



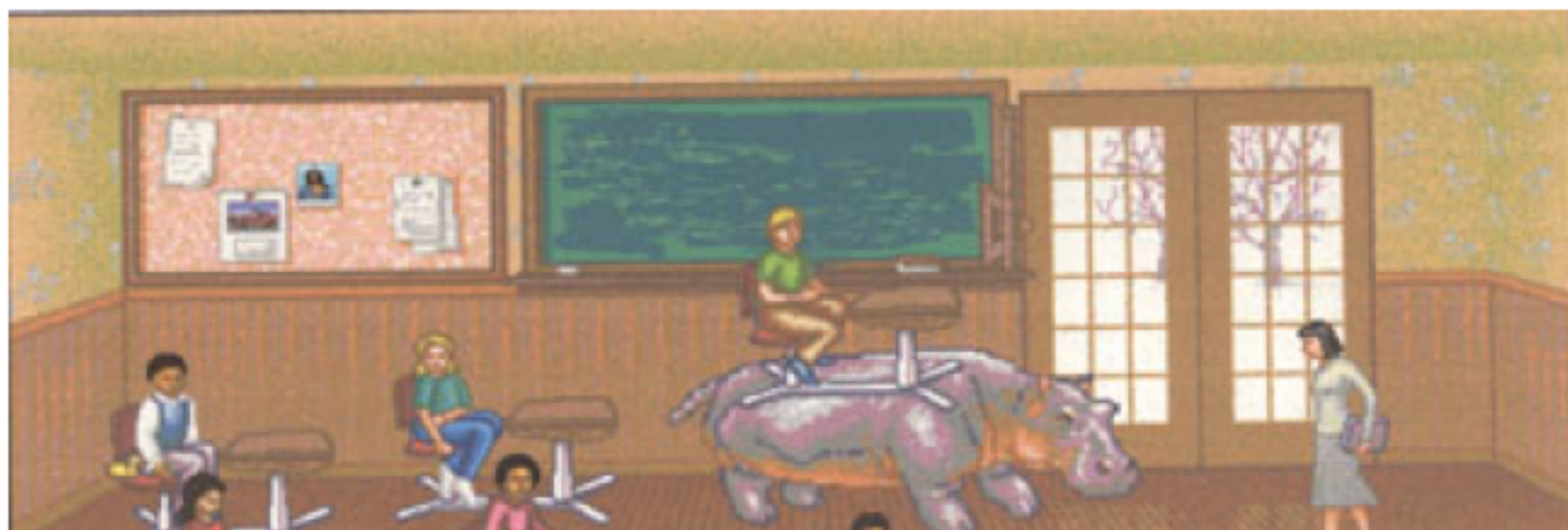
JEREMY AND THE HIPPO
(A Boy's Struggle With Stuttering)

by
Gail Wilson Lew

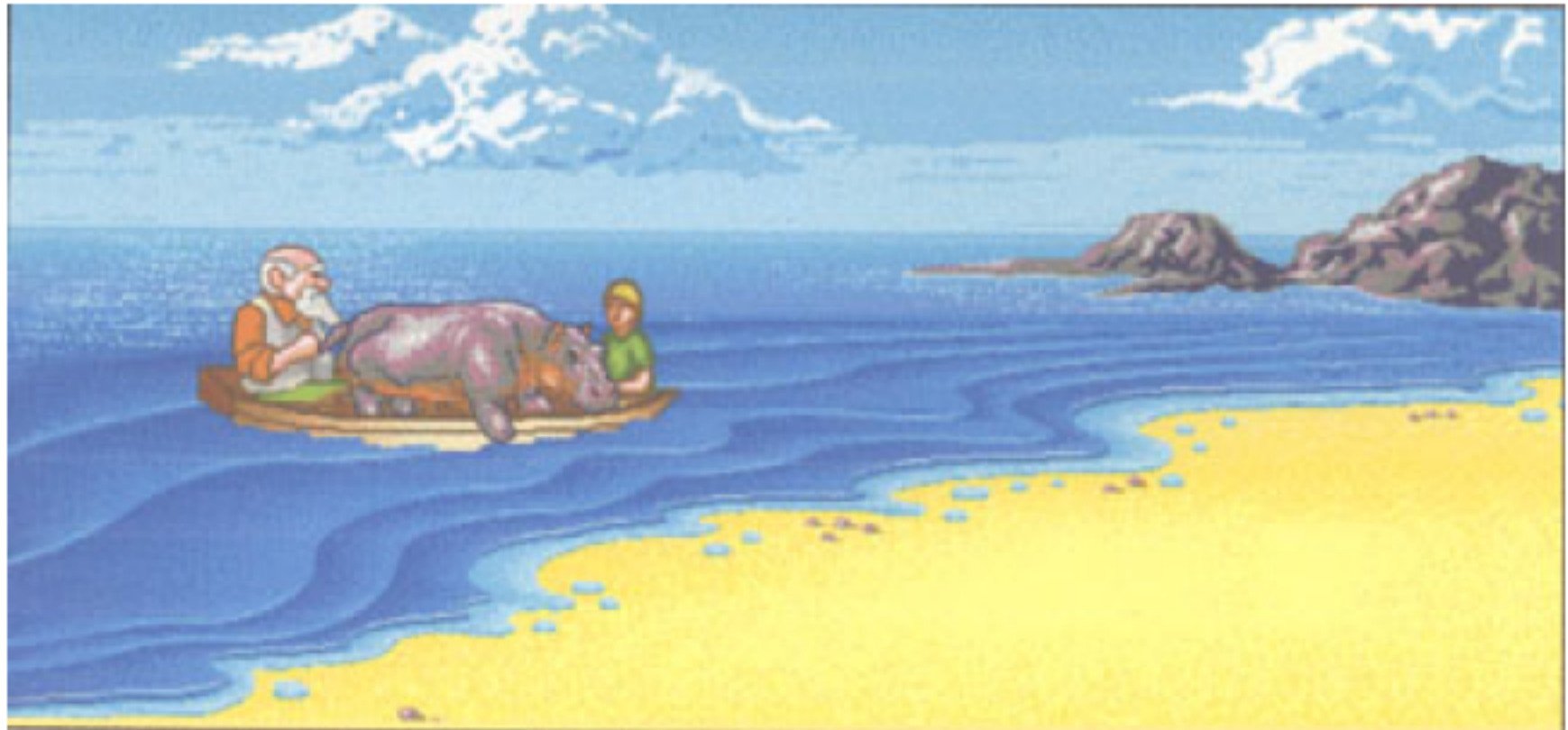
- *Jeremy and the Hippo* by Gail Wilson Lew was featured on the 2000 ISAD online conference <http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/ISAD3/papers/lew2.html>. It is copyrighted. A hard copy of the book is available from the National Stuttering Association (<http://www.westutter.org>) for \$7. Consider buying two, one for yourself and another to donate to your school or public library.



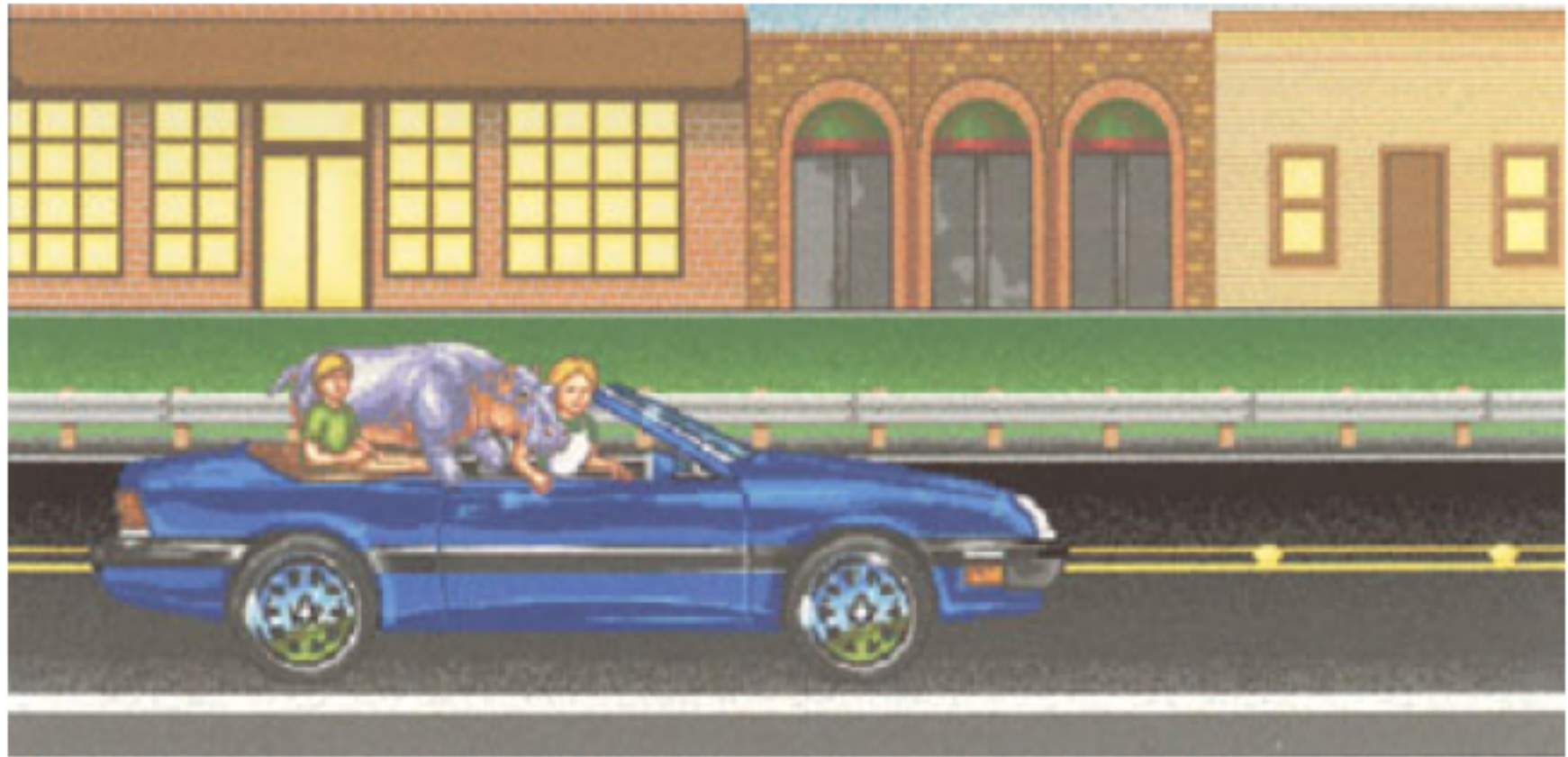
Jeremy had this hippo follow him wherever he went, and when Jeremy tried to speak, the hippo became huge.



In the classroom Jeremy's throat would get very tight. What made his stuttering even worse was the rest of the class staring at him, waiting for him to answer. By the time Jeremy got the words out the hippo was enormous!



Jeremy went fishing with his Grandpa and he started getting stuck on his words. The hippo almost sank the boat!



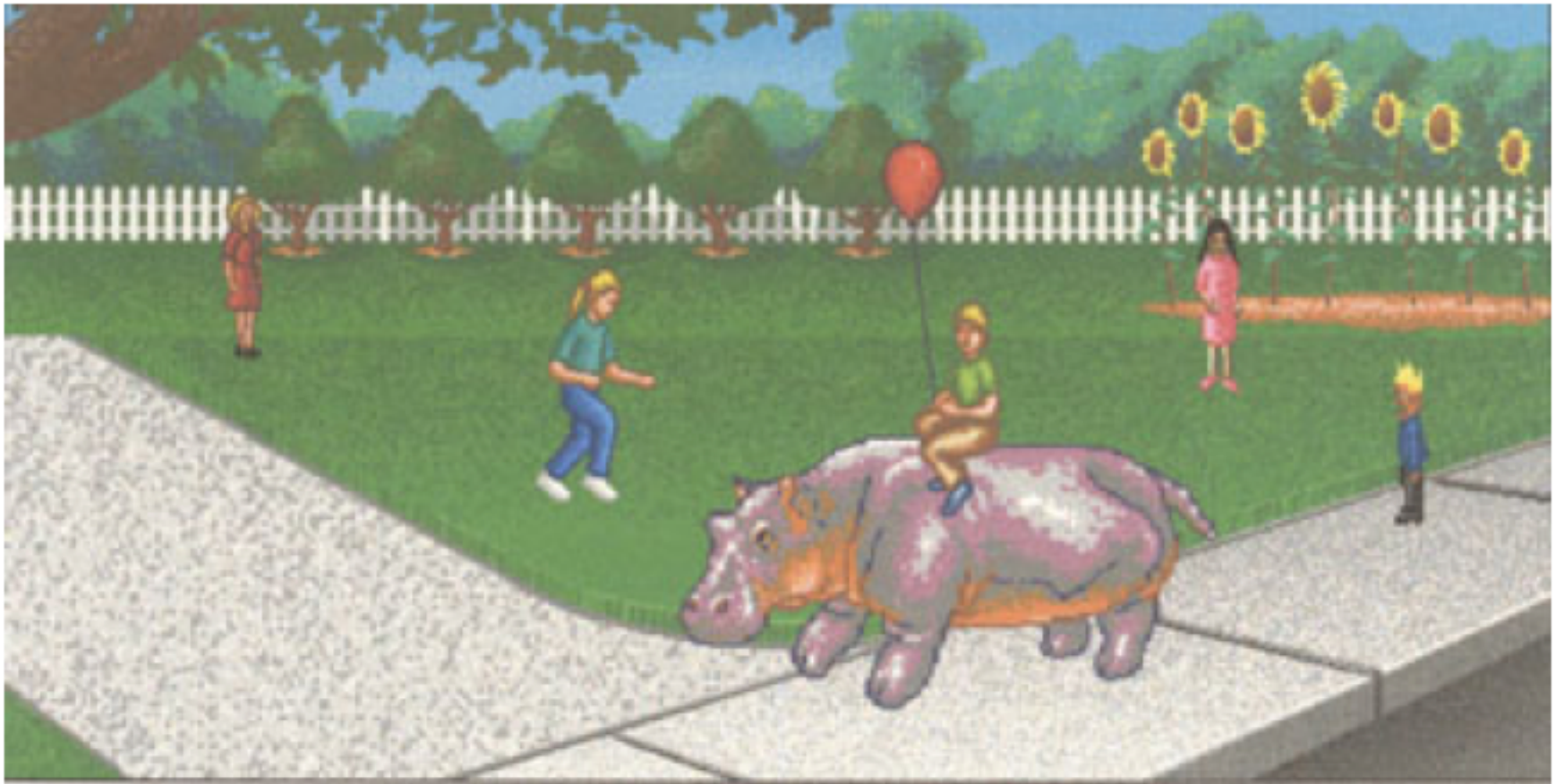
Jeremy had to be careful not to stutter when his Mom was driving because the hippo could cause a traffic accident.



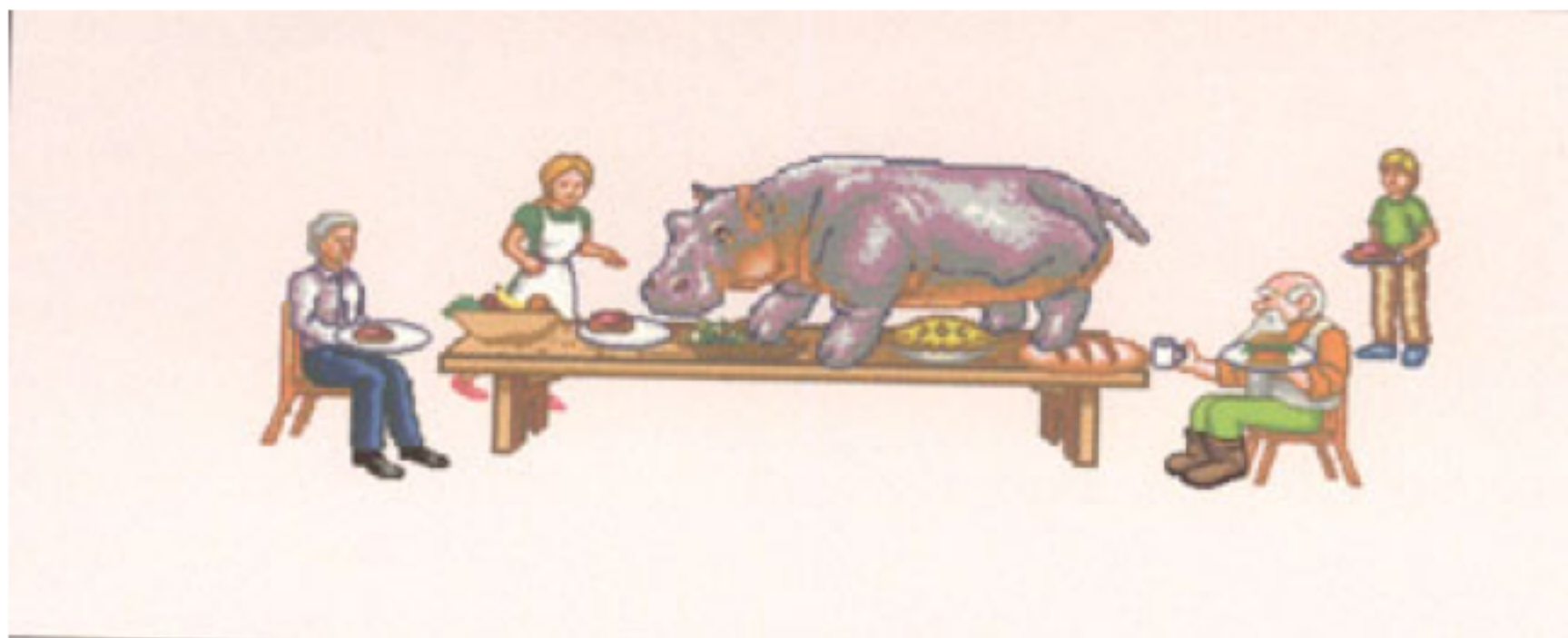
At night the hippo slept under Jeremy's bed. If Jeremy had difficulty reading to his Mom, the bed would get higher and higher.



Sometimes the school bullies teased Jeremy about his speech and pushed him down. When this happened, Jeremy stuttered so much that the hippo became gigantic and scared the bullies away.



One day Jeremy got tired from walking home from school. He then pretended to stutter so he could ride home on the hippo's back.



Jeremy and his family were celebrating Thanksgiving at his Aunt Katie's house. They were all around the dinner table. When it was Jeremy's turn to tell what he was thankful for, he started struggling on his words, and guess what happened? The hippo landed on the table and sat in everyone's food!



Jeremy was getting tired of the hippo never leaving him alone. He turned to the hippo and said, "W-w-won't you ever g-g-g-go away?" The hippo looked straght at Jeremy and said, "I'm your stuttering, Jeremy. The more you struggle with your speech, the bigger I get!"



The hippo continued, "Don't fight your stuttering. Slide through your words like you are sliding on ice. L---ike th---is. Stretch the first sound of the word. The more you slide the smaller I become."



Jeremy thought sliding was a lot like snowboarding through his words. At first it was hard to remember to slide or snowboard when he was speaking, but the more he practiced the easier it became. He learned to let his stuttering out in a gentle way.



After learning how to slide, Jeremy jumped for joy because he made friends with the hippo and found a new freedom in talking