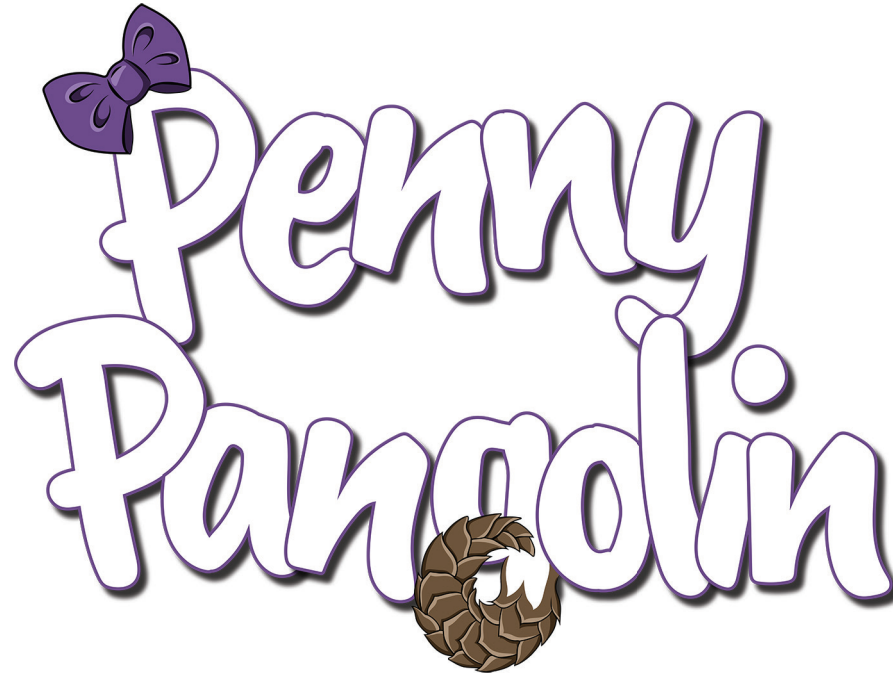




and The Rock Soup

Written by Wayne D. Kramer

Illustrated by Jade Zivanovic



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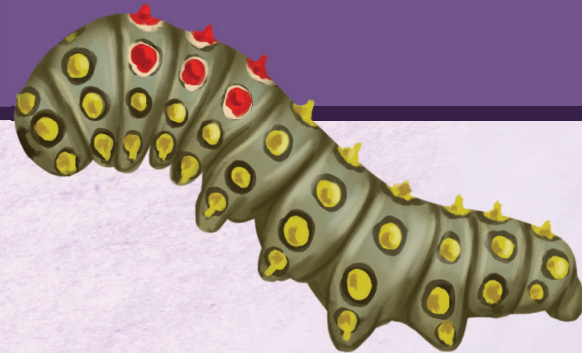
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For Dawn, Brooke, Holly, Ivy, and Jade



Penny Pangolin loved living in her village near the jungle.
The neighbors were friendly. The food was **amazing**. The streets
were clean. It was peaceful and quiet ...





...except during the annual **festival**. During that time, music and laughter filled the air. The sights, sounds, and smells of carnival fun were everywhere.



One of Penny's best friends was Vin, another pangolin who also loved the village. He lived **far away** and enjoyed visiting whenever he could.

Every time Vin came to visit, he couldn't wait to eat. He loved the food there almost as much as Penny did. It seemed Penny's neighbors were always **baking**, **frying**, **grilling**, **roasting**, or **broiling** their own special recipes, each just as tasty as the last.



And, during the festival, the village's **yummiest** foods were all in one place!

Penny and Vin couldn't wait to enjoy the carnival games and sample the many different foods.



In fact, Penny and Vin hoped to have their own booth someday. Vin knew how to make **rock soup**, a real delicacy among pangolins. He had an old family recipe that he was sure the villagers would love.



As much as they liked to eat, they also knew to be careful.
Some ingredients could make pangolins sick.



“Just no red-and-yellow caterpillars,” Vin said. “They give me a bad tummy ache and make my scales itch.”

“Mr. Weasely is famous for his caterpillar **delicacies**,” Penny warned. “If he has a food booth this year, best avoid it.”



Penny and Vin had a great time at the festival. They played ringtoss and Whack-A-Dragon. They went into the House of Mirrors.



They attended an outdoor **concert** with different local bands. They had a front-row view of one of the most popular bands in the village, the Singing Gibbons.



They raced while holding pebbles with chopsticks.

The pebbles were very smooth and hard to hold. Penny **squealed for joy** when she finished in first place.



“Those are just like the pebbles we use in my mother’s homemade rock soup,” said Vin, rubbing his middle.

Finnegan the ferret-badger raised an eyebrow. “You eat rocks?”

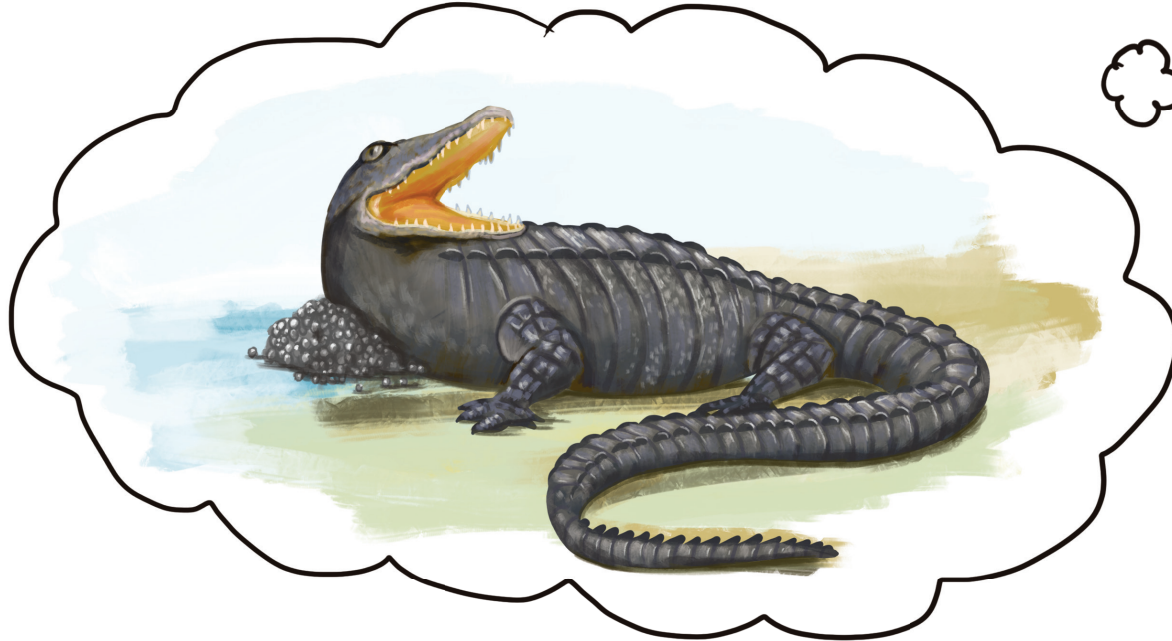
“Oh, yes,” Penny replied. “We pangolins need them to help digest our food.”



“Good rocks for digestion are called **gastroliths**, or stomach stones,” said Vin. “Some other animals eat them, too.”

“Right,” added Penny, “like crocodiles and seals and certain species of birds and amphibians.”

“That’s interesting,” Finnegan replied. “Still doesn’t sound good to me, though.”





Finally, it was time to tour the food booths!
They started with a table of **sweet-smelling** goji-berry tarts and
delectable plum-termite crisps.

Next was an **impressive** spread of coconut rice cakes with bamboo dip.

“Yummy!” Vin and Penny said together as they sampled cookies with chocolate cricket-chips and oriental raisins.





Vin waddled to a table of pineapple ant crackers and guava jam.

Penny followed her nose to a booth of what looked like deep-fried dumplings. After a few of those, **she was stuffed.**



Suddenly, Penny's stomach started to hurt.

"I don't feel so good," she said.

"Did you eat too much?" asked Vin.

"I don't know," Penny replied. "I feel sick."



“What did you eat?” asked Vin.

Penny tried to **remember** everything. Her scales were itchy, and the urge to scratch distracted her.



Finally, Penny pointed toward the table of fried dumplings.
“That’s the last thing I ate.”

“Uh-oh,” said Vin.
“Those are Mr. Weasely’s caterpillar
croquettes! No wonder you feel sick!”



Some of the other animals **crowded around Penny.**

“She should munch on some clovers,” suggested Gary Groundhog.

“No, no,” chattered a snub-nosed monkey. “Pine needles and lichen always do the trick for me.”

“She’s a pangolin,” said Edith. “She needs lots and lots of ants.”





None of that sounded
good to Penny.

“Let’s get you home,” said
Vin. **Slowly**, they made
their way back to
Penny’s house.



Penny **plopped** herself on the couch. Her scales felt itchier and itchier. It was hard for her to rest.

“Oh, why did I eat caterpillar croquettes?” she moaned.

Vin went into the kitchen. He grabbed a pot. He gathered some herbs and spices and pebbles.

Penny drifted off to sleep.



When she awoke, Vin was there, holding a **steaming bowl** in his claws.

“All you need to feel better is some of my rock soup!” he said.



Penny gulped down the lumpy soup, slowly at first. The warm pebbles felt soothing in her stomach.

“I feel better already!” she said after a few spoonfuls.

“I knew you would!” Vin said.



During the next festival, Penny and Vin opened their own **food booth**, and every pangolin in the village came to enjoy their homemade rock soup ...

... especially the ones who accidentally ate caterpillars.



What is a Pangolin?

Pangolins are the only mammals that have scales on their body. These scales are made of keratin, the same substance in your hair and nails, and they help to protect pangolins from predators.

Termites and ants are their favorite food. With their long sticky tongues, pangolins can eat up to 200,000 of these bugs in a single night!



Pangolins are nocturnal, which means they are most active at night.

A baby pangolin is known as a pangopup.

The name pangolin comes from the Malay word “pengguling,” which means “rolling up.”

How Can You Help?



Pangolins are threatened with extinction, which means they could disappear from Earth. In some parts of the world, such as Asia, their meat is considered a luxury food, even though capturing pangolins is illegal.

In some traditional medicines, pangolin scales are believed to provide health benefits, although there is no scientific data to support this claim.



But there's good news! Some people are working to help pangolins. Organizations such as the Wildlife Conservation Network are dedicated to helping endangered animals, including pangolins.



[SavePangolins.org](https://www.savepangolins.org) provides details about conservation, training for rangers, rescue centers, and ways to support efforts to help the pangolin population.

Look for more wildlife in Penny's story...



Annam Flying
Frog



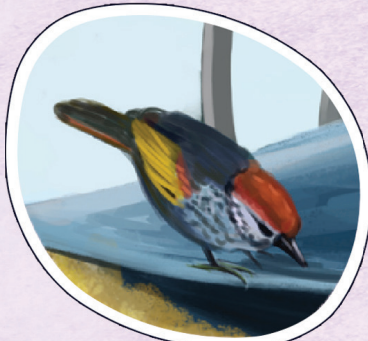
Hoopoe



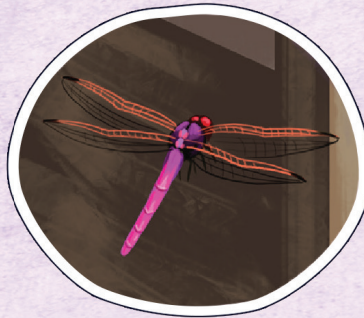
Red Base
Jezebel



Vietnamese
Slipper Orchids



Vietnamese
Golden-Winged
Laughing Thrush



Dawn Drowwing
Dragonfly



CRITTER COMPENDIUM

Scan the QR Code
below to learn
all about Penny's
favorite critters.



About the Author



Wayne D. Kramer lives in the southern Indiana countryside with his wife and kids.

The idea for Penny Pangolin came to Wayne one day while discussing an interest in creating a series of children's picture books with his family. Pangolins, in particular, had always fascinated the kids. Wayne enjoys brainstorming new Penny ideas with his kids over smoothies at the coffee shop.

He graduated from the University of Louisville in 2005 with a Bachelor of Business Science. He has visited nearly 40 countries and 25 states in the US. He especially loved visiting Hobbiton in New Zealand.

Wayne is also author of the "Heroes of Time" adventure fantasy novel series. All of his works, including signed copies, are available from **shop.heroesoftime.com**.

About the Illustrator



Jade Zivanovic lives in rural Victoria, Australia with her husband and pets.

Jade has always enjoyed creating pictures that help to tell a story and has studied under prominent artists, also gaining a diploma in concept art and visual storytelling.

Her works hang in private collections across Australia, the US and Europe. She has also been awarded placings in art shows, her favorite being a People's Choice Award, as she always considered herself an artist for the people.