

ALLISTER'S WIGGLY TEETH

Written by Kent Hanwell

Illustrated by Barton Pedersen



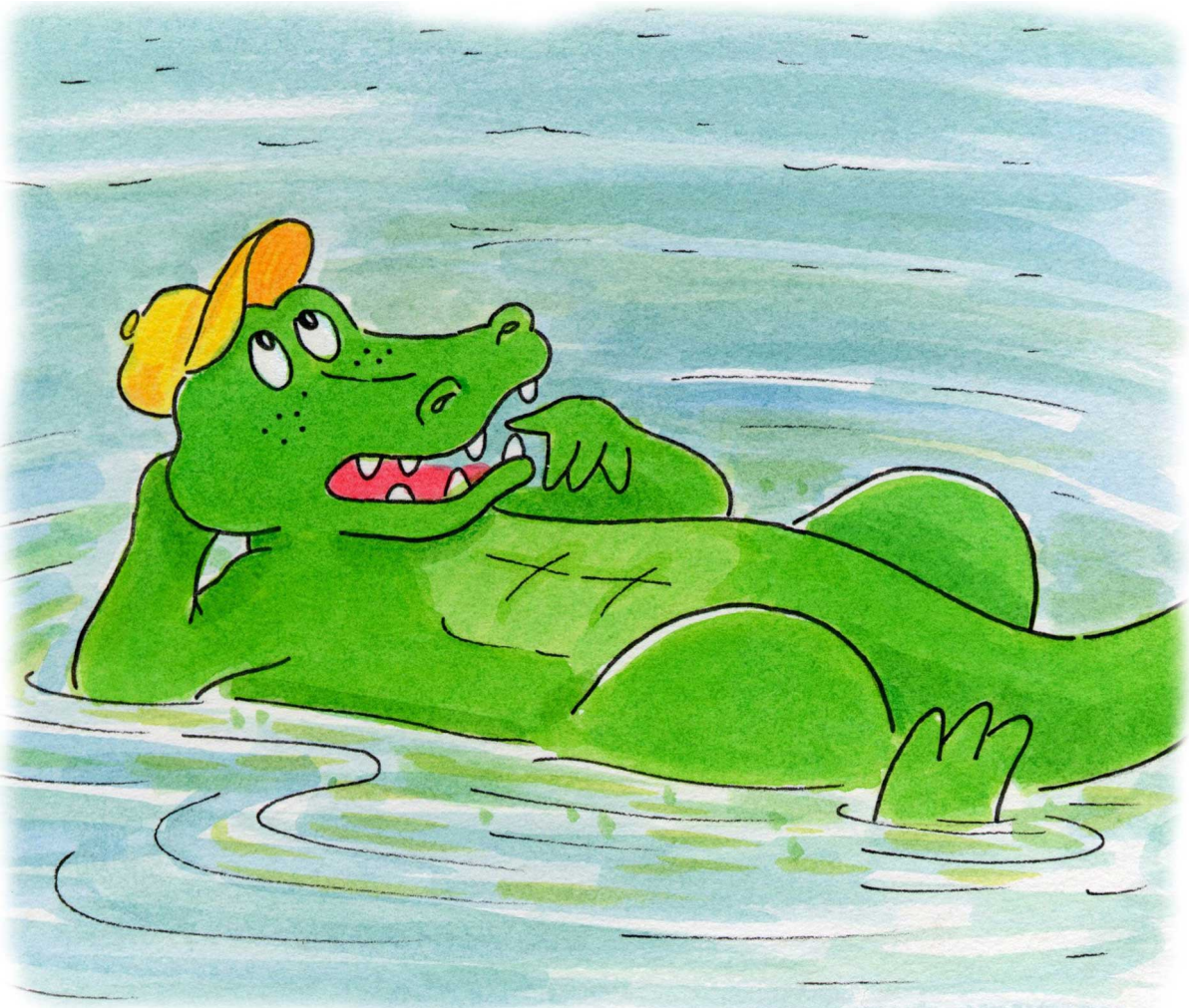
Dedicated to Gramma and her great-grandson

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Allister the Alligator laid in the swamp wiggling his teeth. Oh, how he wished is baby teeth would all wiggle out! Allister wanted to have strong adult teeth, not wiggly baby teeth. Allister was becoming angry.

Suddenly, he heard footsteps coming towards him. He quickly hid under the swampy water, leaving only his nose sticking out.

Annie and Andrew walked towards the swamp with a basket of apricots. Their aunt had warned them about an alligator living in the swamp, but Andrew and Annie had forgotten about their aunt's warning.

Andrew stepped onto a stone that rose above the swampy water, and as he did, he noticed a floating acorn. He handed Annie the basket of apricots, and bent down to pick it up.





Suddenly, out of the water sprang a wide open mouth lined with sharp white teeth. The acorn wasn't an acorn at all. It was the nose of Allister the Alligator! Andrew and Annie shrieked with fright. "Ah, an alligator!"

"Hasn't anyone told you that I, Allister the Alligator, live in this swamp?"

Andrew shook his head. Annie nodded.

"And haven't you also been told that I, Allister the Alligator, do not like to be annoyed?"

Andrew's teeth began to chatter.

"I thought your nose was an acorn. I didn't mean to annoy you."

"Well you did, and now I'm going to annoy you with my big, wiggly, chompers."

"Oh, please don't eat me!"

"What shall I eat then?"

"Do you like apricots?"

"Oh, Andrew mean apples, not apricots. I have a basket full of apples right here. I'm sure they taste far better than we do."

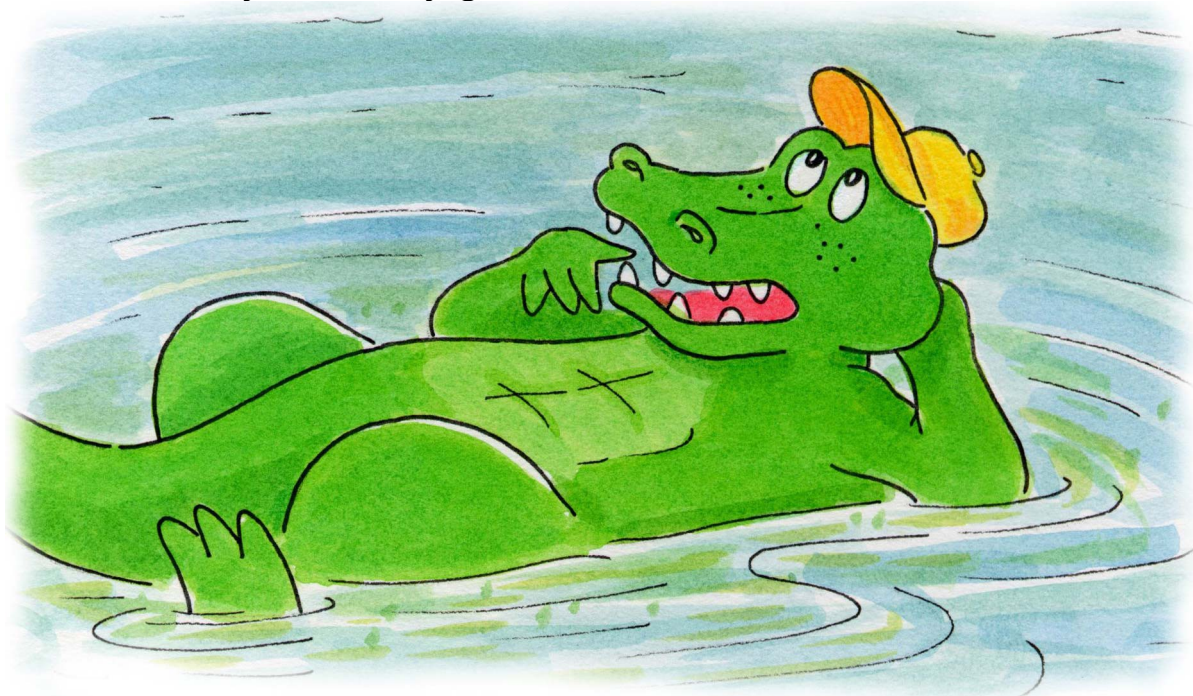
Annie wanted to trick Allister. She thought if she could get Allister to crunch down on the apricots, his teeth would stick in the pits, and then he wouldn't be able to eat anything, or anyone.

"Apples? Hmm, apples ... I've heard of them. They are good for wiggly teeth, aren't they?"

"Oh yes, all you have to do is bite into them very hard because apples are crunchy. Here, I'll show you."

Annie put the apricot in her mouth and pretended to crunch her teeth together.

"Hmm, they look very good. Let me have one."



"Oh no, don't try one, try the whole basket full. Come closer, and I'll put them into your mouth."

Allister thought he was so lucky! He had been told that apples were the best for loosening wiggly teeth.

He walked towards Annie and opened his mouth. Annie carefully placed apricots all around Allister's bottom row of teeth while Allister waited patiently with his mouth watering.

"O.K. Mr. Alligator. All of the "apples" are inside your mouth. Now chomp down as hard as you can."

Allister snapped his jaw shut as hard as he could.





"Well Mr. Alligator, isn't that the best taste you've ever had in your mouth?"

"Yes, but my teeth. I think I've lost some teeth."

Allister's reply sounded like a slobbery whistle. He slowly opened his mouth and inside were all of his wiggly teeth stuck in the apricot pits. Almost all of his top row of teeth were gone.

"Quick Andrew! Let's get out of here! The alligator can't eat us now. He's got no teeth."

"Hey stop! I was just trying to scare you. I wasn't going to eat you. You don't have to run away."

Andrew and Annie kept running, and ran all the way back to their aunt's house.

Allister smiled a toothless smile as he pulled his teeth out of the apricot pits.

"I'd better not forget to put these teeth under my pillow tonight. The tooth fairy will pay a lot for these I bet."

Allister was going to be one rich alligator in the morning.

