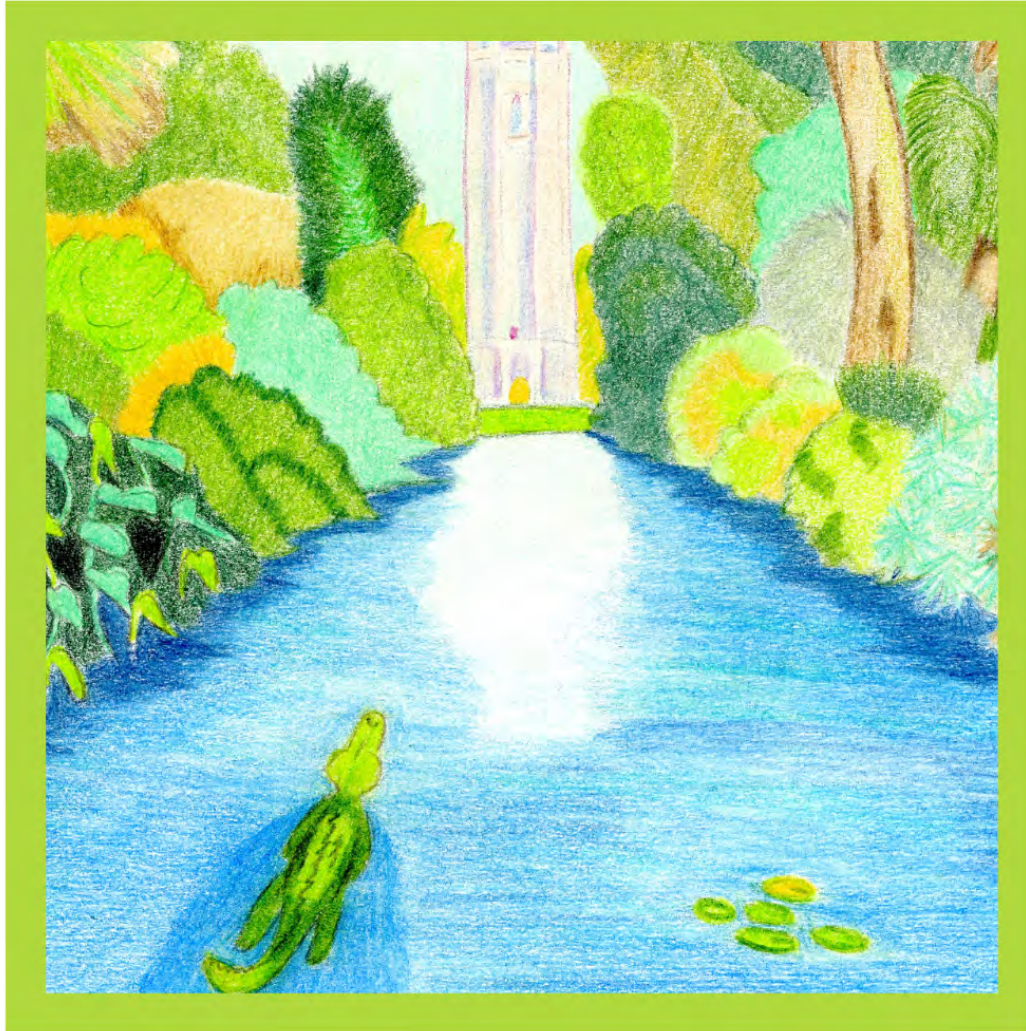


# Artie the Alligator Looks for a Moat



Created and produced by the  
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# **Artie the Alligator Looks for a Moat**

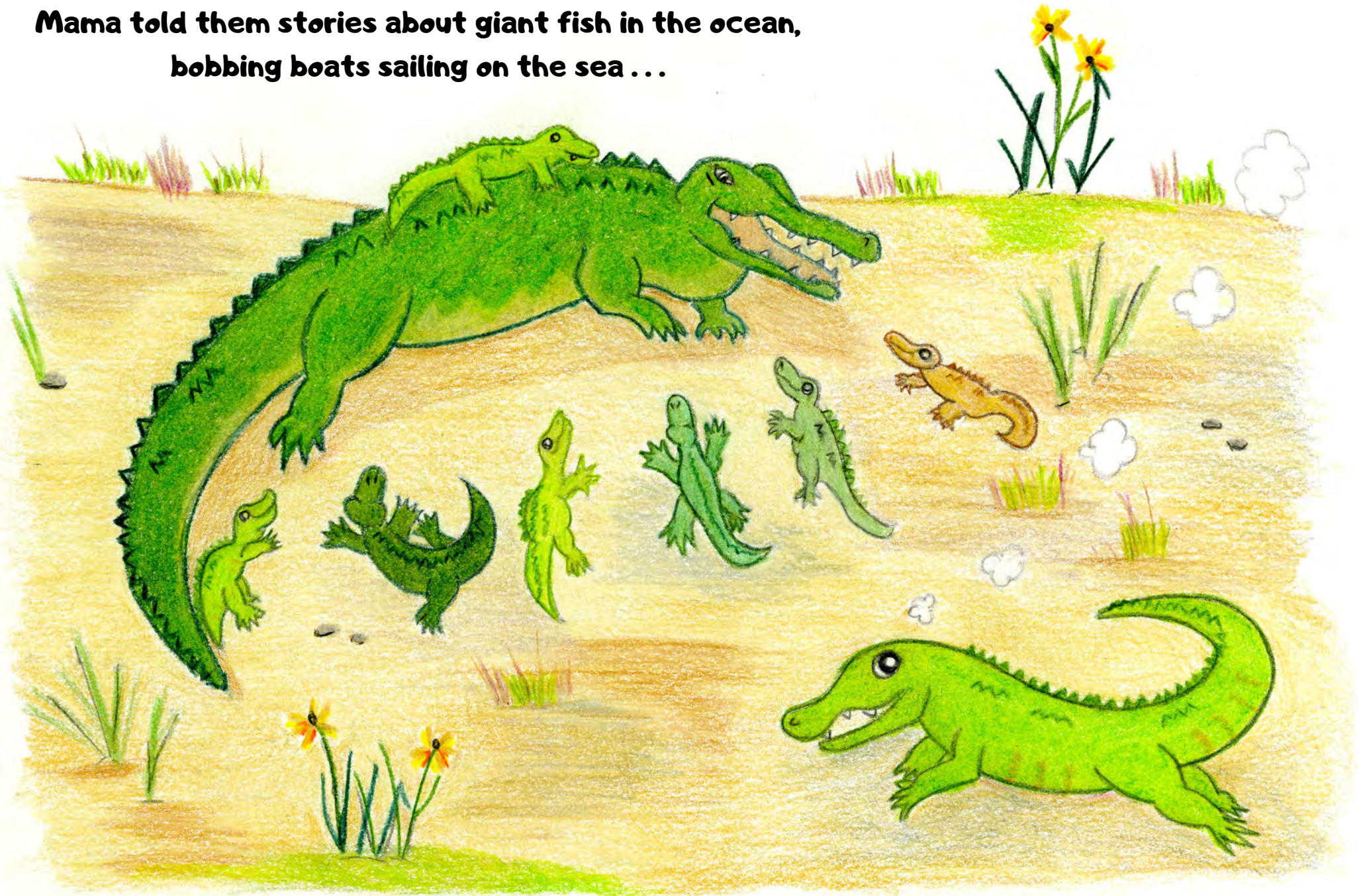


Written and illustrated by  
Lydia Malone,  
Museum Educator

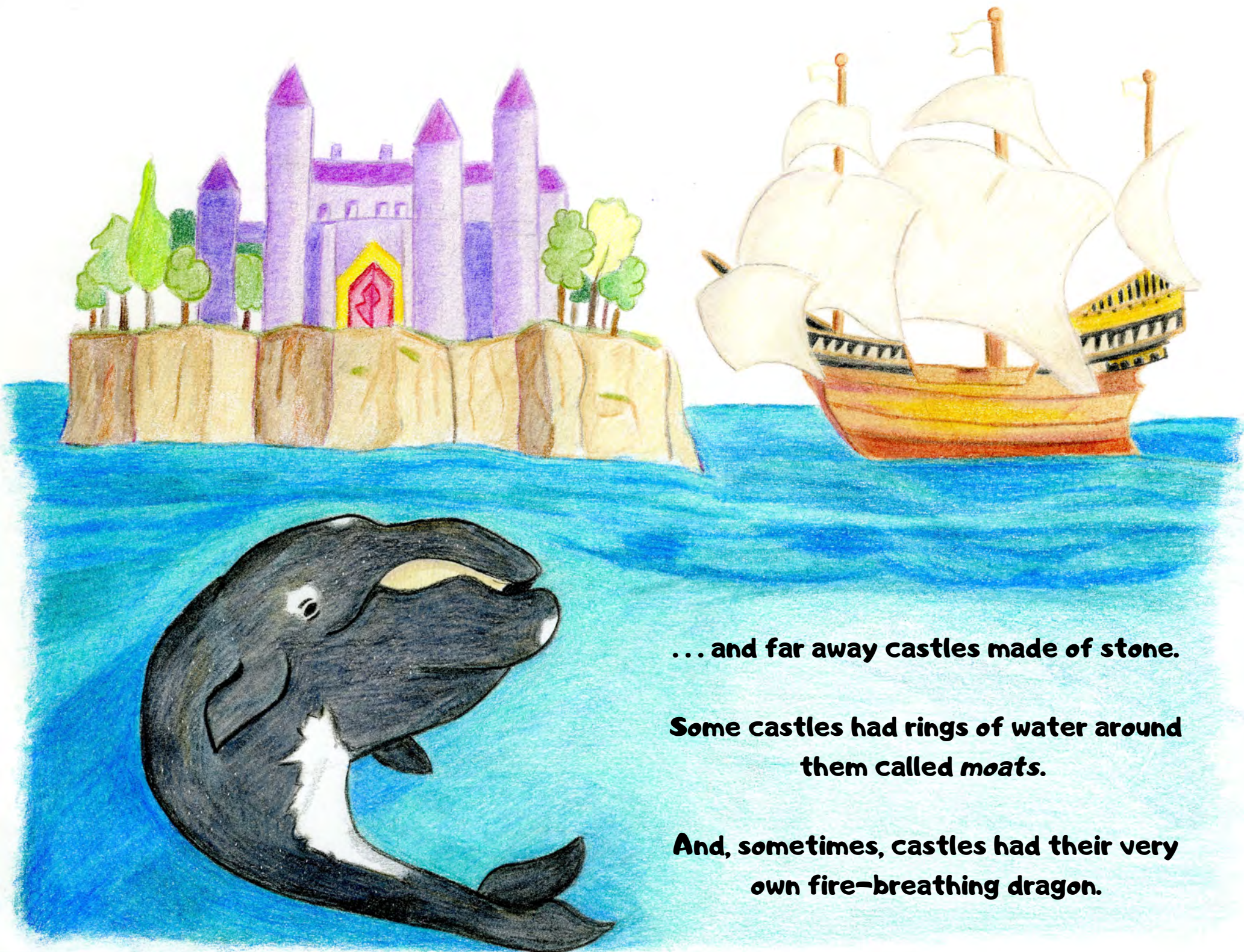


**Artie the alligator and his seven brothers and sisters  
loved story time with Mama.**

**Mama told them stories about giant fish in the ocean,  
bobbing boats sailing on the sea ...**







**... and far away castles made of stone.**

**Some castles had rings of water around  
them called *moats*.**

**And, sometimes, castles had their very  
own fire-breathing dragon.**



**Excited, Artie quickly swam across the pond to tell his friend Terry the turtle all about castles and dragons.**

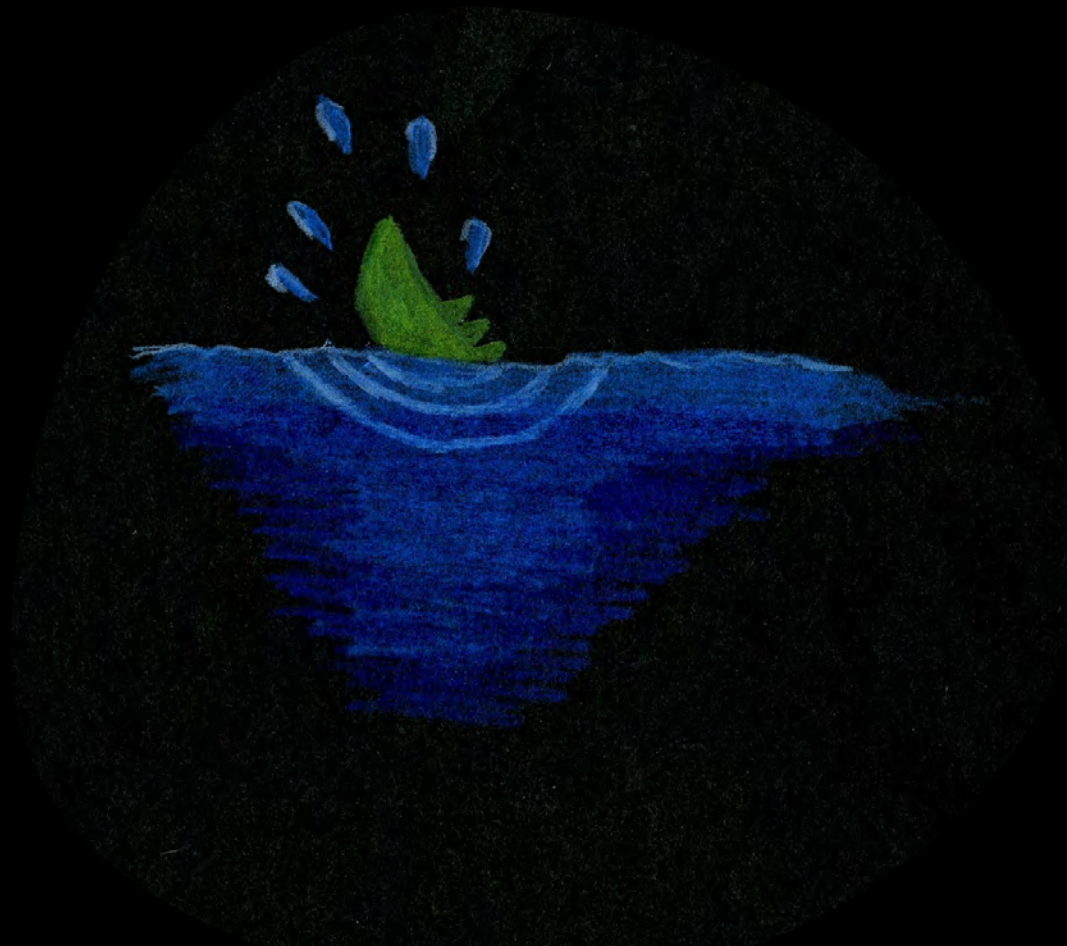
**He swam away so fast, Mama did not get a chance to tell Artie that dragons were *imaginary* creatures.**





**Artie wanted to visit a castle to swim in the  
moat and look for a dragon!**

**So off he went on his next adventure.**





**Artie swam up the river, keeping his  
eyes open for a castle.**

**After a while, he spotted some very  
tall, round shapes.**

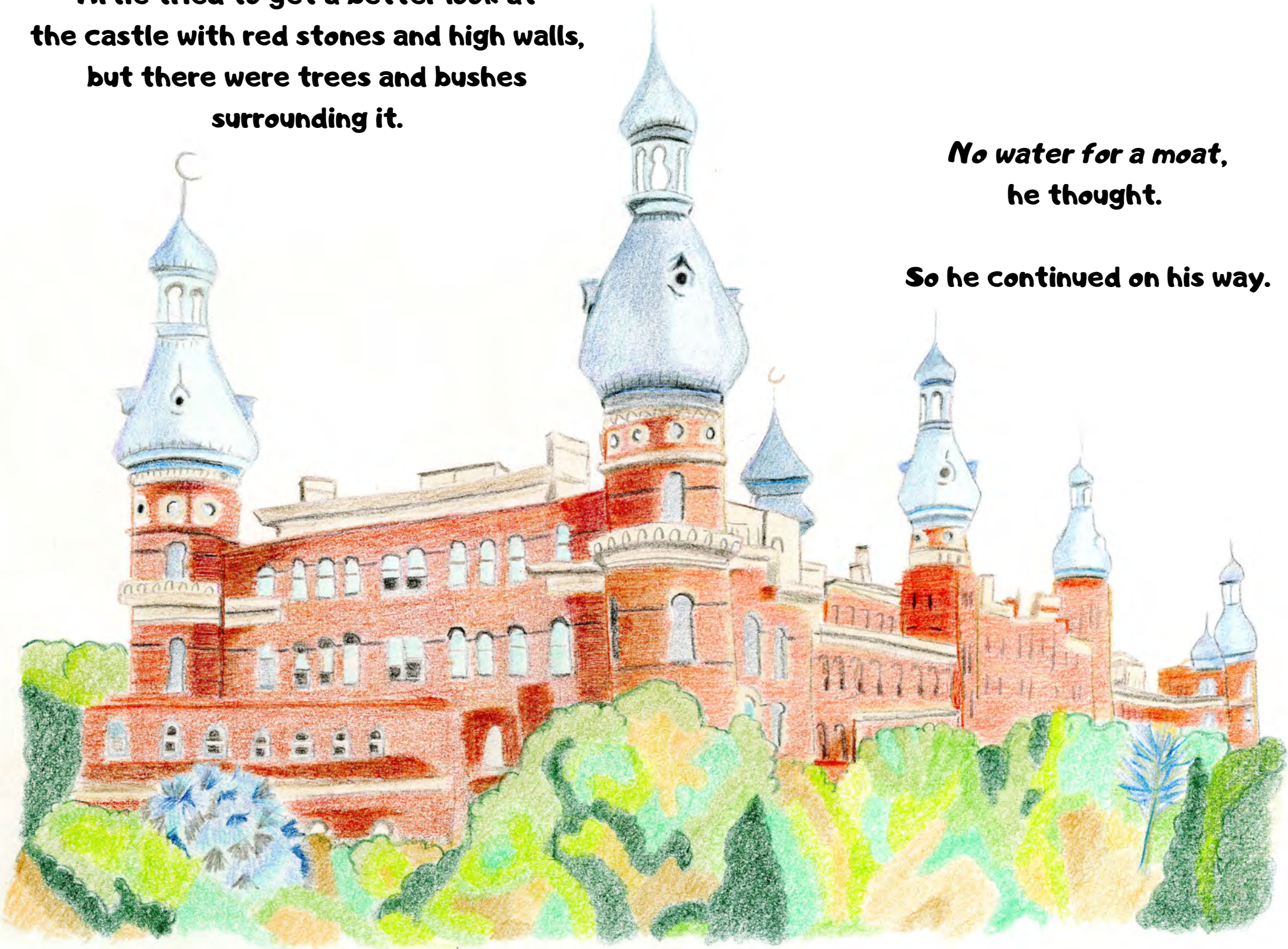
**Could this be a castle?**



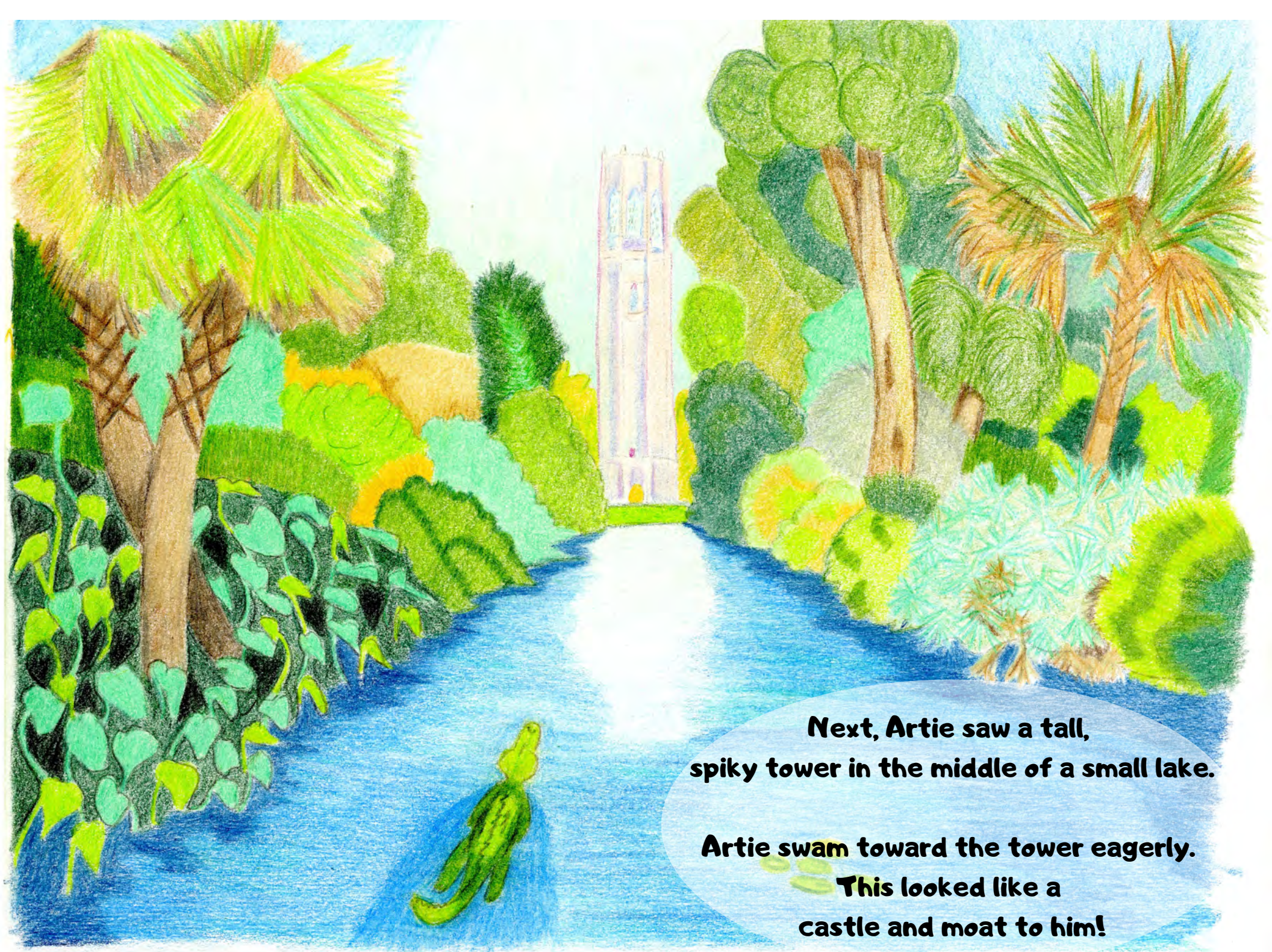
**Artie tried to get a better look at  
the castle with red stones and high walls,  
but there were trees and bushes  
surrounding it.**

***No water for a moat,  
he thought.***

**So he continued on his way.**







**Next, Artie saw a tall,  
spiky tower in the middle of a small lake.**

**Artie swam toward the tower eagerly.**

**This looked like a  
castle and moat to him!**



**Artie waited and waited for a dragon to appear.**

**And waited and waited . . .**

**He asked Mr. Heron if a dragon lived at this castle.**



**Mr. Heron replied, "This tower sings with ringing bells, but I have never seen a dragon here."**

**Artie thanked the heron and continued on his way.**



**Later that day, Artie climbed out of the water to sunbathe on the shore.**

**He noticed some strange shapes peeking from above the trees.**

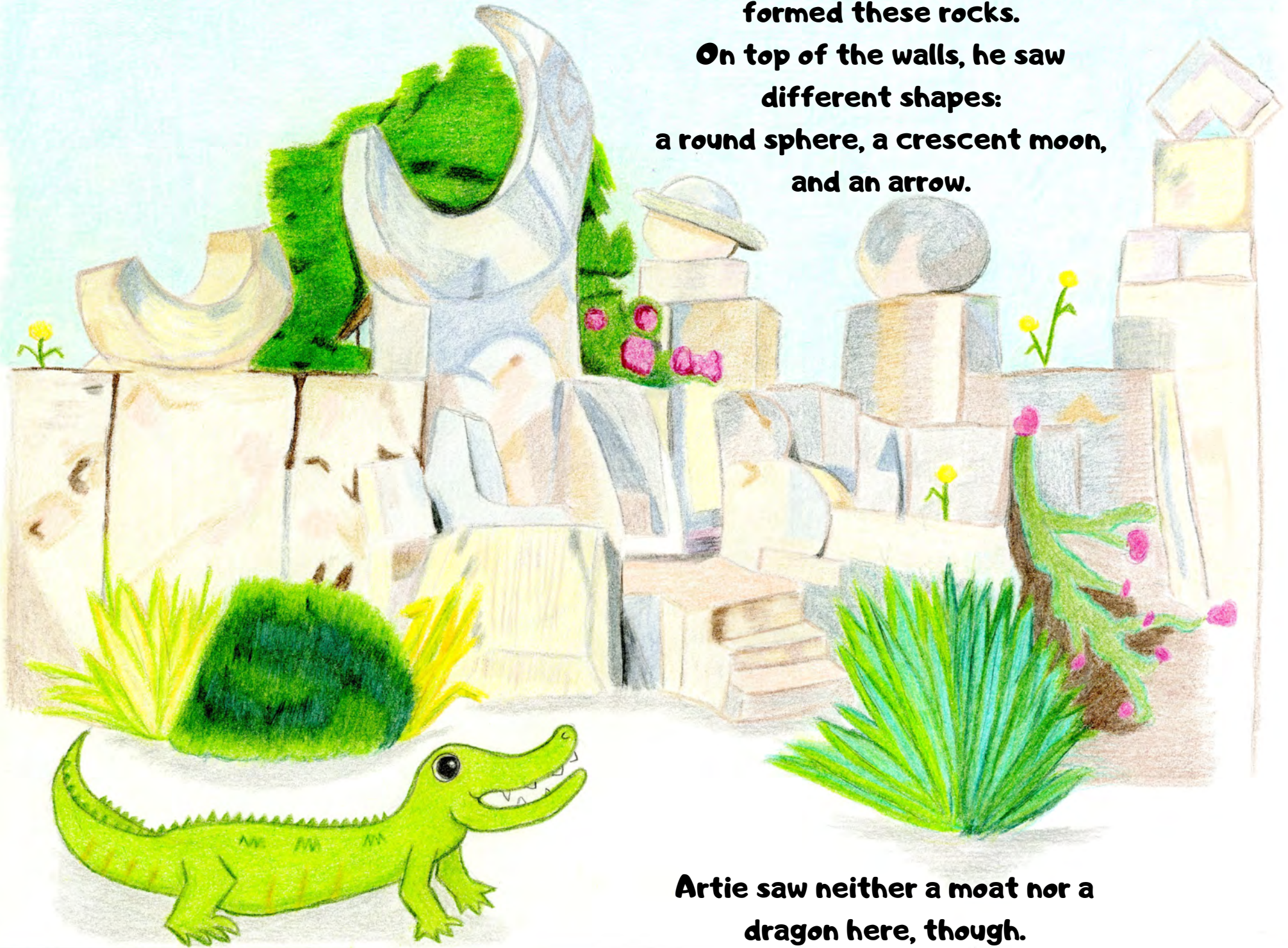
**Could this be a castle with a moat and a dragon?**





**Artie saw teeny, tiny pieces of coral that  
formed these rocks.**

**On top of the walls, he saw  
different shapes:  
a round sphere, a crescent moon,  
and an arrow.**



**Artie saw neither a moat nor a  
dragon here, though.**



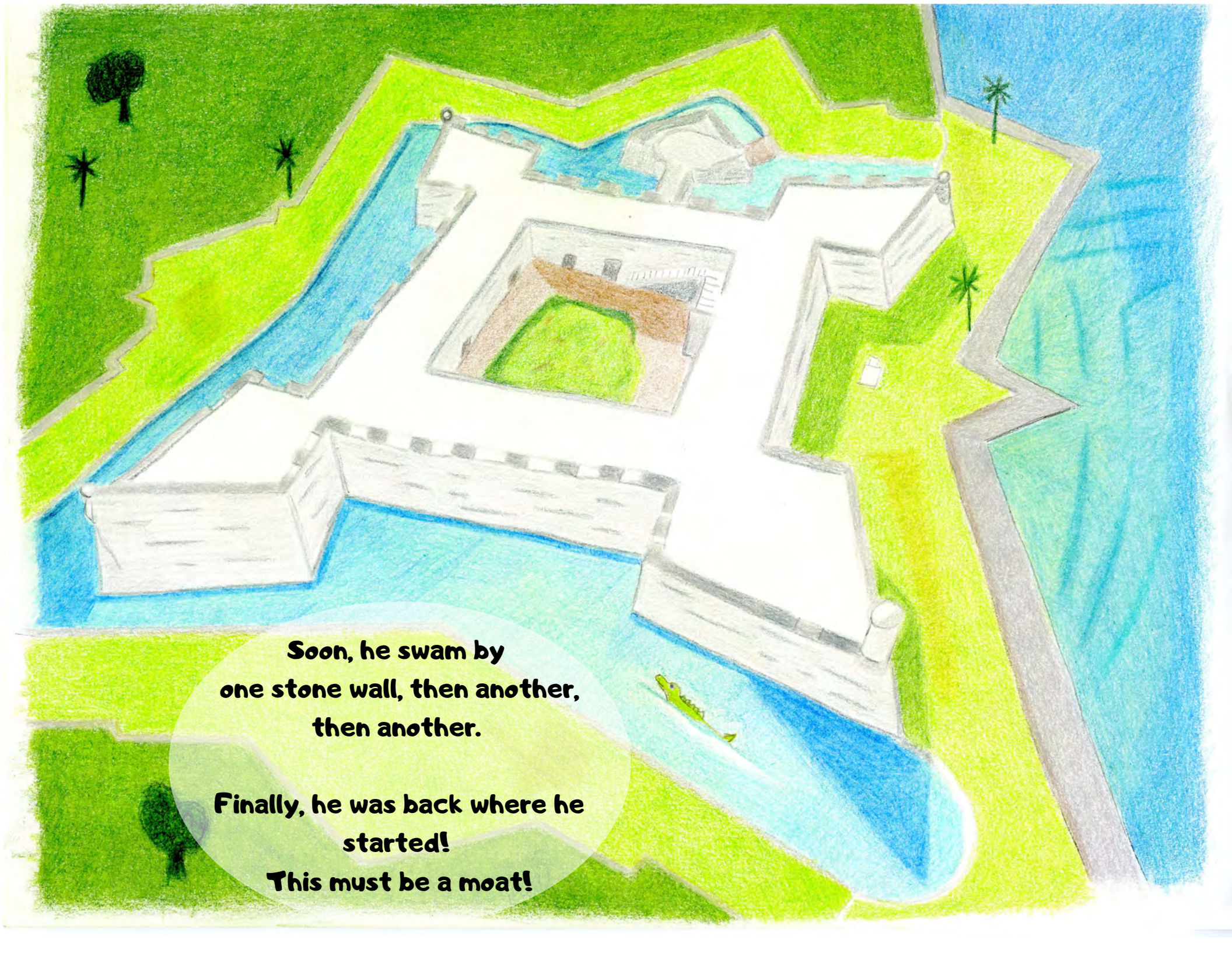


**Artie sighed. The day was turning  
into evening.**

**Surely it shouldn't be so hard to  
find a castle with a moat and a  
fire-breathing dragon.**

**Artie kept swimming and searching.**





**Soon, he swam by  
one stone wall, then another,  
then another.**

**Finally, he was back where he  
started!**

**This must be a moat!**

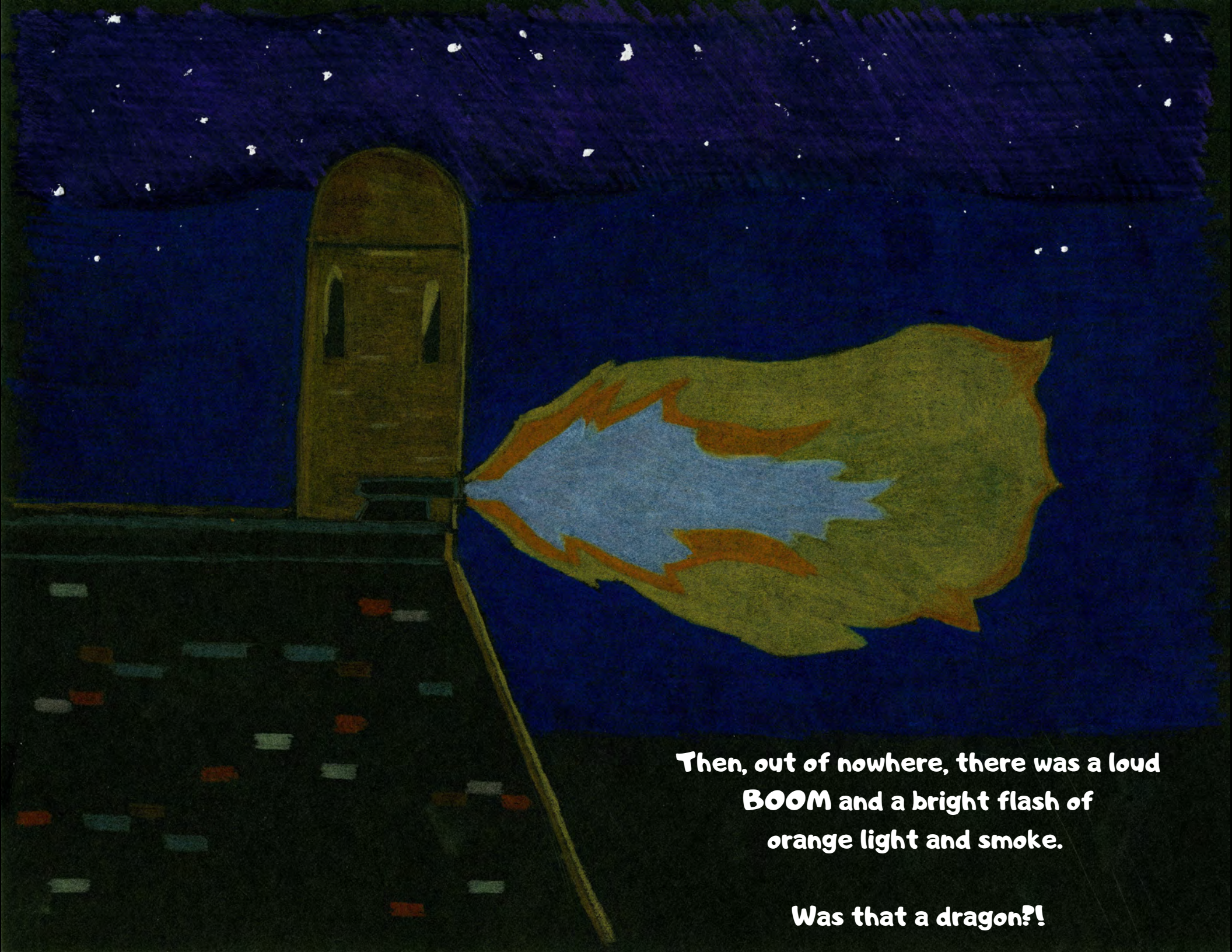


***If I were a dragon, I would live in this castle, he  
thought.***

**He was so excited to have finally found the  
perfect castle when ...**

**Artie noticed how dark it was getting  
outside. The sun was setting. The frogs were  
chirping.**





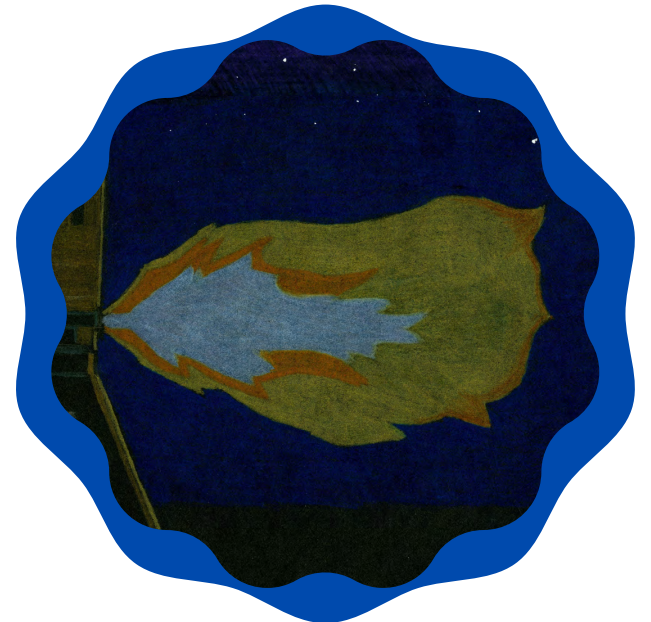
Then, out of nowhere, there was a loud  
**BOOM** and a bright flash of  
orange light and smoke.

Was that a dragon?!



**Artie decided very quickly that maybe he wasn't ready to meet a real fire-breathing dragon after all, and he swam off with a splash to go home.**

**When he returned to the swamp, he told his mama and brothers and sisters all about his adventure that day.**





Artie's journey takes him to four iconic Florida historical sites: the Henry B. Plant Museum in Tampa; Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales; Coral Castle Museum in Miami; and the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine.

The Plant Museum was originally constructed in 1888–1891 as the Tampa Bay Hotel. It is now known as Plant Hall and is a part of the University of Tampa's campus.

Bok Tower, also known as Bok Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Singing Tower, was completed in 1929 and has a 60-bell carillon inside. It is 205 feet high.

Edward Leedskalnin built Coral Castle all by himself over 28 years, beginning in 1920. He worked under the cover of night and quarried the stones himself.

The Castillo de San Marcos, made from coquina rock, dates back to 1672. The coquina replaced wooden forts that kept being burnt down by enemies of the fort.