

Friends of Berlayer Creek

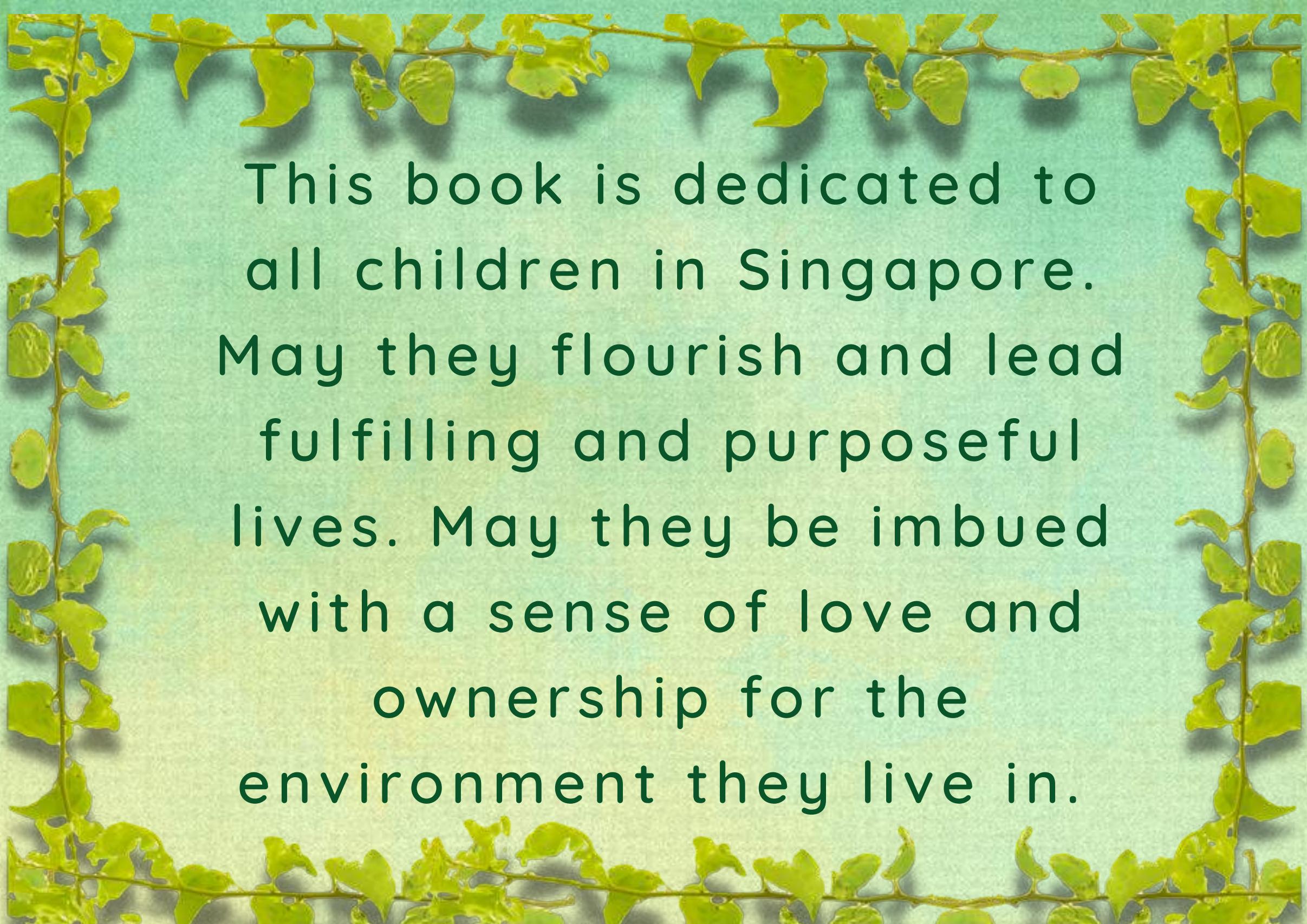
A Tale of Understanding



BLANGAH RISE
PRIMARY SCHOOL



STEADFAST



This book is dedicated to
all children in Singapore.
May they flourish and lead
fulfilling and purposeful
lives. May they be imbued
with a sense of love and
ownership for the
environment they live in.

THE TEAM

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Did you Know?

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Introducing...

The Kernels



Sophia
Kernel



Bushy
Kernel



Sam
Kernel

The Chirps



Brad
Chirp

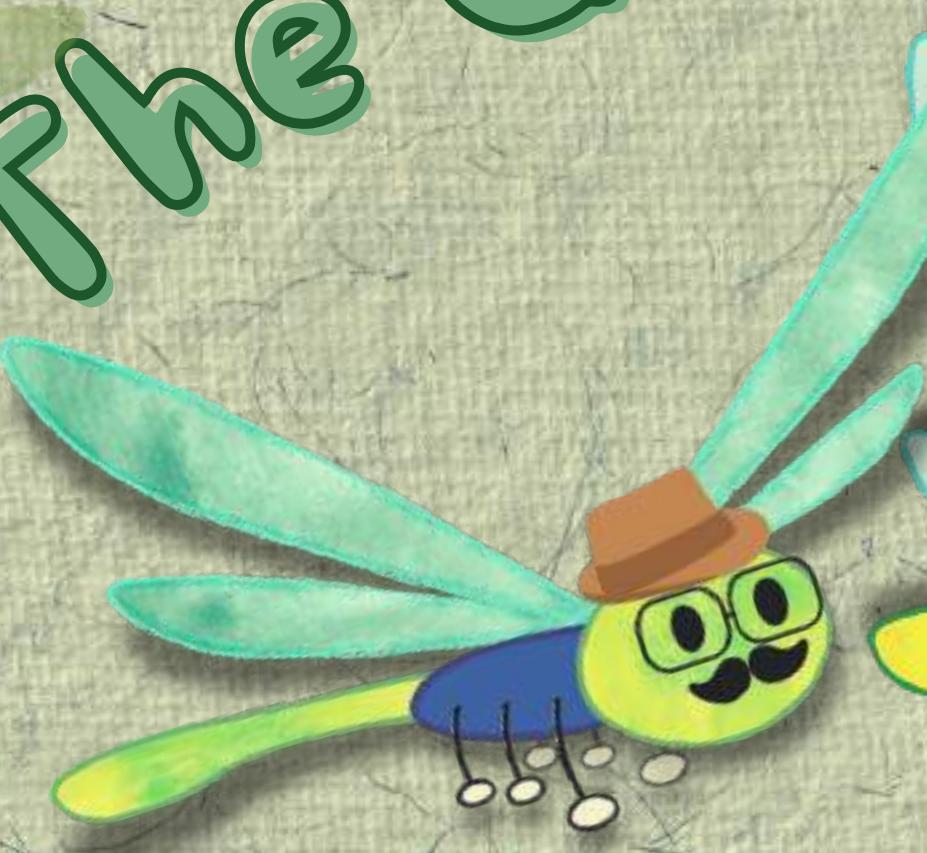


Tweetie
Chirp

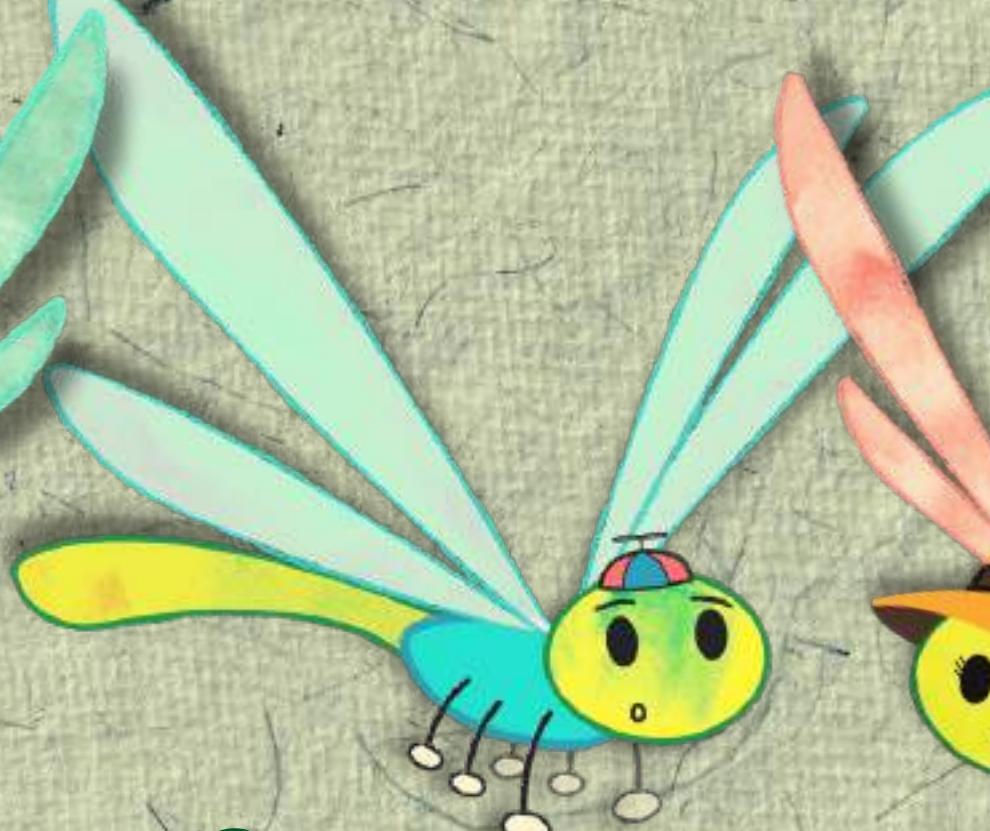


Luna
Chirp

The Green Dragonflies



Hunter
Green



Pepper
Green

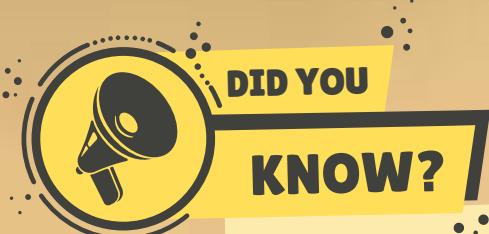


Jade
Green

This is Slither the monitor lizard.
How many times do you spot him in the book?



Bushy Kernel and his parents, Sophia Kernel and Sam Kernel, lived with Froggy, Crabby and the dragonflies in Berlayer Creek. Bushy and his family lived in a big Bakau Pasir tree.



The Bakau Pasir (*Rhizophora stylosa*) is a tree that can be found in mangrove forests like Chek Jawa or Pulau Semakau. It can grow in salty or brackish water. It has stilt roots that spread over a wide area to keep the tree stable.

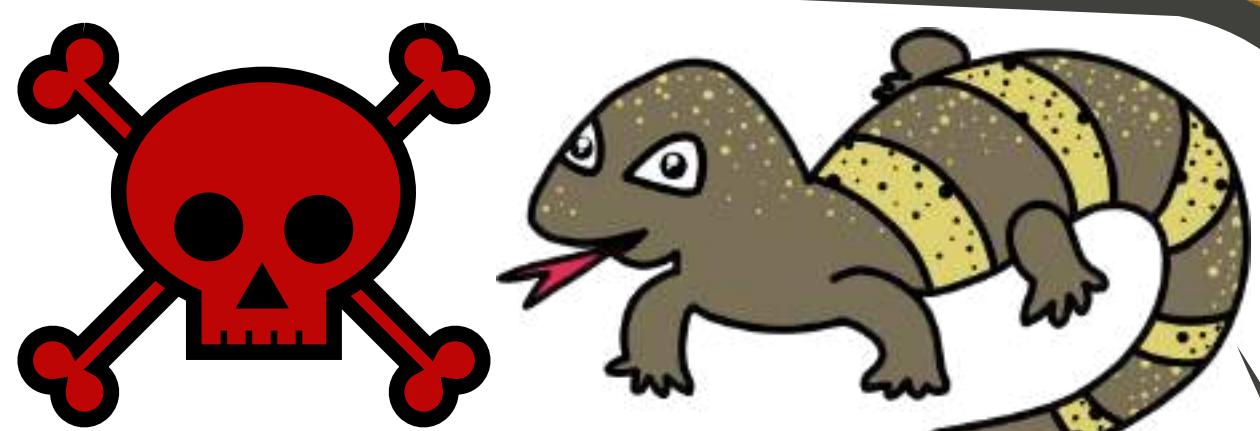
The children played in the tree house that Sam Kernel had built. Everyone was happy. They would help one another through good and bad times. The neighbours looked out for one another. They took turns to watch out for Slither, the monitor lizard who lived on the ground. Slither's silent movements and menacing look scared them all. Everyone kept their distance away from Slither as they were afraid of him.

THE 7 HABITS

HABIT 2

Begin With The End in Mind

To have the life you want, you must have a clear vision. The animals were very clear on what they wanted. They wanted to build a supportive community where everyone looked out for each other.



One day, new guests came to their home.
Pepper Green was so nervous that he hid
himself!



Everyone, look!
There are birds
flying over. Let's
go and greet them!

I wonder
why they
are here!



The birds flew over to meet them.



There are around a hundred bird species that live in Singapore's mangrove habitat. The Chirps belong to a species called the Oriental Pied Hornbill, which is native to Singapore.

Hi! We are the Chirps!
This is Luna and I am Brad. We want to move into this nice tree of yours and set up home here!

Hi, I am
Tweetie!

Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

We broaden our views when we seek first to understand others. When Sam Kernel said that the Chirps were dangerous, he was jumping to conclusions. People appreciate it when you take the time to understand them. Have you ever felt unfairly judged by someone? How did you feel?

Don't talk to them, Bushy.
We don't know who they
are. They don't look local.
They have beaks and large
horns. They might be
dangerous like Slither.
Come here now!

Hi, I am
Bushy!



Luna Chirp came forward to offer some nuts but the other animals did not like them.



KNOW?

Bushy and his family are Plantain Squirrels. The upper part of their body and tail are olive brown in colour. They can be recognized by the black and white stripes on the sides of their body.

Hello, we are new! We just moved in today. These are my delicious nuts. Thank you for your warm welcome, new neighbours.

What are these?

They do not taste good!



The neighbours did not get along. Day after day, the adults would argue with the birds.

THE 7 HABITS

HABIT 4

Think Win-Win

Think Win-Win aims to find a solution that benefits both sides. For example, instead of fighting over the same space, the birds can live further up in the tree where they fly in and out easily. The other animals can live at the lower branches where they can access the ground more easily. What other win-win solutions can you think of?

I don't want to
be at the bottom
part of the tree
where Slither is.

You can't just come
here and take over
our home. You have
to share the space!



The adult animals did not like one another but the children enjoyed playing with each other.



Why do our parents keep on arguing?

I wish they were more like us.





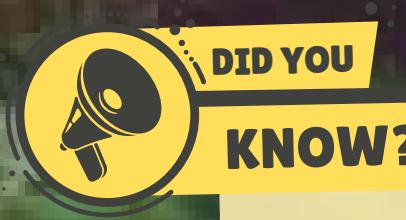
Guys! I found this new fruit.

Wow! Let me see it!

DID YOU
KNOW?

The Bakau Kurap is a tree that is commonly found in mangroves in Berlayer Creek. It grows best in deeply flooded areas on firm soils. It has a fruit that looks like a pear.

One day, Bushy was playing with his friends by the swamp. They laughed and joked about everything under the sun.



DID YOU
KNOW?

Common predators for plantain squirrels are carnivores such as snakes and monitor lizards. Plantain squirrels will give out alarm calls when they spot a predator.

Oh no! Bushy tripped. He is not a good swimmer!



Quickly help Bushy up! Slither is approaching!



Bushy tripped over a used plastic bottle when walking. He fell off the branch and onto the ground. High tide was approaching and the water was rising quickly. Bushy could not swim and looked helplessly at his friends. Meanwhile, Slither was coming nearer and nearer to Bushy.



Grab my hand!!

It's no use! Someone call for help!



THE 7 HABITS

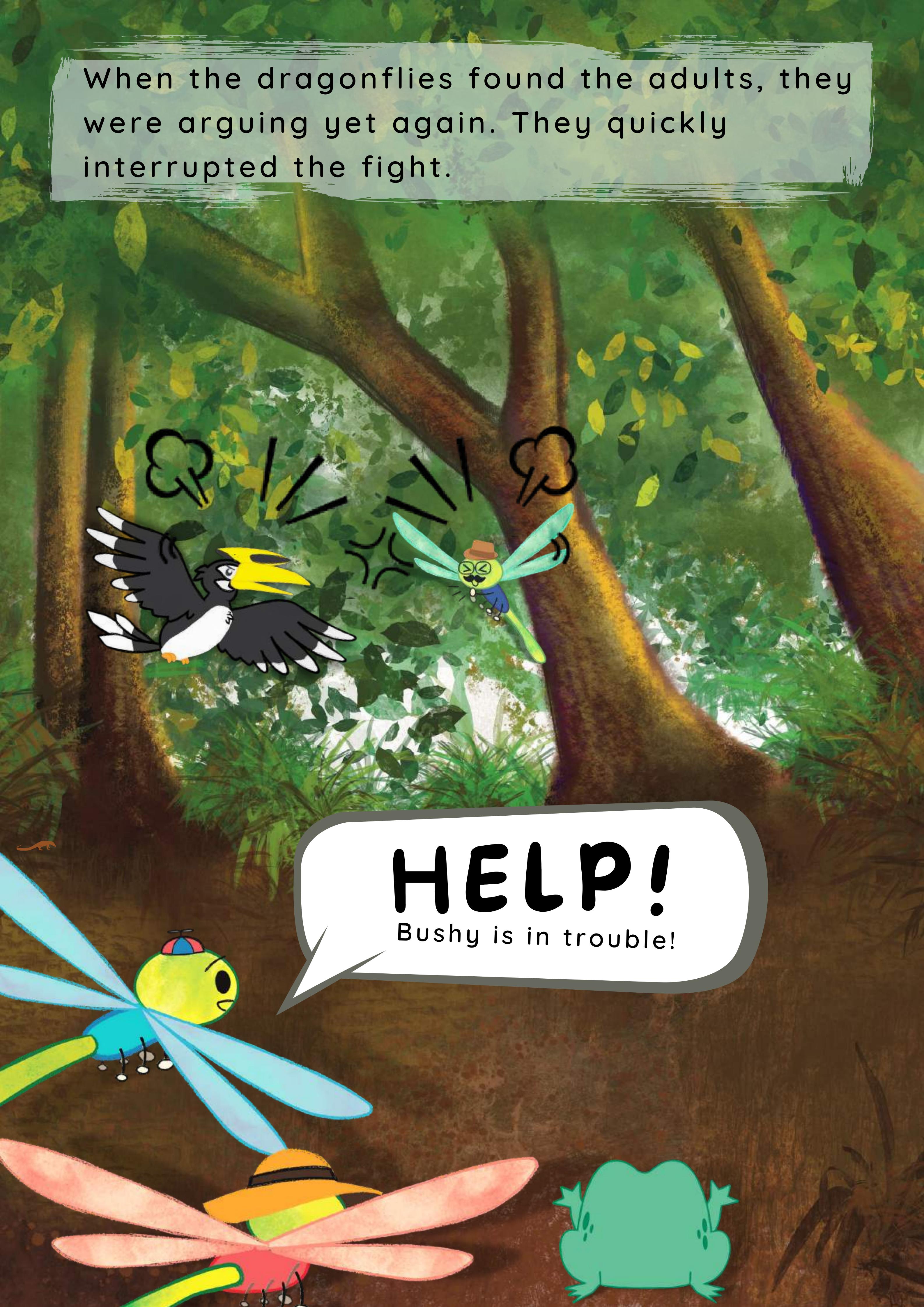
HABIT 1

Be Proactive

A proactive person does not blame things around them. They know they can choose their response. When Bushy fell into danger, Crabby and the dragonflies did not sit around to complain. They jumped into action. They chose to do their best to help.

They tried different ways but nothing worked. Bushy was still in great danger. The dragonflies flew off to look for help.

When the dragonflies found the adults, they were arguing yet again. They quickly interrupted the fight.



HELP!
Bushy is in trouble!

The adults followed the young dragonflies to help Bushy. They were worried that Bushy was in pain. This led to another fight between them

**It is all your fault!
Who threw all this
litter around? It
nearly killed my
son!**

I understand that the Kernels must be feeling very worried right now because Bushy is in danger.

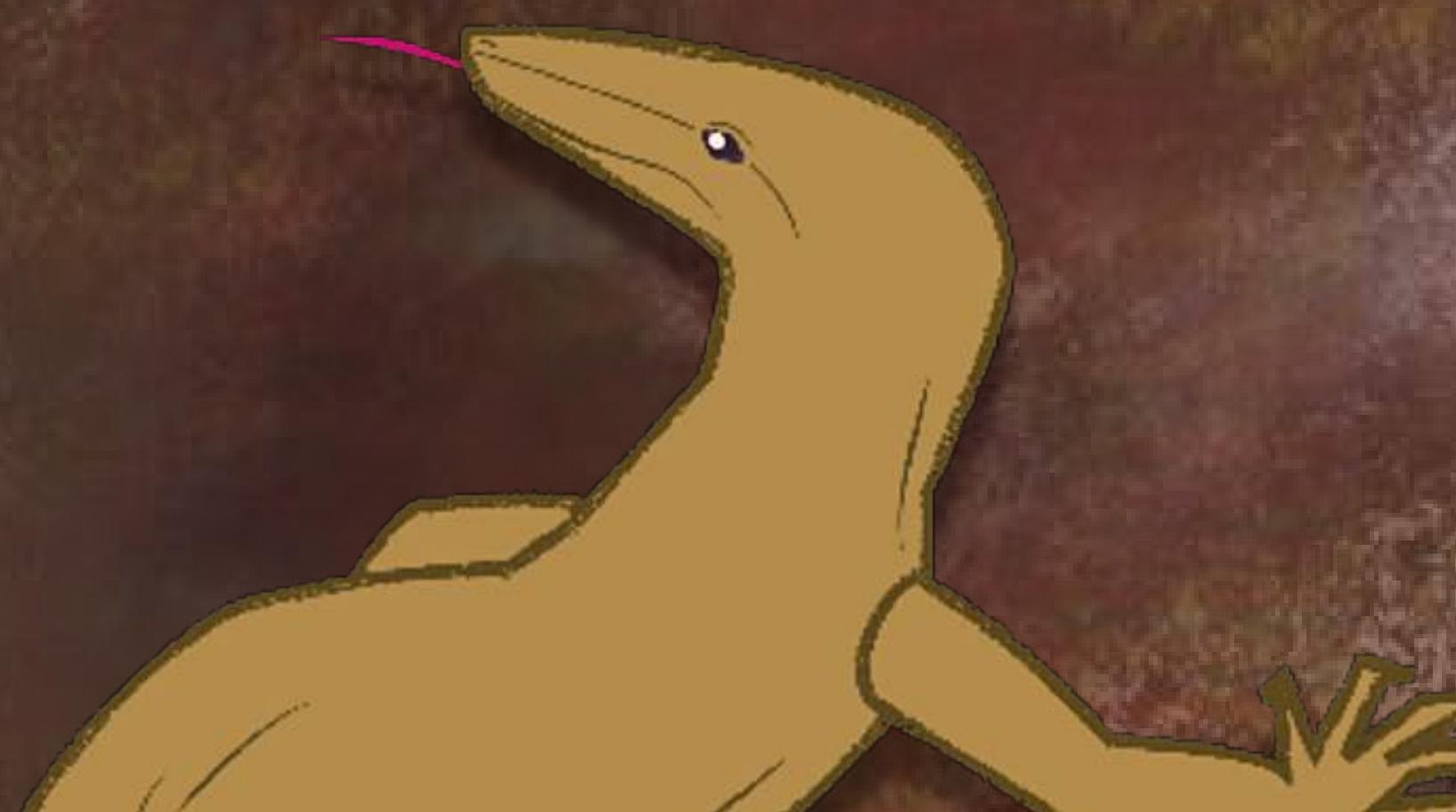
THE 7 HABITS

HABIT 3

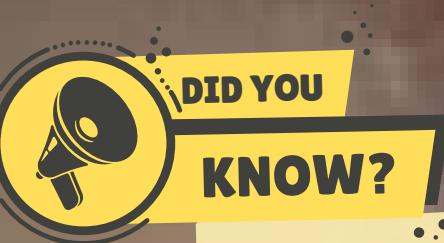
Put First Things First

Putting first things first means that we focus on things that are the most important. It is about understanding our priorities. In this story, the animals are arguing about who is at fault. Is that the first thing they should be doing? The animals should be working together to help Bushy instead.

Before the fight could worsen, the adults were reminded that Bushy was still in danger. So, everyone worked together to help.



Just as the birds wanted to fly away, Slither suddenly spoke! It was the first time anyone had heard him speak. Slither had seen Bushy fall earlier and approached Bushy to check on him. The birds heard Slither's side of the story while the rest pulled Bushy up.



Monitor lizards can be found in forests and mangrove swamps. They feed on prey such as insects, fishes and even crabs. Some monitor lizards can grow to more than 2 meters.

This is the first time I heard Slither speak!



DID YOU

S-S-Stop it, please! I mean no harm. I just wanted to help.



After everyone had pulled Bushy up, the birds explained Slither's actions. Due to Slither's quiet nature and different look, everyone had assumed that Slither was dangerous to them.

Thank you for saving my little boy! I don't know what we would have done without all of you.

We spoke to Slither and there has been a misunderstanding



THE 7 HABITS

HABIT 6

Synergise

Sometimes, we face problems that we cannot solve on our own. We can involve others to help us. In this story, Pepper Green went to ask for help from his parents. Together, everyone played their part to save Bushy. Do you have any personal stories where you achieved more when you worked with others?

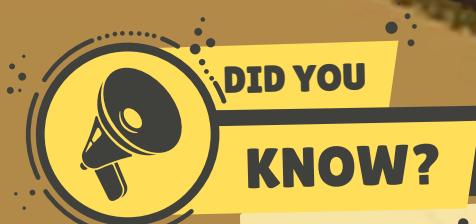
Slither slowly climbed up the tree. In his soft voice, he explained that he was trying to help Bushy. He had no intention to prey on any of them. Slither usually keeps quiet on the ground when he scavenges for carrion as he did not want to disturb the neighbours up in the tree.



I didn't know
that Slither
could climb
trees



Please do not
assume that I am
dangerous because
of how I sound and
look.



While most monitor lizards eat meat, some monitor lizards also scavenge on carrion that they come across. Carrion is the rotting flesh of animals that are already dead.

BERLAYER CREEK



DID YOU
KNOW?

In this story, we have the Chirps (birds), the Green Dragonflies (insects), the Kernels (mammals), and Slither (reptiles). Mangroves are home to many different types of animals such as birds, insects, reptiles and mammals. Support Singapore in conserving our mangroves and protecting our biodiversity!

All the animals, including Slither lived harmoniously with one another. There was now more space throughout the tree as the animals were no longer afraid of Slither on the ground. However, one day, Slither saw a dark shape swimming towards the Bakau tree. Could it be the fearsome Tailless the Crocodile? What should he do now?

THE 7 HABITS HABIT 7

Sharpen The Saw

One way to take care of our own wellness is to spend time in nature. Research has shown that being in nature increases positive feelings and reduces anger, fear and stress. Let's do our part to protect our green spaces in Singapore. This is so that we can continue to enjoy our clean and beautiful green spaces around us.

GLOSSARY

Page	Word	Definition
5	brackish	slightly salty water
	stilt roots	roots that arise from the base of the plant to support them in wet and soft ground
	stable	not likely to move easily
6	looked out for one another	to take care of someone and make sure that they are treated well.
	vision	an idea of the future
	supportive	to give help and encouragement
	community	a group that lives together
7	guests	visitors
	nervous	worried or slightly frightened
8	native	used to refer to plants and animals that grow naturally in a place
9	local	from a certain area
	dangerous	likely to cause harm
	broaden	to make wider
	jumping to conclusions	to guess the facts without having enough information
	appreciate	to be grateful for something

GLOSSARY

Page	Word	Definition
10	offer	to ask someone if they would like to have something
	delicious	having a good taste
11	get along	to be friendly with someone
	argue	to speak angrily to someone
	take over	to take control of something
13	swamp	an area of wet, soft land
14	predators	animals that hunt, kill, and eat other animals
	carnivores	animals that eat meat
	alarm	warning
16	interrupted	to stop something from happening for a short period
18	worsen	to make something become worse
19	side of the story	someone's point of view about his or her actions
	prey	an animal that is hunted for food by another animal
20	explained	to make something clear
	assumed	to take as granted or true
	misunderstanding	a failure to understand something correctly
	synergise	to work together in order to be more effective

GLOSSARY

Page	Word	Definition
21	intention	an idea one plans to carry out
	scavenges	to feed on the flesh of dead decaying animals
	carrion	the flesh of dead decaying animals
22	biodiversity	the types of plants and animals found in a particular area
	harmoniously	in a friendly and peaceful way

A large, detailed illustration of a tropical tree with a dense canopy of green and yellow leaves. A small, brown lizard is visible on the sandy ground at the base of the tree.

The End

...or is it?

Did you find Slither the monitor lizard in the book? He appeared 16 times.