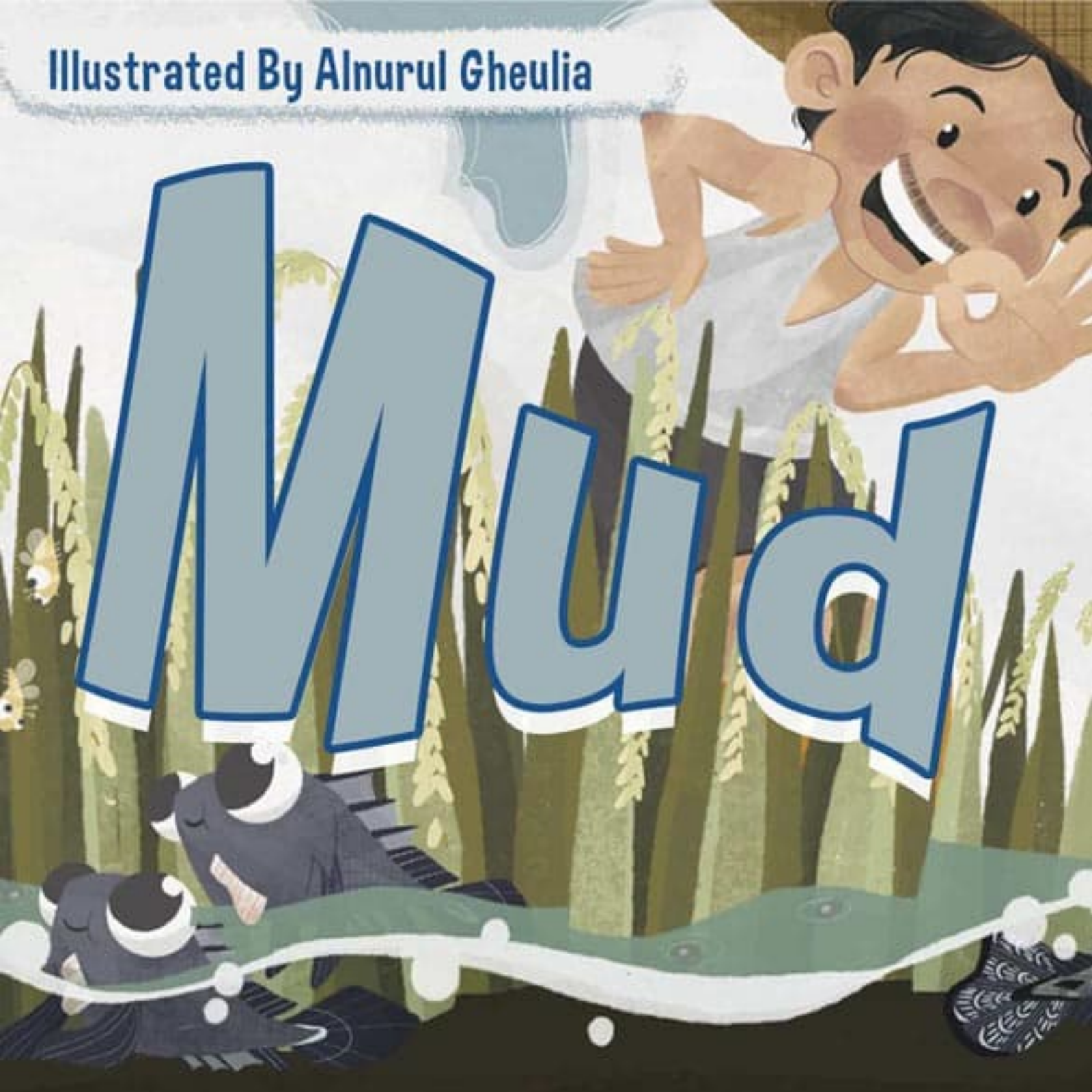


Illustrated By Alnurul Gheulia

# Mud



Most fish cannot get out of the water and walk around, but I can. I am a climbing perch. I can move between lakes, ponds and swamps.

I like to eat mosquitoes and other insects. I am a handy thing to have around on a farm because I eat the pests.



I also like to eat insect larvae.  
Aside from that, I will snack on  
small fish and insects in the  
water, like water fleas.

We have to watch out for some snacks. When a worm is on a hook like this one, it means that somebody is trying to catch a fish.

As I go around eating all of these yummy foods, I grow and grow. I become a good swimmer. My fins become strong as well.


I grow sharp spines along my back. This will keep me safe if something tries to eat me. They will think again before trying to bite a climbing perch.



We can make our way into spots that are hard to get to when birds are nearby. We can climb up the rocks and be out of water for a while.





An illustration of a dry lakebed. The ground is a mix of brown and tan colors, with several grey rocks scattered around. In the center, a fish with a white body and blue patterned fins is swimming. To its right, another fish with a white body and blue patterned fins is swimming. In the top left corner, a fish with a white body and blue patterned fins is swimming. In the top right corner, a bird with a white body and blue patterned wings is flying. In the bottom right corner, a bird with a white body and blue patterned wings is flying. The overall scene suggests a dry environment where fish and birds are struggling to find food.

It is hard to find food when the lakebed dries up as well. How do we get to a new spot and find food over the dry season?

We use our strong fins to get ourselves out of where we have been living and set off to a new spot. We walk across the land.

This is a good spot. The mud is soft here. You might find it weird that we have chosen a spot with not a lot of water.

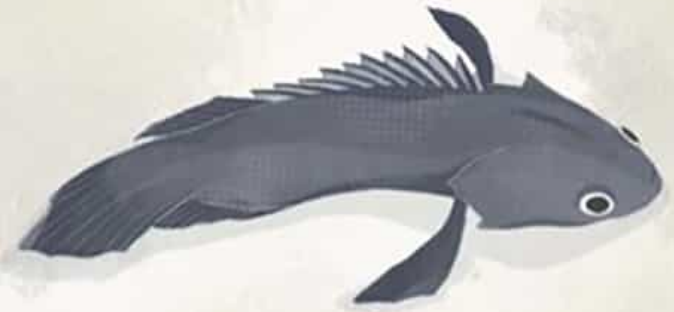
What will we do?

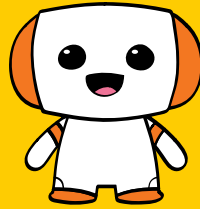


We dig down into the soft mud  
so that we can sleep until the  
rain comes back. When we sleep,  
we do not need to eat.



Climbing perch live  
all through  
Southeast Asia. We  
can be out of the  
water for 6 to 10  
hours! Not many fish  
can do that.





S1

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Adapted from "Pepuyu, the Walking Fish" by Utari ninghadiyati and Alnurul Gheulia.  
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