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askip

askip is an independent publishing house founded in 2020 in Lausanne (Switzerland), dedicated to children's literature.

askip was born from the meeting of a bookbinder, an author and a graphic designer, brought together by a common passion for books and publishing, and more particularly for hand-drawing, beautiful papers, nuances and the importance of details.

With one publication per year, **askip** approaches each project as an adventure, and takes the time to accompany its author in the construction of its book.

From the idea to the printing, and then through readings, meetings and workshops, **askip** likes to bring its books to life so that they can be told, looked at and handled by big and small hands for as long as possible.



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Baleinoïde (2025)

Featured in countless children's books, the whale fascinates us today as much as it once inspired fear. *Baleinoïde* is a subtle portrait of this imposing marine mammal, approached through the movement of air, the propagation of sound, and the fleeting impressions left after a sudden appearance.

The texts in this album, written by Baptiste Gaillard, form a poetic exploration that seeks to trace the contours of the animal across time, imagination, and scientific knowledge—through fragments and tentative gestures.

Echoing these writings are colored pencil drawings created jointly by contemporary artists Sylvie Mermoud and Pierre Bonard. Together, they shape a marine universe that feels both familiar and strange, filled with shifting organic forms unfolding according to their own logic.

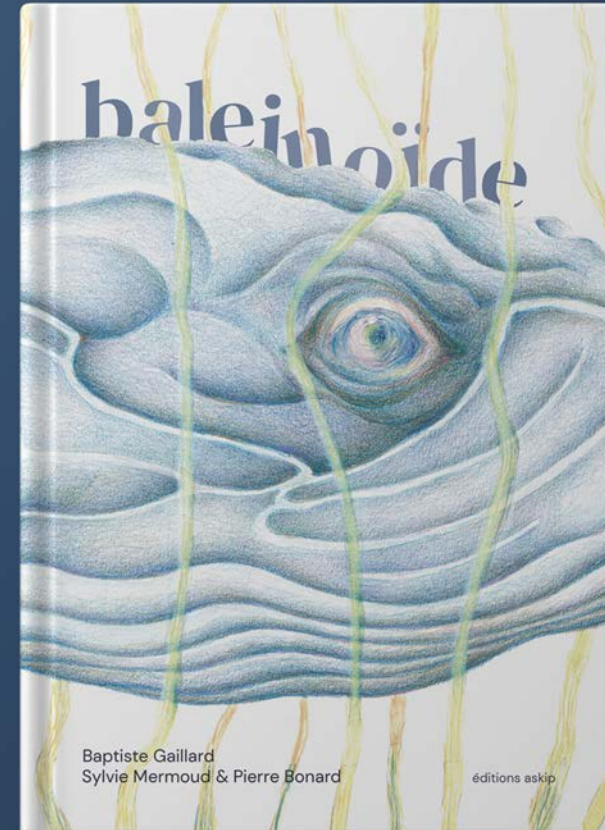
At once dreamlike, tender, and unsettling, this work invites readers to look and read differently, sharpening the senses and imagination to approach poetry with children.

Baptiste Gaillard (b. 1982, lives in Lausanne) is a writer, artist, and cultural mediator. He has exhibited installations and objects in galleries and art spaces in Switzerland and across Europe. Over time, language became the central material of his work, leading him to regularly publish texts in journals as well as six books, including *Un domaine des corpuscules* (Swiss Literature Prize, 2018) and more recently *Un test de fragilité* with Héros-Limite. He co-directed the Literature and Translation track of the Master's program in Contemporary Arts Practice at the Bern University of the Arts (Hochschule der Künste Bern). His work explores the thresholds of perception and tells of materials and transient states—like condensation on a windowpane, vanishing as soon as it forms. Since 2022, he has been a member of the editorial board of the journal *L'Ours Blanc*, and he works in continuing education at La Manufacture – University of Performing Arts.

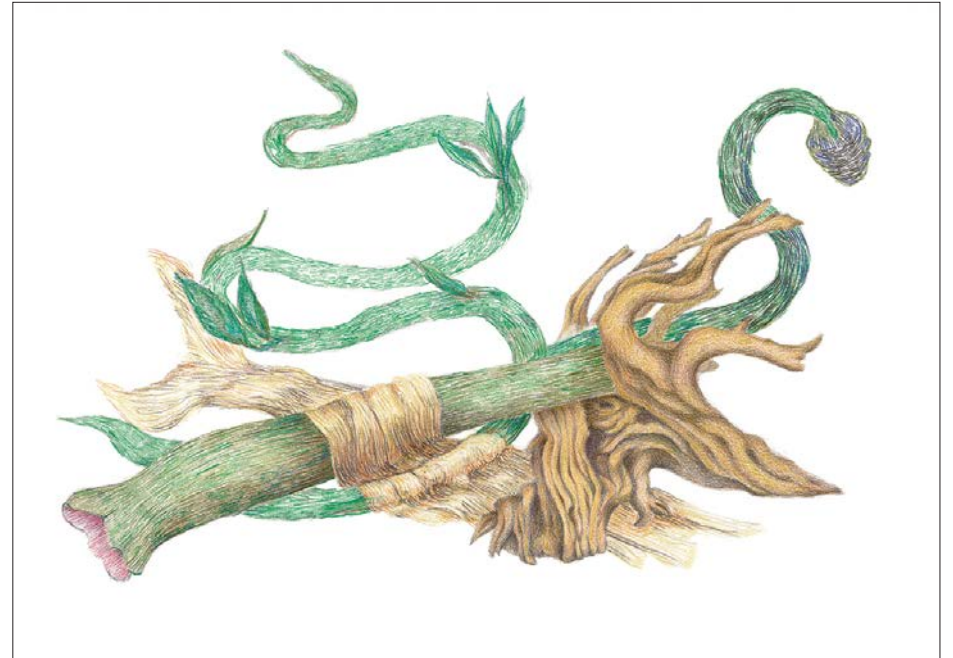
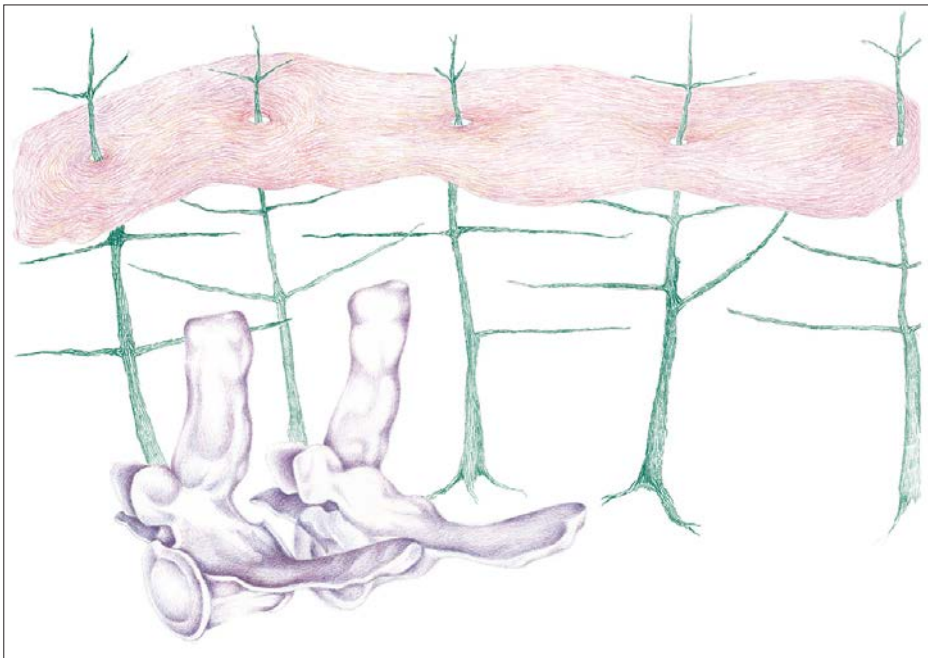
Sylvie Mermoud, a graduate of ESAV in Geneva, lives and works in Lausanne. Her work is regularly shown in Switzerland, France, Germany, and Finland.

After training as an art restorer in the early 1980s—including with Pierre Boissonnas in Zurich—**Pierre Bonard** opened his own studio in La Sarraz. From 1985 to 1990, he managed *Espace Palud N°1* and organized several exhibitions as an independent curator. A self-taught draftsman since his teenage years, he began publicly presenting his paintings and drawings in 2007 in various venues.

Since 2011, **Sylvie Mermoud and Pierre Bonard** have been creating four-hands drawings, where each artist takes turns working on the other's composition, building fragments of a singular, hybrid floating universe. Their collaboration is based on improvisation, the surprise of the other's proposal, and spontaneous response.



from age 6
52 pages
18 colour illustrations
original format: 27 x 19cm
éd. askip 2025



Food connections (2024)

This is the story of old Jean, who walks the earth looking for signs of the four seasons, and his friendship with young Tristan. Their paths meet, against all odds, and despite the generational and cultural gap. They share their world views, and life experiences, allowing for a blooming friendship.

Jean and Tristan meet as they are on their way in the world, one going to school, the other going on a walk. Their exchanges are funny, moving and revolve around their common love for culinary experiences. They share their love for words, food and ultimately, life.

Sara Catella's novel came to life during a children literature writing workshop dedicated to the memory of Jörg Steiner at the Litterary Institute of Bienne (Switzerland). Cécile Koepfli found an original and delicate visual language to illustrate the story, made of colored inks where food feeds both the characters' stomachs, their imagination and their friendship; where meals, even when physically not shared, do connect.

Sara Catella was born in Lugano in 1980 and lives in Bern. Of Italian origin, she grew up between two cultures. After studying in Italy, she obtained a Bachelor's degree from the Literary Institute of Bienne (Switzerland), then a Master's degree in literary writing and translation at the HKB (Bern, Switzerland). She translates from French into Italian, takes part in experimental projects and is interested in collective writing. Bilingualism is integral part of her literary research and practice. In 2022, she published her first novel, "Le Malorose", with Edizioni Casagrande. "Histoire un peu gourmande" is her first children's book.

Cécile Koepfli was born in Geneva in 1976. After graduating from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Geneva, she started working as an illustrator, integrating a wide variety of media into her artistic practice. Her work is regularly featured in solo and group exhibitions, and has led to residencies in places as diverse as Cuba, Cape Verde and the Château de Prangins. She also runs workshops, teaches screen-printing and is a member of several artistic collectives, including La Bûche and Friture éditions.



from age 5
52 pages
24 colour illustrations
original format: 27 x 19cm
éd. askip 2024



The old man who flattened children (2023)

"Le vieux qui aplatissait les enfants" is the first children's book by Geneva-based illustrator Thomas Grand. In his work, he has developed a mix of techniques, using watercolor, acrylic, ink and colored pencil.

Told from the quirky point of view of a scary, grumpy yet tender and endearing old man, the story follows a curious and intrepid little girl, who discovers a house in the middle of the woods. In it, she sees an old man carefully flattening a boy with a press, before placing him in a strange herbarium with other flat children.

Outraged, the girl sets out to free the children. The old does not see it this way. They're his friends, and if he flattens them, it's to protect them from the outside world. The little girl manages to shake up the old man's convictions, and together they redefine what could well be the beginning of a friendship.

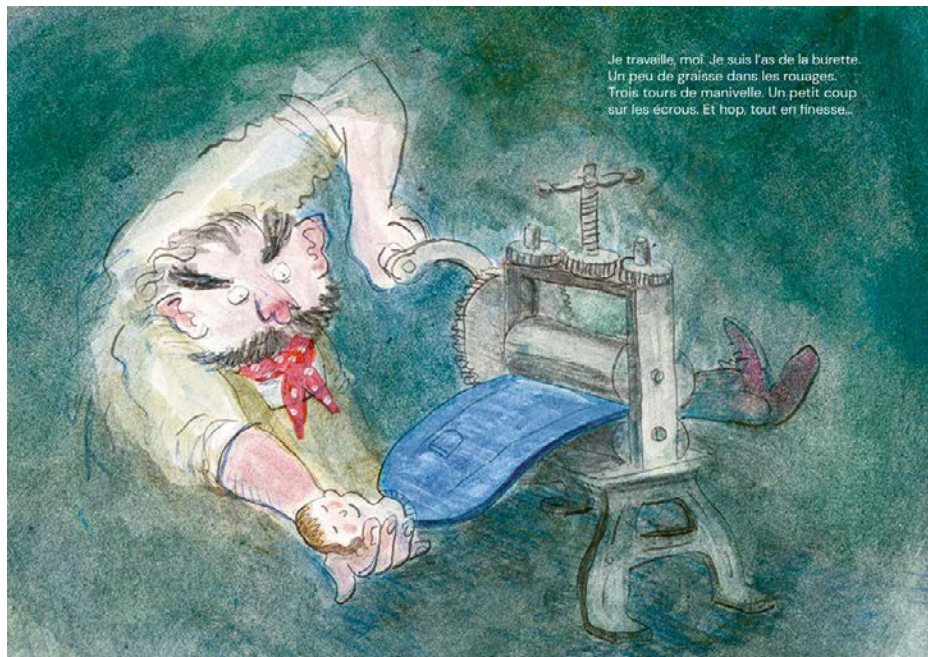
With humor and gentleness, Thomas Grand pays tribute to the authors who have influenced his approach to drawing and storytelling for young audiences.

Thomas Grand is a graphic designer and musician. After studying at the École des Arts Décoratifs in Geneva, he set up his own studio in 2003. He designed numerous show posters and illustrations, as well as signage and exhibition design for various museums in his hometown.

In 2016, he furthered his training in illustration at the School of Visual Art in New York. Inspired by the birth of his daughter, he started a children's book project that was selected for the Bolo Klub mentoring project in 2020 – 2021. His influences include Quentin Blake, Sempé and Tomi Ungerer.



from age 6
44 pages
20 colour illustrations
original format: 27 x 19cm
éd. askip 2023



The five senses picture book (2022)

"L'Imagier des sens" approaches the four elements from the five senses. The choice to work by hand allowed Anne Crausaz, who is used to digital images in her children's books, to get closer to the sensations by going to the essential, both in the drawings and the text.

Between fires, floods, avalanches, storms and landslides, the four elements are more and more present in the news. They amaze us, often overtake us and sometimes carry us away. Very present in a child's first learning experience, little by little they become inherent to our daily life, where we no longer pay attention to them. It seems more important than ever to keep our senses alive and to learn to live with the elements.

The aim of this book is not didactic, nor does it seek to provide a scientific answer. It is imagined as an invitation to curiosity and observation. The author proposes to poetically associate each element to a sense: to feel fire, to see it, to touch it, to hear it and to taste it, to feel water, to see it, to touch it, to hear it and to taste it... Five senses multiplied by four elements: twenty spreads divided into four chapters.



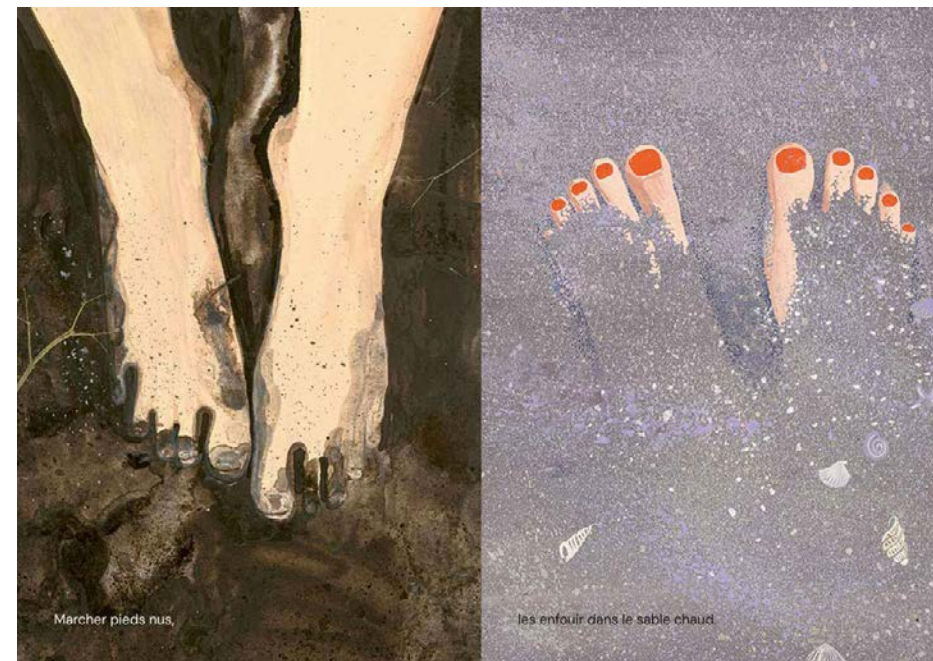
"L'Imagier des sens" won the *Prix Sorcières* (France) in 2023, and was shortlisted for the *Prix Pépites* at the *Salon du Livre et de la Presse Jeunesse* in Montreuil (Paris), in 2022.

Anne Crausaz was born in 1970 in Lausanne. She graduated from the Lausanne University of Art and Design (ECAL) and has been a graphic designer for fifteen years. Her first children's book, "Raymond rêve", was published in 2007 and won the *Prix Sorcières* in 2009. Many others followed, including "J'ai grandi ici" (2008), "Bon voyage petite goutte" (2010), "L'oiseau sur la branche" (2014), "Quel est ce légume?" (2019) and, most recently, "Une nuit au jardin" (2021), all published by Editions MeMo.



Rights sold for Italy

from age 4
56 pages
40 colour illustrations
original format: 27 x 19cm
éd. askip 2022



Marcel with a splash (2021)

Written and illustrated by Julia Sørensen, “Comme un poisson-fleur” (Like a flower fish) gently addresses the themes of parenthood, difference, and inclusion through the story of Marcel, born with webbed feet and an extra chromosome.

The book follows Marcel’s daily life from his birth to his first days at school. It talks about this child’s relationship to the world, to other children, but also about the place he is given. The book also evokes a word buried in the garden by his parents who “don’t know what to think of it”.

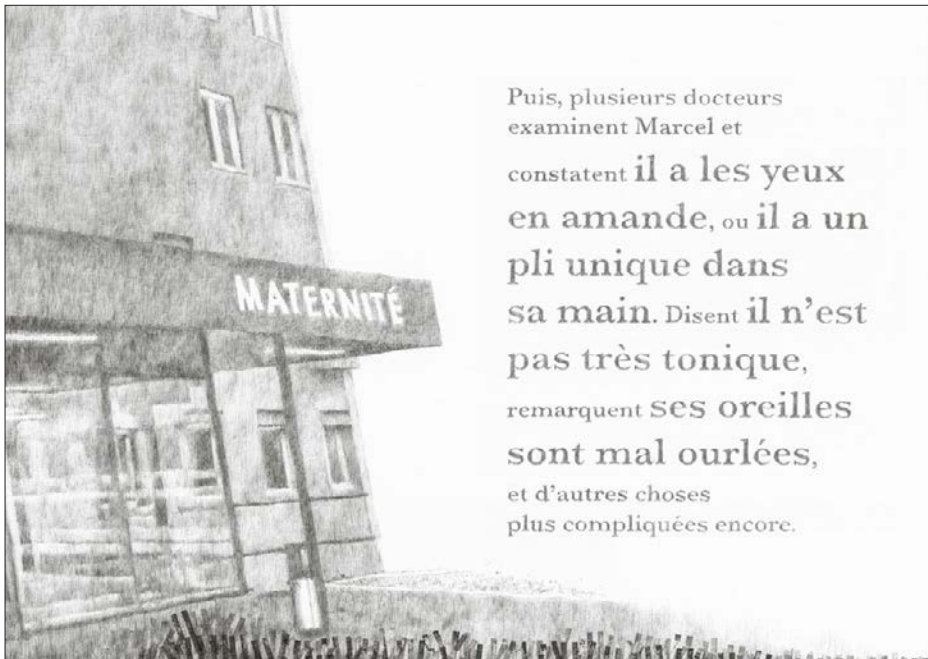
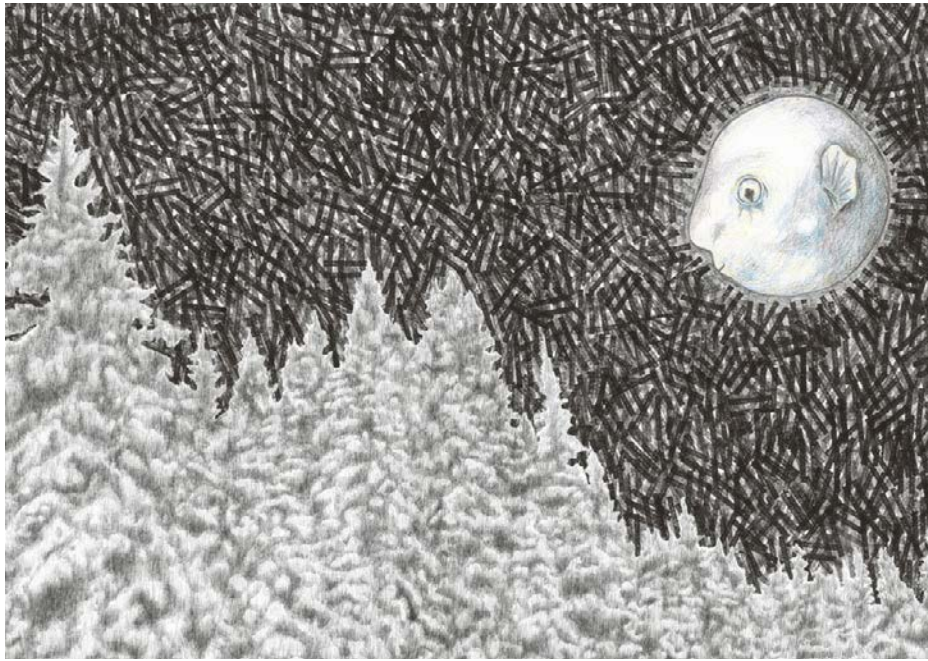
This word pronounced for the first time at Marcel’s birth is a diagnosis. “Comme un poisson-fleur” goes beyond medical terminology and the prejudices that sometimes accompany it to discover a child, his emotions and those of his parents, their everyday life. In colour and gray, because every journey is made of ups and downs, the author offers us a poetic stroll between naps, chromosomes and tall grass, along the ordinary.

Julia Sørensen, born in 1979 in Constance (Switzerland), is a Swiss artist and author. She graduated from the Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD) in 2005 and has developed a body of work that is often fragmentary and has been published by Editions des Sauvages and art&fiction. As an artist, her work oscillates between text and drawing. “Comme un poisson-fleur” is her first book for children.



Rights sold for North America
(english)

from age 6
48 pages
21 colour illustrations
original format: 27 x 19cm
éd. askip 2021



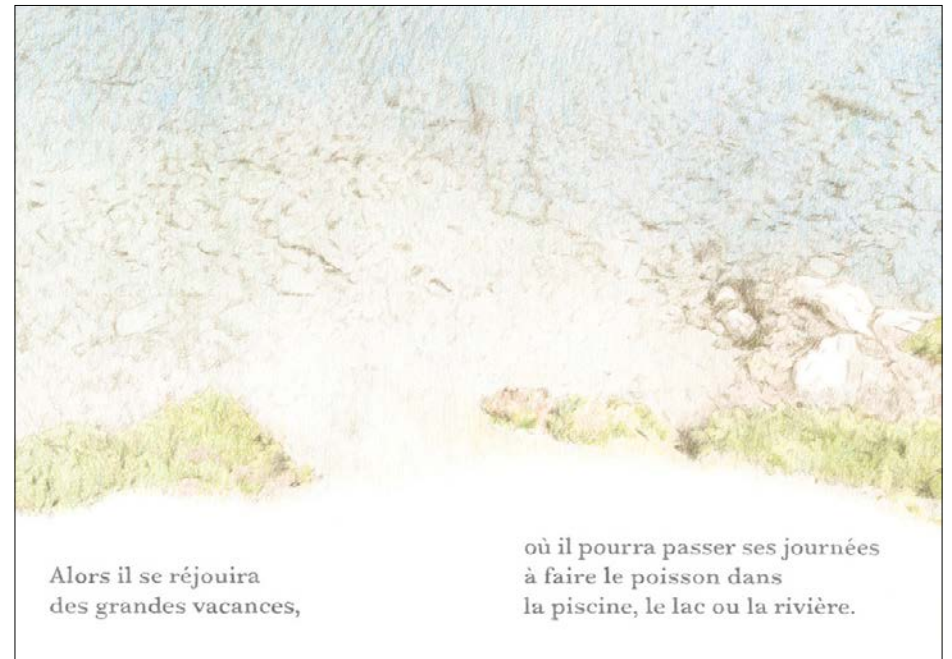
Puis, plusieurs docteurs
examinent Marcel et
constatent **il a les yeux
en amande**, ou **il a un
pli unique dans
sa main**. Disent **il n'est
pas très tonique**,
remarquent **ses oreilles
sont mal ourlées**,
et d'autres choses
plus compliquées encore.



Souvent, ils font des bêtises
quand ils sont ensemble.

Et parfois ou souvent,
Marcel se débrouille
très bien tout seul aussi
pour en faire.

Car dans le fond, il ressemble
à tous les enfants qui aiment les
bêtises, qu'ils aient les doigts
de pied palmés ou en éventail.



Alors il se réjouira
des grandes vacances,

où il pourra passer ses journées
à faire le poisson dans
la piscine, le lac ou la rivière.