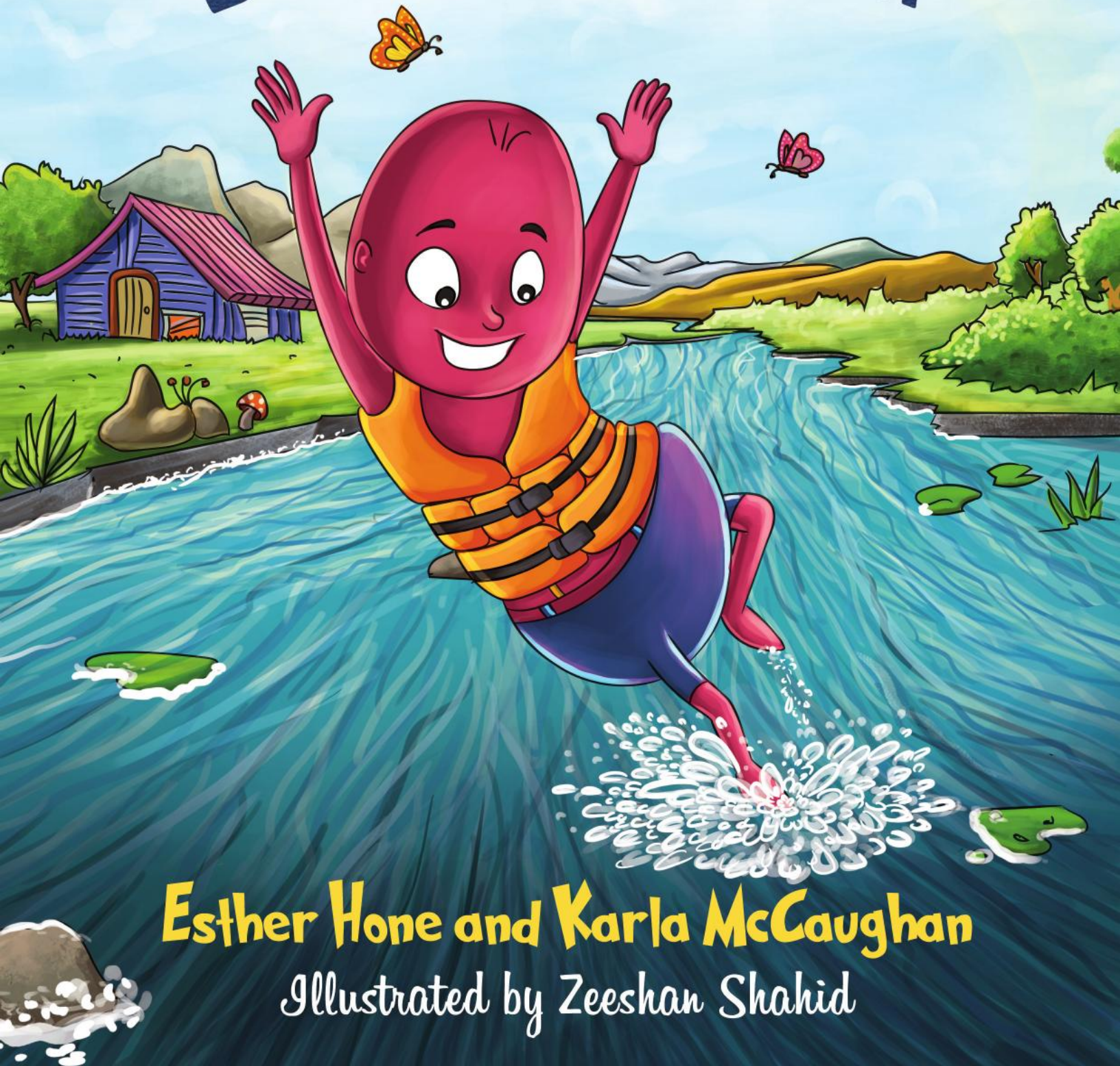


# Kurious Kumara's Day At The River





# Kurious Kumara's Day At The River



**Esther Hone and Karla McCaughan**

*Illustrated by Zeeshan Shahid*

This book is created as part of a resource for Water Skills for Life education programme, targeting students in Year 1 – 8 at primary school.

Research suggests that aquatic skills are developed faster and retained for longer, when they are experienced and learnt in natural environments.

Water Safety New Zealand is making water safety and Water Skills for Life an integral part of a child's learning through the Health & PE Curriculum. Furthermore, to ensure a generational improvement in children's knowledge, attitudes and behaviour around water, we will embed Water Skills for Life into authentic environmental education to make water safety skills training reflective of real-life experiences.

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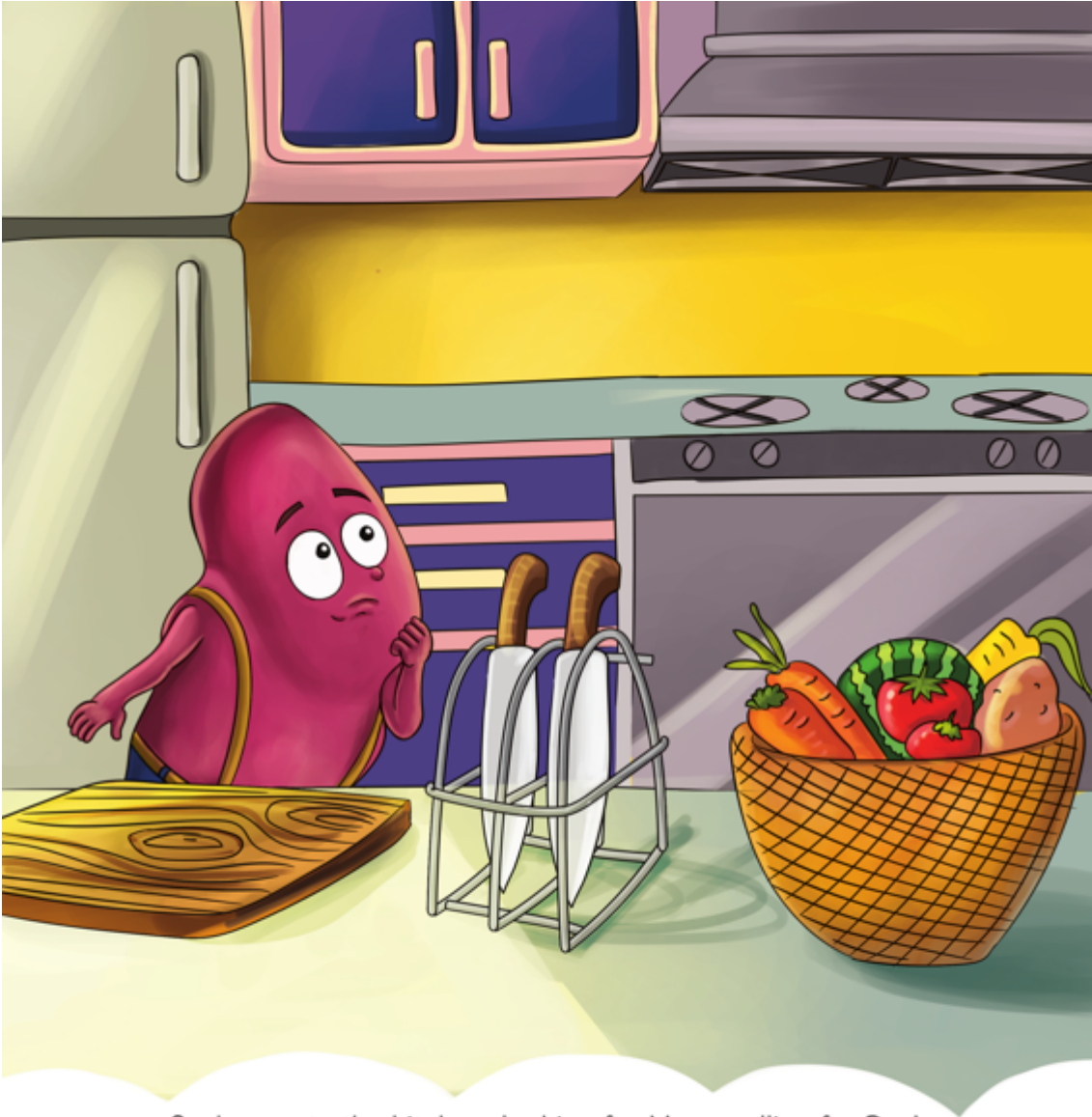
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Kurious Kumara got up one day, looked out past the paddocks and far, far away. Far in the distance, way over there, he could hear the river rushing and smell the fresh air.





So, he ran to the kitchen, looking for Mum, calling for Dad.  
"Let's head off to the river; there's fun to be had".

Kurious Kumara tried hard to find them; he looked all around.  
He tried harder to find them, but they were nowhere to be found.



So, he jumped on his scooter and he headed on his way,  
to the freely flowing river, on that warm, sunny day.



Then down flew Piwi, his piwakawaka friend,  
darting past Kurious Kumara's shoulder as he scootered round the bend.







"Stop" chirped Piwi, his piwakawaka mate.  
"You're forgetting the safety rules. Stop now before it's too late."

"Do you see that warning sign about where you should swim?  
Do you see that warning sign about where you should hop in?"

"You haven't checked the weather Kurious Kumara;  
You don't know the conditions.  
You should have asked a local person and got their permission."

"The conditions can change rapidly if the wind starts to blow.  
So always check the weather Kurious Kumara,  
because it can change before you know."







"You need to know some river rules before swimming and having fun.  
You must always check the bottom; that's a really important one."

"Knowing this helps us identify the safest place to swim.  
Looking for logs, snags, weeds, and rocks while checking for a safe  
place to go in."







"And if you can't see the bottom", he chirped, "because the water's too dark and deep. Then you're not allowed to dive there, Kurious Kumara because you can't see what's underneath."

"The bottom can be slippery, a soft and unsupportive base. There can be sudden, hidden holes, so be careful just in case."





"And you must check the current's strength and speed, so you know what to do. Now, let me explain about what the current can do to you."

"Go with where it takes you; I'm talking about the current.  
Don't try and swim against it is an important safety tip."





"If the waters moving quickly, you must lay back and float.  
Travel with your feet first, like a fast, moving boat."

"On the outside of river bends, the water can move fast.  
So carefully put in something to float, and check how quickly it goes past."

"And look for feeder river currents, where the rivers join together.  
These can be dangerous spots, especially in windy weather."



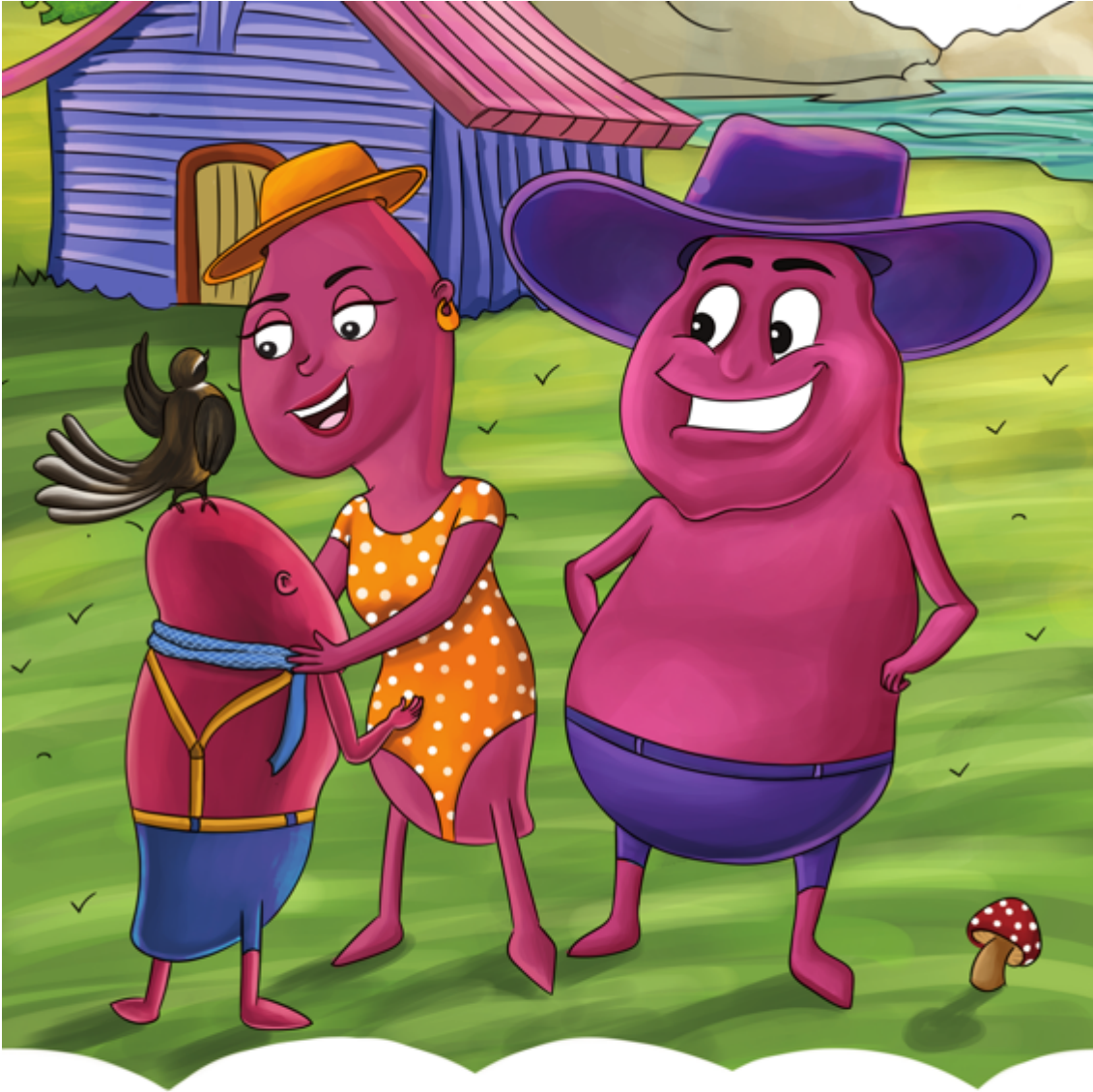




Piwi chirped louder, "Kurious Kumara, you've made a big mistake;  
if you go to the river, an adult you must take."

"Listen", chirped Piwi; that's Mum calling your name.  
"Kurious Kumara, where are you?" Your Dad's calling the same.





So, Kurious Kumara stopped and waited in that warm summer sun.  
And he was thankful and happy to see his Dad and his Mum.

"Kurious Kumara", Mum said with a sigh of relief.  
"Kurious Kumara", Dad smiled a smile that showed his teeth.



"Kurious Kumara, we were worried," said his Mum and his Dad.  
"If something had happened, our hearts would be sad."

"I'm sorry," said Kurious Kumara, "I forgot the rule.  
I must always have an adult, at the river, lake, or pool."

"I remember now," said Kurious Kumara. "It doesn't matter where I am.  
I can only go swimming when an adult says I can. "

Mum said, "We love you, Kurious Kumara, you curious little guy."  
Dad said, "Now you can play safely while we watch and stand by."



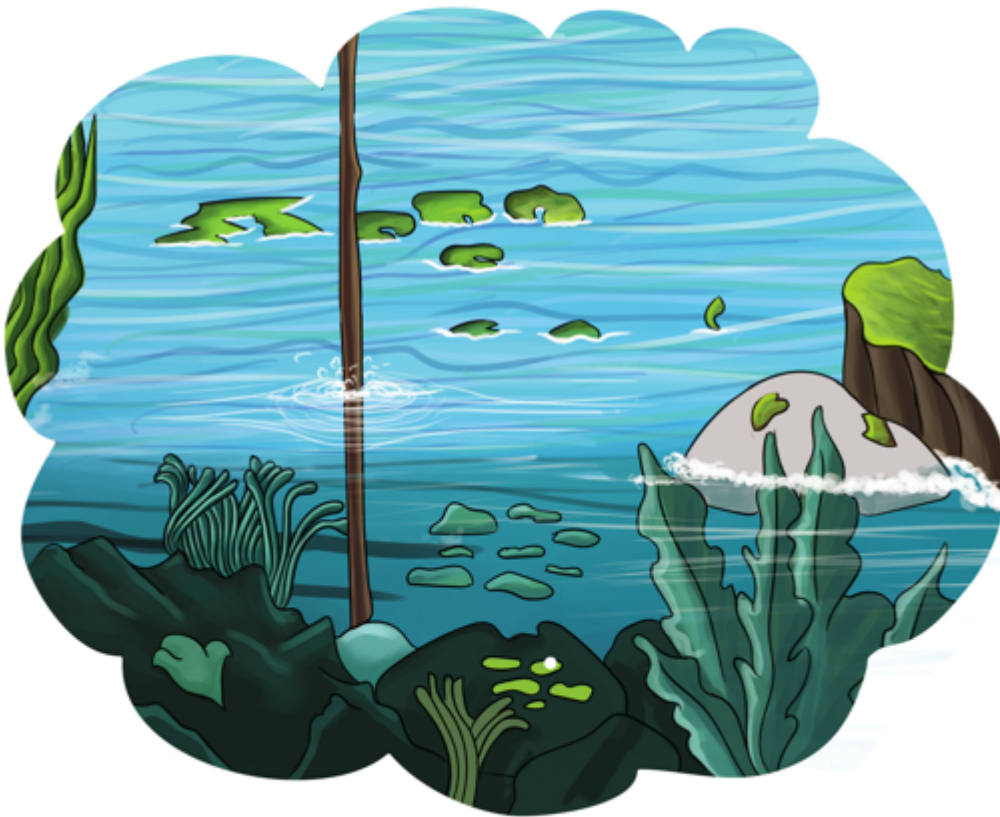




"But first, let's check the water depth, Mum said before we go diving in.  
Some rivers can be deeper than they look, so we need to check before we swim."

"If the river is moving too quickly, the current might knock you from your feet.  
So, be careful it doesn't drag you from the shallow to the deep."

"To check the depth, Kurious Kumara, why don't we use a stick.  
Let's see how high up it measures; what a cool and handy trick."





But Kurious Kumara  
had climbed a slippery bank, it wasn't safe, and it wasn't stable.  
"Get down from there", Mum called. "Get down while you're still able."  
"That's not a good place to stand," said Mum, "the unstable bank could slip away.  
Banks that overhang riversides are not safe places to play."

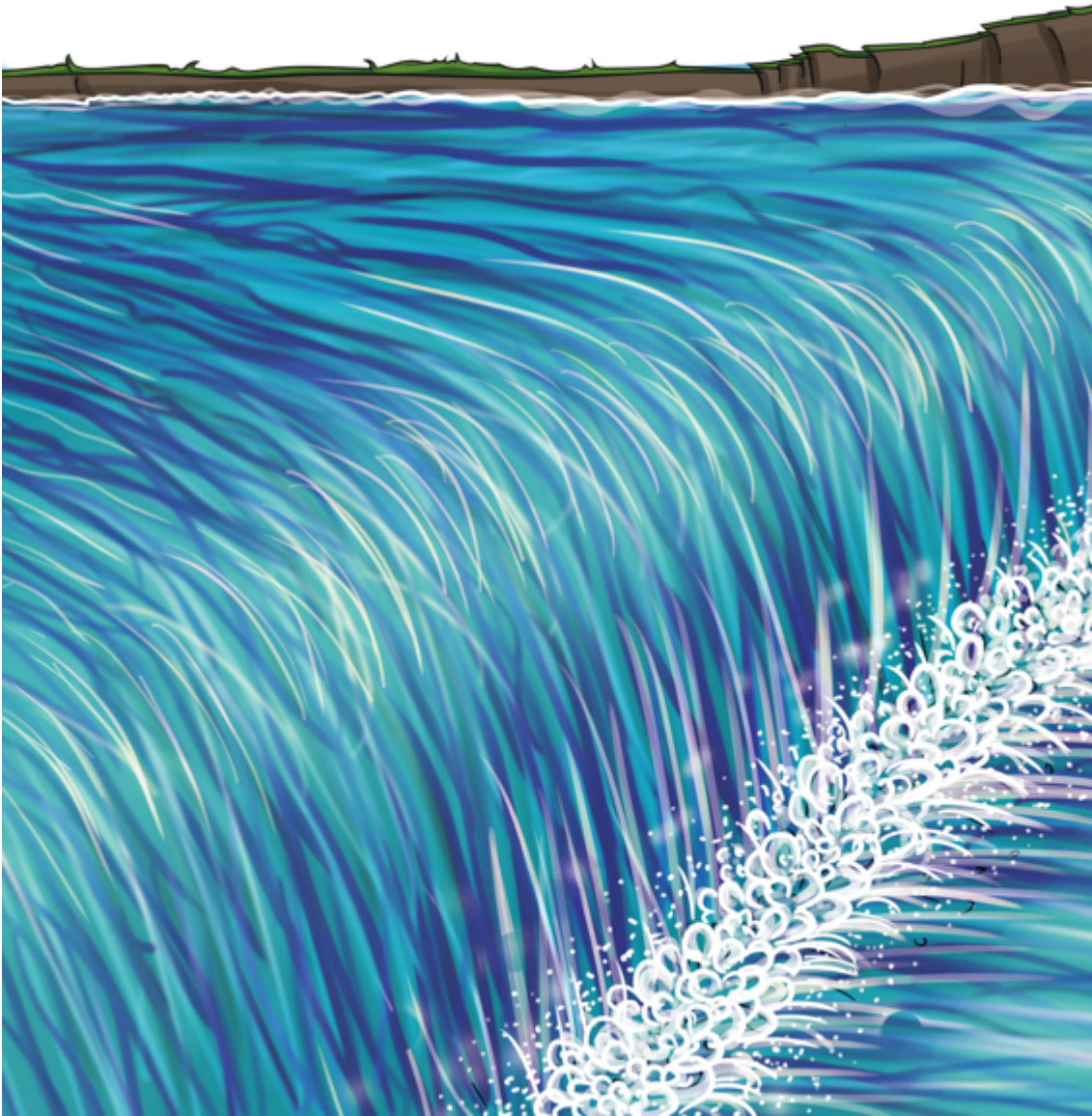


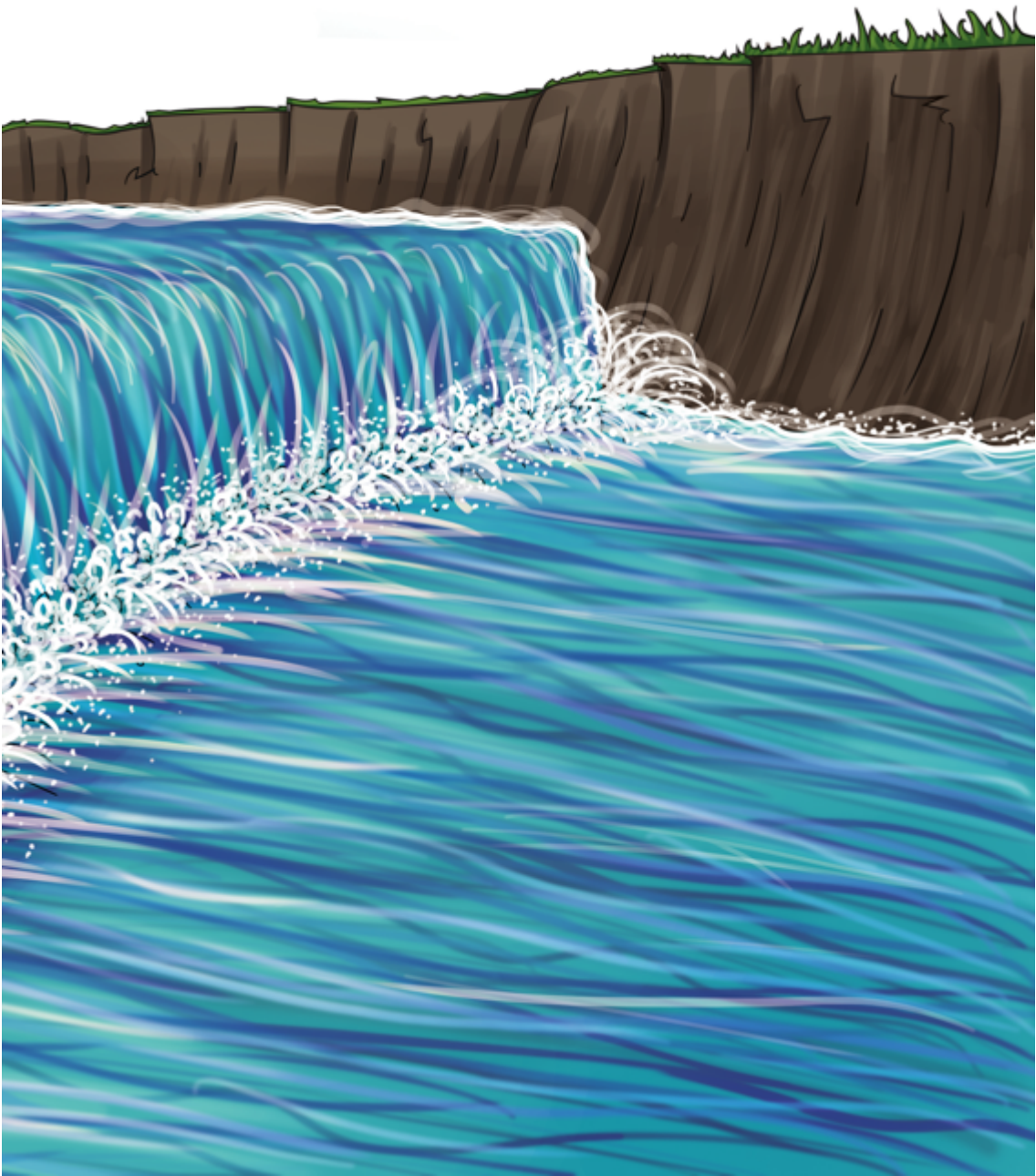
So, now Mum had checked the water, and Dad had had a good look too.  
"Kurious Kumara, it's safe to hop in now, now that we're right here with you."

"But first, let's put on your lifejacket cause this will help you float.  
lifejackets are good for river swimming too, not just for on a boat."



"Lastly, son, I want you to remember if you are drawn into a weir.  
Dive to the bottom, tuck and hold your breath until you can come back up for air."









"There's a lot to remember," said Kurious Kumara about swimming at the river. I'm glad I waited for you to arrive, So we can swim safely together."

"I am glad I am ready now to swim and have some fun.  
Ready with my lifejacket on, supervised by Dad and Mum."







"I'm happy now", chirped Piwi, his piwakawaka friend.  
"You're following the water safety rules from beginning to end."



Find out more about

# Kurious Kumara's Adventurous Days

