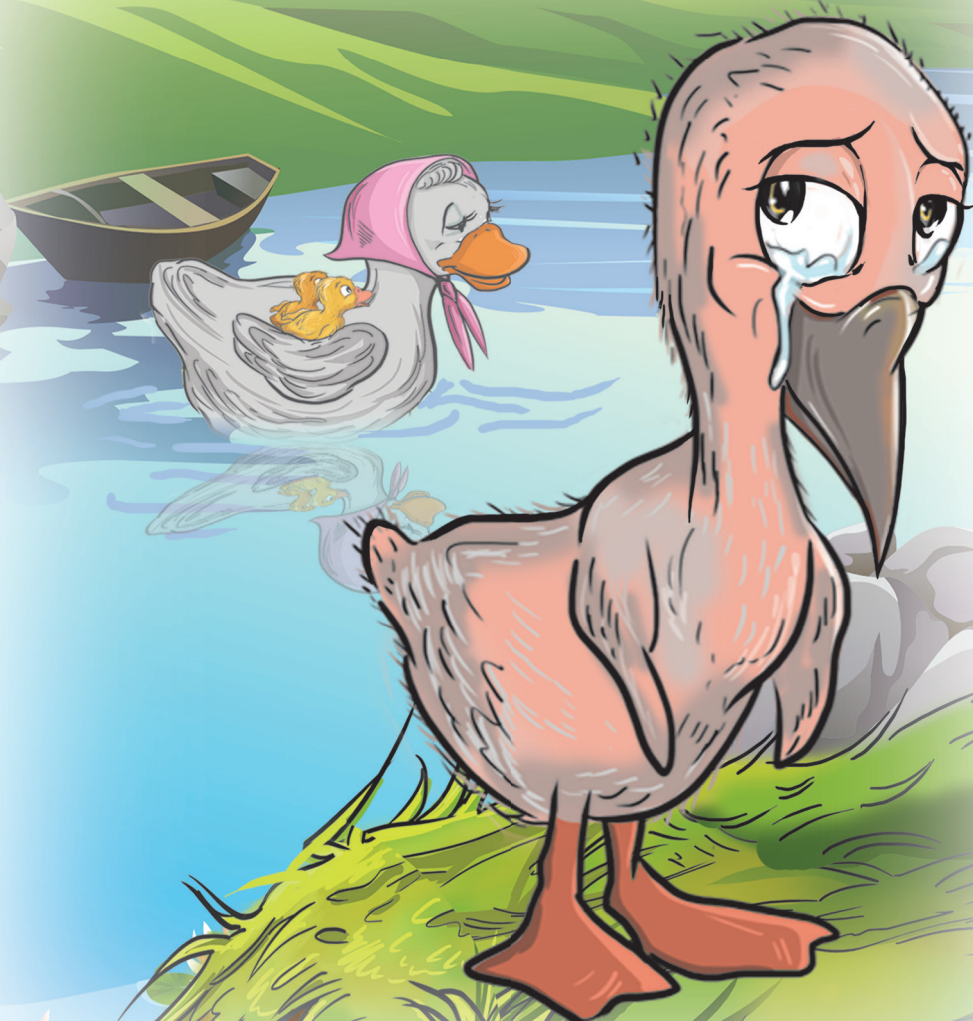
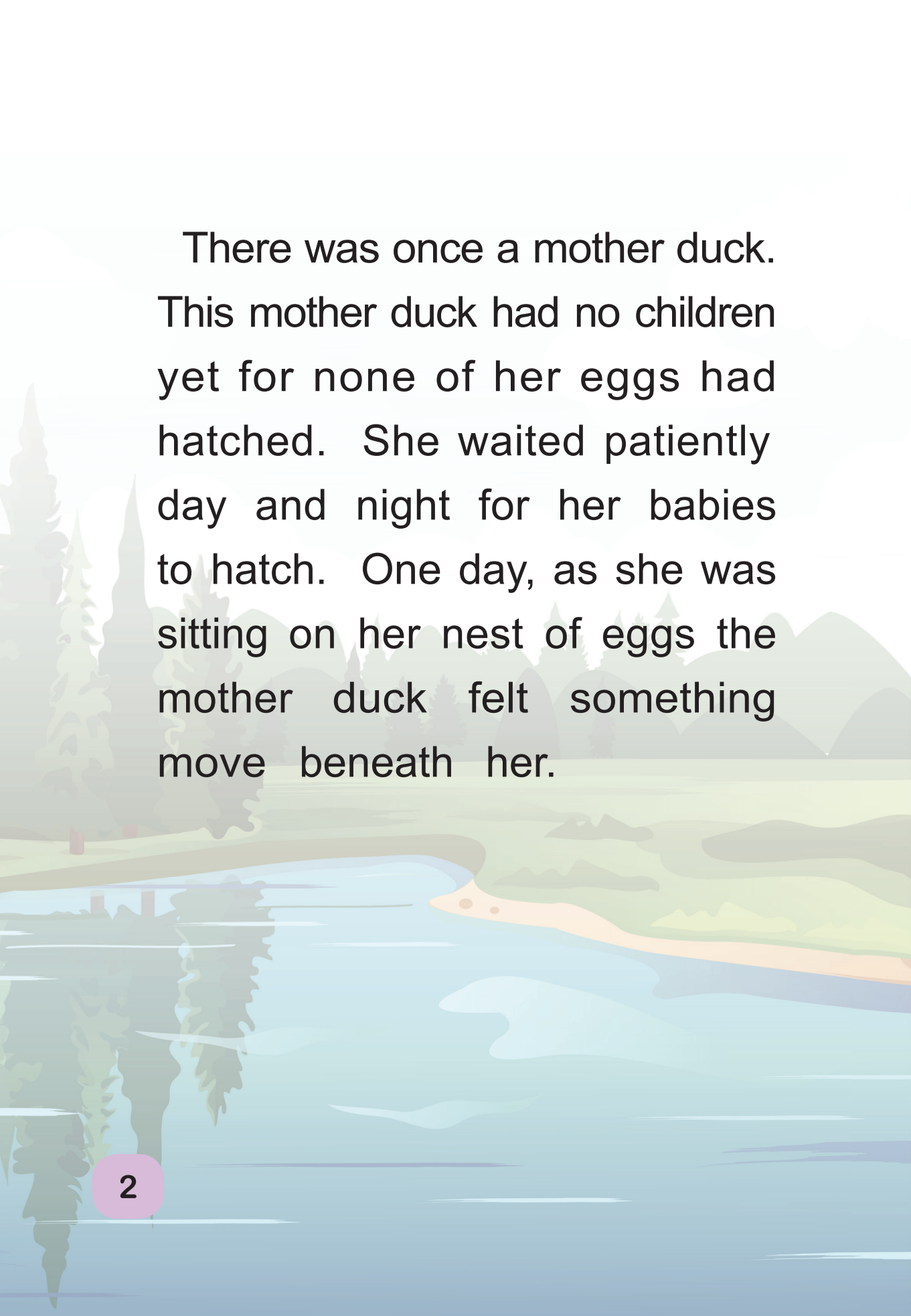


The Ugly duckling



A soft-focus illustration of a landscape. In the foreground, a blue river flows from the left towards the right. The background features green hills and mountains under a light sky. The overall style is gentle and artistic, with a focus on natural elements.

There was once a mother duck. This mother duck had no children yet for none of her eggs had hatched. She waited patiently day and night for her babies to hatch. One day, as she was sitting on her nest of eggs the mother duck felt something move beneath her.



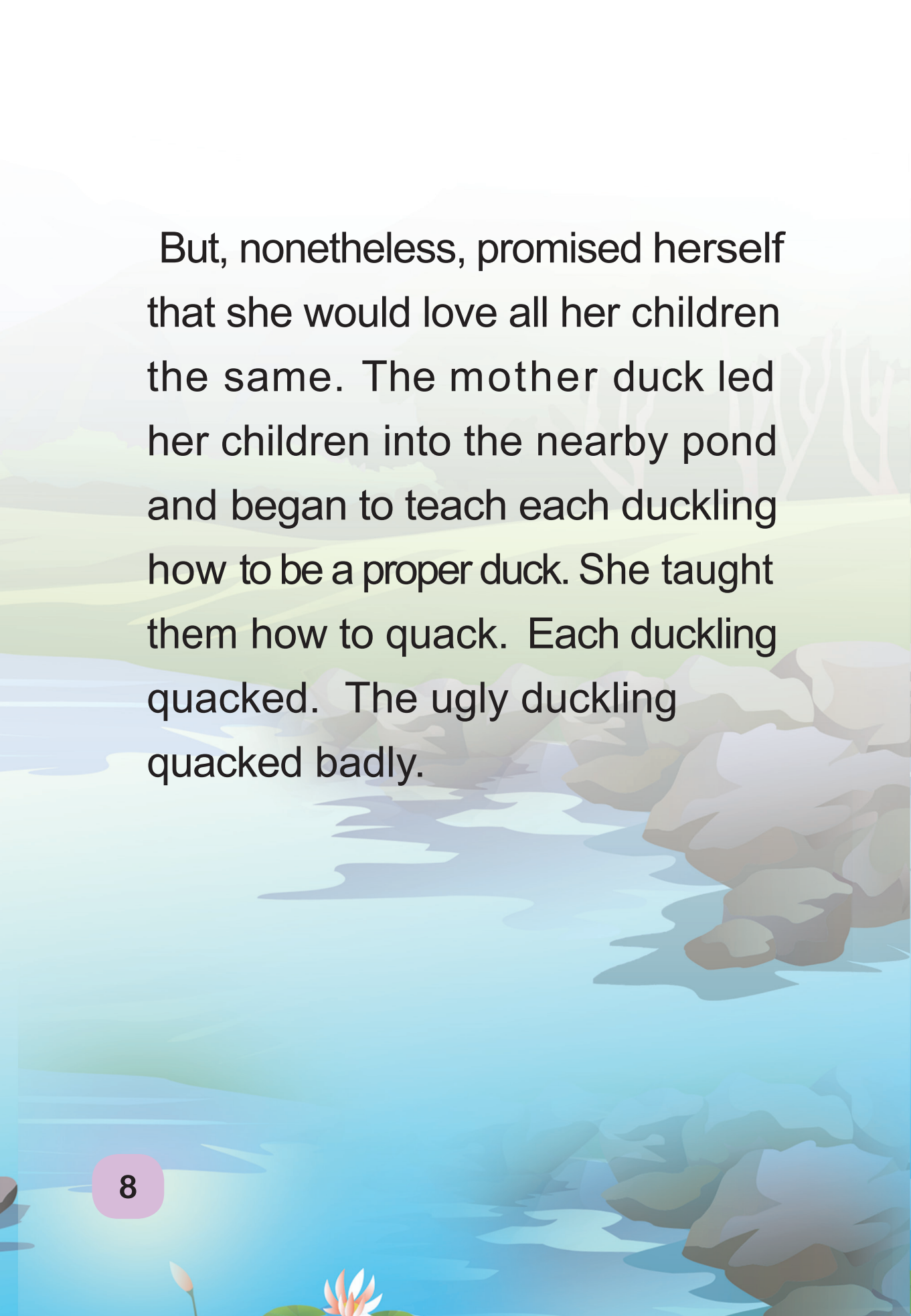
CRACK!! CRACK!! CRACK!!

Filled with happiness, the mother duck watched as, one by one, her eggs hatched. She was so excited to lead her children to the pond and teach them all the ways of being a duck. Unfortunately for the mother duck, one egg was left to hatch. This egg was larger than the rest. This egg was browner than the rest.



“I want to go to the pond, Mother,” one baby duck quacked. “Let’s go! Let’s go!” two more quacked excitedly. But suddenly: CRAAAAACK!!!!!!! Out from the large brown egg popped a large, strange looking head of a bird that didn’t look much like a duck. This baby’s beak was a little too long, his feathers were a little too scruffy, and his face was a little too ugly!



A vibrant, stylized illustration of a pond. The water is a mix of light blue and turquoise, with soft ripples. Large, greyish-brown rocks are scattered along the right and bottom edges of the pond. In the bottom left corner, a pink water lily flower is in bloom, surrounded by green lily pads. The background shows a soft, hazy landscape with green hills and a pale sky.

But, nonetheless, promised herself that she would love all her children the same. The mother duck led her children into the nearby pond and began to teach each duckling how to be a proper duck. She taught them how to quack. Each duckling quacked. The ugly duckling quacked badly.

