

# THE WALKING LEAVES



Written & Illustrated  
by  
TANGMO




FOR  
JESSICA AND JEREMY


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Under the sky and over the sea,  
there is a place full of trees:  
“The green leafy trees.”



In the green leafy trees,  
is the place where insects love to be free.

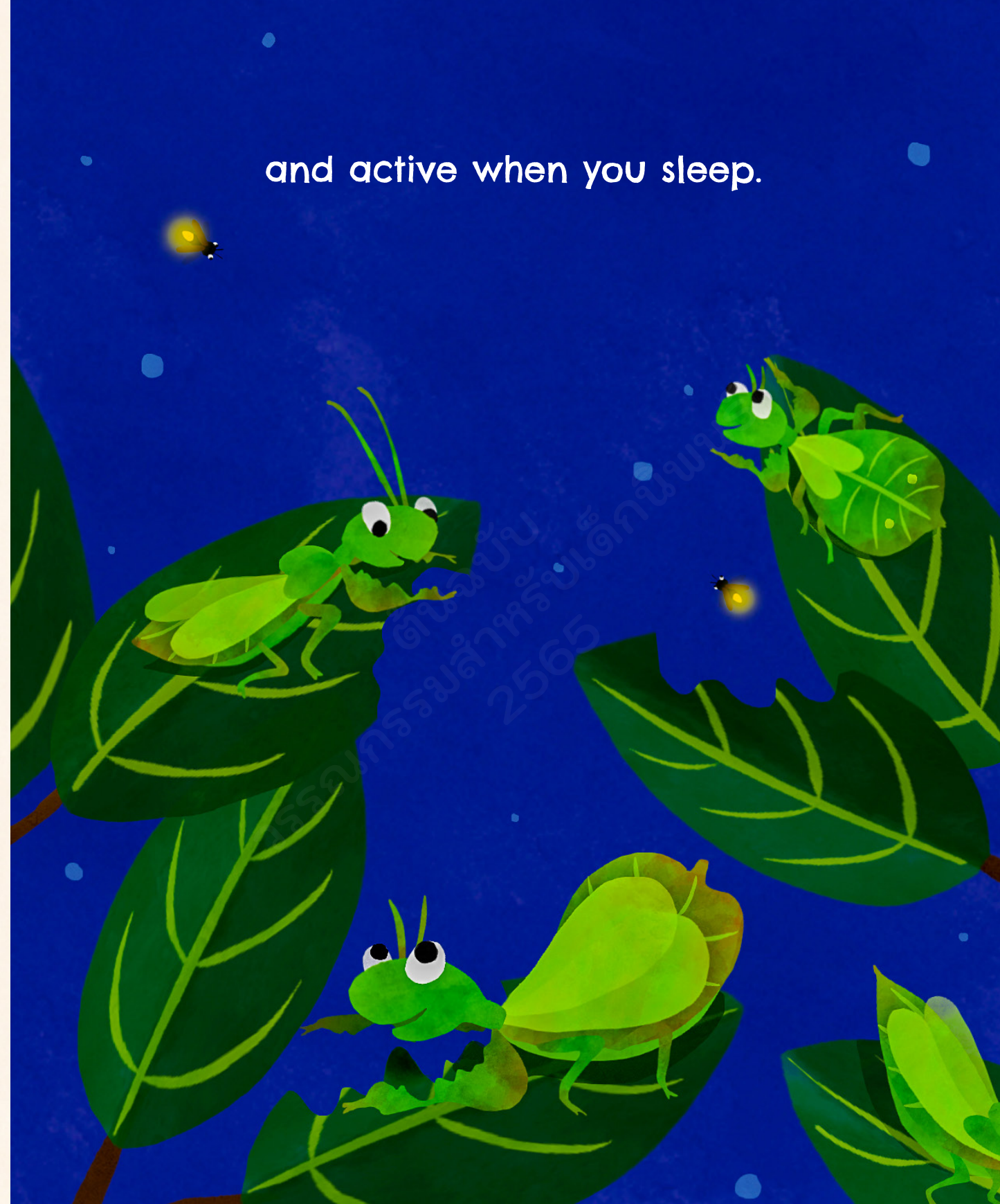
If you come closer and see,  
do you believe me?

That some leaves can walk!  
So, we call them "Walking leaves."

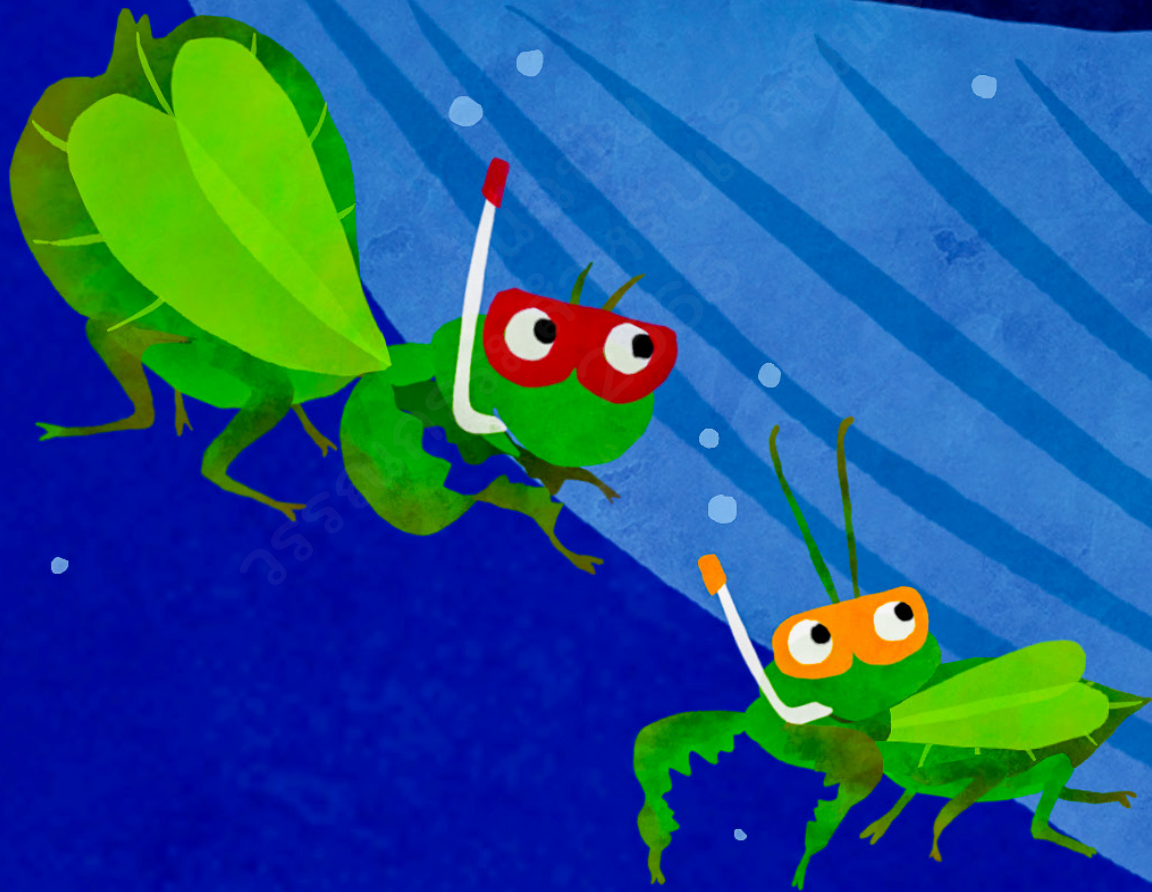
Walking leaves look like leaves.  
They are very quiet when you peek,



and active when you sleep.



But both are much smaller than a whale.



The female is larger than the male,  
and the male is smaller than the female.

Walking leaves love to play “Hide and Seek.”

But they love to hide more than seek,

they have to escape

from bird beaks.



They can change their color

to hide from predators.

When the leaves turn green, they turn green.

When the leaves turn brown, they turn brown.





When the wind blows, we sneeze.



But walking leaves sway like leaves  
in the breeze.

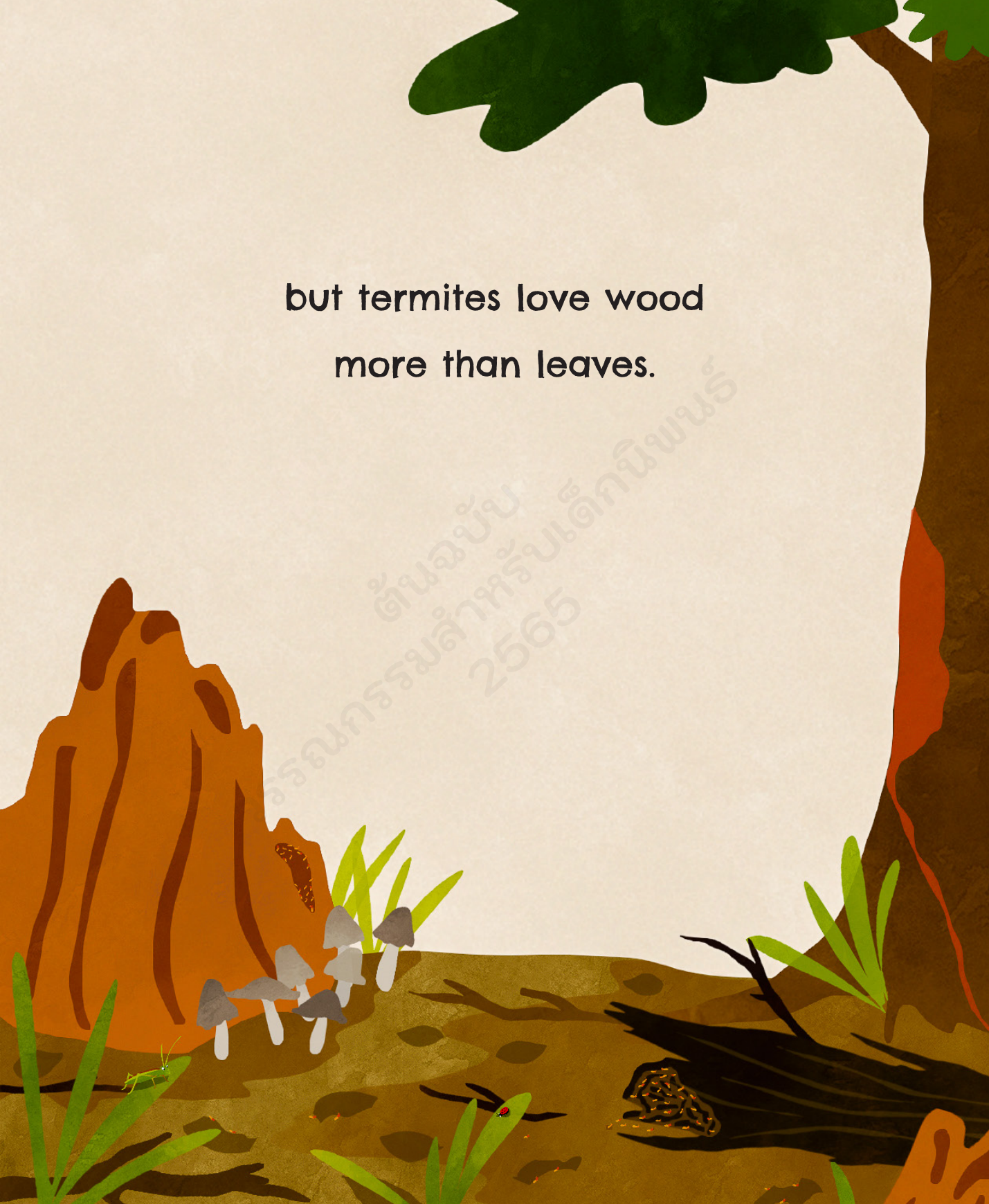
They start rocking  
from left to right,  
from right to left.





Some fresh leaves  
are their favorite food.

They love leaves  
more than wood,



but termites love wood  
more than leaves.

Look down below.  
Walking leaves don't eat before they molt,  
they keep calm even when the wind blows.



They shed their skin to grow,  
and did you know?  
They eat their old skin  
with nothing left to show!



Many insects have wings when they grow.

Flip flap   Flip - flap   Flip flap,  
ready to go far, far away.

But wait!

Walking leaves cannot fly,  
except when they try.

The male can fly,  
but the female only climbs  
high and high.



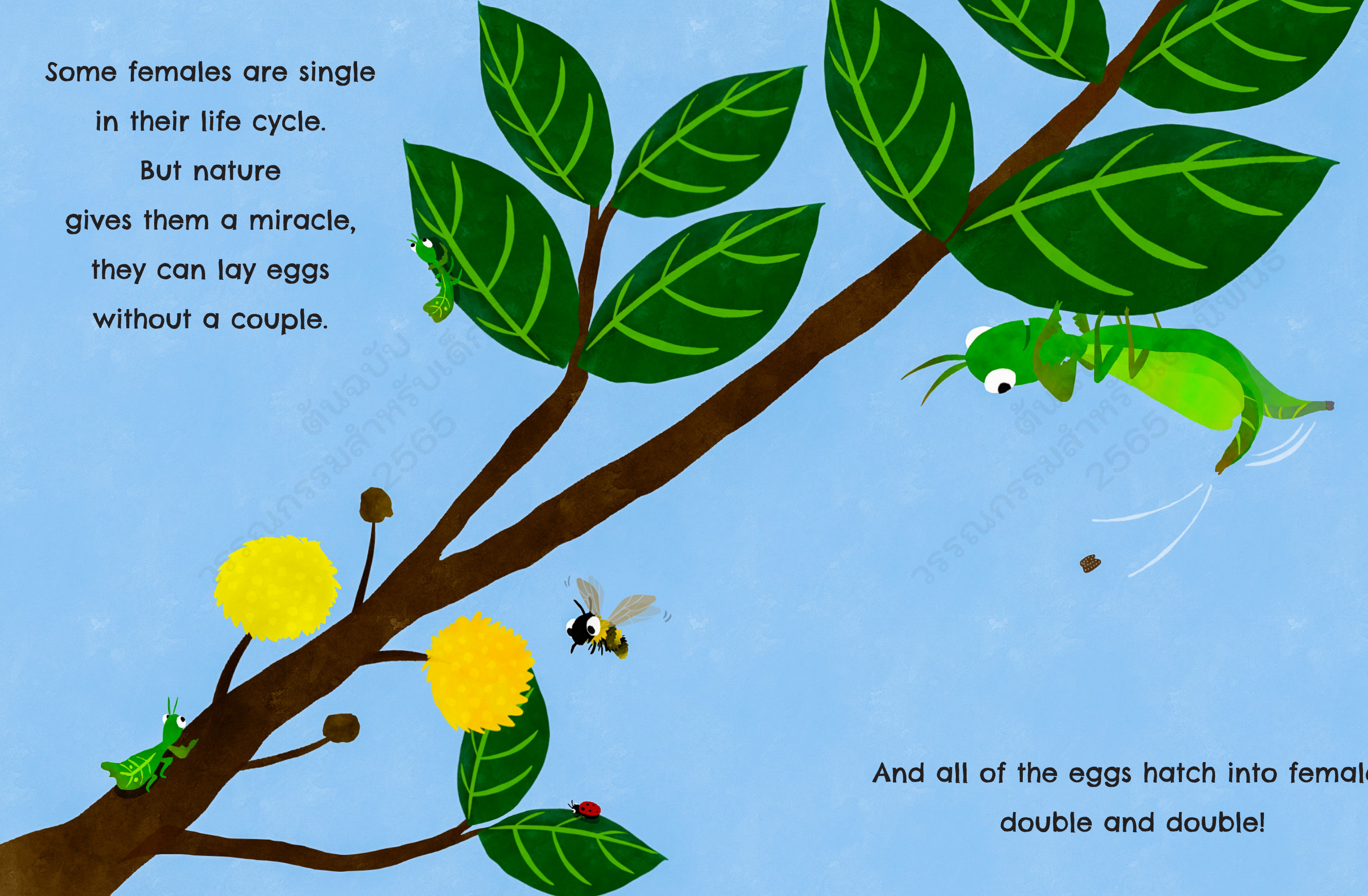
In the middle of the night,  
the male starts to take flight,  
to see the love of his life.



Then they mate with each other  
before sunrise.

Some females are single  
in their life cycle.

But nature  
gives them a miracle,  
they can lay eggs  
without a couple.



And all of the eggs hatch into females  
double and double!



Walking leaves can drop their legs  
when they feel scared and shake.

Leaving just one leg will be safe,  
and then they walk away with five legs.



They are still alive  
with legs only five.



Next time  
when they molt  
again...



and again at night,




walking leaves  
can regrow their legs!  
What a surprise!

Well, that is the walking leaves life,  
but they have so many types.

In the insect world,  
there is too much to describe.

Let's explore and go outside!  
You will see something surprise!





The place full of trees  
is the home where insects  
can be free.  
Let's protect their home,  
you and me,  
and make it a 'beautiful world.'  
It can be.

# The Walking Leaves



**Text & Illustrations by Thikamporn Srisuwatjaree (Tangmo)**

**A picture book for 5-7 years old**

**A Children's Literature Thesis (2022 Academic Year)**

This picture book is a thesis of  
CL451 Term Project in Children's Literature,  
Bachelor of Arts in Children's Literature Program,  
Faculty of Humanities,  
Srinakharinwirot University.

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## About the Author, me and my walking leaves!!

I used to take care of real walking leaves and wanted to create something truly amazing. That's when I realized I had an interesting story to share: the incredible walking leaves. They inspired me to create this picture book. Their lives are full of curiosity and wonder, making it a perfect story for kids who have never encountered these creatures before.



The world is filled with amazing insects. Some people may feel scared of them, and I understand that. But if you open your mind, you'll discover that all these insects are incredible, just as I did! Every day, as I interacted with them, I observed their lives and saw how adorable they were. Sadly, they all eventually passed away, but the time I spent with them as my friends was truly wonderful.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the many people who supported me: my family, friends, teachers, advisors, and all my supporters. Each and every one of them has played a significant role in bringing this book to life.

I hope you thoroughly enjoy reading it. Let's read the story once more and go outside to see something truly surprising!



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