

CHARACTER CHAMPIONS:

CONQUERING THE EXTREMES



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ISBN: 1-4392-3515-5

ISBN-13: 9781439235157

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CHARACTER CHAMPIONS: CONQUERING THE EXTREMES

Coaching and Mentoring Tools for Developing and
Increasing Psychological Wealth for Success



Diana Chavez Ketterman, Ph.D., LEP

Lucille M. Aiken, B.A.

Cindy Yan Fu, MA, MEd, LEP

*"I have a dream that my four little children
will one day live in a nation where they will
not be judged by the color of their skin
but by the content of their character."*

*---Martin Luther King Jr.
delivered 28 August 1963,
at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C.*

*"The end of all knowledge must be the
building up of character."*

---Cesar E. Chavez

*"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet.
Only through experience of trial and suffering can
the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and
success achieved."*

---Helen Keller

PROLOGUE

An Introductory Passage before
the Main Action of a Story



Learning through Story

Wearing a multicolored robe and shuffling across the stage, an aged professor with a long, gray-white beard supported himself with a staff. He faced the youthful, noisy audience and brought his staff down slowly onto the hardwood stage four times. The audience grew silent.

“Hello, my name is Professor Falconer.” His voice echoed across the large room. “Each one of you will walk out of the auditorium today with a gift. It is up to you to use it wisely. What, you say, is this gift? It is something that can never be taken away from you. It cannot be seen. However, you and others can see the results of the gift. It will never become old, and it can be used every day of your life. In fact, the gift will continue to grow if used wisely.

“How many of you want to know yourself and others better? Wouldn’t you want to understand the reasons for people acting the way they do? Mom or Dad? Your best friend? The bully at school?

“If you listen carefully, I will give you some tools to help you understand why you behave the way you do. The best part of the work that I do is coaching myself and others to discover and develop natural strengths by sharing stories, using the **Character Champions®** code.

“When I was only five, my mother began working outside of our home, and I was very lonely. To help me cope, my wise, caring grandmother told me stories—always with an important message or lesson to guide and comfort me.

“Today, I will share one of my favorites. The lessons of this story guide me as I walk the path of the Character Champions®. The story will help you face the challenges that come your way day after day. Remembering the lessons woven into the story will teach you to rise above difficulties and enrich your thoughts with the prosperity of Psychological Wealth®.”

You can learn to train your brain to

S.O.A.R., not S.I.N.K!

The auditorium darkened with the spotlight centered on the wise old man. Pounding his strong, brown staff four times again, the experienced storyteller began.



Enrich Your Mind With Stories Filled With Psychological Wealth



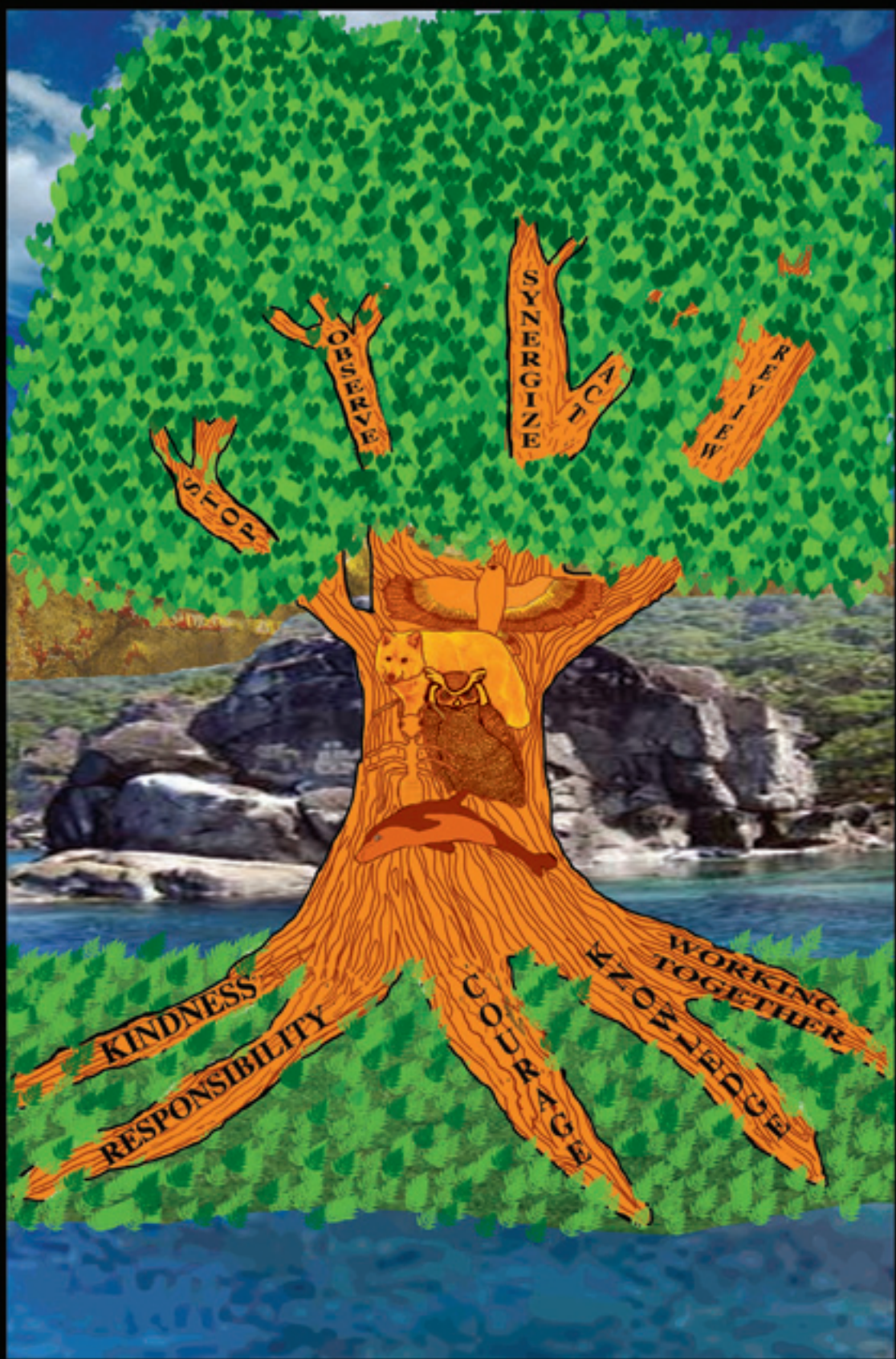


CHAPTER ONE

Discovering Character Island

Separate But Unaware





Now, deep in the Sea of Imagination
Lies wonder, mystery, and fascination.
With a colorful island where animals talk
And Blue Dolphin creatures magically walk.

There's a four-colored forest you've got to see.
'Cause at its center grows a character tree.
According to legend hidden at its top,
Are special treasures if you can find the spot.

At the heart of Fire Mountain lies Wisdom Peak,
And coming from it is heard a most powerful shriek!
Island creatures believe that the one who is wise
Lives at its top, watching with observant eyes.

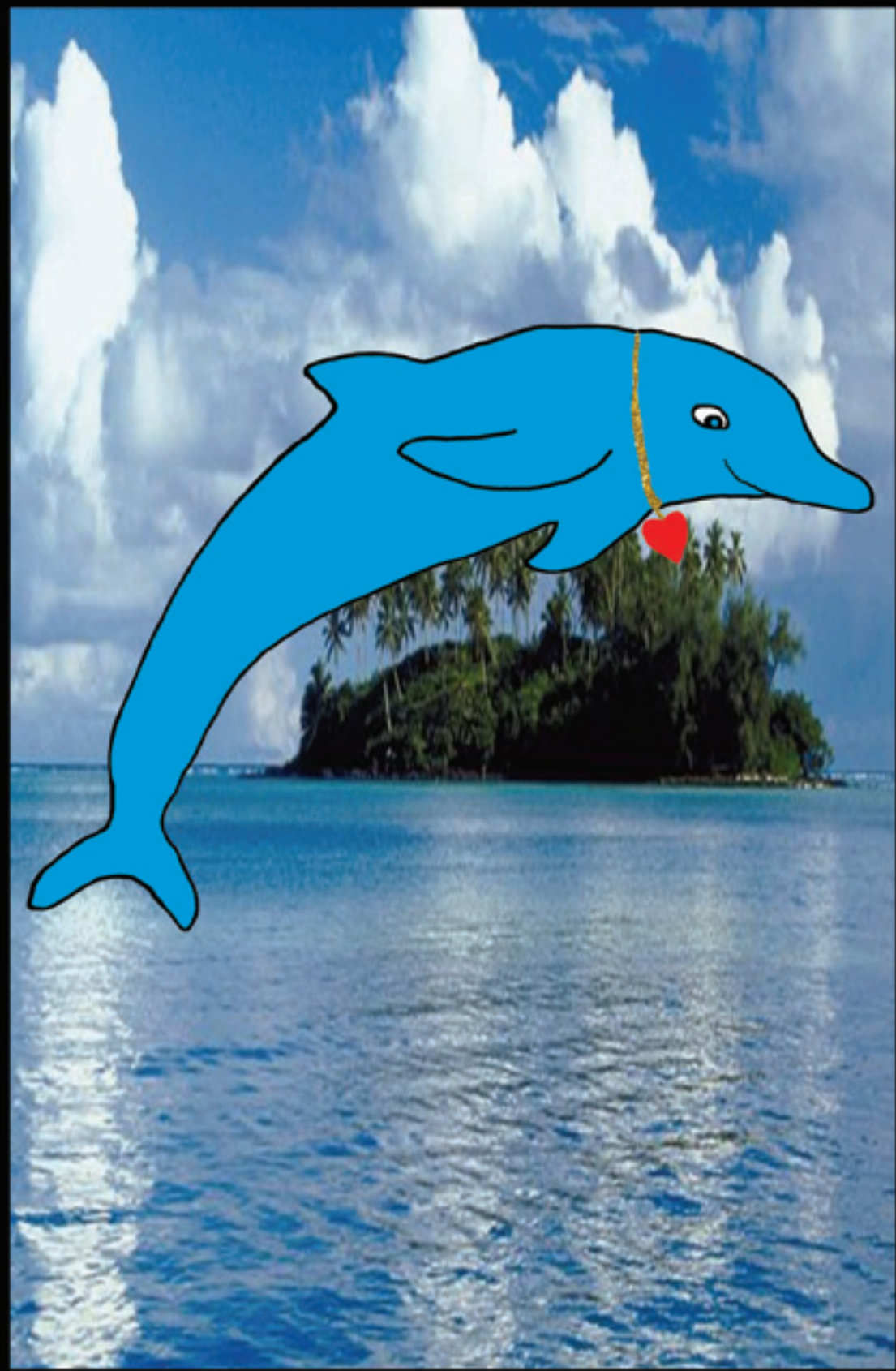
Character Island is the name of the place
With Shadows' Extremes to conquer and face;
Where four character mascots must answer the call
To outsmart the Extremes or the island will fall.

The Blue Dolphins swim in the blue, southern seas;
The Green Owls nest in the green, northern trees;
The Gold Ants dig in the gold, eastern glens;
The Orange Wolves play in their orange, western dens.

Each prefers its own type and sees its own values as best,
Favoring their own strengths while downplaying the rest.
That's why wolf, ant, owl, and dolphin, too,
Lead only with one of the colors of orange, gold, green,
or blue.

Challenged by their diversity and varied strengths,
The four leaders, to cooperate, must go to great lengths.





CHAPTER TWO

Blue Dolphin's Character Lesson

Share Kindness and Friendship





Is that the Blue Dolphin leader coming our way
With something very important to say?
Helping the most needy day after day
Leads to nonviolence and a peaceful pathway.

“Hi, I’m Blue Dolphin. I like to act kind.
A nicer friend would be hard to find.
I never start a fight with others, you see;
Sharing kindness is the best way to be.

“My character strength is that I remind you to be friendly
Not to bully, act mean, or treat others unfairly.
I coach Dolphin creatures to ask, ‘Is it kind?’
Before they take action, so success they will find.

“My character lesson is to share friendship and kindness.
Lack of empathy just causes conflict and meanness.
So remember to follow my Blue Dolphin’s code
And keep traveling south on the Blue Dolphin Road.”





CHAPTER THREE

Gold Ant's Character Lesson

Take Responsibility and Act Safely





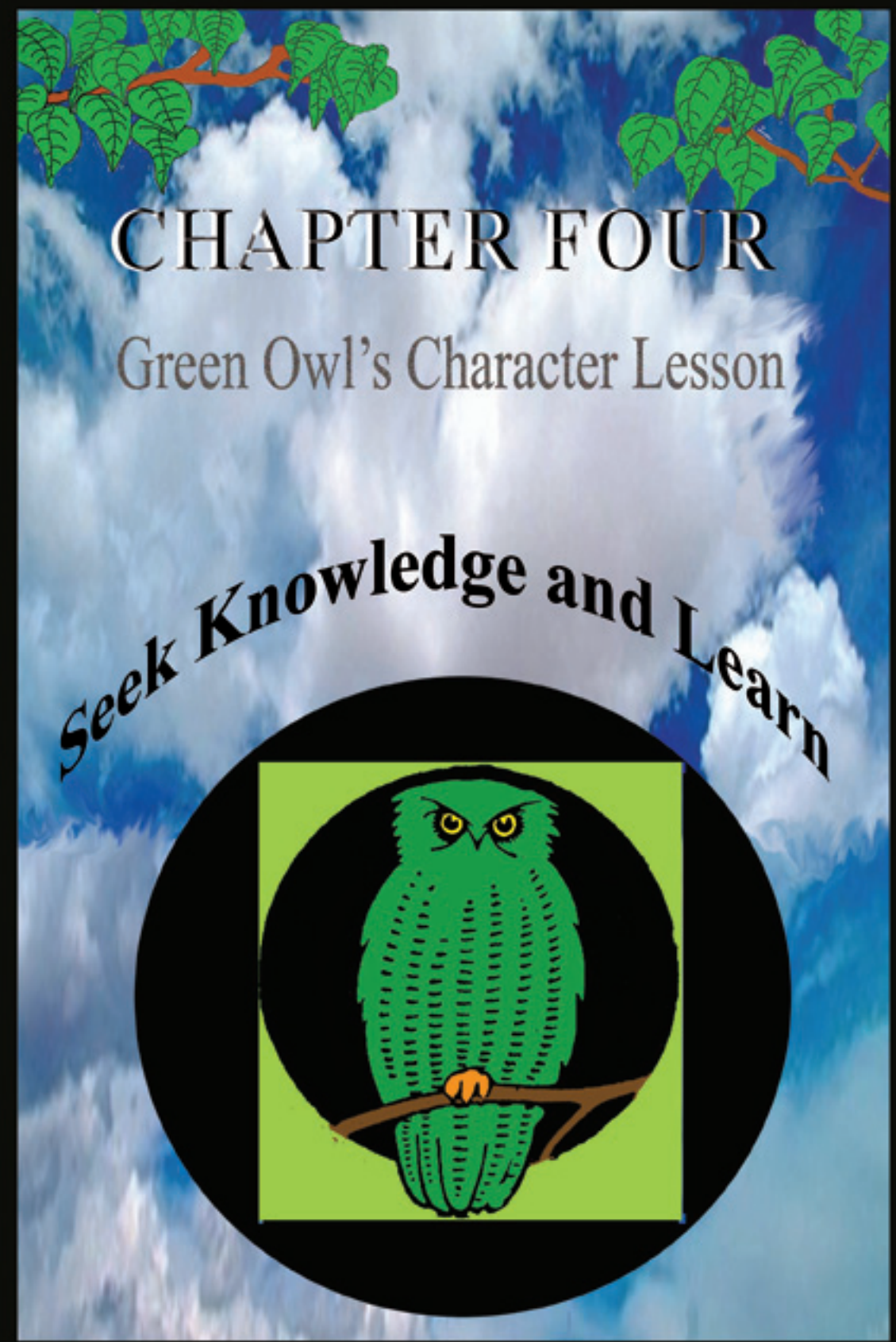
Meet the Gold Ant leader who tells you... Obey!
Be trustworthy and dependable every day.
Determination will show you the way
With service to others starting today.

“They call me Gold Ant. You know it’s true
That I take responsibility for all that I do.
I teach you to work hard and be your best,
Finish chores, do your work before you rest.

“Take responsibility is my character strength.
Overcome poor self-control and lack of restraint.
‘Is it safe and responsible?’ I coach ant creatures to ask
Before they take action to accomplish a task.

“My character lesson is to act safely and take responsibility.
Lazy effort and poor work make poverty a probability.
So remember to follow my Gold Ant’s code.
And keep traveling east on the Gold Ant Road.”







Let's meet the Green Owl leader, who likes to think,
Inventing ideas quick as a wink.

Owl knows that innovation is the way
With self-directed learning day after day.

“Whoooo? It's I, Green Owl. You know I am smart.
I think and solve problems right from the start.
Analytical and logical in all that I do,
I seek knowledge, fairness, and justice, too.

“My character strength is I remind you to think,
Ask questions and strategize so you don’t sink.
I coach owl creatures to ask, ‘Is it smart?’
Before they take action, think success from the start.

“My character lesson is to seek knowledge and learn.
With education, more money you can earn.
So remember to follow my Green Owl’s code
And keep traveling north on the Green Owl Road.”





CHAPTER FIVE

Orange Wolf's Character Lesson

Show Courage and Act Bravely





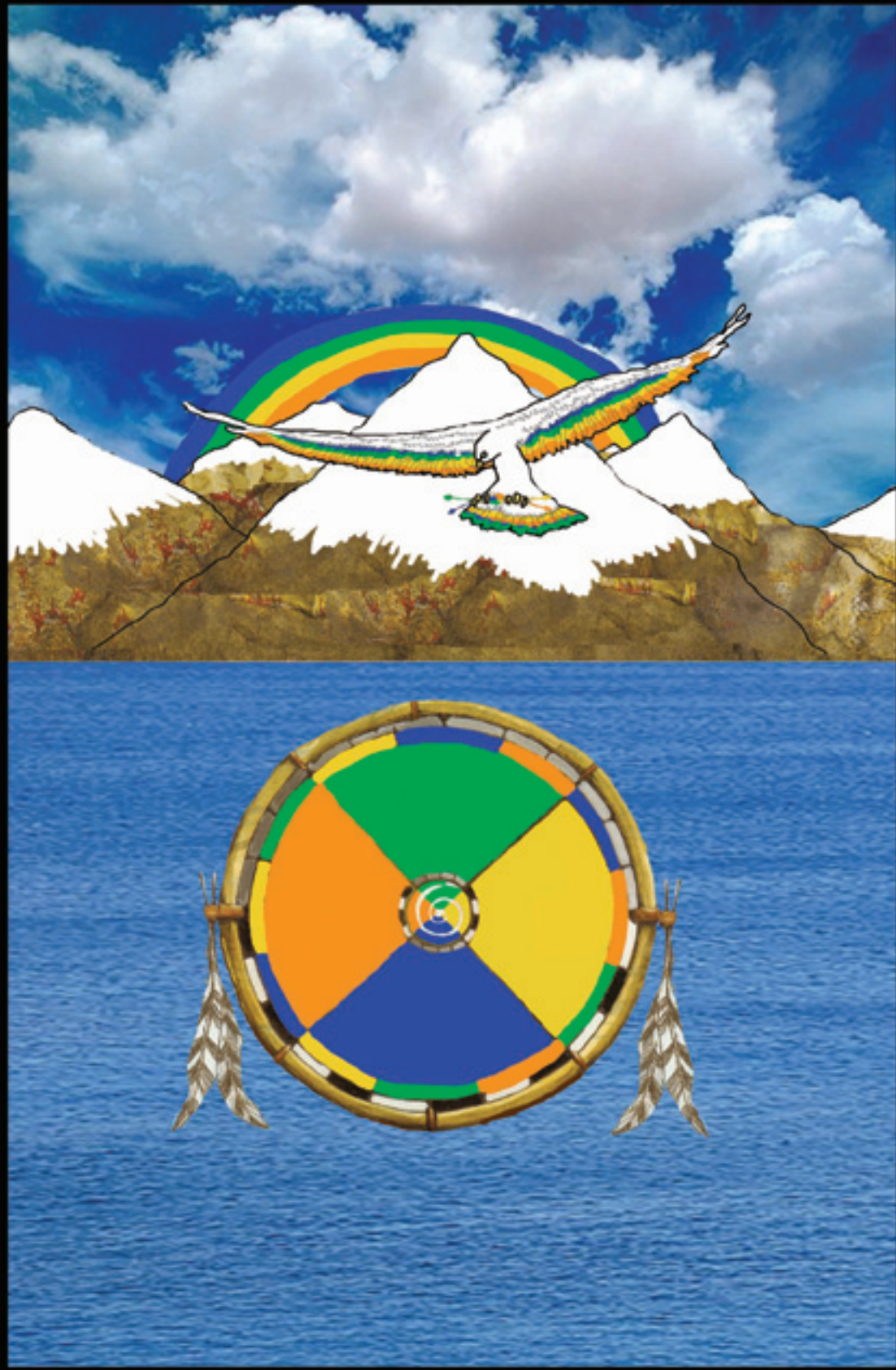
Here comes the Orange Wolf leader, who is ready to play,
Celebrating community and enjoying the day.
Sacrifice and courage are the wolf's daring ways.
With boldness, Orange Wolf has something to say.

“Hey, what’s up? I’m Orange Wolf. You know I am brave.
Adventure and excitement are what I crave.
I’m quick to show courage to gain your respect.
Freedom and independence are what I expect.

“My character strength is to be bold and not wince,
To overcome fear and lack of confidence.
I coach wolf creatures to ask, ‘Is it brave and clever?’
Before taking action—and admitting defeat?...Never!

“My character lesson is to show courage. Act bravely!
Have confidence in yourself and live life boldly.
So remember to follow my Orange Wolf’s Code
And keep traveling west on the Orange Wolf Road.”





CHAPTER SIX

Rainbow MetaHawk's Character Lesson

Working Together With Mutual Respect and Trust



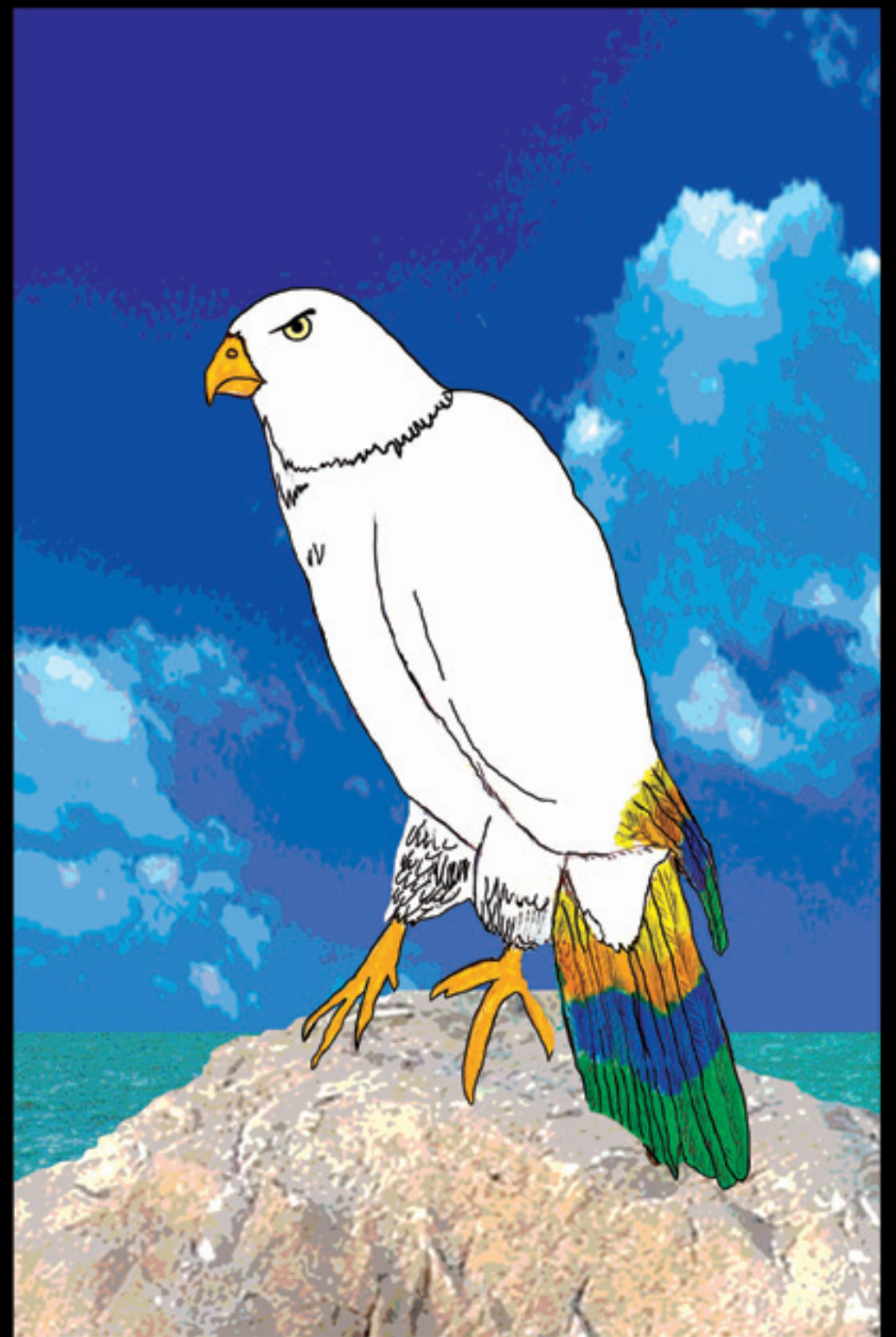


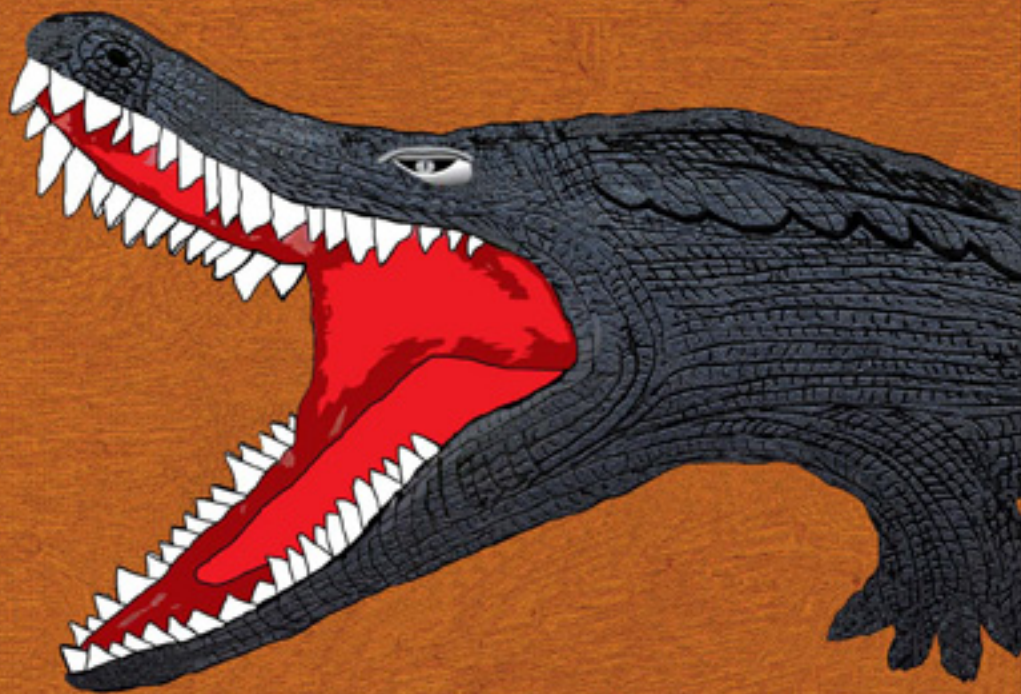
The most powerful and wisest creature of them all
Is the Hawk, who soars high with a colorful call.
Combining four colors to create synergy
Provides power and balance for all to see.

“I’m Rainbow MetaHawk, who lives on Wisdom Peak,
S.O.A.R.ing above, like a colorful streak.
‘Practice working together.’ is my mode
By using the Character Champions® Code.

“My character strengths are tolerance and unity.
I teach mutual respect and island synergy.
‘Are we working together?’ I coach island creatures to ask
Before they take action to meet the challenge of any task.

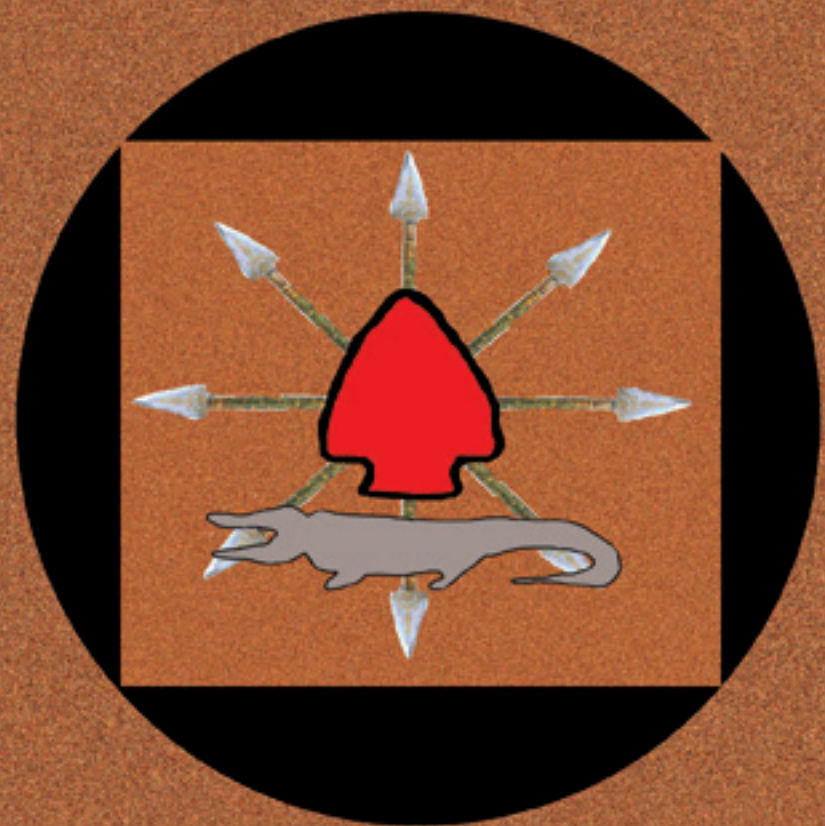
“My character lesson is to work together with respect.
A champion’s conscience is what I expect.
So remember to follow my Rainbow MetaHawk’s Code
And keep yourself centered on the Rainbow MetaHawk Road.”





CHAPTER SEVEN

Attack of the Extremes





Shadow River splits the island into four unique regions.
At the river's bottom, sneaky creatures called Extremes
live in legions.

Animal creatures above don't know the powers of
Extremes below.

Only Rainbow MetaHawk knows the tricks Extremes
can bestow.

All the Extremes must follow their leader, Shadow the
MegaExtreme,

Who rules them through force as part of Shadow's
intense regime.

Gold, Blue, Orange, and Green Extremes listen to
Shadow's plan of attack,

Pumping themselves up to take over the island and
never give it back.

The animal creatures remain unaware

That the attack of the Extremes will soon be there.

A continuous rumbling sound fills the air with fears,

When, suddenly, near the Fire Mountains, a dark
tornado appears.

Without further warning, the river starts to churn, crash,
and swirl,

Stirring the Extremes below into a tight, mighty whorl.

At the very bottom of the swampy Shadow River,

Extremes gather power to make island creatures quiver.

Then, Shadow's army of Extremes leap from the water's
grip,

Stressing island creatures to panic and submit.

Shadow's Extremes use their negative, selfish controls,

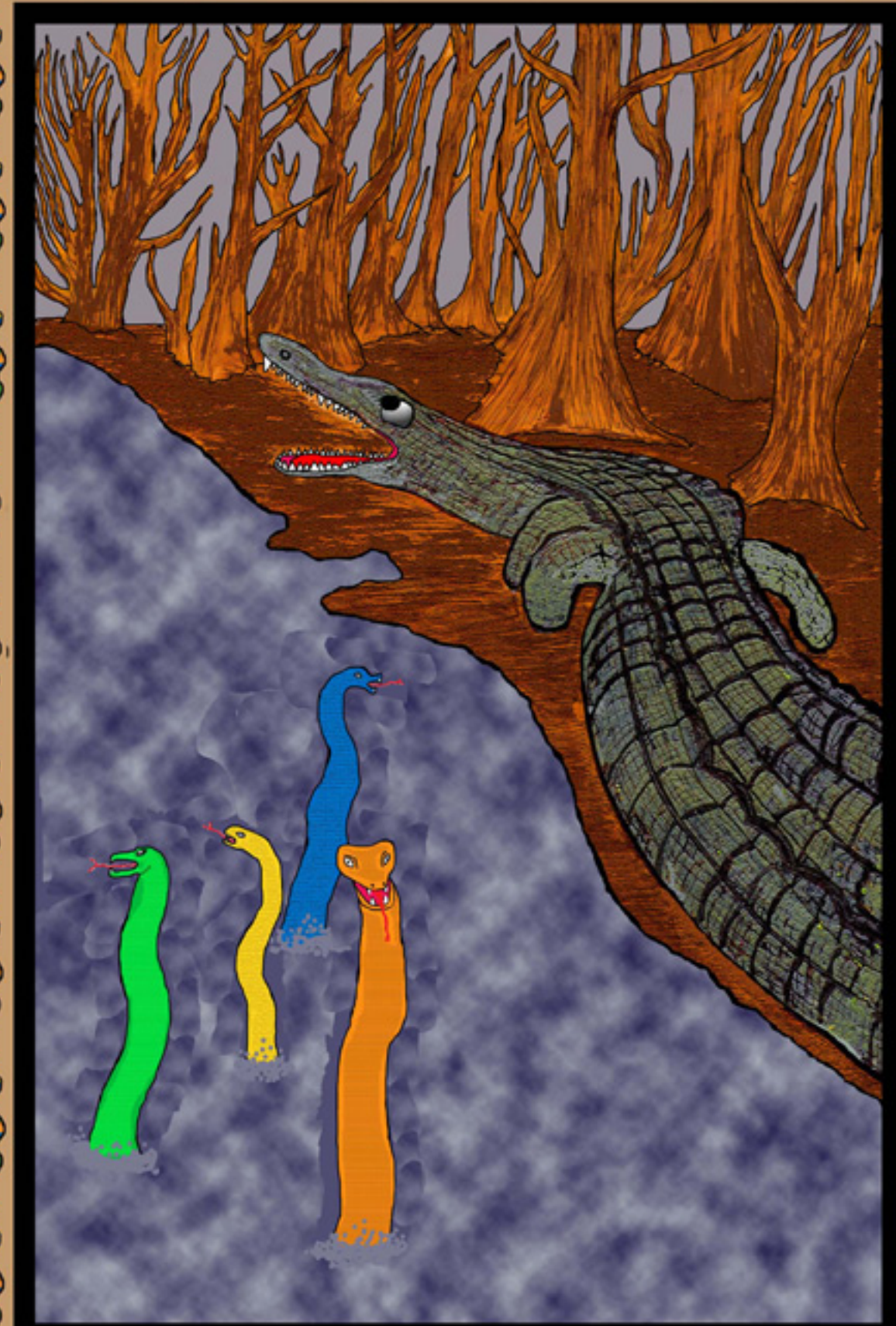
Snarling and growling as they move toward their goals.

The Extremes put into action Shadow's take-over plan

As they chase down animal creatures to finish what they
began.

Extremes make others think and act like they're the best,

Tricking them to feel their color strengths are better than
the rest.





Gold Extremes march east; Orange Extremes run west,
Attacking those most like them is what they do best.
Blue Extremes sink south; Green Extremes head north,
Raging arrogance selfishly driving them forth.

Gold Extremes use Gold Ants' desire for order and
control.

Orange Extremes con Orange Wolves to break free of
all holds.

Green Extremes trick Green Owls with thoughts of a
superior brain.

Blue Extremes replace Blue Dolphins' hope with
sadness and pain.

Biting Gold Extremes berate Gold Ants
With so much Gold negativity, they start to rant.
Bossy and cranky, judging, domineering,
They control and complain with constant interfering.

Then Gold Extremes insist, “Time to act like us,
Too strict and demanding always making a fuss.
Let go of the gold strengths you can naturally use.
Take Shadow’s Gold Extremes as the path you choose.”

So beware, beware: Gold Extremes are everywhere,
Hiding in the Shadows—they are always there.
Better stay aware and watch your back,
'Cause they're always planning to start their attack.





Orange Wolves are confronted by Orange Extremes
Who blast with orange rage as they let out their screams.
“Do what you want. Seek pleasure, just play.
Forget rules, act mean, and do it our way.”

Then Orange Extremes roar, “Time to act like us—
Too daring and defiant, causing others to cuss.
Let go of the orange strengths you can naturally use.
Take Shadow’s Orange Extremes as the path you choose.”

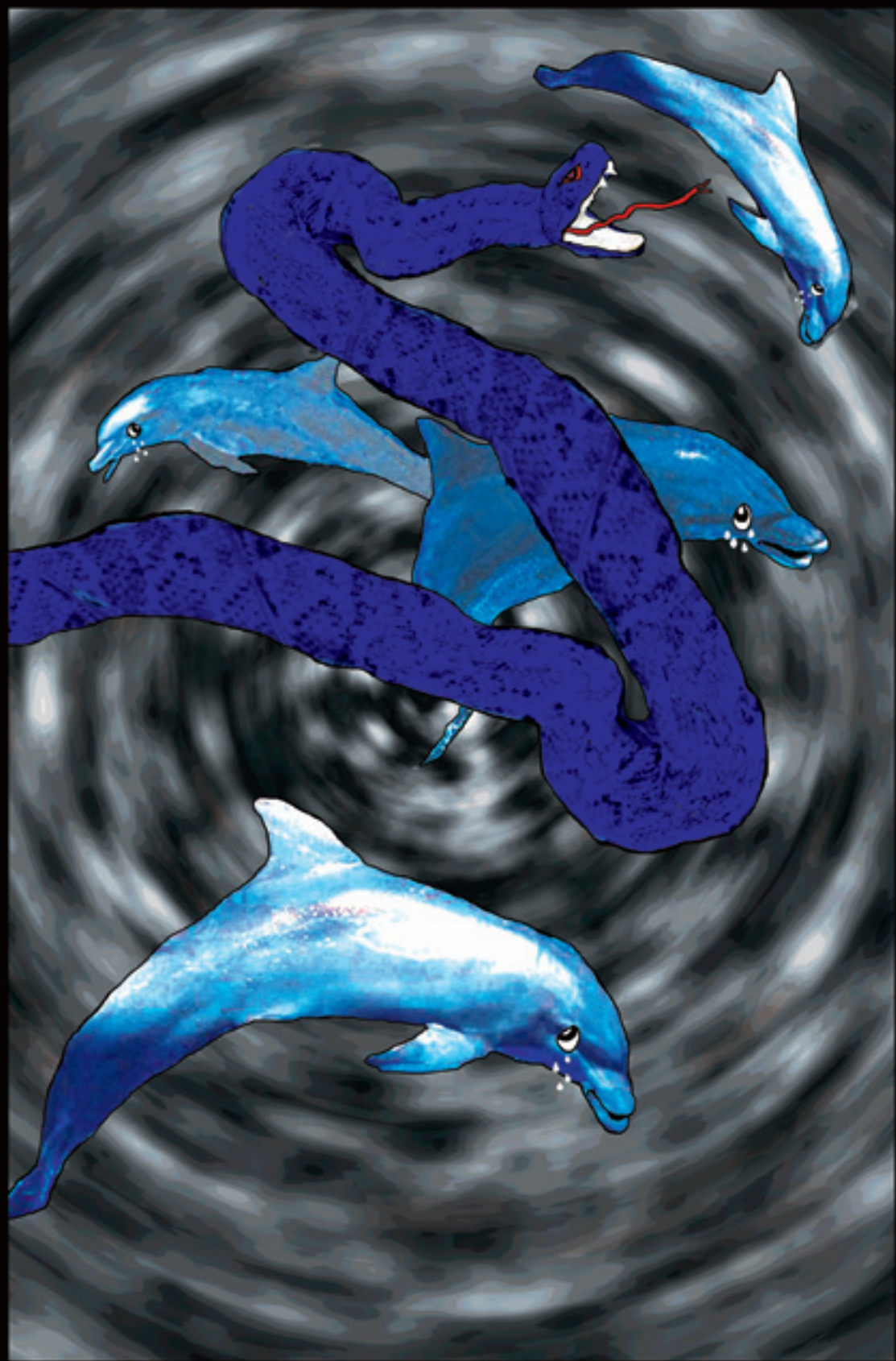
So beware, Orange Extremes are everywhere
Hiding in the Shadows—they are always there.
Better stay aware and watch your back,
'Cause they're always ready to launch their attack.

Conceited Green Extremes abuse the Green Owls
With thinking so green their brows turn to scowls.
Condemning others as stupid with their arrogant gall,
Cruel, arguing Green Extremes think they know it all.

Then Green Extremes proclaim, “Time to act like us—
Too bigheaded and proud, no need to discuss.
Let go of the green strengths you can naturally use.
Take Shadow’s Green Extremes as the path you choose.”

So beware, Green Extremes are everywhere
Hiding in the Shadows—they are always there.
Better stay aware and watch your back,
‘Cause they’re always thinking to stage their attack.





Blue Extremes smother Blue Dolphins, who whine
With negative blue feelings, so they start to decline.
Panicked and crying, moody and depressed,
Left emotionally weak, victims without rest.

Then Blue Extremes wail, “Time to act like us—
Too sensitive and moody, always in a fuss.
Let go of the blue strengths you can naturally use.
Take Shadow’s Blue Extremes as the path you choose.”

So beware, beware, Blue Extremes are everywhere,
Hiding in the Shadows—they are always there.
Better stay aware and watch your back,
'Cause they're always sneaking to spin their attack.

Worst of all is Shadow the MegaExtreme,
Who likes to start fights and constantly scheme
With divisive powers to cause destruction and conflict,
Using chaos and agony to attack and inflict.

Shadow the MegaExtreme explodes, “Time to act just like me
Egotistical, primitive, self-serving, not knowing how to be.
Let go of the combined strengths that you can learn to use;
Take Shadows’ Extremes as the negative path you choose.”

Unhealthy thoughts and defensive emotions
Create character viruses and behavior commotions.
Rainbow MetaHawk sees all the confusion
Triggered by the Extremes’ intrusions.






CHAPTER EIGHT

Birth of the Character Champions

The Strengths of Working Together





Using sight as precise as x-ray vision,
Hawk sees the problem and makes a decision.
The time has come to face Shadow's test.
To conquer sneaky Extremes requires the best.

From Wisdom Peak near MetaHawk's lake,
The island leader observes the creatures' mistakes.
Over Fire Mountain, Rainbow MetaHawk soars
To bring in the four leaders to the island's core.

Skyrocketing north, MetaHawk swoops up Green Owl
And speeds to the west, following Orange Wolf's howl.
Diving south, MetaHawk guides Blue Dolphin with a
chant.

Steering to the east, MetaHawk uplifts Gold Ant.

MetaHawk brings the leaders to the Character Tree
And says, “Synergize your strengths immediately.”
The four animal leaders fret and do not smile.
They feel overwhelmed by this character trial.

Green Owl hoots, “Why must we give this synergizing
a try?”

Orange Wolf jumps in, “Do you always have to
ask why?”

“Let’s just harmonize,” Blue Dolphin pleads.

Gold Ant says, “Stop, it’s a plan that we need.”

Remembering the Character Tree’s legend and wanting
to act wise,

The four animal leaders stop arguing as they begin
to realize

The power of the secret they need to find and
understand—

So Owl, Ant, Wolf, and Dolphin ask MetaHawk for
a hand.





“Rainbow MetaHawk, show us what we can do.
We need your strengths to pull us through.
How can we work together to synergize?
Share your wisdom so we see with wise eyes.
Please share the secret treasures of the Character Tree
With the help of your inner wisdom, so we can also see.”

MetaHawk replies, “Finally, you understand.
To combine your talents is the best of a good hand.”

The Character Tree’s secret is finally unlocked
By the animal leaders’ unity and the leadership of
Metahawk.

At the top of the tree, the hidden treasures suddenly
appear,
So MetaHawk flies quickly to get them before they
disappear.

Carrying down four treasures with the powers to
synergize,

MetaHawk flies toward the animal leaders, who
now realize

Courage, Knowledge, Kindness, and Responsibility
Are the four powers needed for island adaptability.

Rainbow MetaHawk gives each leader part of the character shield.

How to make the pieces synergize must still be revealed.

Hawk tells the four to use the magic of the Character Tree

By using the energy found in the word...Synergy!

Blue Dolphin tells the others, "It's time to unite,

For if we don't, we'll not stop this fight."

Using Green Owl's smarts and Gold Ant's plans to succeed,

Courageous Orange Wolf leaps up to take the lead.

"Synergy, Synergy, Synergy, Synergy," the leaders repeat,

With "Bull's-eye" at the end to warn Extremes to retreat.

Character shield pieces join and spin with forces unique,

Sending a four-colored light beam over Wisdom Peak.





As they work together, their powers synergize,
Transforming into superheroes that are very wise.
Using Knowledge, Responsibility, Courage, and Kindness,
Four Character Champion leaders overcome blindness.

Centered together in the Champions' zone,
Energized by zest and zeal in MetaHawk's tone,
Five Character Champion leaders take a new form.
Their combined strengths they now transform.

Through synergizing strengths to combine their powers,
They break the Extremes' hold and cause them to cower.
S.O.A.R.ing with the shield, their Champions' tool,
They outsmart Extremes to break Shadow's rule.



CHAPTER NINE

The Extremes' Warning

Better Watch Your Back



Facing the C.C. stare, the Extremes and Shadow scream
As their powers over the island are stopped midstream.
Five Character Champion heroes block Shadow's attack,
And to the bottom of the river they now send them back.

Still, Shadow's Extremes are not done with the fight.
They whisper these words as they slip out of sight:

"Let go of the strengths you can naturally use.
Take Shadow's Extreme path as the way you choose.
There will come a time when you'll act like us,
Causing the island creatures to fight and fuss.
The moment you forget your Champion way
We'll attack, and Shadow's Extremes will seize the day."





CHAPTER TEN

Outsmarting the Extremes

Unity Is Best!



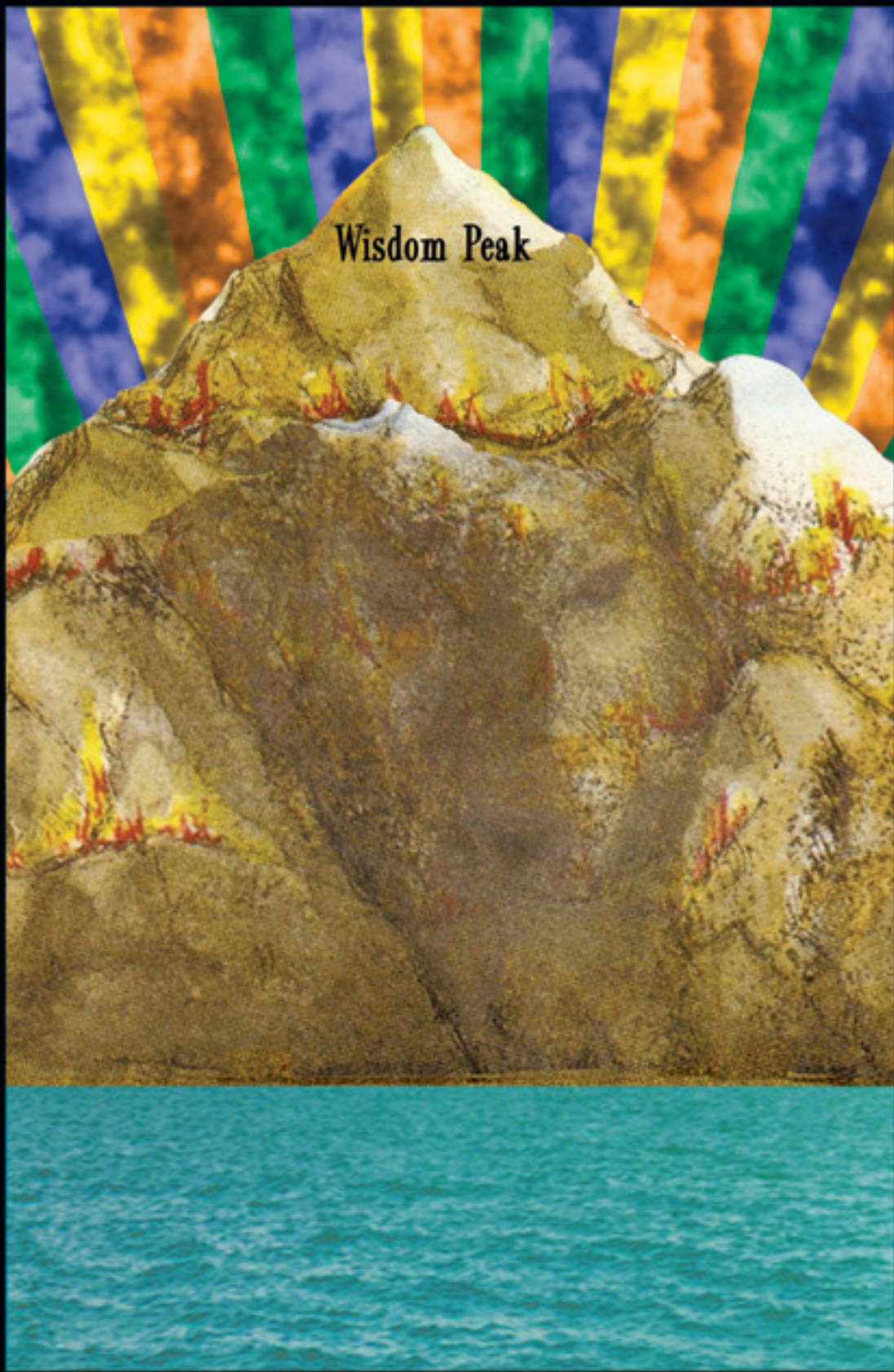


The animal leaders now have synergized powers
That make them strong like a mighty tower.
So whenever the Extremes try to sneak an attack,
The Character Champions are ready to fight back.

The sun shines brightly as Rainbow MetaHawk soars
Above the island creatures whose praises now roar.
Cheering is heard from north, south, east and west.
They've learned unity is needed to pass the test.



Wisdom Peak



EPILOGUE





As the story ends, Professor Falconer extends his arm
On which a powerful hawk lands, causing no harm.
“As you can see, I have a pet hawk to help remind me
Of MetaHawk and treasures found in the Character Tree.

“Choosing to soar like Rainbow MetaHawk
Requires knowledge and Character Champions thoughts.
Although attacks of the Extremes may come,
We stop and observe so we don’t succumb.

“Champion or Extreme? The choice is yours!
Will you choose to soar like the MetaHawk
Or sink like the Shadows’ Extremes?
Whatever you decide, I am here to be your guide.”

As the professor leaves the stage, the hawk soars above,
Screeching over the audience, then returning to his glove.
A drum starts to play to symbolize the order of Gold ant,
Adding Orange Wolf’s howl and Green Owl’s hoot enriches
the chant.

Then, mixed in, are the soft clicks and whistles of Blue
Dolphin—

All champion sounds reminding you of the inner gifts
you’ve been given.

The Value of Reading Fables

Definition of a Fable:

A short tale used to teach a moral lesson, often with animals as characters

Purpose of Fables:

To instruct a lesson about recognizing and overcoming foibles (weaknesses); to learn important lessons in a fun, playful way.

Characteristics of Fables

- The story is brief.
- “Main characters are usually animals and are characterized quickly with the vices or foibles (weaknesses) being critiqued (analyzed). The foibles (weaknesses) are what bring embarrassment or a downfall to the character(s) and this conclusion leads directly to the moral, which follows the fable and is stated in one sentence.” (Example: Unity is what’s needed to pass the test.)

What a Fable Requires of Readers and Listeners:

“The readers and listeners must pay attention to the title, which will cue who or what to pay attention to. Then the reader or listener must figure out the symbolic value of each animal or character—what human trait does each represent? The reader must recognize introductory situations and what causes the complication and conclusions. Readers of fables need to read the moral sentence and understand how the events of the story, particularly the conclusion, leads to and mirrors the instructive statement summarized by the moral lesson. Readers and listeners should consider how the moral statement might apply to their own lives.”



Reference Source: Wilhelm, Jeffrey D., Ph.D. 2001. *Improving Comprehension with Think-Aloud Strategies*. New York: Scholastic Books, 144, 146-151.










Think-aloud strategies to improve reading and listening comprehension are presented in Chapter 2: “What All Good Readers Do: Introducing General Reading Process Think-Alouds” (pages 41-66).

Who's Who in the Character Champions: Conquering Extremes Story?

Part One






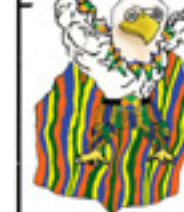


A Quick Illustrated Reference Guide to the Fifteen Character Icon Mascots

 <p>This is the Character Champion super hero, the dutiful Champion Gold Ant. The Champion Gold Ant is super responsible and organized. Champion Gold Ant works with the other animals on Character Island to help them gain the power that comes from being responsible and safe. When you help others overcome their laziness, you are being like Champion Gold Ant.</p>	 <p>This is the animal leader, the Gold Ant. The Gold Ant is the "Responsibility" character icon. Organized Gold Ant reminds you to do your work and act in safe ways by following the rules. When you act like the Gold Ant, you are being a hard worker and getting all of your work done on time. Take responsibility like the Gold Ant. Gold Ant's success question: <i>Is it safe and responsible?</i></p>	 <p>This is the Gold Extreme, the <i>bossy, cranky, and controlling</i> member of the Extremes. The Gold Extreme tries to hook you, put you in a bad mood, and make you feel super worried, stressed, and uptight. When you are very serious, bossy, stressed out, and harshly telling others what to do, you have been caught by the Gold Extreme. Gold Extreme likes to tell on others and control them.</p>
 <p>This is the Character Champion super hero, the smart Champion Green Owl. The Champion Green Owl is super smart and a great problem solver. Champion Green Owl works with the other animals on Character Island to help them gain the power that comes from seeking knowledge. When you help others learn new things, you are being like Champion Green Owl.</p>	 <p>This is the animal leader, the Green Owl. The Green Owl is the "Knowledge" character icon. Curious Green Owl reminds you to think before you act and find smart ways to solve problems. When you value knowledge and want to learn new things, you are acting like the Green Owl. Seek knowledge and keep learning like the Green Owl. Green Owl's success question: <i>Is it smart?</i></p>	 <p>This is the Green Extreme, the <i>know-it-all</i> member of the Extremes. The Green Extreme tries to hook you, put you in an angry mood, and make you think you know more than others. When you argue rudely, put others down, and call names to prove you are right, you have been caught by the Green Extreme. Green Extreme needs to be right & is super critical of others.</p>
 <p>This is the Character Champion super hero, the kind Champion Blue Dolphin. The Champion Blue Dolphin is super kind and a great peace maker. Champion Blue Dolphin works with the other animals on Character Island to help them gain the power that comes from sharing kindness. When you help others get along and be friendly, you are being like Champion Blue Dolphin.</p>	 <p>This is the animal leader, the Blue Dolphin. The Blue Dolphin is the "Kindness" character icon. Harmonious Blue Dolphin reminds you to do and say nice things and share with others. When you care about others and treat them with kindness, you are acting like the Blue Dolphin. Share kindness and stick together like the Blue Dolphin. Blue Dolphin's success question: <i>Is it kind?</i></p>	 <p>This is the Blue Extreme, the <i>I can't do it</i> member of the Extremes. The Blue Extreme tries to hook you, put you in a "I can't do it" mood, and make you feel like you are weak and helpless. When you whine, give up, and become super depressed you have been caught by the Blue Extreme. Blue Extreme needs to feel like a victim, act emotionally weak, hysterical, and sees success as impossible.</p>

Who's Who in the Character Champions: Conquering Extremes Story?

Part Two



 <p>This is the Character Champion super hero, the brave Champion Orange Wolf. The Champion Orange Wolf is super brave and a great warrior. Champion Orange Wolf works with the other animals on Character Island to help them gain the power that comes from showing courage and being skillful. When you help others be brave and have fun, you are being like Champion Orange Wolf.</p>	 <p>This is the animal leader, the Orange Wolf. The Orange Wolf is the "Courage" character icon. Adventurous Orange Wolf reminds you to try new things by being brave and bold. When you take time to enjoy life after all of your work is done, you are acting like the Orange Wolf. Show courage and have fun like the Orange Wolf. Orange Wolf's success question: <i>Is it brave?</i></p>	 <p>This is the Orange Extreme, the <i>I won't follow the rules</i> member of the Extremes. The Orange Extreme tries to hook you and put you in a mean, cruel mood so that you feel like hurting others. When you break the rules, hit, and destroy things in order to get your way, you have been caught by the Orange Extreme. Orange Extreme needs to act like a bully or maniac, feel emotionally out of control, and demands only pleasure-seeking.</p>
 <p>This is the Character Champion super hero, the wise, balanced Champion Rainbow MetaHawk who is the leader of the Character Champion Super Heroes. The Champion Rainbow MetaHawk is super wise and a successful leader. Champion Rainbow MetaHawk works with the other animals on Character Island to help them gain the powers that come from combining their powers by working together. When you help others synergize and act like Character Champions, you are being like Champion Rainbow MetaHawk. Be a Champion!</p>	 <p>This is the animal leader, the Rainbow MetaHawk who is the most powerful and wisest of the animal leaders. The Rainbow MetaHawk is the "Working Together" character icon. The synergized Rainbow MetaHawk reminds you to respect and value everyone's differences and to combine your strengths. When you are observant by working together, you are acting like the Rainbow MetaHawk. Be observant and S.O.A.R. just like the leader Rainbow MetaHawk. The Rainbow MetaHawk's key success questions: <i>Are you working together? Did you aim for the synergy bullseye?</i></p>	 <p>This is the sneaky Shadow, the <i>MegaExtreme</i> destructive leader of the Extremes. Shadow tries to trick you, put you in an <i>unsuccessful</i> mood, and create conflict, hate, and disharmony. When you act in unsuccessful ways by behaving like two or more of the other Extremes at the same time, you have been caught by Shadow the Negative MegaExtreme. Shadow needs to feel like he is destroying everything that is positive. Shadow wants to use the other Extremes to take over Character Island and make all the other creatures act just like Extremes. Shadow wants to control and rule the creatures. Shadow fears Character Champions.</p>



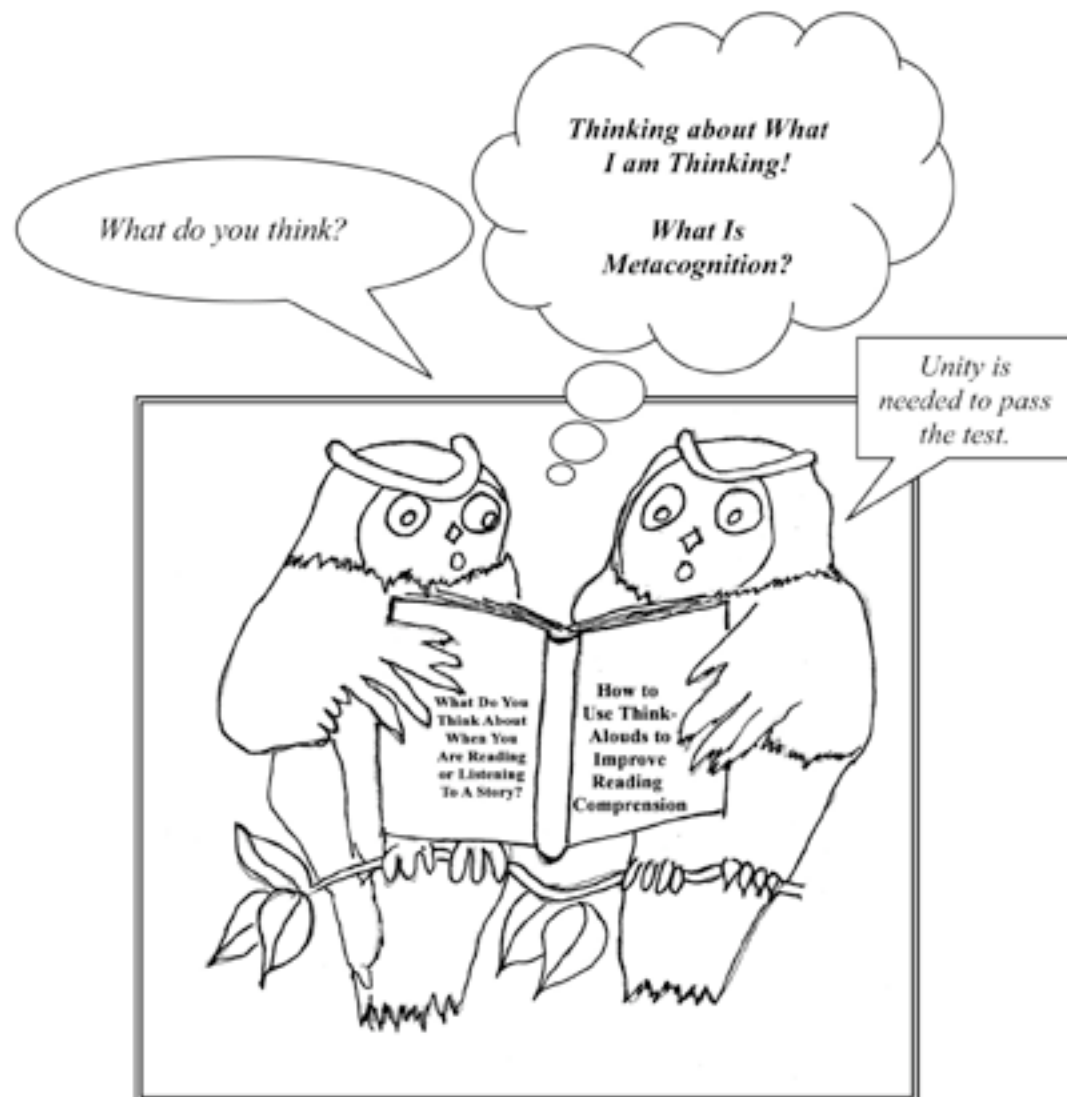
Extremes Beware of the C.C. Stare!

Story Questions: Using Think-Alouds to Increase Comprehension

Sample Questions to be Used With the C.C.C.E. Story to Promote Reading and Listening Comprehension Using Think-Aloud Strategies

The higher the level, the more thought is required. Use Level I questions with younger people and Level III for older people. Start at Level 1 if you are unsure which question levels to use. A two page “*Who’s Who in the C.C.C.E. Story?*” review summary chart is provided as a reference tool to help increase the reader’s understanding and memory of the different character qualities.

See glossary or a dictionary for definitions of any words you or your students/children don’t understand.



Sample Think-Aloud Questions for the Prologue

(See Glossary for Definition of “Think-Aloud” at characterchampions.org)

Level 1 Questions:

1. What is the name of the person on the stage?
2. What color robe is the professor wearing?
3. To whom is the professor speaking?
4. Why do you think he is called “professor”?
5. What will the professor give you?
6. Do you want to know your parents and friends better? Why?
7. The professor’s grandmother told him stories. Why?
8. What will the professor do today?
9. How many times did the professor pound his staff? What is a staff? Describe the staff.
10. What does it mean to be wise? Would you like to be wise?

Level 2 Questions:

1. Why is the professor wearing a multicolored robe?
2. What do you think the gift will be?
3. Why can this gift never be taken away from you?
4. Do you want to know yourself better?
5. What does Professor Falconer do for himself and others?
6. How does the professor teach?
7. What do you think the Character Champions code is?
8. How can you train your brain to soar and not to sink?
9. From whom did Professor Falconer learn his stories?
10. What happened to the professor when he was five?
11. Are you really going to learn to fly (S.O.A.R.)?
12. Why does Professor Falconer use a staff?

Level 3 Questions:

1. Why is the prologue written in prose while the rest of the story is in poetry?
2. What do you think about Professor Falconer’s statement that the story helps him walk the path of a Character Champion?
3. Why do you think the professor pounded his staff four times? What is significant about the number four?
4. What is a falcon? What is a falconer?
5. Why are stories important in your life?
6. What are the tools the professor will give you? Are they internal or external?
7. The professor states that he likes coaching himself and others. Why is that important?
8. How will S.O.A.R. help you? Remember, it is just a guess right now. Maybe there is a clue in the word “sink.”

Sample Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter One

Level 1 Questions:

1. What grows at the center of the four-colored forest?
2. Who lives in the northern part of the island? What is the name of the Green leader?
3. Who live s in the southern part of the island? What is the name of the Blue leader?
4. Who lives in western part of the island? What is the name of the Orange leader?
5. Who lives in the eastern part of the island? What is the name of the Gold leader?
6. What to you think is making the shrieking sound?
7. What do you think observant eyes do?
8. On what island do the animal leaders live?
9. Look at the picture of the Character Tree. What do you see?
10. What bodies of water surround the island?

Level 2 Questions:

1. Where is the Sea of Imagination?
2. What is unique about the animals?
3. What is different about the forest?
4. What lies at the top of the Character Tree? What is a legend?
5. Who lives at the top of Wisdom Peak?
6. Why is the mountain named Fire Mountain?
7. What do you think “harmonize” means?
8. Why do you think the different leaders were chosen?
9. What must the animals face and conquer?
10. In what four areas do the animals live? Why?
11. What are the colors that help the animal leaders? Can you identify what the colors represent?

Level 3 Questions:

1. What is the Sea of Imagination?
2. Why did the authors name the roots of the tree?
3. What is the reason the mountains are on fire, yet Wisdom Peak is not?
4. Why place the words “stop,” “observe,” “act,” and “review” in the branches of the tree? Why not place them in the roots of the tree?
5. What do the Extremes do to the animal leaders? Why?
6. If the island falls, who is in control? What does this have to do with real life?
7. Who are the Extremes? Where do they live? What Extremes do you face in your life?
8. Why are the animals segregated? Are people sometimes segregated?
9. The ants are in a circle on the map. Why?
10. The wolves are in a triangle and the dolphins in a heart on the map. Why?
11. What are the special treasures hidden at the top of the Character Tree?
12. Why is it important for the “one that is wise” to have observant eyes?

Sample Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter Two

Level 1 Questions:

1. Which animal leader reminds you to be kind?
2. When Blue Dolphin helps the needy, what do you think he/she does?
3. How do you show kindness?
4. What does kindness look like? What does it sound like?
5. How do you feel when someone is kind to you?
6. Who treats you like Blue Dolphin?
7. What does it mean to care?
8. What is peace? Why is it so important to have peace? What are some ways to make peace?
9. Why does Blue Dolphin act kindly?
10. What color would you choose to remind yourself to act kindly?
11. What is friendship? How do you make a friend? How do you lose a friend?

Level 2 Questions:

1. What are the strengths of Blue Dolphin? Instead of saying “Blue Dolphin strengths,” can you simply say “Blue strengths”? Why?
2. Have you ever been around someone who is a bully? What happened? What would someone strong in Blue do?
3. What success question does Blue Dolphin ask?
4. What is Blue Dolphin’s character lesson?
5. What do you do if you are traveling south on the Blue Dolphin road and following the Blue Dolphin code?
6. What are some activities that Blue Dolphin would become involved in? What about you if you were acting like a Blue Dolphin?
7. Do you have a Blue Dolphin friend? How do you know that he/she is “Blue”?
8. What does Blue Dolphin want you and others to do?
9. What do you think Blue Dolphin would want in the classroom? In the family? In the community?
10. Is Mother Teresa considered a good “Blue Champion” role model? Why or why not?

Level 3 Questions:

1. Imagine that the world is a “blue” world. What would it look like?
2. What are some ways that we can help the most needy? Who are some famous people who give of their time and money to help those less fortunate than they?
3. What is empathy?
4. Why does a lack of empathy lead to blindness and prejudice/discrimination?
5. What is nonviolence? Can you think of someone who has used nonviolence to bring more tolerance into the world?
6. Can you make a model of a “blue” classroom? What would it look like?
7. Why is volunteerism considered “blue” action? As a student, where can you volunteer to help others? What would the world be like if no one volunteered?
8. Can you name any fictional characters that are “blue” in nature?
9. How do you feel when someone is kind to you? How do you react?
10. Why is “Blue” necessary to create a balanced, psychologically healthy person?
11. What can be done to make your school and/or family more “Blue” in nature?

Sample Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter Three

Level 1 Questions:

1. Which animal reminds you to act safe and responsible?
2. What does “obey” mean?
3. Why should you follow rules?
4. Gold Ant likes responsibility. What does responsibility look like at school, at home, and at work? Can you be responsible? How?
5. If you are lazy, are you being like Gold Ant?
6. How can you be more responsible at home? What about in the classroom? On the playground?
7. What are unsafe actions?
8. Why should you ask yourself when trying something new, “Is it safe?”
9. Why are firemen and policemen considered Gold Ants?
10. What are the ants doing in the pictures?
11. What does it mean when someone tells you that you are acting like Gold Ant?

Level 2 Questions:

1. What does “trustworthy” mean?
2. What are the strengths of Gold Ant? Instead of saying “Gold Ant strengths,” can you simply say, “Gold strengths”? Why?
3. Why was an ant chosen to represent the Gold strengths?
4. What does Gold Ant do before he/she rests?
5. What is Gold Ant’s success question?
6. What is Gold Ant’s character lesson? Can it be called the Gold character lesson?
7. What is responsibility? How do you perform your responsibilities? Where do you feel you must act in the most responsible way?
8. What are you doing when you are traveling east on the Gold Ant road and following the Gold Ant code?
9. Do you have a Gold Ant friend? How do you know that he/she is a Gold Ant?
10. Would you want a museum to be “Gold”? How? Why? What other places would you want to be Gold?

Level 3 Questions:

1. How could someone take responsibility if they made a mistake or a wrong choice?
2. What is determination? Why is it important for success?
3. Can you volunteer service and use both your “Blue” and “Gold”? Explain by giving examples.
4. What are some service learning activities that you and your family or classroom could do to show that you are taking responsibility? Define service learning.
5. Why are there rules and laws? What would your school, home, city, state, country and world be like without the “Gold” structure?
6. Why do lazy effort and poor work lead to poverty? What does poverty mean?
7. What is poor self-control? If you have good self-control, what happens within your home and school environment? What happens if you have poor self-control?
8. What are the signs of someone who uses his or her “Gold” in positive ways?
9. What are some tasks that you need to accomplish this week? Next month? This year? How can you make sure you accomplish these tasks? Why is the “Gold” essential to these tasks?
10. Why is “Gold” necessary to create a balanced, psychologically healthy person?

Sample Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter Four

Level 1 Questions:

1. What is the name of the animal leader who likes to think?
2. What does it mean to seek knowledge? How do you seek knowledge?
3. Why does Green Owl ask a lot of questions?
4. Why should you go to school to learn?
5. Do you like to be smart? If so, what do you do to be smart?
6. Green Owl asks questions when he/she doesn’t understand. Do you ask questions? When do you need to ask questions?
7. What do you like to learn? How can you learn more about something you are interested in?
8. What sound does Green Owl make? Why does the sound seem like a question?
9. Why does Green Owl want you to be smart? What happens when you don’t act in smart ways?
10. Do you want to be smart like Green Owl? Why?

Level 2 Questions:

1. What are Green Owl’s strengths? What Green strengths do you have?
2. What is innovation?
3. Why is it important to stop and think about an action before you act upon it?
4. Can you name a famous person who is a Green Owl or has Green strengths? What makes you think this person have a Green temperament?
5. If Green Owl is analytical and logical, what does he or she do in the classroom?
6. What question does Green Owl ask to coach other creatures?
7. What is the character lesson for Green Owl?
8. Do you have a Green Owl friend? Why do you think your friend has Green strengths?
9. What do you do if you are traveling north on the Green Owl road and following the Green Owl code?
10. What kind of job would a person like Green Owl seek?

Level 3 Questions:

1. What happens when you are involved in self-directed learning?
2. What happens when you don’t think and start to sink?
3. People who acquire a good education usually earn more money than people who have a poor education. Why do you think this is true?
4. What are some different ways that you seek knowledge? How can you help others seek knowledge?
5. Why is acquiring a good education so important for success?
6. Are there different types of smartness? What are they? Consider musical, mathematical, mechanical, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and any other type of intelligence.
7. How does fairness look? What does it sound like? What actions do people take to promote justice? Can you think of some famous people who have worked to make things fair for others?
8. Have you ever invented something? If not, what would you like to invent? What do you wish someone would invent?
9. What are some poor choices that you have made? What have you learned from your mistakes?
10. Why is “Green” necessary to create a balanced, psychologically healthy person?

Sample Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter Five

Level 1 Questions:

1. Who is the courage animal?
2. What is courage?
3. What does Orange Wolf like to do?
4. What does it mean when you are bold like Orange Wolf? Tell about a time you acted in a way that was brave and bold.
5. What does “adventurous” mean? What do you do that is adventurous?
6. What are some ways you could act more like Orange Wolf?
7. What does your family do to play together to have fun like Orange Wolf?
8. What is “orange” in character about amusement parks like Disneyland?
9. Would Orange Wolf like Magic Mountain? Why?
10. Would Orange Wolf speak up in class?

Level 2 Questions:

1. What are the strengths of Orange Wolf? What are your Orange strengths?
2. What does Orange Wolf crave?
3. What does sacrifice mean?
4. Orange Wolf shows courage. Do you know of anyone who shows courage? How?
5. What is a person doing if he/she is traveling west on the Orange Wolf road and following the Orange Wolf code?
6. What is the Orange Wolf question?
7. What is Orange Wolf’s character lesson?
8. When does Orange Wolf say you will have success even if you fail at first?
9. Why is the Fourth of July, a holiday in the USA, an Orange celebration?
10. What are some occupations that people like Orange Wolf would like?

Level 3 Questions:

1. How would the “Orange” personality design a classroom? Why do students high in Orange sometimes complain that school is boring?
2. Can you think of fun ways a family/community can come together and celebrate the good things that are happening?
3. Why are most heroes strong in “Orange” characteristics? Give two examples.
4. What does it mean when someone has a lack of confidence? How do they feel? How do they act? What are some ways that people can gain more self-confidence and increase their Orange strengths?
5. What are some things of which you are afraid? What could you do to be less afraid? What are some things others could do to help you be less afraid?
6. Can you be too “Orange?” Why is it important to have “Orange” in your life, but not too much?
7. What does admitting defeat mean? Has there been a time when you admitted defeat? What actions can you take to overcome defeat?
8. What does Orange Wolf mean when he says to act in ways that are brave and clever? How are brave and clever the same? How are they different?
9. Have you ever had to use your Orange strengths to accomplish something difficult or challenging?
10. Why is “Orange” necessary to create a balanced, psychologically healthy person?

Sample Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter Six

Level 1 Questions:

1. Who soars high with a colorful call?
2. What does it mean when you are wise? Is Rainbow MetaHawk wise?
3. What does soaring look like?
4. Where does Rainbow MetaHawk live?
5. How many colors does Rainbow MetaHawk use to create synergy? How many colors does Rainbow MetaHawk want you to use?
6. Which Rainbow MetaHawk picture do you like the most? Why?
7. Do you want to be like Rainbow MetaHawk? Why?
8. What does Rainbow MetaHawk want you to do?
9. What colors are Rainbow MetaHawk’s tail feathers? Why?
10. Whom does Rainbow MetaHawk want to help?

Level 2 Questions:

1. What does the word “synergy” mean?
2. How do you work together with others at home? At school? How do you work with friends?
3. What colors does Rainbow MetaHawk use, and what do the colors represent?
4. What are the Rainbow MetaHawk’s strengths?
5. What would the world look like if everyone were a Rainbow MetaHawk?
6. What is the question that Rainbow MetaHawk asks?
7. What is Rainbow MetaHawk’s character lesson?
8. What is a person doing if he or she is traveling centered the Rainbow MetaHawk road and following the Rainbow MetaHawk code?
9. Why must Rainbow MetaHawk be higher than the rest of the character mascots?
10. Is learning to be a Rainbow MetaHawk difficult? Why?
11. What does the picture tell you about RainbowMetaHawk’s colorful rays?

Level 3 Questions:

1. What is tolerance? What does it look like? What does it sound like?
2. Why is it more difficult to act like Rainbow MetaHawk than like one of the other animal leader mascots?
3. Why would people who try to act like Rainbow MetaHawk have more success in life?
4. How does working together make it easier to achieve success? Tell about a time you worked together with others to accomplish something.
5. How do you think a person with a champion’s conscience would think and act on a daily basis? Do you know of anyone who acts this way? Why do you think so?
6. Can you think of a time when you or someone you know thought and acted like Rainbow MetaHawk?
7. What can be done to help a classroom/family become more united?
8. Can you think of a time where things did not turn out well because people didn’t respect each other and work together?
9. What picture comes to mind when you read the phrase, “S.O.A.R.ing above like a colorful streak”?
10. Why is it necessary to use all the colors to be a balanced, psychologically healthy person?
11. What does “meta-cognition” mean? Why is it important for success?
12. Why is the hawk called Rainbow MetaHawk rather than Rainbow Hawk?

Sample Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter Seven

Level 1 Questions:

1. What divides the island? Into how many parts is the island divided?
2. Where do the Extremes live?
3. What do the Extremes do to the animal leaders?
4. What kind of noise and action do the Gold Extremes make?
5. What kind of noise and action do the Orange Extremes make?
6. What kind of noise and action do the Green Extremes make?
7. What kind of noise and action do the Blue Extremes make?
8. What kind of noise and action do the Shadow Extremes make?
9. Who is the meanest of the all the Extremes?
10. What is a bully? Is a bully acting like an Extreme? Have you ever had someone act like a bully toward you? What did you do?
11. What does it look like when the river starts to churn, crash, and swirl?
12. How are the animal leaders going to survive? (Prediction question)

Level 2 Questions:

1. Where is Shadow River on the island, and what lives there?
2. What is a legion? How many legions are on Character Island? If the land is divided into four parts, what fraction of each animal group lives in its own legion?
3. What do Shadows' Extremes do?
4. Why is Chapter Seven called "Attack of the Extremes"?
5. What do the Gold Extremes do? Which animals do they attack?
6. What do the Orange Extremes do? Which animals do they attack?
7. What do the Blue Extremes do? Which animals do they attack?
8. What do the Green Extremes do? Which animals do they attack?
9. Have you ever been caught by one or two of the Extremes? What did you do?
10. Can you conquer the Extremes? Will they ever go away, forever?
11. What do Shadow Extremes do?
12. How can you control the Extremes? Tell about a time when you had an attack of them Extremes. What did you do?

Level 3 Questions:

1. What are the weaknesses (foibles) in this fable? Who creates the problems?
2. What are Shadow and the Extremes doing to the island's surface?
3. Can there be negative goals that affect you and others? What are the goals of Shadow and the Extremes? Think of the world today. Are there Extremes that want to destroy others' lifestyles and our own?
4. What are negative controls? Have you ever had anyone try to control you negatively?
5. What does panic look like? Have you ever panicked or seen someone else panic? What causes people to panic?
6. What does it mean when the story says, "Shadow Extremes leap from the water's grip"? What images are produced by the word "grip"? What if the authors wrote, "Shadow Extremes come out of the water"? Which creates a better picture? Why?
7. What is the purpose of the Extremes going in different directions?
8. What does "raging arrogance" mean? What picture is created in your mind? What "color" is "raging arrogance"?
9. Can you find Extremes inside of you? How do you control them—or do you?
10. Do you know someone who acts like the Extremes? Why do you think so? What can you do to help stop the Extremes?

Sample Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter Eight

Level 1 Questions:

1. How good is Rainbow MetaHawk's sight?
2. Where does Rainbow MetaHawk take the animal leaders?
3. Rainbow MetaHawk tells the animal leaders to synergize their strengths. What does MetaHawk want them to do? What does "synergy" mean?
4. Where are the answers to the animal leaders' questions?
5. Who brings the shield pieces to the animal leaders?
6. What do the pieces do?
7. What do the animals say four times when they know what they must do?
8. By combining their talents (colors), they hit the center. What is the center called?
9. How do the animal leaders become superheroes?
10. What happens to the animal leaders when they work together?

Level 2 Questions:

1. How do you conquer the Extremes?
2. What is the animal creatures' mistake?
3. What happens when you synergize your strengths? What does "synergize" mean?
4. Why are the animal leaders confused and don't know what to do?
5. What are the treasures of the Character Tree? What are your treasures?
6. How can the animal leaders drive away the Extremes?
7. How do the Character Champion super heroes defeat the Extremes?
8. What happens when the Character Champions break the hold of the Extremes?
9. What must you do to overcome your Extreme behavior? Who can help you?
10. Why is Green Owl always asking questions? Are there times we need to stop questioning so we can take action?
11. Why is Orange Wolf upset with Green Owl?
12. How does Blue Dolphin try to move the animal leaders to work together?

Level 3 Questions:

1. How do you know what kind of Extreme or Extremes maybe acting in you?
2. Have you noticed that the stronger you are in a character color the easier it is for the Extreme of the character color to attack you? Why?
3. Tell about a time you were under a Blue attack, Green attack, Gold attack, or Orange attack. How did you act? What were the results? How did you stop the attack?
4. Why is it easier to see when others are under an attack of the Extremes than it is to see when you are under an attack of the Extremes?
5. What triggers one of your attacks of the Extremes?
6. What is the power of the secret the animal leaders need to understand?
7. What mistakes do the animal leaders make?
8. What is meant by the simile, "Using sight as precise as x-ray vision"? Are there times when you must exercise "x-ray vision"? Give an example.
9. What is Shadow's test? Have you ever faced Shadow's test? What happened?
10. What four powers do you need for a lifetime to outsmart the Extremes?
11. At the beginning of the story, the professor said that, according to the legend, hidden at the top of the Character Tree are special treasures if you can find the spot. Based on the information in Chapter Eight, what do you think he meant by that statement?
12. Do you think all people have special treasures? Is it harder to find on some than others?

Sample Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter Nine

Level 1 Questions:

1. Who starts to scream?
2. Who blocks Shadow's attack?
3. Why are the animal leaders called Character Champion heroes?
4. Where are the Extremes sent?
5. Describe the Extremes. What do they look like? What do they do?
6. Can you scare the Extremes away? How do you do that?
7. Will the Extremes return? When?
8. What do the Extremes whisper?

Level 2 Questions:

1. What happened to the Extremes and why?
2. Where do the Extremes go? What powers sent the Extremes away?
3. Will the Extremes come back to the island?
4. What do the Extremes want?
5. What Extremes are on television? Explain.
6. Do you know when you have been caught by the Extremes? How do you know?
7. How do you act and think when caught by the Extremes?
8. What do you do to rid yourself of the Extremes? What help do you need to outsmart the Extremes?
9. Can you prepare yourself to fight the Extremes? How?
10. Can you help someone who has been caught by the Extremes? How?

Level 3 Questions:

1. What did Shadow's Extremes mean when they whispered the words, "Let go of the strengths you can naturally use"?
2. What actions might we take if we choose the path of Shadow's Extremes?
3. Name some historical figures who have chosen the Extreme path.
4. Can you think of a time when Shadow's Extremes have seized the day? What happened?
5. How long will it be before Shadow and the Extremes start another attack? What will the animal leaders do? What will you do?
6. How is the world experiencing an "attack of the Extremes"?
7. What can be done to help your family/school/work environment experience fewer "attacks of the Extremes"?
8. Why does forgetting your Champion way open the door for an "attack of the Extremes"?
9. Why do you think it is hard for some people to know when they are experiencing an "attack of the Extremes"?
10. Contrast the path of the Character Champions® path to Shadow's Extreme path. Which path do you spend more time on?

Think-Aloud Questions for Chapter 10

Level 1 Questions:

1. From where is the cheering heard? Why?
2. The animal leaders on Character Island are very happy. Why?
3. Do you act like a Character Champion? In what ways?
4. What does "sneaky" mean? Why is someone who acts sneaky an Extreme?
5. When the animal heroes synergized (combined) their powers, what happened?
6. What does "unity" mean?
7. What test are the animals facing?
8. How are "unity" and "working together" the same? How are they different?
9. How can you and others work together to outsmart the Extremes? Will they try to test you and trick you?

Level 2 Questions:

1. What must you do to fight the Extremes?
2. What is the unity that the Character Champions use?
3. What does "synergy" mean?
4. Do you remember the questions of each mascot?
5. Why should you use the questions that the four animals ask in the first moments of an Extreme attack?
6. What do you think is going to happen next?
7. What can you do to make yourself stronger in your Blue, Gold, Green, and Orange skills?
8. What test must the animals pass? How can they pass the test? Why? How can you pass the test?

Level 3 Questions:

1. Describe Champion ways of acting at home and at school. Describe the Extreme ways of acting at home, and at school, and at work.
2. What do you think it means to have synergized powers? What colors are used to represent synergized powers? How can people develop synergized strengths?
3. Where do the real Character Champions® live? Do you unify your colors to act together? Can you S.O.A.R. to bring about higher thinking, feeling and acting? Do you think this is difficult or easy to accomplish?
4. Why is unity needed to pass the test?
5. How often do you stop and think about how you are thinking, feeling and acting? Why is it important to stop and think to stay on the Champion' path?
6. What can you do to help yourself and others walk the path of the Character Champions® on a daily basis? Is it your responsibility to help others as well as yourself?
7. What can parents do to help their families walk the path of the Character Champions?
8. What can teachers do to help their students walk the path of the Character Champions?
9. Why are metacognition skills important for helping you outsmart an attack of the Extremes?
10. How can you use unity to improve your life at home, school and other places? Develop an action plan, then follow the plan.

Think-Aloud Questions for the Epilogue

Level 1 Questions:

1. What lands on the professor's arm?
2. What does the hawk remind him to do?
3. How do you stop the Extremes?
4. What would you rather be—a Character Champion or an Extreme?
5. What does the hawk do when the professor leaves the stage?
6. What does the ant do?
7. What does the wolf do?
8. What does the dolphin do?
9. What are some ways you can act more like Blue Dolphin, Orange Wolf, Green Owl, Gold Ant and Rainbow MetaHawk?
10. What are some ways your family members and classmates can act more like Blue Dolphin, Orange wolf, Green Owl, Gold Ant and Rainbow MetaHawk?

Level 2 Questions:

1. What is the purpose of Professor Falconer's hawk?
2. What must you do to S.O.A.R. like the hawk?
3. What do you do when the Extremes attack you?
4. What are the inner gifts that you have been given?
5. Do you have a choice to be a Character Champion or an Extreme? How do you choose?
6. How do you stop the Extremes from attacking you?
7. Thinking back to the prologue, explain why the professor is wearing a multicolored robe. What colors are the robe and why? What do the colors represent?
8. Why is the professor called Professor Falconer rather than Professor Smith or another name?
9. Develop a plan to help yourself outsmart an attack of the Extremes.
10. What colors do you need to make yourself stronger?

Level 3 Questions:

1. Professor Falconer is a metaphor. Explain.
2. Why does the professor love helping people to be their best? What is in it for him? Do you like helping others to be their best? What can others do to help you to be your best? How do you know when you are being your best?
3. Why is knowing your thoughts important for helping you choose how to act?
4. What does "succumb" mean? How can you stop and observe so you don't succumb to Shadow's attacks?
5. What are your inner gifts? What are some inner gifts of people in your family? Your classroom?
6. What character strengths do you need to strengthen? Of what Extremes must you be aware?
7. Why does Professor Falconer use a multicolored staff for support? What colors are they? Why are they significant? Can they be a code for acting like a Character Champion?
8. How can remembering this story and its lessons help you to think and act like a Character Champion self leader for yourself, your school, your family and community?
9. How can you retell the story using an example of humans being attacked by the Extremes? How would they work together to stop the attack of the Extremes?
10. Why can your inner gifts never be taken away from you? Why is it that some people do not value your inner gifts, while others do? What can you do about this?

Can you think of additional Think Aloud questions for the story?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Imagine a follow-up adventure to this story.

What do you think happens next? Does Shadow the MegaExtreme™ attack the island again? If so, how is the next battle even stronger than the first battle? List some of your ideas below, then write a story about what happens next. Be sure to upload your story at www.characterchampions.org so you can share your story with others and read the stories that other student authors created.
