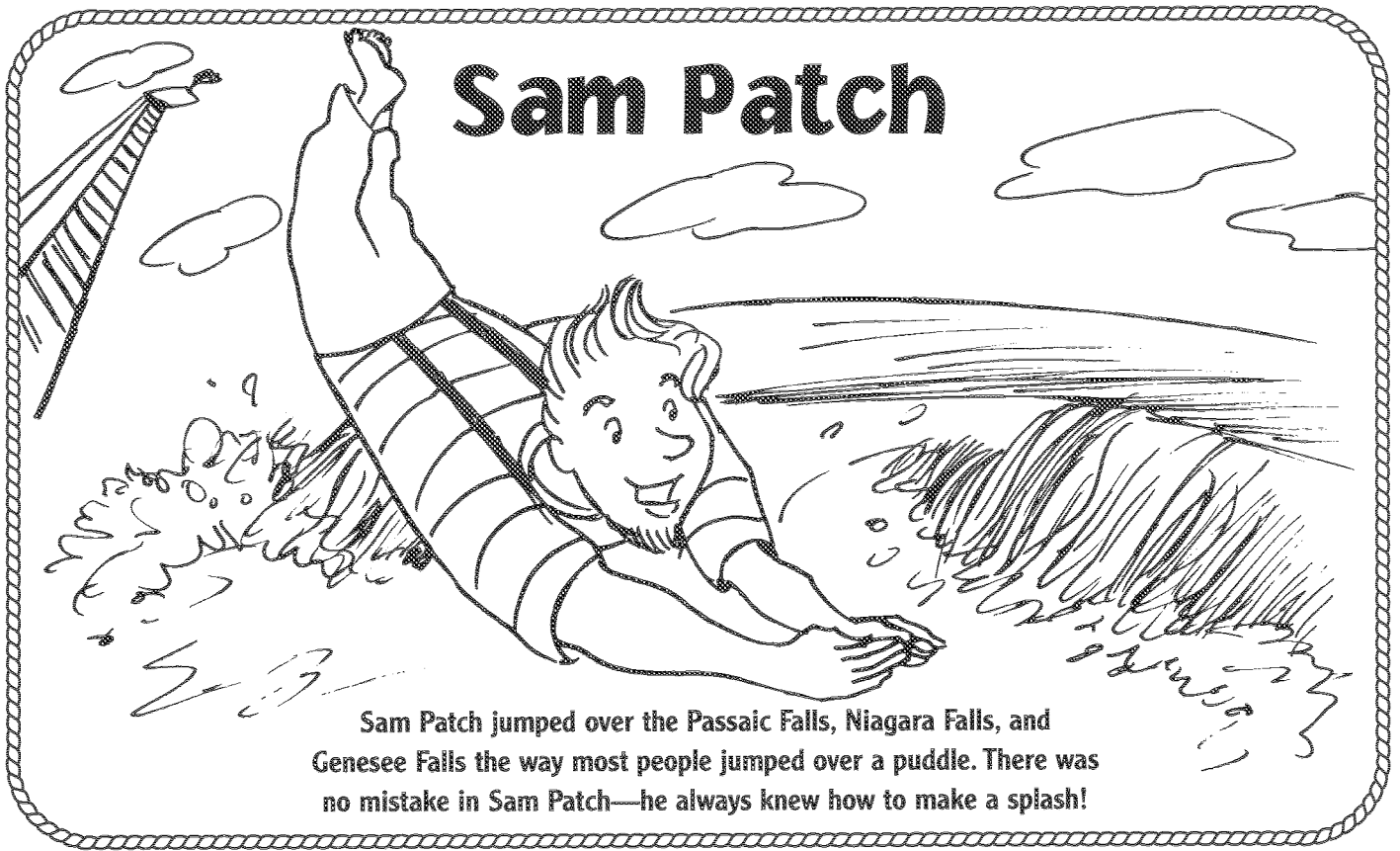


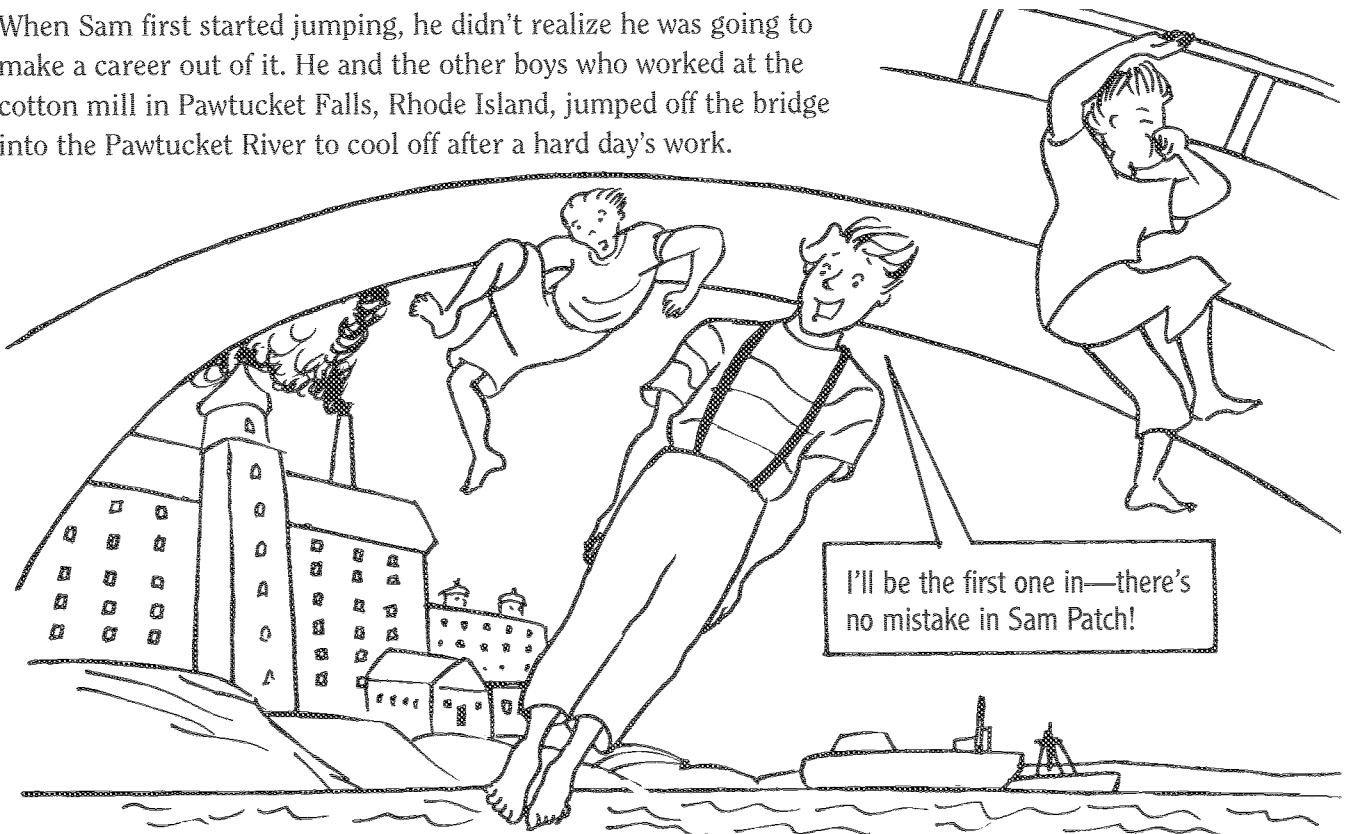
Sam Patch



Sam Patch jumped over the Passaic Falls, Niagara Falls, and Genesee Falls the way most people jumped over a puddle. There was no mistake in Sam Patch—he always knew how to make a splash!

□ | □

When Sam first started jumping, he didn't realize he was going to make a career out of it. He and the other boys who worked at the cotton mill in Pawtucket Falls, Rhode Island, jumped off the bridge into the Pawtucket River to cool off after a hard day's work.

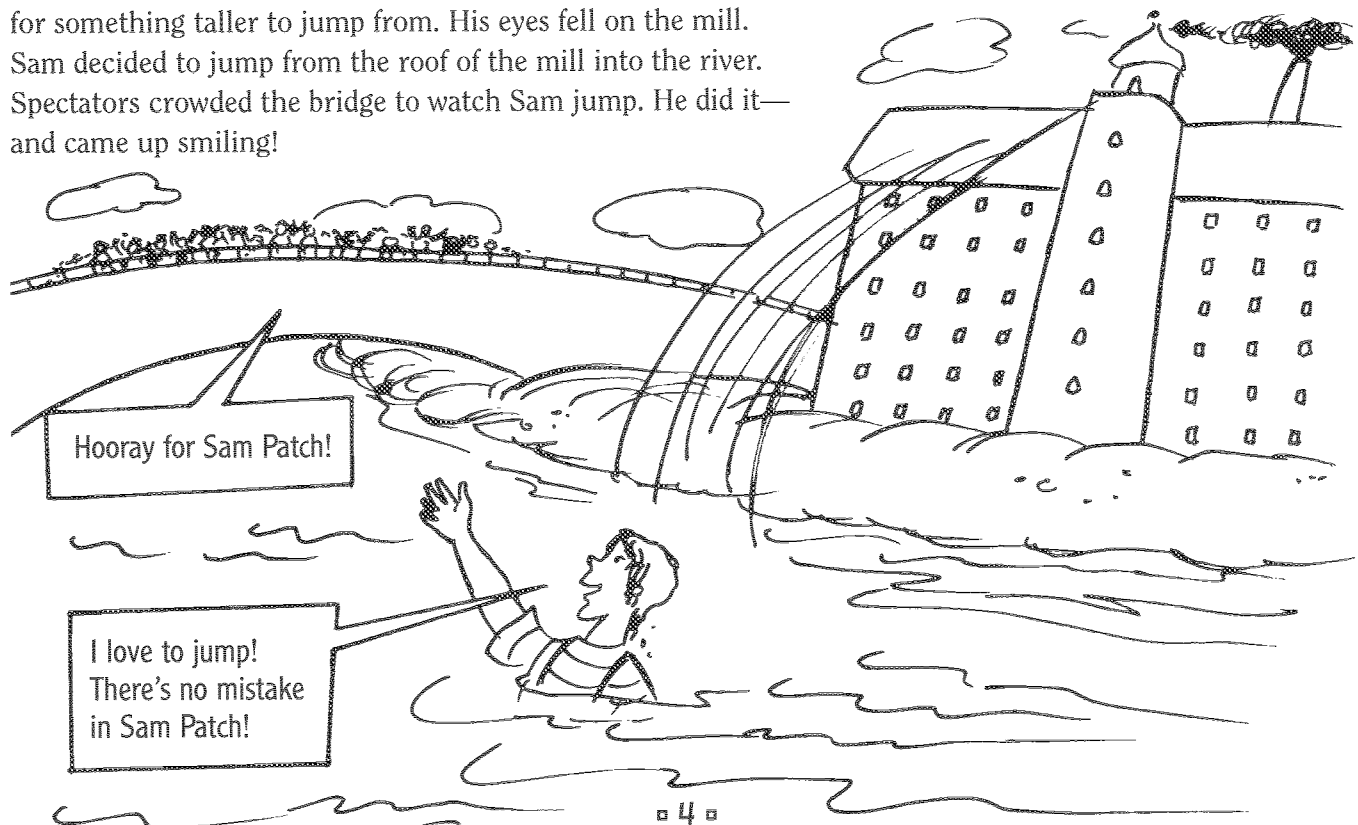


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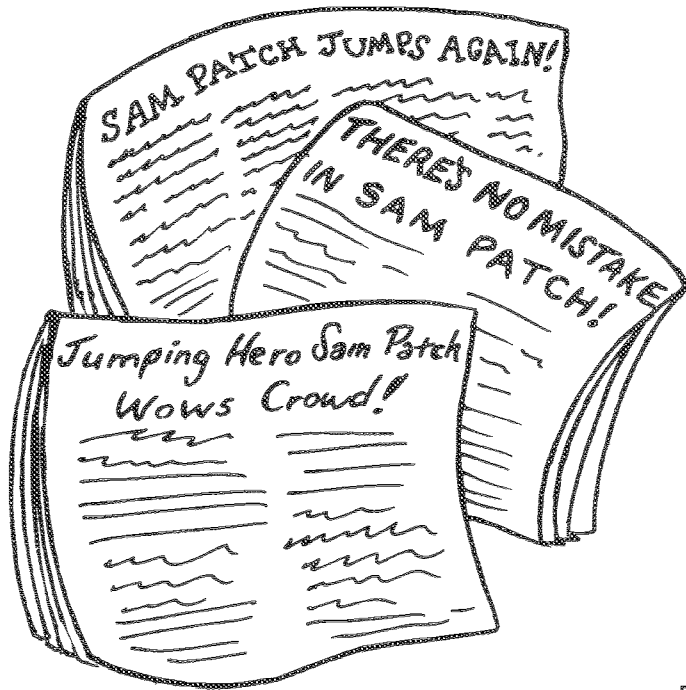
Sam Patch showed an interest in jumping early on. As a baby, he jumped from his mother's arms into a basin of soapsuds. As a boy, his favorite game was leapfrog. When Sam got to school, he skipped over hard words when reading. At the time, his teacher thought he was lazy. When she read about him in the newspaper years later, she realized he had just been practicing jumping.



Sam grew tired of jumping from the bridge. He looked around for something taller to jump from. His eyes fell on the mill. Sam decided to jump from the roof of the mill into the river. Spectators crowded the bridge to watch Sam jump. He did it—and came up smiling!



After that, Sam Patch's jumping career took off. He leapt his way off bridges and cotton mills, into rivers, and onto headlines from Rhode Island to New Jersey.

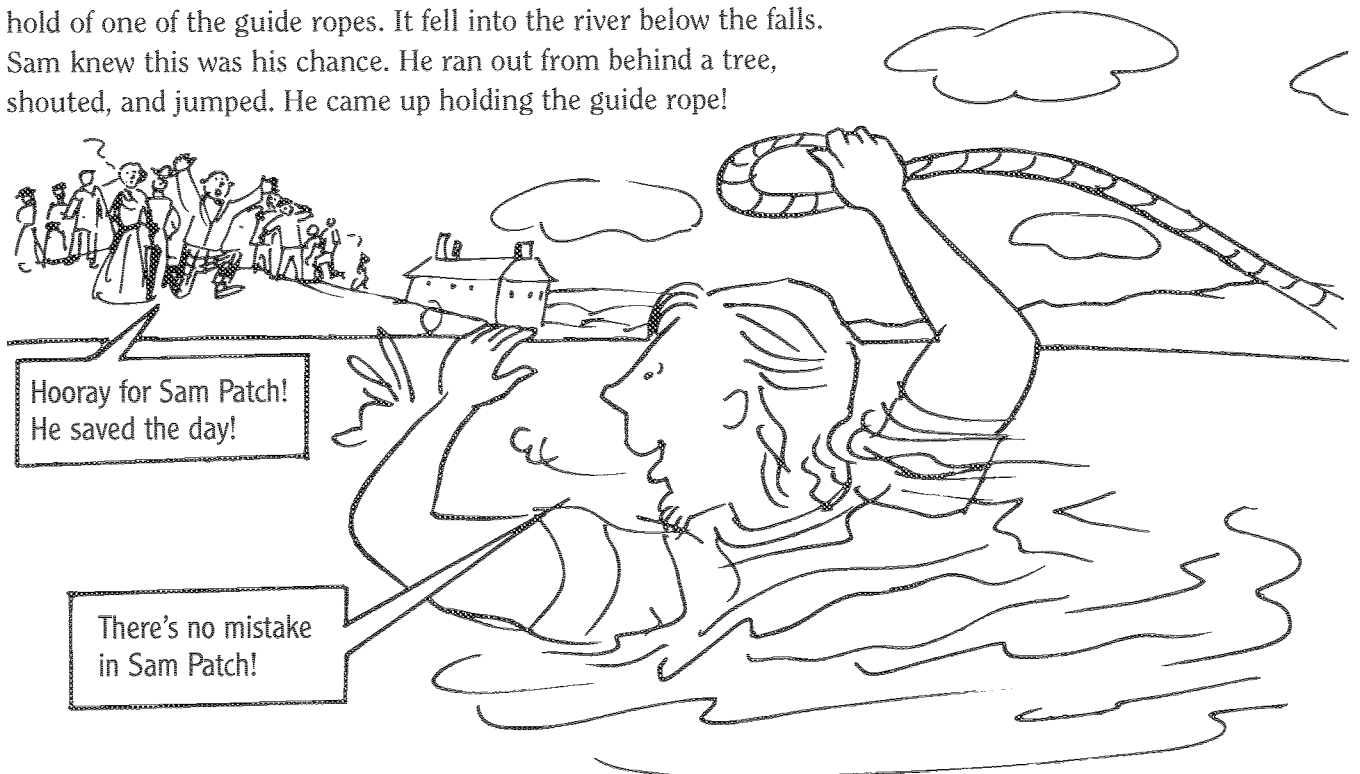


In Paterson, New Jersey, a man by the name of Timothy B. Crane was building a bridge that would cross over the Passaic Falls. There was going to be a big celebration the day the bridge was pulled into place. Sam decided he would add to the festivities.



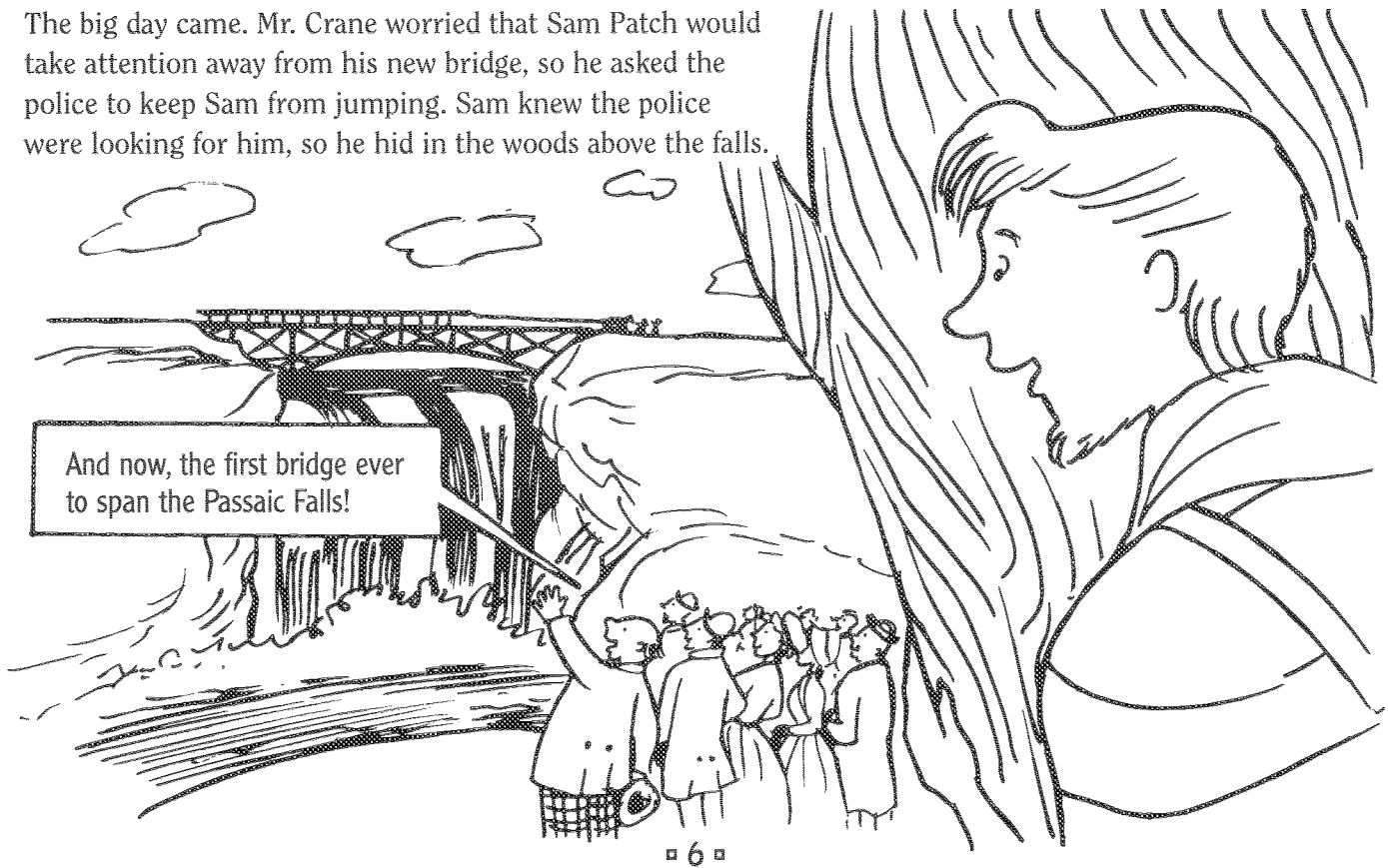
□ 5 □

When the bridge had been pulled halfway across, the engineers lost hold of one of the guide ropes. It fell into the river below the falls. Sam knew this was his chance. He ran out from behind a tree, shouted, and jumped. He came up holding the guide rope!



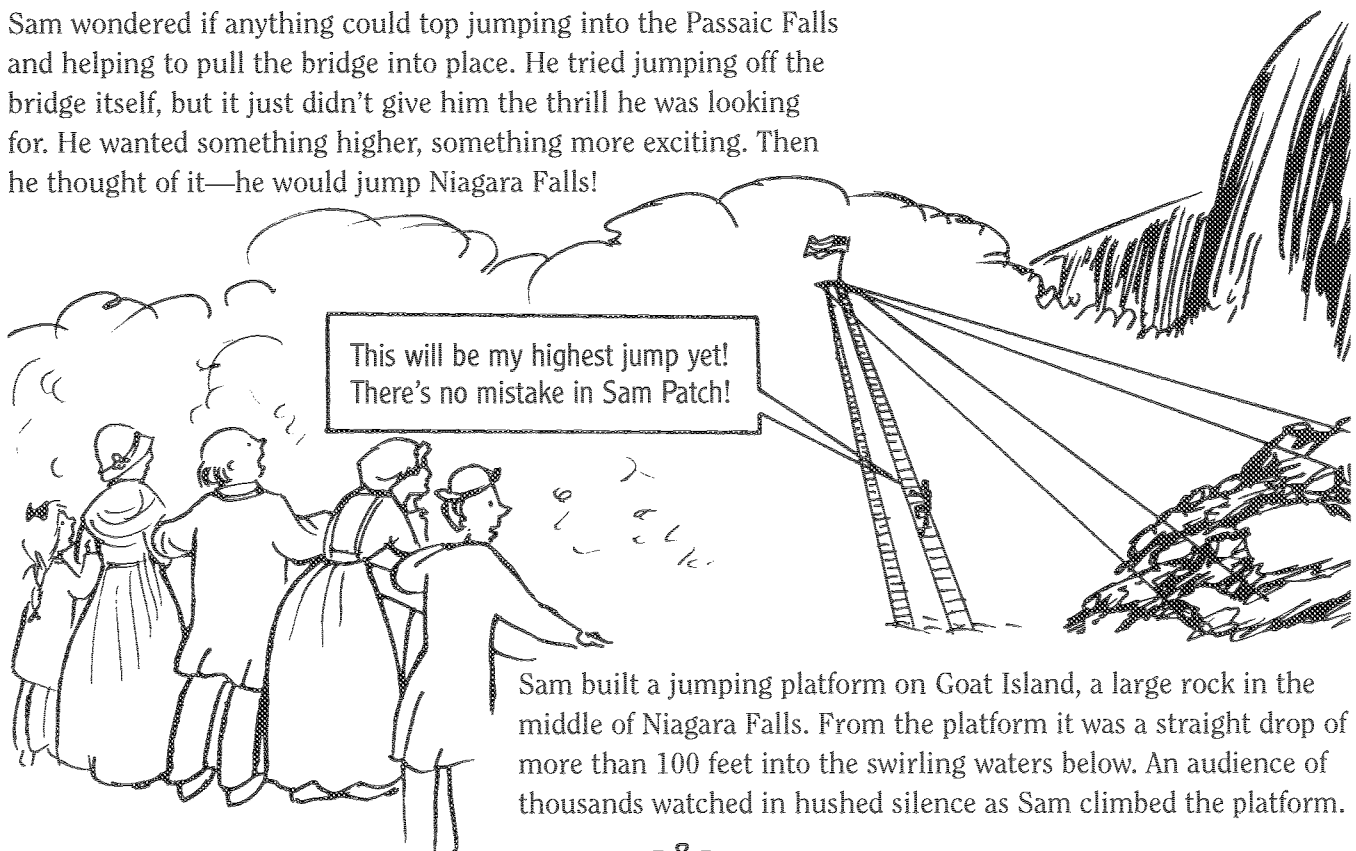
□ 7 □

The big day came. Mr. Crane worried that Sam Patch would take attention away from his new bridge, so he asked the police to keep Sam from jumping. Sam knew the police were looking for him, so he hid in the woods above the falls.



□ 6 □

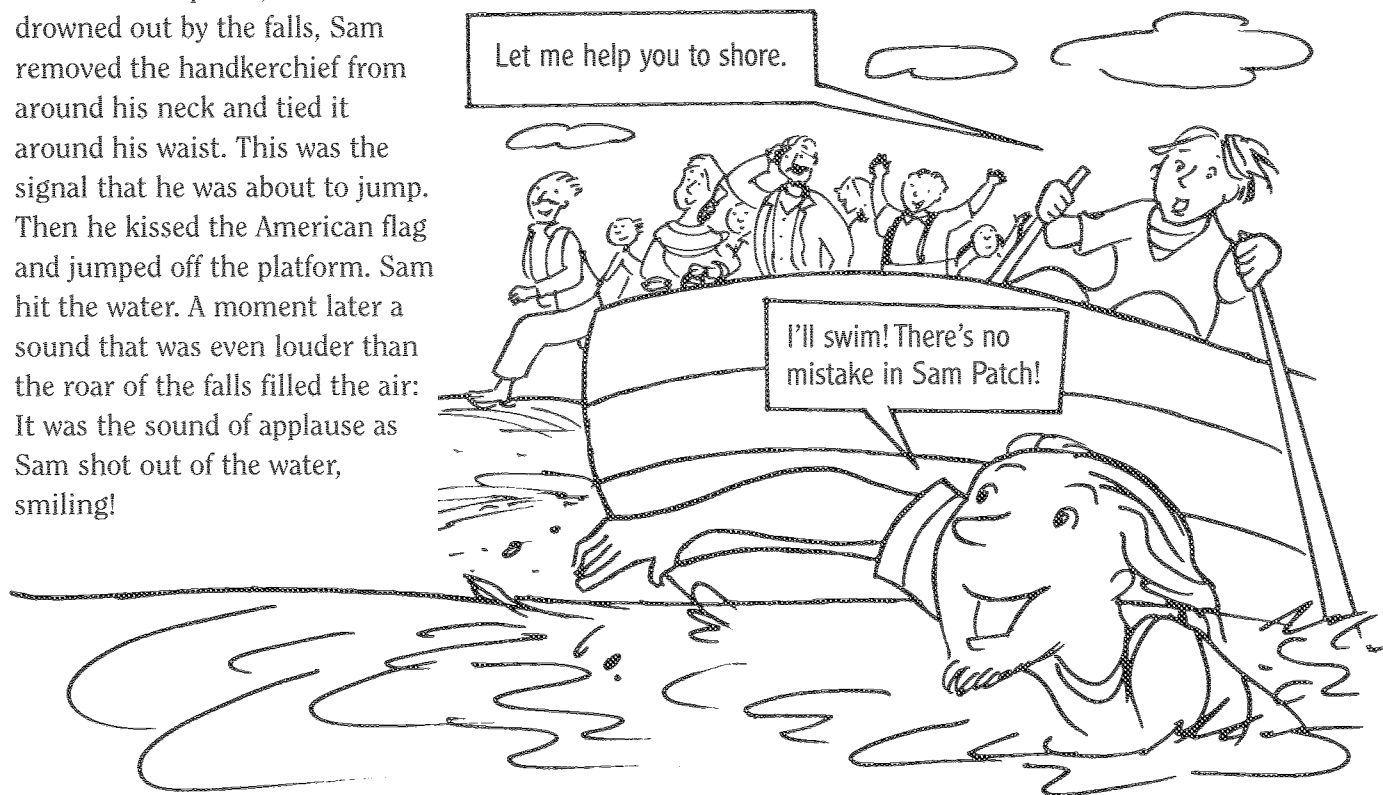
Sam wondered if anything could top jumping into the Passaic Falls and helping to pull the bridge into place. He tried jumping off the bridge itself, but it just didn't give him the thrill he was looking for. He wanted something higher, something more exciting. Then he thought of it—he would jump Niagara Falls!



Sam built a jumping platform on Goat Island, a large rock in the middle of Niagara Falls. From the platform it was a straight drop of more than 100 feet into the swirling waters below. An audience of thousands watched in hushed silence as Sam climbed the platform.

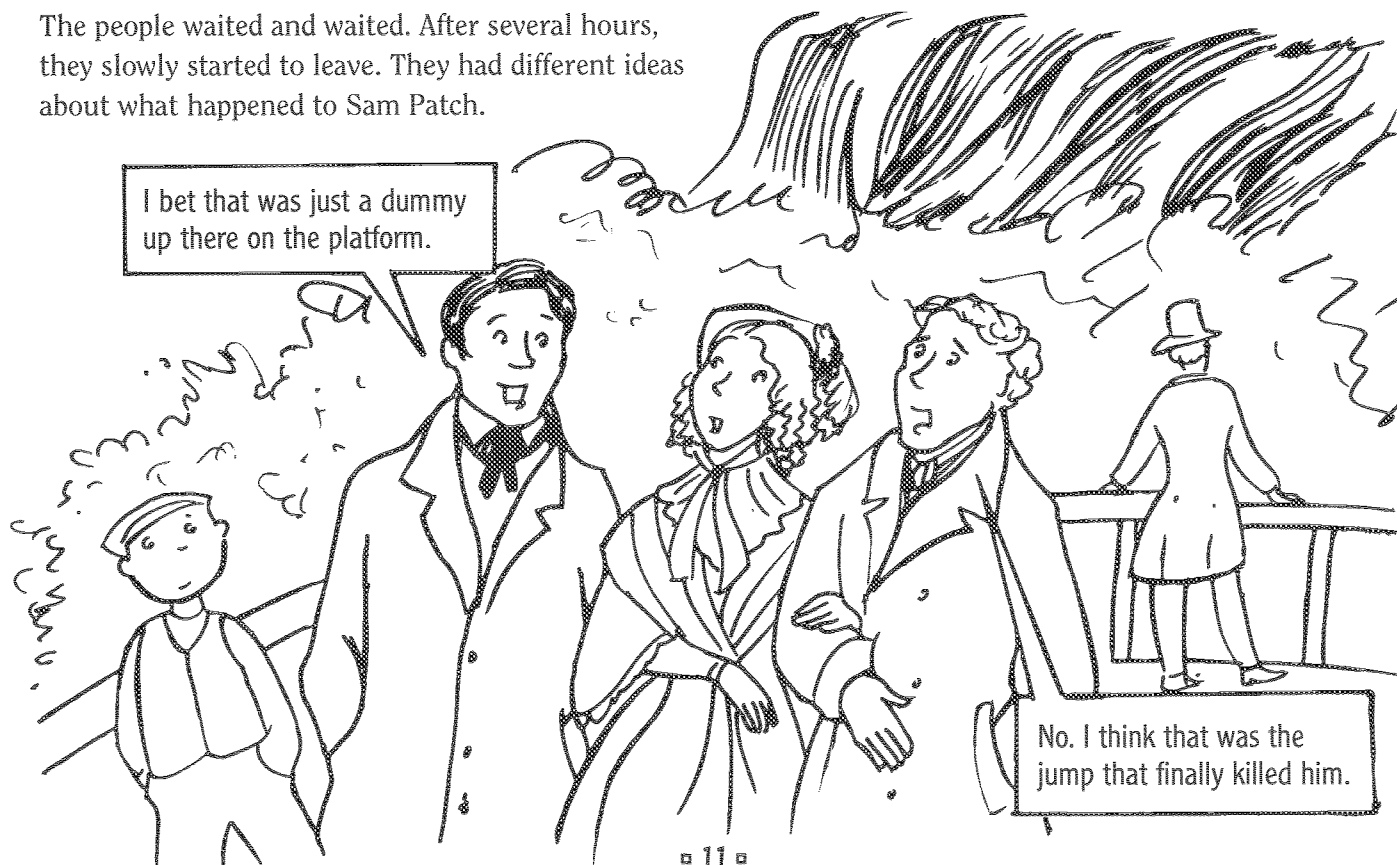
□ 8 □

After a short speech, which was drowned out by the falls, Sam removed the handkerchief from around his neck and tied it around his waist. This was the signal that he was about to jump. Then he kissed the American flag and jumped off the platform. Sam hit the water. A moment later a sound that was even louder than the roar of the falls filled the air: It was the sound of applause as Sam shot out of the water, smiling!



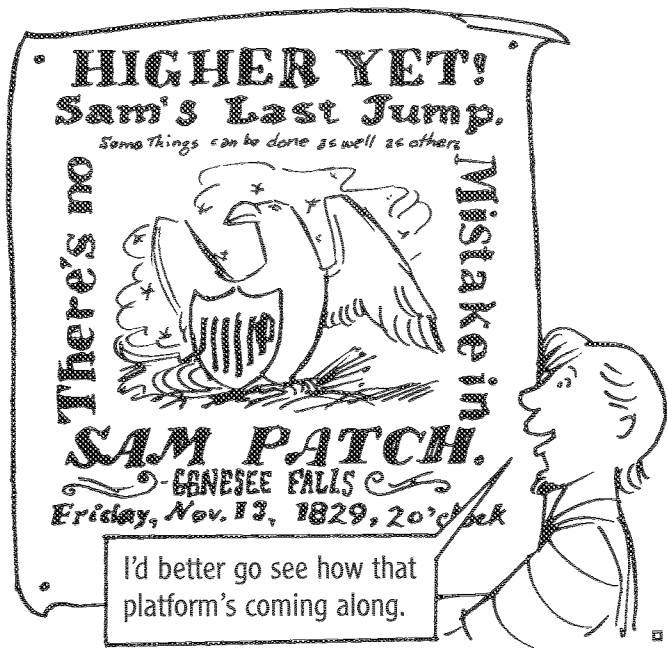
□ 9 □

The people waited and waited. After several hours, they slowly started to leave. They had different ideas about what happened to Sam Patch.



□ 11 □

Some people might think a jump from Niagara Falls couldn't be beat, but not Sam Patch. Less than a month later, Sam decided to top his Niagara Falls jump with a 125-foot leap into the Genesee Falls in New York. Sam made posters announcing his jump.



On the day of the jump, Sam drew his greatest crowd ever. He made a short speech, which no one could hear, then moved his handkerchief from his neck to his waist. He kissed the flag, then jumped into the water. The people watched, and waited, for Sam Patch to reappear.



They were both wrong. Sam Patch jumped and survived, but the jump took him so deep that he popped up on the other side of the world. He settled in Australia and became a teacher. His students were kangaroos. Can you guess what he taught them how to do?

