



FLUFFY RUFFLES *Drawings by Wallace Morgan*



The alligator loves to dwell in Florida,
we're told,
Because the semi-tropic air is seldom
touched with cold.
Now, Fluffy Ruffles ne'er had seen a
gator in a zoo.
And so to see one in the "Glades" was
just the thing to do.

With Traddles and some other men she
took a walk one day
To try to find a group of alligators at their
play.
She talked with Traddles for the nonce
and made the others feel
They'd like to serve the fellow for an
alligator's meal.

The "Glades" were reached, and there a
group of widely grinning jaws
That they had come on suddenly made all
the party pause.
"Oh, dear," said Fluffy, "aren't they rude
to yawn at us like that?
I wonder if they'd scatter if we loudly
shouted 'Scat!'"



Then Fluffy saw a pickaninny playing by
a palm,
And feared at once the little child might
come to fearful harm.
An alligator saw the shiny baby, and his
mouth
Seemed aching to pronounce the words,
"I'm glad th... I live South."

The horrid animal advanced and Fluffy
gave a cry.
"Who'll save that cunning baby from a
fearful death?" "I!" "I!"
Each man ran forth with savage yells, but
swift the monster came.
"Oh, must the little baby die? 'Twill be
a cruel shame."

The awkward Traddles, running fast as
on a racing track,
Tripped on the alligator's legs and stum-
bled o'er his back.
The reptile, frightened, turned about and
made off in the stream,
And Traddles, catching up the babe, ad-
vanced, his eyes a gleam.



"Of palm leaves green I'll make a wreath
and place it on your head;"
To Traddles Fluffy Ruffles spoke, and
that was all she said.
But Traddles trod on tropic air, and all the
others swore
Though awkward Traddles was, she
seemed to like him more and more.

