

# BASIL

SCAREDY?  
MONSTERS?

THE MONSTER WHO WAS SCARED OF WATER



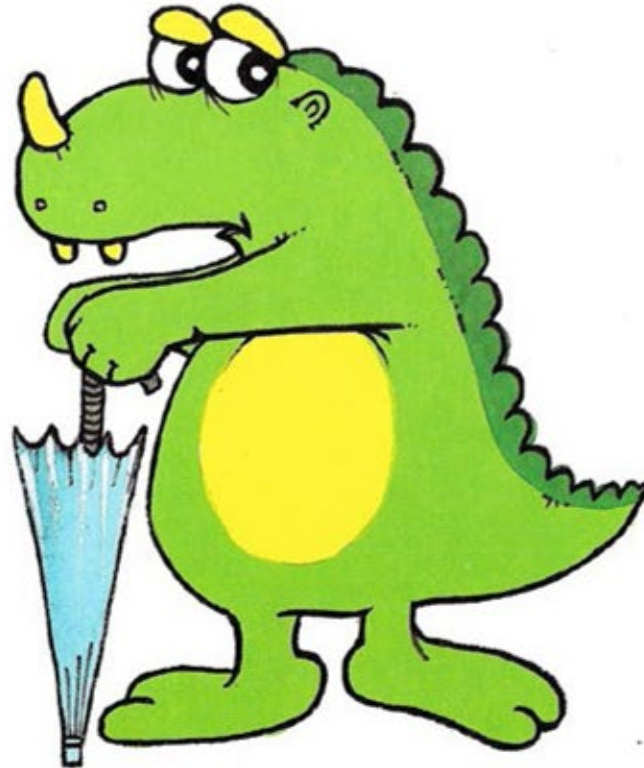
Michael Salmon

# BASIL

THE MONSTER  
WHO WAS SCARED OF WATER



Written and illustrated by Michael Salmon



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Basil couldn't swim.  
He was scared of water.  
He didn't even like paddling  
in the shallow parts of the creek.  
He imagined that all sorts of  
mean water monsters  
were waiting out there to get him.



Bath-time was a problem for Basil.  
There always seemed to be a monster  
lurking in the tub.  
It disappeared when Basil  
opened the bathroom door.

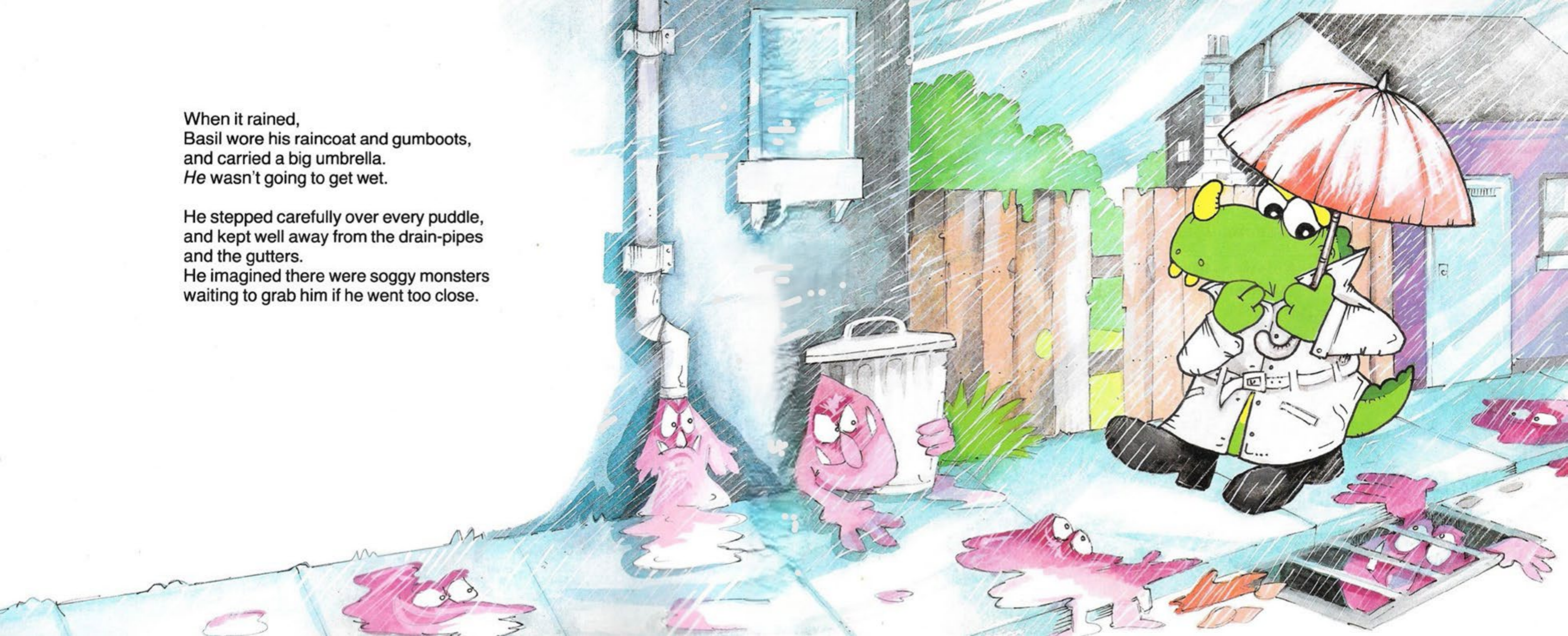
Basil always wore a rubber ring,  
even though the water barely covered his toes.

He washed as quickly as he could.  
When he had finished,  
he pulled the plug out very slowly and carefully.  
He didn't want to be swept down the plug-hole.



When it rained,  
Basil wore his raincoat and gumboots,  
and carried a big umbrella.  
*He wasn't going to get wet.*

He stepped carefully over every puddle,  
and kept well away from the drain-pipes  
and the gutters.  
He imagined there were soggy monsters  
waiting to grab him if he went too close.



In winter, Basil sat on a park bench and watched people skating on the frozen lake.

He refused to skate.  
He wasn't fooled by ice.  
He knew it was just frozen water.

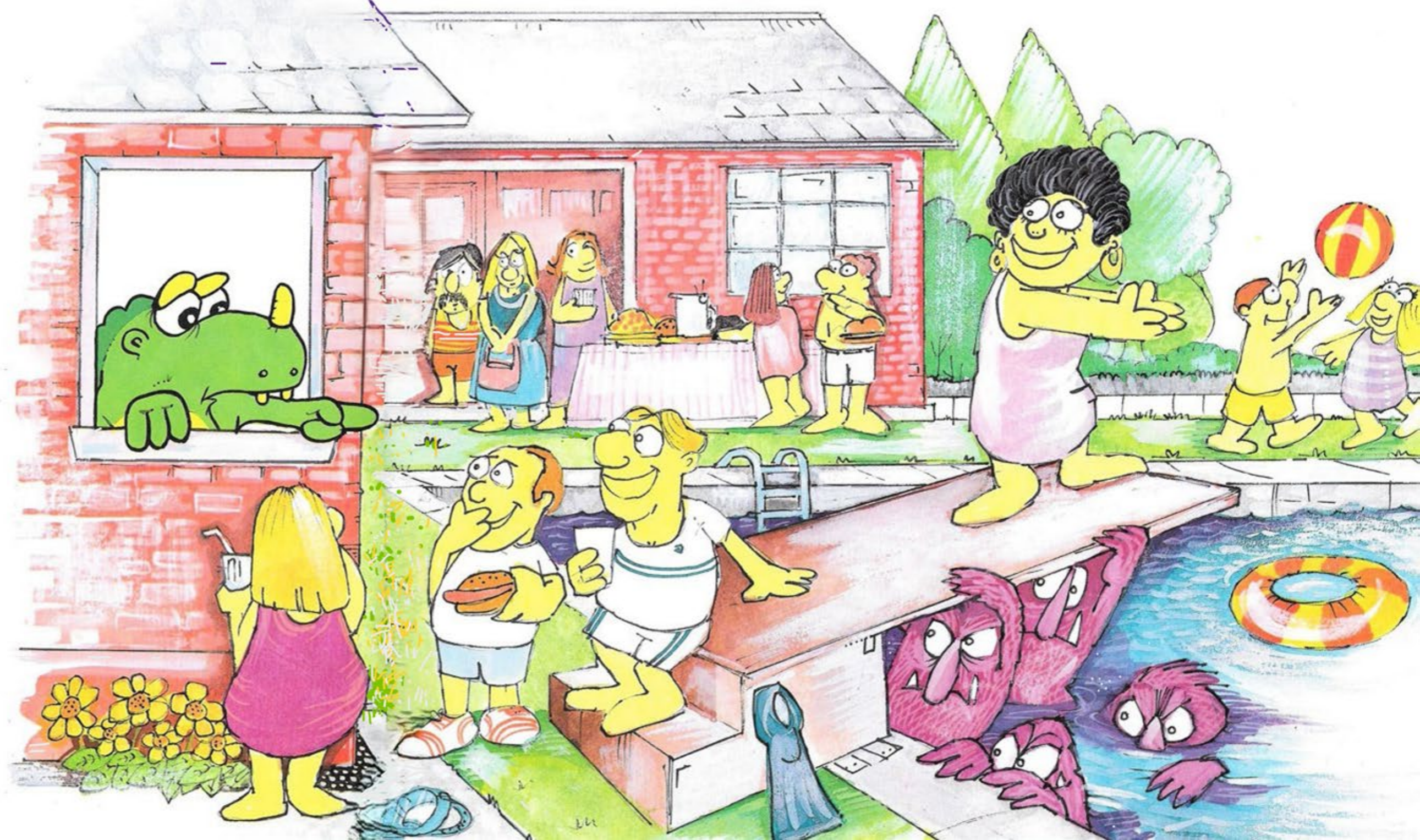
He could still see the nasty monsters, though no one else seemed to notice them.



Once, Basil was invited to a pool party. Everyone was having fun, swimming, diving and playing around the pool. But Basil stayed inside the house and watched from a window. It was safer that way.

He tried to warn his friends about the monsters hiding under the diving board. But everybody laughed, and said he was imagining things.

Basil's friends couldn't understand why he was so scared of water. It seemed silly to them. They didn't believe in water monsters.



One day they decided to play a trick on Basil.  
They all wore water monster masks,  
and hid among the trees  
with buckets of water,  
hoses and water pistols.

When Basil walked by,  
they leaped out and surprised him.  
*Splosh, splash, splish!*  
Basil was soaked.



'Yoo-hoo! We're the nasty water monsters!' they shouted as they danced around the dripping Basil.  
'Scaredy cat! Scaredy cat!' they teased.

Basil just stood there shivering, his little heart pounding with fright.

Everyone took off their masks and laughed. But Basil didn't think it was funny. He shuffled off home, very upset.



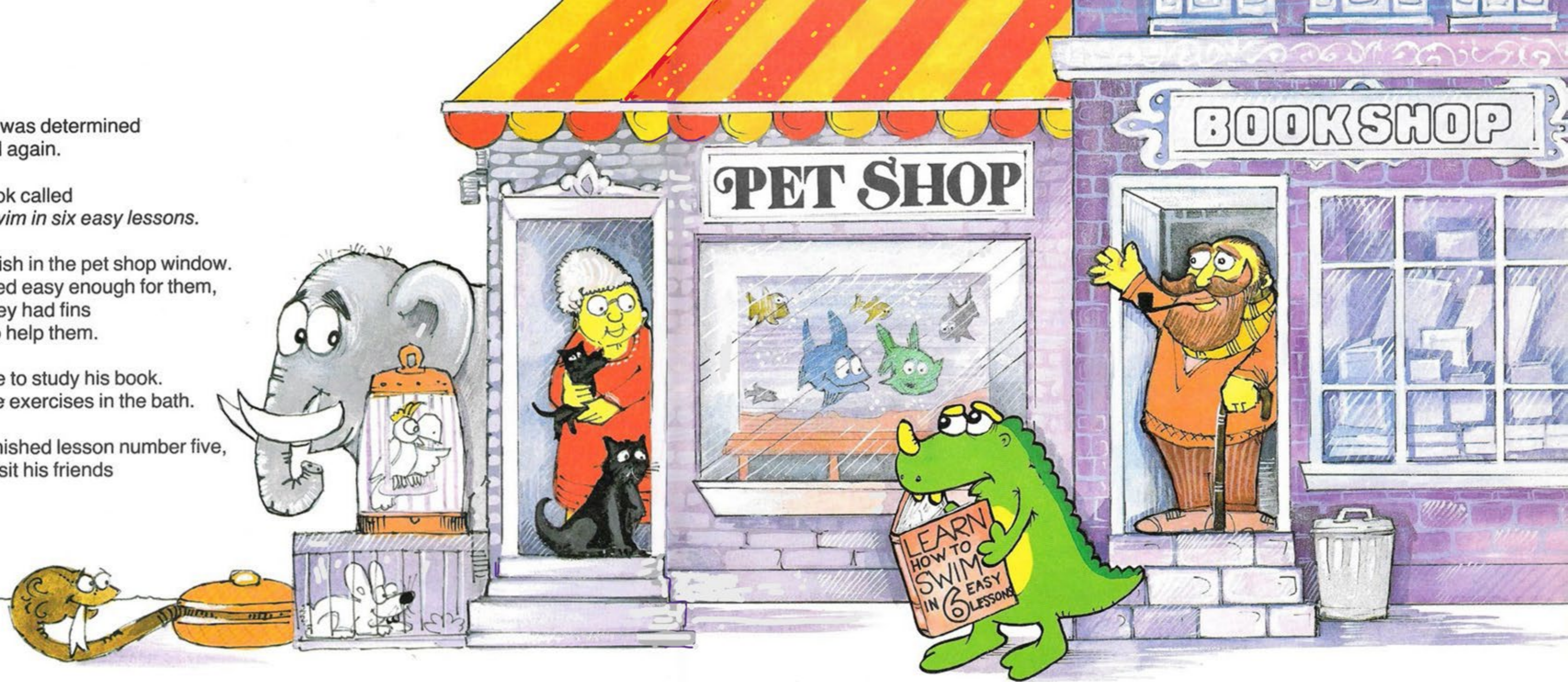
After that, Basil was determined not to be teased again.

He bought a book called *Learn how to swim in six easy lessons*.

He studied the fish in the pet shop window. Swimming looked easy enough for them, but of course they had fins and fishy tails to help them.

Basil went home to study his book. He practised the exercises in the bath.

When he had finished lesson number five, he decided to visit his friends at the beach.



They were very surprised to see him.  
'Come on, Basil,' they shouted.  
'Let's go for a ride on the surf mats.  
Try it. You'll like it.'

Basil looked at the foamy waves  
crashing on the sand.  
He had never been this close to the sea before.  
It looked dangerous.  
He stayed safely on the dry sand.

'I told you he wouldn't come in,'  
said one of the boys.  
'He's too scared.'

Basil sat on his own,  
under the umbrella,  
while the others ran into the surf.

Suddenly Basil heard a cry:  
'Help! Help!'  
'It's probably just another trick,' he thought.  
'Help!' There it was again.  
It sounded real and urgent.



Basil looked out to sea  
and saw someone in trouble,  
way out in the deep water.

Without thinking,  
Basil grabbed his rubber ring  
and plunged bravely into the surf.  
He kicked hard with his legs,  
remembering his swimming exercises.

'Go away water monsters!' he shouted.  
'I don't believe in you any more!'

He reached the struggling boy,  
and held his head above the water.  
Then a huge wave picked them up  
and dumped them safely on the beach.



Basil was a hero!  
His friends gathered round  
to congratulate him.  
'Well done, Basil!'  
'What a swim.'  
'You were really brave.'

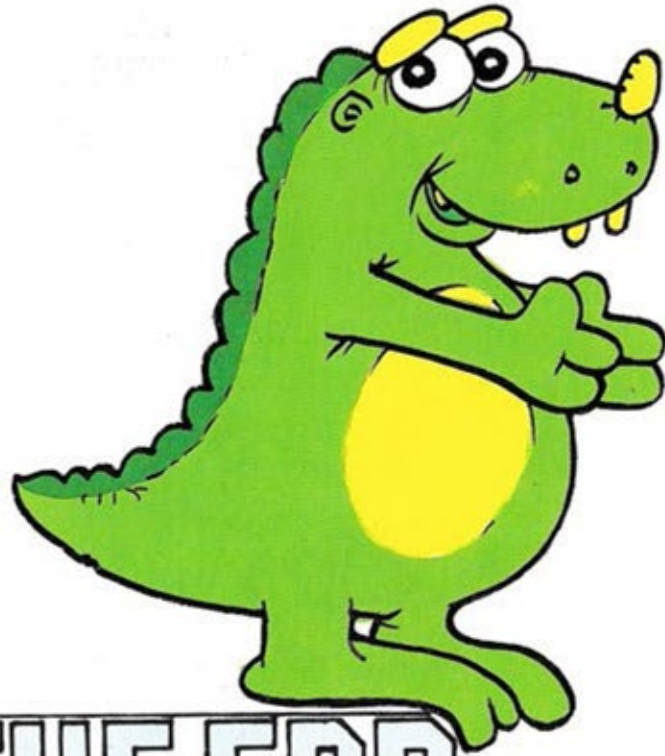
Basil was quite out of breath.  
He had sand in his mouth  
and water in his ears.

But he didn't mind.

For the first time in his life,  
Basil was happy to be wet.

He wasn't scared of water any more.





**THE END**





# More Scaredy Monster Books

