

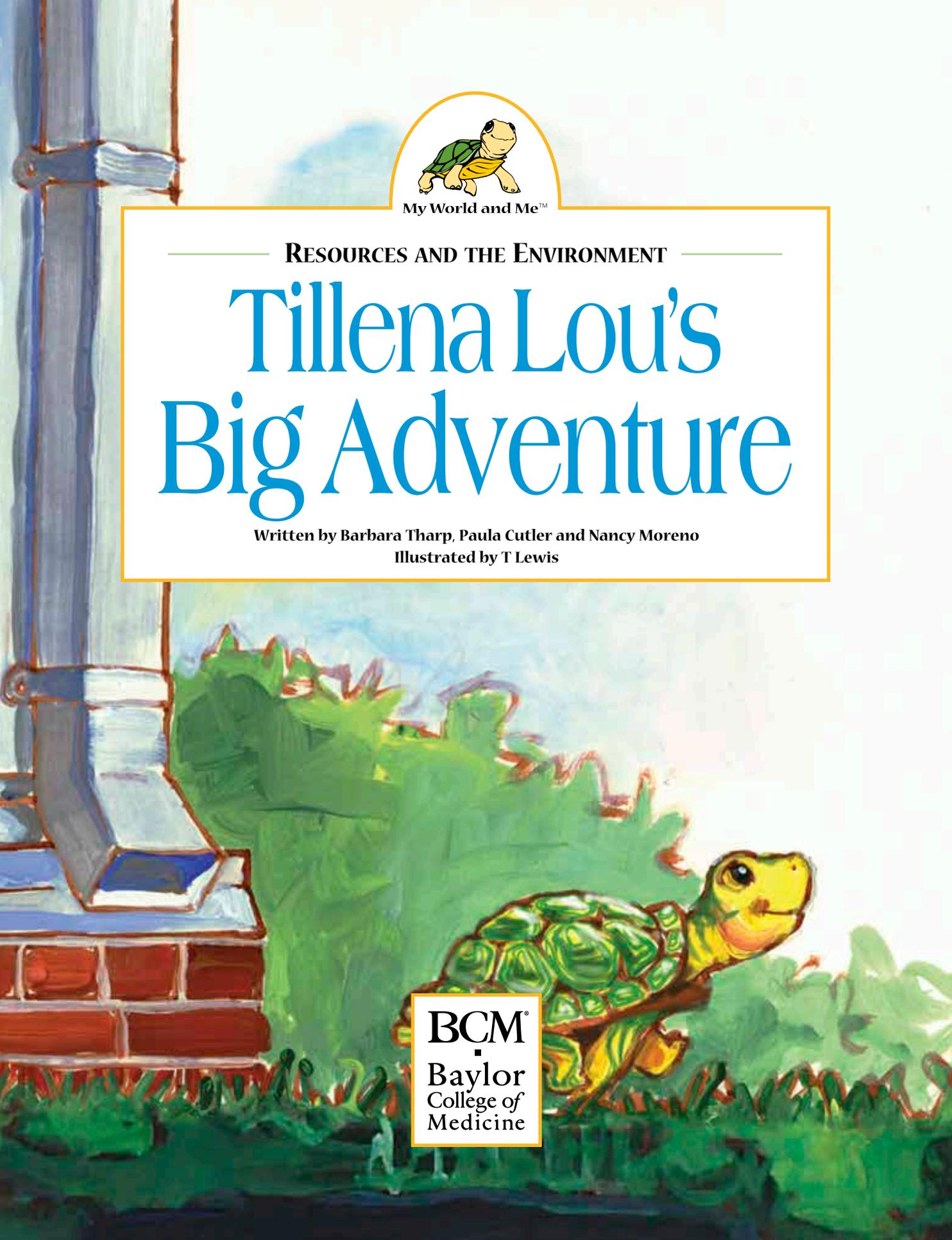


My World and Me™

RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Tillena Lou's Big Adventure

Written by Barbara Tharp, Paula Cutler and Nancy Moreno
Illustrated by T Lewis



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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-1-888997-52-1

BioEdSM

Teacher Resources from the Center for Educational Outreach
at Baylor College of Medicine

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Development of My World and MeTM educational materials was supported, in part, by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through a Science Education Partnership Award from the National Center for Research Resources (RR25 RR 13454) and through a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (R25 ES10698). The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Baylor College of Medicine or the sponsoring agencies. The authors thank Marsha Matyas, Ph.D., and Katie Frampton of the American Physiological Society for directing focus groups and field tests of these materials in the Washington, D.C. area.

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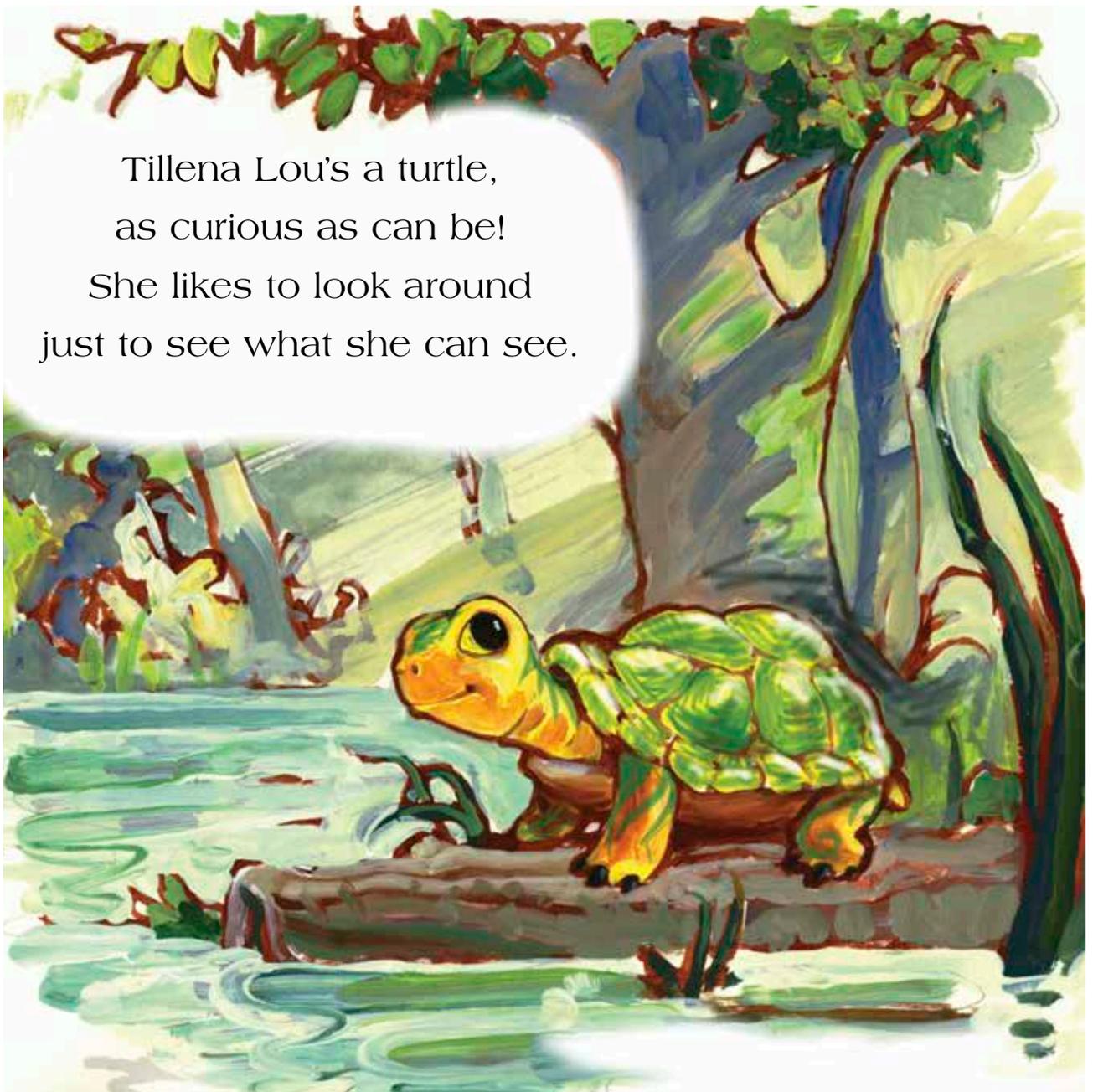
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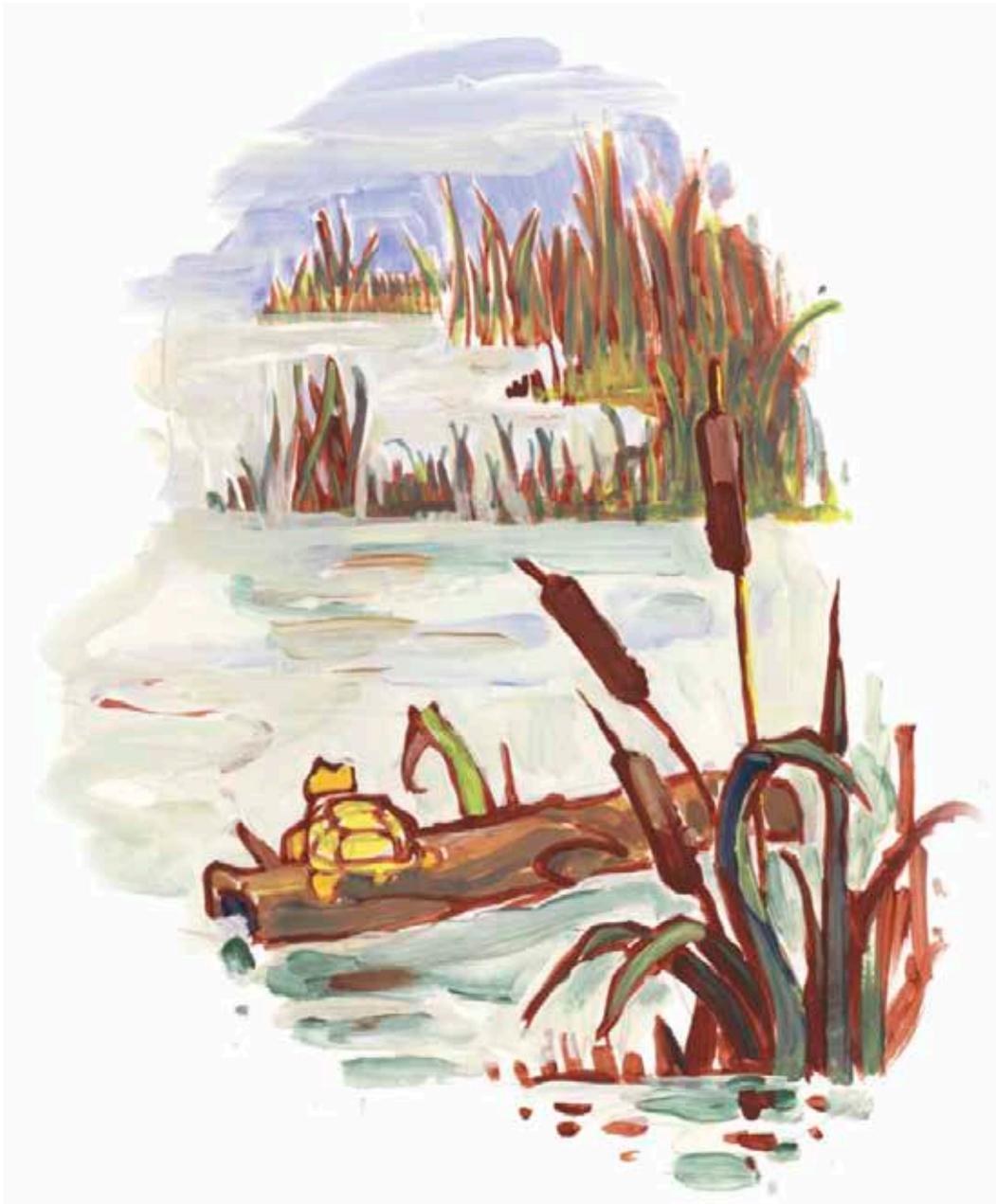
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Tillena Lou's a turtle,
as curious as can be!
She likes to look around
just to see what she can see.



Her mother says it's not safe
to stray too far from home,
but often curiosity
just makes her want to roam!





Sunning on her special log,
ready for another day,
Tillena needs her breakfast—
Then she will be on her way.

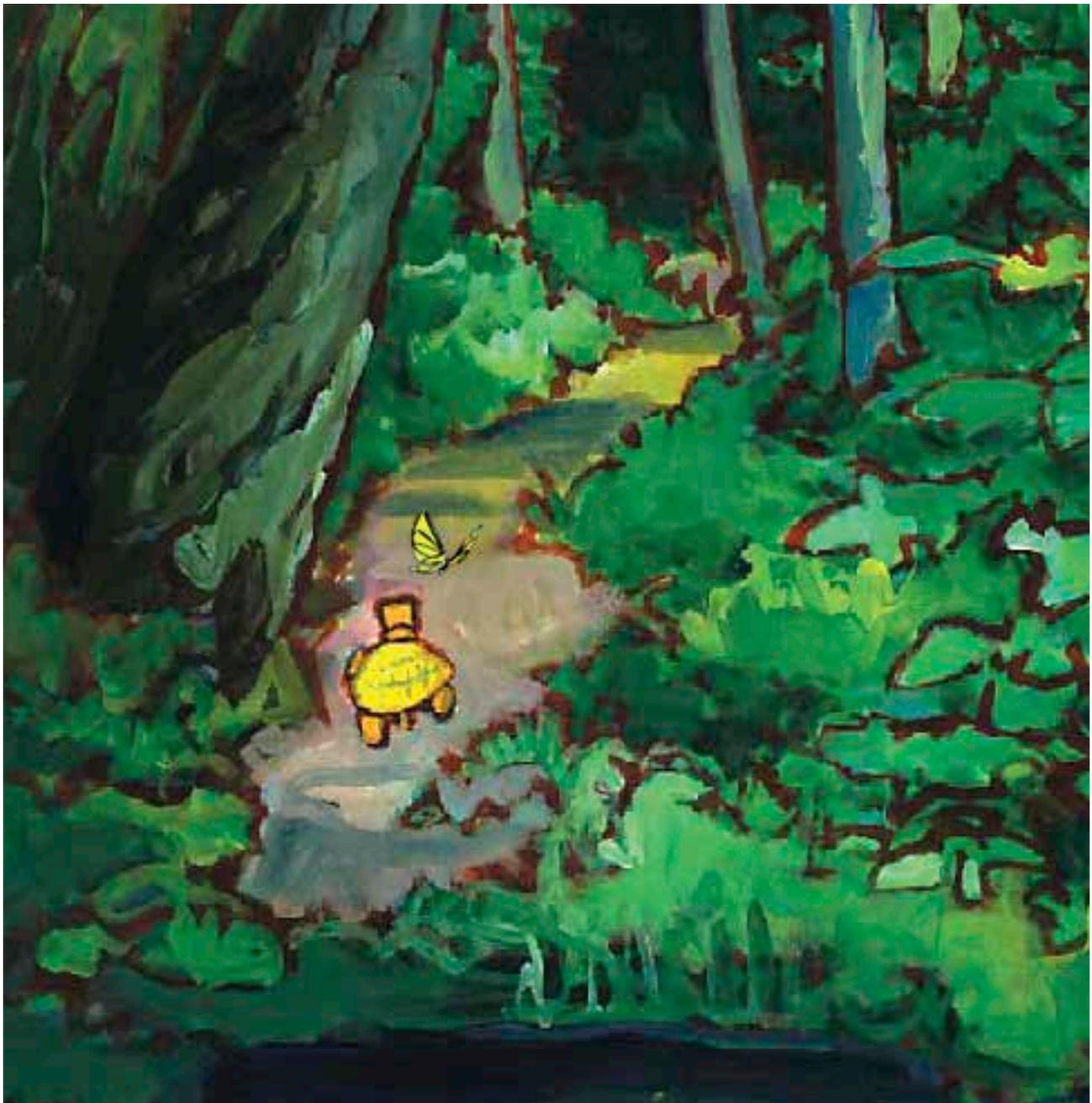
Soon she spies a water snail—
the kind she likes to eat,
and with a crunch and a munch,
she has her delicious treat.



Now she holds her breath and drives
underwater to a spot
where she finds some flower roots
that are tangled in a knot.

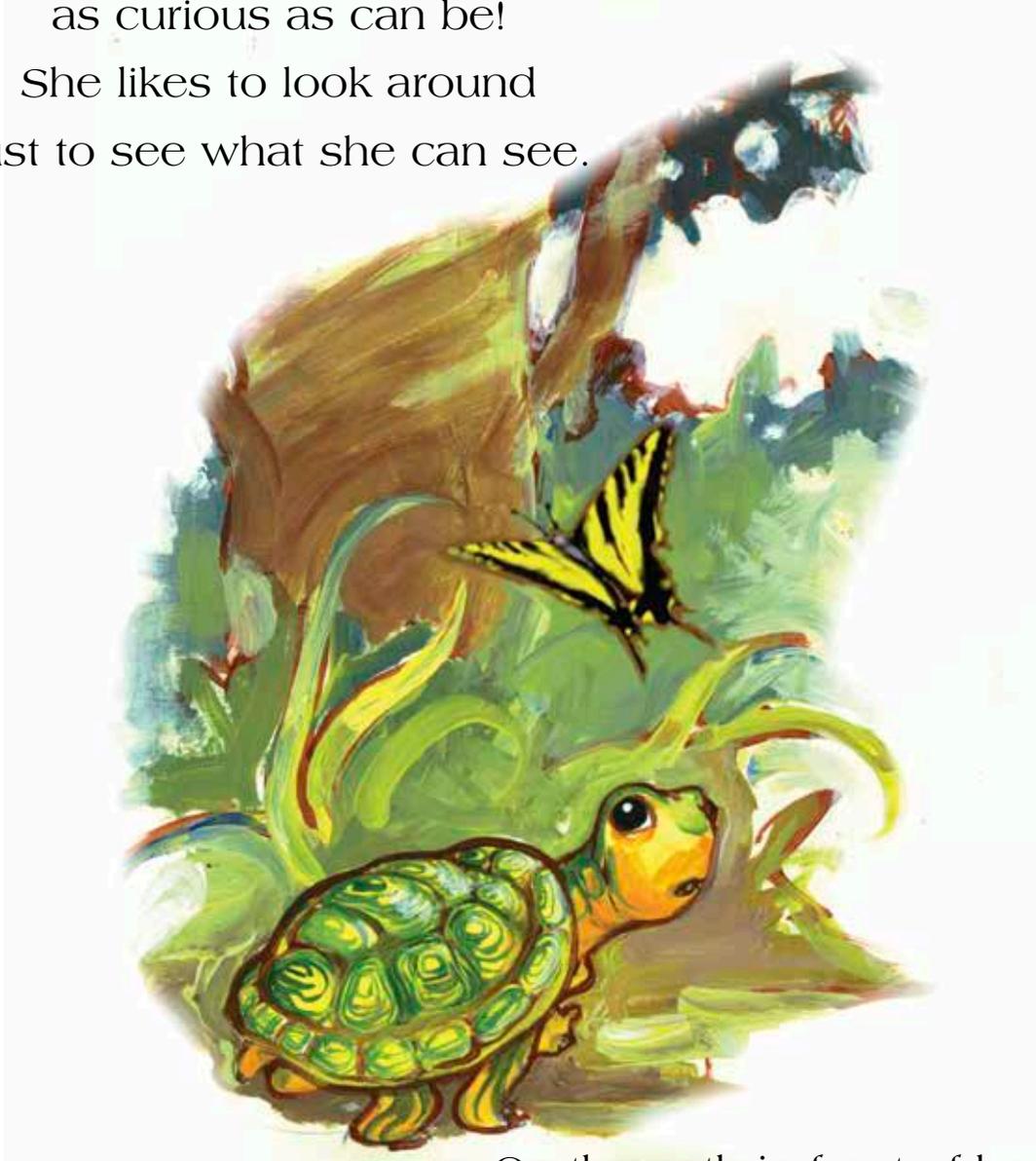
They are from water lilies—
tasty to Tillena Lou!
They're another favorite food,
and her brothers like them, too!





A very full Tillena
climbs up the bank of grass,
out of the clear fresh water
onto a smooth dirt path.

Tillena Lou's a turtle,
as curious as can be!
She likes to look around
just to see what she can see.

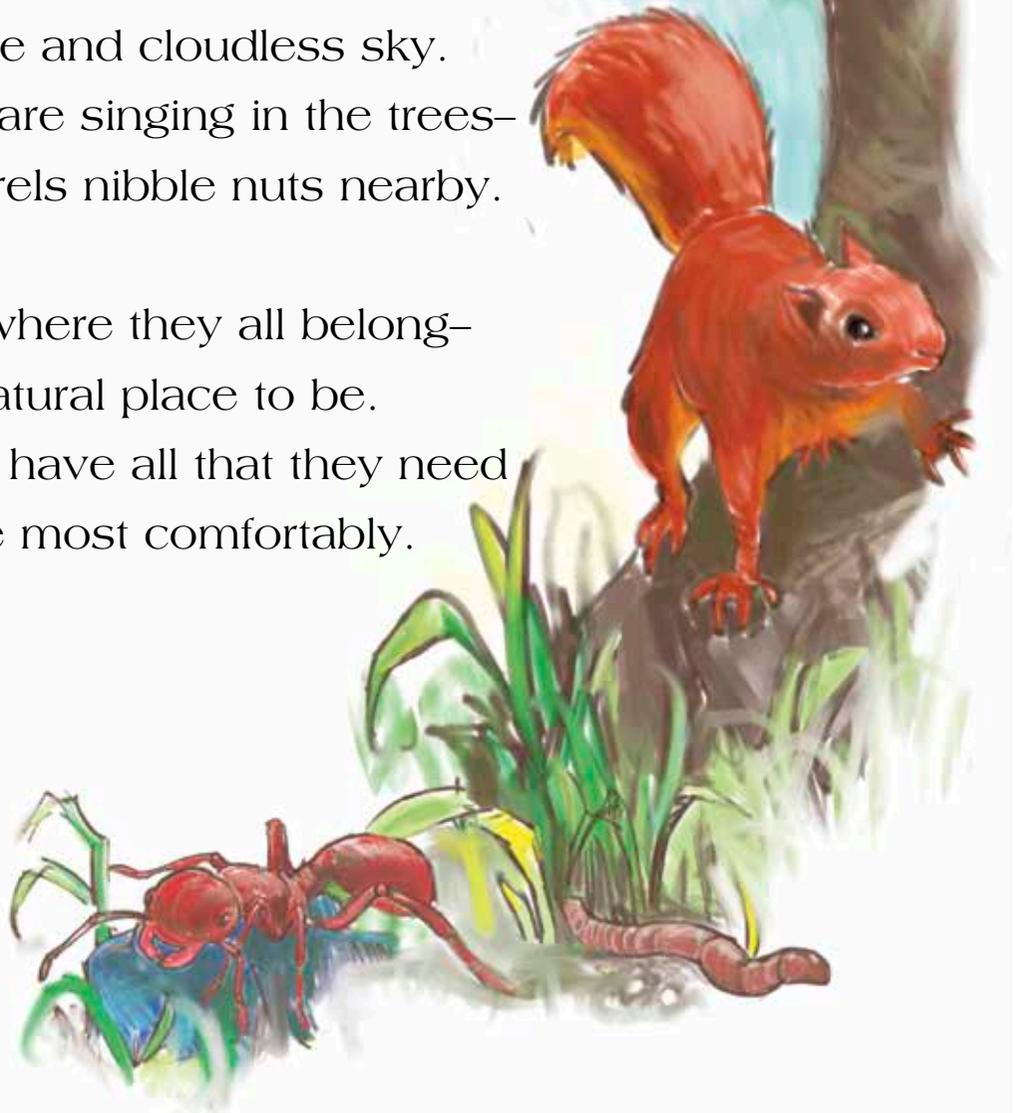


On the path in front of her
are many wondrous things:
Ants and worms and butterflies
with fluttering, outstretched wings.



Above the little turtle
is a blue and cloudless sky.
The birds are singing in the trees—
and squirrels nibble nuts nearby.

This is where they all belong—
A natural place to be.
Here they have all that they need
to live most comfortably.



BUT the tiny, little turtle
has wandered far from home;
it's just her curiosity
that makes her want to roam!

Tillena Lou's a turtle
as curious as can be!
She likes to look around
just to see what she can see.





She is lost and so she looks
to her left and to her right.
Then she sees in front of her
a really scary sight!

Two giant feet block her path.
They are standing in the leaves.





Tillena tries to get away
as she ducks into the weeds.



A hand comes down and grabs
a startled Tillena Lou.
So she pops inside her shell
because that's what turtles do.

Stuffed deep into a pocket
where it's dark and warm inside,
the tiny, tucked-in turtle
takes a bumpy, bouncy ride.



The ride stops and Tillena
feels she is all alone.
So she crawls from the pocket
to a place unlike her home!

Tillena Lou's a turtle,
as curious as can be!
She likes to look around
just to see what she can see.





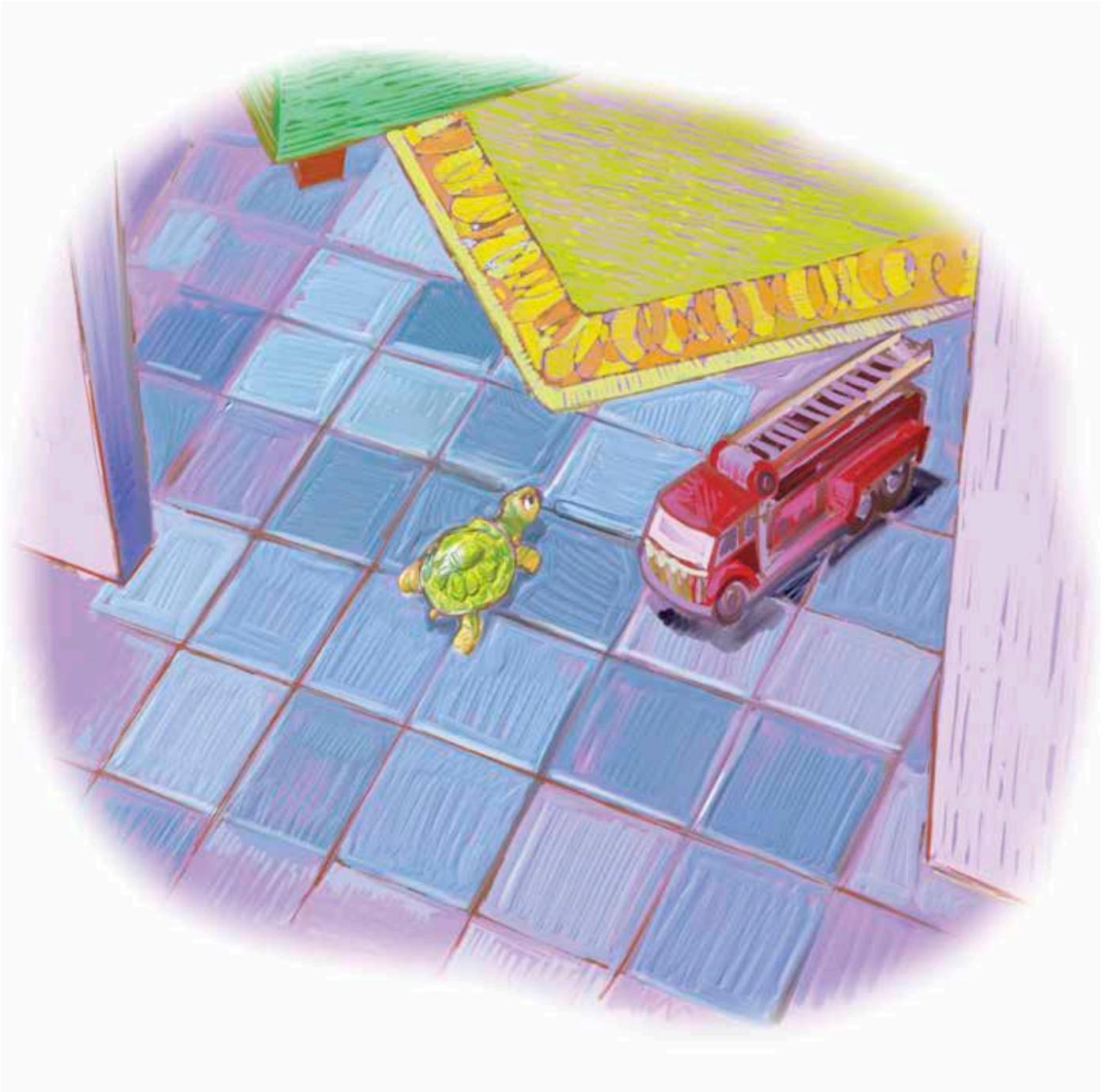
The puzzled little turtle
stands near a big, white box.
It makes a loud sloshing sound
as it wildly shakes and rocks.



The box is not at all like anything she's EVER seen! No friend at home on the lake has a strange swishing machine.

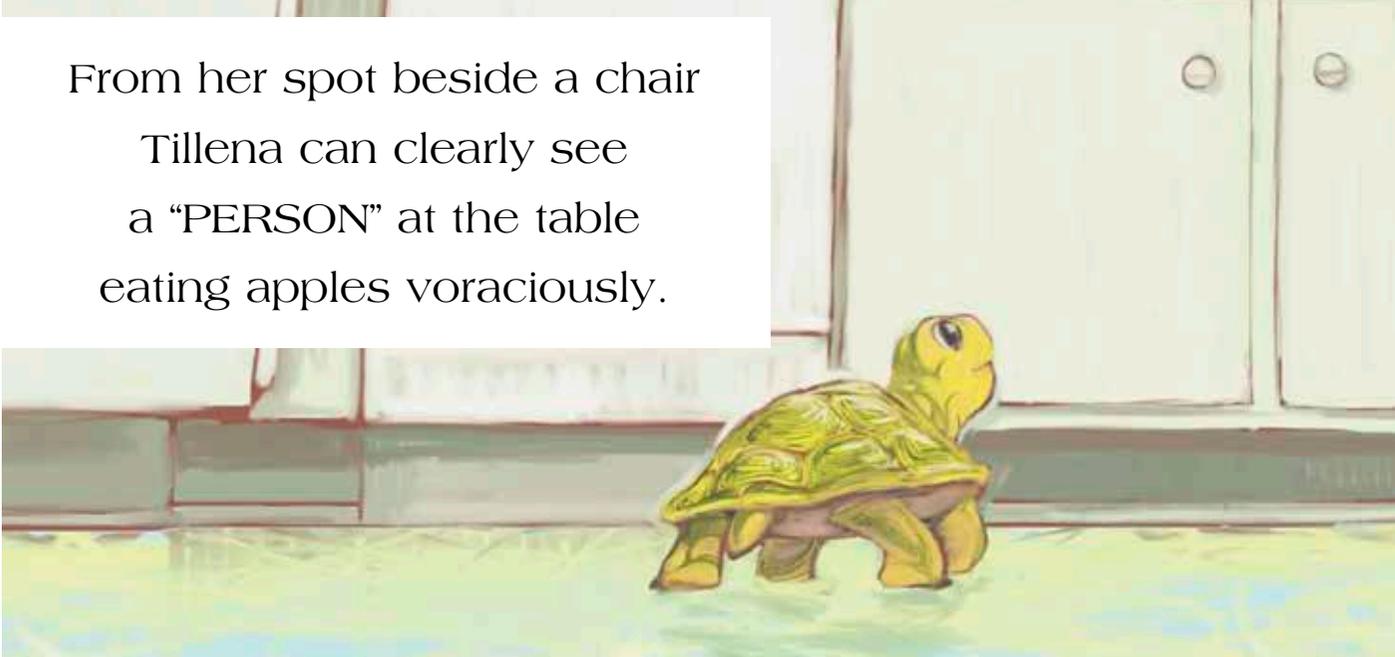
Tillena Lou's a turtle,
as curious as can be!
She likes to look around
just to see what she can see.

Is this a place for "PEOPLE?"
She just has to find out more.
Cautiously, she backs away
and heads through an open door.





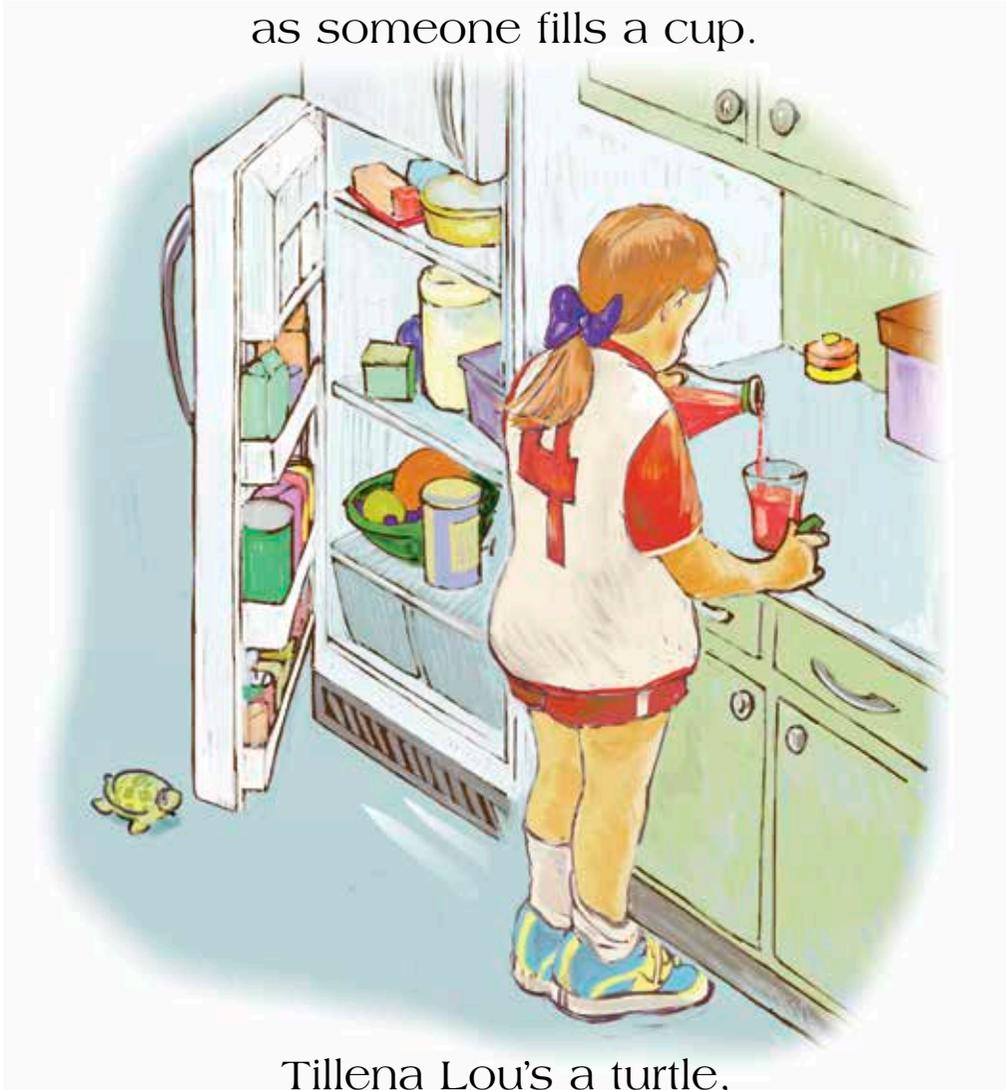
Tillena goes exploring
and she very quickly finds
a room that's filled with smells
of many different kinds.



From her spot beside a chair
Tillena can clearly see
a "PERSON" at the table
eating apples voraciously.



Now another big white box
suddenly is opened up.
Cool air whooshes out from it
as someone fills a cup.



Tillena Lou's a turtle,
as curious as can be!
She likes to look around
just to see what she can see.



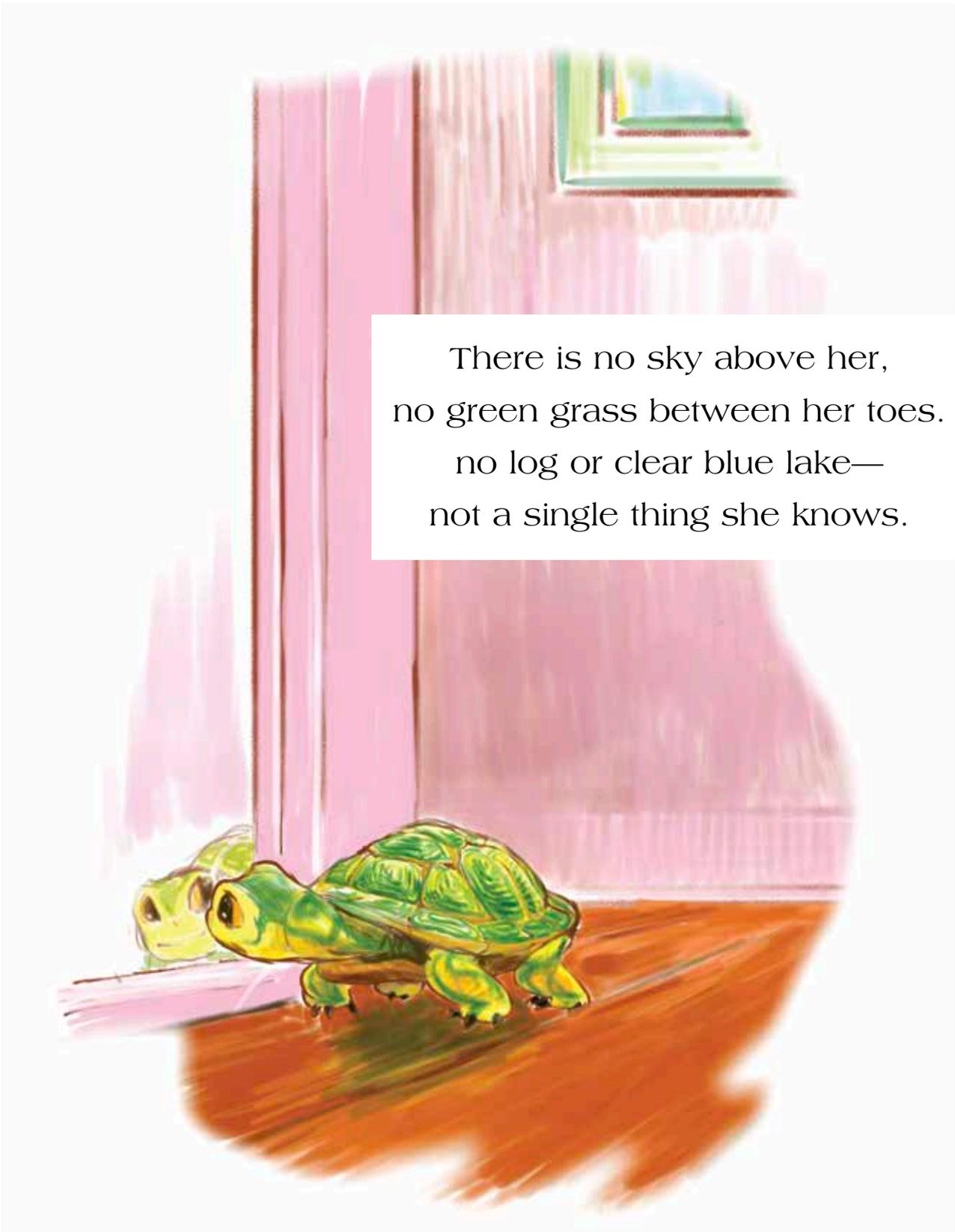
Now everywhere she turns,
she sees something that is new!
This is a real adventure
for little Tillena Lou.



The trees are in clay buckets
and fish in a big glass bowl.
Water's inside a place to sit
and it flushes down a hole!



There is a big box that talks
with moving pictures inside.
and small switches turn on lights
when it is dark outside.

An illustration of two green turtles on a wooden floor. One turtle is in the foreground, facing left, looking out a window. The second turtle is behind it, also looking out. The window has pink curtains and a small framed picture on the wall above it. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daylight.

There is no sky above her,
no green grass between her toes.
no log or clear blue lake—
not a single thing she knows.

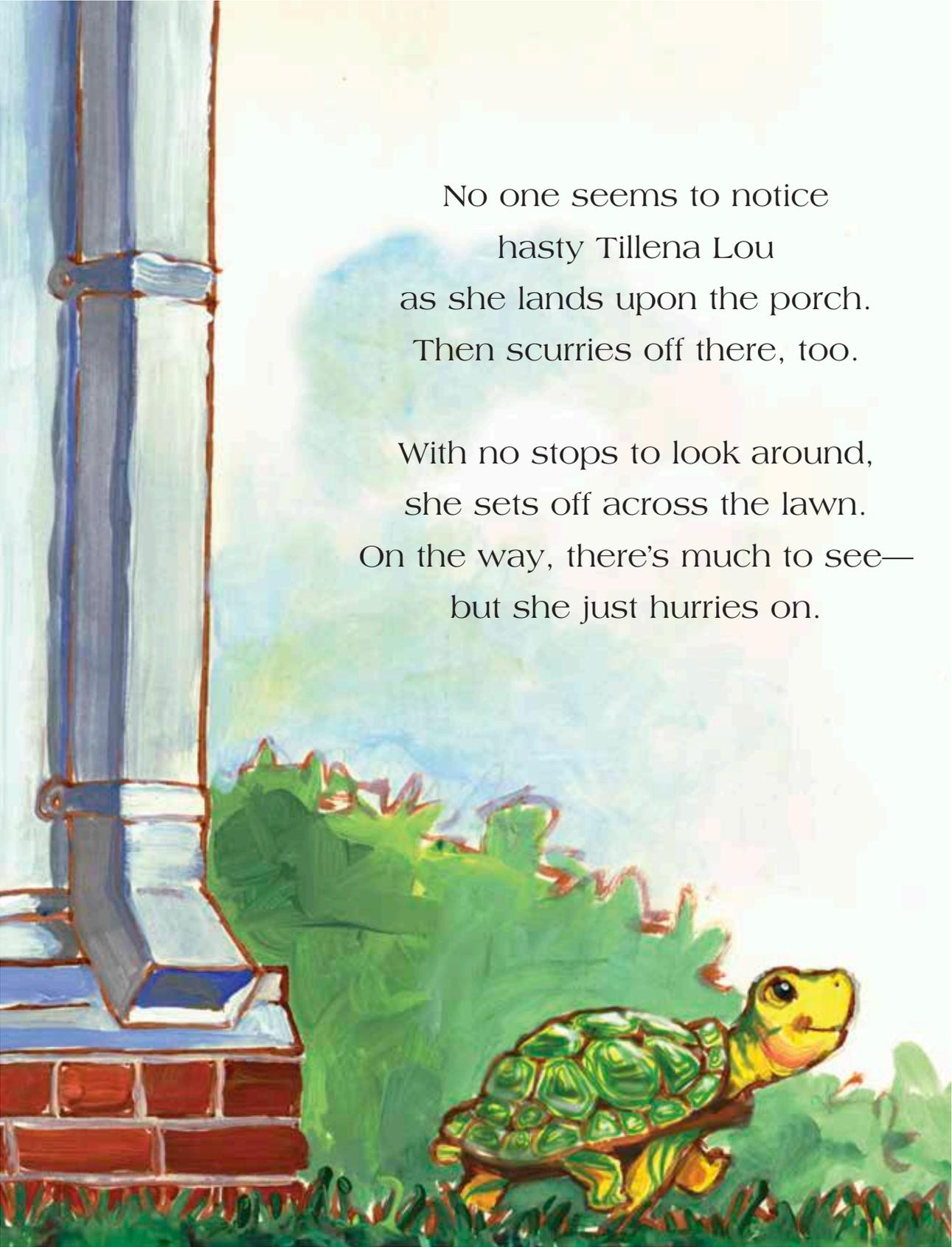
Tillena is a turtle,
as curious as can be!
She likes to look around
just to see what she can see.



Tillena wants to leave now,
She has seen enough today.
This is not a place for her
to live the turtle way.

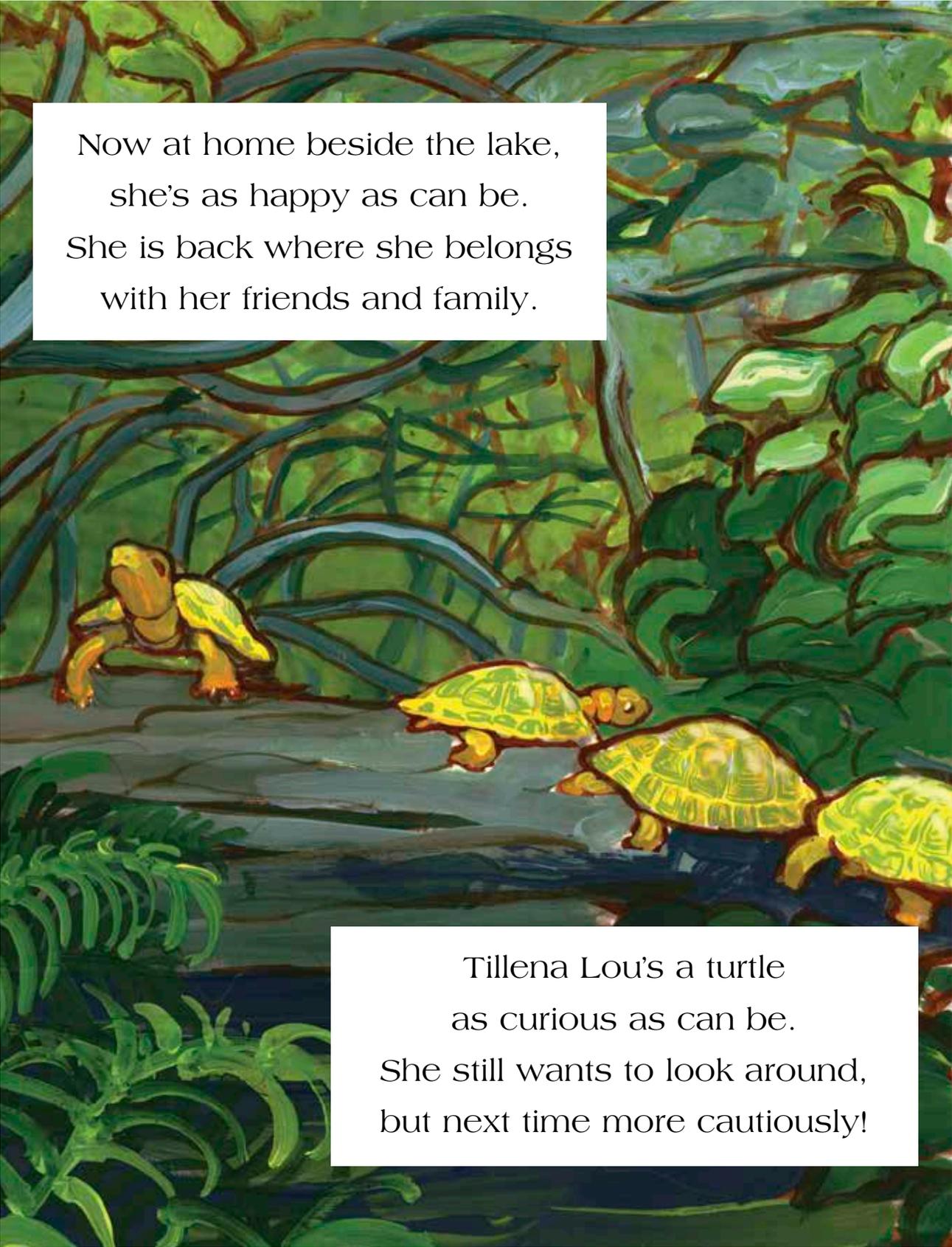


Suddenly, four furry legs
comes streaking through the door!
This must be her chance to leave.
So she scoots across the floor.

A painting of a yellow and green turtle walking on a lawn. The turtle is in the lower right foreground, moving towards the right. To its left is a brick porch with a window. The window has a blue frame and a white blind. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with green bushes and a light sky. The style is soft and painterly.

No one seems to notice
hasty Tillena Lou
as she lands upon the porch.
Then scurries off there, too.

With no stops to look around,
she sets off across the lawn.
On the way, there's much to see—
but she just hurries on.



Now at home beside the lake,
she's as happy as can be.
She is back where she belongs
with her friends and family.

Tillena Lou's a turtle
as curious as can be.
She still wants to look around,
but next time more cautiously!

The authors of this story are Barbara Tharp, Paula Cutler and Nancy Moreno. Ms. Tharp and Dr. Moreno are members of the Center for Educational Outreach (CEO) at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Ms. Cutler was a team member in the CEO while this story was being developed. The team worked together for several years on science education projects involving teachers and students from kindergarten through college and graduate school.

- Barbara Tharp, M.S., originally from California and Oklahoma, once worked for the FBI in Washington, D.C., and later was an economic analyst for an oil company. More recently, she has followed her primary interest of working with children, serving as an elementary school teacher and specializing in her favorite subjects, science and math. Currently, she serves as a full-time faculty member at BCM. In addition to creating instructional materials, she directs science and math teacher enhancement programs with classroom teachers from Houston and throughout the U.S.
- Paula Cutler, B.S., a native Texan, has been an educator for 20 years. Formerly a high school English teacher and an elementary school teacher, she spent over five years as an education coordinator at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. While at BCM, she served as project manager and was involved in numerous teacher professional development programs. She especially enjoyed creating instructional materials for and interfacing with teachers.
- Nancy Moreno, Ph.D., originally from Wisconsin and Michigan, is a biologist with a specialization in botany. She studied and classified neotropical plants in Mexico before completing her doctoral degree. Her current interests focus on the involvement of scientists in the education of students and teachers. She designs curricula, conducts workshops for teachers on creative methods for teaching science and using technology, and is involved in science education at all levels. BCM's My World project, which she directs, builds upon her special interests in ecology and environmental issues.

The illustrator, T Lewis, was born in Texas but has traveled extensively, living in such exotic locales as Africa, Switzerland and Alaska. Currently living in a small town in the state of Washington, where he and his wife are raising their young son, he "commutes" from time to time to Houston. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and has been a teacher in Alaska, 200 miles above the Arctic Circle. During this time, he also created paintings that are included in a Smithsonian Institute collection of Alaskan art.

While his broad range of professional artwork has appeared in many formats, T Lewis is especially fond of creating illustrations for children. Recent books bearing his work are *The Forgotten Helper*, *Bedtime Rhymes from Around the World* and *Cinderella: The Untold Story*. He has drawn the "Mickey Mouse" comic strip for Disney Productions and co-authored the comic, "Over the Hedge," which appears in newspapers daily through United Feature Syndicate.



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