

SOPHIA MADOUVALOU

A LETTER A STORY

ILLUSTRATION
ARISTARCHOS PAPADANIEL



ADAPTATION IN ENGLISH
PIERRA FOTIADOU



A LETTER A STORY

The main goal of the 24 verse stories is to acquaint the child with the letters and sounds of the Greek language. In the original, each story uses words beginning with the same letter of the Greek alphabet. Language barriers permit only a free adaptation into English, to give some idea of the stories' surrealistic nature. The heroes in all their vitality, humor and freshness are inviting you to watch the first Greek educational animated series.

Watch the episodes of the series "A Letter - A Story"
on the YouTube channel of the Educational RadioTelevision of the Greek Ministry of Education:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuX_9aWHsHI&feature=share&list=PL9F3F6F10D7AB6C42

Visit the interactive environment (pilot - letter A)
of the multimedia learning package "A Letter - A Story":

<http://www.i-create.gr/projects/interactive-games>

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ARISTARCHOS PAPADANIEL



24 verse fairy tales



*All stories
are offered for free
by the author
and the publisher
to the children,
parents
and teachers
to enjoy
the endless
language games.*



A letter - a story
each with its own glory;
alpha, beta, c or z:
all the letters you can get,
to form a perfect alphabet!
To see and to hear
with my own eye and ear
how the tongue moves around
to create every single sound!

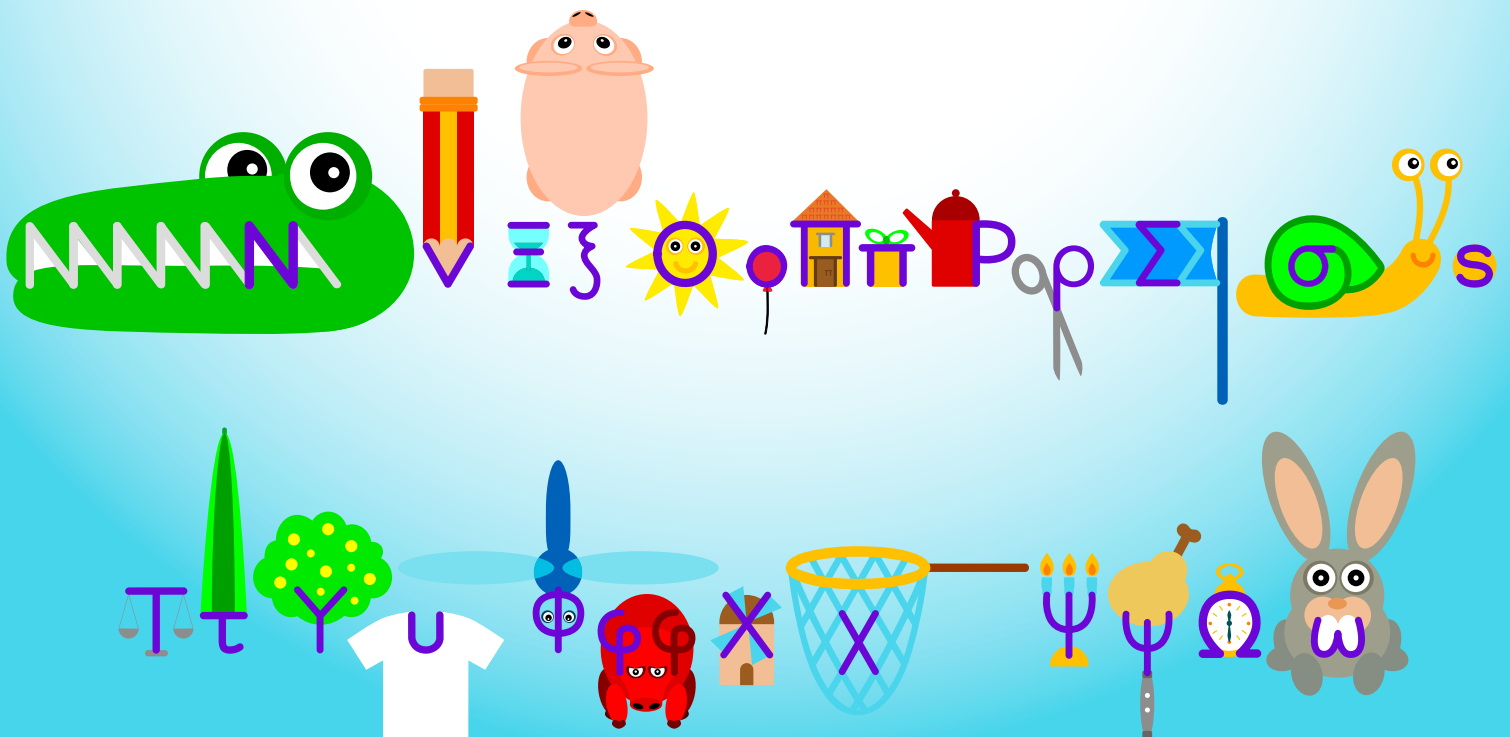


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THE UNCOMBED COW



Aa

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
an uncombed little cow
lands in Greece somehow.

In Athens it is sunny
but with the smog it isn't funny.
She goes up like a balloon;
ends in space by the noon.

A risky space-cow
took off from Greece somehow.
Smiling shiny little stars
offer her eggs from Mars.
She puts salt and pepper without delay
and devours them straight away.

The uncombed cow
makes a bow;
from another atmosphere
she sees the earth's sphere.
It feels like it's been years...
She sheds big tears:
- Aaaaaahhhh!

She makes a great decision,
to land back down with precision!
To find a stairway;
there's no way.

She wears a fancy parachute
and slides down like in a chute!
She lands at the Acropolis:
- Woooooh! She admires the metropolis.

- What a masterpiece that is!
I need a hoe to twist;
to find statues in the mist!
I will become an archaeologist!

She sees the buildings look aloof;
since they don't have a roof
and decides to fix this goof;
to become an architect
and the buildings to correct.

- AAAH! AAAH! AAAH! AAAH!

What a joy it is to hear
perfect A's in the ear!
She could also be a singer;
if the danger didn't linger.

The roof falls on her leg;
an ambulance moves ahead
and brings her instantly to bed!

The uncombed patient
lies in bed and is inpatient.
She cries from pain:
“Aaaaaaaaaaaaah!”, in vain.

A great acrobat athlete
an ace you cannot compete,
the queen of super fun
makes everybody stun!
- Aaaaaaaaaaaaah!

THE FROG VIOLINIST



Bb

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
out of a butt from a distance
jumps a frog with a violin in an instance
with fancy golden pants he will convince,
he was born to become a prince.

Noble garments,
royal ornaments;
approved qualifications,
loads of accreditations.

A proper prince frog
found regretfully in a bog.
A boatman companionless
in mid-winter coldness.

It thunders and flashes all over
no way from rain to find a cover.
It rains cats and dogs
the wind blows over the logs;
he gets a cold chill
and feels very ill;
he cries and yelps
but nobody helps.

A whole week with a sore throat
the poor frog coughs and looks for a coat!

- Ugh! Ugh! Ugh! Ugh!

Coughing, croaking, his head buzzing;
he is in pain, he's agonising.

With a sore throat to follow
he needs vitamins to swallow;
he boils soup in a pot;
to get better he eats it hot!

In the week to come
his sickness he'll overcome.

He sees a female frog
that went there for a jog.

He wears his water-wings
into the water then he springs.

But the inflation valve is defect
and he sinks deep down as an after-effect!

But fortune favours the bold,
the female frog will give him a hold.
The tiny lady with the dyed hair
will not disappear in thin air.

She sees the scene
and dives in.

She holds him tight
and gets him out alright.
She checks that he's alive
by giving him the kiss of life!

He gives her flowers
and rare plants from towers,
to thank her for her powers.

In the evening in the mansion
he looks at her with passion.
They take a walk in the full moon
and row the boat very soon.

A big ship ahoy
yells: "Have fun! Enjoy!
Ahoy! Ahoy! Ahoy!"

Sitting on the earth below,
they watch the stars that glow
as fireworks in a row.

Croaking and croaking all over again!
Croaking and croaking again and again!

Their voices fill the brain.
He sings loudly under the firework rain:
“Little Jackleen, little Jackleen,
you’re the best I’ve ever seen!”

He rushes to confess to her
he wants no one else but her.

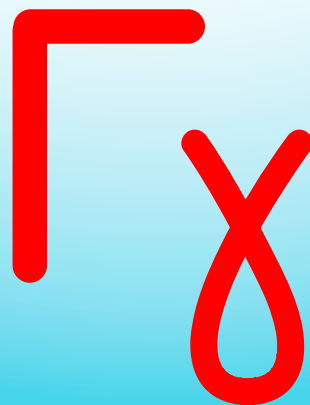
Being a violinist since a child
he gets his violin and plays wild!

Whiiiiir! Whiiiiir!

With a long shiny silver bow
he plays and moves his elbow.

He plays a waltz to dance
for a great night this is the chance.

THE GOGGLE-EYED JACK



One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
an old, goggle-eyed, tall jack
makes a cheerful comeback!
Wearing a uniform he searches the market
to put a woman in his shopping basket.

Wearing a monocular and glasses
he's got nice blue eyes and long lashes.
Chevrons on the sleeve, you won't believe!
A gardenia he likes to hold
to show that his heart is bold.

A chubby Jenny
that stands out of many
a carnation behind her ear;
he caught her eye and gets near.

His eyes focused on her face;
not to miss her he rushes pace.
He wants to propose to her first
before anybody else.

But he gets to cough like a donkey.
- Cough! Hack!

She says no word, he's unlucky.
He clears his throat to sound strong.
- Harrummph!

She starts to laugh along.

She is extremely rude;
offends with her attitude.
- You should find a granny
for you I'm little Anny!

She really breaks his heart
and makes him feel so bad.
She broke his fragile heart
he's now sick and falls apart.

A doctor passing by
ensures him that he won't die.
- You've got a sore throat!
Drink milk and wear a coat!
Your knees are falling apart;
in sport you should take part!

There's no remedy for heartbreak,
this will simply ache!

He is moved by a gigantic crane.
He brays bye and flies like a plane.
The old donkey's French loud bray
sounds like harsh Greek from away.
- Hee - haw! Hee - haw! Hee - haw!

In the gym club in a special room
he sees himself dressed as a groom.
Poor fellow lies on the green grass
and dreams the ideal life of an ass.

A wedding cake
and a full plate;
jars with red wine,
lollipops put in line,
biscuits filled with cream;
plants and flowers in a team;
but no bride in his dream!

He wants to make his dream real;
he wants to have the right appeal
and cut down his meal.

- We may not speak the same words
but my heart sends you loving passwords!

He offers her a jasmine flower;
invites her for lunch; he's no cower.
They drink milk as a first course
followed by fine fish of course
and turkey roast with tomato sauce.

On Sunday they are not in a hurry.
Who says they cannot marry?

THE TEARY-EYED DRAGON



Δ δ

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
in a forest far far away
or maybe down the walkway,
lives a dragon who's lionhearted,
but also extremely kind-hearted.
He works in the forest as a ranger
and keeps out every stranger.

A shiny diamond ring,
gleaming and sparkling,
of which his grandma was fond,
makes him powerful and strong!

On a Monday he wants to be bionic
and takes a good portion of tonic.

Fifteen big measures
make his life full of pleasures.

He gets an idea that's marvellous
to make his teeth look fabulous!

He puts dental braces
his teeth look like aces.

During the same afternoon
he gets his dinner soon.
Dried bread very hard.
For his teeth rather bad!

The braces get stuck.
It hurts; he has bad luck!
A pray he says;
a tooth wound hurts.

With tooth ache the poor fellow,
he feels the need to cry and bellow.
A visit to the dentist could make him mellow.

Salty tears fall down like rain,
teeth grow on the street, but not in vain,
showing him the way back for he's in pain.

Halfway down the road
he feels thirsty like carrying a load.
To a spring he goes straight
from the pain he can't see straight.

An egg he sees out of the blue
like placed down with glue.
He looks closely but sees no clue.
Puts it in a net cause its due.
He hears it hatch!
What a moment to catch!
He strives for its survival
and forgets his own revival.

Like a speed runner
in a crazy manner
he declares it to the mayor,
he feels like a land surveyor.
- A double-yolked egg is found,
it weighs half a pound!
Twin babies are inside;
one little dinosaur on each side!

Thirsty and crying
to come out they are trying.
Afraid, with their fingers in the mouth;
that's usual for babies from the south.

A balanced nutrition,
no further addition.
A giant water tank;
a feeder making a clank.
Eating plums and breakfast cereal.
They grow up so fast, it can't be real!

They are not same-coloured:
their skins are nicely coloured.
One is yellow like a lemon-pie;
the other blue like plum-pie.

Each of them a real devil
making everyone's life bedevil.
In just a short while
they make the dragon go wild.
They bite whenever they can!

**But of violence he's not a fan.
Should there be a ban?**

**He makes the right decision:
he needs a teacher with precision.**

**The teacher must be a female
and able to read a fairy-tale.**

**Double time to play
with music he can lay.**

**- Do, de, di, da, dol, da, di, do.
Perfect conduct, grade "A"!**

THE LOVE-STRUCK ELEPHANT



E e

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
out of noble inspiration
a six-elephant-confederation
studies medicine with great sanity,
a dignified job to help the whole humanity!

During epidemics with great magnitude
they show brilliant professional attitude;
with no experience at all,
they managed a great goal!

During a very hot season
insects bite without a reason
they fly in high frequency
and attack with persistency!

Suddenly spots appear
that persist and don't disappear!
- Check this out! Check this out!
cries the Professor out!
- We need a volunteer to help us out!

Doctors rush to the place,
their white clothes move with grace;
They examine the elephants carefully,
who look at them thankfully.

All together finally,
agree to heal them gradually.

- Hey! Hey! What are you doing there?
yells the Professor from over there!
- This guy doesn't stand much chance!
He will need intensive care admittance!
This whole new drastic assistance!

They show their interest incorrectly,
call a helicopter directly.
The elephant is now attached,
and cannot be detached,
but it won't hurt that much!

The light little elephant
hangs there like a tiny ant.
The poor thing is yelling and crying:
"I'm just in love, I'm not dying!"

The helicopter approaches very fast,
and cuts down speed before it hits a mast.

The field is now free all around
to get the elephant back on the ground.

Out of guilt they toss and turn
and they are happy to see it return.

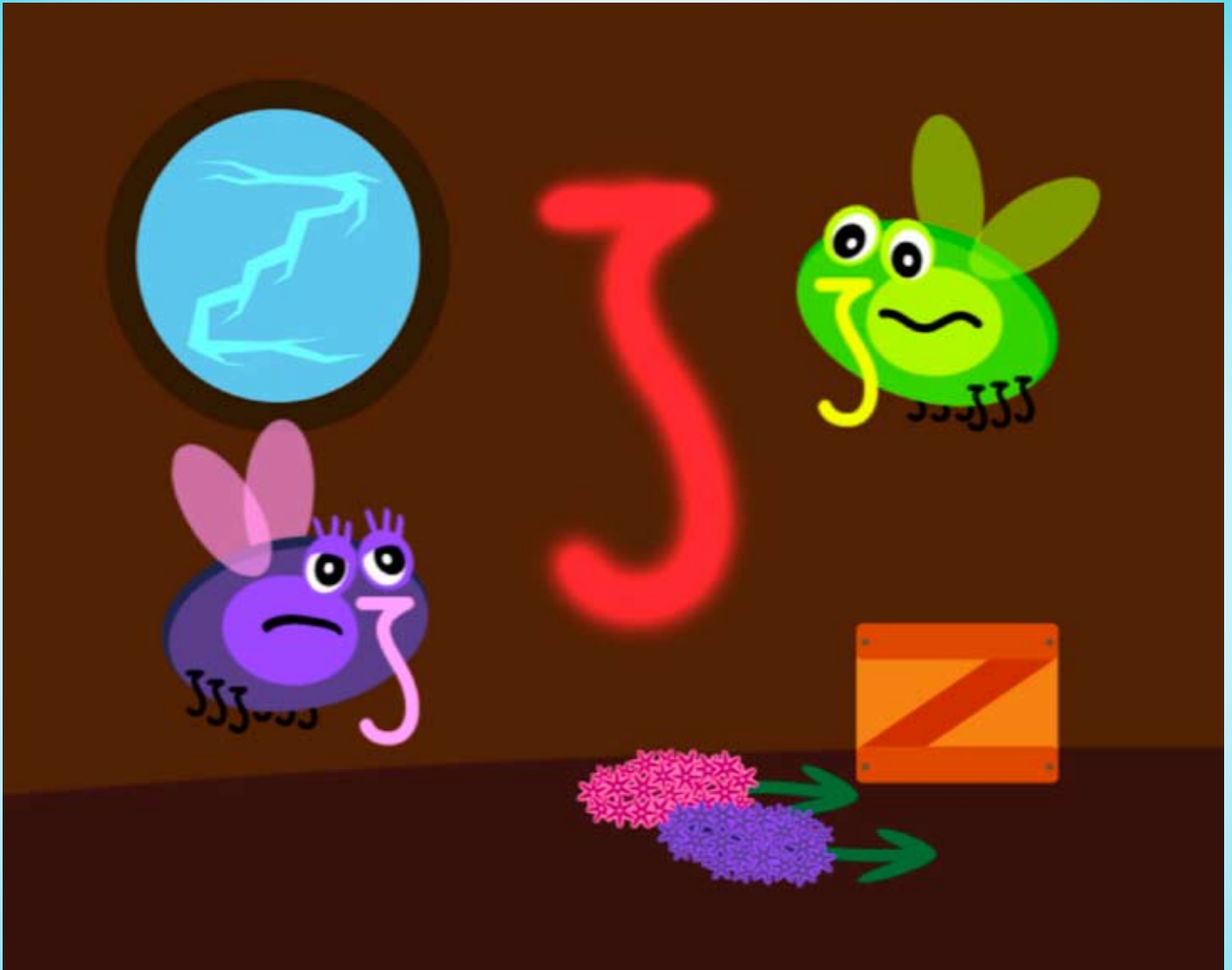
To diminish the confusion
they reach to the conclusion,
to have lunch altogether
in this nice sunny weather.

To celebrate in excess,
their great success!

All newspapers praise the achievement
of this innovative medical treatment.

And they inform the public,
it all ended well for the whole republic!

THE JEALOUS BUG



Zz

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
there was a really wild couple
with little bugs looking ample!
Beautiful but humble,
they make the place rumble.

Buzzing all around;
- Zzzzzzzzzzzz!
Mouths open, looking astound,
- Zzzzz, zzz, zzz, zzz, zzz, zzz!
till their mum comes around.

Baby bugs waiting in a row
for their milk that makes them grow.

Each day their mum puts them on scales,
measures them and checks if any of them pales.

Every day weary and dizzy,
being a mum is not so easy.

Busy with both hands full
knitting clothes made of wool.

Sweaters with a high collar,
daddy won't even get a dollar!

Jealousy overwhelms the dad;
he's feeling pretty bad.
Instead of giving them hugs,
he now squeezes the bugs.

Green with envy he figures a plan
he will keep busy as much as he can.
He's ready to rumble
and the world will tumble.
Eager to attract mum's attention
that is his sole intention.

He needs affection;
offers her a flower selection.

- Zzzz, zzz, zzz!
the bugs have fun
and ruin his plan.

- Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz!

Dad sheds buckets of tears,
eats pasta to drown his fears.
He stuffs himself because he's jealous
so he can't lay off the marshmallows.

His belly grows
the scales get everything but lows!

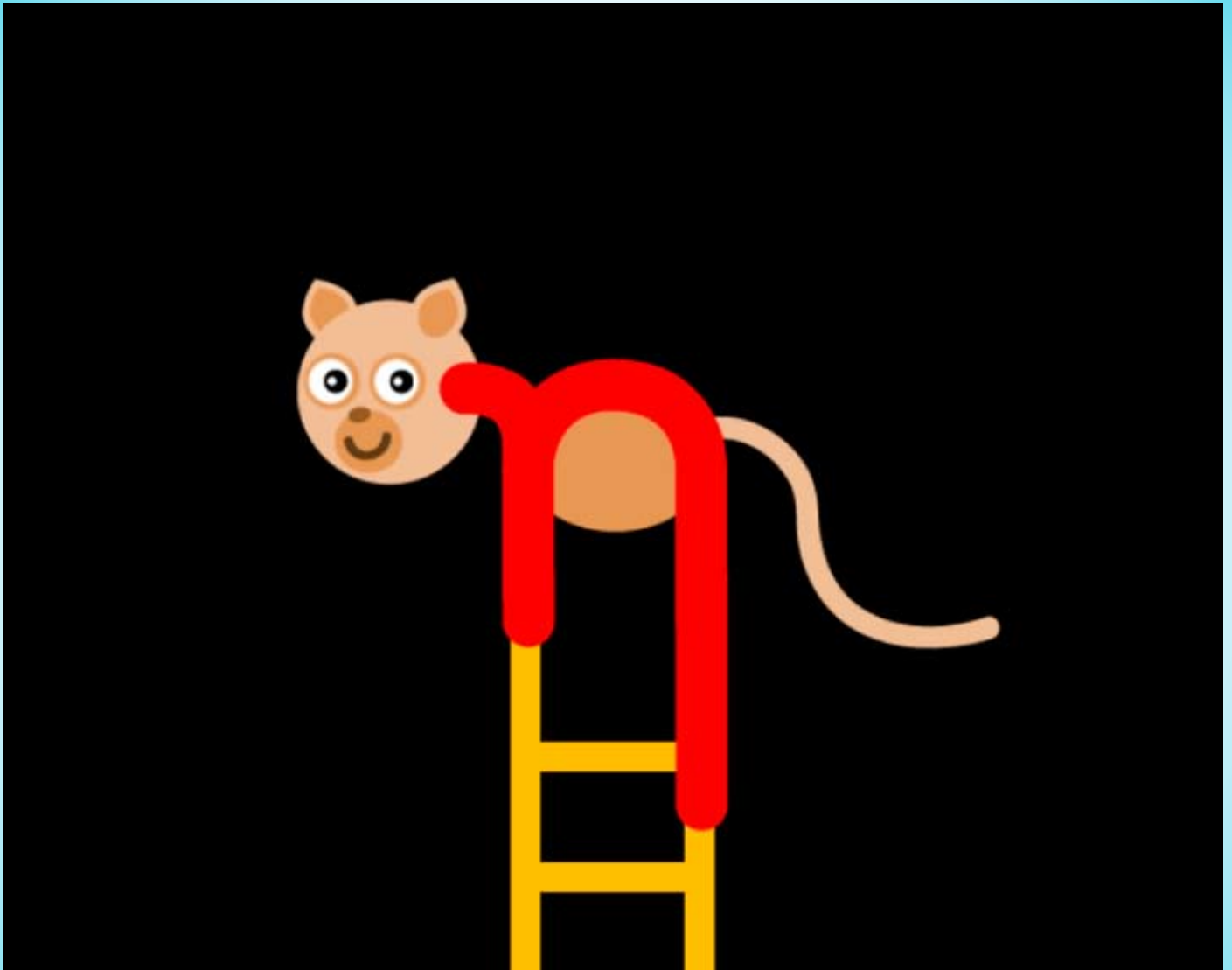
In mummy's arms he says he is sorry
and mum consolingly eases his worry.
Bread and doughnuts are all gone·
he'll live on veg from now on.

To stop his jealousy at once,
she comes up with the best of plans!
She quickly fetches him a puppy
to keep it well fed and happy!

Of pets and animals he grows fond;
he plays with them all day long!
But there's nothing else he would rather
than to play with his own bugs and no other!

Castles covered in icing he builds,
his relation with the kids he rebuilds!
The little bugs say their daddy is the best
and mummy's mind is set at rest.

THE SUNBURNED ACTOR



H h

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
there was a worldwide famous actor
extremely talented and with the x factor.
The great actor performs on scene sensationally;
plays the 12 Labours of Hercules professionally!

A good actor will never forget his text:
records each phrase and moves to the next.

He is looking for inspiration;
he wears headsets for isolation.
The volume is turned up on stage;
no single sound from backstage.

Many days go by;
worried he's on standby.
His calendar makes him sad,
heavy heart beat, he feels bad.

- Aiiiiiiii!

The role makes him scared;
for Hercules he's not prepared.

He is very thin and regular;
his hero is strong and muscular.

The actor's skin is no twin
to the hero's dark skin.

The hero is muscular and strong;
the actor's body shape is wrong!

When he thinks about the age,
the mere thought rattles his cage.

He is so very old....

Hercules is young and bold!

The actor changes his body outline
to make it like Hercules muscle line.

Sport and a nutritious diet
along with a suntan keeps him quiet.

Suddenly there comes a hurrying lorry;
it unloads sunflower seeds with glory!
The actor eats six kilos - that's no laugh,
but only gets two inches and a half!

The sun is watching from the sky,
smiles and closes one eye,
decides the actor to fry!

Thinking of nothing
he is sun-bathing.
He'll play Hercules, the great man,
and tries a demigod to become...

The actor takes pure olive oil,
a calming treatment you cannot spoil,
A calming bath in the crack of dawn;
just trousers everything else gone!

He lies on a double bed;
a hard mattress under his head.
From early in the morning
till late in the evening...

All day in the backyard,
under the hot sun it's hard;
he gets a really bad sunstroke;
heads to the doctor the poor bloke.

- Whoever disrespects the sun
gets a sunburn that's no fun!
Avoid any long stay under the sun,
that is not the right way to get a tan!
Half an hour is enough,
otherwise it is rough!

But clouds come up suddenly
covering the sky thoroughly.
The morning relaxed mood
is now gone for good.
The actor is in panic;
his anxiety titanic!
God bless electricity
that brings in life simplicity!

Elias, the electrologist, arrives soon
and stays until late in the afternoon.
He asks for expensive hourly wages
for an electric sun that lasts for ages.

Unfortunately, bad luck today,
no electricity for a day!
A full day goes by soon
and the problem holds good by noon.

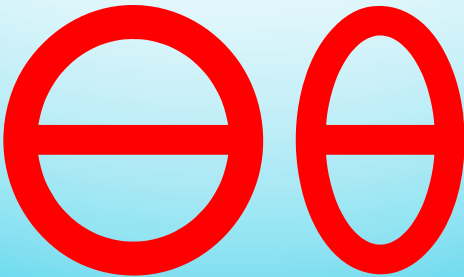
The actor buys a generator;
an artificial sun creator.

- Oh my dear...that is not correct at all!
The sun is no artificial ball!
To be replaced by a generator...
a mere power creator!
The sun gets really mad;
to the clouds he's really bad!

The sun is the chief of glorious fire;
he can do whatever he may desire.
He sends the clouds away;
sheds his sunshine through the day!

From now on just shiny days;
the Labours of Hercules in great plays!

THE ROUGH-SEAS SEAWOLF



One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
a sailor on a yacht,
becomes a legend on a boat.

In the sky loud thunders!
A storm makes man wonders!
The sea is angry like a beast,
it hits the waves with its fist.

What a scene; a real scare;
a thriller that no one can bear!
A huge whale like a battleship;
an fat mammal that falls on the ship.

It sinks in no time at all,
in a terrible black hole!
Deep water, dark and icy;
mortals, victims of the sea.

Thanassis Thliveros was also there;
a seaman from Thassos who sailed everywhere.

A tough sailorman indeed,
brave, able to succeed,
is in the sea in great need!

With great self-sacrifice
Thanassis Thliveros tries
to help the people stop the cries.
He jeopardises his life and future;
to save every single creature.
He throws life vests
and dives without protests.

Deep down he'll dive,
like a hero he'll strive,
his fellows to keep alive.
Rough seas all around,
in huge waves they are found!
A cold, violent storm
that knows no norm.

He looks up in the sky,
prays to God and wonders why.
A miracle happens then;
the weather becomes mild again.

The wind settles down
and the sea calms down.

He strives to survive,
at the beach on a boiler to arrive.
He manages to get ashore,
at the beach he feels quite sore!
On a nice summer resort
all alone without support.

Buried in the beach sand
he wishes somebody held his hand
and warmed his heart on this new land.
Days go by without food;
gradually he's in a bad mood
and this is certainly not good.
He won't last another day.
He loses his hope every day.
He needs to eat without delay!

Thanassis the sailorman,
once a respected seaman,
feels now like a caveman.

An island with nice surroundings,
hosts lively children ready for new findings.
They spend a marvellous holiday
eating five meals a day!
They are searching for the lost treasure;
a game that gives them great pleasure!

Behind the bushes at the beach
lies something that Theodora wants to reach:
a treasure that could bewitch.
She hears a sound of high pitch;
a roar coming from the beach!

- We need a wizard here!
And a sorcerer! This is severe!

The children put him on a throne
and take care that he's not alone.
They warm Thanassis him up;
bring him hot soup in a cup.

He feels so sad;
he ate so much.

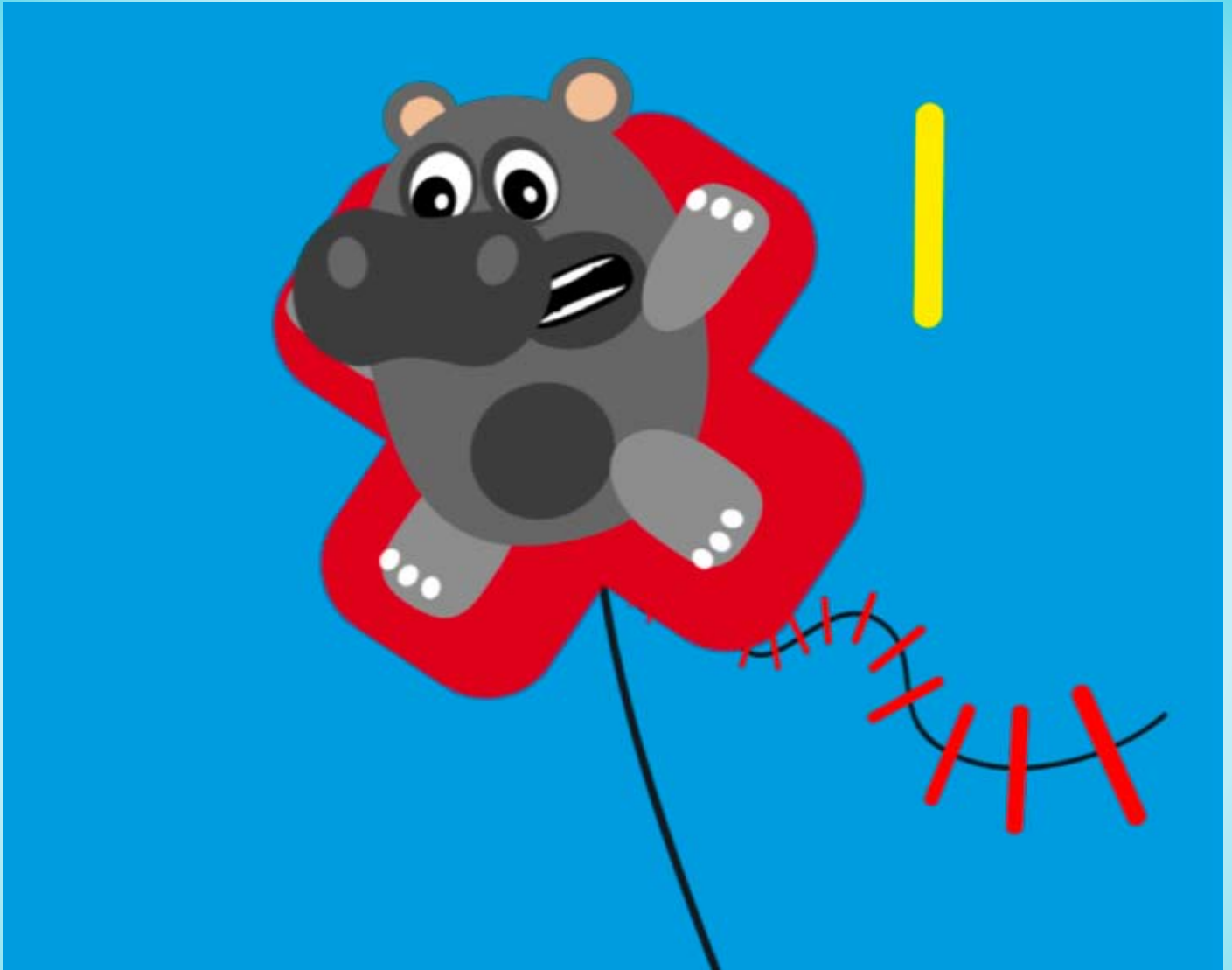
Sea water in his ear
that's why he cannot hear.
Thanassis doesn't hear a word!
His speech is still not restored.
The letter "theta" he cannot pronounce
or recall anything, he needs to announce...

His deaf ears
will heal without tears.
A marvellous feeling;
a method quite appealing,
with a water-pipe healing!

A great restitution
"theta" spelled without substitution!

He hears a noise that's pretty loud.
He feels pain and anger, he's not proud.
Upset for ending up afloat,
he now recalled the boat!

THE FLYING HIPPO



One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
a hippo, rather rounded,
with arguments well founded,
studies hard and stays cool,
for the exams of the pilot school.

Is it possible to fly a plane
when there's no sky driving lane?
He looks down at the ground
he doesn't want to stay around!

The hippo jumps up into the sky
and has a good balance, although it's high!
He will write new history
of his great sky victory!

Over the isthmus he will have an adventure
but this will certainly not be his last venture!
A strong wind brings the hippo on a boat
but this is just the perfect chance to float!

The hippo travels around an island
that's called Ikaria and is a dreamland!
He learns to love Geography
and wildlife Photography.

The journey to Italy is a great finding
cause there he'll go for horse-riding.
On his way he meets seahorses
racing like the normal horses
tying at the end of the racecourses!
- lu, iiiii!

The next trip leads to India;
he heard about it from the media!
The following stop is in Japan,

where the food is made in a pan!
And then up to the United States.
The Indians gave the coordinates
to meet with their delegates!

In Ithaca after all this distance
he will lose his balance in an instance!
But the hippo won't lose his stance.

He will get medical assistance
that will improve his resistance.
The hippo has a brand new dream
to fly like on a holy airstream,
to see a new site
by riding on a kite!
- lllll!

THREE SKINNY CANDIES



Kk

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
three skinny candies;
three cheerful buddies!

The first skinny candy
with a red ribbon that's very handy.
She has the looks of a dandy!
She carries water from a spring;
struts and wears a ring
preparing for modelling.

- Good morning, good evening,
good evening, good morning!
In front of the mirror morning to evening,
back and forth moving and leaning;
of the perfect dress dreaming.

- Good morning, good evening!
Good evening, good morning!
She hangs around with the comb
and behaves like a coxcomb.
Her hair is brown
weaving all around.

Next skinny candy
with a yellow ribbon that's very handy.
This skinny candy is a real beauty,
driving every one crazy is her duty!

A playful rooster sees her,
raises his hat nodding at her.
- Cock-a-doodle-doo!
He flatters her too!
- Cock-a-doodle-doo!
I like you!

A hen with a baby buggy,
“cackle, cackle!”
carrying her chicken and looking saggy.
- Cackle, cackle!

She takes umbrage at her man;
she'd rather hit him with a frying pan!
The anger inside her grows badly,
she swears at him quite loudly!
- Cackle! Cackle!

- Good morning, good evening!
In front of the mirror morning to evening,
slender and with a nice gown,
her desire is to get the crown!

She thinks she's the world's hottest
and heads off to the beauty contest
to pass the test cause she's the best.

May the best win!
May the prettiest be the queen!
A fat cockroach goes by;
loud cries: it hides nearby.
Cries and wails,
bad luck prevails.

- Good evening, good morning, she sings all day;
her voice drives the cockroaches away!

Nice voice and good music play,
no reason to delay.

She dreams of a great career,
as an artist the crowd to cheer.

Sitting there as her spectators
important people and music creators.

She grabs her guitar;
her skills are not those of a star!

The tunes are badly dissonant,
her voice not at all resonant.

Her audience is mad at her
and throws onions to her.

What a shame!

She has to take the blame!

She disappears backstage;
she never gets again on stage.

THE GASPING BUS



Λ λ

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
in its attempt to cross the market
the gasping bus drives like a rocket;
but a lemon rind and a wire
will cost the bus a flat tyre!

The bus hits some cabbages
and causes great damages.
It takes a wrong winding turn,
ends up on a hill with no return.

It starts to gasp and sigh,
from the hill reaches the sky!
He howls and shrieks,
and screams and freaks!

It meets a happy bunny,
because the day is sunny.
The bunny sees the danger,
jumps away like a ranger!

It cannot utter a single word;
it cries and thanks the Dear Lord.
Cold sweat running down its fur;
it looks like a carrot-eating cur!

The gasping bus from the valley
is being carried down the alley.
It gets very good care,
such a treatment... rather rare!

*“A little yellow lemon, so aromatic...
that left its odour all over the attic!
It gives the lemon pie a special lemon flavour;
getting a piece to eat would be a great favour!
Your lemon flavour makes me mad,
not eating you, will make me sad!”*

THE LITTLE MONKEY



Mm

One sunny day
who cares if it's today,
a beautiful monkey, a real stunner;
a laughing muzzle, a perfect runner;
long lila/purple hair;
grey/black eyes looking fair
marmelade-like cheeks and great flair.
Among the monkeys she's the mouthpiece,
and soon enough she leaves for Greece.

In the boat she moves to impress;
the poor cook is under stress,
unable his feelings to suppress!
She smells so good,
he can't concentrate on food.

He hesitates and blinks his eyes;
gives her everything to create close ties.
Spaghetti with mushroom;
mussels served in the lunchroom.

Tiddlers and tidbits;
lettuce cut into bits.
He makes biscuits with syrup and honey,
to get her to call him for ever “honey”.
On his knees he offers her all the best;
he asks her to make their own nest.
Her reaction cuts like a knife;
of a musician she’d rather be the wife,
and listen to music throughout her life.

A great despair; life is hard,
she certainly broke his heart.
A silk handkerchief to wipe the tear
and make his weeping eyes look clear.

With the talent of a magician
he dresses up like a musician.
Wearing shiny moccasins
he’s willing to use all means.
A maestro overwhelmed by the beat
performs his next big hit.
A playback device is set backstage
before he finally gets on stage.

He moves his baton with much grace;
she follows the rhythm by moving her face.

She weaves as a wild clapper,
her jaw starts to chatter.

His battery suddenly runs out;
this wasn't meant to work out.

He blushes and regrets it.

- Hmm!

But nobody forgets it!

She throws him eggs,
although he begs!

Ma-rch, ab-out tu-rn! Ma-rch, ab-out tu-rn!

He'll change the clothes and he'll return.

The monkey he's willing to seduce.

Like a magician, another trick he will produce!

Eggplant-coloured boots,
banana-coloured cape like a pooch,
Little mask to cover his face;
and a long staff to keep up his pace.

The audience laughs.
The microphone he grabs.
- HmMMM!

Crowd gathers all around
and he makes a funny sound!
- Moooo!

Love strikes the monkey's mind;
it seems she has gone wild.
She grabs a bottle full of paint;
off to the stage with no constraint.

Her feelings to disclose
and this story to close:
- I love you great guy,
so say your audience goodbye!

THE JUICY TOMATO



N n

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
a juicy tomato,
named Stamato,
meets a nervous cucumber,
a seaman to remember.

She owes all her great joy
to this green cute marine boy.
A horrible ship-wreck takes place,
it rains cats and dogs all over the place.

She fights with a big wave,
to get ashore she must be brave.
A lifeboat approaches fast
to get her out of the water at last.
There he is! - There she is!
A shipwrecked woman!
yells a marine man.

She spent her whole youth
in a plastic bag in a booth.
After so much time
to dream at sometime
of a nervous cucumber is not a crime.

The closet is their godmother
who helps like no other.

The sink is their godfather
who cares the children to gather
and makes them forget to bother
that they never see their father.

Their father is in the navy
crossing seas that are wavy.
He sends his family money
and calls his wife honey.

He misses his family so in the night
he writes letters to the children to feel alright.

He sends them kisses,
eats ice-cream and makes wishes.

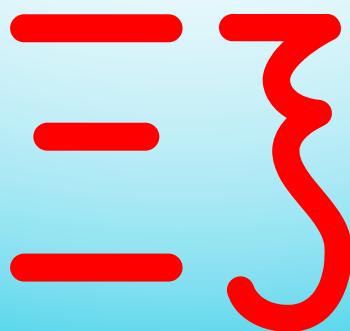
- Nnnnnnnnn!

Baby tomatoes, baby cucumbers
grow to become society members.
Young little vegetables super cool.

- Na, na, na! Na, na, na, na, na!

They go to playschool
and later on to school.

THE WOODEN-BILL SWORDFISH



One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
a cute swordfish with a really long tail,
a silver bill where a nose should prevail;
loses a battle with its sword
against a shark who says no word.

A famous sword fighter,
a poor lonesome blighter,
follows his enchanted heart
and falls for a blonde who's quite smart.

A real blond beauty;
at an exotic beach a cutie;
lying on a mattress is her duty.

At the crack of dawn,
a nasty shark from deep down,
leaves from the deep
to find a victim to eat
and sees the stranger as meat.

The foreign lady screams from fear
when she sees the shark appear.
The screams go into the swordfish's ear.
The lady is so dear,
he can't ignore her, she's too near.
She has a voice like an alarm;
besides, he's enchanted from her charm.

A sword fighter admirably
acts very honourably.
The shark infuriated
hits back unanticipated.
It bites maddened on the bill,
cuts it off and aims to kill.

Before he loses its hope
comes help in scope!
His cousin, the pirate swordfish,
saves them from becoming a dish.

On the pirate boat there is a great mess!
The carpenter looks for a sharpener in distress.
He needs to sharpen the mast
and put the bill back fast!

He sees a distant rocky island;
a barefoot sharpener's homeland.
To offer her a deal he gets near:
there's a job for her if she wants to hear.
She accepts to join the crew
and become one of the few.

Day and night
she works with delight.
She sharps the mast,
she works so fast.
From delight overtaken,
she discovers, she's mistaken!
The bill is too short.
The carpenter makes great effort
the project not to abort.
The bill he needs to support,
to cover up that it's too short.

He takes it off, then puts it back on
as if the bill had a magic button.
He looks at his face in the mirror
and is overwhelmed by terror.

The swordfish frightened
spends the night tightened.
He looks back at his life,
and plans a future with a wife.

The crack of dawn,
finds him grown.
He says farewell to his adventure times,
disembarks ashore and heads for new times.
The blonde with the long hair
is now his lovely pair.
He builds a motel,
looking like a hotel.

The swordfish has now a wooden bill
and sword fights make him feel ill.
He's reborn and it's a must
to forget about his past
to become happy at last.

THE DREAMER MOUNTAINEER



Once upon a time,
vivid dreams of nighttime,
Orestis the brilliant doctor,
famous in the climbing sector
decides to climb a cliff
which is really really steep.

Armed with a tooth-brush
and an umbrella in a rush,
he conquers the mountains and the hills;
he hits his way for the Olympus chills.

He climbs without delay;
dreams of climbing all the way.
Fresh oxygen into the lung
will make him look young!

- Wow! How beautiful!
Shiny and cheerful!
The sunbeams warm the earth;
to tiny lilies they give birth.
Scarlet-coloured flowers,
songs with great powers.

Mountain by mountain,
Orestis's difficulties will heighten.
With zero visibility,
the fog reduces his seeing ability.
He's surrounded by illusions
preventing him from rational conclusions.
He sees terrible snakes,
of which every bite aches.
Very soon they attack,
but out of a sudden they go back!

He looks far away
to see big birds of prey.
Their glowing red eyes
looking creepy at the ice!

Orestis will commence
to organise his defence.
With a mere toothpick
in the fog a hole he'll stick.
But what he sees and hears,
he cannot believe his ears!

Like a sky movie screen
eight donkeys, thought being unseen,
set a quarrel so unforeseen.

They argue in an octave range
sounding like an opera in a grange:

- O o O o O o O!

For his ears a disturb,
for his eyes not superb.

He will now take a vow and swear
from now on no mountains, only beachwear.

Full speed backwards,
the slide downwards.

There's crowd waiting down
to see him sliding his way back down.

People lift him happily up
giving him presents to cheer him up!

Balloons upwards,
fruit downwards.

An adventure he will not forget;
he now needs an omelette.
His smell is strong
getting him to move along.
He's led by his nose straight ahead;
his mother's cookies begin to dread
but he'll eat his granny's bun instead!

THE BLABBERING SLIPPER



π π

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
a young blabbering slipper
marries a mouse looking chipper.
The mouse wears boots
and has nice looks.

They get married in a church;
the priest and his wife take care of the rest.
The bridesmaids all lined up;
all of them tiny shoes wearing make-up.
The in-laws are there too;
nothing else left to do.
With poppies in big pans,
and beautiful petunias!

The slipper all dressed up
can't wait for him to show up!
She takes the way on foot,
and gets there faster than the bigfoot!
The mouse is nowhere around;
the bride panics at the church fairground!

Great anxiety
in the guest society!
The guests don't speak;
the bride feels sick.

The first class groom,
loses his compass outside his room
ending up on the moon!
With his scooter in no time at all
all the way down from the moon he'll fall;
everything will be under control.

A fairytale in the church grounds,
happiness filling the surrounds!
Fireworks they will soon employ!
What a great joy!
They all enjoy!

Over here, over there,
presents lay everywhere.
big and small, heavy and light,
each one of them is right!

A multi-coloured blanket
filled with feathers from the market.
- Thank you! - You're welcome!

Glasses for the guests will come
and dishes quite flavoursome;
everything's awesome!
- Thank you! - You're welcome!

A very expensive sculpture,
a vase from another culture,
a baby's dummy with a weird structure!
- Thank you! - You're welcome!

Over here, over there,
in an expensive suburb somewhere,
next to a river with clean air,
they build a house to live there.

A door with an old handle;
a metal window with a curtain bundle.

A rooster on the roof;
orange colour, waterproof.

A great backdoor yard;
from the paradise just one yard!

The blabbering slipper is taken soon
away from home for a great honeymoon.

In Paris at a Tower,
she'll tell the groom: "Don't cower:
take me to the Parthenon, if you have the power!"

A superfast shiny rocket on call,
will get her back in no time at all!

On an island in their own land,
she can tan and lay at the sand.

THE ROMANTIC ROBOT



Pp

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
from mouth to mouth I learned a story
a tale of fame, a tale of glory.

In capital letters reporters write
about a robot in the spotlight.

It hit the radio news.

The robot got the worst reviews!

Who knew technology could face
such humiliation and disgrace!

A whole campaign was set in motion;
a robot caused quite a commotion.

The spitting image of a man;

only it's made out of can.

It works like a clock without a ban.

It obeys all orders;

it knows no borders.

A tailor's workshop is its mission.

It follows orders, has no intuition!

Needles and pins, scissors and threads
soon become its only friends.
From dusk till dawn it cuts and sews;
buried in fabric, it never moves.
It turns into a sewing machine
without a break from its routine.

It hopes that things will turn around
and so keeps both feet on the ground.
At the dressmaker it glances
and immediately it blushes.

And to make its dream come true
with its plan it will follow through.
To its sweetheart it hands a letter,
thinking things have to get better.
It will overcome every fetter.

A gown of fabric it quickly makes
and from the tailor's shop escapes.
Ready to make a brand new start
it decides to listen to its heart.

A robot in a man's striped suit;
it looks so human, no dispute.
To change its life once and for good
it finds a better neighbourhood.

It rents a flat on the last floor
and puts its name on the door.
"Romeo Robot", a singer is born,
a rose without a single thorn.
The robot is a real rock star;
a rebel playing its guitar.
It likes it more than a sitar.

A rice pudding clears its head
its mind is clear now that it's fed.

It shakes his body to the beat;
a robot's way to feel complete.
The robot plays with all its heart.
Rock and roll is like no other art.
It dresses up, it is so excited.
It will give a concert, it's decided!
The audience will be delighted!

At once she calls a cab
to take him to the lab.
- Fast to the city hub!

It can now rest assured.
It knows it will be cured.
Rosa stays at its bedside;
decides to never leave its sight.
To make sure that it is cosy
till its cheeks again are rosy.

No more chilling down its spine.
It has never felt so fine.
She pours sawdust to its head.
No more shame lies ahead.
She feeds its sweets all night and day.
Herself as sweet as one could pray.

Rosa smiles in delight
with the robot by her side.
Three roses to win her heart;
they will never be apart!

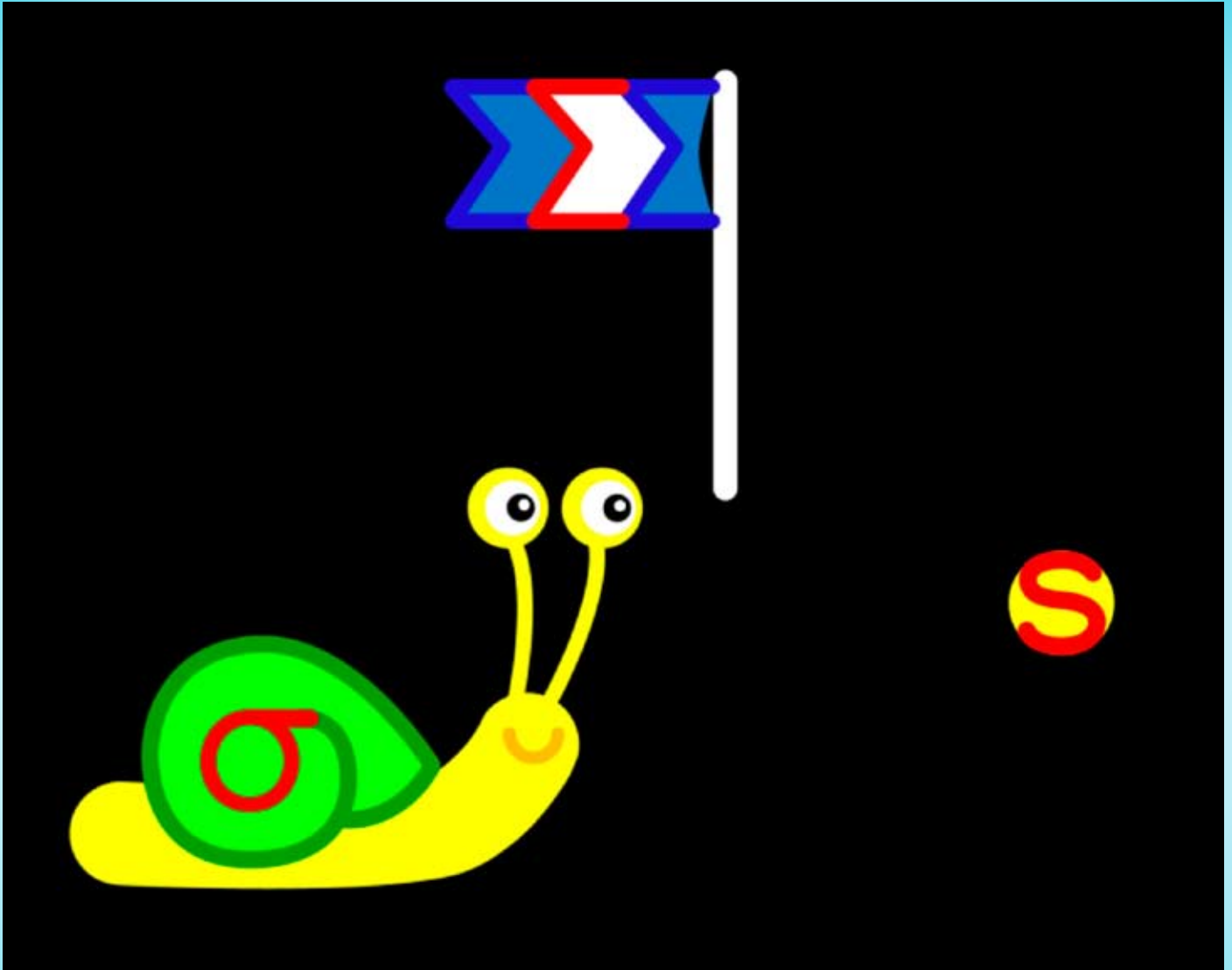
**Their other half they found indeed;
there's nothing further they need,
if staying together they succeed.**

**- I am a robot not a man,
but both of us will live as one!**

**- I'm human, that's a fact,
but as a robot I react.**

Different races can still attract.

THE NAUGHTY HEDGEHOG



Σ σ

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
a tiny naughty hedgehog
with spines in the colour of a log,
every day no matter sun or fog
the naughty hedgehog feels agog.

Both eyes shut;
when sleepy the eyes look apart.
He leaves his mattress in relief
and is now up for his next mischief.
He gets up right away,
brushes his teeth and goes away.

He sips his chocolate drink,
with cap and scarf he's ready to slink.
He gets hold of his heavy school bag
off to the bus station heads the little wag.

A clunker yellow school bus
- a real banger - on its daily pass,
stops with a sudden breaking
with its brakes squeaking.
But the hedgehog won't say a word.
He uses chickpeas like a sword
in the tyres to create a hole.

He won't wait for the bus to crawl.
He rides a mule
to get to school.
Hay and water for the mule,
he brays and breaks the rule.

He climbs on a wooden stool
ready to try another tool.
He points at a classmate's face
with a paper arrow he shoots like an ace.
Wham! It hits her on the lips
out of the class then he slips;
soon enough over the class he flips!

He forgets about the rest
and makes a soap bubble test.
Making the most bubbles is the best;
against the ceiling ends their quest.

The hedgehog gives a smile,
his bubble is big like an isle
and gets him out of class like a missile.

He chews a pink gum,
his bubbles make a “bam”.

- Sh, sh!, says Sophia,
- Sh!, says Sotiris - Sh!, says Sia
- Sh, sh, sh!, says the teacher
in the tone of a preacher.

The hedgehog stays still
but continues with the same thrill.

- Sh, sh, sh!, sounds the warn
that precedes the teacher’s mourn.

She orders in angry voice:

- Get out! No respect! No other choice!

Of mischief he is the master;
on a scooter he's even faster.
With new friends that leave trails
he marshes with a bunch of snails
filling the classroom with slime details!

Late on a Saturday night,
in winter's deep midnight,
wrapped in a sheet,
a spooky ghost soon to meet,
walking around the living room;
a sense of impending doom!

In the mirror he sees his reflection;
he drops his sheet and runs for protection!
What a goof;
scared he runs aloof.
With broom and shovel for distraction
he heads off for another action.

THE WILD DRUM



T t

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
a crazy loud drum
makes his neighbours run.
- Ratta-tat-tat!!!

He lives in a three-storey building;
sings from the morning to the evening.
- Ratta tat! Tat! Tat! Tat tat!

A noisy storm in the ear;
no one can stand to hear!
- Ratta-tat! Ratta-tat-tat!
The earth trembles beneath his feet!
- Ratta-tat-tat!!!

At the rooftop he continues to beat;
makes a hole at the floor beneath.
- Trrrrrr! Dong!
Water springs out and doesn't stop!
- Ratta-tat-tat!
He takes down the wall,
the talent goes on!

The wallpaper is taken down;
it's the glass's turn to break down!
The tables fall down upset
destroying their nice set!
- Tat-tat! Ratta-tat! Tat-tat!

The baking pan lands on the ground
a huge confusion all around!
- Ratta-tat-tat!

For this mess the tea-pot was not prepared,
it makes a pink bubble cause it's scared.
The telephone remains on hold
ending in a pan that's quite old!
- Driiin! - Driiin!

The wild drum wants the crowd to inspire;
he travels around all over the empire.
He makes very loud cries
- Ratta-tat-tat, ratta-tat-tat!
people can't believe their eyes!

He rides a speedy tricycle
and drives around in circle.

A really wild drive;
people want to stay alive.

- Beep! Beep!

He bumps into a cab!

- Frrr! He ends in the policeman's grab!

But instead of a fine

to save the people from the whine

the policeman says his talent is divine

and must be taken to another continent's coastline!

Carrying a back pack

the drum follows a new track.

By a three-masted schooner

he leaves for Haiti much sooner.

The wheel of fortune goes round;

the drum's luck is now profound.

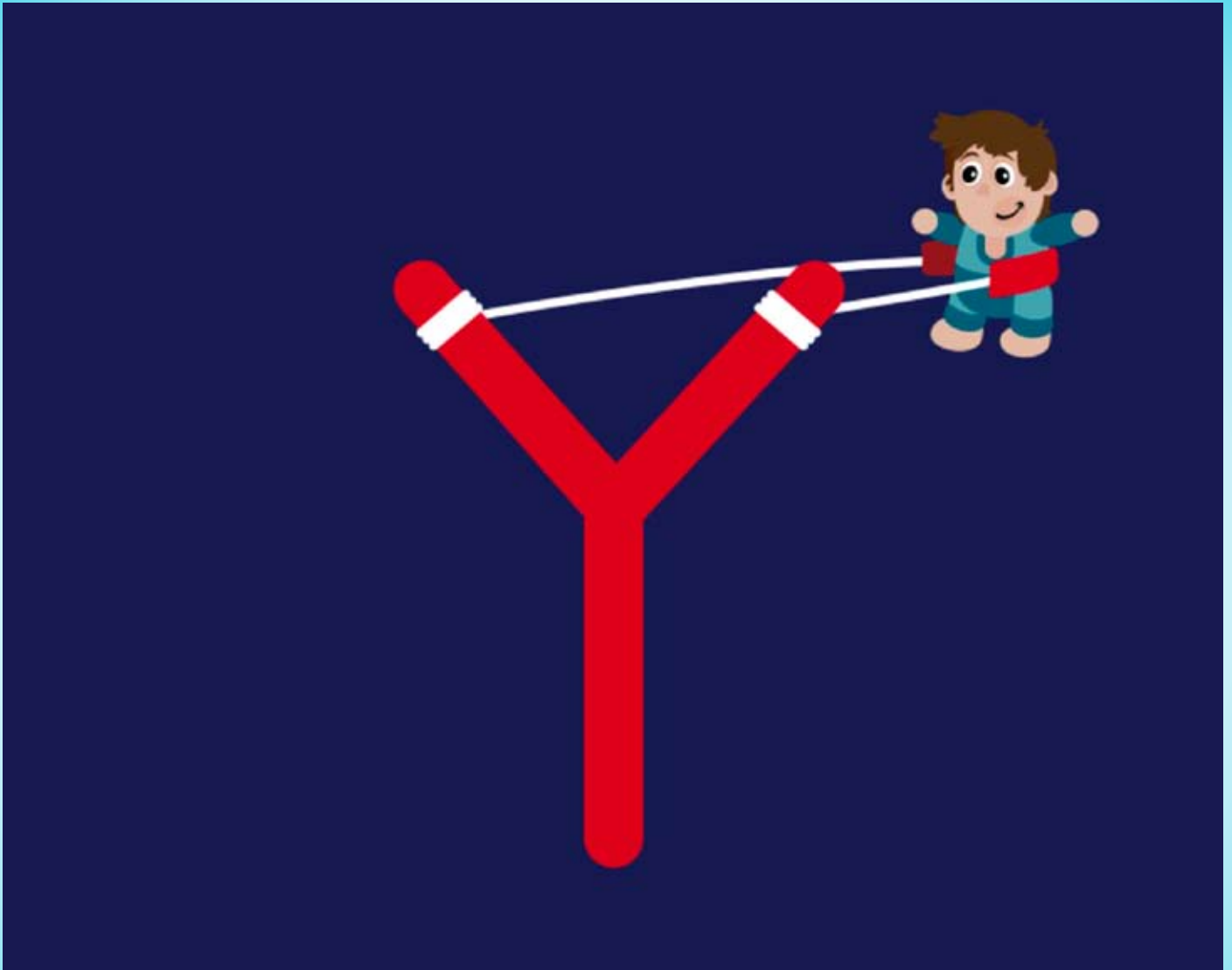
At the beach he sees at last

a pretty trumpet with a nice blast!

He makes no sound
her beauty knows no bound!
- Tat! Tat! Tat! Ratta tat!
Using the postman to correspond
he has a plan on how to respond!
A bundle of thirty roses
should be enough - he surely supposes -
before he his admiration discloses.
The trumpet is flattered,
- Tat! Tat! Tat! Tat! Tat!
blasts and gentle sounds are uttered.
Thanks, she hesitates to say
offering him a cake at the bay
in a festive way.

A tiara he gives her,
a comb she wants instead.
She gives him nice shoulder straps;
he pops the question and she says perhaps!
They get married and have three youngsters
causing various musical disasters!
- Taaaaat!

THE SUPERB SLEEPY BOY



Y U

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
there was a sleepy young boy,
dreaming was his only joy.
All day long drowsy he felt
and in his dreams forever dwelt.

“Wake up, wake up”, mummy cries!
But he won't open his eyes!
Despite the yelling and the screams,
he prefers to live in dreams.
Up in the sky at times he flies,
walking on water often he tries.

A king in his own dream land;
falling in love he never planned.
The girl he adores is overweight,
a girl that's kind, noble and great.
She weaves alone with golden threads,
then to the king she quickly heads.

Beautiful shirts, whiter than white,
and golden shoes, a pure delight.
Woven shoes yellow and pink
out of fabric made in a blink.

The boy, enchanted with joy, glows;
happily to his sweetheart he bows.
With trembling hands offers her flowers,
eager to show what he desires.
- Your humble servant I wish to be
I' m here before you on one knee.
I would gladly give my life
for you to become my wife!

- Your Majesty, I'll be sincere,
another man I do hold dear.
A shoemaker has my heart;
hopefully we will never part.
To be a queen I wasn't meant.
Cheers but I love you as a friend.
She sounded scornful in the end.

The king's heart just received a blow.
His agony began to grow.
His fever rose, he felt so sick
that he couldn't even speak.

Immediately, without delay
the palace guards take her away.

You can't force what's not meant to be
the king decides the girl to see
and before you count to three
enters the dungeon and sets her free.

He continues to feel pain
but he's suffering in vain.
A hypnotherapist he sees
that promises his pain to ease.

The sleeping bag he puts away;
a sleepwalker he becomes by day.
Asleep and all, he doesn't stop.
The king climbs straight to the top.
Like a superhuman he flies,
loves being in the highest heights.
Sees the world from up above;
he forgets he was in love.
Now he laughs, he's not in pain
waives with a slight disdain.
The boy seems to disappear
everybody screams in fear!
- Yyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy!
The mist has hidden what is near.

Suddenly he hears a cry
- Yyyyyyyyy!

A weeping sound has filled the sky.
The superhero flies in aid
to the rescue of the maid.
Great courage he displayed!
After lifting so much weight!
He ends up in a bad state.

Now the cheering crowd he greets
and his heart more quickly beats.
An opera singer sings for him
- Yyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy!
the future's everything but grim.
He writes autographs to fans
and only thinks about his plans.

- My name is Yakinthi
but my friends just call me Kinthi.
Thank you for what you did before,
to serve you is what I long for.
And as a payback for my life,
I think I could become your wife.

The superhuman boy awakes
and to the sea his way he makes.
A seaplane he has seen,
but he prefers a submarine.

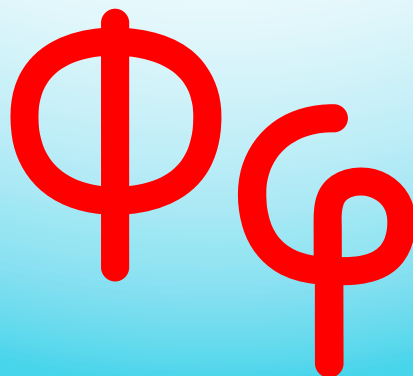
The Superhero joined the force
aiming the law to enforce.
And his Chief has called to say,
he has orders to obey.

His mission is to find a ship,
a wreck lying down in the deep.
So he uses his PC
to find a treasure lost at sea!

But as the wreck to trace he tries,
he can't believe his own eyes.
The overweight girl is his prize!

Back to bed, he's on his mark
on new ventures to embark.

THE SOUL MATE SEALS



One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
two seals that were soul mates
spent their days in debates.

Half the time they're having rows
but they're best friends and not foes.
Secret dreams are in their heart
it would seem they're worlds apart.

Fifi is slender like a doll
ready for the music hall.
A leading lady of allure,
born to be a star for sure.
Glowing, with a radiant smile,
bows on stage in perfect style.

Fifi is on her way to fame
to act in movies is her aim.
Ambition glows in her eyes
as she dreams her star will rise.

Fifi adores big fluffy hair
glasses buys, a fancy pair;
long skirts she wears made of lace
and walks around full of grace.

Fofo is a low-key seal;
she devours every meal.
Their friendship proves the fact
that opposites indeed attract.

For years on end her mind is set
on a dream she cannot forget.
She wants her life to be fun
to spend her days in the sun.
Cigarettes, smog to leave behind
and a different world to find!

To Fifi she writes a letter
thinking this is so much better.

- Dear friend, I have to say
that I need to go away.
The city life gives me the blues
a lighthouse is what I choose.
I'll be going to an isle
I believe it's worth my while.

Soon to the island she moves
with hard work the place improves.
Sleeves rolled up, a broom in hand
of the land she takes command.

But her day cannot end
the seal her duty must attend.
She turns the lamp on to protect
all the ships from getting wrecked.

February is here to stay
now the days are always grey.
“Ffff” the wind wailed loud
“fffff” a chilling sound.
In the middle of the night
the lighthouse has no light.

Quickly the seal fires a flare
of the ships she takes good care.

One day the sea is very rough,
a whale that's not careful enough
of the coastline unaware
ends up losing all her hair.

But with all the care she gets
all her troubles she forgets
of good upbringing is the whale
thanks her before she sets sail.

The seal's garden is awesome
with all the flowers in blossom.
Ashes and palm trees, sage and more
Picking fruit's her favourite chore.
Strawberries so fresh and sweet
lentils and beans ready to eat.

Of natural farming she's a manic;
all she grows is organic.
She uses only apple skin;
also of seaweed she is keen.

Fofo the seal prepares and bakes
little buns and tasty cakes.
The oven's hot, the kitchen steamy
the tasty cakes look dreamy.
For one minute she turns around
before she knows it the loafs are brown.

Soon a boat reaches the coast
and from it steps out a ghost.

It is Fifi, what a bliss,
Fofo greets her with a kiss.

- To find you here I was sure,
I came looking for a cure.
A hug I need, I feel distressed,
please get the pain off my chest.
There was a lot on Fifi's mind
that was keeping her behind.
On stage she falls, it's not her fault,
but her career comes to a halt.

Fofo is a friend indeed,
helps Fifi in her time of need.

The next day, when out of bed
she can feel the panic spread.
Over the rooster she lost her mind,
her bathing suit she couldn't find.
About the cold water she whined.
The whale gave her the creeps,
she thinks of going home and weeps.

To light a fire and bake a bun
is not her idea of fun.
To make juice she is too lazy,
she just must be going crazy.

Horror! For dinner there's no steak!
This was a really big mistake!
Living in this deprived isle
doesn't match her lifestyle.
There is a ferry going by.
Fetches her bags and waives goodbye.
Glowing bubbles float at sea,
as the ferry leaves the quay.

THE CUDDLY TURTLE



One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
tomorrow or even yesterday,
a turtle lively and vivacious,
totally playful and gracious,
joyful, cuddly, charismatic,
looked at life quite ecstatic
and found everything fantastic.

Springtime is a real delight,
with happiness her face alight,
because the sun is always bright.
In meadows she lies in total bliss,
desiring nothing more than this.
Smelling the daisies, feeling serene;
the grass has never been so green.
on daydreaming she was keen.

Summer is here, no time to lose;
for staying home there's no excuse.
In Chania she's lying in the sun,
then off to Chile to have some fun.
In Chalkidiki she works on her tan.

Chooses a colored bathing suit,
dives into water looking cute.
A million fishes she doesn't know,
to octopuses she waives hello.

She's building castles in the sand,
giggles like being in Happyland.

Autumn is about to start;
she plants flowers with all her heart.
So chrysanthemums will blossom
and her garden will look awesome.
Round the vineyard she takes a stroll
But in there there's not a soul.
Sweet grapes she devours;
stays there for several hours.

But without apparent reason,
winter is her favorite season.
Cuddly turtle's feeling bold,
she spends her time in the cold.

Never mind if she will freeze,
buys herself a pair of skis!
Full of courage, full of hope,
she starts heading for the slope.
In this windy, snowy day
a hail of snowballs comes her way!

Though it seems alright at first,
she is headed for the worst.
In a blizzard she gets caught
buried in snow on the spot!

She can hear it loud and clear,
an avalanche is very near:
- Hhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

Down the cliff she starts to roll.
She's completely lost control.
Poor skier's trapped in a cave!
Villagers are very brave,
they set out the turtle to save.
Soon they find her, completely pale,
calling in agony, looking frail!

A surgeon without hesitation
decides she needs an operation.
He says there will be no delay
and she wouldn't have to pay.

Doctors are gentle, nurses are sweet,
help her get back on her feet.
Offer her presents, give her food,
see if she's in a good mood.
Vegetable soup is great in taste.
Turtle devours it in haste
and lets nothing go to waste.
Turtle's quite enthusiastic,
finds everything fantastic.
She always smiles and in the end,
gets to be everyone's friend.
Ha ha ha she laughs out loud,
spreading joy all around.

To everyone she feels indebted
She's too obliged to forget it.
And to show her appreciation
she will hold a celebration.

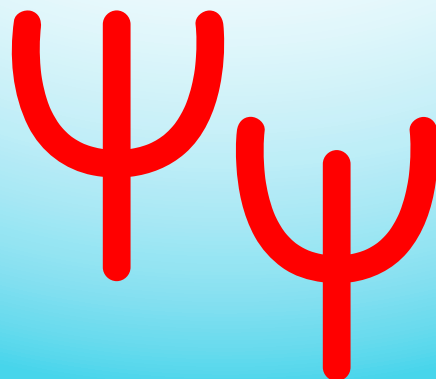
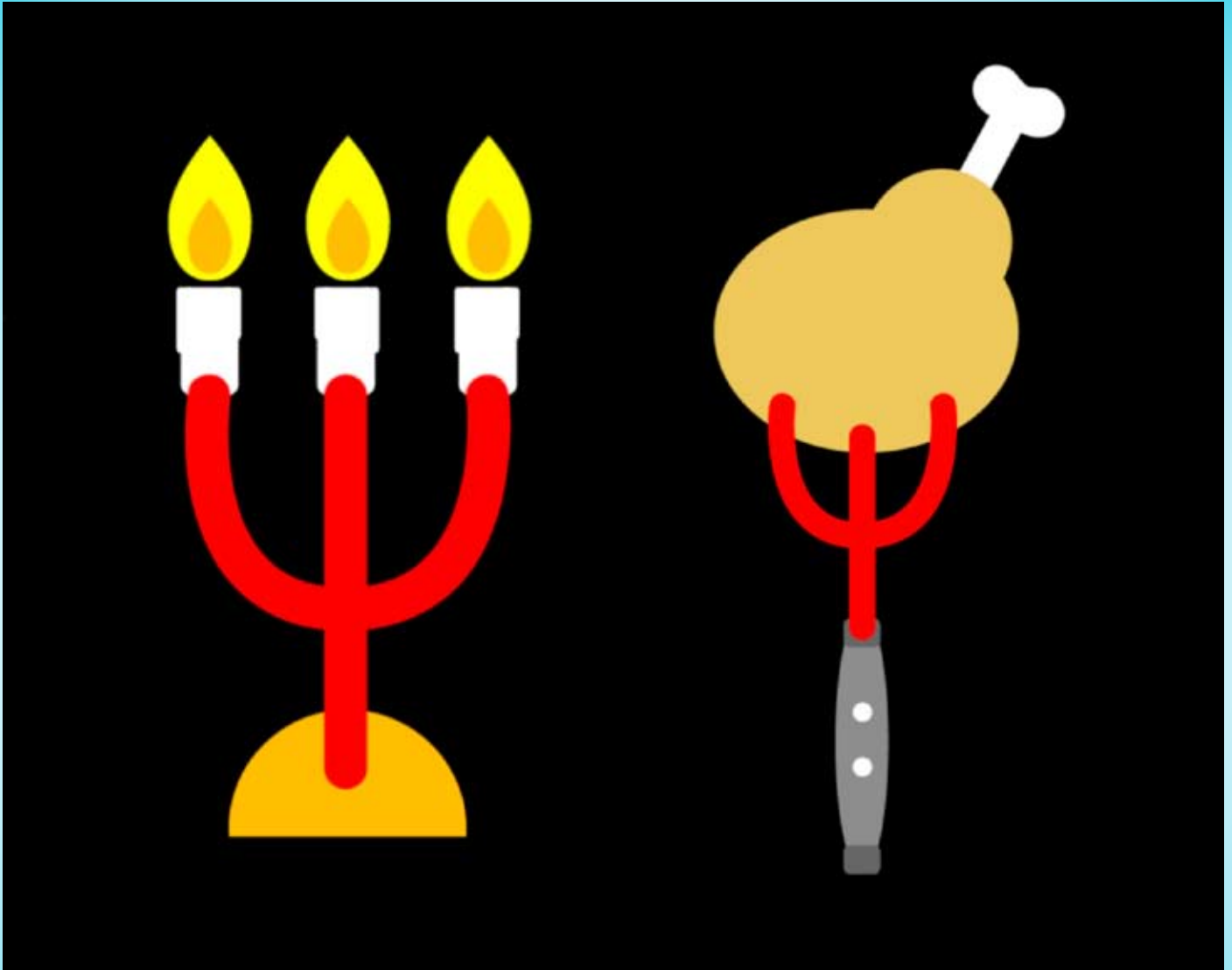
Lights are dim and on the stage
dancing people of any age.

In Hawaiian clothes dressed;
the crowd is impressed.
With her dancing and her song
she makes everyone sing along.

Turtle is in the spotlight
setting the dance floor alight.
An enthusiastic crowd:
everyone is cheering loud!

Suddenly the turtle swings,
and breaks one of the guitar strings!
In a blink that awful sound
no more party in the background!
Everybody looks astound!

THE HIGH-HEELED CAT



One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
a sweet short cat,
with big ears, like a bat,
carries fish in a basket,
to sell it on the market.

On her head a hat for cats;
she was trying fish to catch.
Bread and cheese the fishes are fed
each risks up its own head.
She miaows all day to earn her salt
catching fish is not a hard work.

Fishes, both big and small;
she doesn't care, she eats them all.
She slurps the fish with greed and hate
and her stomach starts to ache.

She never eats her fishes when raw;
she wants them crispy to train her jaw.
Only the fish is being eaten,
the fish-bones are being hidden.

Fishes in a basket decorated with a shell,
on the fish-market she's trying to sell,
- Here are the tastiest fishes,
suitable for all soup dishes.

In fish boats she is sleeping,
and no house she is seeking.
She dreams of catching fish,
nothing better she could wish.

Before even waking up
something bites her in her back.
She searches inside her fur
and there's a flea up in her hair.

Out of a really silly mistake,
fish-glue she sprays for the ache.
The flea on her back will stay
and to her kitties it will say:
- Hey, kitties, you will see,
you cannot get rid of me.

In the meantime rain comes up
but the fleas don't matter much.
They will mark their own way,
the cat's hair turn into gray.
Psi psi psi they tell to her,
she goes into big despair.
- You have excellent long hair
and its quality is rare.

And the cat feels insecure;
the itching she has to cure.
In the fridge she will get in
but the fleas will not give in.

She asks for scissors from the neighbour
and she gets it as a favour.
Then she cuts her hair so short
that everybody thinks she's bald.

So her heart is now in pain
and her nerves will now complain.
She will lie and will pretend
that this hair is a new trend.

Before being on the news,
she buys high-heeled shoes.
On her new shoes, thin and tall
she goes to Athens for a stroll.

She meets a male who seems so nice
and she asks for his advice.

He appears to be so neat
and her heart begins to beat.

“We will live together”, when he said
the flea jumped suddenly on his head.

When the time to go back came,
he proposed without a shame.

- Miaow miaow, she made a stammer.
- Who, where, when? She said in stutter.

- No, I'm sorry mate I am busy.
Nothing personal, take it easy.
I don't really like your story.
And you now have fleas, I'm sorry.

THE BEAUTIFUL CLOCK



Ω ω

One sunny day,
who cares if it's today,
near a seaside block
lives a joyful clock.

Everybody calls it clock;
it comes from a famous kinsfolk.

The clock is very useful,
it counts time and feels helpful.
From evening to daybreak,
without even a single break.

You will have to sleep at eight,
so that you don't get up late.
At five remember to take your pill
so that you do not get ill!
- Tick-tack, tick-tack, tick-tack,
constant time track,
no leisure time to lie back.
Time comes and goes,
no time for fun and shows!

The beautiful clock struggles and fights,
it envies the cuckoo's voice at nights.
The clock wants to go to a conservatory
behind the town hall for an auditory.
How can it learn how to sing
when it hasn't time for anything?

It barely thinks of it,
its clock hands so thin,
begin faster to tick!

A crazy idea crosses its mind!
It wants a sick leave to stay behind.
It will go forward or back
and lose the pace of its tick-tack.

It immediately runs to the clockmaker
and complains its ears need a caretaker!
It hears a buzzing in the ear,
it cannot get over his fear.
The clockmaker screws and nails
but the beautiful clock still ails.
- Oh, oh, oh, he sees big harm!
He sends it to the ENT and rings alarm!
The ENT will see its ears get no harm.

A very serious illness
that may lead to deafness.
The illness hits one ear first,
soon the other ear is next.
What a disaster!
It will be the Deafness Master!
It wears earplugs into its ear;
to get better, its ears must be clear.

The clock in a cheerful mood
dancing and feeling good!
The beautiful clock now has leisure time!
The conservatory belongs to the pastime,
it now needs playtime!
It wants to have fun,
meet people and enjoy the sun!

- Oooh! Oooh! Exclamation mark!
An ocean trip to start;
the summer will please its heart!
It is not pale any longer!

Driving around makes it stronger.
Nice people pass by
but the time doesn't go by.

Being very mature
it wants a job to feel sure.
Should it become a doorman
or an actor playing a gentleman?

Trying to become a singer
it faces problems that linger!
No matter how many eggs it eats
it still cannot get a high pitch!

It goes through a tough time,
misses the past when it was counting time.
A clock so joyful,
happy and delightful,
sounds like a bomb in the ear
the last thing you want to hear!

Sophia Madouvalou e-mail: somad@otenet.gr site: www.sophiamadouvalou.gr

Sophia Madouvalou was born in Athens in 1949. From early childhood she made two inseparable friends: Imagination and Humour. It seems that all those years they studied together devouring academic books, their company helped her realize how important their presence was in educating for life. Her studies in Developmental Psychology, Educational Technology and Film Directing persuaded her that without humour, imagination and creative expression, education cannot mould and shape creative and happy people. Over the 35 years she has contributed to children's literature and television, she has succeeded in combining the imaginary and real elements of life, mixing vision with reality. From 1979 until 2010 she worked as a specialist in Educational Technology for the Greek Educational RadioTelevision supporting with her work the Greek school curriculum. She is the creator of at least 150 educational programs among them the awarded series "A Letter - A Story" as well as the awarded interactive educational CD-ROM "Diagoras in Olympia" (in collaboration with the University of Crete, Department of Education) aiming to teach the Greek language as a second language.



photo by Dido Dimitriadou

Sophia Madouvalou's contribution to literature numbers 70 books for children. Some of her books have received national and international distinctions and awards and have been translated into English, Chinese and Korean. In addition, part of her work is included in the first grade Greek schoolbook anthology. Her work is cited in academic papers and has been studied at Greek universities for her innovative writing and its poetic character. Furthermore, she has published poetry and novels for adults and has written the books "Animation vs Dramatic Representation in Teaching Greek Mythology" (1977) and "Contemporary Education and Television" (1984).

Her wish to promote literature brings her very often to Greek schools, pupils and teachers. She has great experience in teacher's education concerning Educational Technology as well as design and creative writing of educational material. On an entirely voluntary basis she has visited around a thousand schools throughout the country and has also participated in many reading programmes both within and outside Greece in the Hellenic communities in Europe, Canada, Australia, Egypt and Cyprus under the auspices of the National Book Centre and through University, private and school invitations.

She has also participated in Greek Ministry of Education teacher training programmes on innovative teaching methods (creative writing, use of literature as a tool for interdisciplinary approach to learning, digital application of poetry for language development) and has been a guest author at numerous seminars, festivals, fairs and workshops both in Greece and abroad.

With her close friends and collaborators· Imagination, Humour and Surrealism, Sophia Madouvalou uses her keen observation of contemporary society to free children from the boredom and the immobility of stereotyped thinking and offer them the means to think, feel and speak up for a better world through the core of freedom hidden in her books.

Sophia Madouvalou's work has been honored by the Greek nomination for the International Hans Christian Andersen Awards (IBBY - International Board on Books for Young People, 2014)].

Aristarchos Papadaniel e-mail: aristarchos@syllipsis.com.gr site: www.syllipsis.com.gr

Aristarchos Papadaniel was born in Athens in 1978. He studied Tourism Business Administration, Graphic Design (BA hons) and Animation (MA). Author of the book "Greek Political Caricature - The Serious Side to a Funny Art" (2003) and creator of "Pocket Cinema" flipbook series. In 2005 he co-founded the creative studio SYLLIPSIS Ltd., where he produces visual communication through animation, illustration and graphic design. A number of his illustrations has been published by magazines ("Athens Voice", "PC Magazine", "9 magazine", "Metropolis Press", "+design", "Centro", etc.), exhibited on galleries and broadcasted on various TV series and shows ("The X Factor", "Block of Flats/I Polikatikia", etc.).

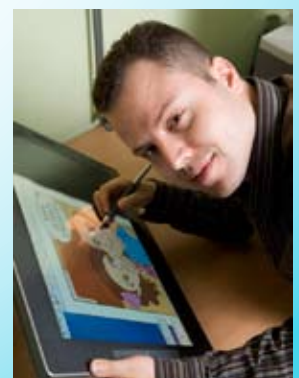


photo by Sissy Morfi

His cartoon animation creations have been broadcasted by Greek public, private and satellite TV channels (ET1, ERT World, MEGA Channel, MAD TV), and/or hosted by various events (Greek Graphic Design and Illustration Awards-EBGE) and festivals (Athens Animfest, Animasyros, Athens Video Art Festival, Art for More, Be there! Corfu FF, Olympia IFF, Drama FF, Cyprus IFF, Corinthian IFF etc.).

Co-creator (direction-animation) of the awarded educational animated series "A Letter - A Story" which is produced by the Educational RadioTelevision of the Greek Ministry of Education. Based on the TV series a digital interactive learning environment is being developed [Medea Awards 2012 (highly commended), Stamp of Good Digital Practice (University of Athens)].

Founding member of ASIFA (Association Intrenationale du Film d'Animation) Greece and full member of the Greek Graphic Designers' Association.

A LETTER A STORY

The main goal of the 24 verse stories is to acquaint the child with the letters and sounds of the Greek language. In the original, each story uses words beginning with the same letter of the Greek alphabet. Language barriers permit only a free adaptation into English, to give some idea of the stories' surrealistic nature. The heroes in all their vitality, humor and freshness are inviting you to watch the first Greek educational animated series.

**Watch the episodes of the series "A Letter - A Story"
on the YouTube channel of the Educational RadioTelevision of the Greek Ministry of Education:**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuX_9aWHsHI&feature=share&list=PL9F3F6F10D7AB6C42

**Visit the interactive environment (pilot - letter A)
of the multimedia learning package "A Letter - A Story":**

<http://www.i-create.gr/projects/interactive-games>



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