

Worsh had things to say, secrets,
like fluffy egrets,
in soft shower-flower sounds,
soft, rivery, **consonant** sounds,
such as *n*, *m*, *r*, *f*, and *l*,
drenched sounds, such as *sh*, *rsh*, and *rs*,
water sounds: *splish*, *splash*, *splursh*.
Fresh showers, thirsting flowers—
sounds like those,
dripping with *r*'s and *s*'s.

Rivers sometimes rumble with rain,
but mostly they are soft-spoken,
never complain—
friends of the oaken forest, unbroken.

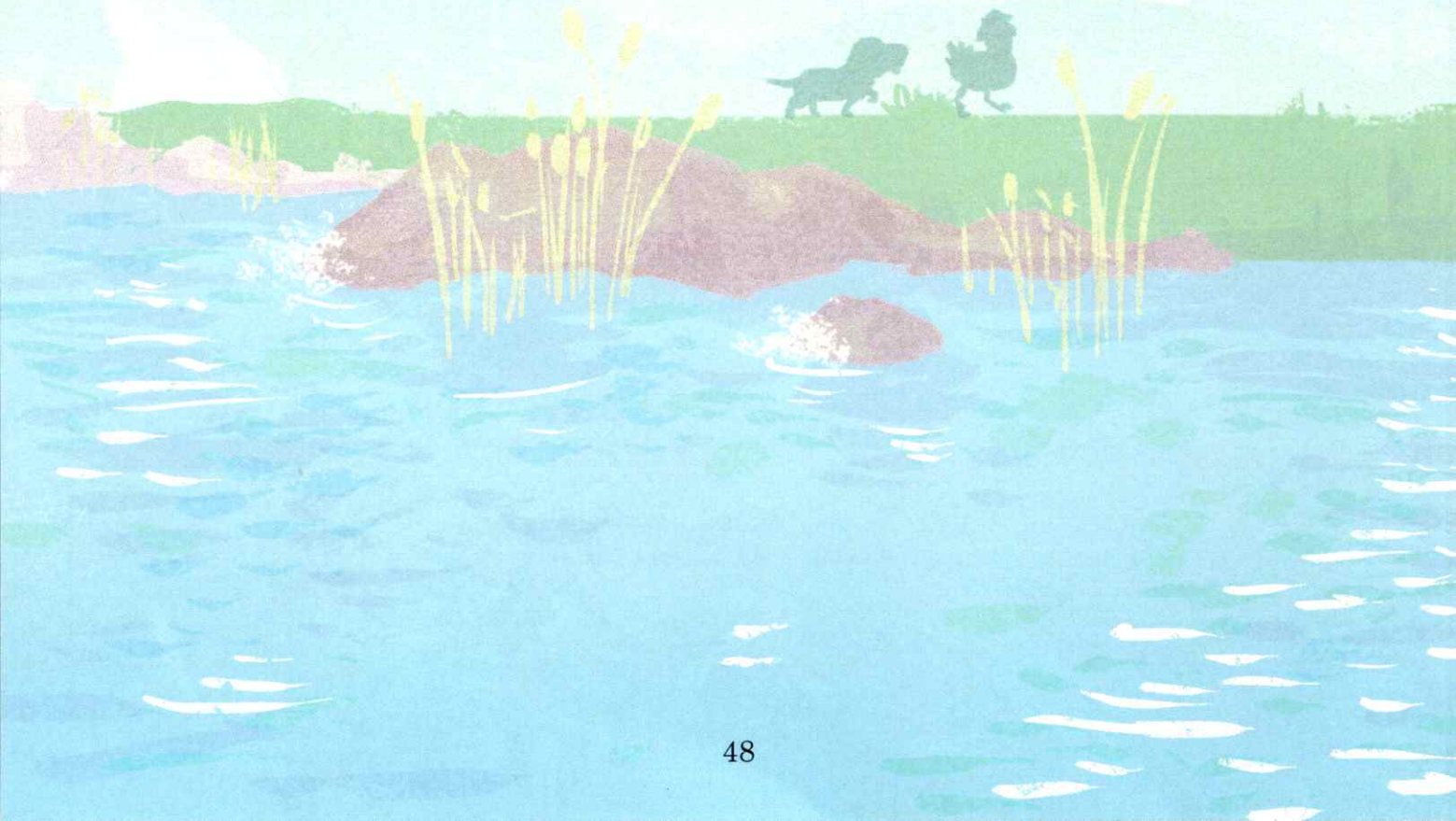
They help the water
down the dell and ripple the rocks
that hear every word,
and swift fish swim upstream
through their cold flow.

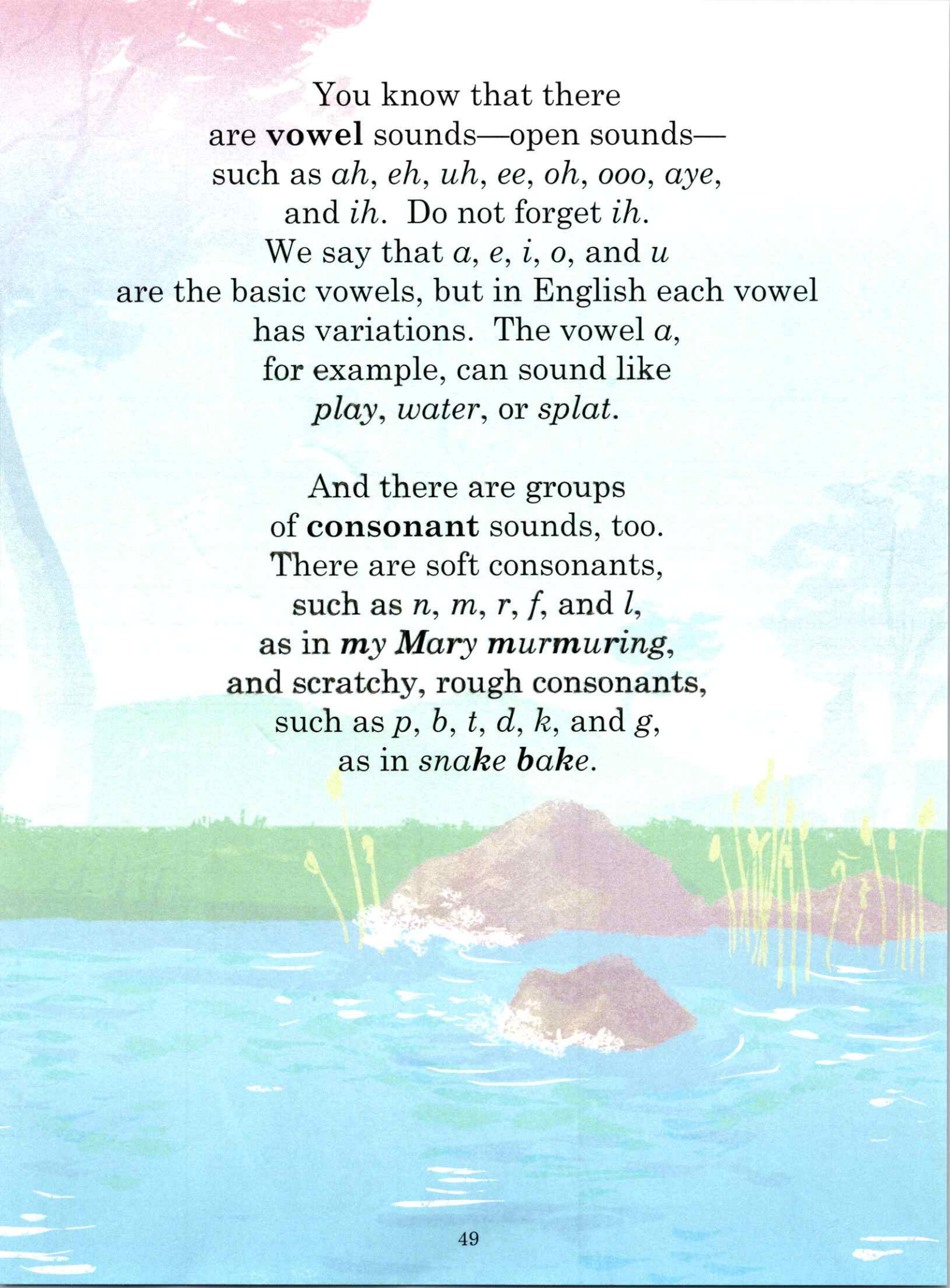


Rivers know sounds.
It's what they do.
They spend their lives
splashing and gurgling and trickling
and bubbling and streaming
and sometimes rushing and rolling,
and sometimes they are
rippled but not ruffled,
and it takes a lot
of **vowels and consonants**
to be a river.

Rivers have to know
what they are doing
with **vowels and consonants**.

Wait...vowels and consonants?





You know that there
are **vowel** sounds—open sounds—
such as *ah*, *eh*, *uh*, *ee*, *oh*, *ooo*, *aye*,
and *ih*. Do not forget *ih*.

We say that *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *u*
are the basic vowels, but in English each vowel
has variations. The vowel *a*,
for example, can sound like
play, *water*, or *splat*.

And there are groups
of **consonant** sounds, too.
There are soft consonants,
such as *n*, *m*, *r*, *f*, and *l*,
as in *my Mary murmuring*,
and scratchy, rough consonants,
such as *p*, *b*, *t*, *d*, *k*, and *g*,
as in *snake bake*.