A large, dark blue whale is the central focus of the cover, swimming upwards. The background is a textured, light blue water. Two divers are visible: one in the upper right and one in the lower right. Several small, colorful fish (red, green, and yellow) are scattered throughout the scene. Bubbles are rising from the divers.

TOODLE-OO

RUBY BLUE

COLORING BOOK!

DENNY TAYLOR

ILLUSTRATED BY RACHEL BACKSHALL

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Book design by Benjamin J. Taylor/Garn Press  
Illustrations by Rachel Backshall

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# TOODLE-OO RUBY BLUE

COLORING BOOK

BY DENNY TAYLOR

ILLUSTRATED BY RACHEL BACKSHALL



# HOW RUBY BLUE AND LILLY WU HELP LITTLE KIDS BECOME GREAT READERS

Little Kids love Toodle-oo Ruby Blue so much Garn Press asked Rachel Backshall to turn her wonderful illustrations into coloring pages for little kids to color. Then we took some of the coloring pages to the Brooklyn Book Festival and children spent the whole day coloring them with Rachel who flew all the way from Scotland to New York to be with them.

At the Brooklyn Book Festival many parents talked with Denny Taylor who wrote the story Toodle-oo Ruby Blue about their children's struggles learning to read in school.

Denny shared with parents that the secret to the success of children's early literacy experiences is engaging children in joyful reading experiences that encourage children's positive interactions with books.

"We would stack Toodle-oo Ruby Blue," Denny said, "up against an entire year of work-books and test prep materials in encouraging young children to love reading and become enthusiastic 'proficient' young readers."

At Garn we recommend that children have great stories with illustrations that also tell the story, and coloring books - like this one! - that encourage children to actively engage with the characters as they retell the story - reading the words if they can or re-inventing them if not.

Most importantly, have fun coloring Rachel's incredible illustrations with your children, and if you would like to know more about young children learning to read and write please go to the end of the book where you will find some more really important information about how children learn to read and write.



Toodle-oo Ruby Blue!  
I had fun  
playing with you.

I like your dog. I like  
your cat -





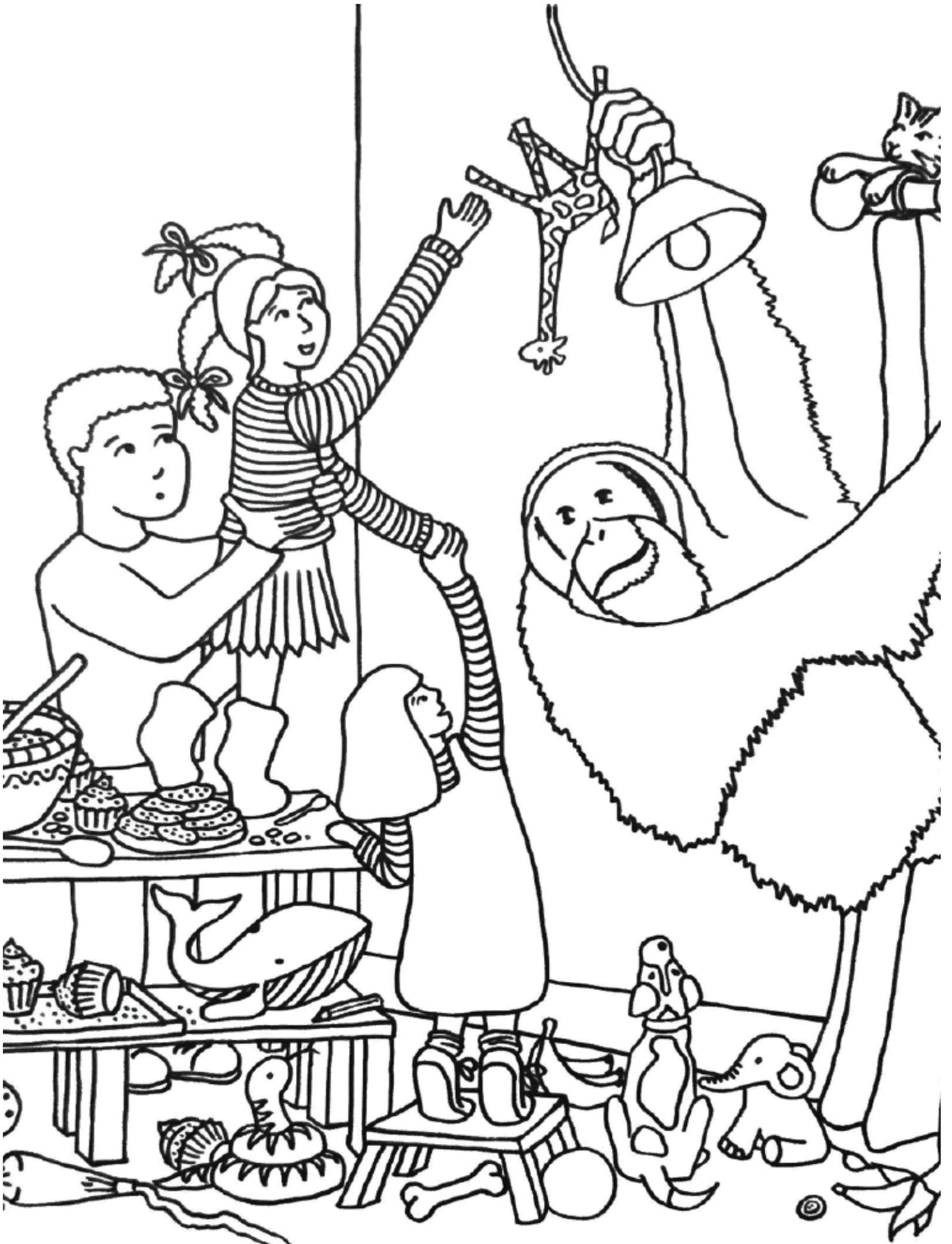
But I'm not so sure  
about your rat!



Toodle-oo Ruby Blue!  
I had fun playing with  
you. Your mom is nice  
and so is your dad -



But your orangutan  
made me mad!



Toodle-oo Ruby Blue!  
I had fun playing with  
you. The cookies were  
great and so was the  
cake -



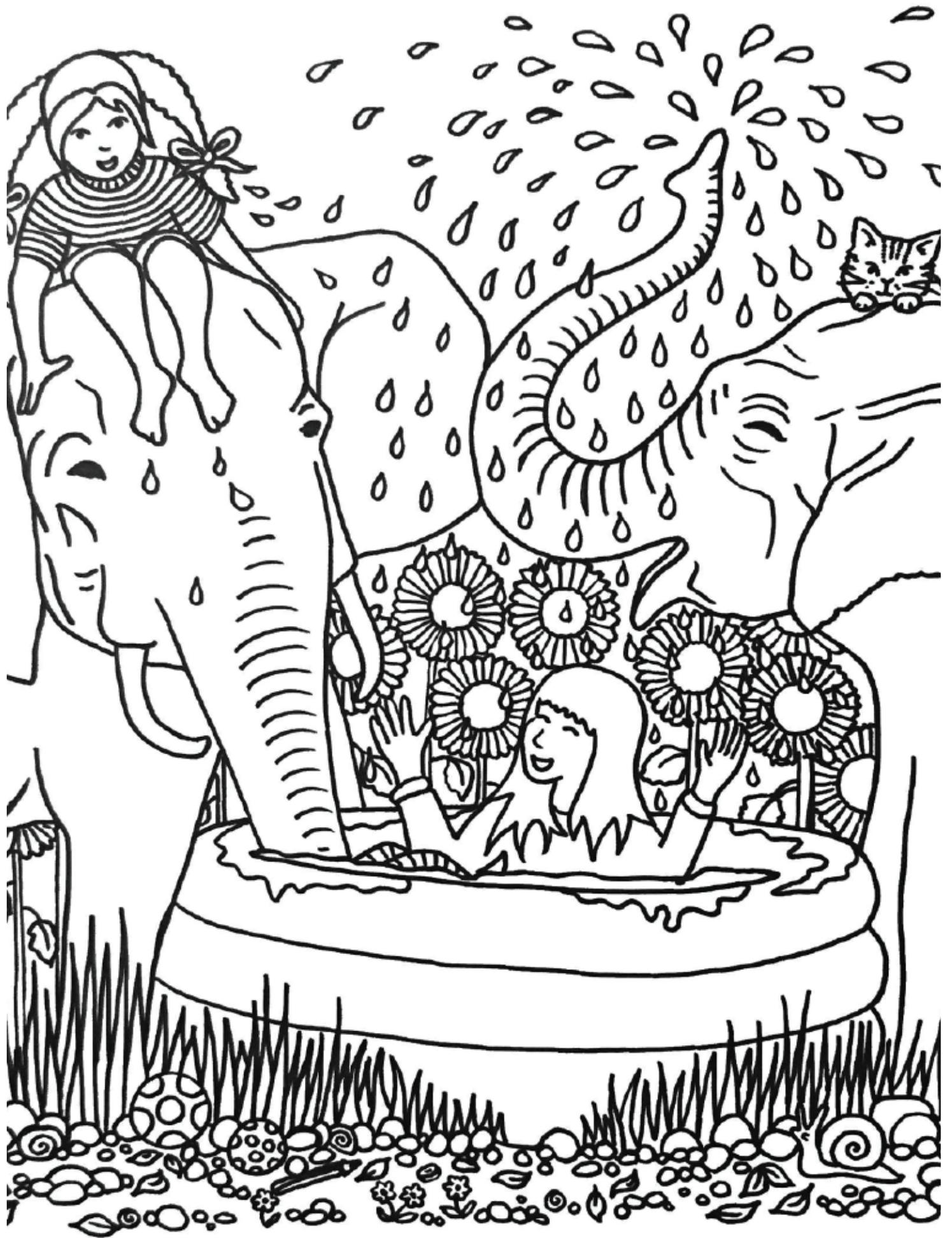
But I got a bit  
worried when I saw  
your snake!



Toodle-oo Ruby Blue!  
I had fun playing  
with you. I itched a  
bit when we played  
with your ants -



But I had lots of fun  
with your elephants!



Toodle-oo Ruby Blue!  
I had fun playing  
with you. I was really  
worried when I saw  
your tiger -



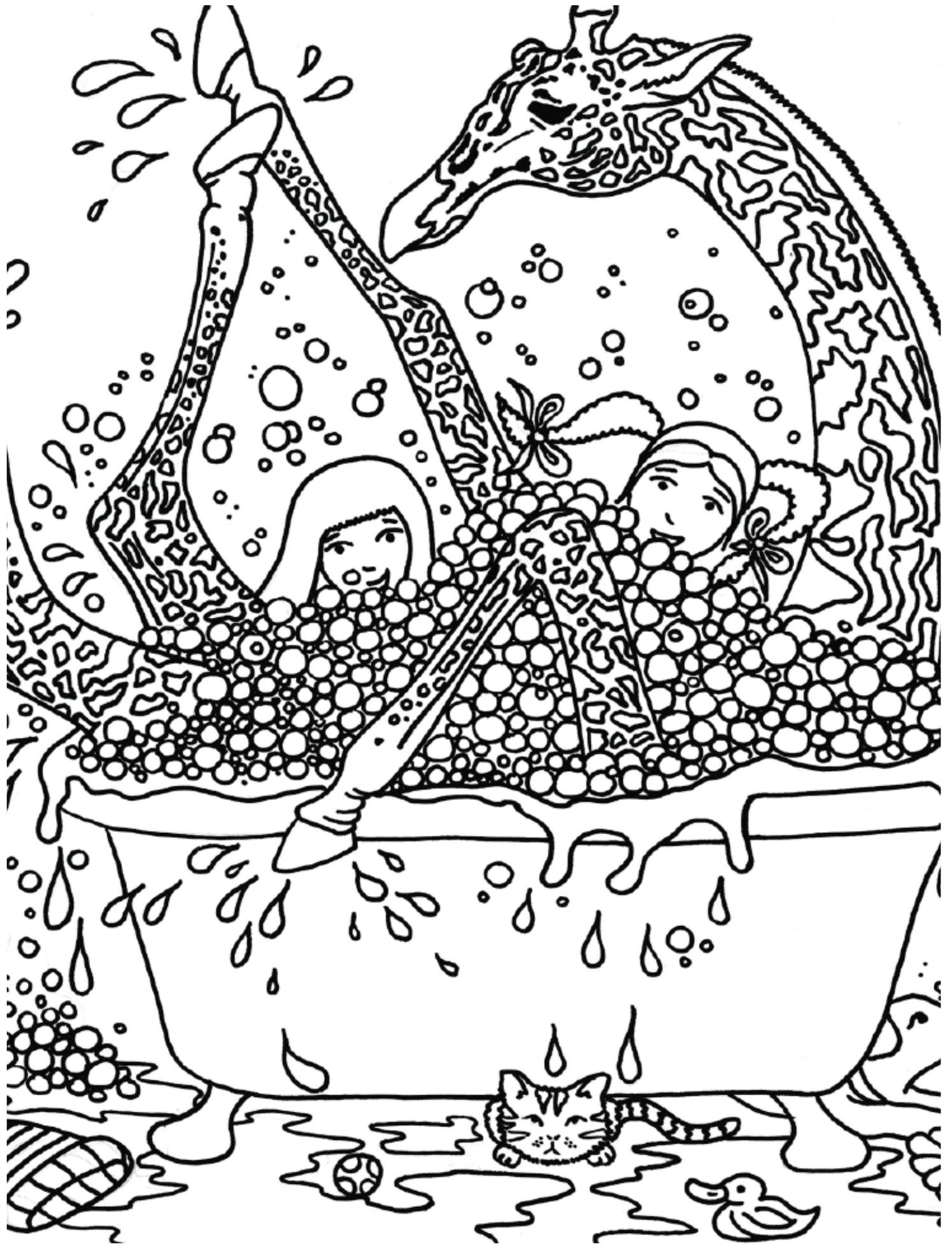
But it was very funny  
when you tried to  
hide her!



Toodle-oo Lilly Wu! I  
had fun playing with  
you. You made my mom  
laugh when she saw  
your giraffe -



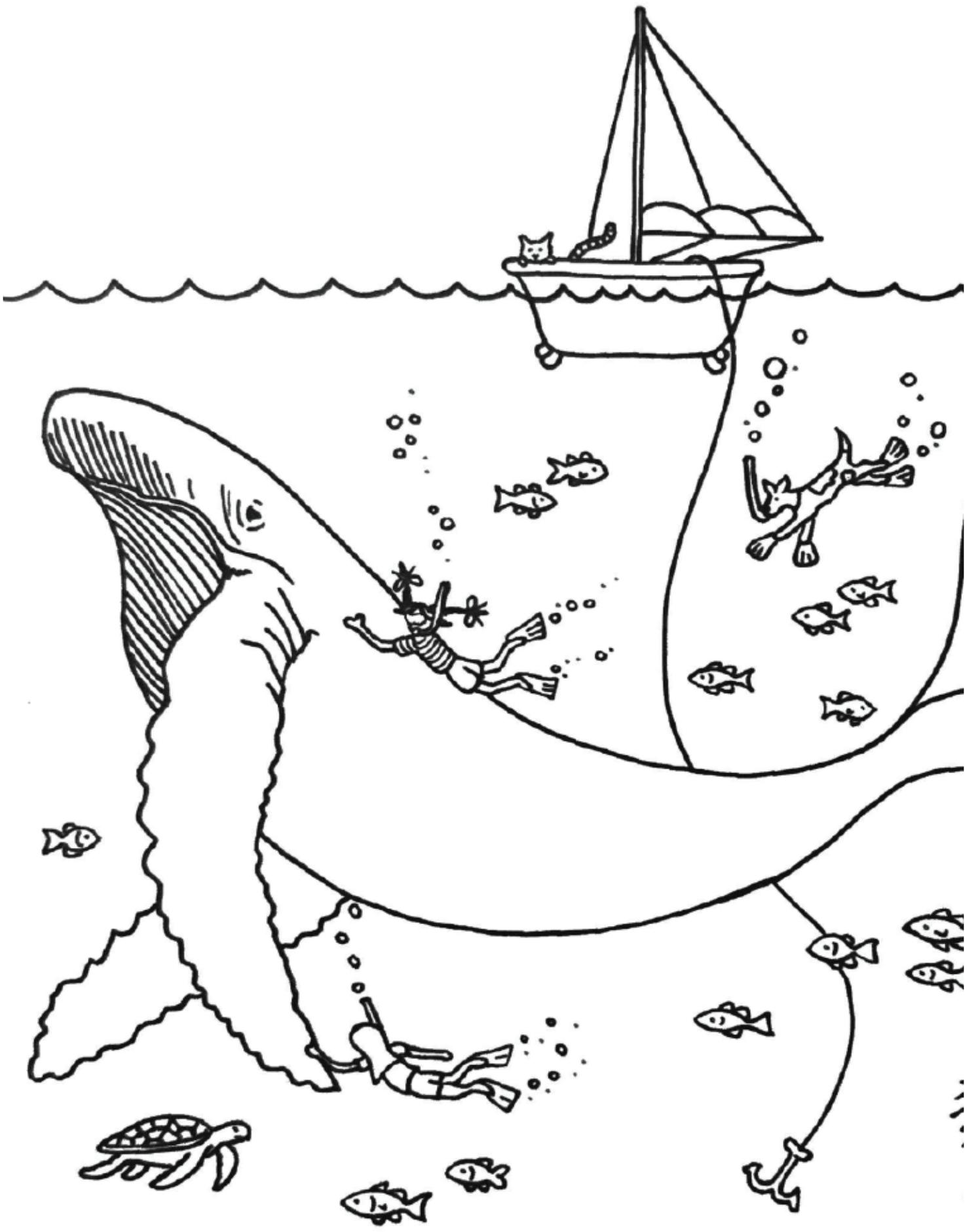
But I don't think she  
liked it when we gave  
her a bath!



Toodle-oo Lilly Wu! I  
had fun playing with  
you. A whale in a pail  
makes a wonderful  
pet -



But it's difficult  
to cuddle when it's  
slippery and wet!



Come back soon Lilly  
Wu - I really had fun  
playing with you!





# HOW LITTLE CHILDREN BECOME LIFELONG READERS

The research is indisputable. Give little kids great books and they will become great readers, but if you give little kids workbooks and make them take tests they will avoid reading at all costs - perhaps for the rest of their lives. At Garn Press we consider reading with children and sharing experiences is of vital importance, rather than teaching at children - which is the dominant model of reading instruction mandated by policy makers in both federal and state governments.

It's a scientific fact that children will have more trouble learning to read if they are fearful and frightened they will 'get it wrong'. There is no scientific evidence to support the use of skill and drill exercises and fill-in-the-bubble tests to teach very young children to read. On the contrary, there is more than a century of scientific research that these activities are harmful to the health and wellbeing of young children as well as to their academic development.

It is in the dynamic to-and-fro with adults (parents, teachers, or caregivers) that reading becomes deeply meaningful to children. The catchy rhyming in Toodle-oo Ruby Blue and the playful musicality of the repetitive story line invites this kind of dynamic shared reading experience for young beginning readers - with the adult reading aloud, the child reading along, and the child finally reading.

At home parents and caregivers can respond to children's engagement with the story and the illustrations. Perhaps by finding the tiny toy elephant and then looking at the enormous imaginary elephant and saying, "If you close your eyes, can you see a great big elephant? Let's find the word for elephant. There it is. Let's read what it says on this page."

These conversations based on the storybook and the coloring book can then be the basis for new creative activities. "Let's get some paper and you can draw your favorite animal in the story" Or, "You know what? You could draw a huge imaginary animal and we could give it a name!" Having fun, responding and extending the reading experience with new invitations for engagement will have children reading in a way that commercial reading programs never will.

In public school classrooms it is essential that teachers have the opportunity to engage young children in similar early literacy experiences that include books that captivate them.

Books for beginning readers should be literary and artistic. They should take kids to the imaginative and magical places in their minds where they learn how intriguing it can be to read a book. For beginning readers it is important that in these mindful places the meanings of words are intricately linked with the patterns of the sentences that appear on the page.

Remember, what is important is the relationships that are built between the text and the images that appear on the page. The illustrations must demonstrate the story being told, with the plot advancing from one page to the next as the language and the pictures are intricately linked. Above all it should be fun! Joyful! This is the challenge that should be undertaken if we really want young children to love learning to read.

Denny Taylor

New York

December, 2017

Toodle-oo  
Ruby Blue!