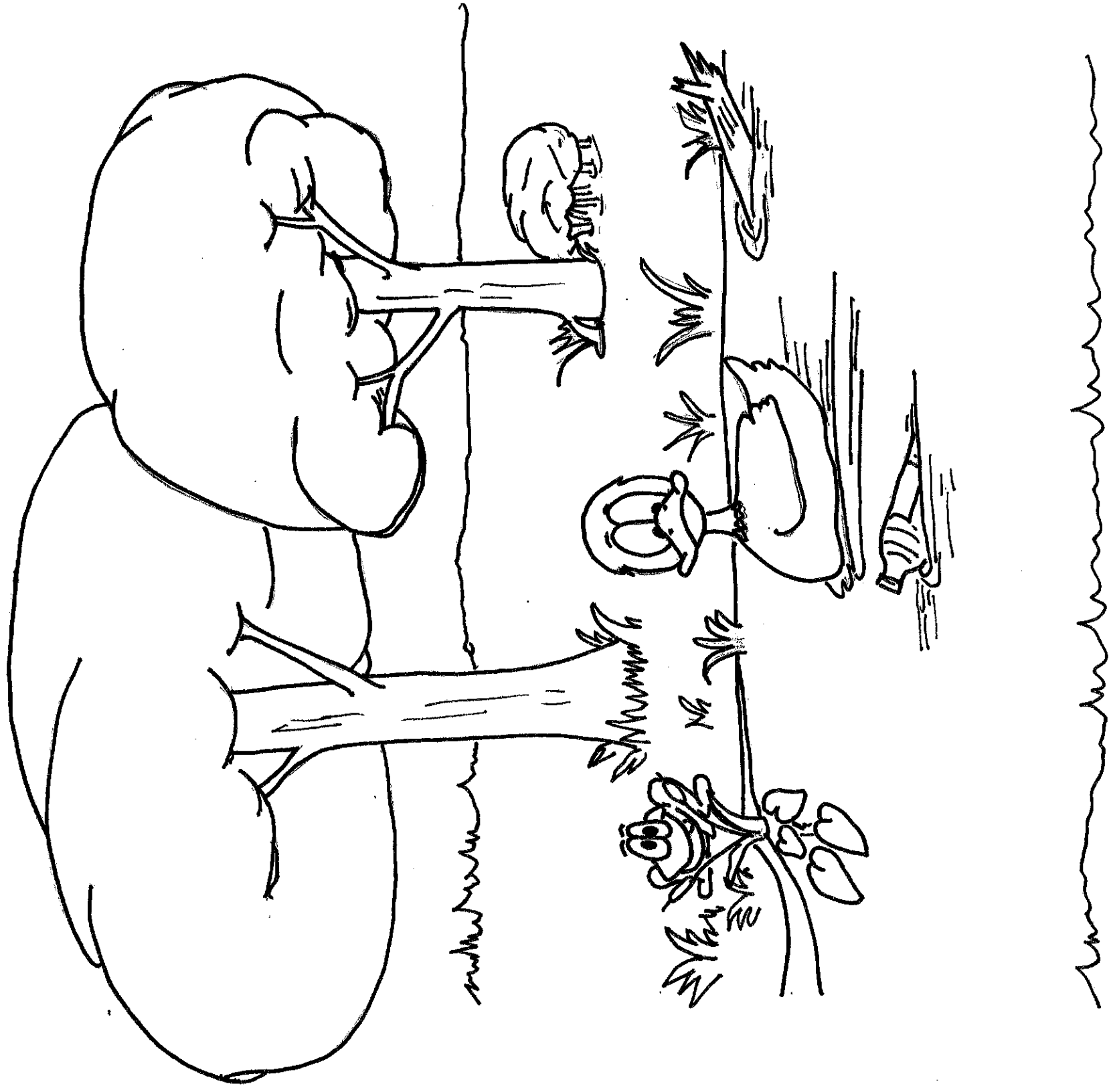
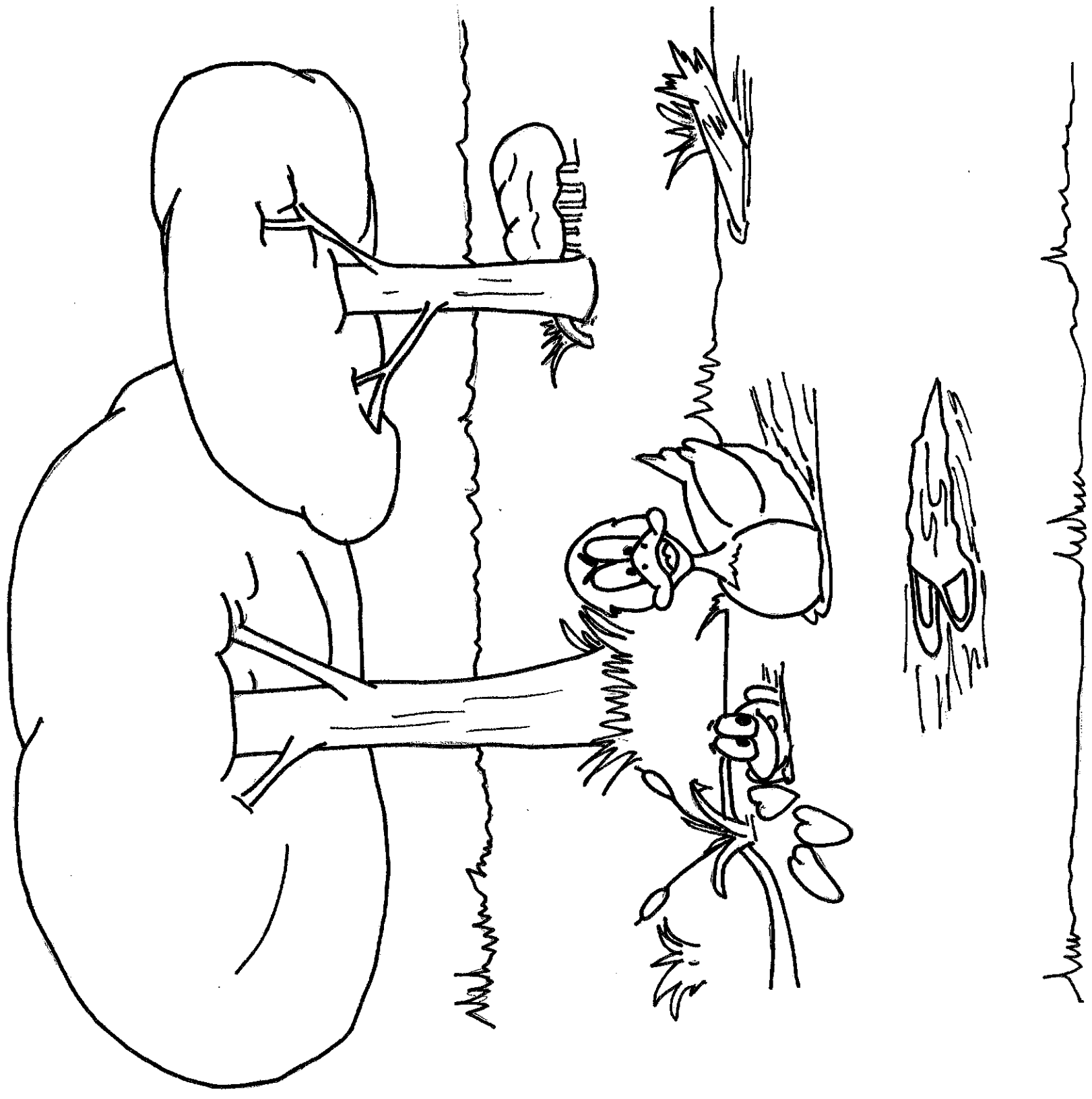


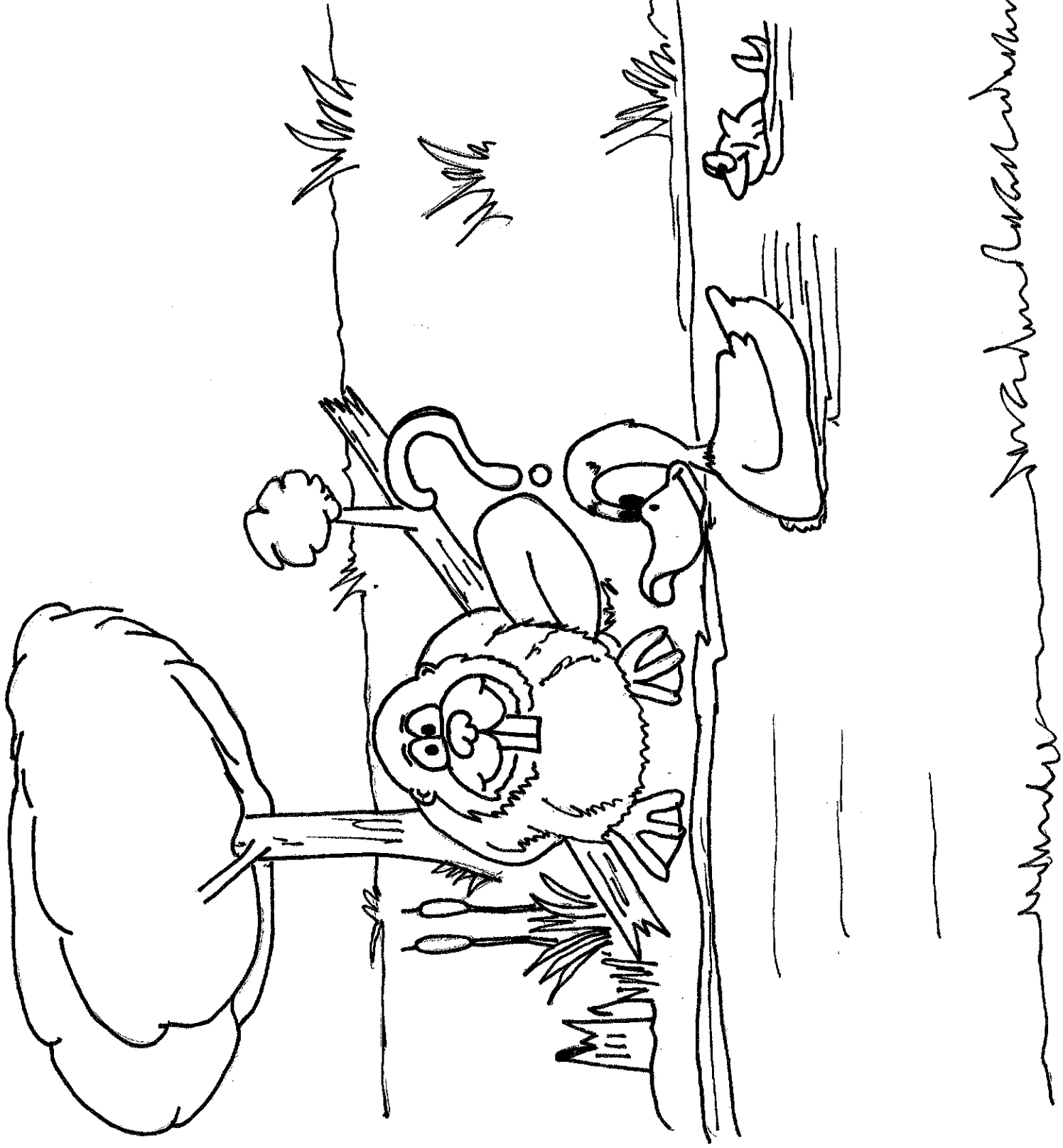
Tom is a happy duck swimming on the
Toms River.



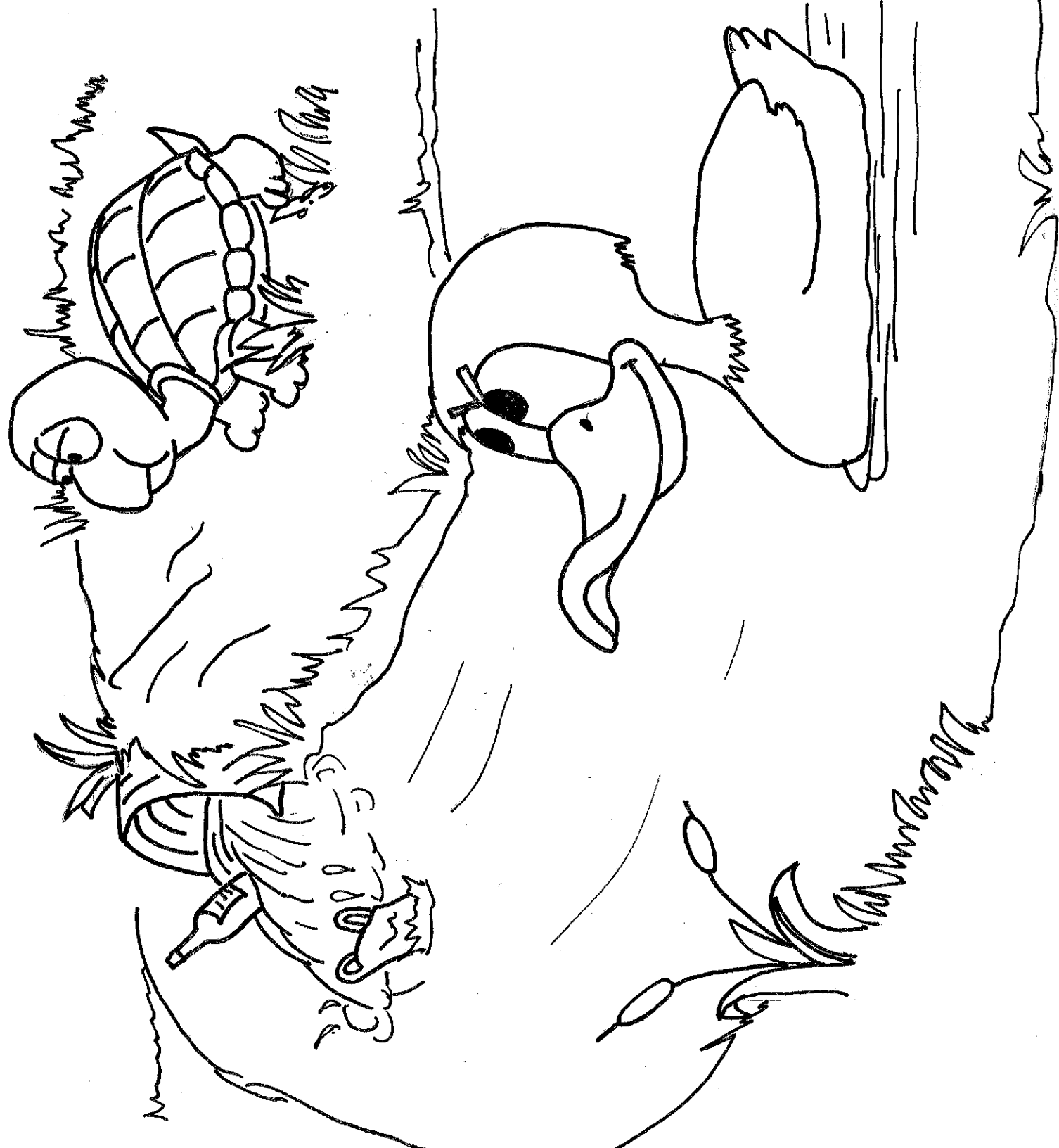
One day, Tom saw a water bottle float by him.



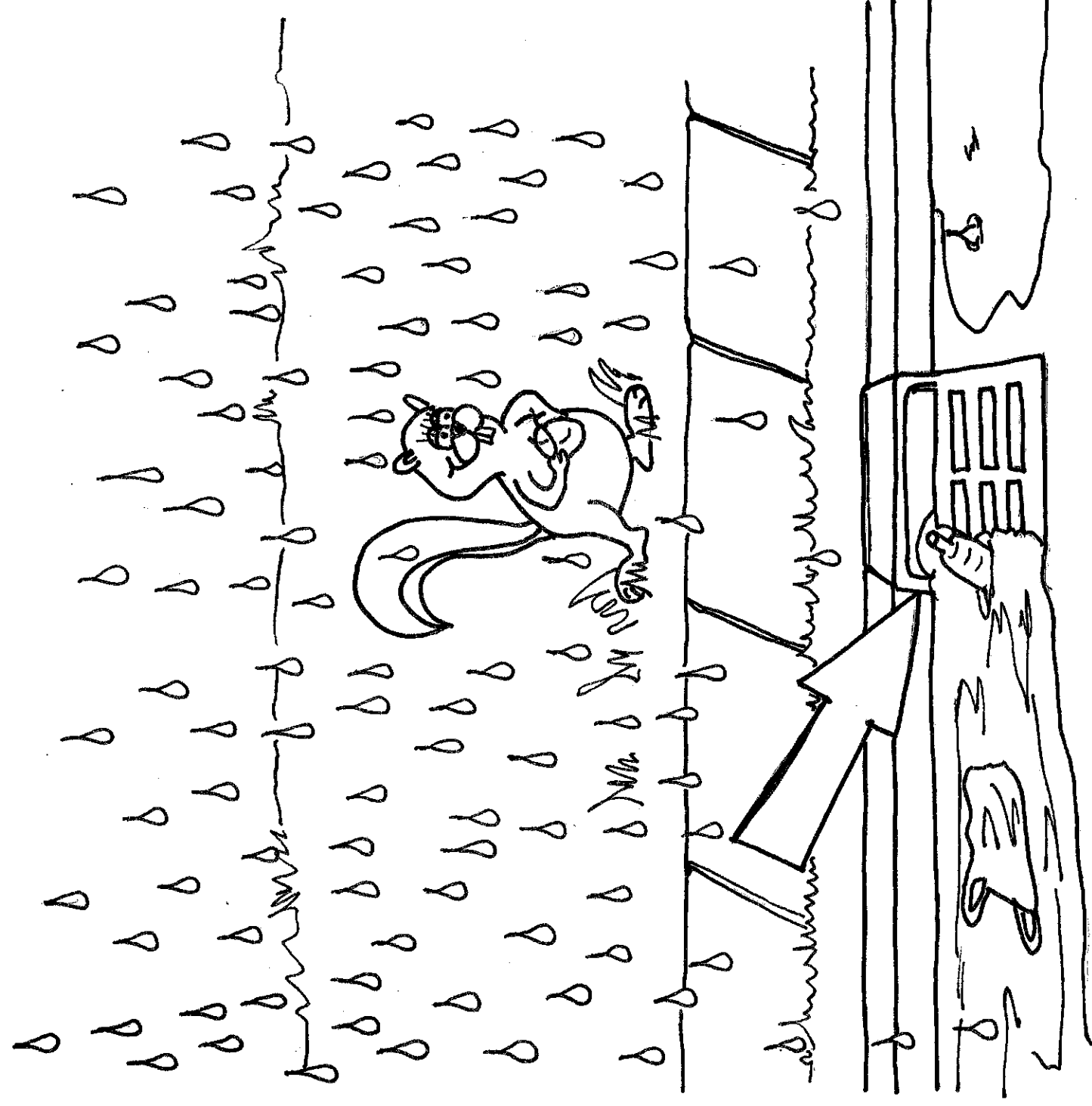
Then he saw a plastic bag.



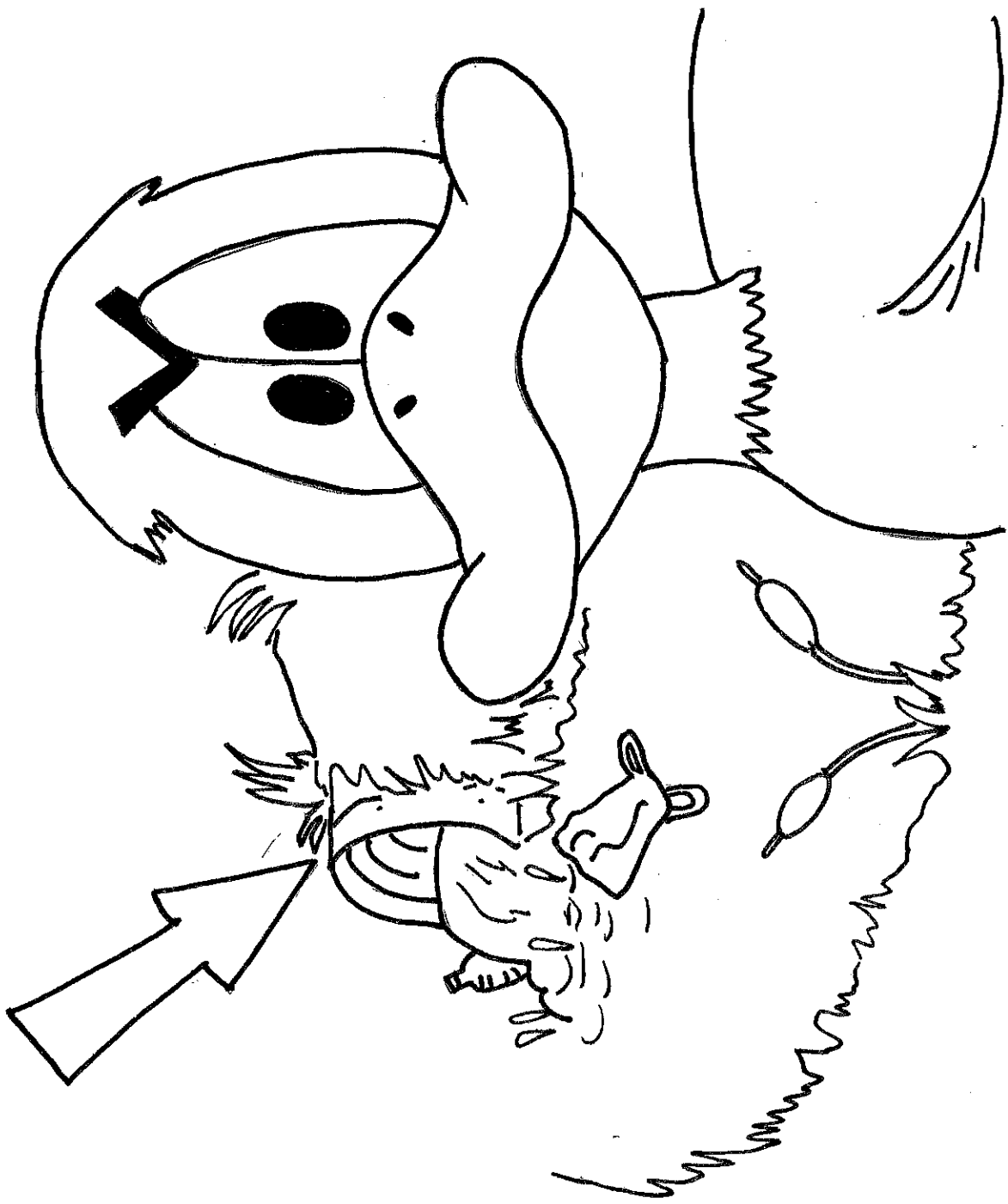
So Tom started to swim upriver to see what was happening.



Aha! He saw the problem. It was storm drain runoff.



It had rained that morning, and the rain water was washing all of the litter from the streets into the storm drains.



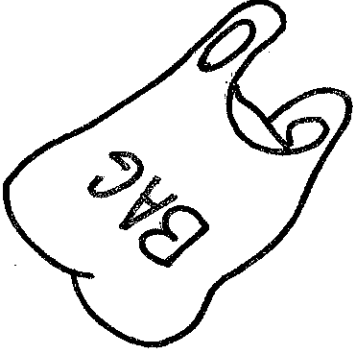
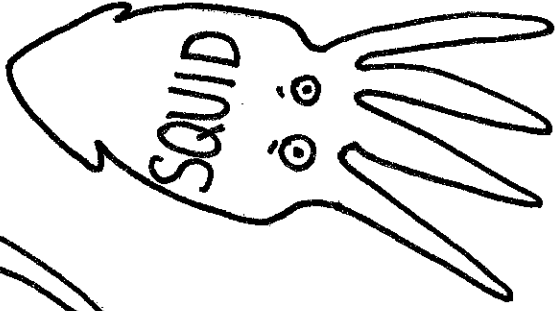
And those storm drains empty into our waters.



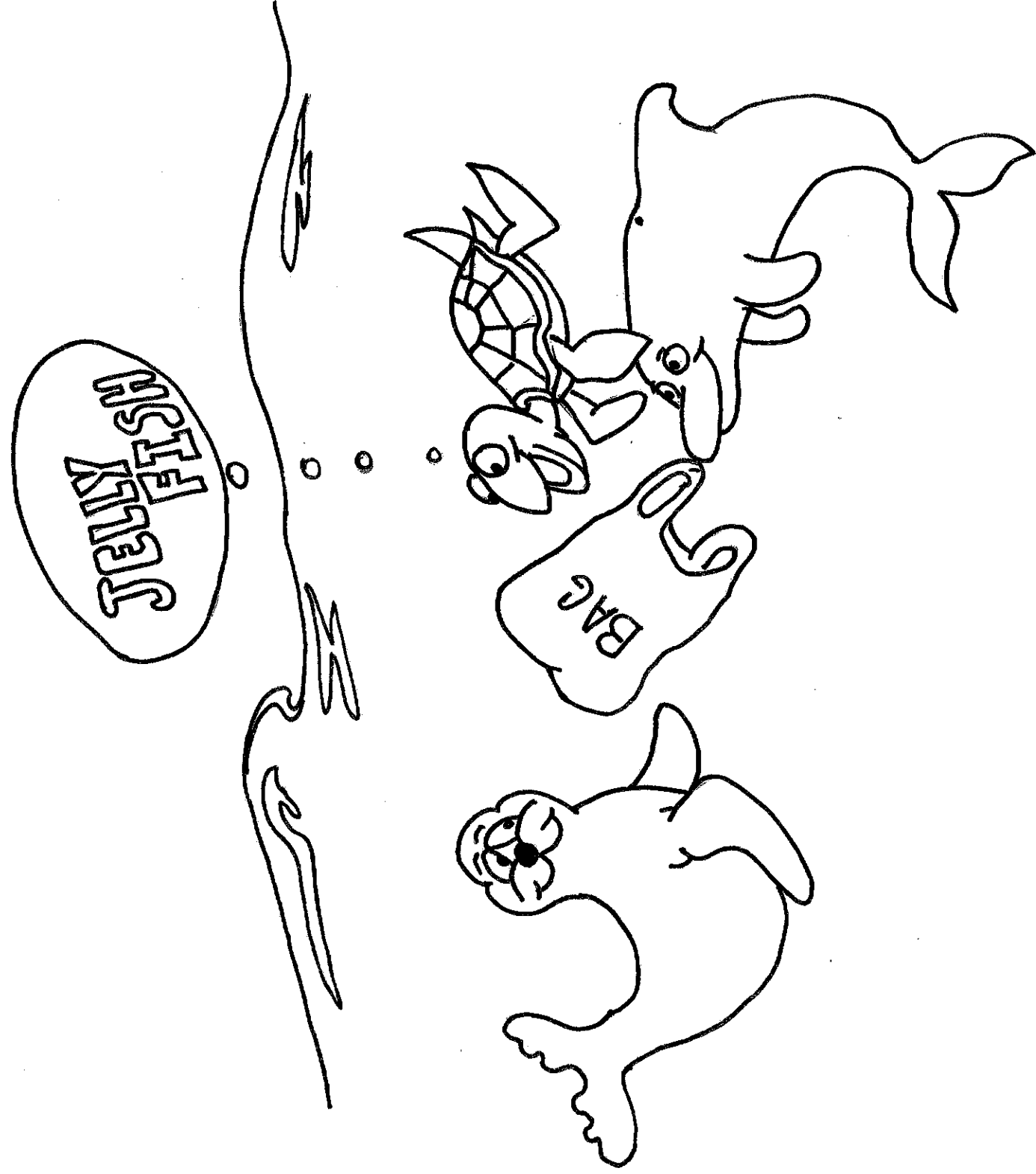
When people litter by throwing their trash
on the ground,



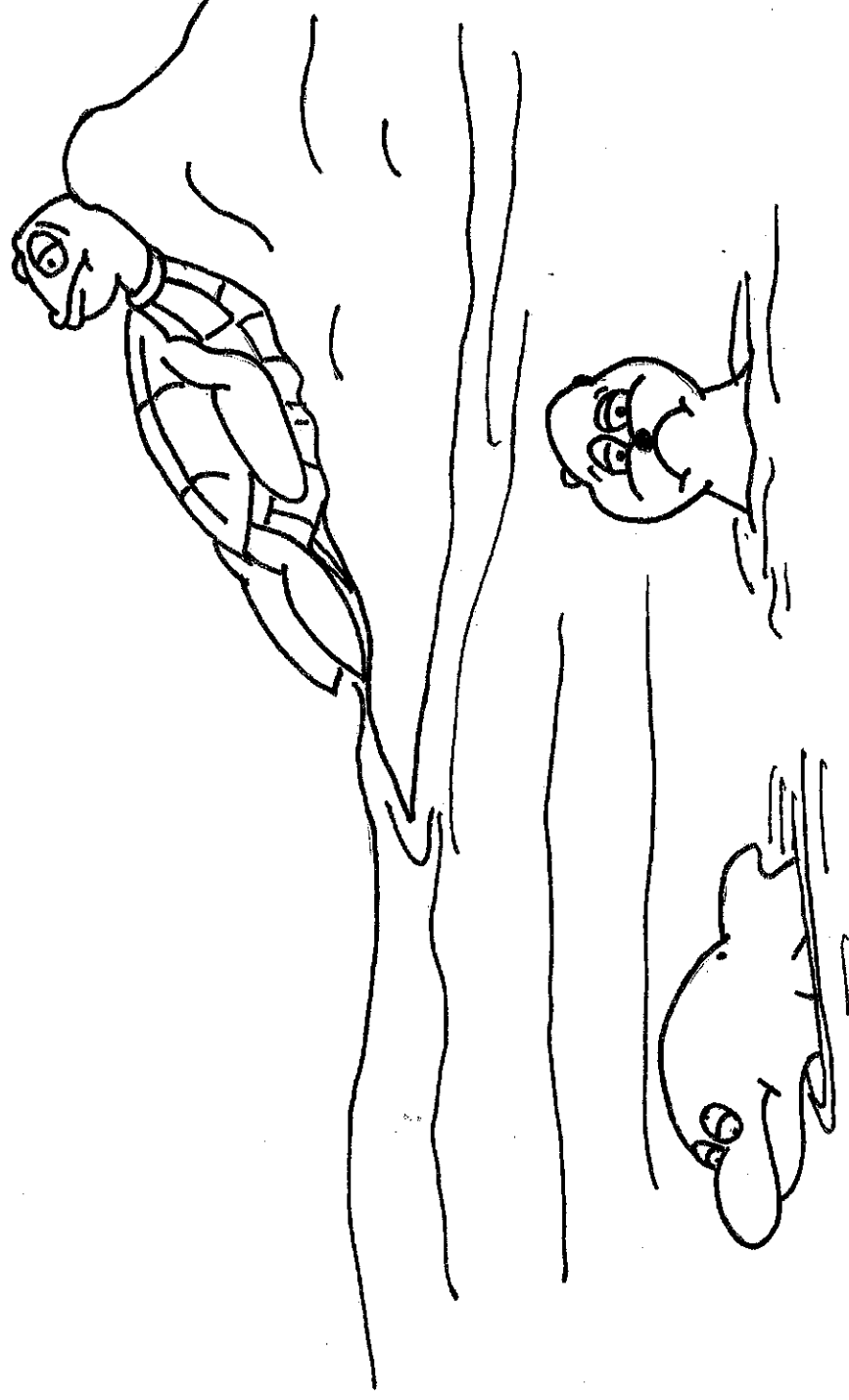
rain and wind can carry that trash all the way
to our streams, river, bays, and ocean.



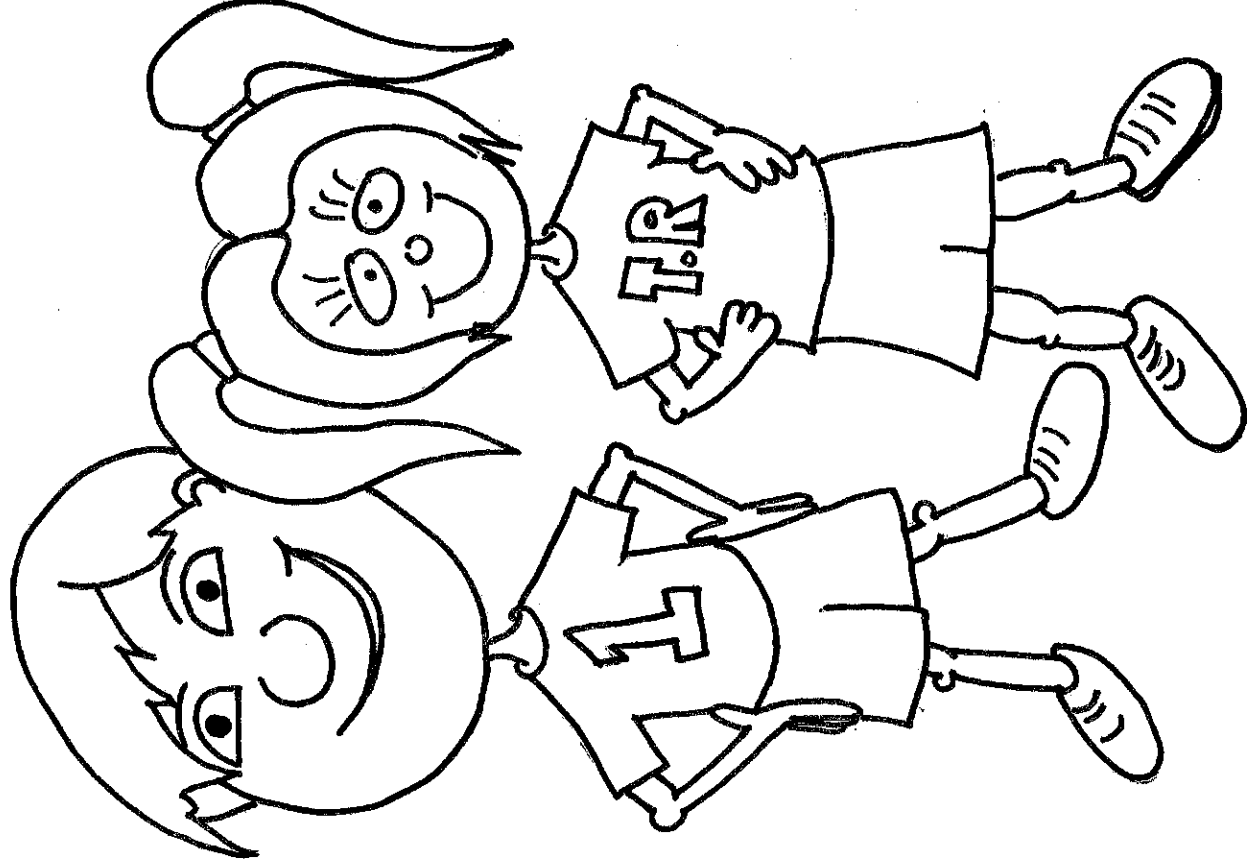
Tom hopes his friends do not think the trash is food.



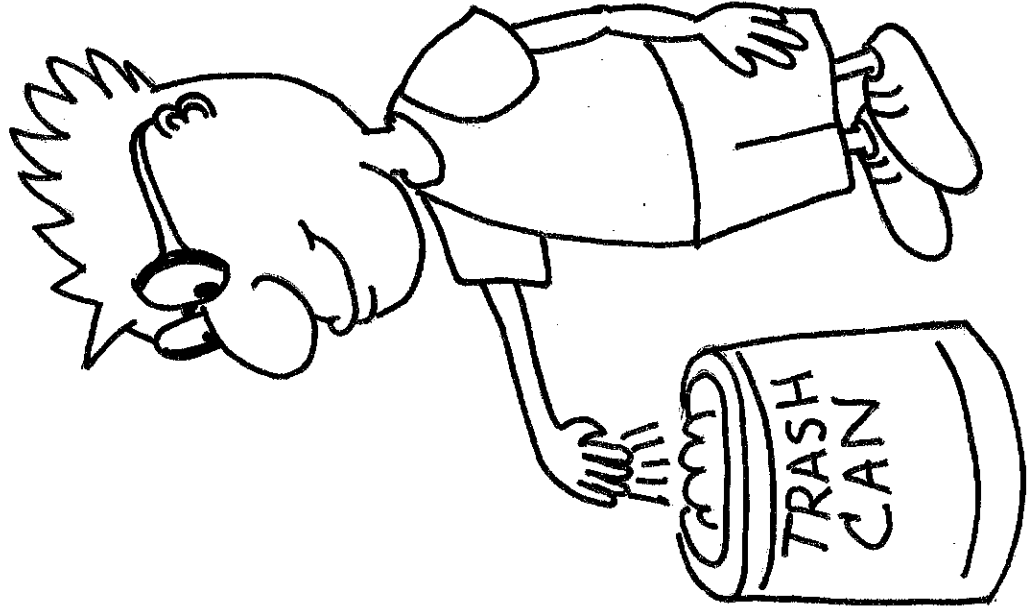
Turtles and birds, even seals and dolphins, can mistake plastic bags for squid or jellyfish.



They try to eat them. This can make them sick.



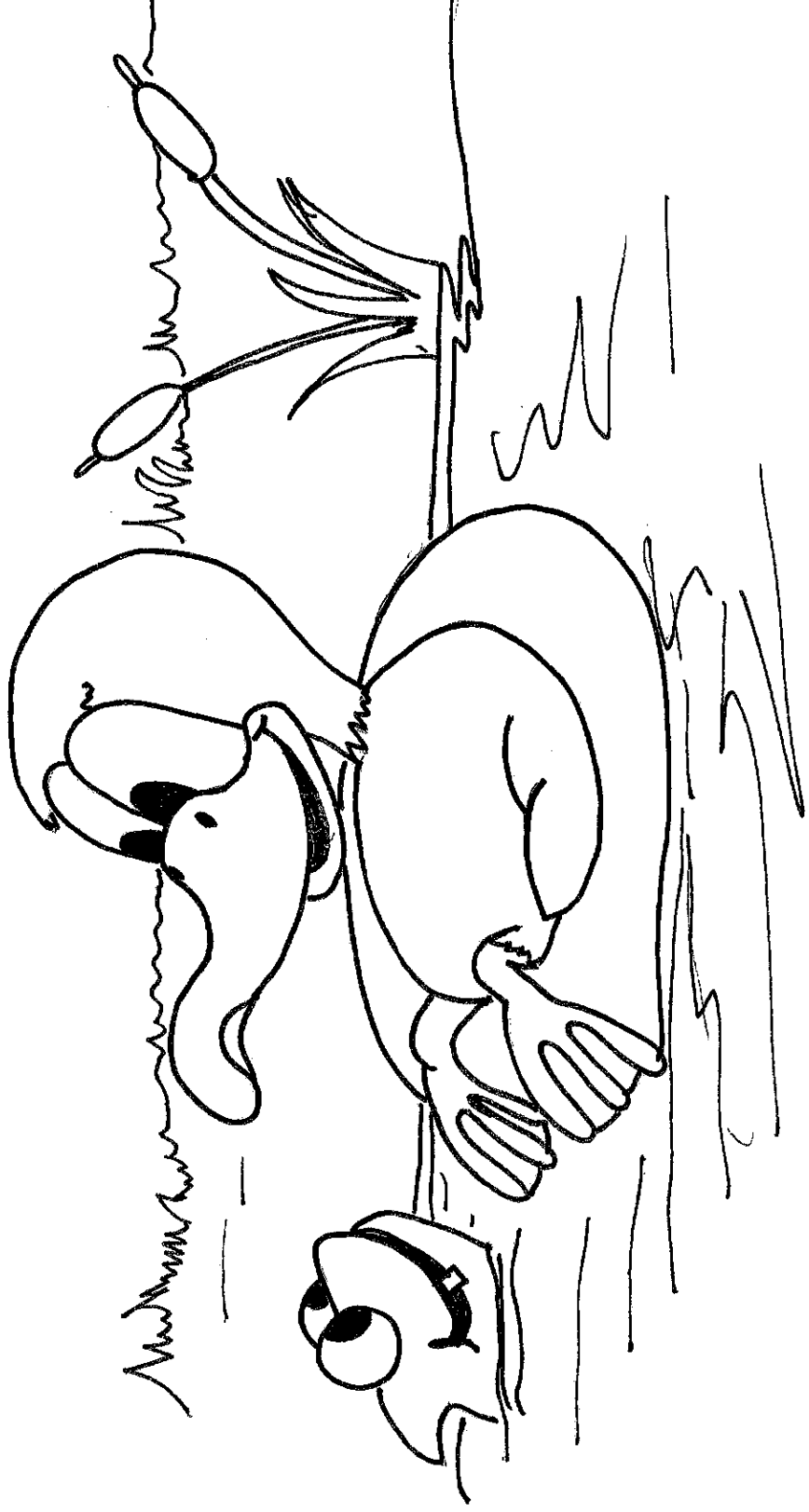
But there are things we can do to help.



The big thing is to never litter.



Also, if you see litter on the ground,
put it in the trash.



By doing these simple things you can
make Tom a happy duck. And a safe duck.