

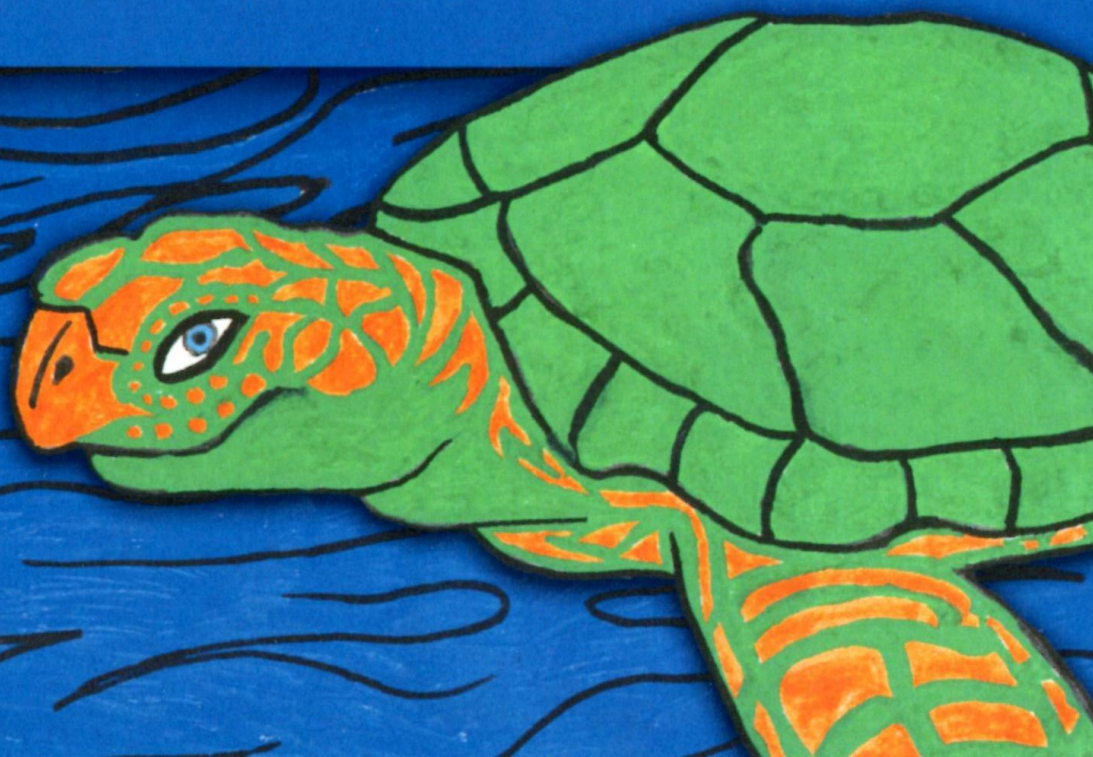
# *Pellie, the Guardian of Lake Coppell*

An evening at Lake Coppell, Ontario, Canada

Text by  
Lucie Paquin

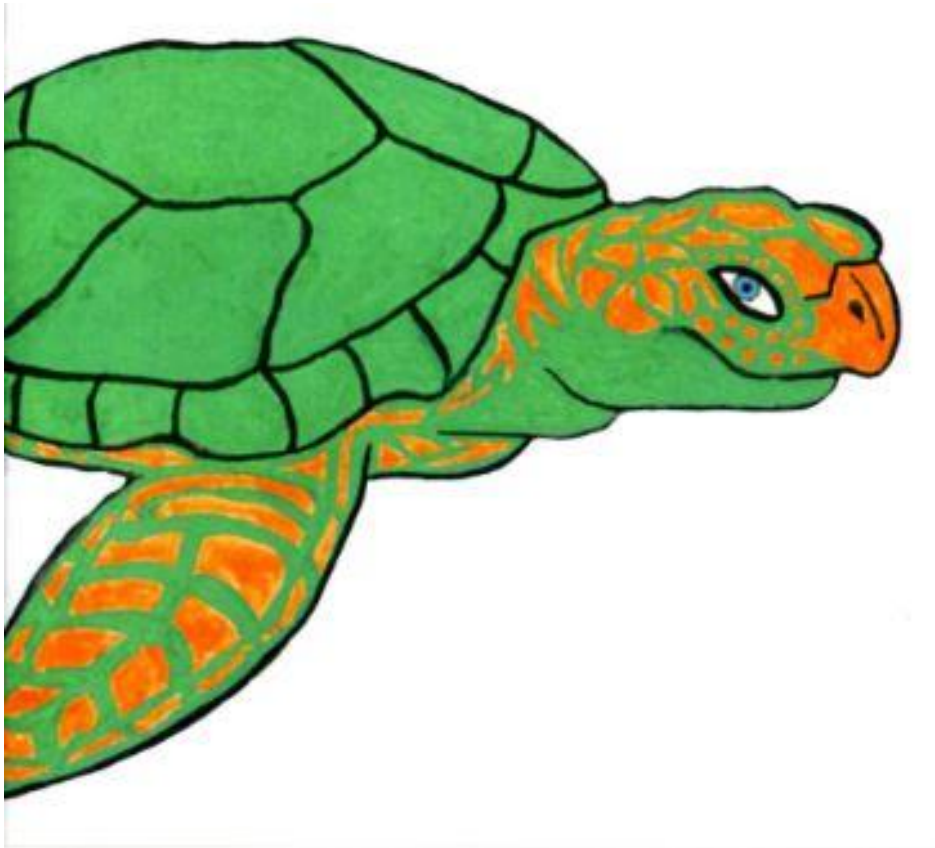
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Philip LaBerge



# *Pellie, the Guardian of Lake Coppell*

An evening at Lake Coppell, Ontario, Canada





**To Isabelle, Lionel, Julie, Billie and Théodore  
who permitted me to invent so many bedtime stories.**



A special thanks to Claire T. Forcier for revising the text.

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Luci Paquin to Philip LaBerge on September 19, 2023.

Adapted from “Le Coppellnick, un soir au Lac Coppell.”

## Cast of Characters



Pellie



Billie



Théo



Grandpa André



Grandma



Once upon a time, **Billie** was bored as she stood at the edge of Lake Coppell in Coppell, Ontario, Canada. She was waiting for her friend Adèle. After eating supper, which was cooked by her grandfather on the BBQ, she really wanted to go swimming, but she had to wait before jumping in the water. “Wait, I always wait!” she gasped. She was also waiting for her other friends who hadn’t shown up that evening. She wanted to send them a message, but Grandpa made her wait.







After waiting for a long time, she finally gave up and decided to take a paddleboat ride.





Her brother Théo wanted to come with her, but she categorically refused. He then went to complain to Grandma in the cabin.





Disappointed that his sister had refused to let him come with her on the paddleboat, Théo asked if he could play on Grandma's computer. Grandma said, "I am going to set the timer for 30 minutes because we are at the cabin and there are so many other things to do."







A little while later, the timer rang and everyone left the cabin to revive the campfire. It started to get dark, but where was Billie hiding? "I thought she took a bicycle ride," said Grandpa. Regarding that, Théo grumbled, "No, she took a paddleboat ride. She didn't want me to come with her. I hate her." Ah! The squabbles of brothers and sisters! But it got darker and darker and Billie didn't return. "I hope she's has her safety vest on", worried Grandpa André as he stirred the embers.





Out on the lake, Billie was still angry. “They will be waiting for me! Next time, they will let me phone my friends.” Billie suddenly heard the sound of waves and she glimpsed an orange glow on the water. It was getting darker and darker...and she was worried. The paddleboat was steering itself to the boat dock of the cabin. She was afraid and she took her feet off the pedals. The paddleboat sped up and Billie was frightened. When the boat arrived near the dock, everything stopped. Billie looked backward and saw an orange fluorescent monster!

No, it wasn’t a monster. It was a giant turtle smiling at her. A second later, the turtle dove and disappeared. Billie couldn’t believe it. She got off the paddleboat and joined her Grandpa near the fire. He didn’t say anything, he held her close to him. She said, “I was afraid.”







She told him about her adventure. Recognizing the giant turtle, Grandpa told her about Pellie who guarded Lake Coppel. In the past, Pellie fought against pirates on the lake to save the lives of children who paddled too far away by canoe. He told her that the head of a pirate is attached to the cabin and can be seen suspended there. There is a blindfold on his head and a cut across his mouth. That was the pirate's last pose before being eliminated by Pellie. Our neighbor, Denis, who scuba dives, told us that he saw a cavern at the bottom of the water on the east side of the lake. He believes that is where Pellie hides.









Since that time, the giant turtle has watched over the children in the evening. The turtle brings them back in the dark when they are too far from the cabin. Even though the pirate's boat sank on the south side of the lake and they have disappeared, Pellie still watches.





Her Grandpa said, “If you want, tomorrow we can go and see the pirate ship. But before that, I would like you to spend some time with your brother near the fire.” Next to his sister, Théo was impressed and he wanted to hear more details.





Then the latecomers arrived. Adèle gave Billie a hug and Claude patted Théo on the shoulder. They roasted marshmallows and sausages.



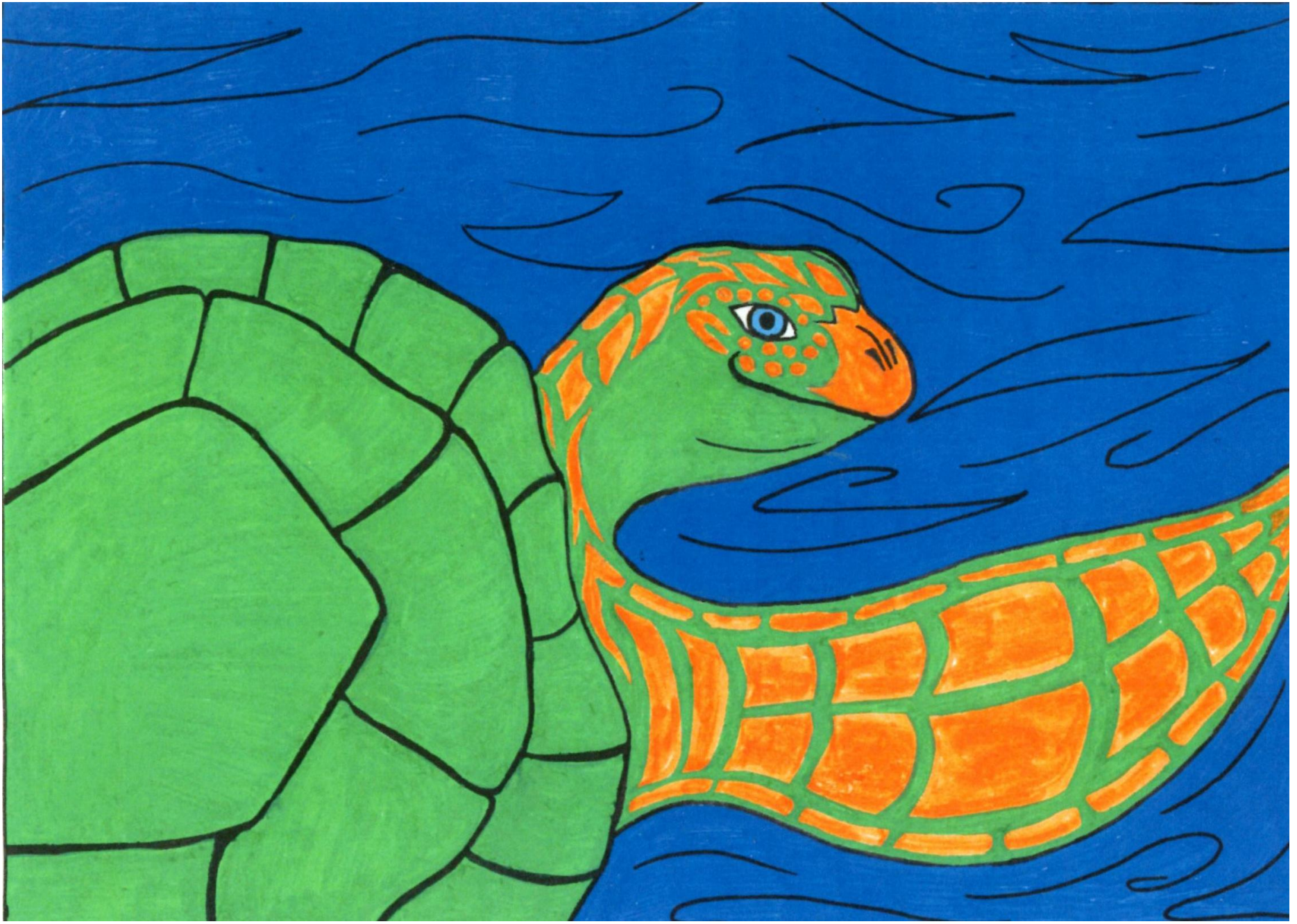
Then they listened to Billie's adventure before they went to sleep. At the end of the dock, one can glance at the lake and see an orange glow....The girls slept in the little cabin and the boys in the beds above the big cabin. What a summer!





Orange glow



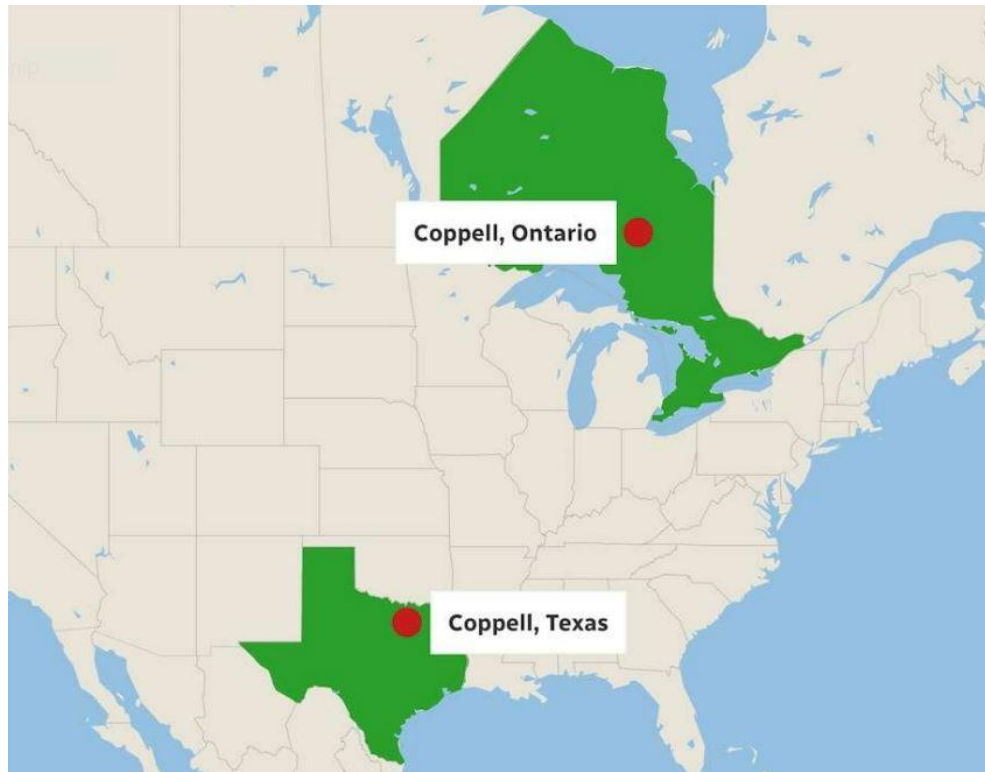




### Comprehension Questions

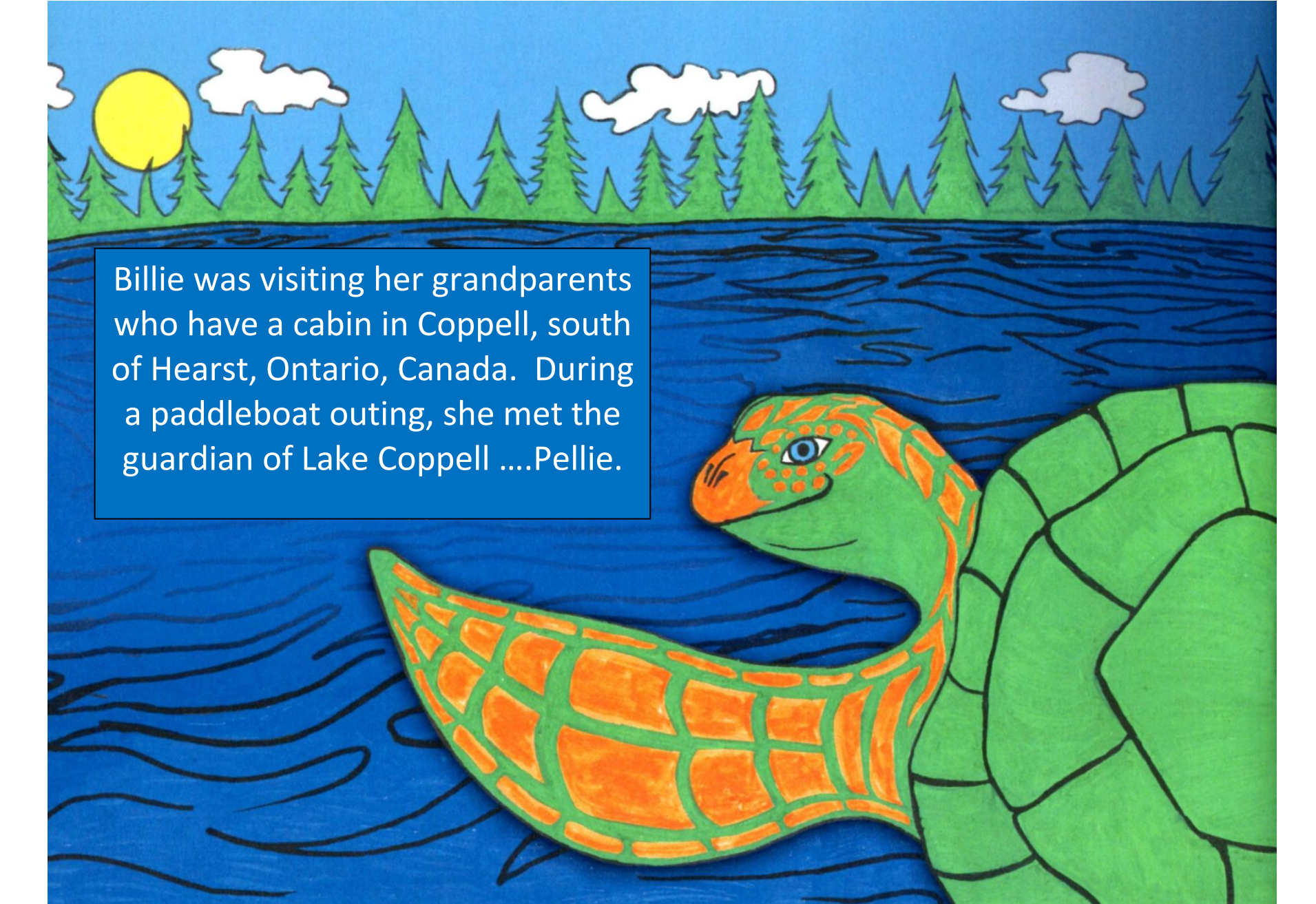
1. At what time of the day did Billie's adventure start?
2. What did Billie do after supper?
3. What does the word revive mean?
4. Can you find another word for glow?
5. What does "a ship sank" mean?
6. If you were in Billie's place on the paddleboat, what would you have done?





Coppel, Texas and Coppel, Ontario share the same name because of George Coppel and his son Herbert who invested in the railroads which were built through the two towns. The region around Coppel, Ontario is predominantly French speaking.

To learn more about the history of the two towns which are separated by more than 1,600 miles, please visit the Coppel Historical Society and Museum website here: <https://www.coppelhistoricalsociety.org/coppel-ontario.html>



Billie was visiting her grandparents who have a cabin in Coppell, south of Hearst, Ontario, Canada. During a paddleboat outing, she met the guardian of Lake Coppell ....Pellie.