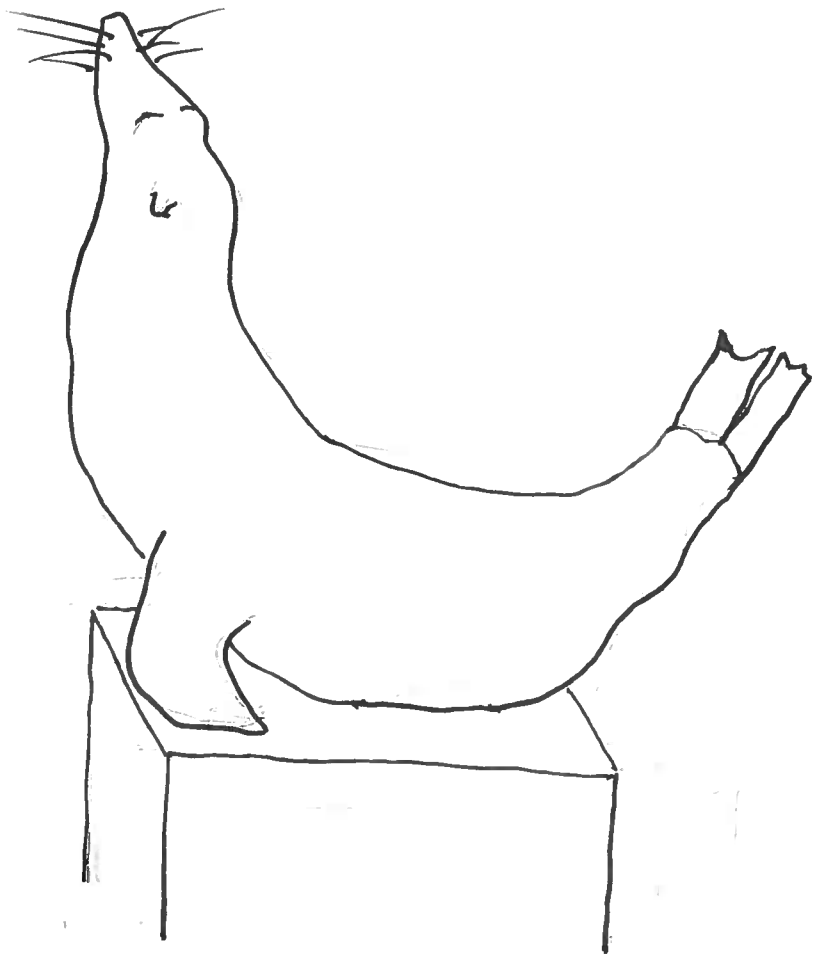
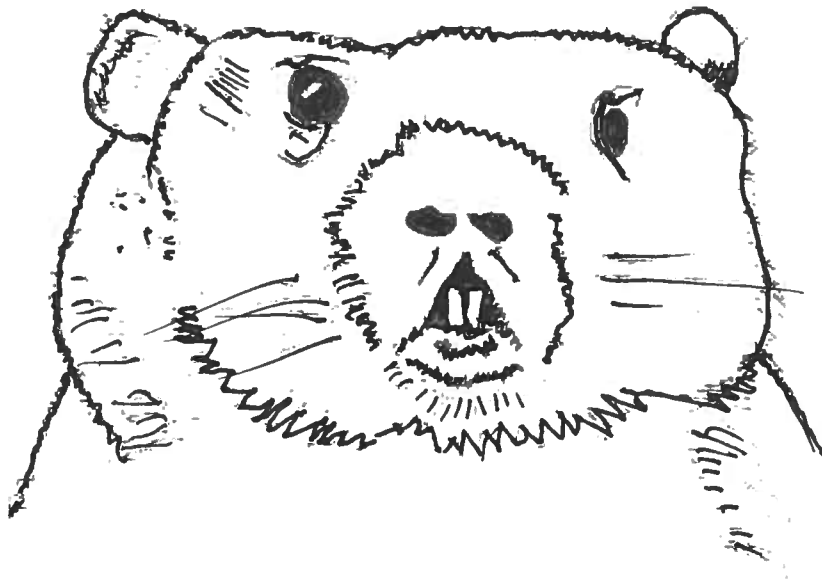


THE PRESIDENTIAL SEAL



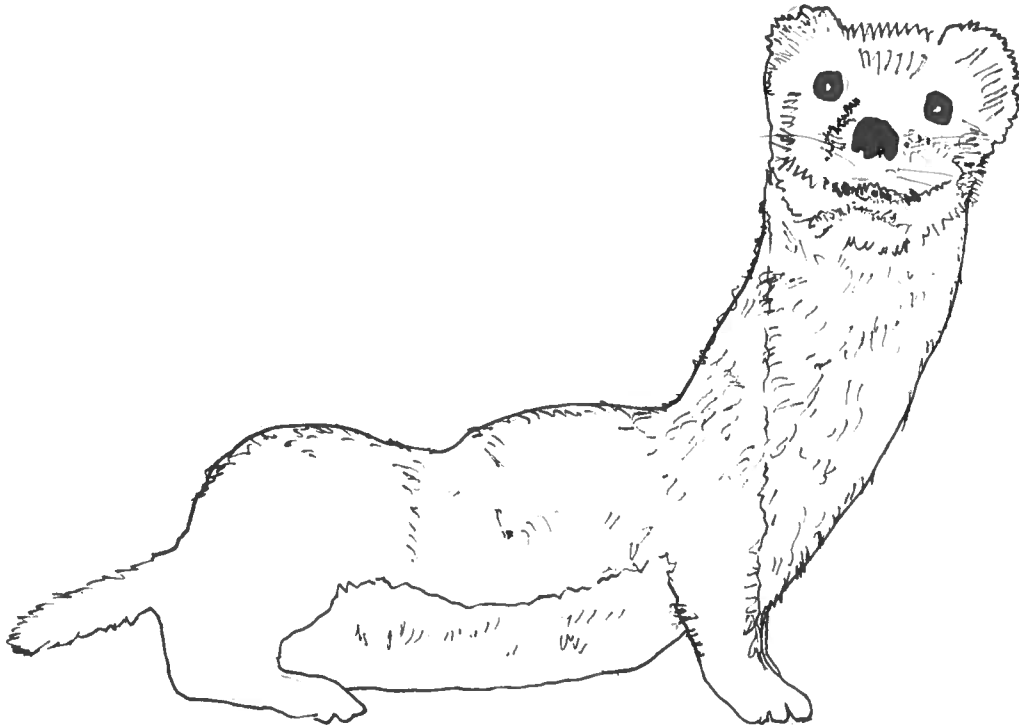
STEVE BROOKS



The Woodchuck

When it came to chucking wood, the
woodchuck found he could not do it well.

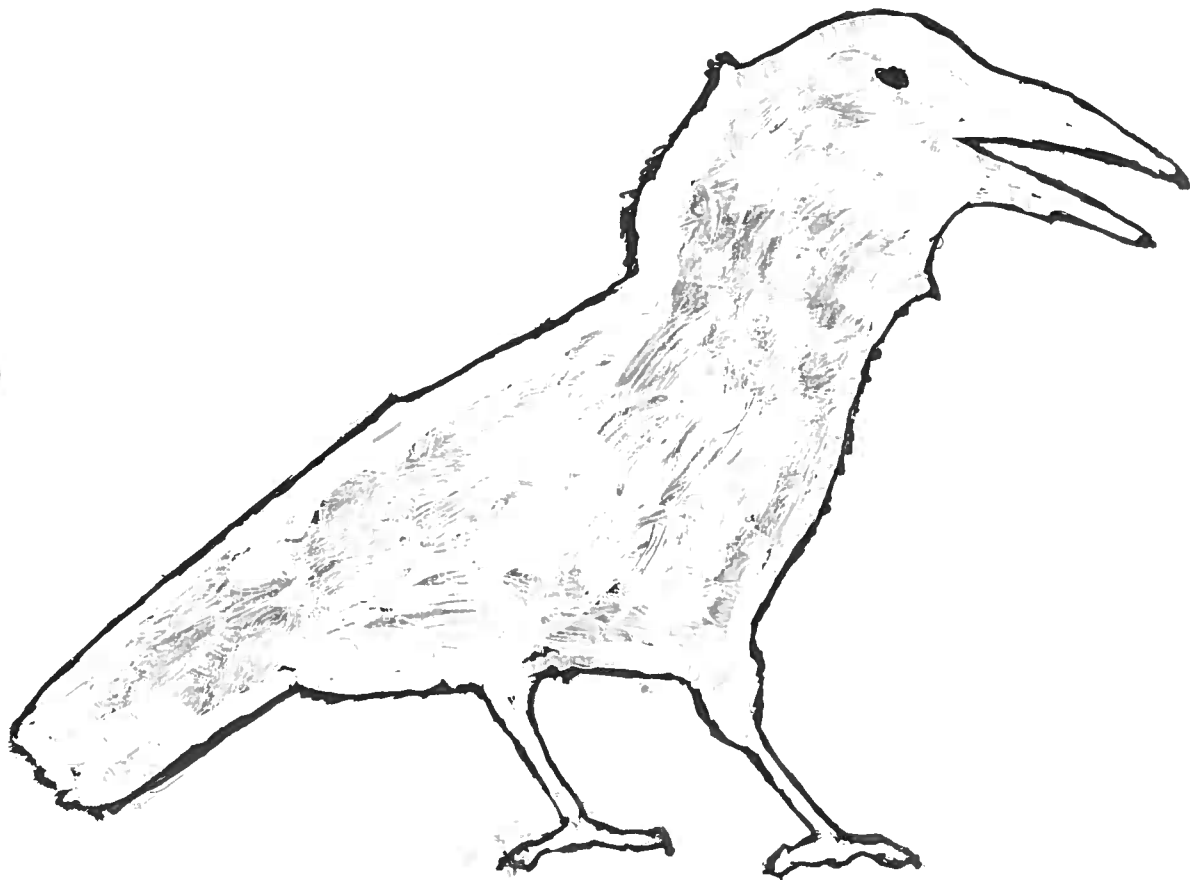
So he relieved himself in the woodpile
and blamed the trees for the smell.



The Weasel

A painter without an easel,
he could imagine his work was great,

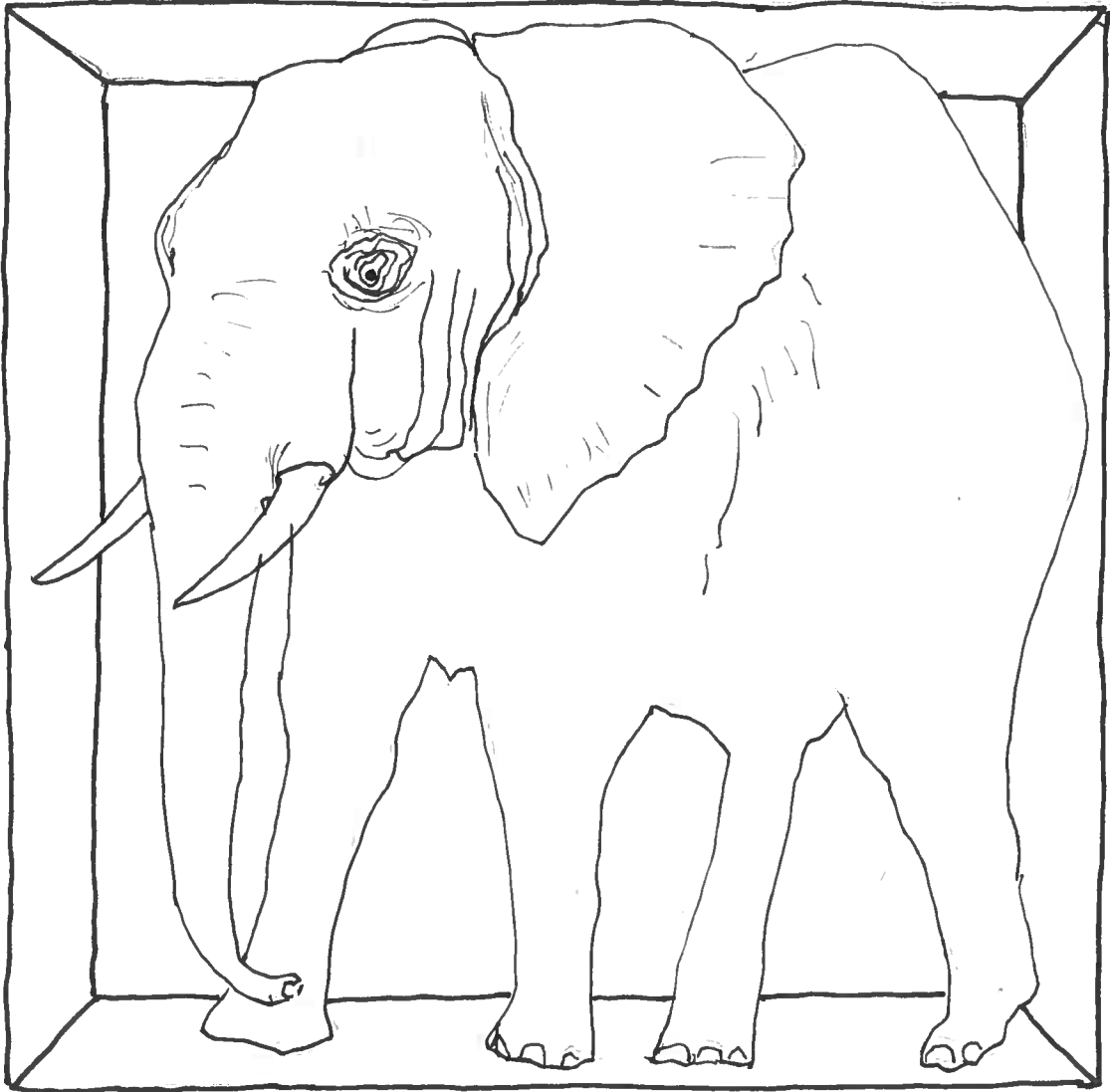
Dreaming was huge for the weasel,
but good art was not in his fate.



The Crow

The crow caws and caws, one cause
matters most, and he pleads it to the end.

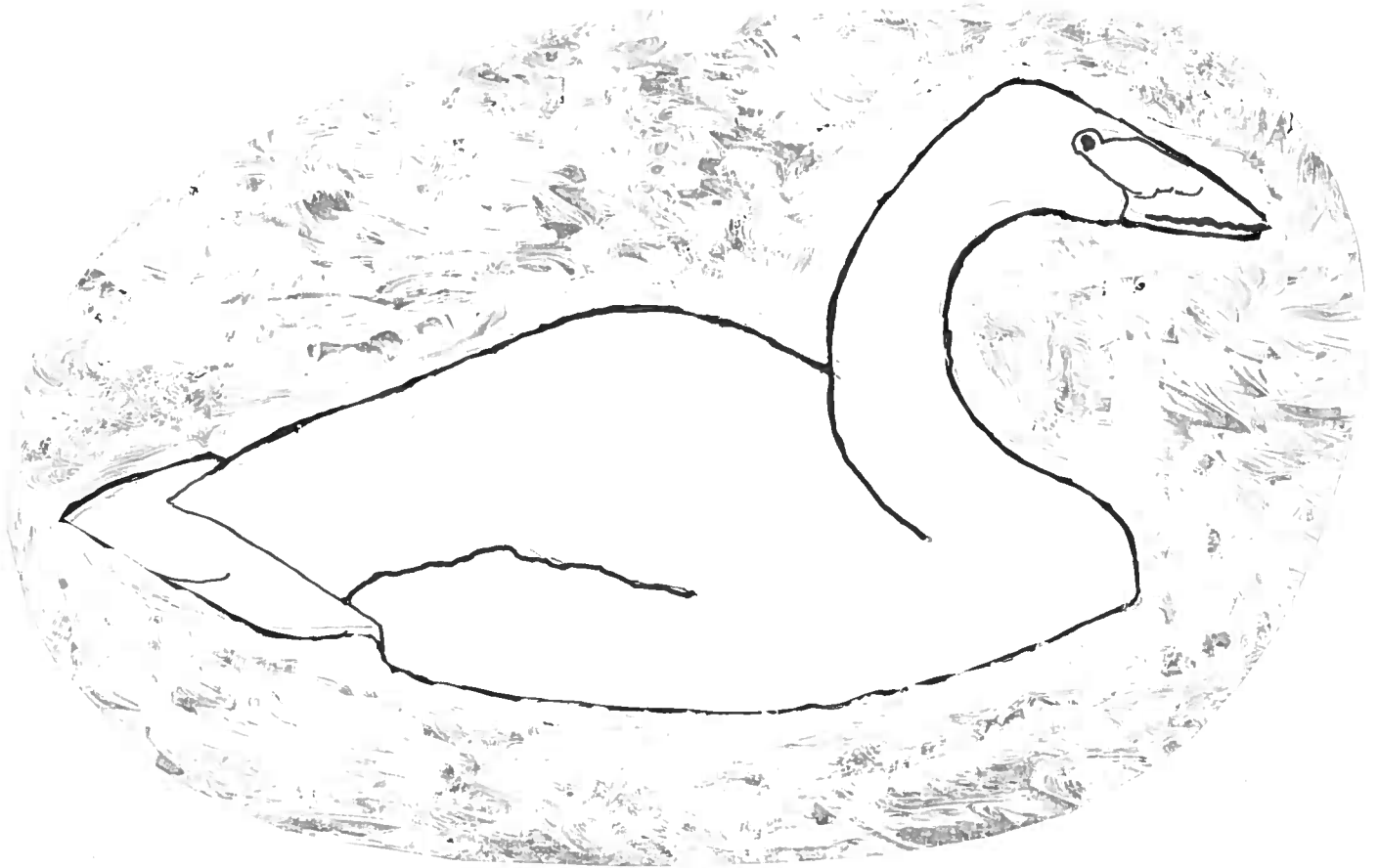
He is his own cause, there is no greater
cause, and that cause he must defend.



The Elephant

How much room is there in the room
for anyone else to have their space.

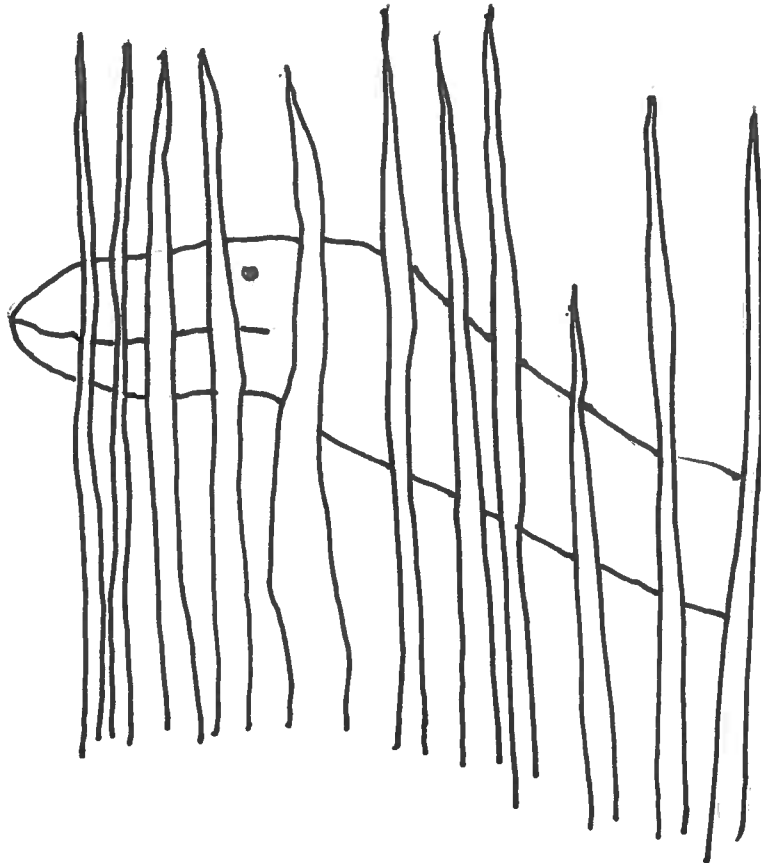
The elephant has designed the room
so no one else can show their face.



The Trumpeter Swan

The trumpeting swan thinks his noise
makes him one of the locker-room boys.

"I chase beauties and cuties, too bad
if it conflicts with their duties."



The Snake

The snake hides in the grass as if
he dwells in a protective shelter.

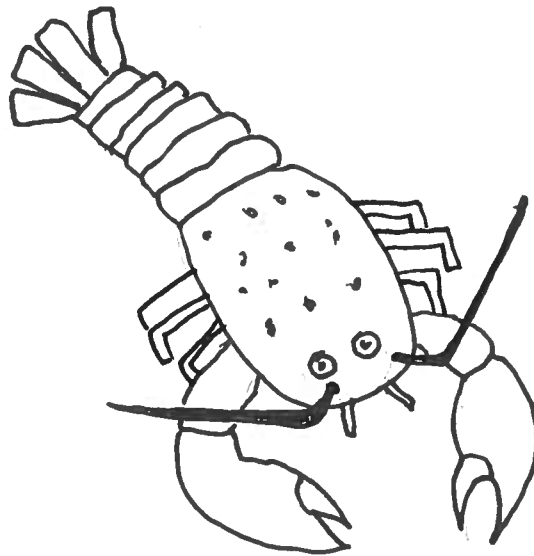
The snake crawls out from his pile
of it, sending others helter-skelter.



The Beaver

The beaver wants to build a big dam along the shoreline of the lake.

He says the fish will pay, they say, "No fins for you, dams are yours to make."



The Lobster

The lobster wishes he had bigger claws, the biggest in the ocean.

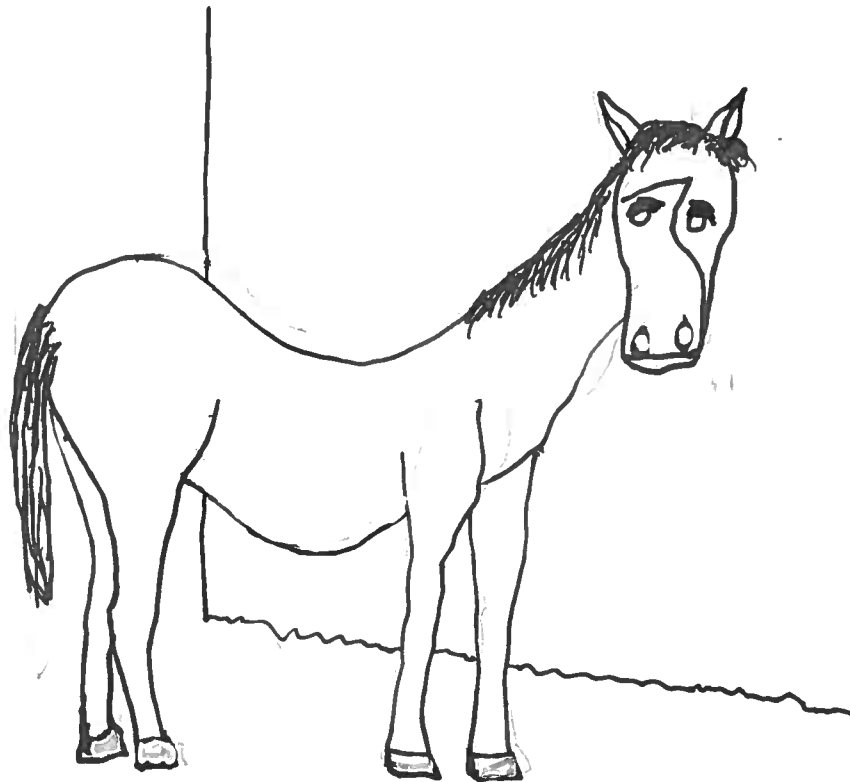
And then no one who wanted to eat him, would ever get the notion.



The Bullfrog

The bullfrog bellows in the pond,
demanding all other frogs be gone.

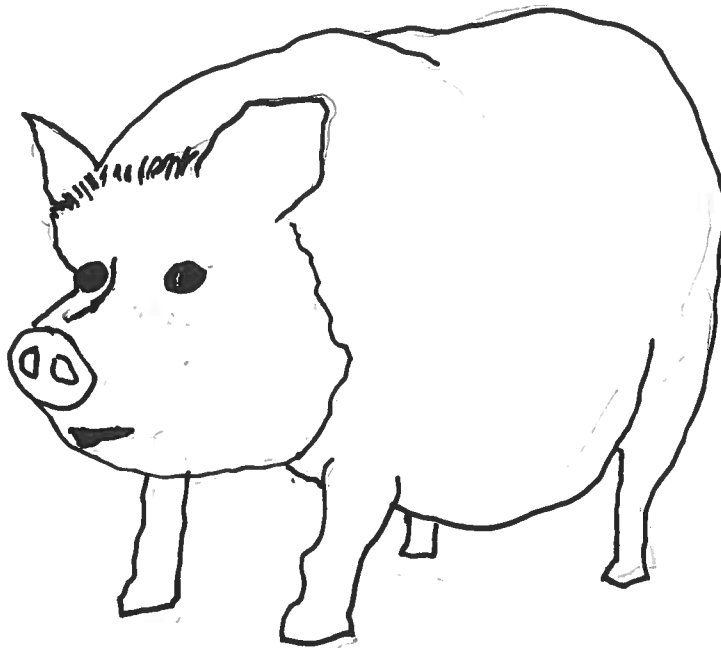
Finally, no other frogs around,
he continues to babble on.



The Horse

The swayback horse, belly distended,
claims his record's unappended.

He is the fastest horse to say
he is the fastest horse of his day.



The Hog

The fattest hog in the sty is the tops,
cannot, will not, stop his slops.

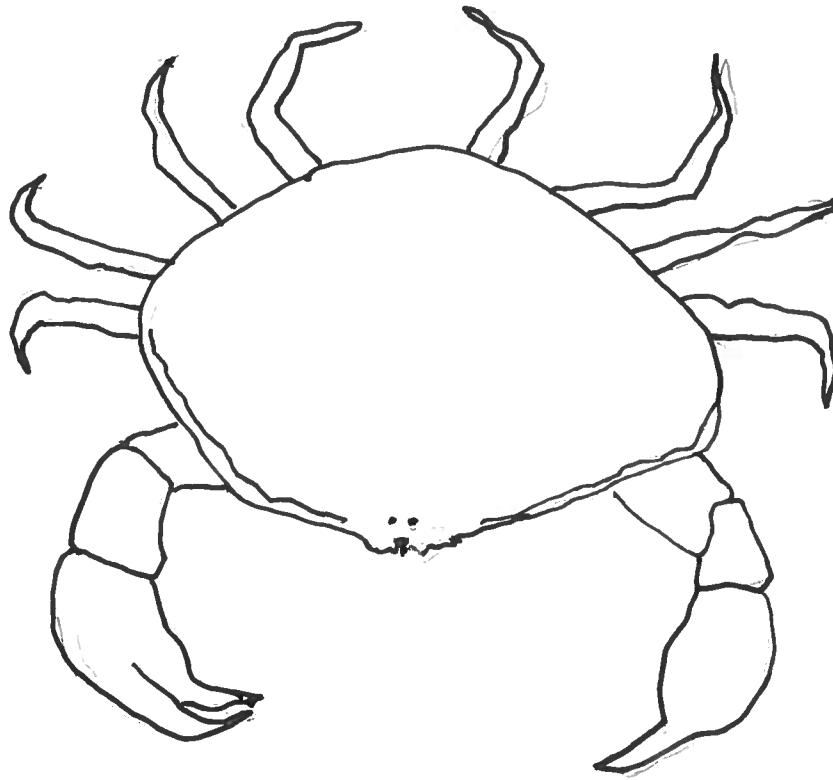
All those who live in the same sty
never think to ask the big hog, "Why?"



The Hyena

The angry hyena crosses the veldt,
seeking creatures of his pelt.

He finds a pack of likely kind
who agree with his hyena mind.



The Crab

The crab's critics are "demonic,"
imagined failures are his tonic.

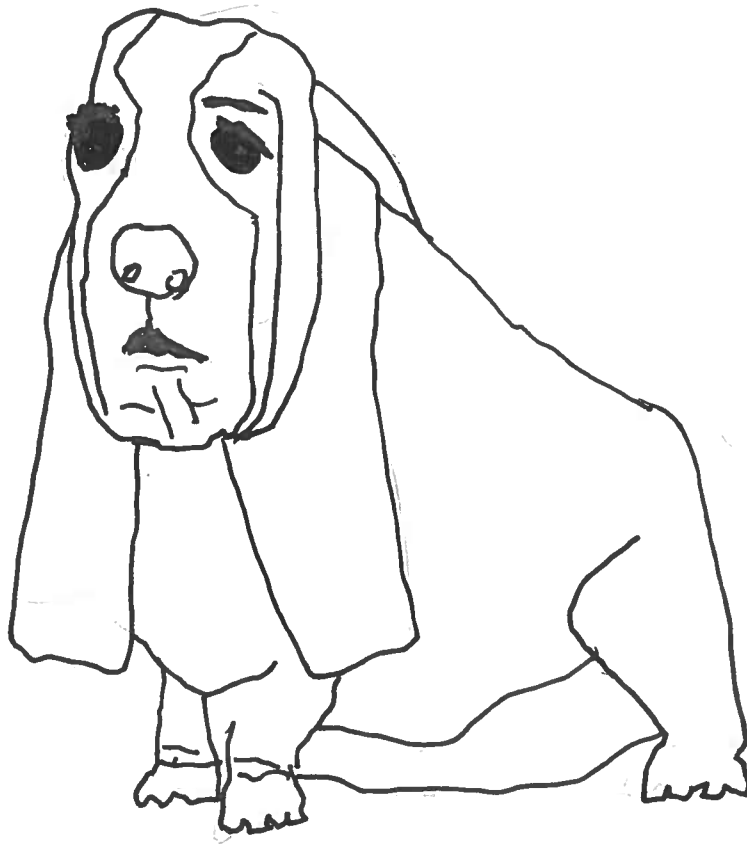
The crustacean's in a panic,
to make his fondest dreams titanic.



The Poodle

The poodle's proud of his pompadour,
prancing, he thinks it helps him score.

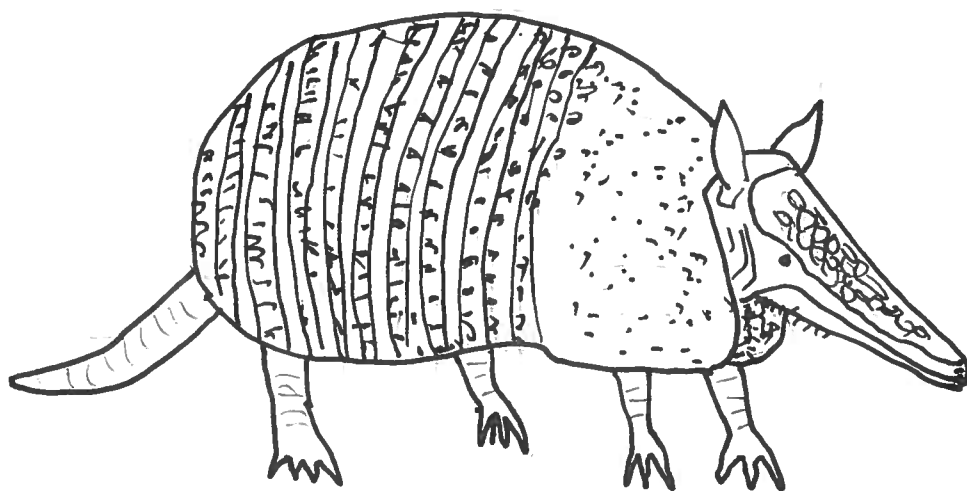
"I'll conquer the world," he brags,
"what a pity that others live in rags."



The Hound

"I do not have jowls, I don't have a long face," says the hairy hound.

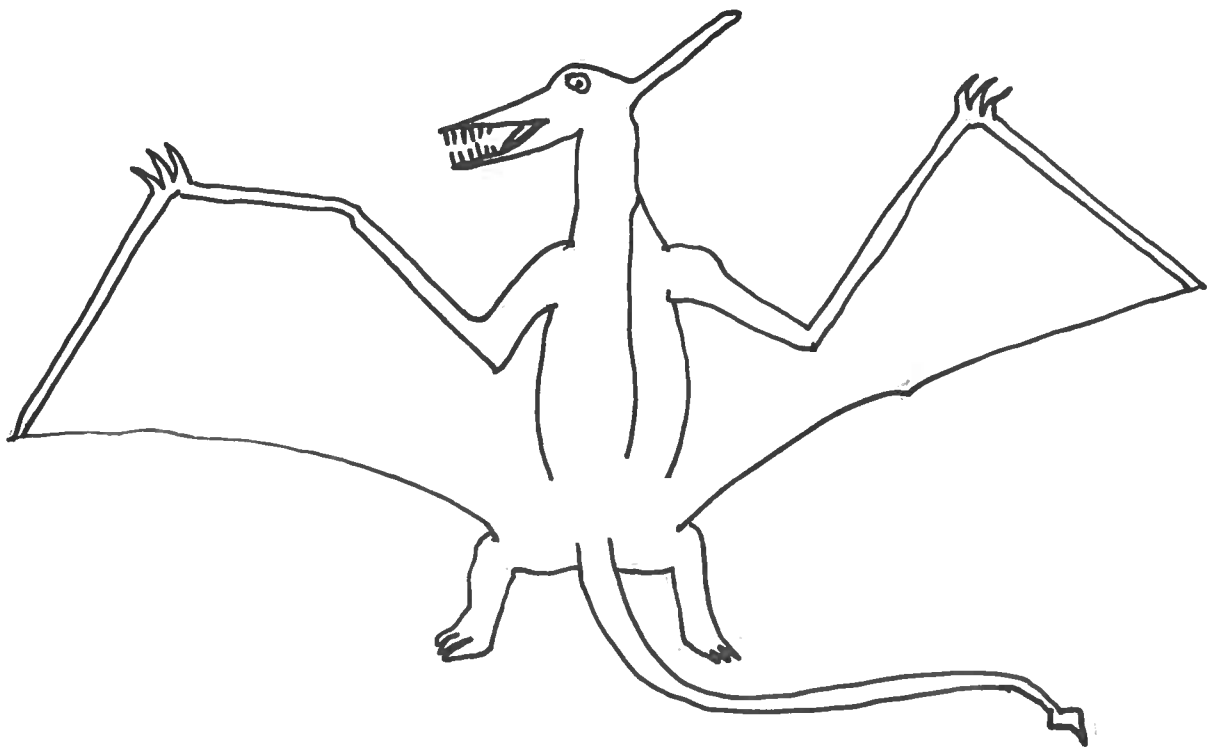
"Your eyes are lying to you. I'm the best looking mutt in any pound."



The Armadillo

The armadillo crosses the road,
Why? To annoy the other side.

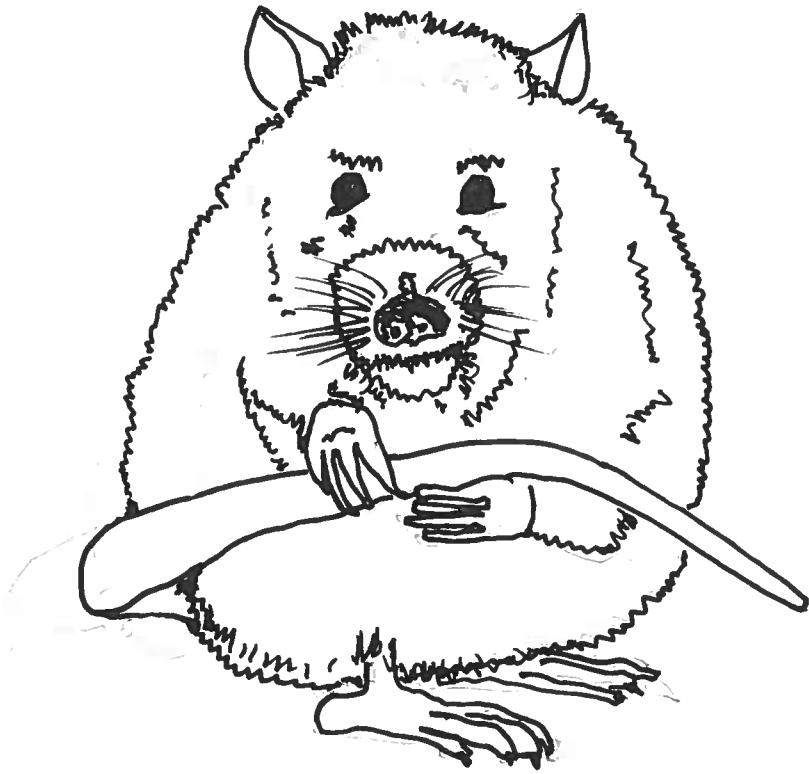
Wherever it goes, it knows that
nothing penetrates its scaly hide.



The Pteradactyl

Adolescents raise the reptile
to immortality on their walls.

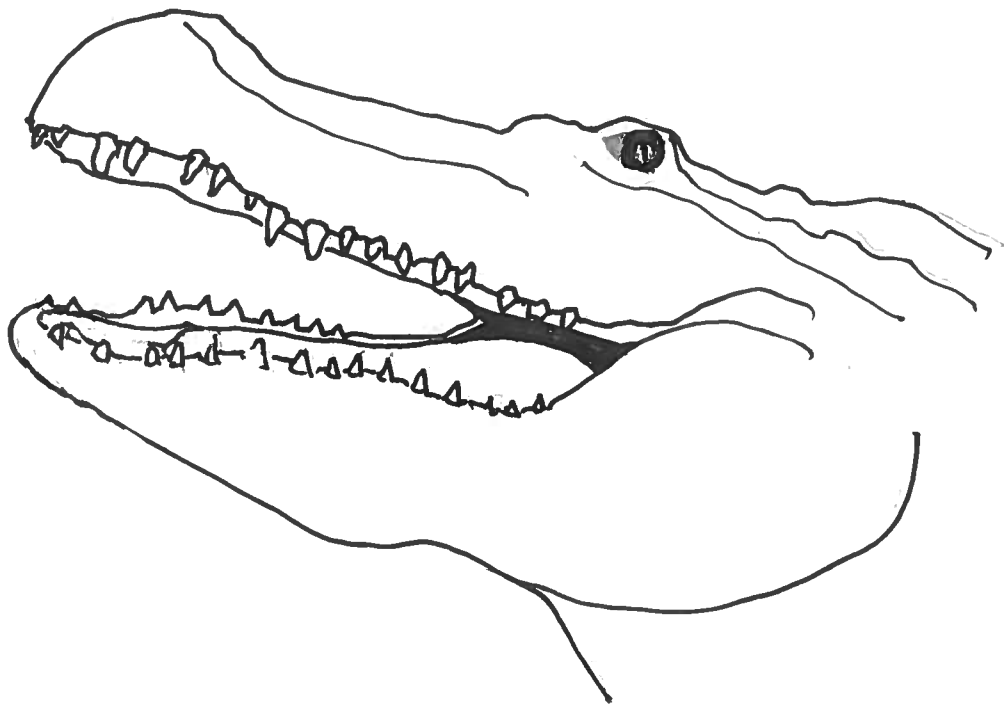
The pteradactyl is extinct, but it
lives, in teenage malls and halls.



The Rat

It seems the rat is everywhere,
underground, on the air, like a bat.

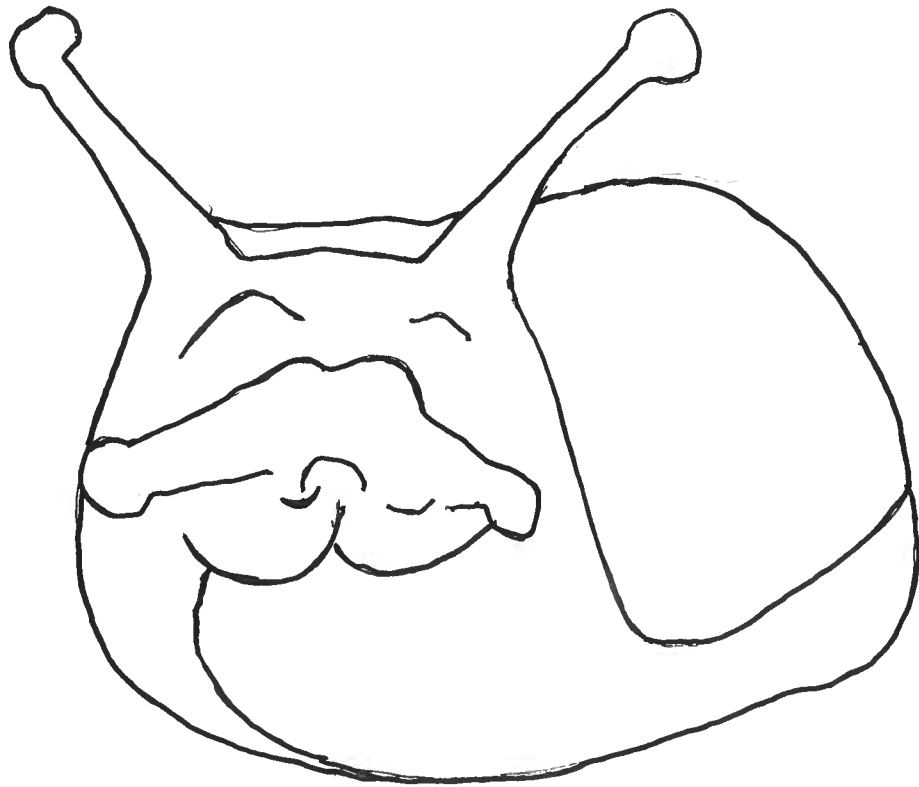
The city is home, but the nation's
house and business is where it's at.



The Alligator

With a tenuous grip, the alligator
compensates with its whip.

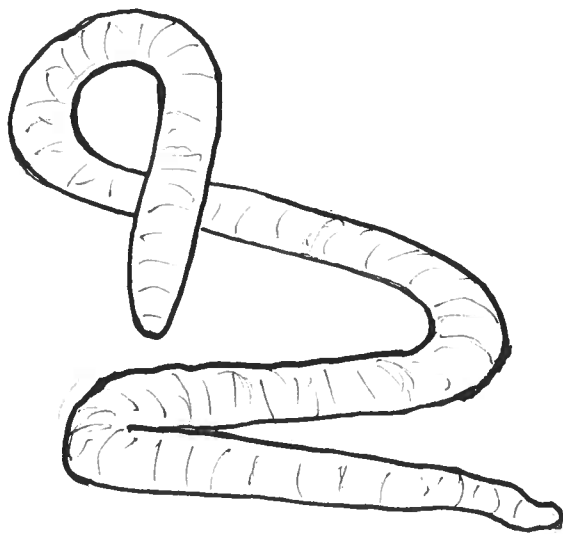
When its mouth is taped shut,
the alligator can't open it to rip.



The Slug

The slug says he has lots of energy,
"And that's the truth, I can chug."

All his fans cheer his velocity
and veracity, "For a slug."



The Worm

The worm, dangling on the end of a line,
says, "I've a great view from here."

Then, underwater, he says, "Look at
all the happy fish, come to cheer."



The Buzzard

How many lives has the buzzard
saved, sitting atop his perch on high?

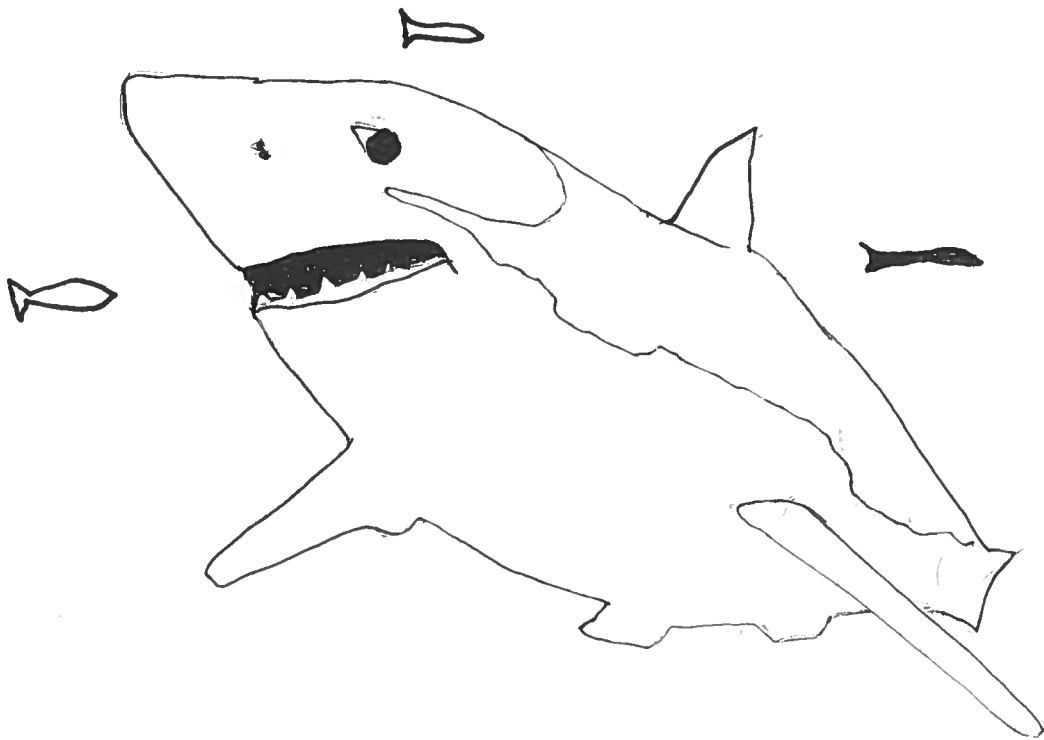
"I am the best friend to everyone,"
he says, "I wouldn't kill a fly."



The Mosquito

"I get respect," says the mosquito,
"Everyone gives me what I need."

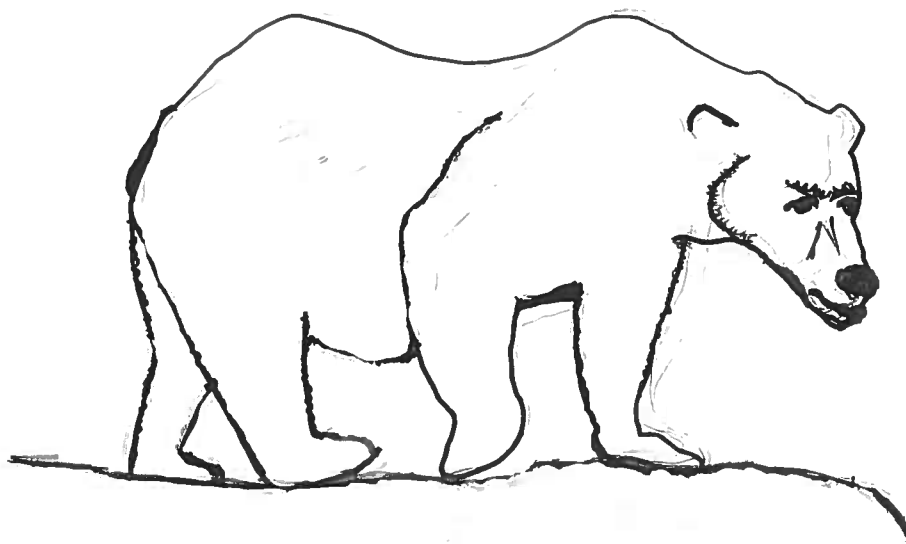
When I suck their blood, it is a
compliment, an act of love indeed."



The Shark

The shark swims from shore to shore,
looking for profit in his working day.

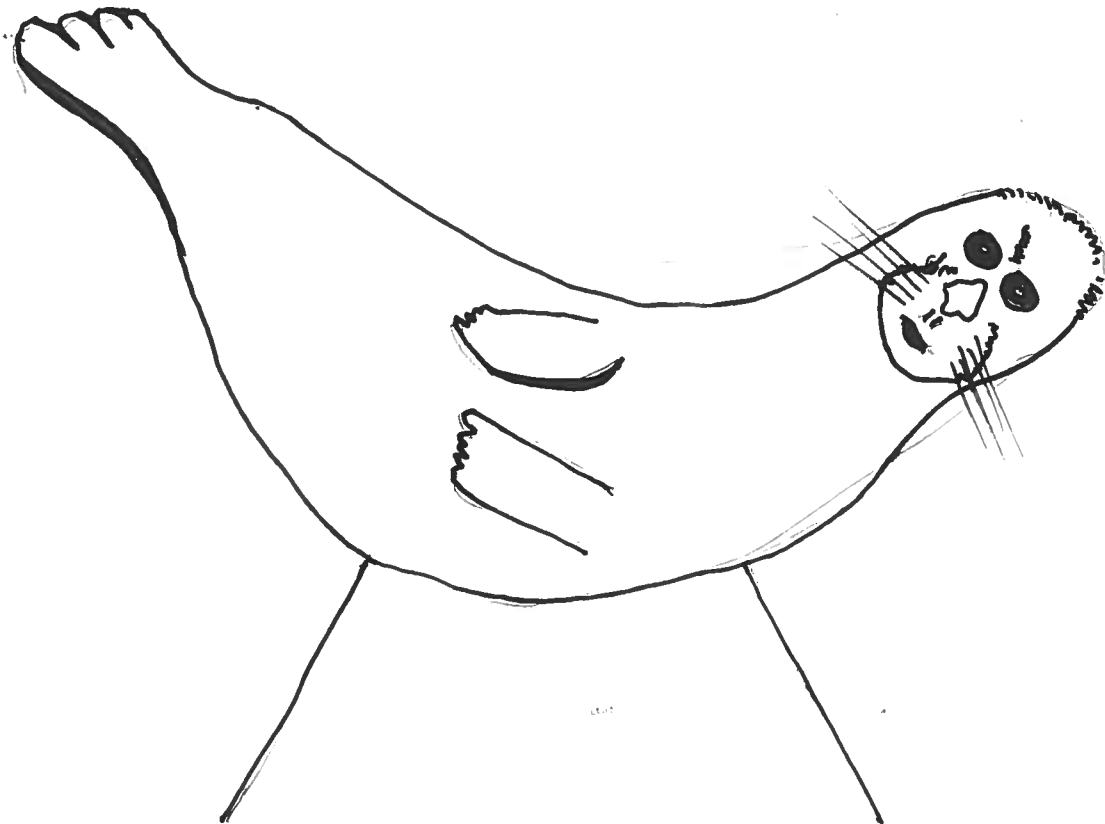
"I don't bite," he says, unless I see
food in front of me. Then I prey."



The Bear

The bear roars above the stream,
looking to rectify any miscues.

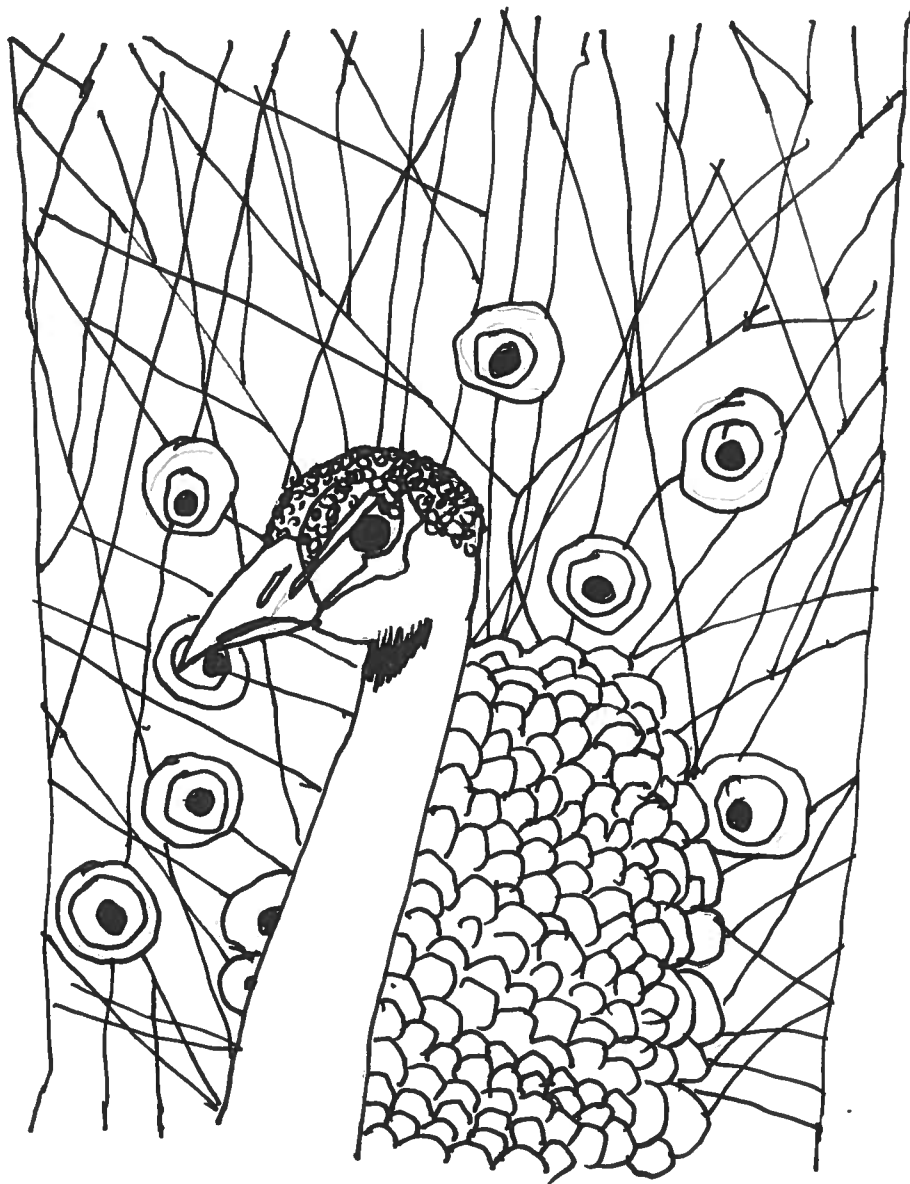
With grave concern for the life of
salmon, he wades into their issues.



The Presidential Seal

The presidential seal gets up
on a very high box and barks.

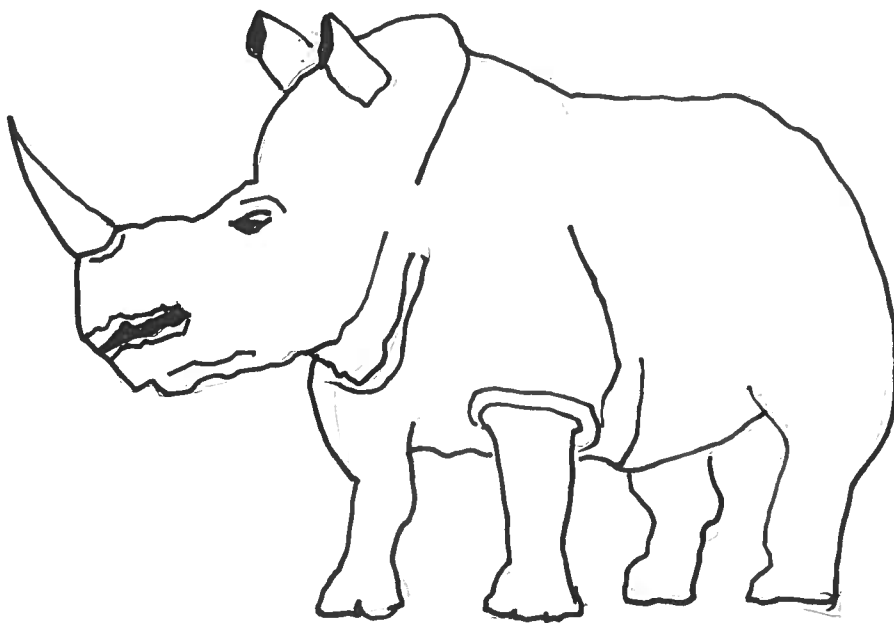
The presidential seal is fed
a fish to perform his global larks.



The Peacock

The peacock struts his stuff for all
to see, a peahen, or two, or three.

He says, "My tail is a rainbow, but
don't misconstrue. it's all for show."



The Rhinoceros

The rhino is horny and that's his
prize, he's noted for his size.

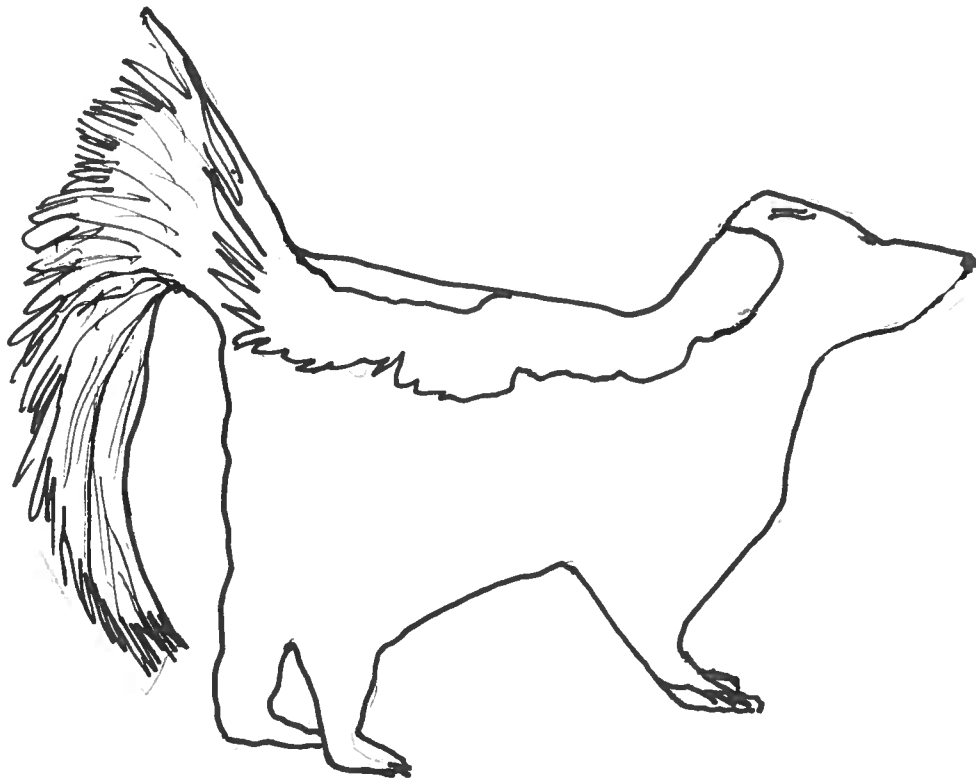
He cries, "I look like I love war,
but I'm just a heavy herbivore."



The Mole

In the dark recesses of the earth,
the mole undermines our soles.

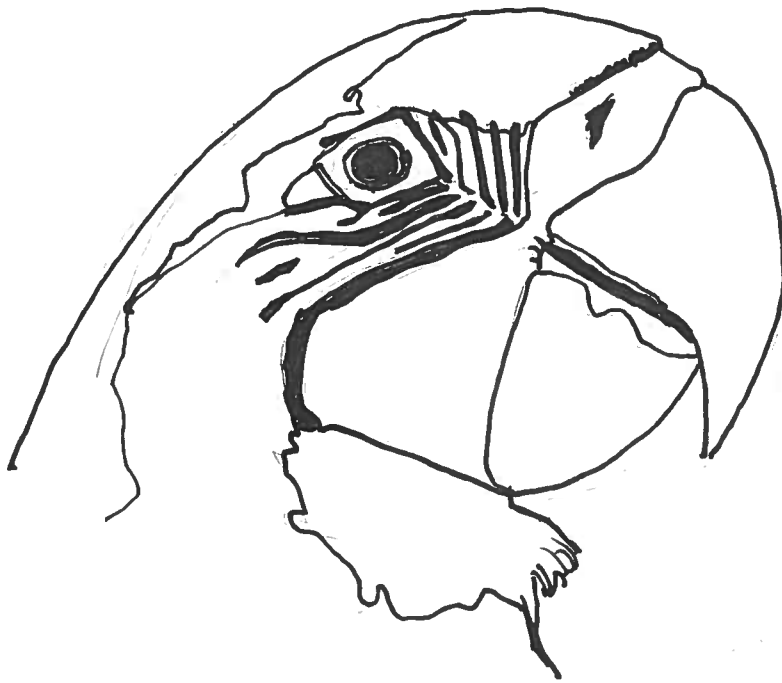
The ground, beneath everyone's feet
becomes unstable and full of holes.



The Skunk

The skunk carries a stink around
with him, always ready to be sprayed.

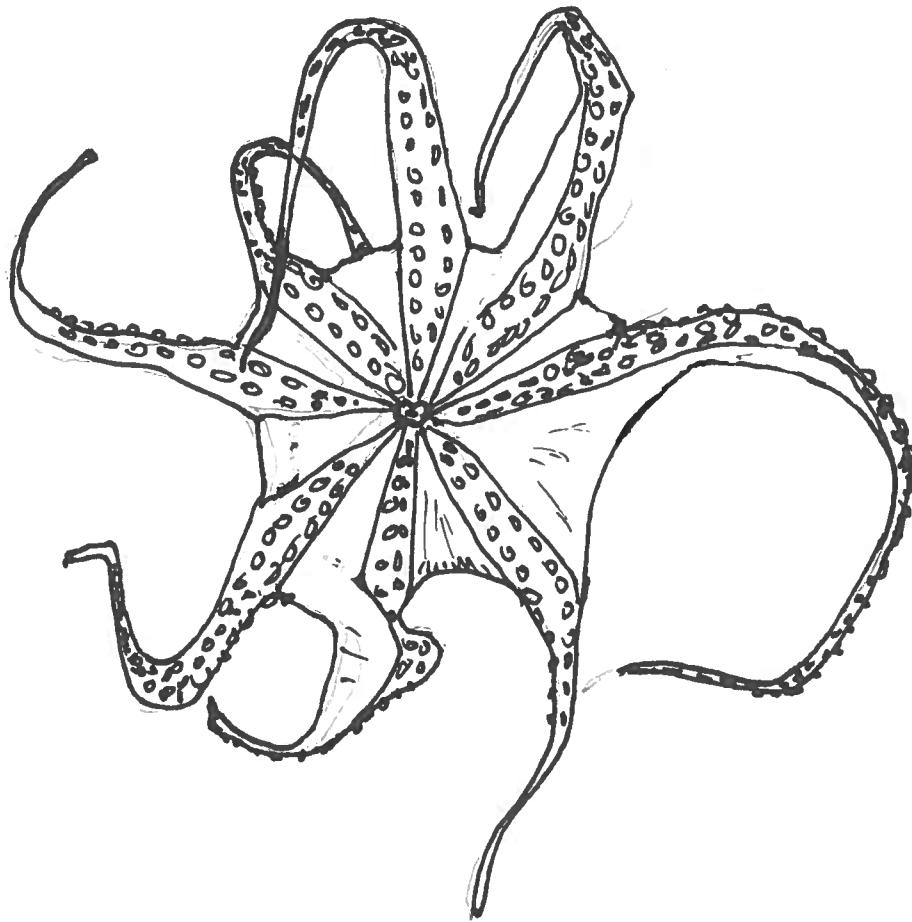
The skunk looks, turns his back, the
stink's on its way, dismay is undelayed.



The Parrot

The parrot says, "Everything that I say
comes straight from the horse's mouth.

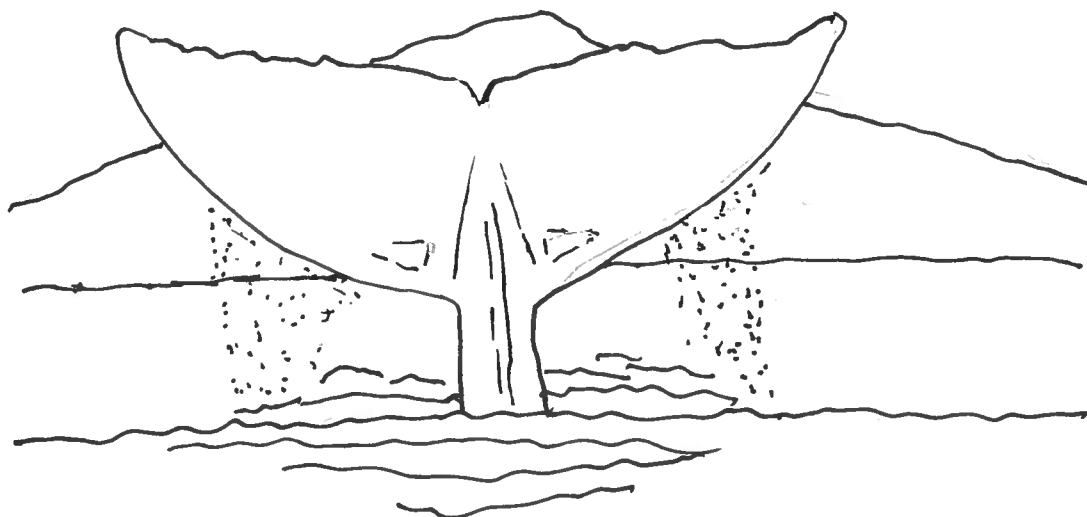
You heard it from me, I speak the truth,
I was told it once, in my youth."



The Octopus

Without a backbone, the octopus
has eight arms for feeling shellfish.

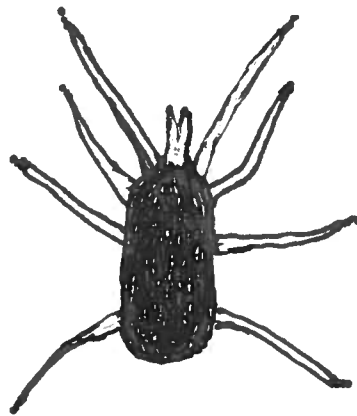
His arms help him grab octopussies
when he thinks he's a starfish.



The Whale

"I'm having a whale of a time,"
he says to show a sense of humor.

He may have a sense of what's funny,
but the rest of it is rumor.



The Mite

The mite is upset with some others,
he says he's the the one to fix this.

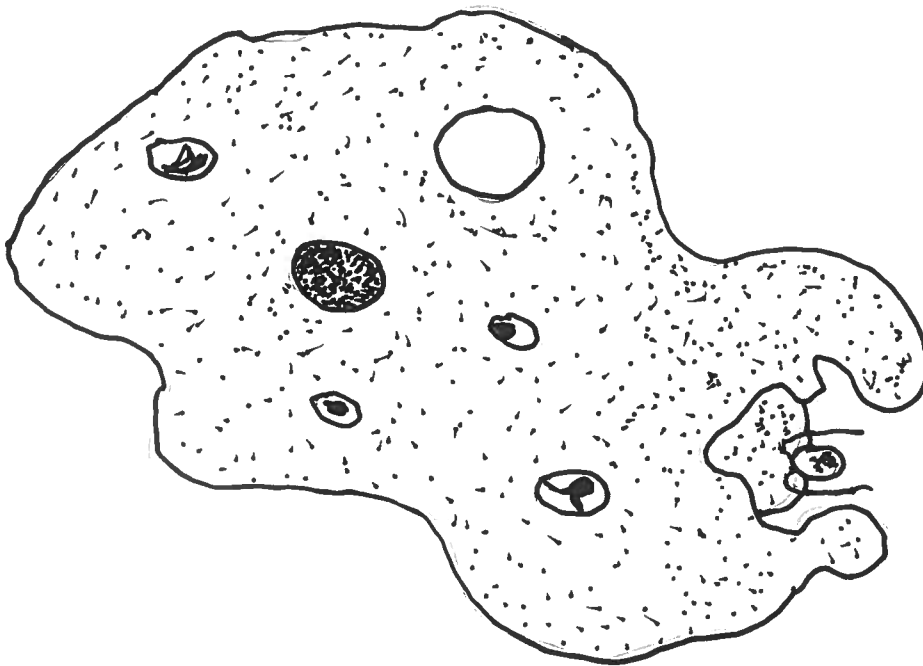
"I hate the bloody ticks," he says, "We
should send them all back to Tixas."



The Dragon

The dragon is a fire-breathing reptile caught up in its lore.

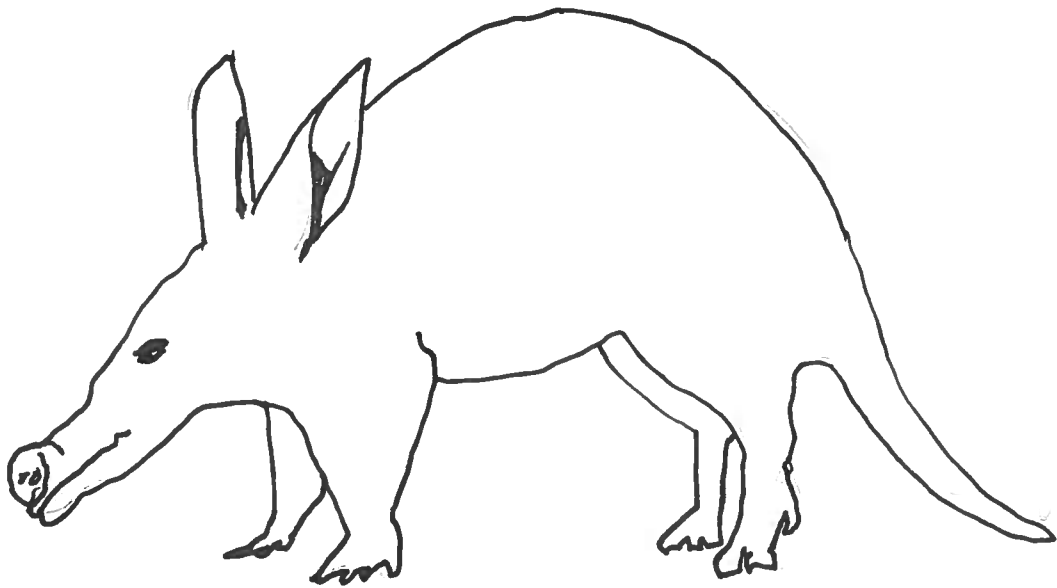
The dragon lives in fantasies that cannot be believed anymore.



The Amoeba

"To an organism like me, life
can be defeating," says the scold,

"I might be brain-eating, or a
social parasite, like slimy mould."



The Aardvark

The nocturnal aardvark slurps up
what he digs with a sticky tongue.

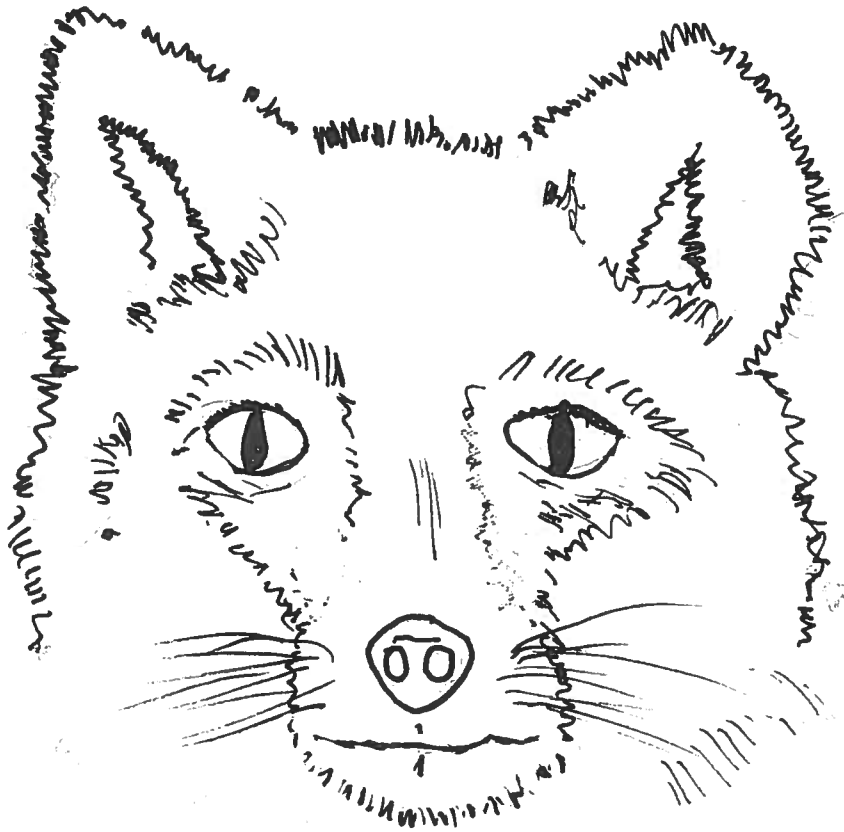
"I go for what I want, they let me,
my glory, by me, must be sung."



The Dingo

The dingo lives in holes and logs,
howls and whimpers more than other dogs.

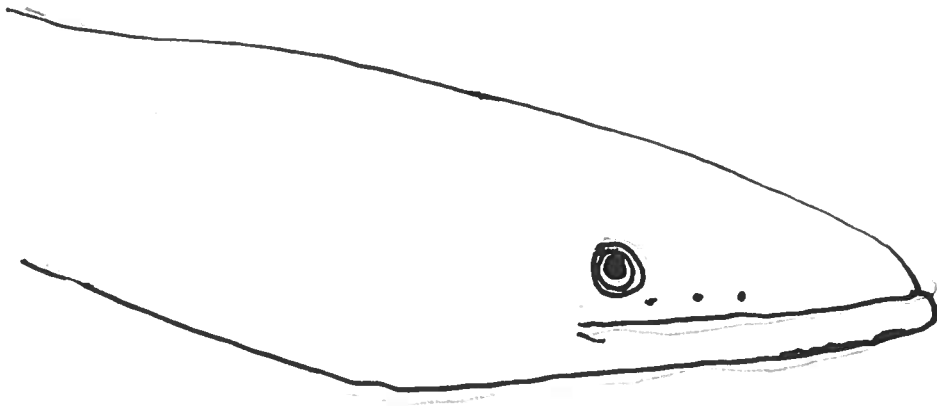
He started to become extinct,
soon after others woke up and blinked.



The Fox

"I like to fox around," says the wily
fox, "but I'm hounded, I'm pressed."

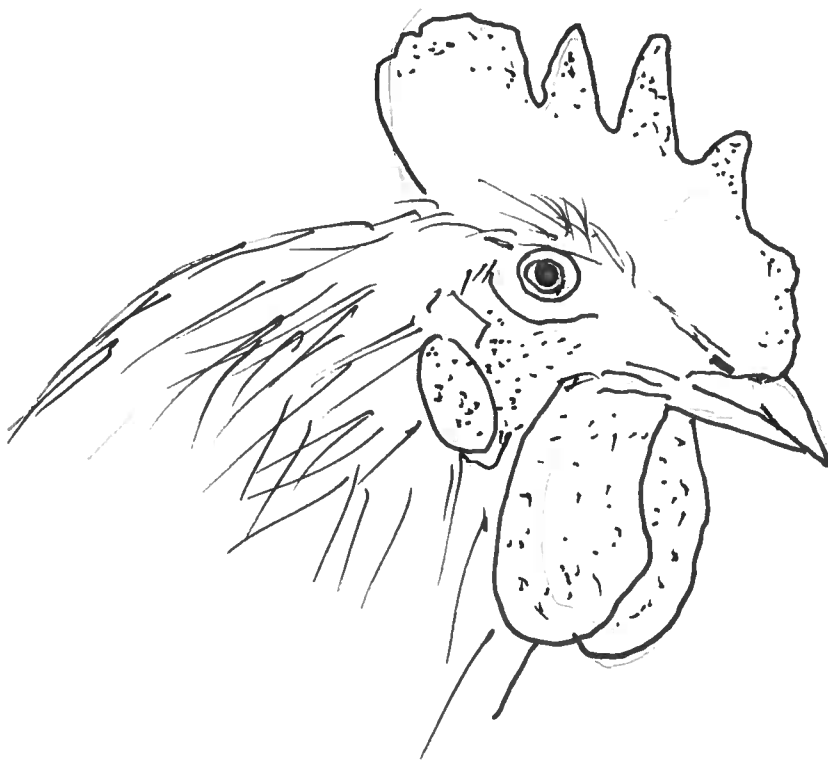
"I tune in the fox news and hear my
praises sung, just as I request."



The Eel

"I have a feel for what's real,"
says the eel, lying in a bed of mud.

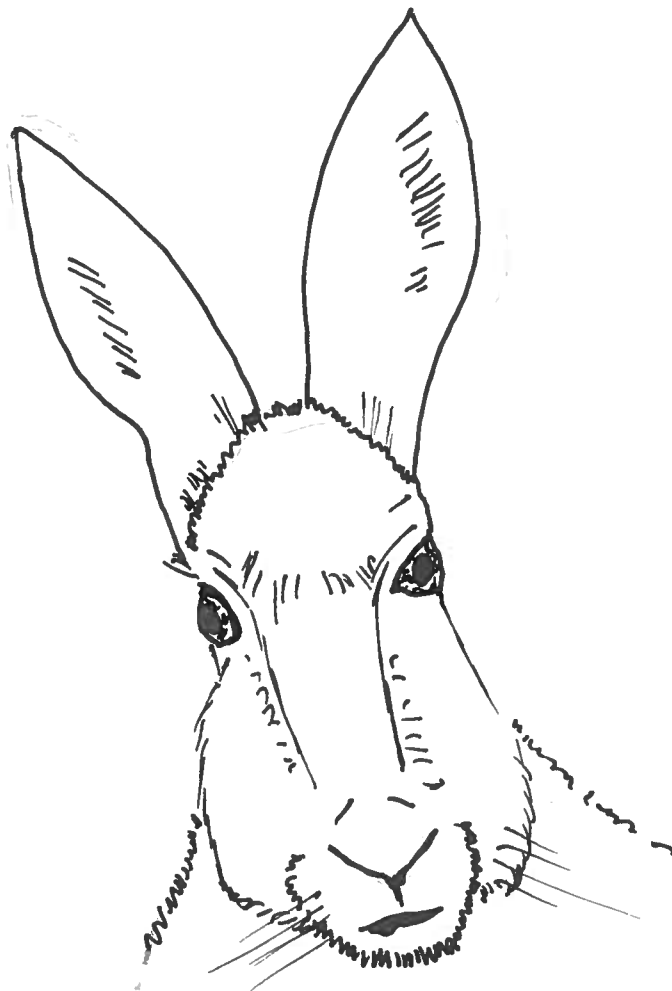
Eelskin is smooth, strong, but not
from the eel, the skin of the eel's a dud.



The Cock

The cock crows all day long, "I tell
the people what I think, and it's big."

He scurries around the barnyard,
his coxcomb resembling a wig.



The Hare

The female punches the male
in the face to stop it copulating.

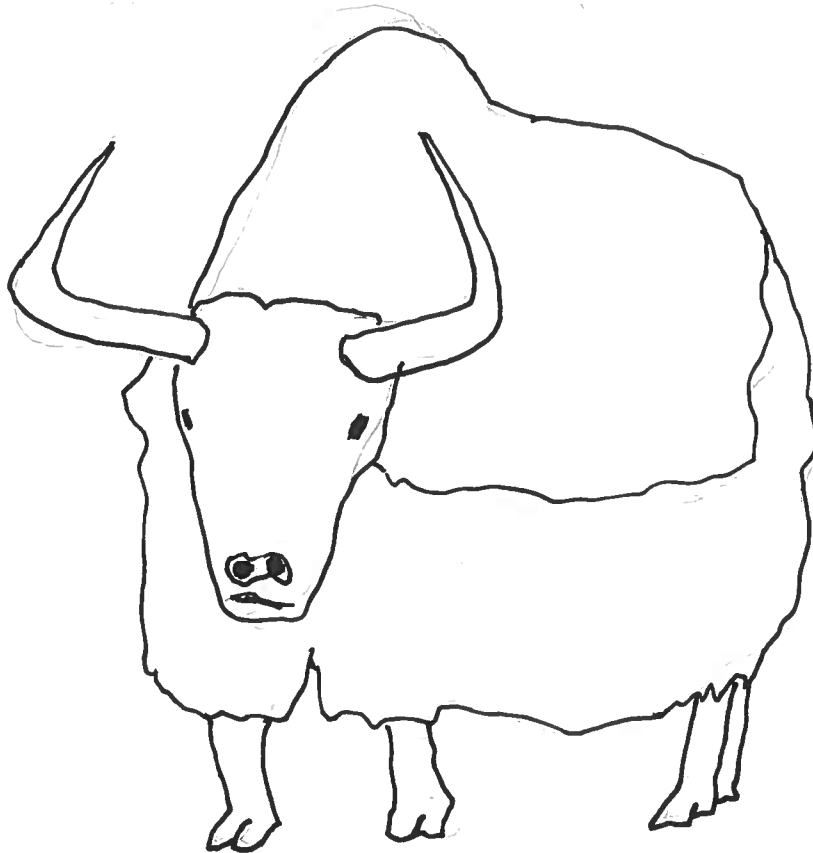
"They love me, and I love them," he
says, "when they're not expectorating."



The Porcupine

As ferocious as the porcupine
appears, his fierceness is in doubt.

He can't project quills at his enemies,
most of them simply fall out.



The Yak

The yak is known for his long hairs,
an affectation about which he cares.

An ox at heart, to yak is his fare, he
grunts when there's something to share.