

Toad Swims for his Life!



Jill Atkins
David Mostyn



What is the story about?

At the Animal Games, Toad is swimming in the 50 metres race. When he sees who else is in the race he is very frightened. A shark, a snake, a tiger and a crocodile are his opponents and they all threaten to eat him. But Toad thinks of a clever trick to make them quarrel among themselves and chase each other, so Toad swims to safety and wins the race.

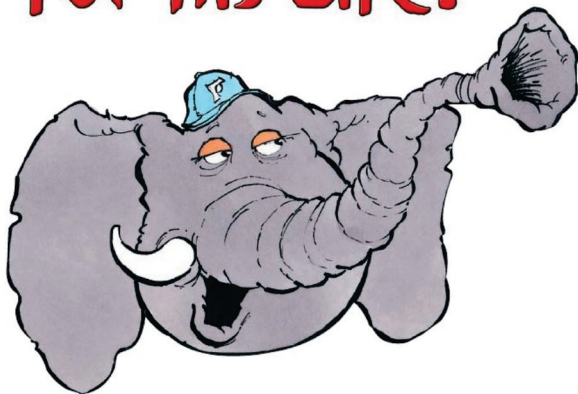
Talk together

Look at the cover and read the title together. Talk about the cover illustration, and ask your child what Toad is doing. Look together through the book and at the illustrations. Find the characters in the illustrations and their names in the text. Point out the use of speech bubbles and thought bubbles.

Read the story

- Encourage your child to read the story aloud to you, and join in with the enjoyment of the story.
- As your child turns the pages, check they are reading the text and speech bubbles in an order that makes sense, rereading if necessary.
- If your child misreads words, ask him/her to reread the sentence and check it makes sense, but don't let your child struggle for long or the sense of the story may be lost.
- Occasionally ask your child to show you who is speaking the words in speech bubbles by pointing to the character.
- On page 5, encourage your child to emphasise the 'sss' sound in the snake's words. Say, "Can you make it sound like a hissing snake?"
- On page 6, if your child has difficulty reading 'fierce' ask him/her to look at the picture of Tiger, and to think of a word beginning with 'f' that makes sense.
- On page 18, ask your child to follow the text with a finger.
- At the end of the story, ask your child if they think Toad is clever.

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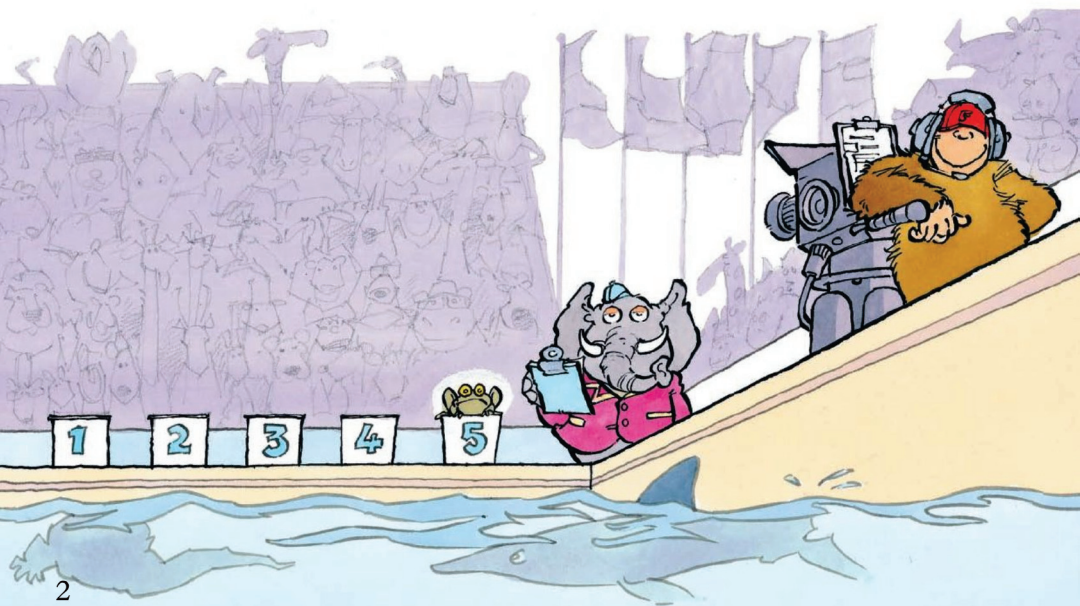


Story by Jill Atkins
Pictures by David Mostyn

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Welcome to the Animal Games

Toad shivered as he stood at the end of the pool.
It was his big day. He was going to swim in the
50 metres race. There was a big crowd at the pool.



**Toad peered down into the blue water.
When he saw the other swimmers, his
heart began to beat faster.**

**Do I have to swim
against them?**



But at that moment, a loud voice boomed out.




Welcome

In Lane One we have
Shelley Shark,
Champion of the Sea.

Don't get in my
way or I will rip you
all to shreds.

Toad clamped his mouth shut. He
tried to put on a brave face.

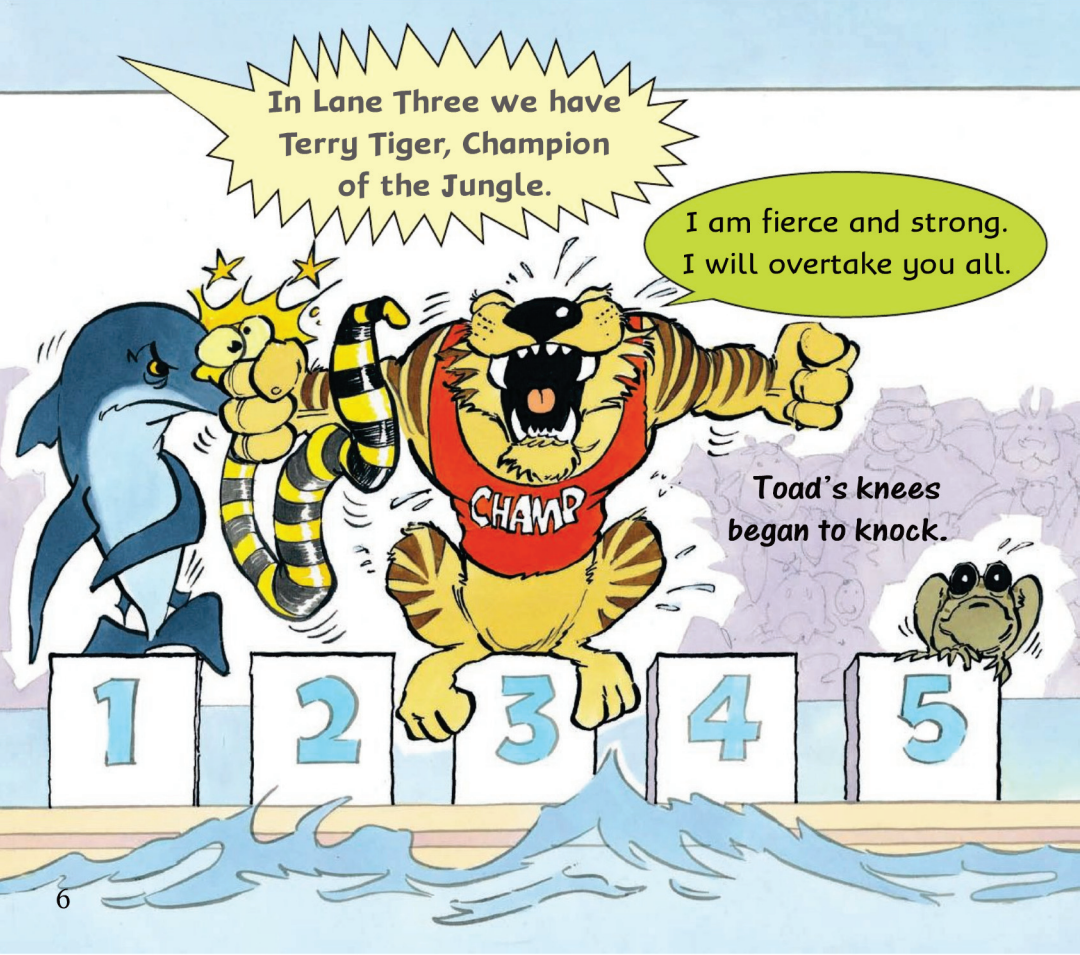




In Lane Two we have
Sammy the Water Snake,
Champion of the Lake.

Ssss!
See... Sam... slide...
...so...smoothly...
...and swim-with-such-
speed.

Toad's
eyes almost
popped off
the top of his
head.



In Lane Three we have
Terry Tiger, Champion
of the Jungle.

I am fierce and strong.
I will overtake you all.

Toad's knees
began to knock.

In Lane Four we have Carly
Crocodile, Champion of the River.

Snap, snap, snap! I make it snappy.
Anything snappy makes me happy.

Toad was
wobbling like
a jelly.



Toad wanted to go home. He did not stand a chance against all these other animals. Slowly, he began to crawl away from the pool. Suddenly, he heard his name.



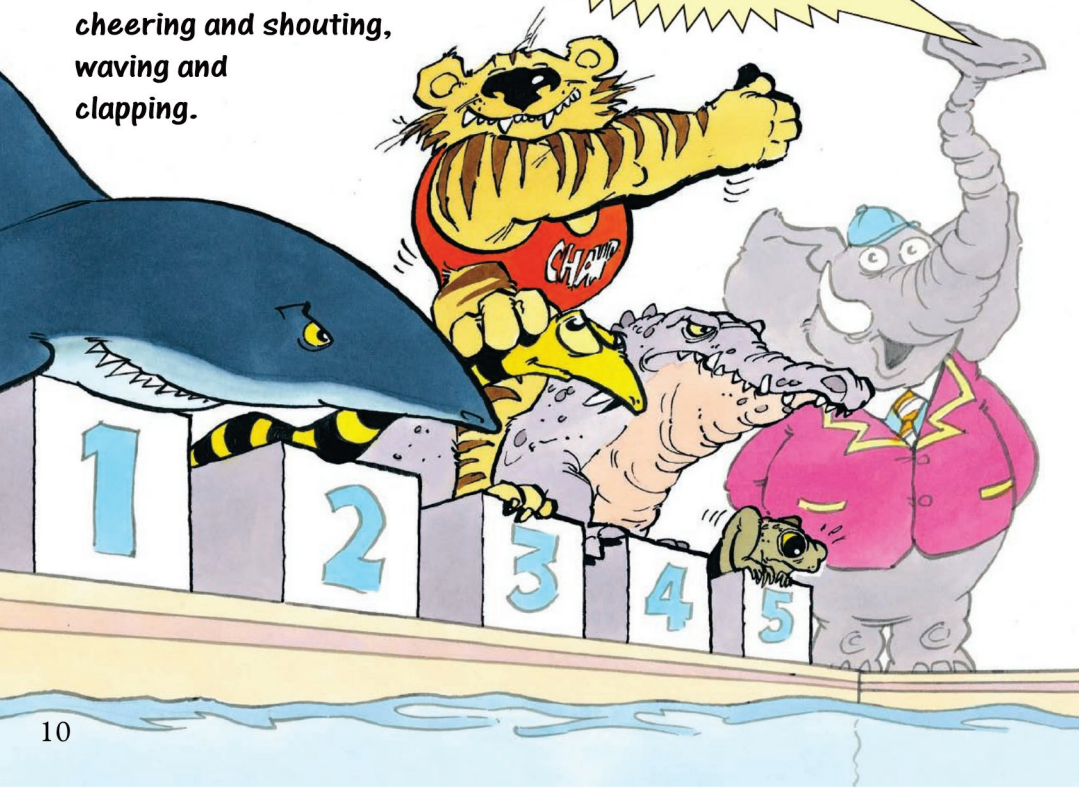
And last, in Lane Five,
we have Tommy Toad,
Champion of the Pond.

I am very small
and my legs are not
very long, but I will
do my best.

The crowd cheered. Toad could not get away now!

The race was about to start.
The crowd was
cheering and shouting,
waving and
clapping.

On your marks!





Toad was as jumpy as a Jack-in-the-Box, but he crawled to the edge of the pool and was about to plop into the water when suddenly...

Carly Crocodile began to snap.

Your little bones will crunch when I have you for my lunch.



Terry Tiger began to growl.

My legs are strong. I swim like a fish. You will make a tasty dish.



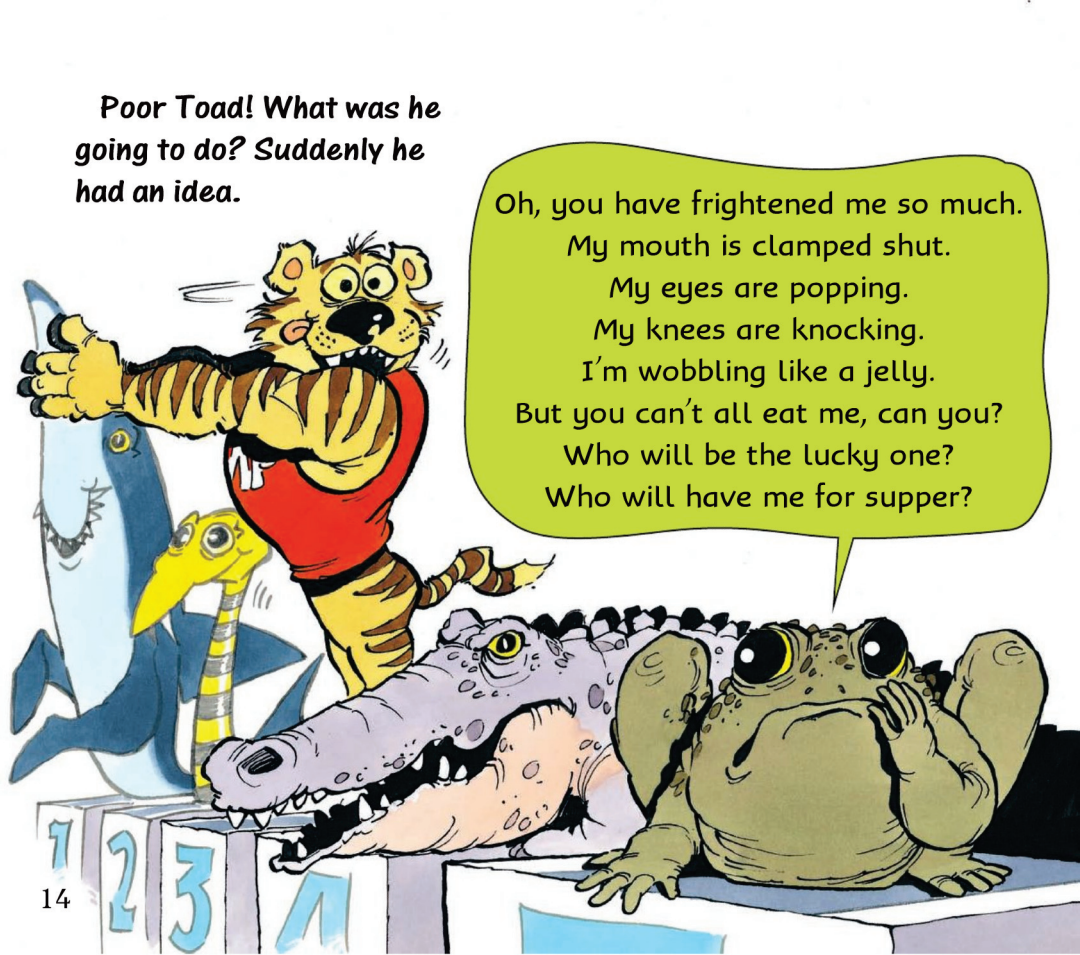
Sam Snake began to hiss.



Shelley Shark began to snarl.



Poor Toad! What was he going to do? Suddenly he had an idea.



Oh, you have frightened me so much.
My mouth is clamped shut.
My eyes are popping.
My knees are knocking.
I'm wobbling like a jelly.
But you can't all eat me, can you?
Who will be the lucky one?
Who will have me for supper?



I will!

I will!

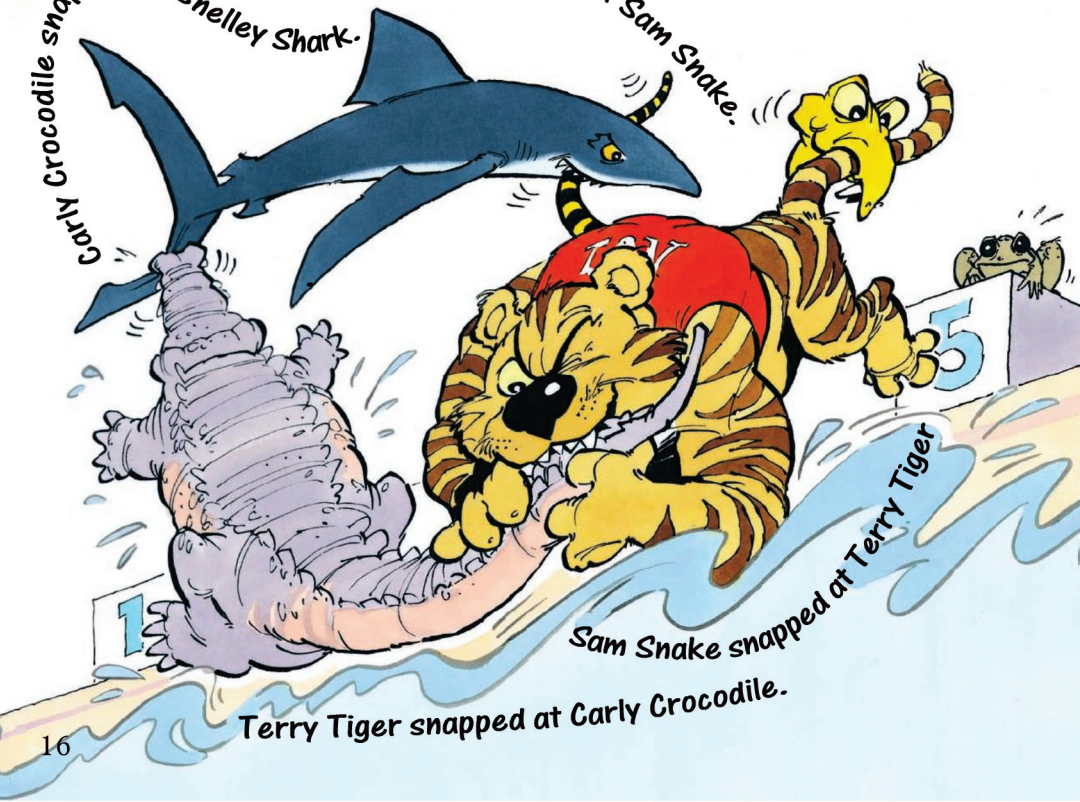
Get set!

I will!

I will!

Then Shelley Shark snapped at Sam Snake.

Carly Crocodile snapped at Shelley Shark.



Sam Snake snapped at Terry Tiger.

Terry Tiger snapped at Carly Crocodile.

They went round and round in a circle, faster and faster and faster. Toad watched them for a moment then he smiled.

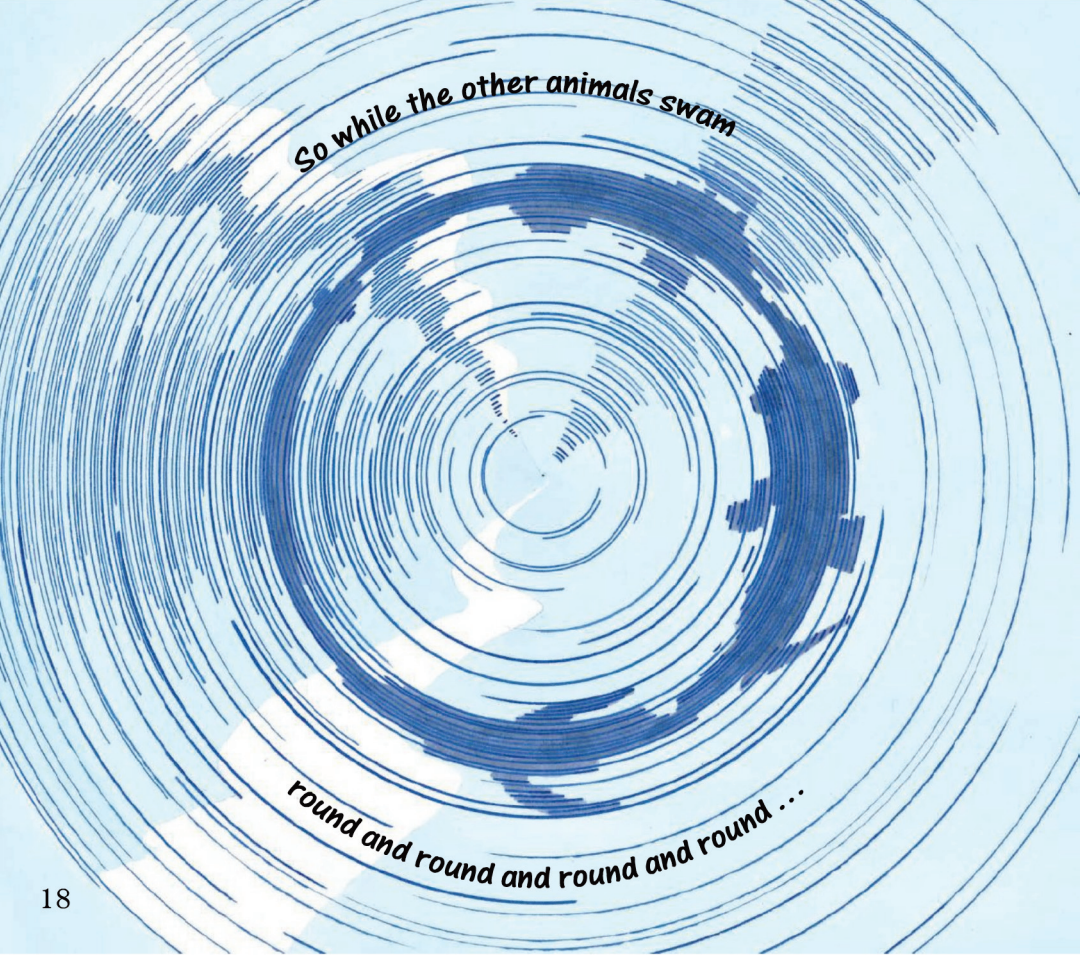
Go!

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5

They are so silly. They have forgotten all about me.






So while the other animals swam

round and round and round and round ...

... Toad plopped into the water and began to swim. He swam and he swam. It was such a long way to the other end of the pool for such a tiny toad. The crowd cheered and clapped and shouted.

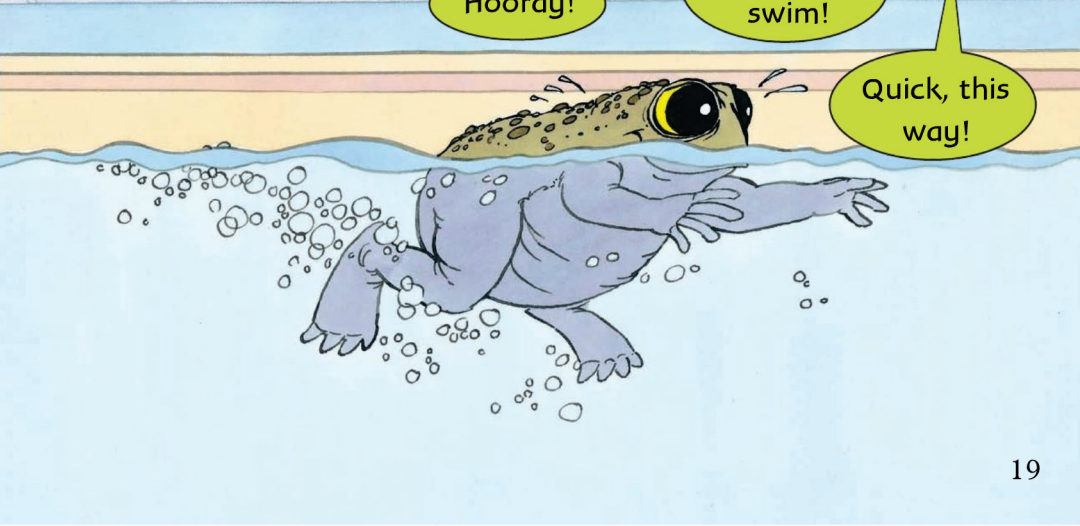


Come on,
Toad!

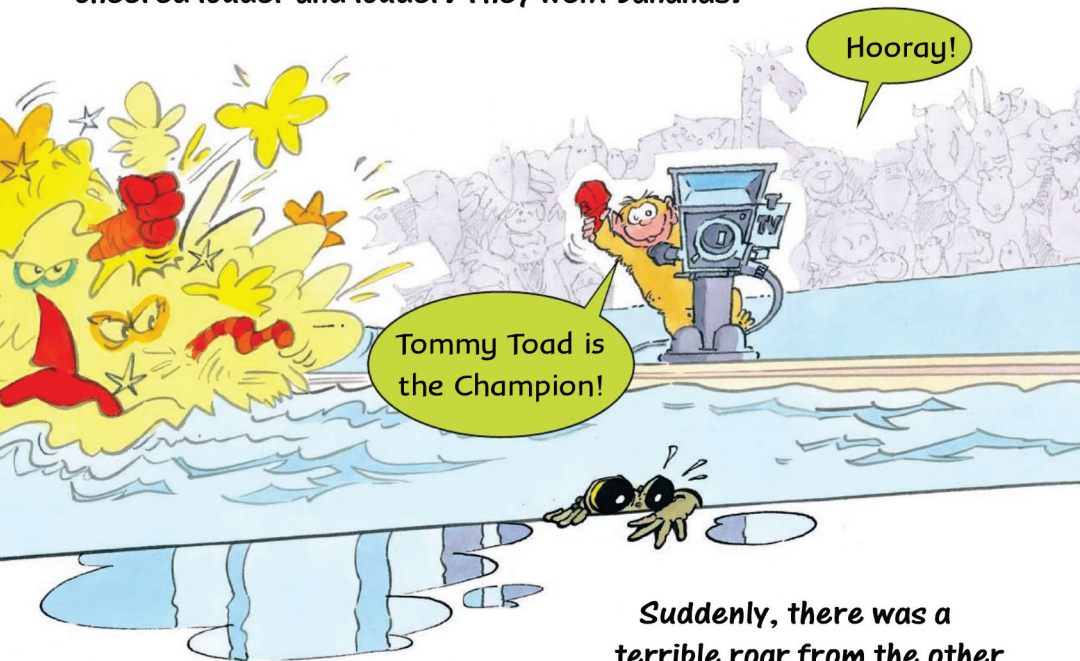
Hooray!

Swim, Toad,
swim!

Quick, this
way!



At last, he reached the end of the pool. The crowd cheered louder and louder. They went bananas!



Suddenly, there was a terrible roar from the other end of the pool.

The other animals had stopped swimming round and round.

Quick, Toad!

You don't want one of them to eat you after all, do you?

Get out of the water!

ROAR!





Toad quickly climbed out of the water.

**He did not want to be Carly Crocodile's lunch
or Sam Snake's snack
or Terry Tiger's dish
or Shelley Shark's tea!**



But when he saw what had happened to the other animals he began to laugh.

They were all so dizzy they could not swim at all!

A lady
gave the cup
to Toad.

Well done, Toad!
You were so clever!
You were so brave!
You are the Champion!



Oh, they didn't really
frighten me at all.

Play a game

Same letters

This game will help your child recognise alliteration, which will help him/her write stories and poems.

- Talk with your child about the characters in the story.
- Ask your child to find which character's names begin with the same letter. (Shelley Shark, Sam Snake, Terry Tiger, Carly Crocodile)
- Talk about the other characters, including Toad and those unnamed in the illustrations, such as Elephant.
- Ask your child to think of alliterative names for Toad and Elephant, such as Timmy Toad and Edgar Elephant.

Other ideas

- Ask your child to draw a picture of Toad, and write a sentence describing him.

Story by Jill Atkins
Pictures by David Mostyn

Toad Swims for his Life!

Toad goes to the Animal Games and has a race with some very fierce animals.



This story practises these words:

but don't have make or them so will water

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Hero

Toad Swims for his Life

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