

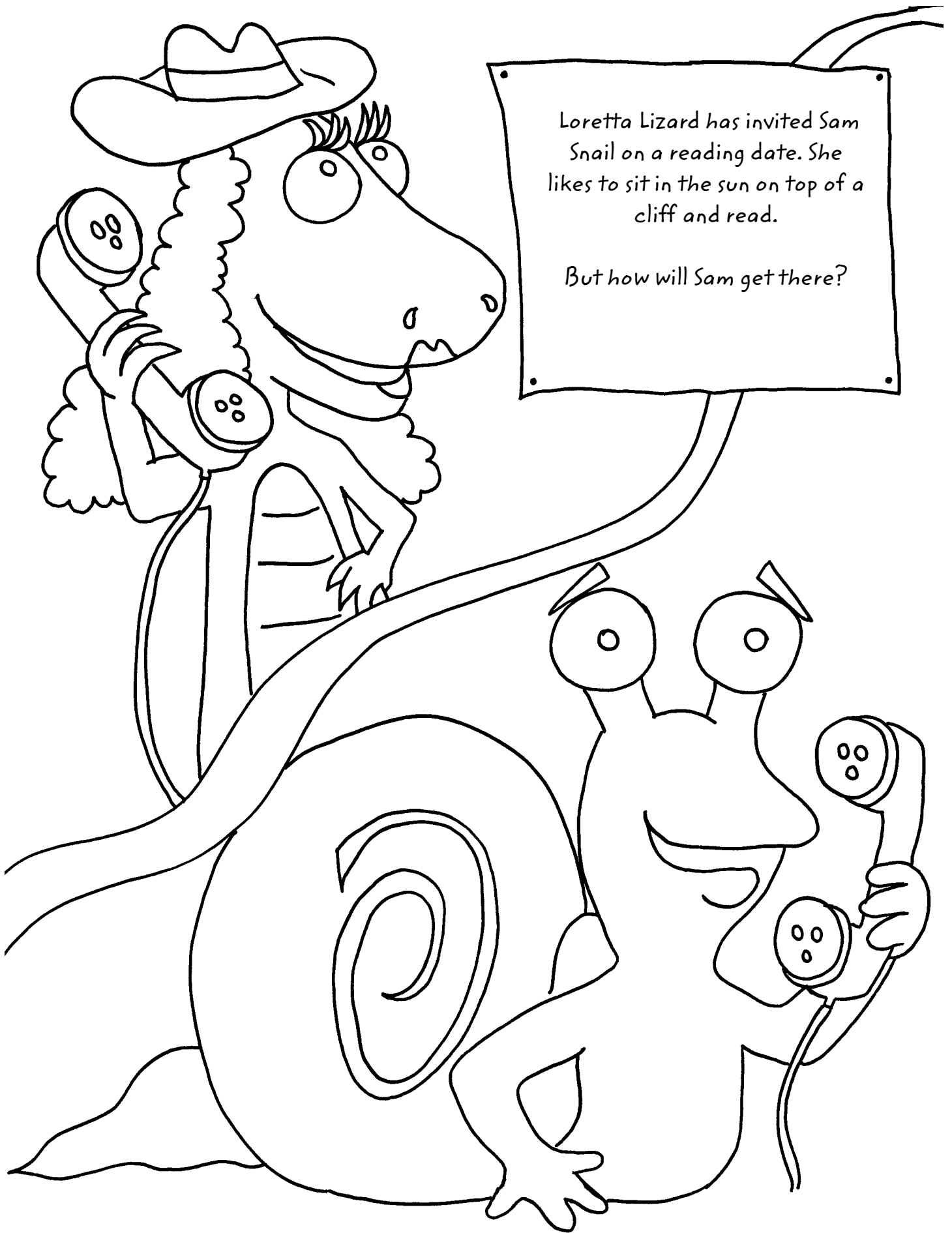


# Reading ROCKS!

*Sam Snail goes climbing*

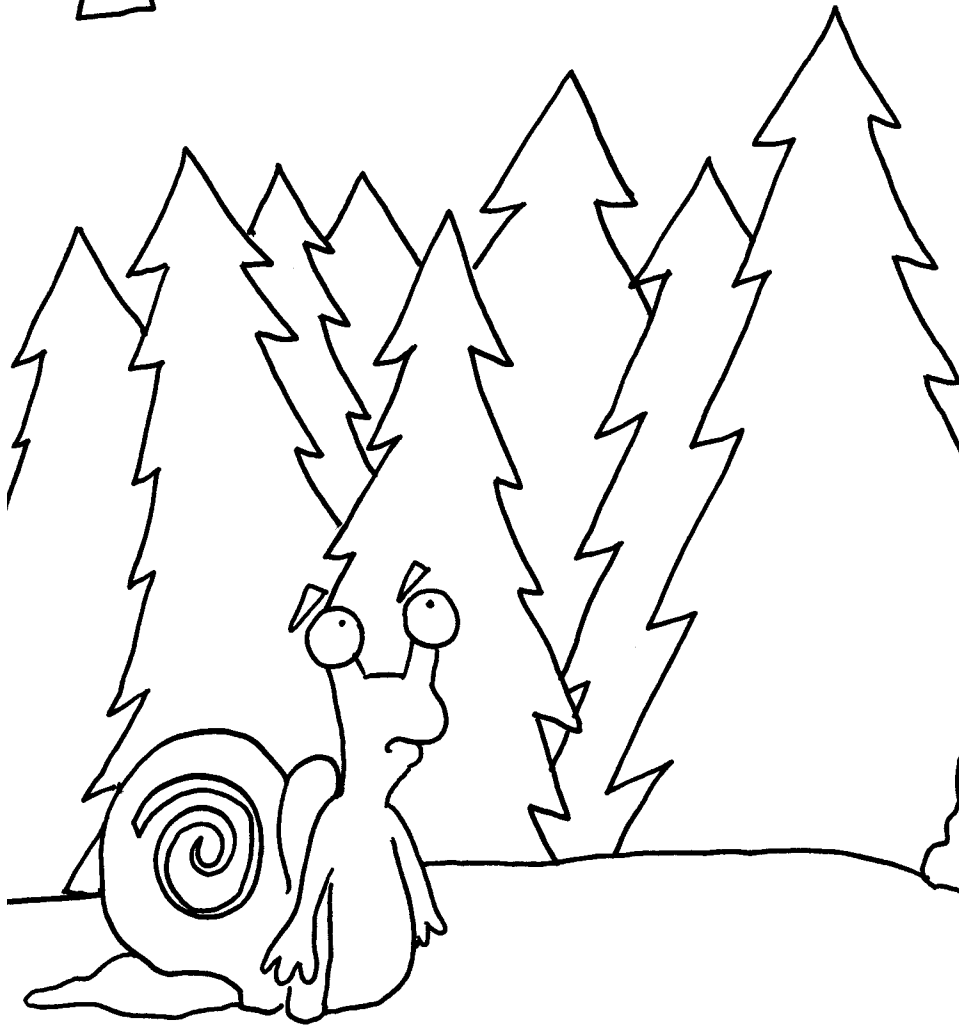
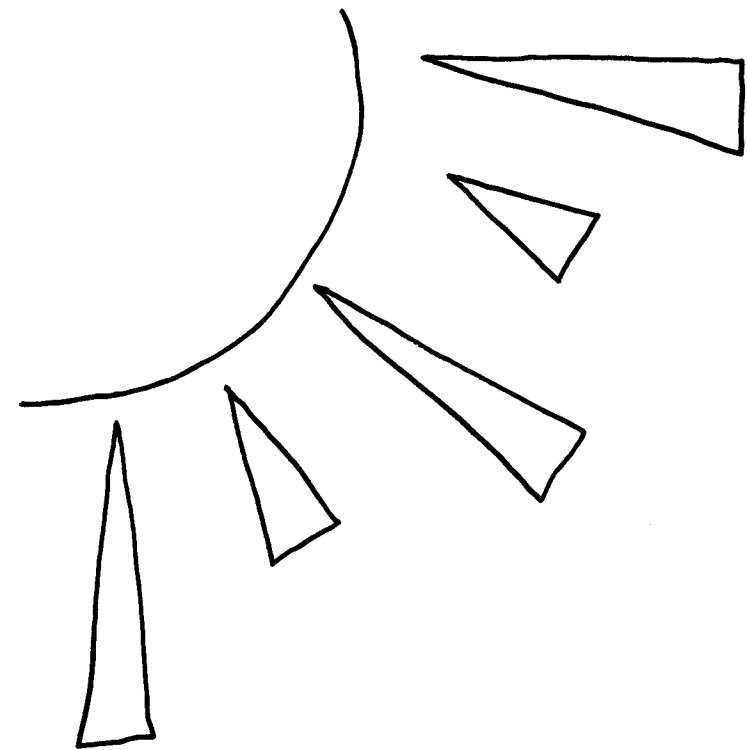
Written by Miglena Sternadori  
Illustrated by Mike Watters



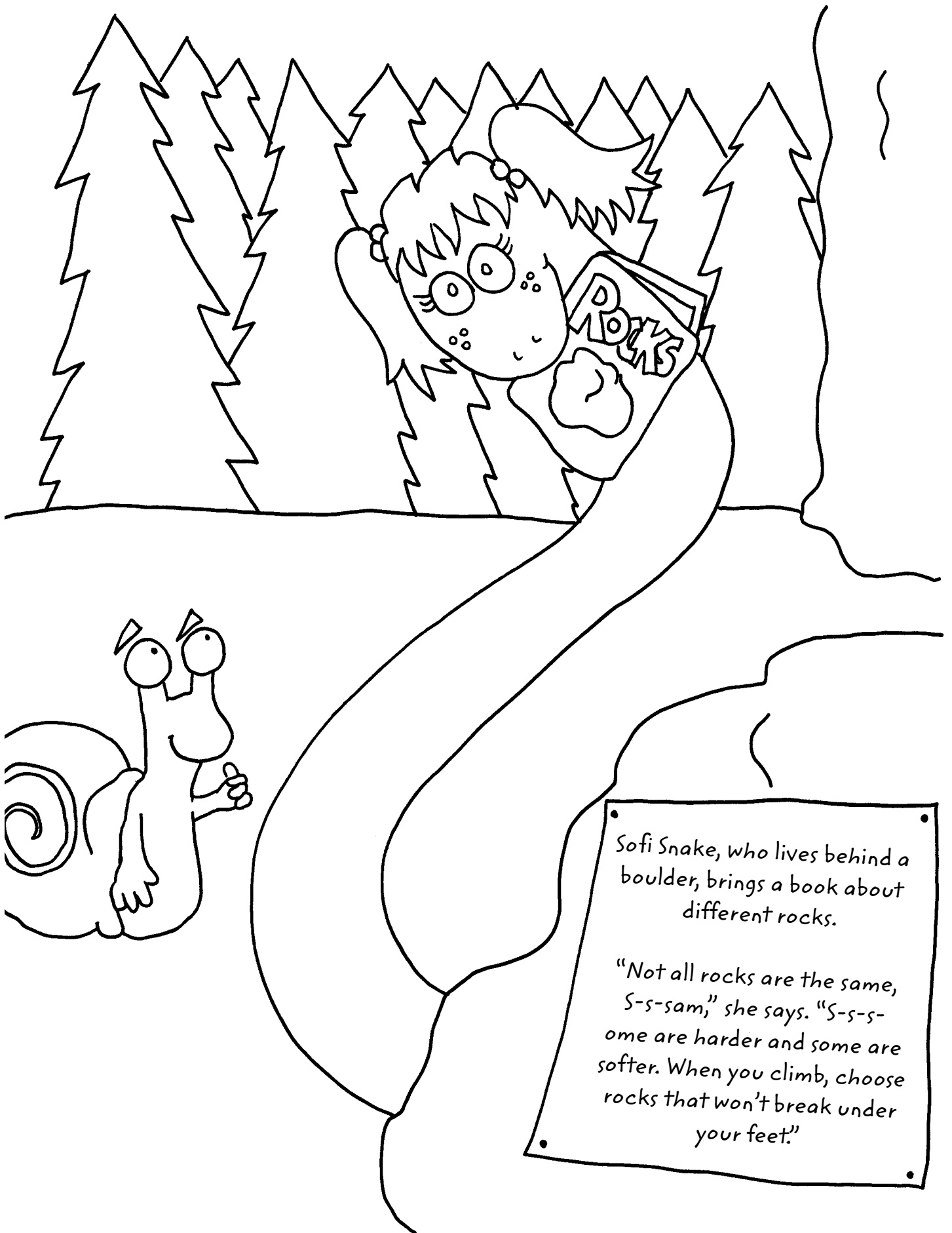


Loretta Lizard has invited Sam Snail on a reading date. She likes to sit in the sun on top of a cliff and read.

But how will Sam get there?

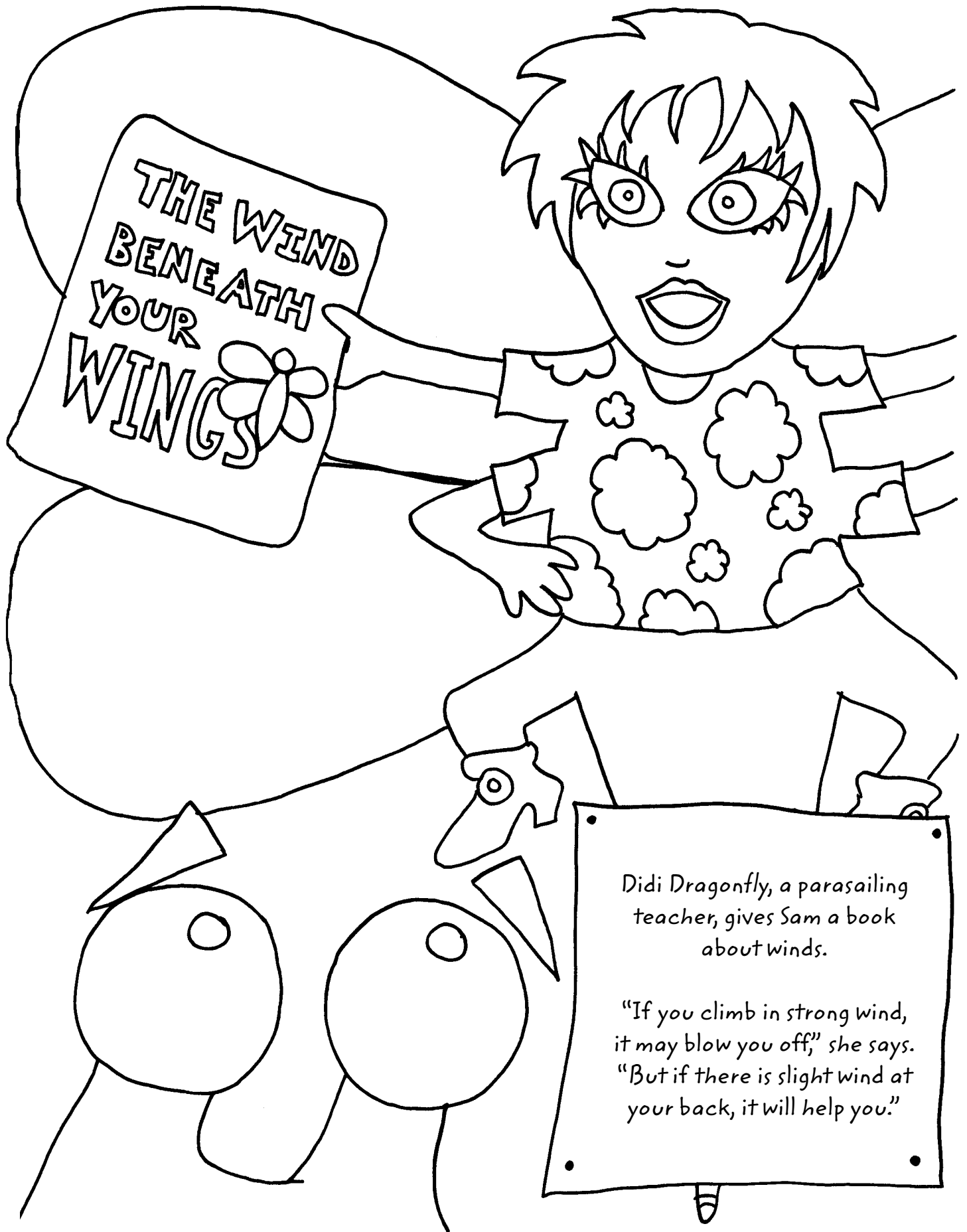


Sam's friends will help him. They give him advice and gather books for him to read before he goes on the trip.



Sofi Snake, who lives behind a boulder, brings a book about different rocks.

"Not all rocks are the same, S-s-sam," she says. "S-s-some are harder and some are softer. When you climb, choose rocks that won't break under your feet."

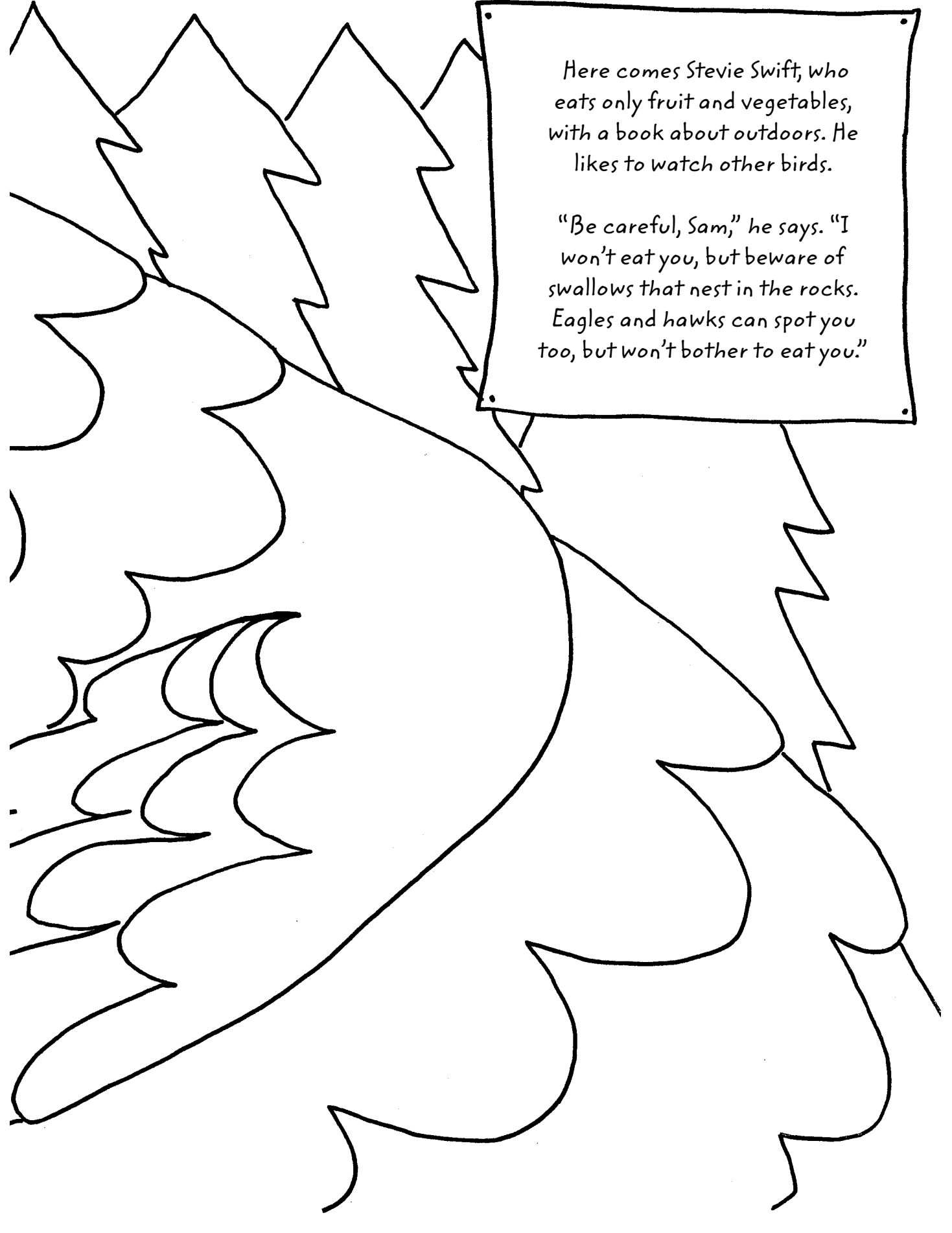


THE WIND  
BENEATH  
YOUR  
WINGS

Didi Dragonfly, a parasailing teacher, gives Sam a book about winds.

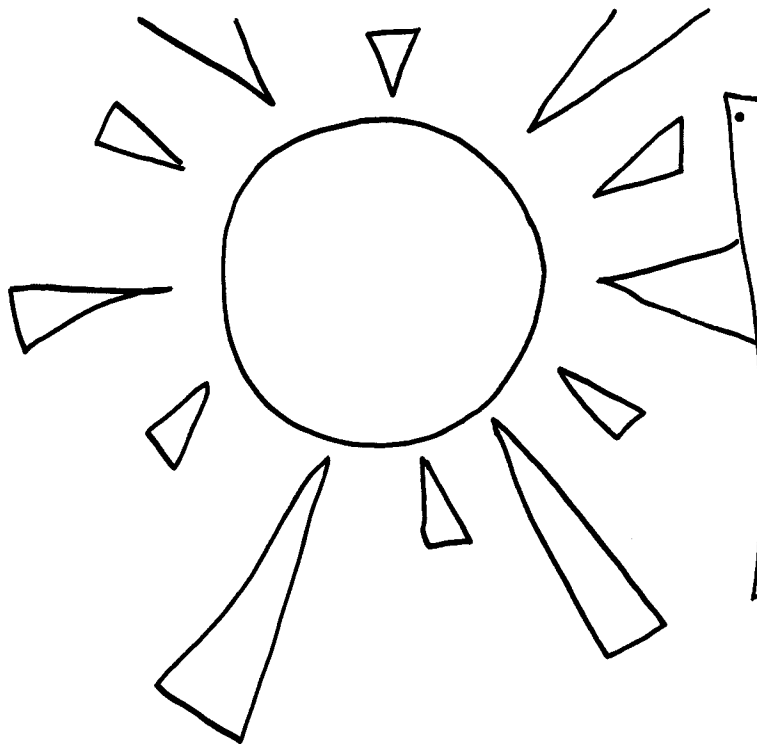
"If you climb in strong wind, it may blow you off," she says. "But if there is slight wind at your back, it will help you."



A simple line drawing of a bird, possibly a hawk or eagle, shown in profile facing right. The bird has a large, rounded body and a long, pointed beak. A rectangular speech bubble with a tail pointing to the bird's beak is positioned above it. The background consists of several jagged, triangular shapes representing trees or bushes.

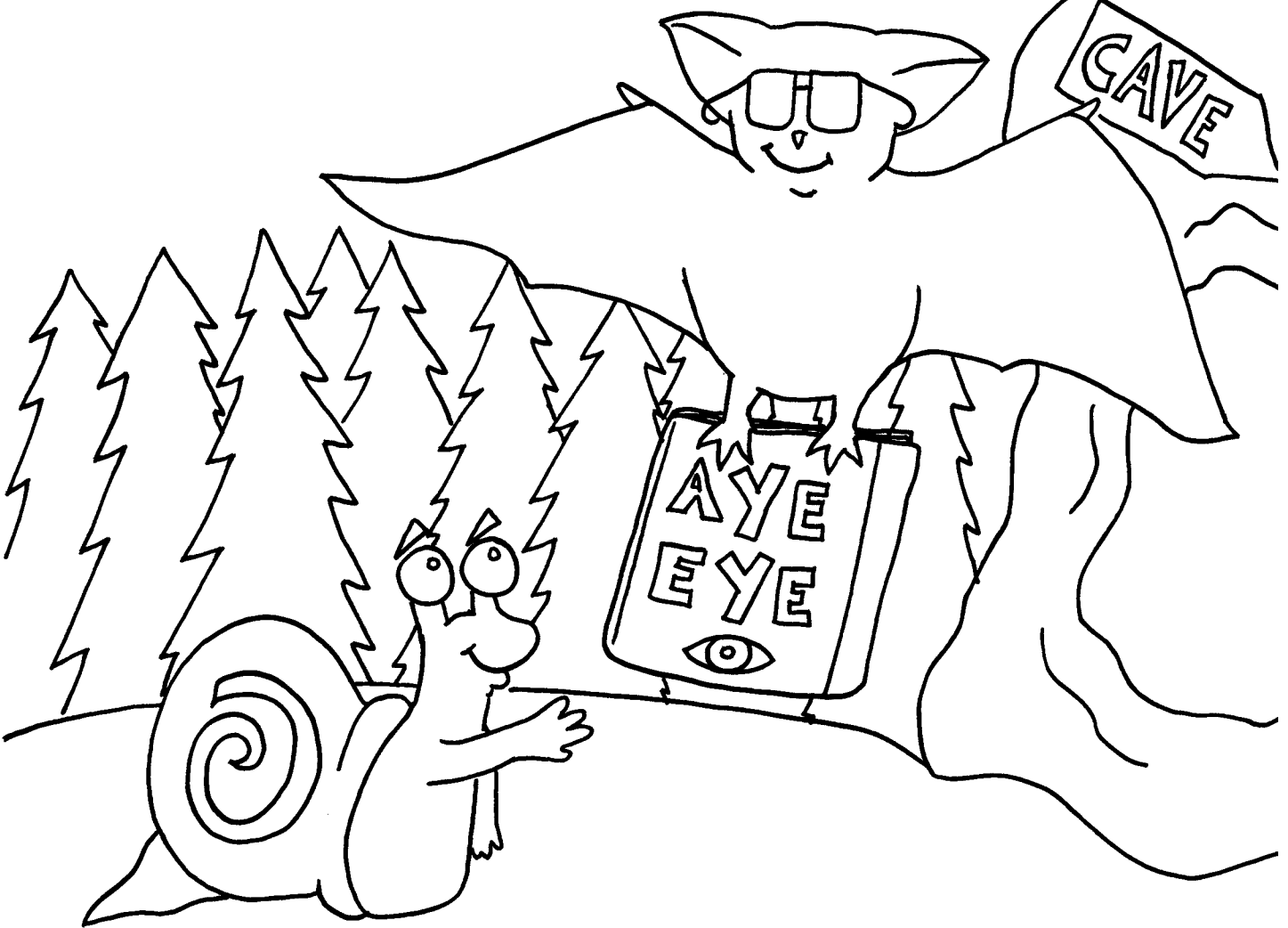
Here comes Stevie Swift, who  
eats only fruit and vegetables,  
with a book about outdoors. He  
likes to watch other birds.

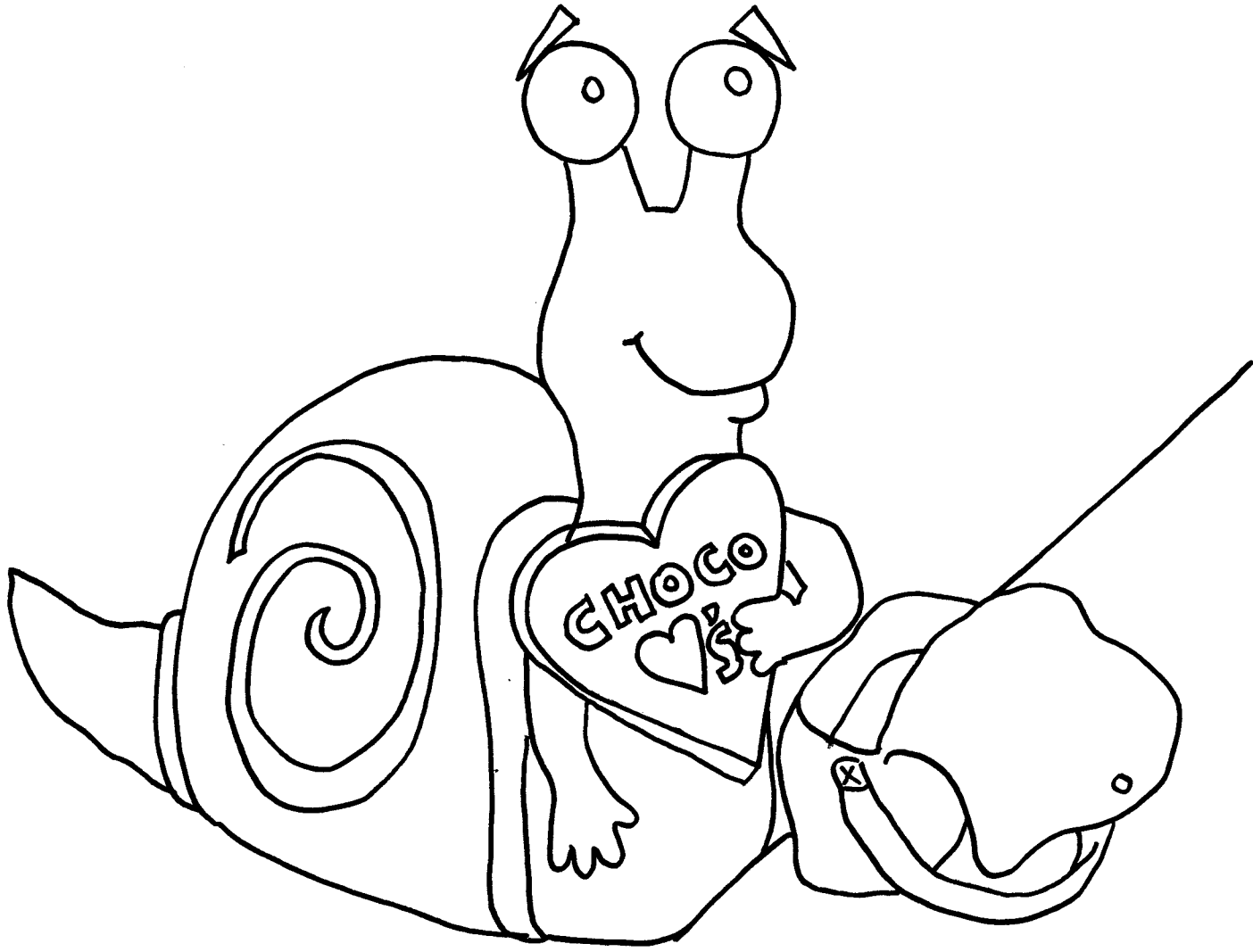
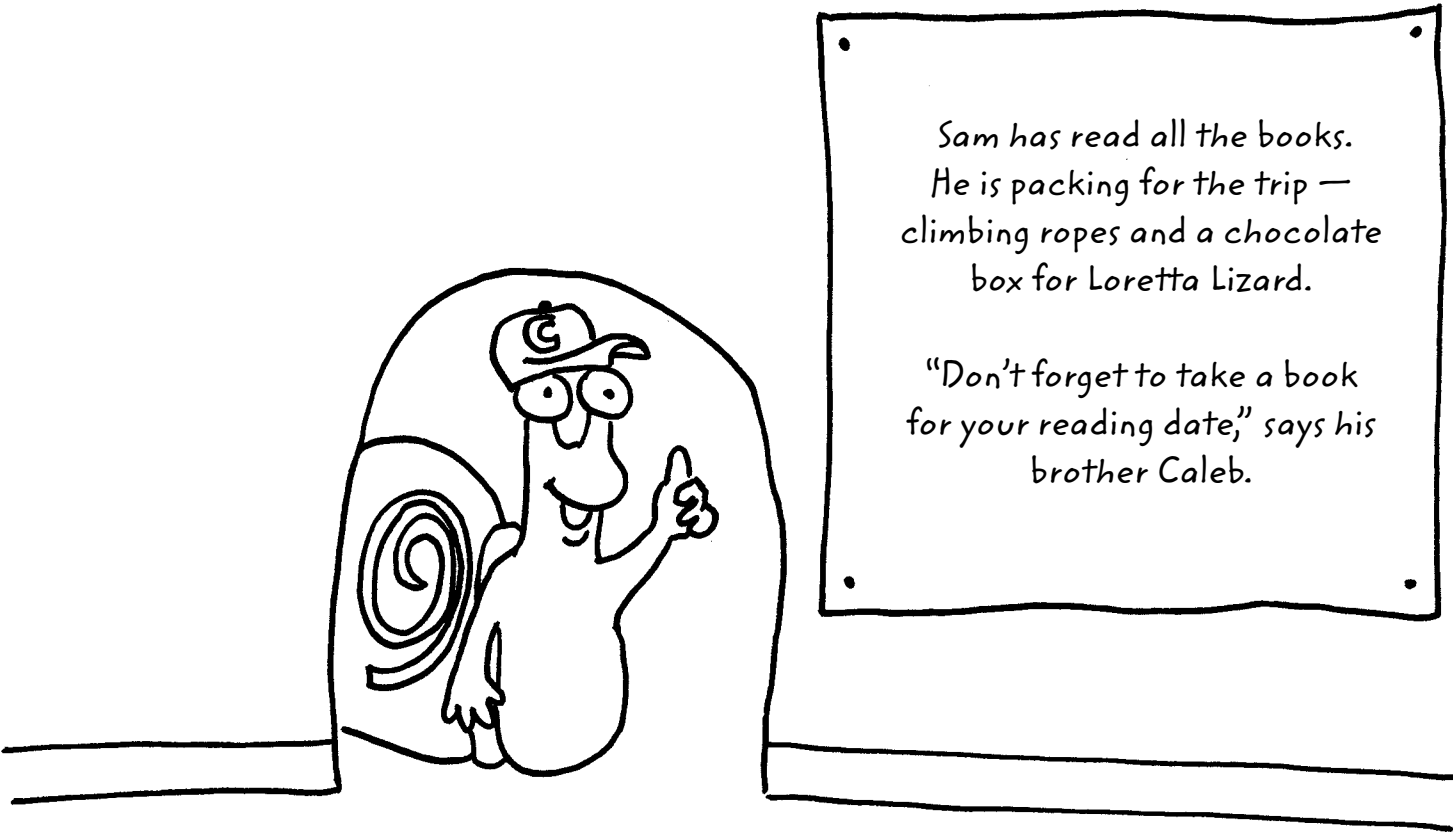
"Be careful, Sam," he says. "I  
won't eat you, but beware of  
swallows that nest in the rocks.  
Eagles and hawks can spot you  
too, but won't bother to eat you."



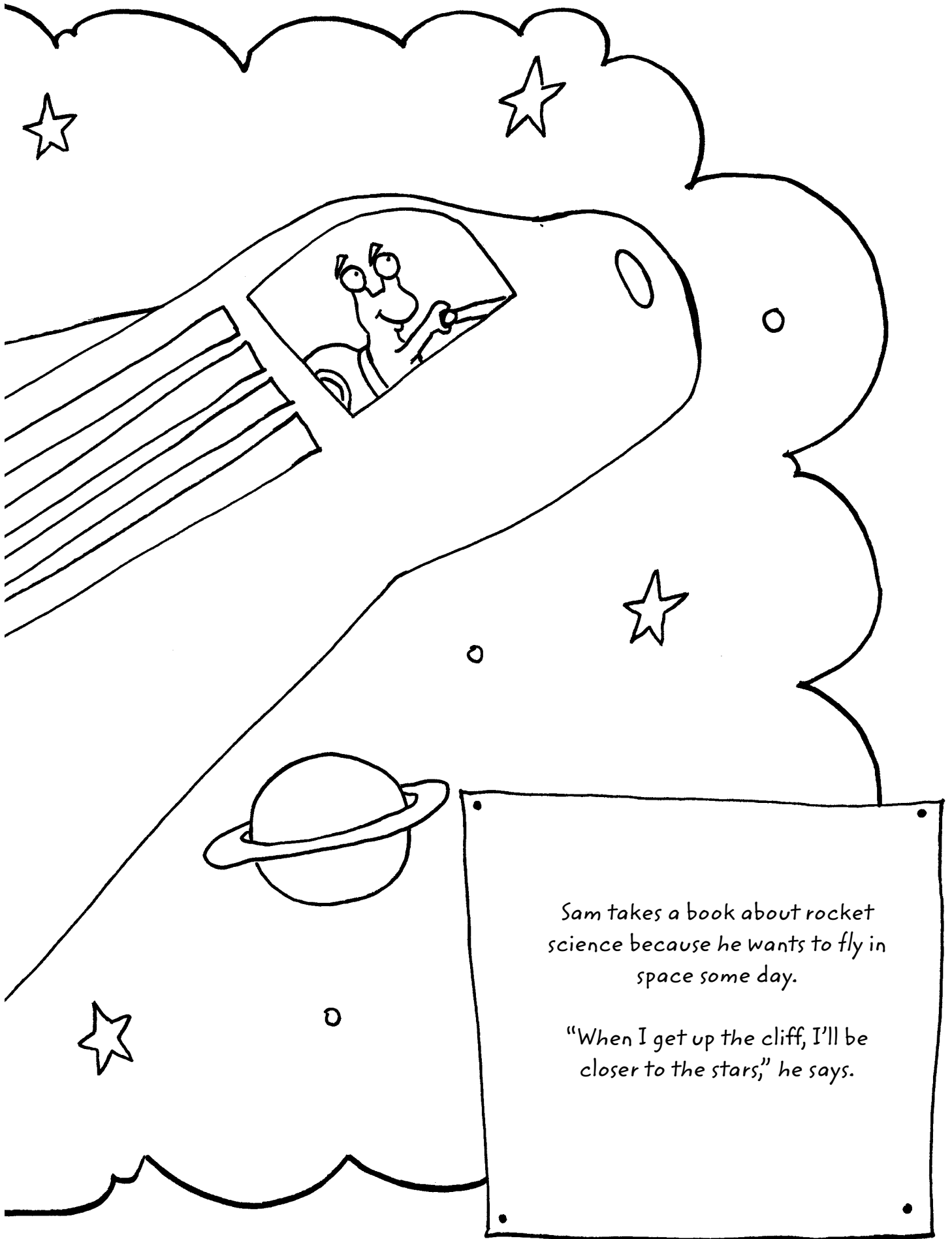
Brian Bat, a cave explorer,  
never takes his dark glasses  
off. He gives Sam a book about  
eye health.

"Don't forget to wear  
sunglasses in the mountains,"  
he says, "or the bright light will  
dazzle you."



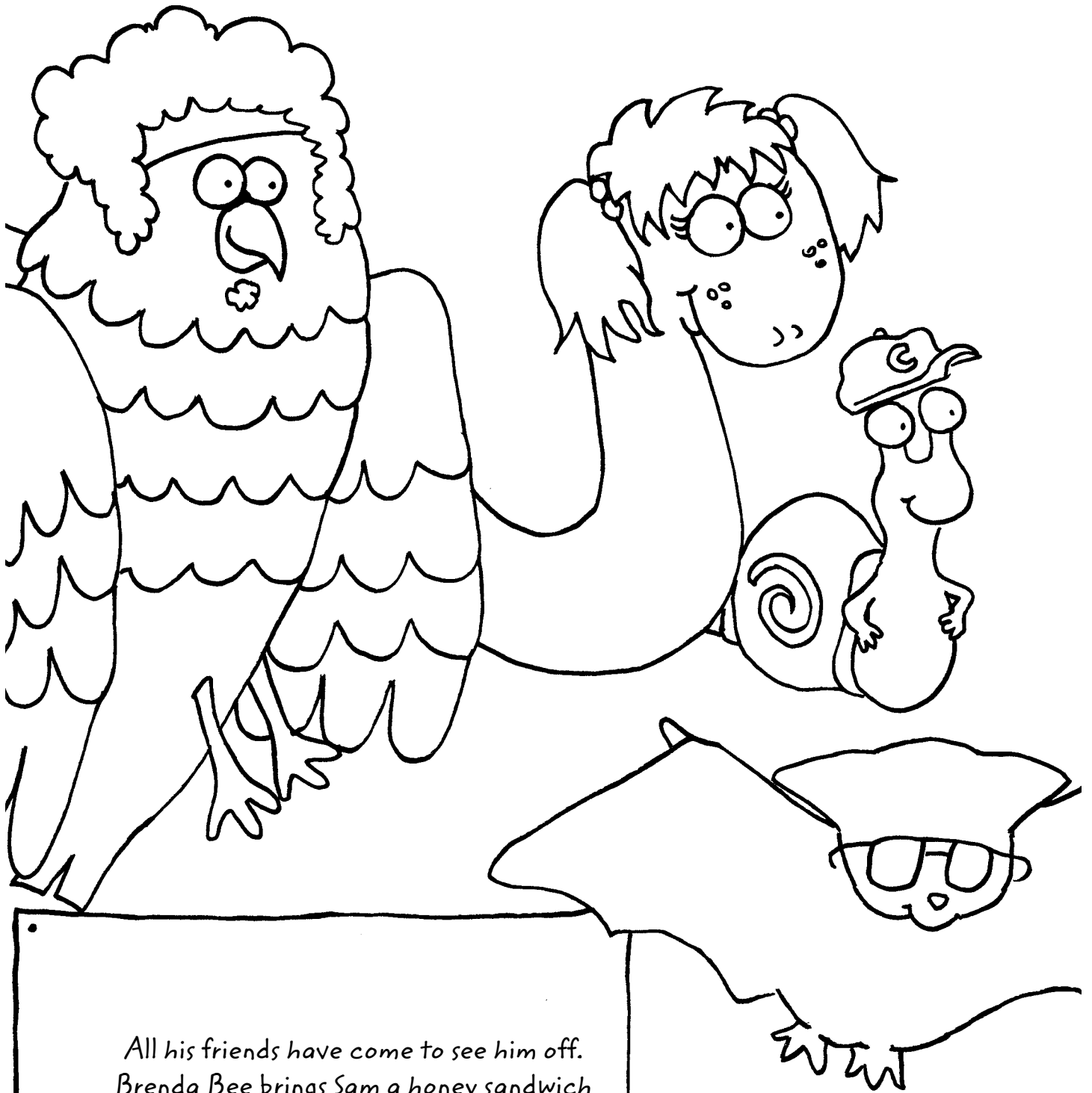






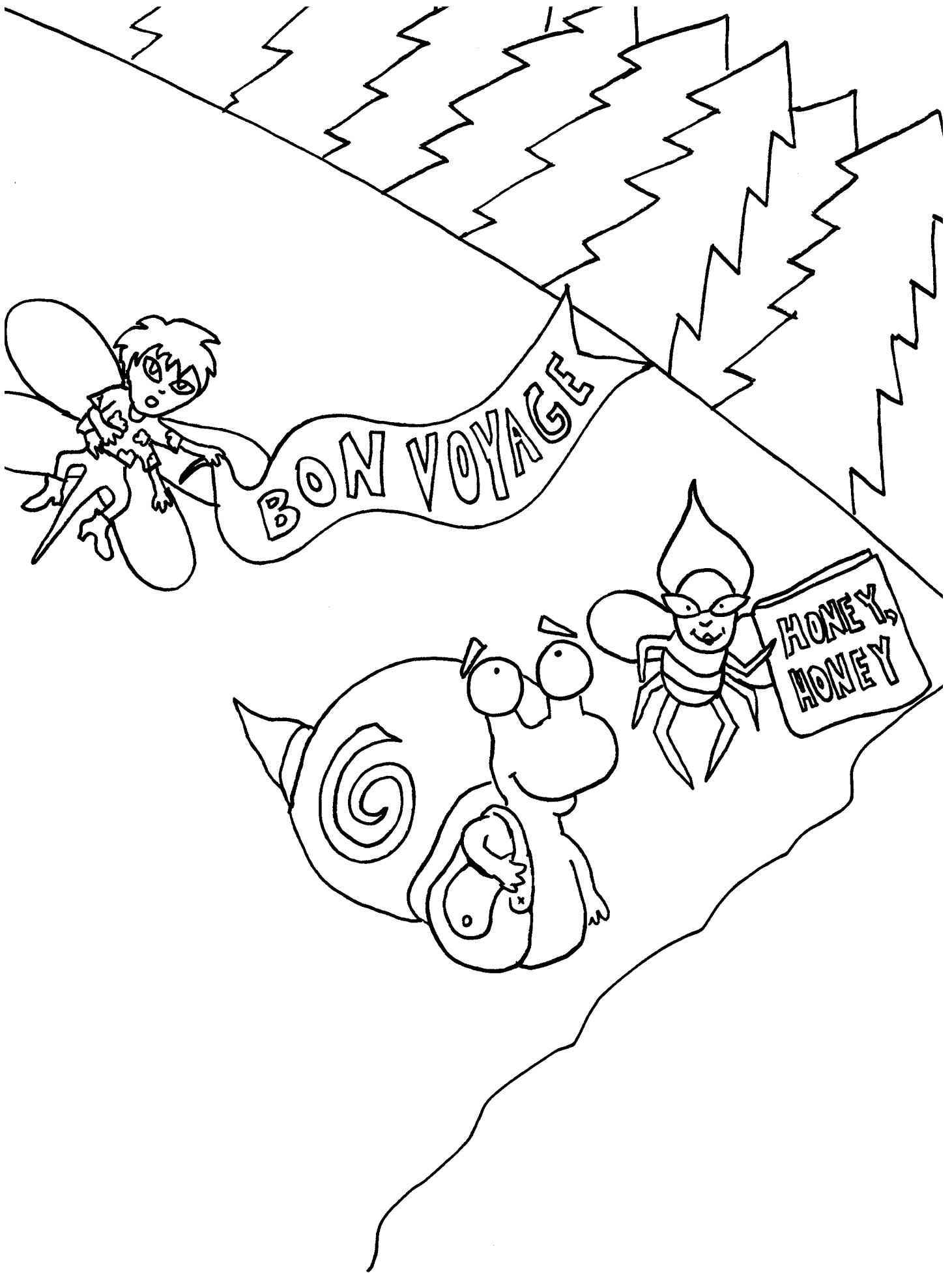
Sam takes a book about rocket science because he wants to fly in space some day.

"When I get up the cliff, I'll be closer to the stars," he says.



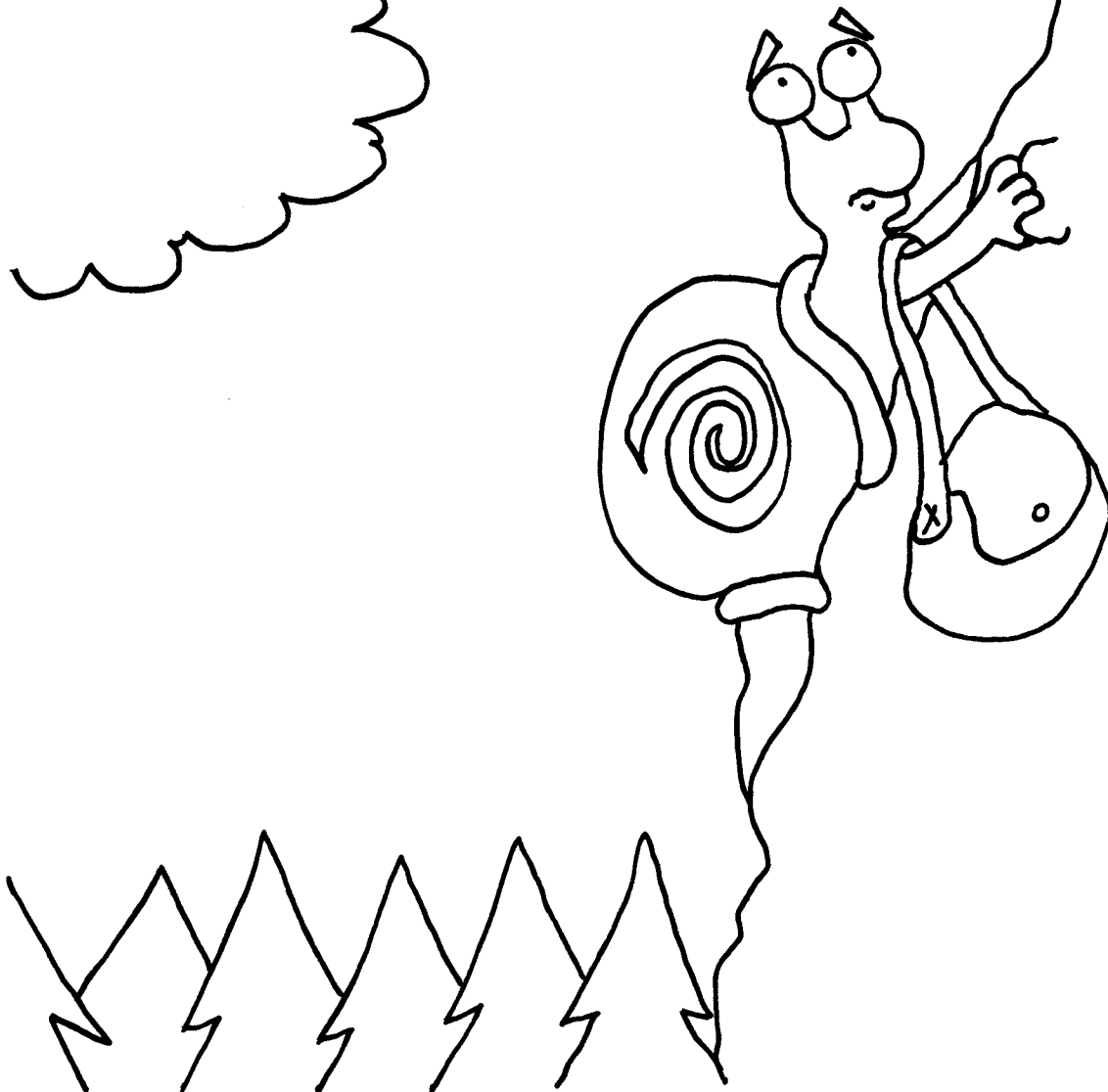
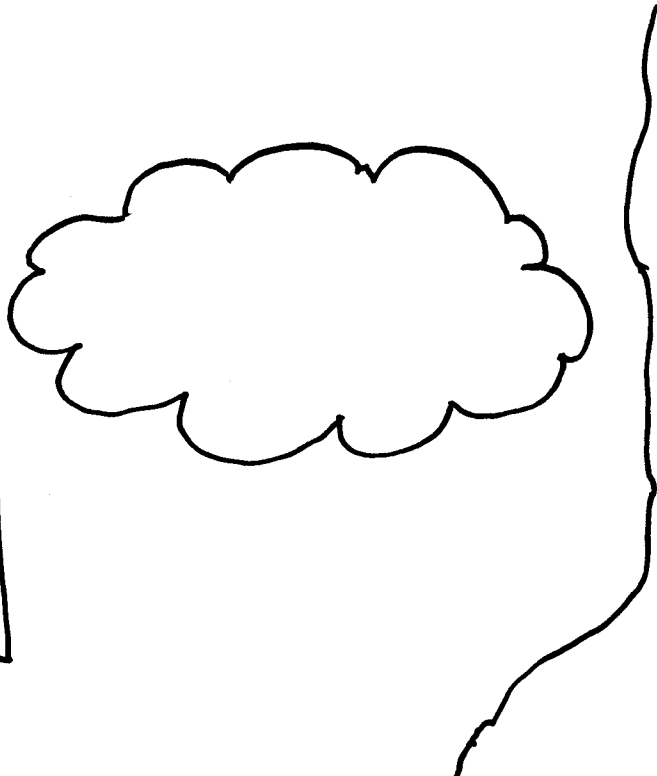
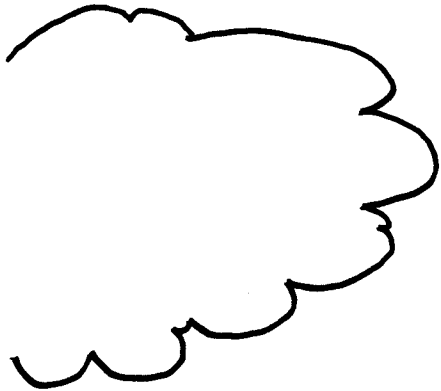
All his friends have come to see him off.  
Brenda Bee brings Sam a honey sandwich  
and tells him what she learned from a  
book about honey making in Africa.

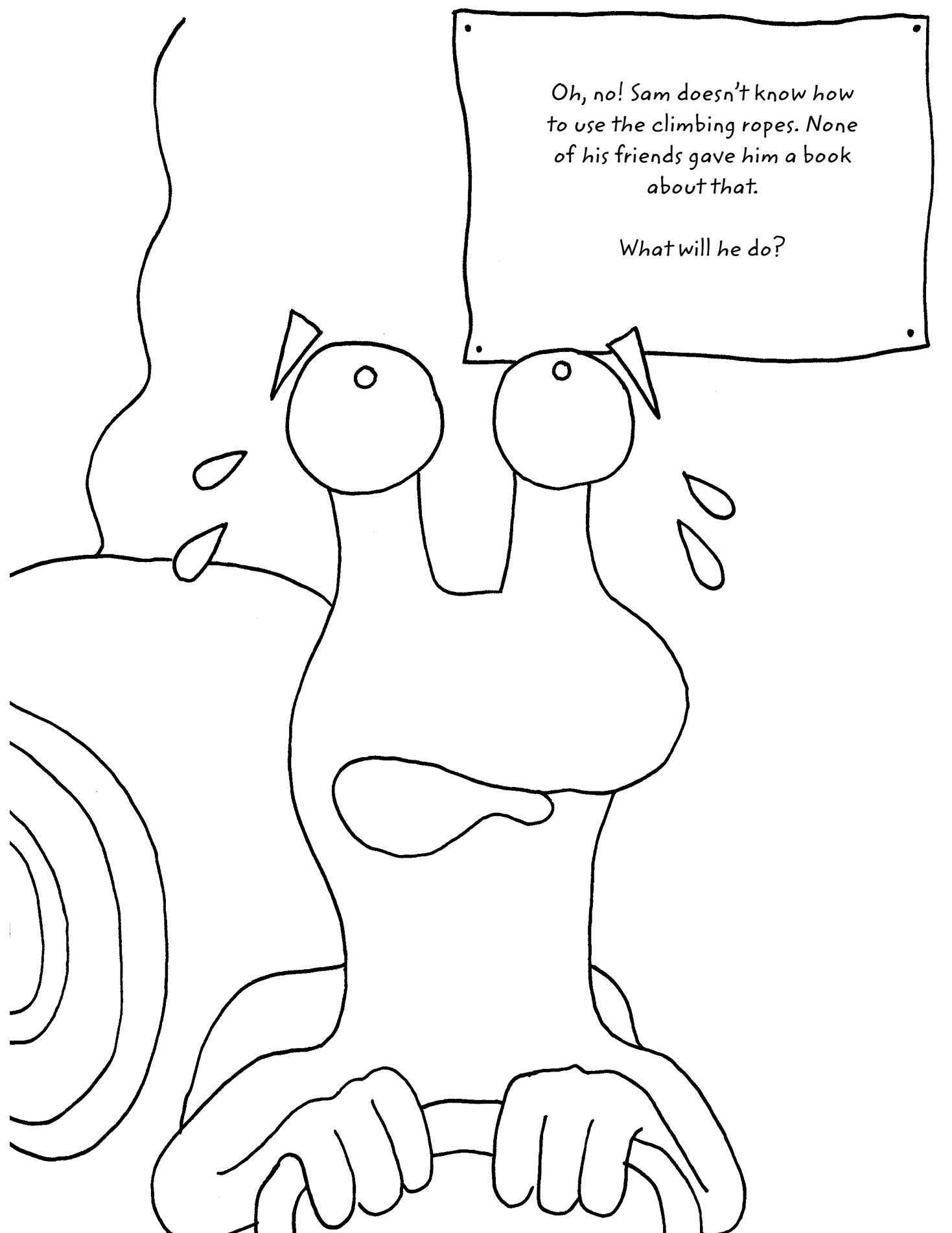
"Remember, Sam, reading can take you  
anywhere," Brenda says.



Sam starts up the hill. The beginning is easy, but the slope gets steeper and steeper.

Sam reaches a cliff and takes the ropes out of his backpack.





Oh, no! Sam doesn't know how to use the climbing ropes. None of his friends gave him a book about that.

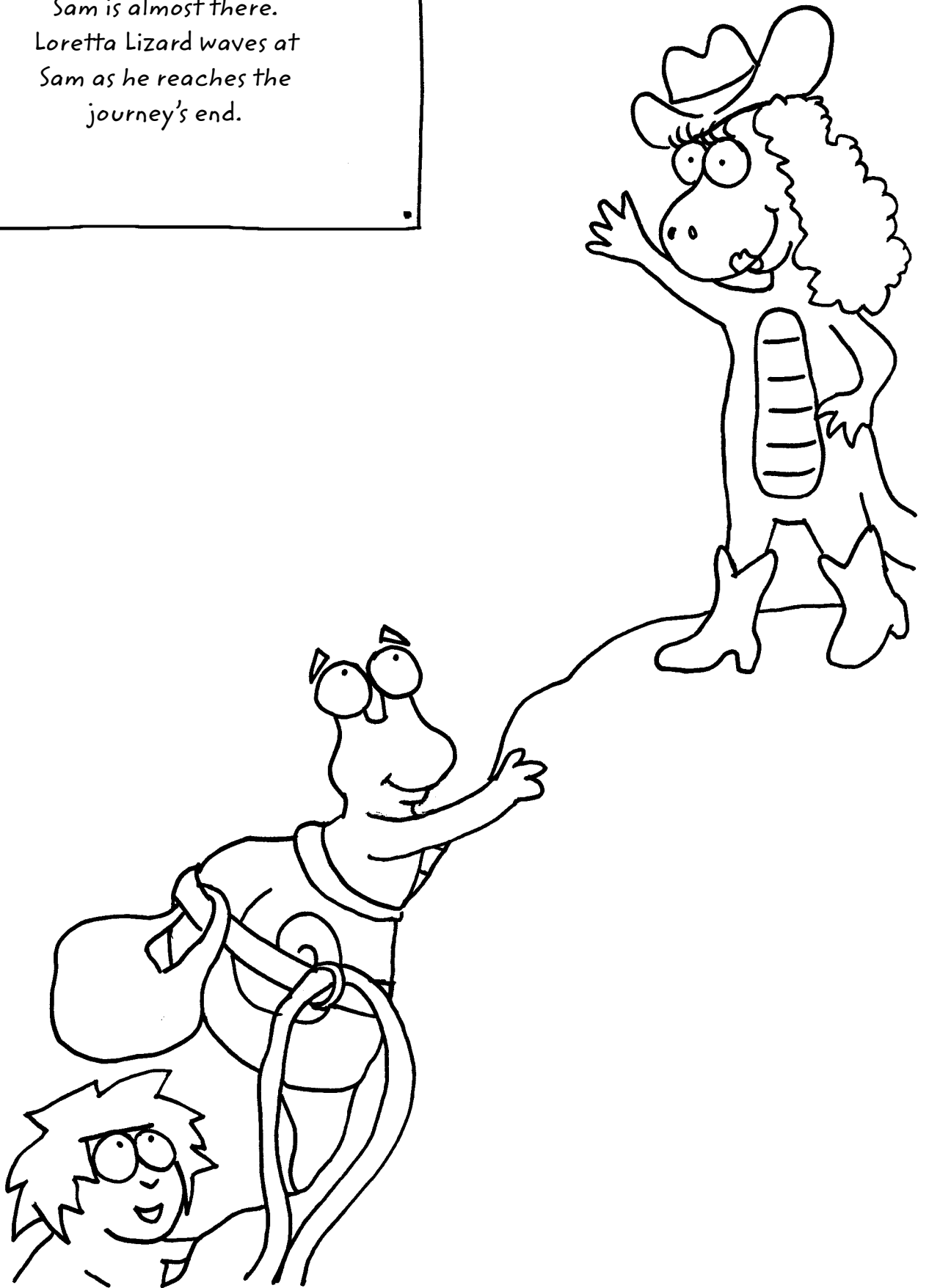
What will he do?

Here comes Stacey Spider, a  
rock-climbing champion, with  
a book about ropes.

"Don't cry, Sam," she says.  
"Read this, and then I will help  
you climb."



Sam is almost there.  
Loretta Lizard waves at  
Sam as he reaches the  
journey's end.



Sam sits next to Loretta.  
The two eat chocolate  
and read.

"Did you learn about  
climbing from books,  
Sam?" she asks.





Sam thinks for a moment.

"I learned a lot from books," he says.

"But if it wasn't for the courage my friends gave me, I would still be looking up at the cliff."



## ABOUT THE READING CIRCLE

*The MST Reading Circle program has been serving Missouri educators since 1895 by reviewing and recommending new books for children. It also is the sponsor of a certificate program to reward students for reading.*



## ABOUT MST

*The Missouri State Teachers Association has been the state's leading education organization since 1856. It serves more than 42,000 educators and is dedicated to educating the state's children.*