

My Journey: A drop of Water

By Finley Brady

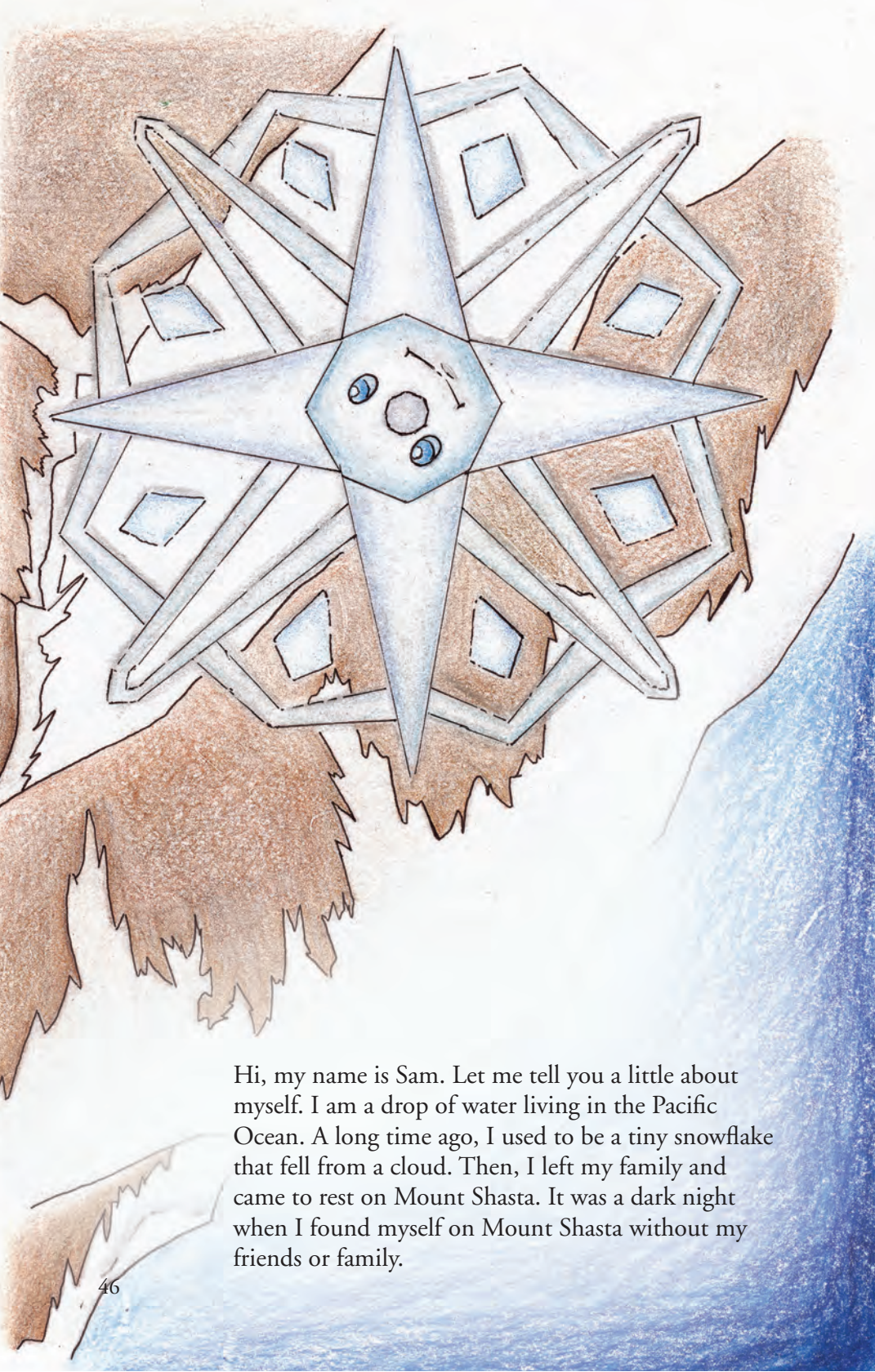
- 6th grade -

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School

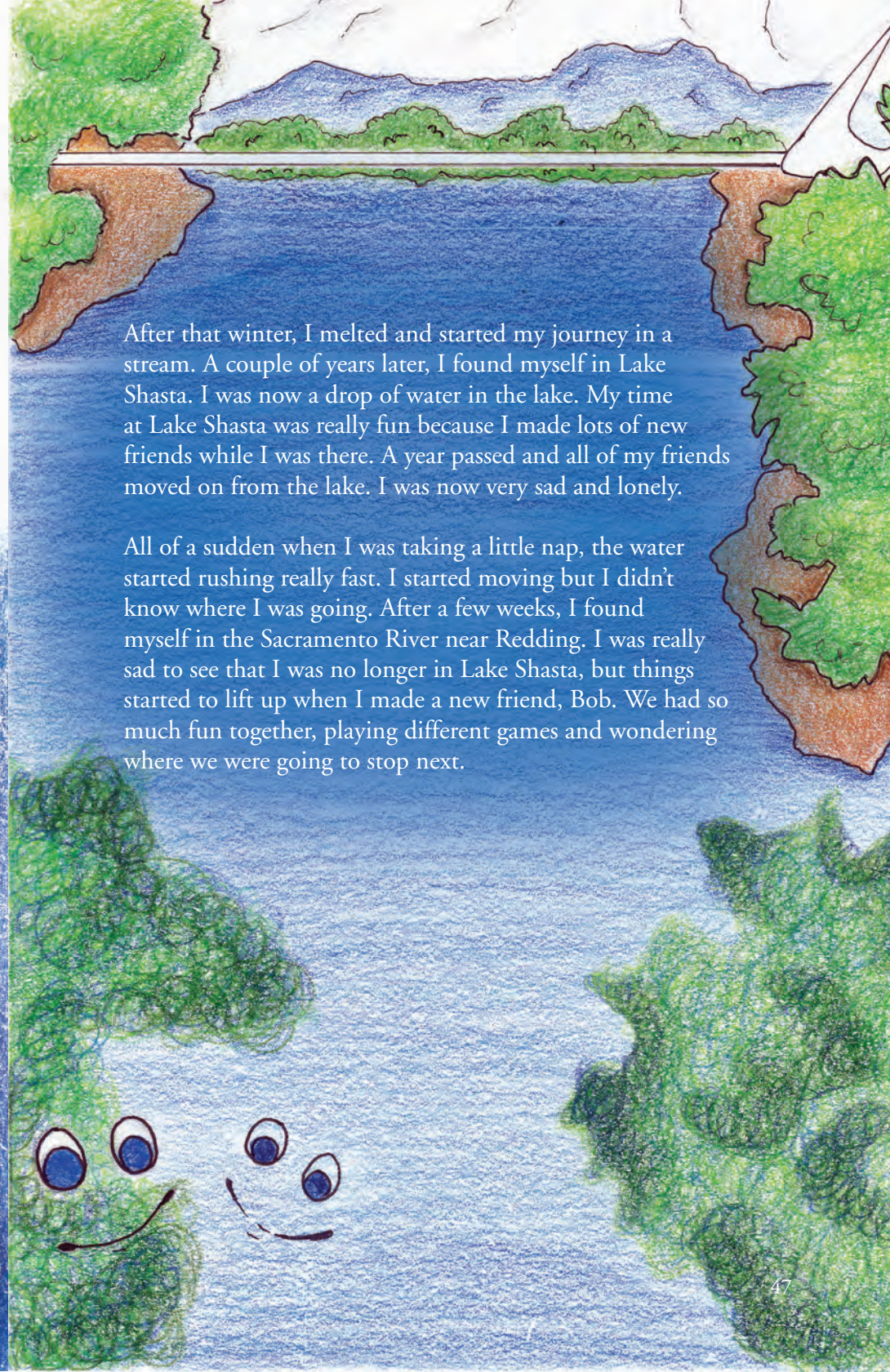
Star Pedron, Teacher

Stanislaus County

Illustrated by Florin High School



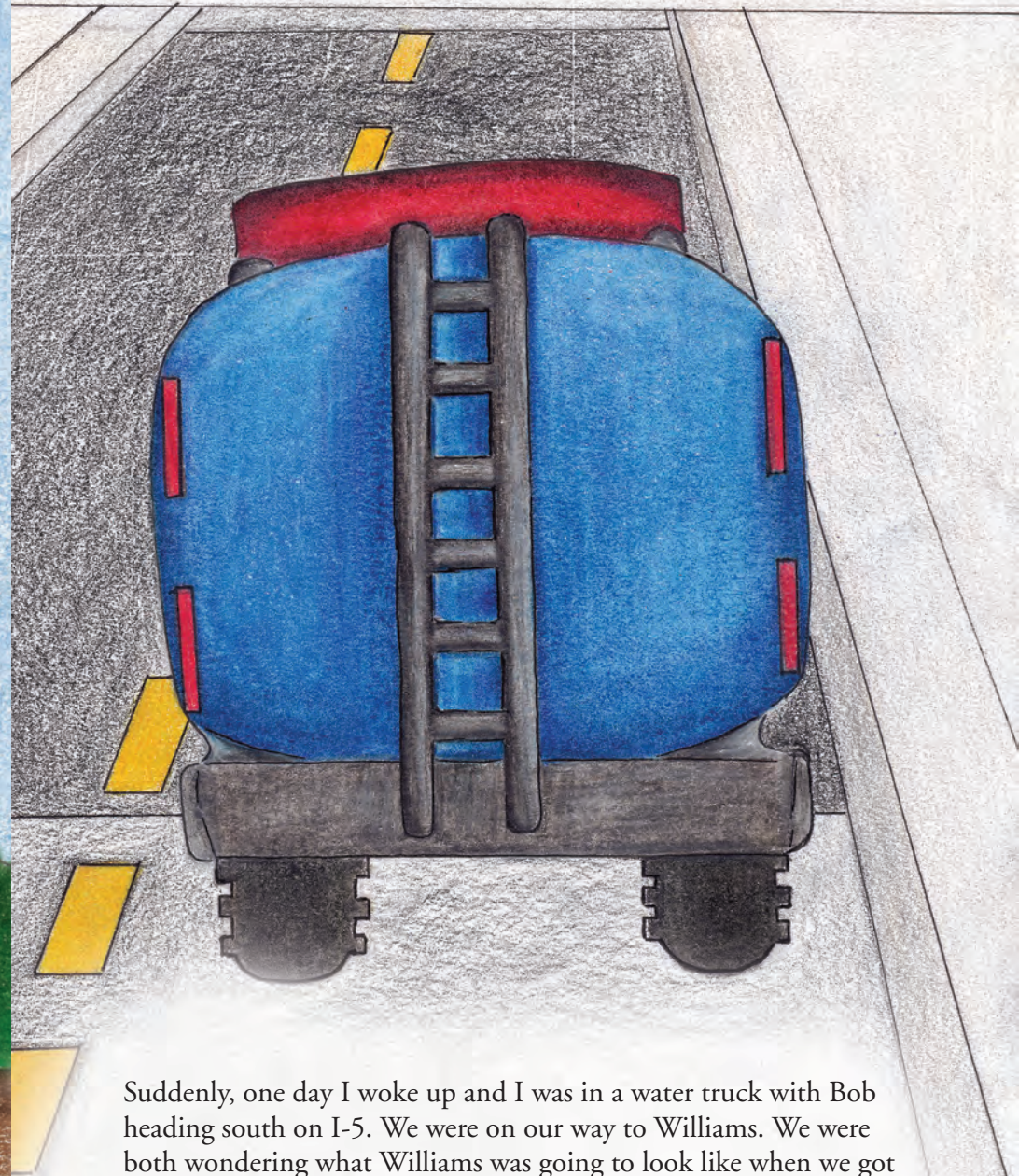
Hi, my name is Sam. Let me tell you a little about myself. I am a drop of water living in the Pacific Ocean. A long time ago, I used to be a tiny snowflake that fell from a cloud. Then, I left my family and came to rest on Mount Shasta. It was a dark night when I found myself on Mount Shasta without my friends or family.



After that winter, I melted and started my journey in a stream. A couple of years later, I found myself in Lake Shasta. I was now a drop of water in the lake. My time at Lake Shasta was really fun because I made lots of new friends while I was there. A year passed and all of my friends moved on from the lake. I was now very sad and lonely.

All of a sudden when I was taking a little nap, the water started rushing really fast. I started moving but I didn't know where I was going. After a few weeks, I found myself in the Sacramento River near Redding. I was really sad to see that I was no longer in Lake Shasta, but things started to lift up when I made a new friend, Bob. We had so much fun together, playing different games and wondering where we were going to stop next.

Then one day, a truck came along and sucked Bob and I out of the river and pumped us into a water tower. I was very curious if I was ever going to get out of the water tower in Redding and so was Bob. A whole year passed while Bob and I hung out in the water tower. It was dark in there and we wondered if we would ever see the light of day again.

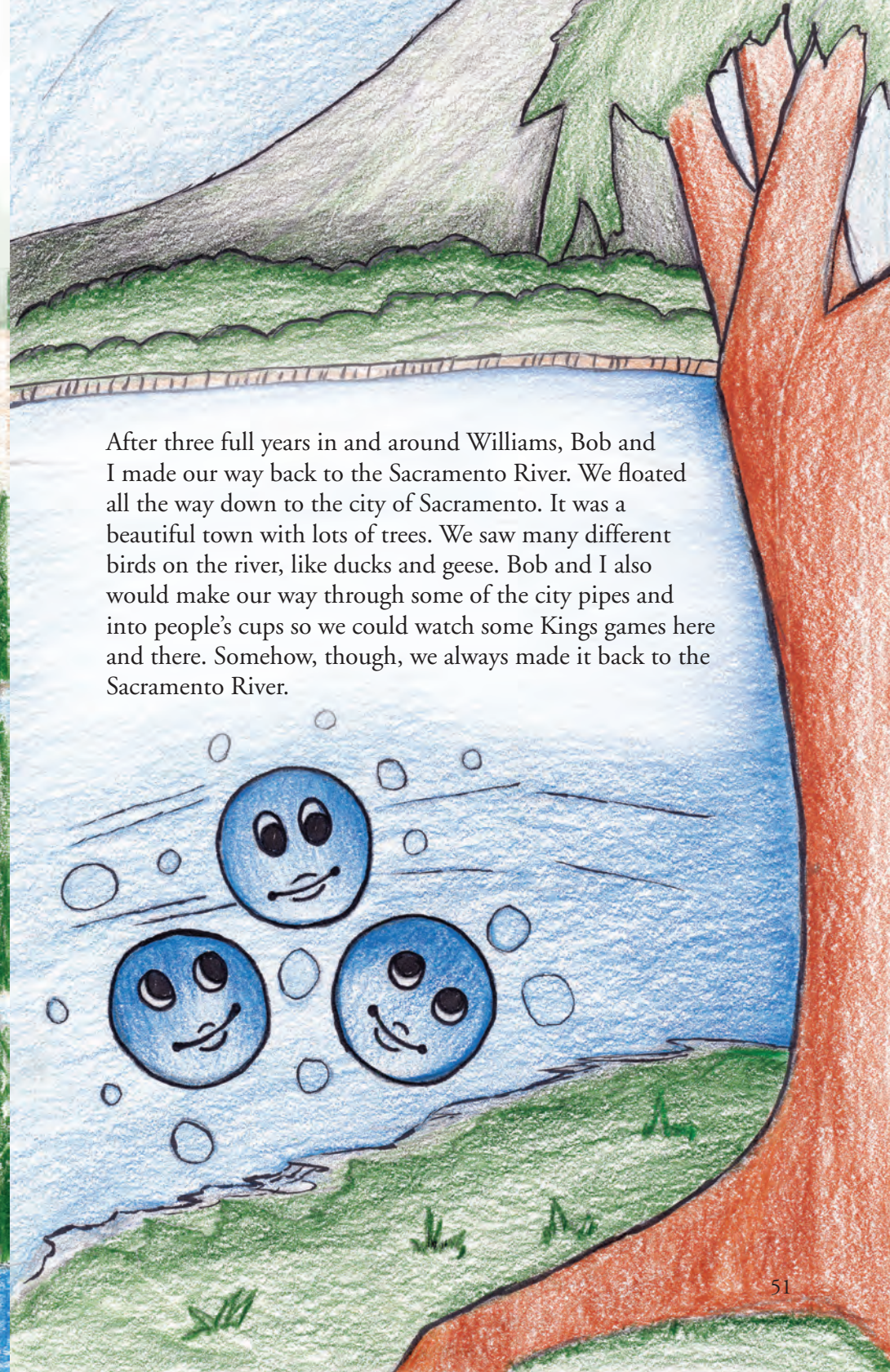


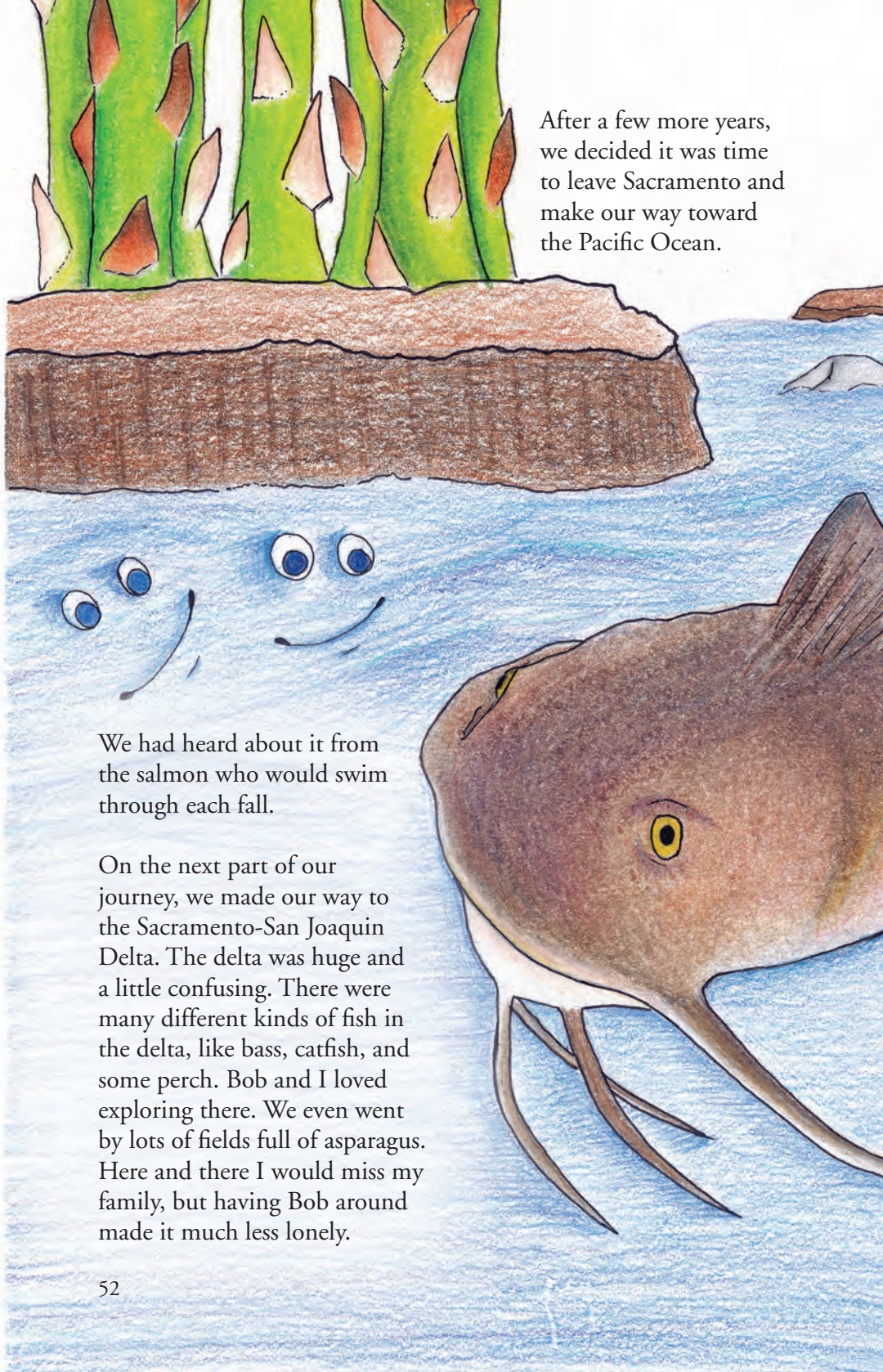
Suddenly, one day I woke up and I was in a water truck with Bob heading south on I-5. We were on our way to Williams. We were both wondering what Williams was going to look like when we got there. Williams ended up being nice and a very sweet town. There were also lots of crops to water in Williams, like rice and tomatoes.

We ended up being sprayed onto a road and trickled into a rice field. We hung out in that rice field and a bunch of different irrigation canals for another couple of years. I had the best time in Williams with Bob.



After three full years in and around Williams, Bob and I made our way back to the Sacramento River. We floated all the way down to the city of Sacramento. It was a beautiful town with lots of trees. We saw many different birds on the river, like ducks and geese. Bob and I also would make our way through some of the city pipes and into people's cups so we could watch some Kings games here and there. Somehow, though, we always made it back to the Sacramento River.





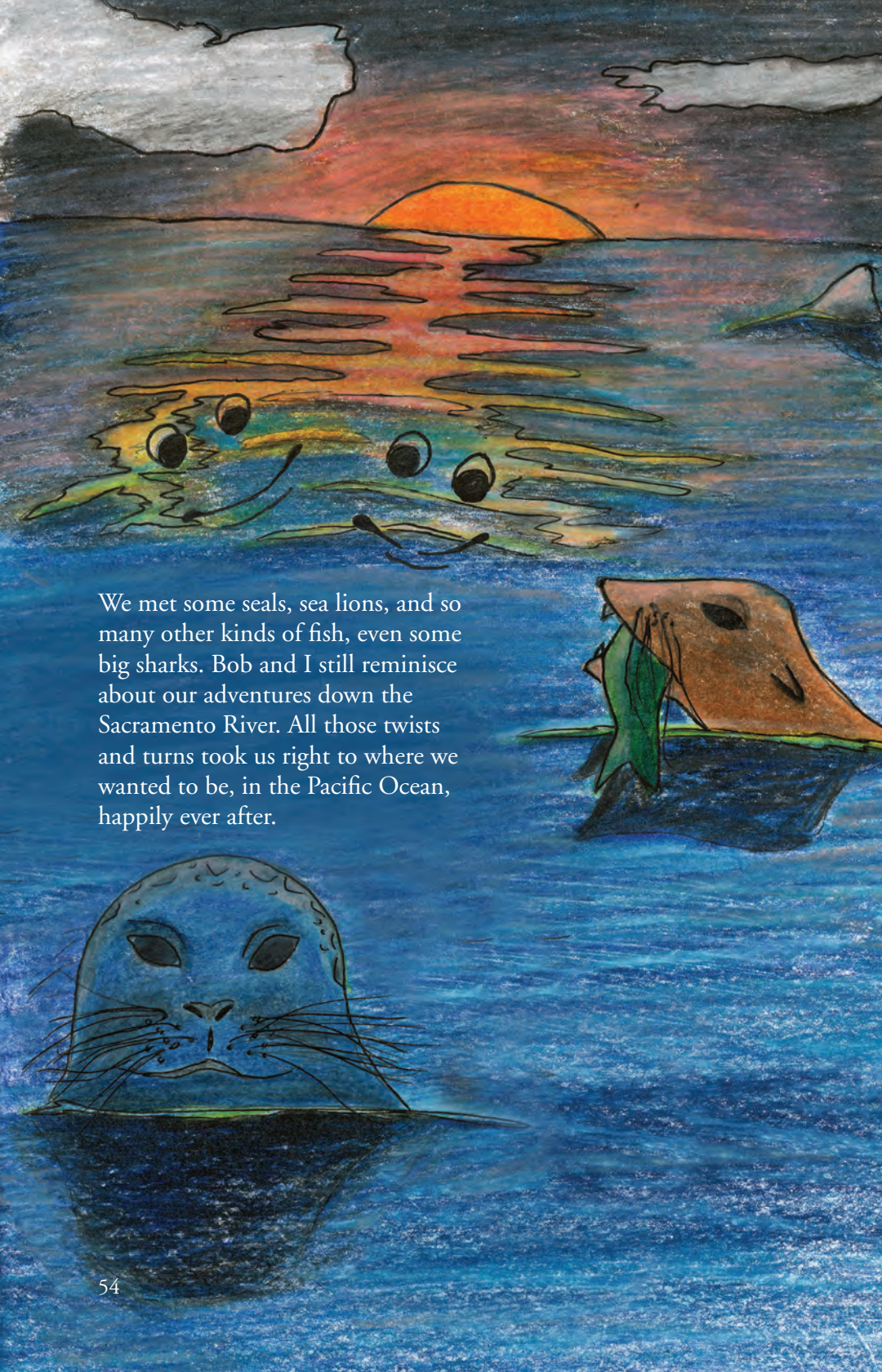
After a few more years,
we decided it was time
to leave Sacramento and
make our way toward
the Pacific Ocean.

We had heard about it from
the salmon who would swim
through each fall.

On the next part of our
journey, we made our way to
the Sacramento-San Joaquin
Delta. The delta was huge and
a little confusing. There were
many different kinds of fish in
the delta, like bass, catfish, and
some perch. Bob and I loved
exploring there. We even went
by lots of fields full of asparagus.
Here and there I would miss my
family, but having Bob around
made it much less lonely.



After a good amount of time in the delta, we moved to our
final destination, the Pacific Ocean. We dropped in right at
San Francisco. I was so happy to be there with my best friend,
Bob. He and I saw the Golden Gate Bridge and lots of salmon
on their way to the Sacramento River.



We met some seals, sea lions, and so many other kinds of fish, even some big sharks. Bob and I still reminisce about our adventures down the Sacramento River. All those twists and turns took us right to where we wanted to be, in the Pacific Ocean, happily ever after.

About the Author:



Finley Brady, age 12

Sixth grade student, Finley Brady got the idea for his story, *My Journey: A Drop of Water*, from all the places in Northern California that he has visited with his family. He started his writing process by outlining his idea and formatting his ideas into a story. His favorite part about the writing process was the places that he takes the reader in the story because it brought back so many memories from trips with his family and friends.

Finley hopes that readers will learn that friendship is really important in life and that water is an important part of California agriculture. From his research, he really enjoyed learning about the role and importance of water in agriculture and about the Sacramento River.

About the Illustrators:



Emilie Ly, Pa Zong Vang, Zolpenoor Shafaq

Florin High School | Alexandra Pease, Art Teacher

Before reading the story, *My Journey: A Drop of Water*, the students at Franklin High School knew a little bit about water but were not expecting to illustrate a snowflake or water tower. They really enjoyed the story. Through the process of creating the illustrations, Emilie, Pa, and Zolpenoor were able to learn more about the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta systems along with many locations like Mount Shasta. To begin, the students looked at the story and created an illustration plan based on the paragraphs. They agreed to divide the work based on their individual strengths. Emilie drew the scenes and Pa and Zolpenoor added the color. The students loved the story and all the details the author included. Overall, they really enjoyed this experience and look forward to sharing their illustrations with the author.