

# The Origins of Leapfrog



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Illustrator: Augustin Habimana



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Frogs used to live in swamps. In one family, there was a curious frog called Makeri.



Makeri had a heron friend. “Tell me Heron, you have flown to a lot of places. Which one did you like the most?” asked Makeri. “I liked schools. Children sing and play. It’s amazing,” replied Heron.



“Will you take me next time you go?” asked Makeri. “Yes. No problem my friend. Tomorrow morning, be ready,” replied Heron.



The next day, Heron took Makeri to a school. Makeri and Heron stayed by the window looking at the children studying. At break time, kids went outside and played different games. “Wow, I love the school,” said Makeri.

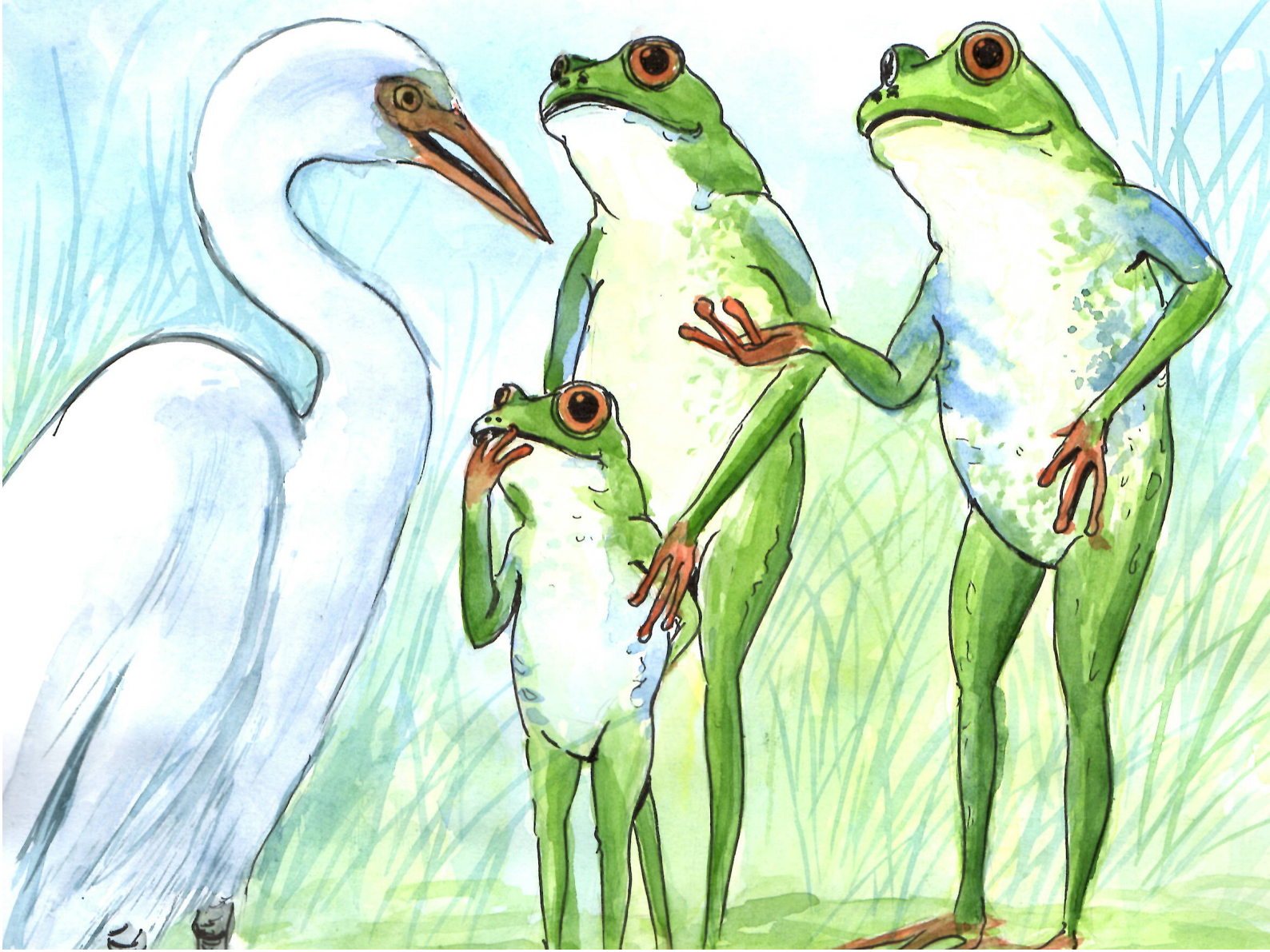




During break time, the children were afraid to play with Makeri. Makeri saw a butterfly flying by. He started jumping after the butterfly.



The children started imitating Makeri. They all came to play with Makeri. He had many friends to teach how to jump like a frog. They then invited Makeri to study with them.



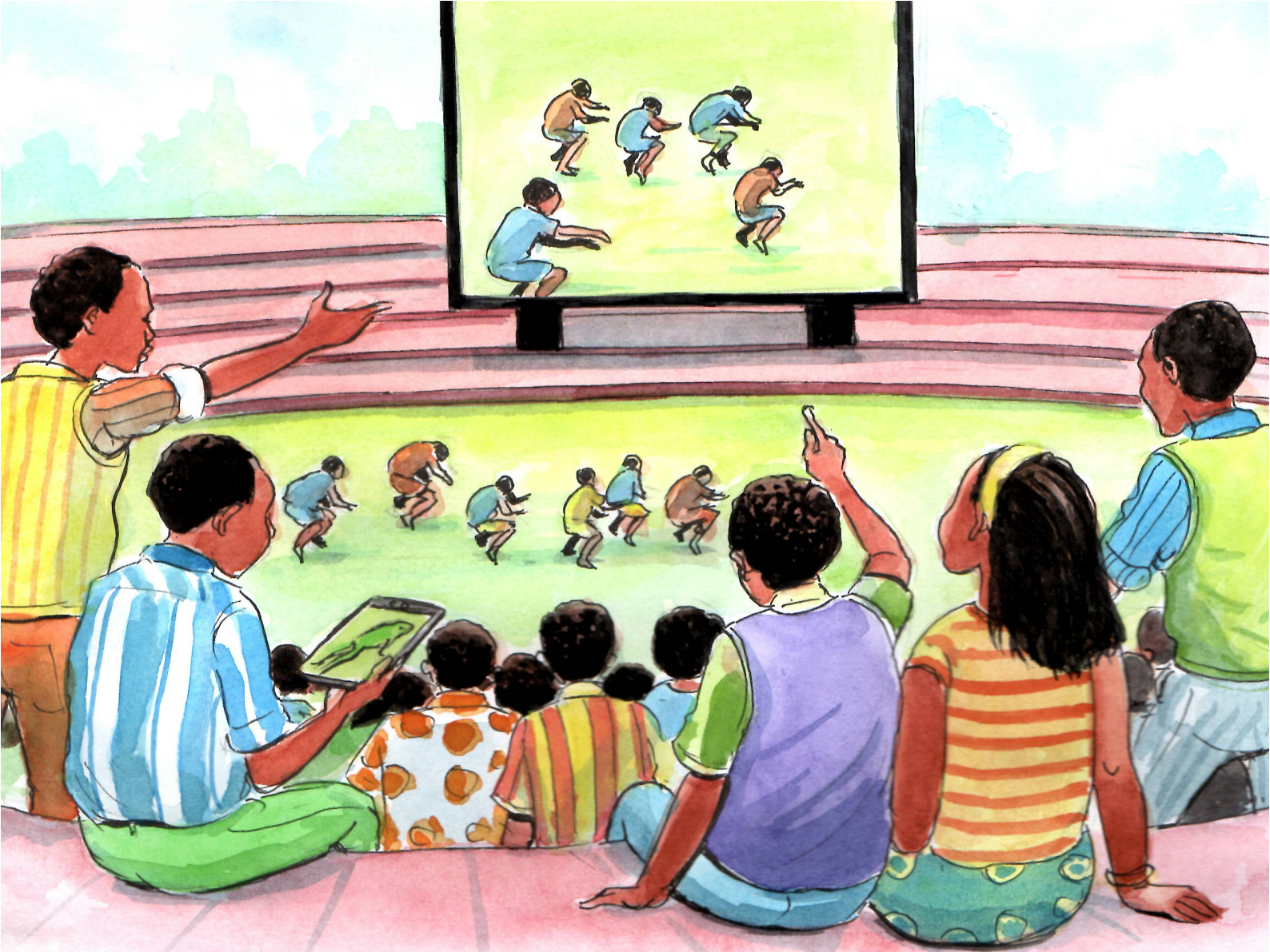
Makeri and Heron went home. At home, Makeri asked his parents, “May I go to school?” “But no frog has ever attended school in our family!” replied Makeri’s parents. “Then, I will be the first one,” said Makeri.



“The schools are far away. How will you go there?” asked Makeri’s father. Makeri started to cry. “I will give him a lift on my back every day,” said Heron. “Don’t cry, my baby. Tomorrow, you will attend school,” said Makeri’s mum.



The next day, Makeri went to school. The teacher welcomed him to class and invited him to study with other children. Students and their teacher were happy to study with Makeri.



Jumping like Makeri became very popular. Children around the world play leapfrog. There are leapfrog competitions, television shows and mobile game applications.



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