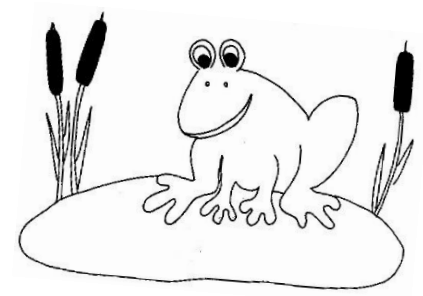
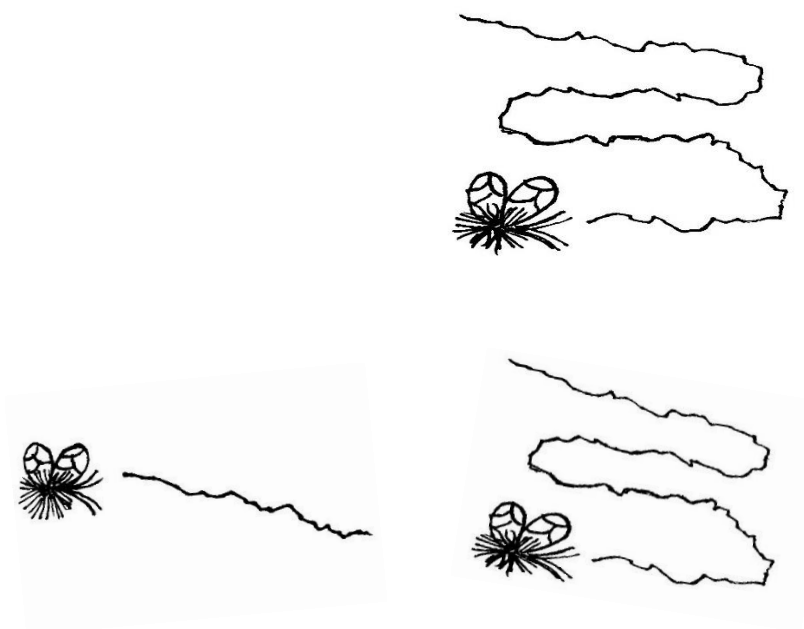
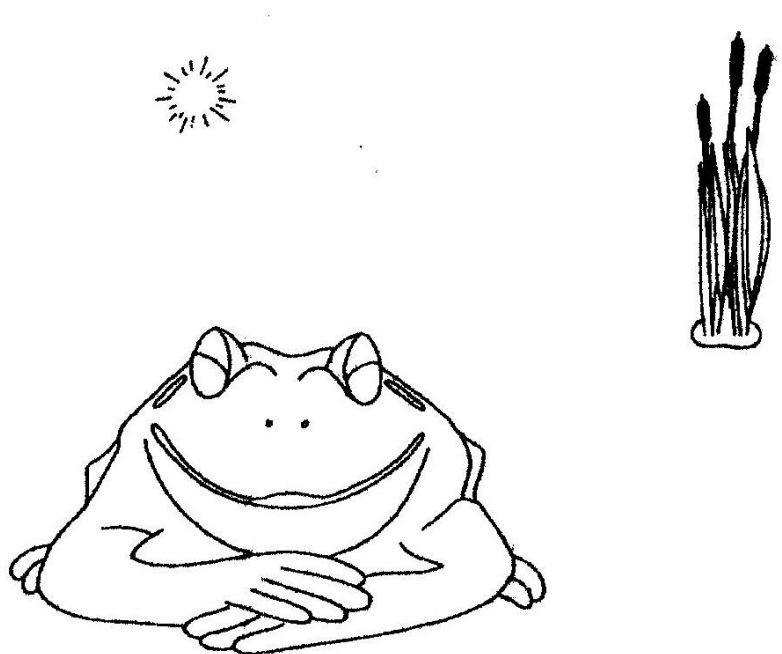
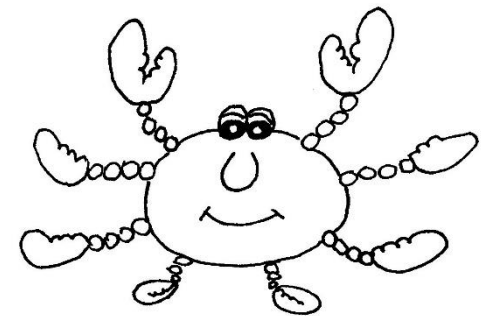
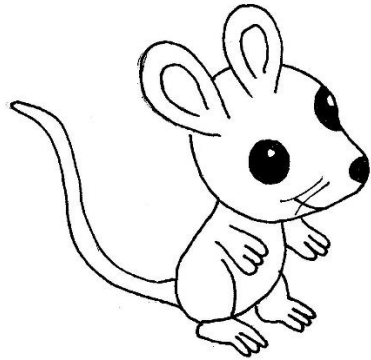
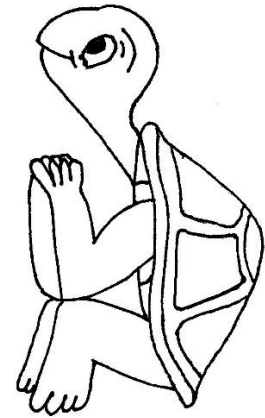
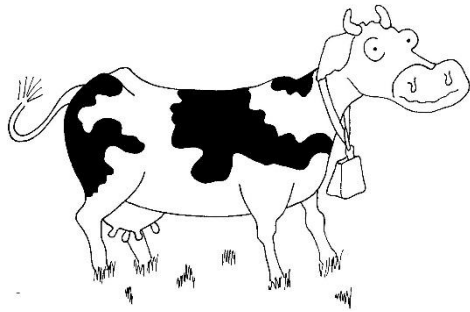
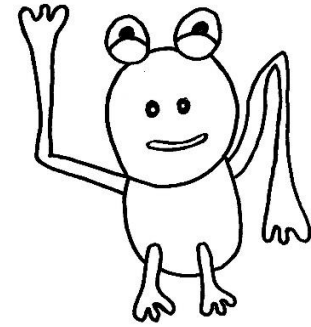
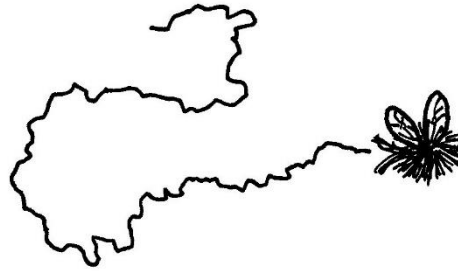
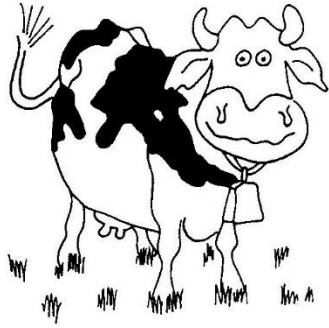


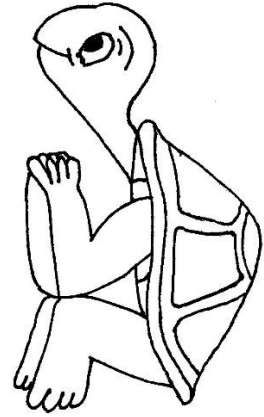
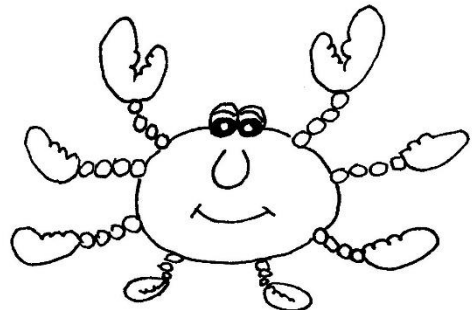
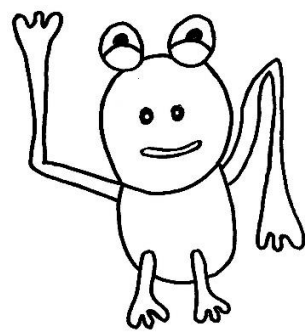
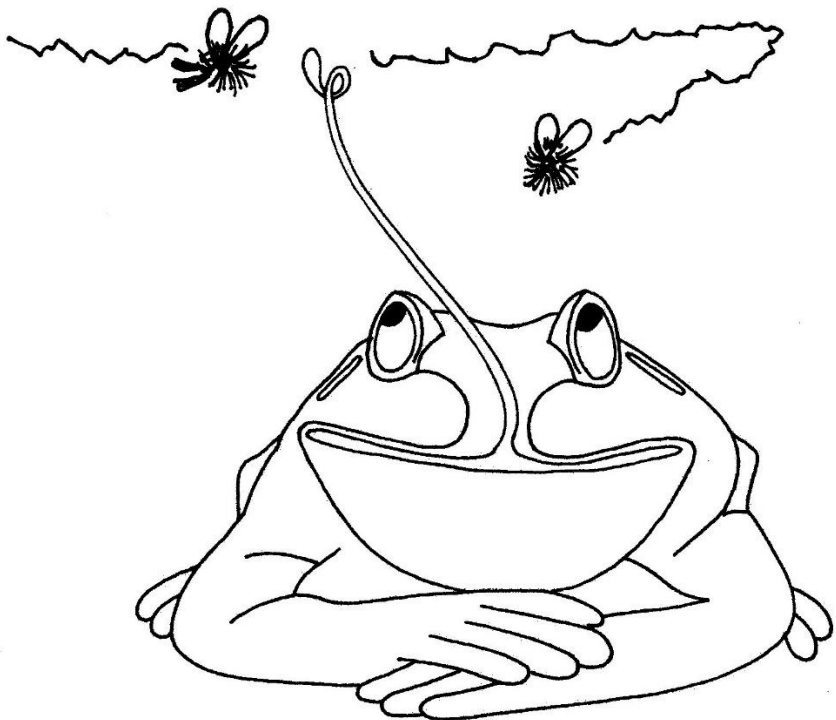
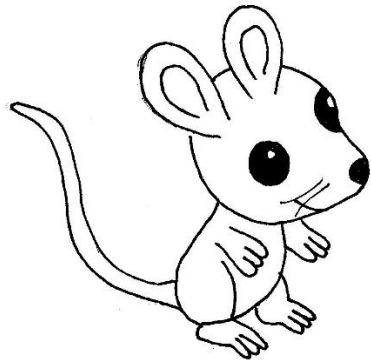
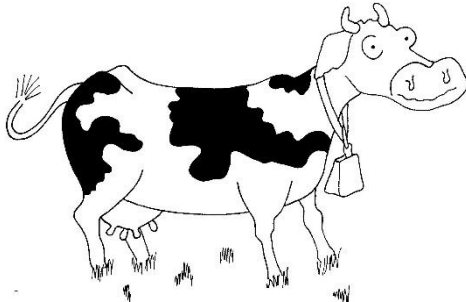
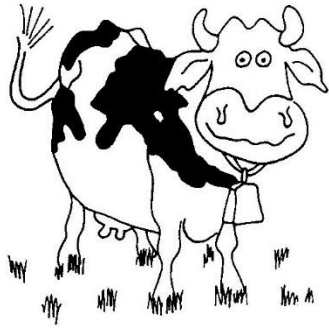
# Fillmore Frog



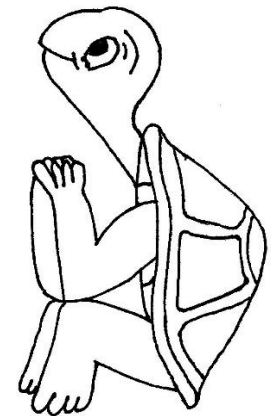
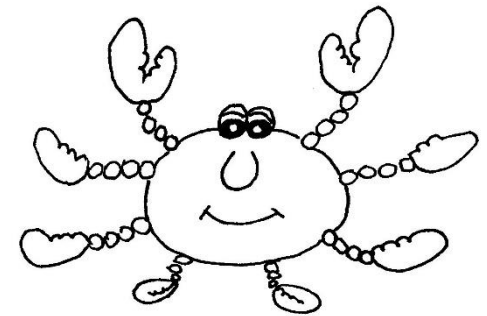
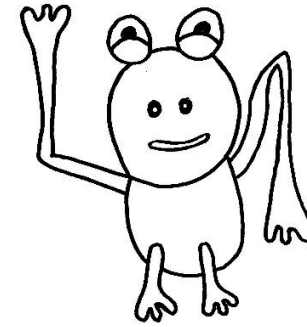
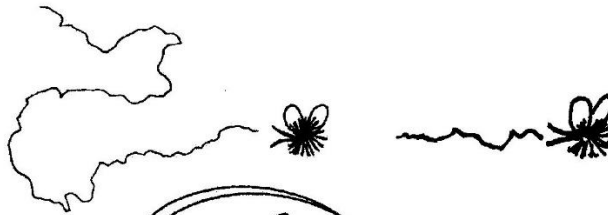
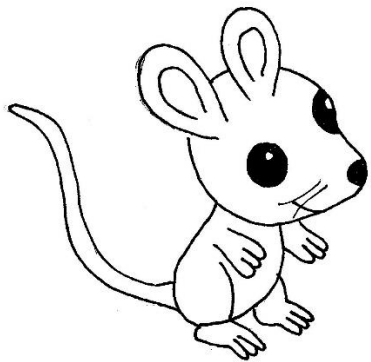
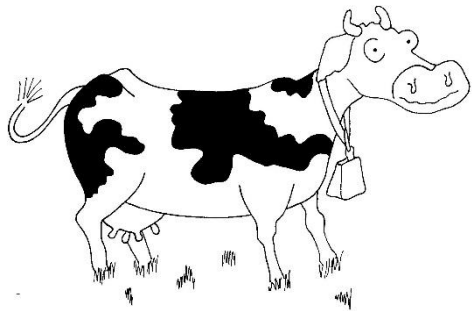
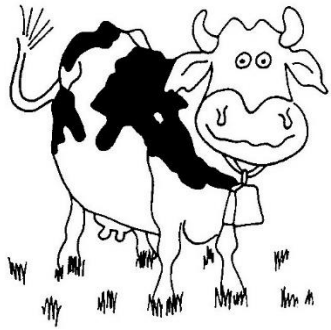
Perseverance



A flittering fly caught everyone's eye as it  
Bumbled towards Fillmore's big mouth.

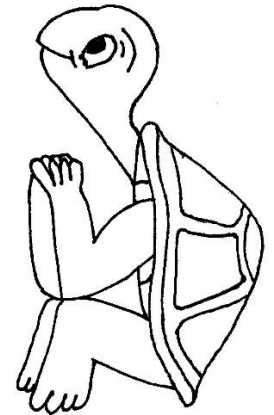
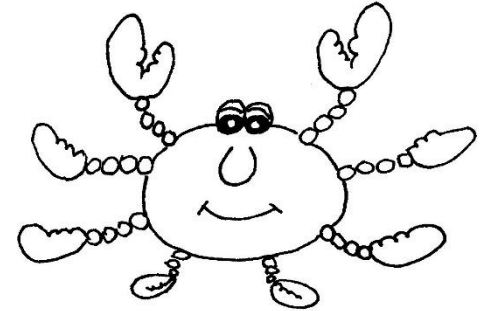
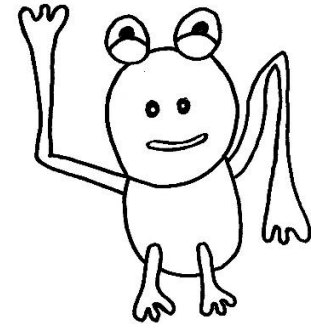
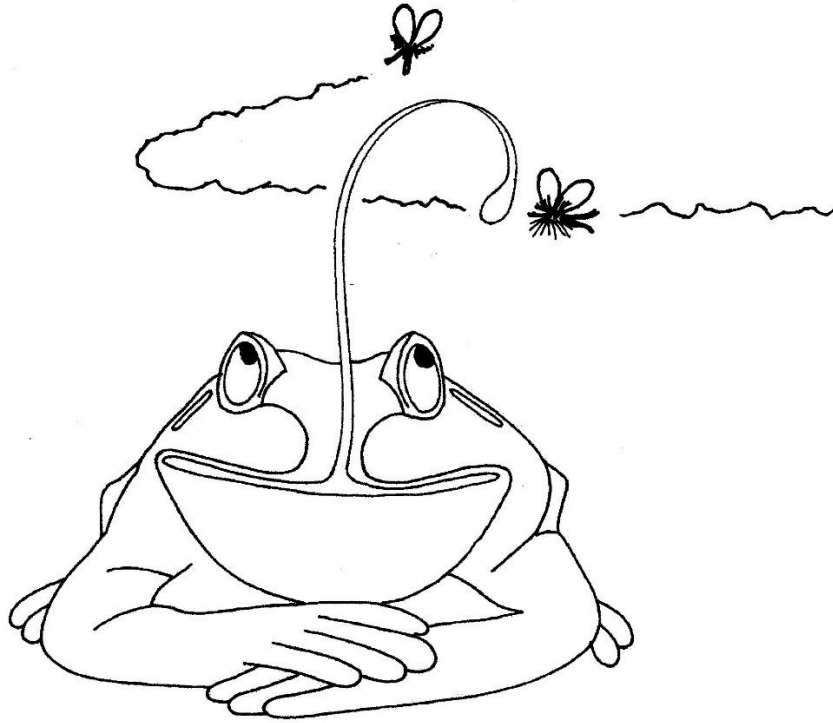
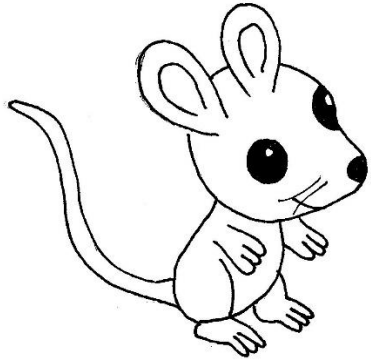
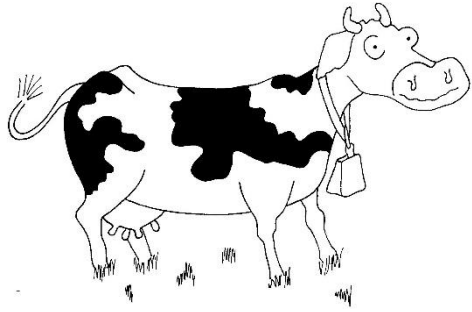
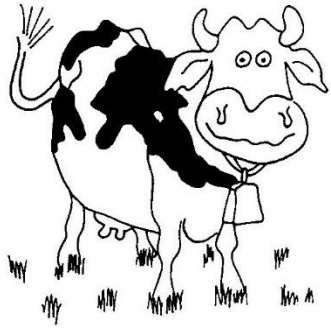


Fillmore went whap with a lightning fast zap;  
The fly headed off to the south.



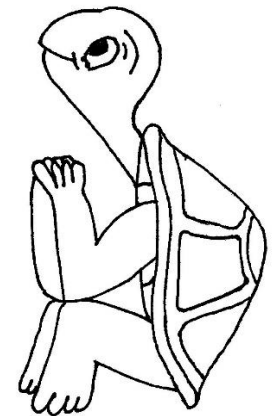
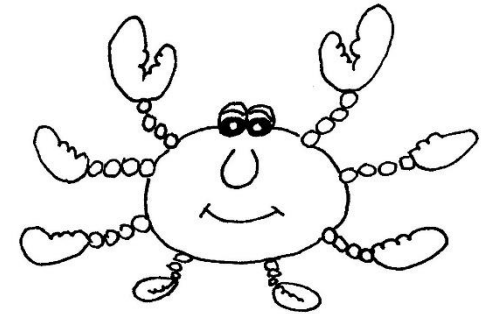
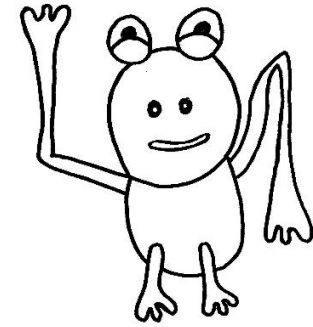
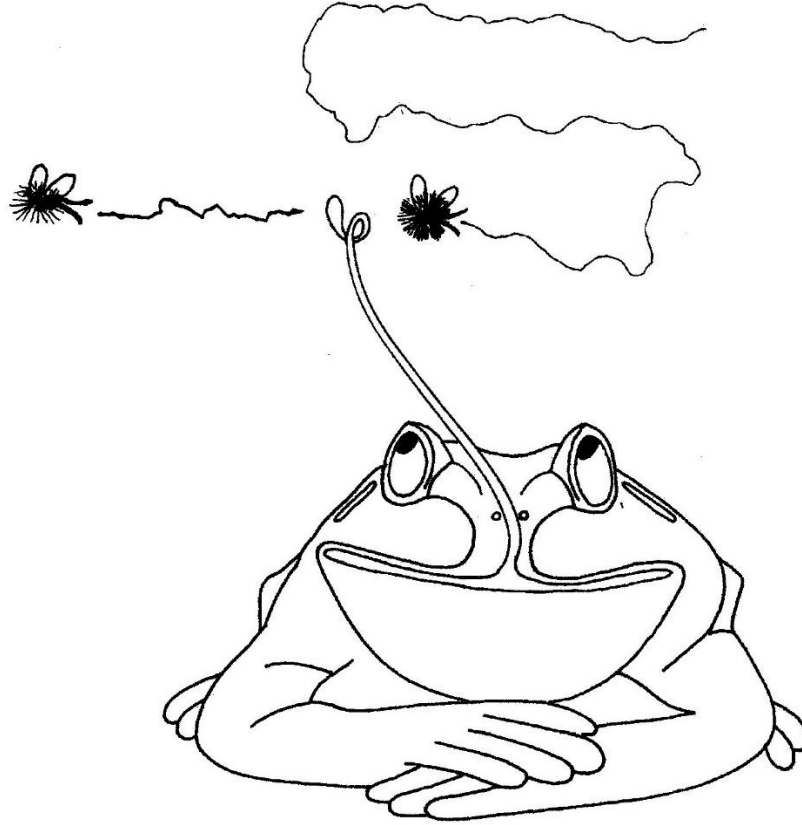
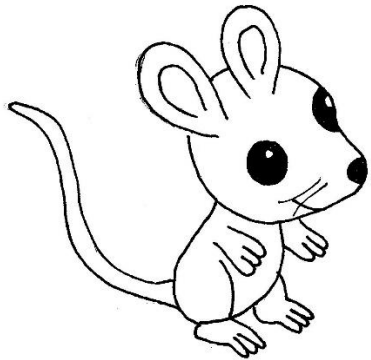
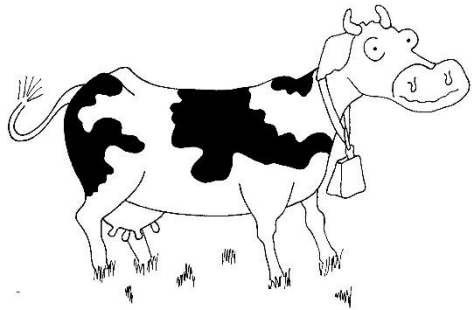
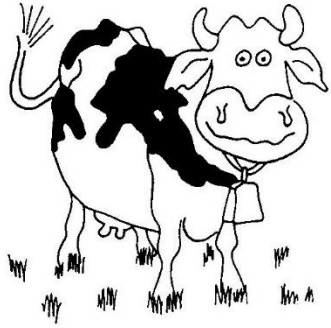
A short time went by then back came the fly  
Buzzing a rhythmical beat.

Fillmore zapped out his tongue from his mouth  
The fly headed off to the east.



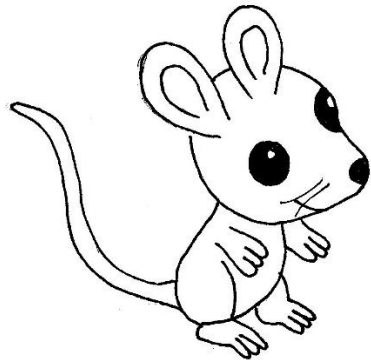
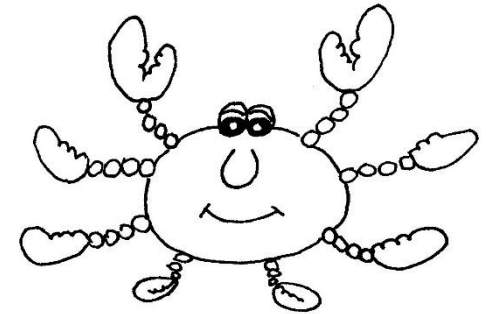
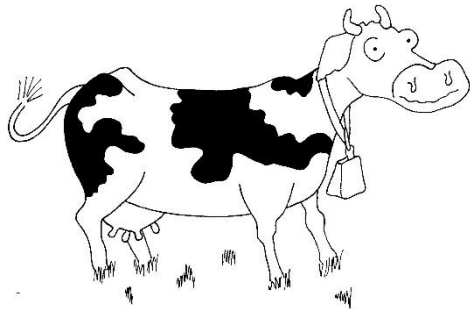
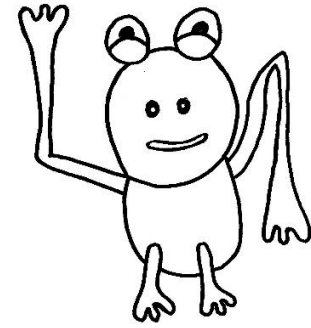
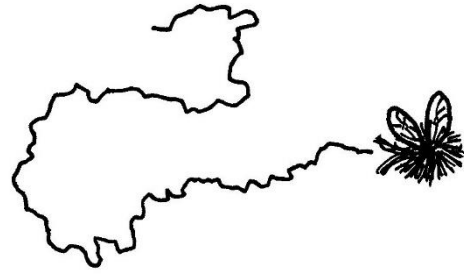
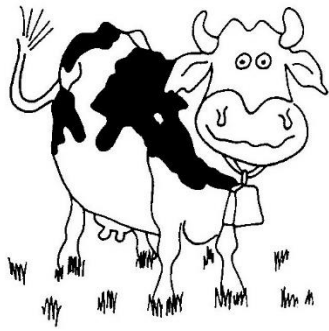
A third time the fly came fluttering by  
Like a plane flying slightly off course.

Fillmore warmed up then shot out a thrust;  
The fly headed off to the north.

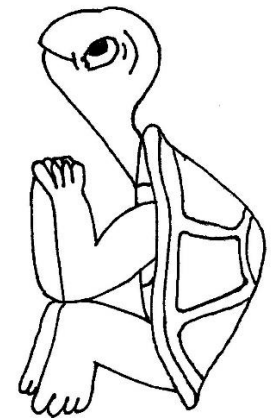


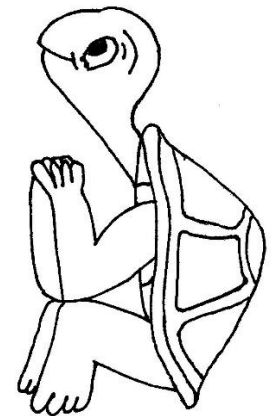
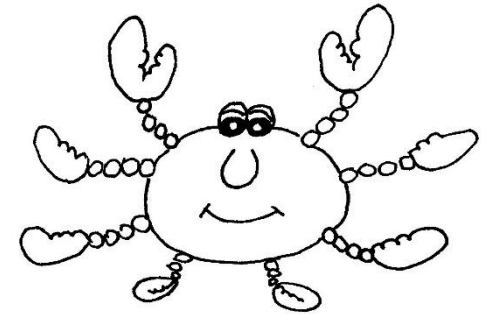
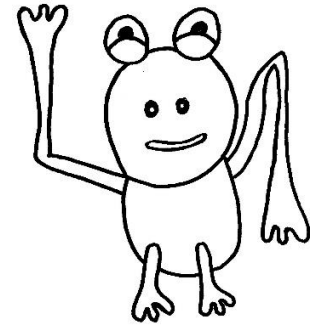
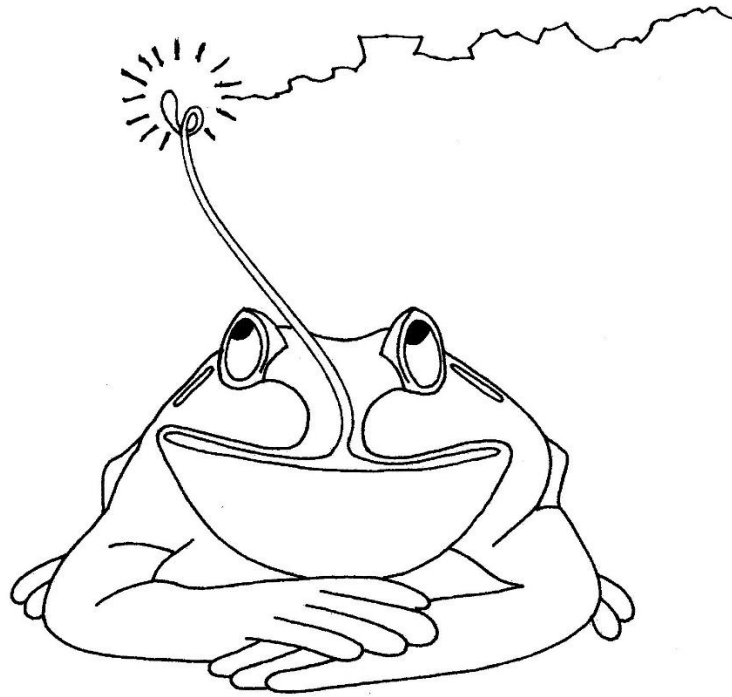
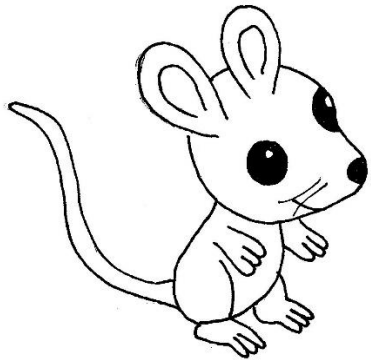
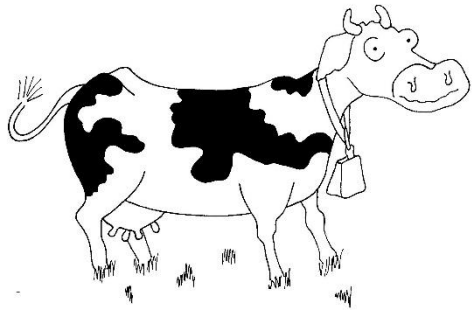
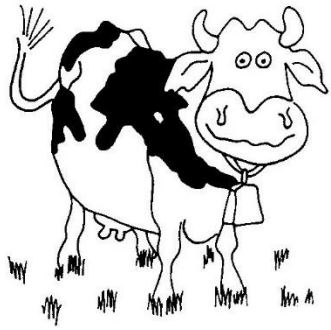
Poor Fillmore looked up, but not in disgust  
He longed for a fourth chance to get.

The chance when it came ended the same.  
The fly headed off to the west.



By now it was late, but make no mistake  
The fly headed in from a distance.





In the dim closing light his zap was just right  
Thank goodness for Fillmore's persistence.



## *Persistence*

A flittering fly caught everyone's eye  
As it bumbled towards Fillmore's big mouth.  
Fillmore went whap with a lightning fast zap  
The fly headed off to the south.

A short time went by then back came the fly  
Buzzing a rhythmical beat  
Fillmore zapped out his tongue from his mouth  
The fly headed off to the east.

A third time the fly came fluttering by  
Like a plane flying slightly off course.  
Fillmore warmed up then shot out a thrust  
The fly headed off to the north.

Poor Fillmore looked up, but not in disgust  
He longed for a fourth chance to get.  
The chance when it came ended the same  
The fly headed off to the west.

Now others would quit and groan in despair  
But Fillmore refused to give in.  
The next time the fly came sputtering by  
He vowed he would zap him right in.

By now it was late, but make no mistake  
The fly headed in from a distance.  
In the dim closing light his zap was just right  
Thank goodness for Fillmore's persistence

## ***Passing the Word Along:***

***Per-sis-tence*** *n.* the act of refusing to give up, especially when faced with challenge or difficulty.

## ***Check it out!***

There's an interesting story in the Bible about persistence. It's found in Luke 5:17-26.

### ***Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man***

One day Jesus was teaching to a large crowd of people. Men and religious leaders from every village in all Galilee and Judea were there as well as Jerusalem. The place was packed. There were people jammed in the doorways, sitting in the open window sills, and packed around the outside of the building. It was a ginormous crowd. And with all this Jesus was teaching and healing people.

Now some men showed up to the meeting place carrying a paralyzed man on a large mat. They wanted to bring him to Jesus believing that he would be healed. But how were they going to get the man to Jesus with such a massive crowd? They could hardly get close to the building no less get through any of the doorways or through any of the windows. The crowd was just too big. But they had come so far and they couldn't give up on helping the man. They had to do something.

They thought about the situation, then had an idea. After considerable thought, they found a way to climb to the roof of the building. This would be a great challenge, especially since the man was on a mat and couldn't help himself to get to the roof.

With a lot of hard work the men finally hoisted the man onto the roof. But what now? Jesus was inside the building and they were outside on the roof.

Now they had another idea. They laid the man down and started taking tiles off the roof. They did this until they had a good sized hole big enough to lower the man through and down into the building. And that's what they did. They lowered the man right in front of Jesus.

Jesus, seeing the faith of the men and the man told the man that his sins were forgiven. This really angered the Pharisees and religious leaders, but it didn't bother Jesus. Jesus told the religious leaders that he had the authority on earth to forgive sins. Then Jesus told the paralyzed man to stand up, to take up his mat, and go home because he was healed. And that's what the man did.

Thank goodness that the men had the persistence to get the man to see Jesus in spite of the obstacles of the crowd. If they hadn't been persistent, what do you think would have happened?

You can read the entire story in the Bible. It's found in the Book of Luke, Chapter 5, verses 17 through 26. And that's the truth

***A Word for You:***

Life is full of challenges and there will be time when you want to give up. Don't! Seek God and be persistent.

"I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13 NLT).

"For nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37 NLT).