

Mother Duck

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Illustrator: Ahmed Shaltoot





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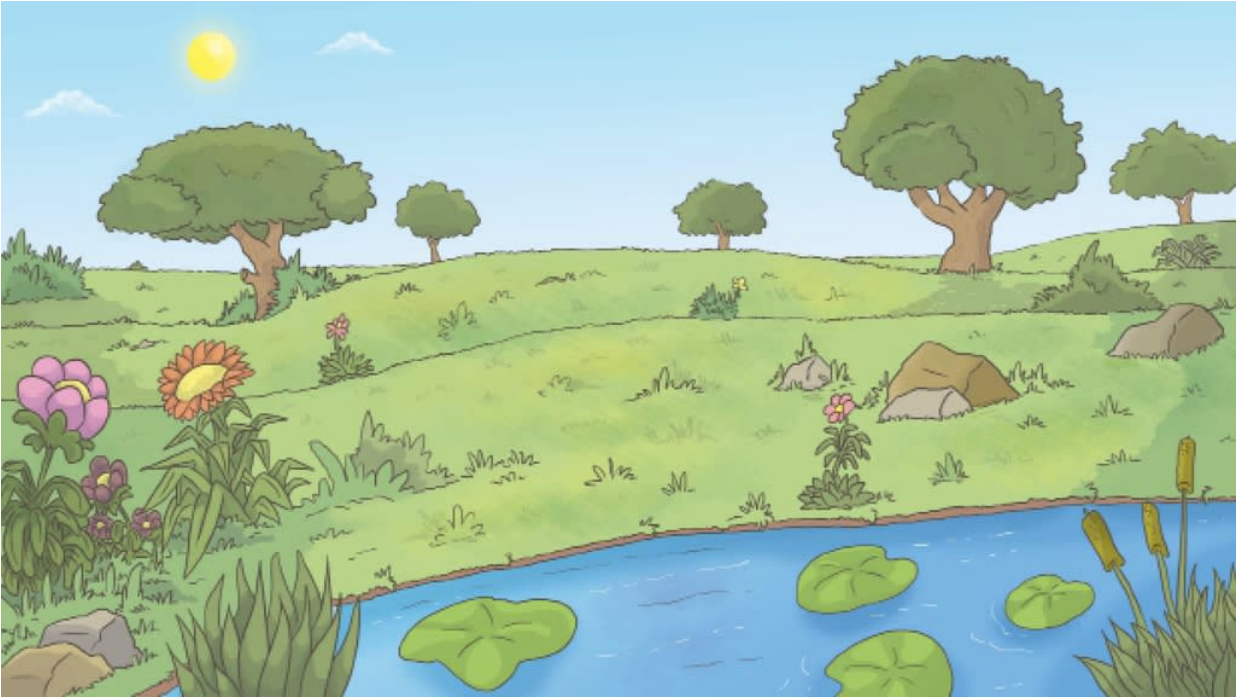
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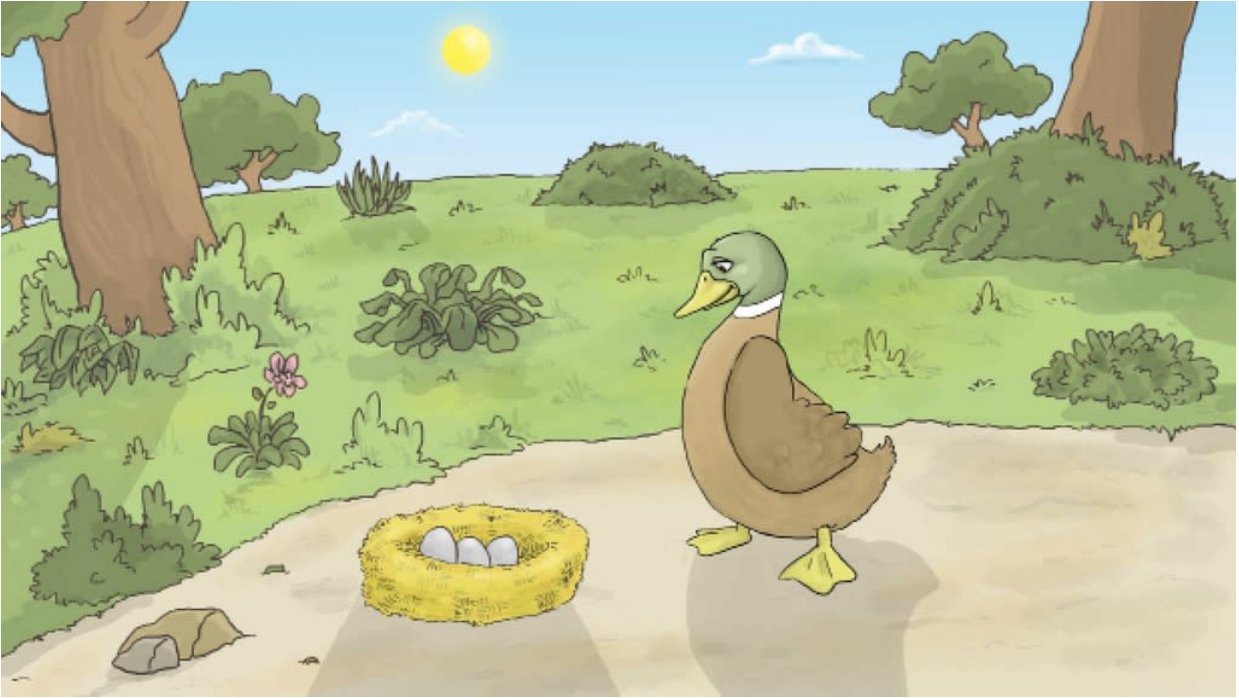
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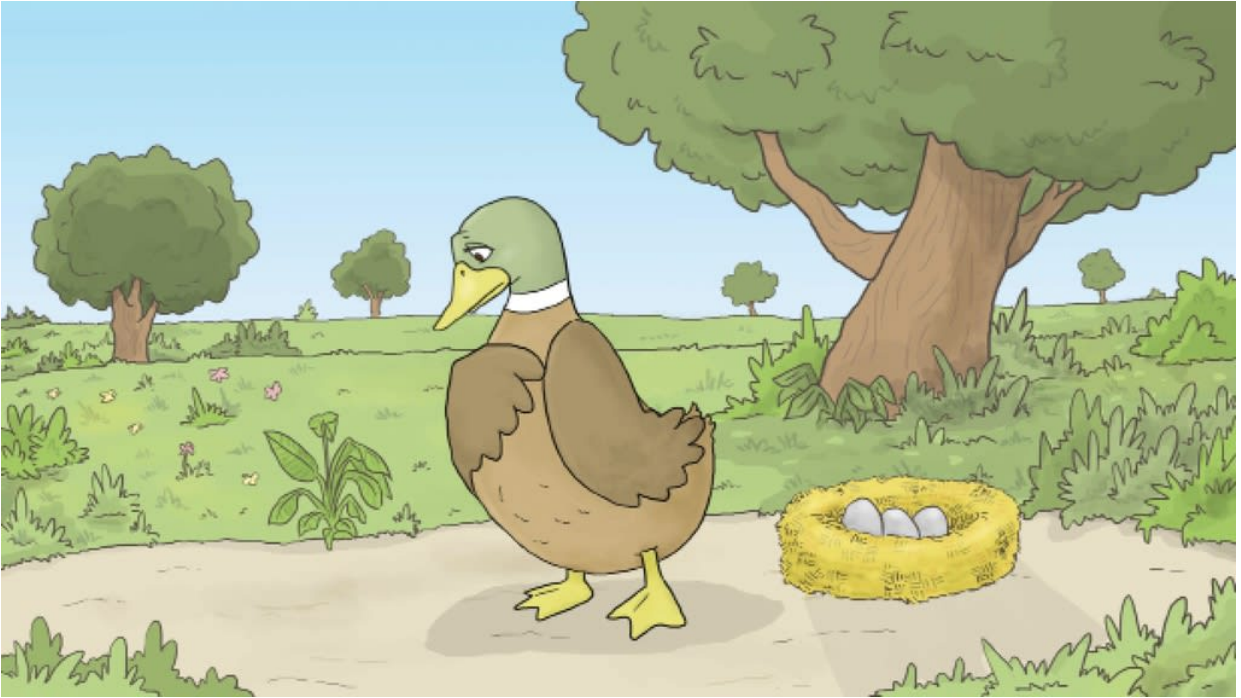




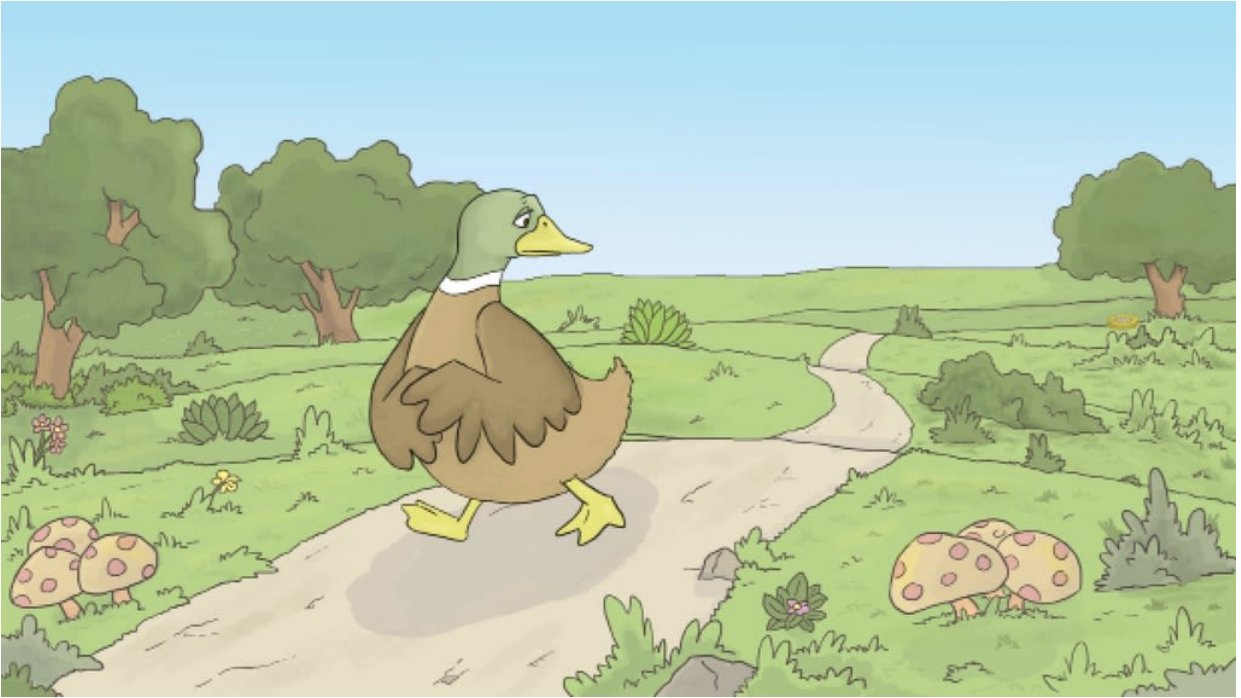
It was a pleasant, sunny day.



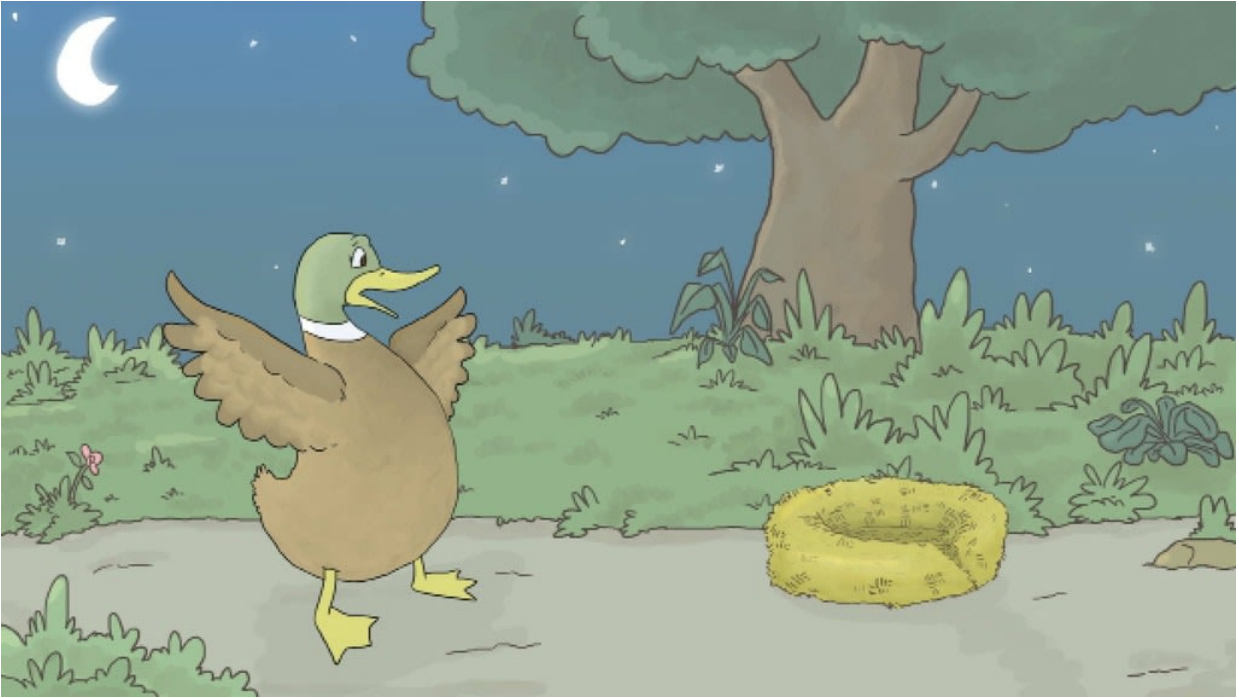
Mother Duck laid three eggs in her nest.



But then Mother Duck grew hungry...



So she quickly left to get some plants to eat. She wanted to get back soon to incubate her eggs.



But later that evening, when Mother Duck came back, she didn't find any eggs.



She started crying and put her wing to her head as she said, “Oh no! Where did my dear eggs go?”



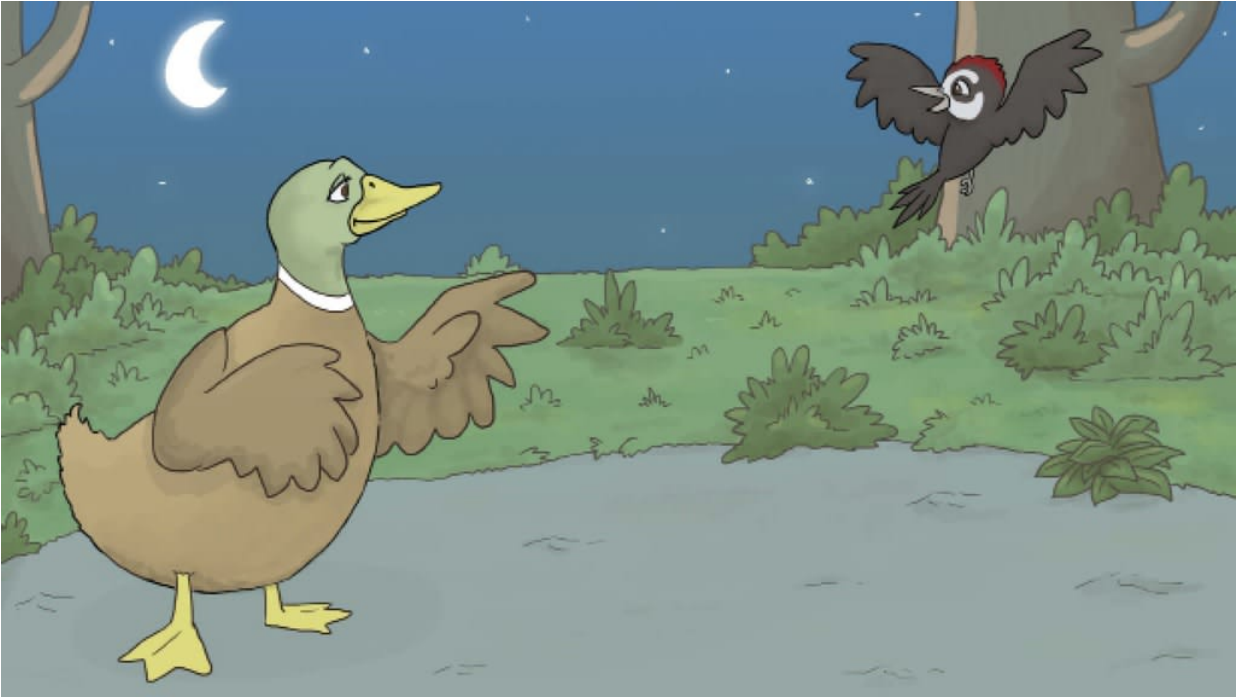
Woodpecker heard her.



So he flew over and said...



“I saw a snake steal your eggs and put them in his den.”



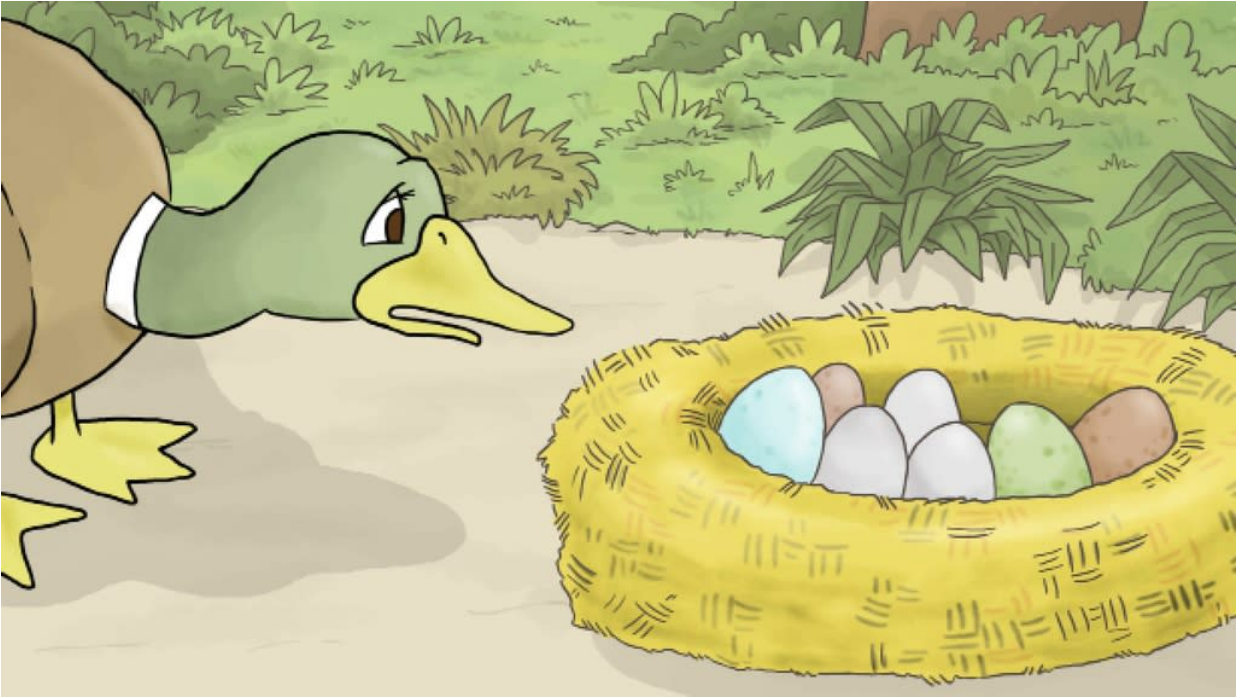
“Don’t worry. We’ll get them back tomorrow when he leaves his den.”



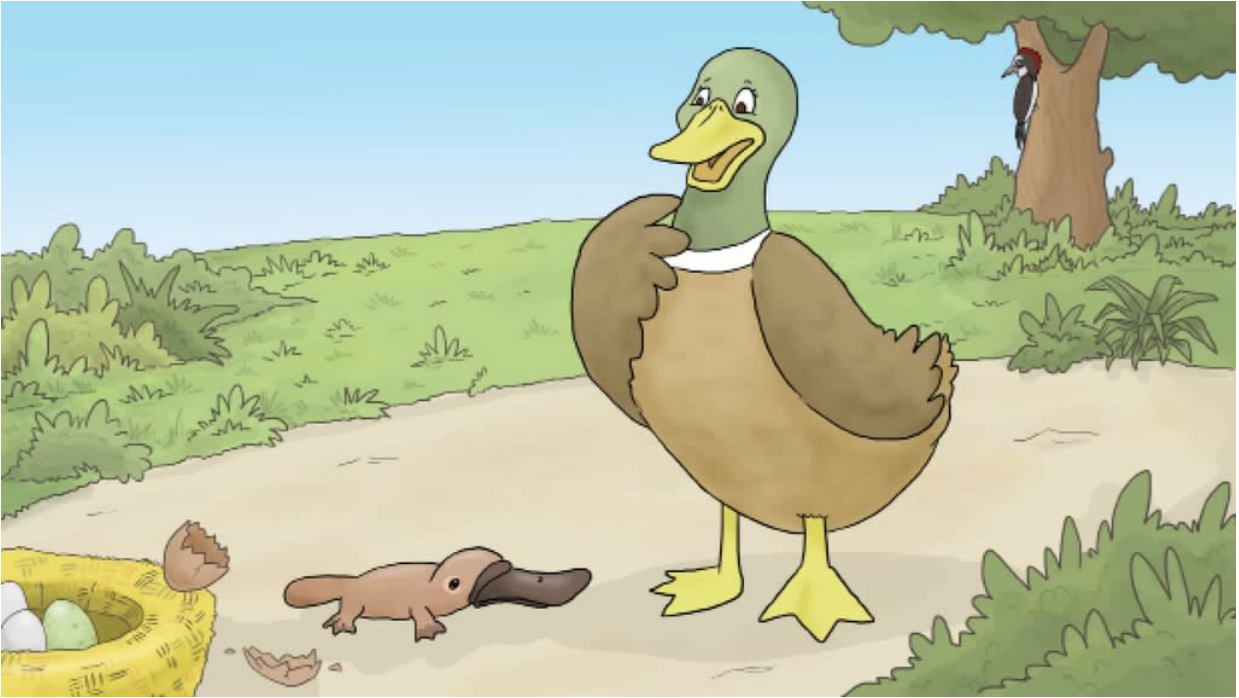
The next day, they went to the snake den together and waited for him to leave.



They went in and collected all the eggs.



Mother Duck said, “Oh no! My eggs are mixed up with all the other eggs. It doesn’t matter though. I’ll just sit on all the eggs until they hatch.”



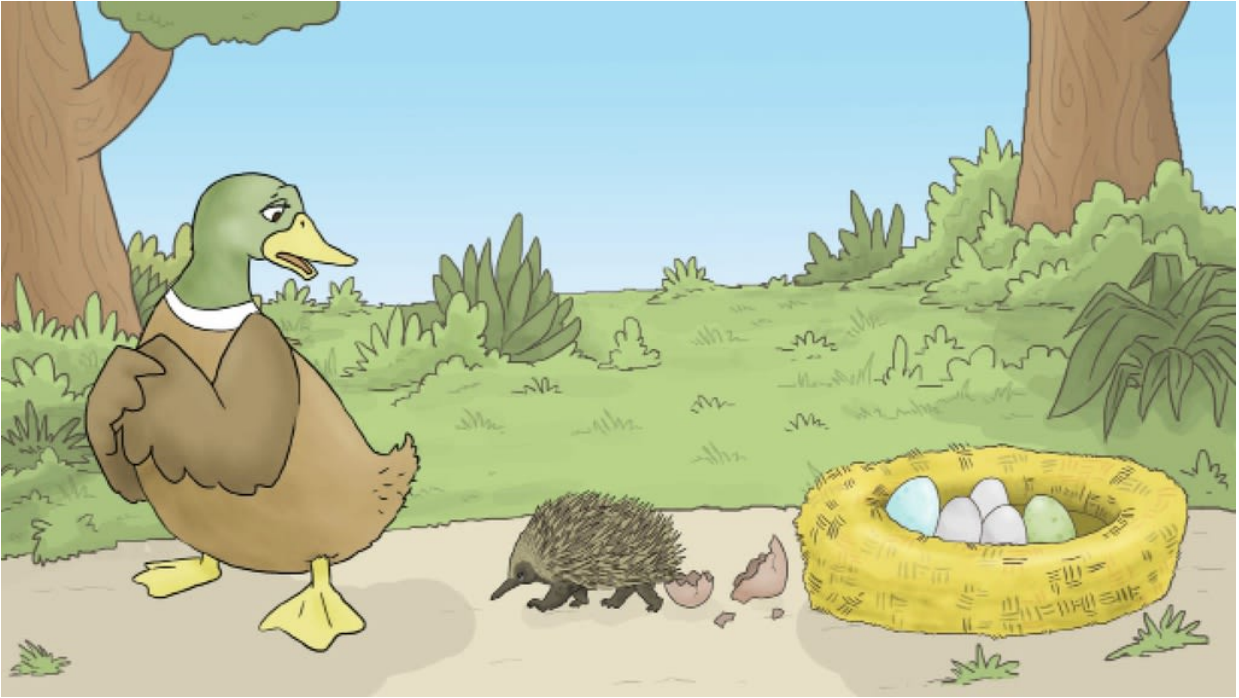
Several days passed and one egg hatched. A strange creature came out. Mother Duck stared at him in surprise as she called for woodpecker.



She said, “His beak looks like mine. His feet look like mine but he wags his tail like a porcupine. What is he?”



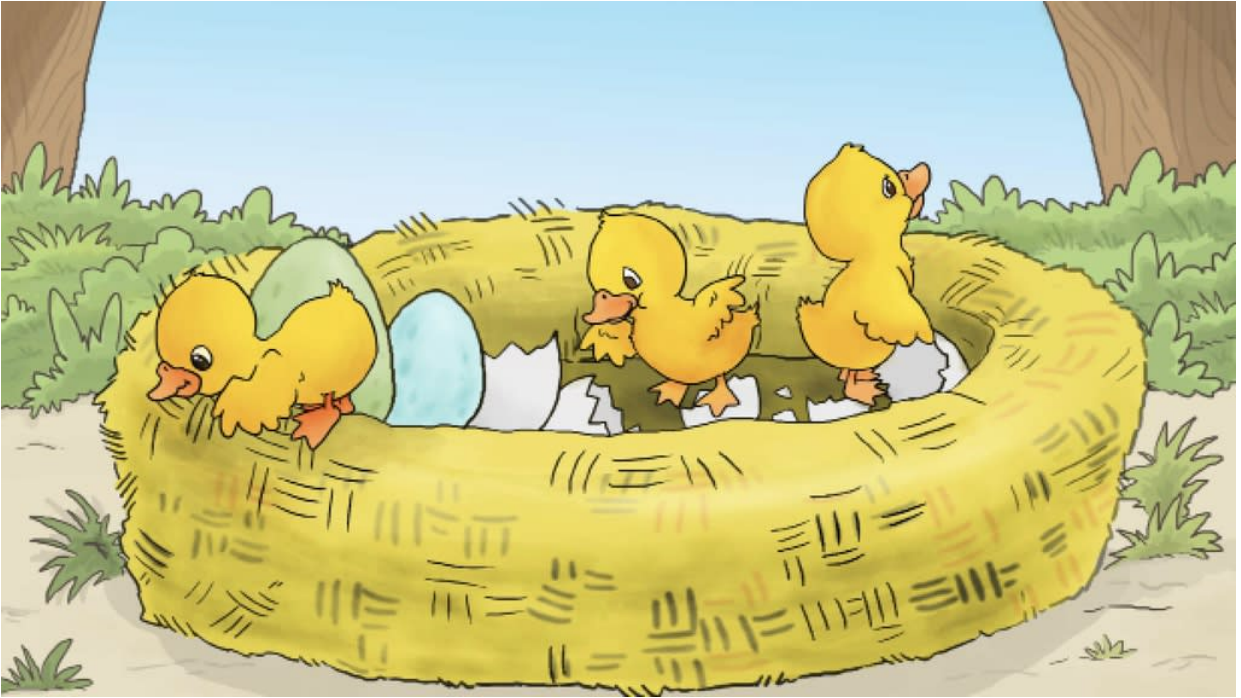
Woodpecker laughed and said, “It’s a platypus! You keep sitting on the other eggs and I’ll go take him to his mother.”



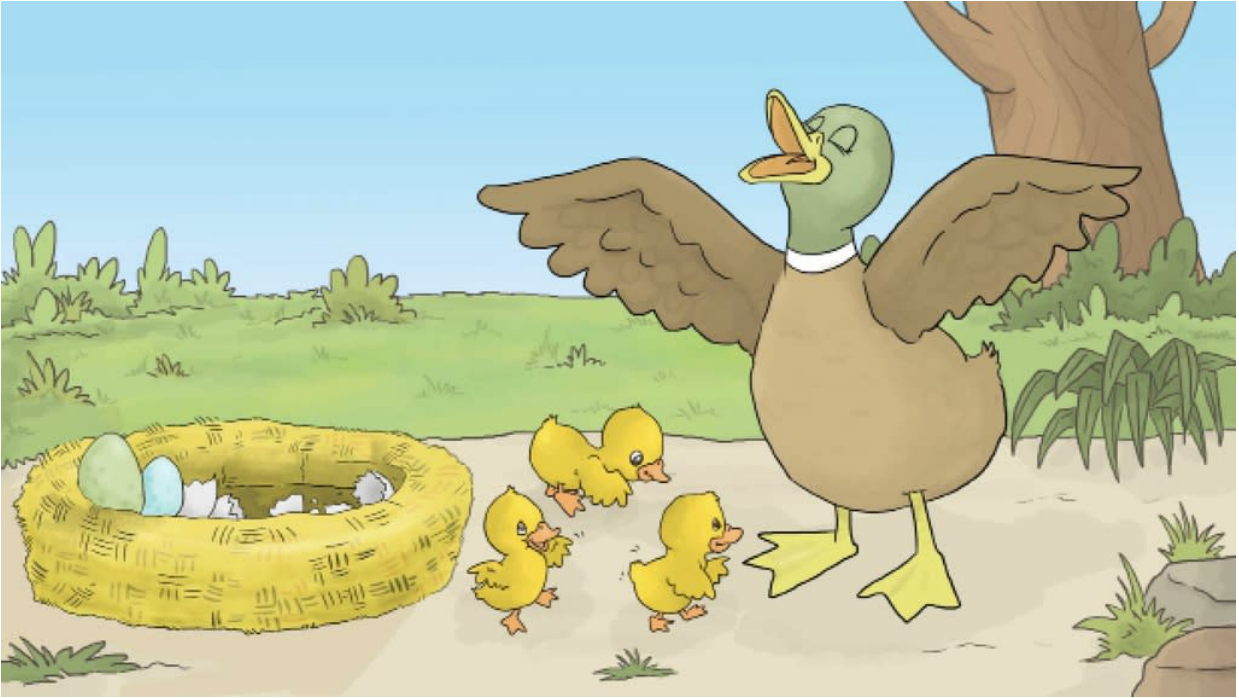
Days passed and another egg hatched. Mother Duck jumped in the air after this baby's thorns pricked her. She said, "This can't be my baby."



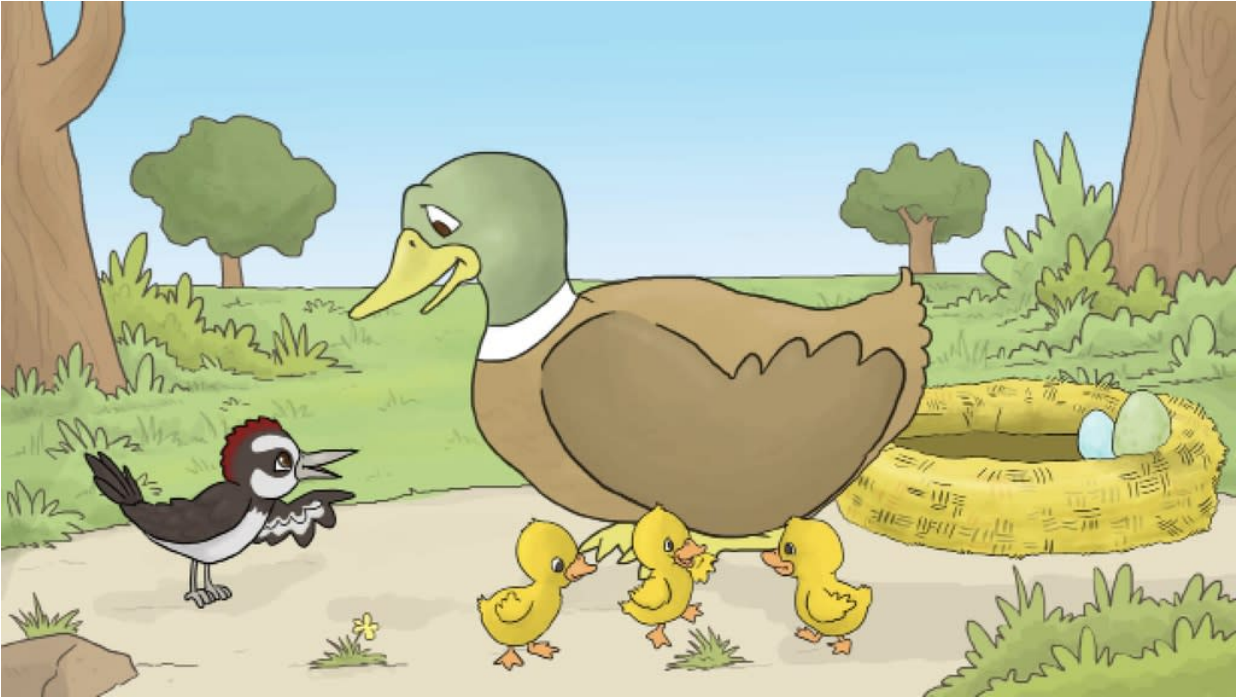
Woodpecker looked at him and said,
“It’s a spiny anteater. Keep sitting on
your eggs and I’ll go take him to his
mother.”



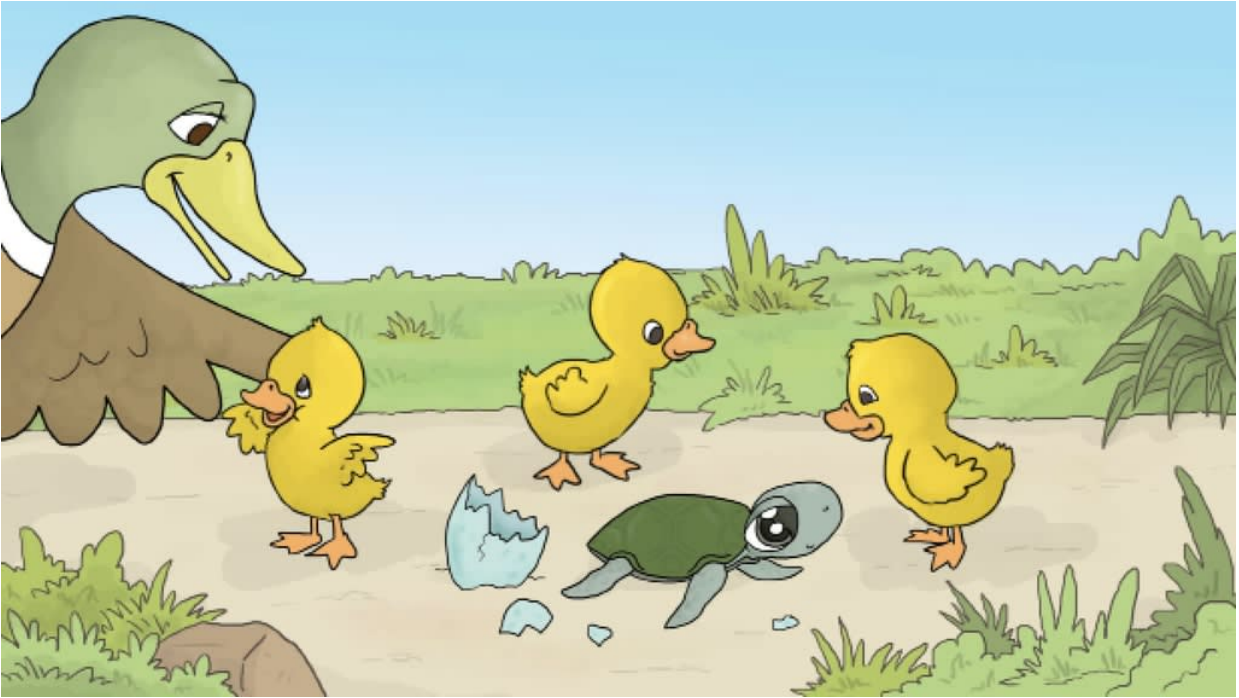
Several more days passed and three eggs hatched. Three little ducklings came out.



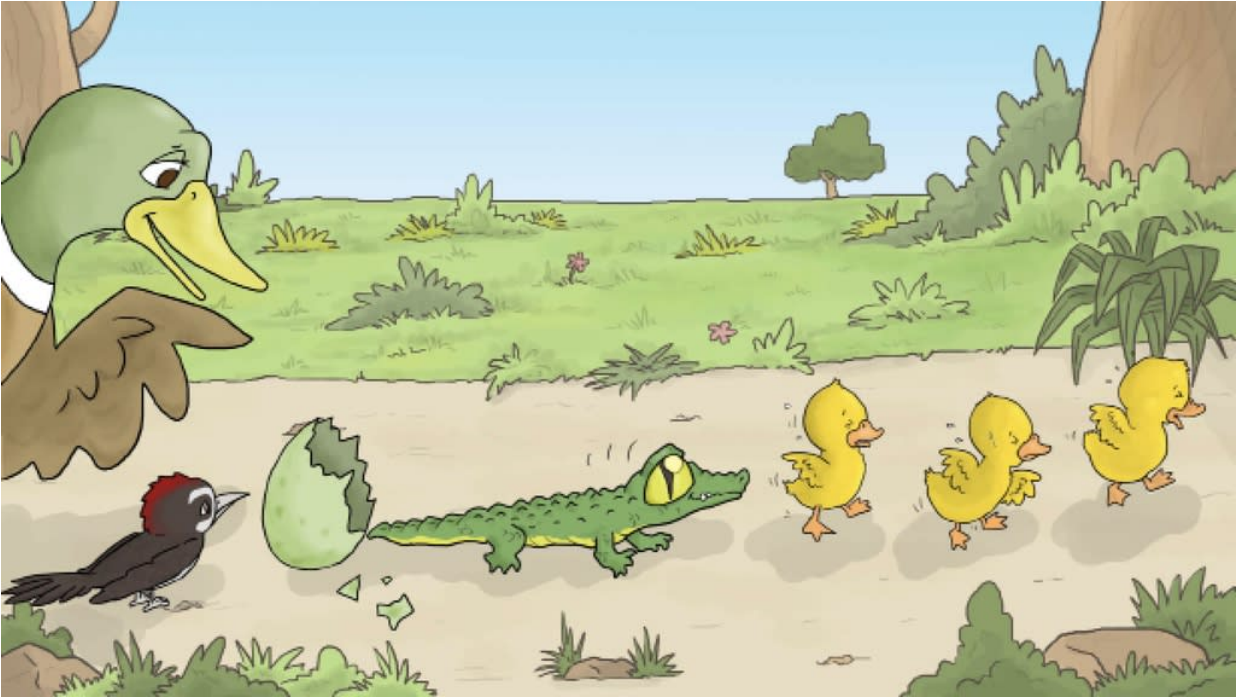
Mother Duck excitedly said, “I found my eggs!”



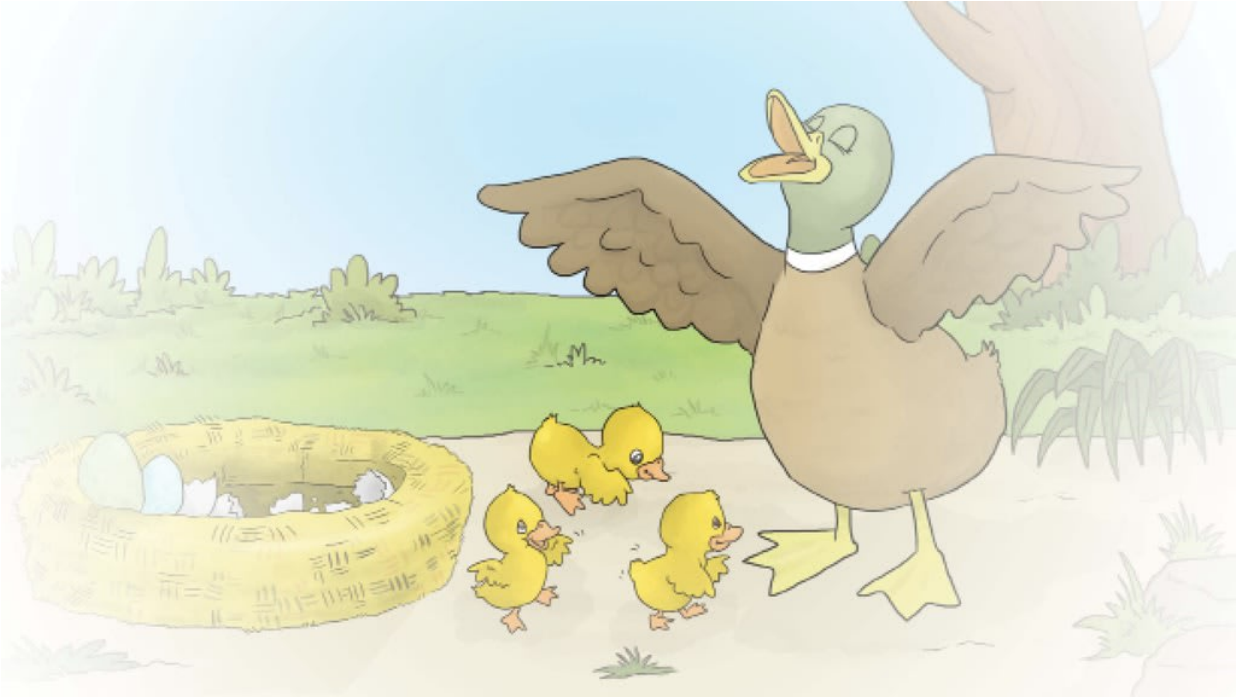
There were two eggs left in the nest. Mother Duck said, “Should I keep laying on them or just leave them and go?” Woodpecker said, “Please finish what you’ve started, Mother Duck. Then we can return these babies to their mothers.”



Several more days passed and another egg hatched. A lovely turtle came out. The ducklings said, “Mother Duck, we want to play with her!” But Mother Duck said, “No, my dears, we’ll take her back to her mother. She’ll be so happy to see her again after losing her.”



After several few days, the last and biggest egg hatched. Out came a baby crocodile and all the ducks ran away!



THE END