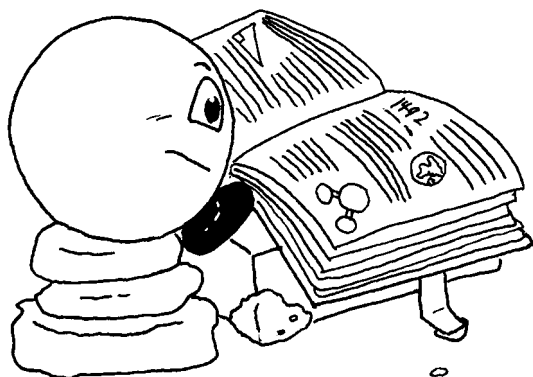


# JogNog

The Story of How a Small Creature  
Made a Big Difference  
and Everyone Got Smarter



Story by Rick Myers and Stephen Smith  
Text and Illustrations by Joshua D. Savage

[www.jognog.com](http://www.jognog.com)

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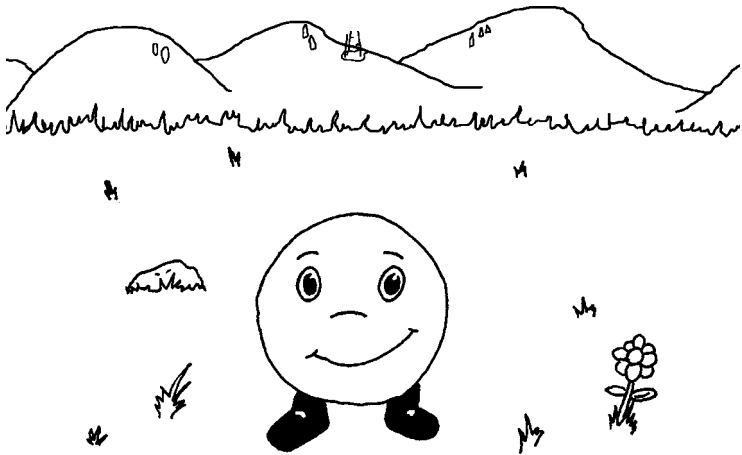
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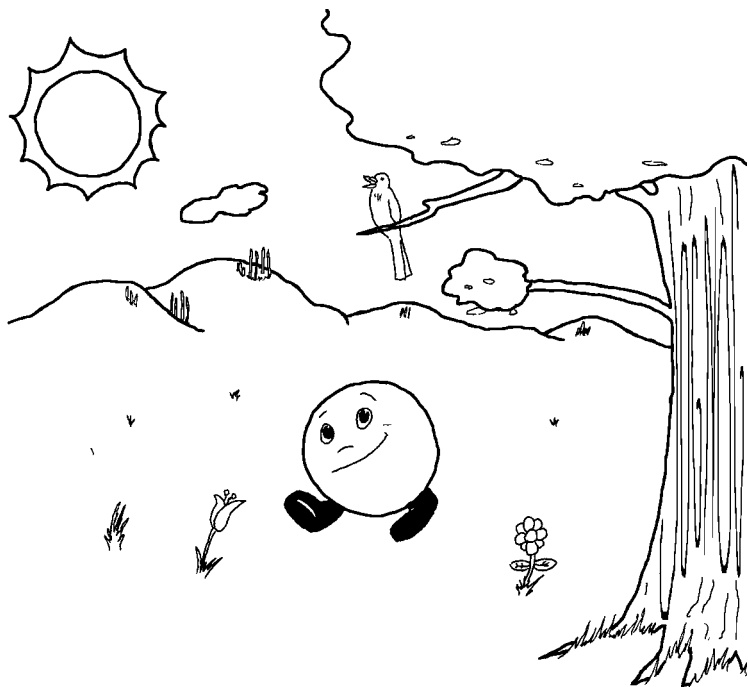
*for everyone who has ever felt the joy  
of learning something new*





In a far-off land, there lived a small, friendly creature called a Nog.

He had a great big brain and small fast feet, but alas no arms or hands.



The Nog was a curious little creature, so he often took long walks, looking for new and interesting things to catch his attention.

The Nog's days were quiet and peaceful.



But the Nog's nights were not peaceful at all.  
It was at night that the Slogs would come.



The Slogs were creatures of shadow that could not stand the light.

Under cover of darkness, they roamed freely, menacing and mysterious, oozing trails of thick black slime, searching...

...searching for the Nog.



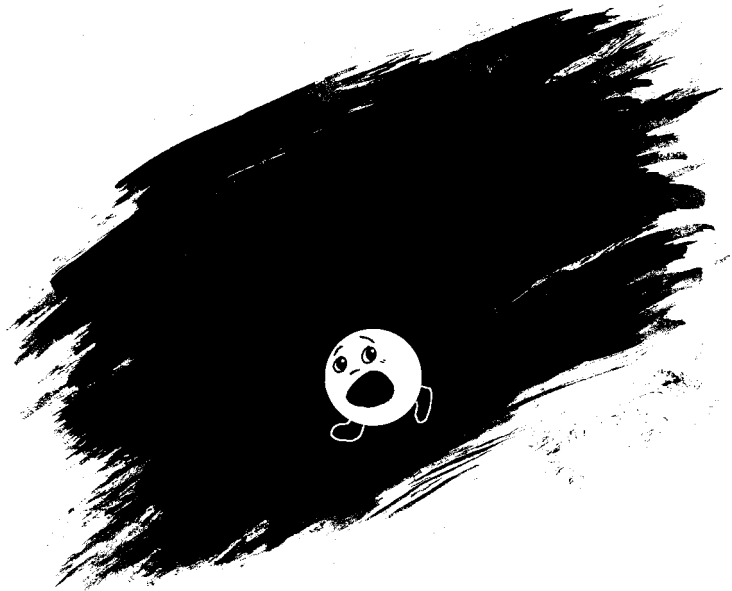
The Nog was terrified of the Slogs. He could not fight them, but he could run.

Luckily, he was very fast, and the Slogs were very slow.



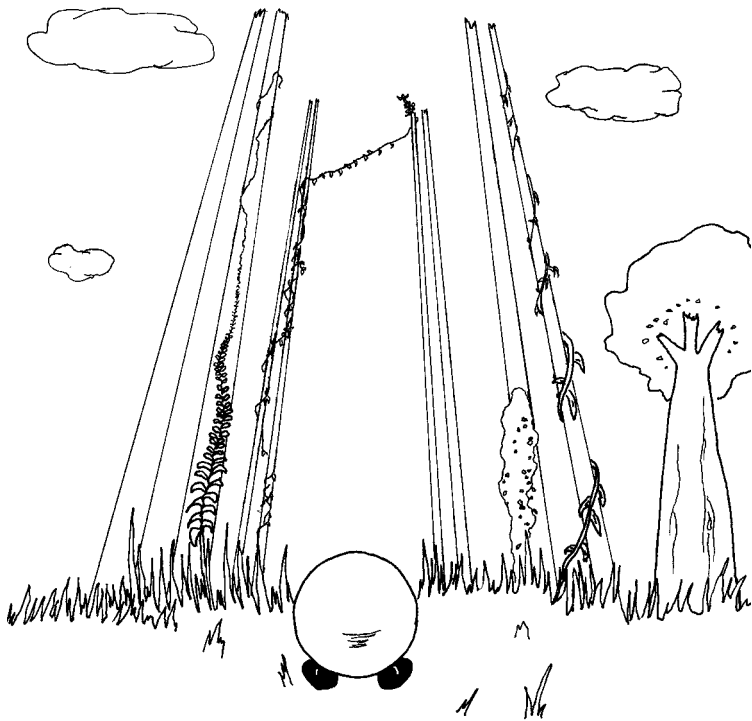
The Nog had a special place to hide. Every night, he ran to his hiding place and stayed there.

The Slogs were scary, but not very bright. They couldn't find the Nog.



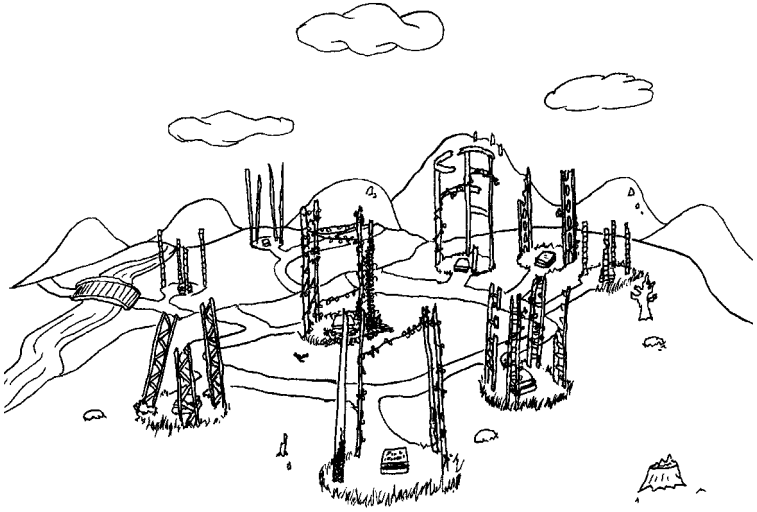
But every night, the Slogs searched in a different place. One night, they found the Nog's hiding place, and the Nog had to run.

He ran farther than he ever had.  
He ran longer than he ever had.  
He ran all night.

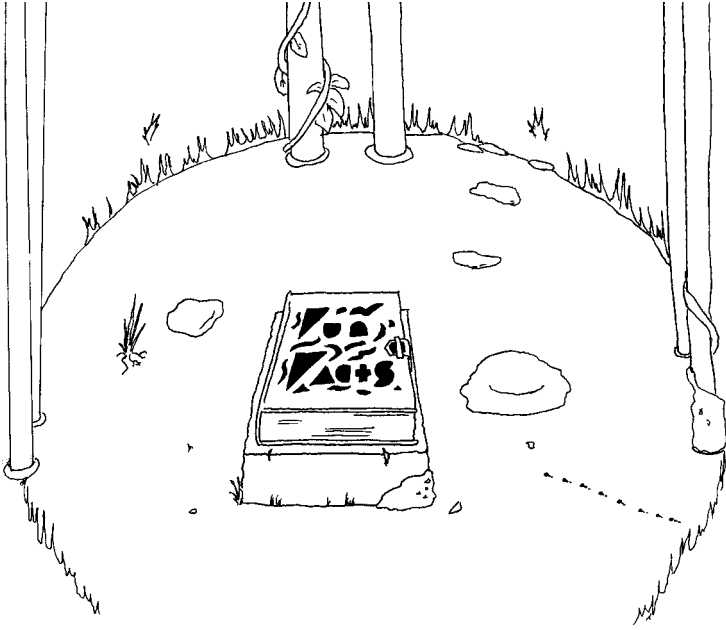


When the sun rose the next morning, the exhausted Nog found that he was in a strange new land.

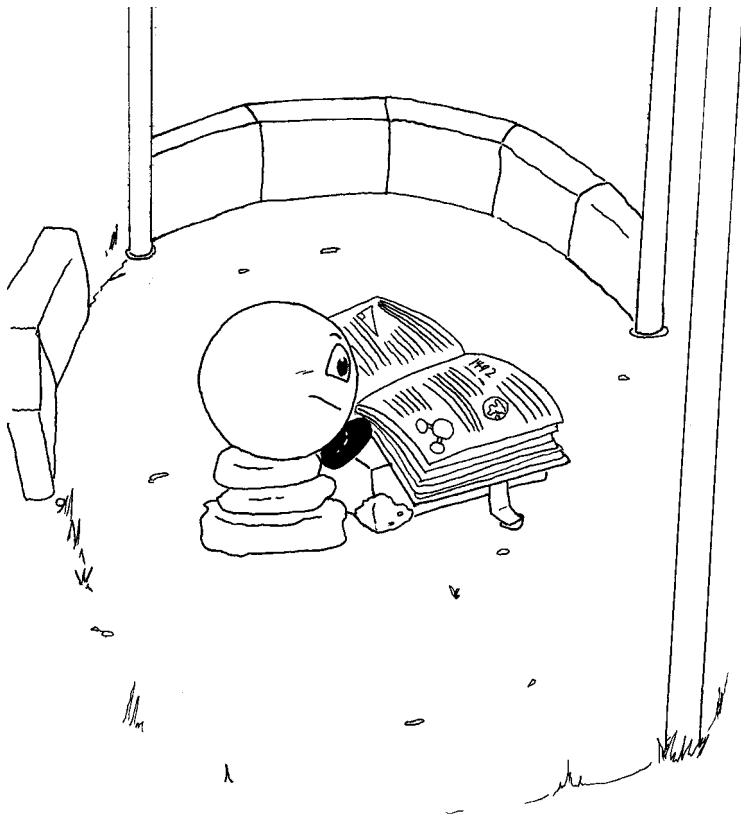
There, he saw something amazing:  
a ruined tower, stretching toward the sky.



Behind that tower was another, and another—  
an entire lost city of ancient, crumbling ruins.



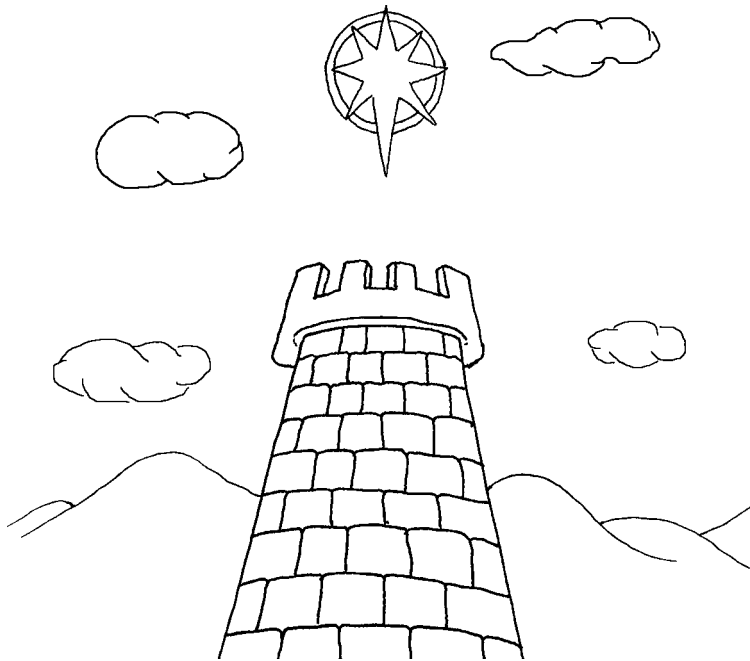
The Nog walked to the nearest tower, and was surprised to find a book in its center, resting alone on a giant slab of weathered marble.



Books, reasoned the Nog, were meant to be read, and so he did just that. The book was filled with new and interesting things.

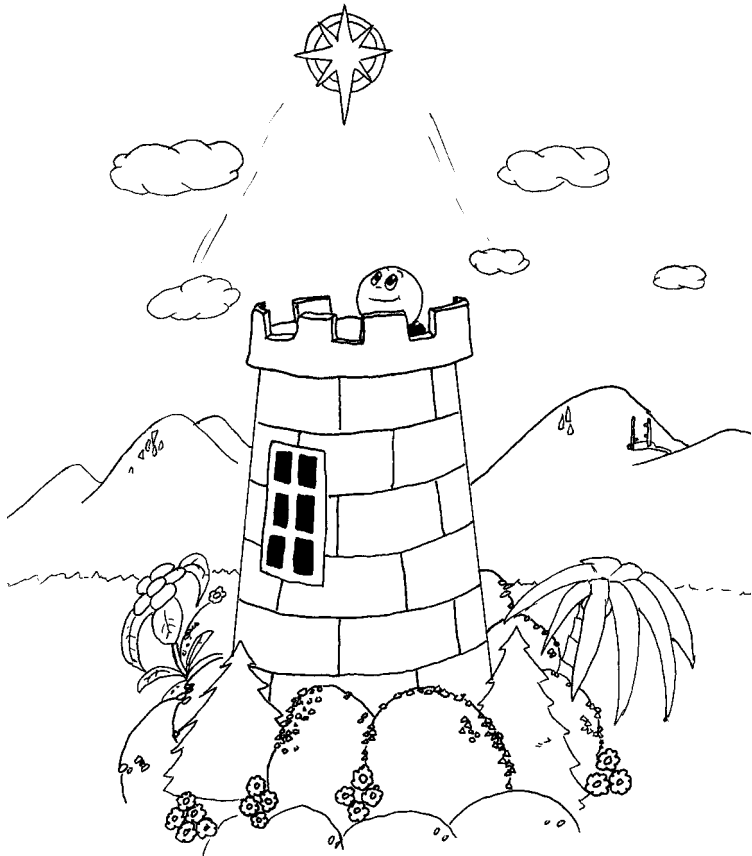
As the Nog read, he learned.

And as he learned, the tower began to repair itself, and grow....

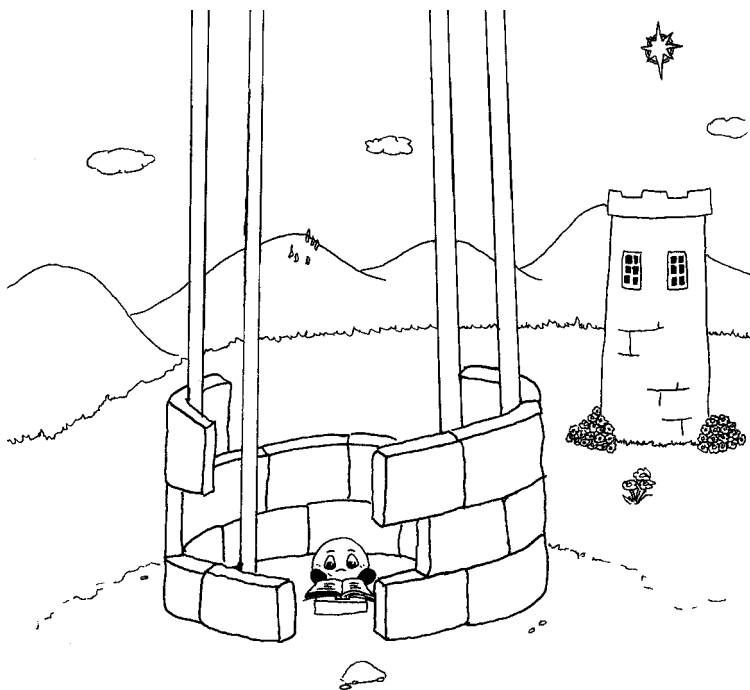


As the tower grew and grew, it became brighter and brighter. Even the shadows themselves melted away.

When the tower was finished, tall and proud, a star appeared in the sky above it.

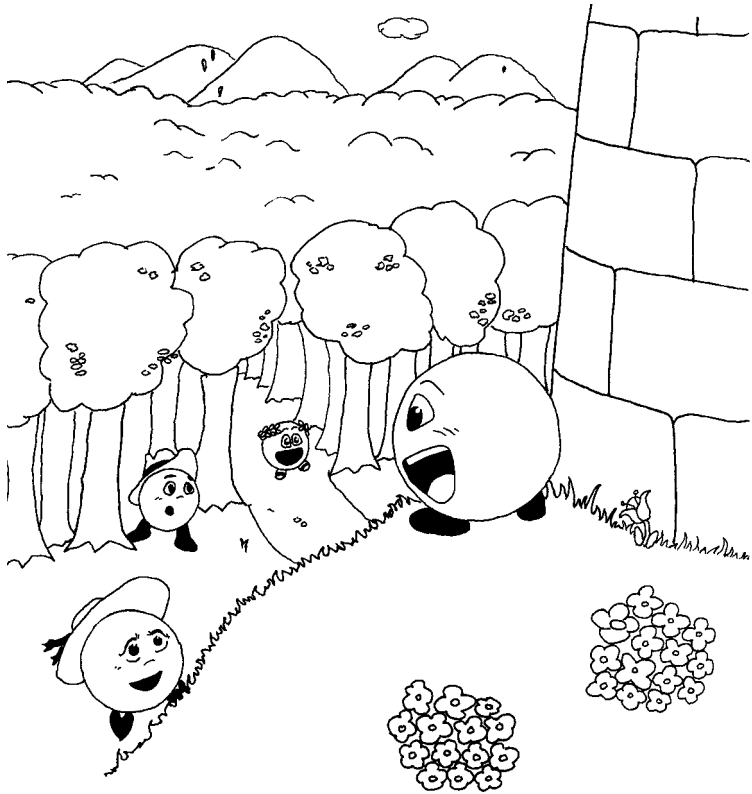


Warmed by the light from the tower, the land began to flourish. The grass grew greener and burst with life; flowers bloomed. Even the air seemed fresher and more richly alive.



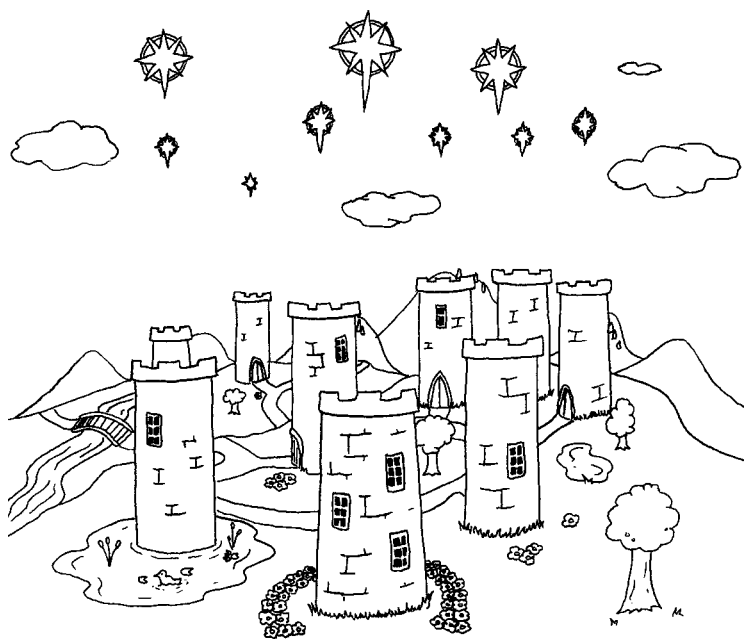
The Nog was so excited that he immediately ran to another tower. That tower, too, contained a book. The Nog began to read, and, sure enough, the tower began to repair itself.

The Nog rebuilt tower after tower, day after day, working without cease.



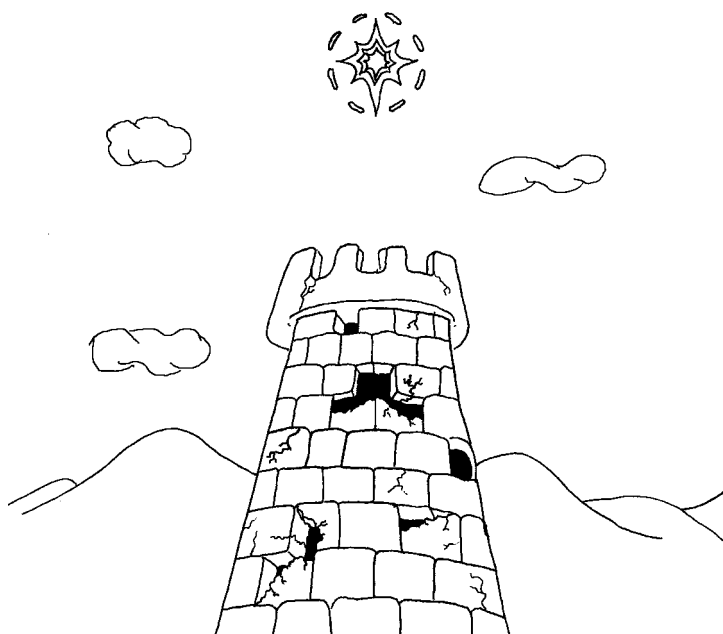
One morning, the Nog got a surprise. He was not the only Nog!

Other Nogs had seen his shining towers in the distance. They came in great numbers, wondering how to build their own. The Nog taught them all what to do, going with them from tower to tower and watching the shining structures rise.

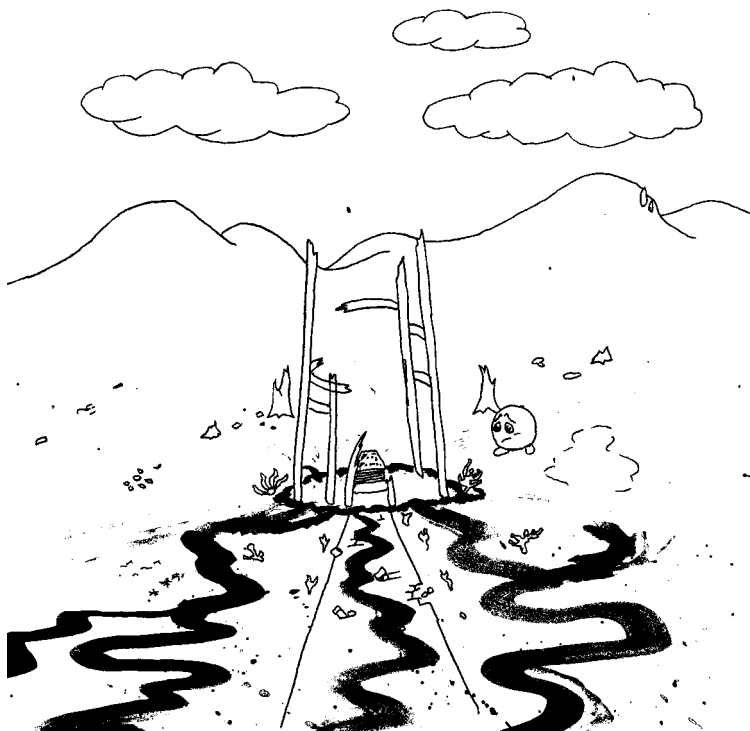


The ancient land was vast, but soon the hills sparkled with towers shining beneath the twinkling constellations of the reborn stars.

The Nog was pleased to see so many of them, and decided to go see the very first city that he had built.



He was dismayed by what he found there. The shining towers that he had been so proud of had grown old and shabby. They were cracking and weakening, and the stars above them were beginning to fade.



And the very first tower he had built wasn't there at all. It had crumbled so completely that its light had gone out.

The Slogs had come in the night, oozing their way into the cracks until the tower fell crashing to the ground. Then they had gone, leaving only their black trails of slime behind.

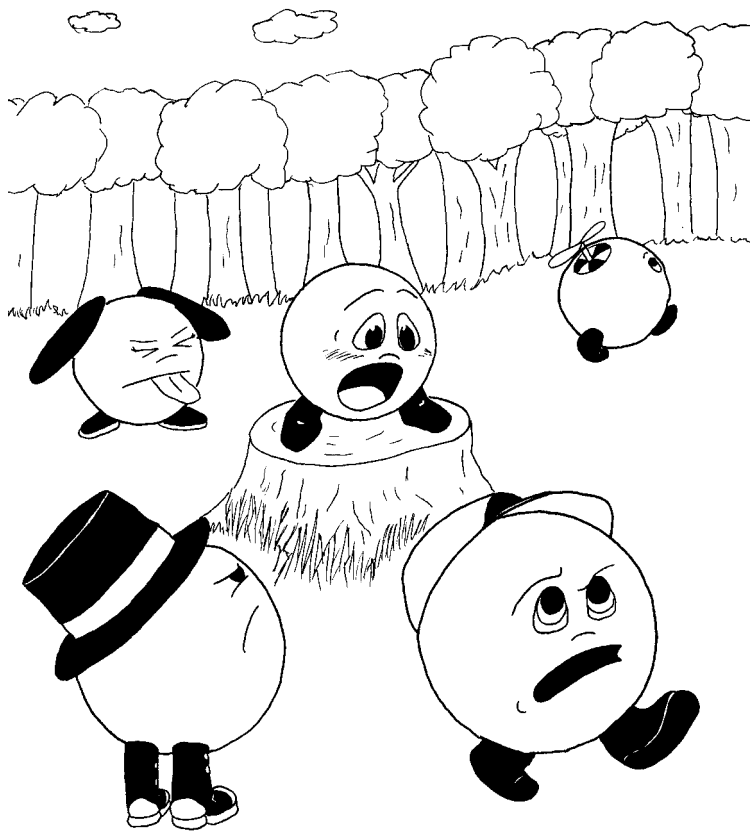


How, wondered the Nog, had he not noticed that the tower's star was fading?

The Nog rebuilt the tower, and that evening he stood at its top and looked out over the sky.

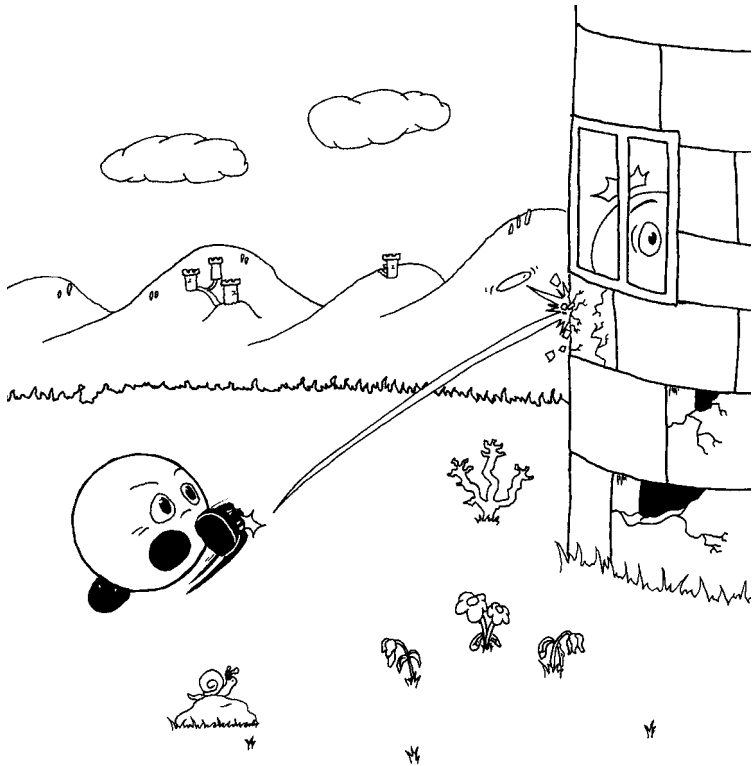
Other stars were also growing dim. The other Nogs, too, must have been neglecting their towers, and letting their knowledge fade.

Could this be what had happened to all the ruined cities in the first place, long, long ago? He knew he had to warn the others.



The next morning, the Nog rushed to implore the other Nogs. “Your towers are fading,” he told them. “They will fall, and the Slogs will come!”

But the other Nogs only laughed at him. “I built my towers strong and true,” they each said. “Just because you didn’t, that doesn’t mean that *my* towers will fall.”



The Nog grew frustrated. He shouted, “I’ll show you just how weak your towers have become!”

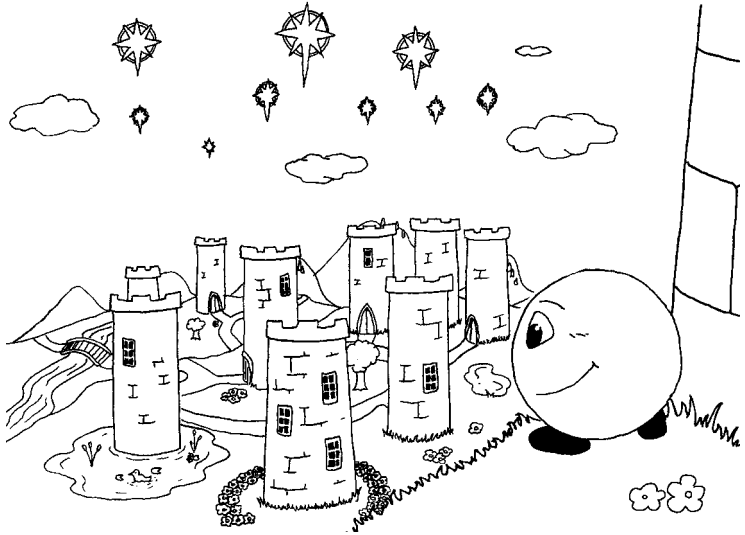
He chose a stone and kicked it at a tower. The stone hit a brick, and the brick cracked and fell out. The other Nogs gasped in surprise.

“If you think that your towers are strong,” the Nog challenged, “then prove it!”



The other Nogs accepted the challenge. Each was convinced that his or her own towers were the strongest, so they prepared catapults and other weapons to try to knock down the other towers.

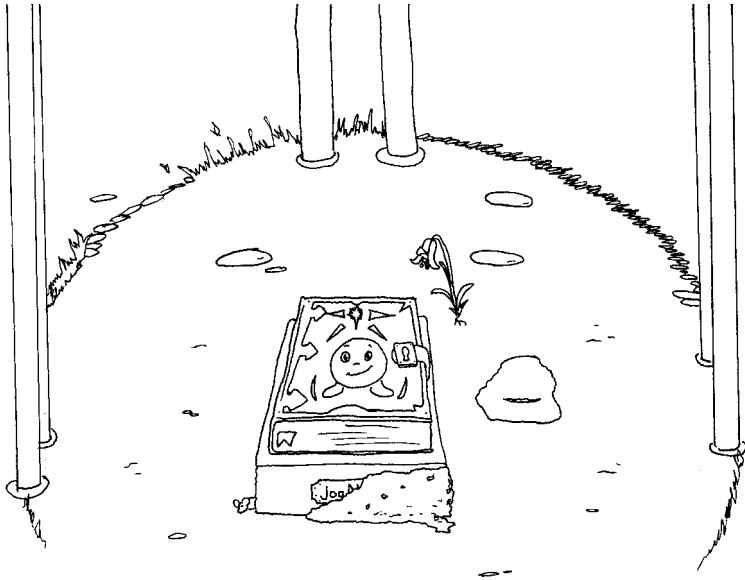
The strong ones stood. The weak ones crumbled, and their owners rebuilt them stronger than ever. The stars shone brightly, not one of them fading.



Thanks to that one Nog, not only were the cities rebuilt, they never again fell.

In the bright glow of the shining towers,  
the shadowy Slogs were no longer feared.

Even now, the Nog cities continue to grow,  
lighting the hills as the stars light the sky.



The story of the Nogs is still being written.

Will you be a part of the legend?

There are more towers, more cities, and more secrets to be discovered.

Go to  
[www.JogNog.com](http://www.JogNog.com)  
to start now!

## Dear Future Jognaut,

We hope you have enjoyed reading our story. We came up with the idea by watching our own children grow in confidence and knowledge as they learned by doing. We are wildly optimistic about the opportunities that children enjoy today for learning and growth through the use of new technologies and access to knowledge on the internet. We also think that video game techniques can be used to help children learn. The same game mechanics that work to engage children in video games—such as friendly competition, cooperation, and the immediate positive feedback for success—can be used for teaching and learning as well. The pride players gain from success in a video game can just as easily be pride in the success of learning. We liked the JogNog story and the idea of video games for learning so much that we built a game for our own children. Check it out at [www.JogNog.com](http://www.JogNog.com)!

Sincerely,

Steve and Rick  
Co-Founders of JogNog

## Build Your Own Towers!

If you liked our story and would like to build your own towers, go to [www.JogNog.com](http://www.JogNog.com). Here are some of the towers you'll find there!

### Elementary School

3rd Grade Multiplication and Division  
3rd Grade Spelling Chaos Castle  
3rd Grade Subject and Verb Agreement  
3rd-5th Grade - Solar System  
4th Grade Time and Money  
4th Grade Vocabulary - Dictionary  
3rd-5th Grade - Materials and Tools  
5th Grade Statistics and Probability

5th Grade - Spelling 5  
5th Grade Vocabulary - Thesaurus  
3rd-5th Grade - Energy and Living Things  
Because of Winn-Dixie  
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory  
Charlotte's Web  
Esperanza Rising  
Poppleton in Fall/Winter

### Middle School

Science: Engineering  
Island of the Blue Dolphins  
Little House on the Prairie  
Lord of the Flies  
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer  
Heroes, Gods and Monsters of Greek Myths  
The Ottoman Empire and Medieval Europe  
Rome's Expansion and Fall

Genetics and Heredity  
The Endocrine and Reproductive Systems  
Ancient Chinese Civilization  
Classical Greek Civilization  
Math: Algebra  
English: Language  
Social Studies Geography  
Math: Geometry

### High School

Biology - Massachusetts Test  
Chemistry - Massachusetts Test  
Physics - Massachusetts Test  
Mathematics - Massachusetts Test  
A Midsummer Night's Dream  
A Tale of Two Cities  
Animal Farm  
The Catcher in the Rye

The Great Gatsby  
To Kill A Mockingbird  
Hamlet  
Les Miserables  
The Grapes of Wrath  
The Pearl  
Treasure Island  
Fahrenheit 451