

Close encounters



WWT The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

saving wetlands for wildlife and people
Registered charity no. 1030884

Close encounters

Rhyme and Action Story

Note to the teacher:

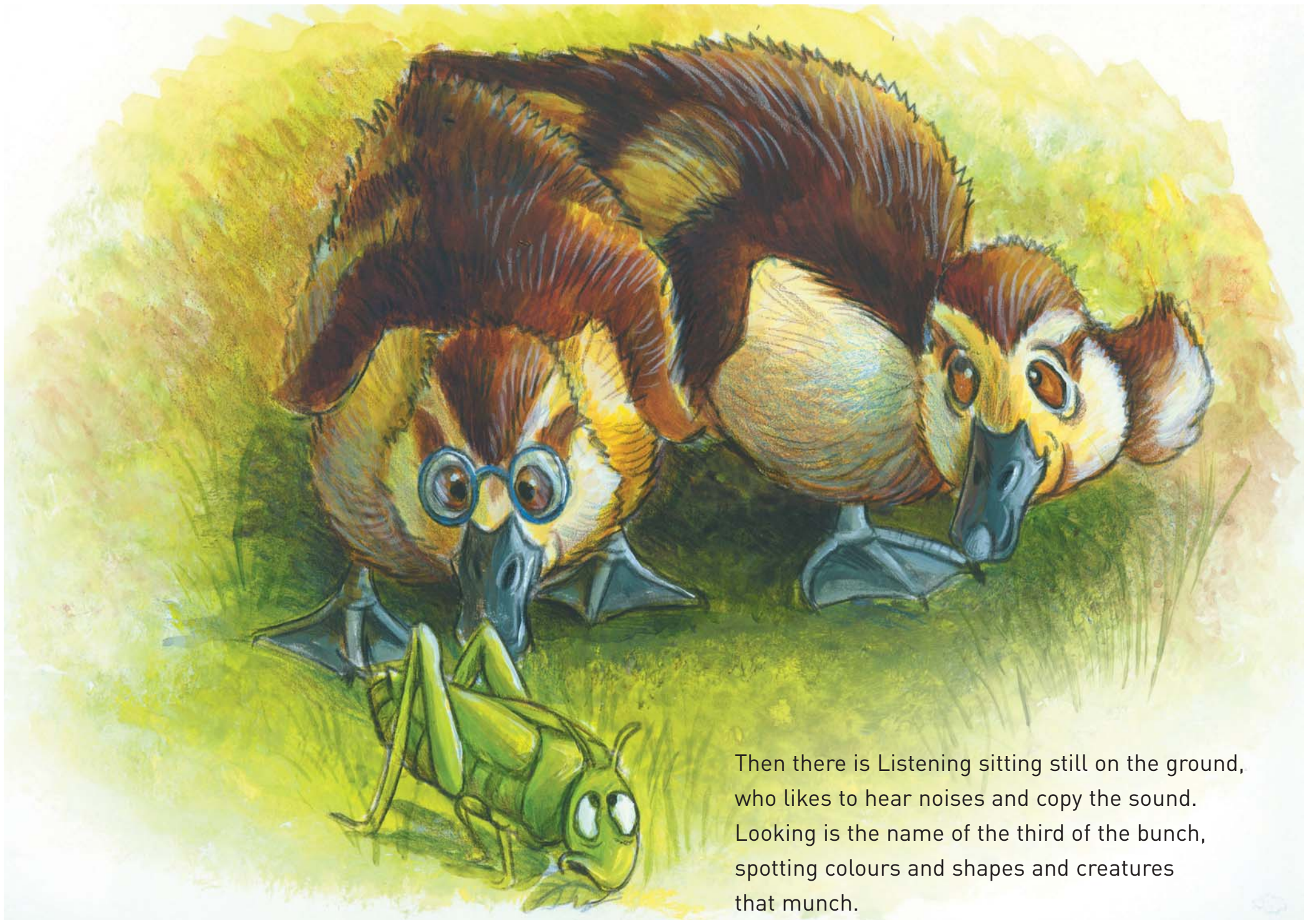
These are ACTIONS for the children to do while they are reading the poem.
They can be used to help keep the rhythm going and to reinforce the five senses.

Verse 1:	Beaky:	rub or pat tummy
Verse 2:	Listening:	cup hand to ear
Verse 2:	Looking:	hold hand above eyes (like looking out to sea)
Verse 3:	Big Foot:	spread fingers wide and move hands up and down in turn
Verse 3:	Smelly:	tap nose with finger
Verse 4:	Toad:	rock from side to side
Verse 5:	Sea:	move hand in a wiggle
Verse 6:	Oh no!:	shake head
Verse 7:	Best:	thumbs up
Verse 8:	Agreed:	nod head
Letter:	Ducklings:	actions as for their names
Letter:	Where?:	raise hands and shoulders





In this family there are ducklings five,
who each have skills that help them survive.
First there is Beaky all chubby and bright,
who munches his way through morning 'til night.



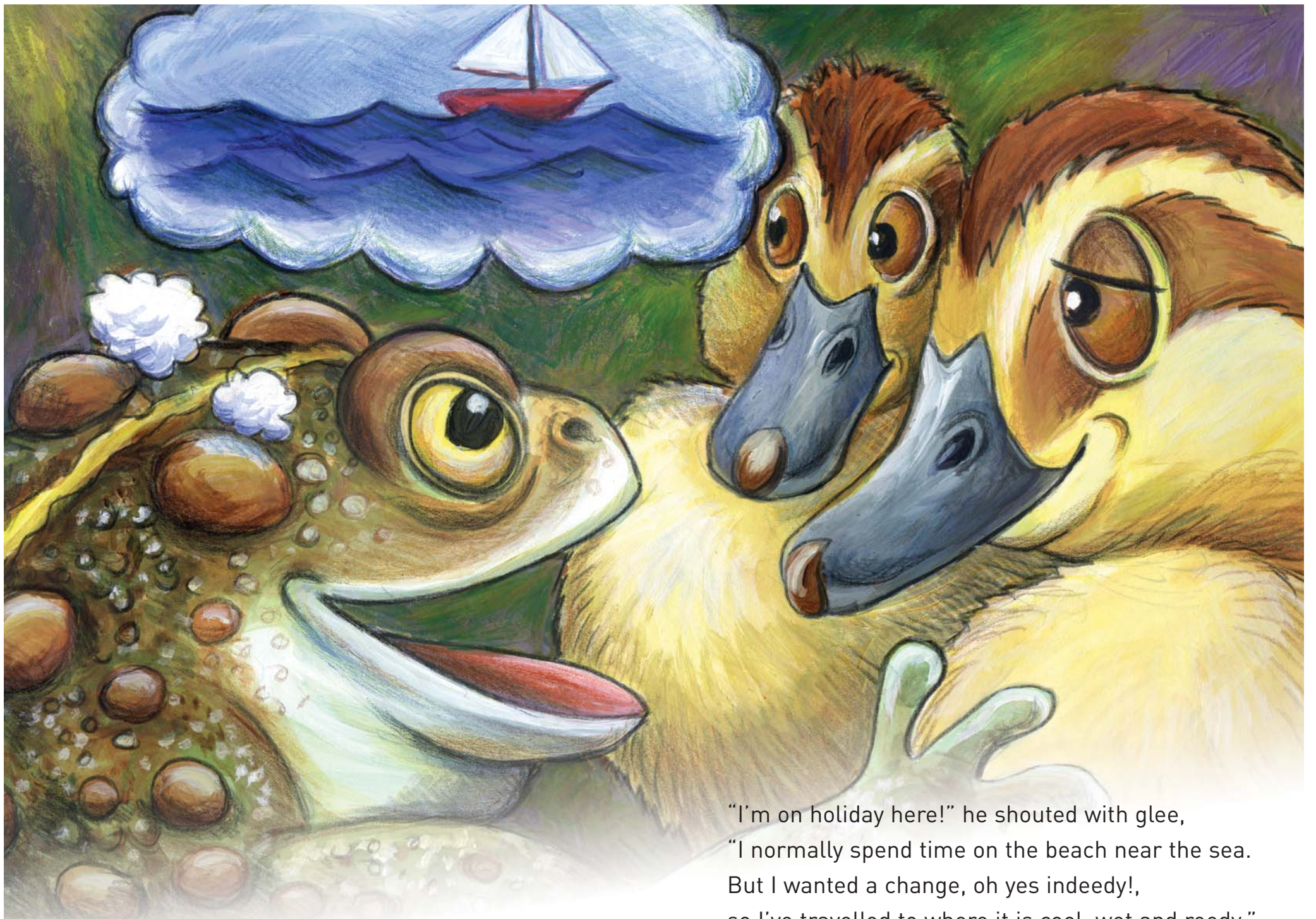
Then there is Listening sitting still on the ground, who likes to hear noises and copy the sound. Looking is the name of the third of the bunch, spotting colours and shapes and creatures that munch.



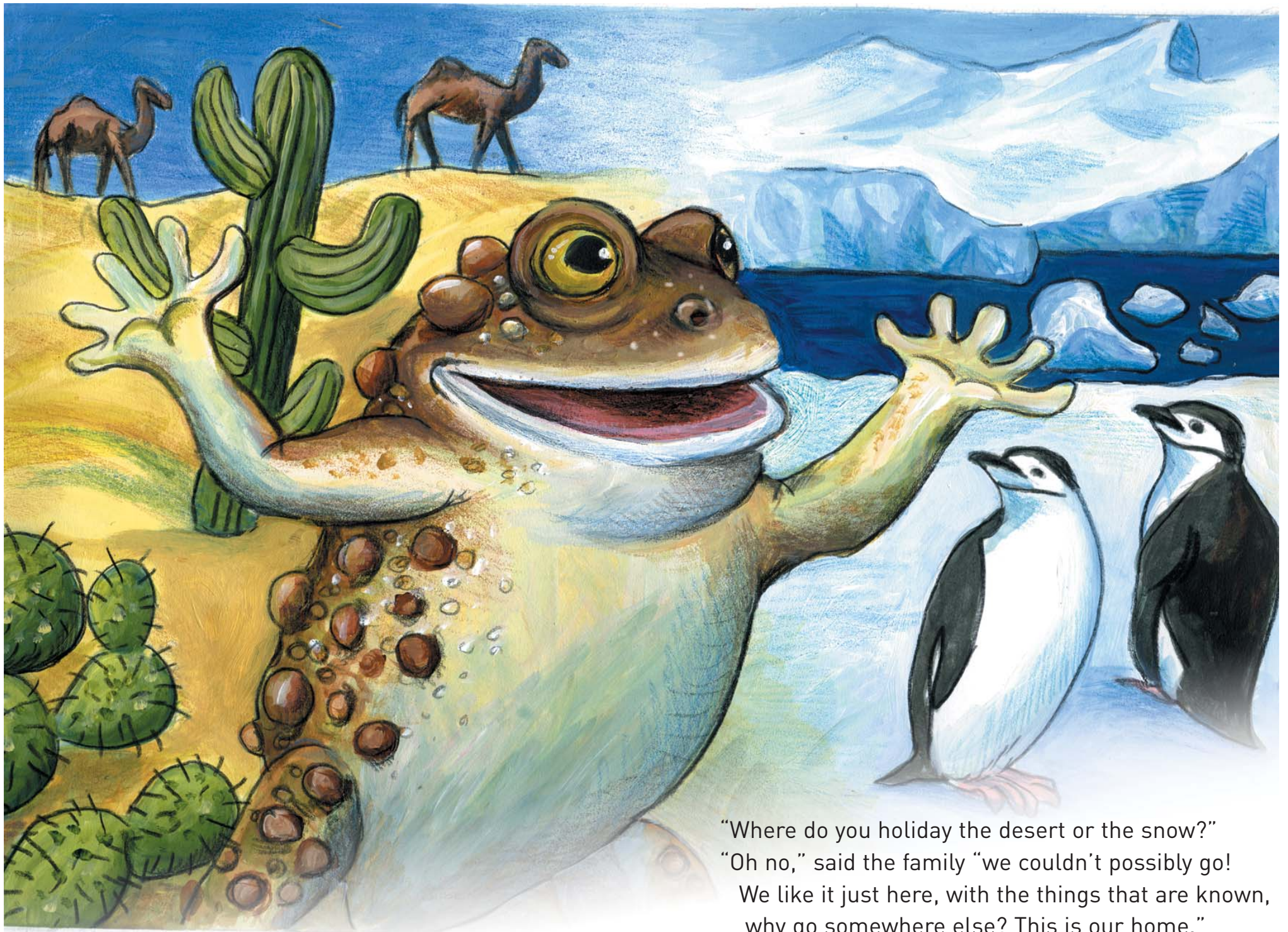
Big Foot has such lovely big feet,
they're great for exploring and swimming's a treat.
With a sensitive beak it's Smelly we see,
whose nostrils find smells...some nice, some nasty!



The family love their home and life is complete, but one day a Natterjack Toad they all meet. All bumpy and lumpy, yellow stripe down his back, along he came with his suitcase all packed.



“I’m on holiday here!” he shouted with glee,
“I normally spend time on the beach near the sea.
But I wanted a change, oh yes indeedy!,
so I’ve travelled to where it is cool, wet and reedy.”



“Where do you holiday the desert or the snow?”
“Oh no,” said the family “we couldn’t possibly go!
We like it just here, with the things that are known,
why go somewhere else? This is our home.”



Toad smiled and replied "A holiday is simply the best! How else do you see the world and enjoy a good rest? You can taste new foods and make some new friends, have big adventures, the fun never ends."



The Mallards thought hard and then they agreed
"A family holiday is just what we need!"
So they wrote to the company that Toad recommended
and requested a brochure of somewhere quite splendid...

Dear Close Encounters Holidays,

We'd like a place we can each feel at ease,
a holiday for a family with particular needs...

Beaky eats water snails, water shrimps and leeches,
but please don't offer him crisps, chocolates or peaches!
Listening likes sounds that make him feel happy,
like splashing and buzzing and wings that are flappy.
Looking needs plants, busy creatures and ponds,
it's views of these of which he is fond.
Big Foot loves the feel of squelchy mud, soft leaves,
rough stones and smooth wood are textures that please.
Smelly loves different scents... he can smell them from
miles!
pond water and pongy mud will fill him with smiles.

Where we will holiday we really don't know,
so please help us find somewhere excellent to go.
We've sent you some pictures of things we like best
and will wait for the brochure of which we request.

Thank you
From
the Mallard Family xxx