

A Fishy Tale




HippyAustralia
Families Learning Together
HIPPY AUSTRALIA
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Tidda and Bub live in a small, peaceful billabong. They spend their days playing with their friends.

Platypus is a wise old friend of all the creatures in the billabong.



One day, the big rains come. The billabong floods and flows over into the river.

Platypus warns, "Don't go near the big river or you might not be able to get back!"



Tidda wants to go exploring. "I don't think we should," says Bub. "Come on," says Tidda. "We've never been outside the billabong. Let's have an adventure!"

They surf the floodwater into the river. "Weeeee!" Tidda and Bub jump, dive and spin!



After all the fun, they stop to rest.

“Where are we?” asks Bub nervously. “I don’t know...” replies Tidda.



Tidda and Bub quickly hide behind some roots.

They watch as a big eel darts past them, chasing a small fish.



Shadows and strange creatures float all around them. "I'm scared," whispers Bub.

"Don't worry. I'll look after you," says Tidda. "And I'm hungry too," says Bub.



“Look! A juicy worm to eat,” says Tidda. As they swim towards it, Water Spider spins a web around the worm and whips it away!

“Careful. Those are a trap for fish like you,” Water Spider warns, as he glides away. Tidda and Bub see the hook. “That was close!” says Bub.



“Let’s go home Bub. Hmmm...I think this is the way,” says Tidda.
They swim on and come to a strange, swampy place. Birds swoop all around them.

“I’m sorry Bub. We really are lost. Let’s ask someone for help,” says Tidda.



They see a purple swamphen resting near the bank.
“What are you doing here in the wetlands?” asks Swamphen.

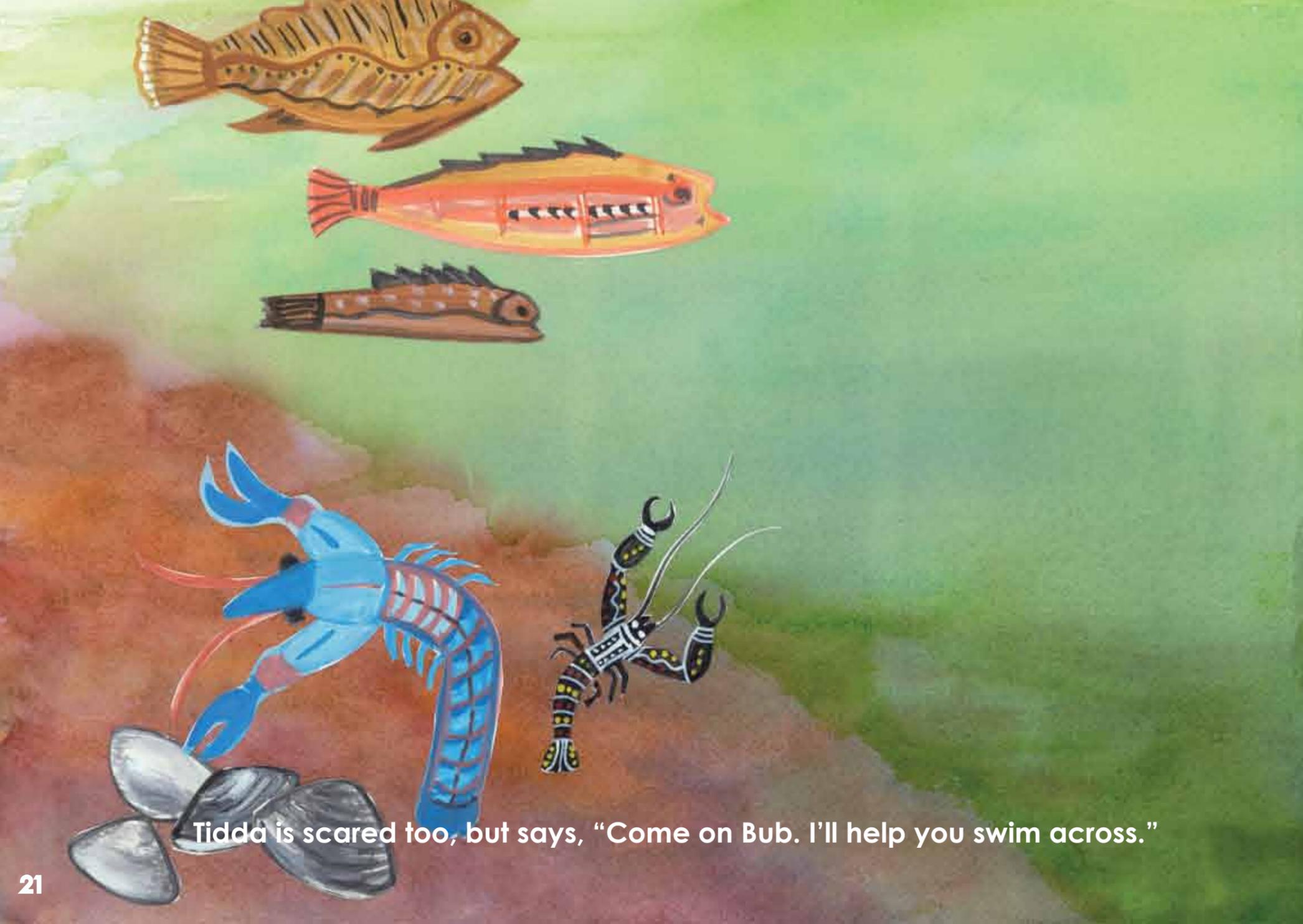


“We’re lost and need to get back to our billabong. Can you please help us?” says Tidda.

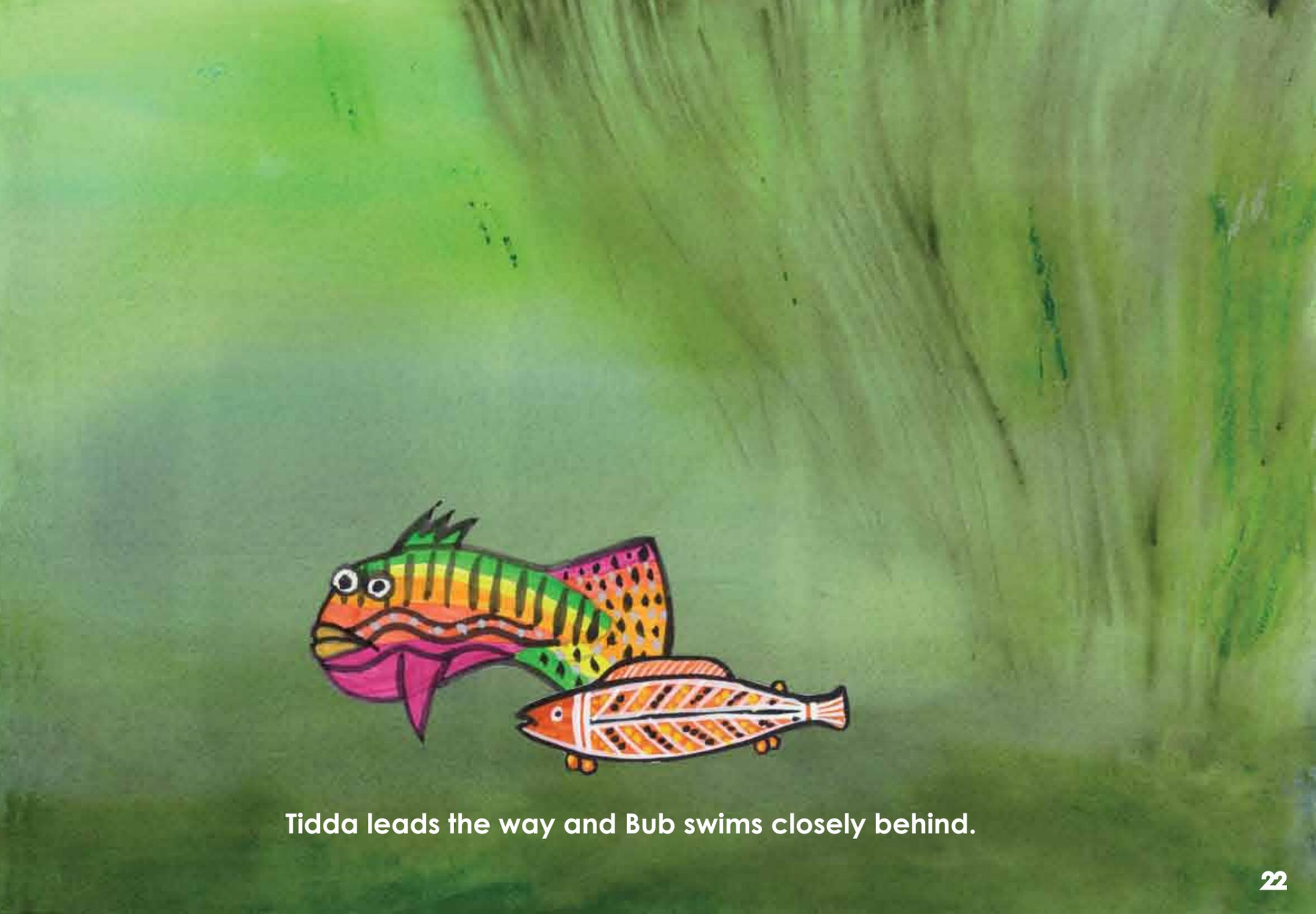


“Come with me, I’ll show you the way.”
Kind Swamphen starts to clear a path through the reeds.

“Swim across and you’ll find your way home,” says Swamphen.
But Bub is too scared to swim across the deep, dark water.



Tidda is scared too, but says, "Come on Bub. I'll help you swim across."



Tidda leads the way and Bub swims closely behind.



Suddenly, there is a big splash and Platypus appears.
"There you are!" says Platypus. "Everyone has been worried about you."

He leads them back to the safe waters of the billabong.



Back home, Tidda and Bub tell everyone the whole fishy tale.
“Thank you for looking after me Tidda. You were very brave,” says Bub.

Tidda says, “The world is a wonderful place, and it’s fun to explore but I learnt a lesson or two. Look before you dive in, and take care of yourself and others. But most of all, listen to wise, old Platypus.”

Glossary

Billabong – a large pond made when a river floods. When the flood goes down, the billabong is cut off from the river, and sometimes dries up.

Big rains/Wet season - A time of year when a lot of rain falls in some places. Rivers might flood, and many animals have to move to higher ground.

Bub – a nickname for a baby, young child or loved one.

Platypus – an Australian animal which lives partly on land and partly in water. It has fur, a bill like a duck, and lays eggs.

Swamphen – an Australian bird found in freshwater swamps and streams. It prefers to stay near the edge of the water in the reeds, which it eats and uses to build nests.

Tidda – Word commonly used by Aboriginal people. It means sister, sometimes a friend who is a girl.

Water Spider – a spider that lives at the edge of creeks and ponds. They can run across the water and also dive.

Wetlands – land that is very wet, such as swamps or marshes. Many types of plants, fish and animals make their homes in wetlands.



