



ISBN 2-87142-294-X

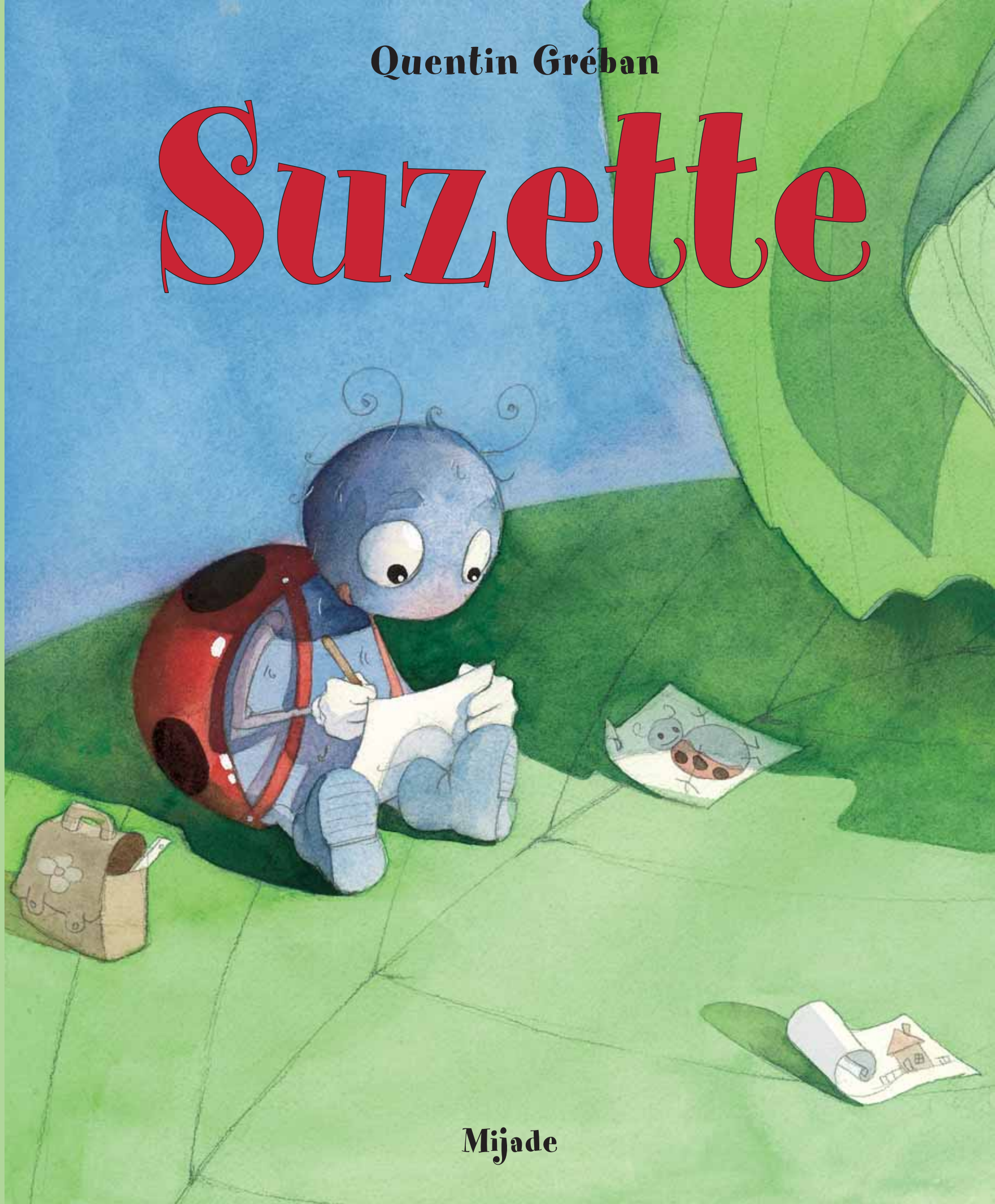
Quentin Gréban

Suzette

Mijade

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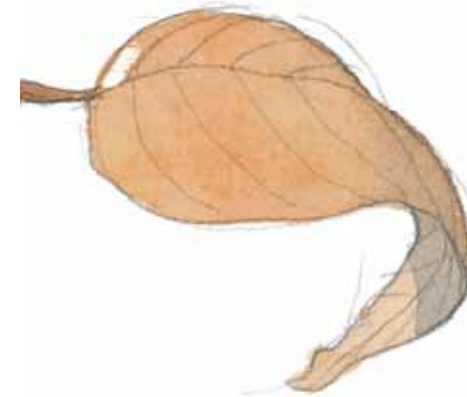
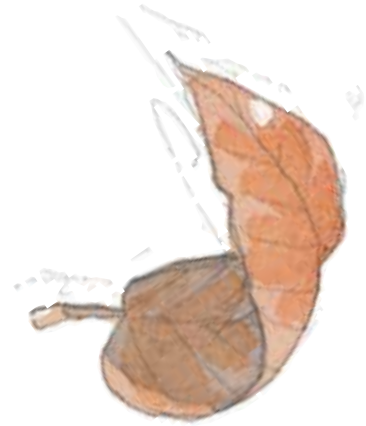


For Moucky and Daddy

Q.G.

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Suzette



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18, rue de l'Ouvrage,
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D/2001/3712/27
ISBN 2-87142-294-X

Printed in Belgium

Mijade



Suzette is a very small ladybug
with three black spots on her back.



She doesn't know much,
but she does know what she will be when she grows up:
She will be an artist!



Suzette likes to draw
the orange sky at sunset,
the blue water,
and any human that she encounters.



One day Suzette is sitting quietly on her daisy
when she sees a grasshopper bounce by.
She immediately begins to draw her.



But it is not easy to draw a grasshopper,
especially when she never stops moving.
The grasshopper bounces away with big hops.

Suzette chases after her.

The grasshopper bounces very high
and very far. Soon Suzette falls behind
and she turns back to her daisy.
But where is her daisy?
Suzette does'nt know. She is lost!
Suzette feels like crying.
She calls for her mommy,
but her mommy doesn't answer.

All she hears is a rumbling storm.

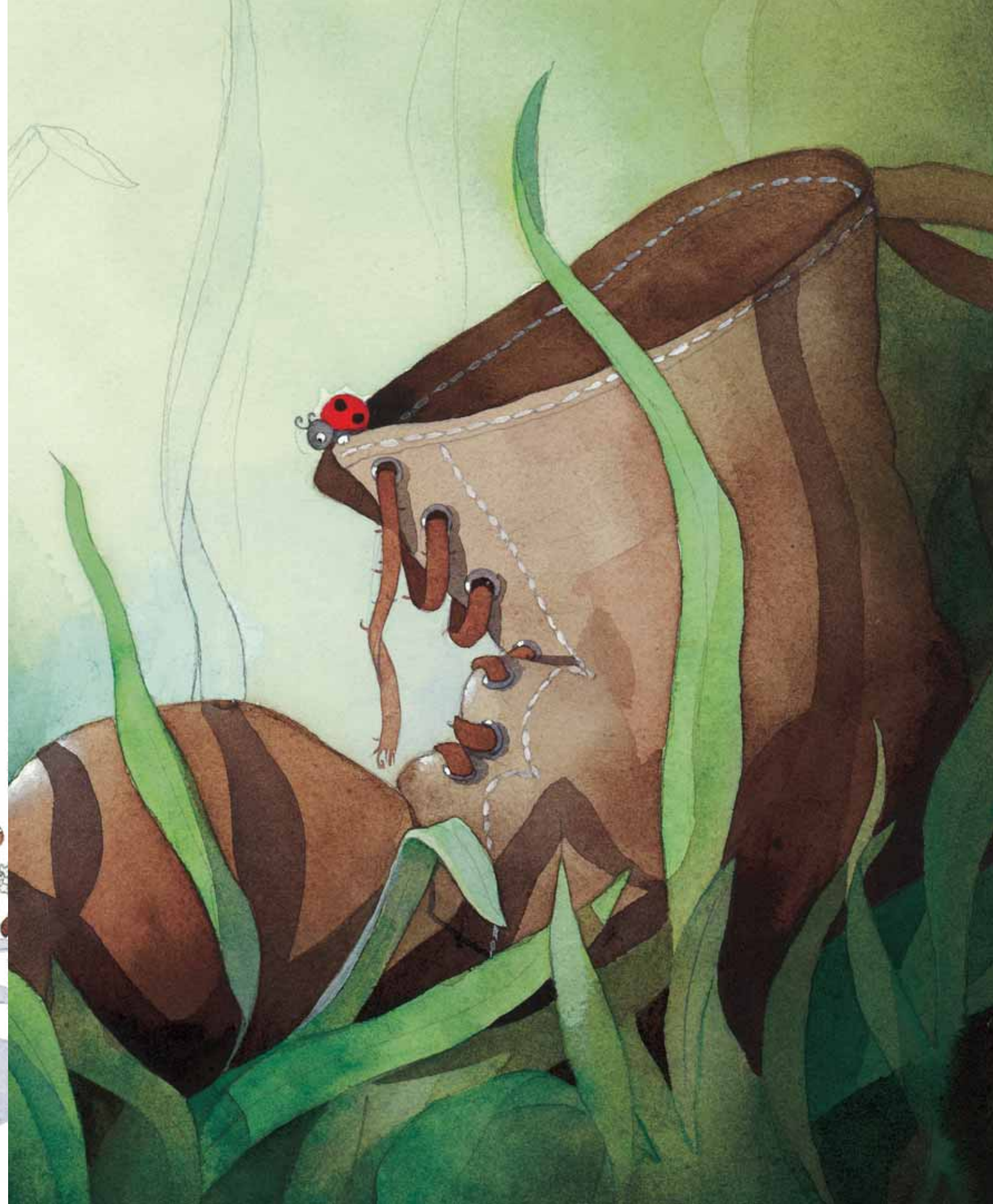




The first raindrops start to fall.
Suzette, trembling, runs for shelter.
She is so tired that she slips in a puddle.
“If this was only a bad dream!” she thinks.
She closes her eyes and falls asleep,
hoping to be awakened
by her mother’s sweet kisses.



The next day Suzette is found by a colony of ants.
When they see the sad little ladybug,
they know that something is wrong.



“What’s the matter little one?” asks one of the ants.
“What are you doing here all by yourself?”

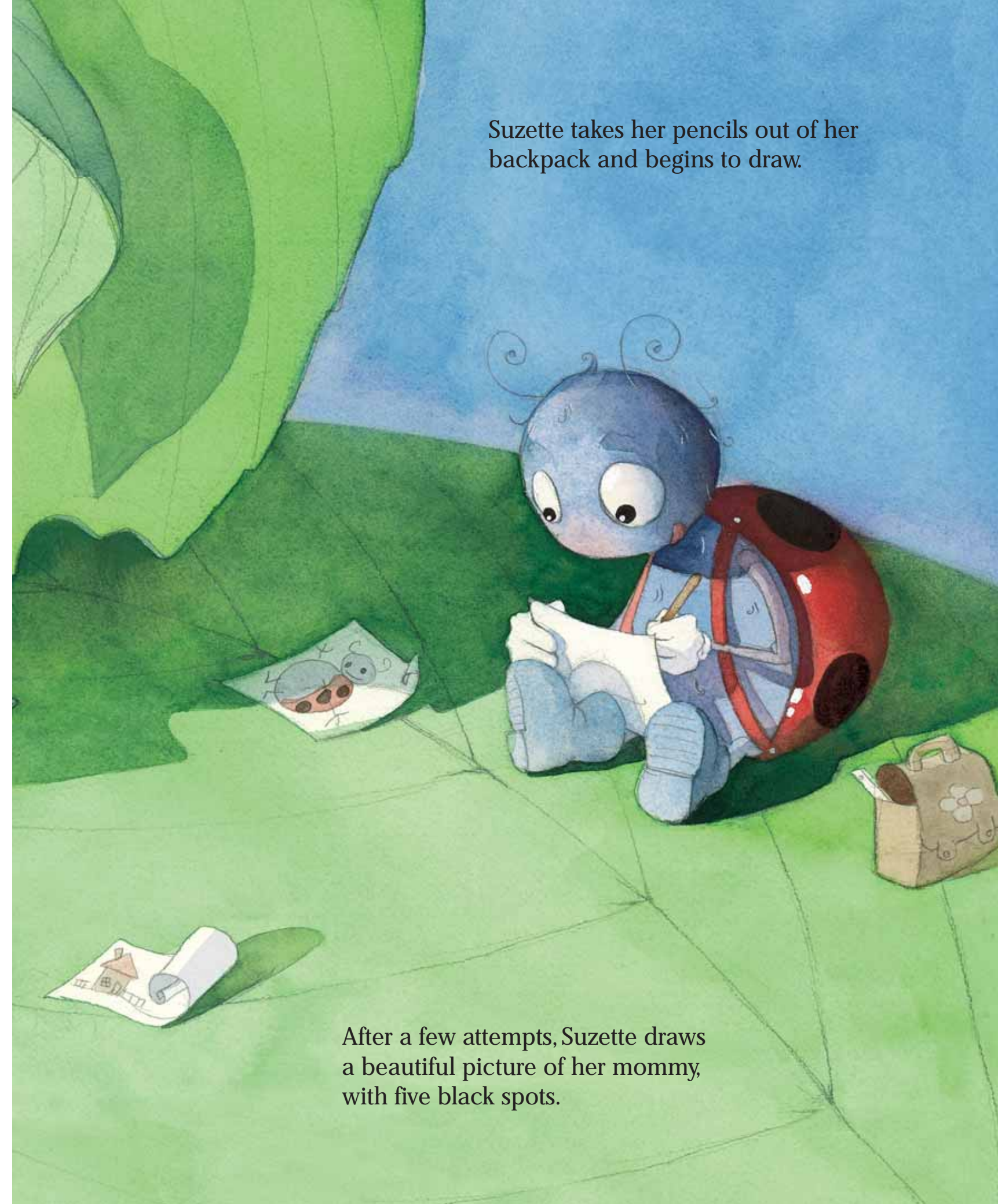
“I am lost”, sobs Suzette,
“and I am looking for my mommy.”



“What does your mommy look like?”
asks another ant. Suzette sighs.

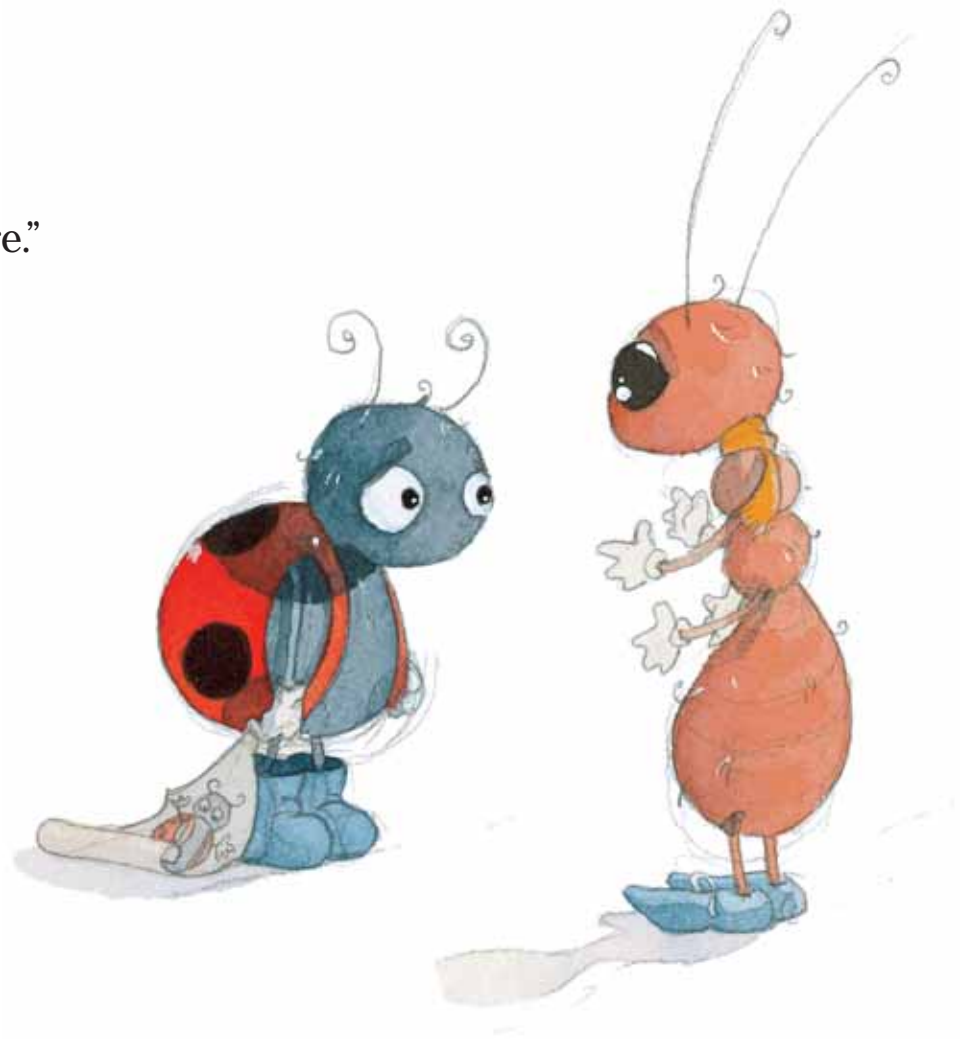
“Mommy looks just like me,
but she has five spots instead of three
and she gives very sweet kisses.”

Suzette takes her pencils out of her
backpack and begins to draw.



After a few attempts, Suzette draws
a beautiful picture of her mommy,
with five black spots.

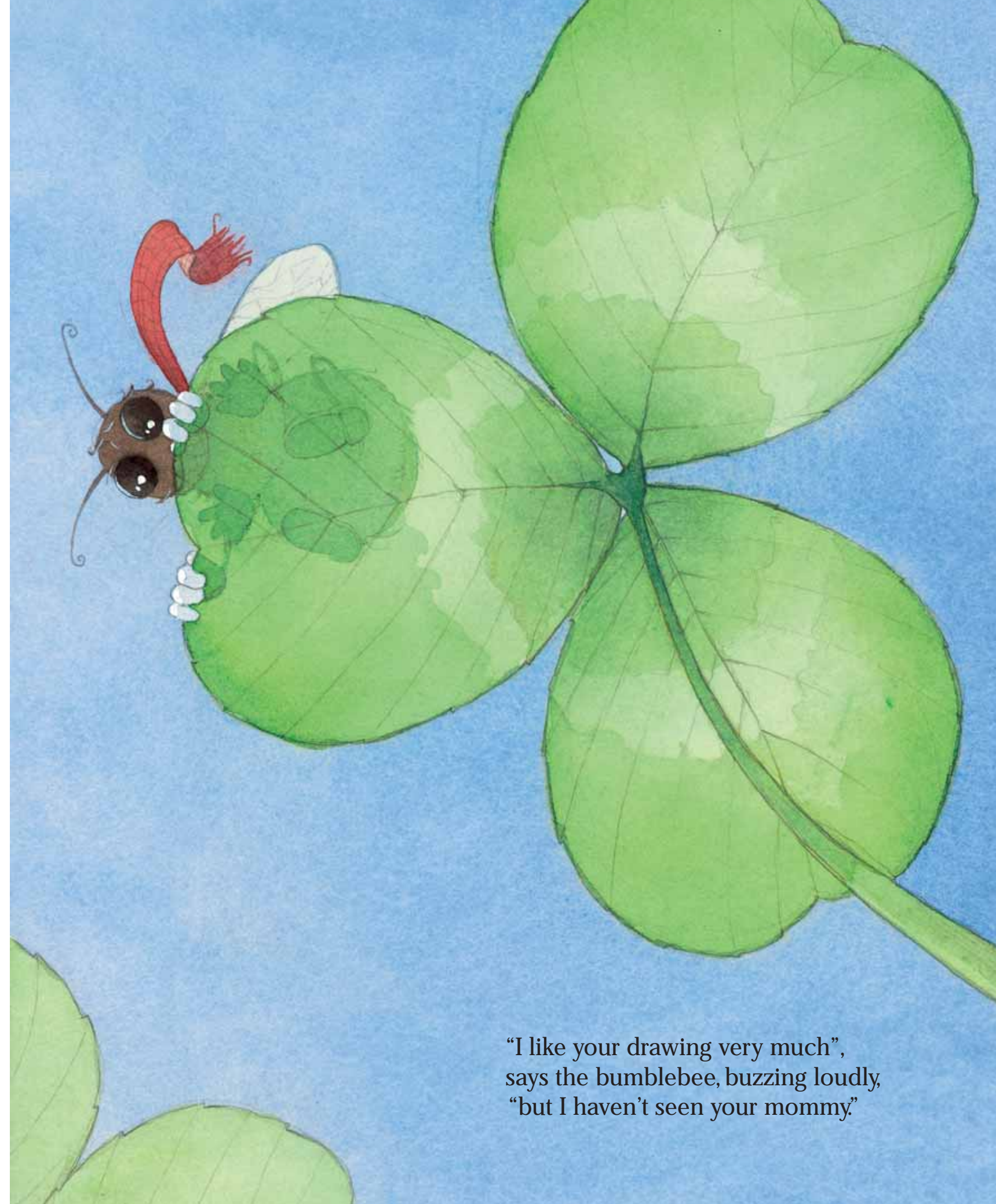
“That’s a really pretty mommy
you’ve got there”, says the ant,
“but I haven’t seen her anywhere.”



Suzette is disappointed, but just then
she sees a bumblebee busy gathering pollen.

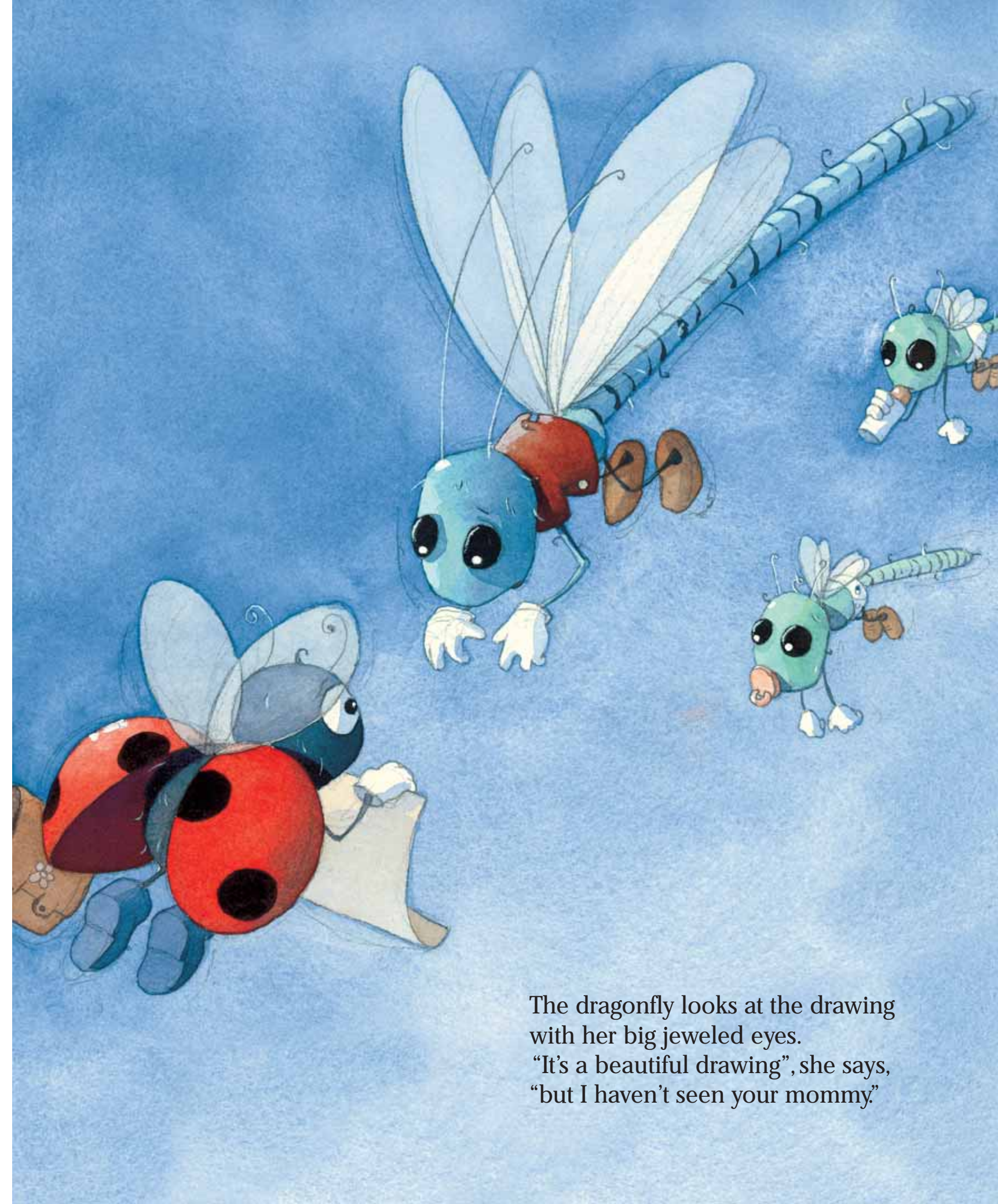
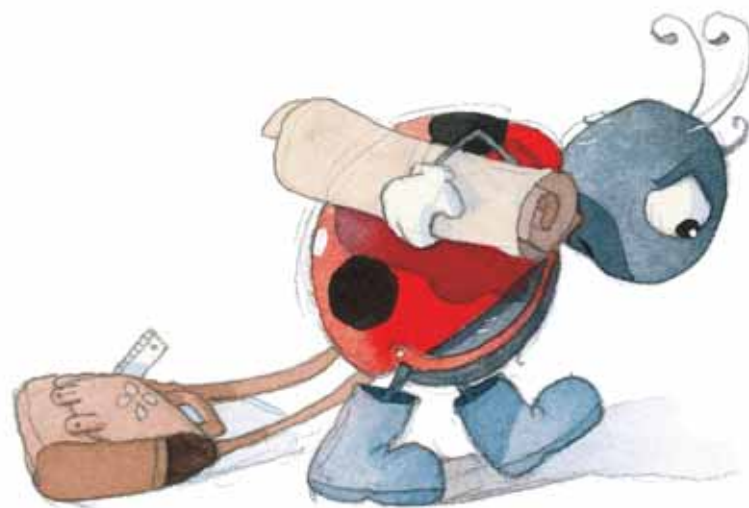


“Excuse me, sir,” she says,
for she is a very polite ladybug.
“I’m looking for my mommy.
Have you seen her?”
She shows the bumblebee her drawing.



“I like your drawing very much”,
says the bumblebee, buzzing loudly,
“but I haven’t seen your mommy.”

Suzette heads for a pond.
A dragonfly is gliding over the water
on her transparent wings.
Her babies hover behind her.
“Excuse me”, Suzette says.
“I’m looking for my mommy.
Have you seen her?”

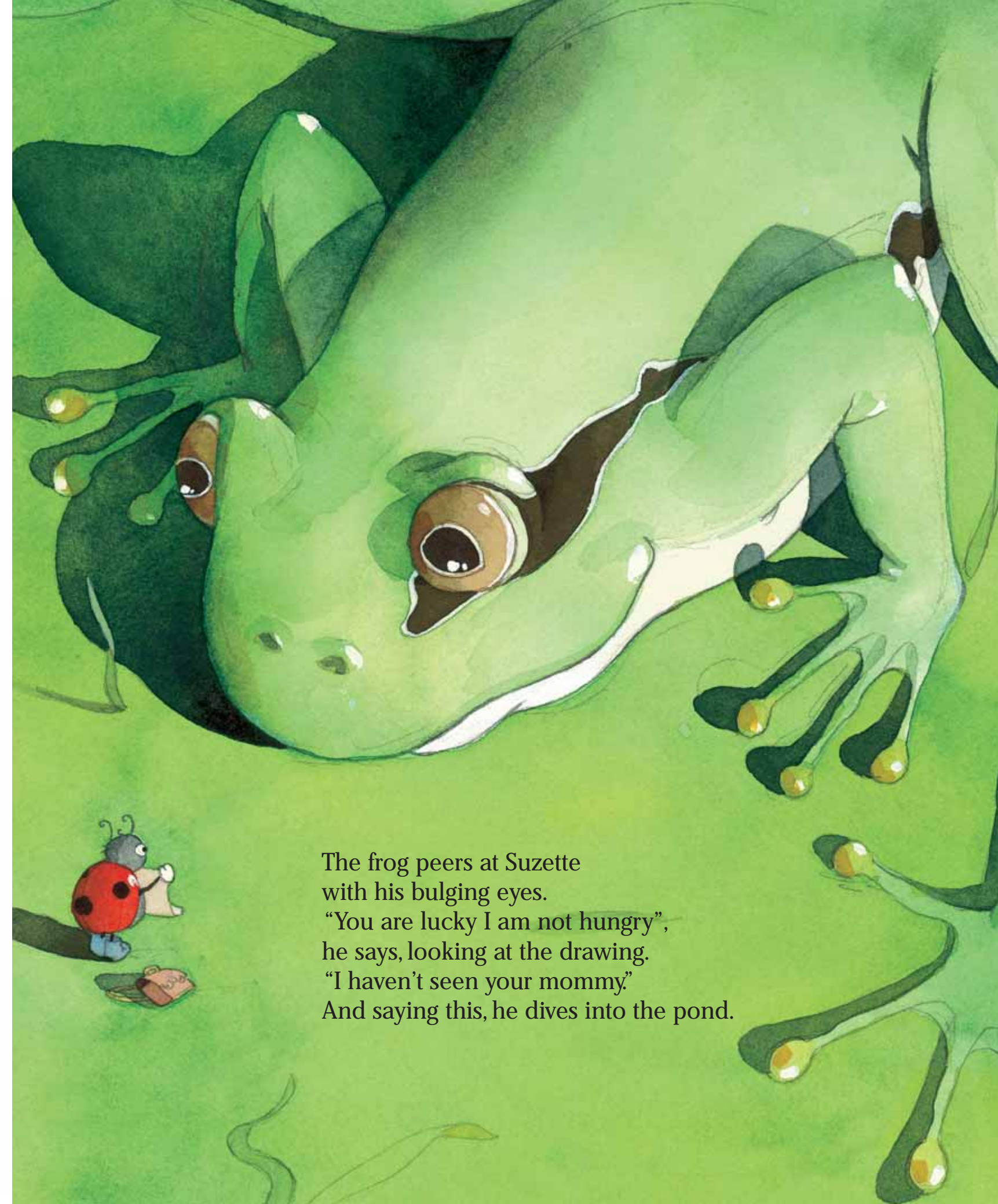


The dragonfly looks at the drawing
with her big jeweled eyes.
“It’s a beautiful drawing”, she says,
“but I haven’t seen your mommy.”

A few steps away, Suzette spies a frog.
Uh-oh! Her mommy told her that frogs
love to eat little ladybigs!
Suzette cautiously inches closer.



“Please don’t eat me”, she says.
“I’m looking for my mommy.
Have you seen her?”



The frog peers at Suzette
with his bulging eyes.
“You are lucky I am not hungry”,
he says, looking at the drawing.
“I haven’t seen your mommy.”
And saying this, he dives into the pond.



An otter pops his head out of the pond.
“Excuse me”, Suzette says.
“I’m looking for my mommy. Have you seen her?”
The otter looks at Suzette’s drawing.
“That is a marvelous drawing”, he says.
“But I haven’t seen your mommy”.



Disheartened, Suzette plops down
at the foot of a mushroom.
“If only I had stayed on my daisy!”
she weeps.



She looks at her drawing again
and now it doesn't look like her
mommy at all!



Is that why nobody recognized her?
Suzette is so mad that she rips
the drawing to pieces.

“Oh no! I hope you haven't torn your beautiful drawing”,
comes a voice from behind Suzette.
She turns around and there is the ant, the bumblebee,
the dragonfly, the frog, the otter - AND HER MOMMY!





Suzette jumps up and throws her arms around her mommy's neck.
Best of all, her mommy still gives very sweet kisses.



“Everybody recognized me from your beautiful drawing”, says her mommy.
Indeed, her mommy does have five black spots on her back.

