

EYEWITNESS  READERS

Level
1
PRESCHOOL-GRADE 1

Duckling Days



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598.4
WAL

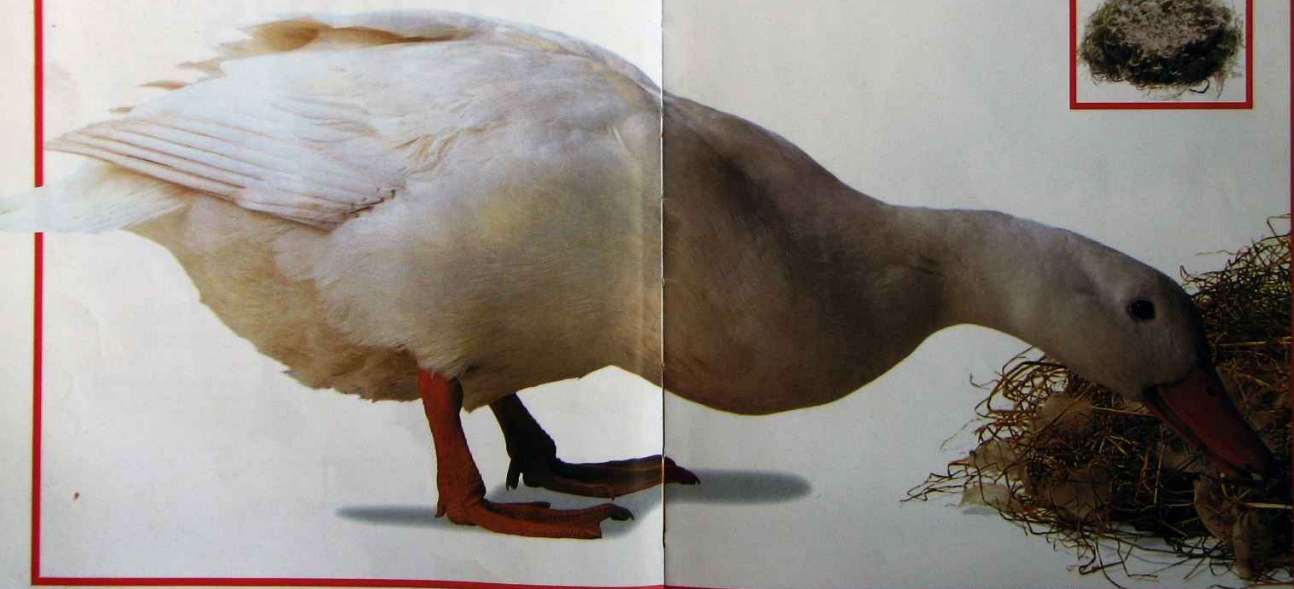
N WALLACE

In the grass
beside the river
a mother duck
builds her nest.

She gathers grass and
makes a hollow.

She lines her nest with
downy feathers.

nest



In a nest
beside the river
a mother duck
lays six white eggs.

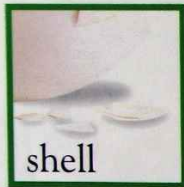
egg



She keeps them warm
beneath her body.
Inside each egg
a duckling grows.



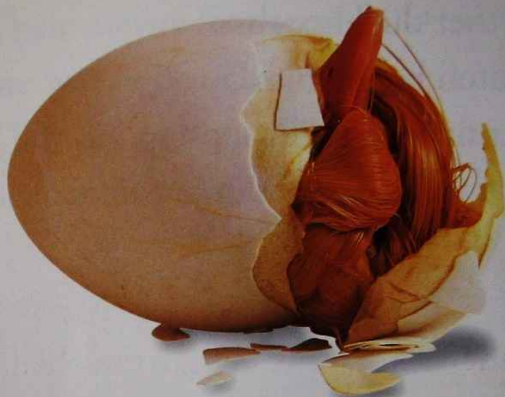
A duckling hatches
from his egg.



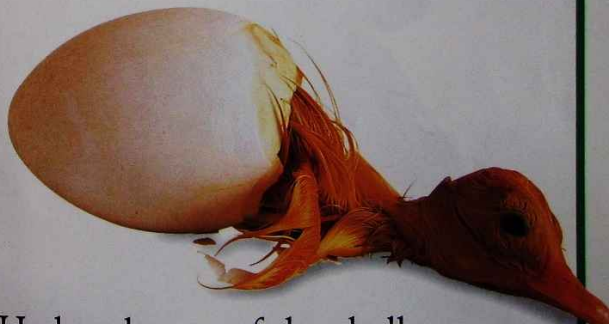
He cracks the shell.



He makes a hole
with his tiny beak.



He taps and pushes.



He breaks out of the shell
and squeezes out.

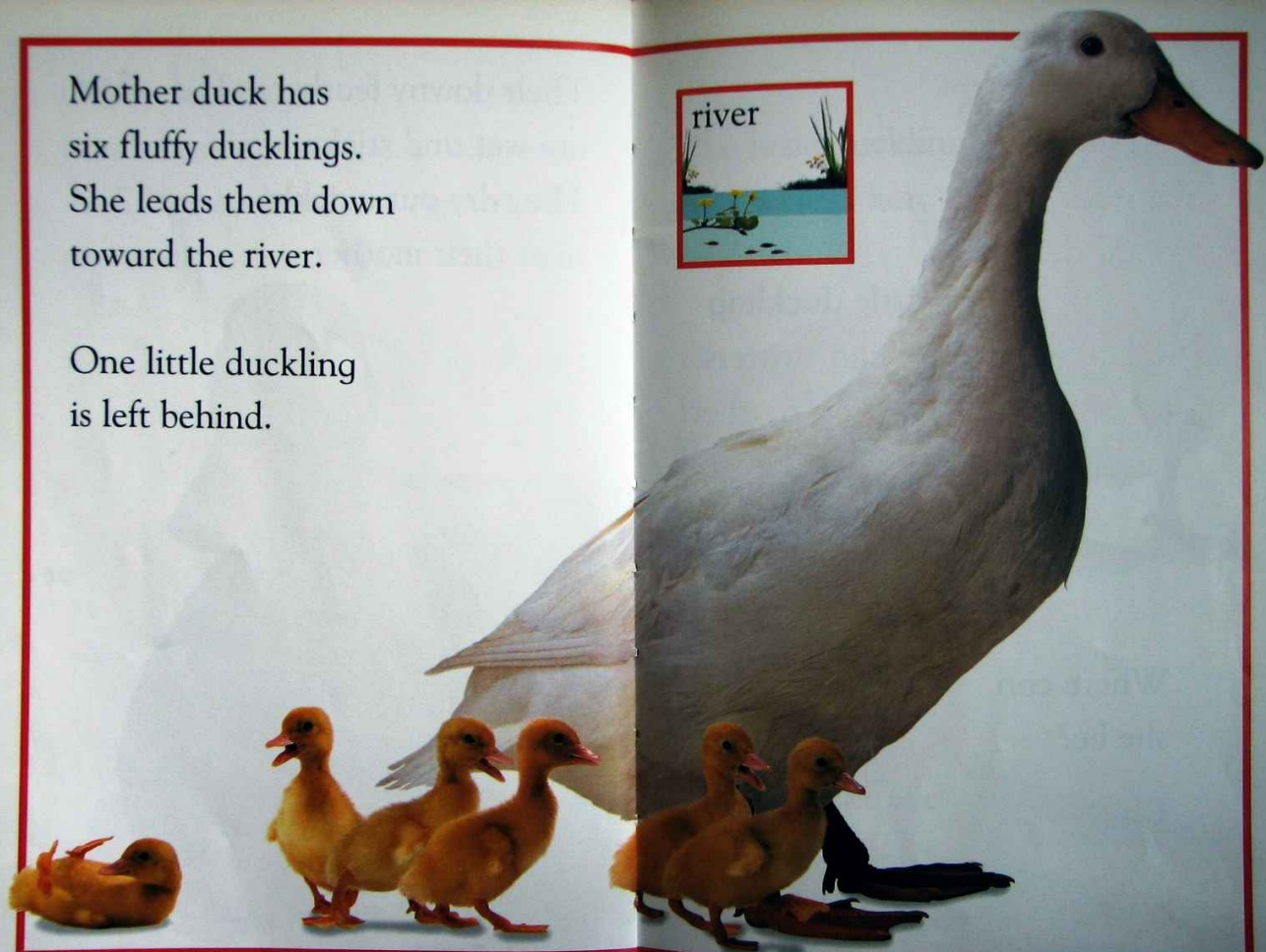
Other ducklings
hatch beside him.
At first their legs
are weak and wobbly.

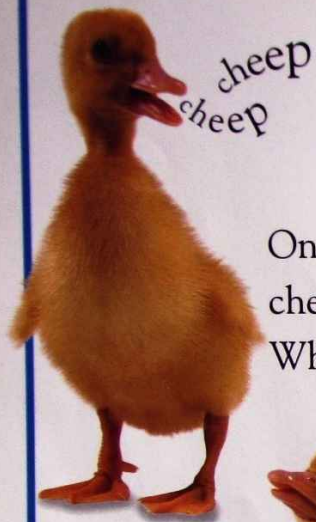
Their downy feathers
are wet and sticky.
They dry out quickly
near their mother.



Mother duck has
six fluffy ducklings.
She leads them down
toward the river.

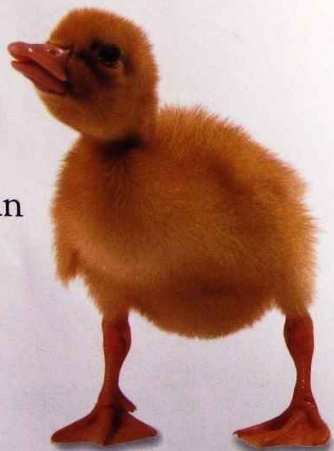
One little duckling
is left behind.



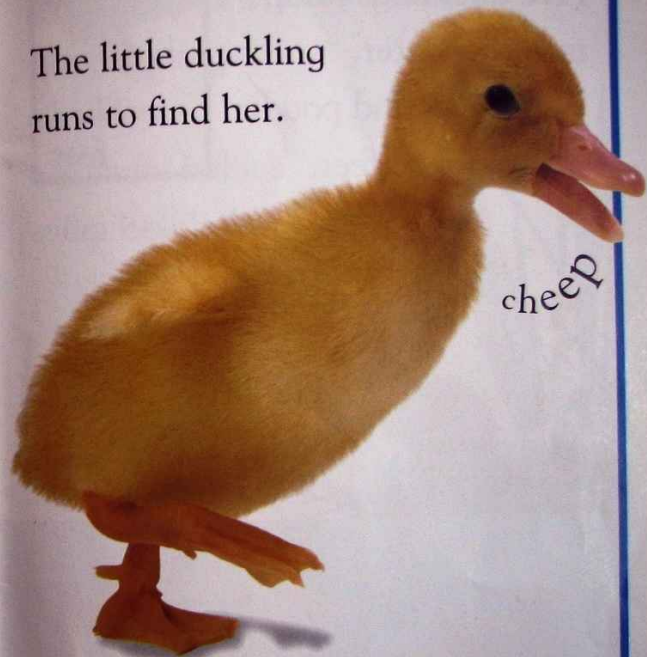


One little duckling
cheeps and twitters.
Where is his mother?

Where can
she be?



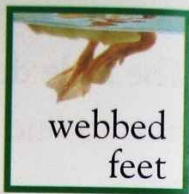
The little duckling
runs to find her.



He's afraid to be
on his own.

Five ducklings jump
into the water.

They push and paddle
with webbed feet.



webbed
feet



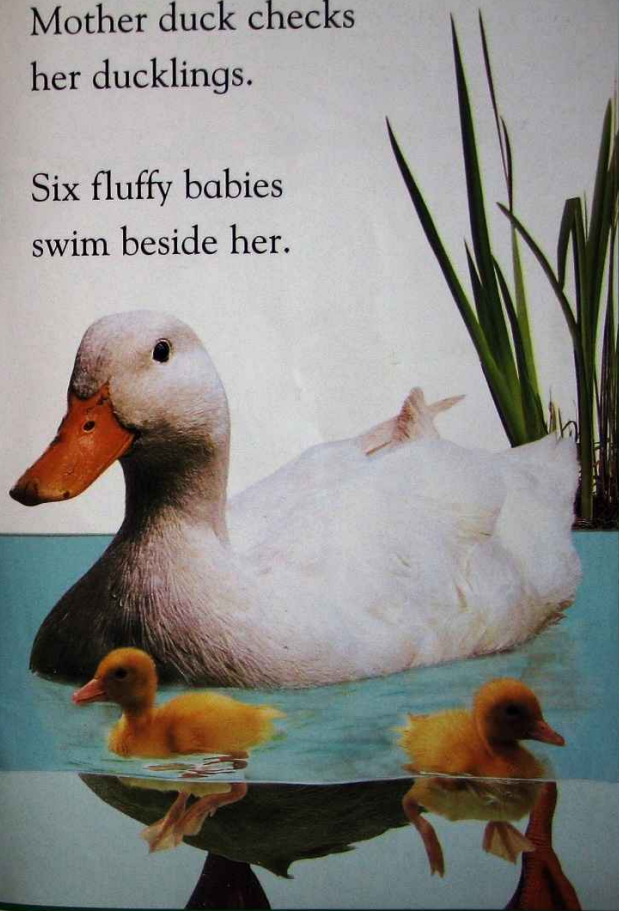
cheep

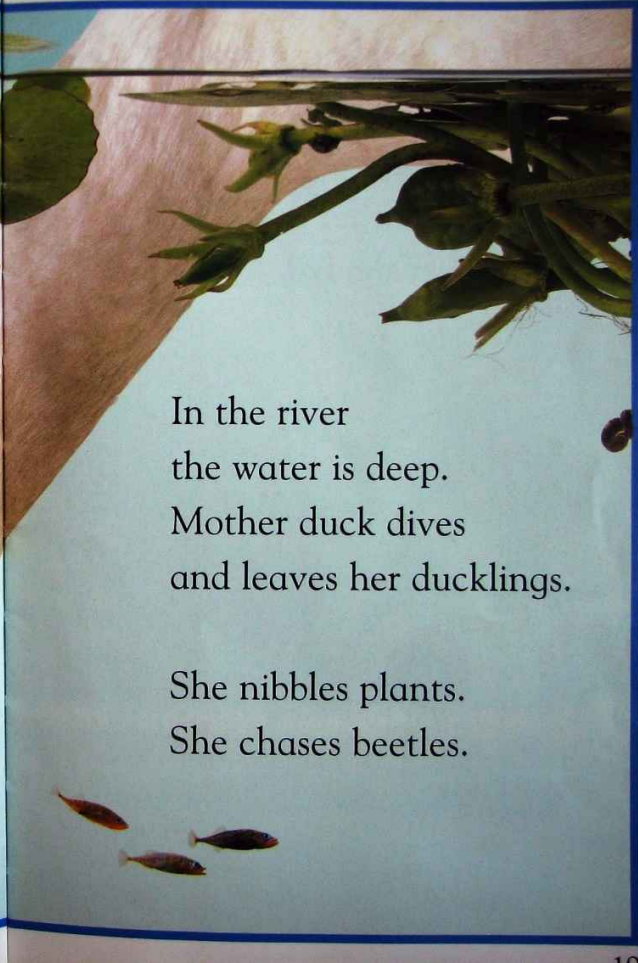
The little duckling
finds his family.



Mother duck checks
her ducklings.

Six fluffy babies
swim beside her.





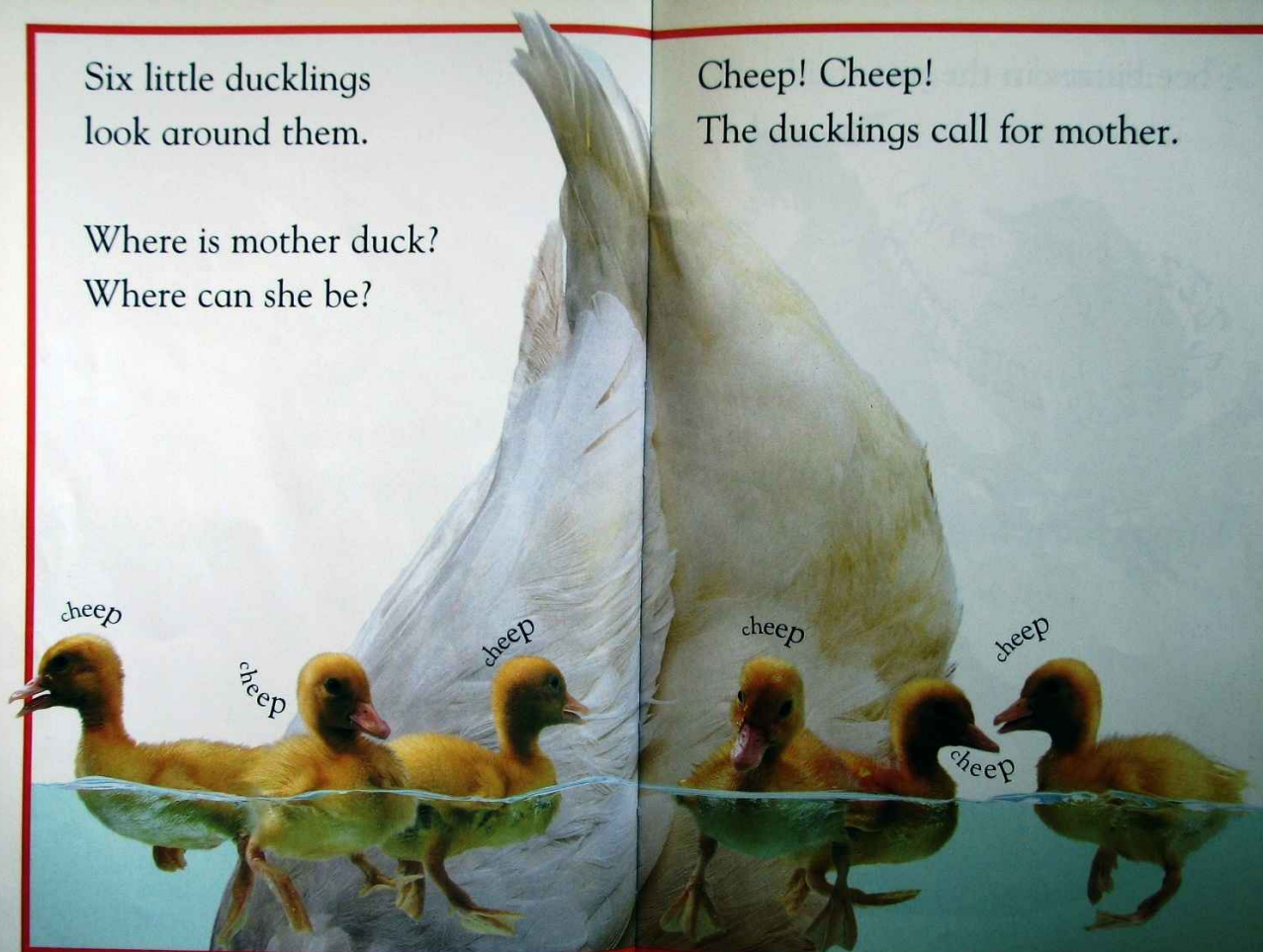
In the river
the water is deep.
Mother duck dives
and leaves her ducklings.

She nibbles plants.
She chases beetles.

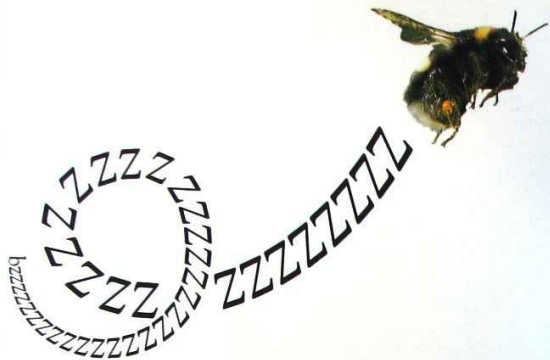
Six little ducklings
look around them.

Where is mother duck?
Where can she be?

Cheep! Cheep!
The ducklings call for mother.



A bee buzzes in the air.



A frog croaks from a lily pad.

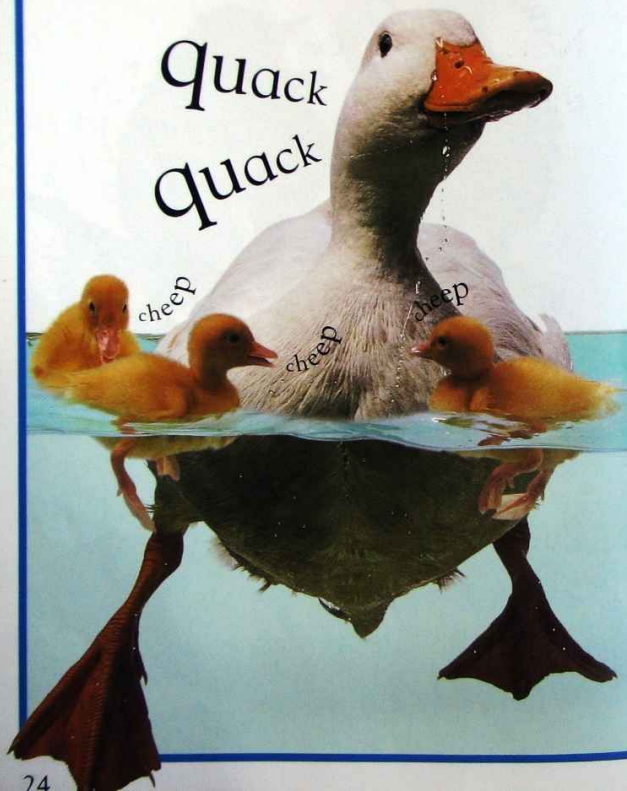


Two birds sing on a branch.



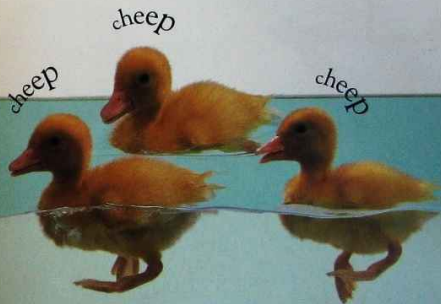
But mother duck
does not answer.
Where has she gone?
Where can she be?

Quack! Quack!
She pops up in the water!



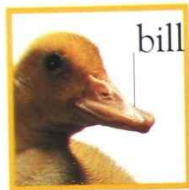
Cheep! Cheep!
Her ducklings huddle around her.

Next time
they will be braver.



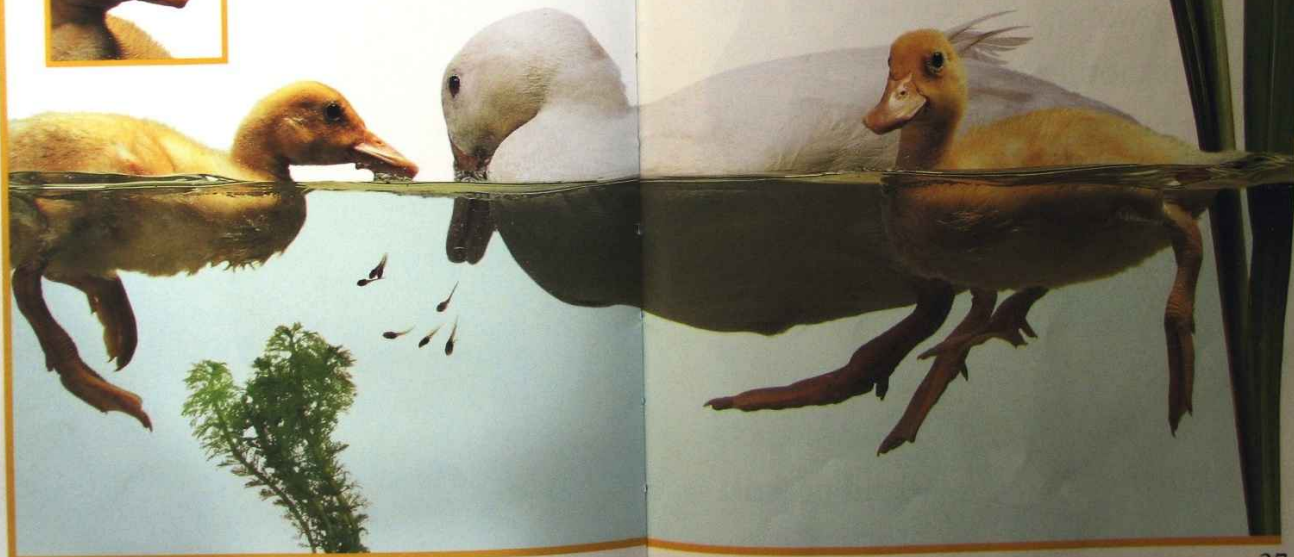
The growing ducklings
snap at tadpoles.

They pull at pondweed
with their yellow bills.



They like to dabble
in the water.

They watch their mother.
They do what she does.



The ducklings' down
grows into feathers.



feathers

They watch
their mother clean
her feathers.



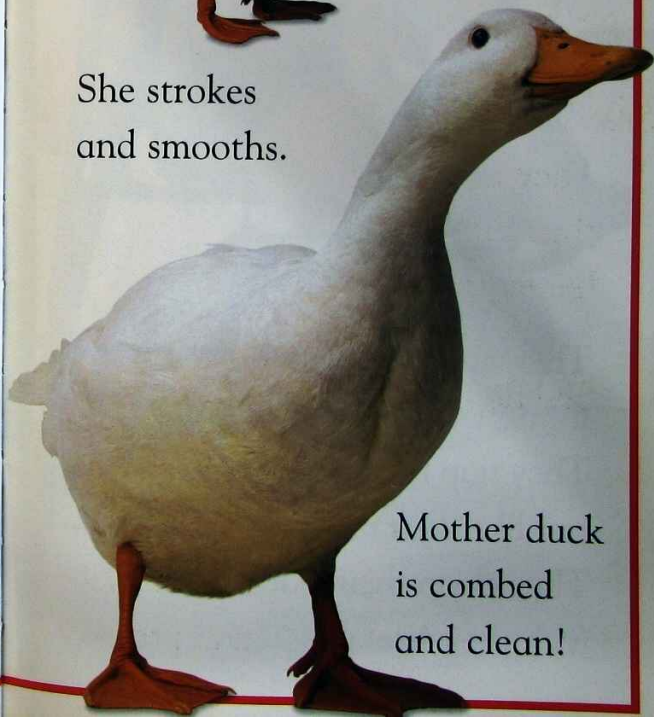
She flaps and fluffs.



She plucks
and preens.

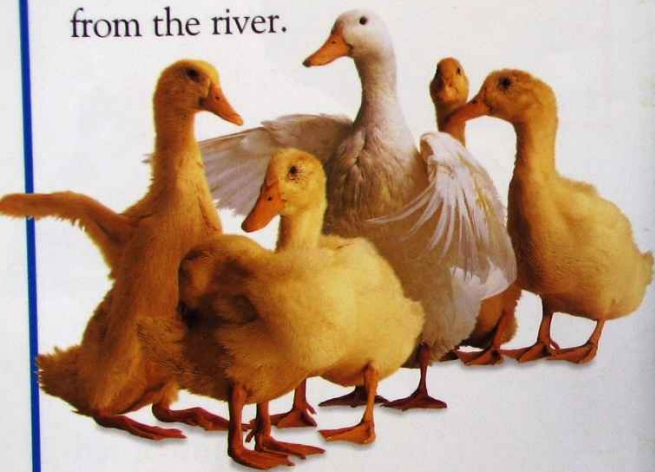


She strokes
and smooths.



Mother duck
is combed
and clean!

Five young ducks waddle
from the river.



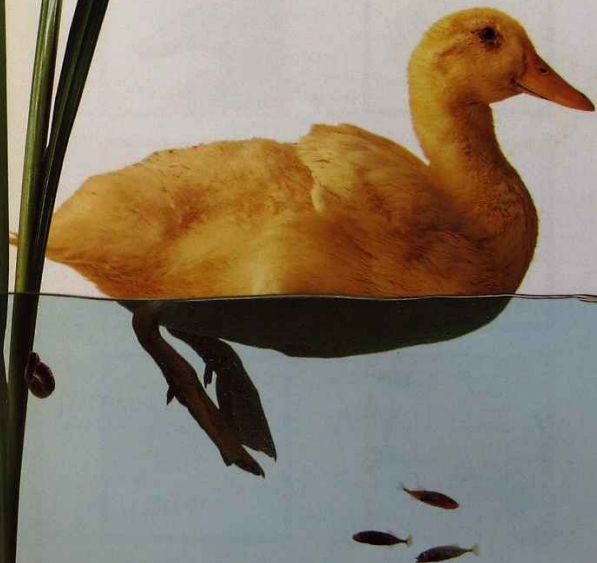
They shake the water
from their backs.

They flap their wings
just like their mother.

They clean their feathers
with their beaks.



One young duck
dabbles in the water.
He's happy being
on his own.



Picture Word List

nest



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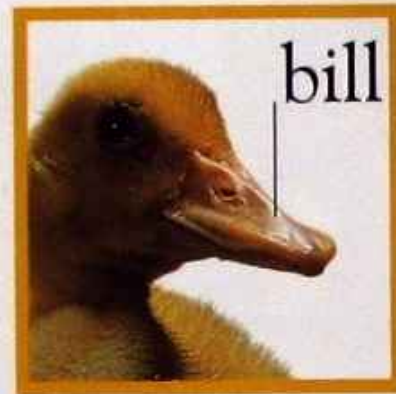
webbed
feet

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egg

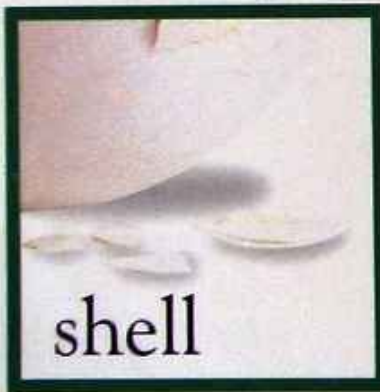


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bill

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shell

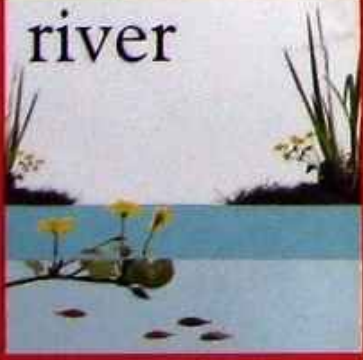
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feathers

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river



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wing

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