



My World and Me™

LIVING THINGS AND THEIR NEEDS

Tillena Lou's Day in the Sun

Written by Barbara Tharp, Paula Cutler and Nancy Moreno
Illustrated by T Lewis

A cartoon illustration of a green and yellow turtle sitting on a log in a pond. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a blue sky.

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The sun is warm.
The sky is blue.
It's a perfect day,
For Tillena Lou.



Tiny Tillena turtle,
Tests the water with her toe,
She finds that it is much too cold,
So swimming she will not go.

Instead she'll have a morning snack,
While the sun warms up the sky.
She lies upon a big brown log
To watch her friends nearby.







The bees are sipping nectar,
From the flowers far and near.
The ants are hauling heavy loads
To their homes quite far from here.





Robin with a breakfast worm,
Flies up to her treetop nest.
A red fish hunts a minnow,
With barely a moment's rest.





The farmer is in his cornfield,
Planting corn that people buy,
And a spider spins a web
To catch a wandering fly.

Her friends are oh-so busy
As she lies there in the sun.
Tillena wonders . . . might she join?
It looks like so much fun.





Tillena closes both her eyes
And dreams of a different day,
When she is building turtle webs,
In her own special way!

Tillena tastes the nectar
From the flowers all around.
She flies from one to another
And makes a bee-buzzing sound.





She chases down a little fish,
Swimming swiftly through the waves.
She knows it is not the nicest thing,
But that's how a fish behaves!

Tillena's dream is shattered
When on the log plops brother Tee.
She's just a little turtle,
Not bird, or fish or bee.



And now she knows quite clearly,
All her friends must work each day,
To get food that is most essential,
To live, to work, to play.

Tee lies down upon the log
Right next to Tillena Lou.
The log is still quite comfortable.
There is room enough for two.

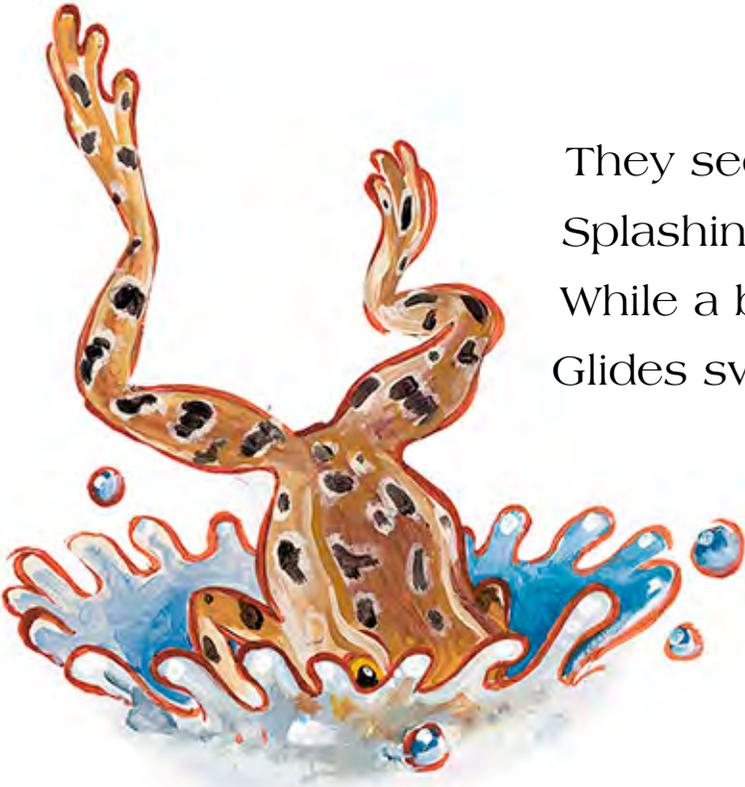




The sun is warm.
The sky is blue.
It's a perfect day,
For Tillena Lou.

From their comfy lookout point,
As they rest in the warming sun,
They watch so many animals
In the water having fun.

They see a spotted bullfrog,
Splashing in to take a break,
While a bright blue dragonfly
Glides swiftly above the lake.





Over in a shady spot
Where the water grasses grow,
Dew drops from the tall green blades
Soak a lizard down below.

Twelve ducklings and their mother
Jump in from the bank's high ledge,
Just as a deer and her baby,
Both drink at the water's edge.





Two small turtles close their eyes,
And dream of a different day.
They are gliding on the water
In a special turtle way.



They hop across the water,
Playing a game of leaping-frog.
They both are graceful turtle deer
Sipping water by a log.



The turtles' dreams are shattered!
Sister Taffy rocks the log.
They are just two thirsty turtles,
Not duck, dragonfly or frog!

And now they know quite clearly,
Water is needed every day.
For life, it's most essential,
For fun, for work, for play.





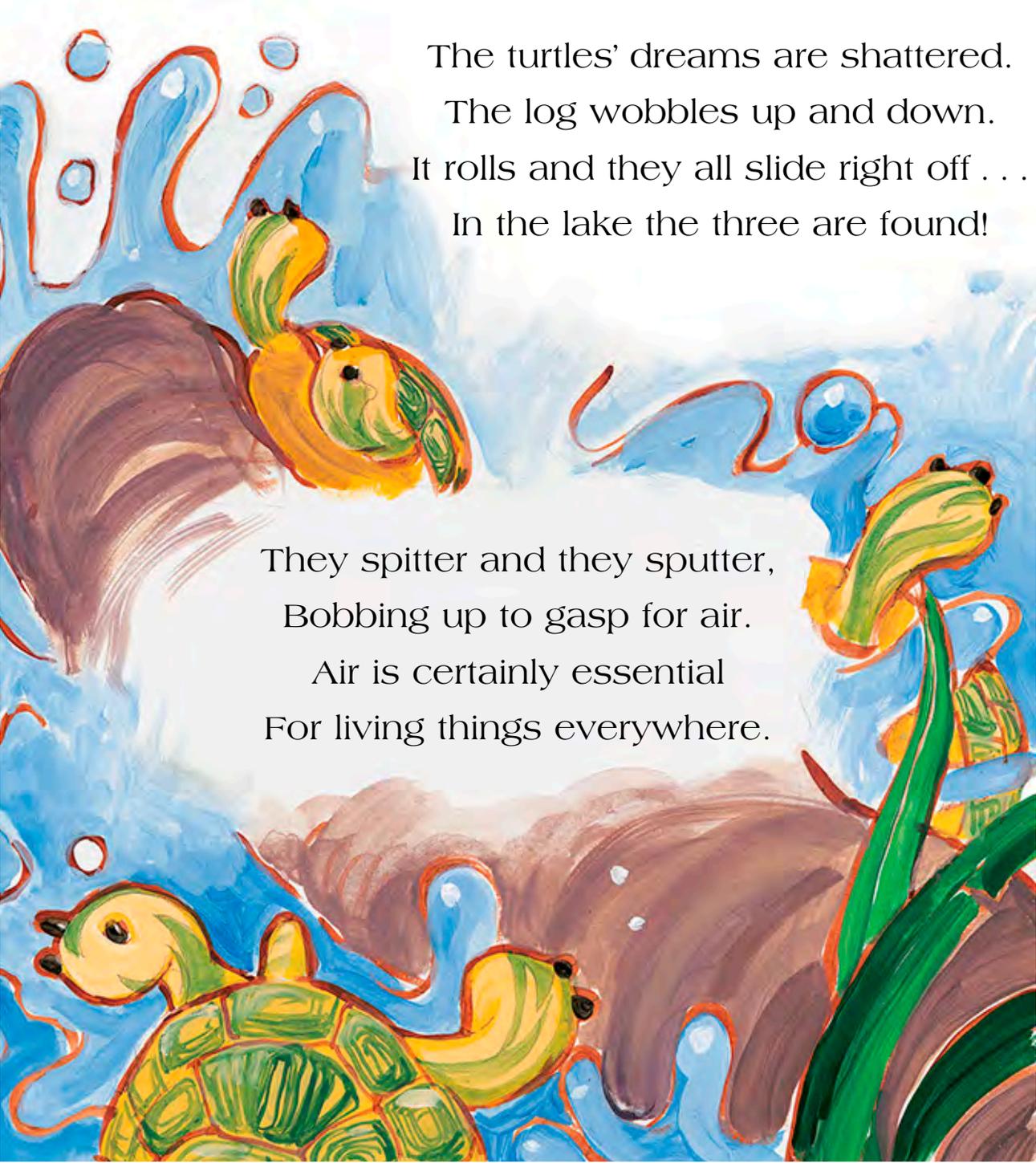
Now Taffy lies upon the log,
Beside Tillena and Tee.
The log is still quite comfortable.
There is room enough for three.



The sun is warm.
The sky is blue.
It's a perfect day
For Tillena Lou.

Tillena, Tee and Taffy,
Have they seen enough today?
They are all very sleepy now . . .
Time for dreamland, far away.





The turtles' dreams are shattered.
The log wobbles up and down.
It rolls and they all slide right off . . .
In the lake the three are found!

They spitter and they sputter,
Bobbing up to gasp for air.
Air is certainly essential
For living things everywhere.

The tiny turtle trio
Slowly climbs back on the log.
And there is great big brother BEN,
Smiling like a fat green frog.



Tillena, Tee and Taffy
Learned a lesson, you can bet!
A small log holds three turtles well,
Add one more — they all get wet!



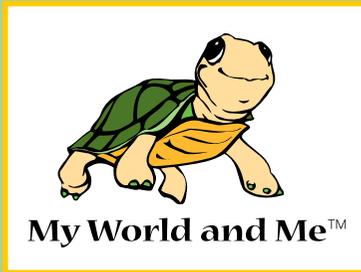
And now you know quite clearly,
What's essential for each day.
That's air and food and water
To live, to work, to play!

The authors of this story are Barbara Tharp, Paula Cutler and Nancy Moreno. Ms. Tharp and Dr. Moreno are members of the Center for Educational Outreach (CEO) at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Ms. Cutler was a team member in the CEO while this story was being developed. The team worked together for several years on science education projects involving teachers and students from kindergarten through college and graduate school.

- **Barbara Tharp, M.S.**, originally from California and Oklahoma, once worked for the FBI in Washington, D.C., and later was an economic analyst for an oil company. More recently, she has followed her primary interest of working with children, serving as an elementary school teacher and specializing in her favorite subjects, science and math. Currently, she serves as a full-time faculty member at BCM. In addition to creating instructional materials, she directs science and math teacher enhancement programs with classroom teachers from Houston and throughout the U.S.
- **Paula Cutler, B.S.**, a native Texan, has been an educator for 20 years. Formerly a high school English teacher and an elementary school teacher, she spent over five years as an education coordinator at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. While at BCM, she served as project manager and was involved in numerous teacher professional development programs. She especially enjoyed creating instructional materials for and interfacing with teachers.
- **Nancy Moreno, Ph.D.**, originally from Wisconsin and Michigan, is a biologist with a specialization in botany. She studied and classified neotropical plants in Mexico before completing her doctoral degree. Her current interests focus on the involvement of scientists in the education of students and teachers. She designs curricula, conducts workshops for teachers on creative methods for teaching science and using technology, and is involved in science education at all levels. BCM's My World project, which she directs, builds upon her special interests in ecology and environmental issues.

The **illustrator, T Lewis**, was born in Texas but has traveled extensively, living in such exotic locales as Africa, Switzerland and Alaska, and now makes his home in Washington State. His illustrations were first used in the CEO educational storybook, *Skullduggery*, as part of the BrainLink project. In all, Lewis illustrated 10 storybooks for the CEO, including *Trouble at Tsavo*, *The Cookie Crumbles*, *Danger at Rocky River*, *Mr. Slaptail's Secret*, *Mystery of the Muddled Marsh*, *Mr. Slaptail's Curious Contraption*, *The Mysterious Marching Vegetables*, *Tillena Lou's Day in the Sun* and *Tillena Lou's Big Adventure*, and the cover of *Legacy of Lost Canyon*.

Lewis co-authors and illustrates the nationally syndicated comic strip, "Over the Hedge," which served as the basis for several books, a video game and the 2006 DreamWorks SKG movie, "Over the Hedge." While his broad range of professional artwork has appeared in many formats, he is especially fond of creating illustrations for children and has illustrated more than 20 storybooks. In 1999, he won the National Cartoonists Society Rueben Award for book illustration.



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