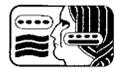


Water Story

The Indian Reading Series

THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Water Story

Level II Book 15

A Crow Story

Written and illustrated by Henry Real Bird

**Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory**

Developed by the Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 710 Southwest Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

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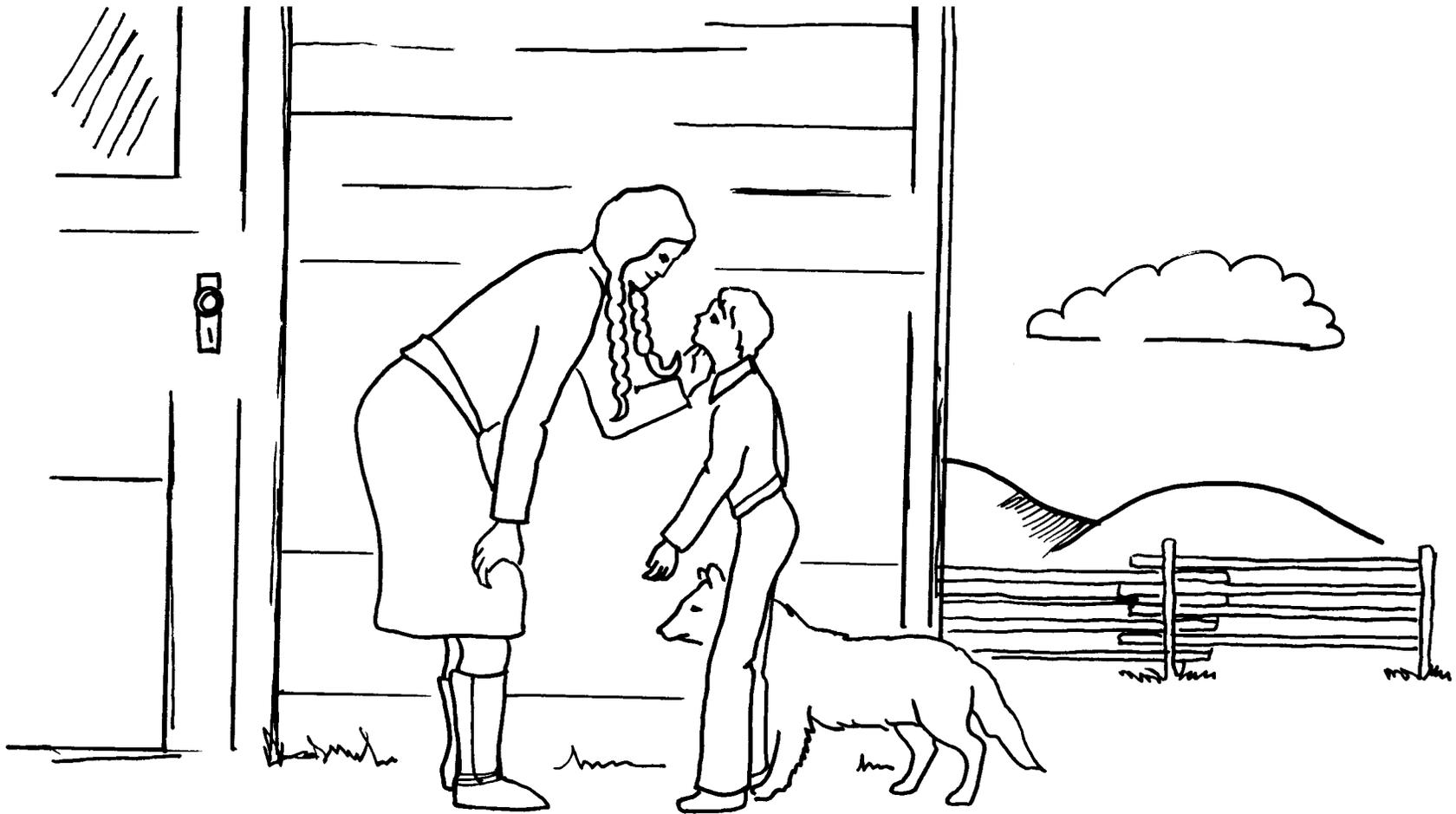
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This story is about the mystery of water — that wherever water goes, there is life. It tells about a boy who is taught to respect the water by throwing food into the river for water animals to eat. It also tells how water changes through the four seasons.



Water has much mystery.
When I was a boy my grandmother would say,
 “Jack, you must feed the river before you swim.
When you feed the river,
 the water people will watch over you.
Then you will not drown or get hurt.”



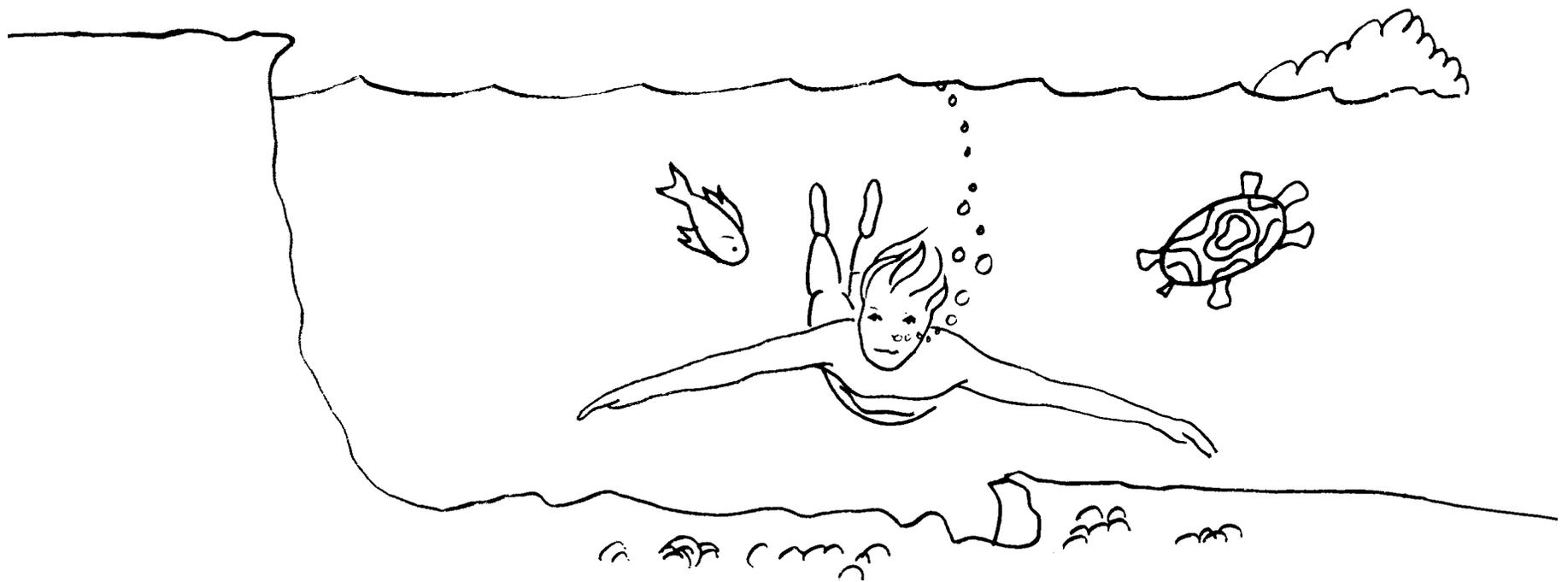
I would take some meat, fat and bones
to feed the water people.

I would say, "River, watch me.

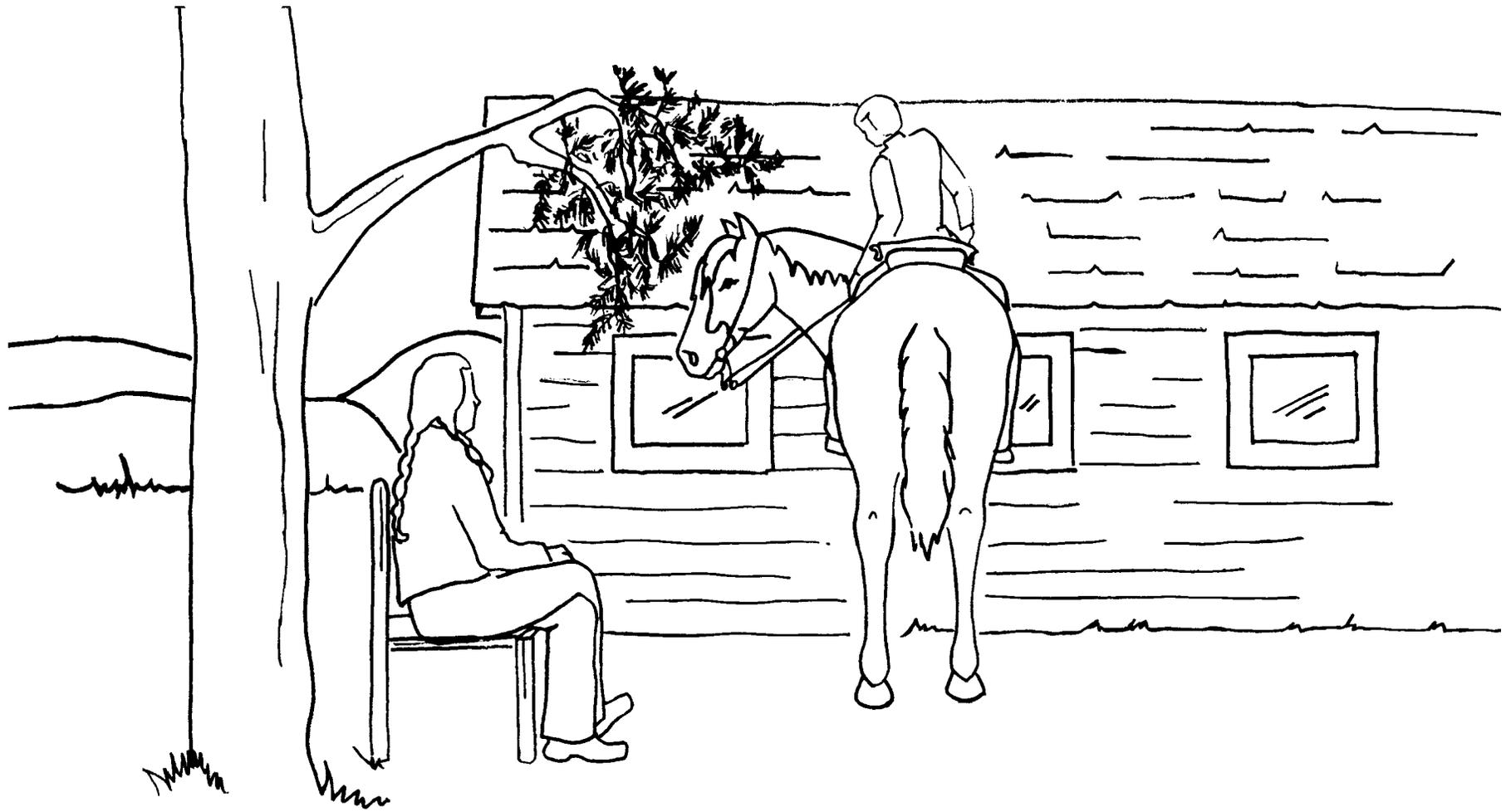
I am going to swim again.

Here are some meat, fat and bones for you."

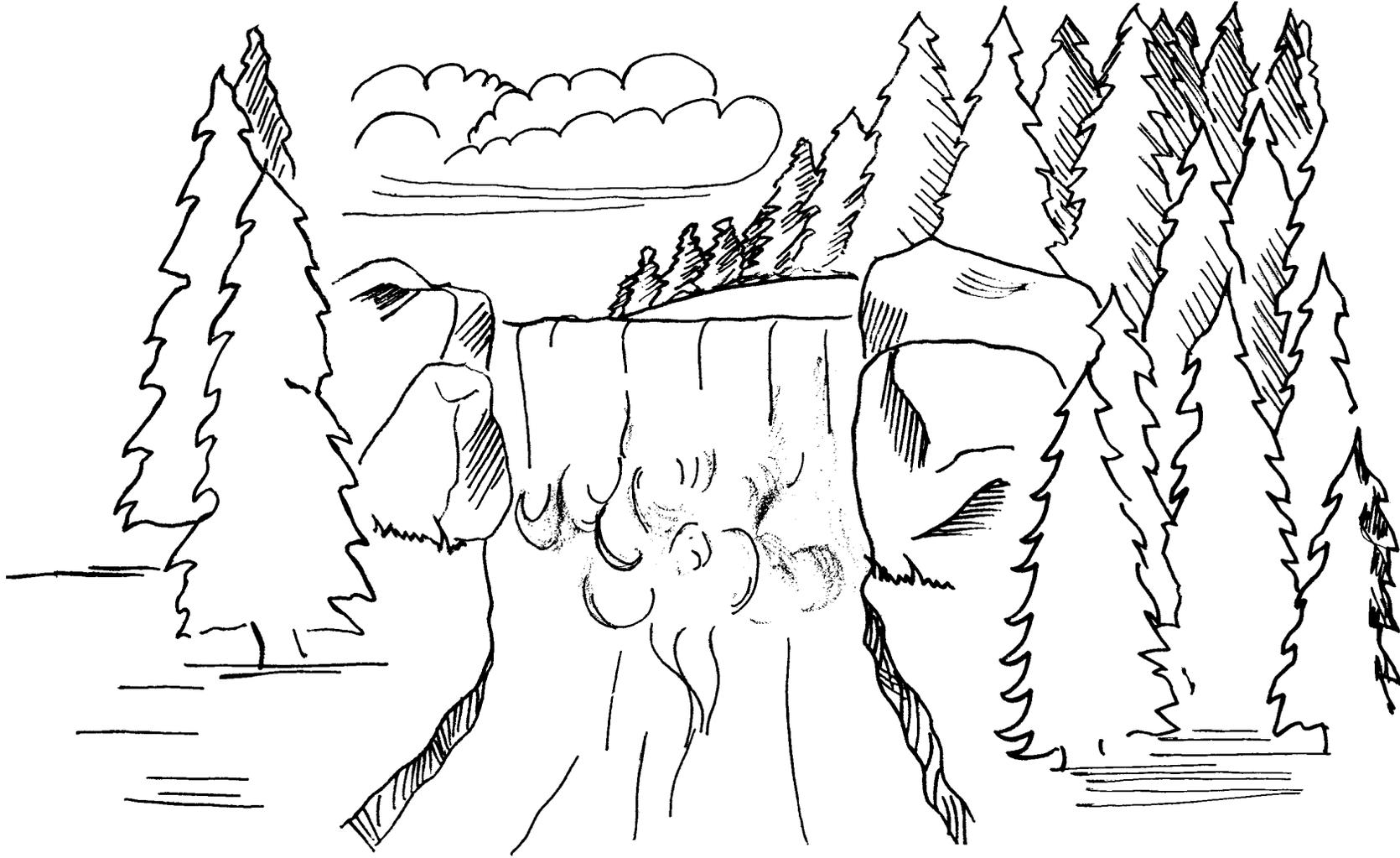
I would throw the food into the river and watch it sink.



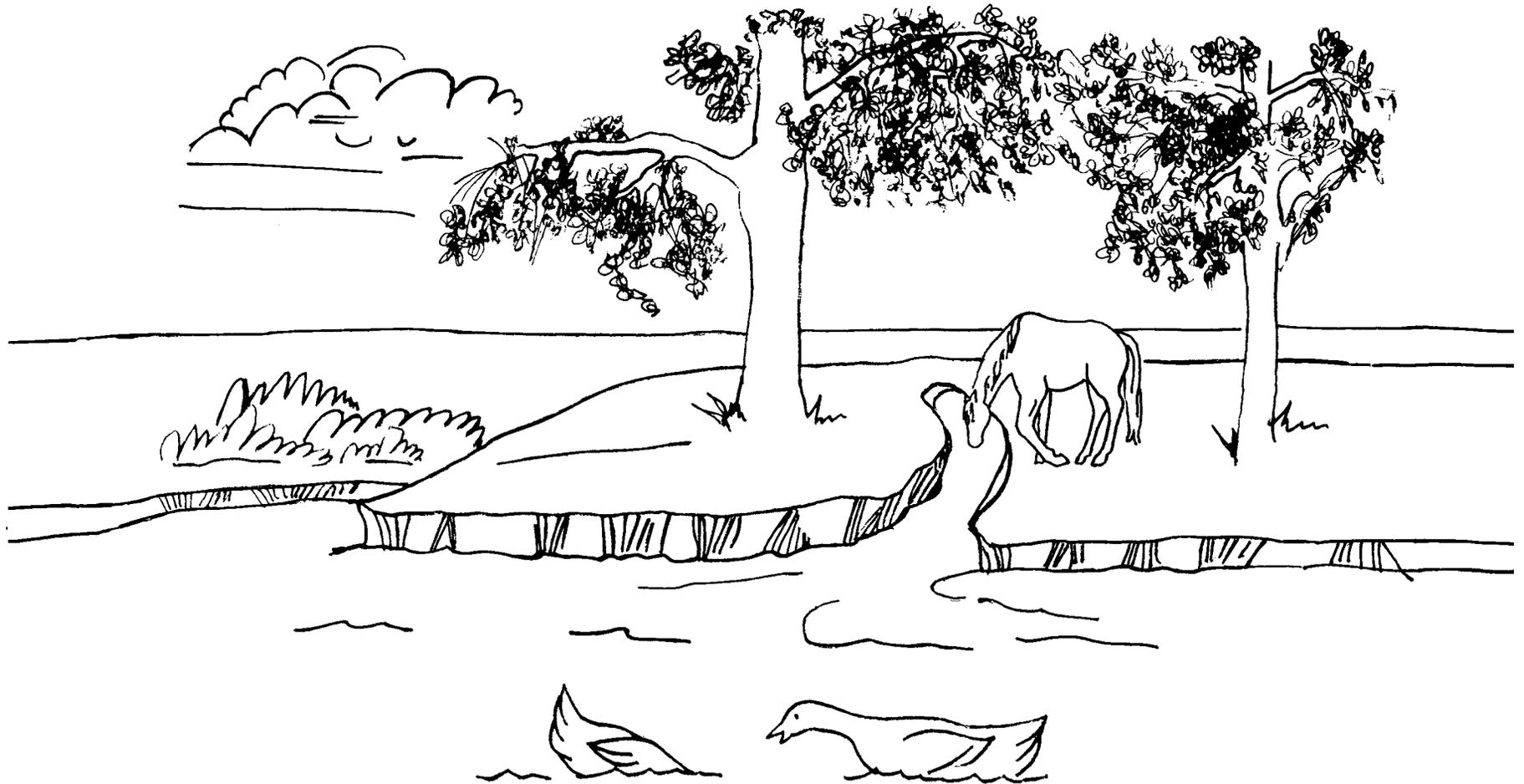
I had so much fun swimming.
The water was fresh and clean.
It tasted so good.



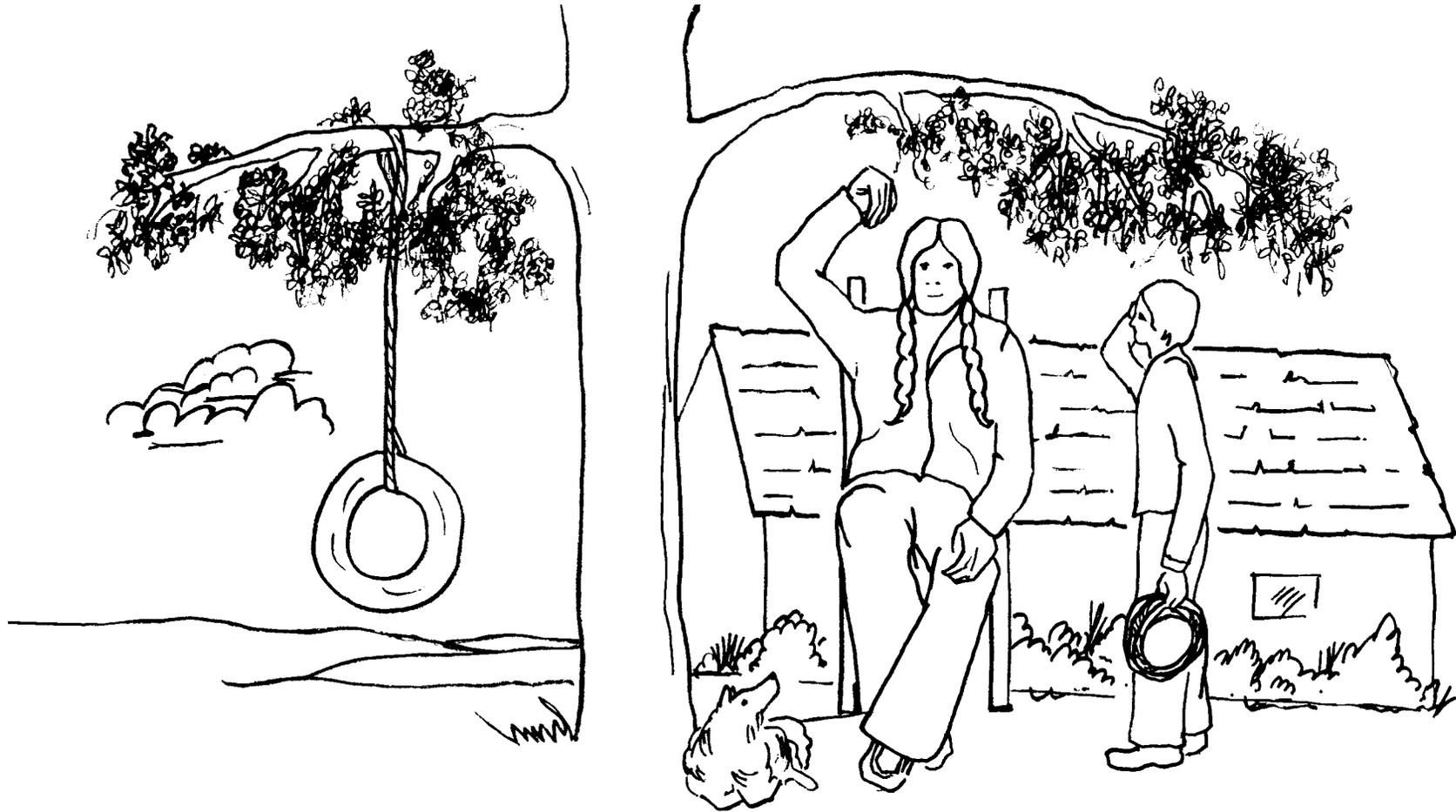
My grandfather used to say,
 “It is good that you feed the river.
It will watch over you, and you will be safe.
Water has much mystery.
It comes out of this great ground
 and blinds us when it becomes a cloud.”



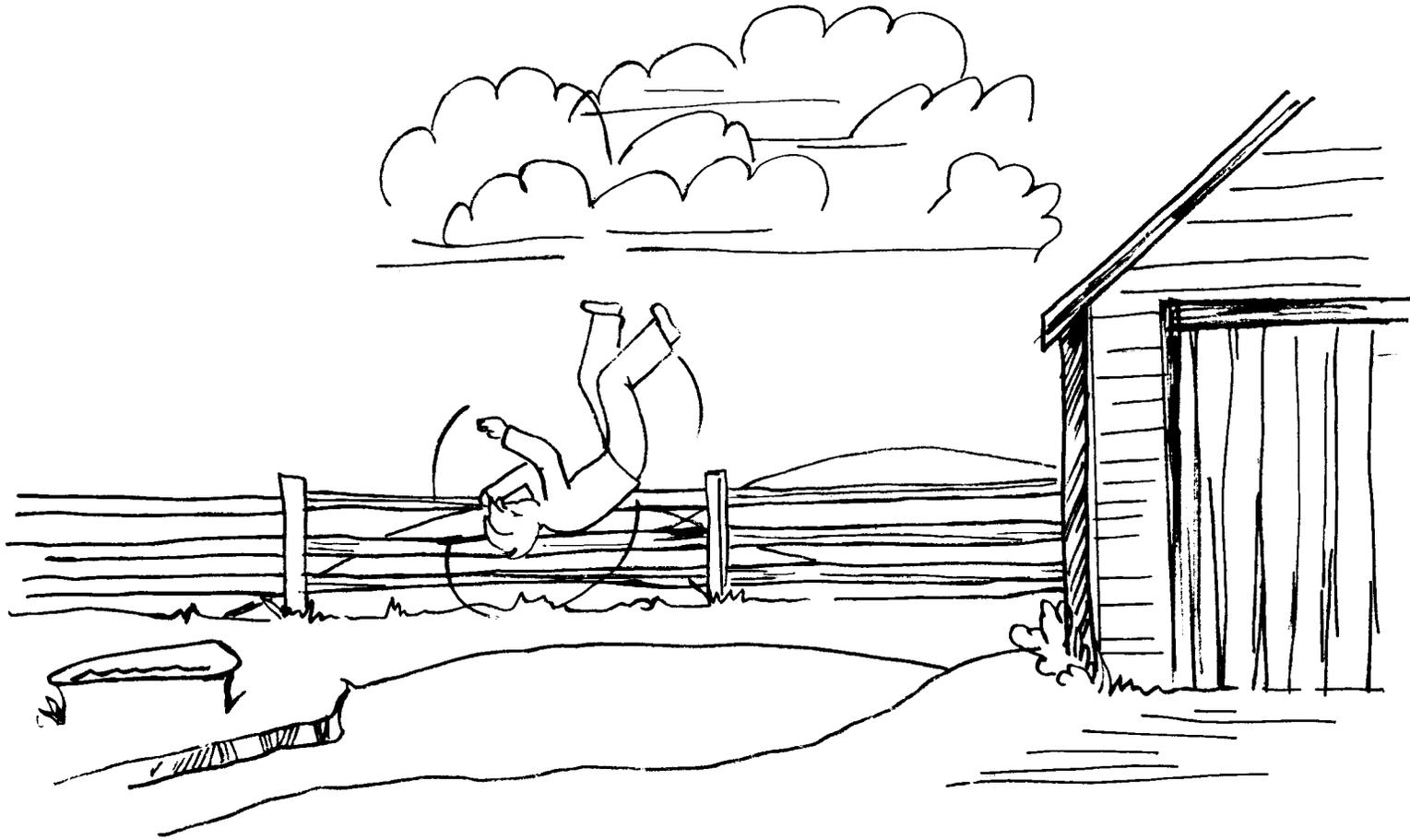
“When the water flows down,
it is a stream, creek, brook or river.
But when it can’t flow, it is a puddle, pond, lake or ocean.
Fish, frogs, turtles and beavers live in the water.
We play with it, in it and on it.”



“Everything alive has water in it — snakes, birds,
trees, apples, oranges, flowers, dogs and you.
Wherever water goes, there is life.
When a tree or deer does not have water, it will die.”



“Water has much mystery.
When your grandmother heats water to boil the meat,
it dances on top.
When the water gets too hot,
it jumps out and becomes steam.
Like the clouds, it does not have a body.
but it has a shadow.”



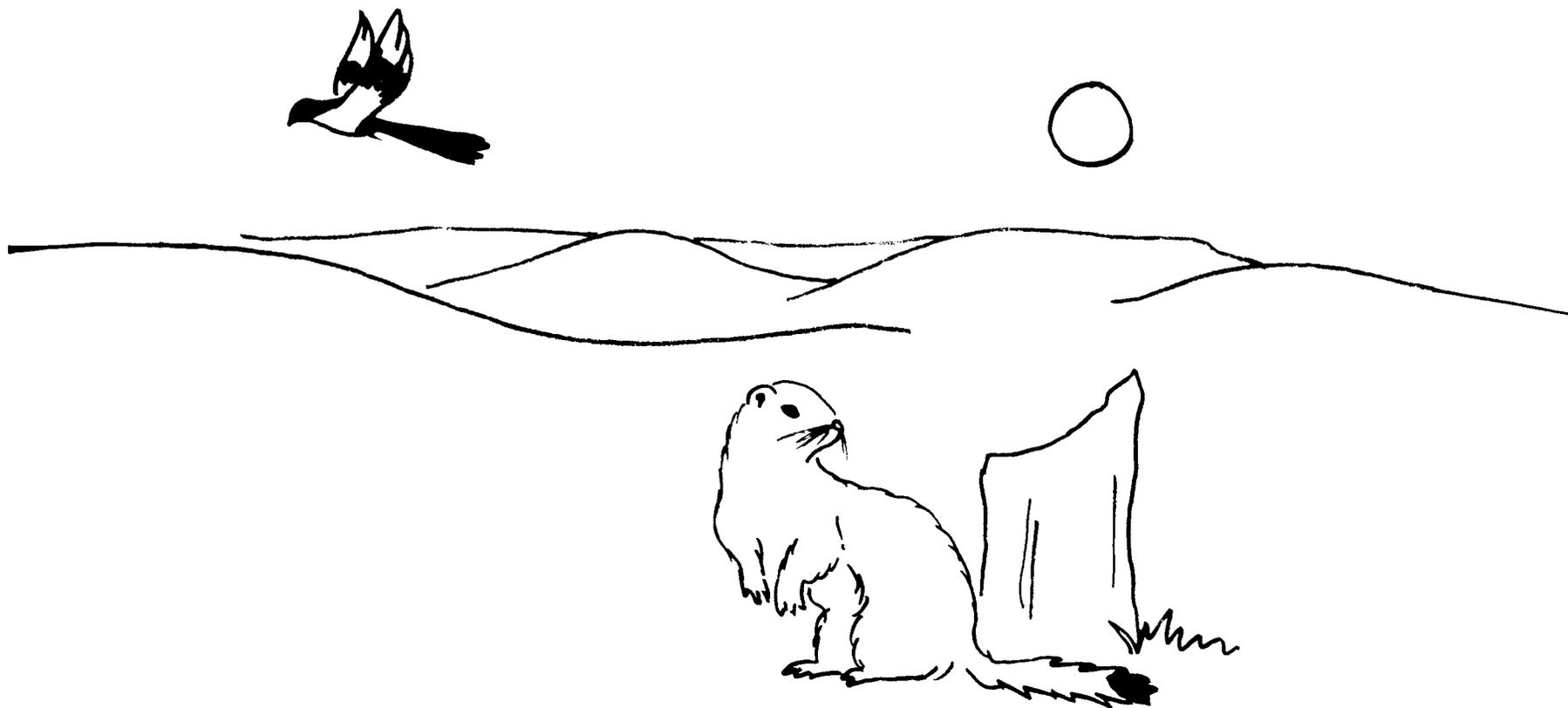
“In the fall, when the sun’s road across the sky is short,
the days become colder.

The world turns into fall, then winter.

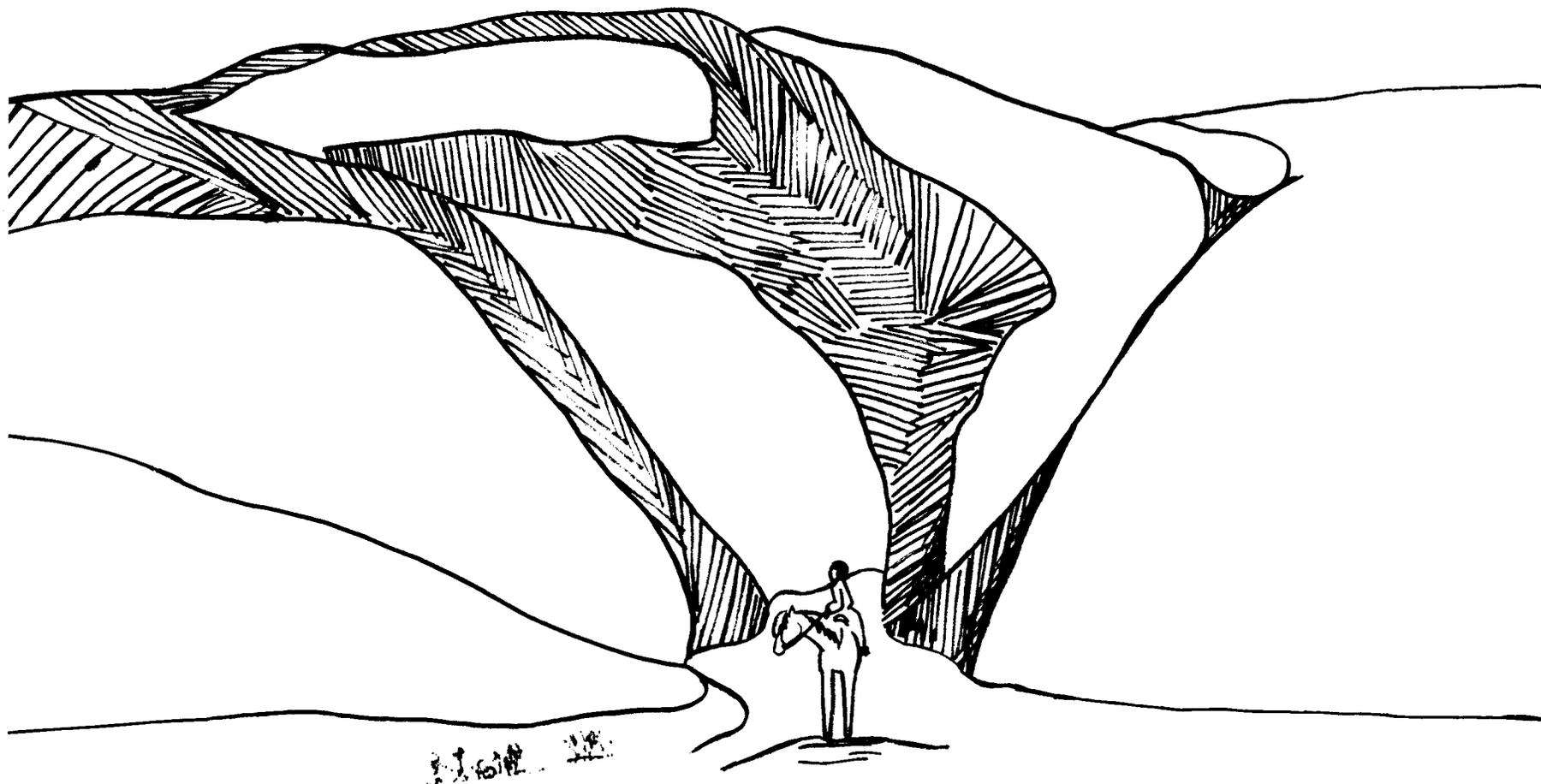
When the leaves feel the cold, they turn yellow

and jump to the ground before the snow comes.

Remember when you slipped on the first ice?”



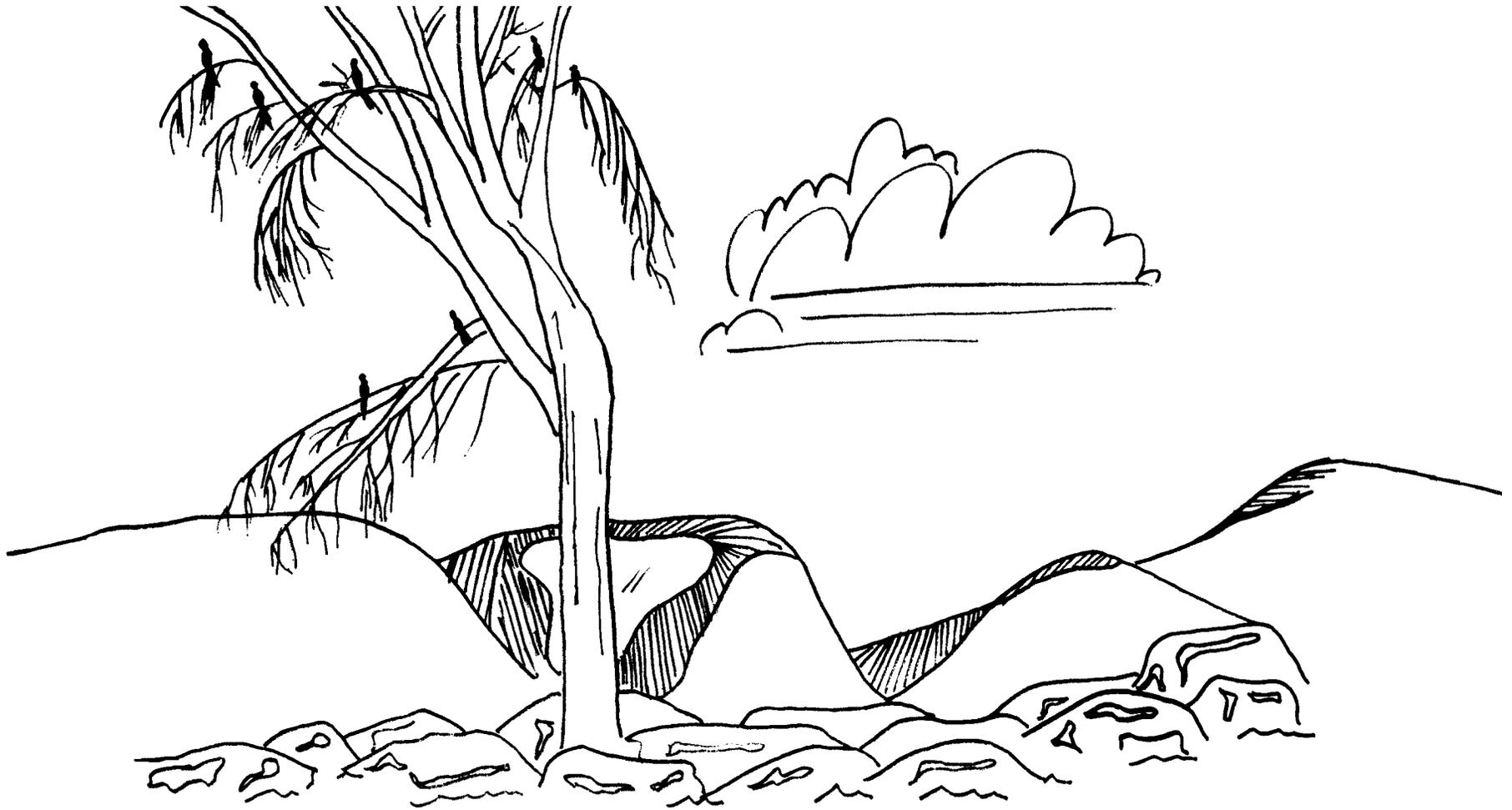
“In the winter the water clouds drop light, white snow.
It is pretty when the ground and some of the animals
are white.
But the magpie never changes his clothes.”



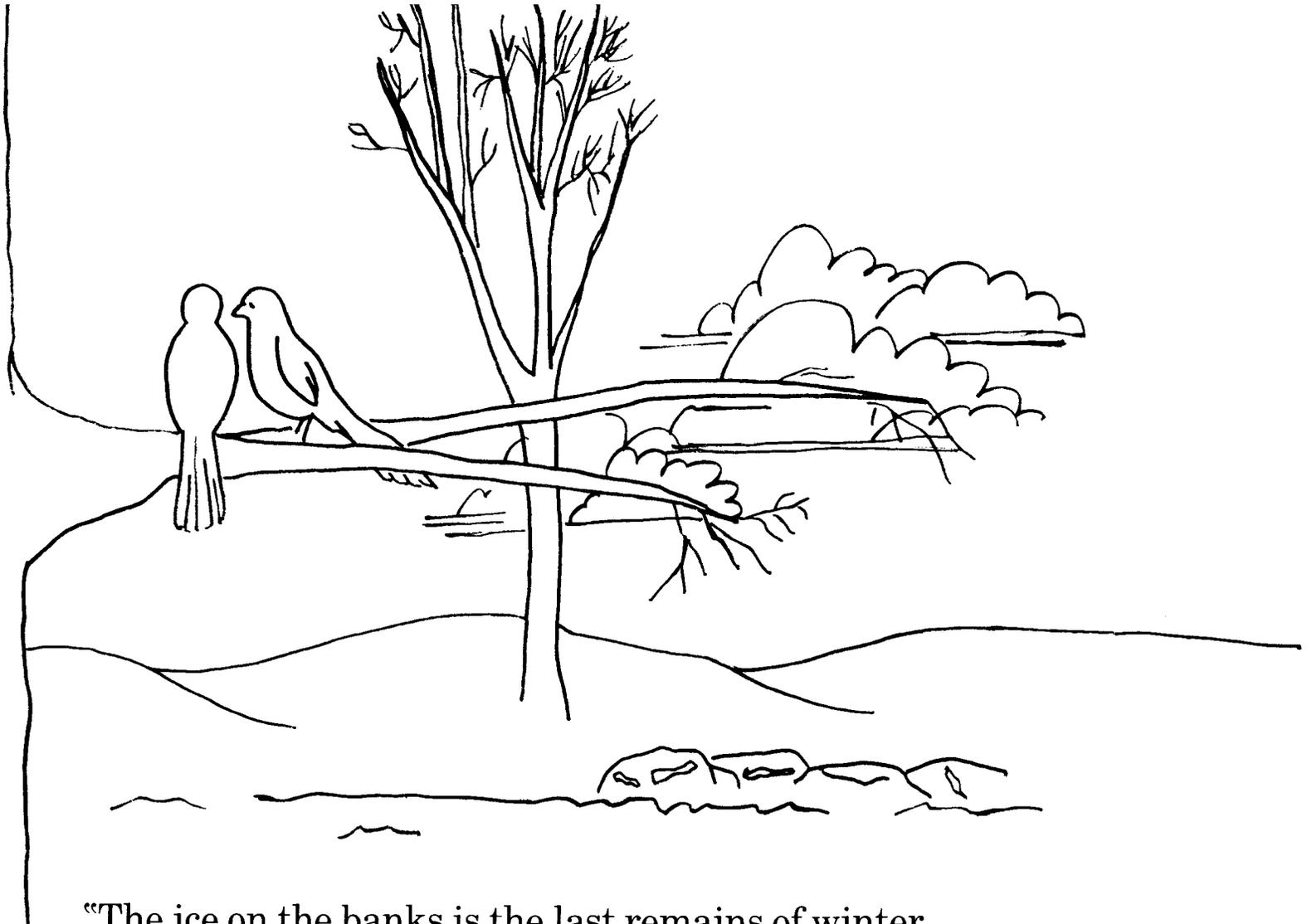
“When the sun’s road in the sky is higher and longer,
it becomes warmer.

With the warmth, the snow turns into water
and flows to a lower level.

The hills with just the drifts of snow
look like a brown and white painted horse.”



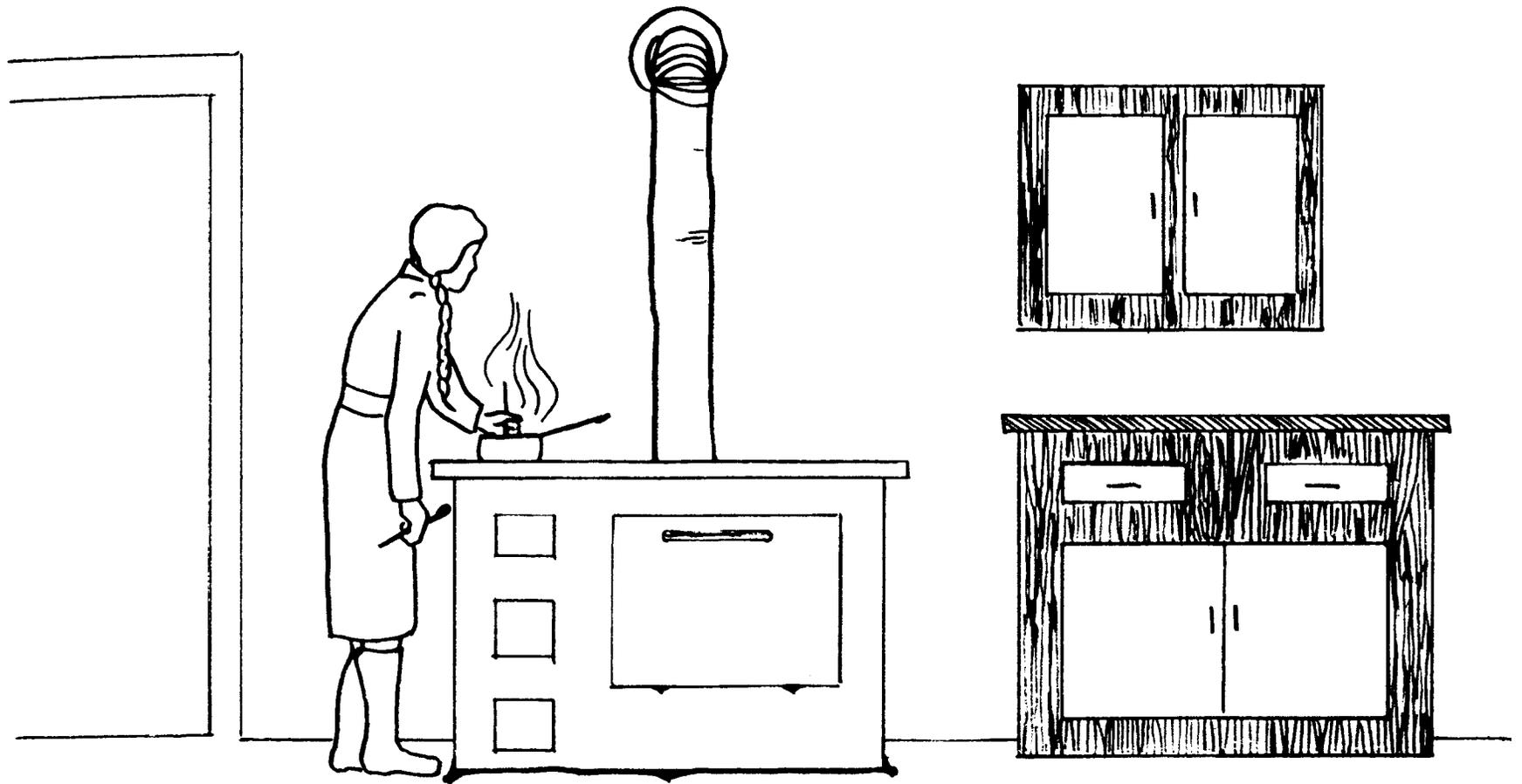
“The muddy water then gets in the river,
breaks and pushes the ice.
It leaves some of the water on the river banks.
This is the first flood.
The water is so strong, it moves big trees.
It moves everything that is in the way.”



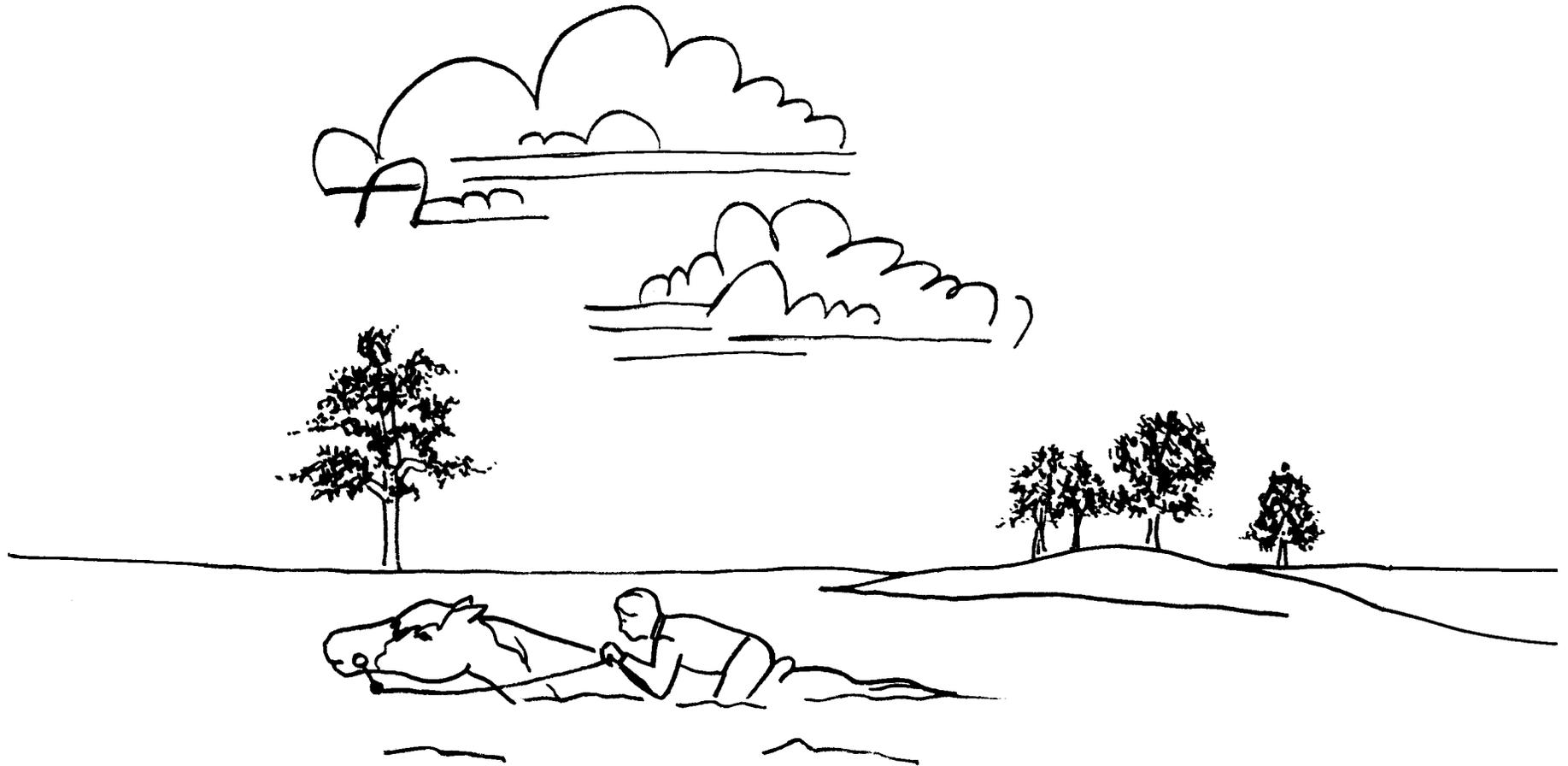
“The ice on the banks is the last remains of winter.
The water goes into the ground.
It tells the flowers, grass and leaves
to come out and put color back into the world.
The geese, meadowlarks, robins and ducks also return.”



“When all the leaves and flowers have come out,
the water clouds drop water and tell the berries,
potatoes, tomatoes and watermelons to come out.
Remember when the chokecherry trees
were heavy with berries, and you ate them?”



“Water has much mystery.
It changes with the temperature.
In the spring and summer there is rain water.
Sometimes it comes from the clouds
 in white, hard, rain balls called hail.
The rain helps living things to grow, but the hail kills them.”



“When the heat finally gets to the mountains,
the ice and snow turn into water.
All of this water rushes down to the valleys.
This water is our second flood.
You can ride your horse while it swims across the river
at this time, because there is no ice.”



“The more water you have, the stronger you are.
Horses have a lot of water in them.
That is why they are so strong.
Water is the greatest thing in the world.
Wherever water goes, there is life.
So take care of it.”





HENRY REAL BIRD

Henry Real Bird is a Crow Indian who was raised in the traditional Crow way on the Crow Indian reservation in Montana. He entered first grade speaking only the Crow Indian language and has an intimate knowledge of problems Indian children encounter in the public school system. He received his B.S. in Elementary Education from Montana State University and has taught reading in all the elementary grades. He served as Curriculum Coordinator for Project Head Start, Language Arts Supervisor at St. Xavier Indian Mission and Summer Program Planner for 4-H and Youth Programs on the Crow Indian reservation. As the Teacher Orientation Specialist for the Pacific Northwest Indian Program, he was responsible for developing a teacher's manual and accompanying teaching inservice program, in addition to writing and illustrating books designed for Indian children. He has served on the Montana Advisory Committee on Children and Youth and the Crow Central Education Commission, and was a delegate to the 1971 White House Conference on Youth. He also is a saddle horse rider and member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Booklets available in the Level II sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I and III sequences.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 <i>End of Summer</i>
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural
Commission | 12 <i>Coyote and the Man Who Sits On Top</i>
Salish Cultural Committee of
The Confederated Salish and
Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
Reservation |
| 2 <i>Thunder and the Mosquito</i>
Muckleshoot Tribe | 13 <i>The Crow</i>
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the
Fort Peck Reservation |
| 3 <i>Why the Codfish Has a Red Face</i>
Skokomish Tribe | 14 <i>Tepee, Sun and Time</i>
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural
Commission |
| 4 <i>How Wildcat and Coyote Tricked Each
Other</i>
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the
Fort Hall Reservation | 15 <i>Water Story</i>
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural
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| 5 <i>Pat Learns About Wild Peppermint</i>
Blackfeet Tribe | 16 <i>How Birds Learned to Fly</i>
The Fourteen Confederated Tribes
from the Yakima Nation |
| 6 <i>Picture Writing</i>
The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon | 17 <i>Napi and the Bullberries</i>
Blackfeet Tribe |
| 7 <i>Grandma Rides in the Parade</i>
Crow Tribal Historical and Cultural
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The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon |
| 8 <i>The Bob-Tailed Coyote</i>
Northern Cheyenne Tribe | 19 <i>Being Indian Is</i>
The Confederated Tribes of the
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| 9 <i>The Great Flood</i>
Skokomish Tribe | 20 <i>Why Animals and Man Can No
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The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon |
| 10 <i>The Rainbow</i>
The Confederated Tribes of the
Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon | |
| 11 <i>The Time the Whale Came to Jackson's
Bay</i>
Skokomish Tribe | |

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