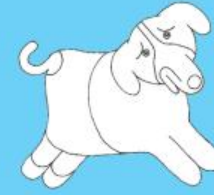


# The Hippo Who Did Gymnastics

## The Hippo Who Did Gymnastics



A Humphrey The Hippo Book



Nobody in gymnastics class would have ever imagined a hippo joining them, but that's just what happens when Humphrey becomes the newest student. How can a hippo do gymnastics? The balance beam, the uneven bars, the floor exercises -- he's too heavy and too big! He might even fall on his head! But Humphrey just might have hidden talents that nobody expects.

This inspiring story of outsiders trying to fit in reminds gymnasts and non-gymnasts alike that sometimes all it takes is believing in yourself.

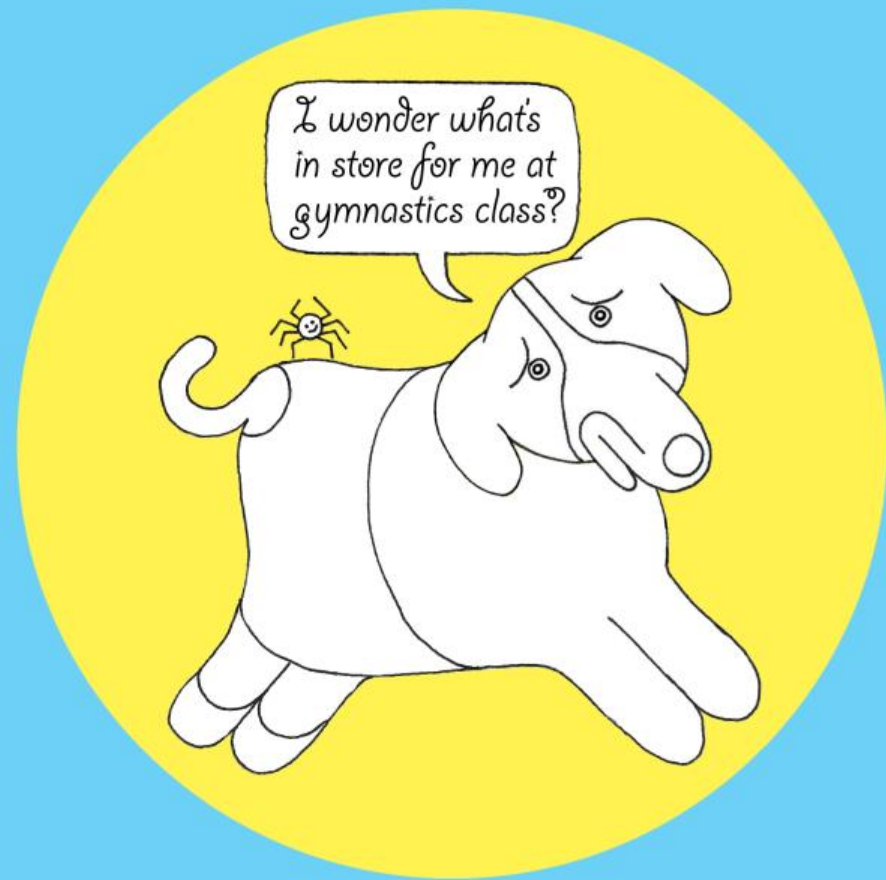


A Humphrey The Hippo Book 

Written by Michael Rank and Illustrated by Justin Eccles

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A Humphrey The Hippo Book



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**FREE BONUS AUDIOBOOK**

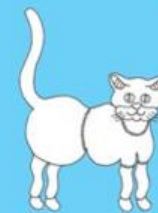


## The Hippo Who Did Gymnastics Audiobook

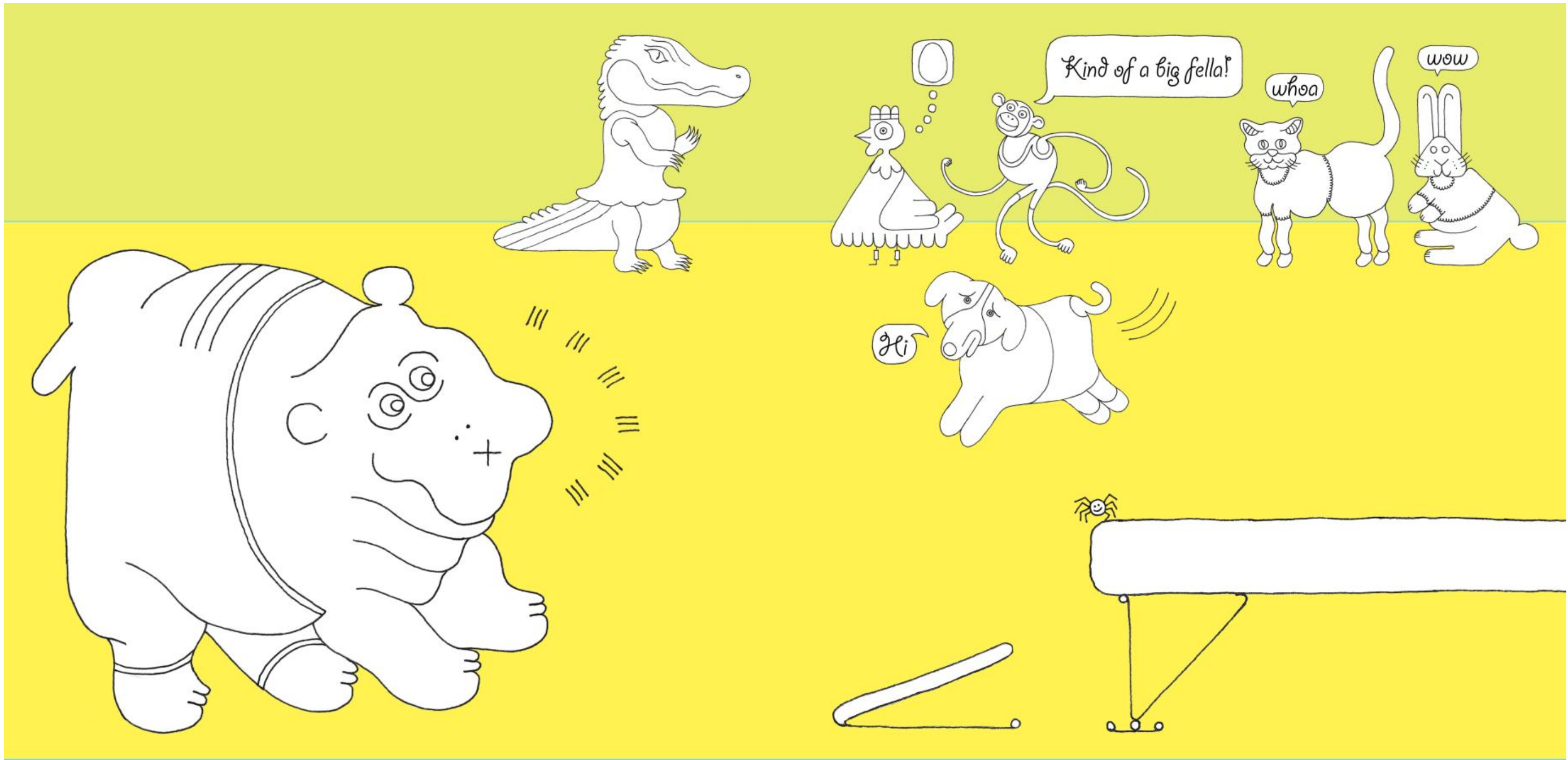
If you would like to listen to the audio version of "The Hippo Who Did Gymnastics" while you follow along with this ebook, you can download it for free by going to this link:

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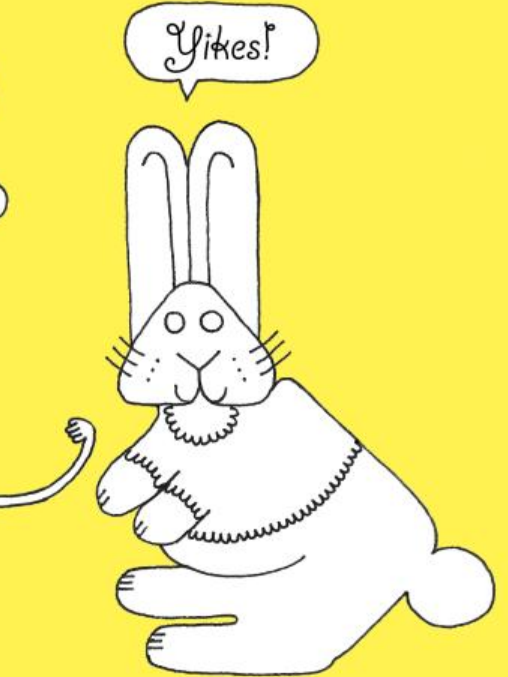
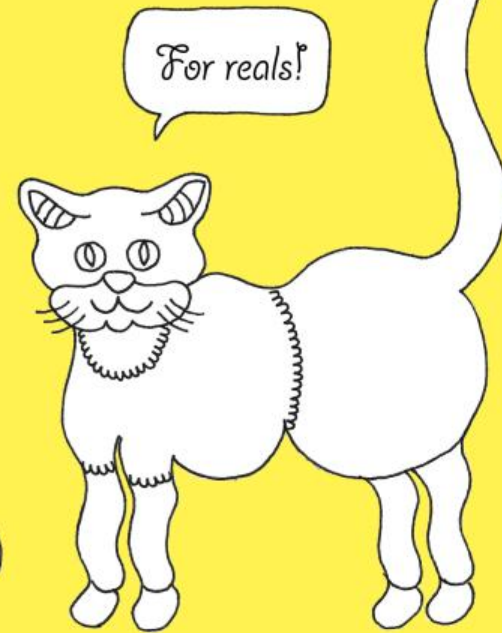
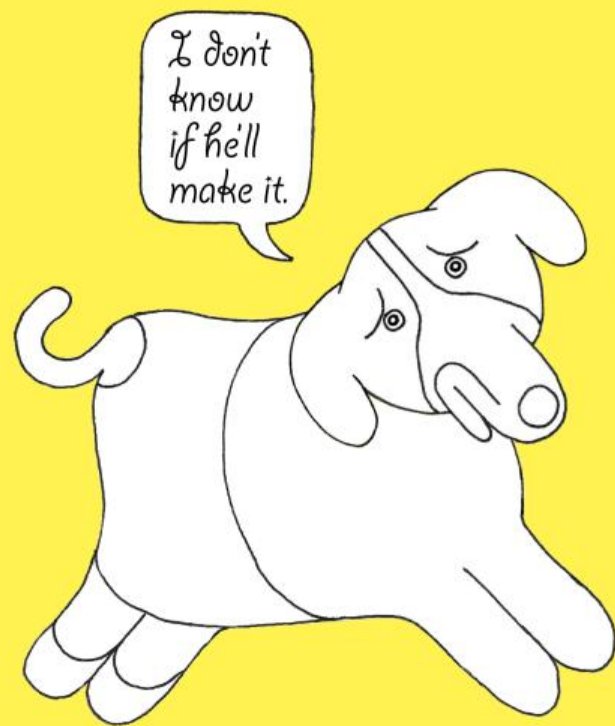
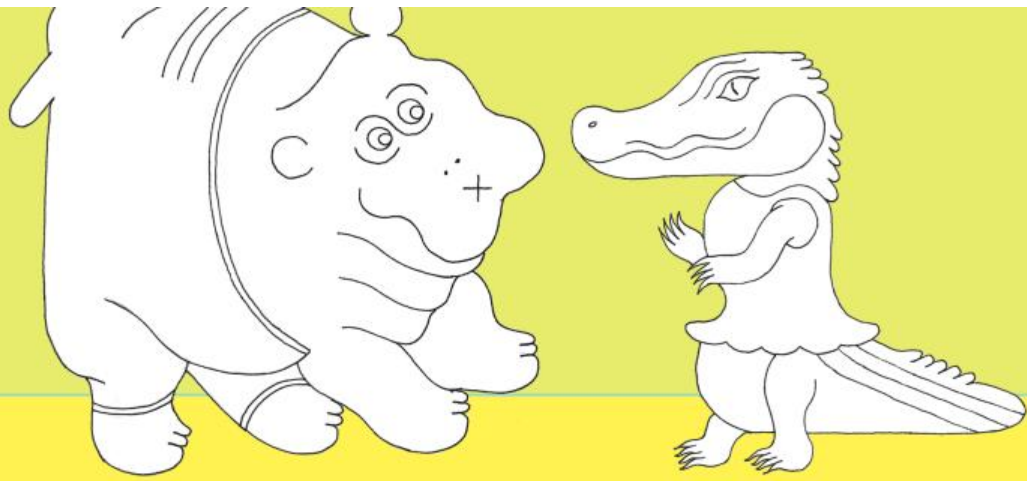
**Enjoy!**



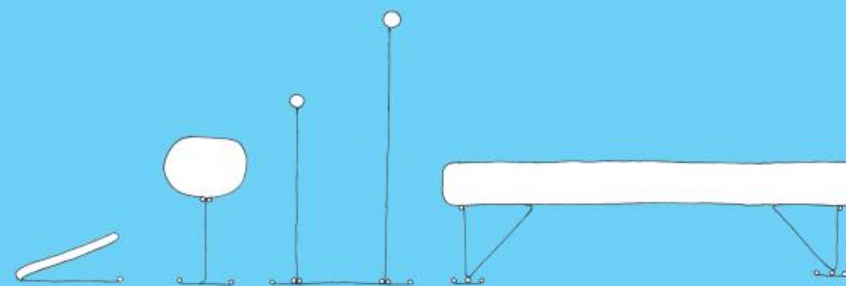




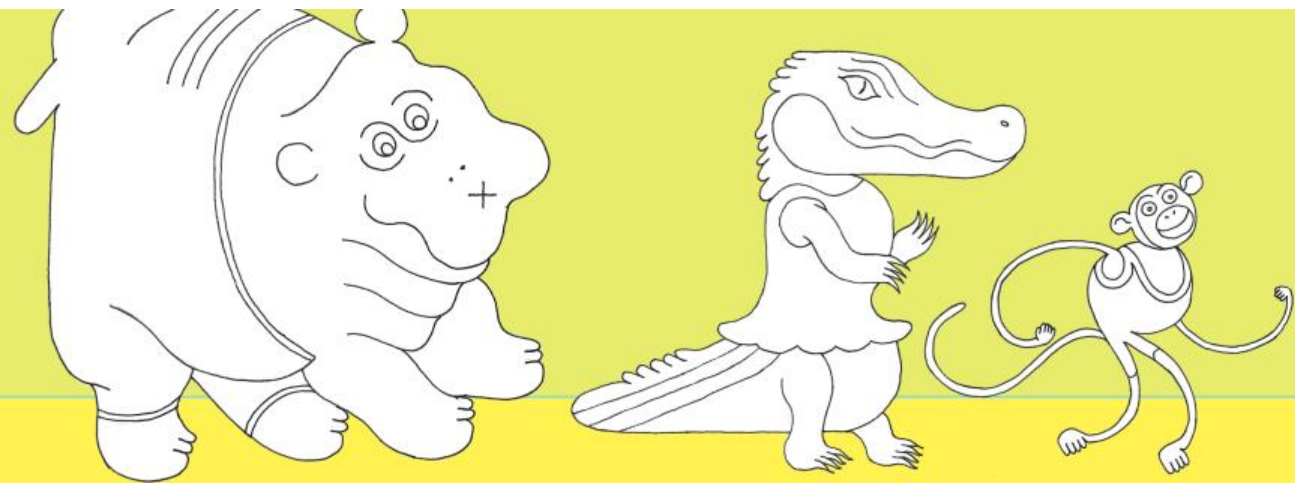
It was Tuesday afternoon, and I was attending my gymnastics class. Our coach told us that a new student was joining us today. "I would like you to meet Humphrey the Hippo," she said



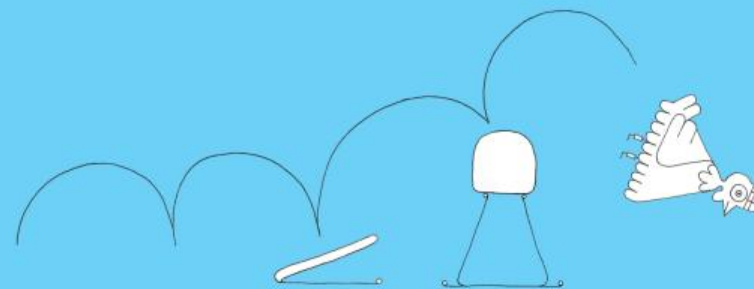
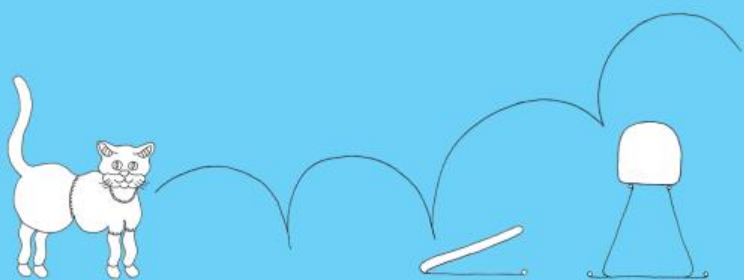
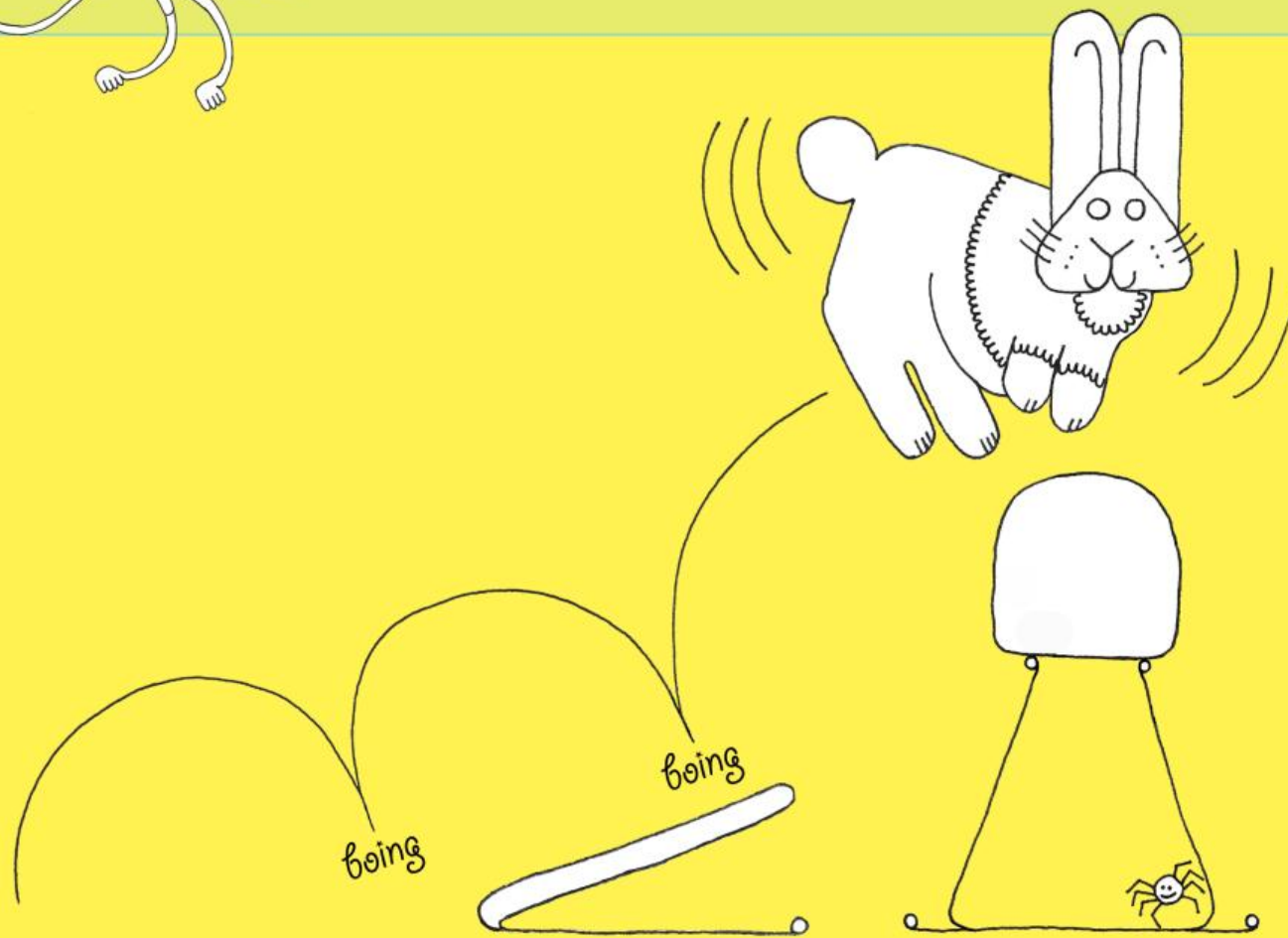
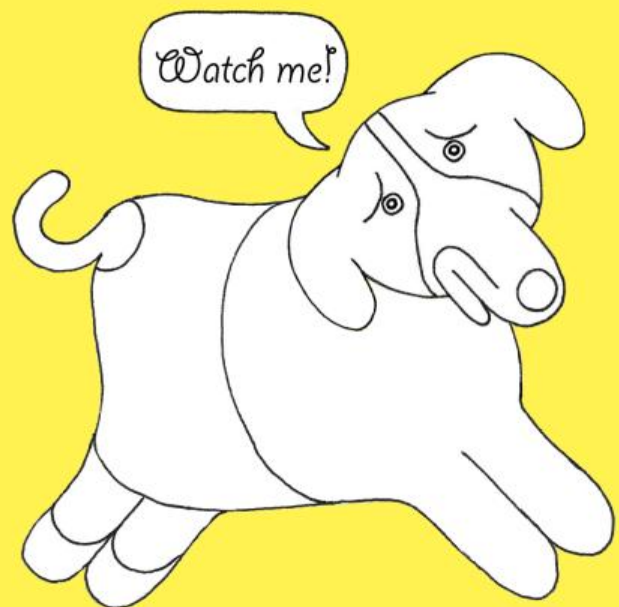
A hippo! "How could a hippo be in a gymnastics class?" we whispered to one another. There's no way that he could do all of the events. The vault, the uneven bars, the balance beam, or the floor routine - he was too heavy and too round!

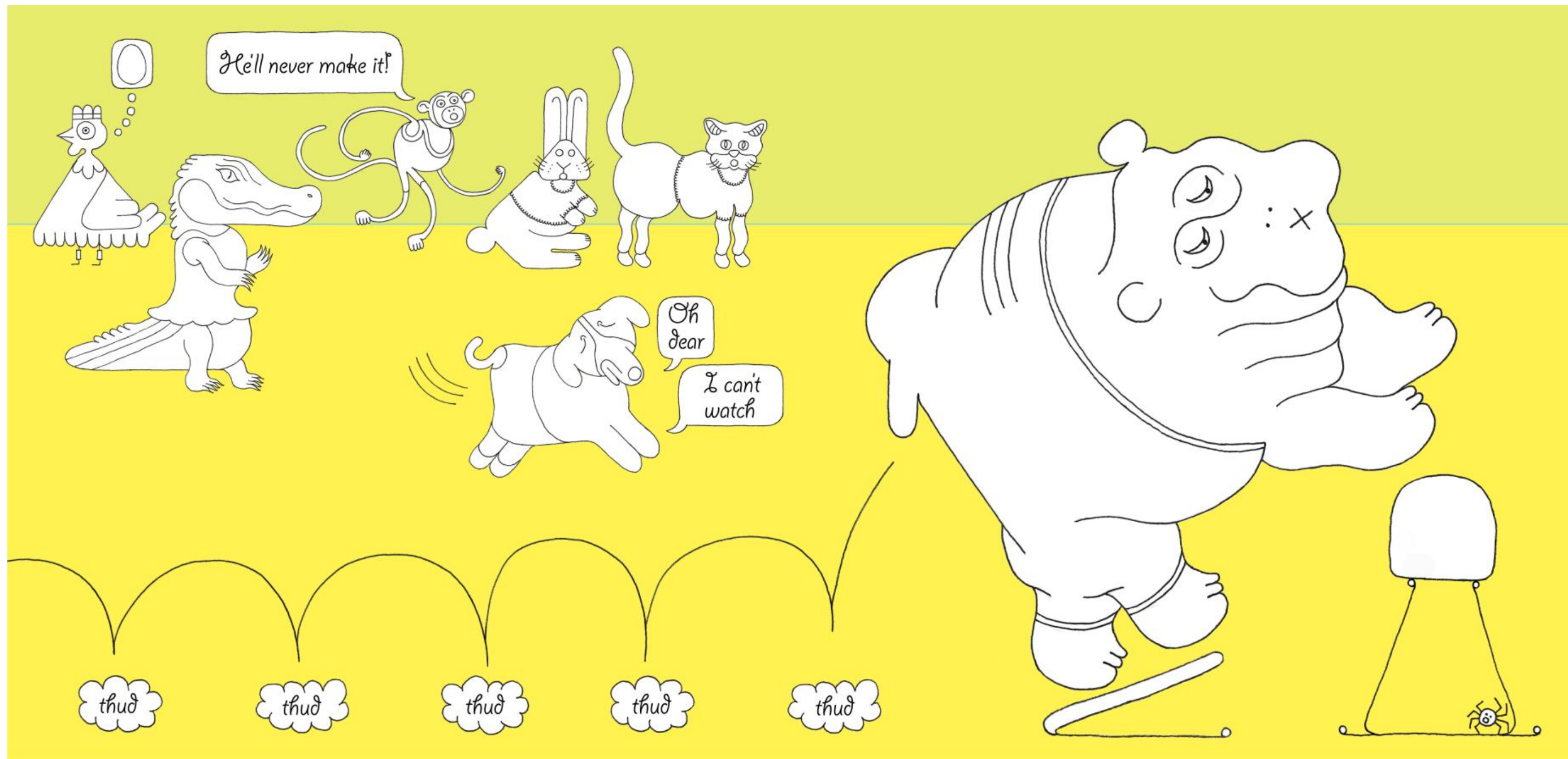




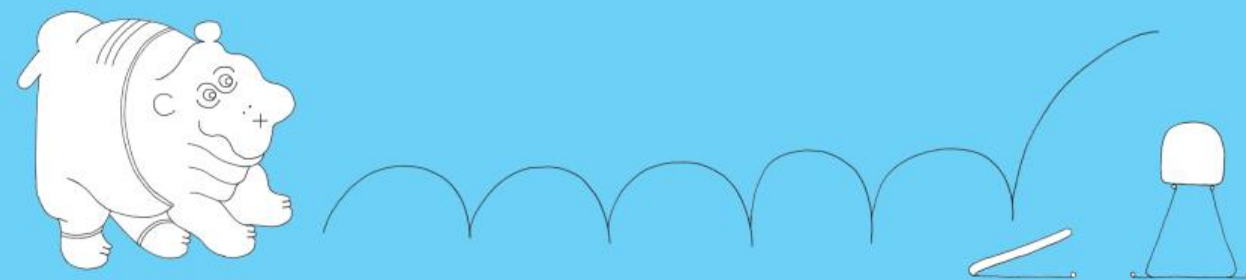


We first took turns on the vault. Each of us sprinted down the runway, hurdled on the springboard, sprung onto the vault with both hands, and flew into the air. We twisted and turned before landing.

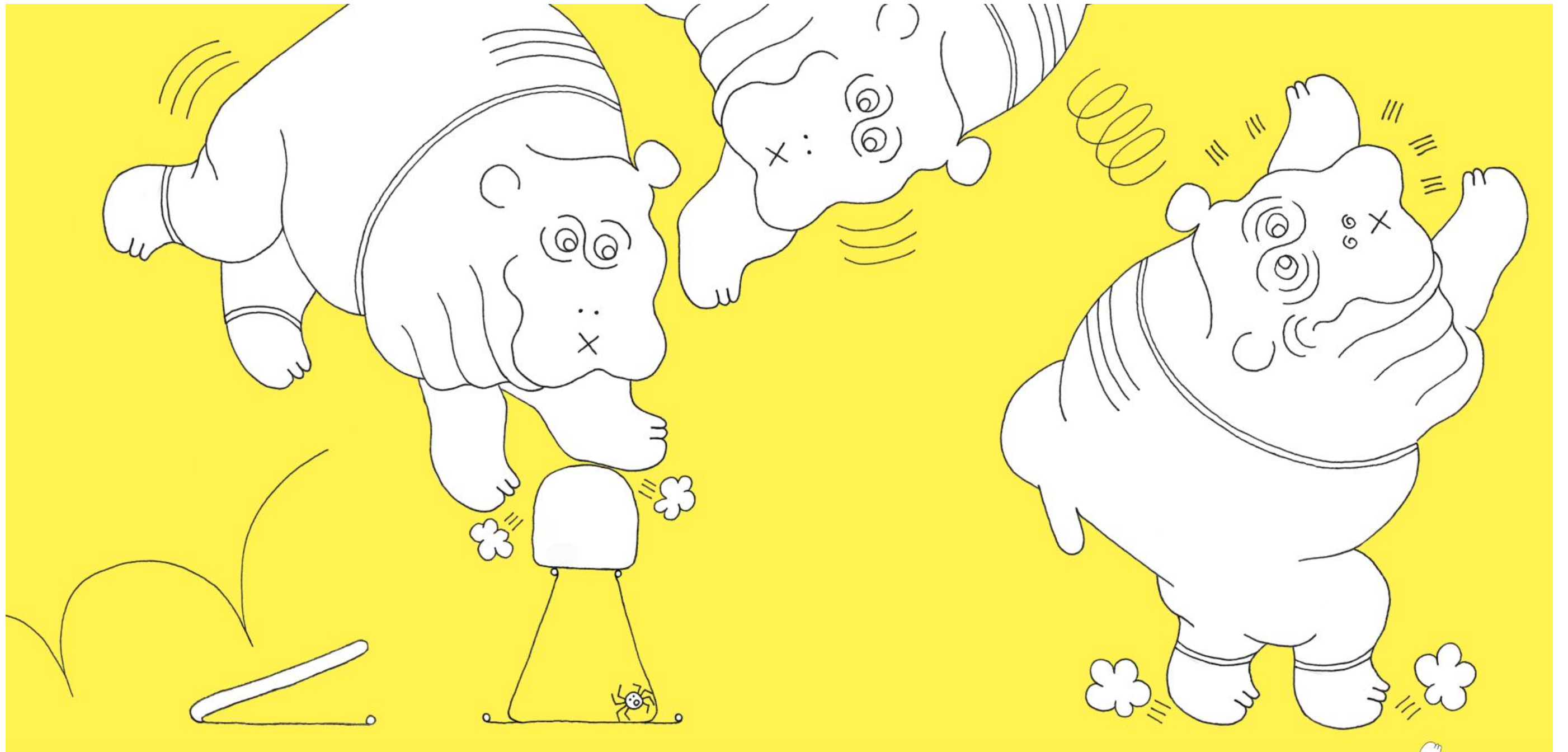




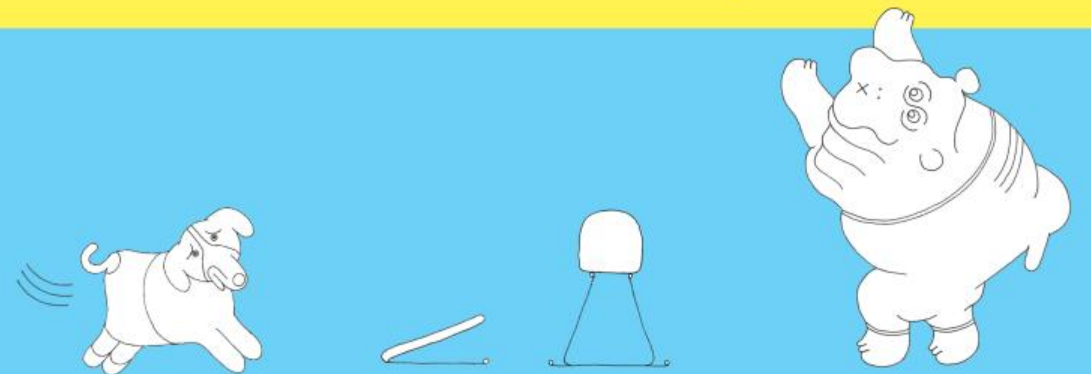
It was Humphrey's turn. He started running, going "thud, thud, thud" with each step. I was so scared he would break the vault that I closed my eyes. Humphrey jumped on the springboard. "He'll never make it!" one of us said.

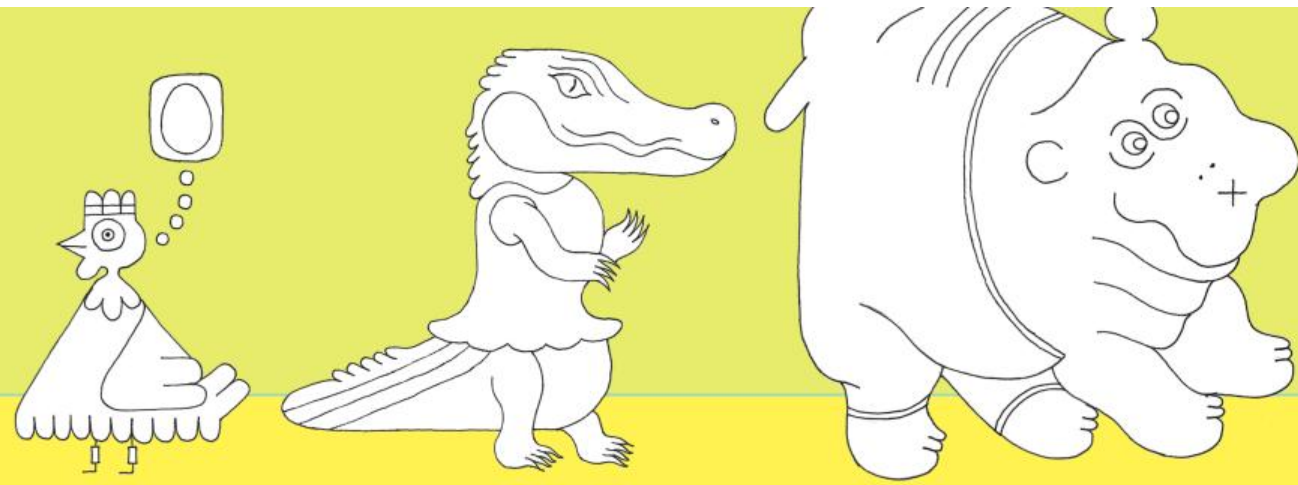




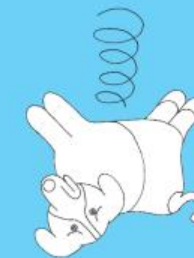
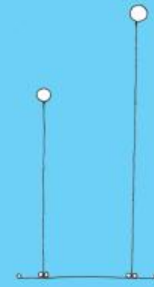
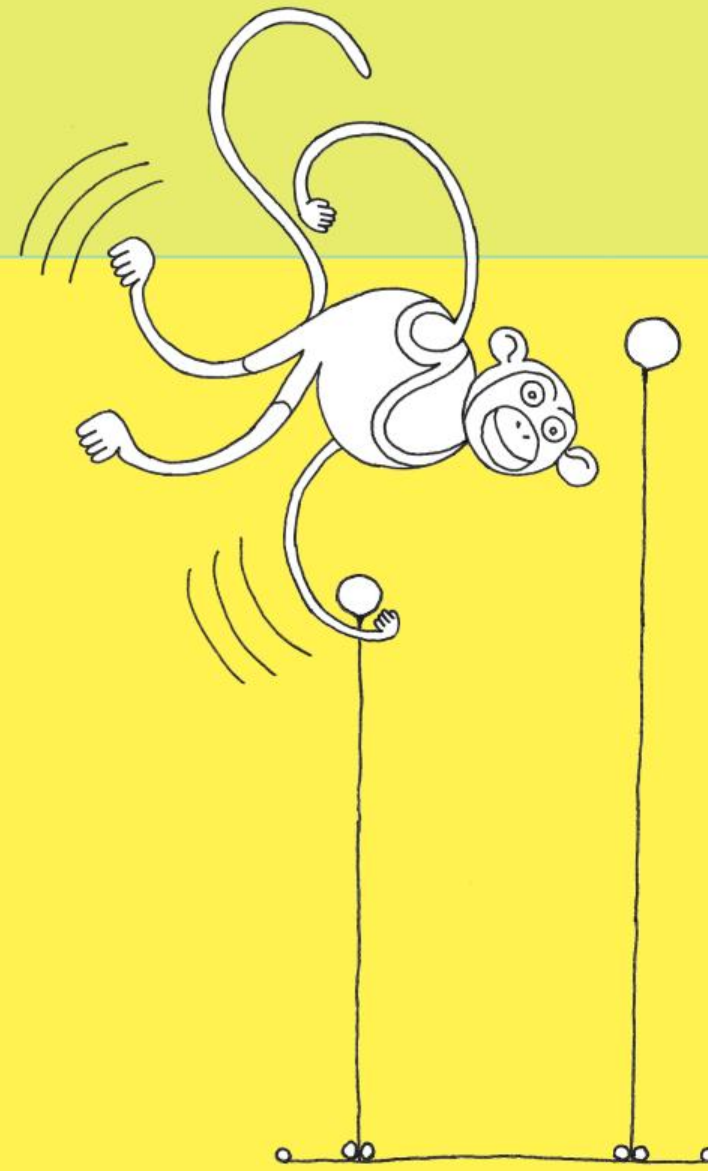
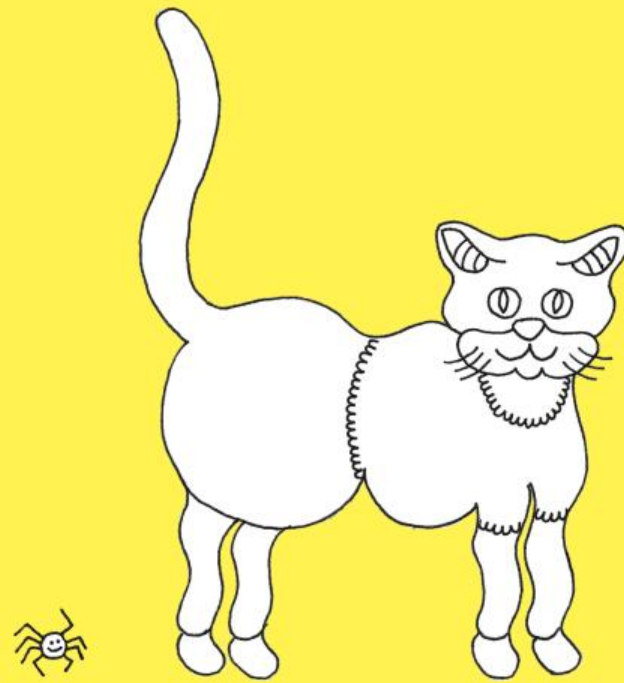


He got so much momentum from the springboard that he flew twice as high in the air as anyone else. After flipping 32 times, Humphrey came back to earth. He stuck the landing perfectly! "Wow!" I exclaimed.

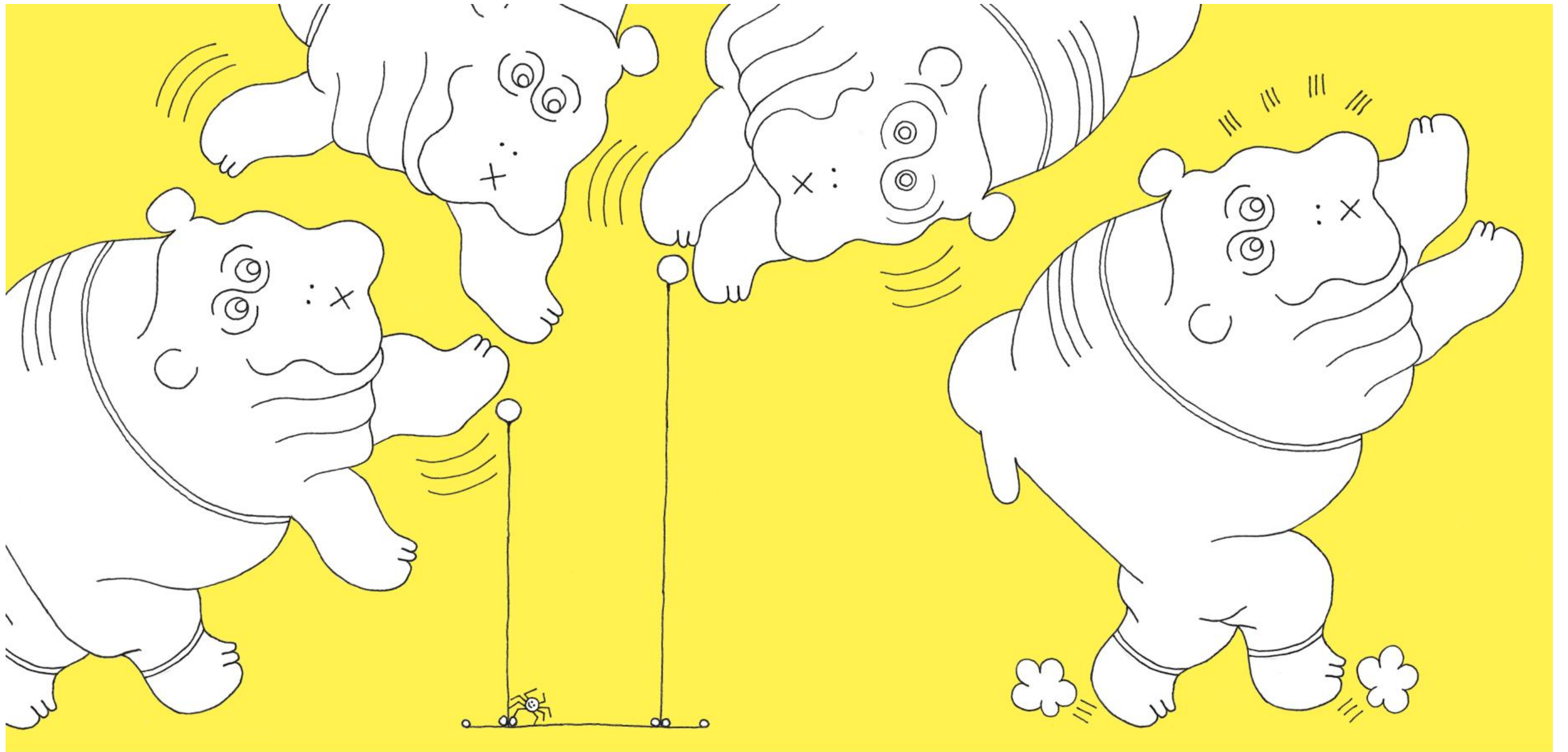




Next came the uneven bars. We each took turns spinning and jumping from bar to bar. We were all dizzy by the time it finished.

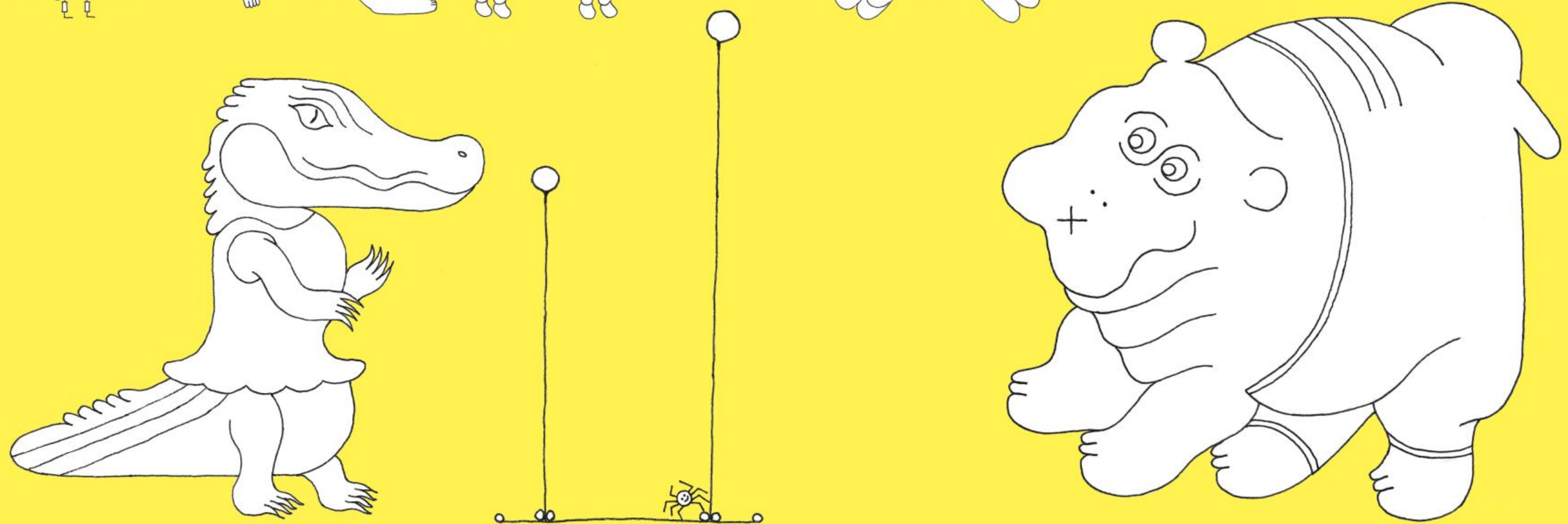
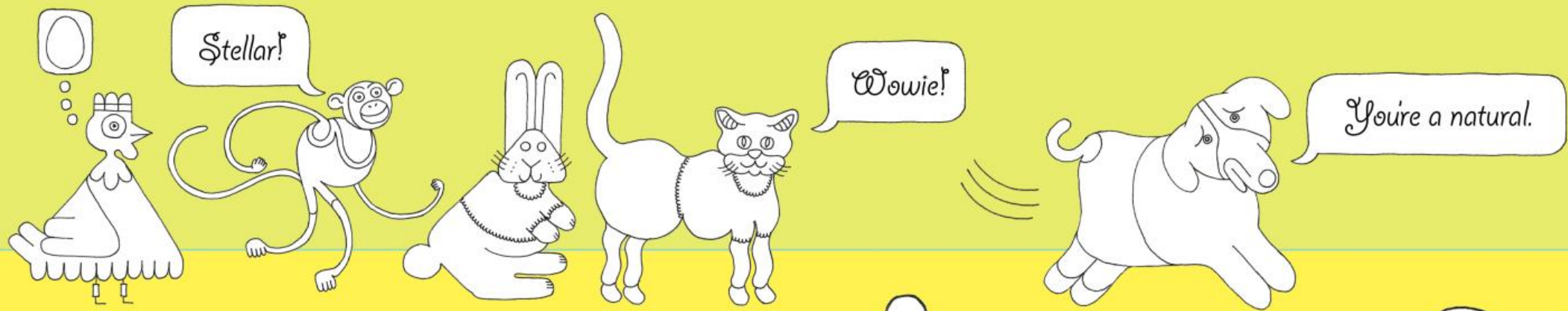






**Humphrey grabbed onto the lower bar and bounced to the higher bar. He was so heavy that the high bar bended. But this made it easy for him to hop between the two.**

**The bent bar snapped up when he let go, springing him up to the sky. He flipped twice and dismounted.**



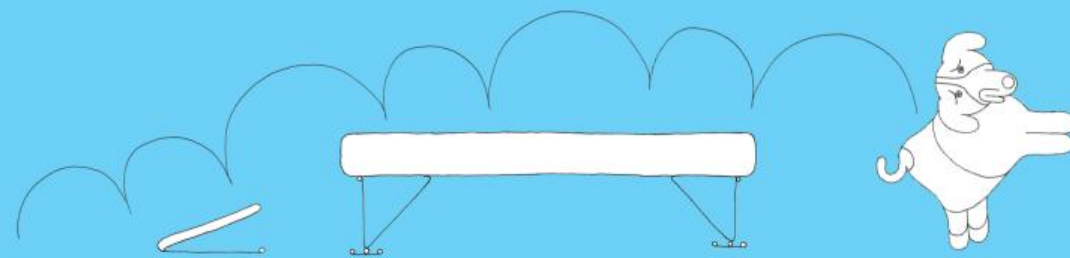
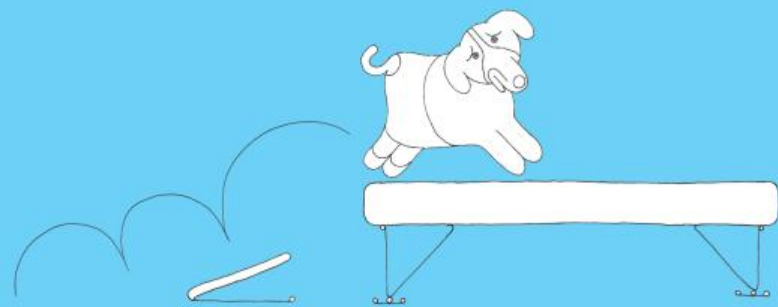
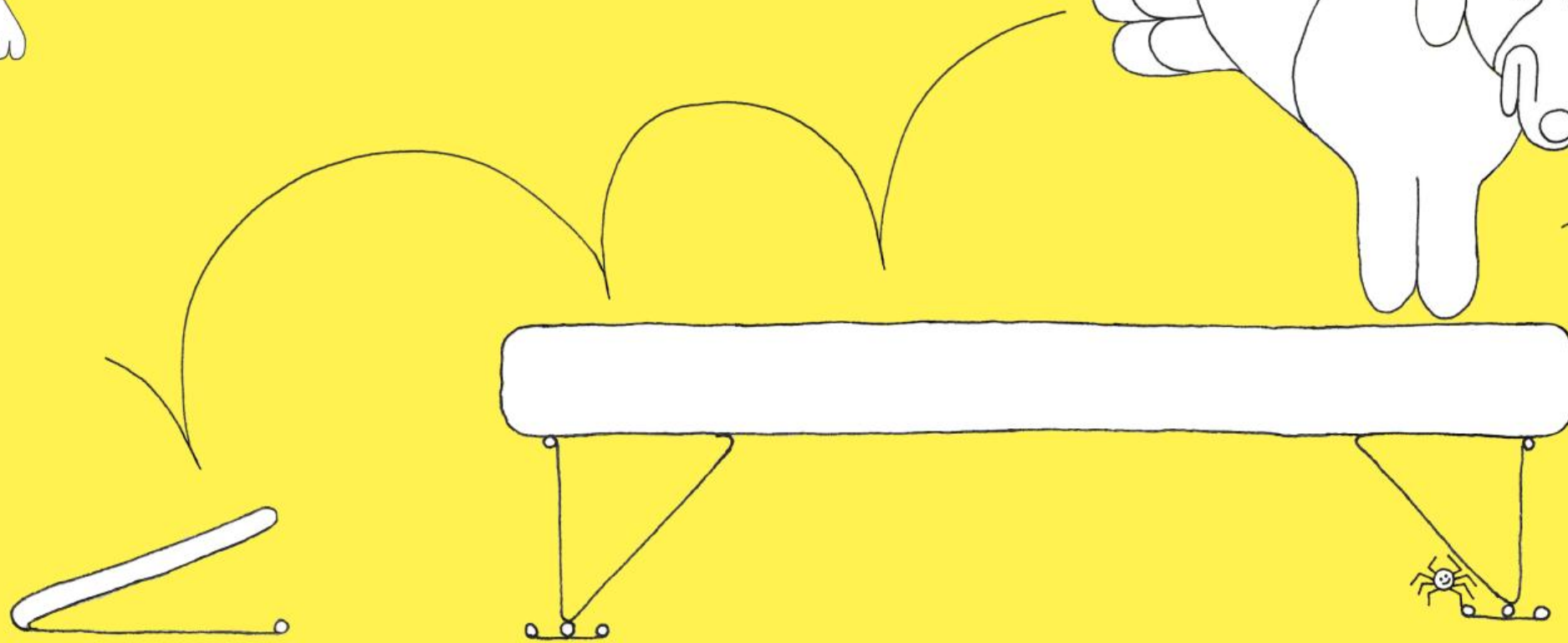
Another perfect performance!  
"I don't believe it!"  
my coach said.

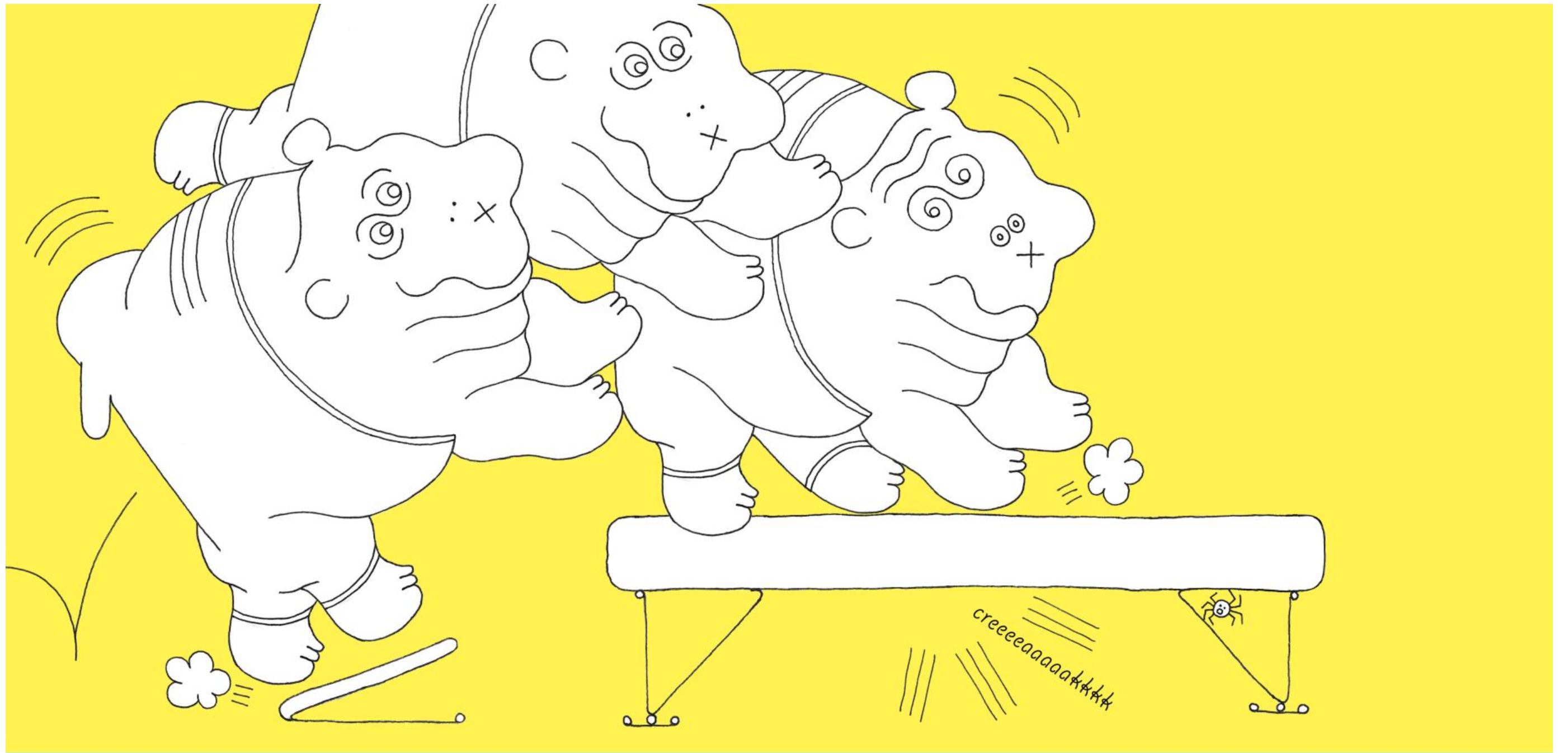




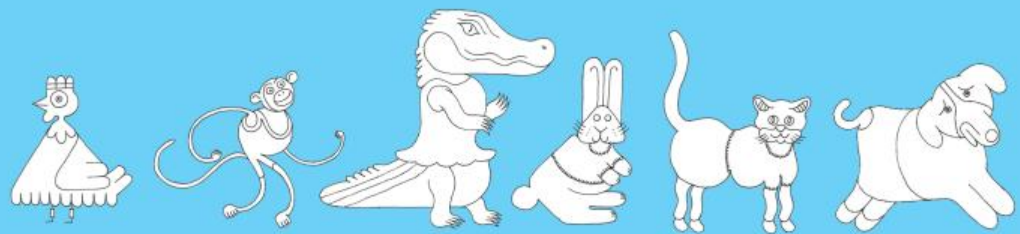


We moved on to the balance beam. I walked on the narrow beam and did leaps, handstands, rolls, and flips. I dismounted and was done.

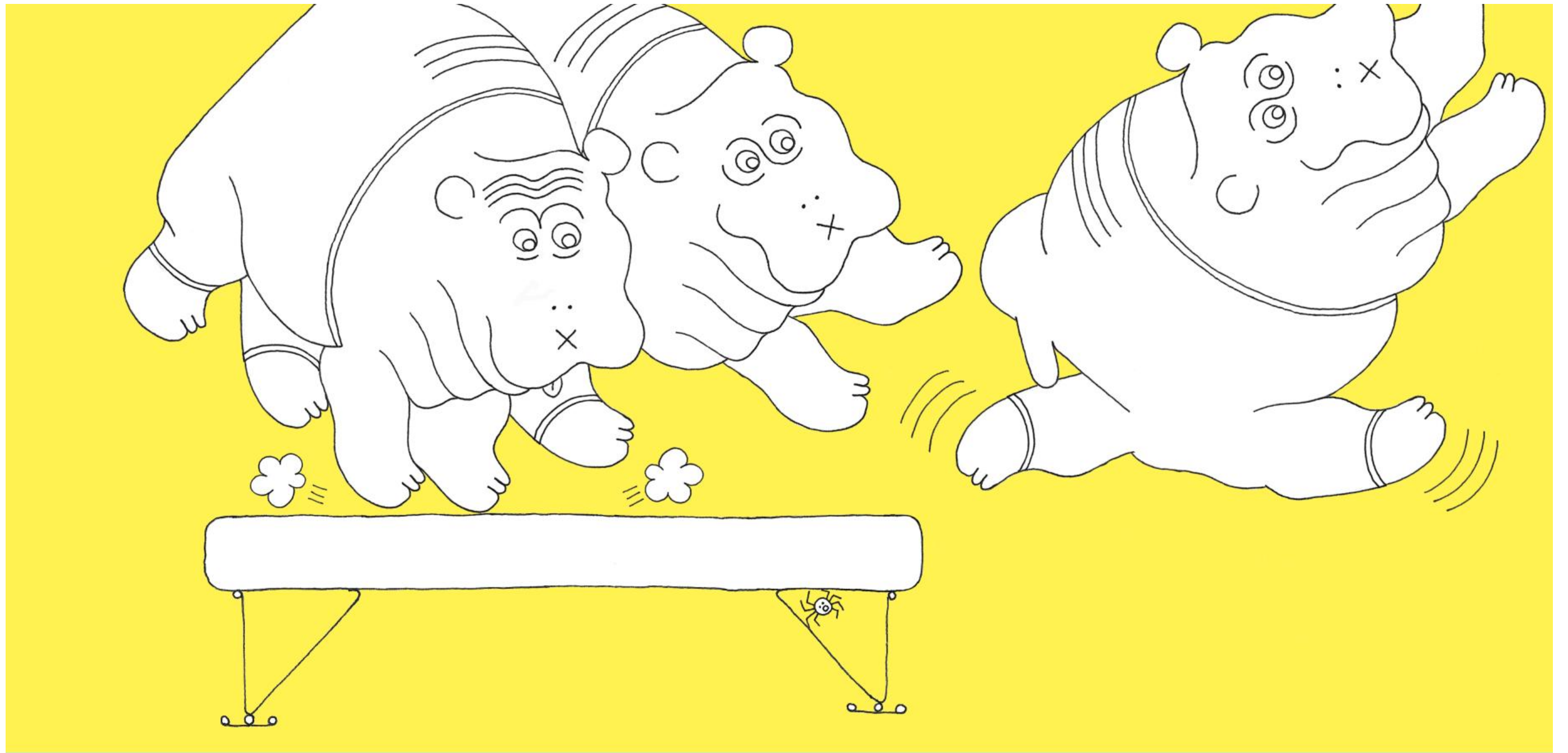




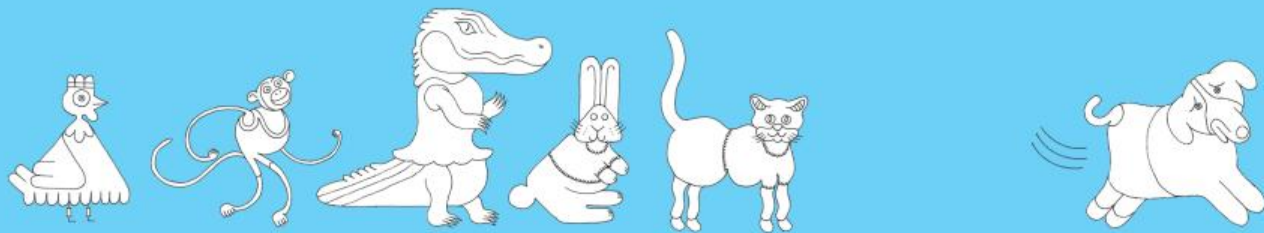
Humphrey chalked his hands and got ready for his routine.  
He jumped on the springboard and mounted the beam.  
It went creeeeaaaakkkk beneath his weight.

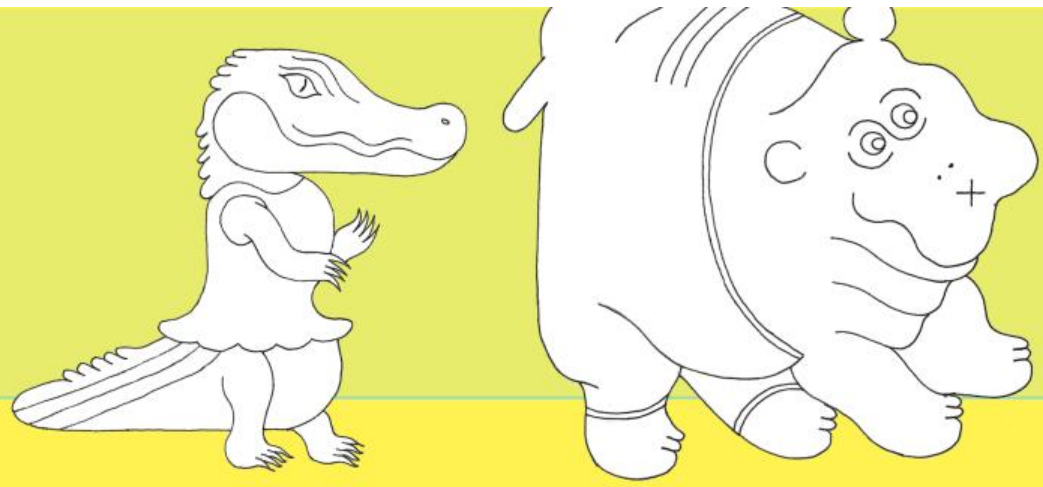






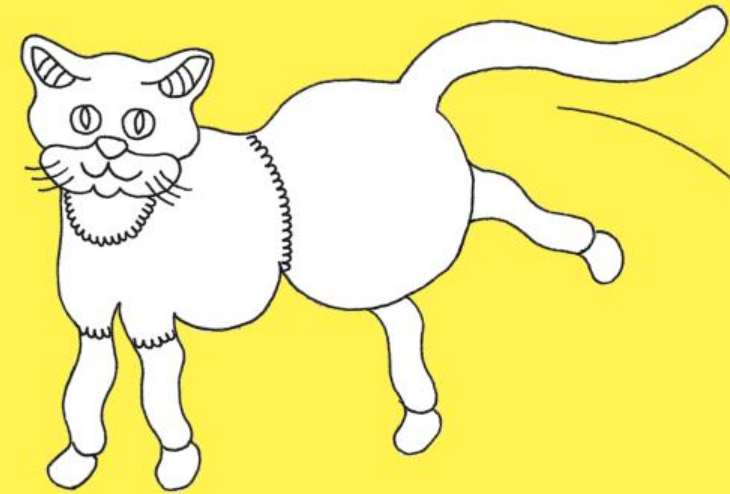
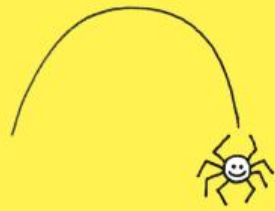
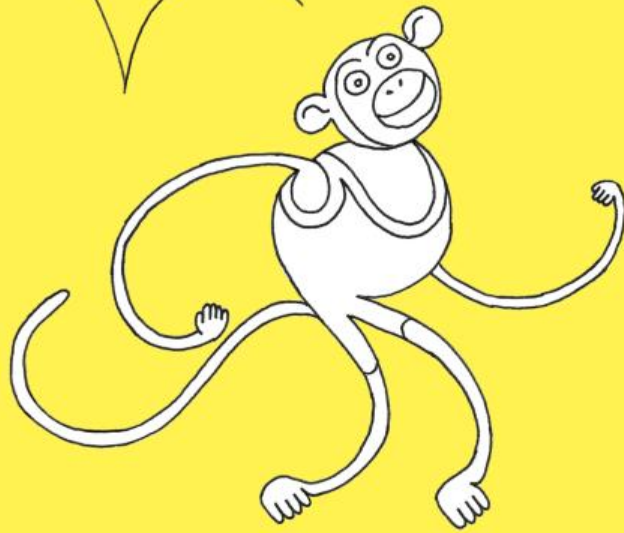
**Humphrey started his routine. He spun and turned on his leathery hippo feet. He turned and flipped on the beam with perfect precision. He even leaped in the air and did an aerial splits!**





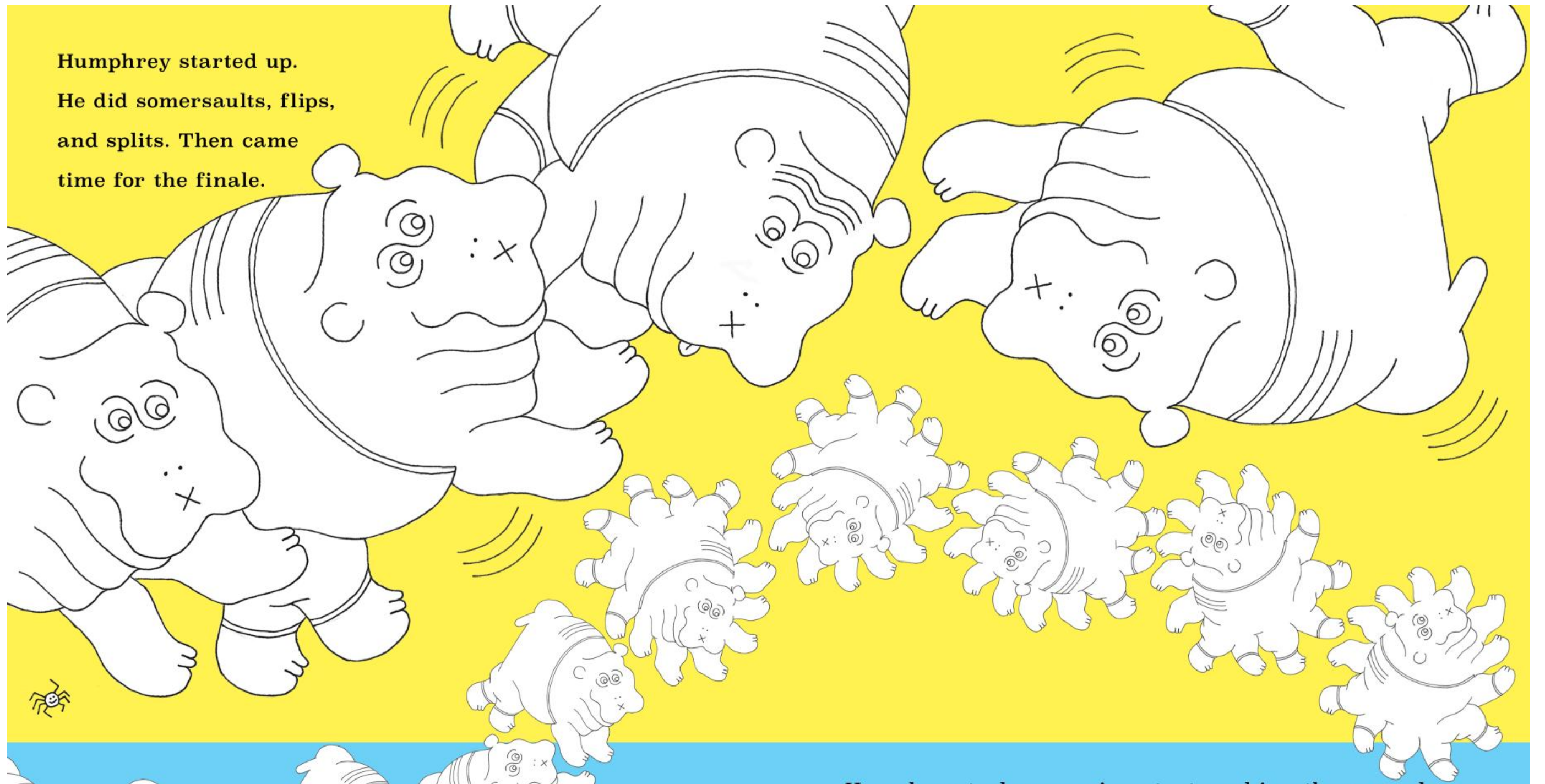
Last came the floor exercises. One by one, we performed our routines to our favorite songs. There were springs underneath the rubber foam floor to give us extra bounce.

I was still nervous about Humphrey. One wrong move and he could land on his head.

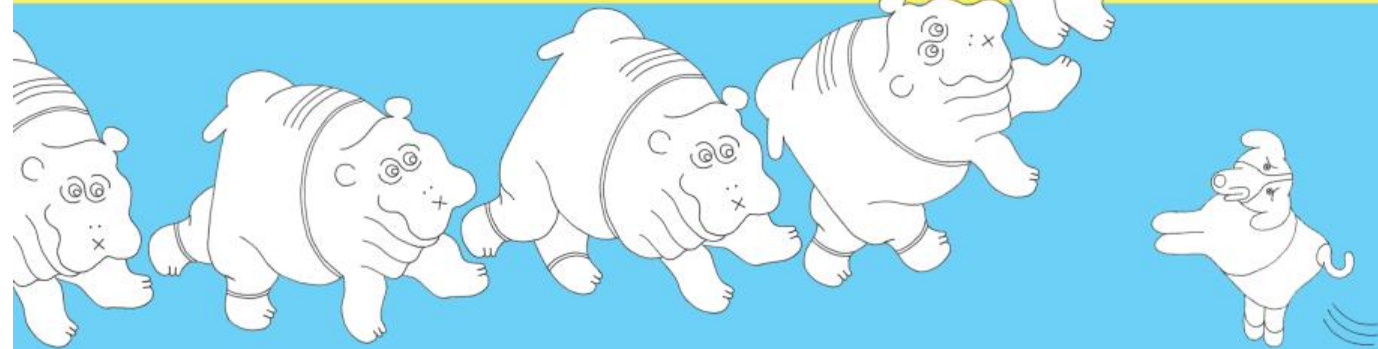




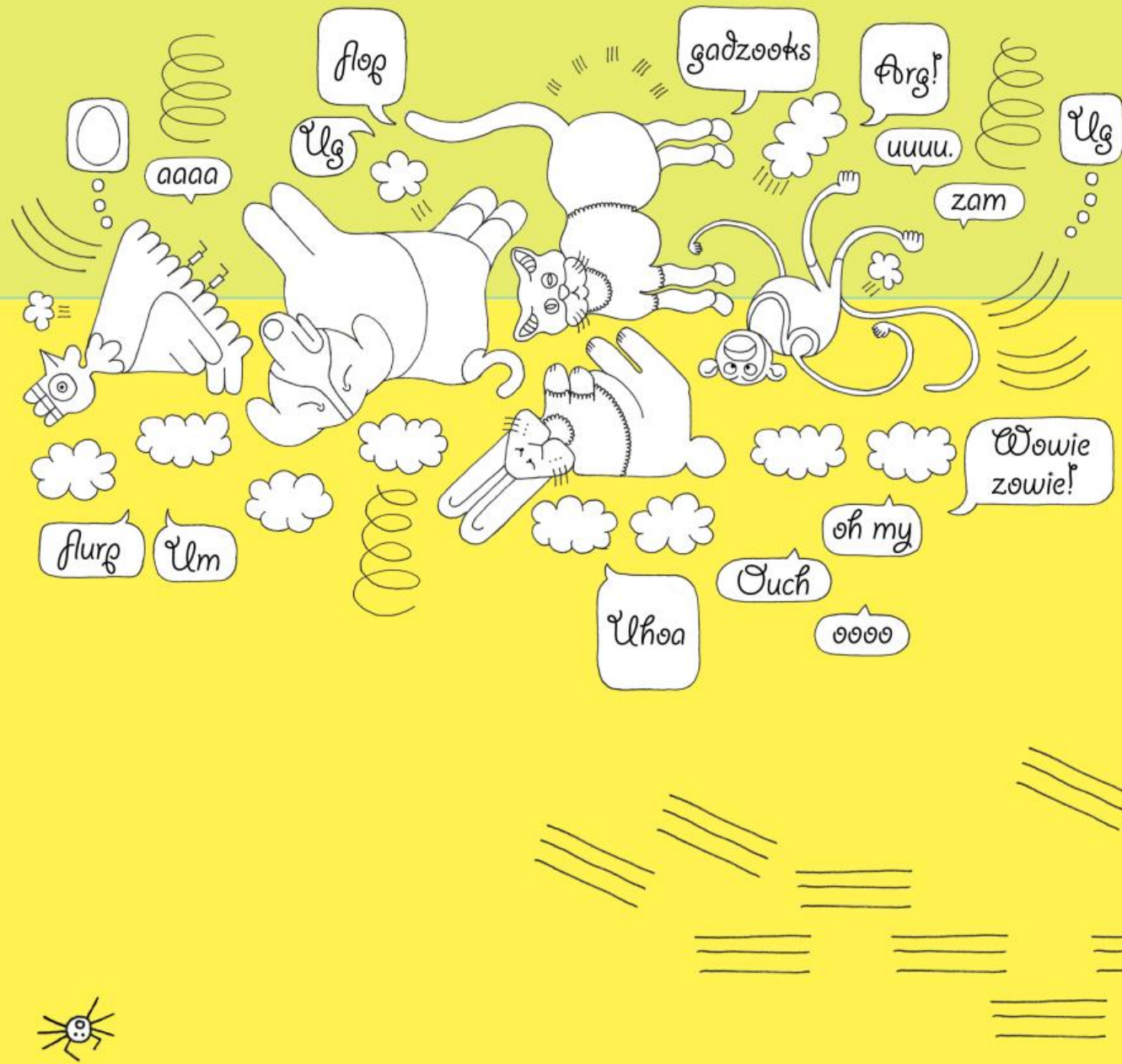
Humphrey started up.  
He did somersaults, flips,  
and splits. Then came  
time for the finale.



Humphrey took a running start, making the ground  
shake. He jumped with all his weight. Then he took to  
the sky. He was spinning so fast and high I thought he  
was a grey fly wheel.

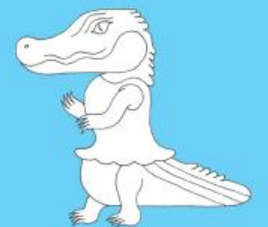




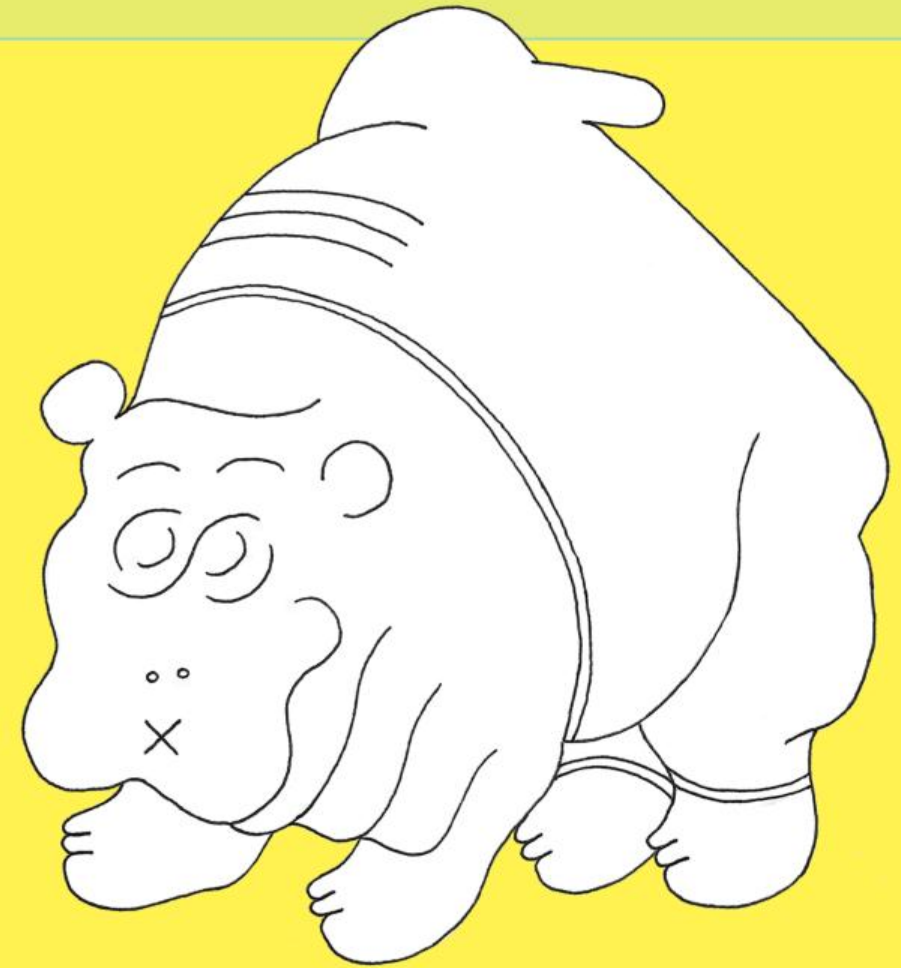
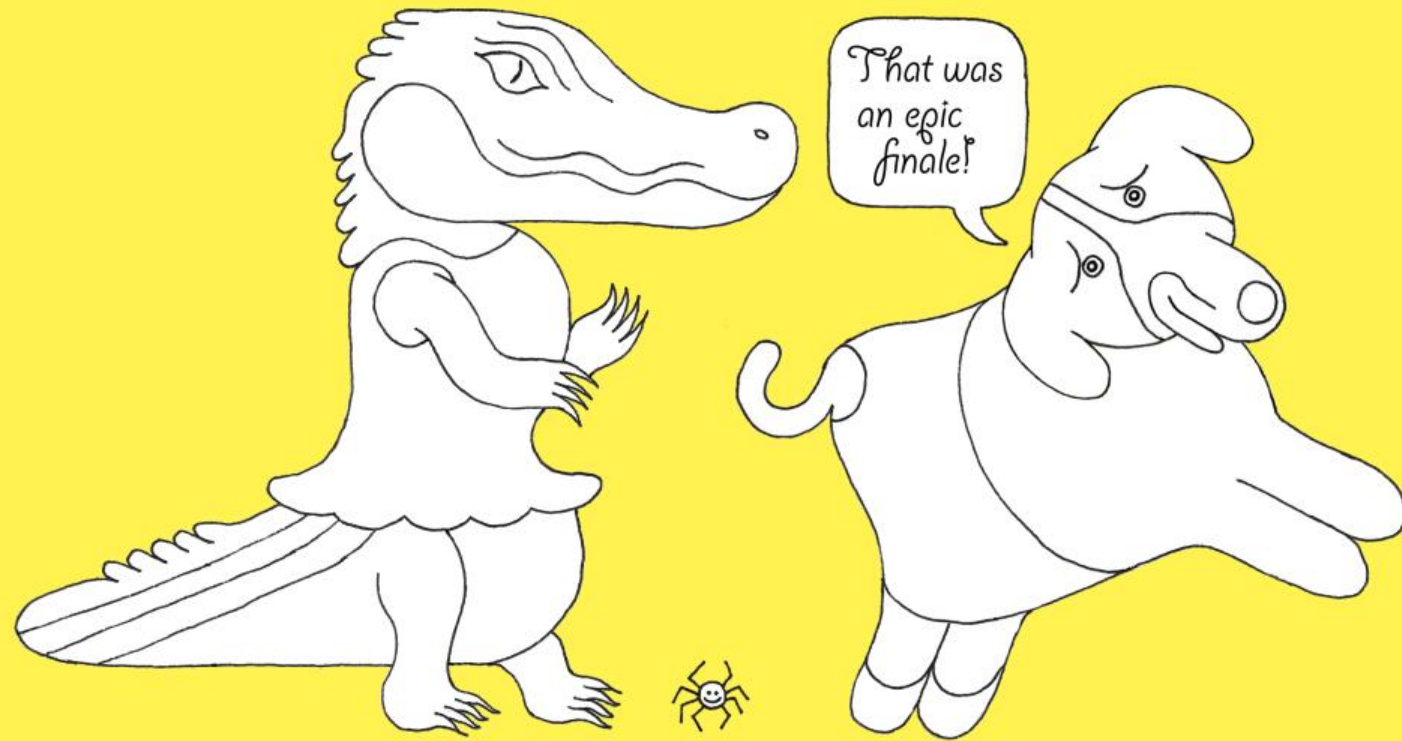
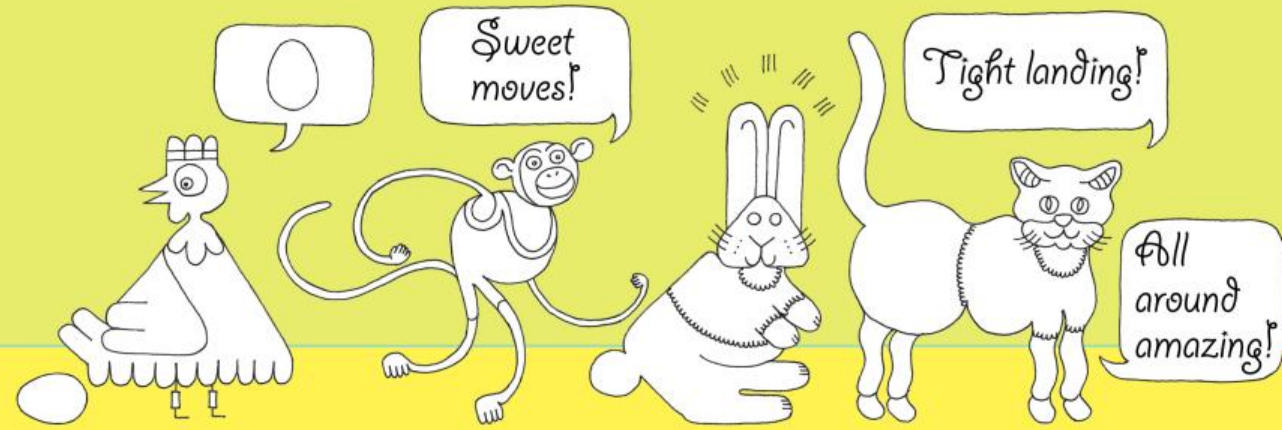


He came back down to earth and knocked us all to the ground with the force of his landing. But it was another perfect dismount!

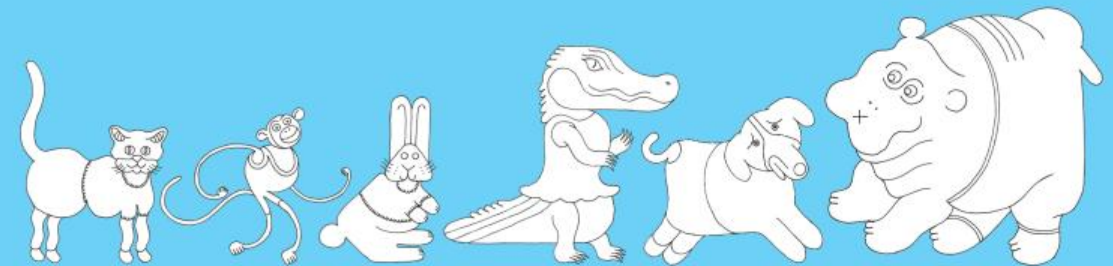
My coach applauded. "That was wonderful, Humphrey! You scored a 10 out of 10!"

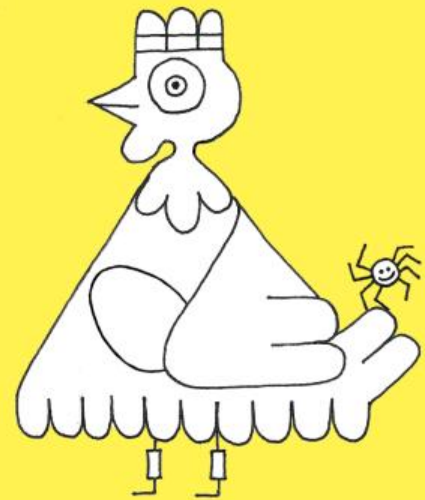






Humphrey took a bow and we all cheered. We all thought he would be terrible, but now he was the star of the class. Who knew that a hippo could be so good at gymnastics?





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