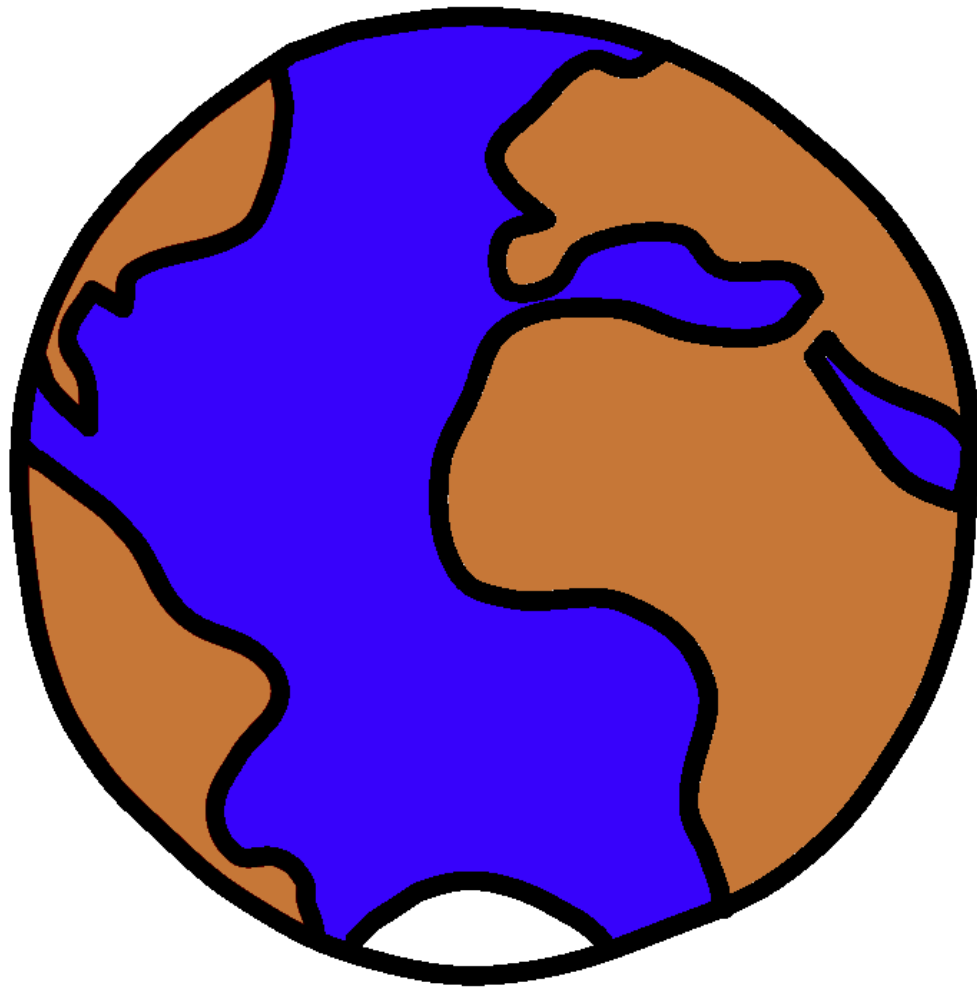


The First Lightning Bug

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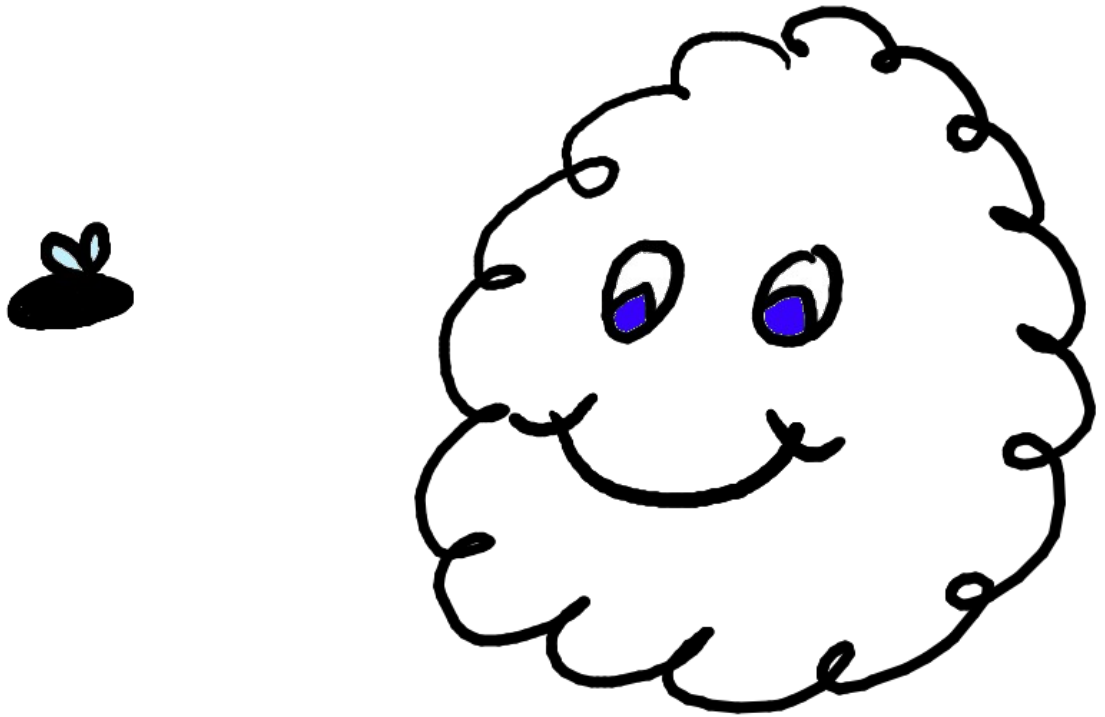
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Long ago when the world was young, all things were still finding their shapes. This is a story of how one little dim bug became the first of the lightning bugs.



Once upon a time a little dark
bug was flying along.



He met the wind and the wind
rejoiced, for now he had a
playmate.



The bug would dive into the
wind,

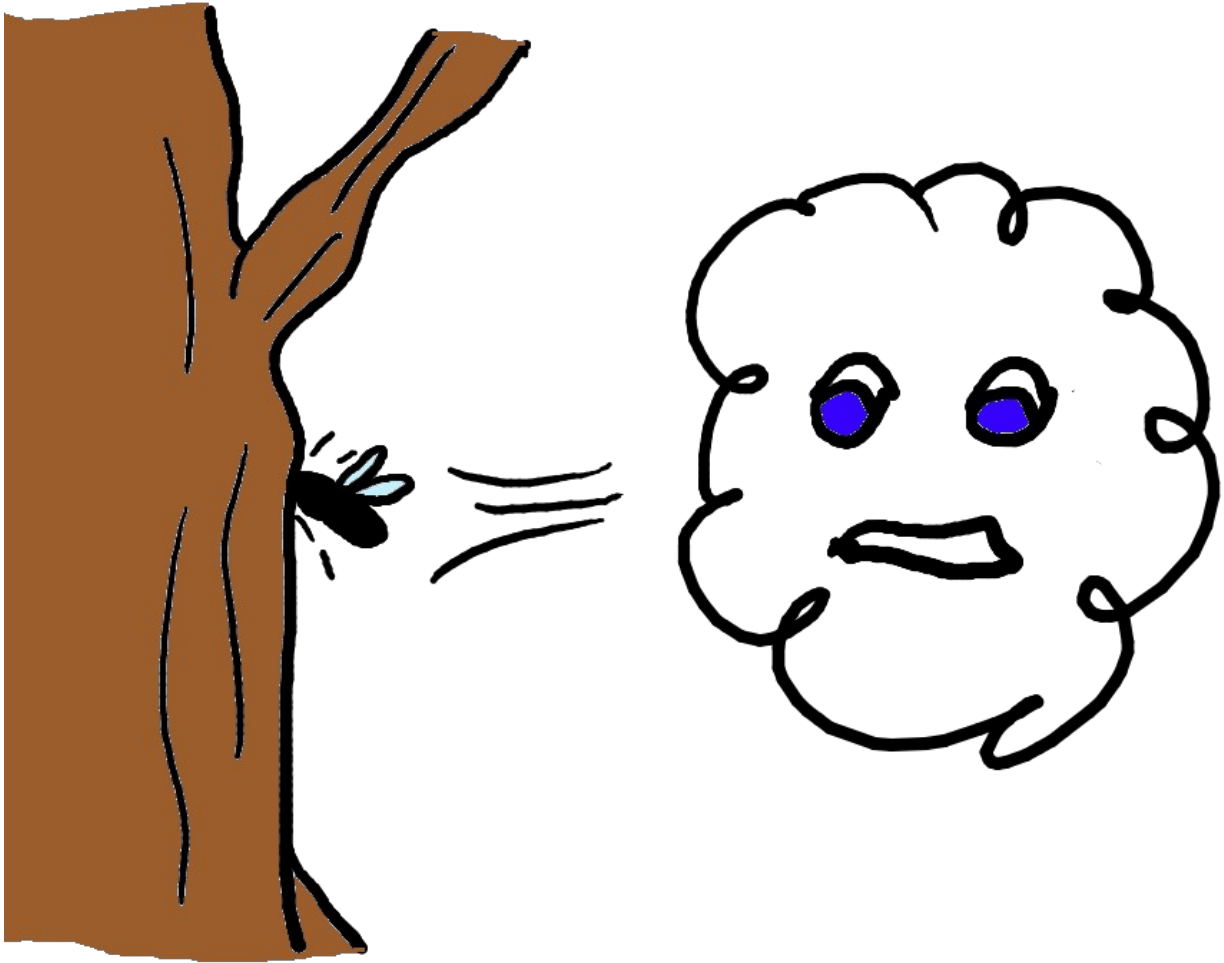


and the wind would spin him
through the air

again and again

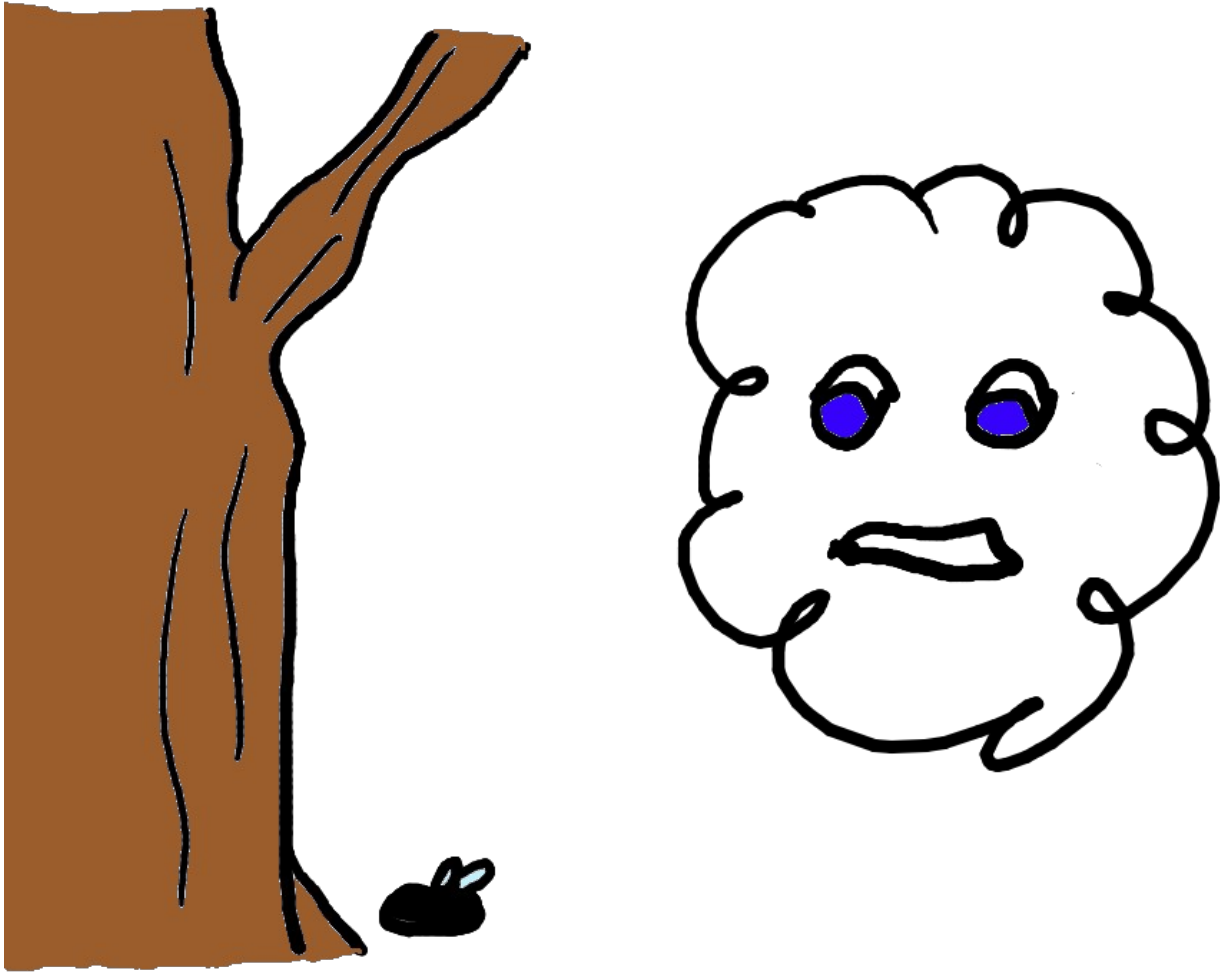


They played for a long time
Laughing and happy.



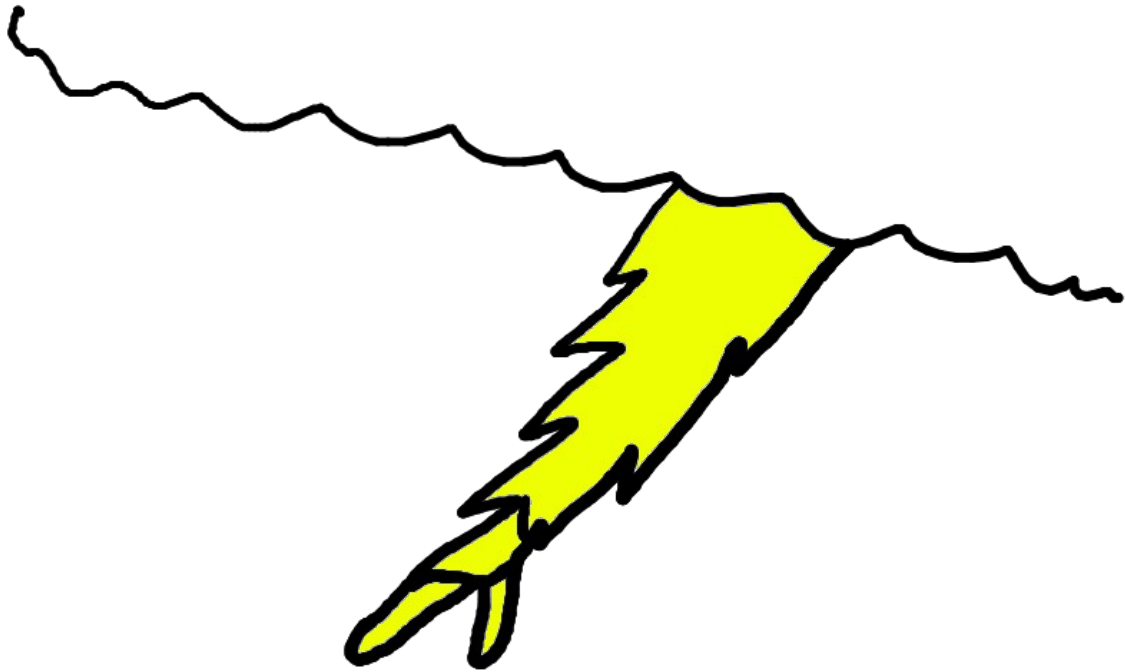
But the wind and the bug grew
careless

And the poor little bug ran
into a tree

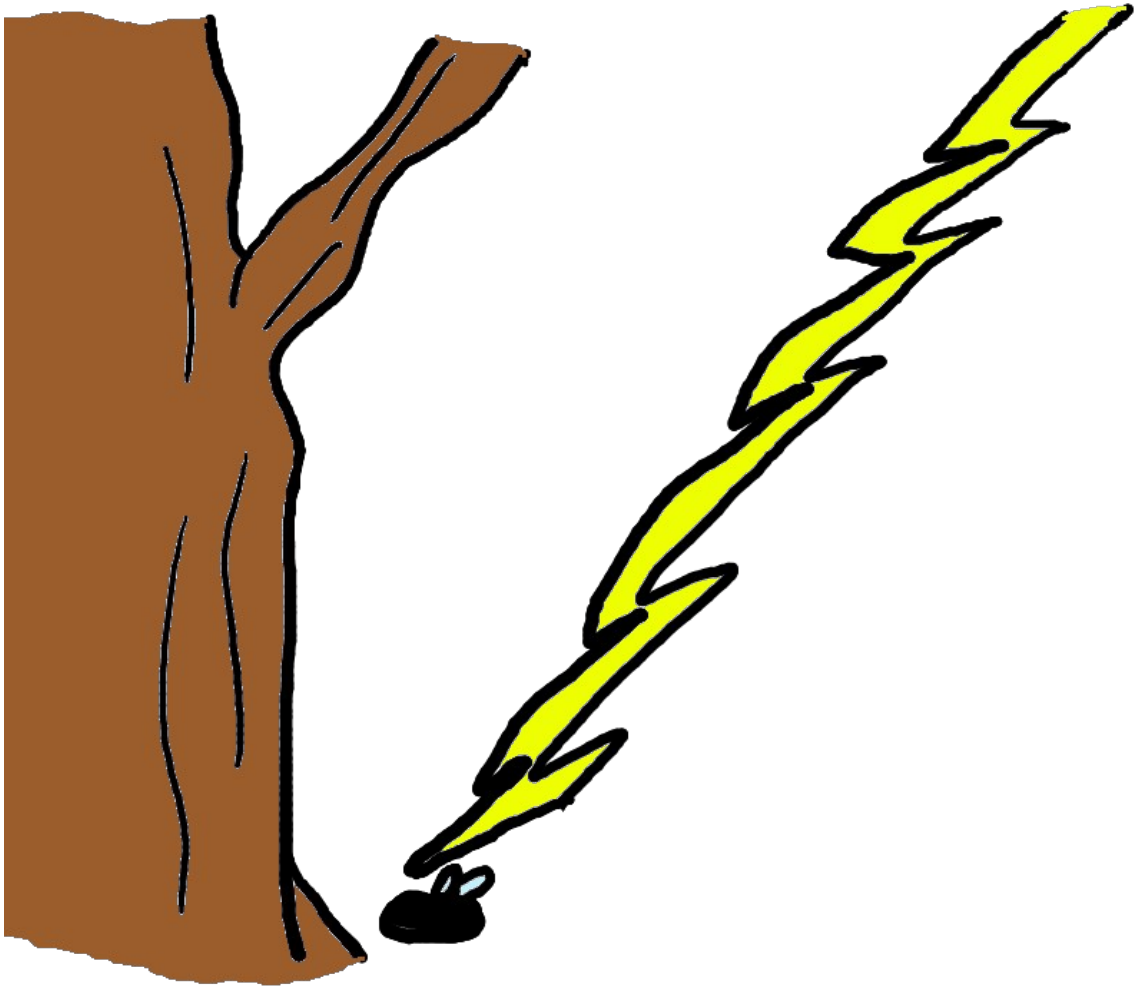


The wind cried out

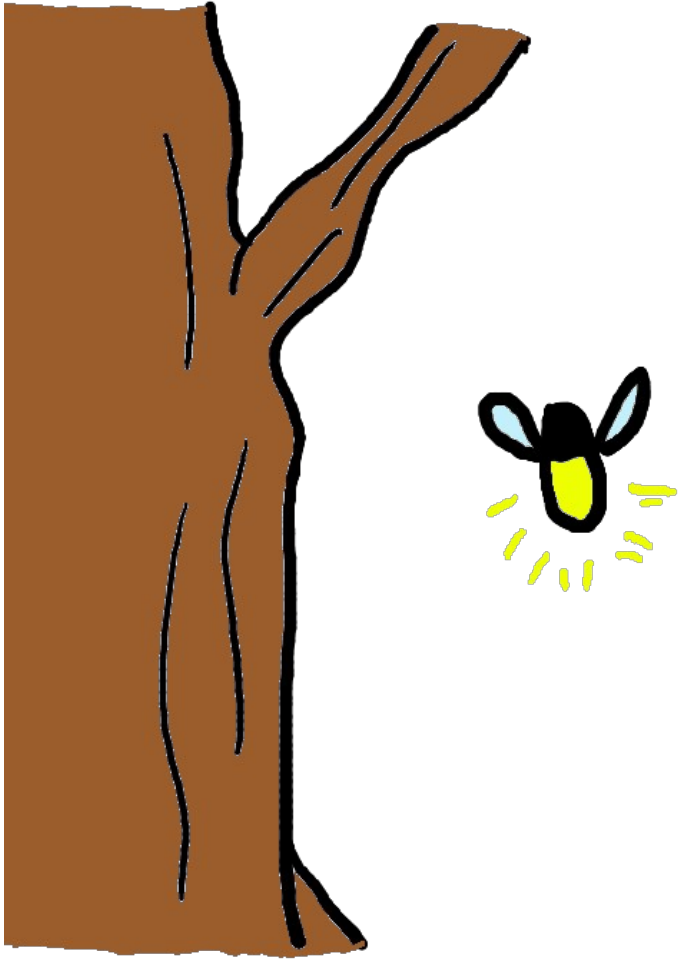
"Oh my poor little friend is
gravely hurt! Can anyone
help?"



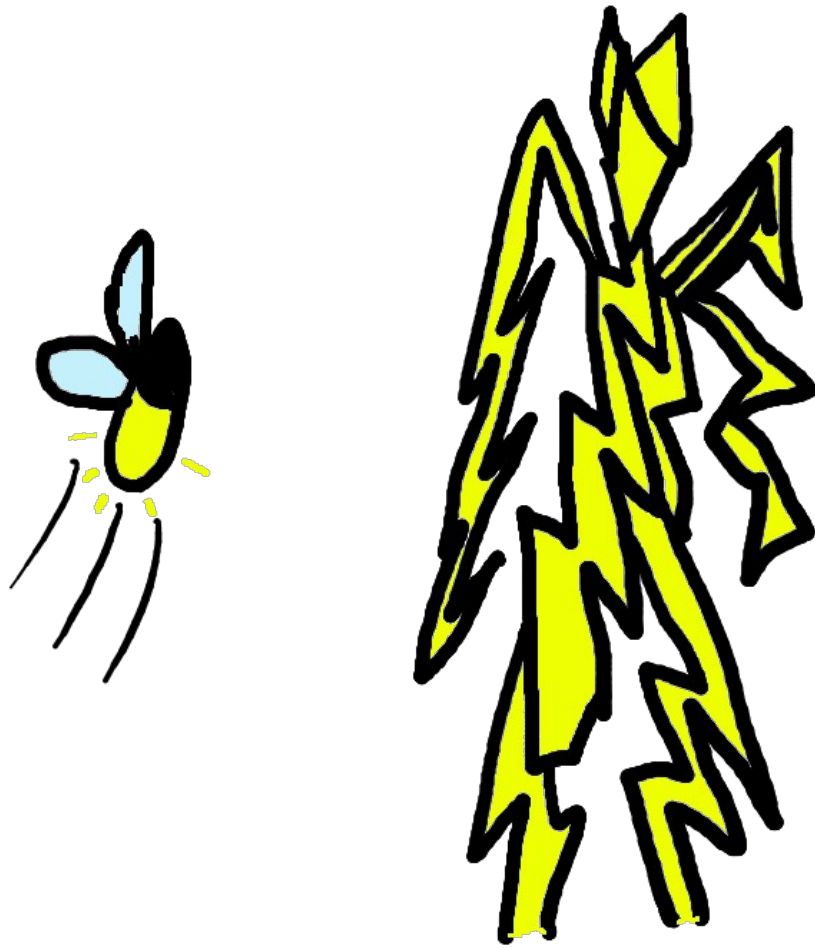
Lady Lightning stepped out
from the clouds and said,
"Fear not my sweet and
clumsy wind, I will help him"



She knelt down, and down, and
down, and gently kissed the
small bug.



The spark of life coursed through the little bug and he zipped into the air. Alive and brightly glowing!



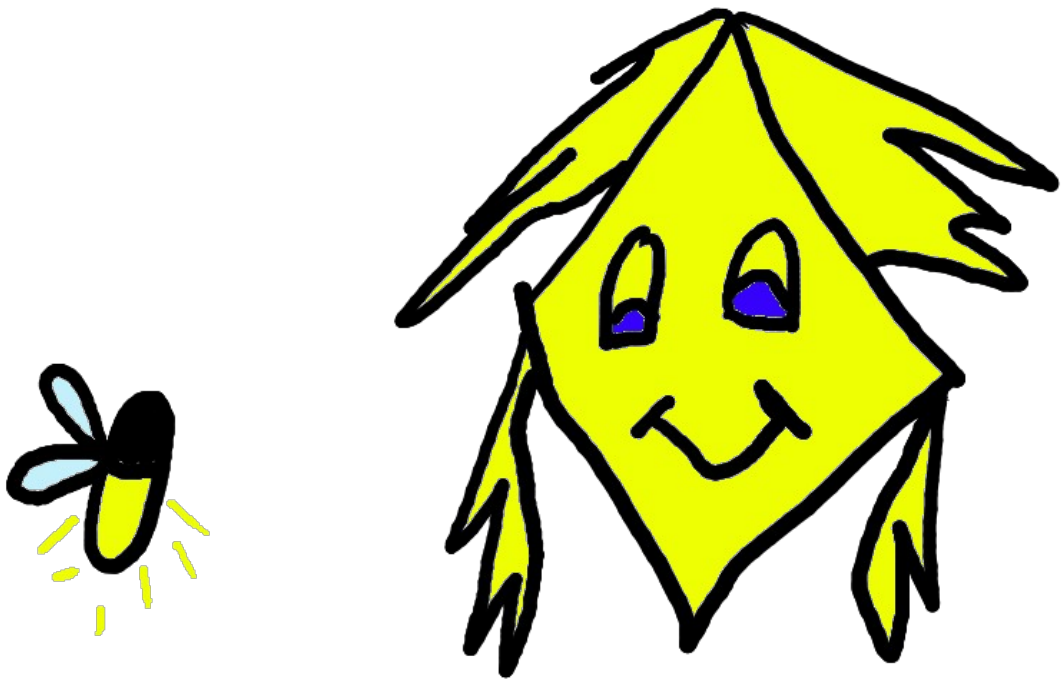
"Oh great lady! You have saved me," the bright bug shouted.



"I am so sorry," said the wind,
"can you forgive me?"

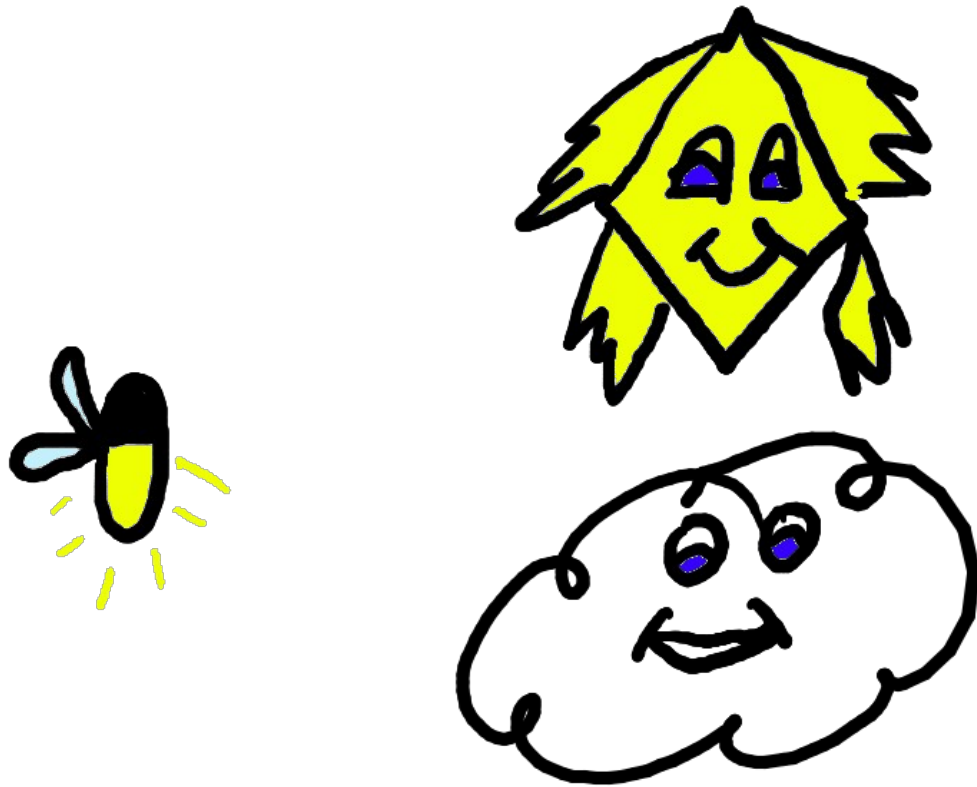


"No worries, no worries, my friend", the bug replied and dived into the wind, "See all is well, I am bright and full of light!"



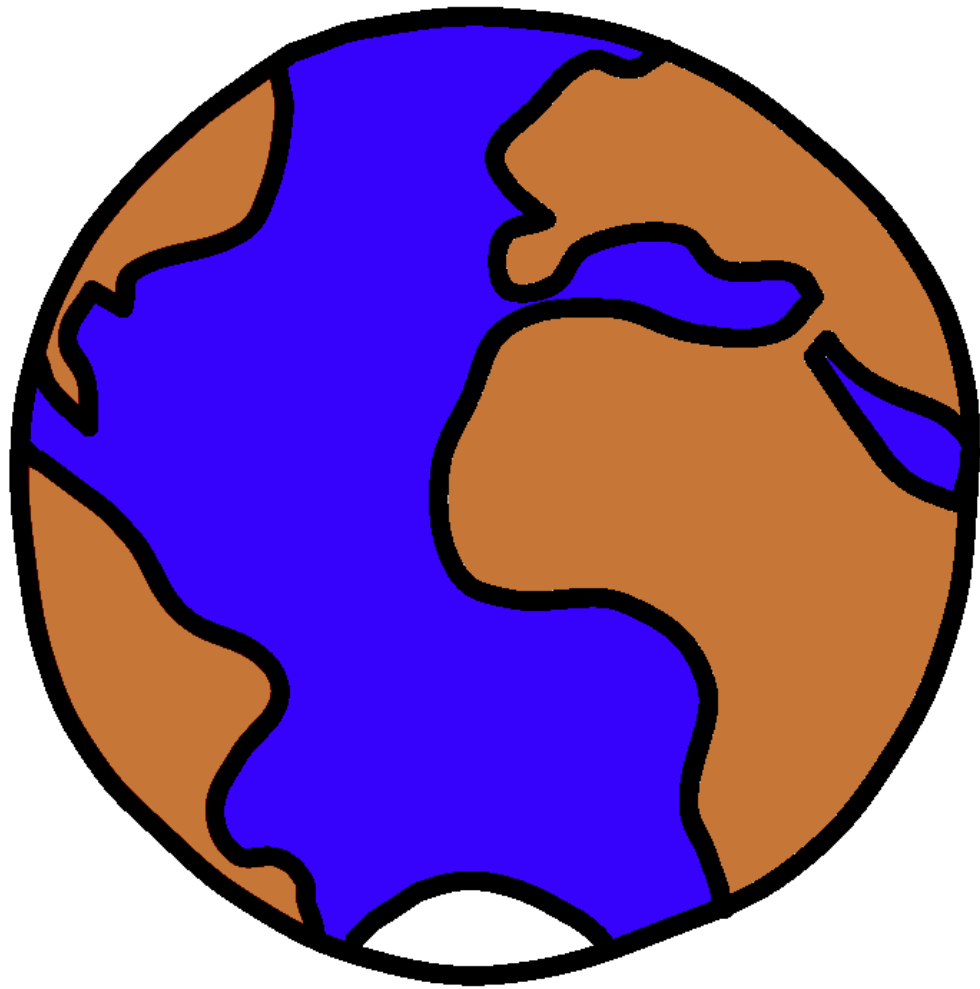
The little bug swooped back to Lady Lightning, "Great lady, great lady, is there any way I can thank you? Any wish I might grant?"

"No worries, little one, I am glad to have helped. To have brought joy to you and dear Wind", sparked Lady Lightning.



"Then... then since you want no reward, I will promise you this: From today until forever I and my children will be known as lightning bugs to honor your gift. And though we are small, when wishes are whispered to us, we will do all that we can to grant them. Since you were so kind and answered Wind's wish to save me," said the bug with a serious smile.

And Lady Lightning smiled. And dear Wind chuckled.



And so the first
lightning bug came
into the world...
The End