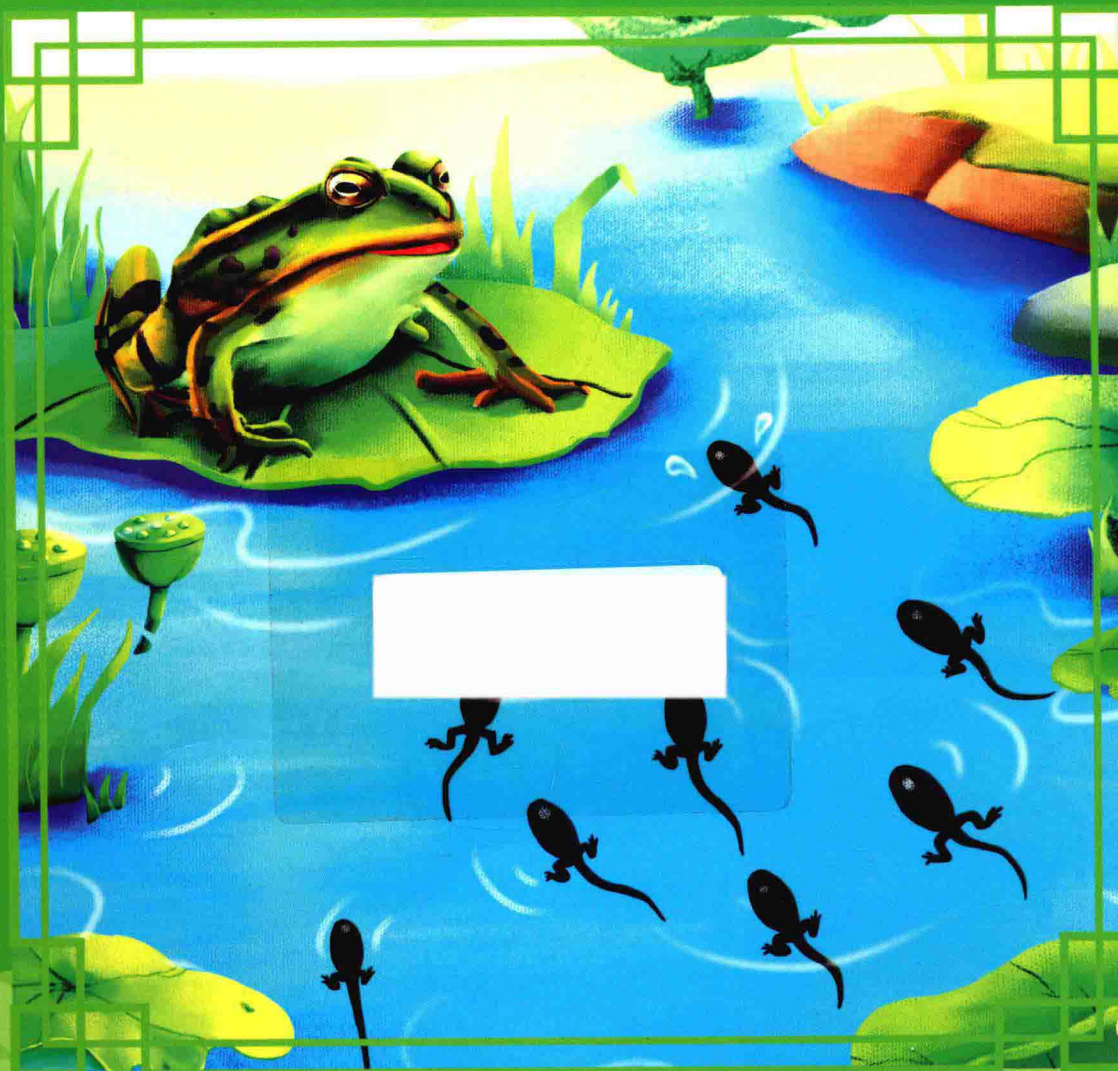


ILLUSTRATED CLASSIC CHINESE TALES
Fairy Tales

LITTLE TADPOLES SEARCH FOR THEIR MOTHER

· 小蝌蚪找妈妈 ·



童话故事

中华传统经典故事绘本
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CHINA INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS

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Retold by Yang Yingying
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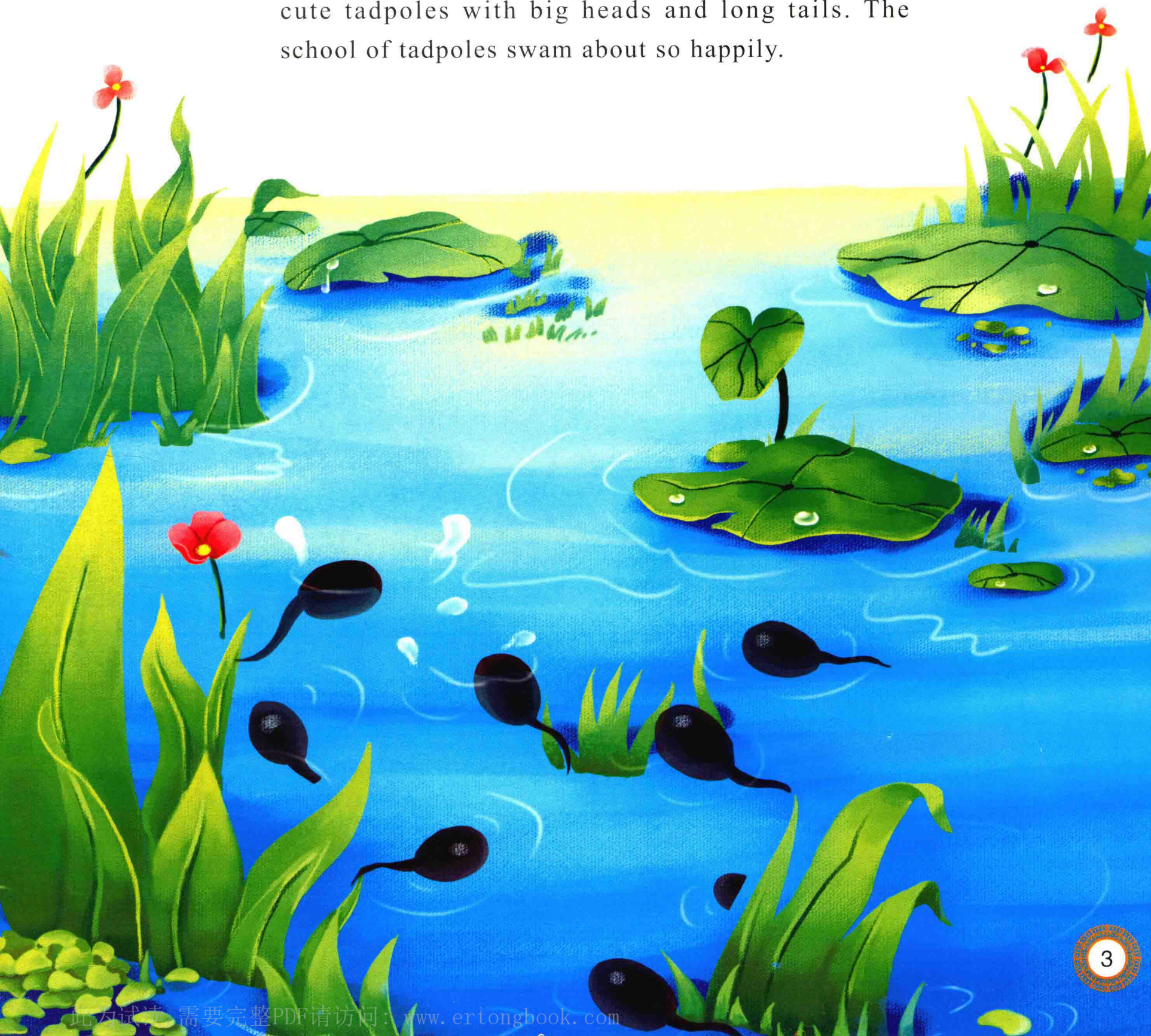


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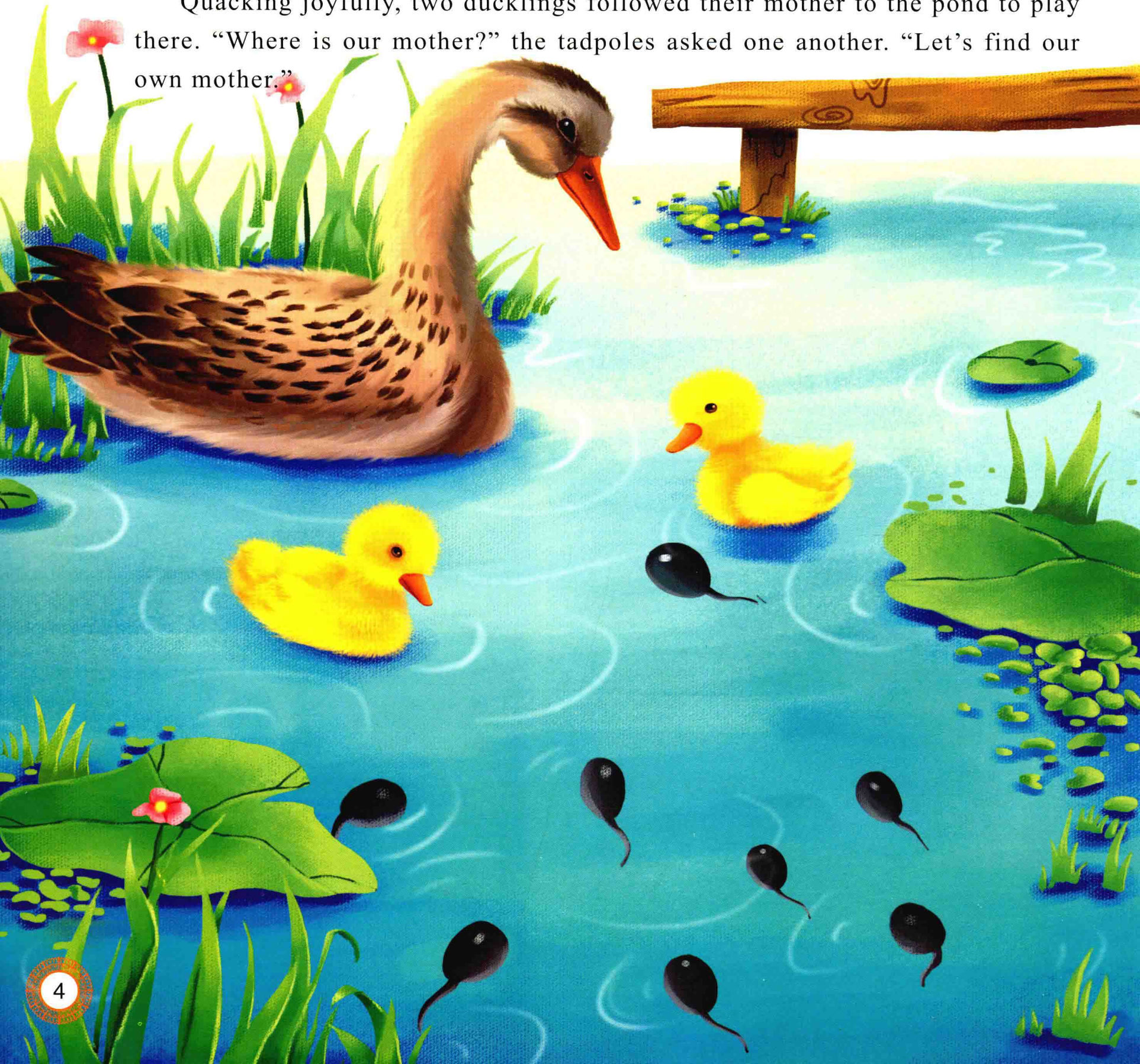
When spring arrived, reeds started growing in a pond. Amid the reeds, Mother Frog laid many eggs that were tiny, round and black.



Under the warm sunlight, the eggs hatched into cute tadpoles with big heads and long tails. The school of tadpoles swam about so happily.



Quacking joyfully, two ducklings followed their mother to the pond to play there. "Where is our mother?" the tadpoles asked one another. "Let's find our own mother."



“Your mother has two big eyes and a big mouth,” said Mother Duck kindly. “You will surely find her.”




The tadpoles looked around and caught sight of a big fish, which had two big eyes and a big mouth. "Mother! Mother!" they called out, trying to catch up with the big fish.

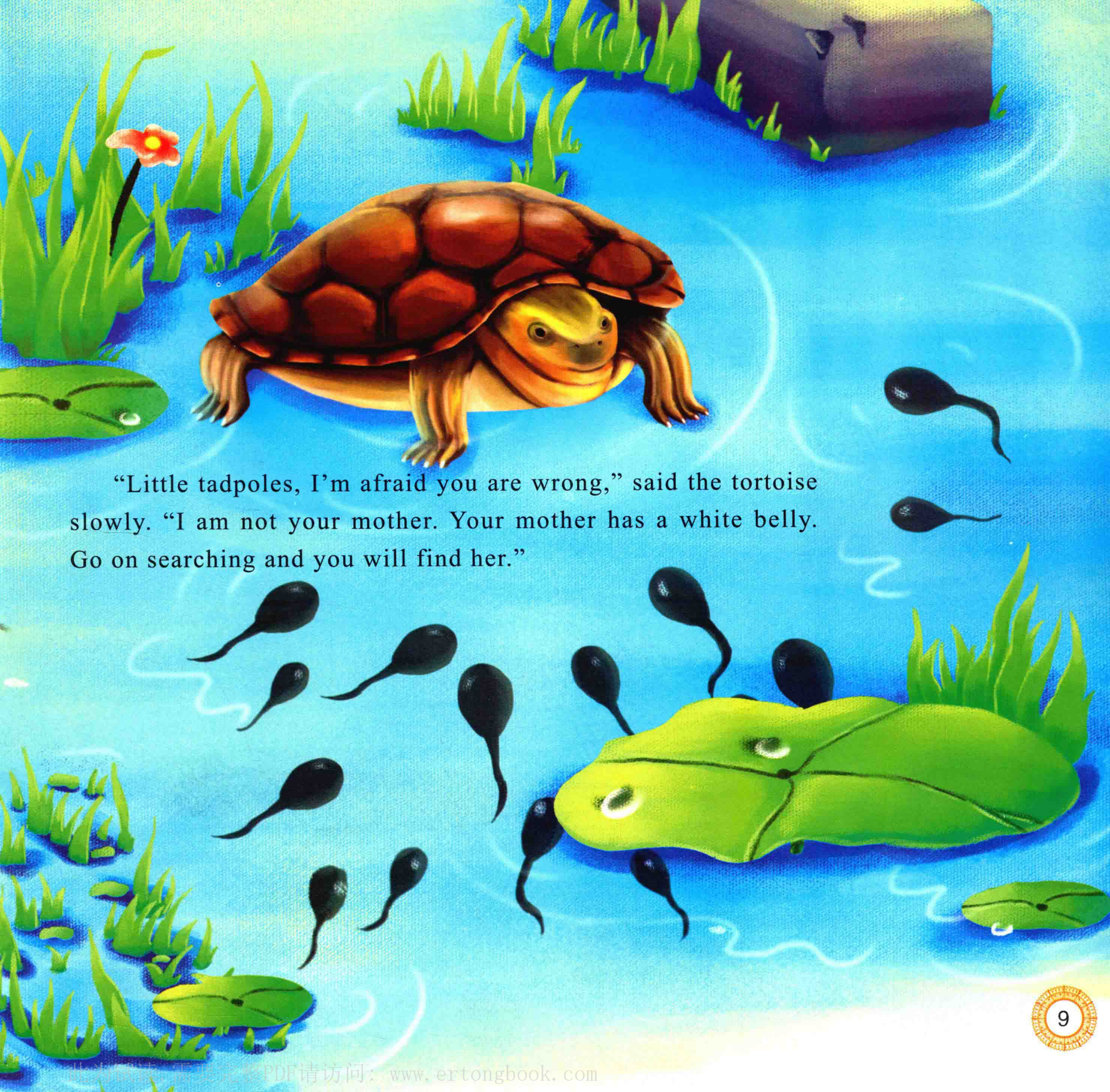


“I’m sorry, but you are wrong,” said the fish, grinning. “I’m the mother of little fish. Your mother has four legs. You’ll find her not far from here.”

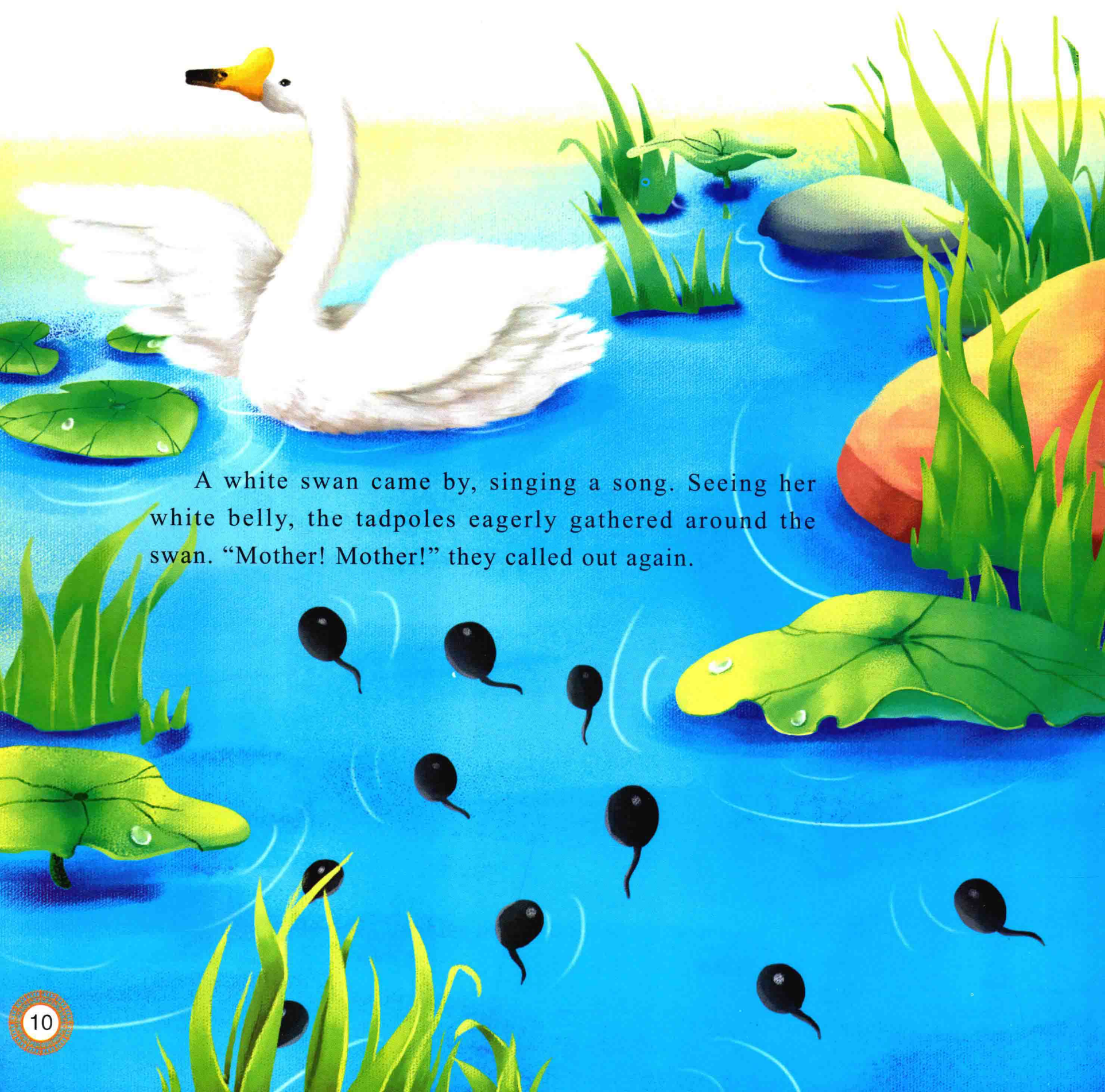


A vibrant illustration of a pond scene. In the foreground, a large turtle with a brown and orange patterned shell swims towards the right. The water is a bright blue with white ripples. Numerous small, black tadpoles with long tails are scattered throughout the pond, some swimming and others near lily pads. The background features a light blue sky, green grass, and red flowers. A large green lily pad is in the upper right, and another is in the lower right. A small, dark rock is visible on the left side of the pond.

A tortoise passed by. The tadpoles counted carefully. “Yes, she has four legs. This must be our mother,” they thought. “Mother! Mother!” the tadpoles called out eagerly.

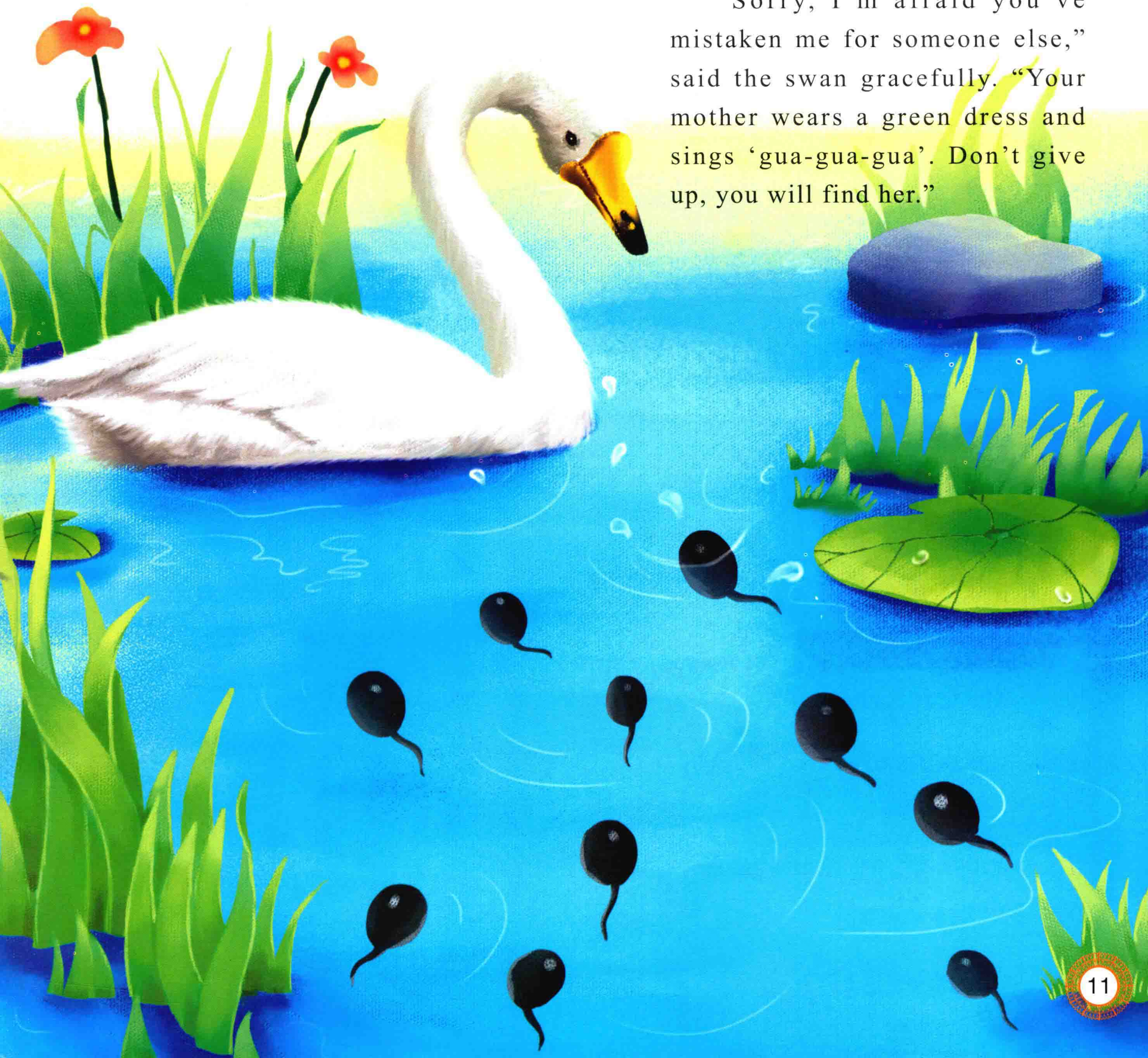


“Little tadpoles, I’m afraid you are wrong,” said the tortoise slowly. “I am not your mother. Your mother has a white belly. Go on searching and you will find her.”



A white swan came by, singing a song. Seeing her white belly, the tadpoles eagerly gathered around the swan. "Mother! Mother!" they called out again.

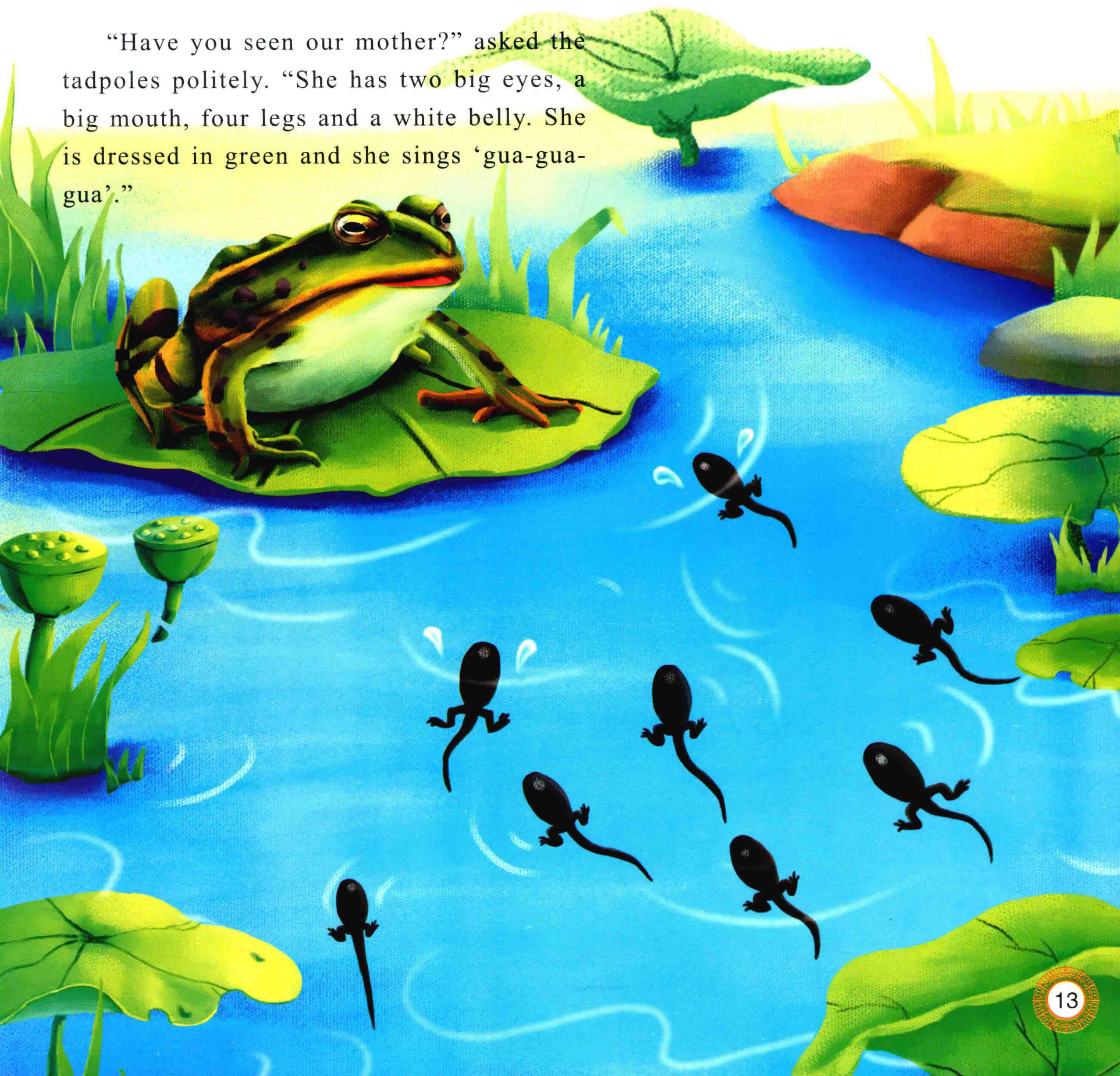
“Sorry, I’m afraid you’ve mistaken me for someone else,” said the swan gracefully. “Your mother wears a green dress and sings ‘gua-gua-gua’. Don’t give up, you will find her.”






The tadpoles continued searching and finally reached the rim of the pond. There they saw someone sitting on a lotus leaf, croaking a happy tune: “Gua-gua-gua.”

“Have you seen our mother?” asked the tadpoles politely. “She has two big eyes, a big mouth, four legs and a white belly. She is dressed in green and she sings ‘gua-gua-gua’.”





“Gua-gua!” the frog
laughed. “My dears, I am your
mother!”

The tadpoles all looked at
the frog curiously. “But you
don’t look like any of us at
all,” they said timidly.



“My dears,” said Mother Frog, “you are still young. When you grow up, you’ll look just like me.”