

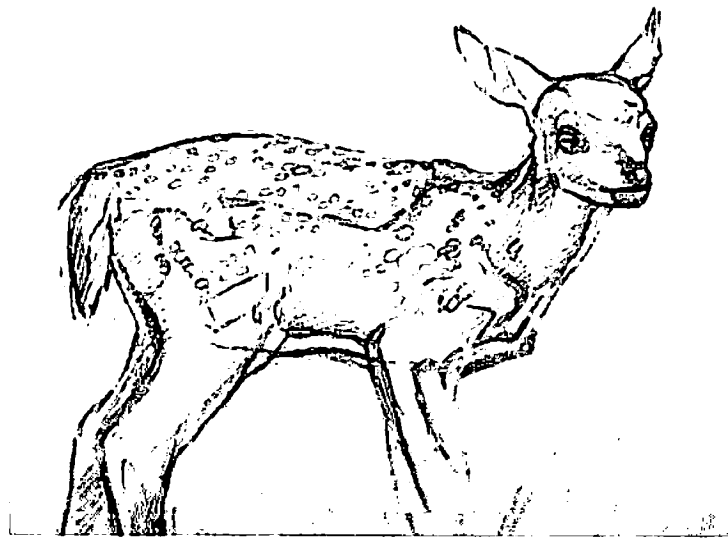
Aldo



By Tina Li



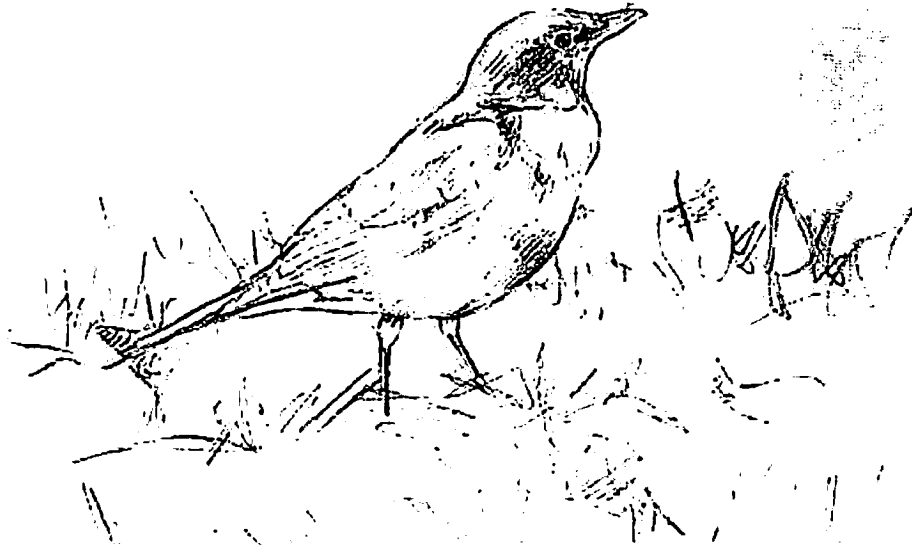
There once was a little wolf named Aldo. Aldo was very small. He had grey fur, blue eyes, and the tip of his muzzle was white.



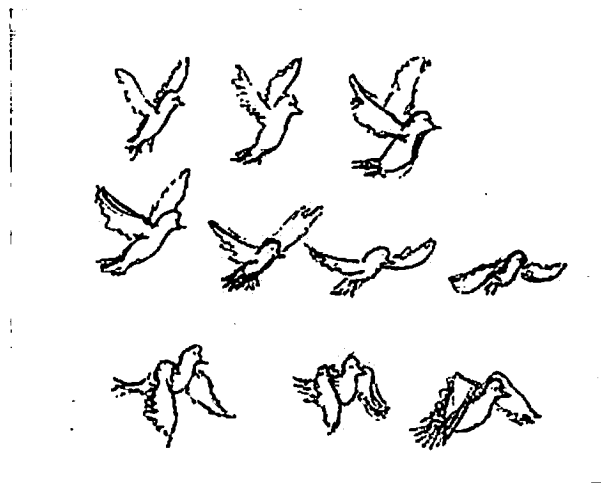
Aldo played games with the other little animals that lived in the forest around him. He was always It when he played Hide-and-Seek with the baby deer, but the baby deer were bad at hiding and would always eat part of the bush they were hiding behind.



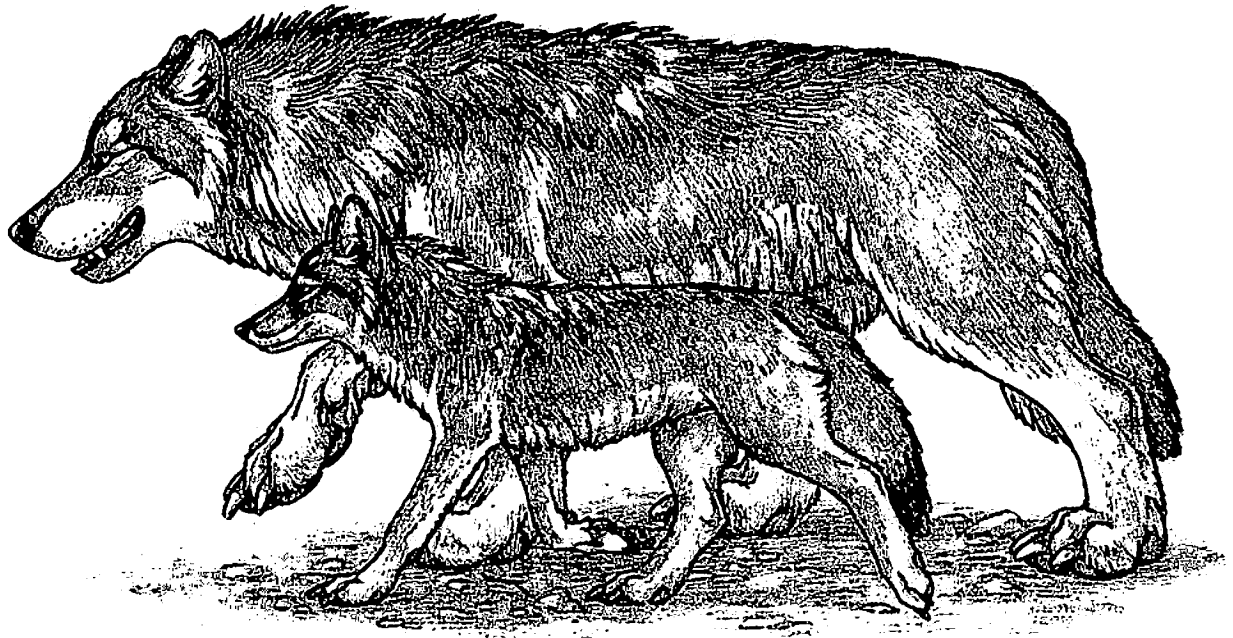
He was also It when he played Tag with the bunny rabbits and, when he caught them, they would make him let them go and be It again.



Aldo was even It when he played Superman with the little birds.



This never made much sense to him but, since they could fly and he couldn't, he never got to be Superman.



One day, Aldo decided that he didn't want to be It when he played Hide-and-Seek and Tag, and he didn't want to be It when he played Superman. He decided he would go on an adventure all by himself with no baby deer or bunny rabbits or little birds to boss him around. He packed a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and some graham crackers and said goodbye to his mom.

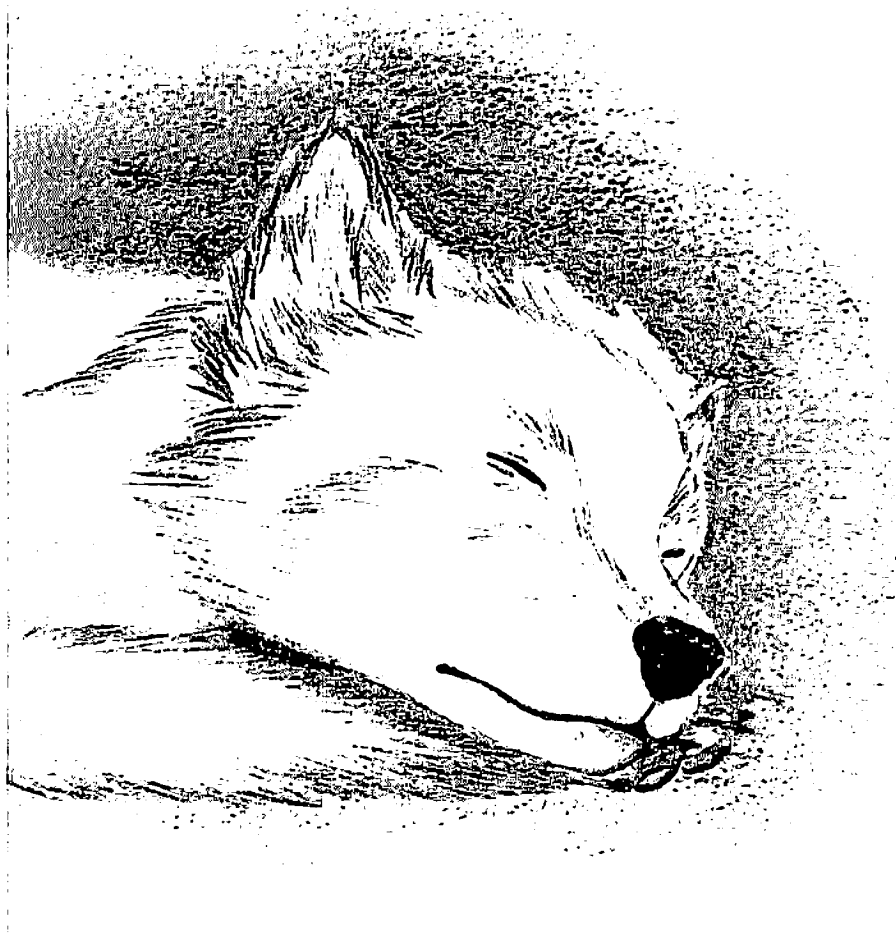
"Mama!" he yelled, "I'm going on an adventure!"

"Will you be home for dinner?" she asked.

Aldo thought about it for a minute. His adventure surely wouldn't last longer than the afternoon. So, Aldo told his mama that he'd be home for dinner. He took his peanut butter sandwich and graham crackers and set out.



Aldo walked for a long time. He saw lots of animals like deer, and bunnies, and little birds, but no one that he knew. He walked for a very long time before he started feeling a little grumble in his stomach. He walked a little longer before he started feeling a not-so-little rumble in his stomach. Finally, Aldo sat down beneath the shade of a big tree, ate his peanut butter sandwich and fell asleep.



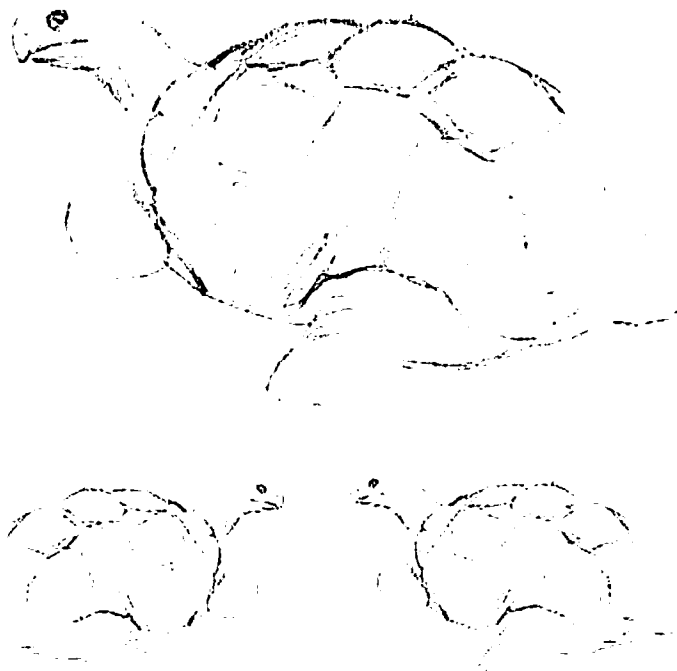
When Aldo woke up, the sky was dark and the air had turned chilly. He got up and looked to his left and looked to his right, but he didn't recognize the tall, dark trees around him. However, Aldo was not afraid. But he did worry that his mama might be wondering where he was.

"Stop. Stand still and look around for me," he remembered her saying. Aldo was certain his mama wasn't nearby, but he looked anyway.

"Ask a mommy for help," he remembered her saying next. But Aldo couldn't see any mommies around. In fact, he couldn't see anyone around!



Aldo tried and tried, but he couldn't think of what to do next. Finally, he dozed off again, feeling a little bit cold and a little bit scared. When he woke up, it was bright out, and someone was very gently nudging him. Aldo opened his eyes and saw a mother turtle and her babies.



“What are you doing out here all by yourself?” Mother Turtle asked.

Aldo told her all about how he decided to go on an adventure because the other animals were mean to him.

“Well,” said Mother Turtle, “have you tried talking to the other animals?”

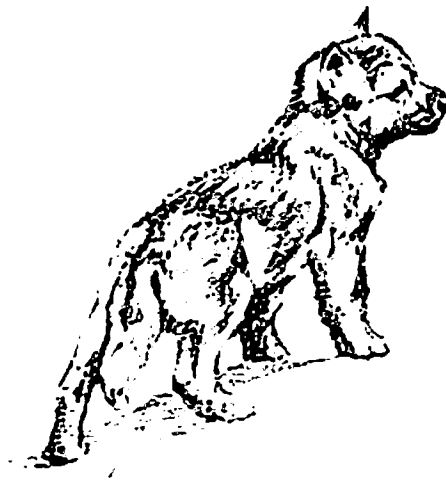
Aldo thought. He, in fact, had not tried telling the other animals that he didn't want to be It all the time.

Mother Turtle offered to walk Aldo home. On the way, he shared his animal crackers from the day before with the little turtles. On the way, Aldo noticed that none of the other animals wanted to play with him or the little turtles. Some of them even ran away! This made Aldo a little bit sad. He felt like they were playing Hide-and-Seek and he was It again!

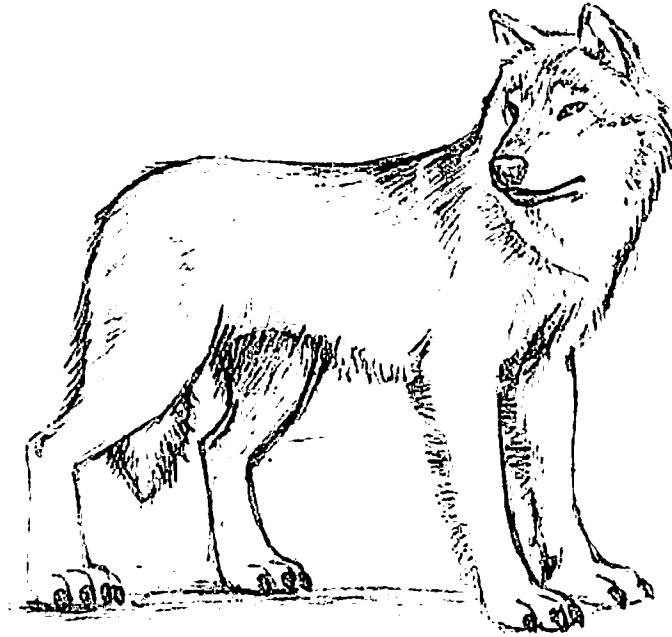
“How come the other animals don't want to play with me?” he asked.

“Well, maybe it's because they don't know that you're a nice wolf.”

Aldo tried extra hard to look like a nice wolf, even though he was one anyway. Eventually, the other animals began to play with him too.



In no time, Aldo began to recognize the trees. He sniffed the air and knew the smell. He looked around and, sure enough, he saw his mama!



Aldo ran up and told her all about the adventure he had. He thanked Mother Turtle and went off to find his friends, the deer, the bunny rabbits, and the little birds. He told them about how he didn't like being It all the time and, to his surprise, the animals listened. That day, Aldo was sometimes It when he played Hide-and-Seek, and he sometimes wasn't. He was sometimes It when he played Tag, and he sometimes wasn't. He even got to be Superman a few times, but most of the time he wasn't. Aldo didn't mind though. He was having more fun than ever with his friends, and he was glad that he listened to Mother Turtle's advice.

The end.