



The Tale of the Water Hyacinth

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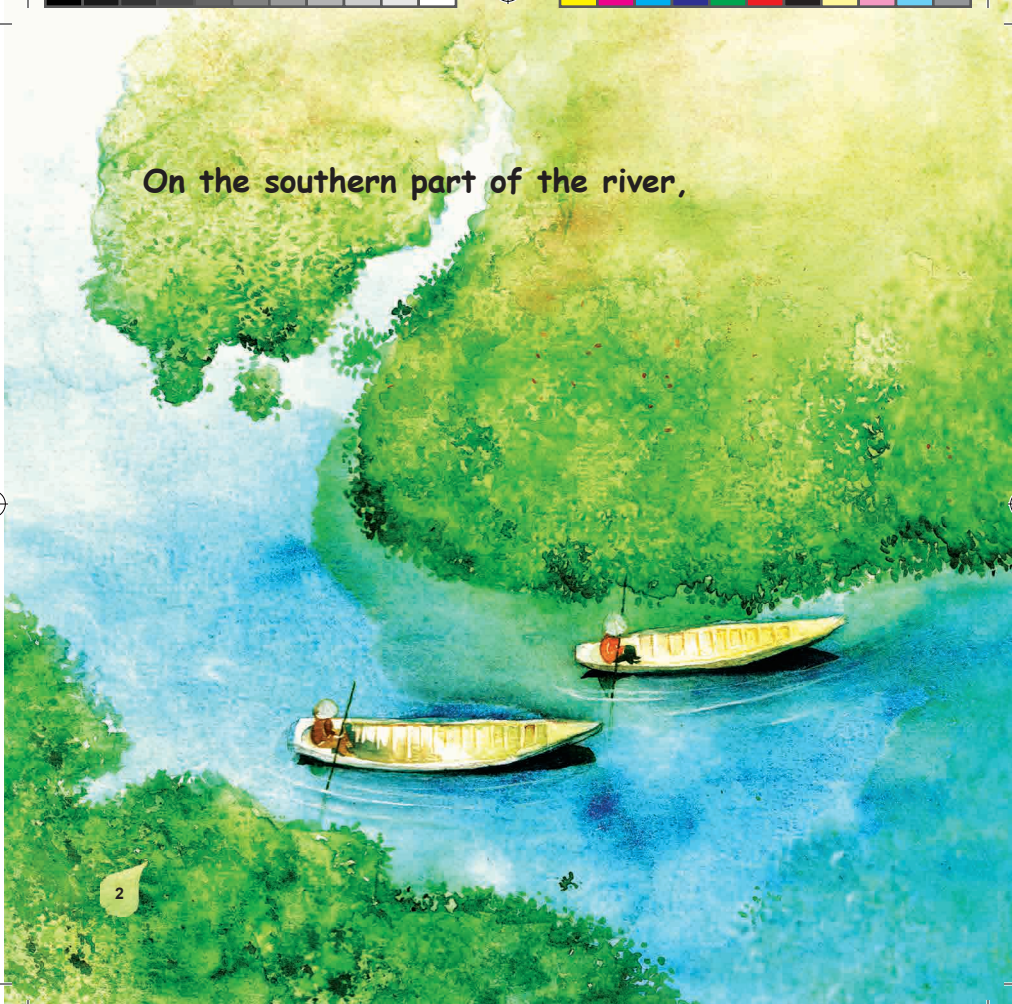






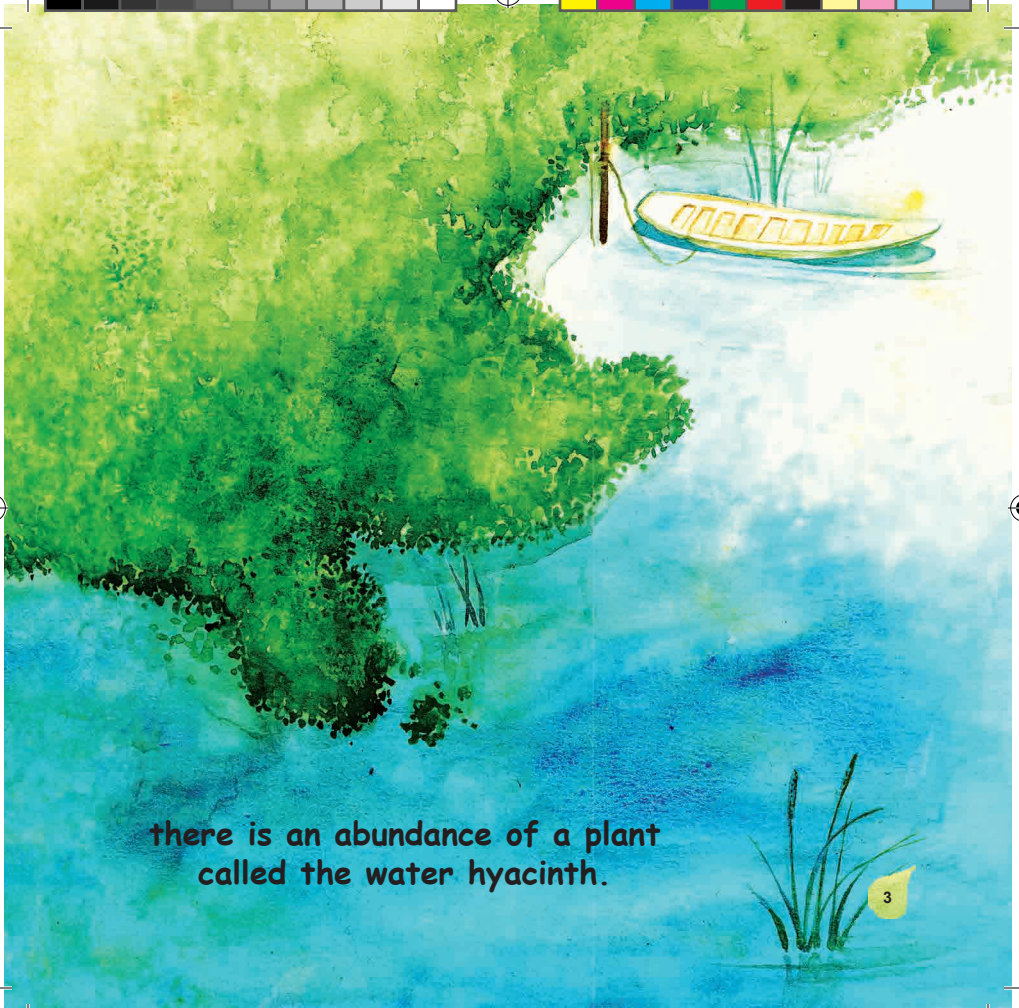


On the southern part of the river,



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there is an abundance of a plant
called the water hyacinth.

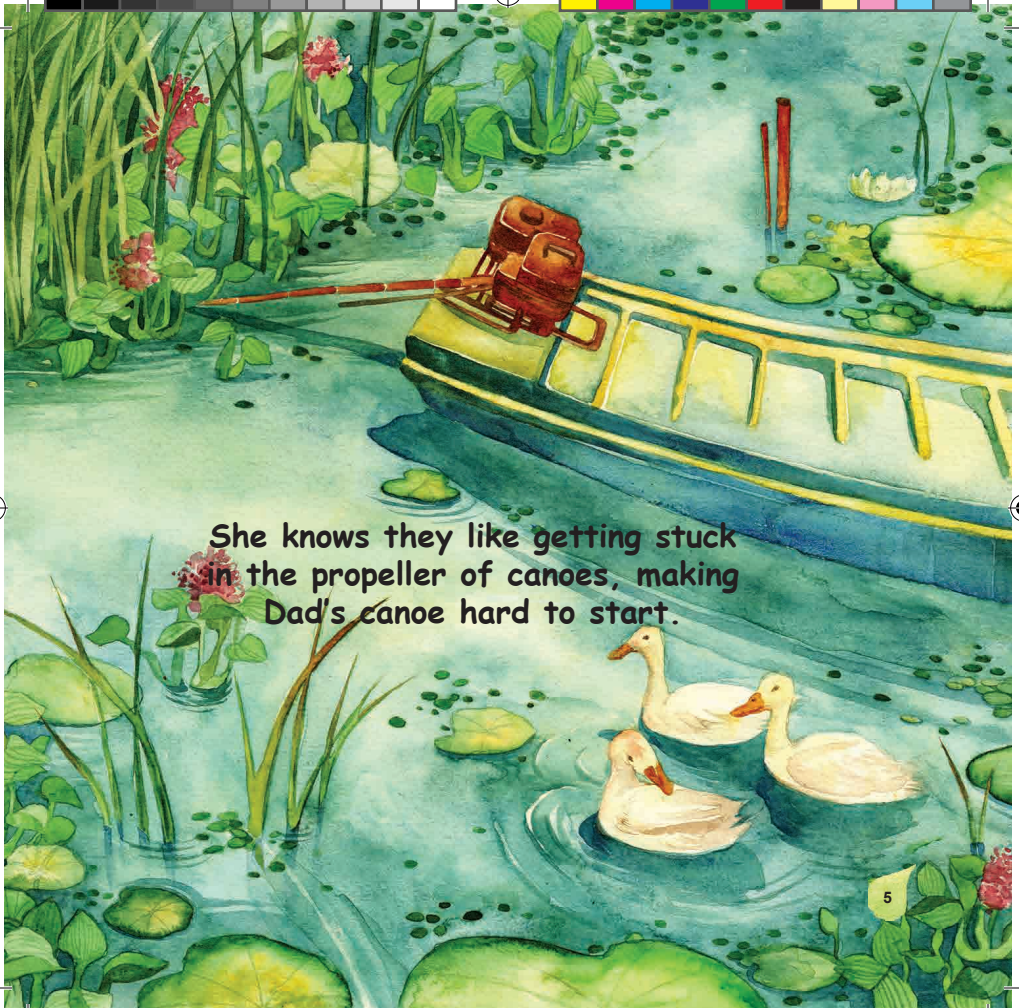
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Nep knows the water hyacinth has purple flowers.





She knows they like getting stuck
in the propeller of canoes, making
Dad's canoe hard to start.





**She knows that using the water hyacinth
to play house is so much fun.**

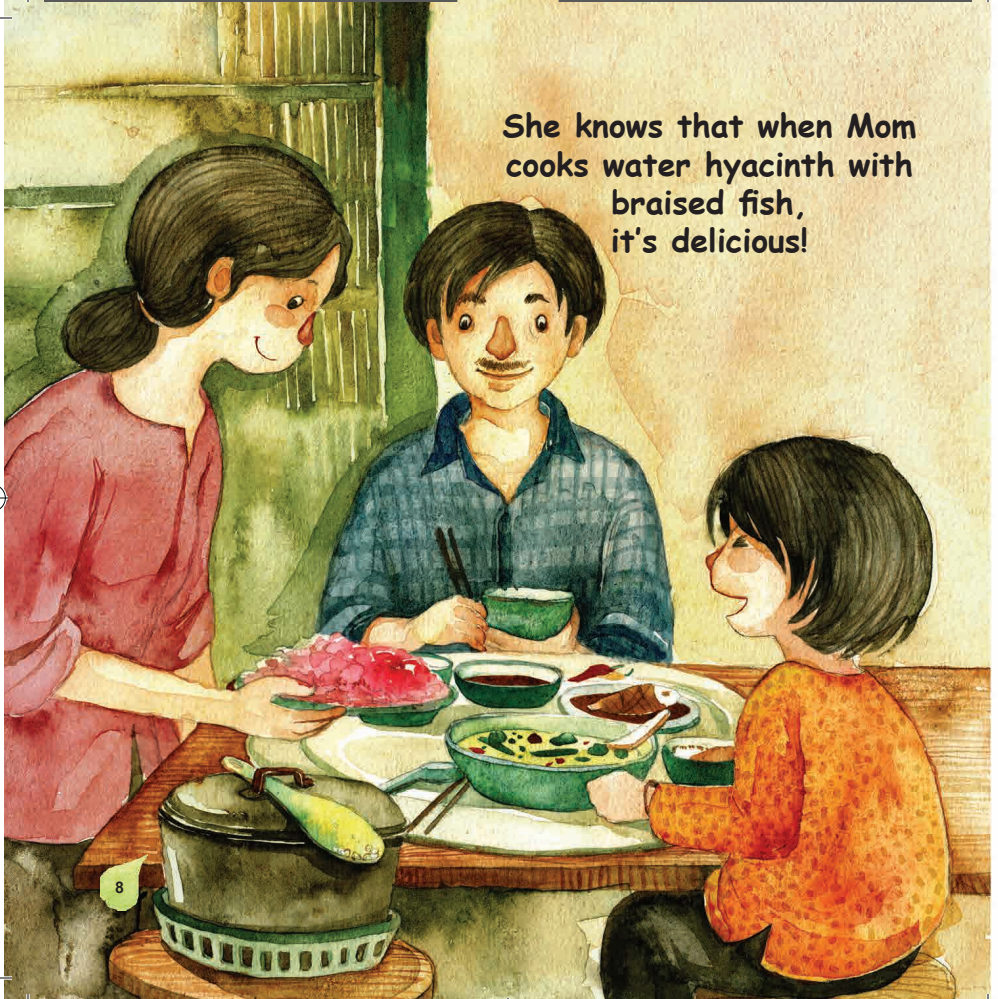
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She knows that when Mom
cooks water hyacinth with
braised fish,
it's delicious!

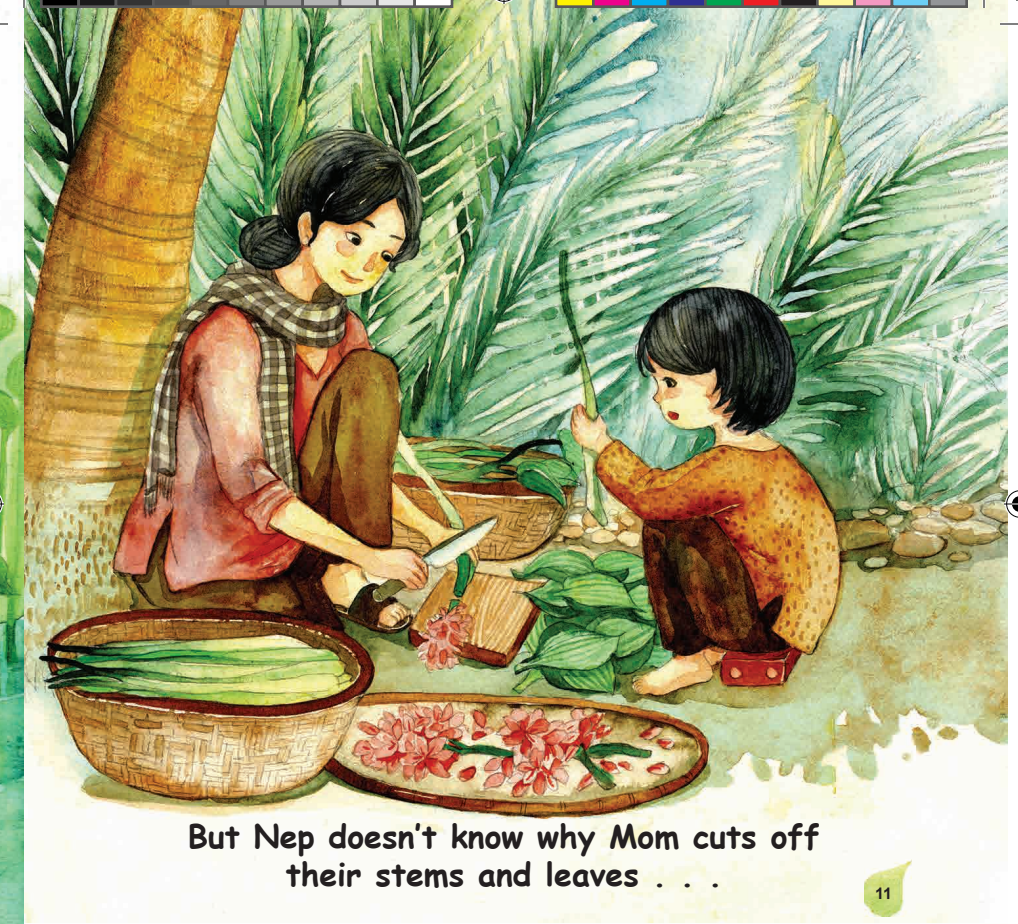




Nep also knows that her sister Lily likes to eat them fried with shrimp.







**But Nep doesn't know why Mom cuts off
their stems and leaves . . .**

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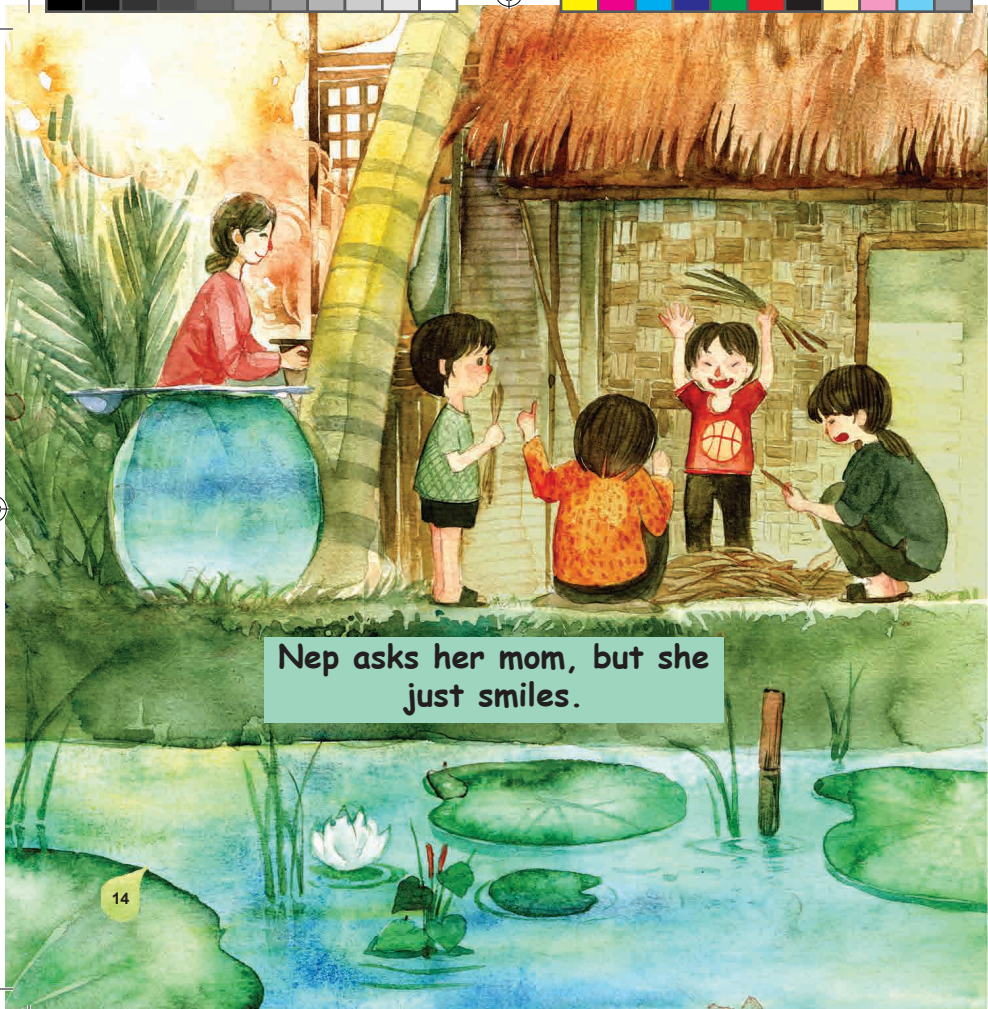
... and dries them.





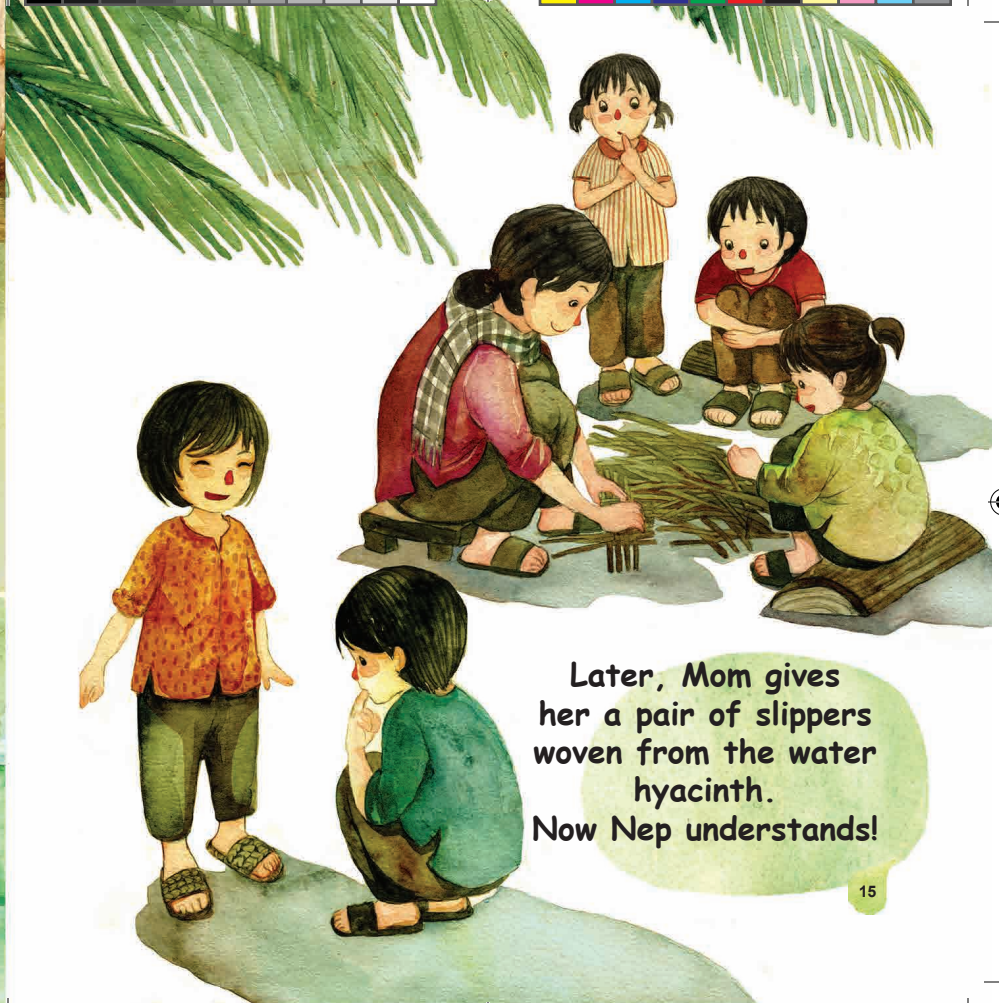
She doesn't know
why Mom weaves the
dried hyacinth sticks
together.





Nep asks her mom, but she just smiles.



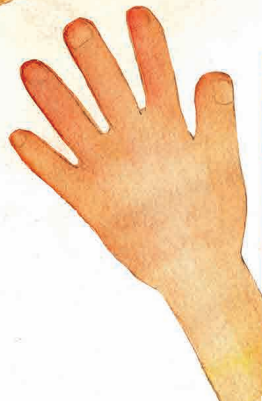
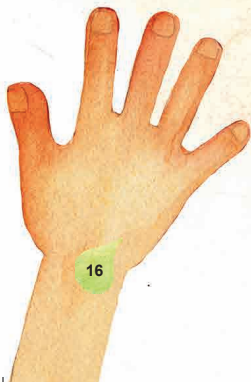
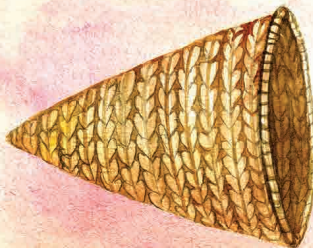


Later, Mom gives
her a pair of slippers
woven from the water
hyacinth.
Now Nep understands!



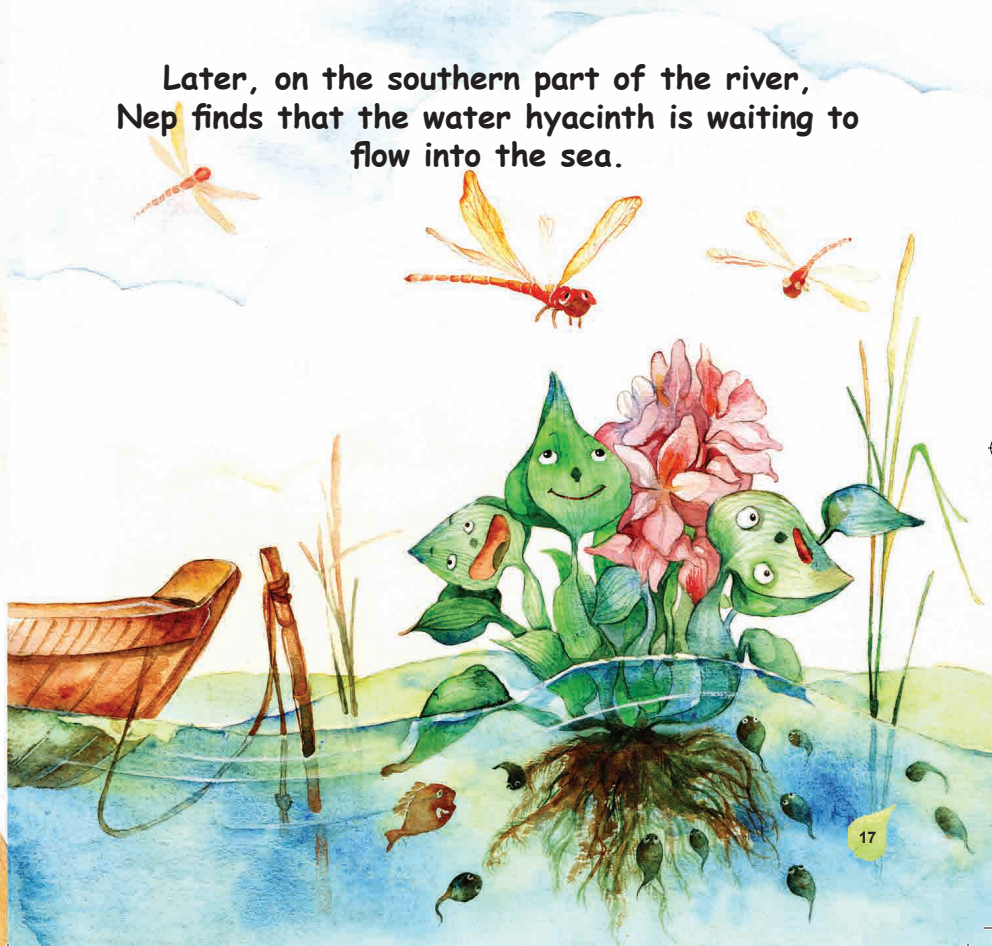


She and her friends have discovered yet another delightful use for the plant!





Later, on the southern part of the river,
Nep finds that the water hyacinth is waiting to
flow into the sea.





Nep starts to imagine . . .





how she can weave a house
made of water hyacinth
and gift it to her mom.



