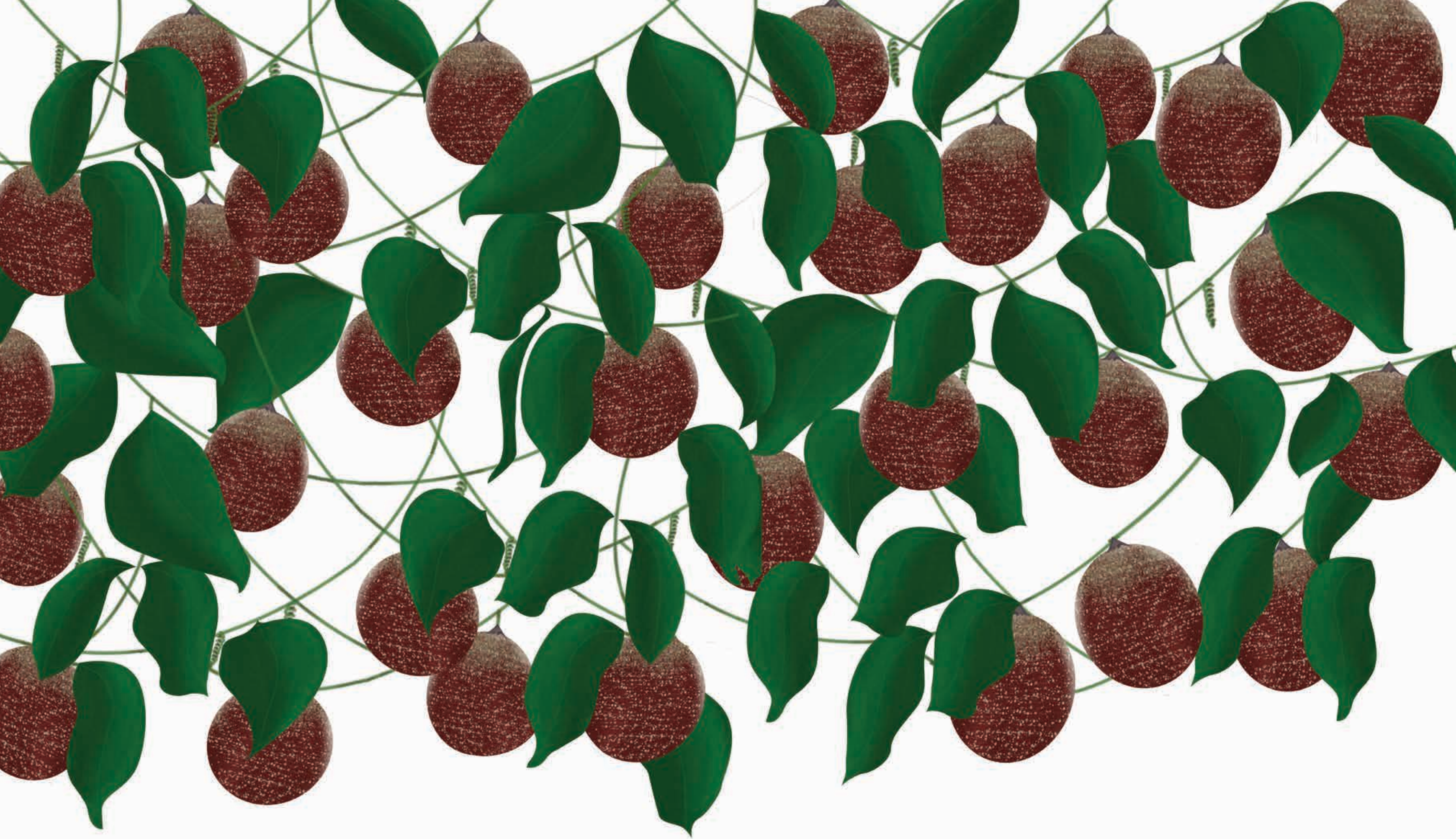


A whimsical illustration of a brown sloth with large, expressive eyes, sitting and eating a large orange mango. The sloth is positioned in the lower half of the frame. Above the sloth, the title 'ONCE, I MUNCHÉD A MANGO' is written in a playful, hand-drawn font. The word 'MANGO' is particularly large and features a color gradient from yellow to orange. The background is a light blue sky with soft white clouds. Several green leaves and two glowing fireflies are scattered around the top and right sides of the image, adding to the magical atmosphere.

ONCE, I MUNCHÉD A MANGO

written by
Samantha Wheeler

illustrated by
Shannon Horsfall



BOOKS IN THIS SERIES

Hotel for Bees

Written by Alison McLennan and illustrated by Erin Dunne

In the Deep End

Written and illustrated by Charlie Thomson

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Written by Kathryn Apel and illustrated by Janet Turner



Can you guess the place I live,
the land I **love** to roam?
Follow me, so much to see.
Do you **know** my home?





To Boston and Amala, with love. **SW**

For all the creatures who inspired. **SH**



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The paper this book is printed on is in accordance with the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council®. The FSC® promotes environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.



written by
Samantha Wheeler



illustrated by
Shannon Horsfall



State Library of Queensland



Once, I slurped a **strawberry**
while dangling from a bush.

When in the creek,
dipping deep,
swam a **platypus**.





For right above my head there

hopped

a slimy green **tree frog**.

Once, while picking **pawpaws**,
my eyes grew quite agog.

Can you guess the place I live,
the land I **love** to roam?



two sleepy little dunnarts
nestled in with bandicoots.

Once, I peeled a pineapple
and found behind the fruit ...



Once, while soaring through the air,
I searched for ripe **lychees**.



And watched a bright blue **butterfly**
darting round the trees.



Can you guess the place I live,
the land I **love** to roam?

Once, while chewing honeydew,
my wings began to
shake.



For slithering along the path I heard a hissing ...

SNAKE!





Once, I nibbled custard apples
beside a winding road.

When hopping right towards the light
there came a **warty** toad.



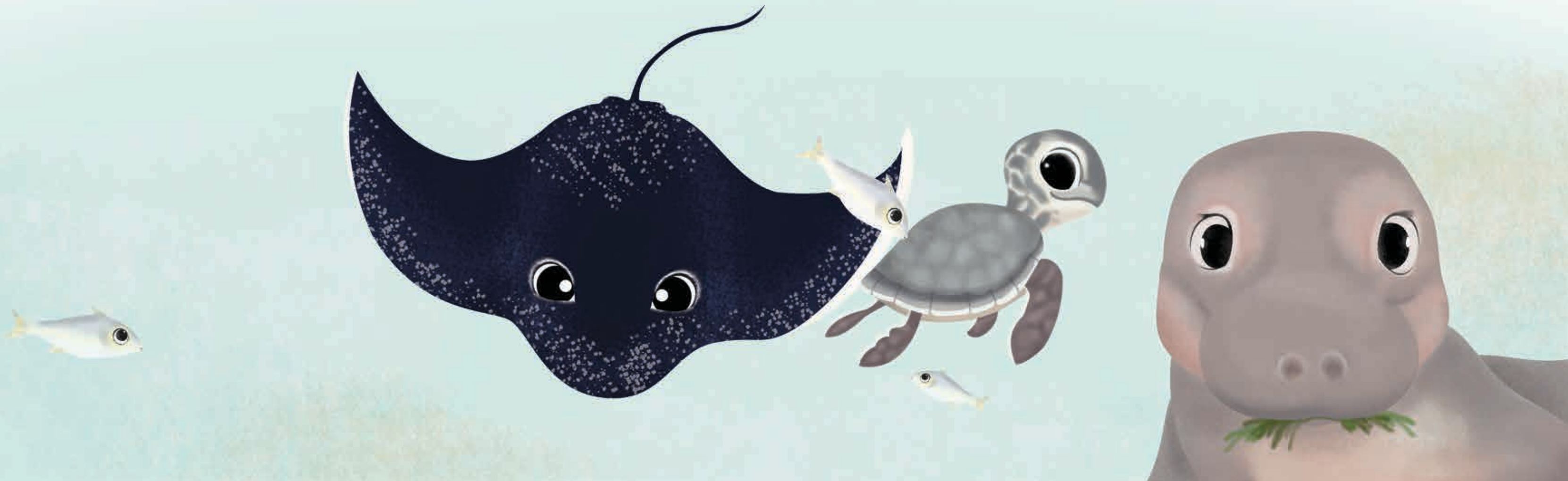
Can you guess the place I live,
the land I **love** to roam?



Chasing **turtles** through the waves

swam **dugongs**, rays and **whiting**.

Once, I ate an **avo** near an ocean so inviting.



Once, while wolfing **watermelon**,
the sky grew dim and dark.

Suddenly, I saw a fin
and quickly
yelled out ...

Shark!



Can you guess the place I live, the land I **love** to roam?





And spied a giant Cassowary,
blinking at a quoll.

Once, I plucked a passionfruit
while on a midnight stroll.





A brolga
and a crocodile
dancing through
the night.



Once, I munched a mango,
then saw a silly sight.





The only place I truly **love** ...

Have you guessed the place I live,
the land I **love** to roam?



YES!



IS MY HOME.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Samantha Wheeler worked with farmers and taught science before writing her first children's story in 2011. Her books, such as *Smooch & Rose*, *Mister Cassowary* and *Turtle Trackers*, have been shortlisted for numerous awards, including her most recent, *Everything I've Never Said*, which was inspired by her daughter who has Rett Syndrome and can't talk. When not writing or presenting, Samantha enjoys horse riding, walking her dogs, or sharing a cup of tea with her donkey.

www.samanthawheeler.com.au

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Shannon Horsfall is an author and illustrator based in Queensland but living in fairyland.

Her head is a mess of stories, pictures and the occasional cake recipe. Although she is not young, she is very much a child. (Or immature, depending on how you look at it.)

She has created a number of picture books, including: *Was Not Me*, HarperCollins July 2016, which was shortlisted for Speech Pathology Australia's Book of the Year; and *Nomax*, HarperCollins June 2017 – a CBCA Notable Book for 2017; and illustrated *Dear Santa*, Scholastic 2018, and *My Unicorn Farts Glitter*, Hachette July 2019.

www.shannonhorsfall.com



ABOUT FIRST 5 FOREVER

In the first five years, little moments make a big difference.

Children learn best from those closest to them – and by talking, reading, singing and playing together every day, families support their child's brain development and help them build a lifelong love of learning and discovery.

First 5 Forever is an early literacy program supporting families to make the most of this time. The program offers free sessions for children 0–5 and their families throughout Queensland's public library and Indigenous Knowledge Centre network, and provides fun, informative and hands-on tips and advice online.

First 5 Forever is an initiative of the Queensland Government, coordinated by State Library of Queensland and delivered in partnership with local government. Each year, public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres across Queensland welcome thousands of families to First 5 Forever activities.

To find out more about First 5 Forever, visit www.slq.qld.gov.au/first5forever

ABOUT THIS SERIES

State Library of Queensland has published twelve new children's picture books for Queensland's littlest readers as part of First 5 Forever. The books promote strong early literacy foundations through a range of subjects and styles: the amusing antics of Queensland's faunal emblem, the koala; educational aids such as counting and alphabet books; stories of belonging; journeys of discovery; true-life tales; and much more.

Produced exclusively for State Library of Queensland and First 5 Forever, this series reflects the diversity of Queensland, celebrates the uniqueness of our state, and aims to inspire a love of reading and discovery in a new generation of little Queenslanders.

The books also showcase writers and artists with a Queensland connection who are based throughout the state. They feature emerging and established talent, as well as First Nations writers and artists whose books were developed with State Library of Queensland's black&write! editorial team.







Munching, slurping
and nibbling!

Looking for food is like searching for treasure
for this little **fruit bat**.

Can you guess where he lives,
the land he **loves** to roam?



A follow-your-nose detective story
showcasing the best of Queensland!