

RIVER STORY



MEREDITH HOOPER ILLUSTRATED BY BEE WILLEY



Thousands of rivers help to shape the surface of our planet. They bring water and life to the land and all that use it. Icy-cold racing rivers, slow muddy wide rivers, long rivers, small rivers, rivers underground. Each river is different. Each river makes its own exciting, mysterious journey.

Join us on this one.

All rivers have a beginning...



High in the mountains

the snow is melting.

Trickles of water are running together,

bubbling through moss,

dripping down ledges,

coming together into a stream.

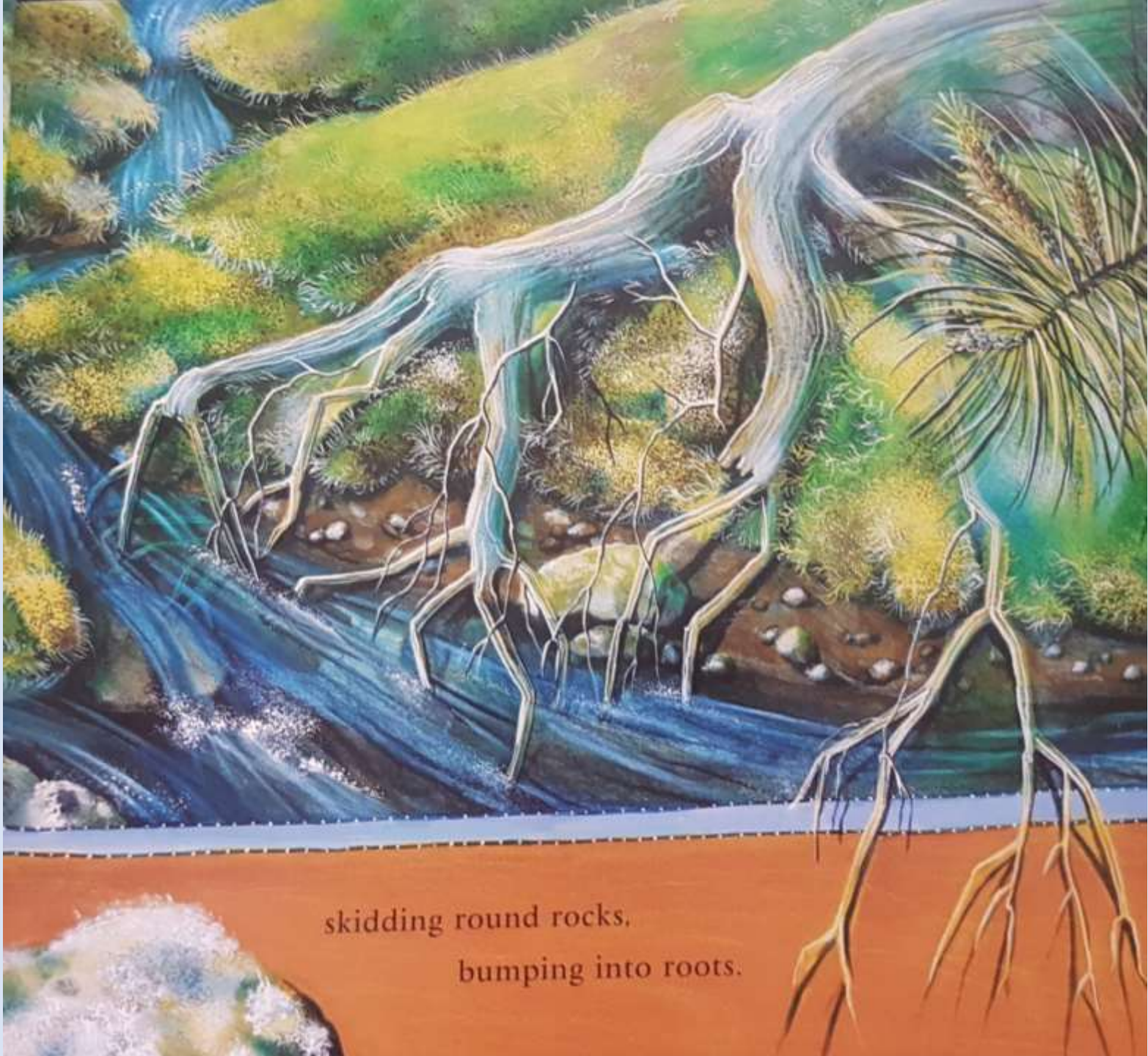






A small shining stream

slipping over pebbles.



skidding round rocks,
bumping into roots.





Fed by a waterfall,
bouncing down boulders.
Fed by another stream,
smaller and faster.



Snowfalls of water,
springfuls of water,
streamfuls of water,
coming together into a river.



The river races

down deep, narrow valleys.

Milky-cold,

rattling-bold,

fast-moving river.

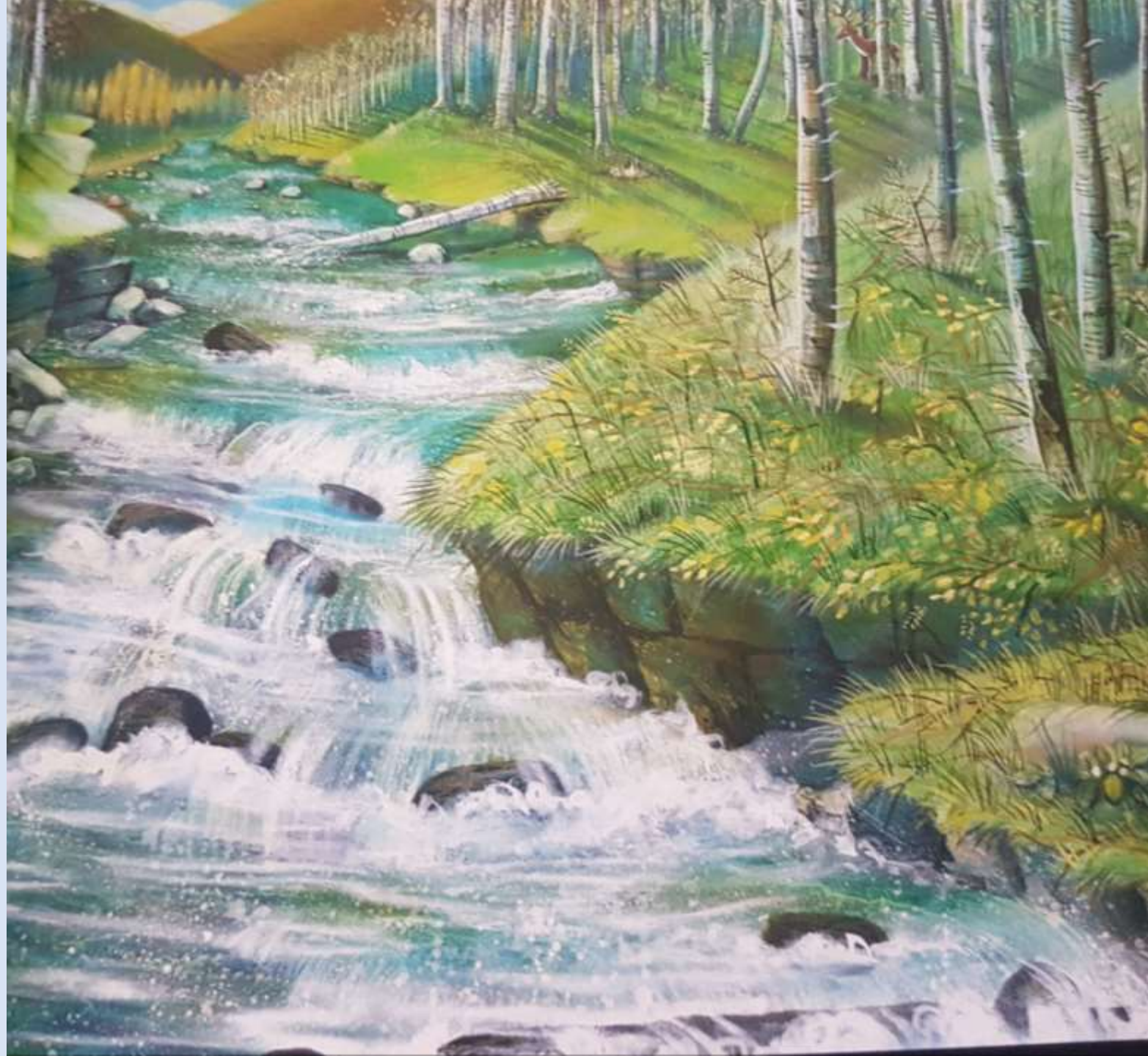
Scooping up earth,

digging out stones,

mining the mountains,

wearing them down.



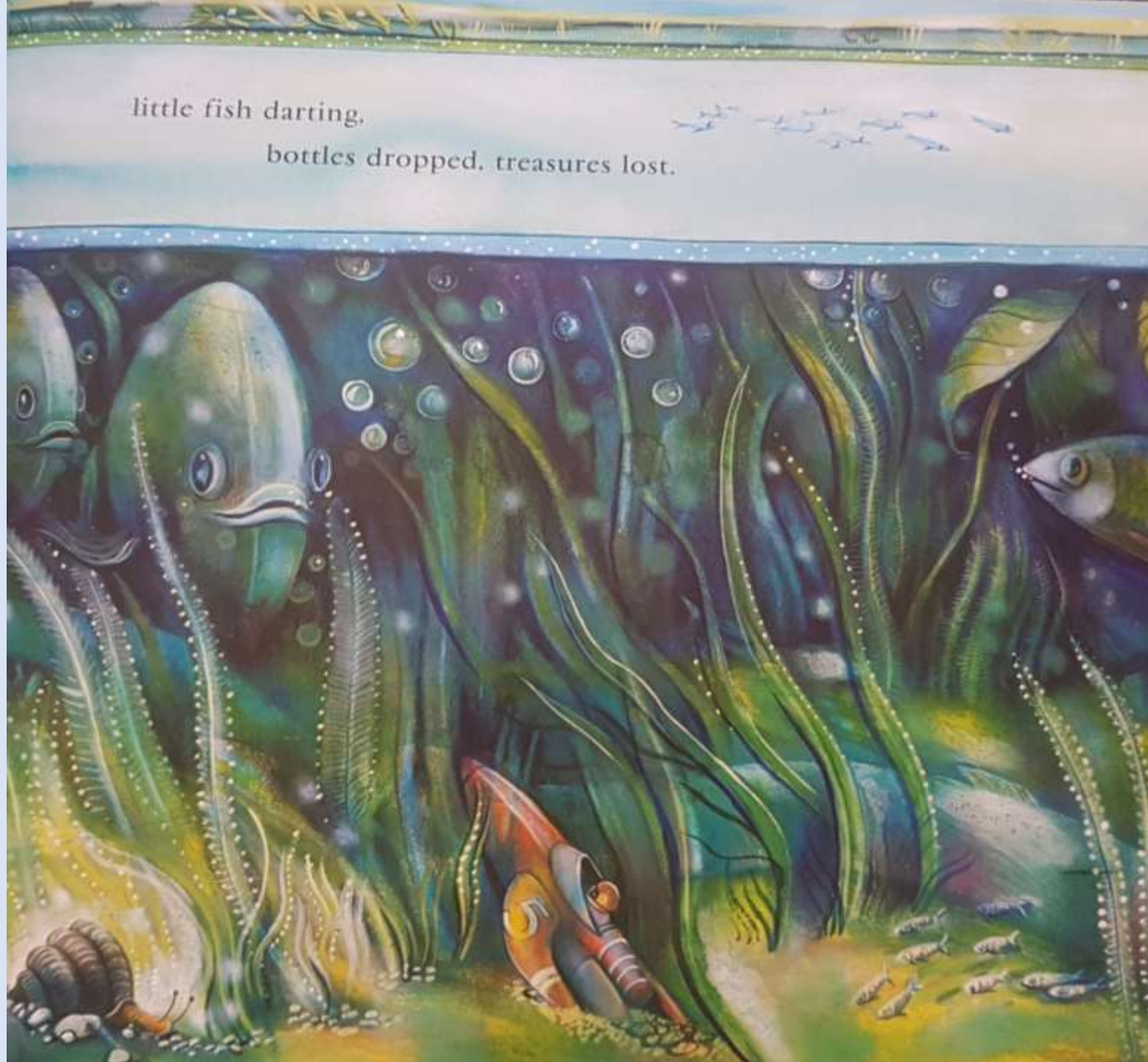


You can't see the shapes hidden under the surface.

Trunks of old trees, big fish waiting



little fish darting,
bottles dropped, treasures lost.





The river is quieter
leaving the mountains.

It winds between meadows,
long strands of waterweed
streaking its surface.



Willow trees lean their leaves
in the water. People row boats,
trailing their fingers.

Cows come drinking,
their sharp hooves sinking
into the sticky-brown river-brown mud.

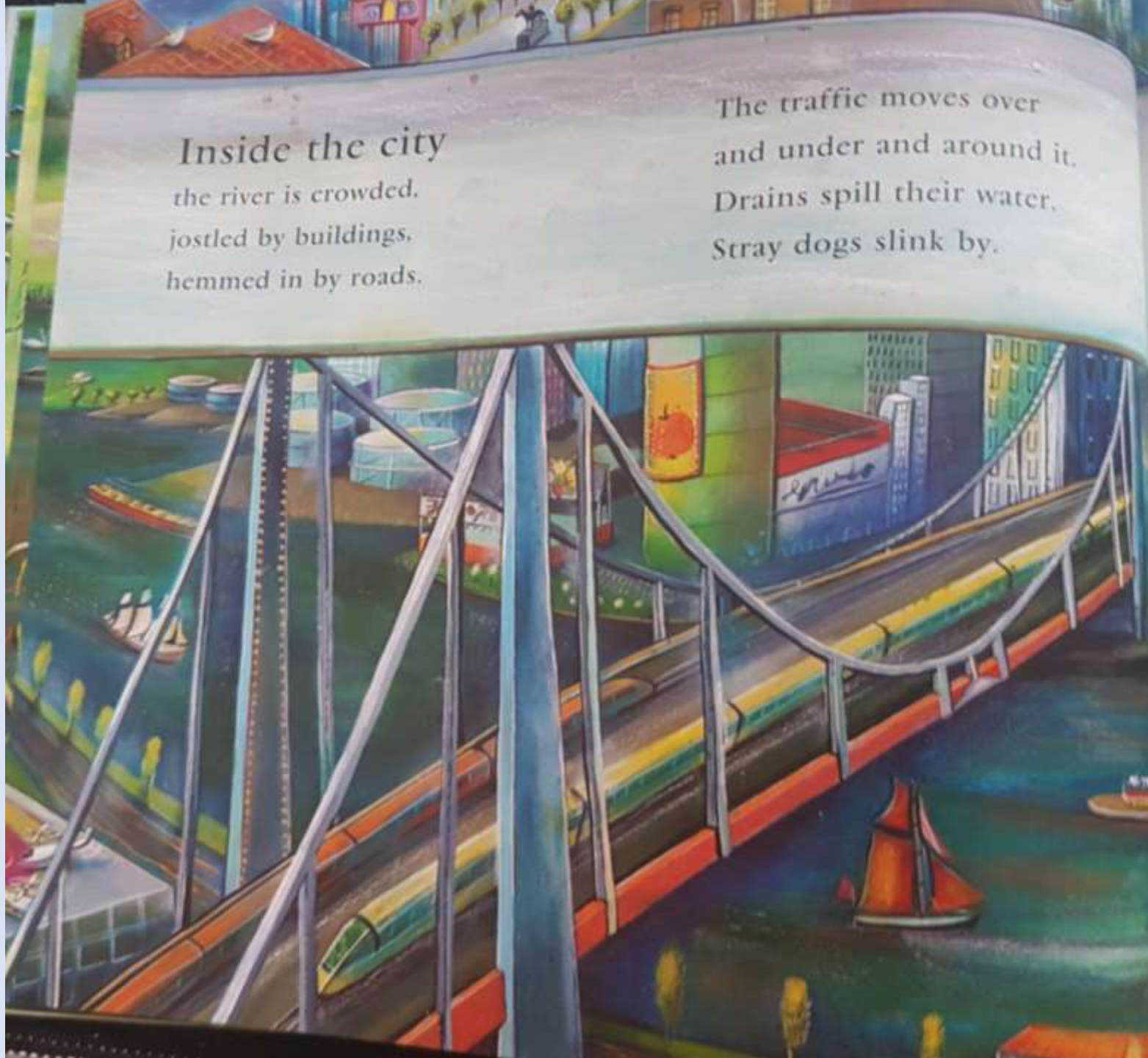





The river grows wider,
and deeper, and stronger.
Fast currents ripple
its silky brown surface.
The water moves silently,
on to the city.

*Inside the city
the river is crowded,
jostled by buildings,
hemmed in by roads.*

*The traffic moves over
and under and around it.
Drains spill their water,
Stray dogs slink by.*

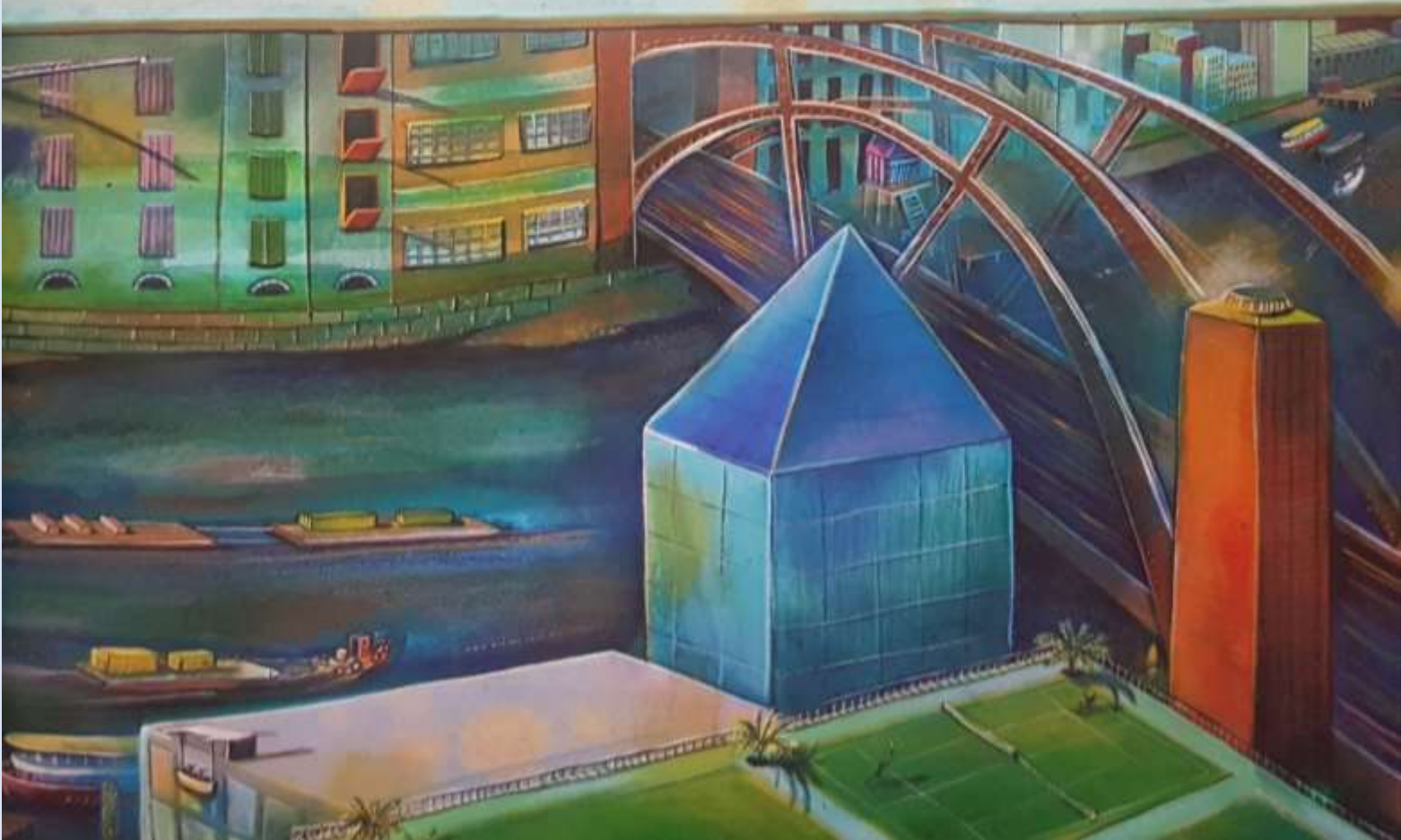




And up and down the river go



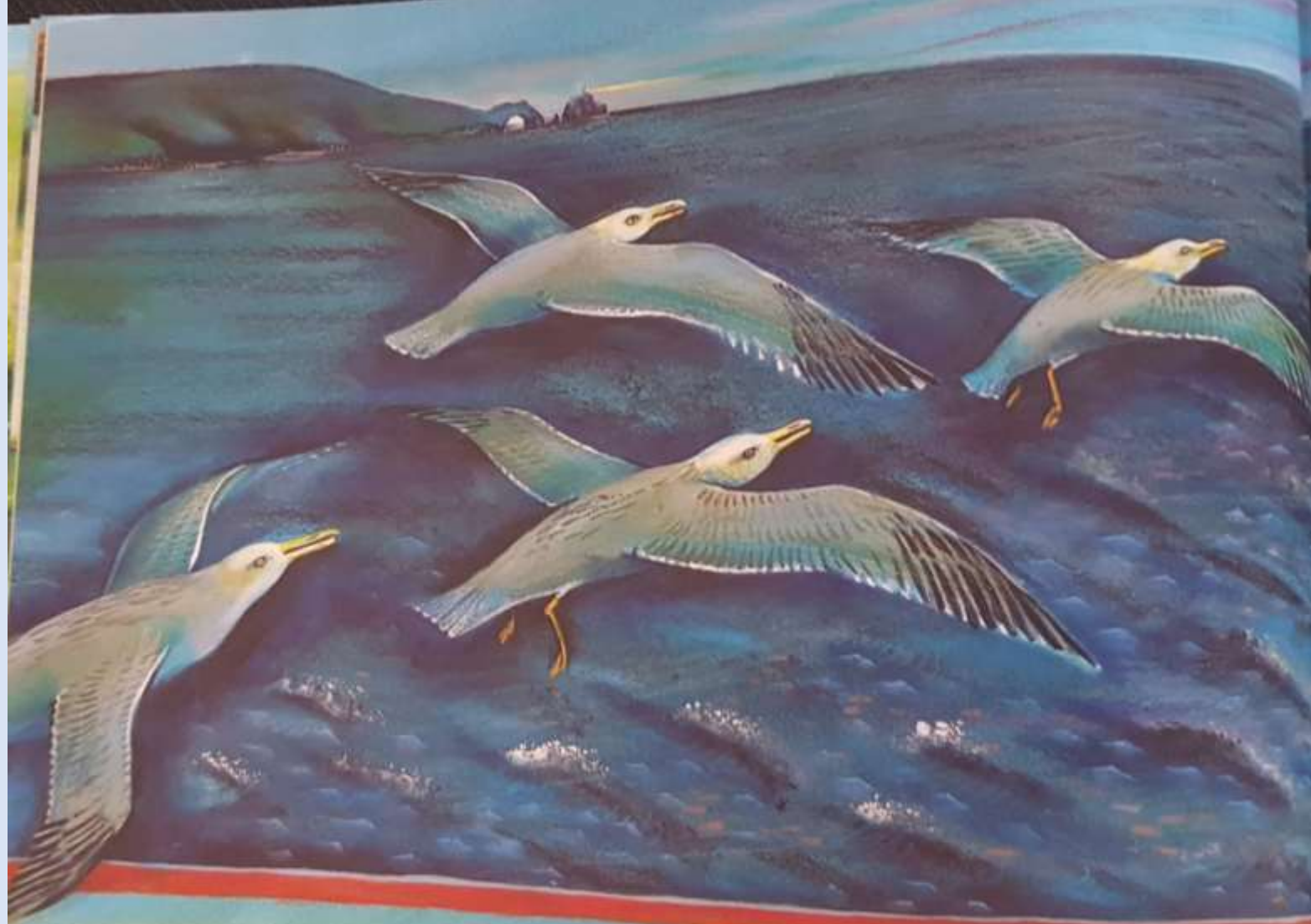
slow-moving barges
and bright busy ferries,
shiny glass tour boats
and tough little tugs.



The river is slowing,
sliding past mudflats,
looping through marshes,
carrying its load
of earth and leaves,
tin cans and cartons,
and bits of old wood.







Where the river reaches
the edge of the land,

waves wash the sand,
and fresh water meets salt water



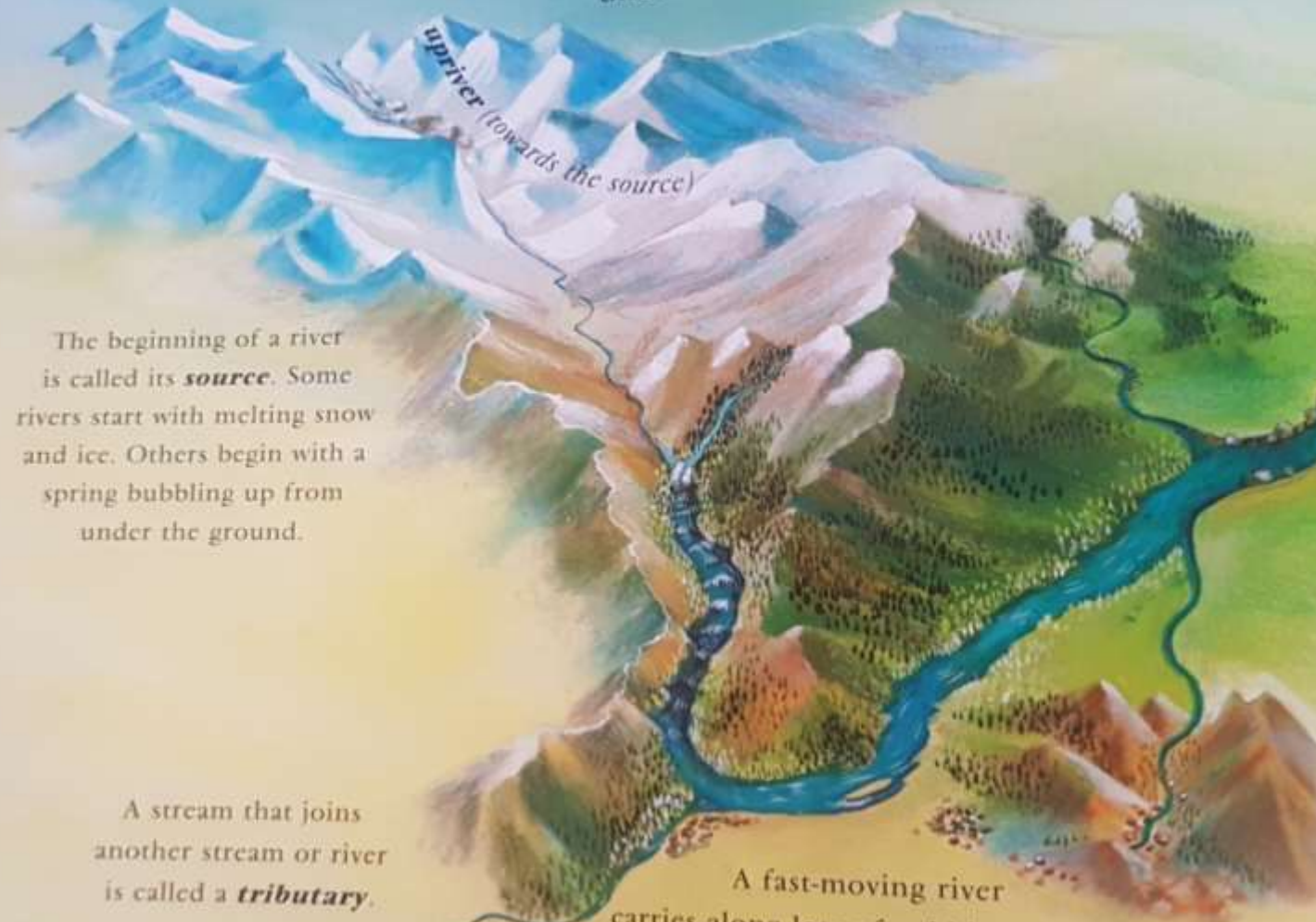
The sea birds are calling.

The sea winds are blowing.

The journey is over.

All rivers have a beginning ...

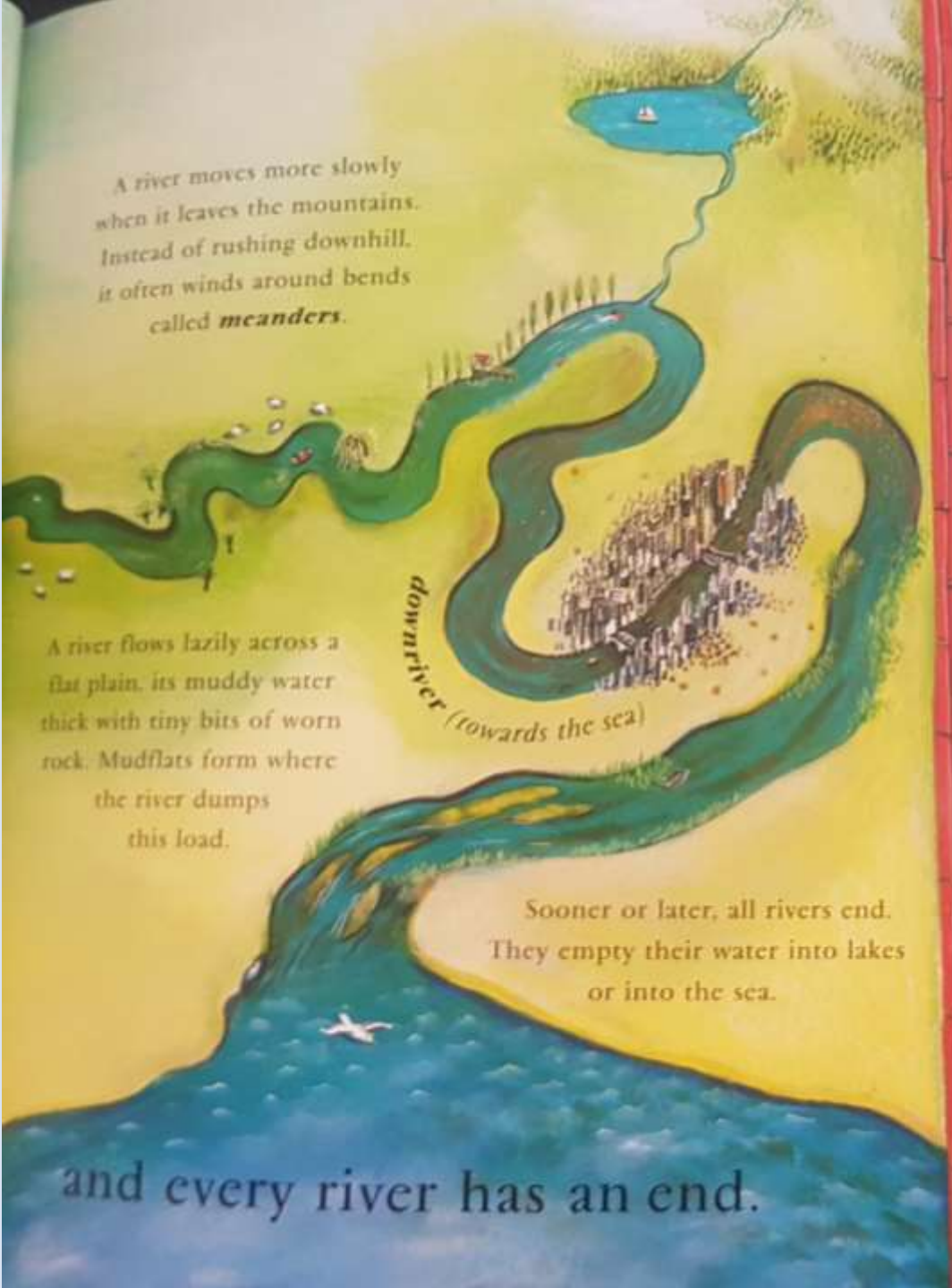
Trace the river from start to finish and discover some new river words along the way.



The beginning of a river is called its **source**. Some rivers start with melting snow and ice. Others begin with a spring bubbling up from under the ground.

A stream that joins another stream or river is called a **tributary**.

A fast-moving river carries along lots of pebbles and soil, and these rub against the riverbed like sandpaper, slowly wearing it away. This 'wearing away' of the land is called **erosion**.



A river moves more slowly
when it leaves the mountains.
Instead of rushing downhill,
it often winds around bends
called *meanders*.

A river flows lazily across a
flat plain, its muddy water
thick with tiny bits of worn
rock. Mudflats form where
the river dumps
this load.

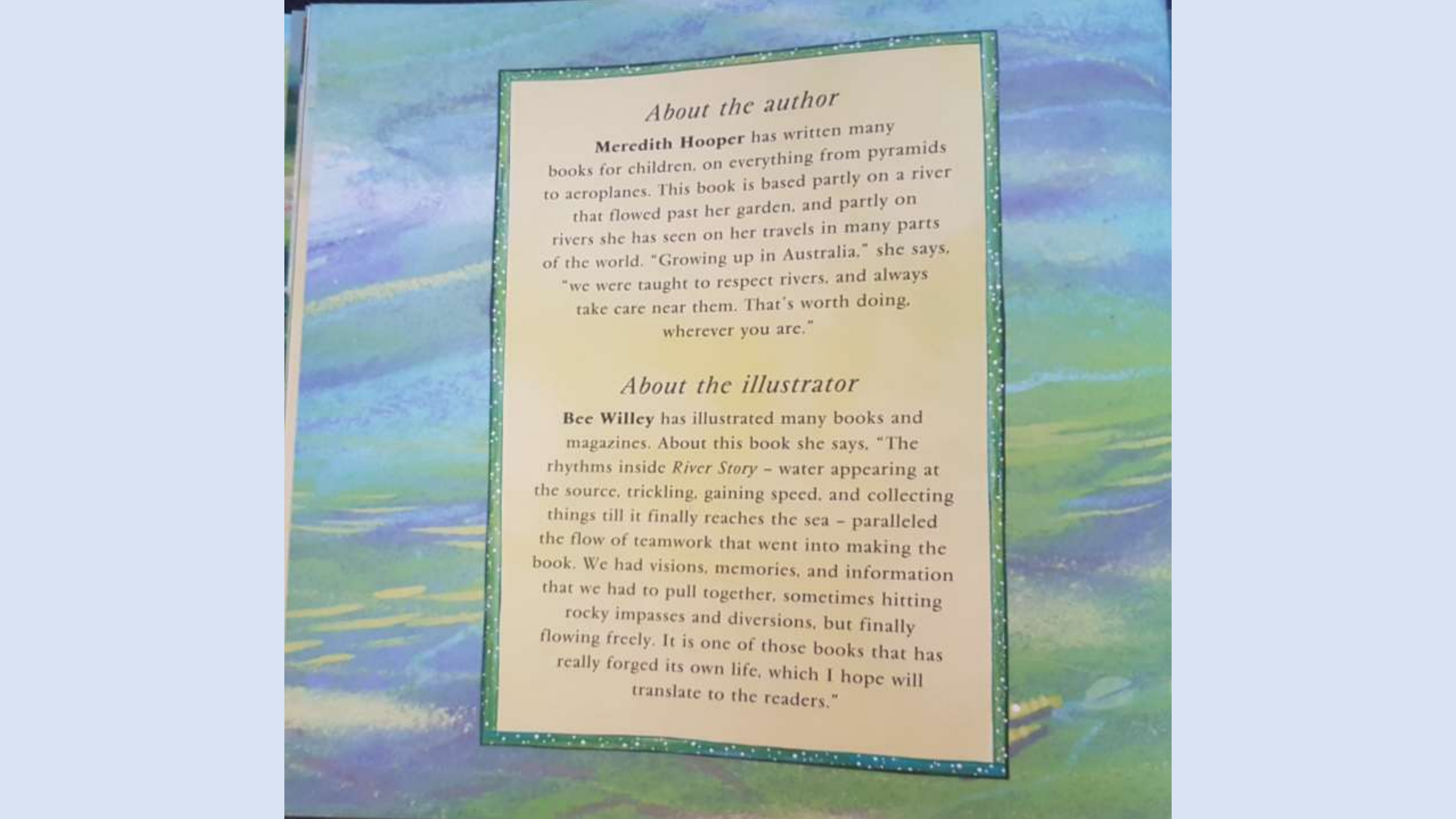
Sooner or later, all rivers end.
They empty their water into lakes
or into the sea.

and every river has an end.

Index

- boats....19, 23
- bridge....15
- current....21
- erosion....28
- lake....29
- meander....29
- mudflat....24, 29
- sea....27, 29
- source....28
- stream....6, 8, 11, 28
- tributary....28
- valley....12
- waterfall....11

Look up the pages
to find out about all
these river things.



About the author

Meredith Hooper has written many books for children, on everything from pyramids to aeroplanes. This book is based partly on a river that flowed past her garden, and partly on rivers she has seen on her travels in many parts of the world. "Growing up in Australia," she says, "we were taught to respect rivers, and always take care near them. That's worth doing, wherever you are."

About the illustrator

Bee Willey has illustrated many books and magazines. About this book she says, "The rhythms inside *River Story* – water appearing at the source, trickling, gaining speed, and collecting things till it finally reaches the sea – paralleled the flow of teamwork that went into making the book. We had visions, memories, and information that we had to pull together, sometimes hitting rocky impasses and diversions, but finally flowing freely. It is one of those books that has really forged its own life, which I hope will translate to the readers."

FOR THE BEST CHILDREN'S BOOKS,
LOOK FOR THE BEAR.



It begins no bigger than your hand, high in the mountains.
Downhill it races, on and on through fields, into the city. Finally, at the edge of the land,
it ends. Follow the twists and turns of a river's story, from its source to the sea.

Winner of the English Association's Non-Fiction Award

"Meredith Hooper has an artist's ability to paint words and in *River Story*
is brilliantly paired with illustrator Bee Willey." *Sunday Telegraph*

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