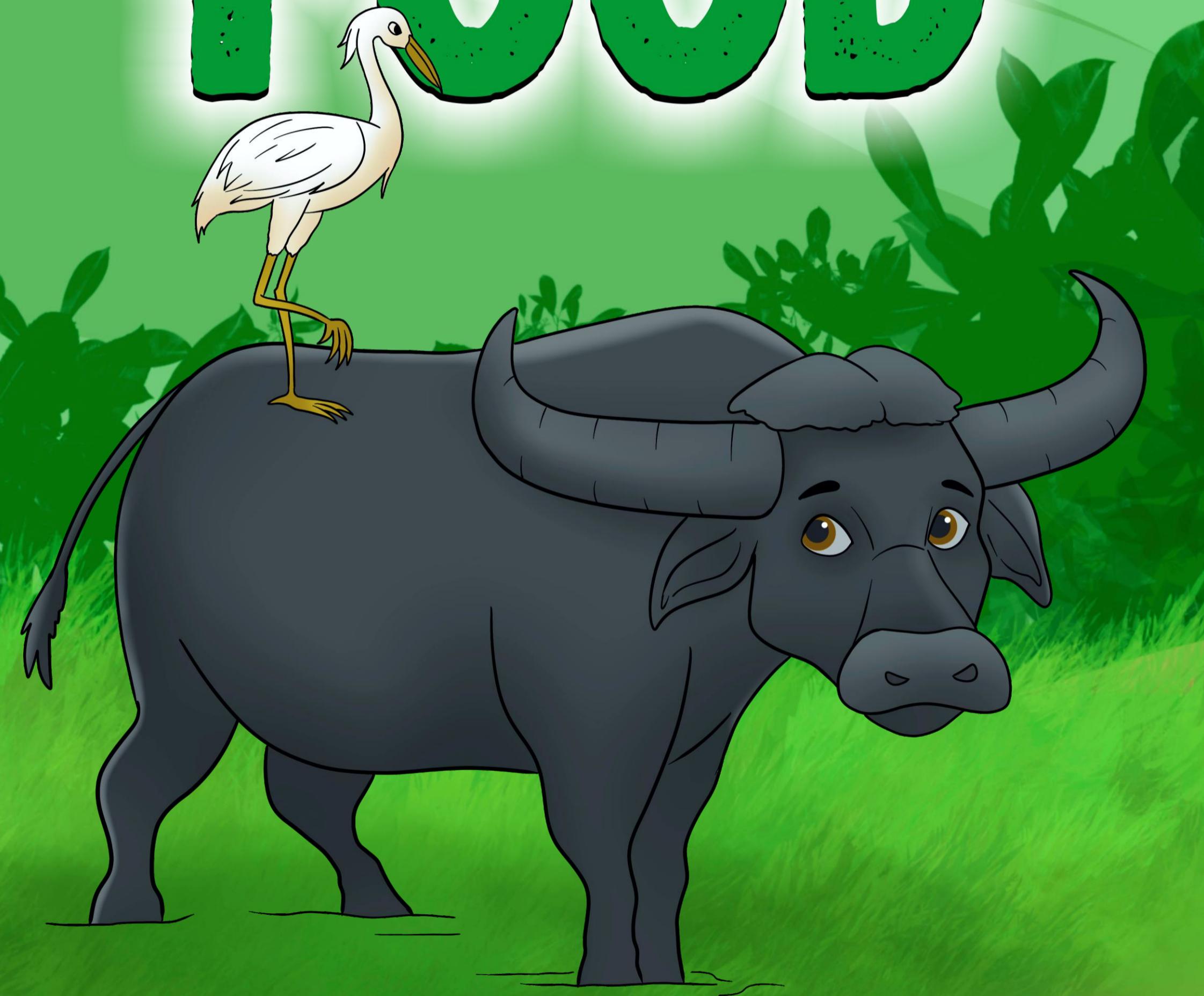


I Am Not Your FOOD



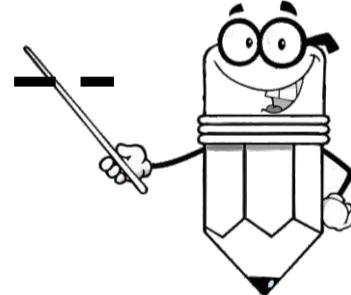
**Written by: Amy Lou D. Rada
Illustrated by: Deniel Suarez**

For the readers,

Embark on a thrilling journey with Tulabong, a curious bird, and Carabao, a gentle water buffalo, as they form an unlikely friendship and explore the diverse landscapes of rice fields and forests.

Follow their adventures through the lush greenery as they learn about the intricate relationships between animals and their environment, and how they rely on each other to survive.

This heartwarming book teaches us that building trust and positive relationships leads to harmony. With vibrant illustrations and engaging storytelling, this book is perfect for children ages 8 to 12 who love animals and want to discover the wonders of the natural world.



I Am Not Your **FOOD**



**Written by: Amy Lou D. Rada
Illustrated by: Deniel Suarez**



One day, Tulabong came to a rice field in search of food. It noticed a carabao wallowing in a mud hole, trying to protect itself from flies, mosquitoes, and other bothersome insects.

"Hello, my big friend Carabao. Why are you so irritable on this peaceful day?" greeted Tulabong.



"Stay away from me, you feathered creature. I'm not your friend! We're not on the same level! Your presence irritates me. It makes my skin so itchy that I want to eat you," replied Carabao, annoyed.



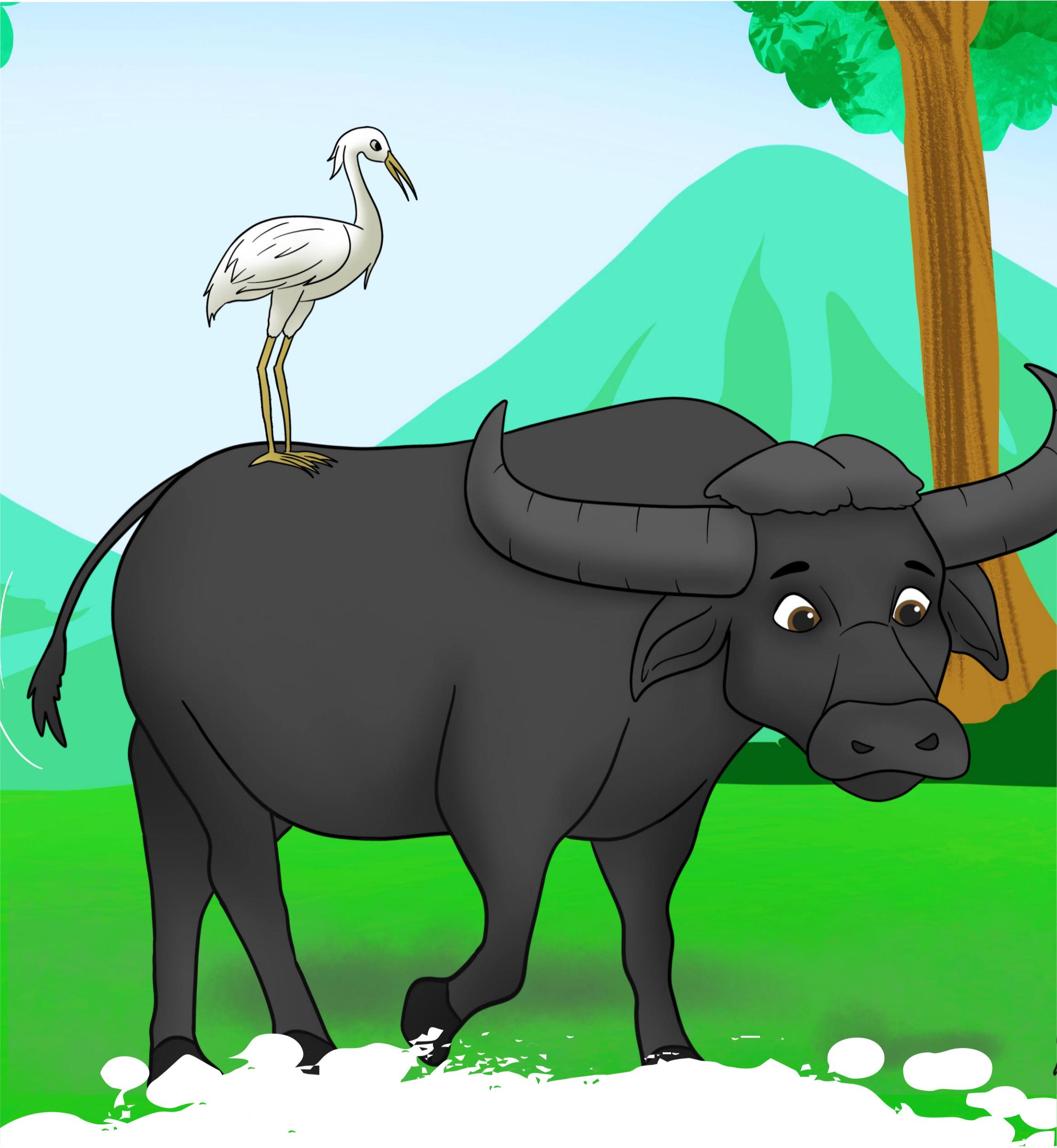
"Do you want to see how I can stop the itchiness on your skin through my magic?" asked Tulabong.

"Yes, of course! Can you do that?" asked Carabao.



"As we tour around, I will ride on your back. I am sure you will thank me afterward!" said Tulabong proudly.

As they went to a mini forest, they saw a cat with a rat caught on its sharp fangs.



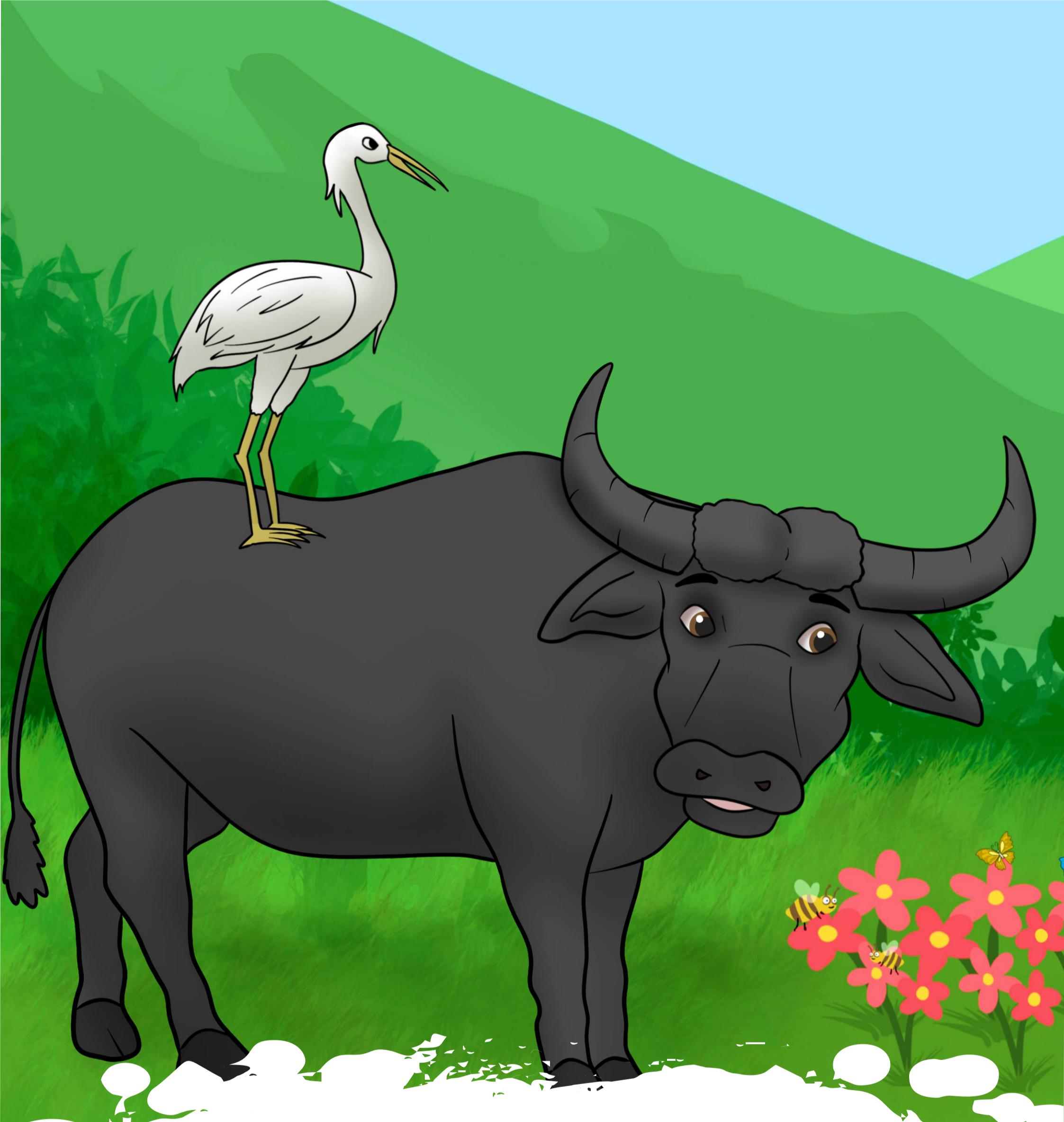
"I am sure you will not do that to me, my friend," asked Tulabong, shocked.

"You're not my prey, but if you trick me, maybe you will end up in my stomach," Carabao said.



"Oh, oh! I am not your food, my big friend! Look up at those orchids growing on the tree. The tree is providing a secure spot for the flowers to thrive without receiving any advantages in return," said Tulabong.

"This is known as commensalism and it truly exists! Please calm down. You and I will have an exciting and enchanted experience as I ride on your back," added Tulabong.



"What a lovely scene here!" Carabao exclaimed. *"They are so sweet. The bees and the butterflies kiss the flowers."*

"Oh, how mutualism works! The plants cannot reproduce without these insects, and without plants, we would not see any vegetation. Similarly, if you allow someone to be a part of your life and establish a positive relationship, you will flourish, develop, and achieve greatness like the flowers." said Tulabong



"Now, have you seen my magic?" asked Tulabong.

"What magic? I haven't seen any magic, any sparkle, or any gesture you make like what a fairy usually does!" complained Carabao.

"Who said I am like a fairy? You haven't seen my magic, but I am sure you feel it, don't you?" Tulabong asked with a smile as he flew down.



Carabao stopped and thought that it had been tricked by Tulabong.

"No, what you were thinking is wrong! I can read your mind. Let me ask you before I leave. Are you still irritated? Do you feel any itchiness on your skin, especially on your back?" asked Tulabong.

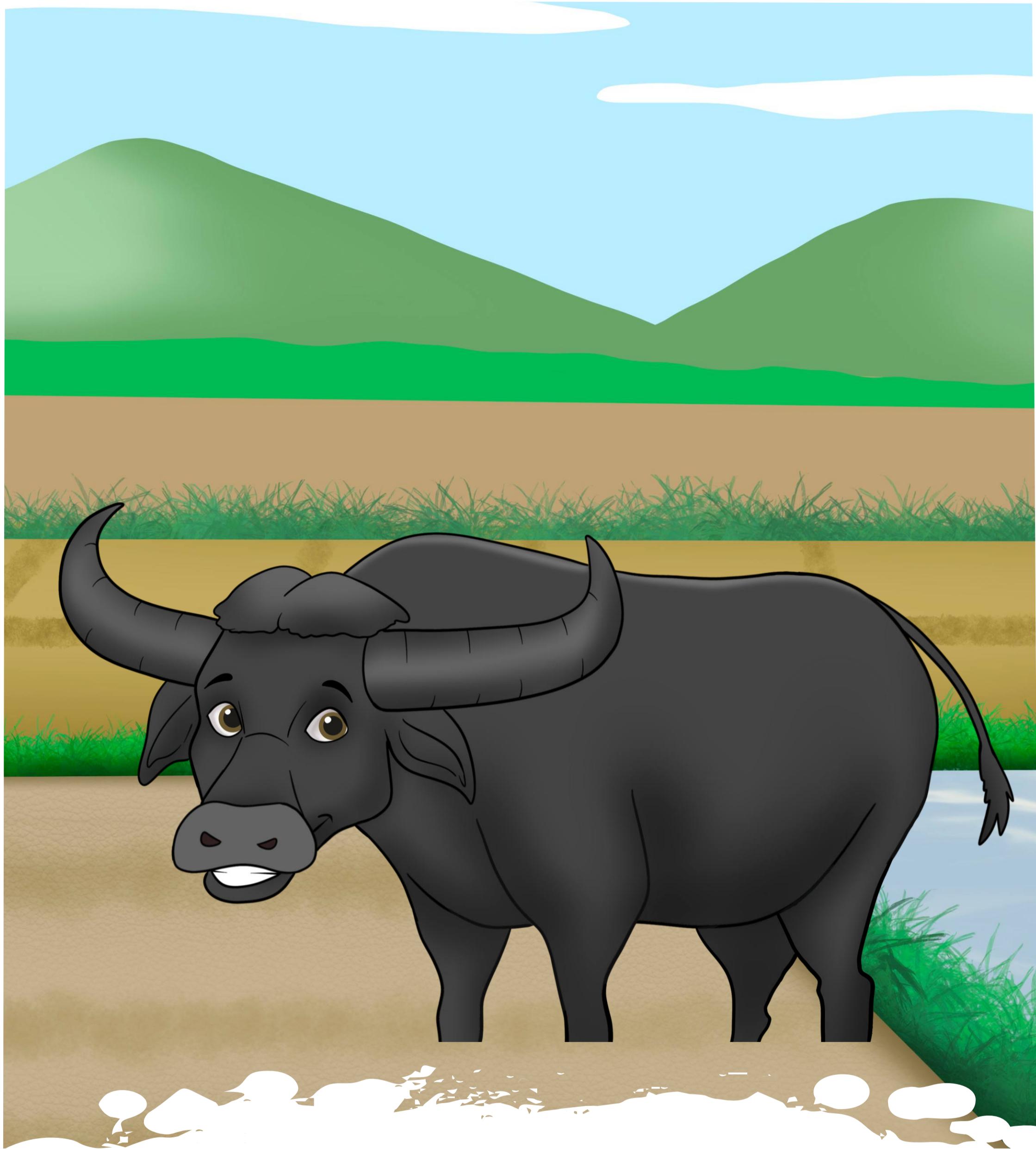


"No! I don't use my tail to strike my back anymore. My back is not itchy anymore," replied Carabao.

"Now, I need to go. Just call me if you need someone to eat the insects feeding on your skin. That's my magic. Goodbye, my friend," said Tulabong before flying away.



"Goodbye and thank you very much, my feathered friend! I am grateful to have you as my new friend! Till we meet again," shouted Carabao happily.



With joy in its heart, Carabao proceeded to the farm to continue plowing the field.

Moral of the Story:

Building trust and positive relationships lead to harmony.

Learning Competencies:

Title of the Story	: I Am Not Your Food
Author	: Amy Lou D. Rada
Illustrator:	: Deniel Suarez
Key Stage	: 2 Grades 4, 5 & 6
Learning Area	: English Science
Competency Code	: (EN5LC-la-2.I & S6MT-lli-j-5) English: Note significant details Science: Discuss the interactions among living things and non-living things in tropical rainforests, coral reefs and mangrove swamps

Comprehension Questions:

1. What did Tulabong see in the mud hole one day?
2. What caused the carabao to feel irritated?
3. Did Carabao initially believe Tulabong? Why or why not?
4. If you were in Tulabong's position, would you continue to help others even if they didn't believe you?
5. What steps will you take to foster trust and positive relationships among your classmates and others?



About the Author:

Mrs. Amy Lou Diaz Rada is a 40-year-old teacher who currently holds the position of Master Teacher I and School Learning Resource Coordinator in the Schools Division of Bago City. She obtained her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a major in Bachelor in Elementary Education in 2004, and her Master's Degree in Education majoring in Reading, Language, and Literature in 2016. She has been with the Department of Education (DepEd) for nine years.

With her years of experience, she has developed a deep understanding of the educational system and is passionate about her role in shaping the minds of future generations. As the School Learning Resource Coordinator since 2016, Amy Lou is dedicated to providing quality education and ensuring that every learner has access to the best learning resources available.



About the Illustrator:

Sir Deniel Suarez is a self-taught children's book illustrator who has been passionate about drawing since childhood. He has always enjoyed creating sketches and illustrations of comical characters, and this passion led him to explore various art forms and techniques. His deep interest in digital media arts further enhanced his skills and knowledge in the field.

With his love for drawing and storytelling, Sir Deniel focuses on illustrating children's storybooks, believing that he can share his talent and inspire young readers. His captivating illustrations bring characters to life and ignite the imagination of young minds.

Aside from his work as a children's book illustrator, Sir Deniel is also a comic artist/cartoonist for Manila Bulletin since 2016. His creative and entertaining comic strips have captured the hearts of readers and have contributed to his growing reputation as an accomplished artist.



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