

Mónika A. Lukács

# The Impossible Journey



Illustrated by Lilla Szabó

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the book by scanning the code below.



*Sea of Adventures Series*

Read with Me!

Recommended for children aged 7–8

Mónika A. Lukács

The Impossible Journey

Illustrated by Lilla Szabó

Translated by Adrienn Simovics

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# Foreword



The heroes of the *Sea of Adventures* stories  
all go on different journeys to find  
safety and stay alive.



In the second book of the series, a huge  
storm leaves two little seagulls all alone.  
Will they survive the dangers and find  
their lost family?

The exciting story is easy to read with  
simple sentences and large letters.

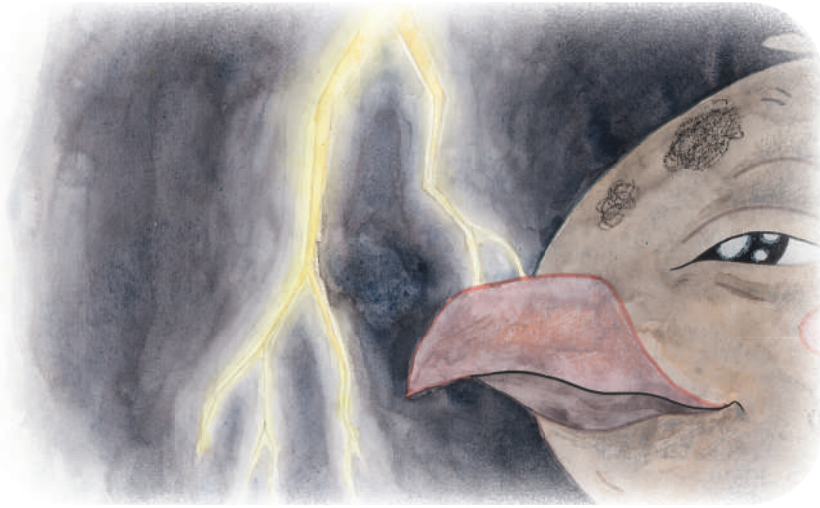
The colourful watercolour pictures make  
reading and understanding fun.





## CHAPTER I

# Little Chicks



Darkness.

“Is the whole world just darkness? Is my life nothing but shadow?” I wonder<sup>1</sup>.

I move a little. Then I hear a soft crack<sup>2</sup>.  
A small light comes in where I live.

---

<sup>1</sup> wonder – csodálkozik

<sup>2</sup> crack – repedés



“Finally something is happening!”

I see a little hole above my head. **Curious<sup>3</sup>**,  
I start to **peck<sup>4</sup>** at the crack. It grows  
bigger and bigger.

At last, with a loud **crash<sup>5</sup>**, my whole home  
breaks in two. I push out my tiny **beak<sup>6</sup>**.

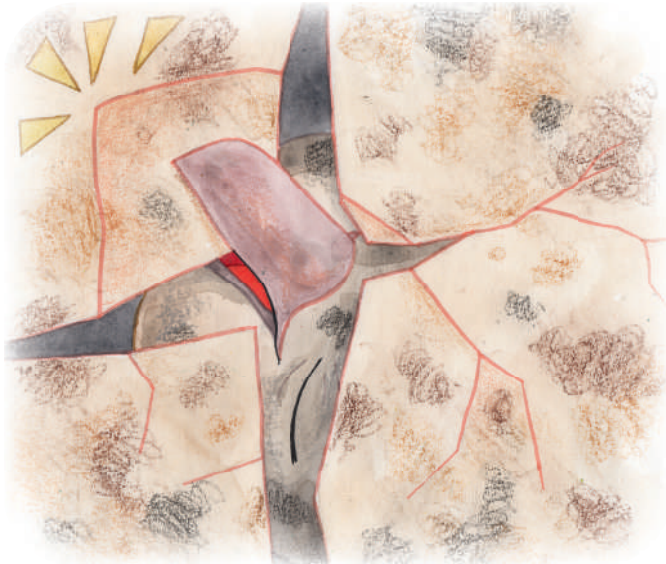
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<sup>3</sup> curious – kíváncsi

<sup>4</sup> peck – csípked, kopogtat

<sup>5</sup> crash – reccsenés, csattanás

<sup>6</sup> beak – csőr







I pull my wings out of the **egg shell**<sup>7</sup>.  
The sunlight almost **blinds**<sup>8</sup> me. I feel the  
soft touch of the wind.

---

<sup>7</sup>egg shell – tojánhéj

<sup>8</sup>blinds – megvakít





It is amazing that there is **life**<sup>9</sup> outside my egg, where I spent all my days. I look around. I see another little **spotted**<sup>10</sup> egg not far away. It speaks:

*“Knock-knock, hello, is anyone here?”*  
Its thin voice breaks the silence.

---

<sup>9</sup> life – élet

<sup>10</sup> spotted – pettyes

“I am here. Are you stuck?” I ask the little egg curiously. “Yes, can you help me get out? Everything is very hard and **tight**<sup>11</sup>. I can’t see anything,” it answers **softly**<sup>12</sup>.

With great **courage**<sup>13</sup>, I walk to the egg and start pecking.

At first, there is only a small crack. Then our beaks touch at the hole. At last, we break the whole shell. Now I see the soft, little talking bird.

---

<sup>11</sup> tight – szoros

<sup>12</sup> softly – puhán

<sup>13</sup> courage - bátorság





## CHAPTER II

# I Have a Brother!

“Hi! Thank you for helping me!” he says happily.

“Hi, Tiny!” I **greet**<sup>14</sup> him too, and I look at him **carefully**<sup>15</sup>.

“Look, you have **spots**<sup>16</sup> on your back, just like me! We must be brothers” I say.

---

<sup>14</sup> greet – üdvözöl

<sup>15</sup> carefully – alaposan

<sup>16</sup> spots – pöttyök



“Really? I am happy to meet you, big brother Dotty” the little chick answers kindly.



“Brilliant! I have a brother!”

But where are our parents? Who are we? Why did they **leave**<sup>17</sup> us here? Where did they go? How can we find them? I think sadly.

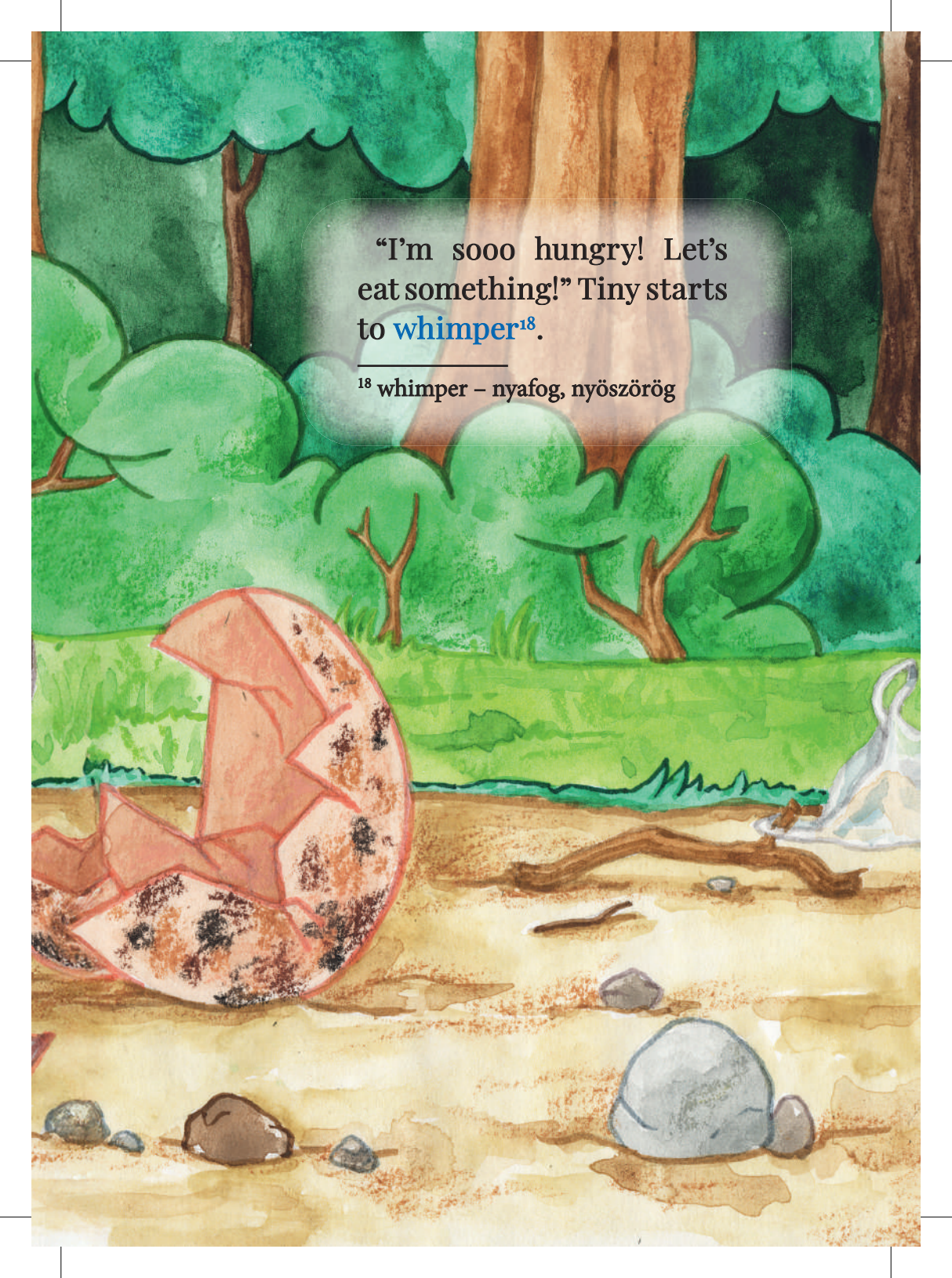
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<sup>17</sup> leave – hagy









“I’m sooo hungry! Let’s eat something!” Tiny starts to **whimper**<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>18</sup> whimper – nyafog, nyöszörög

I look around. I see **berries**<sup>19</sup>, little **crawling**<sup>20</sup> and flying animals, and many shiny, **inviting**<sup>21</sup> things.

But **neither of us**<sup>22</sup> knows what is safe to eat.

“Let’s ask someone!” I suggest. But I don’t really know who could help us, because there is not a single **soul**<sup>23</sup> around.

---

<sup>19</sup> berries – bogyók

<sup>20</sup> crawling – csúszó-mászó

<sup>21</sup> inviting – hívogató

<sup>22</sup> neither of us – egyikünk sem

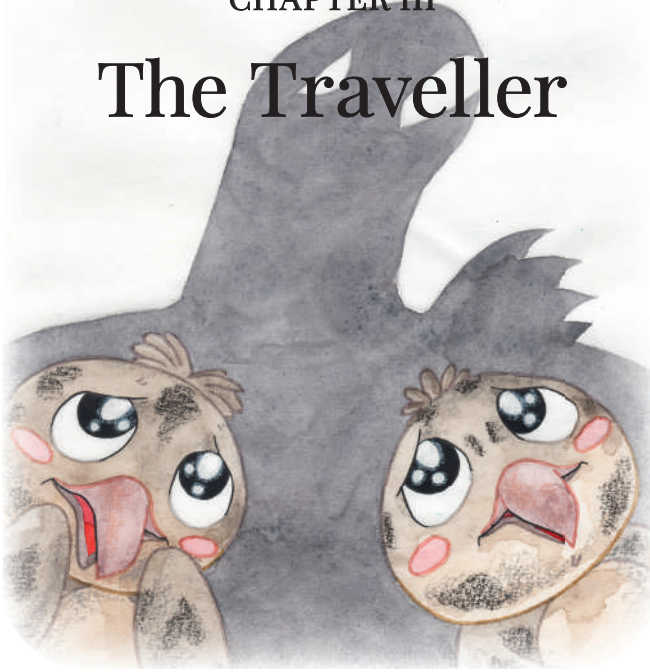
<sup>23</sup> soul – lélek





### CHAPTER III

# The Traveller



We don't have to wait long. Someone slowly walks toward us: a **strange creature**<sup>24</sup>, very different from us.

At first, it is a little **scary**<sup>25</sup>, but we see it smiles at us **kindly**<sup>26</sup>.

---

<sup>24</sup> strange creature – furcsa lény

<sup>25</sup> scary – ijesztő

<sup>26</sup> kindly – kedvesen





It comes closer and closer. I **gather**<sup>27</sup> all my courage and speak:

“Hi! We do not know where we are, why we are here, or where our parents went. We are hungry, but we don’t know what’s safe to eat. Can you help us?”

---

<sup>27</sup> gather – összeszed



“Hello, little ones! I am Moses, the **swamp turtle**<sup>28</sup>. Don’t be afraid of me. You are **seagulls**<sup>29</sup>, black-headed gulls. I know your relatives. You eat berries, fish, and **insects**<sup>30</sup>. But be careful — don’t eat the shiny bits on the ground! Most of them are plastic or glass left by humans. **Watch out**<sup>31</sup> for the big birds and the furry animals. They can be dangerous.”

<sup>28</sup> swamp turtle – mocsári teknős

<sup>29</sup> seagulls – sirályok

<sup>30</sup> insects – rovarok

<sup>31</sup> watch out – vigyázz



The turtle continues:

“As for your parents... there was a big **storm**<sup>32</sup> this morning. Maybe the wind carried them away, or maybe it carried you away from them. I am sure they are looking for you too. I hope you will find each other. Follow the river!”

“Thank you!” we nod.

It is **comforting**<sup>33</sup> to think they may be nearby.

---

<sup>32</sup> storm – vihar

<sup>33</sup> comforting – megnyugtató





We say goodbye and eat the tasty berries.  
Along the river, we start our search for  
our parents.

We ask everyone we meet if they have  
seen them. But no one can help us.



Days pass, then weeks. We move further and further, but there is no **trace**<sup>34</sup> of our parents.

Many times we must hide from **predators**<sup>35</sup>. One day, a **badger**<sup>36</sup> tries to catch us, another time, huge birds chase us. A barking puppy scares the badger away, and we hide from the attacking birds in the **prickly bushes**<sup>37</sup>.

---

<sup>34</sup> trace – nyom

<sup>35</sup> predators – ragadozók

<sup>36</sup> badger – borz

<sup>37</sup> prickly bushes – szúrós bokrok















At night, we are the most afraid. The strange noises and unknown sounds are **the scariest**<sup>38</sup>. We always sleep hidden among the **reeds**<sup>39</sup> and bushes.

During the day, we get tired from walking so much, but we try to move a little further along the river every day.

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<sup>38</sup> the scariest – a legfélelmetesebb

<sup>39</sup> reeds – nádas



## CHAPTER IV

# A Ray of Hope

One day, when I am **preening**<sup>40</sup>, I notice that I am getting bigger and stronger, and so is Tiny. I am very proud of my **shiny**<sup>41</sup>, sparkling **feathers**<sup>42</sup>. I look at my stronger and faster legs **with satisfaction**<sup>43</sup>.

“But will we ever find our parents?” the thought hits me again.

The river is very long, maybe it will never end. Maybe there is no end.

We need to rest less and less, and the days pass faster.

One morning, a huge **owl**<sup>44</sup> flies down beside us.

---

<sup>40</sup> preening – tollászkodik

<sup>41</sup> shiny – fényes

<sup>42</sup> feathers – tollak

<sup>43</sup> with satisfaction – elégedetten

<sup>44</sup> owl – bagoly





“Where are you **wandering**<sup>45</sup>, little birds?  
Where are your parents?” it asks in its  
deep, **wise**<sup>46</sup> voice.

---

<sup>45</sup> wandering – vándorol

<sup>46</sup> wise – bölcs





We tell the owl what happened to us.  
The owl says:

“Follow the river. Soon you will reach the sea. There, call Olokun, the **god of the waters**<sup>47</sup>. He knows everything and everyone. I’m sure he can help you!”

A **ray of hope**<sup>48</sup> gives us new strength.

A few days later, I can’t **believe**<sup>49</sup> my eyes: the sea lies before us. It’s simply wonderful!

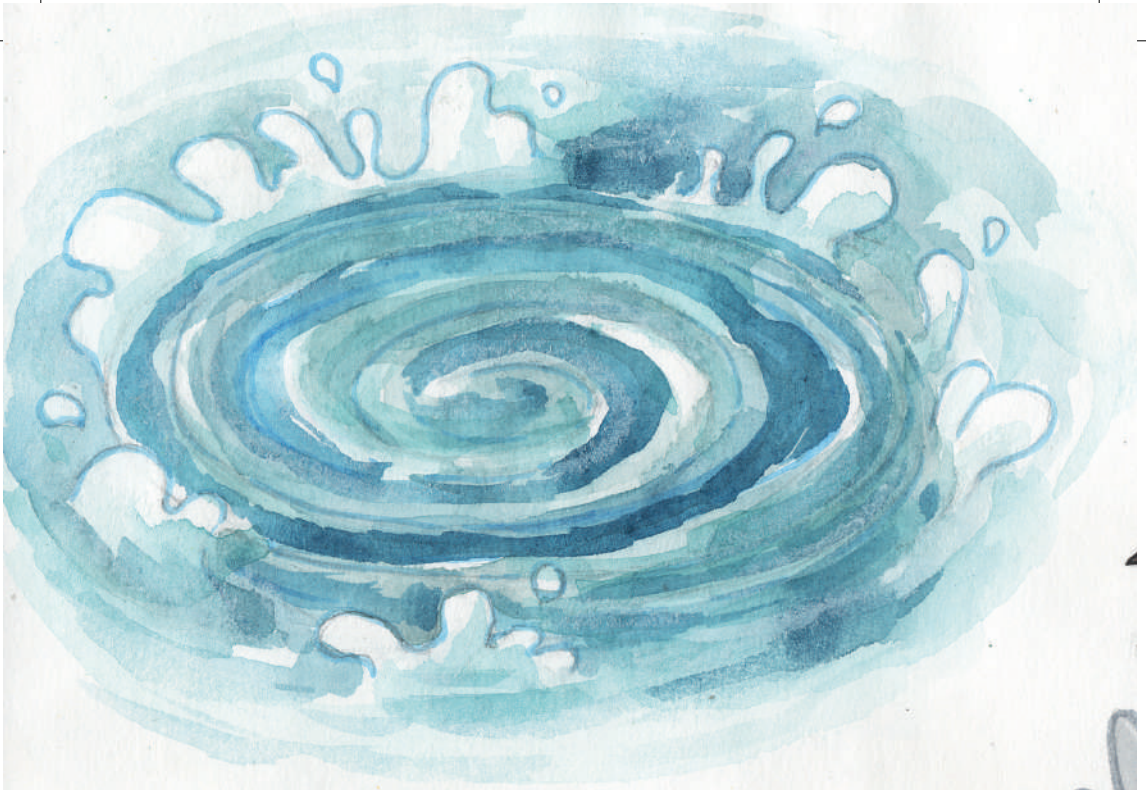
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<sup>47</sup> god of the waters – a vizek istene

<sup>48</sup> ray of hope – reménysugár

<sup>49</sup> believe – hisz





We stop on the **sandy shore**<sup>50</sup>, and together with Tiny we shout:

“Olokuuun! Olokuuun!”

The sea **roars**<sup>51</sup> louder and louder. Huge waves crash in front of us.

A ringing, melodic voice comes from the waves.

---

<sup>50</sup> sandy shore – homokos part

<sup>51</sup> roars – ordít



“Little ones, what you are looking for is not far. Look over there!” **shouts**<sup>52</sup> the god of the waters.

---

<sup>52</sup> shouts – kiált



Olokun points to an **island**<sup>53</sup> near the shore.

“There, there you will find the ones you are looking for!

When I look at the island, my heart feels tight.

“It is so far away!” I sigh. “How can we get there if we can’t even swim?”

Olokun smiles and answers:

“Why are you walking? You have wings! Open them and fly there! They are waiting for you.”

Tiny and I look at each other **in surprise**<sup>54</sup>. Could it really be true? Could we really fly and reach that faraway island? Could we really find our parents there?

---

<sup>53</sup> island – sziget

<sup>54</sup> in surprise – meglepődve









## CHAPTER V

# Wings

We have **nothing to lose**<sup>55</sup>. We wave our wings. Our feet slowly leave the ground.

Our whole bodies lift into the air.

We are flying!

I look down. The water bubbles and foams below us. It feels so good that we don't have to swim...

As we **rise**<sup>56</sup> higher, **suddenly**<sup>57</sup> a strong wind appears. The air **swirls**<sup>58</sup> around us, as if **invisible**<sup>59</sup> hands are pulling us. Tiny suddenly spins and begins to fall.

“Tiny!” I shout, scared.

---

<sup>55</sup> nothing to lose – nincs vesztenivaló

<sup>56</sup> rise – felemelkedik

<sup>57</sup> suddenly – hirtelen

<sup>58</sup> swirls – kavarog

<sup>59</sup> invisible – láthatatlan

I dive after him **immediately**<sup>60</sup>. I flap my wings as hard as I can. The wind **pulls and tugs**<sup>61</sup> us, but I don't give up. Tiny stops falling for a moment.

I catch him just in time!

**Panting**<sup>62</sup>, we hold on to each other.

---

<sup>60</sup> immediately – azonnal

<sup>61</sup> pulls and tugs - rángat

<sup>62</sup> panting - zihálva





When the storm finally **calms**<sup>63</sup> down,  
we continue flying carefully.

I feel the fear, but hope is stronger in me  
now. I look at Tiny: he's still **trembling**<sup>64</sup>,  
but he moves his wings bravely. I know  
we will reach the island together, which  
is getting closer and closer.

---

<sup>63</sup> calms – megnyugszik

<sup>64</sup> trembling – remeg



And then... I feel a special **warmth**<sup>65</sup> inside.

I look down.

Not far away, on the ground, I see my family!

“Mom! Dad!” we shout together.

My heart feels like it will jump out of my chest: we found them!

---

<sup>65</sup> warmth – melegség





We happily **bury**<sup>66</sup> ourselves in our parents' soft, warm feathers.

They hold us in their wings, crying.

In the gentle, **rocking hug**<sup>67</sup>, Tiny asks carefully:

“Why did you leave us?”

---

<sup>66</sup> bury – betemet

<sup>67</sup> rocking hug – ringató ölelés



“The whirlwind took us away. We searched everywhere without stopping! Unsuccessfully. You came from a completely different direction!” **explains**<sup>68</sup> Dad.

“But now you are finally home! The whole family is together! I am so happy!” continues Mom, **stroking**<sup>69</sup> us and wiping her tears.

At that moment, a dolphin jumps out of the waves.

It sings a special song and dives happily into the water. It seems as if it is **celebrating**<sup>70</sup> with us too.

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<sup>68</sup> explains – magyarázza

<sup>69</sup> stroking – simogatva

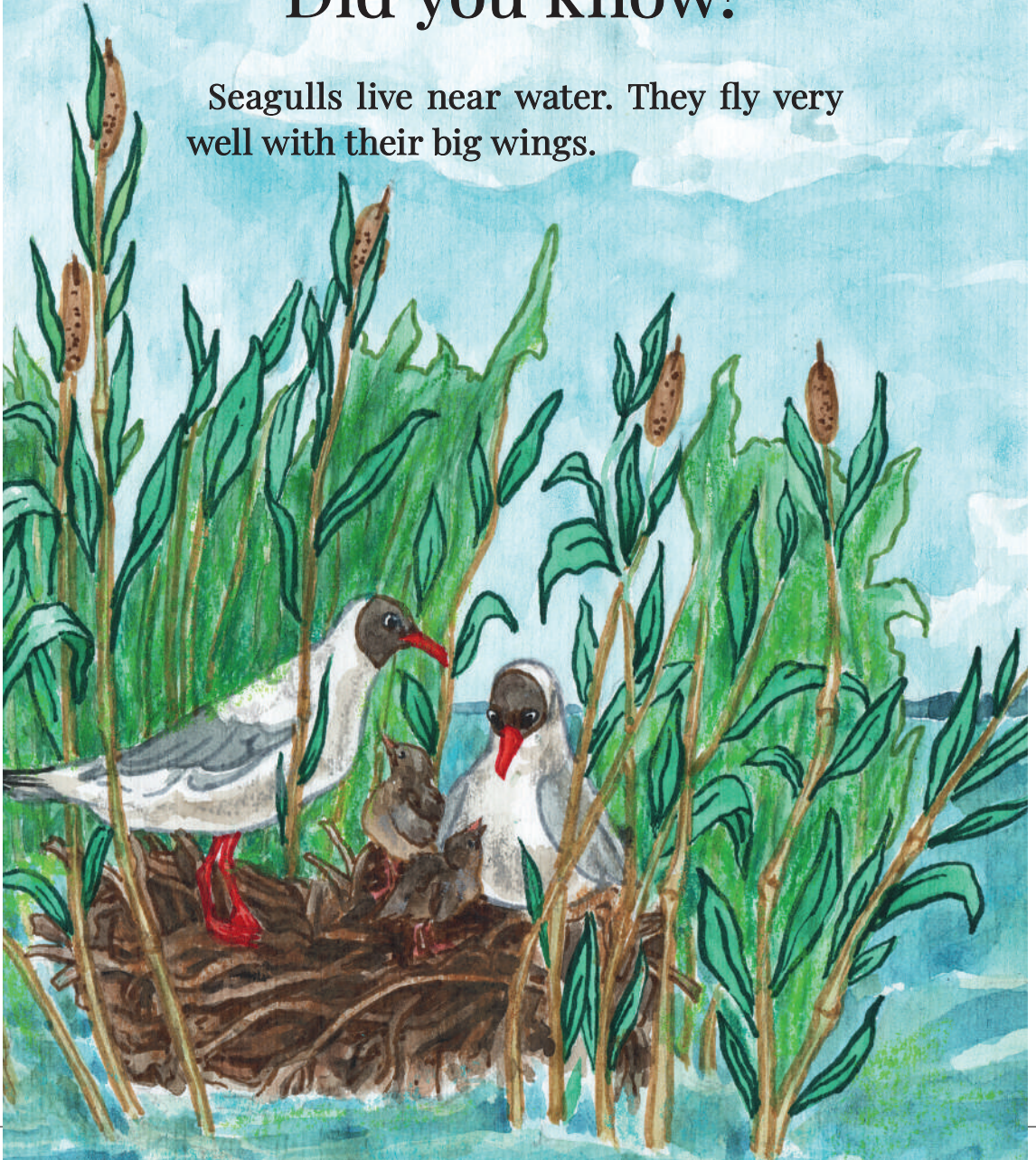
<sup>70</sup> celebrating – ünnepel



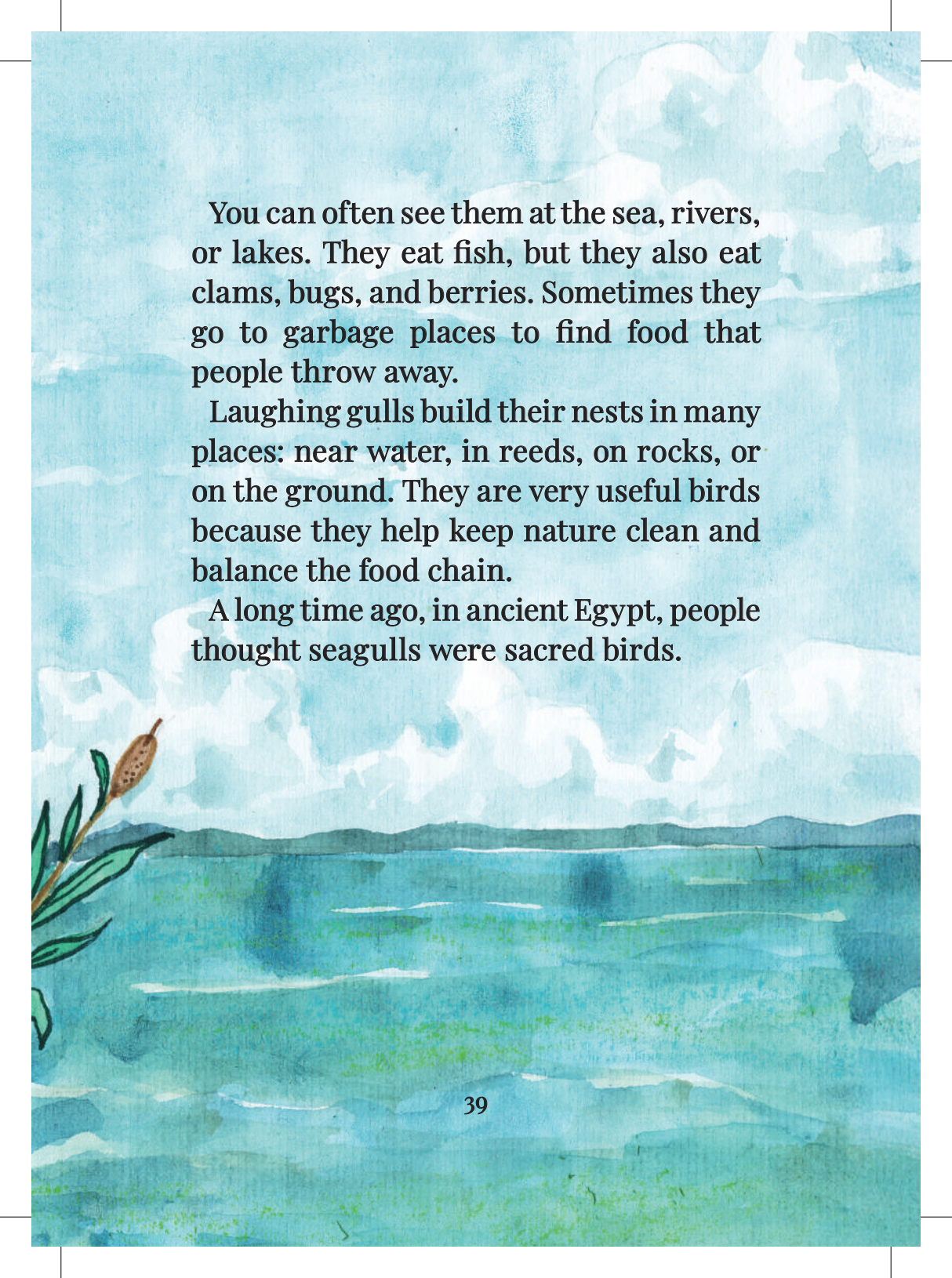


# Did you know?

Seagulls live near water. They fly very well with their big wings.







You can often see them at the sea, rivers, or lakes. They eat fish, but they also eat clams, bugs, and berries. Sometimes they go to garbage places to find food that people throw away.

Laughing gulls build their nests in many places: near water, in reeds, on rocks, or on the ground. They are very useful birds because they help keep nature clean and balance the food chain.

A long time ago, in ancient Egypt, people thought seagulls were sacred birds.





# Project Description

The book was created as part of the “*Empowering Students as Agents of Change*” (SHORE) project ([www.shoreproject.eu](http://www.shoreproject.eu)), in which the Budapest University of Technology and Economics is the Hungarian member. One of the program’s goals is to help children better understand the importance of oceans, seas, and the waters of our planet, as well as the diversity of their wildlife.

The primary mission of the project is to promote *ocean literacy*. The *Sea of Adventures* series supports this goal by bringing young schoolchildren closer to the wonders of aquatic life and the species living near water – through the magical world of stories.

Children experience the characters’ struggles, come to understand their deep interconnections, and become more sensitive to the ways water and its environment influence one another.



Did you know that there are  
7 essential principles of ocean  
literacy that everyone should know?

1. The Earth has one big ocean with many features.
2. The ocean and the life in the ocean shape the features of the Earth.
3. The ocean has a major influence on weather and climate.
4. The ocean makes the Earth habitable.
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.
7. The ocean is largely unexplored.



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