

Emilio and the cloud forest Guardians Getting to know the rivers!

VOL.2

CREATED BY: FIDECOAGUA



This book was created with love and hope in collaboration with AGU Thriving Earth Exchange, Global Water Watch México, and FIDECOAGUA, to invite children to discover the wonderful world of the rivers around them.

Every river has a story to tell, and every child can become someone who listens, observes, learns, and helps protect it.

Through Emilio's great adventure as a young water monitor, we hope to spark curiosity, wonder, and a special connection with nature. May his journey inspire children, families, and communities to visit their nearest river, learn its secrets, care for its waters, and understand that even the smallest action can make a big difference.

Because protecting our rivers is an adventure we can all be part of. And who knows? Maybe the next great Guardian of the Water is you!



Hi! My name is Emilio, and now that I'm a Guardian of the Cloud Forest, I want to share something very special with you.

Have you ever wondered how we take care of our rivers? Every month, together with the Guardians and many volunteers, I visit amazing places in Coatepec, Veracruz.

Every visit is a new adventure... come with me!

At every monitoring visit, we do something very important: we learn how to really look at the river.

Do you know how?

With the help of our friends at Global Water Watch México, we learned different ways to listen to the river, observe its water, notice its colors and smells, and discover what it may be trying to tell us.

Little by little, we collect information that helps us understand whether the river is healthy and what it might need from us.





And do you know why scientific information is so important?
Because it gives us clues. It helps us make better decisions,
care for the river with knowledge, and protect it for the
animals, the plants, our families, and all the children who will
enjoy it in the future.

Science helps us turn curiosity into care... and care into action.

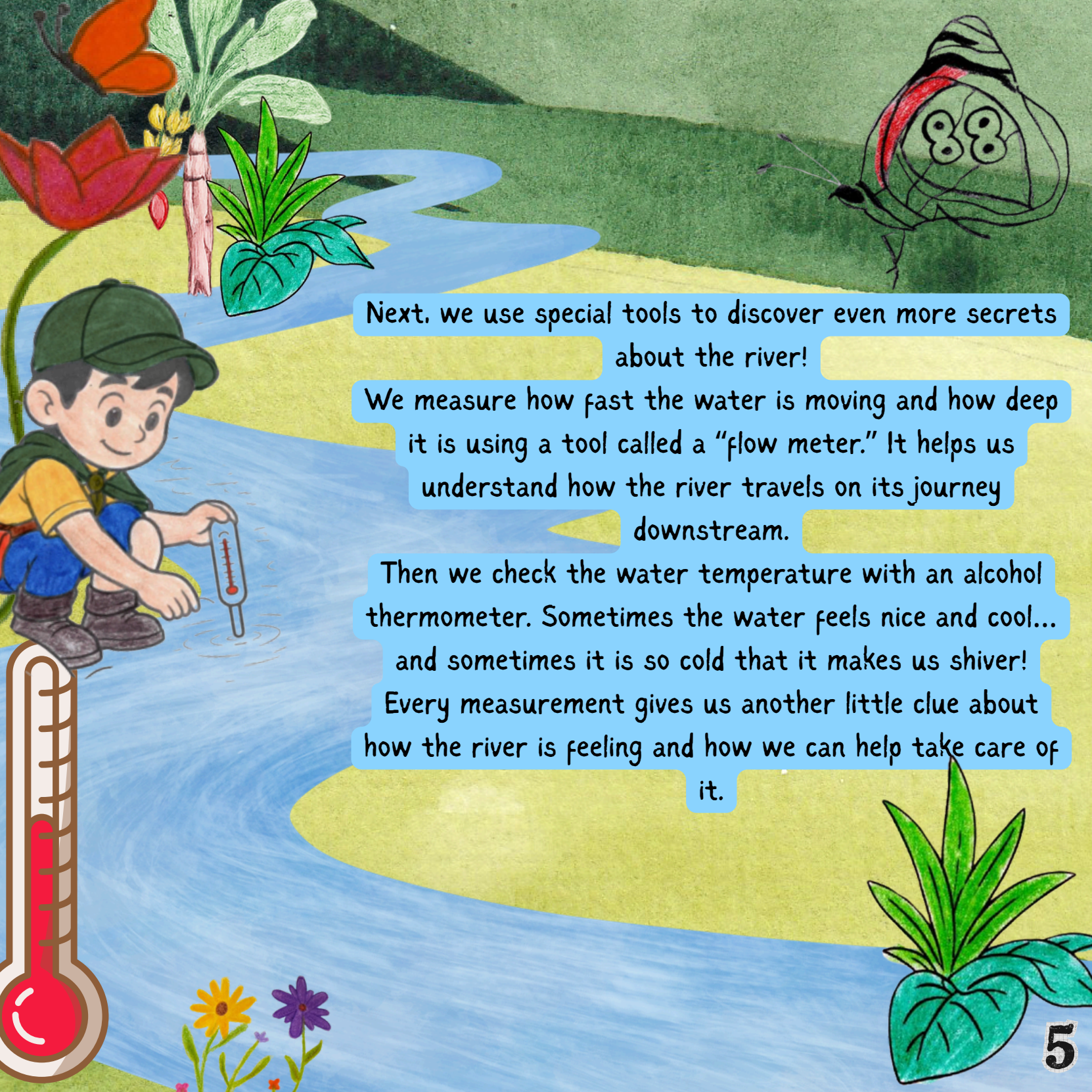




I want to show you how we do science in the river!

First, we try to find out how much water is flowing through it. To do this, we stretch a rope from one side of the river to the other. This helps us measure how wide the river is and divide it into different sections.

It feels a little like setting up a giant measuring line across the water! Then, section by section, we can begin to discover the river's secrets.

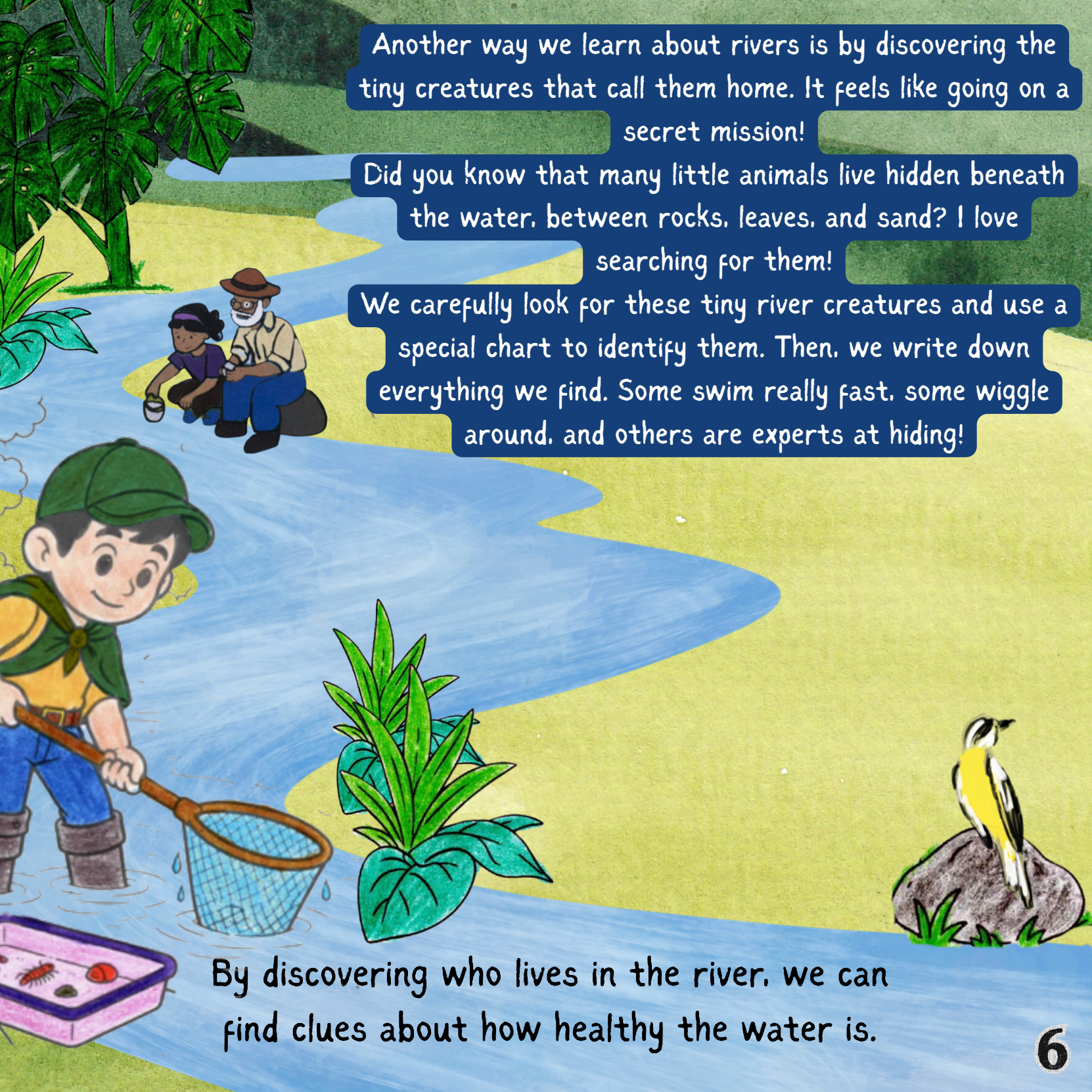


Next, we use special tools to discover even more secrets about the river!

We measure how fast the water is moving and how deep it is using a tool called a “flow meter.” It helps us understand how the river travels on its journey downstream.

Then we check the water temperature with an alcohol thermometer. Sometimes the water feels nice and cool... and sometimes it is so cold that it makes us shiver!

Every measurement gives us another little clue about how the river is feeling and how we can help take care of it.



Another way we learn about rivers is by discovering the tiny creatures that call them home. It feels like going on a secret mission!

Did you know that many little animals live hidden beneath the water, between rocks, leaves, and sand? I love searching for them!

We carefully look for these tiny river creatures and use a special chart to identify them. Then, we write down everything we find. Some swim really fast, some wiggle around, and others are experts at hiding!

By discovering who lives in the river, we can find clues about how healthy the water is.



One day, something very important happened. During one of our monitoring visits, we discovered that some of the Guardians were drinking water from a river that was not safe. Thanks to the information we collected, we were able to show them what was happening and help everyone understand why taking care of the river also means taking care of ourselves.

Since then, we have become a much bigger team. Guardians, families, volunteers, and friends now work together to watch over the river, keep learning from it, and protect the people who depend on its water.

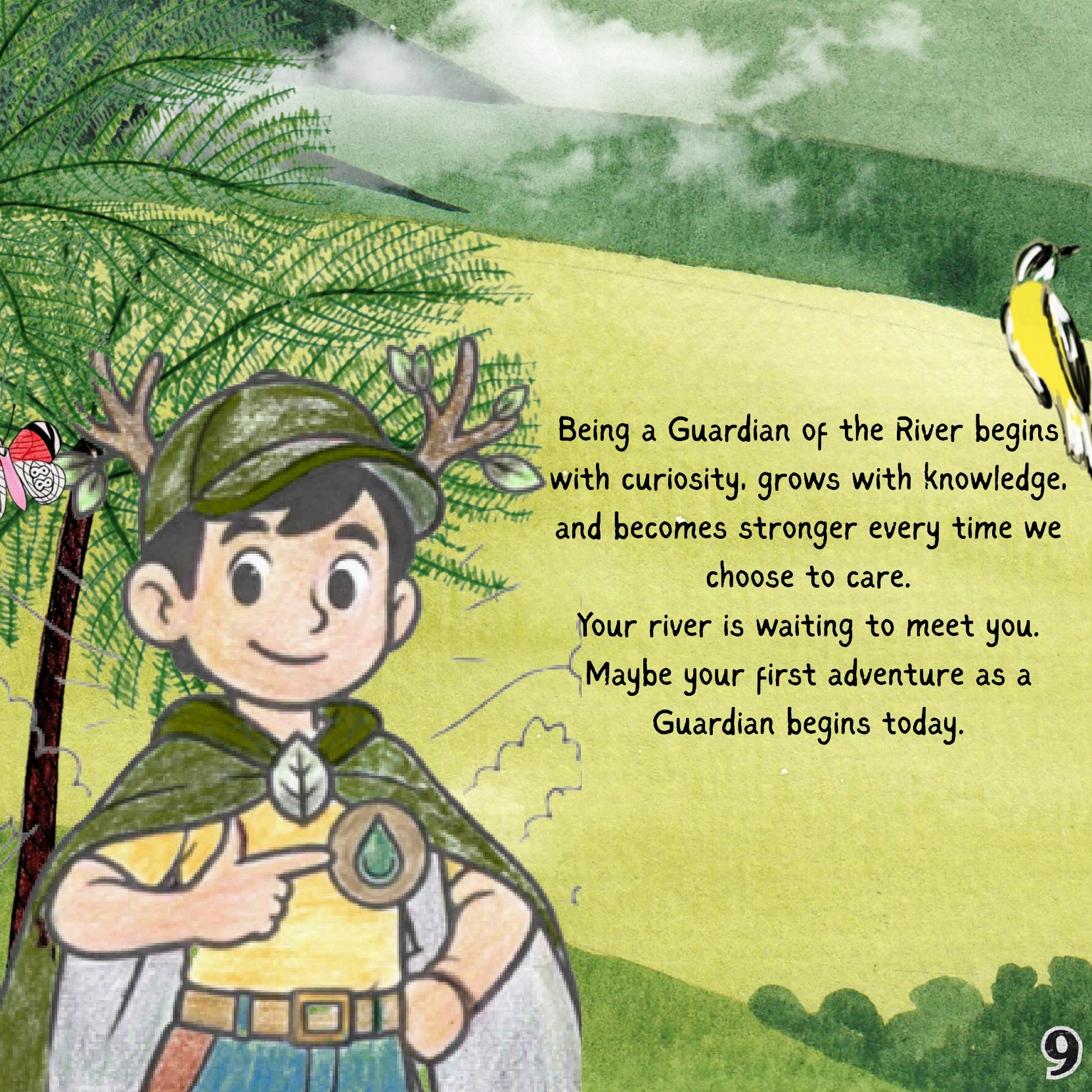
That day, we learned something I will never forget: when we care for the river, the river helps us care for one another.





Would you like to become a Guardian of the River too? It's easier than you might think! Start by finding the river, stream, or little waterway closest to you. Visit it, look at it carefully, listen to its sounds, and begin to get to know it. Ask yourself: What does this river look like today? Who lives here? Is the water clean? Is there trash nearby? And most importantly... what might this river need from me?





Being a Guardian of the River begins
with curiosity, grows with knowledge,
and becomes stronger every time we
choose to care.

Your river is waiting to meet you.
Maybe your first adventure as a
Guardian begins today.

To all the River Guardians—the wonderful volunteers who gave their time, curiosity, and dedication to learn how to observe and understand our rivers—thank you. Every careful look at the water, every note taken, and every step along the riverbank has helped protect the rivers and the beautiful Cloud Forest that surrounds them.

To Global Water Watch México, thank you for guiding us with patience, knowledge, and kindness, and for teaching us that science can be a powerful way to care for the places we love.

To AGU Thriving Earth Exchange, thank you for inspiring us to dream bigger and to believe in everything we can achieve when communities, science, and people work together.

To the Guardians of the Forest, thank you for opening your lands, sharing your knowledge, and showing us that caring for nature begins with love, respect, and responsibility.

And to Emilio, thank you for being a real-life inspiration and for reminding us of something very important: no matter how young or old we are, we all have the power to help.

This story was born from all of you—from your time, your courage, your curiosity, and your enormous love for our rivers.

May this adventure inspire many more children, families, and communities to listen to their rivers, learn from them, and care for them.

Because every river needs someone to protect it.

And maybe that someone is you.

Let us all become the Guardians our rivers need!

