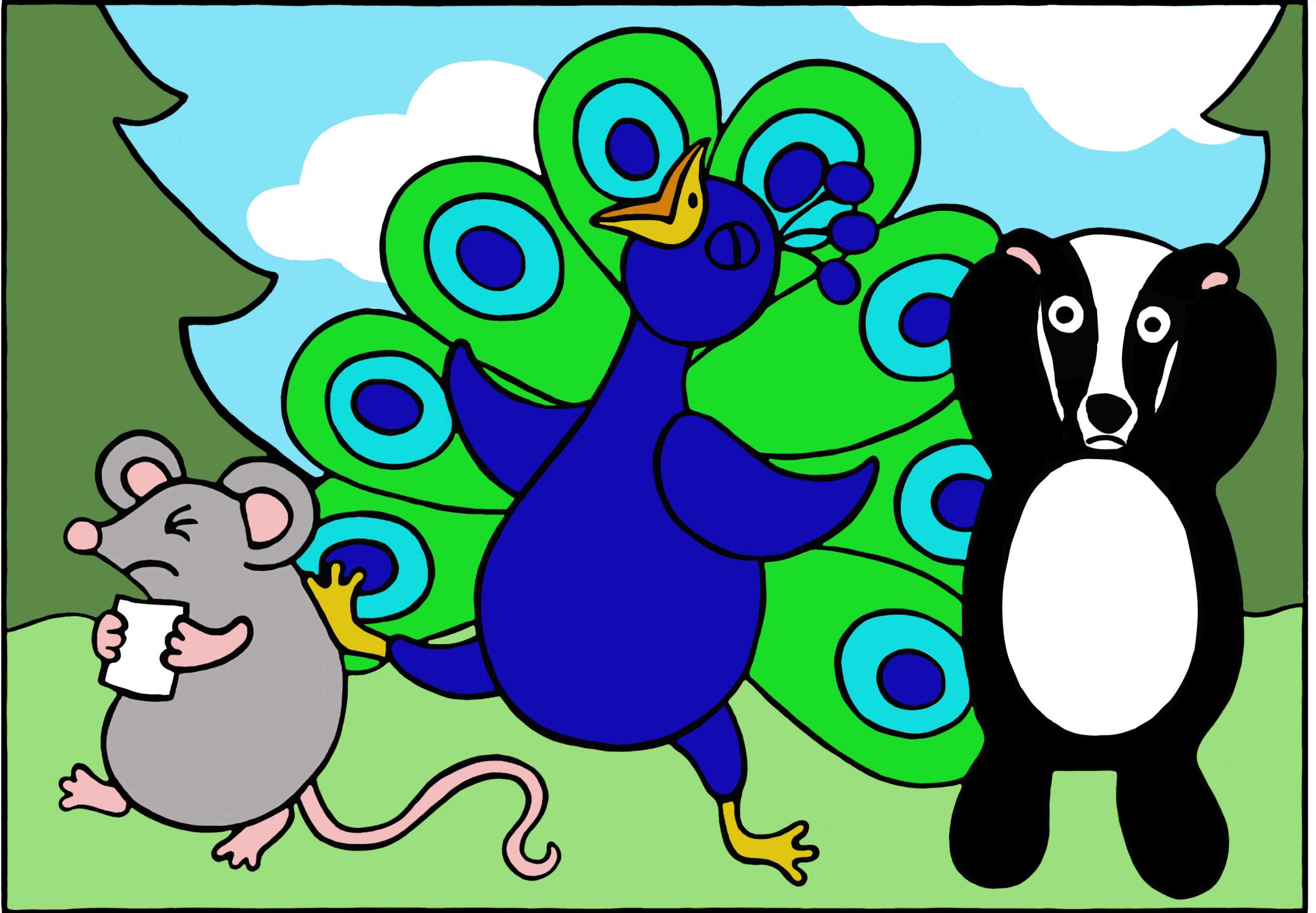






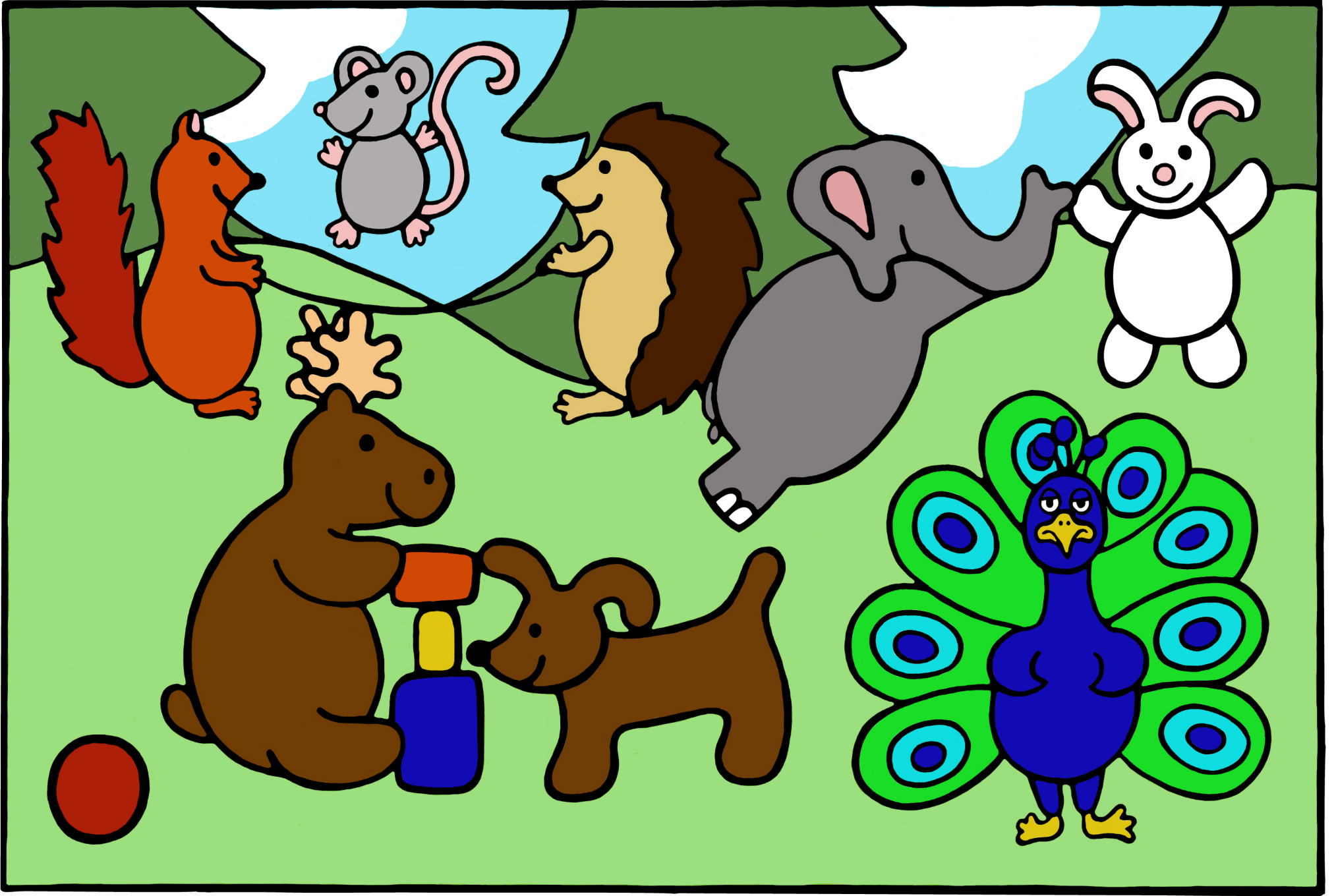


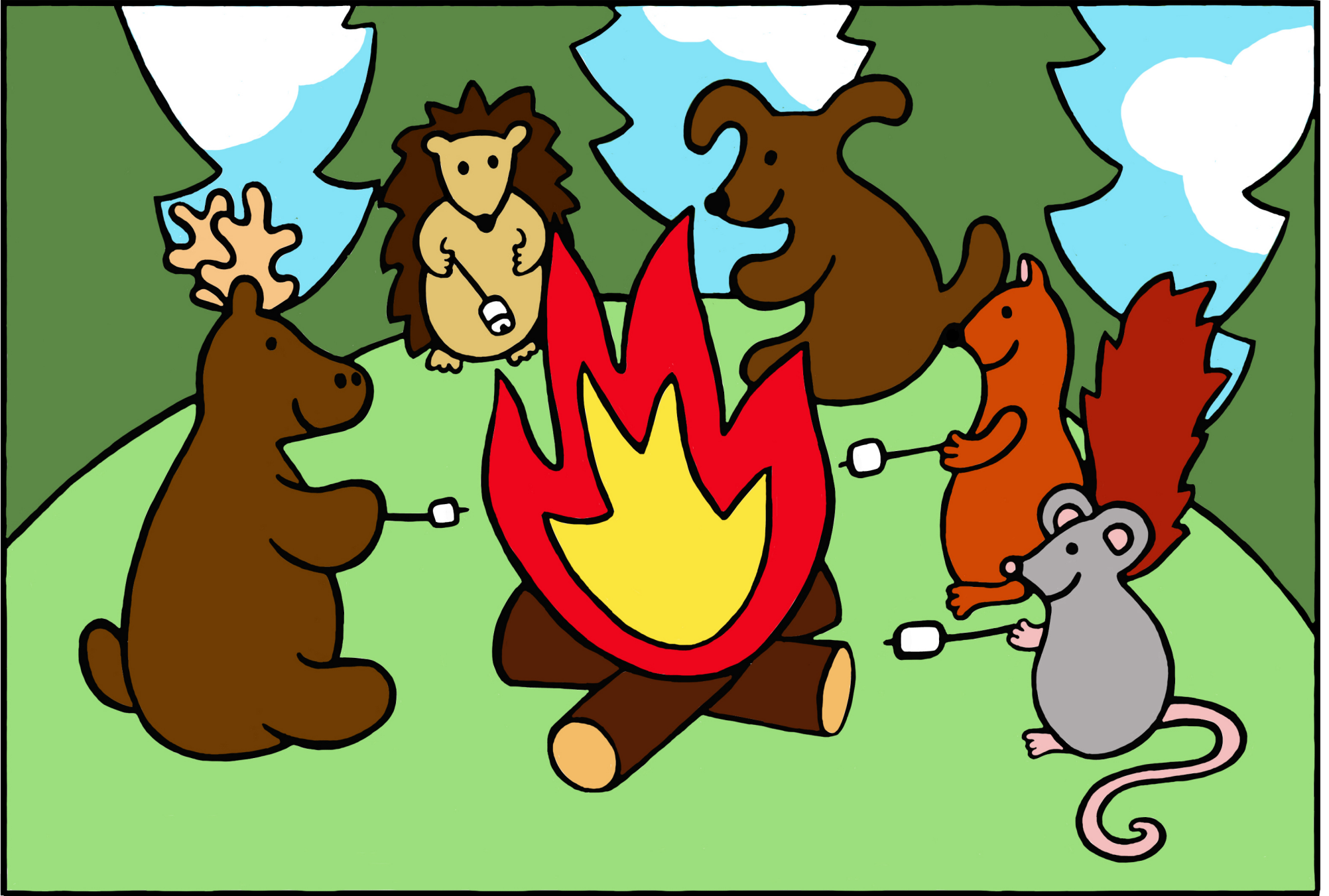








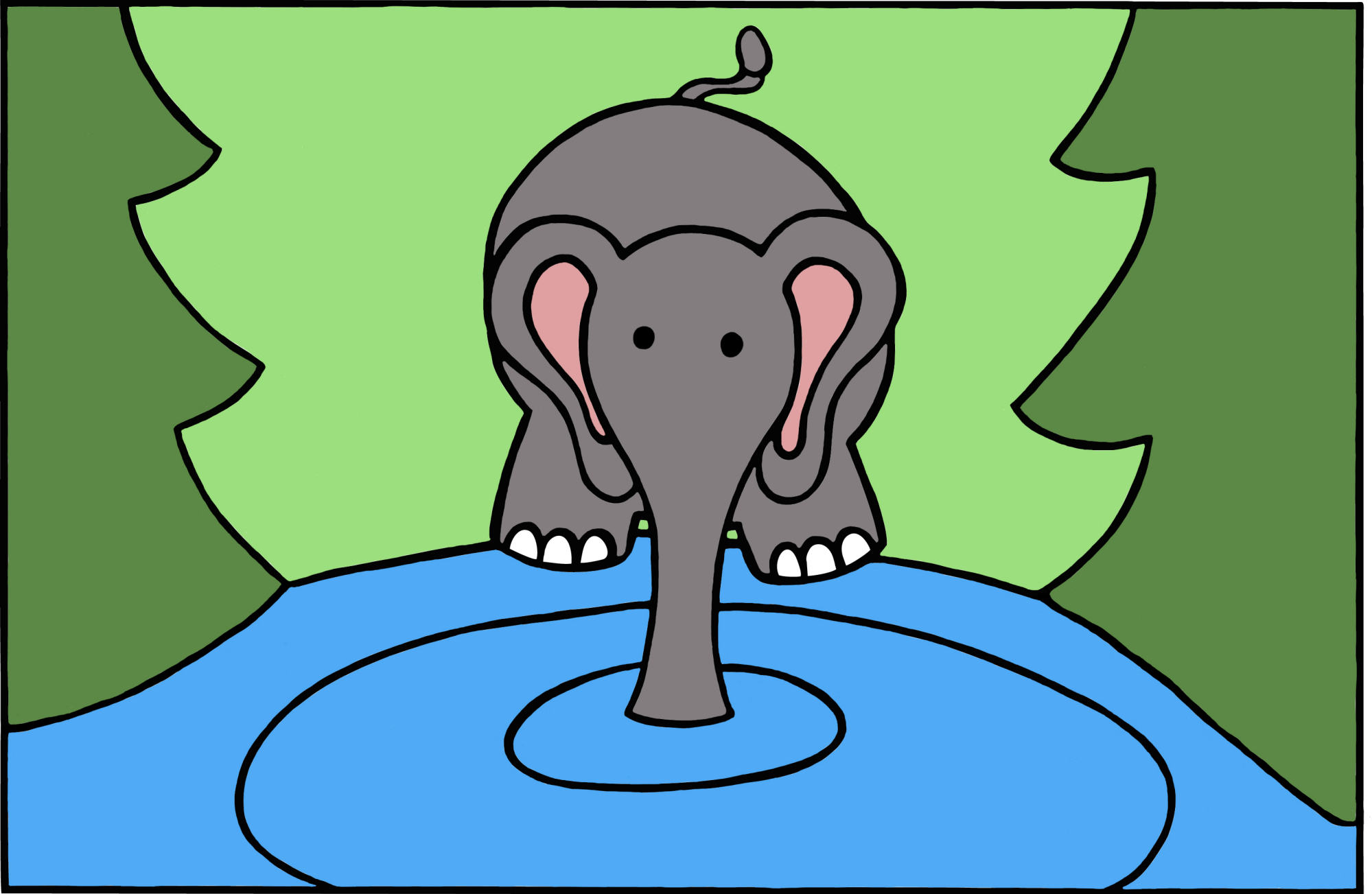


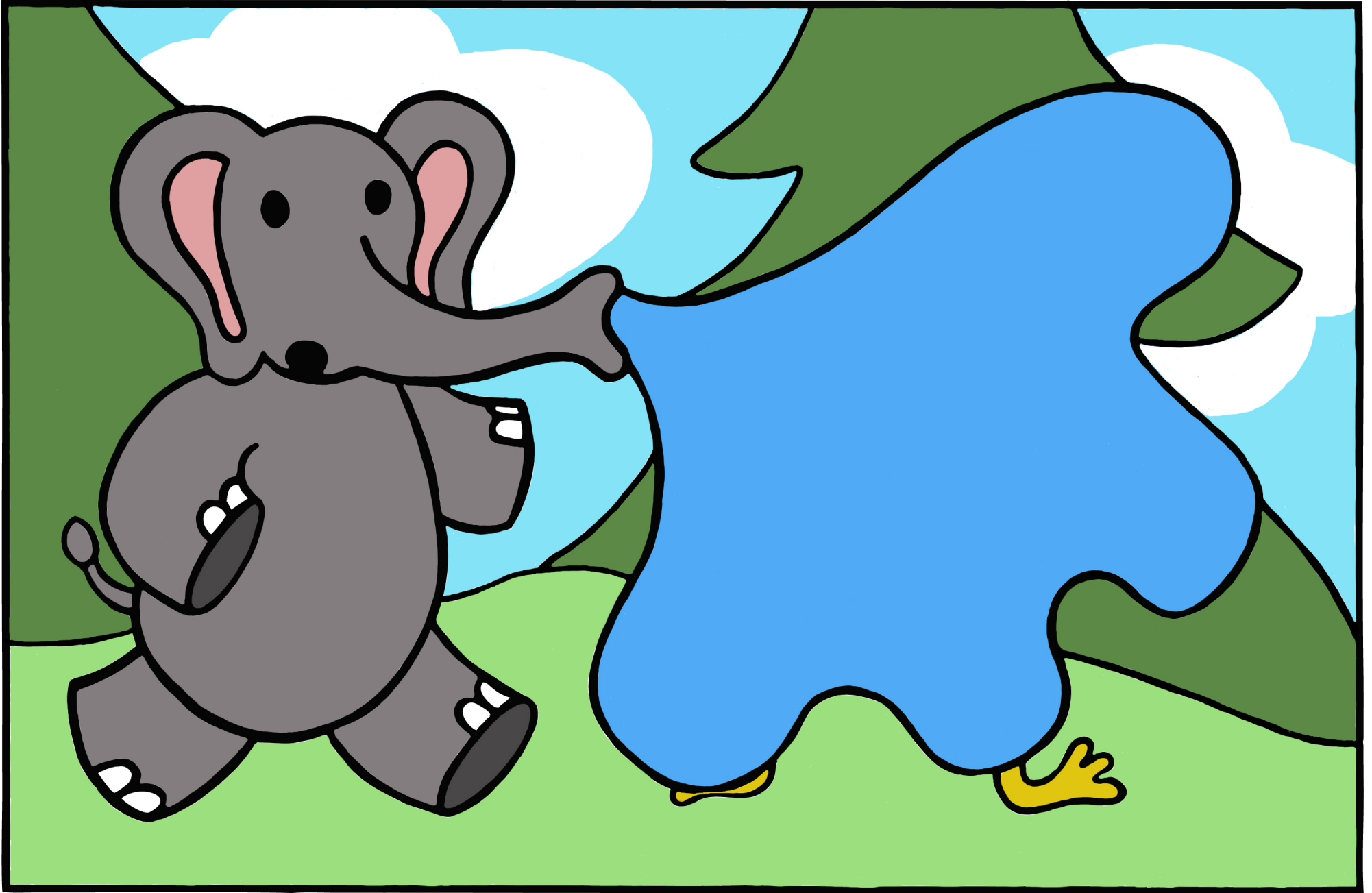


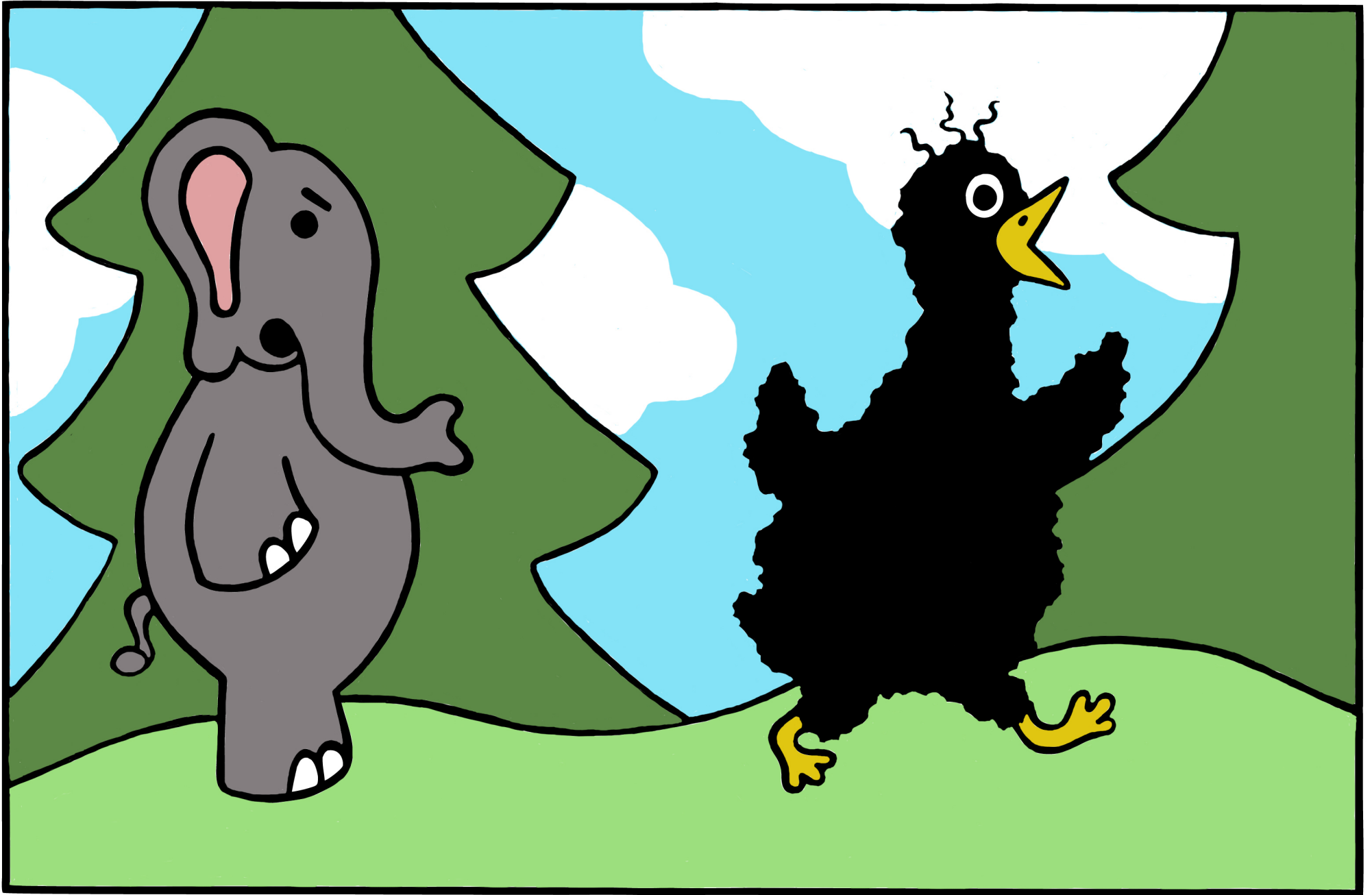




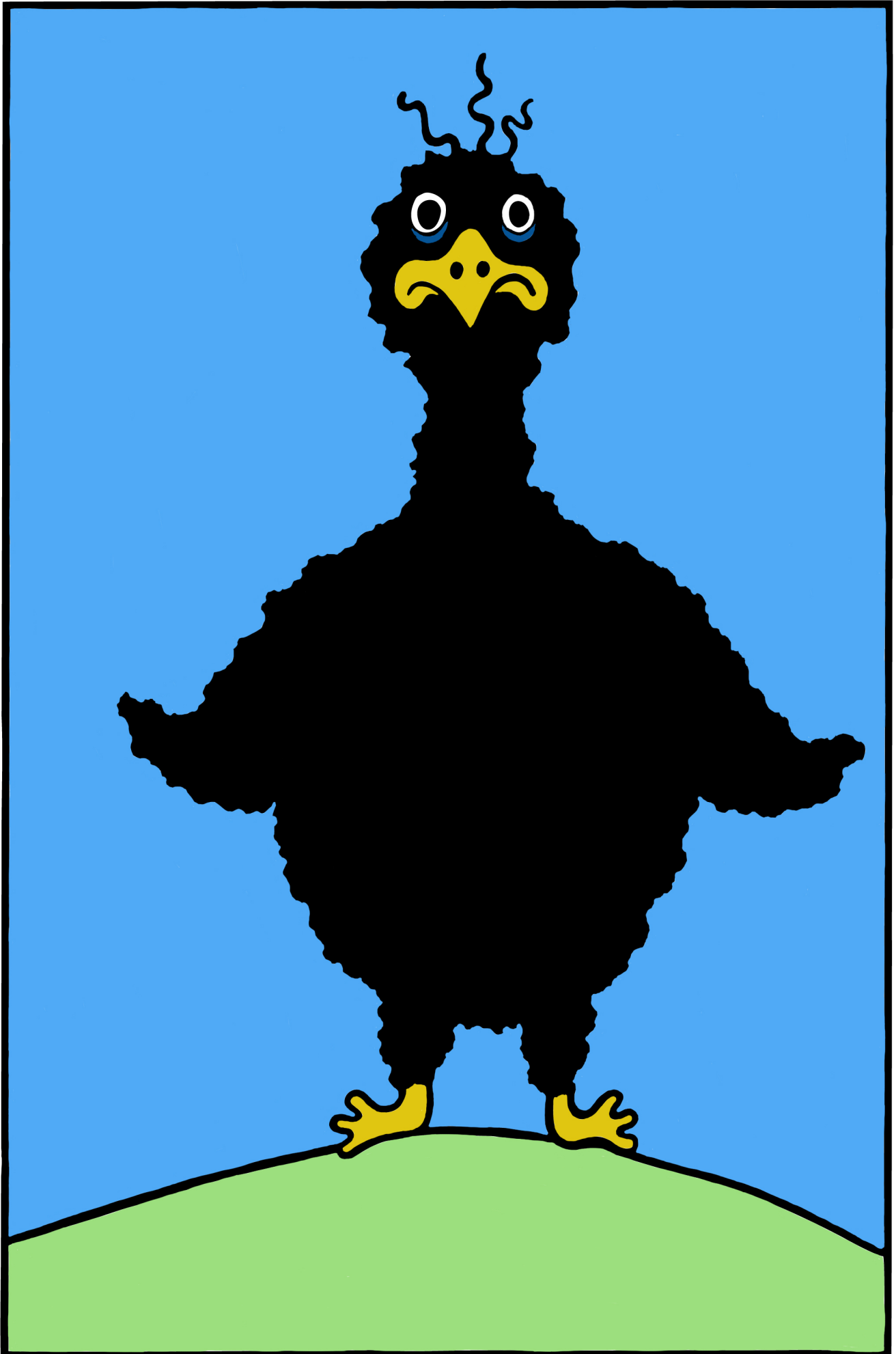


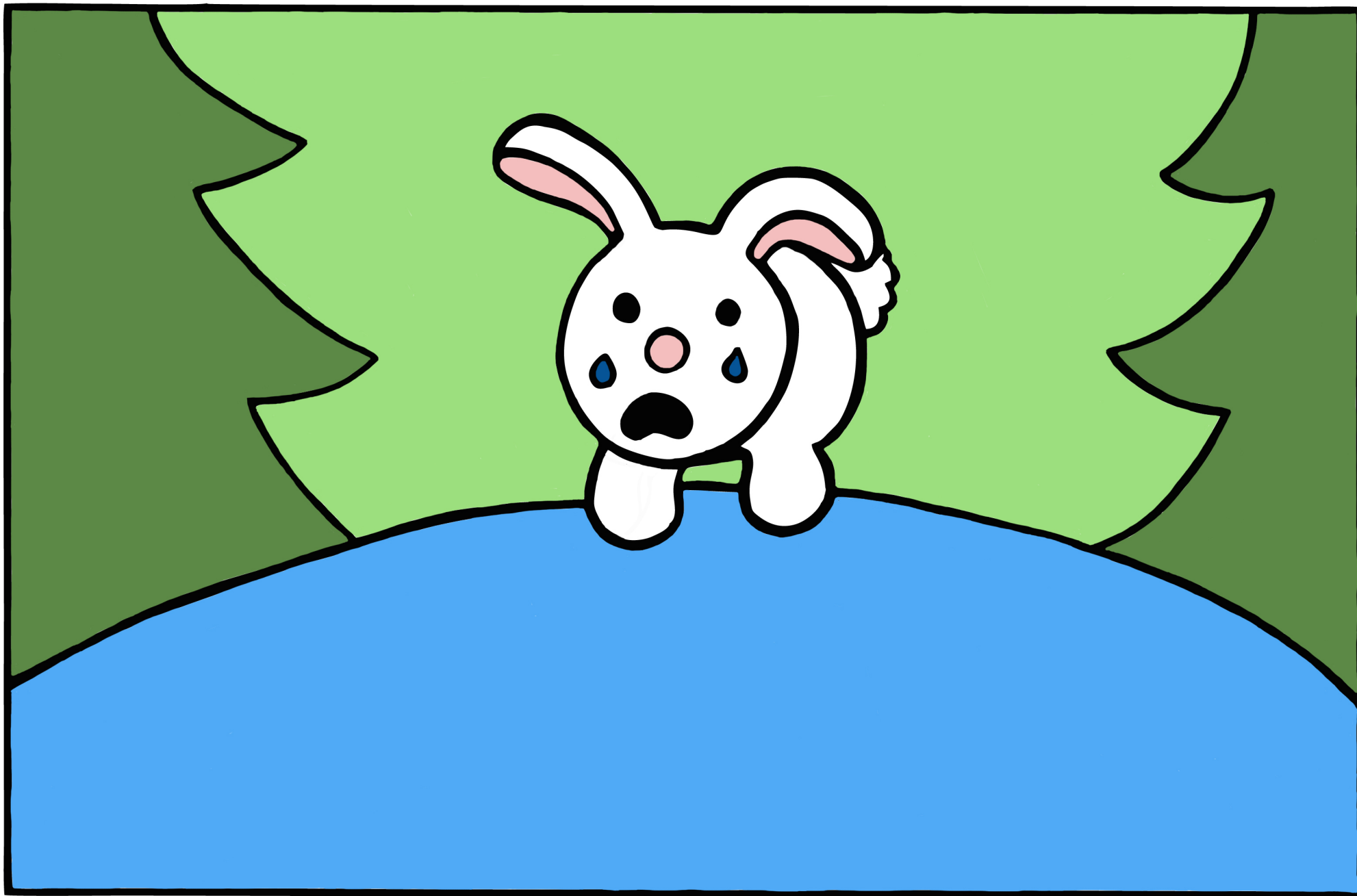


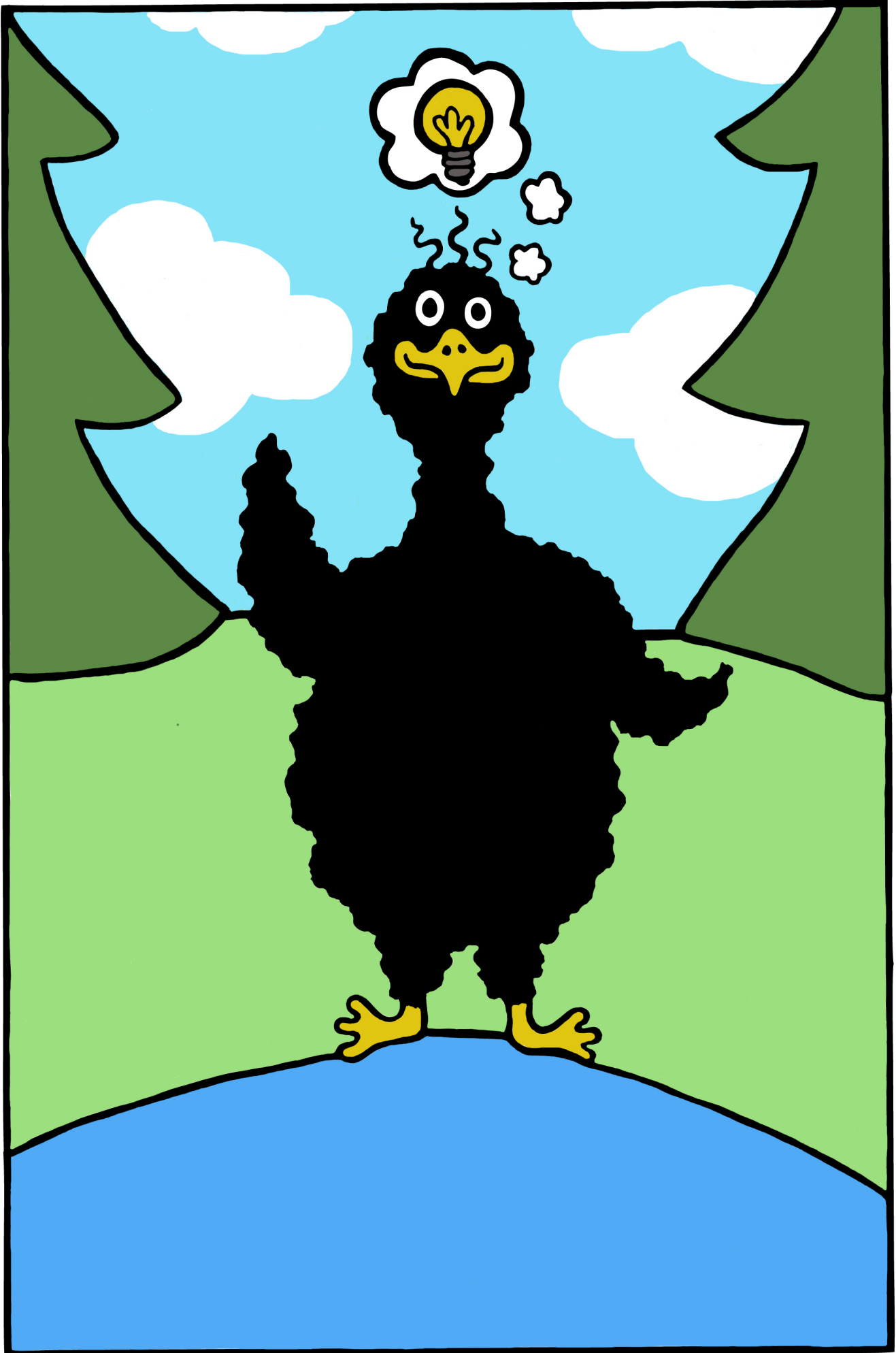


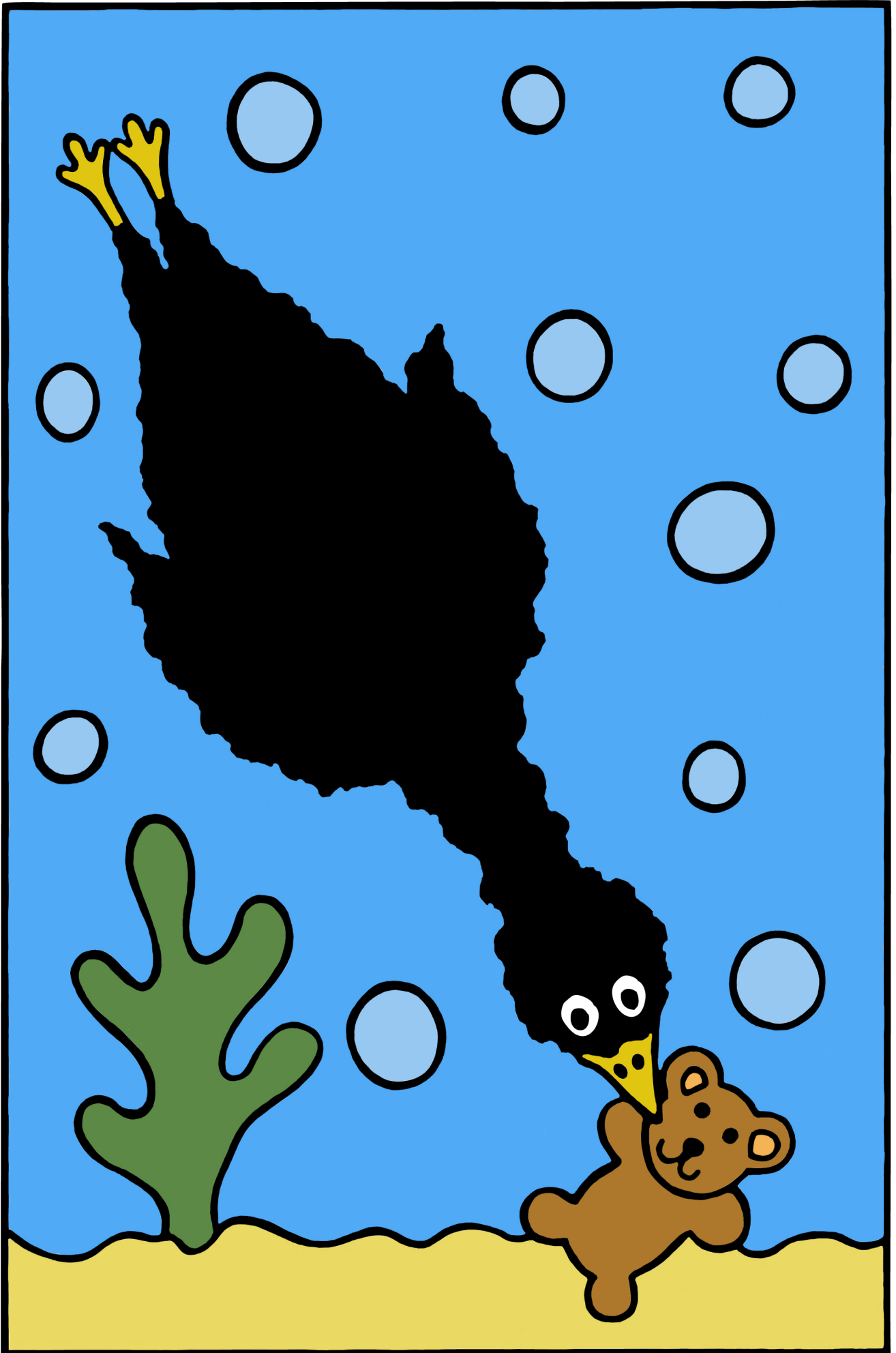


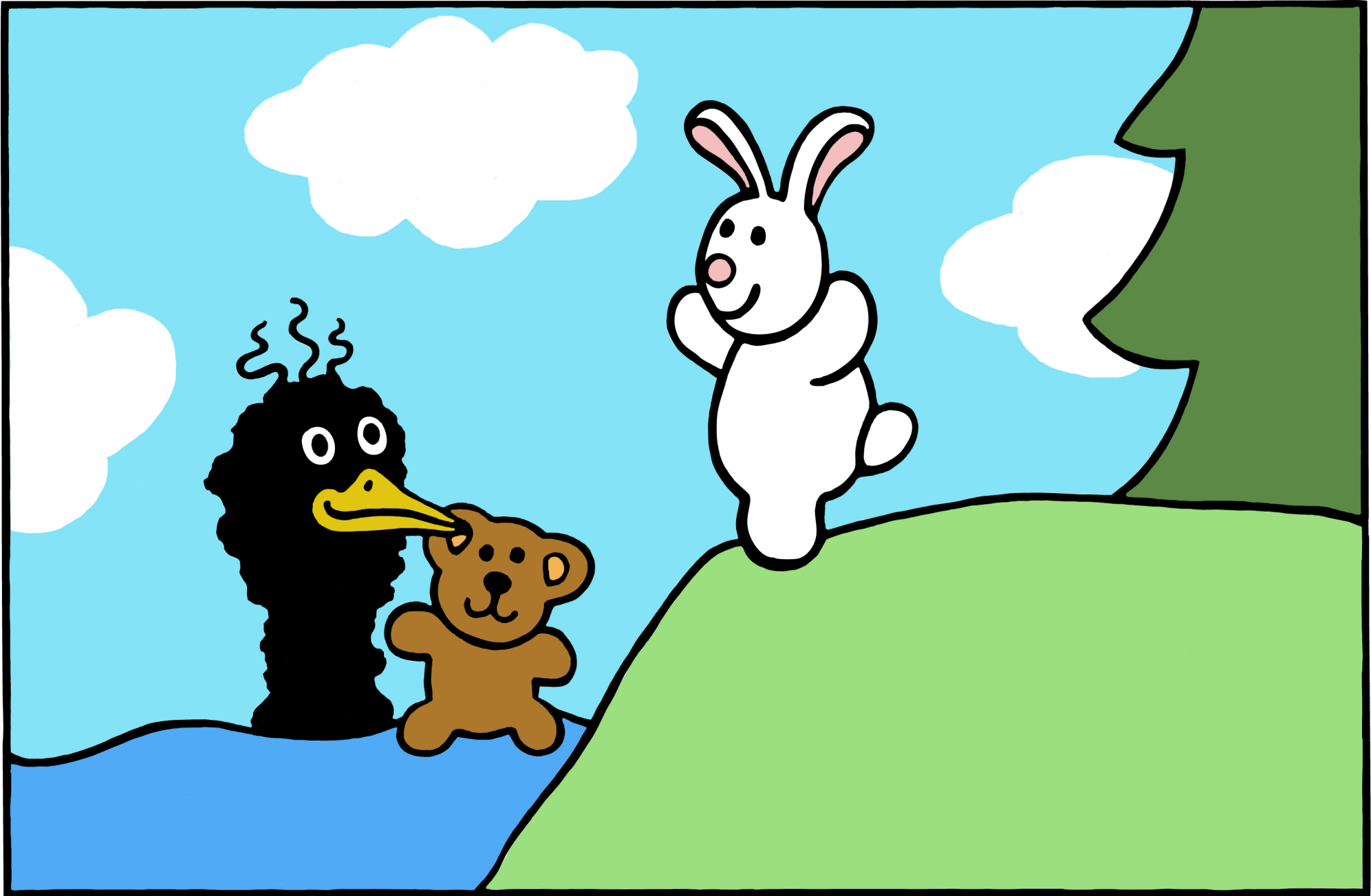


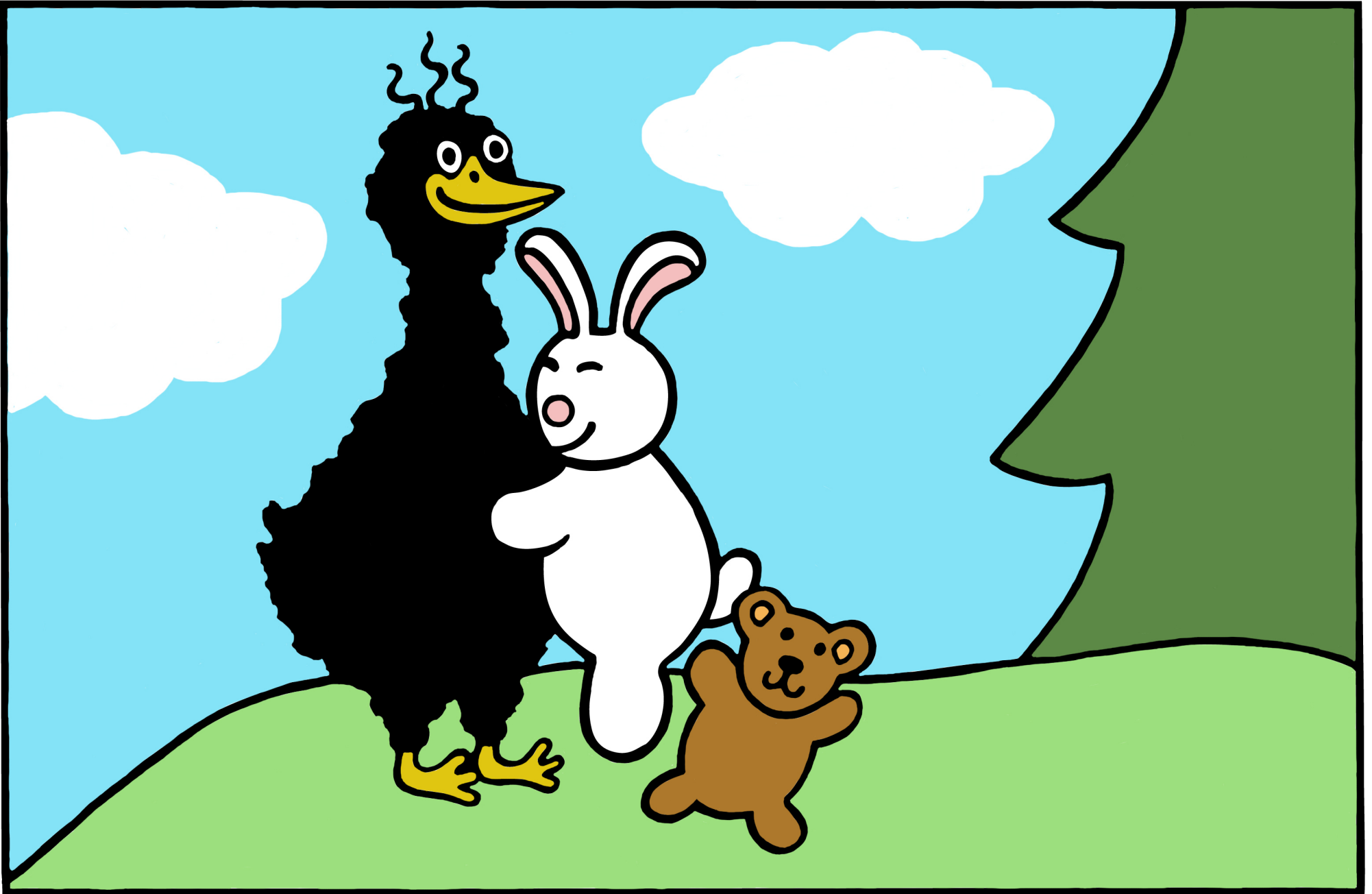


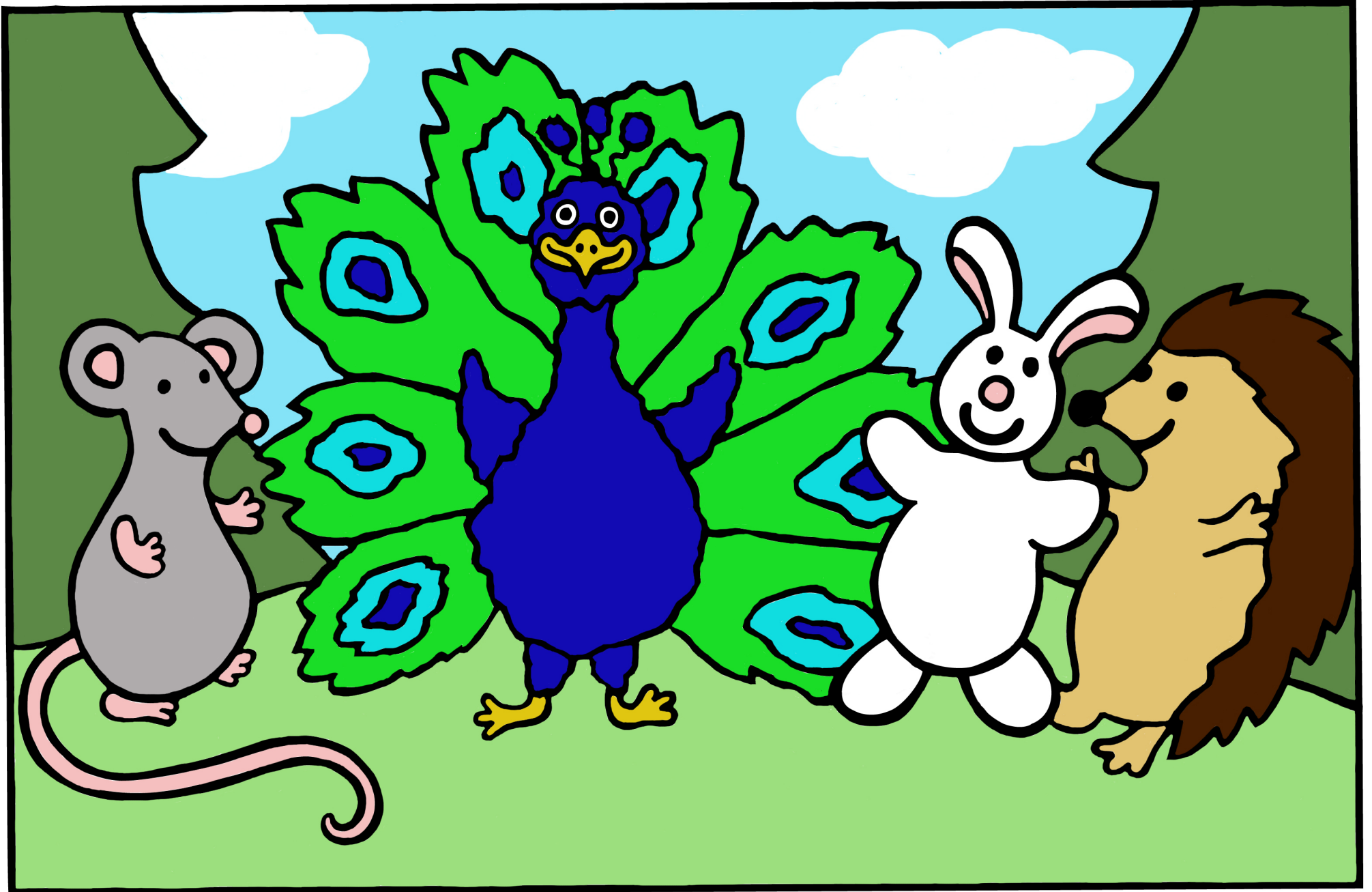












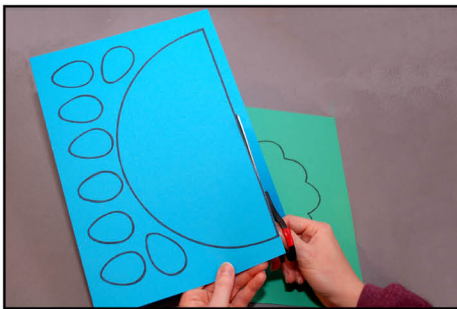
# DON'T BE PROUD

PROVERBS 11:2



YOU WILL NEED:

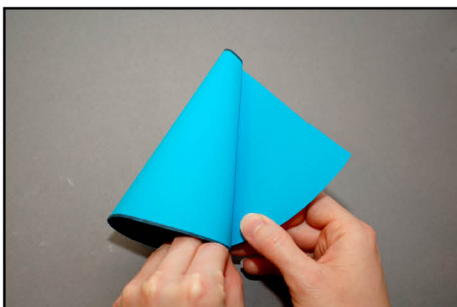
- TEMPLATE 1 PRINTED ONTO BLUE CARD
- TEMPLATE 2 PRINTED ONTO GREEN CARD
- DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE OR GLUE STICK
- ORANGE OR YELLOW PAPER
- GOGGLE EYES
- TAPE



STEP 1: CUT OUT TEMPLATE 1 AND 2



STEP 2: STICK 7 BLUE OVALS ONTO THE TAIL

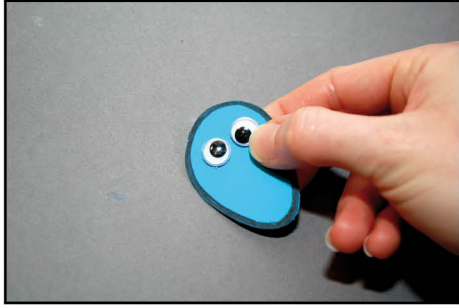


STEP 3: FOLD THE BLUE SEMI CIRCLE INTO A CONE, AND TAPE IT IN PLACE



STEP 4: STICK THE CONE INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE TAIL





**STEP 5: STICK GOGGLE EYES ONTO THE OVAL**



**STEP 6: CUT OUT ORANGE TRIANGLE AS A BEAK, AND STICK IT ON**



**STEP 7: STICK THE HEAD ONTO THE TOP OF THE CONE**

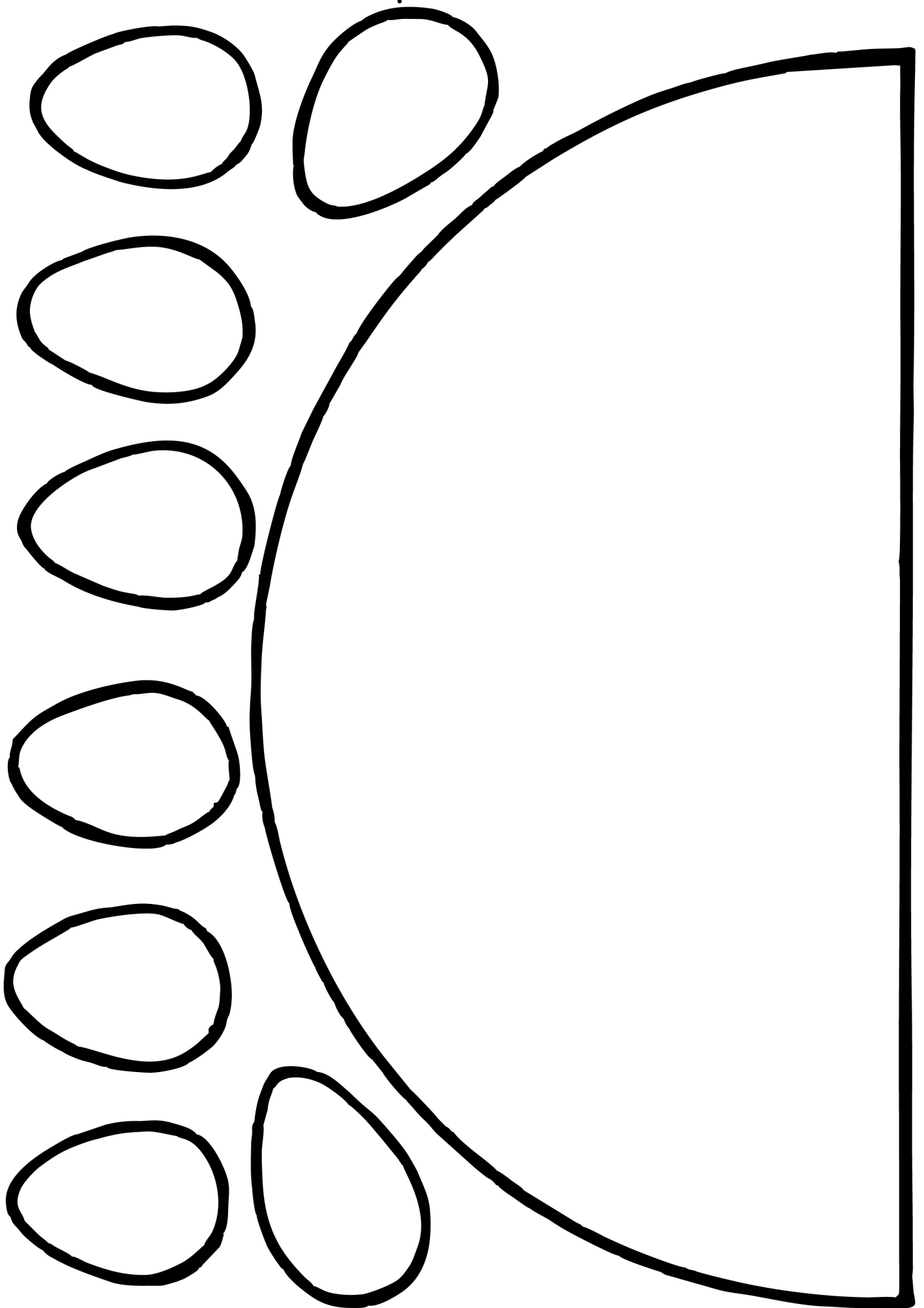


WHEN WE ARE PROUD, WE OFTEN END UP LOOKING VERY SILLY SOONER OR LATER. TO BE HUMBLE MEANS NOT TO THINK WE ARE THE BEST, OR THINK WE ARE THE WORST, BUT TO KNOW THAT EVERYTHING WE HAVE COMES FROM GOD



**FOR A SHORTER SESSION:  
PREPARE STEP 1 AND 6**

Template 1



# Template 2

