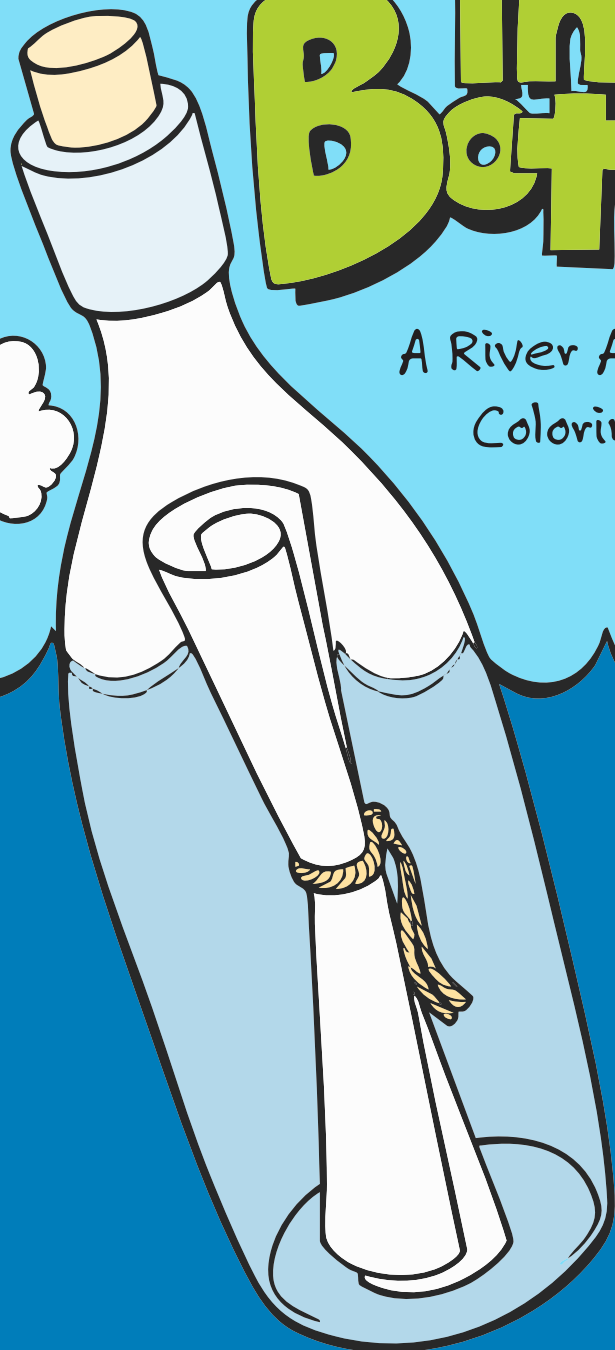
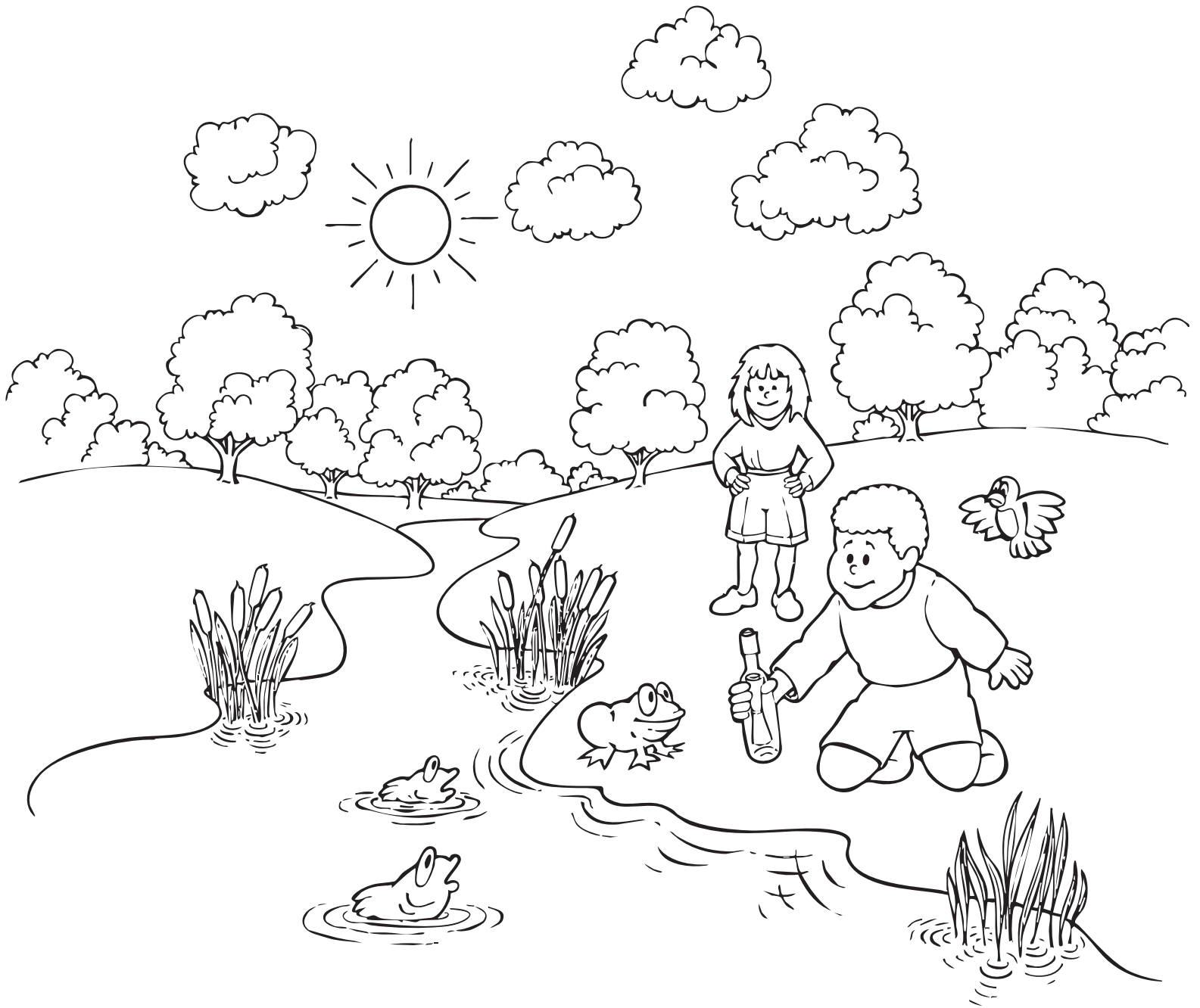


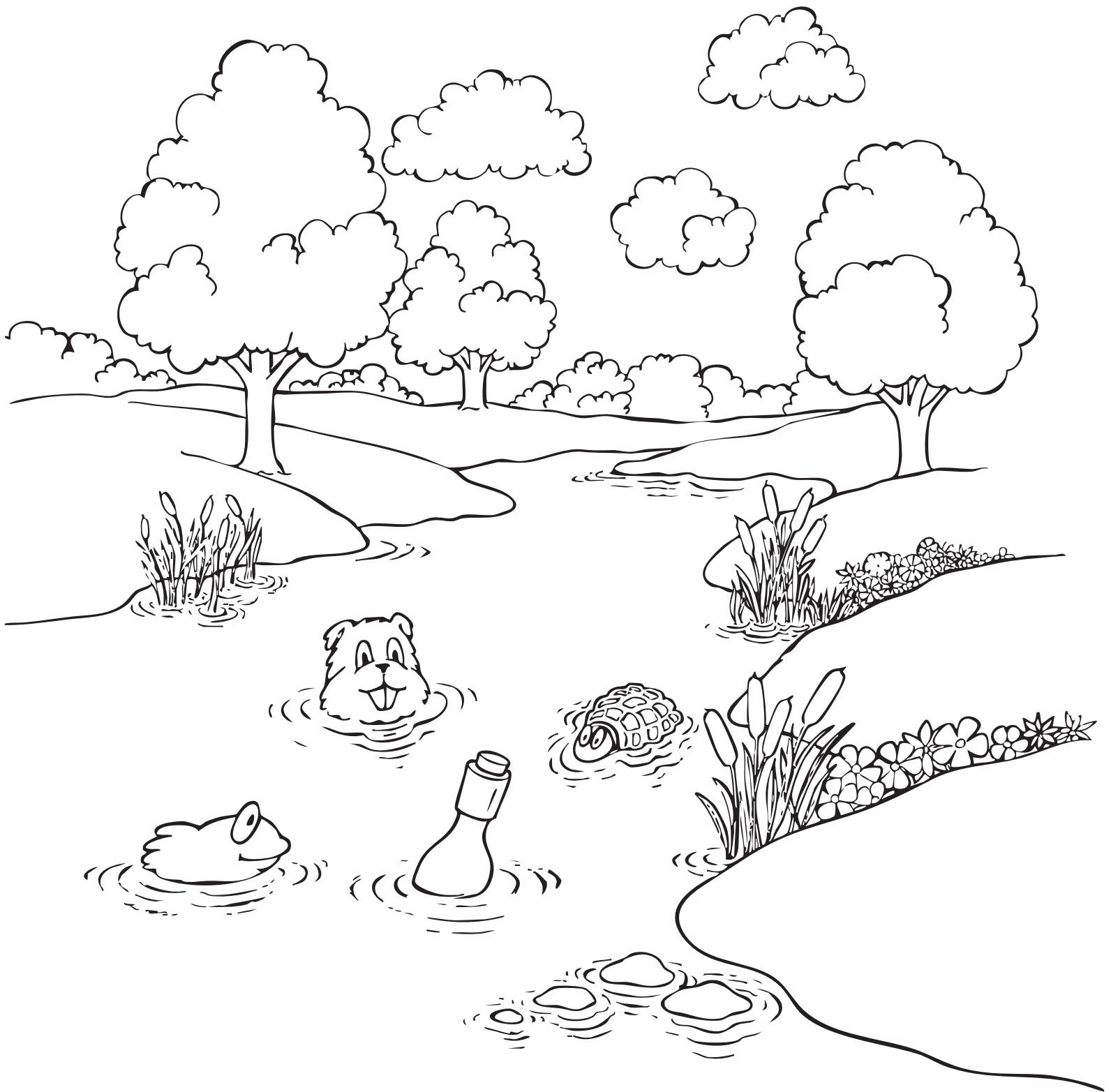
Message in the Bottle

A River Adventure
Coloring Book

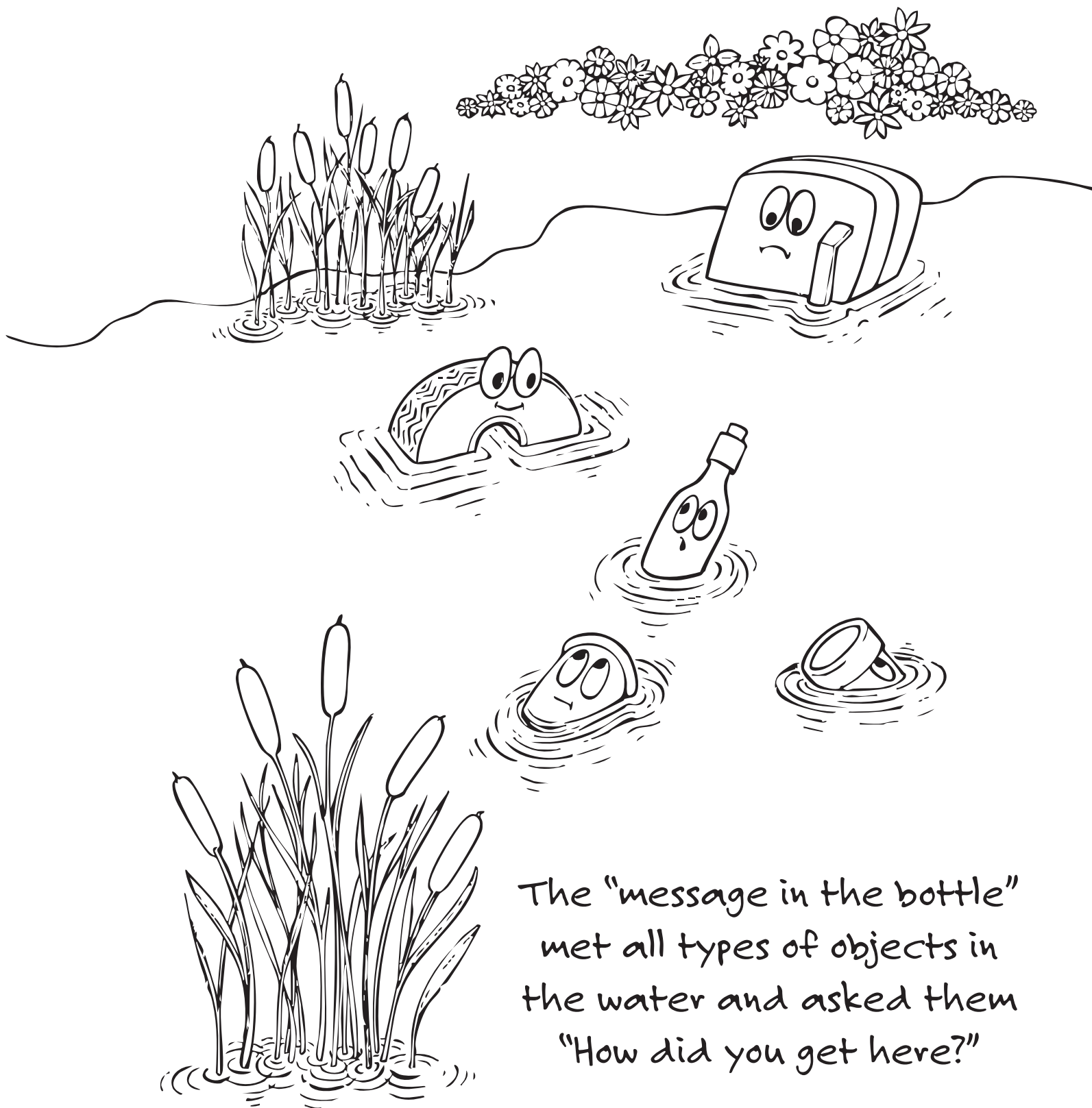


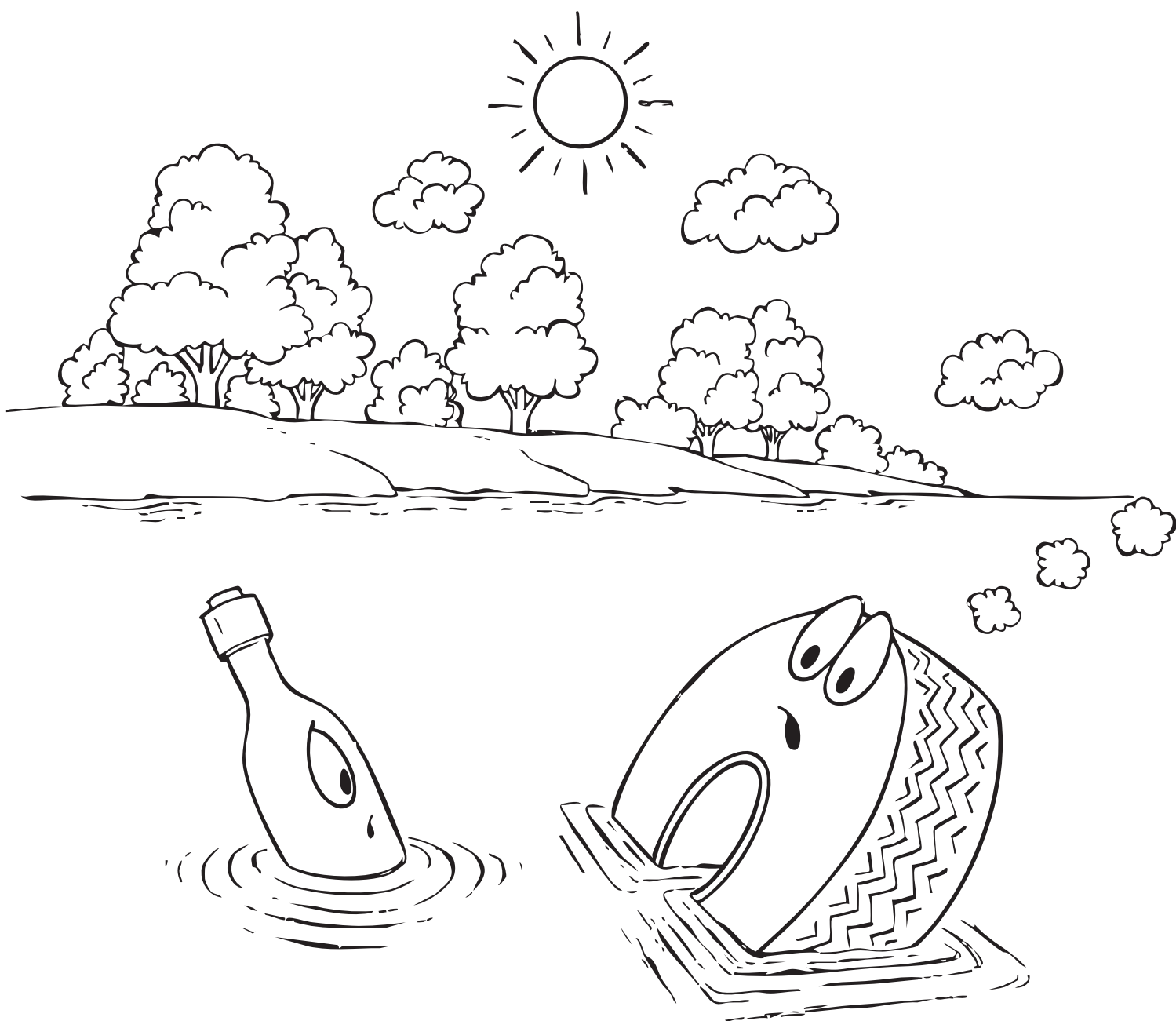


Lisa and David put a message
in a plastic bottle and placed it in the river.

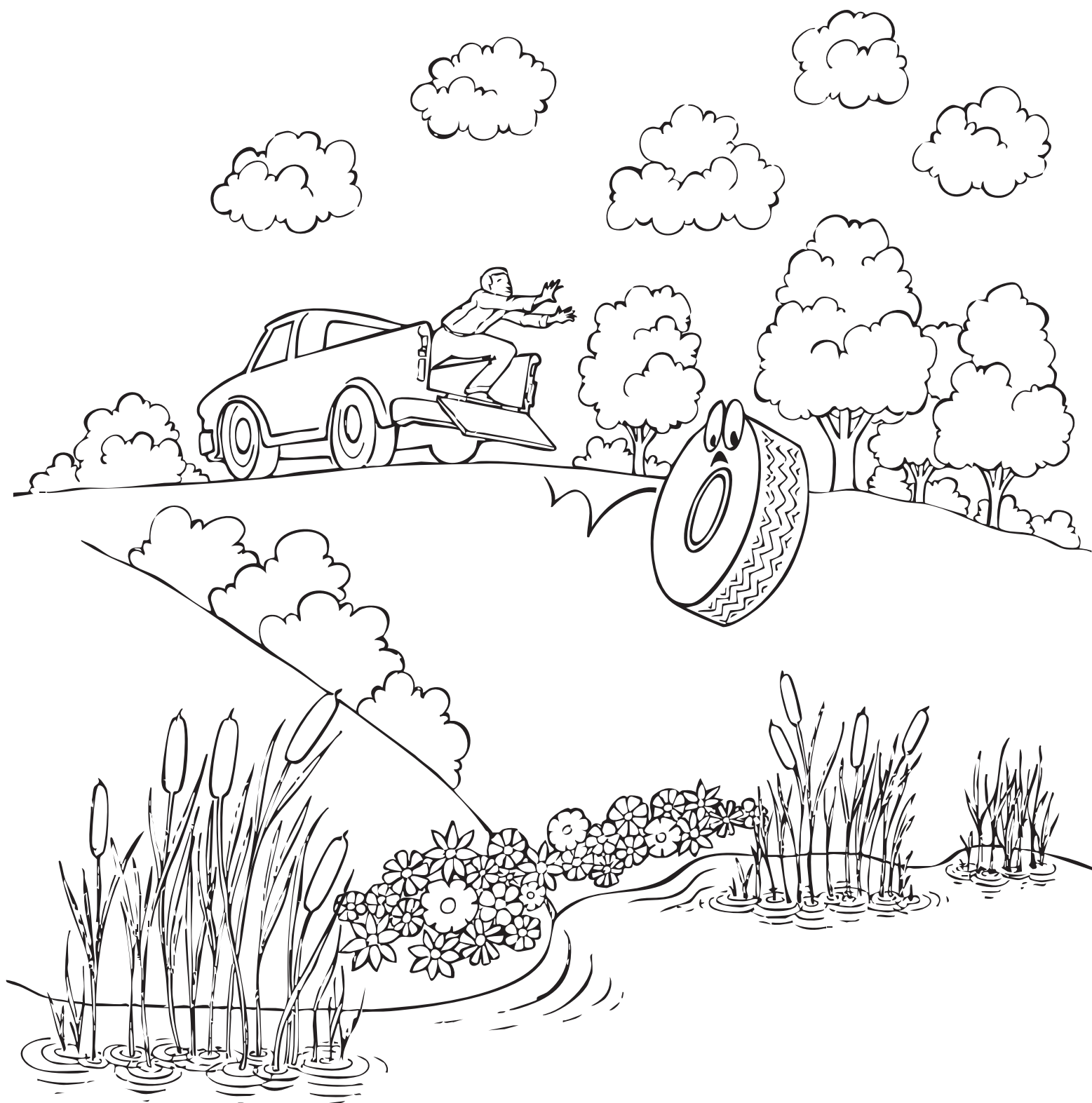


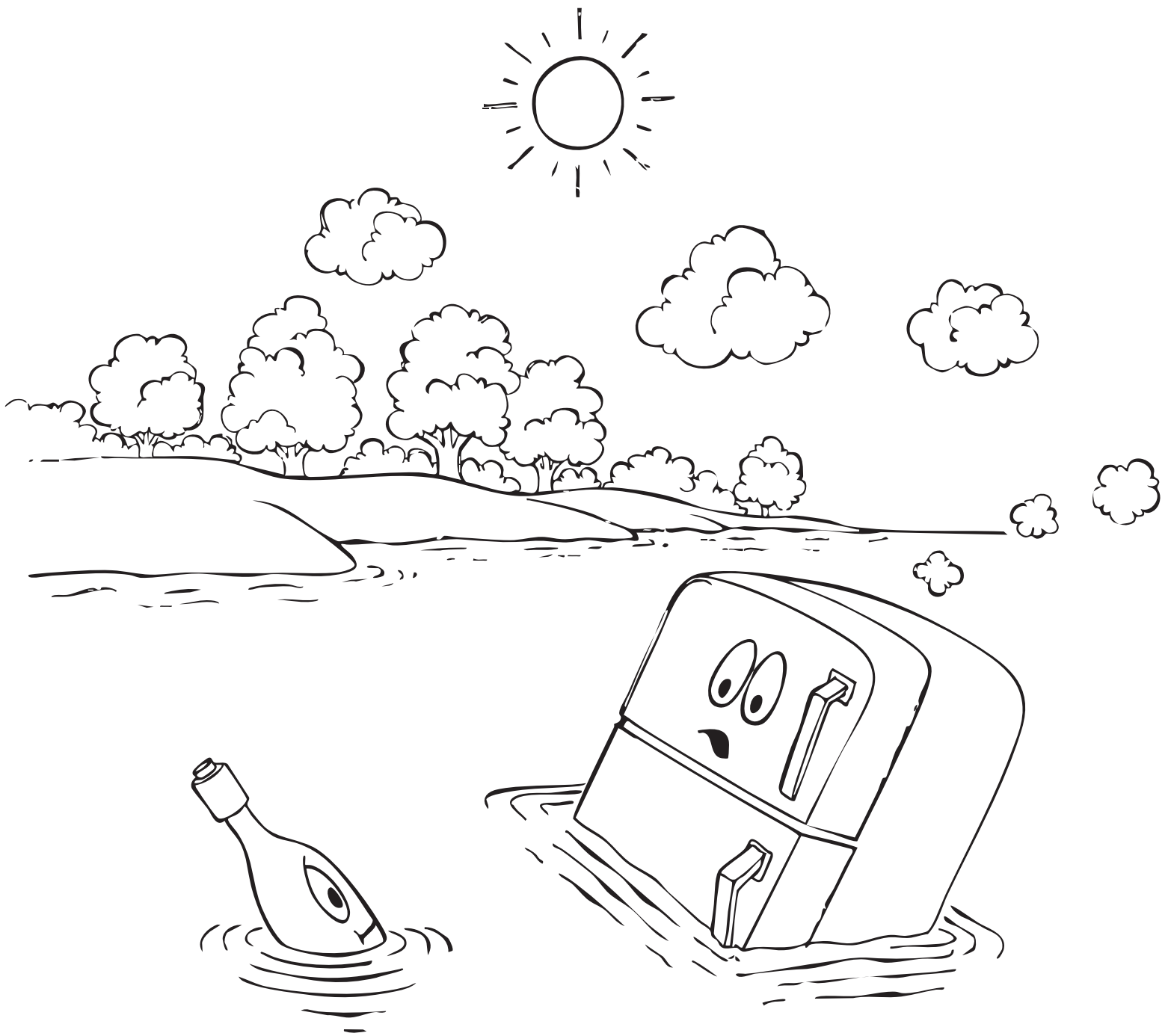
They wondered what adventures might lie ahead for their "message in the bottle."



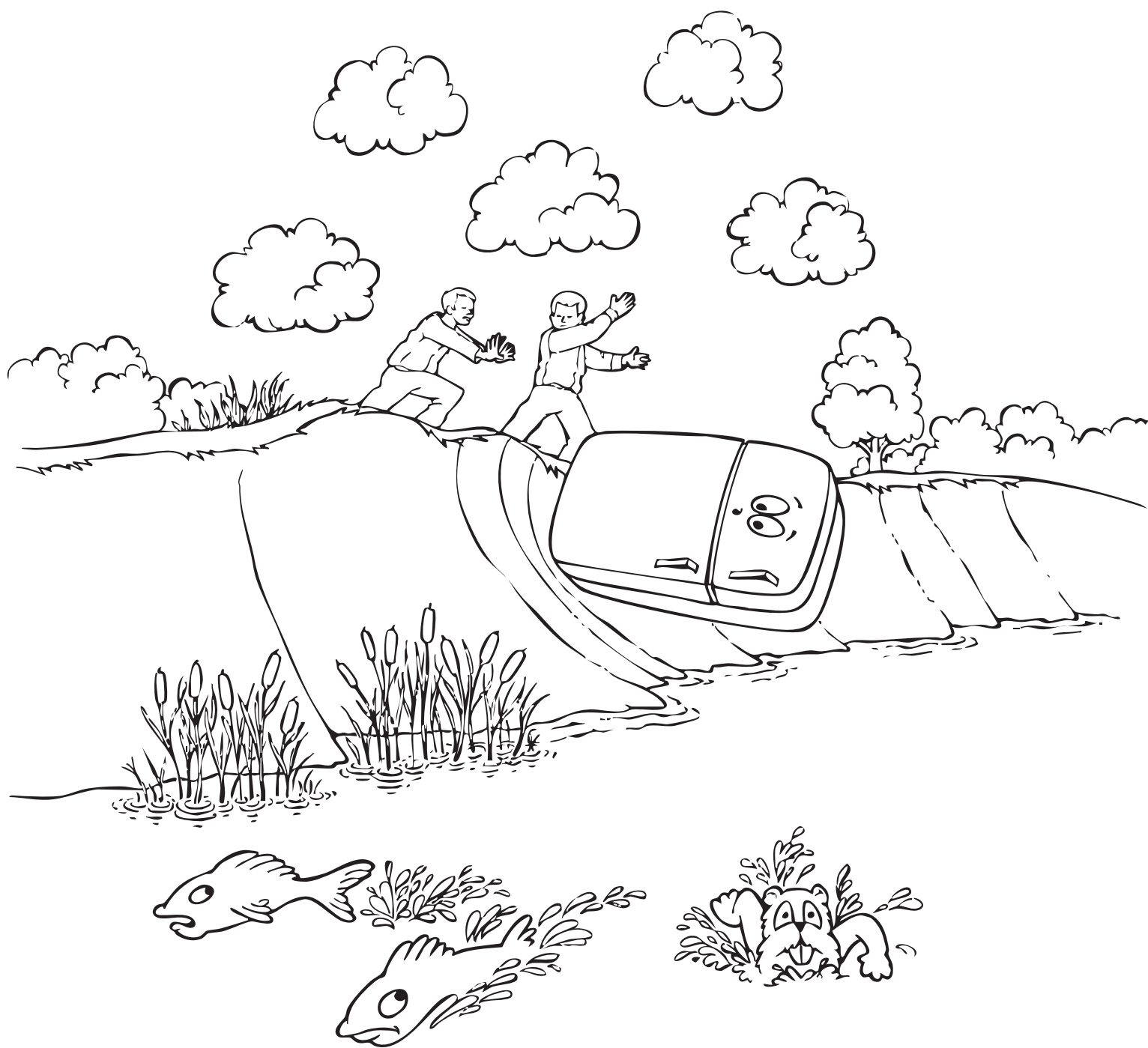


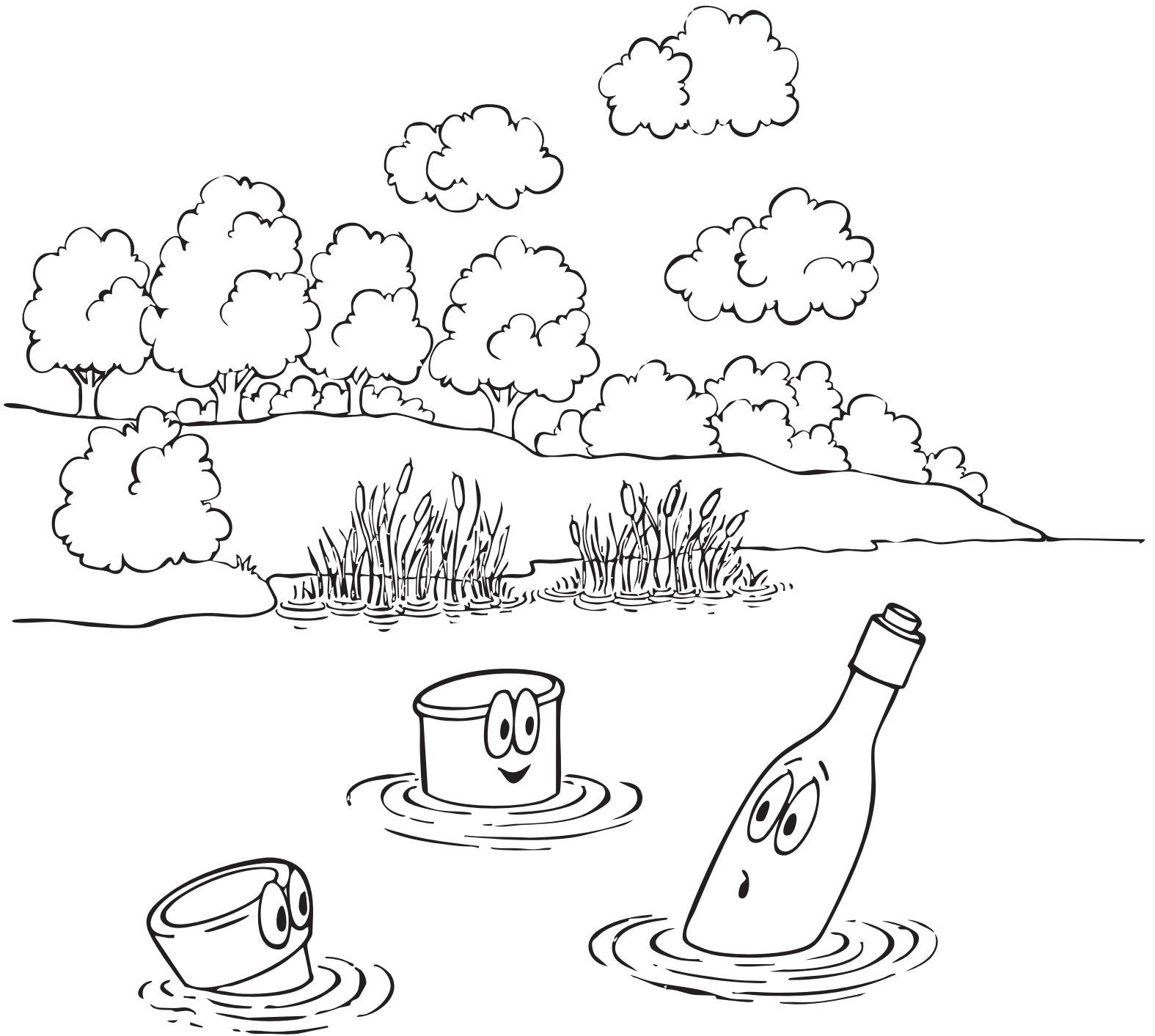
The tire said,
"I was rolled into the river."



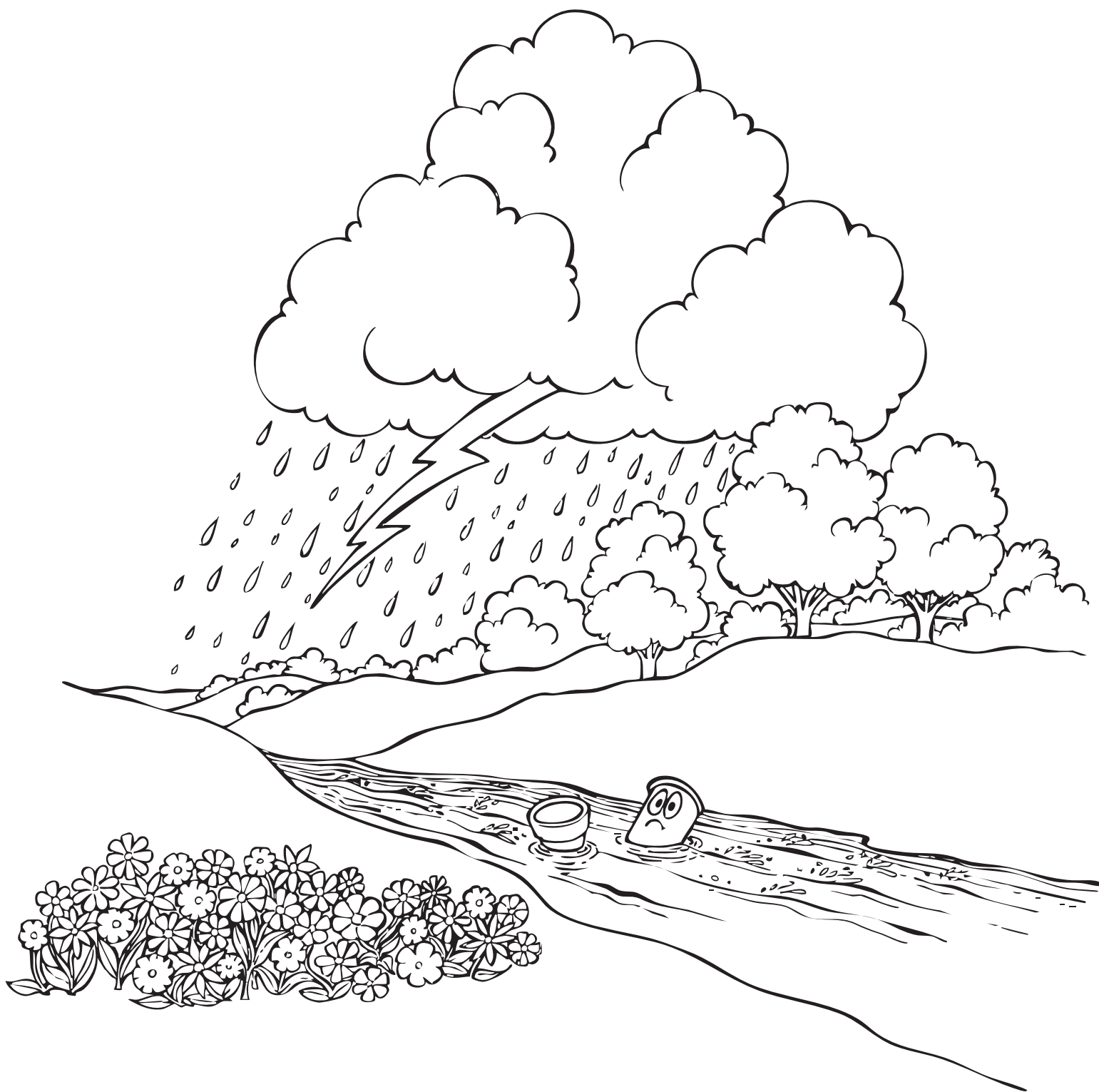


The refrigerator said,
"I was dumped off the
bank into the river."



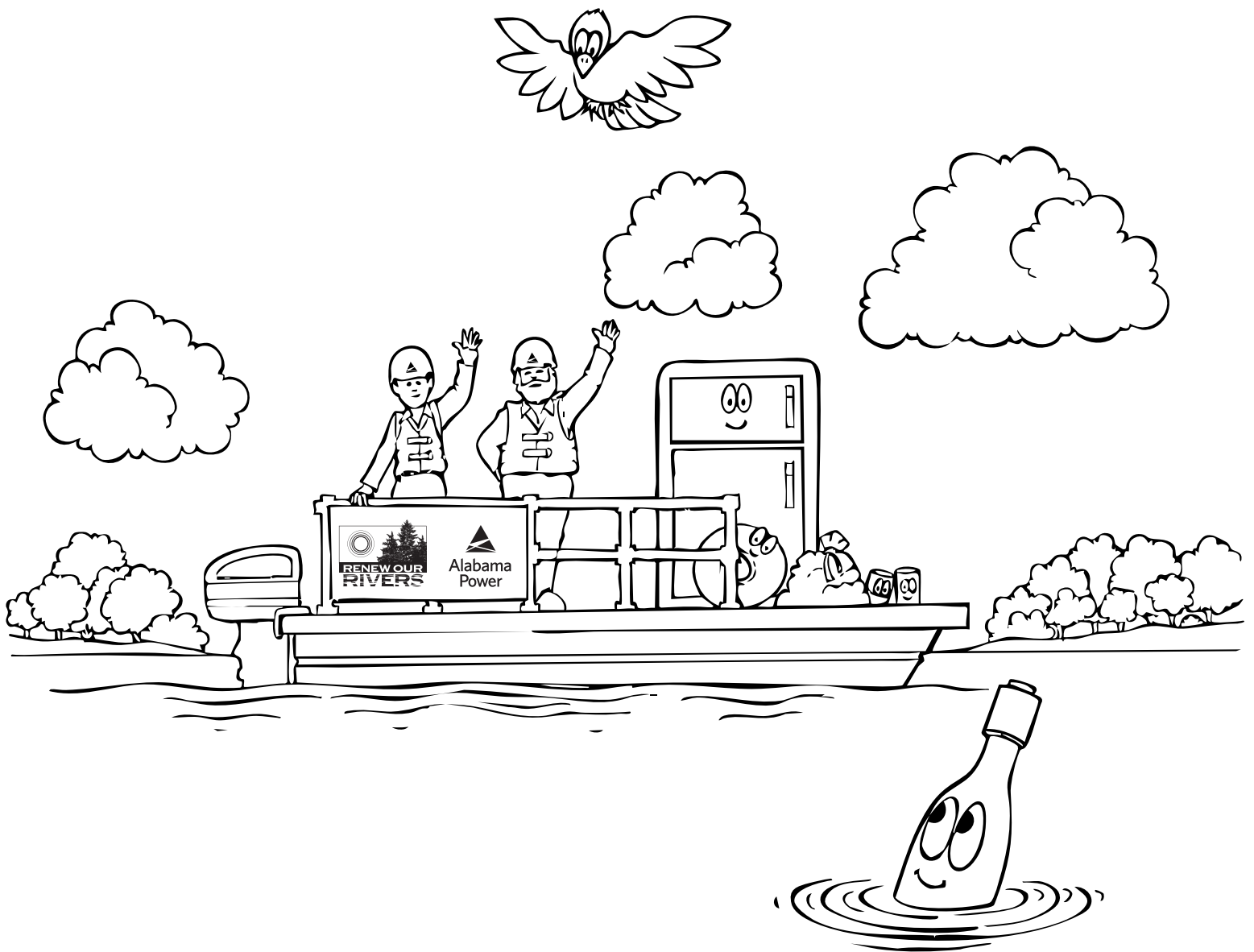


The can and the cup said,
"We were washed from a
roadside ditch into the river."



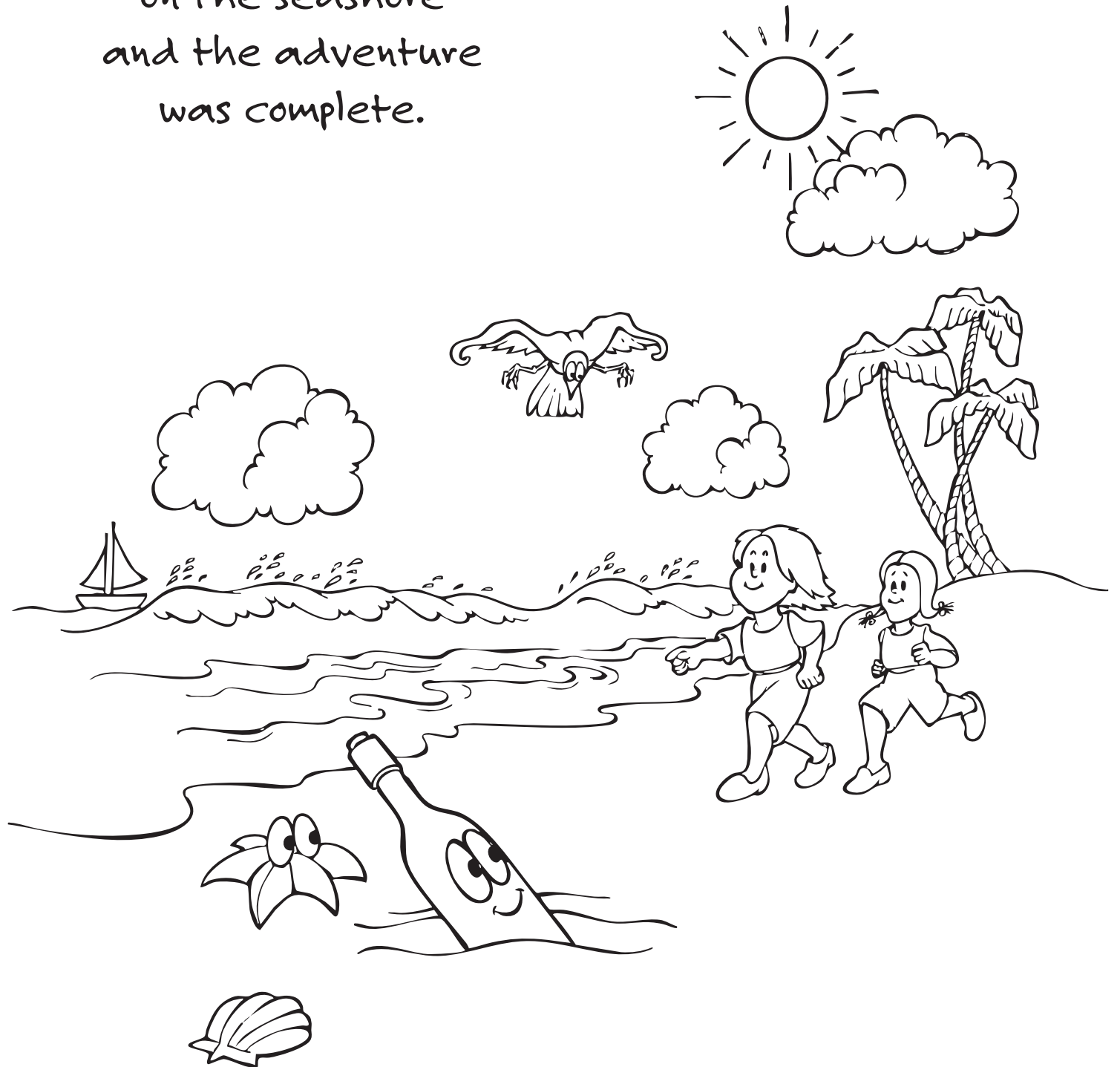
Everyone watched as the
Renew Our Rivers
cleanup volunteers approached.





The "message in the bottle"
saw all his friends being taken
from the river to be recycled.
They were all very happy.

Melissa and Alana
picked up the bottle
on the seashore
and the adventure
was complete.



Message in the Bottle



On May 5, 2001, Charlotte Phifer, along with other volunteers, found an old soft drink bottle during a Renew the Coosa cleanup on H. Neely Henry Lake. Inside the plastic bottle was a note, dated May 6, 1982, with instructions about who to contact if it was ever found. It turned out a young boy had placed the bottle and message in Terrapin Creek, a tributary of the Coosa River in Cherokee County, Alabama. The message in the bottle traveled 58 miles over the next 19 years until it was plucked from the river near Alabama Power's Plant Gadsden.

Remarkably, it was at Plant Gadsden where the Renew the Coosa clean up program was first conceived. Charlotte's husband, Gene Phifer, a plant employee, organized the first cleanup in 1999. The next year he organized a larger cleanup. Soon the cleanups spread to other waterways, and Renew the Coosa became Renew Our Rivers. Today, Renew Our Rivers volunteers are cleaning waterways in Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Mississippi, and have removed millions of pounds of trash and man-made debris.

While Gene Phifer envisioned the river cleanups, Charlotte Phifer saw an educational opportunity. Charlotte realized that the message for children - "do not litter" - was not in the bottle but the bottle itself. The bottle, and its 19-year journey in the river, became the catalyst for the Message in the Bottle Anti-litter Environmental Symposium, held annually in Gadsden, that teaches students about the importance of a litter-free environment.

This coloring book demonstrates the ways that litter can get into our waterways and stresses the benefits of a clean environment. Special thanks to Tim Towns of Alabama Power for his drawings that bring to life the characters in *Message in the Bottle - A River Adventure*.

To learn more about the Message in the Bottle program, contact Keep Etowah Beautiful at (256) 549-0900. To see the actual bottle, visit the Water Course, Alabama Power's environmental education center in Clanton, Alabama. For information about the Water Course or Renew Our Rivers, visit www.alabamapower.com.



From classrooms to creeks, Alabama Power is proud to support the communities we serve. Find more about our volunteer efforts at alabamapower.com/community and check out this season's river cleanup schedule at alabamapower.com/ror.

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learn
more.

