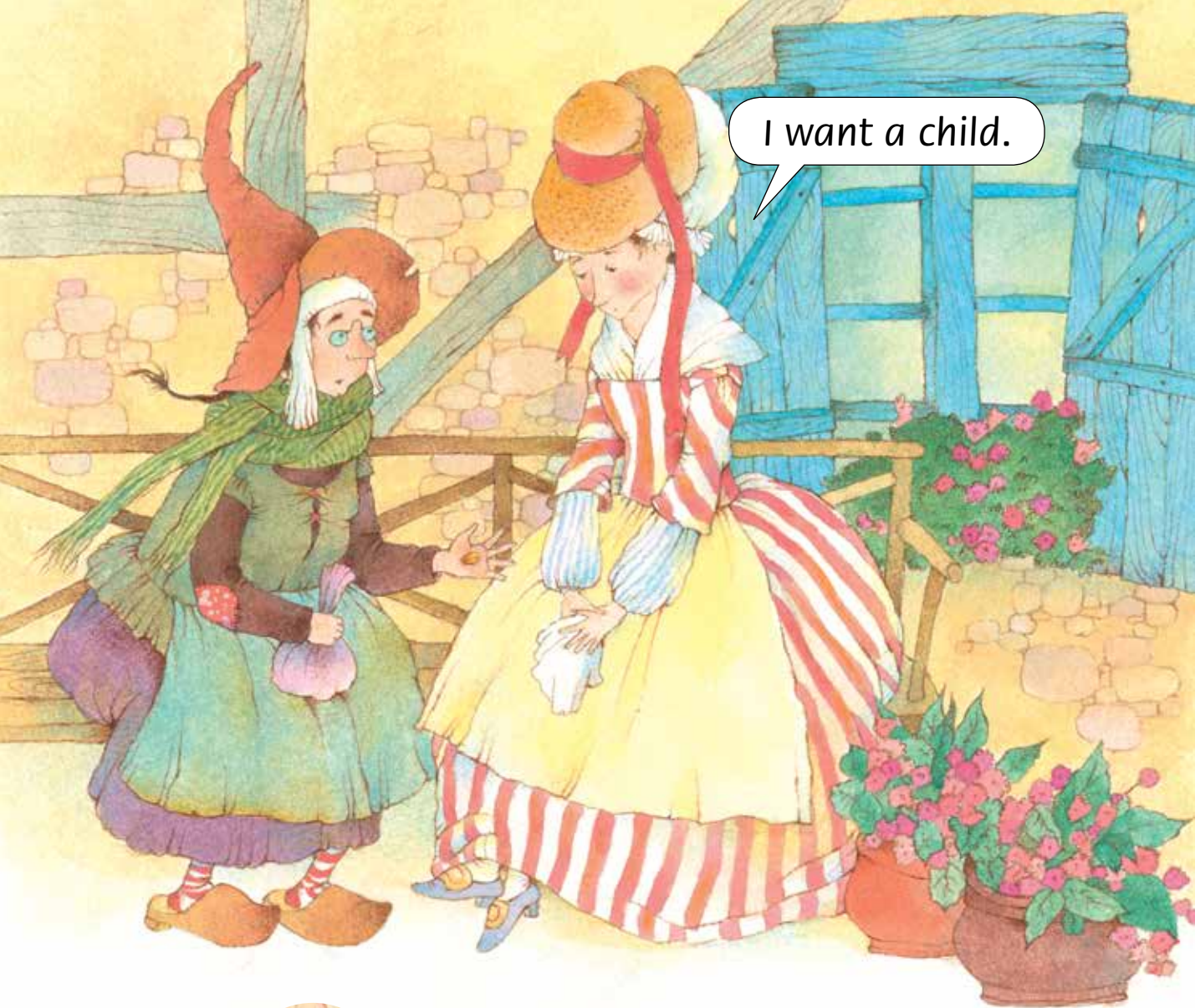




Thumbelina



Retold by Sue Arengo
Illustrated by Elena Selivanova



I want a child.



'I want a child,' says the woman. 'Please help me.'

'Here!' says the old woman. 'Plant this seed! And wait!'

The woman plants the seed. She waits. At last a flower grows. A beautiful flower.

The flower opens in the sun. And there's a little girl inside.

The woman is very happy. She calls the girl Thumbelina.

The woman makes a bed for Thumbelina. She makes a blanket.

Thumbelina is very happy. She plays and sings all day.



But one night a toad comes.

'Mm!' says the toad. 'My son wants a wife.
You can be his wife.'

She carries Thumbelina away.

'Where am I?' cries Thumbelina.

'This is a river,' says the toad. 'And here is
my son. You can be his wife.'



Thumbelina begins to cry.

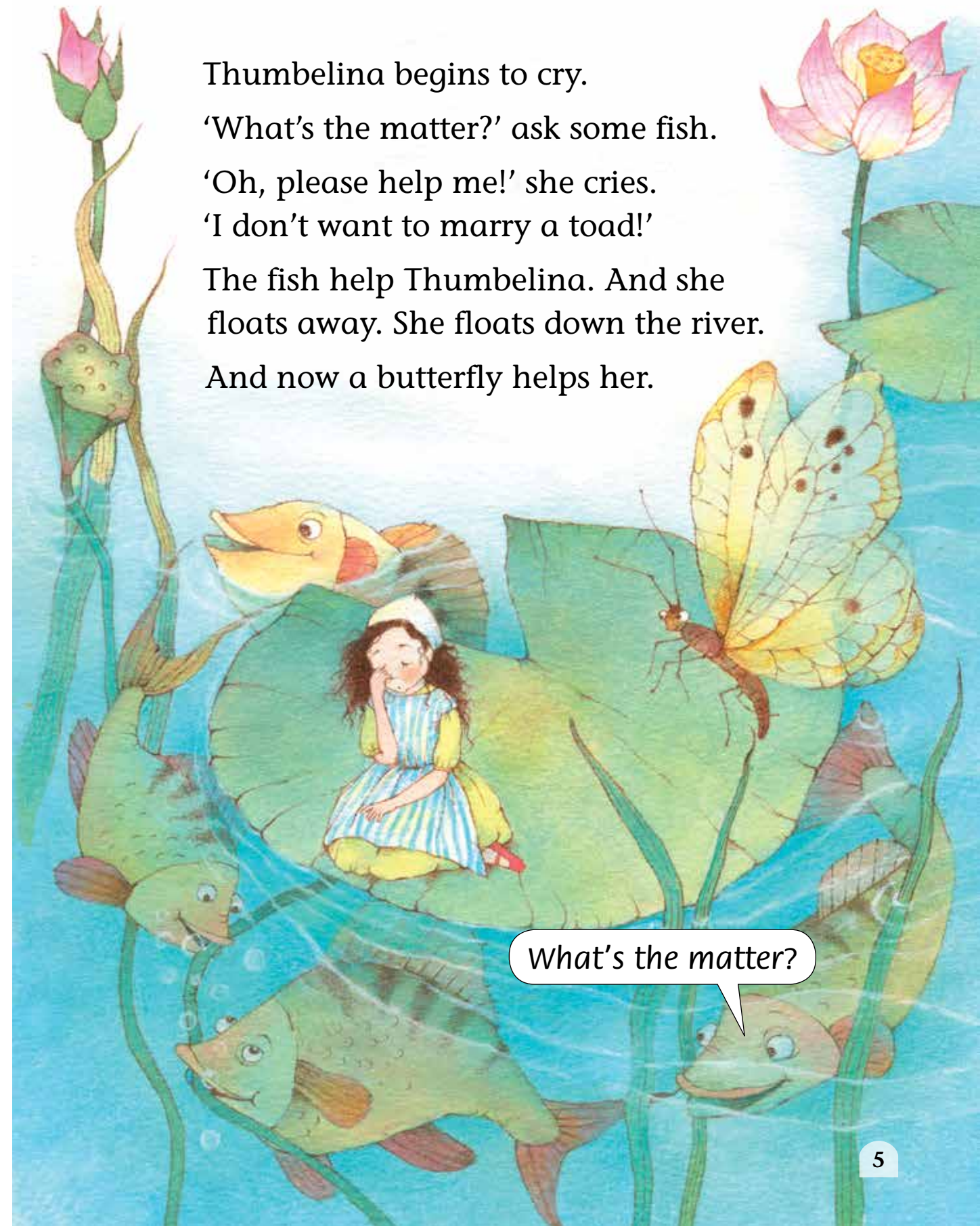
'What's the matter?' ask some fish.

'Oh, please help me!' she cries.

'I don't want to marry a toad!'

The fish help Thumbelina. And she
floats away. She floats down the river.

And now a butterfly helps her.



'What a beautiful day!' says Thumbelina.

But then a maybug sees her.

'Mm! You can be my wife!' he says.

He carries her up to a tree.

'Look!' he shouts. 'She can be my wife!'

But the other maybugs laugh at him.

'Ugh! She's pink!' they say. 'She only has two legs!'



She only has two legs!

'Ugh!' says the maybug. 'I don't want you now!'

And he flies away.



It's summer. Thumbelina makes a green grass bed. She makes a green grass blanket. The birds are her friends.