

Brownie and his Friends

Unit Three -
Second Reader

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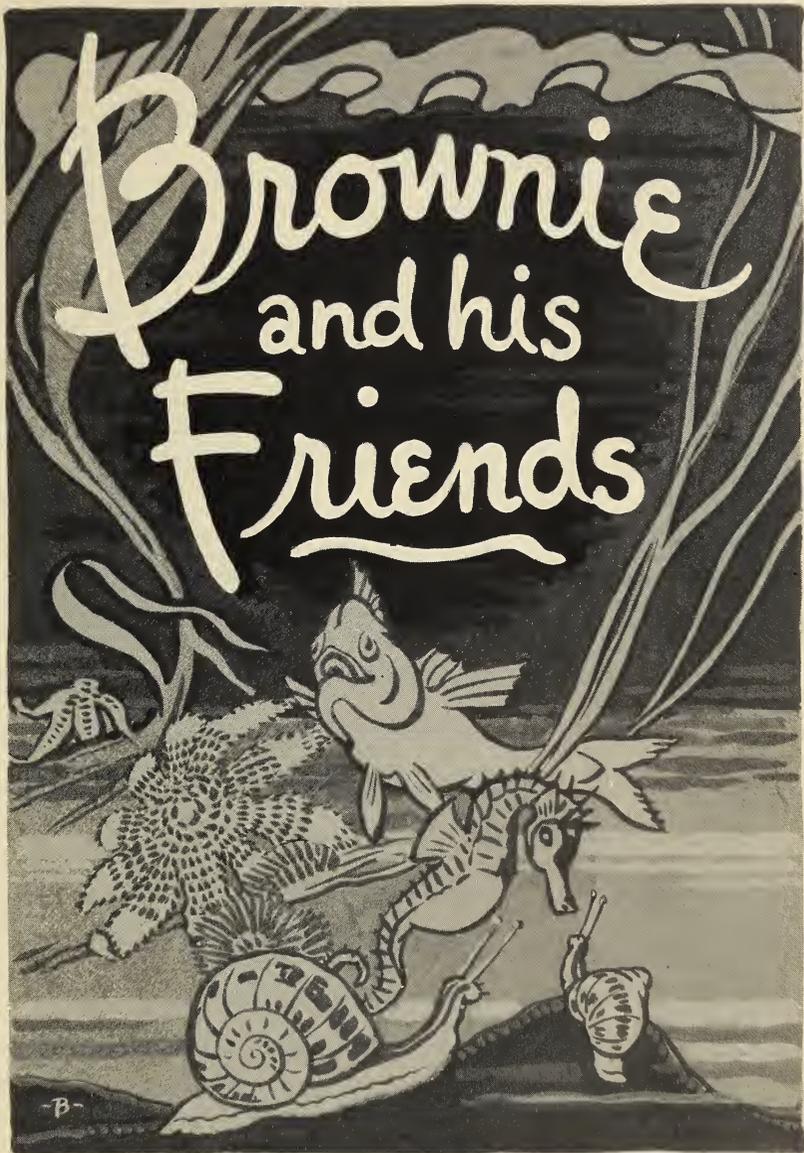
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In the Garden

Some elves and their friends lived in a garden that was back of a house. The garden was a very nice place to live.

There were many trees and green grass. Best of all, there was a big pool of blue water in the garden.

In the pool lived some very good friends of the elves — the fish. They were yellow and red, and some had blue tails.

The fish could not get out of the pool, and so they did not know about the many things that went on in the garden.

The fish liked the elves because the elves would tell them many things.

The elves liked the fish because the fish were their ponies. Every night the elves rode up and down the water on the ponies. What fine times they had!

Some people lived in the house, but they did not know about the elves in the garden. They did not know that one of the elves was a shoemaker who made shoes for all the other little people.

They did not know that the elves danced about the pool every night. They never saw the elves sitting on toadstools having their suppers. No, they did not know about the elves, which was just as well.

The elves did not know the people in the house at all. But they had one good friend there.

This good friend was a brownie.

He helped the elves in many ways, and the elves helped him. The shoemaker made the brownie's shoes from bright green leaves. Other elves made many fine clothes for the brownie.

Brownie and the elves had many secrets. They knew where the bees lived. They knew where the mother birds kept their baby birds.

The brownie and the elves had many good times together. Every night they went to the pool, and all the fish laughed and talked with them. They talked over all the things that went on each day.

One night the elves had a party. They asked Brownie to come. He said that he would come and bring something to eat from the house.

The brownie came out into the garden, pulling a piece of cake which he had found in the kitchen.

He went back into the house again and came out with a glass of milk.

The elves were very pleased, and they thanked Brownie for bringing the milk and the cake to the party.



Everyone who lived in the garden came to the party, and Brownie came to it, too.

The elves danced and danced about the garden pool.

Everyone was having a fine time, when all at once something came walking into the garden.

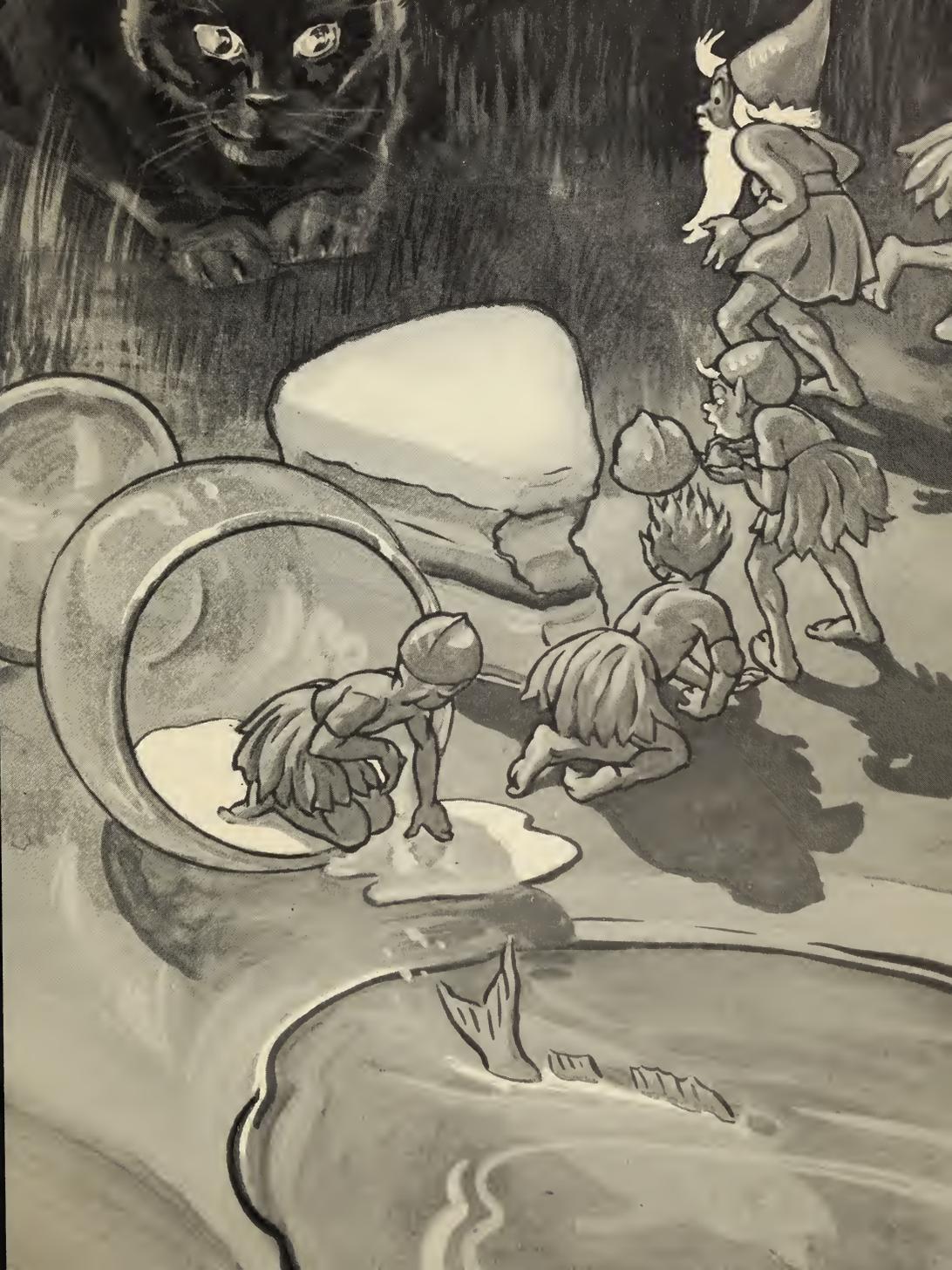
This was something that had not been asked to the party.

It had big green eyes and a long tail. It came so softly that no one saw it coming. Its eyes were big and bright.

The elves were still dancing about the garden pool. They looked up and saw it coming toward them. They did not know what to do.

They stopped and looked, but they were so frightened that they could not run.

Just then Brownie saw this big animal with its bright green eyes and long tail. He saw how frightened his friends the elves were.





Brownie looked again at this animal, and then he knew what it was. The black cat had come out of the barn to see what was going on. Up jumped the brownie on the big black cat's back.

The brownie said to the cat, "The little people that you see are my friends, the elves. We are having a party. Would you like to stay?"

The black cat said that he would like very much to stay.

“Very well,” said the brownie. “But if you stay, you must be kind to the elves.

“You are much bigger than the elves. They are frightened. So you must be very kind to them.”



The big black cat said that he would be very kind. So Brownie told him that he could stay for the party.

What a good time they all had!

The elves danced and danced, and so did the black cat. The elves said that the black cat danced just about as well as they did.

Later they all had something to eat. The black cat was very good. He did not eat up all the cake and milk. So there was enough milk and cake for everyone at the party.

After that, the elves went for a ride on the ponies in the pool. Up and down the pool they went.

The big black cat sat by the pool and watched them.

The elves said that they were very glad the black cat had come to the party, and he went to every party they had from that day on.



Brownie and Sammy Snail

Brownie liked to live in the house. He could always go to the garden whenever he wanted to.

The brownie knew all the secrets of the house. He knew where the cook put the candy. He knew where she put the milk and the cake.

Brownie knew the secrets of the garden, too. He knew where the birds made their nests. And he knew where the bees lived.

He had many good friends in the garden and in the house.

In the house Brownie had one very, very good friend. He was Sammy Snail.

Sammy Snail lived in the fish bowl in the children's room.

Sammy had many things to talk about, and he liked to tell them to Brownie.

Every evening, when everyone was in bed, Brownie would sit on the fish bowl and talk to Sammy Snail.

Sammy was always glad to see Brownie, for he had no one else to talk to. When he saw the brownie sitting on the fish bowl, Sammy would put his head out and say hello.

He was always happy to see the brownie. The brownie and Sammy talked about many things.

The brownie and Sammy talked about the children and the house.

They talked about the birds and the elves in the garden.

And they talked about all the fish that lived in the pool.

They talked until Brownie had to go to sleep.

Early one evening the brownie jumped up on the table, ran to the fish bowl, and called, "Hello, Sammy Snail! How are you this evening?"

Sammy said, "Hello, Brownie! I am fine. And I am so glad to see you!"

"Do you have news?" asked Brownie.

"I have no news at all," said Sammy Snail. "But you tell me the news of the garden and the house.

"The children are too busy to think about me. So I never know what is going on in the house or in the garden."

"That is too bad, Sammy," said Brownie.

“Yes, it is too bad,” said Sammy.

So Brownie told Sammy Snail about the things that went on that day in the house and in the garden.

Then Sammy said, “All I do every day is roll up one side of the bowl and roll down the other side of the bowl. You know that is not enough work for a snail like me. I like to be busy.

“I like to work. I do not want to be a lazy snail.”

Sammy Snail was so sad that he began to cry.

“Now, now,” said Brownie. “Don’t cry. I will think of something that will be fun for you. You would be happy if you were busy.”

“Yes,” said Sammy. “I would be very happy if I could be very busy.”

“I will go away now,” said Brownie. “I know that I can think of something for you to do.”

So Brownie said good night and jumped down to the floor. He ran down to the kitchen and got a piece of cake. Brownie said that he always thought better if he had something to eat.

After Brownie had thought for a long, long time, he said to himself, "I believe I will go out into the garden again."



Down the back stairs went Brownie. He opened the door of the house and looked out at the garden.

Brownie went out the door and locked it. Then he went out into the garden to think.

The garden was very still.

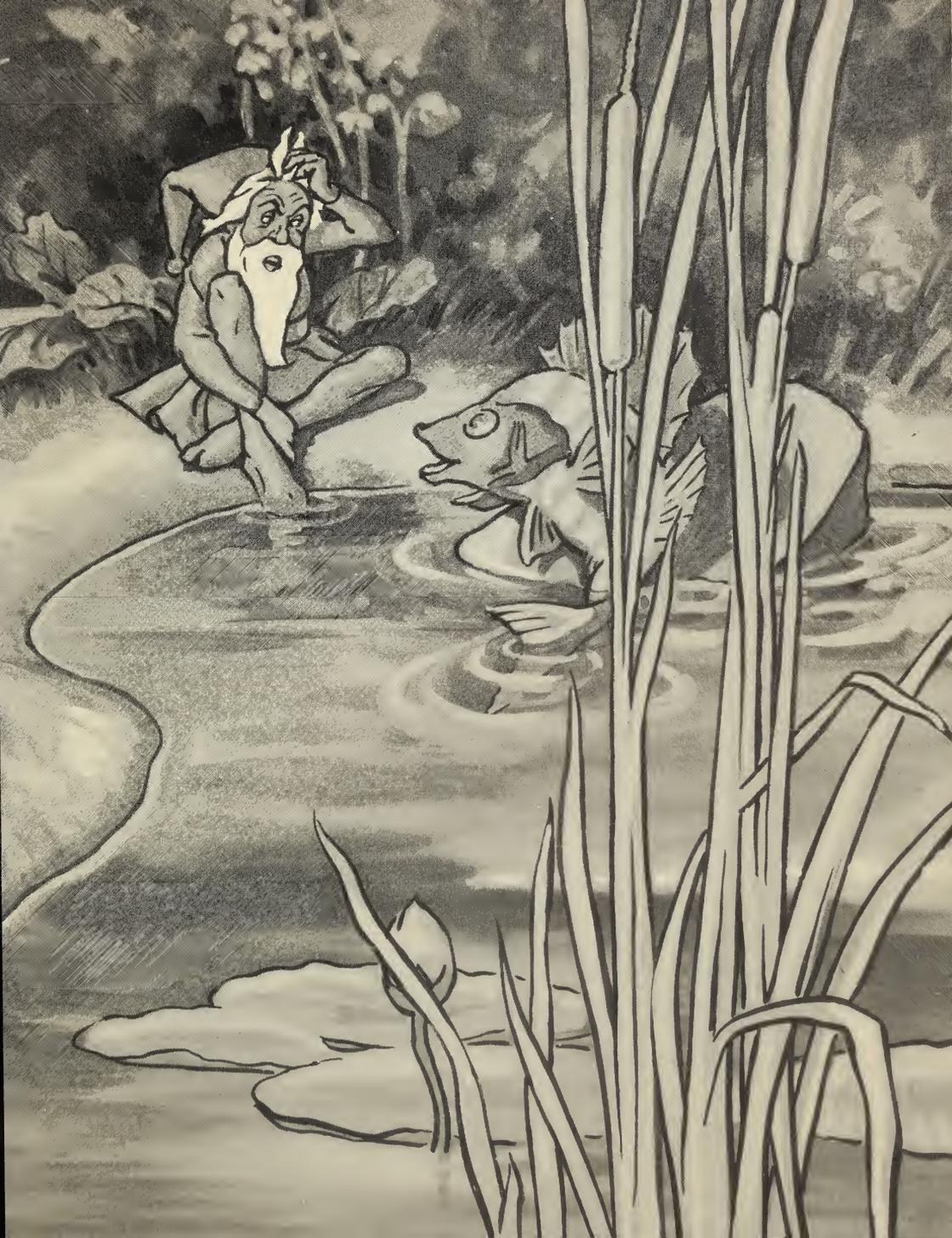
“There is not a thing here for Sammy Snail to do,” thought Brownie.

Brownie walked along until he came to the pool. He put first one foot into the water and then the other. He put his hand into the water.

But Brownie could not think of a thing for Sammy to do. He put his hand into the water again.

And then Charlie, one of the fish, came swimming along through the water toward Brownie.

“Hello, Brownie,” said Charlie. “I am glad that you came along. How are you? Is there any news?”



"Hello, Charlie," said Brownie. "I am fine. No, there is no news.

"How are you getting along in the pool? Are all of you well?"

"Yes, we are fine," said Charlie. "But we do need some help. The water is very dirty, for the children have not changed it. We fish don't know how to keep the pool clean.

"We need some help. We need someone to keep the water clean.

"Can you think of anything at all to do, Brownie? We would like very much to have your help."

"Well, well," said Brownie. "I will be glad to help if I can. I will go back to the house and think. I might think of something. If I work out a plan, I will let you know."

"Good night," said Charlie. "Please think very hard, Brownie. For we really need your help."



Brownie Finds Work for Sammy Snail

Brownie went back into the house and began to think. He got another piece of cake and sat on the table and thought and thought.

“There must be something to do,” said Brownie. “I know there is. But I just don’t know what it is.”

Then Brownie got some more cake and went out into the garden to think some more.

At last Brownie laughed and laughed.

“I have two things to think about,” he said. “I have to think of a way to help Sammy Snail. And I have to think of a way to help the fish.

“I can think about the two things at once. I know how to help the fish and I know how to help Sammy.”

Brownie had eaten the last of the cake.

Then Brownie called all the elves in the garden.

Brownie talked and talked to the elves, and they talked and talked to Brownie.

Brownie told the elves all about his plan to help Sammy Snail and the fish.

And one of the elves said, “I thought the fish pool should be cleaner. You have a very good plan, and we will all be glad to help.”

The next night the elves and Brownie met in the garden.

“Are we all ready?” asked Brownie.

“We are!” cried the elves.

“I am!” cried Brownie.

“All right,” said one of the elves. “But you must go first. We have never been in the house before, and so you must show us the way.”

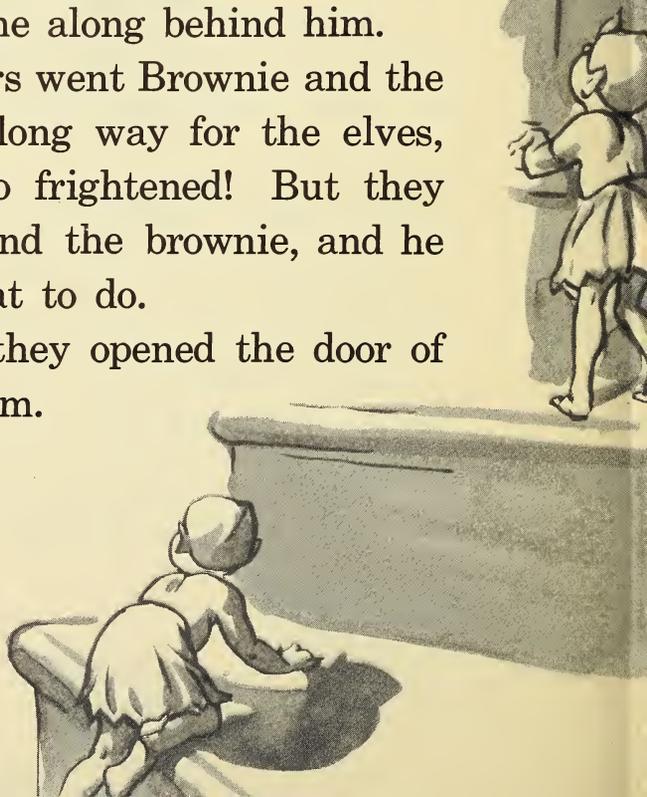




So Brownie went into the house first, and the elves came along behind him.

Up, up the stairs went Brownie and the elves. It was a long way for the elves, and they were so frightened! But they stayed right behind the brownie, and he showed them what to do.

Ever so softly they opened the door of the children's room.



Brownie looked in. Everything was still. He told all the elves to stay right where they were.

Then he looked around. He jumped up on the beds. The brownie saw that the children had gone to sleep.

He jumped up on the table and looked into the fish bowl. Sammy was sleeping.

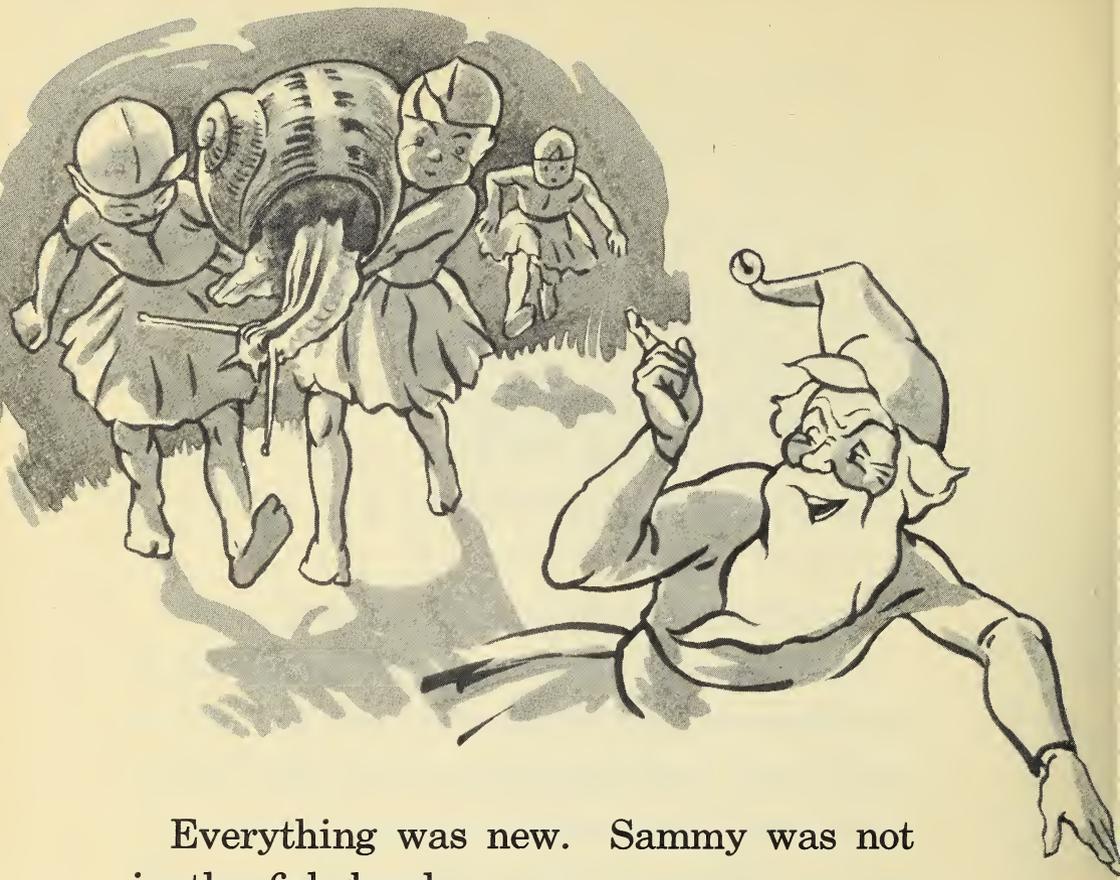
Then the brownie went back to the elves and said softly, "Come on."

The elves came into the room.

Then Sammy woke up. Everything was as black as coal. All at once the water in the fish bowl began to go up and down.

Up and down went Sammy Snail. He was so frightened that he could not say a thing. But he knew that he was being taken out of the fish bowl.

Then everything was still again. Not a thing could Sammy hear. He looked here. He looked there. And he looked behind him.



Everything was new. Sammy was not in the fish bowl.

Poor frightened Sammy! He looked here again. He looked there again. And he looked behind him again.

“Where am I?” asked Sammy. “What shall I do?”

But no one said anything.

At last Sammy saw many fish swimming in and out of a little house.

There were more fish than Sammy had ever seen before. He could not believe his eyes.



One of the fish went to Sammy and said, "Hello, Sammy! I am Charlie. We are glad that you came to our pool.

"I hear from my friend Brownie that you know how to keep the water clean. We fish do not know how to keep the water clean. We thought you might help us here in the pool."

"Did you say pool?" asked Sammy. "How did I ever get in a pool?"

Brownie had been sitting on a toadstool all this time.

He said, "The elves and I thought you would like it here. So we went to the children's room and took you out of the fish bowl. Then we took you down the stairs and out to the pool.

"This pool is a very nice place, and I know you will like it here."

"I know I will, too!" cried Sammy.

And Sammy said not a thing about how frightened he had been.



Then Charlie said, "Please stay and help us, Sammy. We really need your help. We will be good to you if you will keep the pool clean. We need you."

This made Sammy very happy. He liked to think that someone needed him.

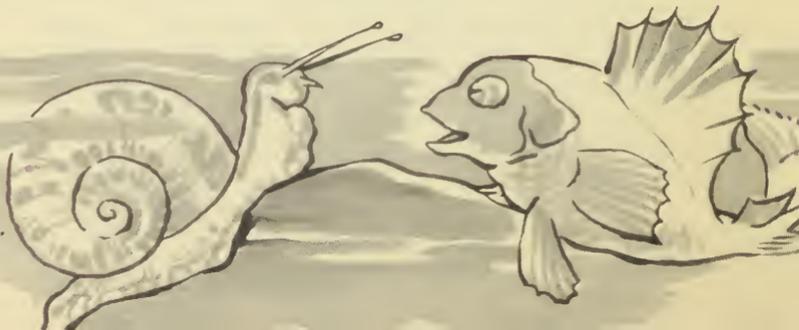
"I will be glad to stay," said Sammy Snail. "I must get busy right away. This pool is very dirty."

"Thank you, Sammy," said all the fish. "We cannot clean the pool, but we will talk to you when you are working."

From that day on Sammy Snail was so busy keeping the water clean in the big fish pool that he had no time to be sad.

He worked and worked all day long.

The fish liked Sammy, and Sammy liked the fish. And from that day on he was always happy because he had some work to do.





Working Together

One day Brownie heard the people in the house talking. The father said, "We have all been working very hard. I think we should go away in the car."

The mother said, "Let's go to our house in the north woods."

"That is a good plan," said the father. "We can go fishing and swimming. It will do us all good."

Now when Brownie heard this, he knew right then and there that Brownie was not going to be left behind.

The next day everyone at the house was busy getting ready to go away. Brownie thought of the good time he was going to have and laughed to himself.

Brownie went out into the garden that night and told his friends about going to the north woods. They were very happy for Brownie.

Sammy Snail stopped his work just long enough to tell Brownie to have a good time. Brownie said good-by to Sammy and the elves.

Then he sat on a toadstool and thought and thought. He was very worried about Sammy Snail because he had too much work to do.

“Sammy works too hard,” said Brownie. “Keeping the pool clean is too much work for one snail. I must see what I can do.”

Early the next morning, the children, the mother, and the father climbed into the car. The children sat in the back seat.

Do you know where Brownie sat? He was on the back bumper!

They rode for a long, long time. They saw rivers and many, many trees. It was fun riding along the road and looking at all there was to see.

Brownie had a good time, too. Up one hill and down another went the car.

Brownie held on to the bumper so that he would not fall off.

After riding for a long time, the father stopped the car and said, "Here we are in the north woods."

Everyone got out of the car.

Then the mother and the father and the children got the things out of the car and took them to the house, which was by the river.

Brownie jumped off the bumper. Then he jumped up and down and looked all around the place.

He met some squirrels and talked with them. They could not talk with Brownie very long, because they were busy.



Brownie walked down to the river and met Mr. Turtle.

“Hello, Mr. Turtle,” said the brownie.
“How are you?”

“I am fine,” said Mr. Turtle.

“The water looks very clean here,” said Brownie.

“Yes, it is,” Mr. Turtle said. “We have the snails to thank for that.”

“Snails!” said Brownie. “Where can I find them?”

“Every night the snails, the fish, and the turtles get together and have long water talks,” said Mr. Turtle.

“If you want to, you may come and talk with us.”

Brownie thought and thought. And he thought about Sammy Snail back home in the garden pool.

Here there were many snails at work, and there only poor Sammy Snail was doing all the work.

Then Brownie thought of a plan.

“If it will only work!” he said.

That night when everyone was sleeping, Brownie went down to the river.

He heard the fish talking to Mr. Turtle. He heard the snails talking, too.

Then Brownie said, "Hello, everyone! I am Brownie. I would like to hear about your work and how you live here in the north woods."

So the snails, the fish, and the turtles told Brownie all about living in the north woods.

"Now, you must tell us what you do, Brownie," said the fish.

Brownie told them all about the elves back home, and the fish, and Sammy Snail. And he told them about the garden and the pool.

Then Brownie asked, "How many snails live here?"

"Oh, there are many, many of us here," said the snails. "We have lots of work to do."

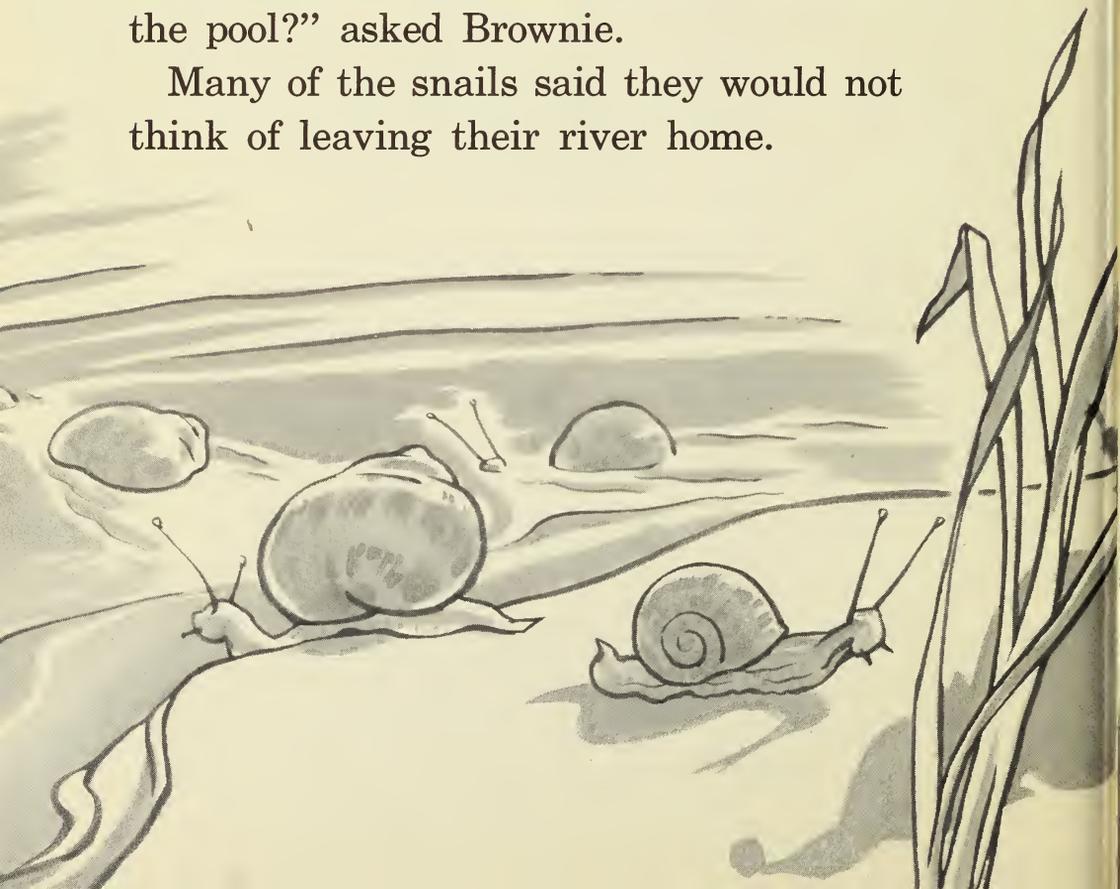


“Well, I know one small snail who has too much work to do,” said Brownie. “He has to keep the pool clean all by himself. He really needs help. I have been doing a lot of thinking.”

“Thinking!” said all the snails. “What have you been thinking about?”

“Would any one of you like to go back home with me and help this poor snail in the pool?” asked Brownie.

Many of the snails said they would not think of leaving their river home.



Then Brownie heard a small snail say, "I will help, Brownie, if you think I can. I am Tiny Snail. The other snails say that I work too slowly, but I do the best I can.

"I think that Sammy Snail and I could keep the pool clean. I would like very much to help him."

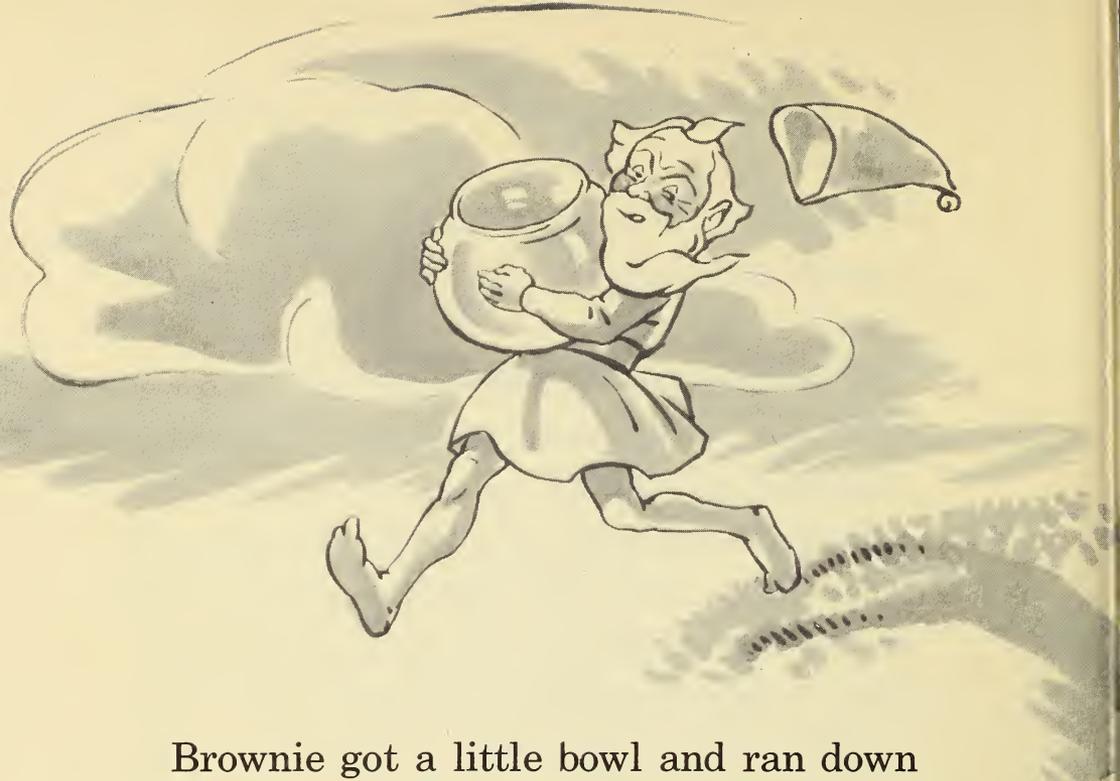
So Brownie said, "You will be of much help, Tiny. We are going to leave here in two days. Do you think you will have time to say good-by to all your friends?"

"Oh, yes!" Tiny said. "But how will you take me to your pool?"

"I will think of a way," said Brownie.

The two days went by very fast. Tiny was busy getting ready to go away. And the brownie had a fine time running and jumping through the woods.

Then the day came for the children, the father, and the mother to go home. They put all of their things into the car.



Brownie got a little bowl and ran down to the river. He filled the bowl with water, and then put Tiny Snail in it.

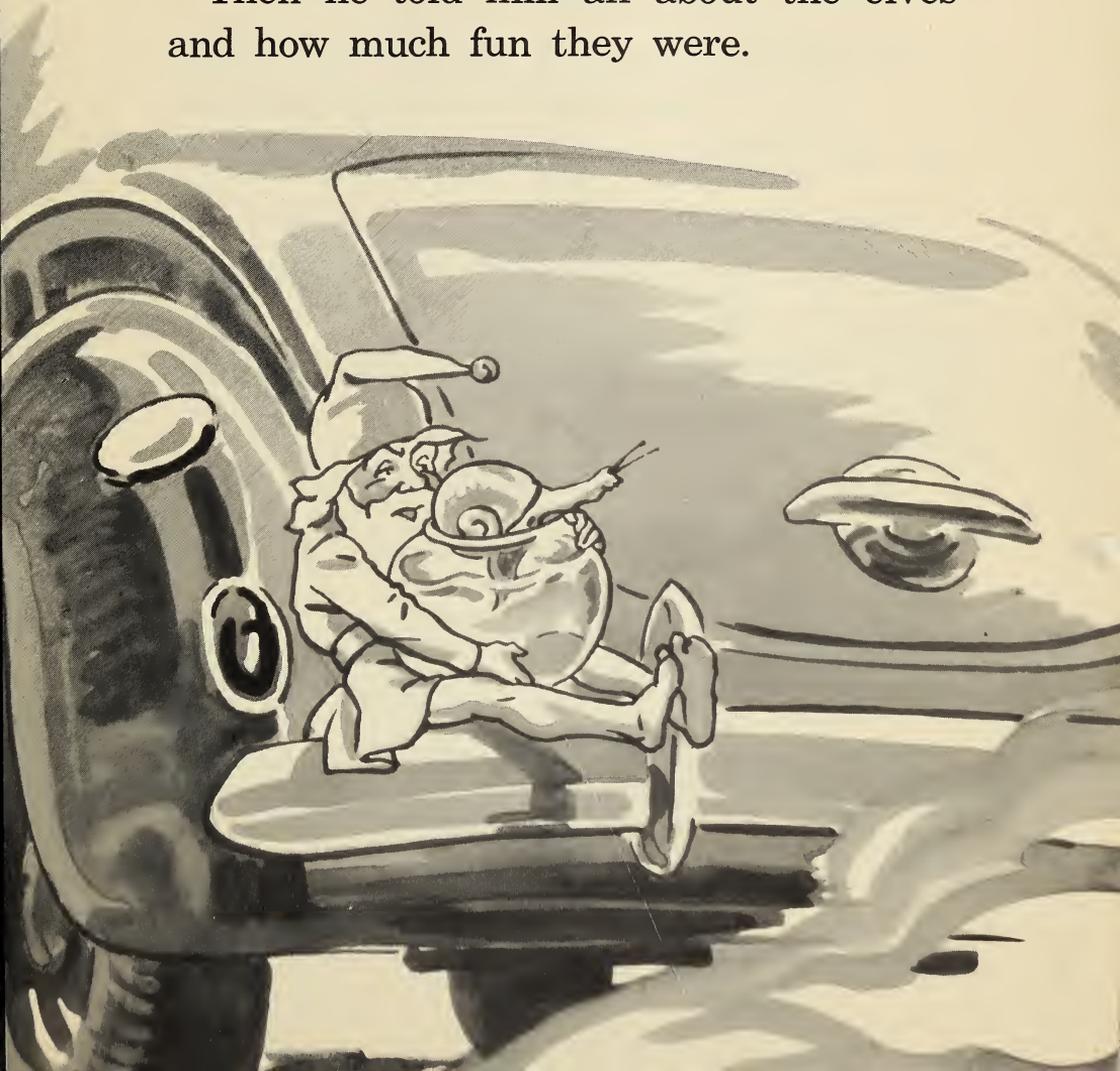
“Don’t be afraid, Tiny,” said Brownie. “I will sit on the bumper and hold on to the bowl.”

Before long, away went the car with the mother, the father, the children, Brownie, and Tiny Snail. Up and down the hills they went.

Poor Tiny Snail went bump, bump, bump! What a ride he had!

Brownie kept talking to Tiny so that he would not be afraid. He told him more about Sammy and the fish in the pool.

Then he told him all about the elves and how much fun they were.



After they rode a long time, the car came to a stop. The father said, "Here we are back home again."

The mother, the father, and the children went into the house.

Brownie jumped off the bumper.

He said to Tiny, "I am going to hide you behind a tree now. I will come and get you later."

Then Brownie ran to the garden. He called to the elves. They came running from all over the garden.

My, but they were glad to see Brownie again!

The elves asked Brownie all about the north woods. He told them he would tell them about that later.

"Right now I have a secret to tell you," he said.

So Brownie told the elves about Tiny Snail, but he told them not to tell Sammy Snail.

Brownie said, "I want to surprise him tonight."

One of the elves said, "Brownie, you can think of more nice things to do for others!"

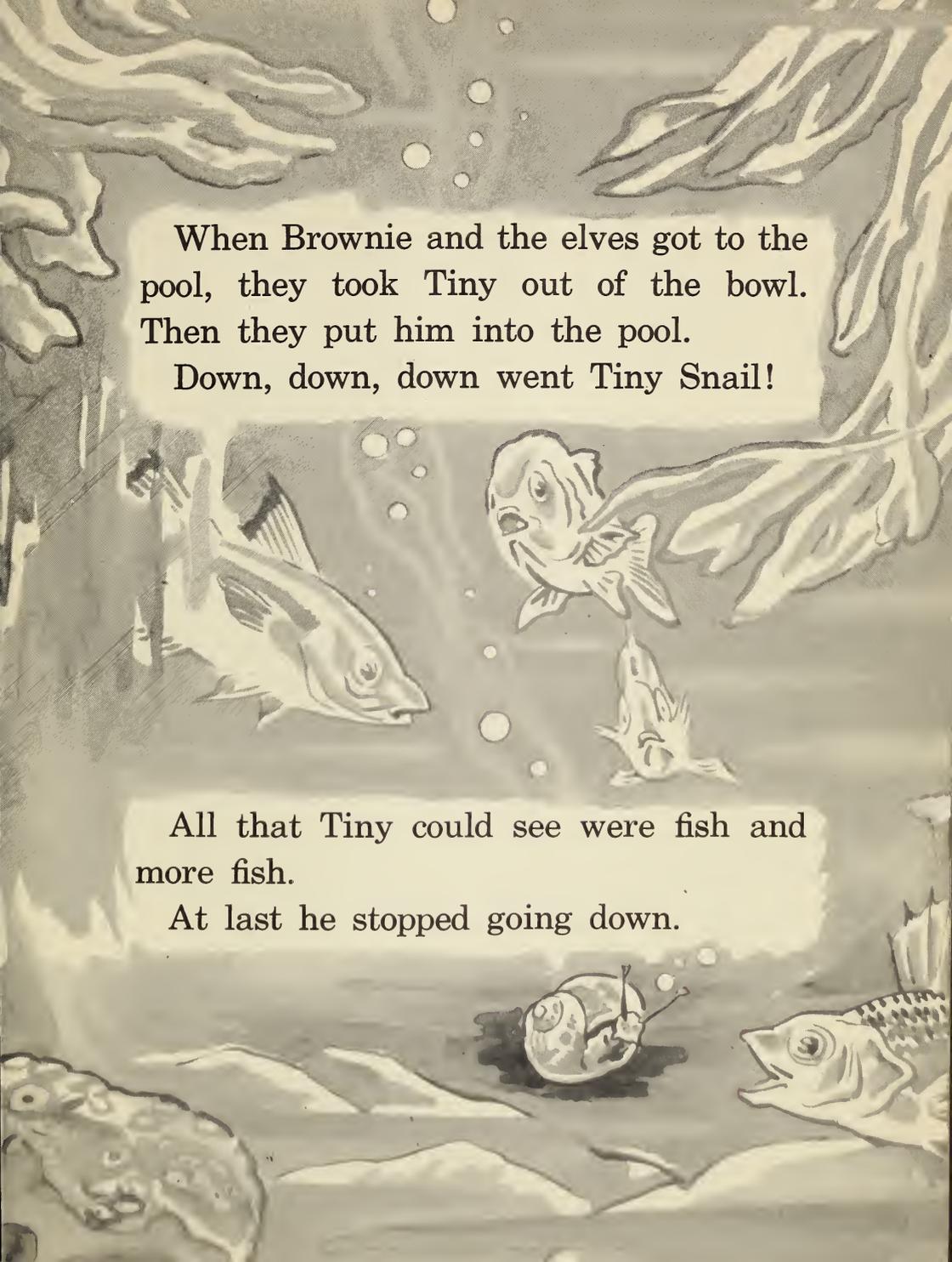
"Oh, I like to help others if I can," said Brownie. "I have to go back to Tiny now. I will see you again tonight."





That night Brownie and the elves got the bowl with Tiny in it. They took it to the pool.

“Don’t be afraid, Tiny,” Brownie said. “We are taking you to the pool in which Sammy Snail lives.”

An illustration of an underwater scene. In the upper half, several fish are swimming. One fish on the left is a striped fish, and another on the right is a larger, more colorful fish. Bubbles are rising from the bottom. The background shows some seaweed or coral-like structures. The text is enclosed in a white, cloud-like shape.

When Brownie and the elves got to the pool, they took Tiny out of the bowl. Then they put him into the pool.

Down, down, down went Tiny Snail!

All that Tiny could see were fish and more fish.

At last he stopped going down.

An illustration of a snail on the ocean floor. The snail is small and has a patterned shell. It is positioned in the lower center of the page. To its right, a larger fish is swimming towards it. The ocean floor is depicted with some rocks and seaweed.

Then Tiny saw Sammy Snail.

"Hello, Sammy!" said Tiny. "I am Tiny Snail. Brownie told me that you needed help in keeping this pool clean."

Sammy Snail said, "Hello, Tiny! I *do* need some help in keeping this pool clean. There is too much work for just one snail to do."

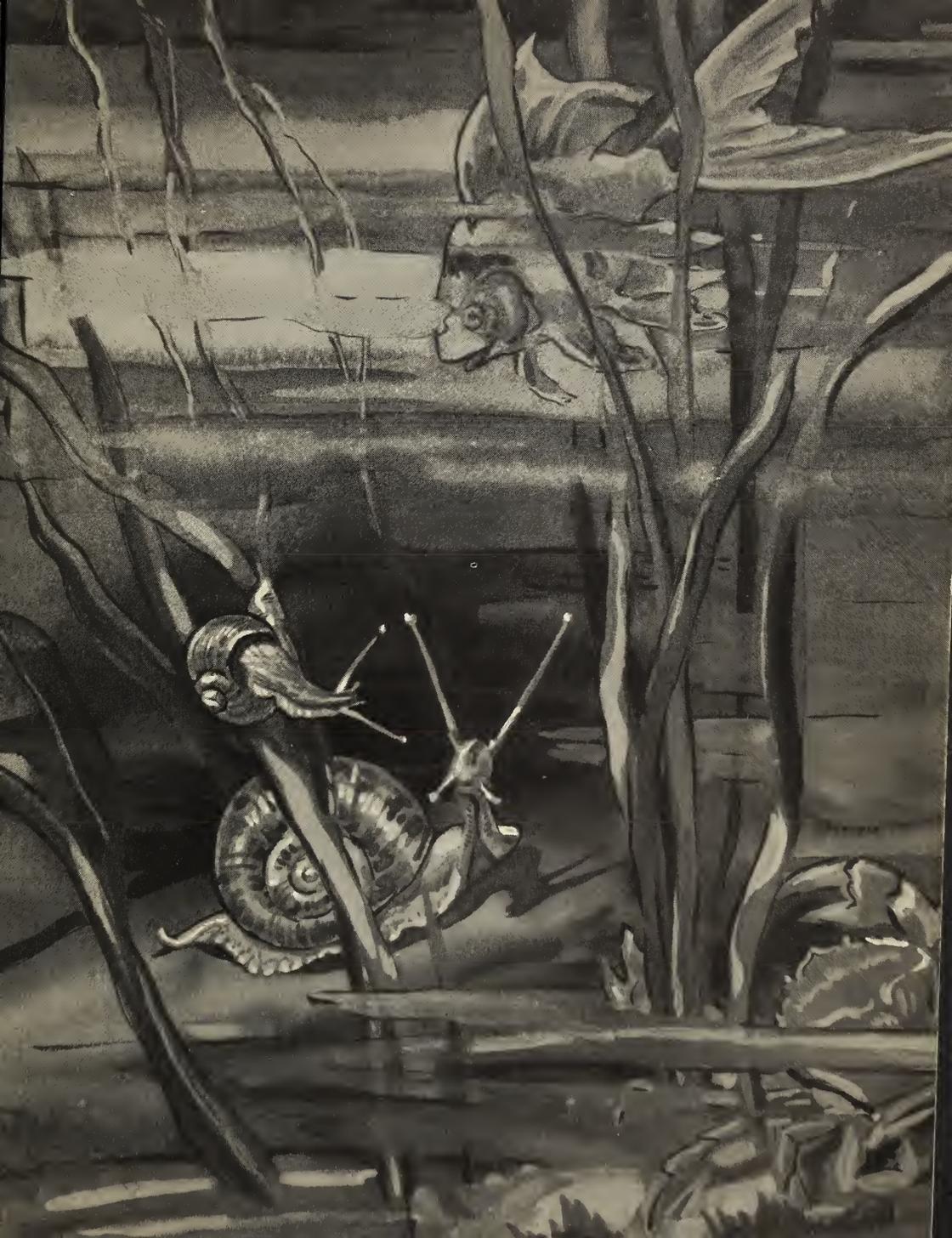
Then Tiny said, "I came back from the north woods with Brownie to help you."

"I am so glad that you are here," said Sammy. "The work will not be so hard now that there will be two of us to do it. We can work together."

"Yes, we can work together," Tiny said. "And we will keep this pool clean. I am very happy to be here."

Sammy Snail said, "I must see Brownie. I want to thank him for bringing you here from the north woods to help me."

"I will be back in just a minute, Tiny. I am going to see Brownie now."



A black and white line drawing showing a bearded man with a pointed hat and two children peering over the edge of a pool. The man is on the right, looking towards the left. The children are on the left, one sitting and one lying down, both looking towards the man. The pool is in the foreground, and the background shows a rocky or cave-like setting with some foliage.

Up, up, up went Sammy Snail!
Brownie and all the elves were standing
around the pool.

“Hello, Sammy,” said Brownie. “How
did you like the surprise?”

A black and white line drawing of a child in a tutu and a hat jumping into a pool. The child is in mid-air, with arms and legs outstretched. The pool is on the right side of the frame, and the background shows a rocky or cave-like setting with some foliage.



Sammy said, "It is the nicest surprise that I have ever had. Oh, thank you, Brownie!"

"Now that Tiny is here with me, we can work together. With two of us working hard, we can keep the pool very clean."



"I know that you would be happy," said Brownie. "Keeping the pool clean is too much work for one snail. I knew that you needed help."

Then down, down, down went Sammy Snail in the pool.

Tiny was glad to see Sammy again.

"Now, Tiny, I will show you all around the pool," said Sammy. "You will want to see just where you are going to work."

After Sammy showed the pool to Tiny, he told Tiny about the work they would have to do.

"We will keep this pool very clean," Sammy said. "I want the pool to be the cleanest that the fish have ever seen. We can do it together, Tiny."

"I know we can," said Tiny.

And from that time on Sammy and Tiny worked and laughed and talked together. They kept the pool clean. They were very happy working together.

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BROWNIE AND HIS FRIENDS

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WORD LIST

If *Brownie and His Friends* is read subsequent to the reading of Unit Three of the Second Reader, *We Grow Up*, all words in *Brownie and His Friends* will be familiar with the exception of fifteen new words which are contained in the following list.

The new words are grouped here under the pages on which they first occur.

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