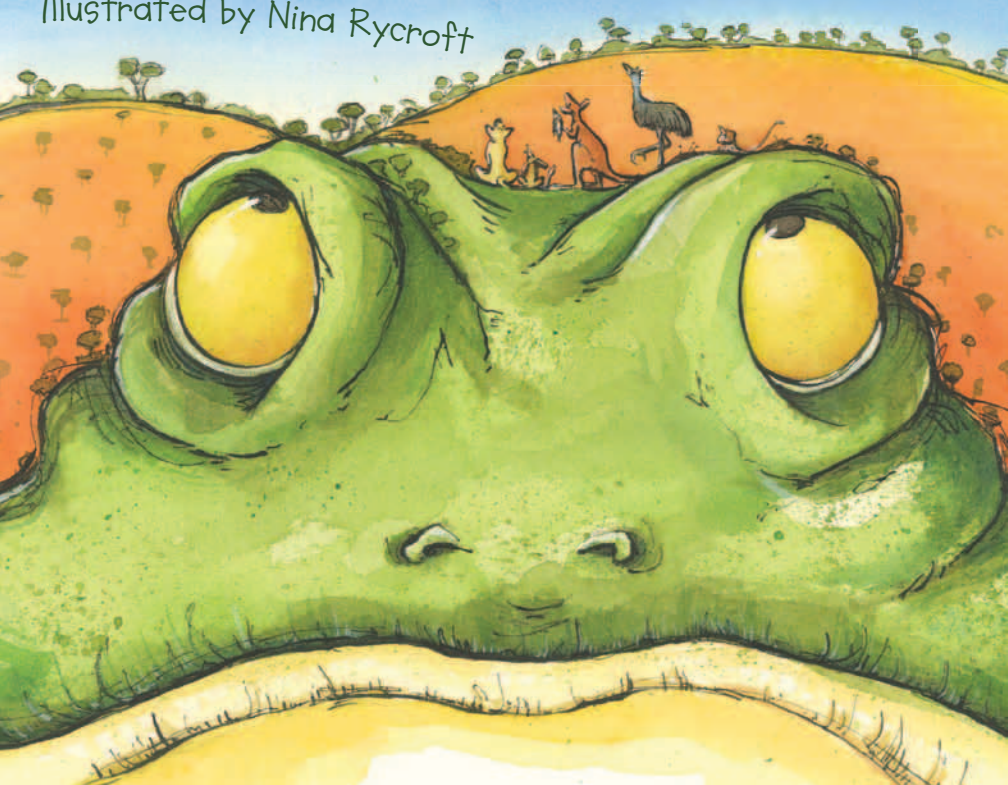
Tiddalick the Greedy Frog

An Aboriginal Dreamtime Story

Retold by Nicholas Wu
Illustrated by Nina Rycroft



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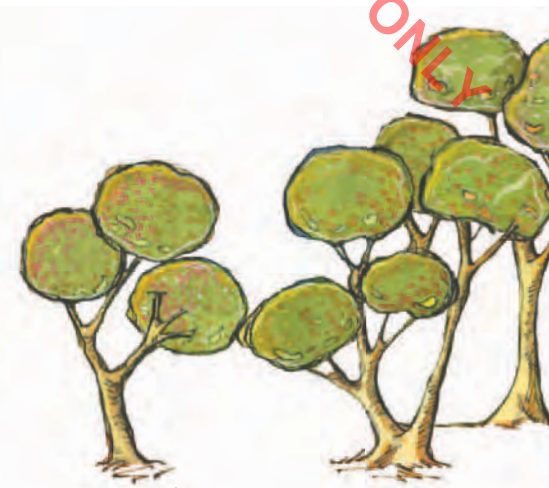
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The Aboriginal people of Australia tell stories about a mystical time known as Dreamtime. These stories help them remember old ways and explain mysterious events. They tell of ancient spirits that came to Earth. These spirits created plants, animals, and landmarks. The tale of Tiddalick is one of these old stories. It is treasured by people around the world.

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Chapter One

Dreamtime

Once, there were no mountains, no rivers, no animals, and no people. There was no sun, no rain, and no wind. There was only darkness.

Then, the Dreamtime came to be, and wonderful things began to happen. The Rainbow Serpent came down from the sky and slithered across the Earth. Mountains rose, and valleys appeared. Rivers flowed, and the Earth was slowly covered with trees, plants, and flowers. Animals appeared as if they had been blown in by the wind.

In those days, when the Earth was green and beautiful, there lived a giant frog named Tiddalick. He was bigger than the rocks. He was bigger than the trees. He was even bigger than the mountains.

When Tiddalick was happy, everything was calm and peaceful. When he was grumpy, the Earth would tremble, rocks would fall, and winds would rage.



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Chapter Two

The Greedy Frog

One morning, Tiddalick woke up in a very grumpy, greedy mood. He was so grumpy and greedy that when he went down to the lake to drink, he drank and drank until he had drunk all the water in the lake.

Then, he went down to the river. He drank and drank until he had drunk all the water in the river. Tiddalick was so greedy that he kept drinking night and day. He drank all the water from the lakes and streams. The greedy frog drank so much that there wasn't a drop of water left in the whole world. Tiddalick was so full, he could hardly move. All he could do was lie down, close his great yellow eyes, and go to sleep.



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