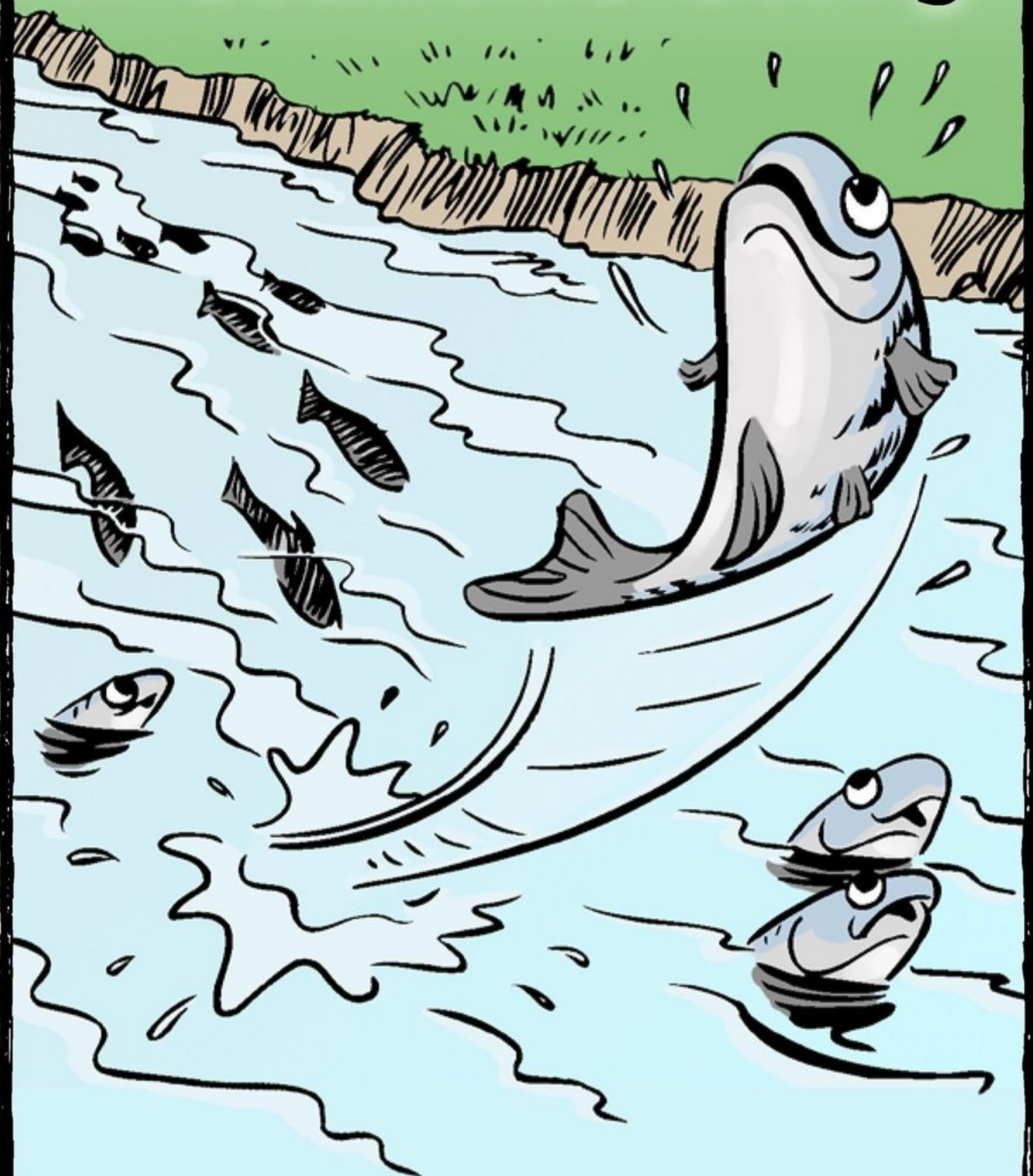


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Leap!

A Salmon's Story

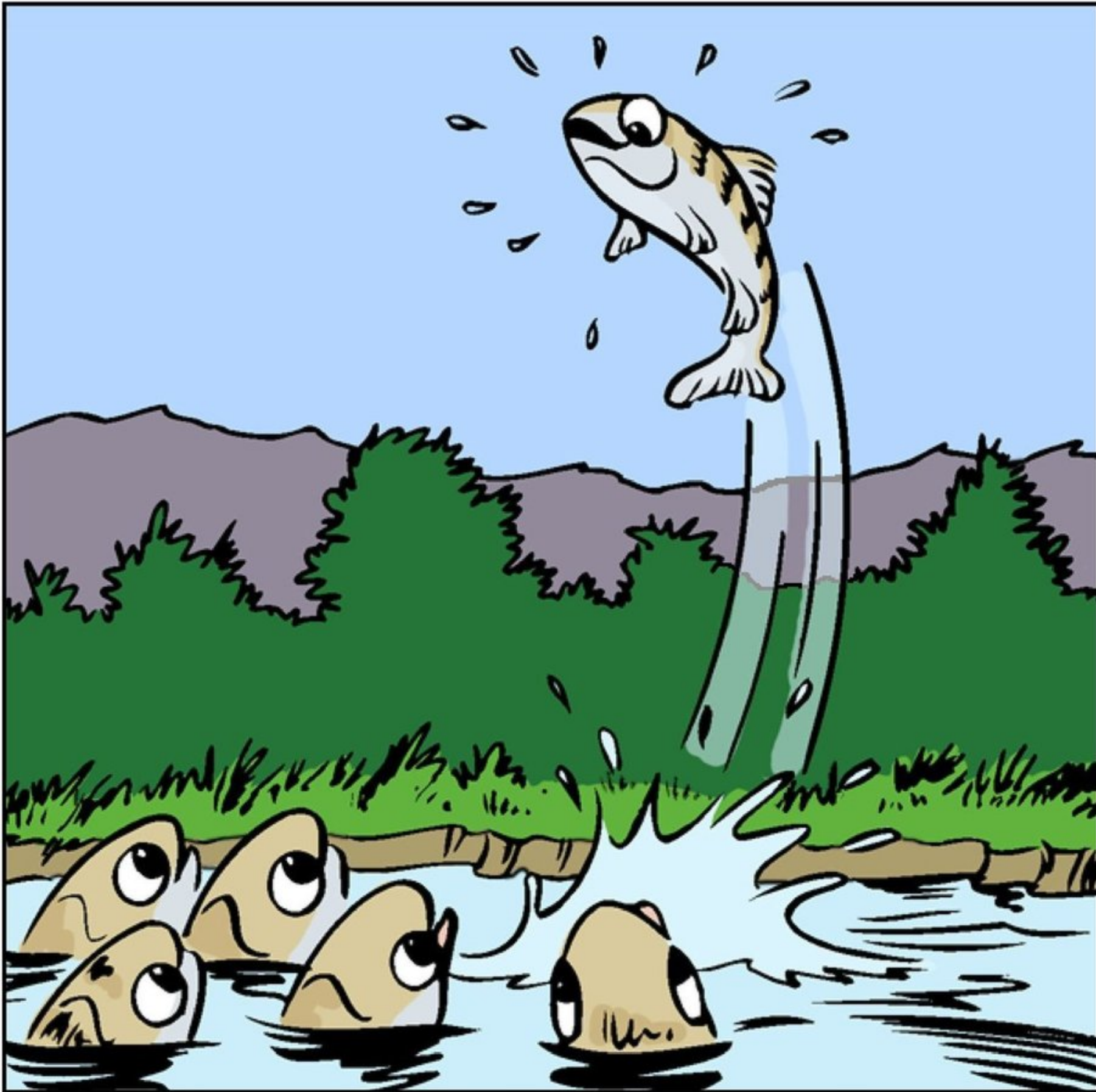


Written by Sharon Fear
Illustrated by David Cockcroft

www.readinga-z.com

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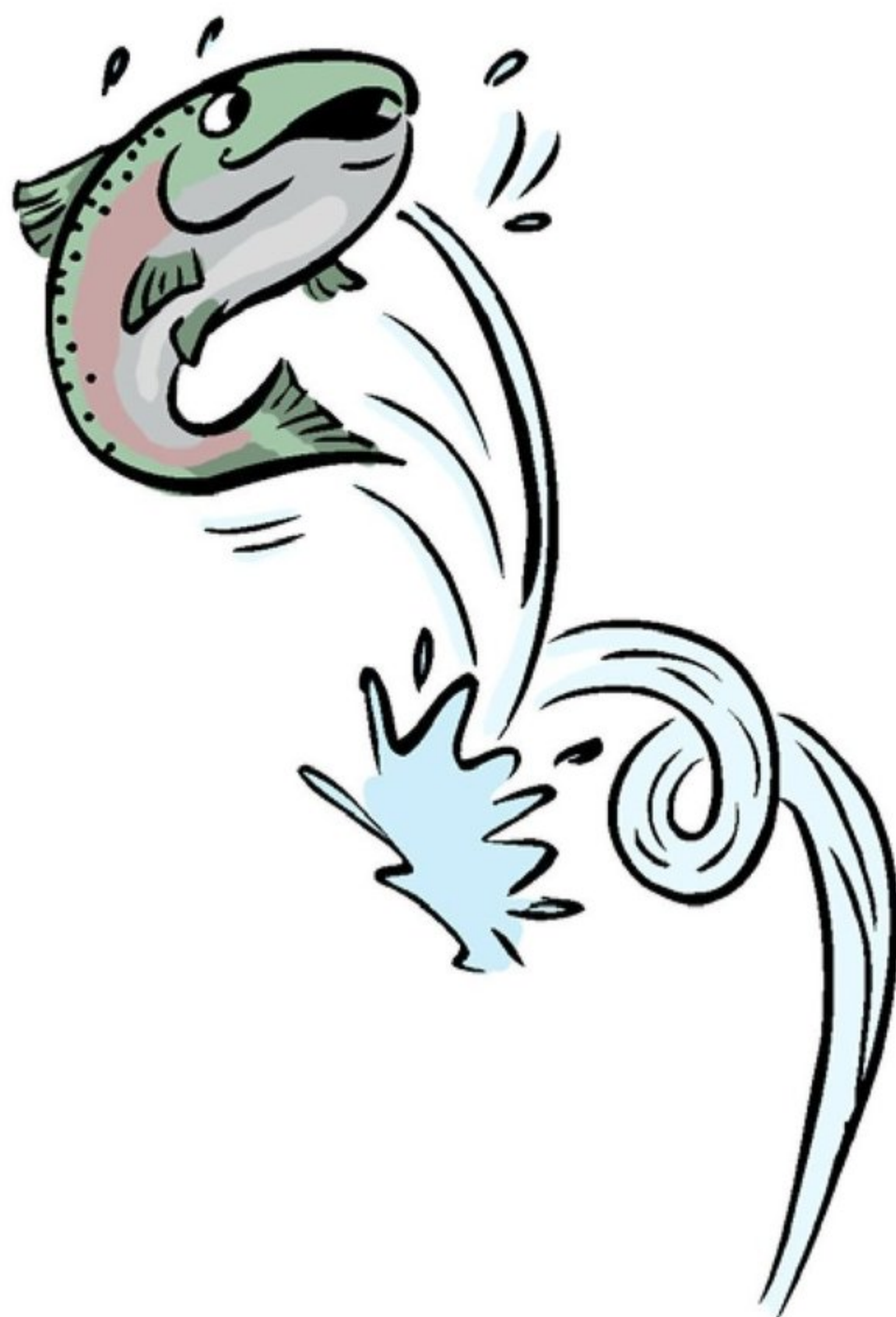
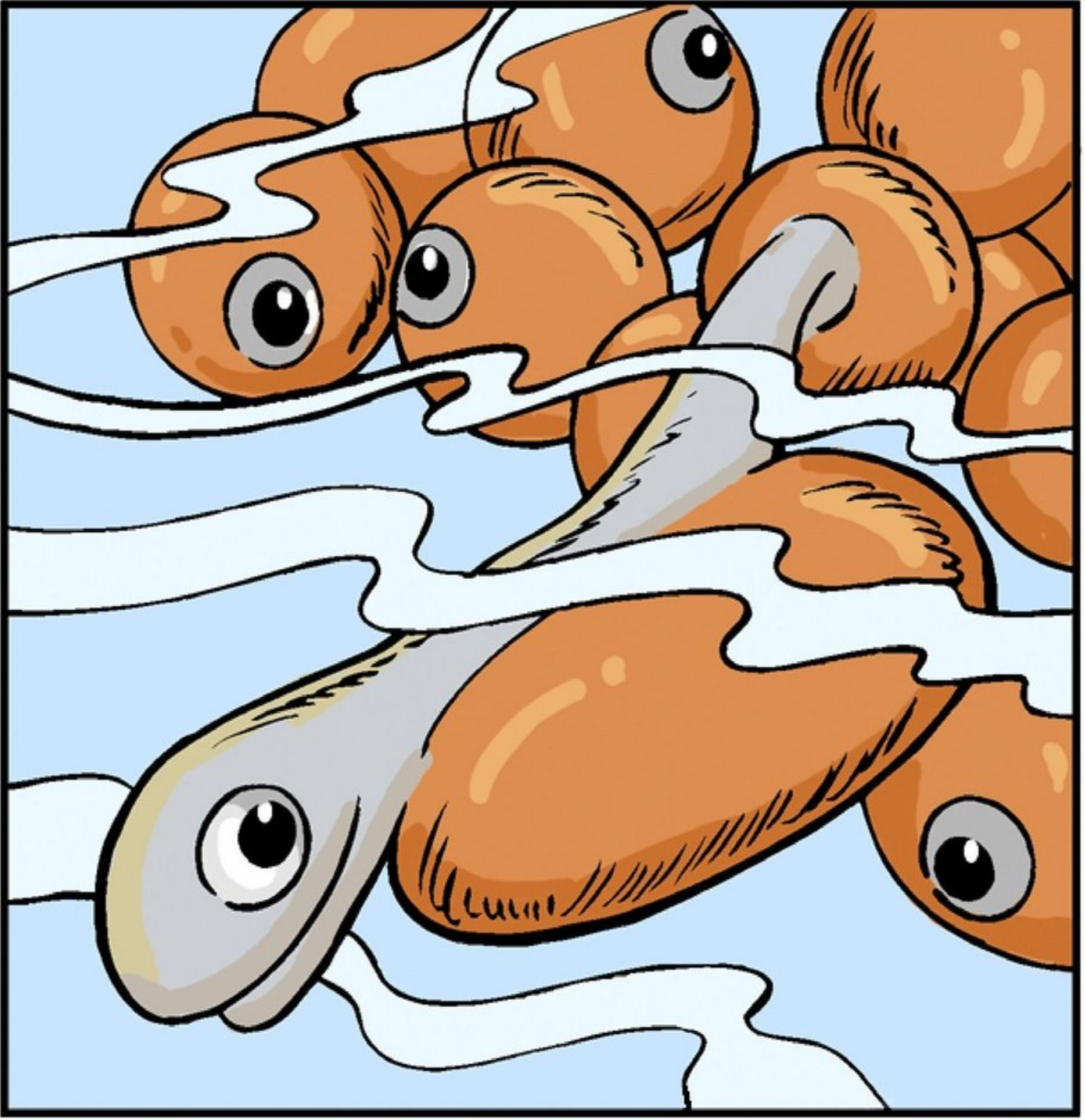


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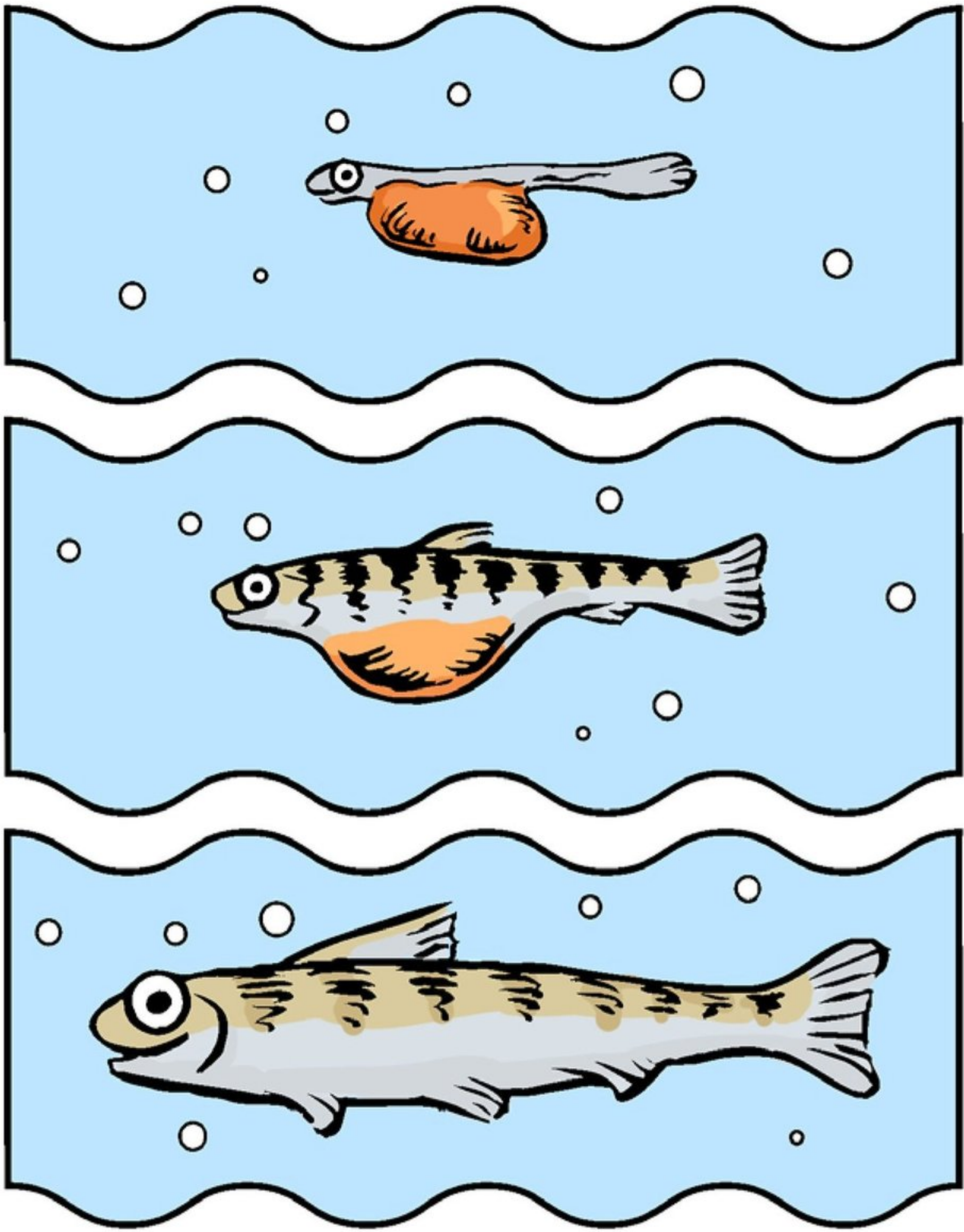
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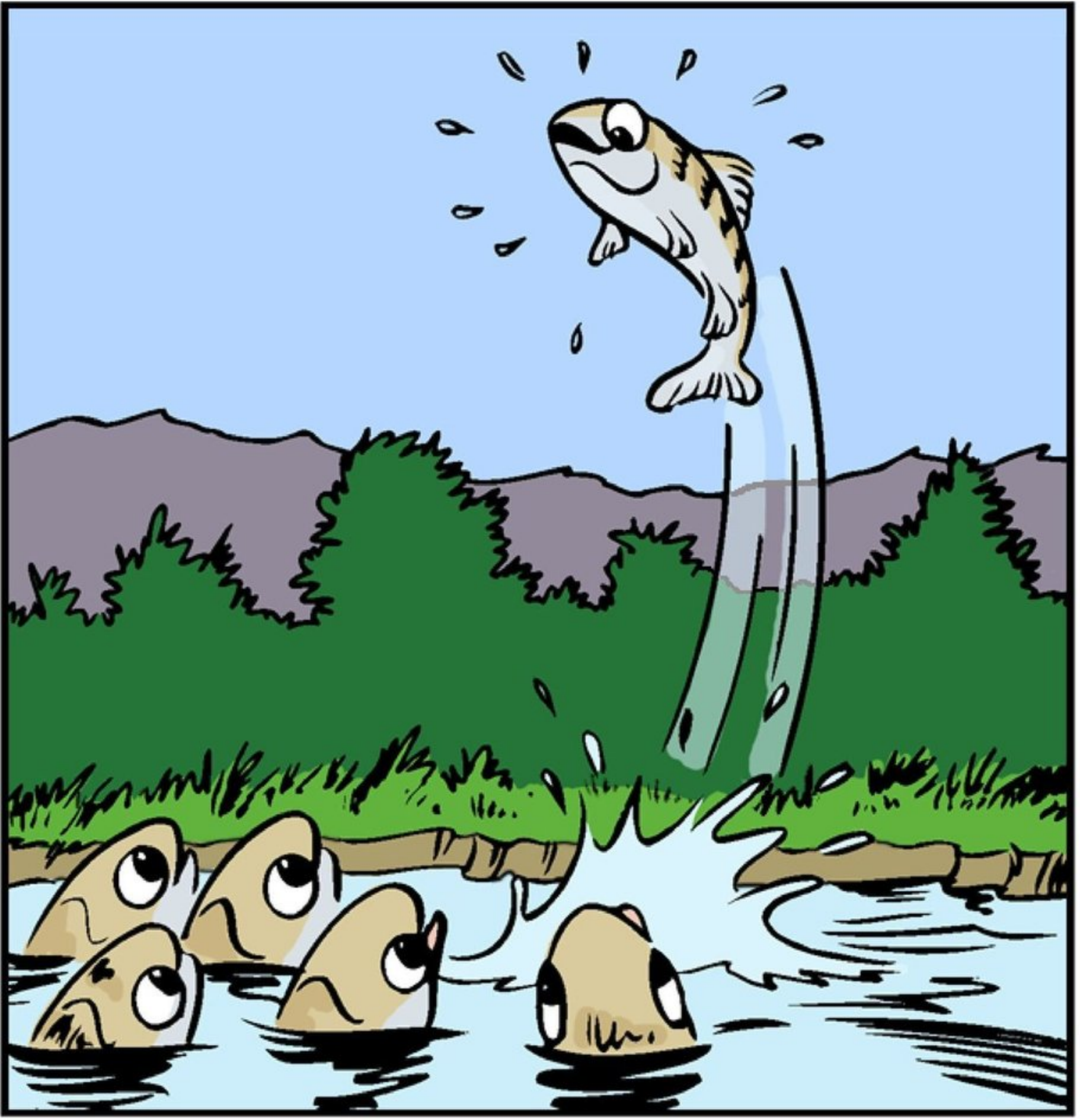
Born to Leap

From the beginning, she was different. The moment she hatched from her tiny pink egg, she tried to leap. But she couldn't!

The yolk from her egg hung from her belly. It slowed her down.



For a while, the yolk was her food. As she ate, it got smaller and smaller. Then it was gone. Now she was a **fry**. She was slim, silver, and one inch long.



Oh, now how she could leap!
All salmon are great leapers,
but her leaping was special.

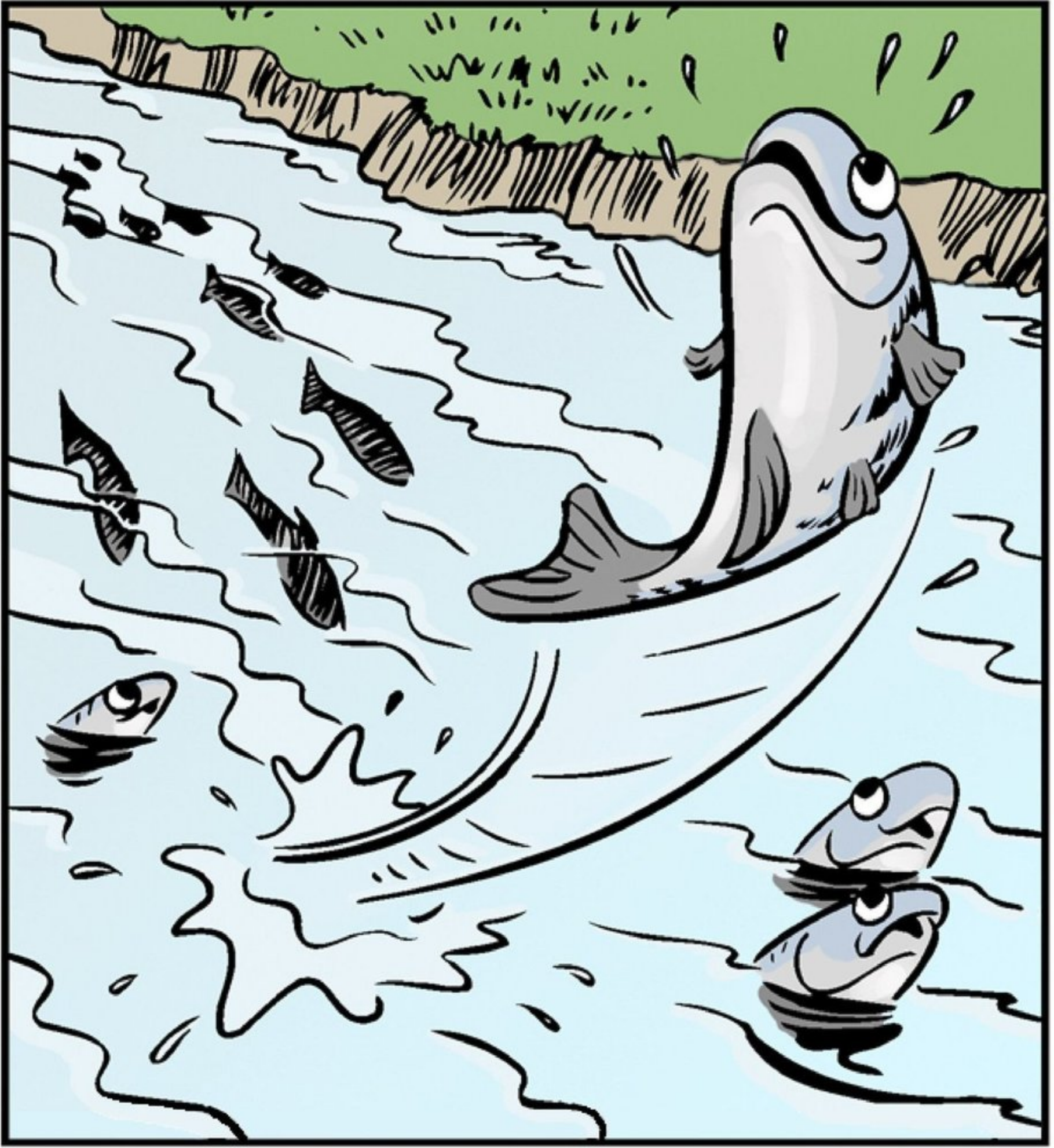
“I love to leap!” she said, flinging
herself into the air.

“You’ll never grow big, leaping like
that,” said another salmon.



Leaving Home

But she did grow—just like the others. Soon, they knew it was time to leave home. They swam **downstream** and headed for the ocean.

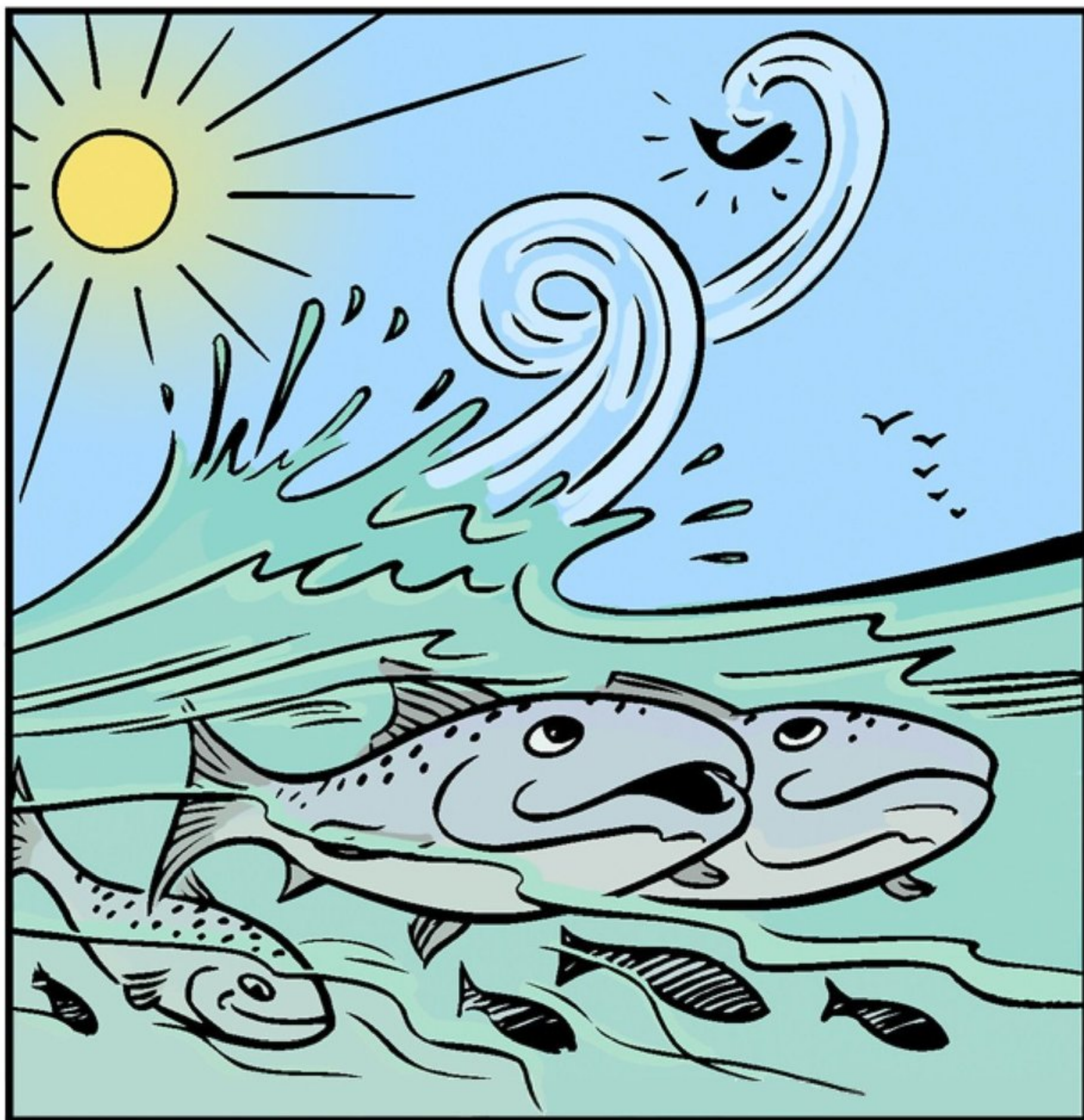


On the trip, she practiced her leaps.

“I was born to leap!” she said,
jumping higher and higher.

“You’ll hurt yourself, leaping like
that,” said the other salmon.

But she never did.



In the ocean, she practiced her special leaps.

She did a sideways roll!

She did a double twist!

She did a triple backward flip!

“I must say,” said another salmon,
“she is a lovely leaper.”



The Bear

Years later, the salmon knew it was time to go home. It was time to go **upstream** to **spawn**. Soon they would lay the eggs that would become baby salmon.

They swam against the **current** of the stream. They struggled through **rapids**, leaped over waterfalls, and darted away from hungry **predators**.



Then, at one waterfall they met a bear! “We’ll never make it,” said one salmon.

“We’re done for,” said another.

“Maybe not,” said the lovely leaper.

She gathered all her strength and swam forward. She leaped with all her might.

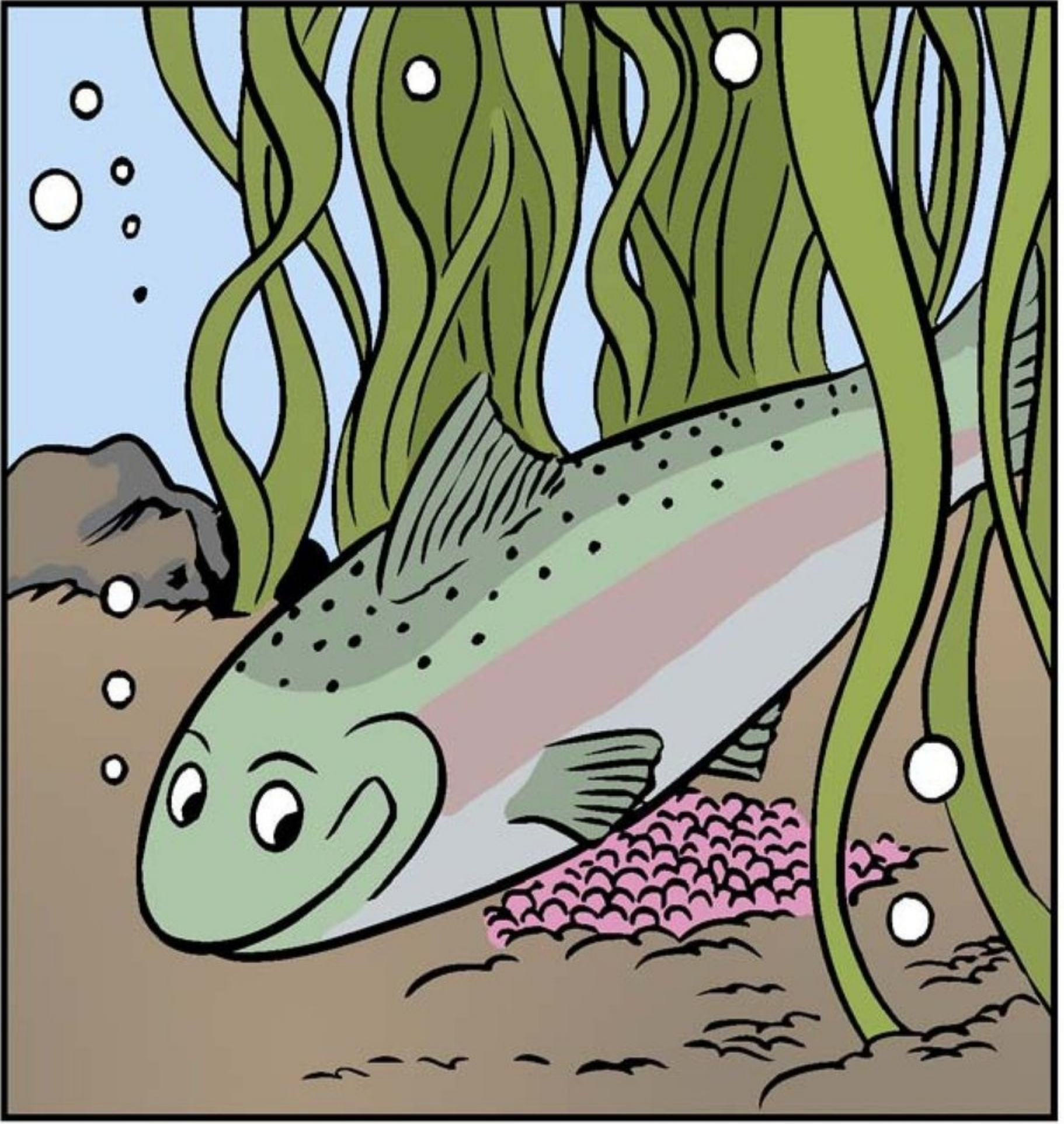


The bear had never seen anything like it! He watched her go up and up, higher and higher. He watched her twist one way, then another. He watched her flip end over end, and then backward!



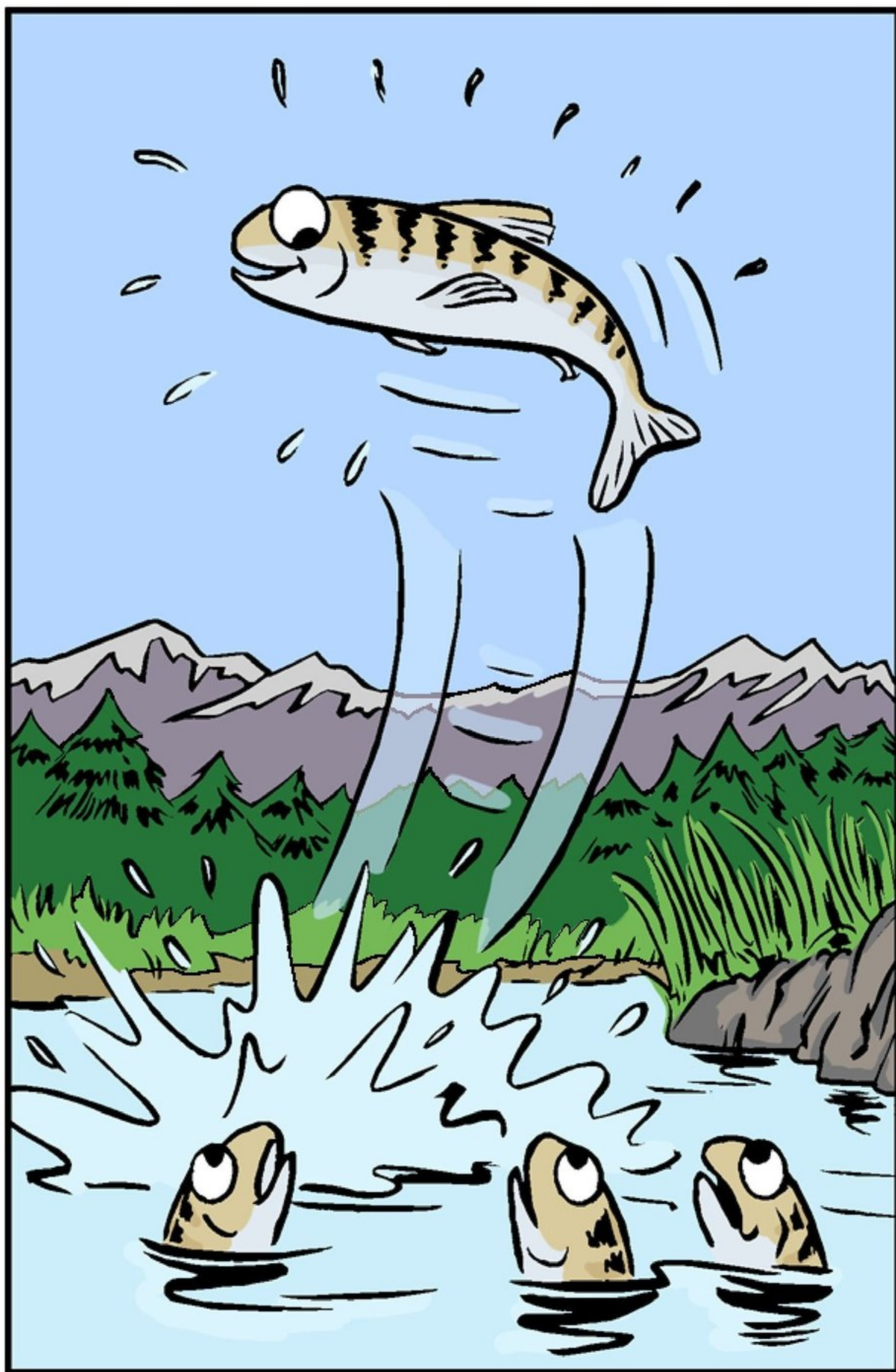
What the bear didn't see was the other salmon as they jumped the waterfall and swam safely away.

Quickly, she followed! With one last mighty flip, she was over the falls and gone.



Home Again

Home at last, she dug a hole with her tail. As her final task, she laid hundreds of tiny pink eggs. Before long the baby salmon would hatch. Like all salmon, they would be great leapers.



And maybe one would be a really lovely leaper!

Glossary

current (<i>n.</i>)	water that flows in a certain direction (p. 10)
downstream (<i>adv.</i>)	in the direction of the current (p. 7)
fry (<i>n.</i>)	a young salmon after its yolk sac is gone (p. 5)
predators (<i>n.</i>)	animals that hunt and eat other animals (p. 10)
rapids (<i>n.</i>)	quick-moving water (p. 10)
spawn (<i>v.</i>)	to lay eggs (p. 10)
upstream (<i>adv.</i>)	going against the current (p. 10)

Leap! A Salmon’s Story
Level K Leveled Book
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Illustrated by David Cockcroft

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