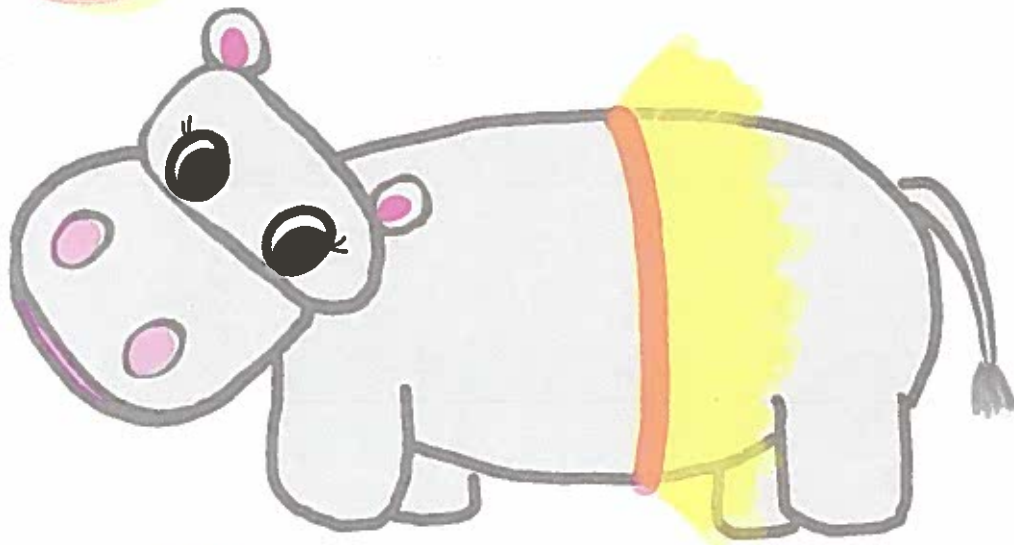


ella



The Hippo

BY LUCY BLOOMER

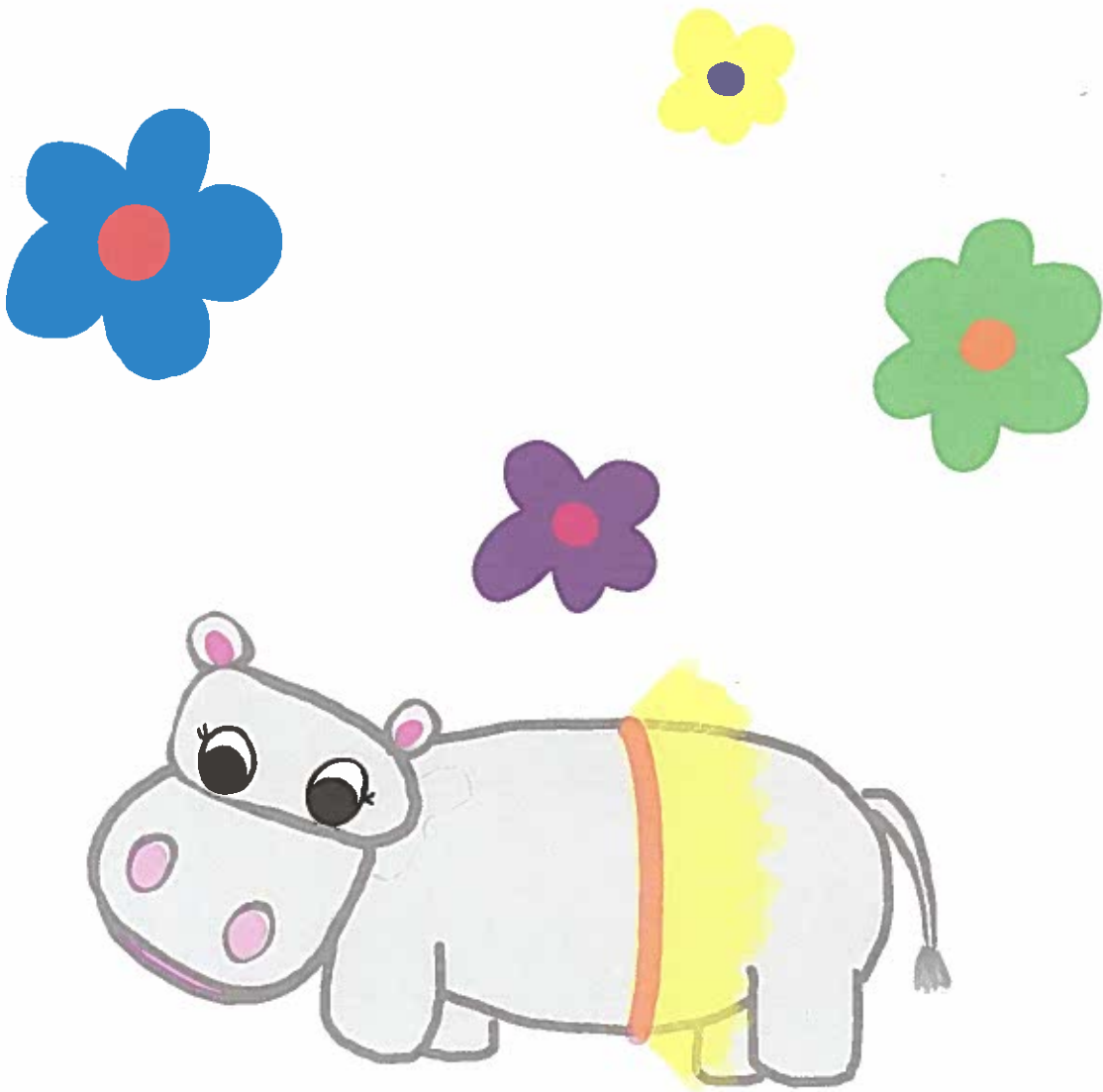


Ella the Hippo

By Lucy Bloomer

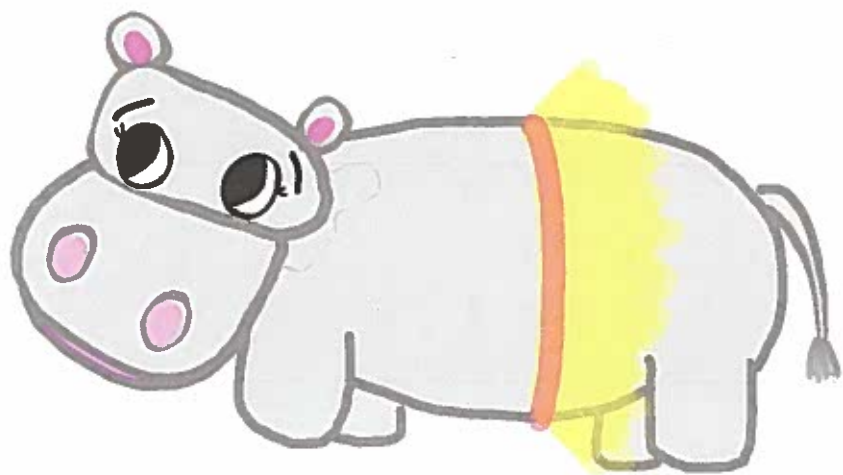
This is Ella.

Ella is a hippo who loves to do gymnastics.



"Hippos cannot do gymnastics!"
Said Ella's teacher, Mrs. Flamingo.

"They are too big to do flips,
And too fat to go on the
bars!"



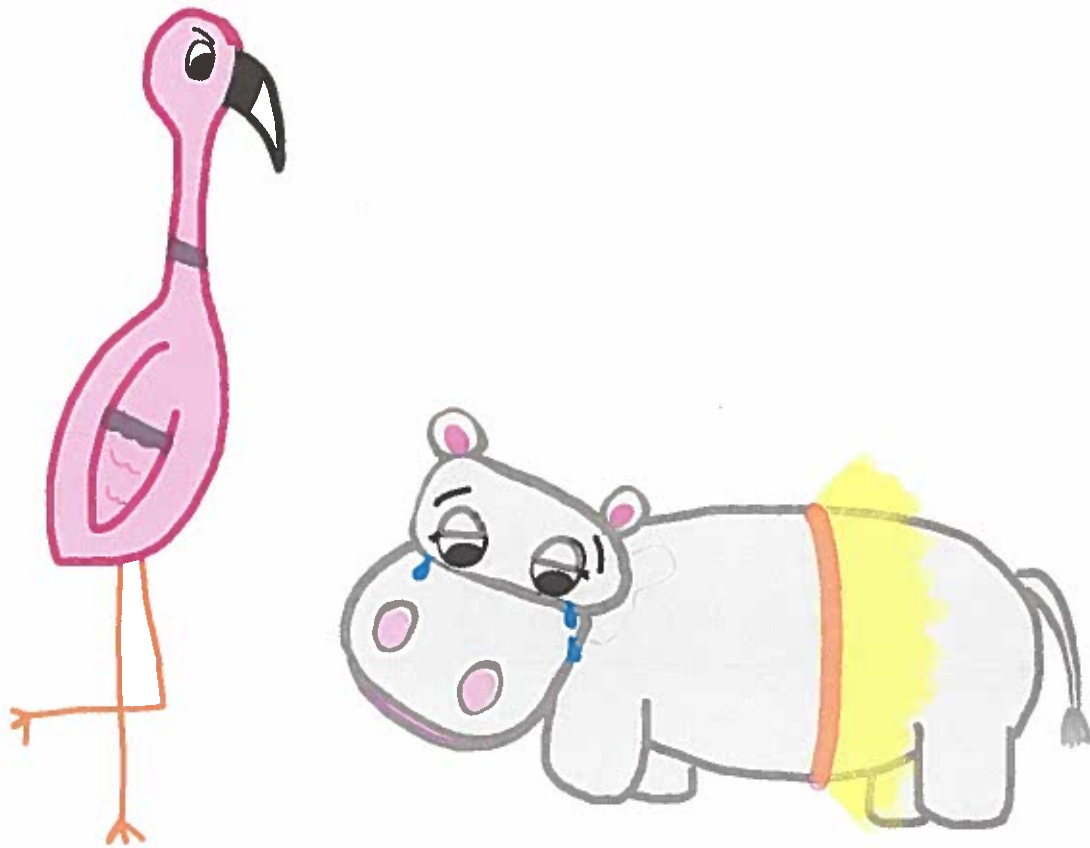
But Ella is not too big to do flips.
And Ella is not too fat to go on the
bars.

Ella is very good at gymnastics.



Mrs. Flamingo told Ella that she could not be in the gymnastics meet.

Even though Ella was sad, she did as Mrs. Flamingo said.

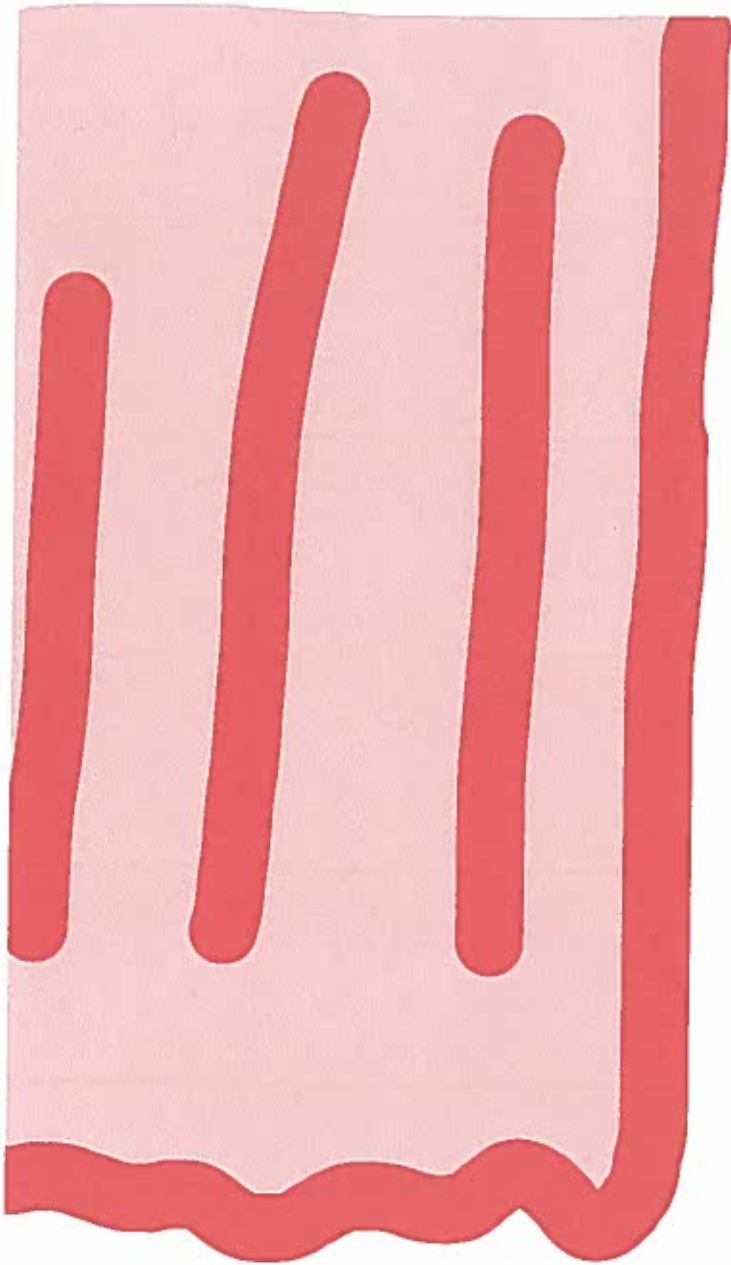


Ella watched as all the other gymnasts practiced for the meet. She knew she could do everything they could,



but being the good hippo that she is, she stayed in the corner by herself.





Behind the curtains, Ella sat alone.
"I know I am good at gymnastics.
How can I show Mrs. Flamingo that?"
sobbed Ella.

Suddenly, Ella knew what she had to do.

Ella jumped out on to the stage, knocking over the other gymnasts in the process.



Then she jumped, flipped, and spun
all around.

Ella was having the time of her life!



She knew she could do it.

For that minute, Ella was the best
gymnast in the whole world!

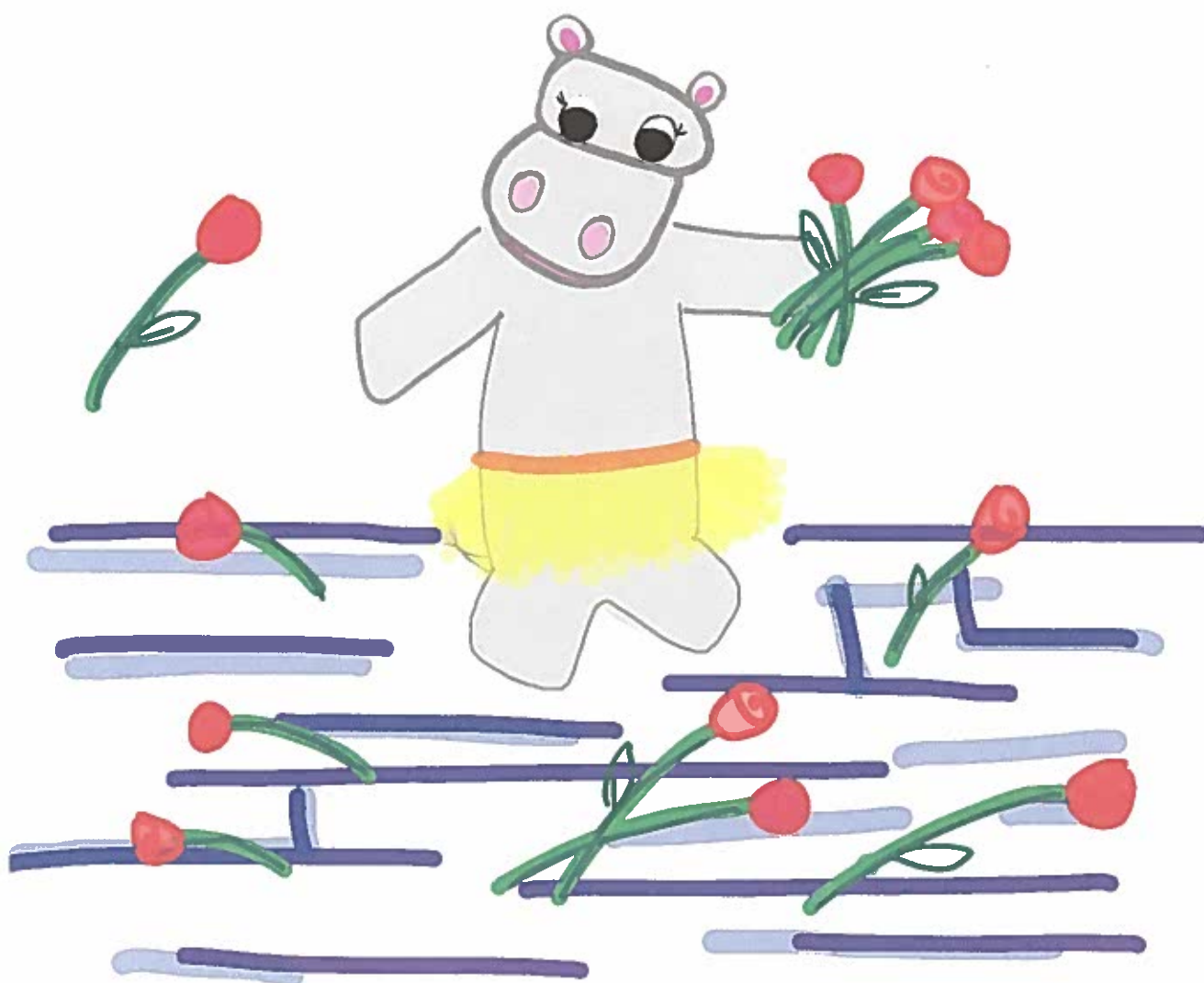
When she was done, Ella stood silently on the stage.

Even though she just did the very best she could, Ella wasn't too sure how Mrs. Flamingo would react. No sound came from the crowd. Not even a whisper.



Suddenly the crowd erupted with
cheers!

Screams of joy filled Ella's ears as her
smile stretched across her face.



Later Ella won first place for gymnastics. She smiled and smiled for all the cameras flashing in her face.

But her smile quickly turned into a frown.





Mrs. Flamingo's voice echoed throughout the theater.

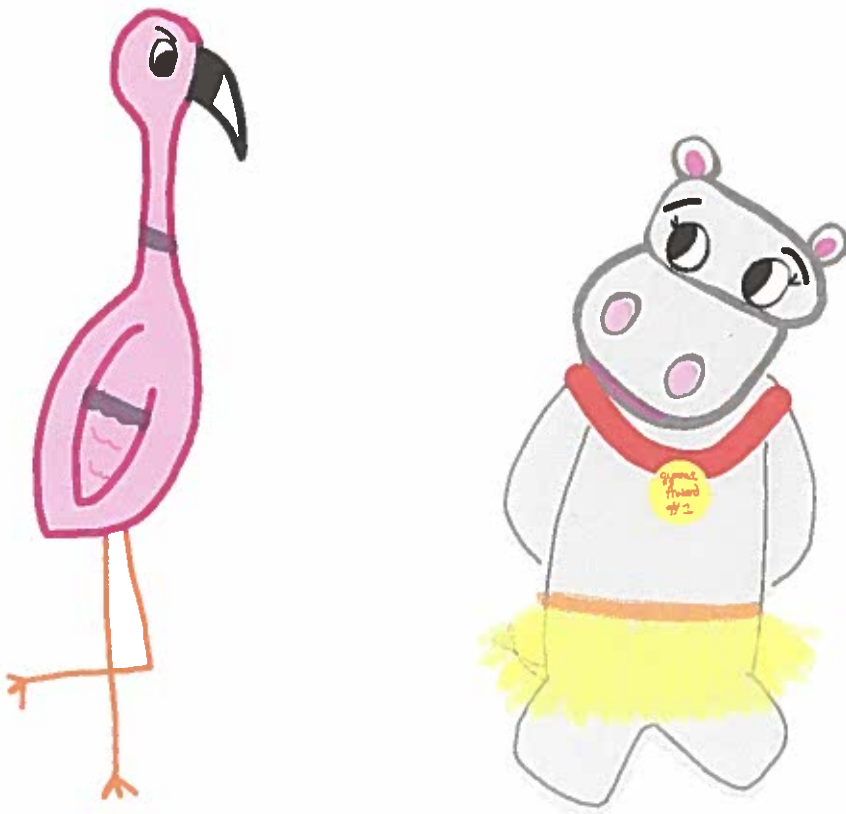
"Will she be mad at me?" Whispered Ella.

Ella was very scared.



"I can't believe you just did that!"
Screamed Mrs. Flamingo.

"It was irresponsible, dangerous,
And..."



// Amazing! //

"Bravo!" Squawked Mrs. Flamingo.



"You are welcome on the gymnastics team whenever you want!"

And at that moment,
Ella was the happiest
hippo in the whole
world.



Praise for Ella The Hippo

"A wonderful, creative book" -Me

"Are you really going to use those drawings?" -Gage

"Why am I not in it?" -Destiny

"Totally worth it" -Trees

