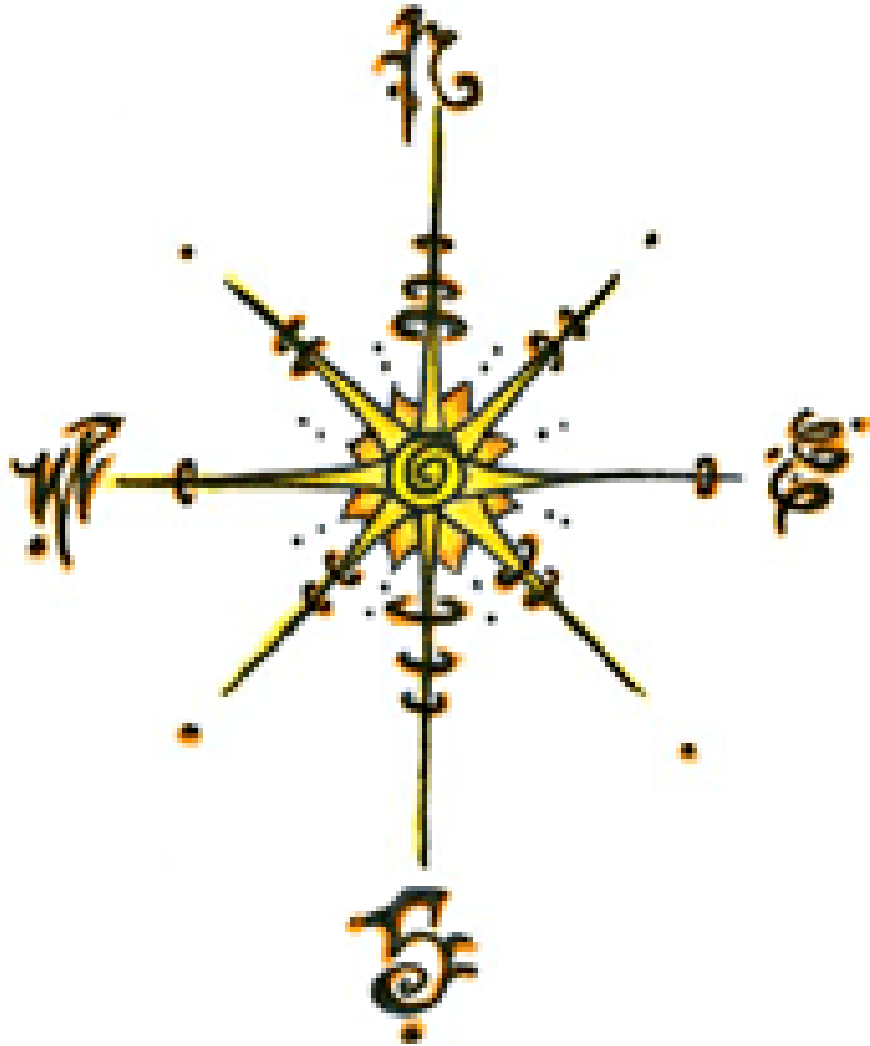
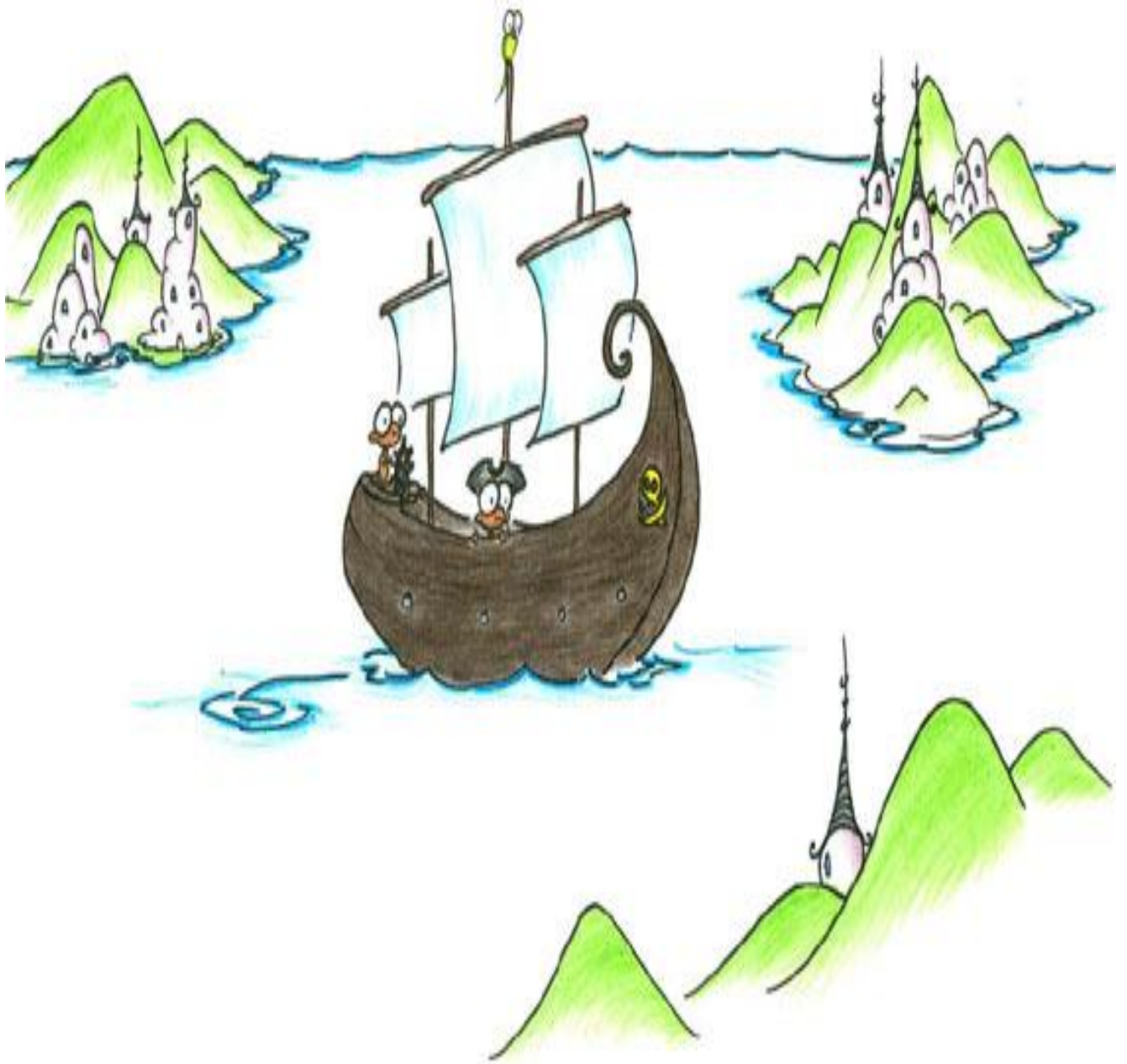


# The Brave Monkey Pirate



by Hayes Roberts



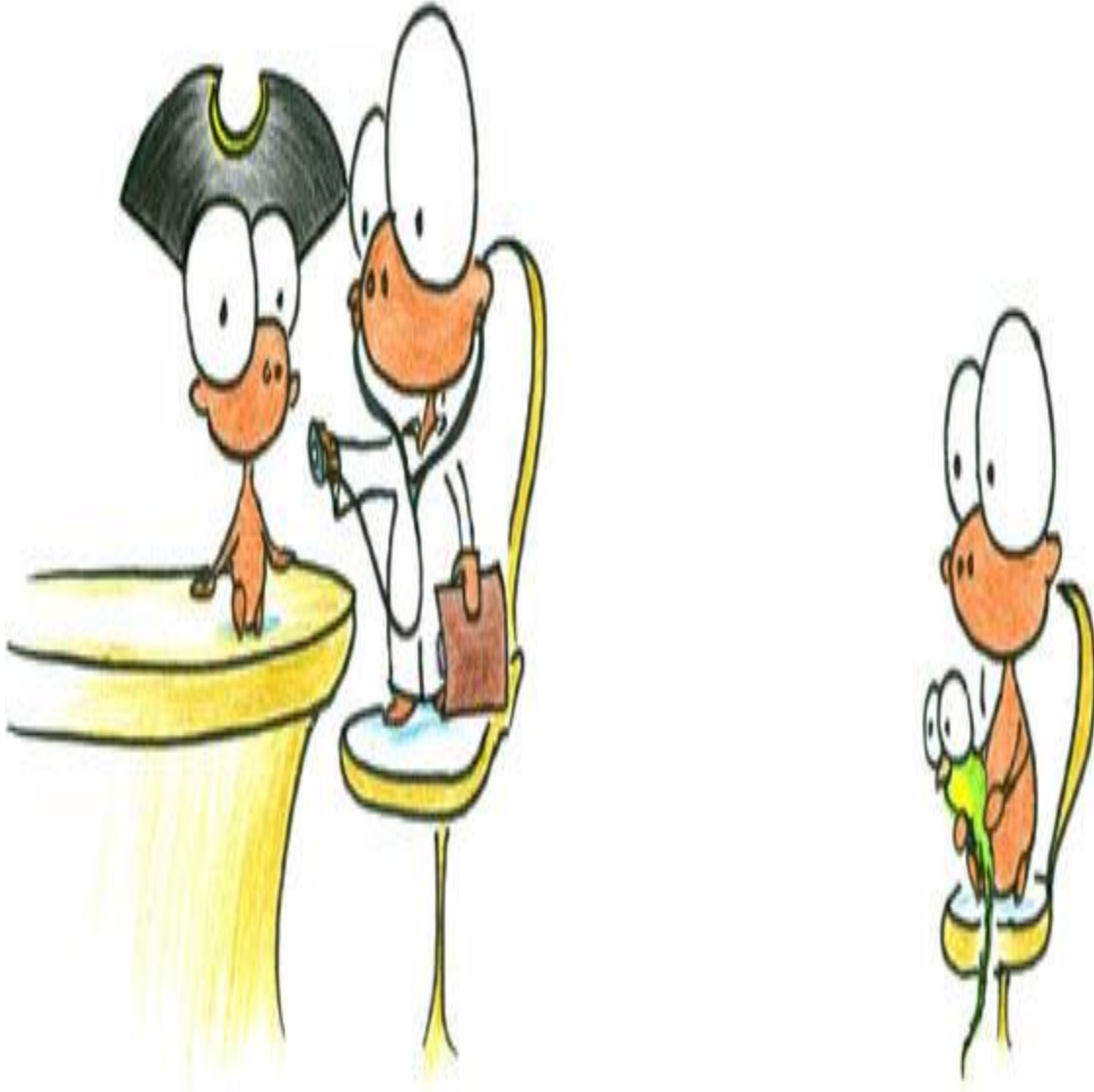
One day the pirate Modi was out running errands with his mom.



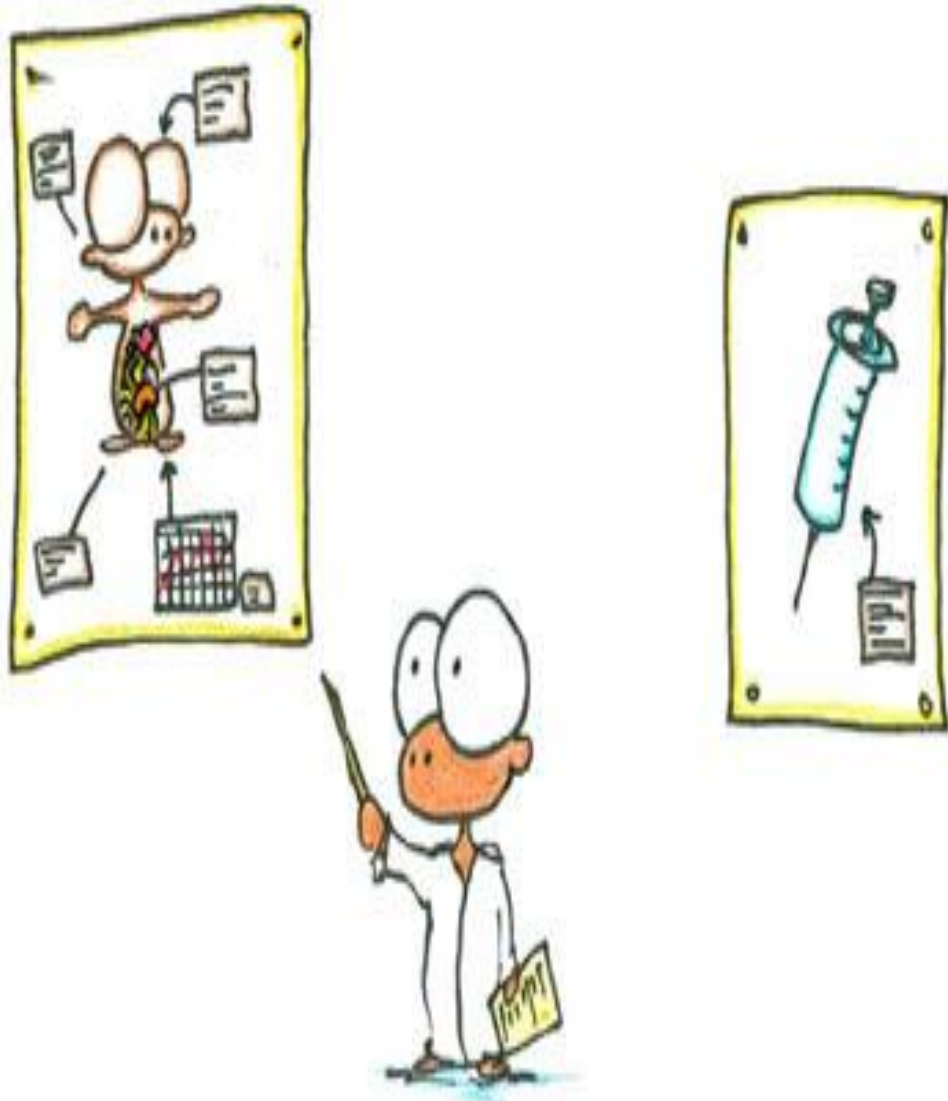
They shopped for groceries and ate peas at his favorite restaurant.



Then the pirate Modi's mom said, "Oh yes, we need to stop off at the doctor's office for a quick checkup."



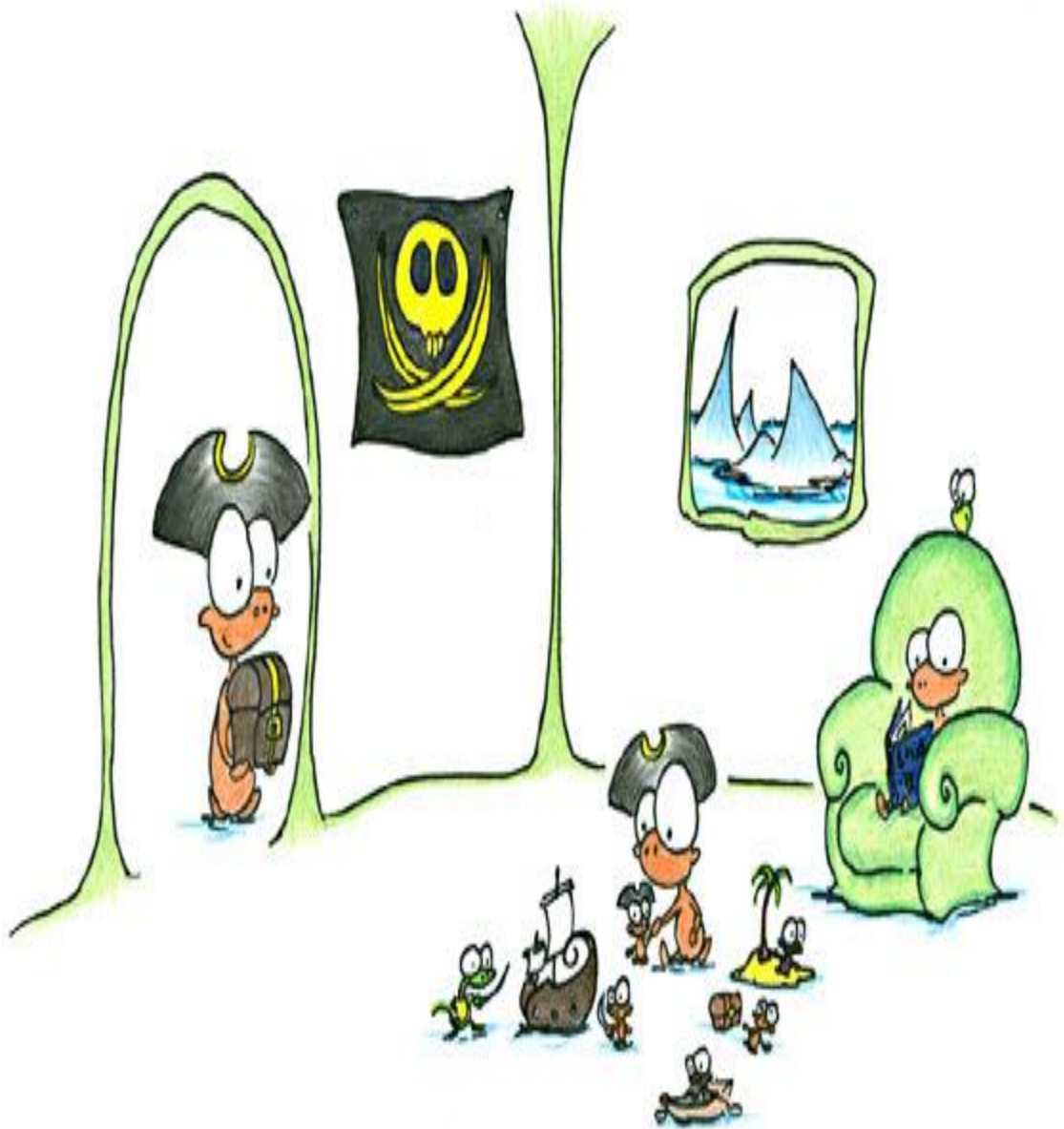
The doctor checked Modi's heart, his blood pressure, and his knees.



Then he explained that Modi would come back the next day and get a shot, to protect him from scurvy or something.



The pirate Modi did not like shots.



That evening his father came home and Modi told him all about the visit to the doctor.

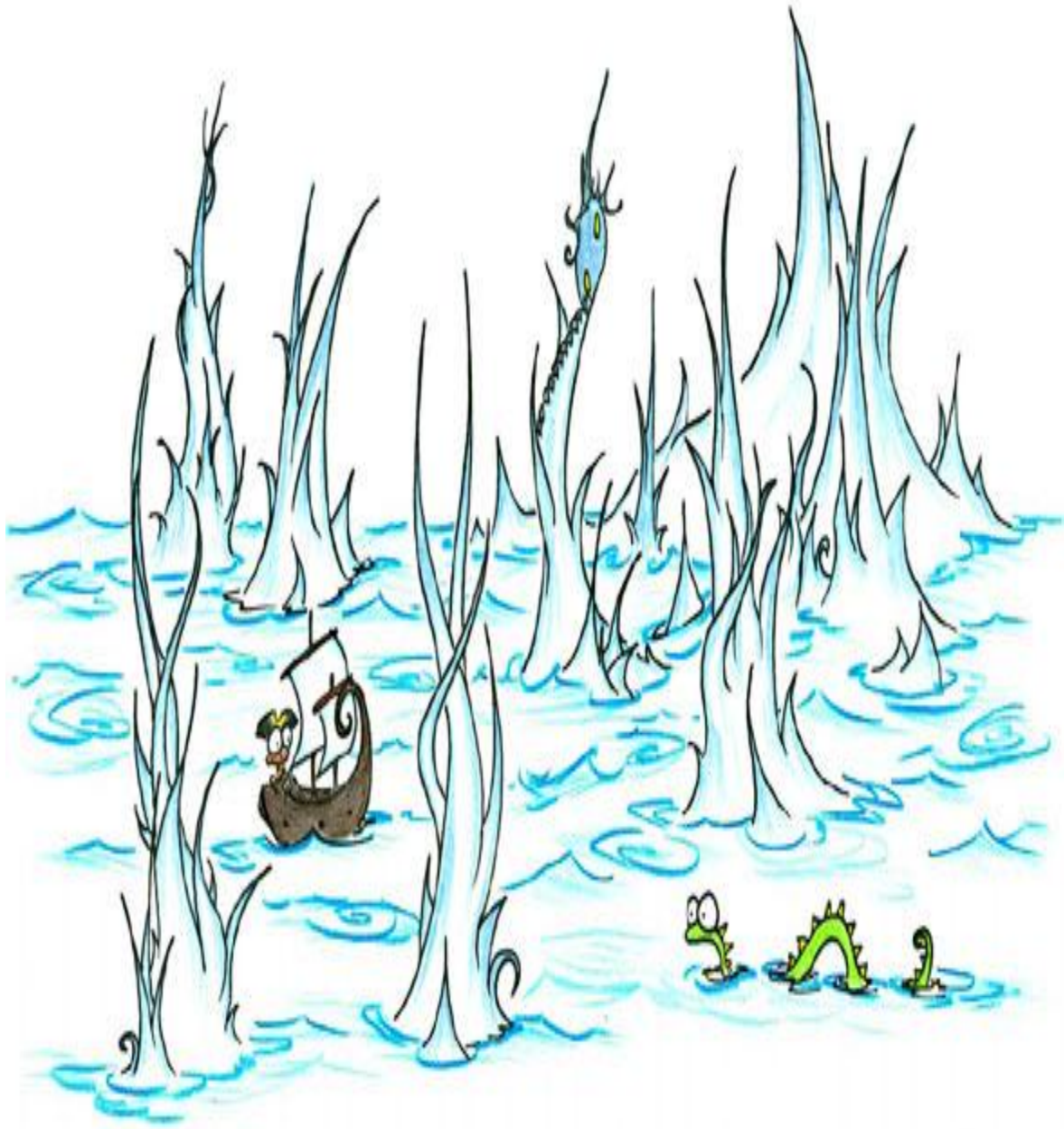




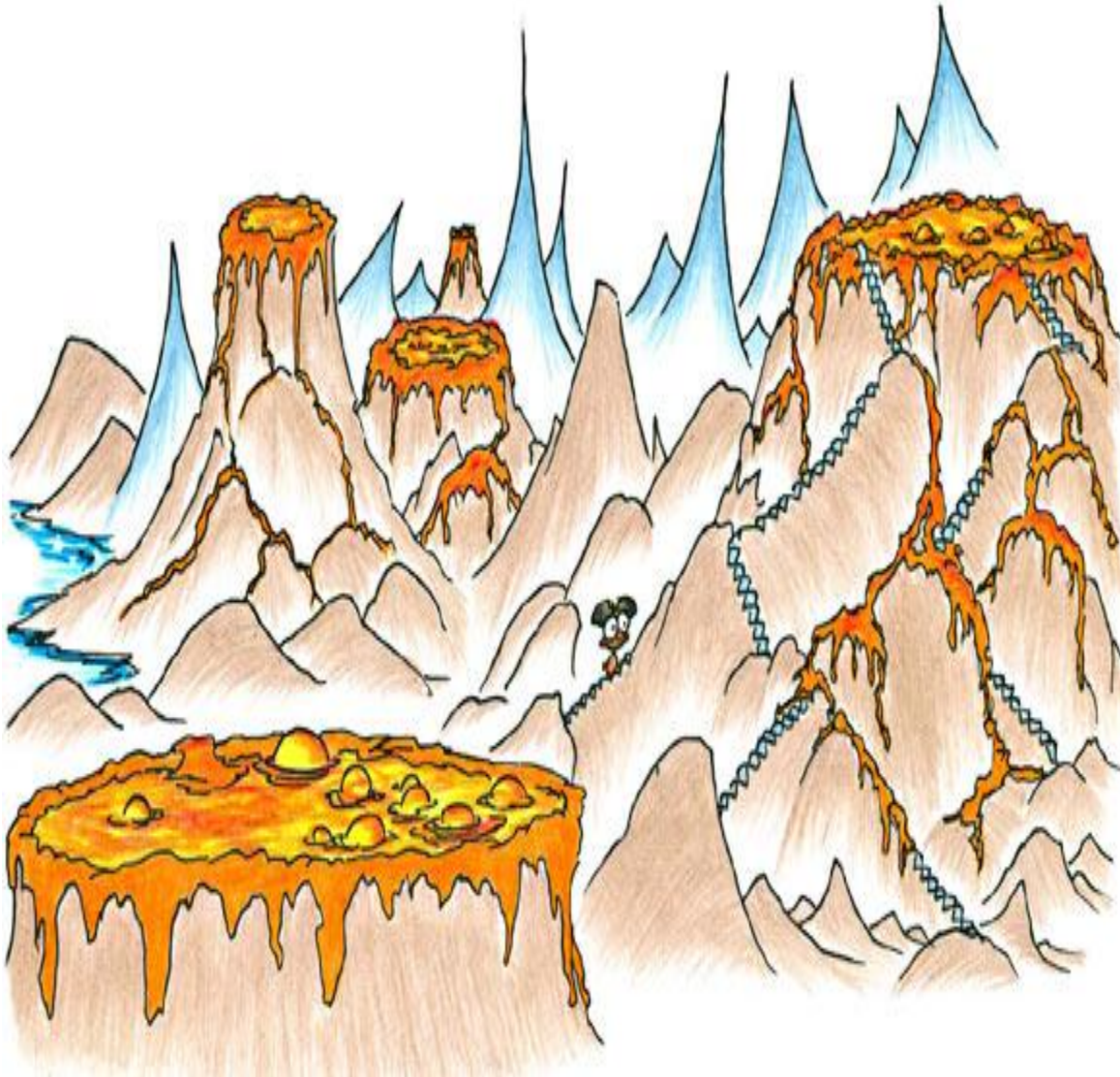
Modi's father said, "Modi, I know of something that can help you.

Take this map and my fastest pirate ship and find it.

Also, if you stay very still for the doctor you can have some ice cream."



So Modi followed the map through the wildest seas,



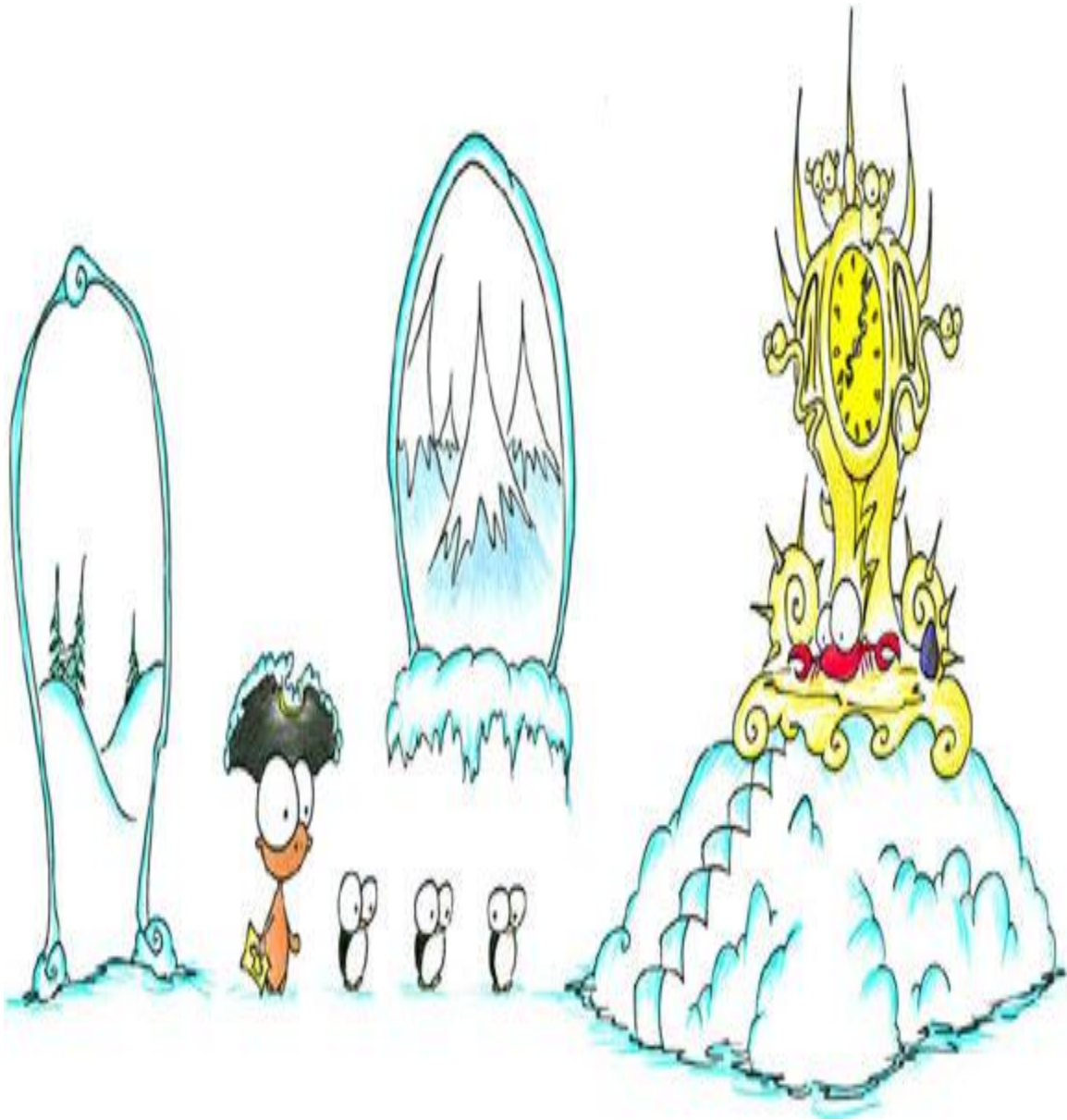
and climbed up volcanoes filled with fiery lava,



and sneaked past creatures so terrible  
that they will not be described in this book,



until he reached an icy castle at the top of the mountains.



Inside, he found a great crab wizard on a crab wizard throne.



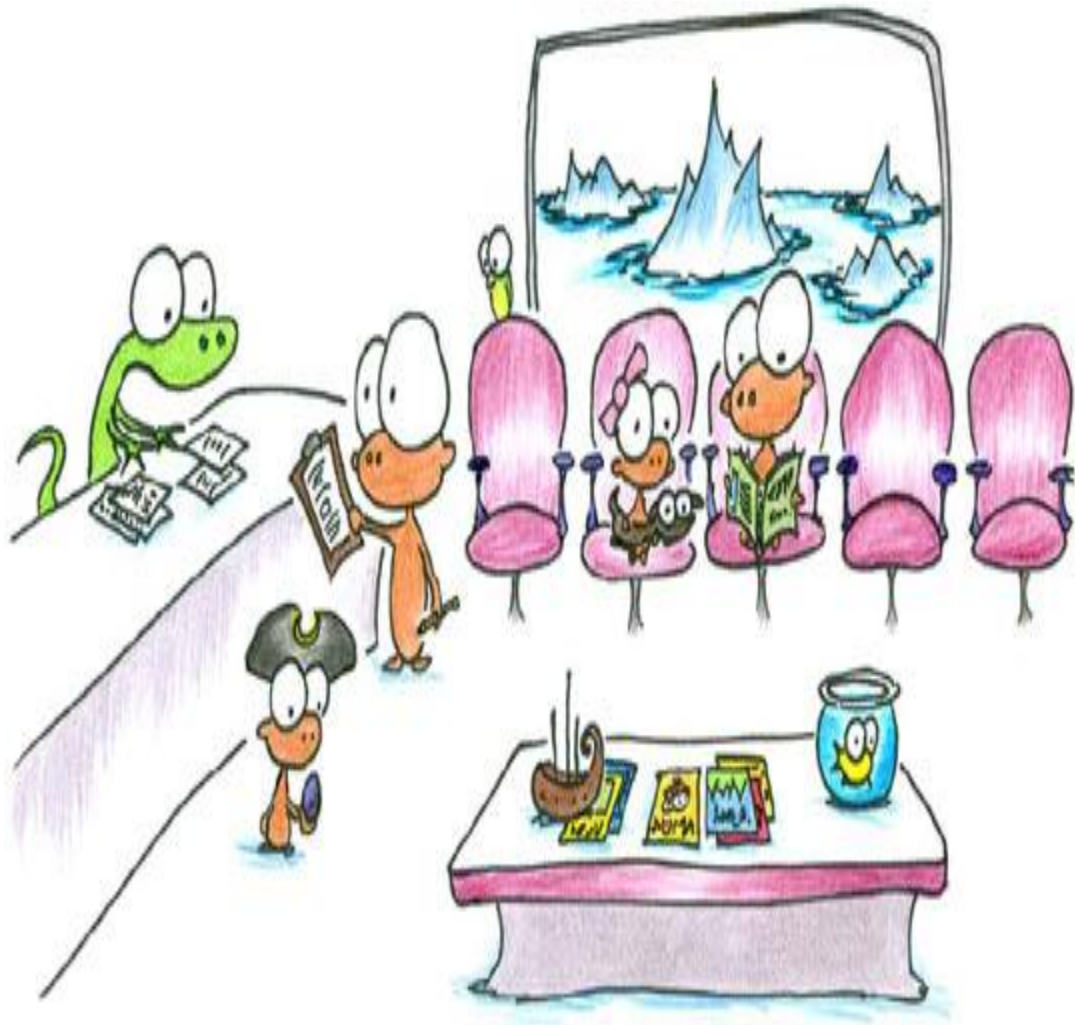
The crab wizard spoke these words,

"Monkey Pirate, because you have braved many obstacles to get here I will give you this rock. When you get a shot, you must squeeze the rock very tightly, and count to three. You will be magically taken into the future where the shot will be finished. Also, you can have some ice cream after."

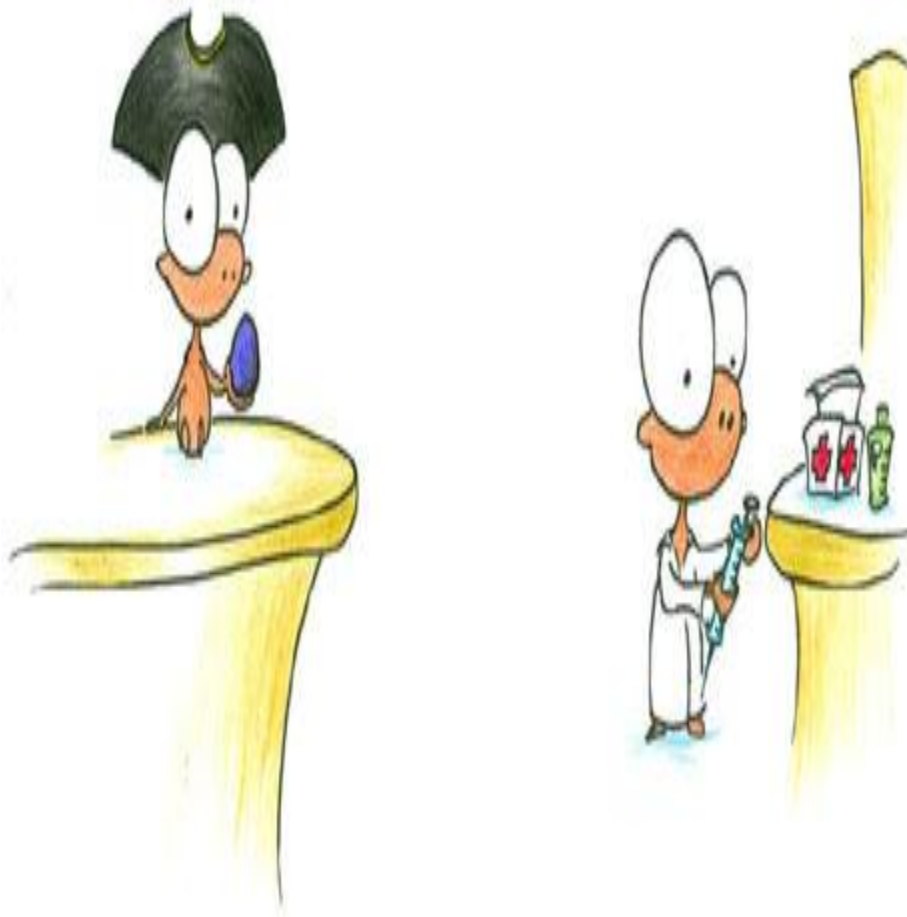


The pirate Modi thanked him and sailed back home to get some sleep.





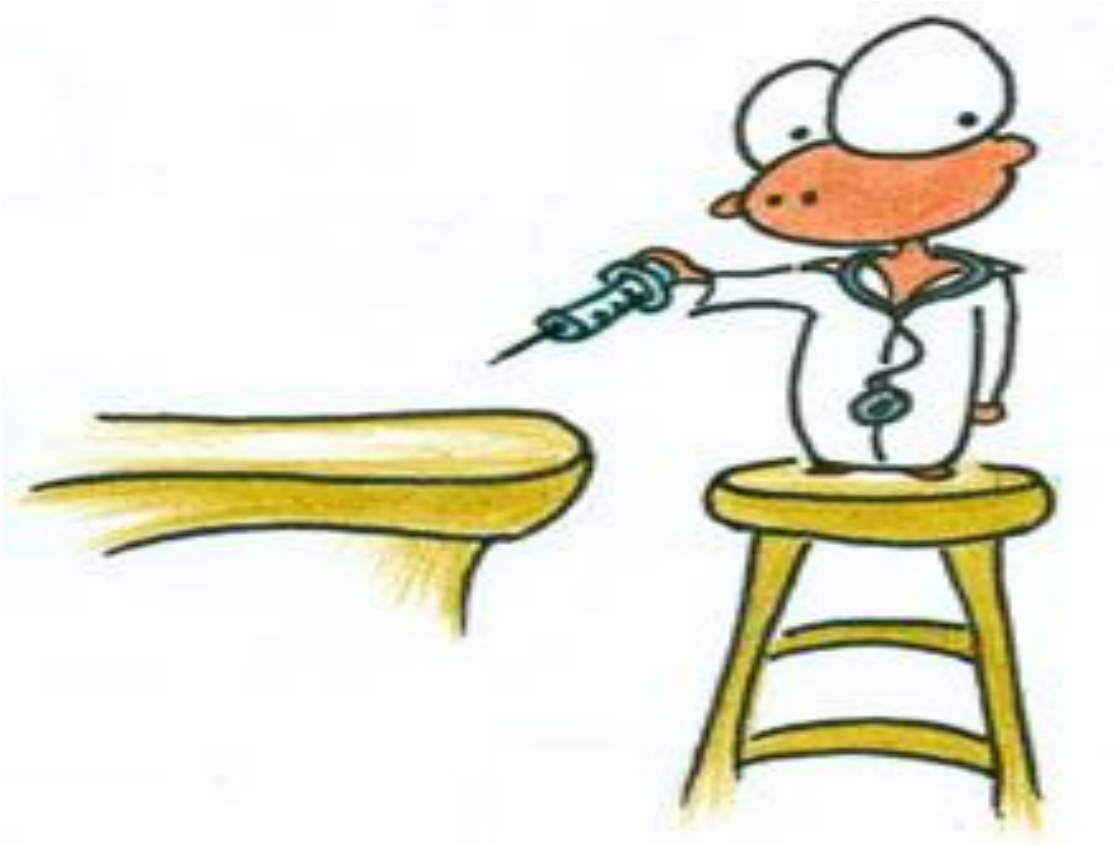
The next morning, he took the rock with him to the doctor's office.

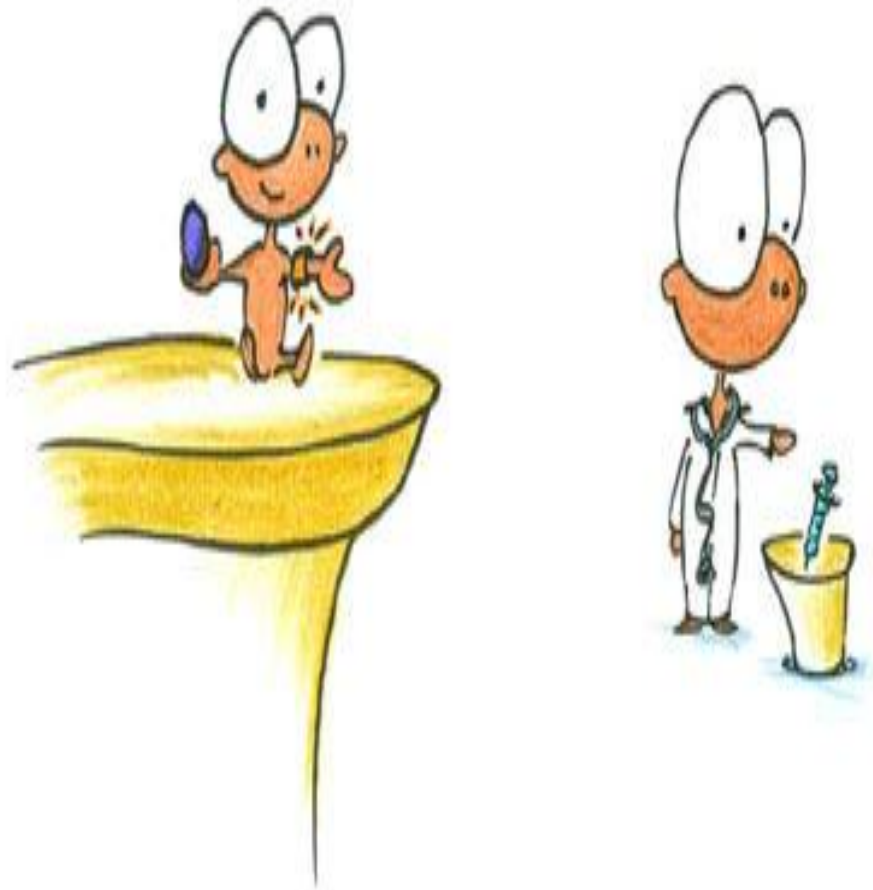


The doctor hummed a little song and filled up Modi's shot.



Modi closed his eyes very tightly, squeezed the rock as hard as he could, and counted 1, 2,





The crab wizard was right! The shot was finished.  
The Brave Monkey Pirate was now immune to scurvy and some other stuff.



And he had ice cream on the way home.

The end

# INVISIBLE ALLIGATORS

by HAYES ROBERTS



for the red furies





A young monkey named Sari woke up one morning and knew there was trouble.



She hopped out of bed and found that the bridge on her favorite castle had been broken in the night, and it took her forever to fix it.



Then she found her stairs covered in toys.  
She tripped on one and had to pick them all up.



THEN she couldn't ride her llama to school because the whole herd was running loose. It took her six tries to get them onto a pointy rock so they would calm down and quit trying to eat her homework.



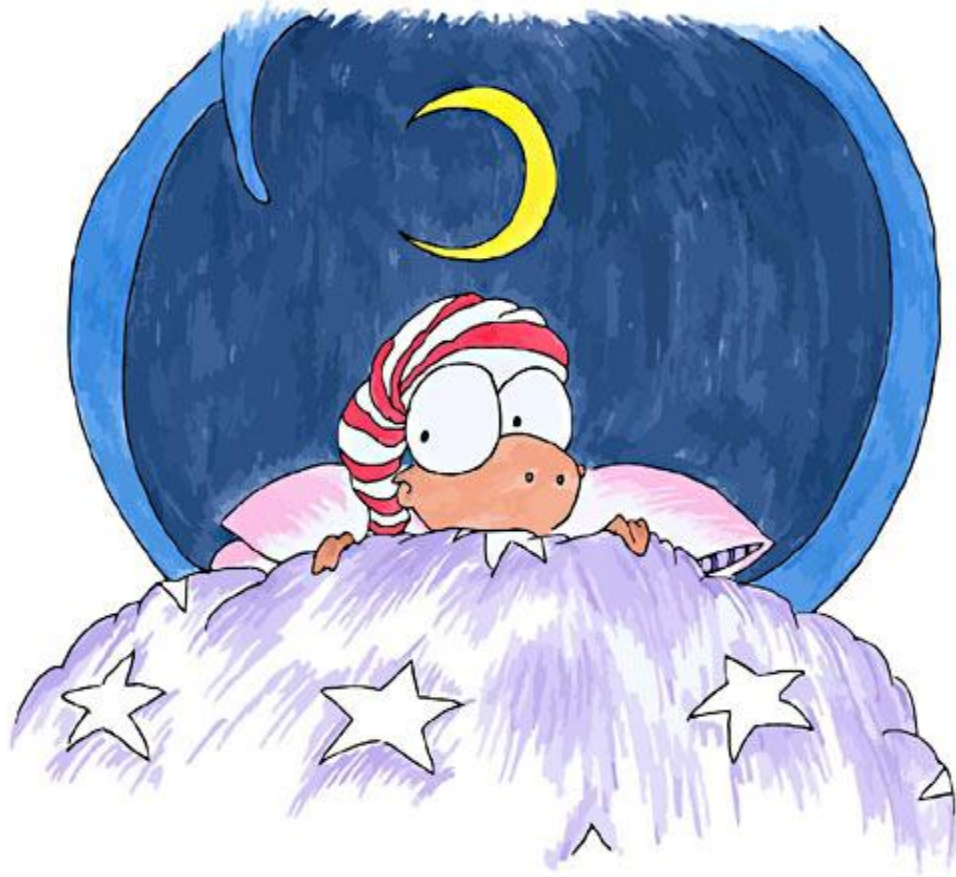
She was so late that she missed almost all of her favorite class, Algebra II. And her homework was covered in bites and hoof prints.



She'd had enough.



Tonight Sari would put a stop to this.



That night she stayed awake long after bedtime, long enough to hear the rustling of long tails under her bed.



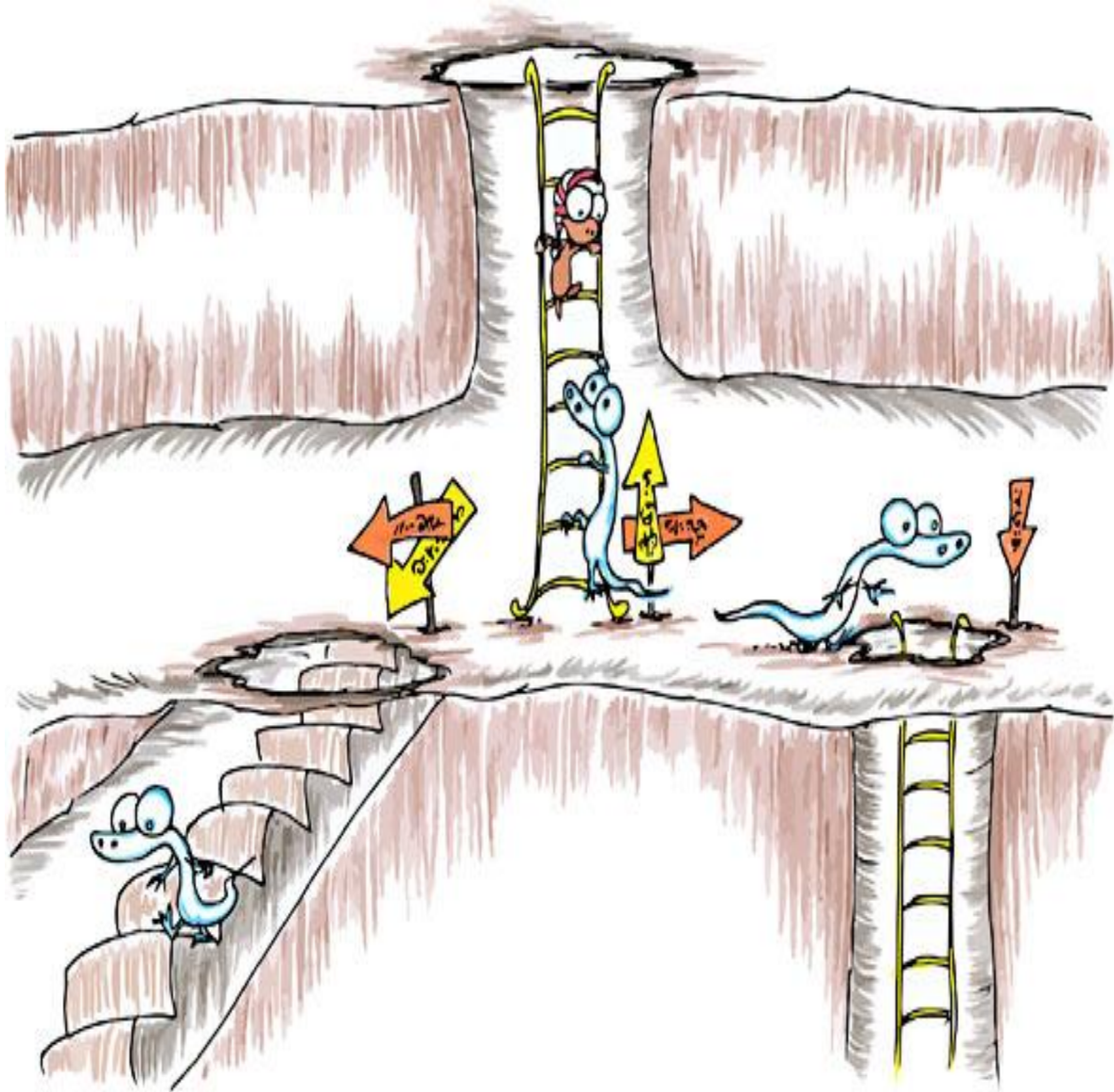


She flipped her bed over and found invisible alligators all over her room.

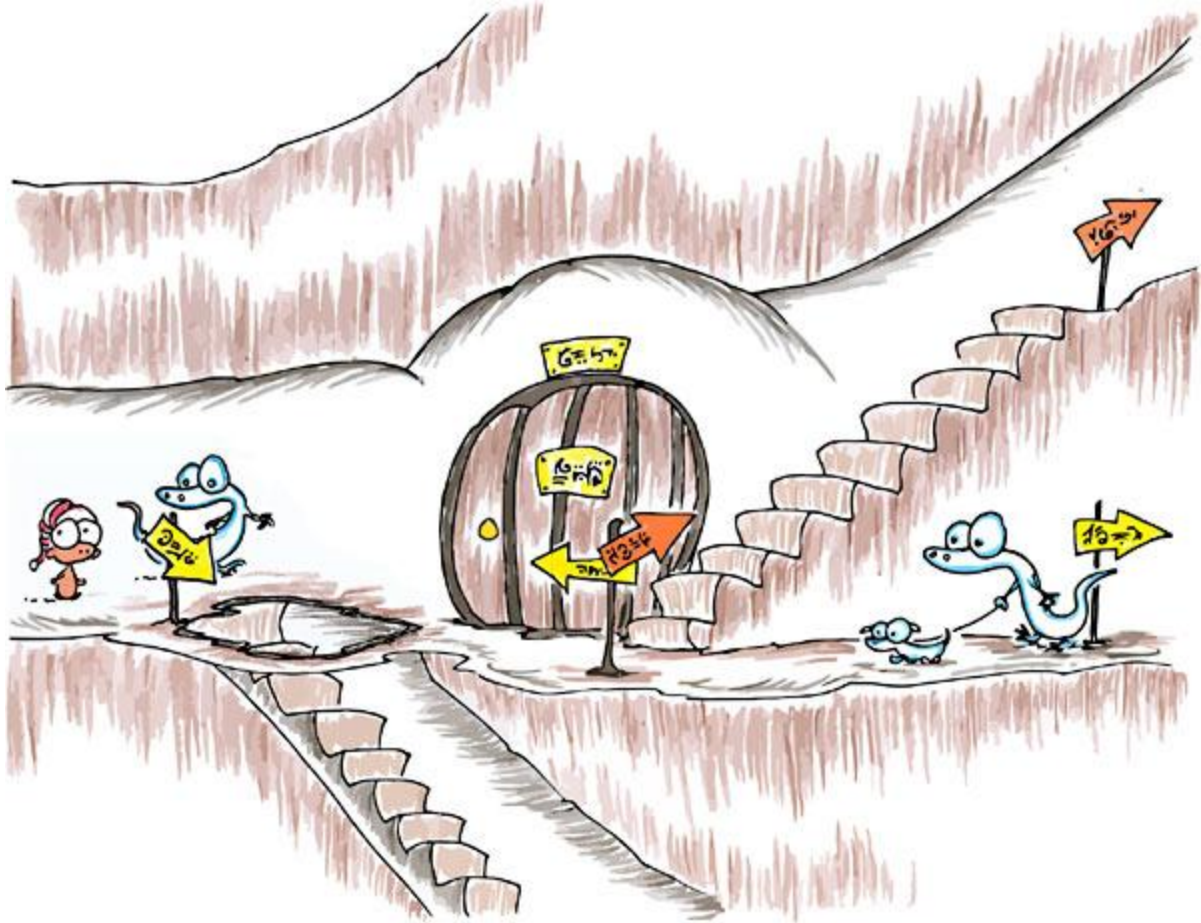
"What's going on here?" she demanded.



"Sari, we're the invisible alligators and we do this for everyone," one alligator explained.  
"We're just trying to help; let me show you."



So she followed him deep into the alligator catacombs.



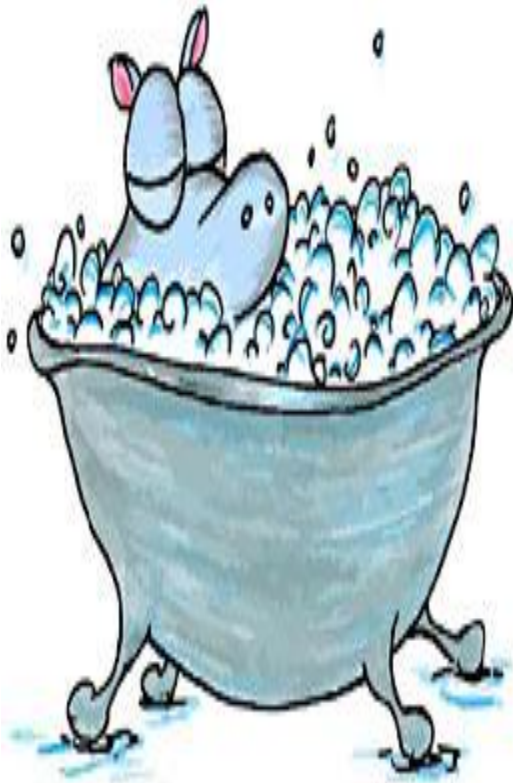
As they walked he explained, "You see, we cause trouble in all kinds of ways."



"In this house I'm hiding the remote control and this sheep will search his house for a week."



"And in this house we're stealing the chocolate cake mix and putting out fresh broccoli instead."



“And in here we’re singing this hippo to sleep in the bath so he gets all pruneey.”

“I just don’t understand why you would do all of these things,” Sari said.

“Why do we have to have so many things go wrong?

Why can’t you just make everything right?”



"Yes, good point," the alligator sighed, "but let me show you one more thing," and he took her into the invisible alligator main headquarters.





"This is your book, Sari.  
All the things listed in this book are the troubles  
we've caused you-- and all the things you've  
learned how to do in your whole life."  
It was a big book.  
He looked at her expectantly.



"Nope. I don't get it." she said sadly, and left the alligators' lair so she could go back home and get in bed. "Bye."



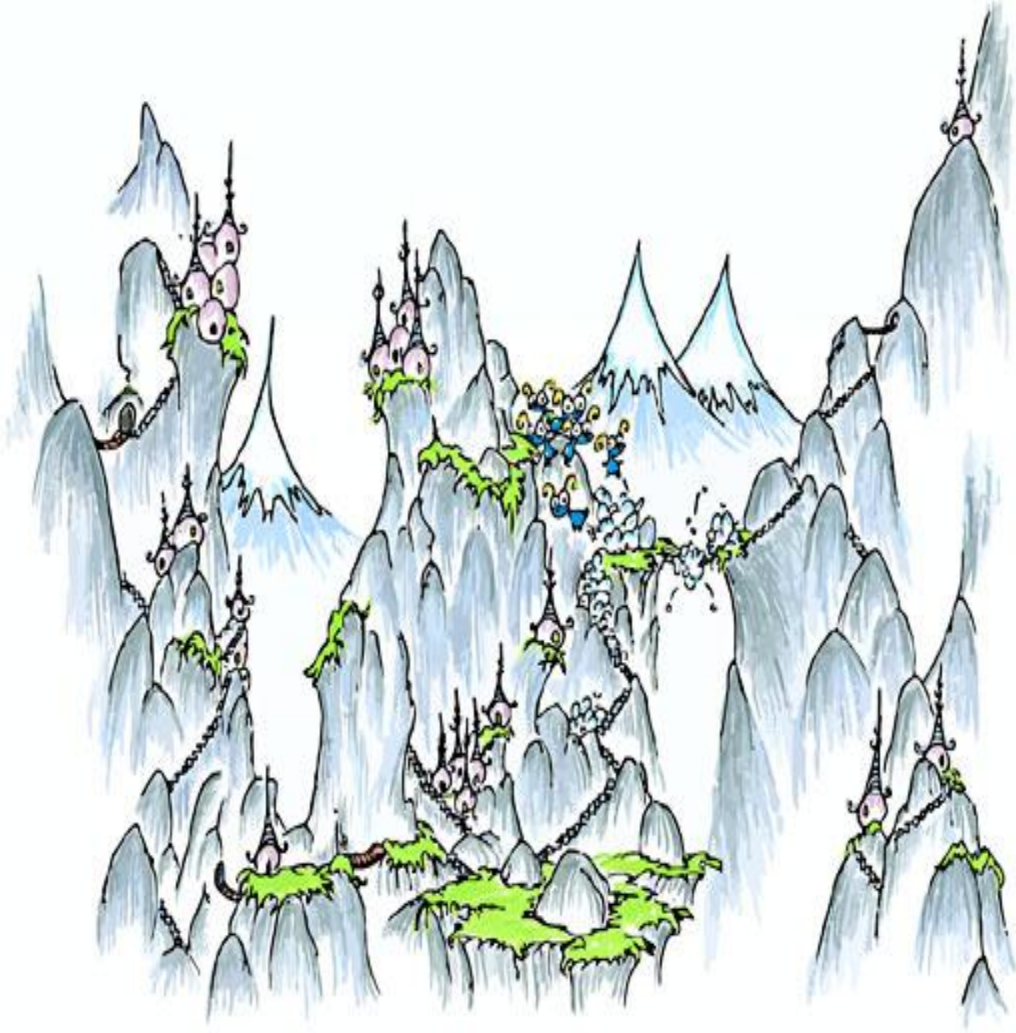
The stairs leading home were covered in rocks. Sari took a moment to pick them all up as she walked so no one would trip and fall.



She came to a bridge that was snapped in two,



and a herd of wild blue goats which we all know are very dangerous unless someone knows how to herd them onto a pointy mountain top.



Sari didn't even have to think.  
She knew exactly what to do--fixed the bridge,  
herded the goats, piled the rocks out of the way in  
a safe place and was safely in bed in no time at all,  
fast asleep and dreaming about Algebra II.



How did she do it?  
If you are lucky maybe the invisible alligators will  
visit you tonight and cause trouble for you.

The End

# The Magic of Charity

by Wes Fessler



**Molly watched her brother play his biggest baseball game. He played his best, but their team lost. Nobody was to blame.**

**But Molly's brother Sam was sad. It felt so bad to lose, and Molly tried to make him smile, but he had baseball blues.**





Then Molly had a good idea. She'd make a special cake.  
She'd make his favorite chocolate cake to take away the ache.  
It didn't matter that he lost. She loved him just the same.  
He played his very best, so he should not feel any shame.



**So Molly made his favorite cake, and served him up a slice. With just a bite or two Sam smiled, and he was feeling nice. He thanked his sister for the cake and told her she was sweet. She cheered him up and made him smile with something good to eat.**



**It felt so good to help someone; to brighten up a day.  
She just discovered charity, and it was here to stay.  
She learned that charity is helping others who have need.  
It starts by caring, and then doing some kind of good deed.**



**It is not ever selfish, it is all done out of love,  
but like the pleasant sunshine it warms all from up above.  
So Molly looked for ways to help out everyone she knew.  
If she could make a better day, that's what she tried to do.**



**She held a ladder for an old man so he wouldn't fall.**



**She climbed up in a tree to save a small girl's favorite ball.**



**She helped a farmer fix his sprinklers when they had a clog.**



**She even brought some food and water to a poor stray dog.**





**Now what she did was simple, and it wasn't hard to do.  
But Molly's acts of charity were just like magic too.  
It seemed the more she gave, the happier she felt inside.  
So charity helped Molly too. It couldn't be denied.  
It always was for others; but she learned that in the end,  
she found life's greatest joy when she was being someone's  
friend.**

**~ THE END ~**