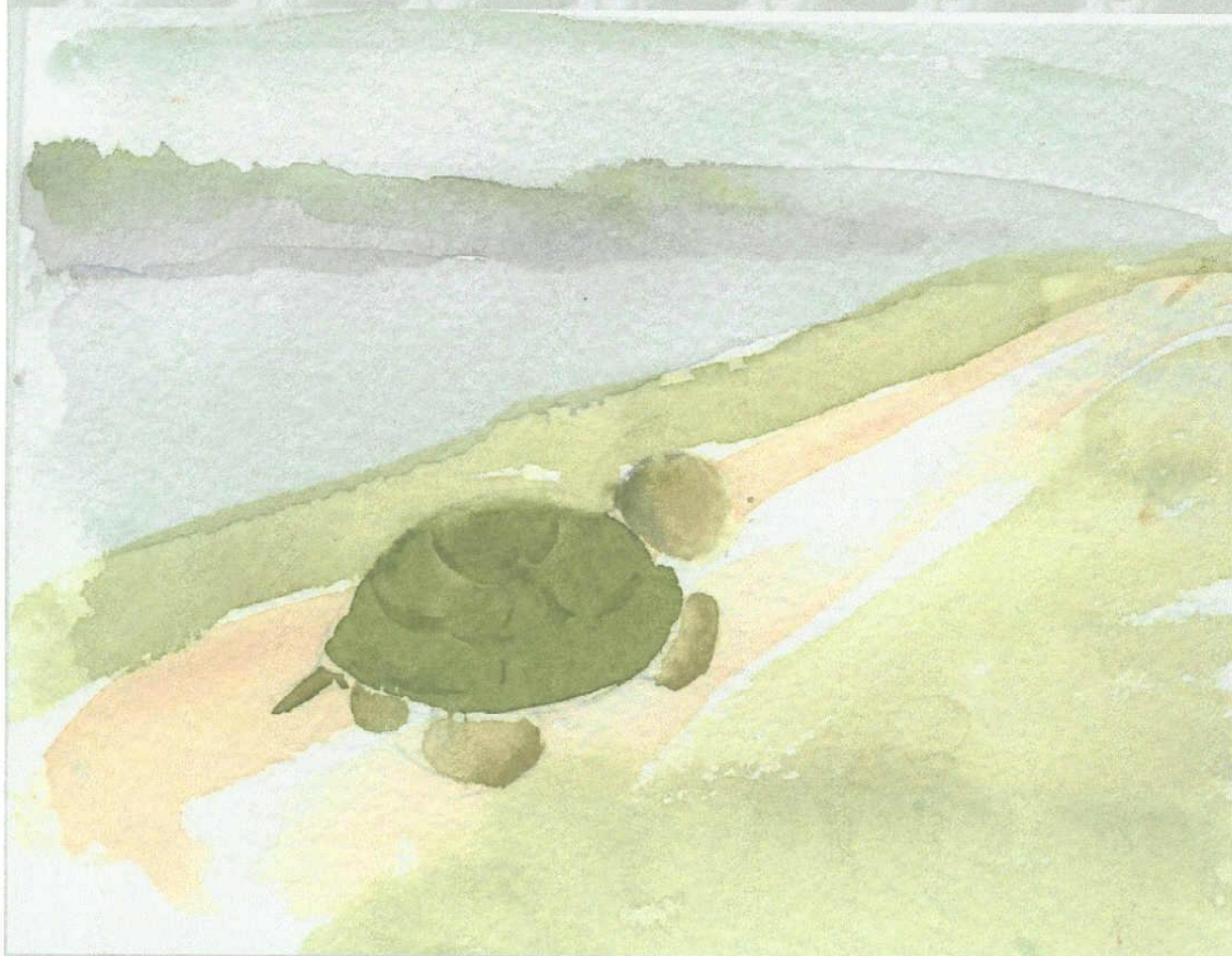


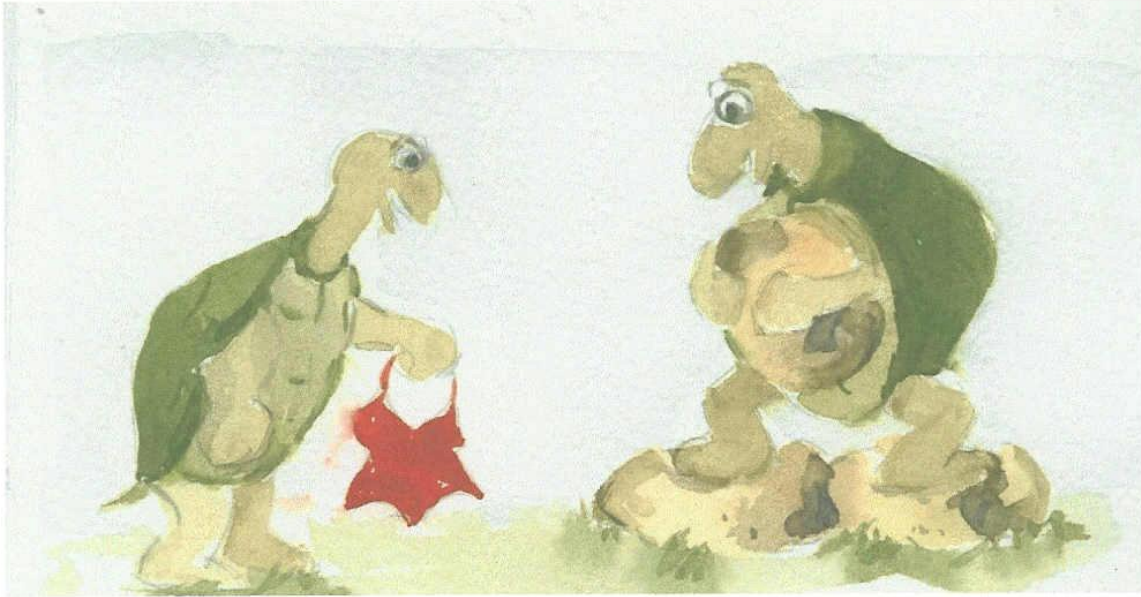
The Turtle Tale



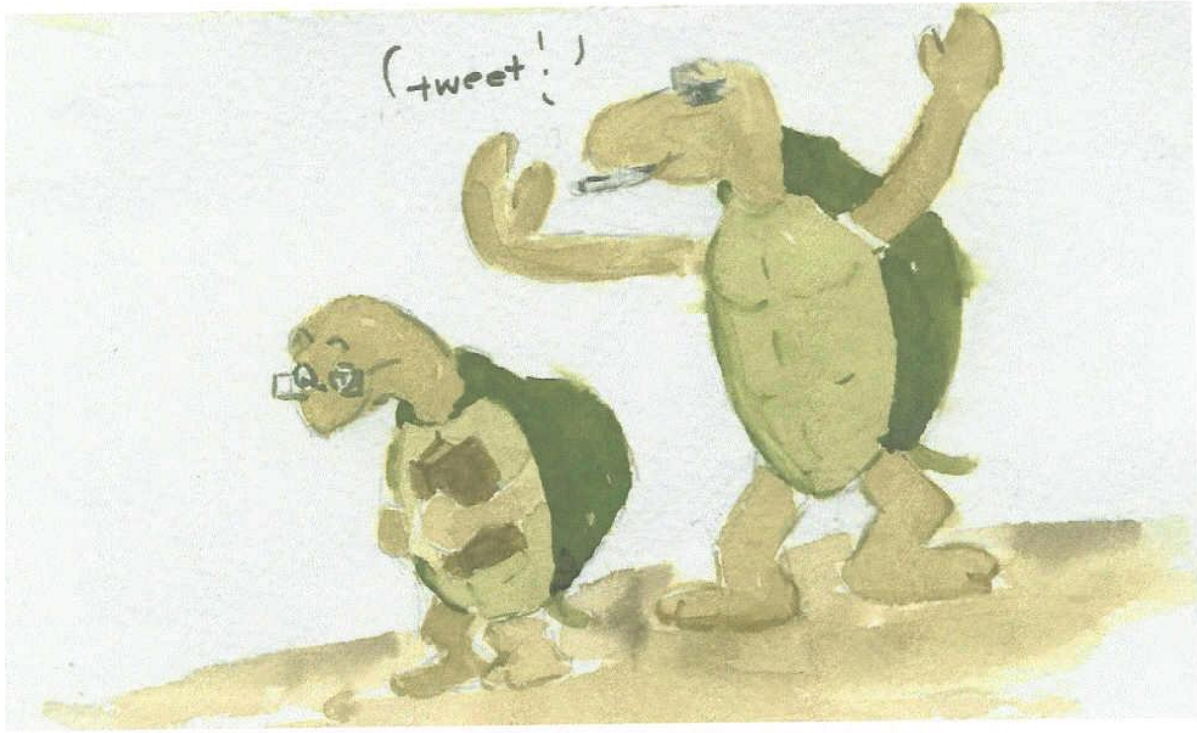
By: Florence Mason



Once upon a time there were two turtles living by the side of a pond. They were very happy turtles and raised a lovely family. One day their children left home to raise turtle families of their own and Mrs. Turtle was soon looking for something to do.



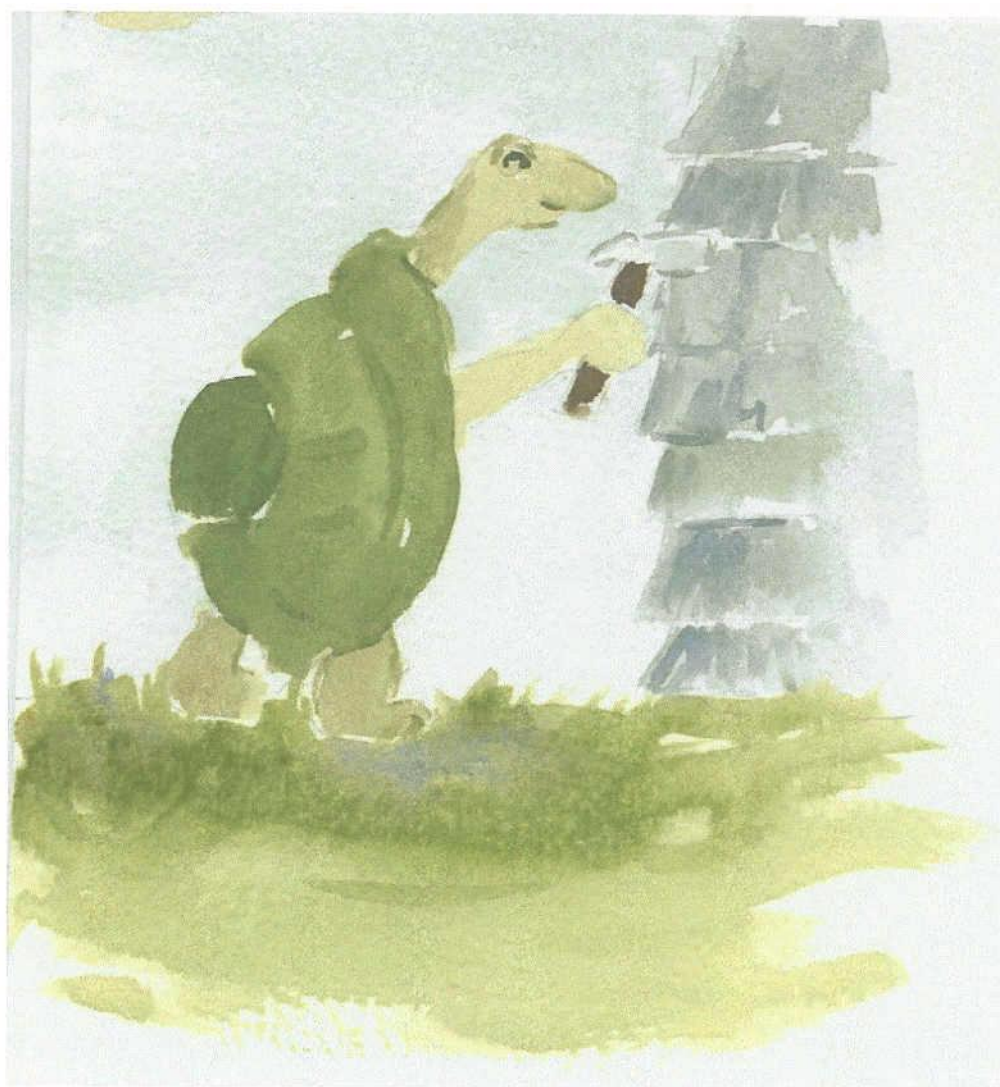
One fine day she said to Mr. Turtle, "come swim with me across the pond". Mr. Turtle replied, "Oh no, I can't swim with you, I must stay here and move rocks."



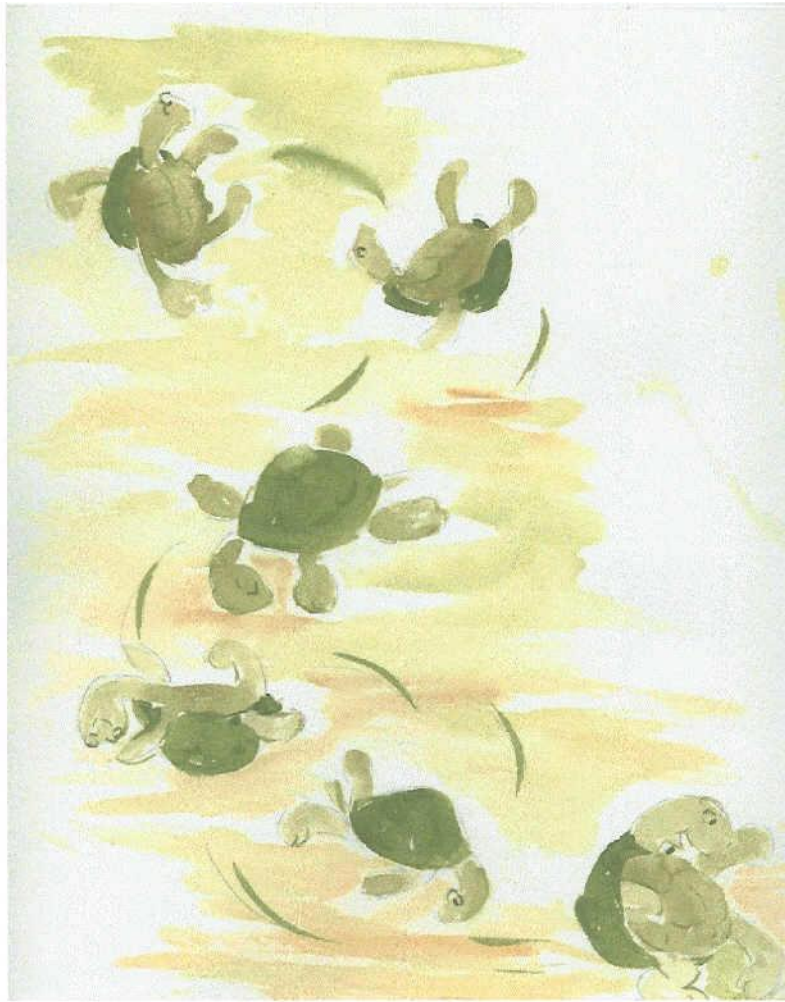
*M*rs. Turtle walked along the road where two neighboring turtles lived and knocked at their door. "Would you like to swim across the pond with me?" One turtle replied, "oh no! I can't swim across the pond with you. I must stay here and control traffic." The other turtle put down her book and said, "I'll go with you".



The two turtles continued down the road and soon met two more turtles. "Would you like to join us in a swim across the pond", she asked. One turtle replied, "Oh, no! I can't go with you. I am too busy writing and running." But the other turtle said she would be happy to swim across the pond.



The turtles walked further down the road and met two more turtles and asked them if they would like to swim across the pond. One turtle said, "Yes! I'll go." The other replied, "Oh, no! I can't go. I must stay here and knock nails."



The four turtles walked together toward the water when suddenly they heard a loud bumping noise and another turtle came tumbling head over tail down a high hill and came to rest at their feet. "Would you like to go for a swim across the pond with us?" they asked. "Oh yes" said the turtle, "I would like to swim with you."



The turtles got into the water and began their swim across the pond. They were so happy to be swimming across the pond that they chatted to one another all the way over and all the way back. Mrs. Turtle thanked all her friends for coming with her on the swim and they all agreed they would do it the next day and the next day and the next day.