

Kurious Kumara's Day At The Home



Esther Hone and Karla McCaughan
Illustrated by Zeeshan Shahid

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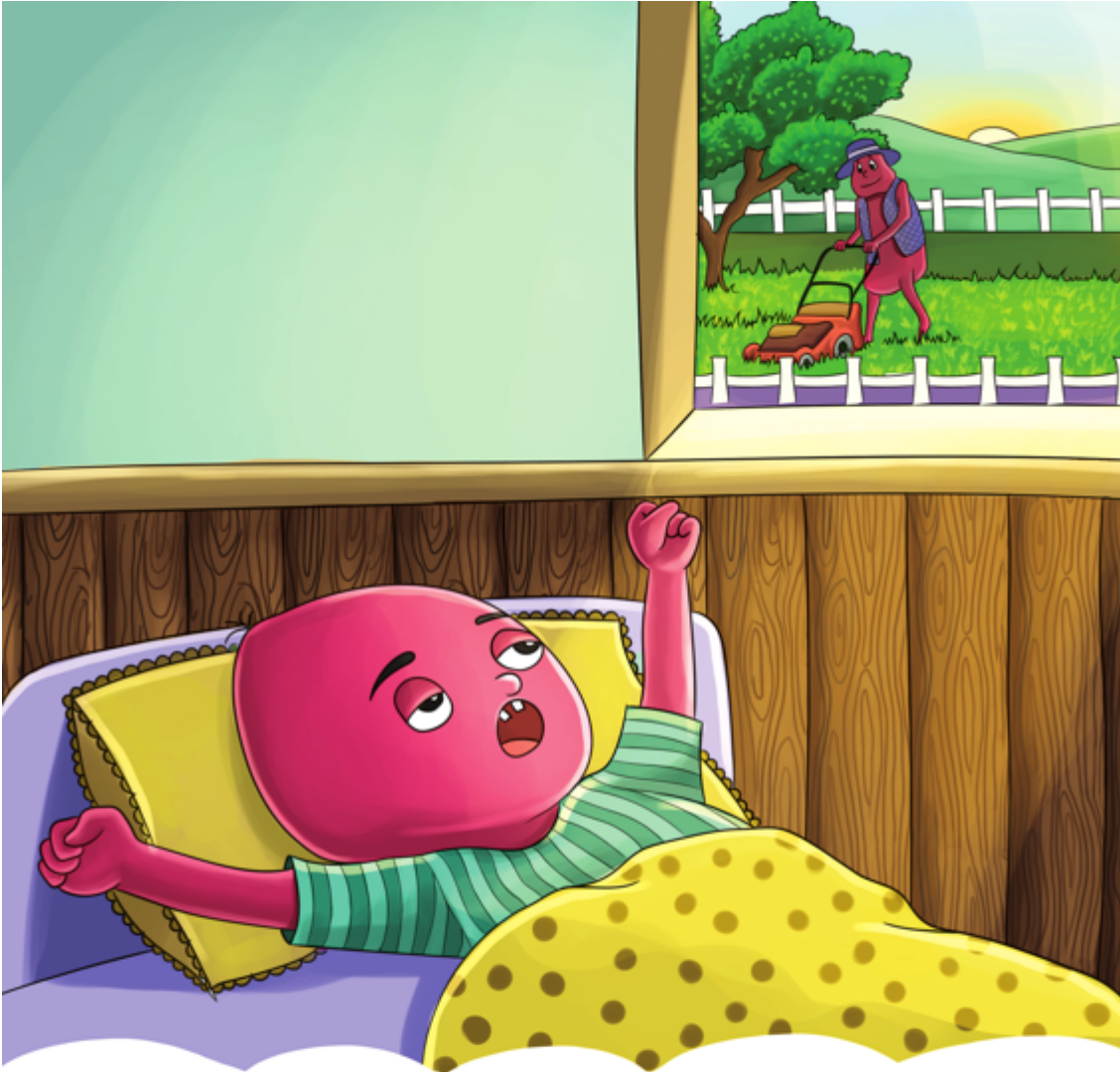
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Kurious Kumara got up one day, looked out past the paddocks and far, far away. Far in the distance, way over there, he could hear the mowers mowing and smell fresh grass in the air.

Today was a day for playing at home with Peter Potatoe and his baby brother. They would be arriving soon, with their father and their mother.

So, Kurious Kumara ran down the hall, calling, "Mum, I'm ready to play.
My friend Peter will be here soon, on this warm and sunny day."

"Yes, Kurious Kumara, but there's jobs to be done first; let's get our jobs
done out of the way. Once you have finished all your chores, then you
will be ready to play."





"So, let's start with the laundry", Mum said,
"there's a great big washing pile.
Let's start by getting the washing done,"
she said with a big, warm smile.

So, Kurious Kumara pulled up a chair; then, he leaned over the sink.
"Stop for a minute," Mum said, "Kurious Kumara, stop and think."

"That's a tub full of water, so be careful you don't slip.
You might fall in headfirst if you accidentally lose your grip."

"And it's the same with the washing machine, so you need to take extra care.
The washing machine is full of water too, so stop leaning in there."





"There are many water hazards at home,"
Dad said, "You can see them all around.
Some of the most common ones,"
he said, are buckets on the ground."

"See that bucket of clothes soaking," said Mum, "That could be a hazard too.
Let's put it up where it can't be reached, so it's up and out of view."

"That's a good idea," said Dad, a very good lesson to teach.
We can't have buckets of water, not down where kids can reach."

Mum said, "let's check the bathroom next;
the bath and shower will need a clean."
"And once we have finished cleaning the sink too,"
said Dad, we will move the plugs where they can't be seen."

"Hiding the plug is a good idea," said Kurious Kumara,
"It means that the bath can't be run."
"Because we don't run a bath on our own,"
said Dad only when we are watched by Mum."







"Is the toilet a hazard as well?" Kurious Kumara asked,

"Is the toilet a hazard too?

"Well, it can be for a toddler," said Mum.

"So, putting the lid down is important to do."

"And if we keep the toilet door shut as well,"
she said, it helps keep toddlers away.

These are the kinds of water safety things
we should try to do every day."

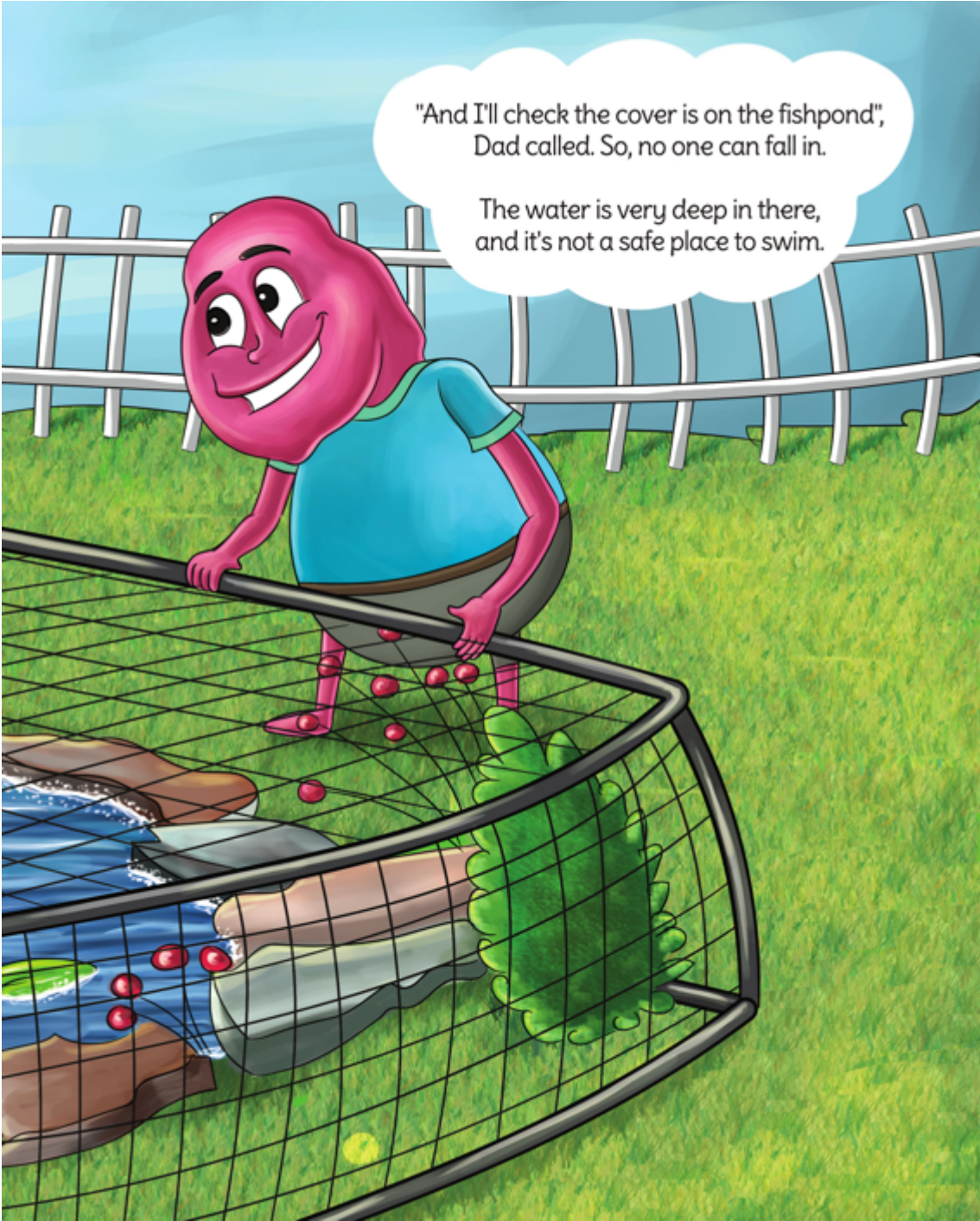
They heard a car pull up outside; the Potatoes had arrived to play.
"Let's go and say hello," Mum said on this warm and sunny day."

Kurious Kumara ran to the porch and past his dog's water dish.
Kurious Kumara ran down the path and past the pond of fish.

"I'll move the dog's water bowl," Mum said, So it is up off the ground.
Always move or empty pet's water bowls
if you have young children around."







"And I'll check the cover is on the fishpond",
Dad called. So, no one can fall in.

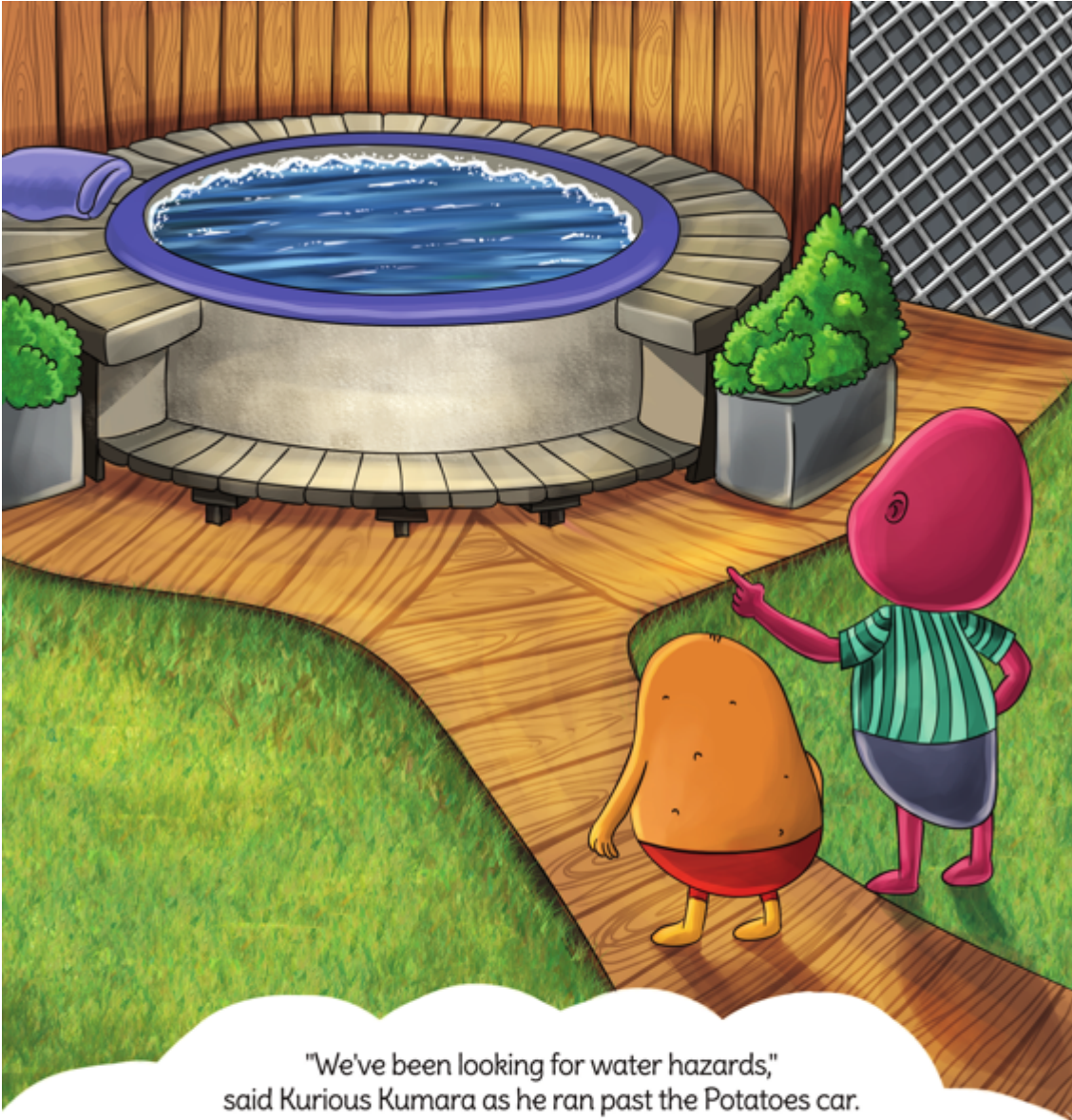
The water is very deep in there,
and it's not a safe place to swim.

Then down flew Piwi, Kurious Kumara's piwakawaka mate,
Darting past Peter Potatoes head as he came through the gate.

Mum invited the Potatoe family to come in for a drink.
So, Dad went to the chilli bin that was sitting by the sink.

"I'll move this too," he said. "Safely, out of the way.
I'll move this chilli bin off the ground so baby Potatoe can safely play."



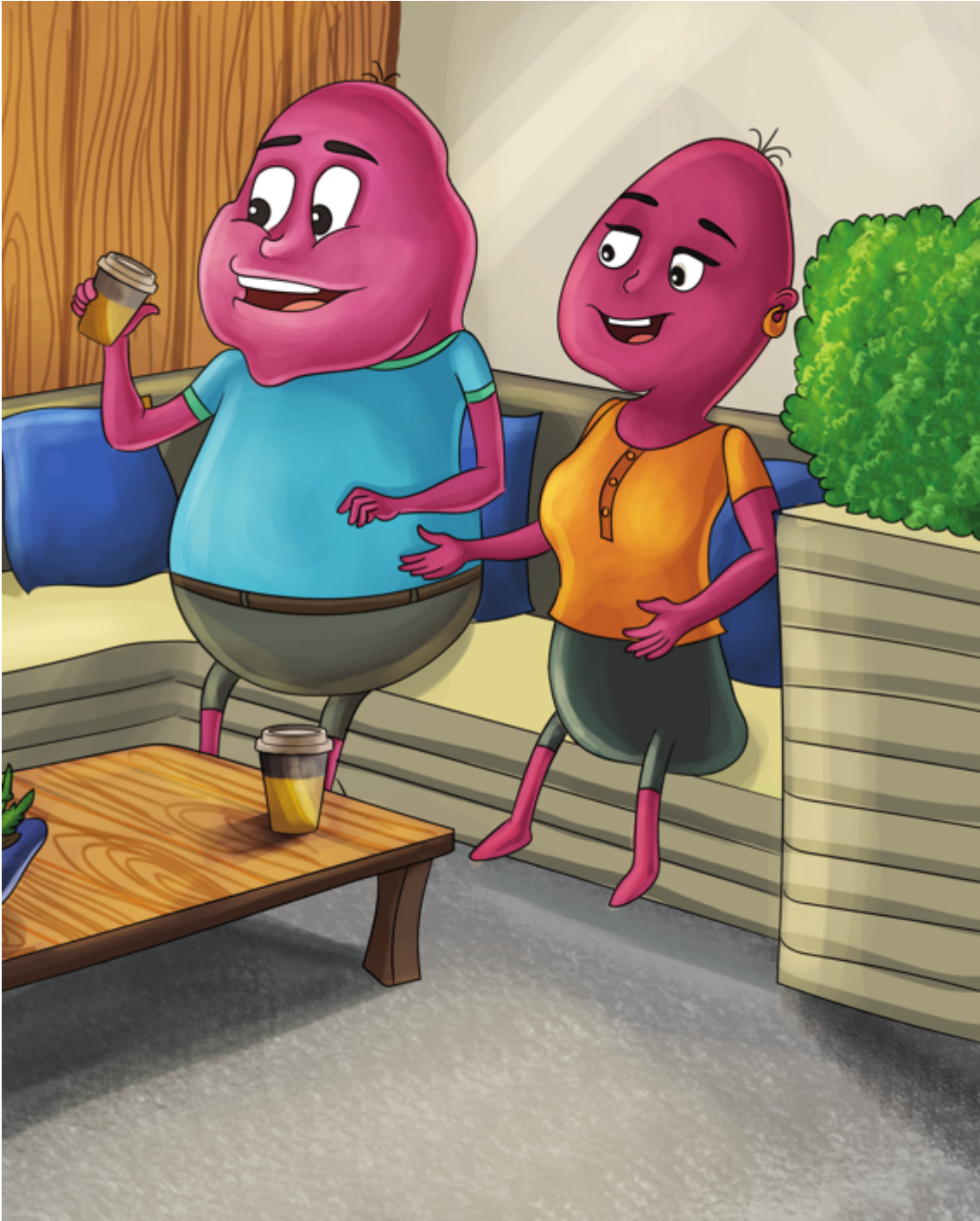


"We've been looking for water hazards,"
said Kurious Kumara as he ran past the Potatoes car.
"And here's another one," he said as he pointed at the spa.

"Yes," said Dad, "but the covers on, and the steps have been put away.
Remember, boys, that the spa and pool are out of bounds until I say."

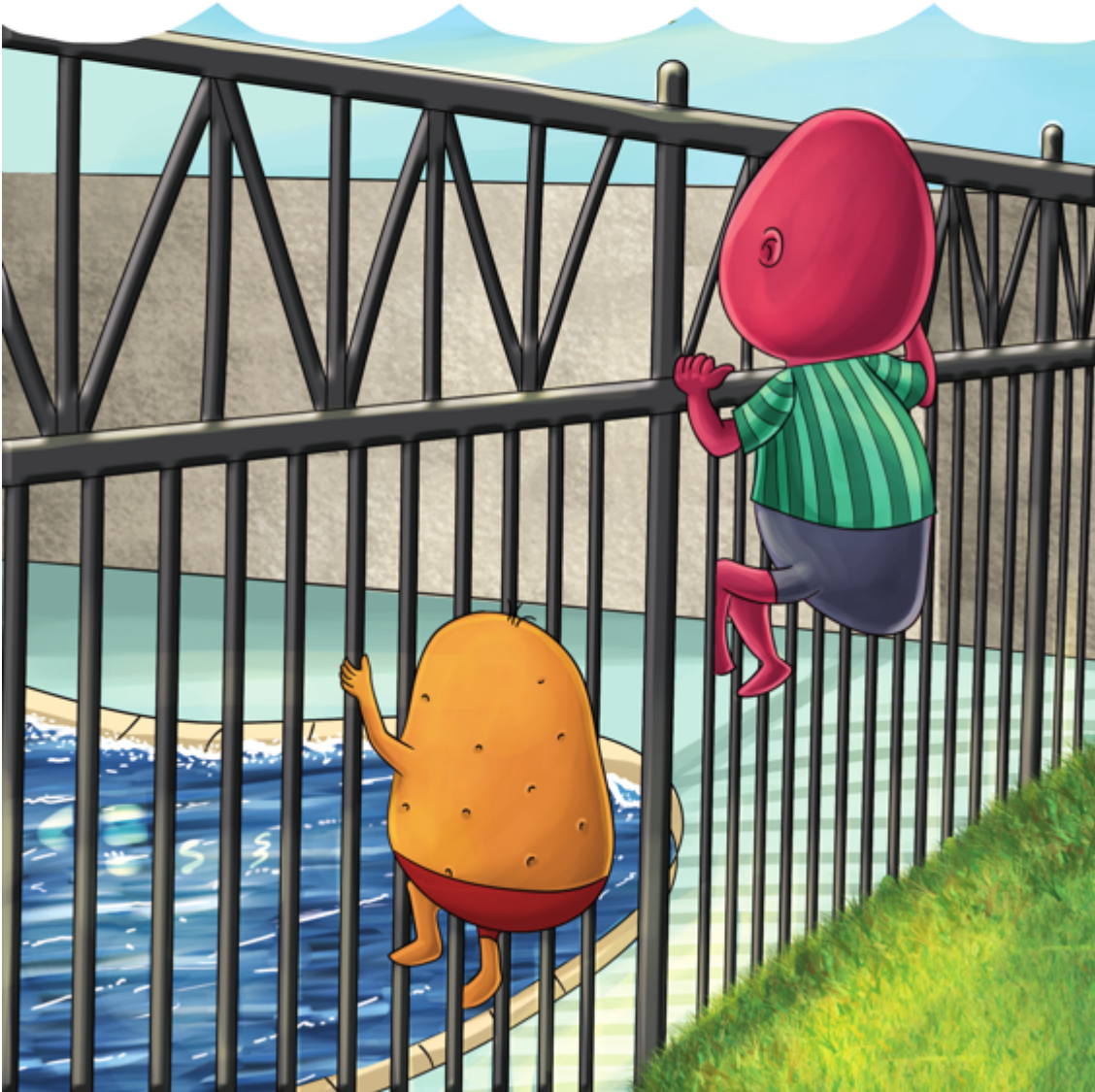
So, while the adults sat down to chat
the boys ran to play.
And they played happily in the garden
on that warm and sunny day.





But they started to get impatient, they were warm, and they were hot.
They wanted to go swimming now, whether the adults were ready or not.

So, they sneaked past their parents to the locked pool gate.
And they started to climb the fence because they didn't want to wait.





"Stop", chirped Piwi, Kurious Kumara's piwakawaka friend.
"You're forgetting the water safety rules from beginning to end."

"Stop now", chirped Piwi; you shouldn't climb the pool fence.
It's not a safe thing to do; you're not making any sense."

Piwi was getting worried as he flew past their heads.
"Stop and remember," he chirped What your Mum and Dad said."

"You must always swim with an adult, kids, no matter what you do.
You must always swim with an adult; they must be watching you."





Piwi chirped louder, "Boys, you're making a big mistake;
if you go swimming, an adult you must take."

"Listen", chirped Piwi, the mums are calling your name.
"Boys, where are you?" your dads are calling the same.



So, the boys stopped and hopped down in that warm summer sun.
And they were thankful and happy to see their dads and their mums.

"Boys," the mums said with a sigh of relief.
"Boys", the dads smiled, a smile that showed their teeth.





"Boys, we were worried," said their mums and his dads."
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 When I'm swimming at the pool."

Piwi chirped louder, "Boys, you're making a big mistake;
if you go swimming, an adult you must take."

"Listen", chirped Piwi, the mums are calling your name.
"Boys, where are you?" your dads are calling the same.



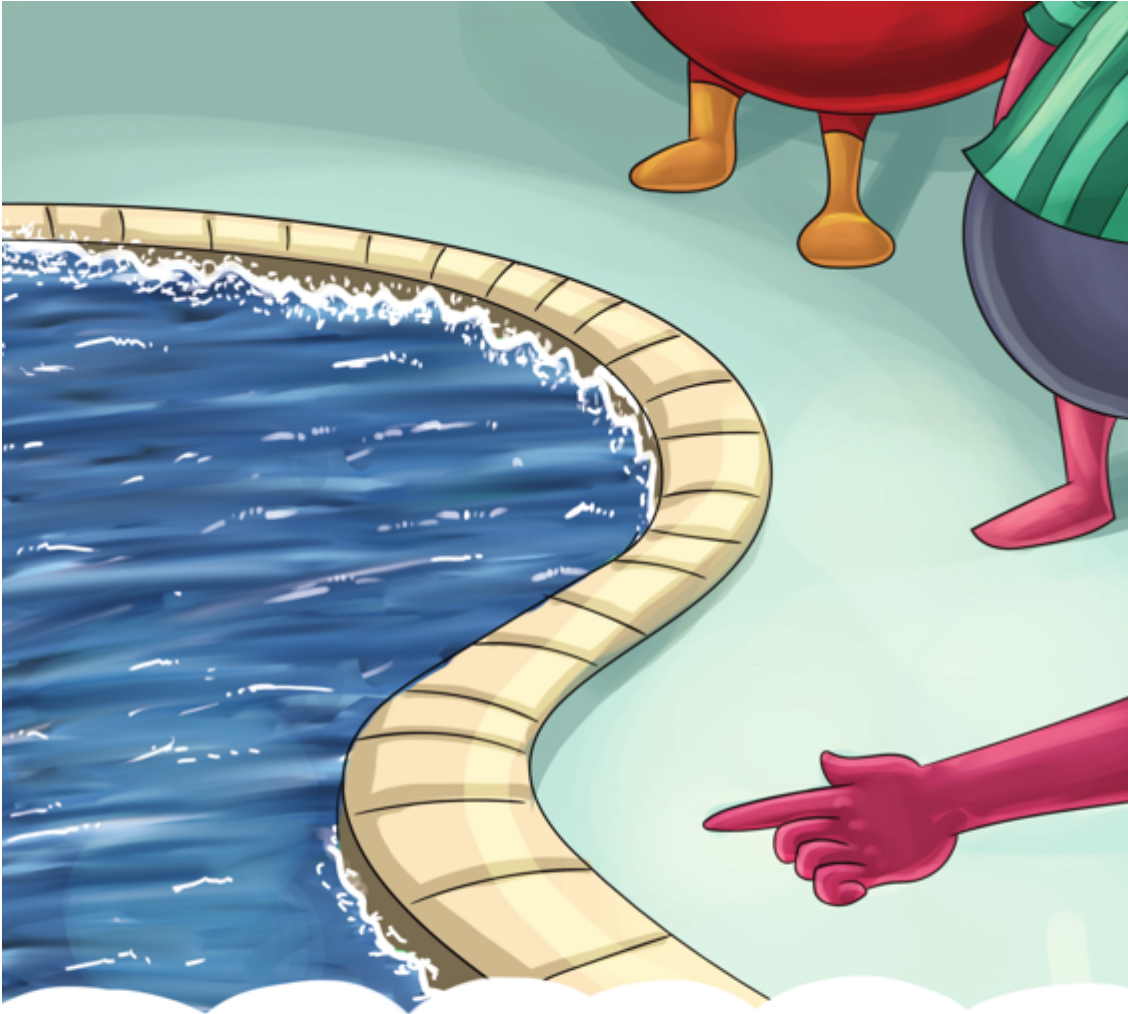
"But first, let's look at the water," said Mum before we go diving in.
We need to check how deep it is; we need to check before you swim."

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



"We will swim this end," said Mum, "Where I know you can stand.
Now I will help you hop in carefully; please come and hold my hand."





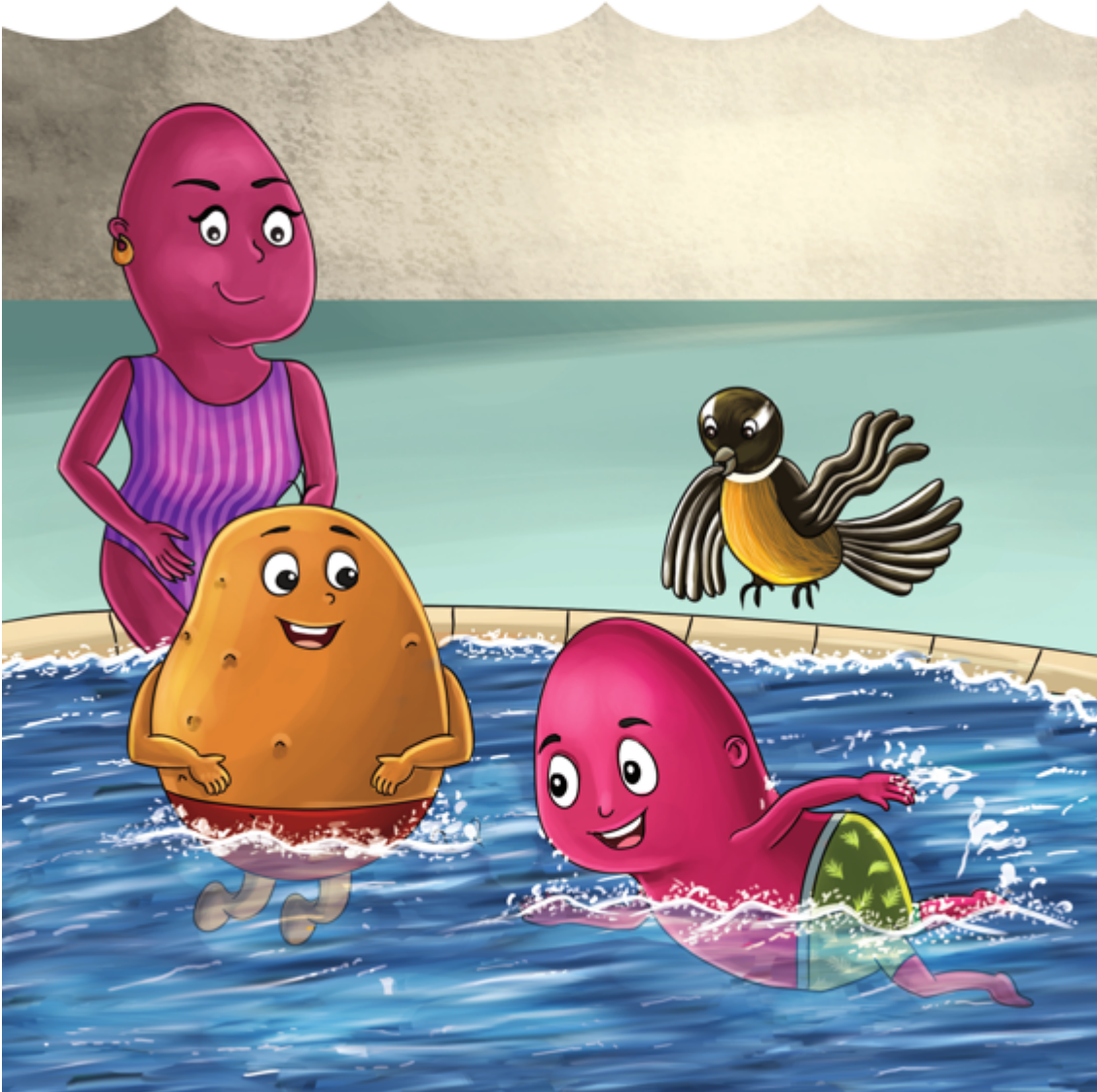
This is an important rule, boys, that we are trying to teach.
When you are swimming in the pool, you must stay within our reach."

"It is not an option; you don't get to decide.
When we are playing in the pool, you must stay by our side."

"It's important that a pool is fenced so no one can get into play.
And that the gate stays locked until the adults say."

So, finally, it was time for the boys to swim and have some fun.
Supervised by their parents and within the reach of Mum.

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



Find out more about

Kurious Kumara's Adventurous Days

