

STORY ONE

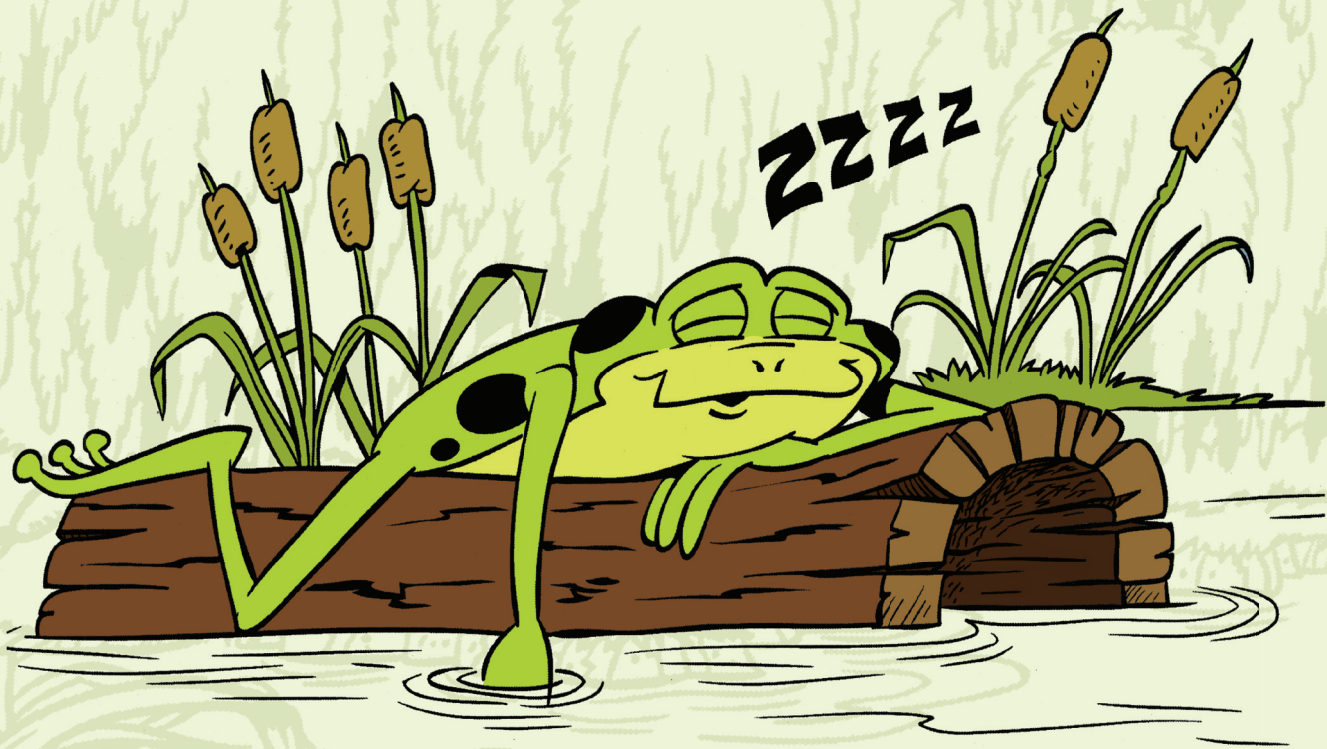
WILLOW POND



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IN THIS STORY, KELSO HELPS A YOUNG FRIEND LEARN TO RESOLVE SMALL CONFLICTS THE PEACEFUL WAY

One day, a handsome green frog was perched comfortably on his favorite floating log at Willow Pond. As he watched from his mossy stump he thought, "This is great...it's not too sunny, not too shady, and from here I can see almost all of the pond."



The summer wind gently rattled the cattails and tall grasses where Kelso the Frog was resting. As he bobbed up and down on the log, he decided it was the perfect moment for a quick nap before catching a few more bugs.

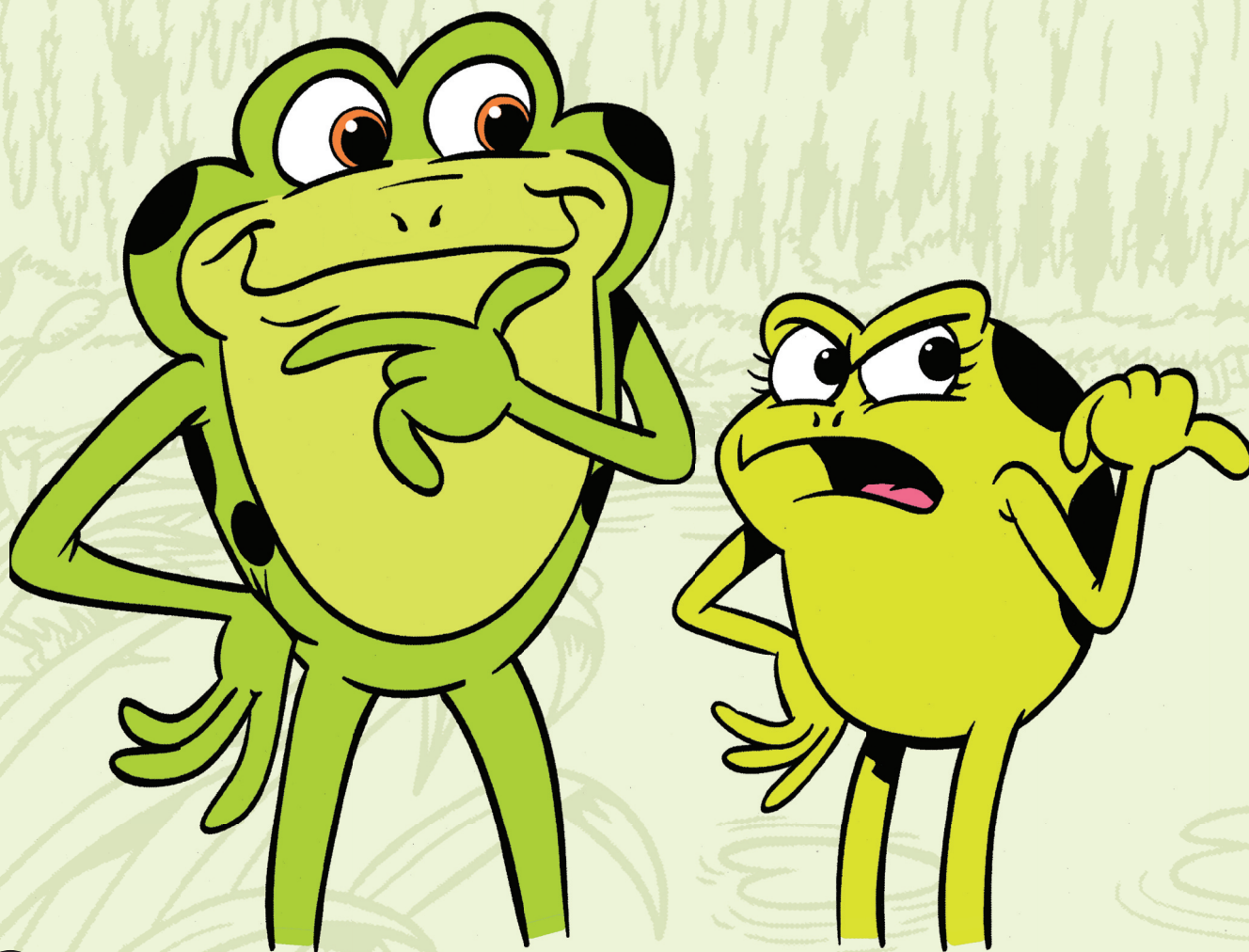
Kelso was almost asleep when Lily, a friendly spotted frog, hopped out of the pond and onto a nearby lily pad, showering him with water. Kelso opened one sleepy eye and peered at her. He could tell that his young friend was upset.



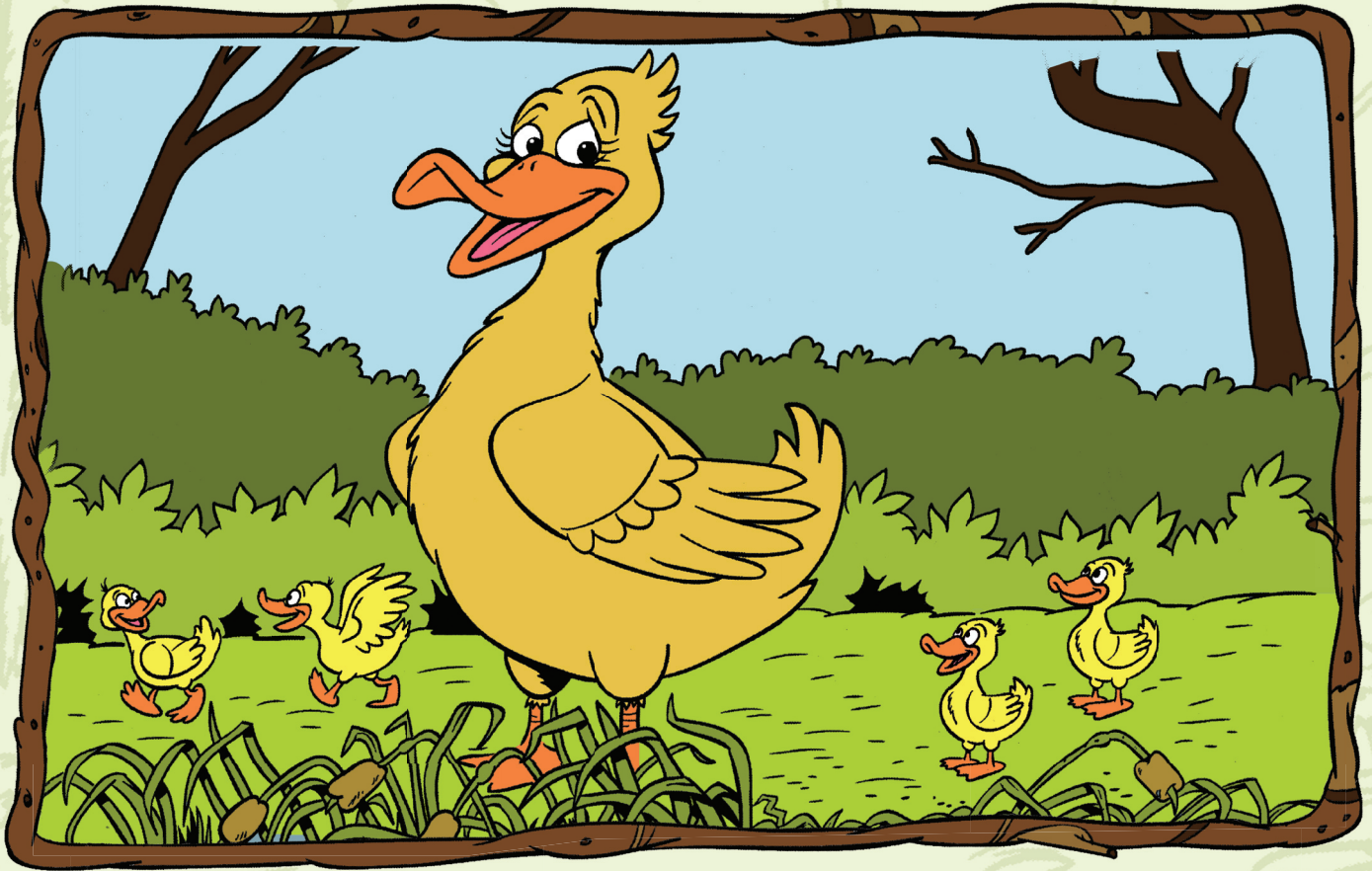
“What’s up?” Kelso asked.

“Oh, it’s those ducks again!” Lily complained. She pointed to the center of the pond where a mother duck was paddling in circles. Ten busy ducklings followed her, making smaller circles in the water.

“They’ve taken over!” Lily went on. “Since those baby ducks hatched, the pond just isn’t the same. They quack all the time. They splash and they mess up the lily pads! Just look!” she said, waving a webbed foot in their direction.



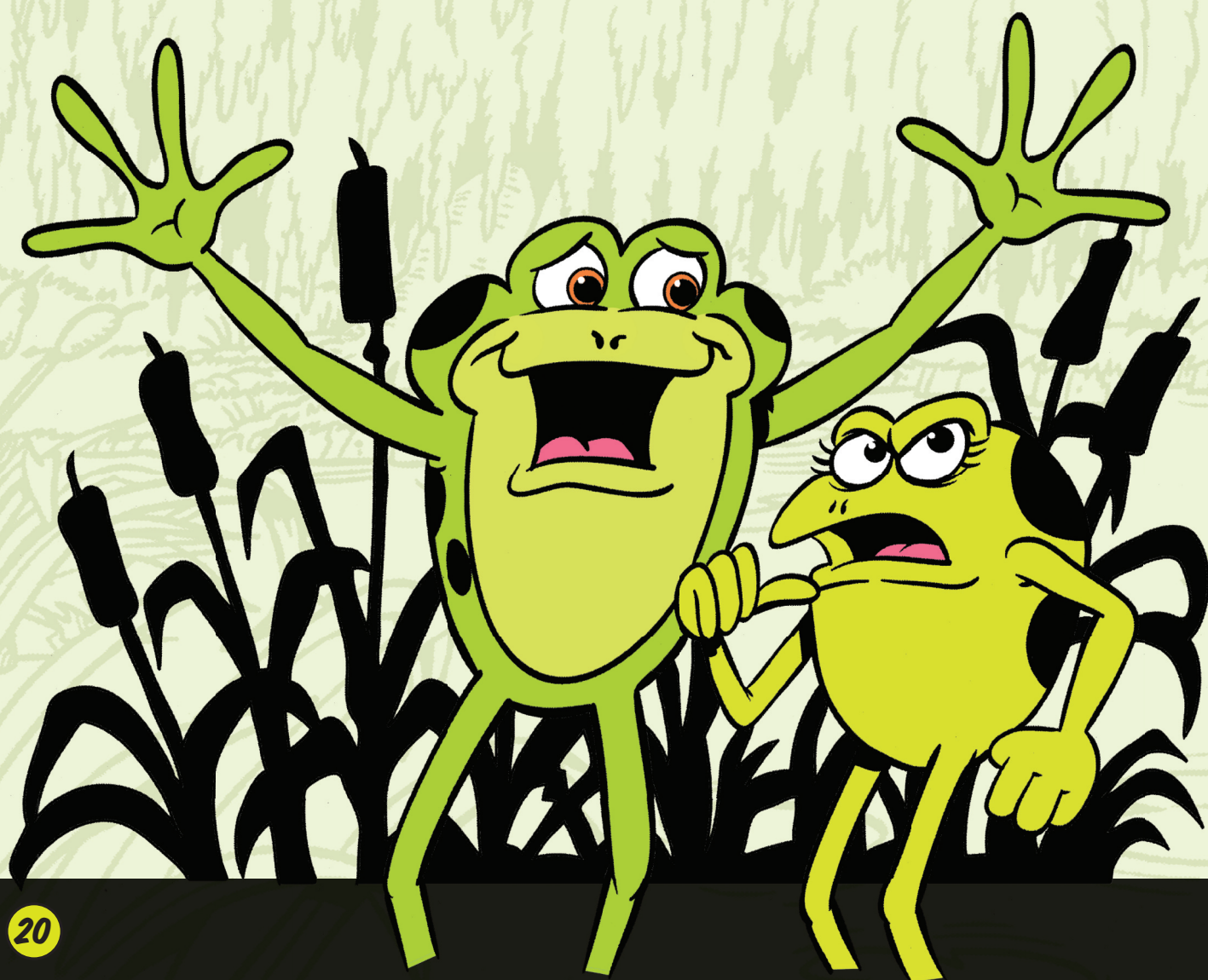
Sure enough, Kelso could see the family of noisy ducks swimming towards the muddy shore of the pond in search of worms.



Lily added, “And you know what really bugs me? Just as I’m about to gobble up a tasty bug, they start quacking and crowding around, scaring off the mosquitoes that I was going to eat!”

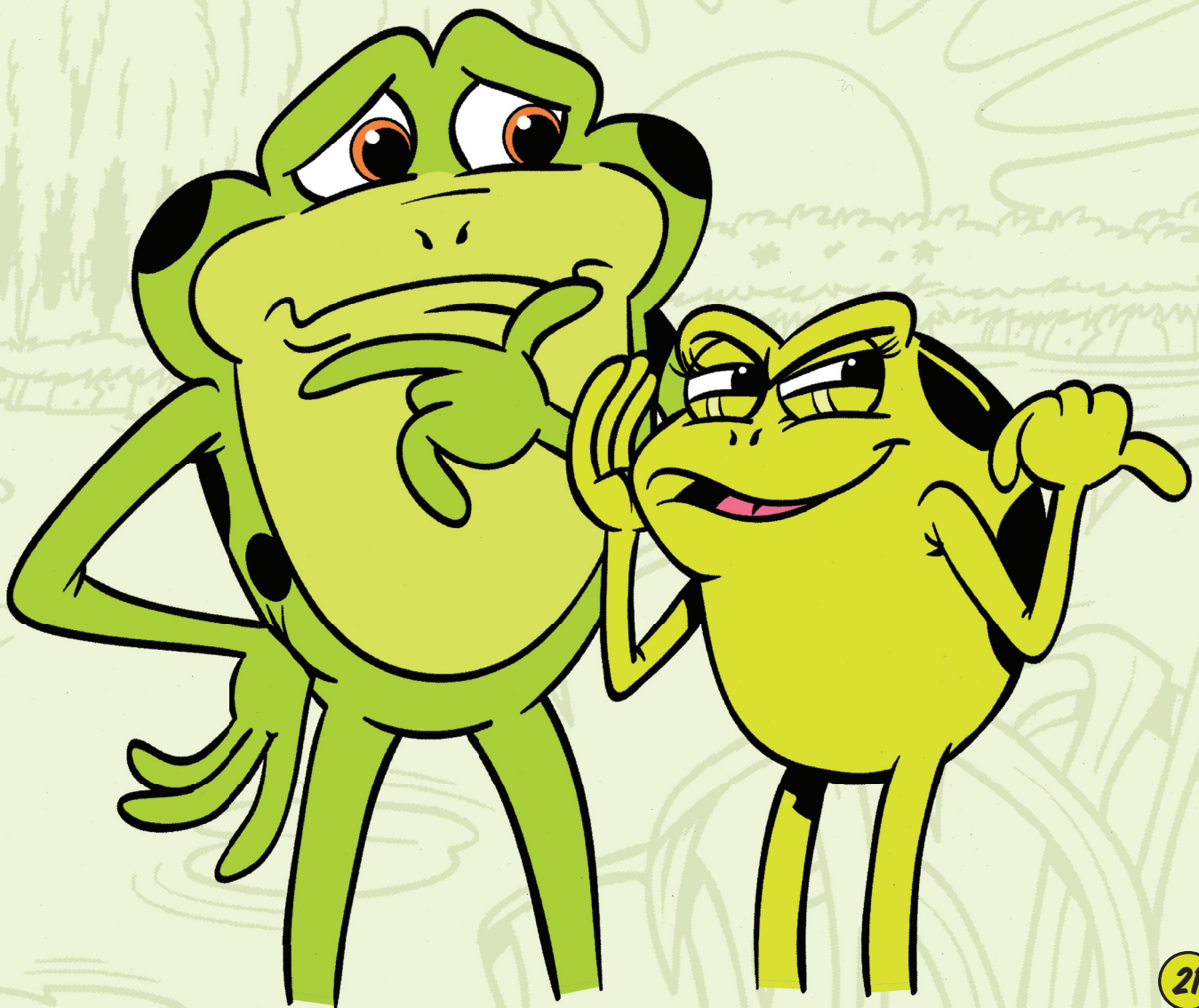
Now Kelso was known for being a pretty cool frog, as frogs go. And he knew that Lily wanted some advice for handling the problem. With a croak he asked, "Well, do you think that this is a BIG problem that is scary or frightening?"

"WHAT?" she replied. "I'm not scared of those ducks. They can't hurt me. I guess that I'm just sort of...mad at them."



Lily thought for a moment, then quickly hopped a little closer and whispered in a soft croak: "OK, I want you to help me scare them off. We could sneak up really close, jump out of the water, and frighten them away!"

Kelso peered at her and blinked. "Well, Lily, that might make them and the other ducks mad at you. Besides, some of the ducklings could get hurt if we chased them and fought with them."



Lily squinted her eyes and thought. "Well, then let's tell all of the other animals here at Willow Pond not to like them! We'll say the ducks are trying to take over and..."

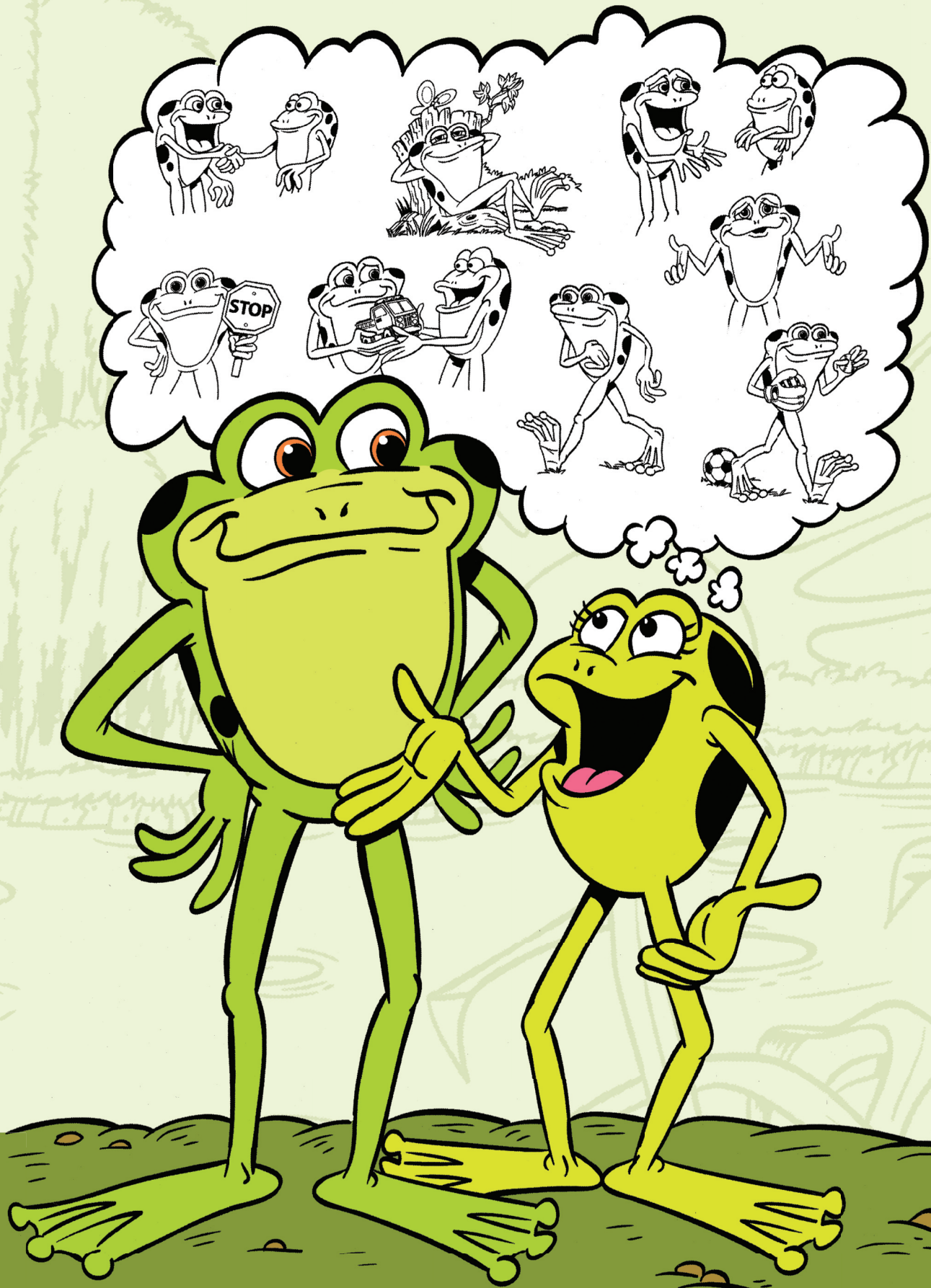
Kelso interrupted her. "They're not really trying to take over, Lily. They're just sort of noisy. Besides, if we start rumors, the animals at the pond would get mad at each other, and then everyone would start saying mean things."

He gave a deep froggy laugh and said, "If you think about it, Lily, we probably bother the ducks when we croak at night and hop all over the pond. There must be something else you could do..."

Lily was silent, but Kelso knew she was thinking hard.

Suddenly, her eyes lit up and she exclaimed, "I've got it!" Hopping up and down with excitement, she asked Kelso, "Remember when you told me how you solve small problems, Kelso? You know, those nine ways that you've figured out to fix things that bother you? I'll try one of those!"





And before Kelso could say another word, Lily jumped from her lily pad into the water.

With a smile he realized that Lily had found a way to solve her problem with the ducks. And as he drifted happily to sleep on the gently bobbing log, Kelso wondered which choice she had decided to use.

