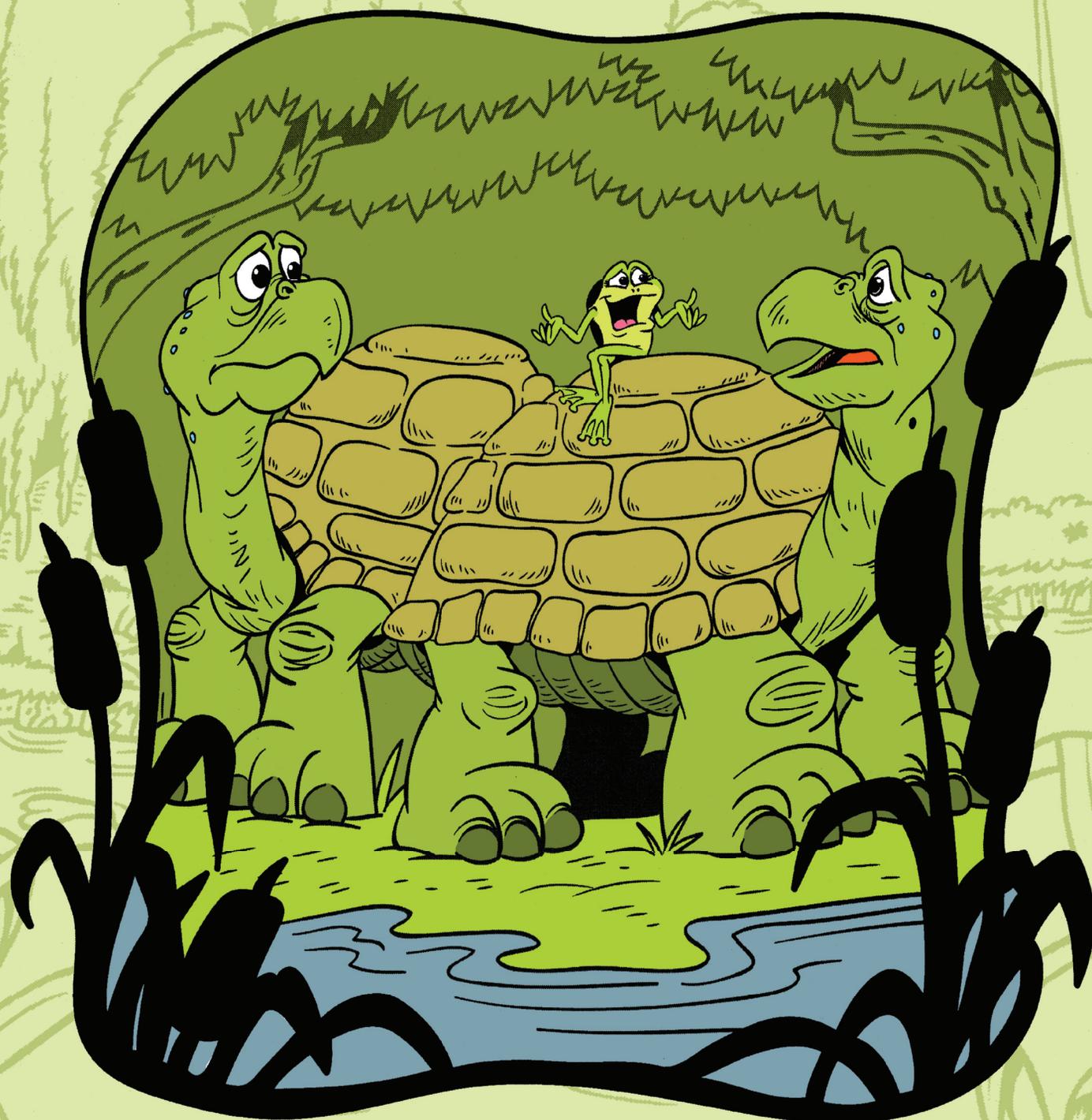


STORY THREE

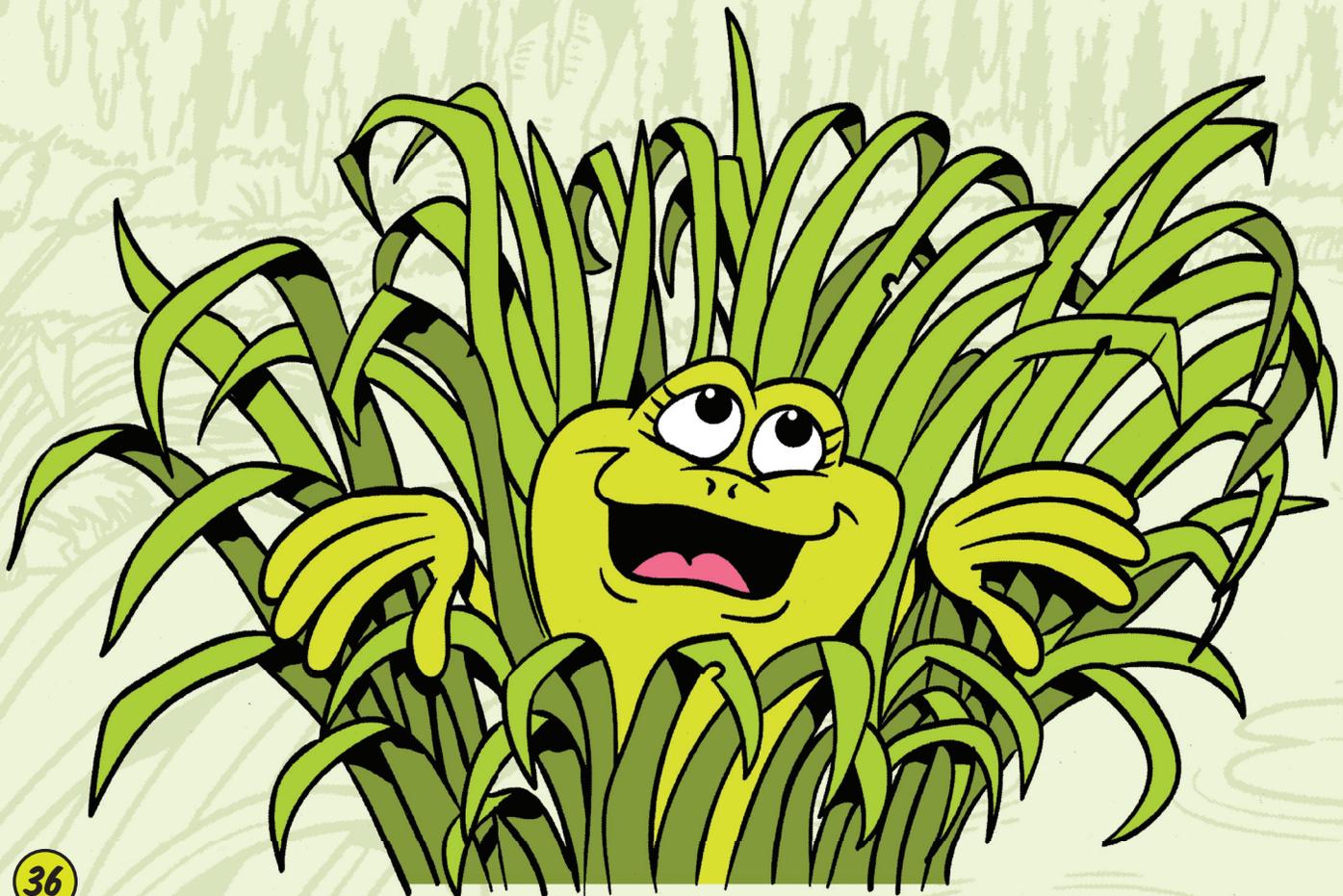
THE FLY BOYS



THE FLY BOYS

LILY HELPS TWO FRIENDS WHO, WHEN FACED WITH A PERSISTENT PROBLEM, KEEP REPEATING AN INEFFECTIVE CHOICE.

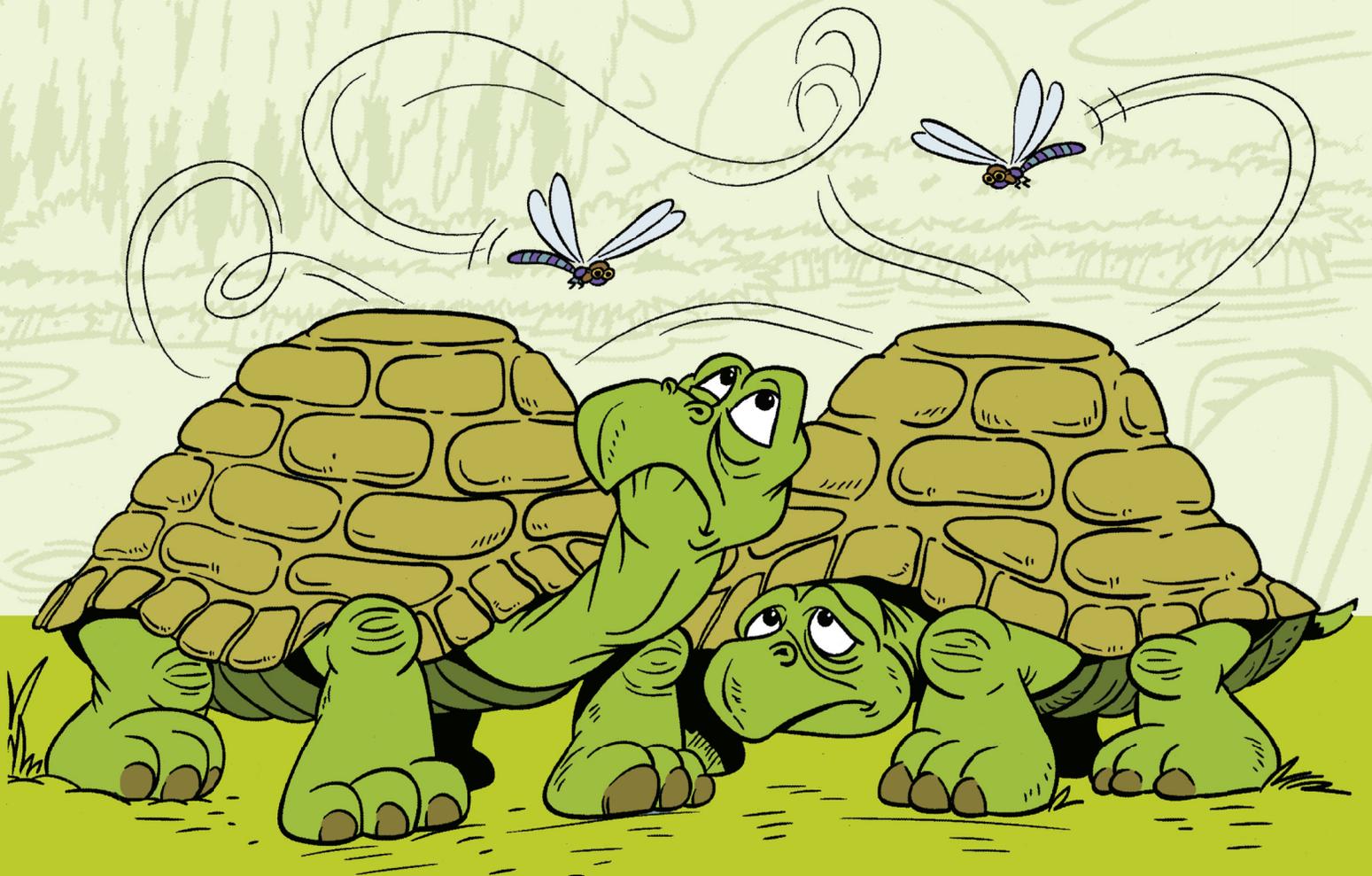
Lily spent most of the summer exploring the muddy shores of Willow Pond, hopping in the tall grasses, nibbling at bugs, and (best of all) playing hide-and-seek with her friends. She liked that game because she was often the last to be found. You see, Lily's green and yellow spots blended in with the pond grasses and the others had trouble seeing her.



Early one morning, as Lily was looking for someone to play with, she overheard two dragonflies talking to her friends, the turtles.

As the bugs hovered with their huge sets of sparkling wings, they said, “You turtles are so slow that you probably don’t even know what speed is! Just watch us if you want a thrill!”

And before the startled turtles could even move their heads, the dragonflies lifted off, rising like two super-charged helicopters. With their wings shimmering in the sun, they quickly did a set of double-spirals and a triple-twist.





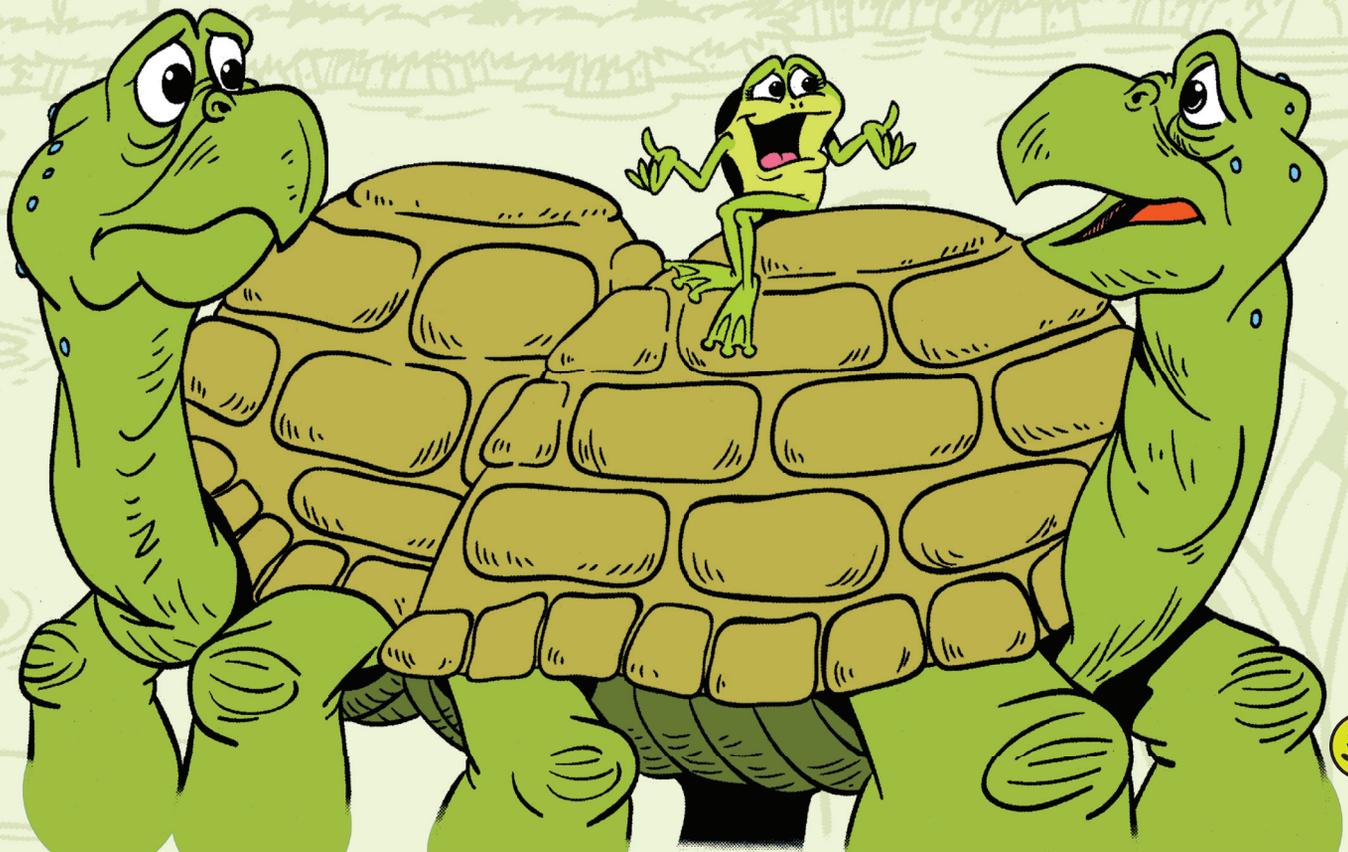
Now, it's true that dragonflies are fast. In fact, they are probably just about the fastest insects in the world. But it is also true that dragonflies just love to show off, especially in front of the slower animals of the pond.

After the noisy bugs left, the turtles blinked and cautiously looked around, making sure it was quiet again. Suddenly, from nowhere, the pair of dragonflies came blasting back, clattering their wings and startling the poor turtles so much that they pulled their heads into their shells.

Lily watched as the dragonflies kept up their game. They would fly away, practice a few rolls and dives, and then return, hopeful that the turtles had been watching their stunts.

When the dragonflies were doing loop-the-loops low over the water, Lily hopped over to the sandy shore where the turtles were trying to rest. "Well, you guys, what are you going to do about those dragonflies?"

"Um, I dunno," said Tex. He was the braver of the two turtles. "I guess we'll just keep on ignorin' 'em," he sighed.



“Yep,” said his buddy, Levi. “We know that ignorin’ a small problem is one of Kelso’s choices. But it takes a powerful lot of ignorin’ for those dragonflies to leave us alone!”

Lily was curious and asked the turtles how long they had been ignoring the dragonflies. The turtles looked at each other, thought for a while, and Tex answered, “We’ve been ignorin’ ’em since tadpole season.”

Lily couldn’t believe it. She exclaimed, “Why that was two months ago! Why have you been doing the same thing over and over if it hasn’t worked? You guys need to move on!”

The turtles looked alarmed (which is pretty hard for a turtle to do). “Move on?” they cried. “You mean we have to move away just ’cause of those dragonflies?”

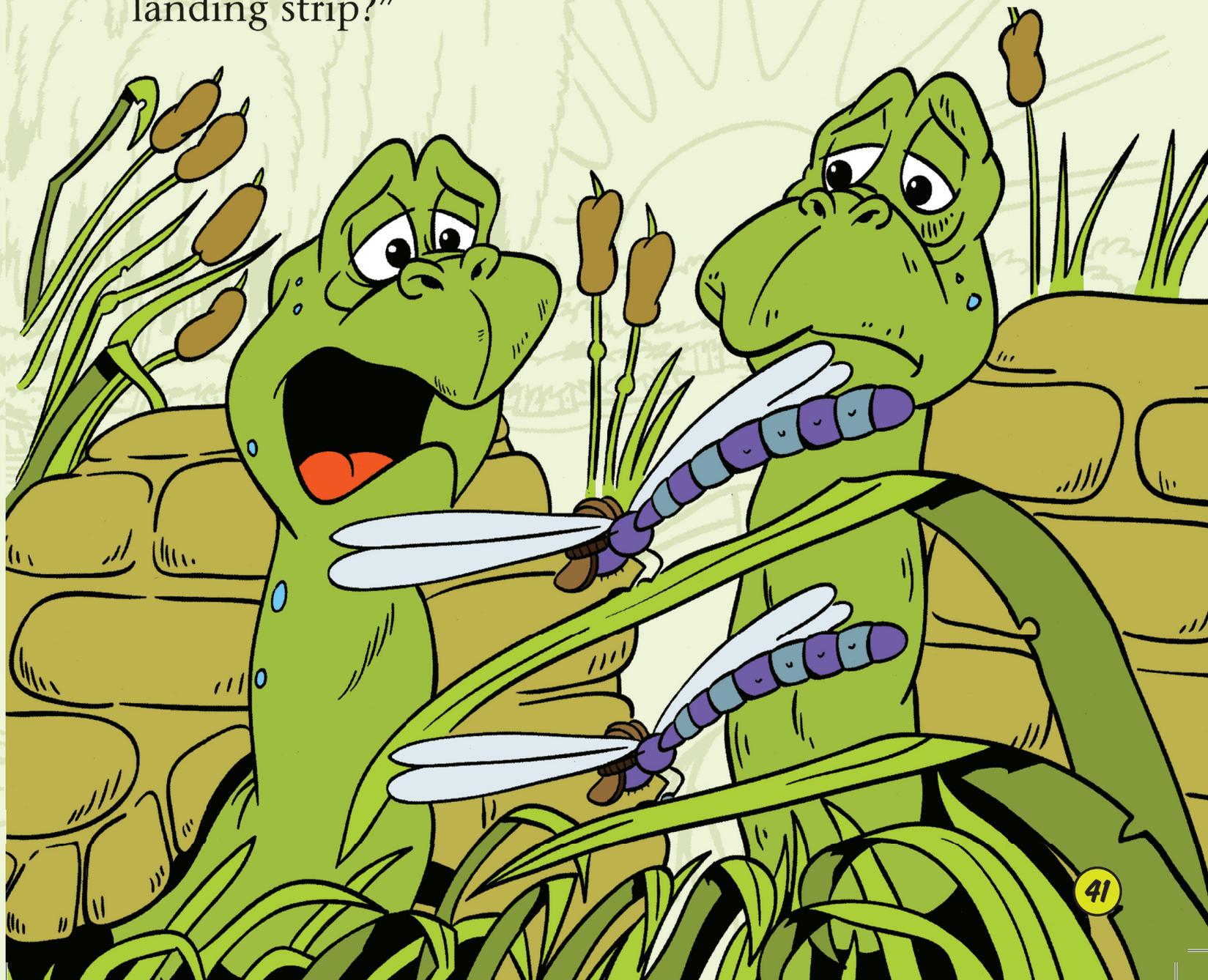
“No, no, no,” corrected Lily. “I meant you have to move on and try something new. You are stuck using ‘ignore’ as the only way to solve your problem!”

Levi replied, “Well, that’s because we’re designed for ignorin’, what with our shells and all. And besides, it usually works for us!”

Lily thought and then suggested, “Why don’t you try to talk out your problem with the dragonflies? You know...tell them how their showing off makes you feel, and why you want them to stop.”

Suddenly, out of nowhere, the dragonflies swooped down to the turtles and Lily. “Hiya, Lily! Wanna see how fast we’re going today? With the wind to our backs, we’re probably clocking 35 miles an hour! Maybe even 40!”

To Lily’s surprise, Tex spoke up. “Hold on a minute, fellas. We want to talk with you. You might not have realized this, but your buzzin’ and flyin’ are botherin’ us. We just get settled and you fly boys dive down close to our heads and bug us. Could you find a new landing strip?”

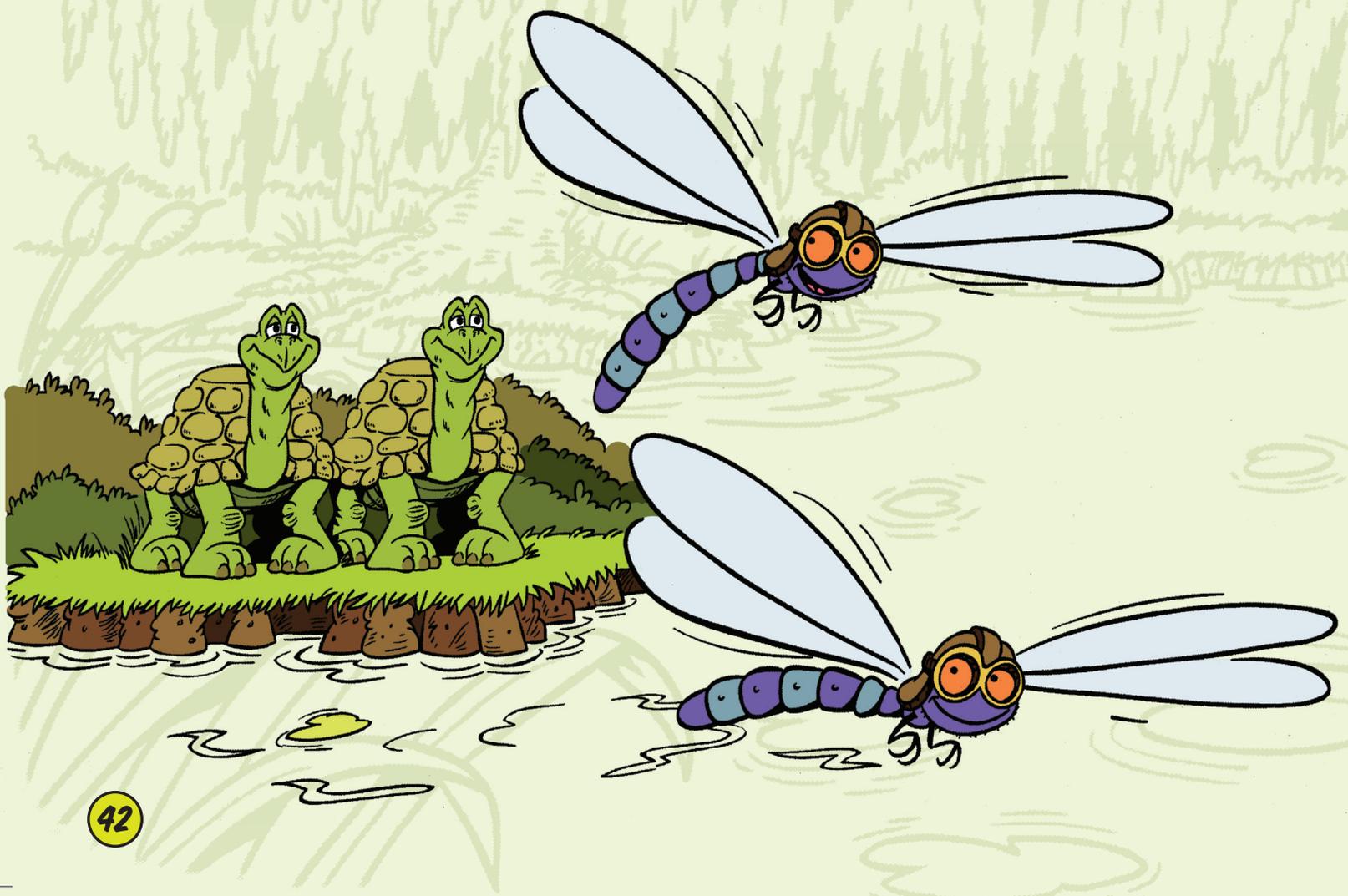


Now that was quite a speech for a usually silent turtle and the dragonflies were impressed. They stopped hovering in the air and landed on the sandy beach next to Lily and the turtles.

“What? We didn’t know that you were being bugged. We just wanted to show you our tricks and all the neat stuff we could do!”

The other dragonfly added, “I guess we could change our landing strip to the beaver lodge. Boy, oh boy, are they in for a treat!”

And in a flash, the two insects lifted straight up, and cruised over to the far end of the pond by the beaver lodge.



When Lily turned to look at her two friends, they were already asleep, the summer sun warming their shells.

“Well,” she thought happily, “they’ve learned that you have to pick the right choice for the right situation. And if one idea isn’t working, it’s time to try something new!”

And with a happy PLOP! she jumped into the water and paddled off to tell Kelso how she had helped.

