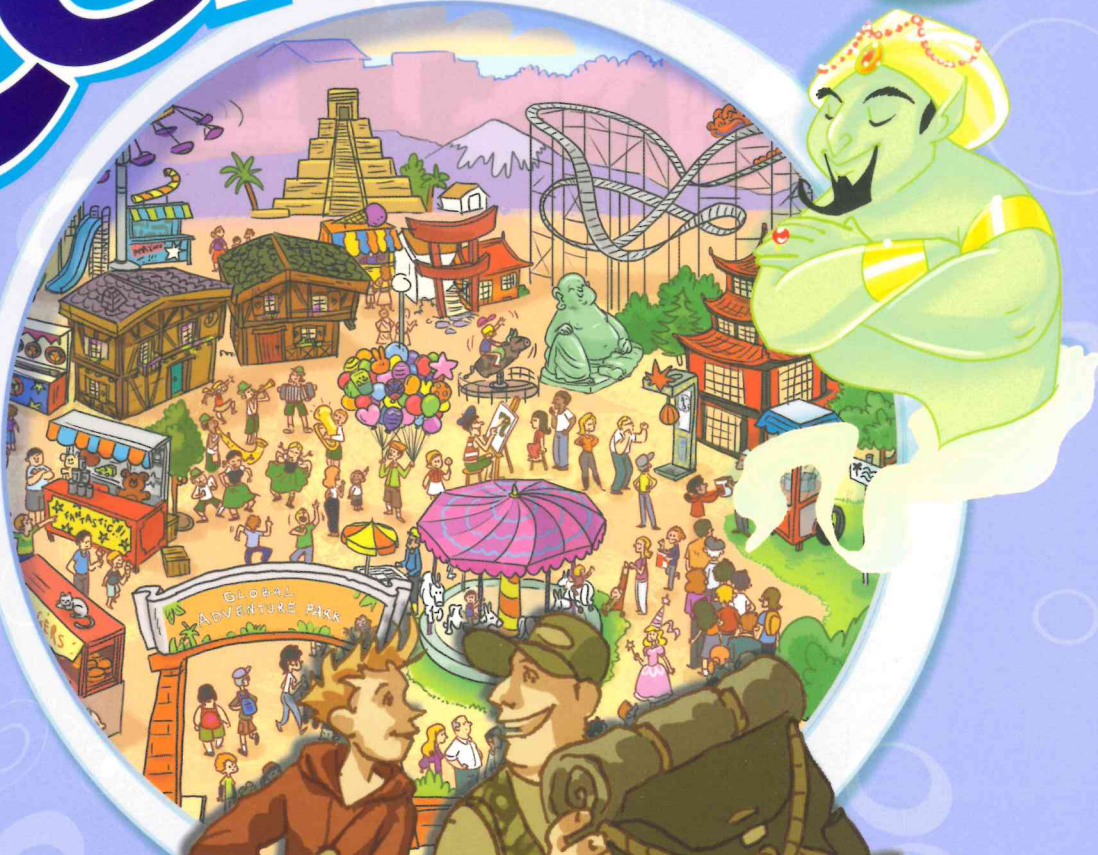


# Story Central

Reader  
4



 macmillan  
education

Angela Llanas  
Libby Williams





# Story Central Reader 4

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# Where's Claire?

1



This is Dad.



This is Sam.



This is Emily.



And this is Claire.



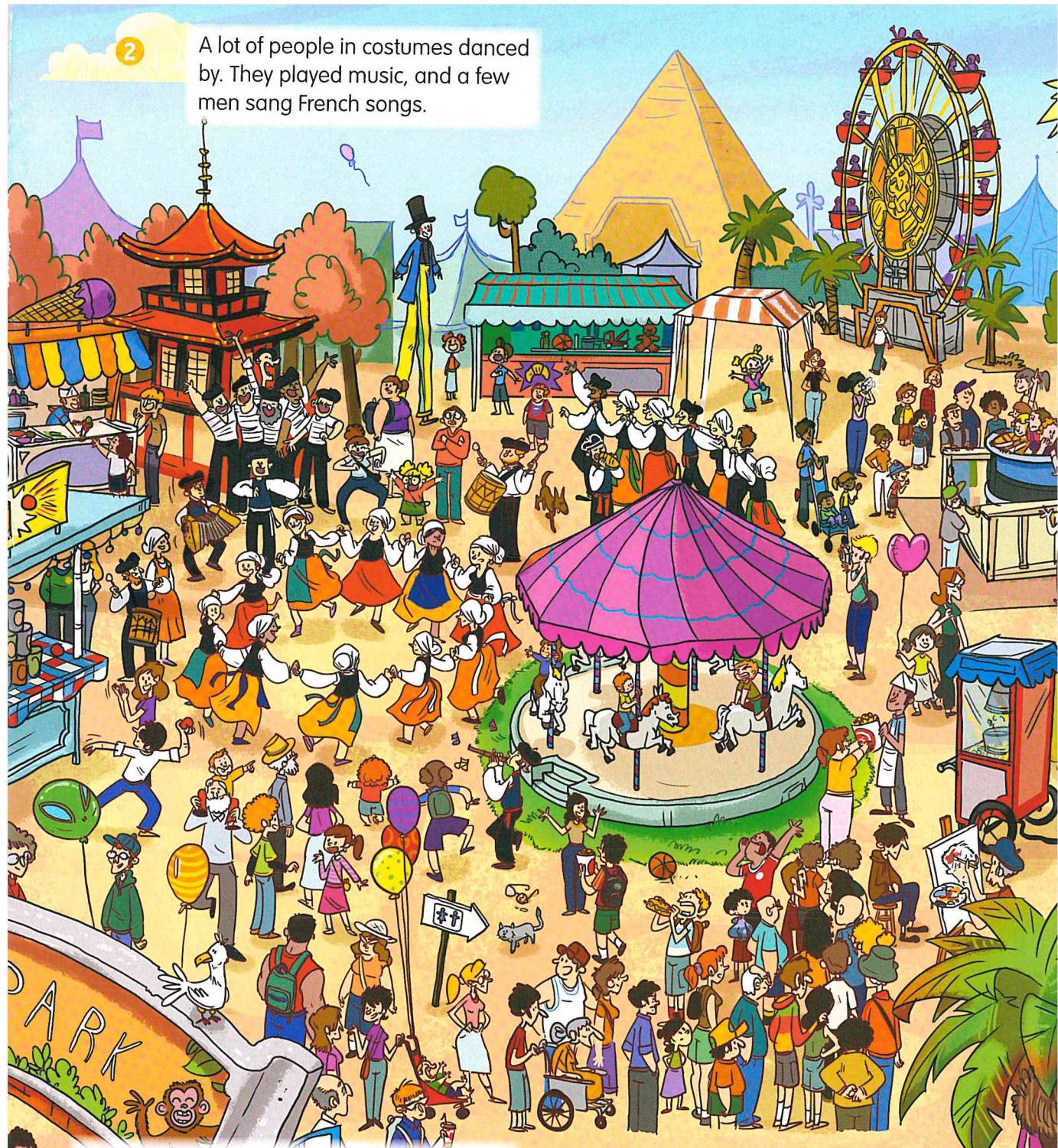
They're going to visit Global Adventure Park. It's a big amusement park with a lot of rides. All the rides are from different countries. Walking around the park is like traveling around the world.

"I'm going to get popcorn," Dad said to Sam and Emily. "Stay here and watch Claire."



2

A lot of people in costumes danced by. They played music, and a few men sang French songs.



"Look, dancers from France," said Emily.  
 "Wow! That looks like fun!" said Sam.  
 But when the dancers left, Claire wasn't there.  
 "Where's Claire?" asked Sam.  
 They couldn't see their little sister anywhere.

"What are we going to do?" said Emily.  
 "We're going to find her before Dad gets back,"  
 said Sam. "There isn't much time."  
 "Who's that on the carousel?" asked Emily.





3

The carousel had a lot of painted horses. There weren't many children there.

A woman wearing a German dress came over.

"Welcome to Germany. Who are you looking for?"

"Our little sister. Was she here?" asked Sam.

"I don't think so," said the woman.

"Look, is that her on the slide?" asked Emily.



4

Hold!

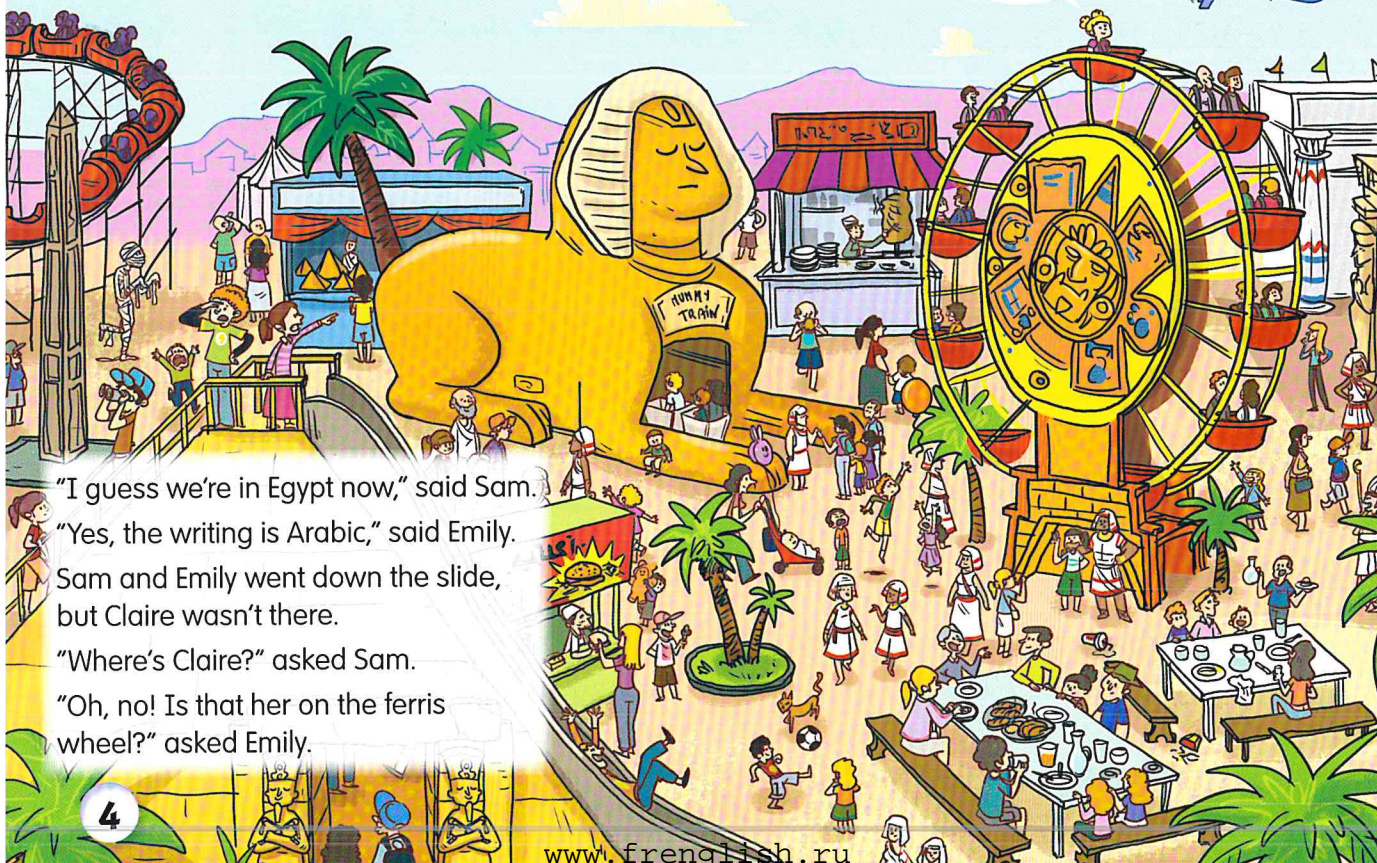
"I guess we're in Egypt now," said Sam.

"Yes, the writing is Arabic," said Emily.

Sam and Emily went down the slide, but Claire wasn't there.

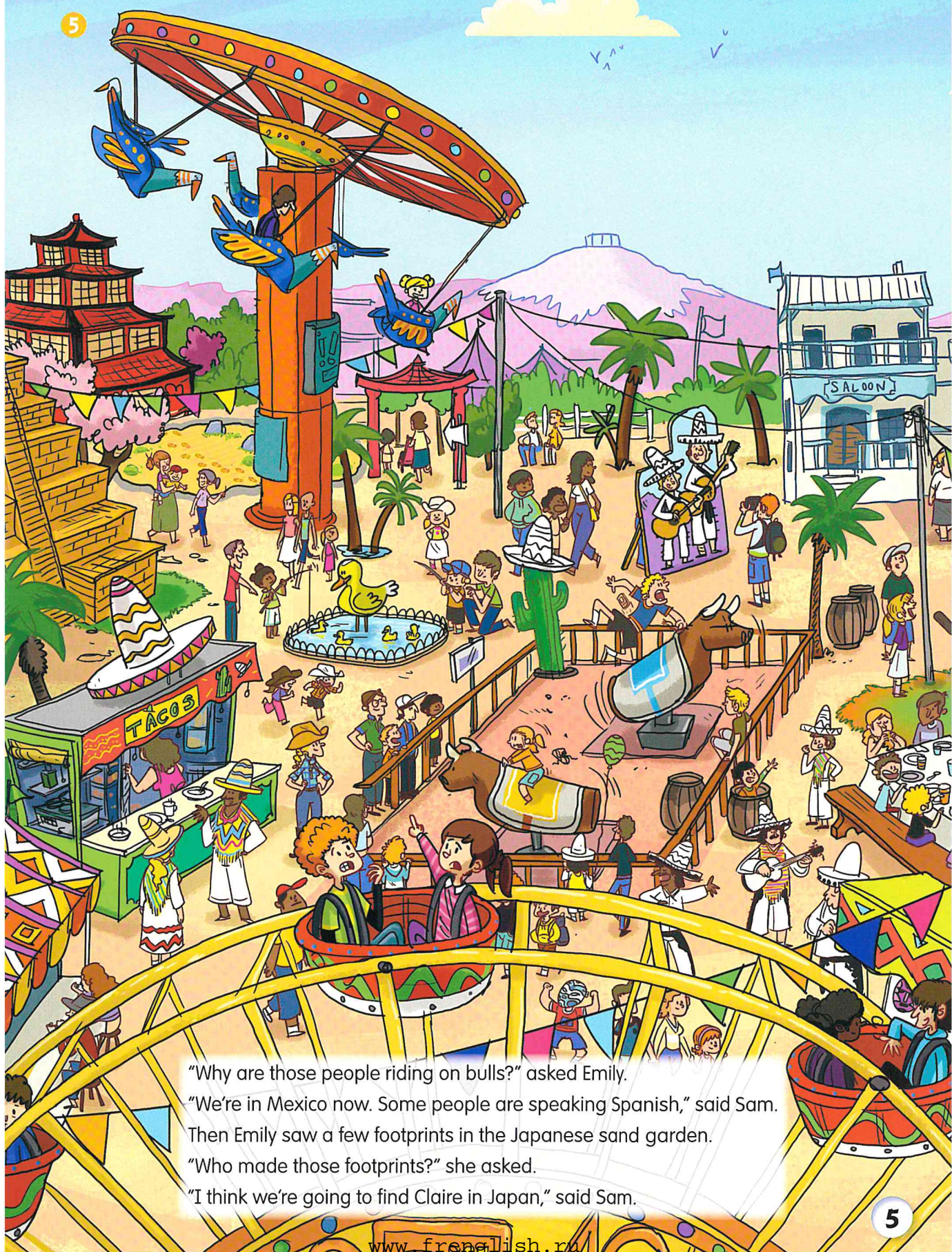
"Where's Claire?" asked Sam.

"Oh, no! Is that her on the ferris wheel?" asked Emily.



4





"Why are those people riding on bulls?" asked Emily.

"We're in Mexico now. Some people are speaking Spanish," said Sam.

Then Emily saw a few footprints in the Japanese sand garden.

"Who made those footprints?" she asked.

"I think we're going to find Claire in Japan," said Sam.





"What's that?" Sam asked the man in Japanese clothes.

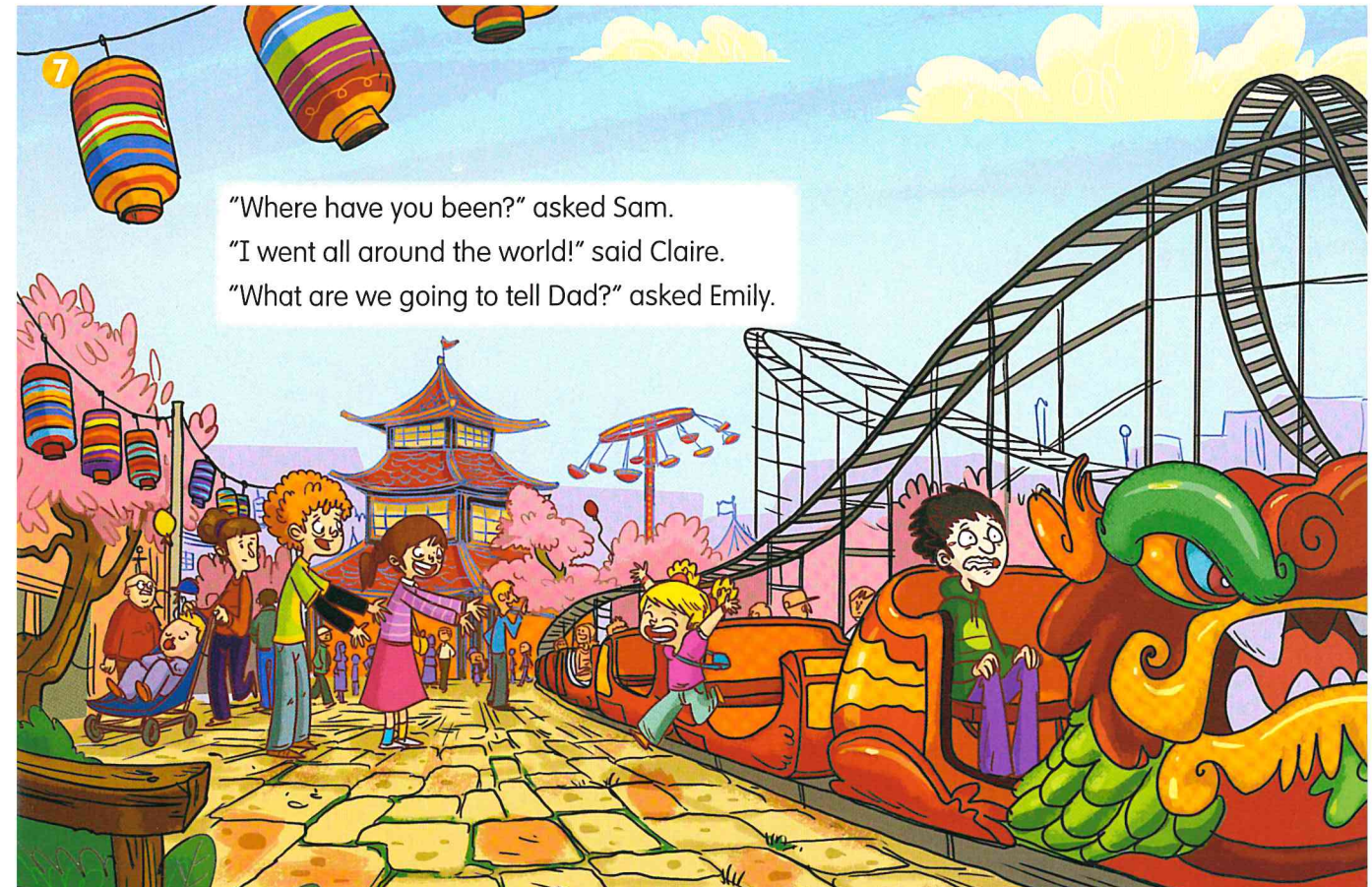
"That's a Chinese dragon roller coaster. In China, dragons are good luck," said the man.

"They're lucky for us too! Look who's riding on the dragon!" said Sam.

"It's Claire!" they both shouted at once.

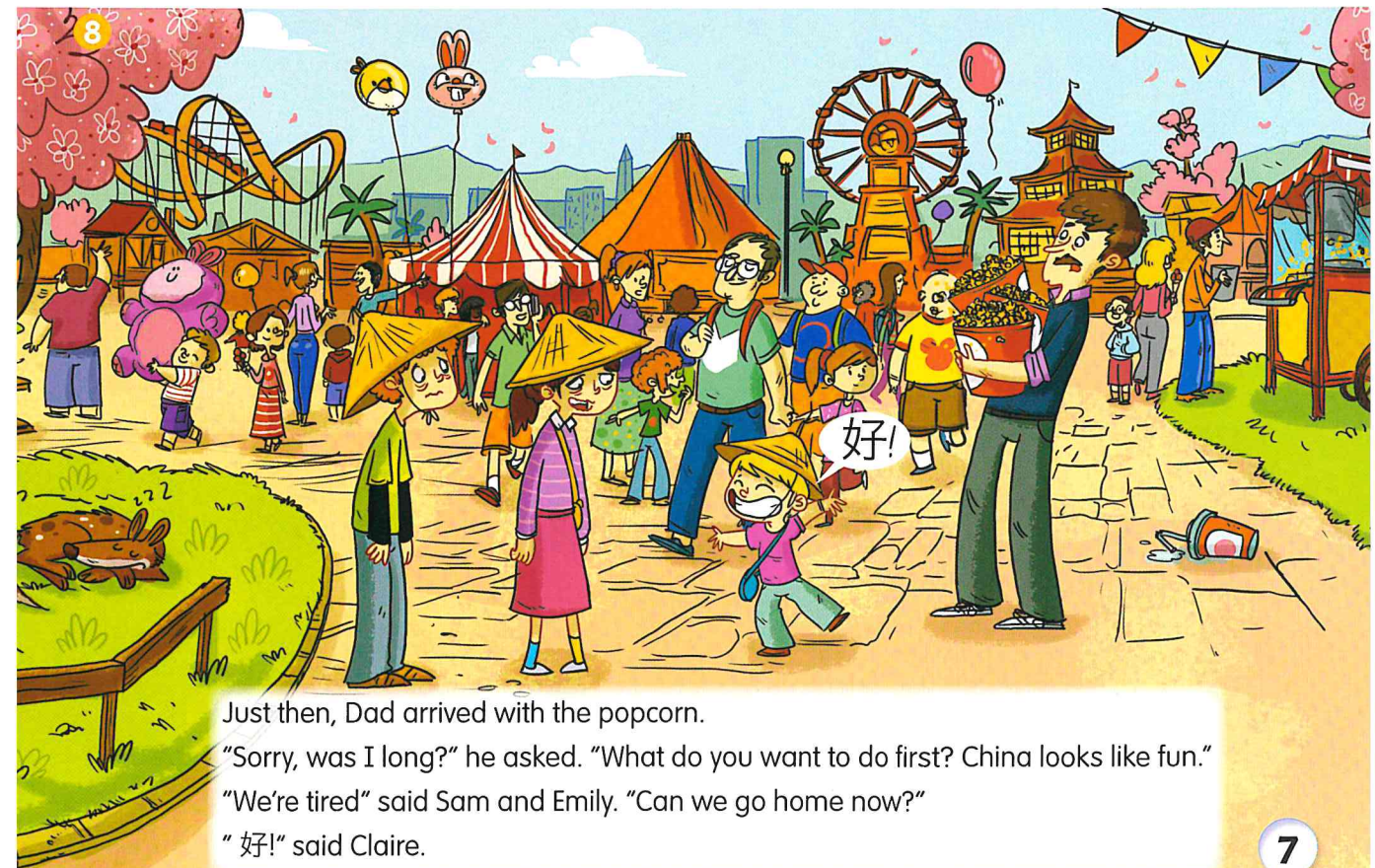


7



"Where have you been?" asked Sam.  
"I went all around the world!" said Claire.  
"What are we going to tell Dad?" asked Emily.

8

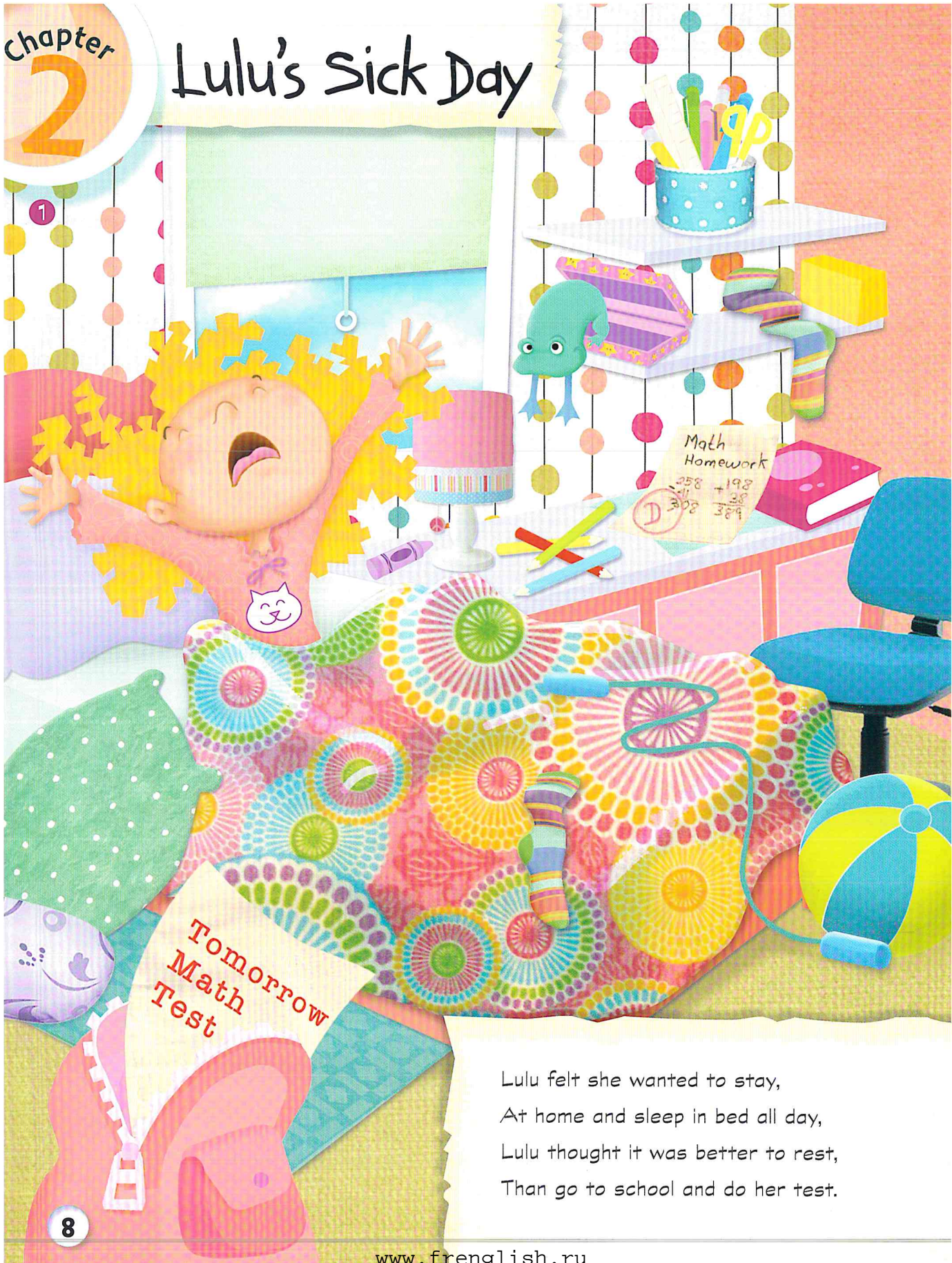


Just then, Dad arrived with the popcorn.  
"Sorry, was I long?" he asked. "What do you want to do first? China looks like fun."  
"We're tired" said Sam and Emily. "Can we go home now?"  
"好!" said Claire.



# Chapter 2

## Lulu's Sick Day



Lulu felt she wanted to stay,  
At home and sleep in bed all day,  
Lulu thought it was better to rest,  
Than go to school and do her test.



2

"Is something wrong?" her mother said.

"Why are you lying here in bed?"

Lulu gave a tired croak,

"I'm sorry, Mom, I have a sore throat.

I really think I have a cold."

This was the lie that Lulu told.

"That's too bad! You shouldn't go to school,"

Her mother said. "Let's keep you cool."



3



"I'll bring you drinks and food in bed,  
So you can rest your painful head.  
Should I bring something for your stomach?  
Would you like some bread and honey?"  
Lulu thought this was the best,  
Much better than a nasty test.  
She knew she really shouldn't lie,  
But still she gave a great big sigh.  
"Should I bring a cup of tea?  
Would you like some soup, maybe?  
I'll run a bath, nice and deep.  
Then perhaps you'll have a sleep."

9



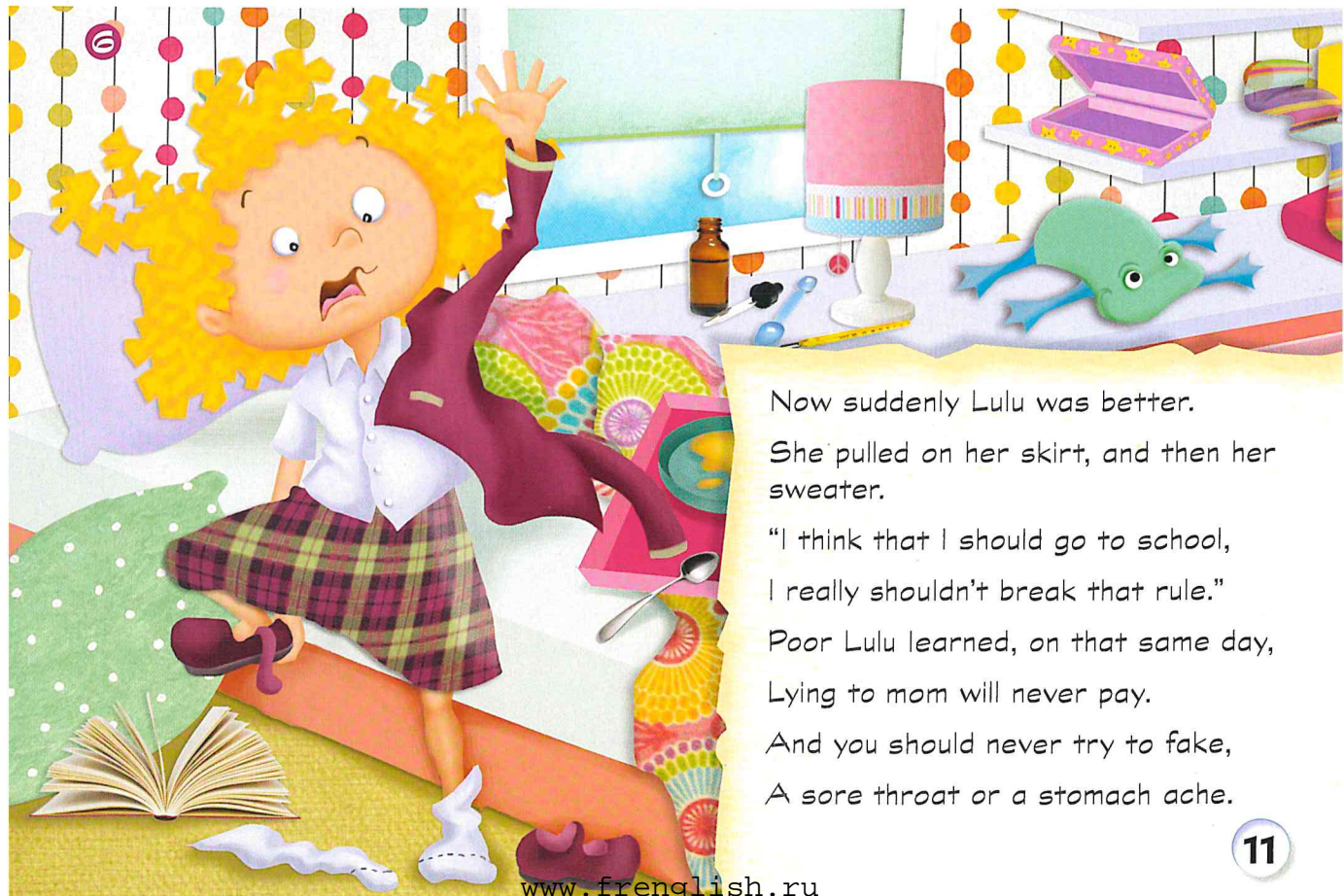


"Would you like a magazine?  
Should I rub some smelly cream?  
And would you like some books to read?"  
"Yes, please, I would," Lulu agreed.  
Lulu thought this was the best,  
Much better than a nasty test.  
She knew she really shouldn't lie.  
Again she gave a great big sigh.





Her caring mom at last could see,  
 What caused her daughter's misery.  
 As Lulu gave another groan,  
 Mom went to get the telephone.  
 "Doc," she said,  
 "Lulu's in pain."  
 The Doctor went on to explain.  
 "I think," he said,  
 "because she's hot,  
 She needs the biggest kind of shot."



Now suddenly Lulu was better.  
 She pulled on her skirt, and then her sweater.  
 "I think that I should go to school,  
 I really shouldn't break that rule."  
 Poor Lulu learned, on that same day,  
 Lying to mom will never pay.  
 And you should never try to fake,  
 A sore throat or a stomach ache.



## 1 CHARACTERS

Narrator	Astra (alien planet doctor)
Cosmo (alien planet doctor)	Tyrannosaurus Rex (King of the dinosaurs)
Boy	Leader



**Narrator:** Planet Earth, 230 million years ago. Cosmo and Astra are planet doctors. They travel the universe checking planets.

**Astra:** Mercury: done, Venus: done. Next stop, Earth.

**Cosmo:** That's right. Earth is warmer than Mars, but colder than Venus.

**Astra:** Who's the boss?

**Cosmo:** Mr. T-Rex. Let's find him.



2

**Astra:** Mr. T-Rex, we're here to check on your planet's health. Everything looks good. Is it getting warmer or colder?

**T-Rex:** Rrrroooooaaar!

**Cosmo:** OK. You have some volcanoes ...

**T-Rex:** Rrrroooooaaar!

**Astra:** But you have the most beautiful forests in the Solar System.

**T-Rex:** Rrrroooooaaar!

**Cosmo:** Good job. See you again in 200 million years.



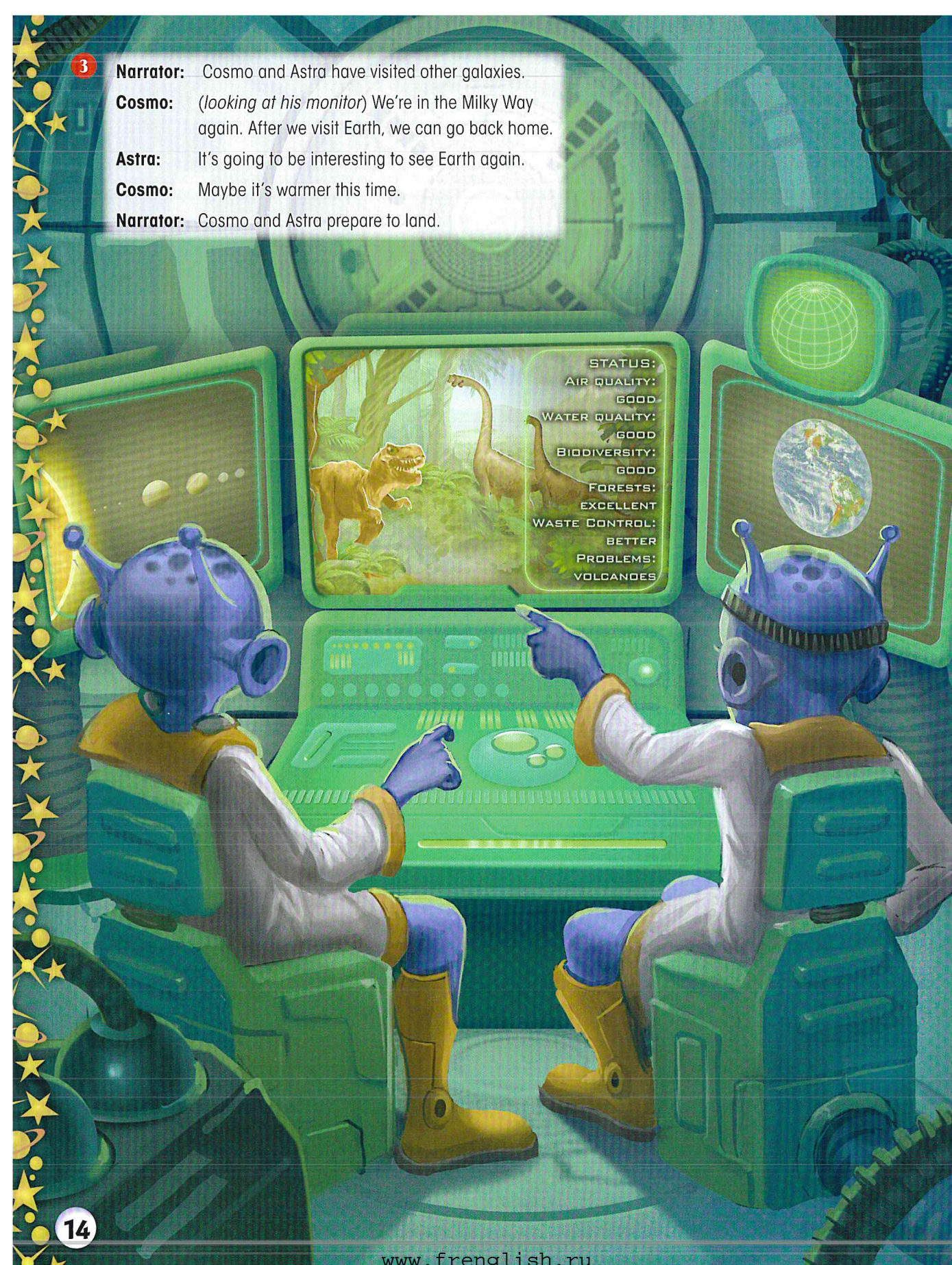
**3 Narrator:** Cosmo and Astra have visited other galaxies.

**Cosmo:** *(looking at his monitor)* We're in the Milky Way again. After we visit Earth, we can go back home.

**Astra:** It's going to be interesting to see Earth again.

**Cosmo:** Maybe it's warmer this time.

**Narrator:** Cosmo and Astra prepare to land.





4

**Narrator:** The spaceship lands on a busy highway. There are a lot of cars.

**Astra:** Is this the right place? Where are all the trees?

**Cosmo:** (*coughing*) The air is worse, too. It's very different.

**Astra:** But that mountain is similar.

**Cosmo:** It's much noisier than before. Are we on Earth?

**Astra:** Let's ask.





5

**Narrator:** The aliens walk into the city. There are buildings and cars everywhere, but there aren't many trees.

**Cosmo:** Is this planet Earth?

**Boy:** *(looking confused)*  
Yes. What an unusual question!

**Astra:** Where's Mr. T-Rex?

**Boy:** What!?

**Astra:** We're planet doctors. We've come to give your planet its checkup. Last time, we spoke to Tyrannosaurus Rex.

**Boy:** You're making that up! Um, he's not here anymore. But the world leaders are meeting in that building over there.

**Cosmo:** Good. Please take us there.

6

**Narrator:** The world leaders are having a meeting.

**Cosmo:** *(filling in a form on his screen)* We're here for your planet's health check. The air was cleaner last time.

**Leader:** We have some problems ...

**Astra:** And your forests are smaller. Did you know that trees make the air cleaner?

**Leader:** Yes, we did. We're working on that ...

**Cosmo:** Also, Mr. T-Rex didn't use cars. The planet was healthier without cars. Did you know that cars make the air more dangerous?

**Leader:** Um, we're trying to use fewer cars.

**Astra:** Good. Bikes help, too.

**Cosmo:** Also, there's more trash. Earth was cleaner when Mr. T-Rex was in charge. When you don't clean up, it gets worse. Do you recycle?

**Leader:** We're trying ...

**Astra:** Try harder, please.

**Cosmo:** That's everything.

**Astra:** See you again in 200 million years. Don't forget to recycle ...

**Cosmo:** Bikes, not cars.

**Astra:** And grow more trees.

**Narrator:** Astra and Cosmo climbed back into their spaceship to travel far, far across the galaxy to their home.



# The House at the End of the Road

Chapter

4

1 There was an old house in Tom and Sadie's neighborhood.

I haven't seen lights on in that house before.

No, it has been empty for years.

How about going inside?

OK. Let's go meet our new neighbors.

2 The back door was unlocked.

3

Ugh! Bats!

17



4

Hello? Is anyone home?

Look! There are candles.  
I think there are people here.

5

This place looks like something out of a horror movie!

We haven't been upstairs yet.

I think someone's up there.  
How about going upstairs?  
Or are you scared?

6

Tom and Sadie climbed the stairs.  
There were spiderwebs everywhere.

They haven't cleaned this place! Look at all these spiderwebs.

Are you scared yet?

No! I like scary movies.



7



We haven't looked up here yet.

Haven't we been this way already? I don't want to get lost.

8

Just then, there was a flash of lightning and a boom of thunder.

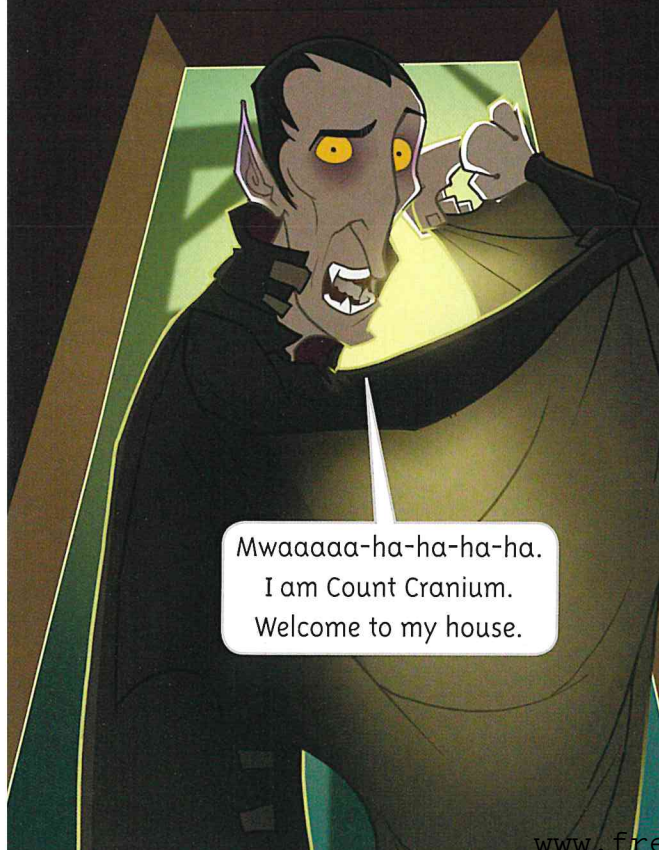


OK, now I'm scared!

I was scared already!

9

A figure appeared on the stairs above them. He let out a long, terrifying laugh.



Mwaaaaa-ha-ha-ha-ha.  
I am Count Cranium.  
Welcome to my house.

10



Aaaaaaahhhhhh!

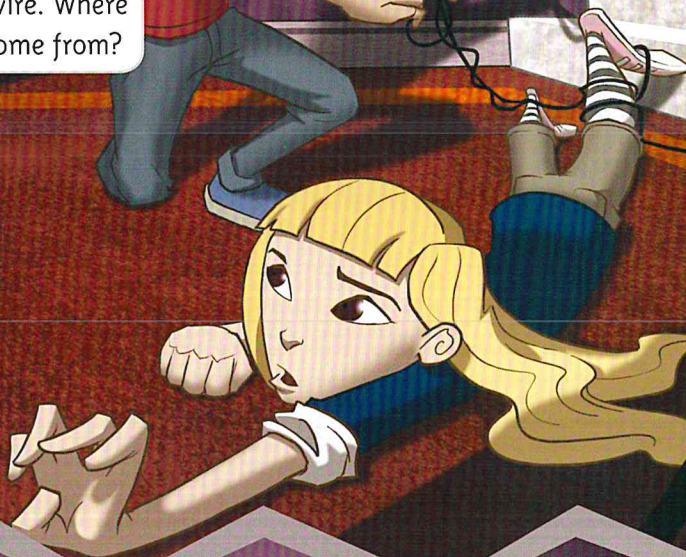
Aaaaaaahhhhhh!



Sadie and Tom raced down the stairs. At the bottom, Sadie tripped over something and fell.

Help! It's got my leg! What is it?

It isn't the vampire, it's just a wire. Where did that come from?



Suddenly, the lights went on.

What's going on? Where's the vampire?

Cut! Wow, fantastic. What a scream! Who is this?

Who are these people?

We're making a movie. I'm the director.







13

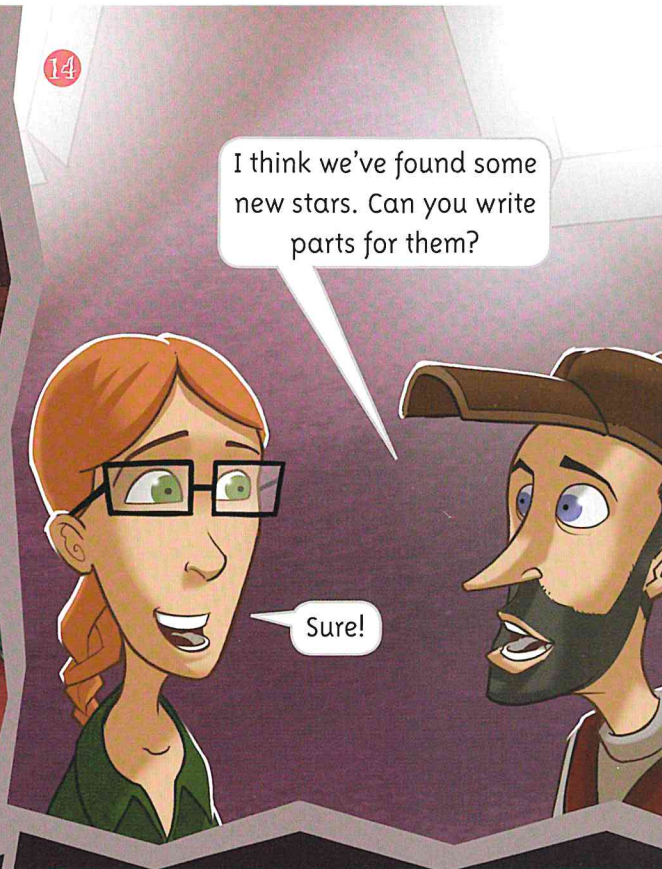
Has the writer changed the script?

No, I haven't.

What are they doing here?

I'm sorry, we're exploring.

We wanted to meet our new neighbors.



14

I think we've found some new stars. Can you write parts for them?

Sure!



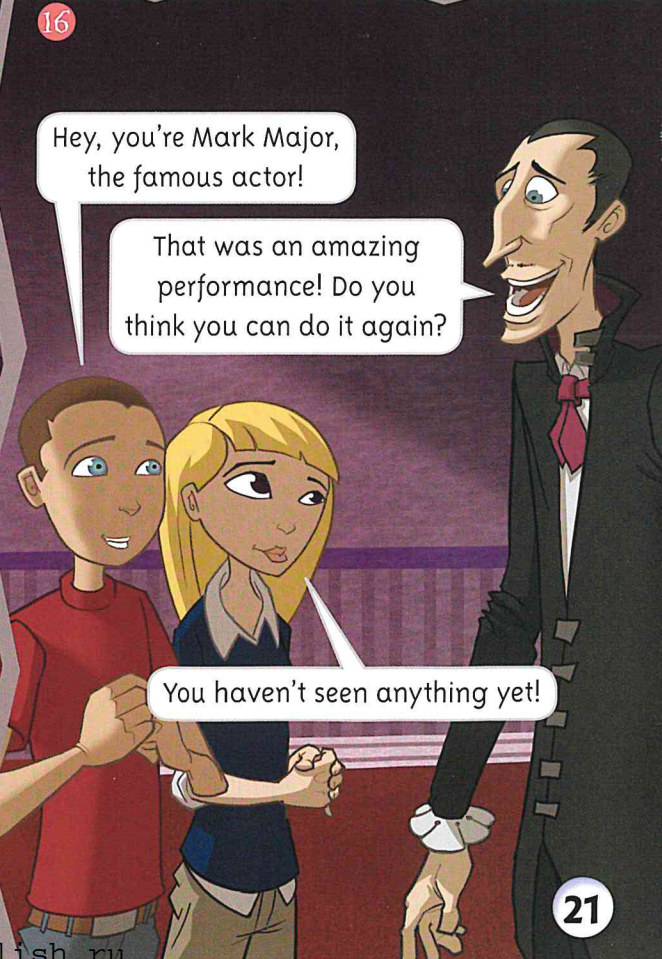
15

The director liked Sadie and Tom's performance.

How about being in our movie? Luckily we haven't finished it yet.

Yes, please!

And I think you've already met Count Cranium ...



16

Hey, you're Mark Major, the famous actor!

That was an amazing performance! Do you think you can do it again?

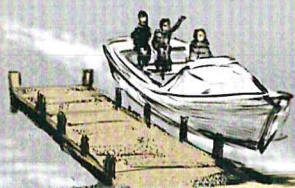
You haven't seen anything yet!

21



# The Secret of Keyhole Island

Fred lived on a small island with his parents. His cousins from the city, Luke and Ella, were coming to stay. Fred was excited to see them, but worried that they would be bored on the island.



2 Luke and Ella arrived by boat. They were excited, too.

3 After lunch, Fred took them to the beach by his house. Ella tripped over something. It looked like it was very old.

We can explore!

I brought my spy notebook!

I can show you a lot of secret places.

It's an old bottle.

Look! There's something inside.

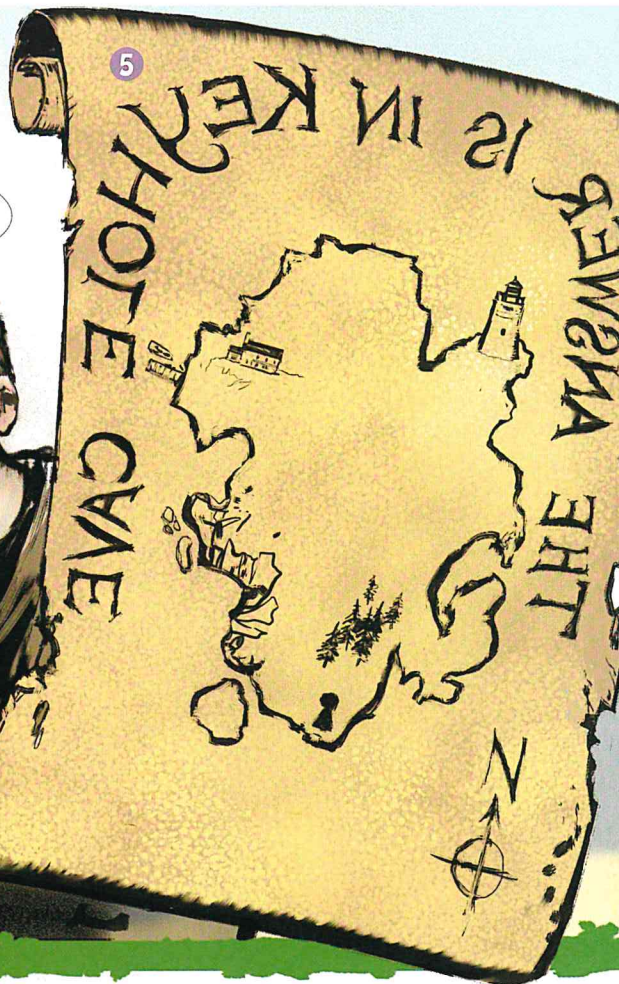


- 4 They opened the bottle. There was a map inside.  
There was a strange alphabet around the map.

That's strange.  
A treasure map!

Maybe pirates  
left it?

I've seen this kind  
of writing before.  
We need a mirror.



- 6 At the house, they took the map to a mirror,  
which reflected the letters. It was writing.  
It said, "The answer is in Keyhole Cave."

Keyhole Cave? I've  
been there before!

Let's go!





7 There were a lot of caves in the cliffs.

There's one which looks like a keyhole.

I have a light.

8 Inside, there was writing on the wall.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
XYZABCDEF GHIJKLMNOP

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
XYZABCDEF GHIJKLMNOP

It looks like pirate code.

Let's copy it.

It's a code. For figuring out messages.



- 9 Further along the beach, they found a boat that had letters painted on it.

Try using the code.

It says, "Meet me here at 7:00 p.m."

JBBQ JB EBOB  
AQ 7MJ

- 10 At home, the children made periscopes.

I've made these before.  
You can see around corners with them.

- 11 After dinner, the children went back to the boat. They hid and watched with their periscopes. At 7:00 p.m. a man arrived, then another man. He gave the first man a letter.

A periscope lets you see around corners without being seen.

**Materials:** Toothpaste box, 2 small mirrors to fit inside box, glue or tape, scissors.

Cut a small hole at the bottom of one long side of the box. Cut another hole on the opposite side at the opposite end. Glue mirrors at an angle at each end of the box.

www.irenglish.ru



- 12 The children followed the man. He put the letter into the mailbox. There was a piece of paper inside.

Why did he leave it here?

That's strange — it's blank.

Maybe it's invisible ink.

- 13 At home, the children held the paper over a lightbulb. A message appeared. FROM THE LIGHTHOUSE DOOR, WALK FOUR STEPS NORTH, THREE STEPS WEST. DIG.

Let's go! Don't forget a shovel.

And a compass.

Invisible Ink: Write with a toothpick which has been dipped in lemon juice. Heat paper to see the message.



14 The children followed the instructions. They made a hole.

There's something here!

Treasure!

15 The treasure chest was filled with candy.

Was it pirates who left this?

No, I think someone has helped us all along.

You're right. I planned all this for you.

Thanks, Fred!

We've had a lot of fun!



# Aladdin

- 1 Once upon a time, a poor boy named Aladdin lived with his mother. A bad magician met Aladdin in the market. He needed a boy to steal treasure from a magic cave.



- 2 "I'm your uncle!" said the magician. Aladdin was surprised. The sneaky magician gave Aladdin beautiful gifts. "Take this ring, it's yours. Your mother needs money. I can take care of you both."

- 3 Aladdin took the magician to meet his mother. Aladdin's mother was surprised. "I haven't met this man before, but you should do what your uncle says," she told her son. "We need his help." "Well," said the magician, "There is something you can do to help me."





4

He took Aladdin into the desert. They walked and walked over the sand. Finally, they stopped at a door in the ground. The magician opened it with magic words. "Find the lamp," said the magician. "It's mine. Bring it to me."



5

Aladdin climbed down into the cave. Treasure sparkled in chests all around. He took a lot of jewels, and put them in his pockets. He shouted, "I've found the lamp!" He reached up and took the lamp.





6

"It's mine. Give it to me," said the magician. But Aladdin saw a dangerous look in his eye. "Help me climb out," Aladdin said. "Give me the lamp first," the magician shouted. "Are you sure it's yours?" asked Aladdin. The magician was very angry with Aladdin. He called up a desert wind so strong it blew the magician away and he disappeared forever. Suddenly, the door closed.

7

Aladdin cried. He didn't know what to do. Wiping his eyes, he put on the ring from the magician. When he put it on, a genie appeared. Aladdin couldn't believe his eyes. "Make a wish," said the genie. "I wish to be home!"

8

FLASH! Aladdin was home. When Aladdin's mother saw him, she was very happy. He showed her the jewels and the lamp. "We can sell the lamp to buy food."



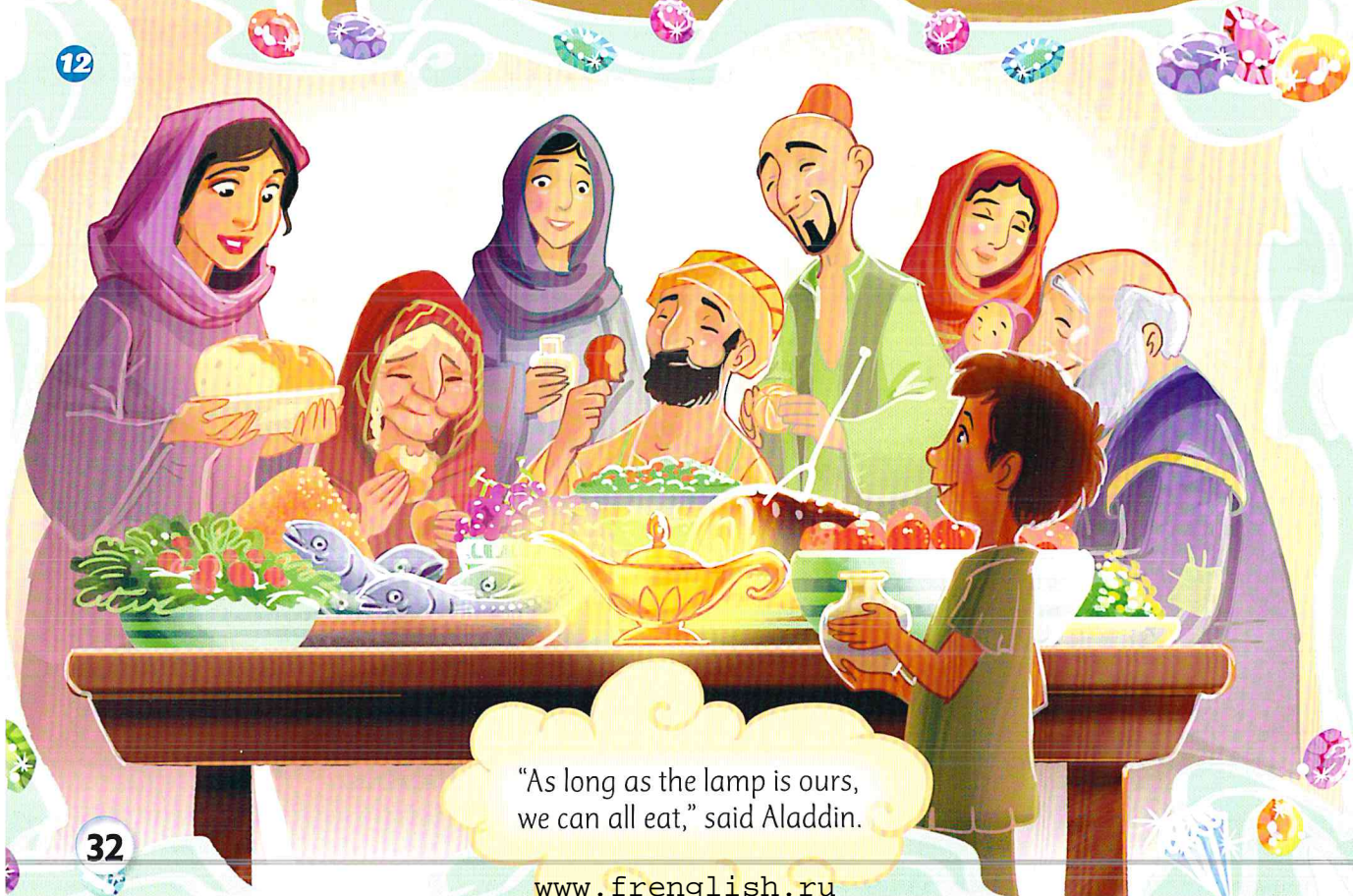
9 "I can clean it," said Aladdin, rubbing the lamp. "Look, now it's like a mirror!" When Aladdin rubbed the lamp, a second genie appeared. "Your wish is my command," he said. "My wish is for a lot of treasure, and hers is for a feast," said Aladdin. Both appeared.



10 "Are you sure this is all ours?" asked Aladdin's mother. "Wait," said Aladdin.







"As long as the lamp is ours,  
we can all eat," said Aladdin.



# Whodunit?

## Chapter 7

1. It was Grandma Agatha's birthday. Everyone was getting ready for the party. The cooks were cooking, the maids were cleaning, and the gardeners were digging. Peter was getting in everyone's way.



2. Cousin Flo ran down the stairs. "My new fur hat!" she cried. "I was getting dressed and I saw it wasn't there." "Hm, a crime," said Peter. "I think Tilly the cook took it," said Cousin Flo. "She was trying it on."



3. Tilly the cook was making the cake. She didn't know where the hat was.

"I didn't take the hat. I'm very busy, Peter," she said, "and now someone's taken all my cream!"



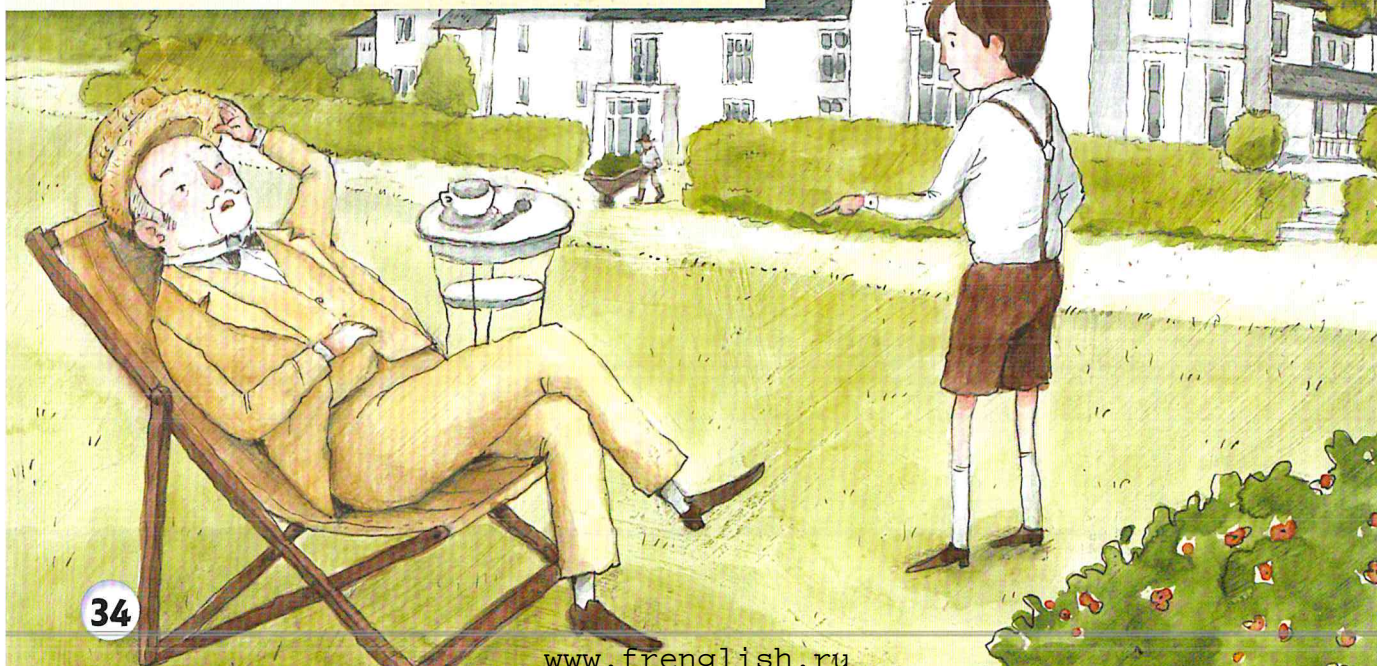
4. Uncle Alistair was sleeping in the yard.

"Excuse me, Uncle Alistair. Can I talk to you for a minute?"

"Yes, of course," said Uncle Alistair.

"Have you seen Cousin Flo's hat?" asked Peter.

"No," said Uncle Alistair, "but my gloves are missing, too. I think Aunt Nora took them. She said they look silly."







**5.** Grandma Agatha was arranging flowers. She didn't know where the hat or the gloves were. "You know, I can't find my handbag either," she said.



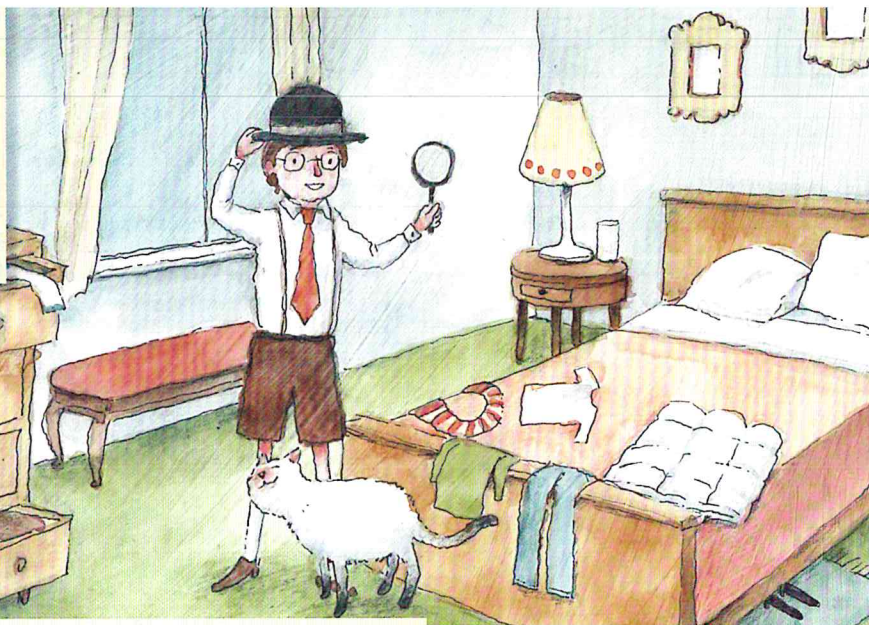
**6.** "Let's find out what's going on," said Peter. "Everyone meet in the living room in ten minutes. I'm going to be the detective."



7. Peter ran to his room. He changed into his suit. He found a belt, a tie, and a pair of glasses. He put on a hat. Now he looked like a real detective.

The cat came over.

"I need a clue, Kitty," said Peter.



8. The family was in the living room.

"Let's solve this crime," said Peter. "First, the hat."

"It was on my bed, then it wasn't there." Cousin Flo looked at Tilly the cook.

"I didn't take it," said Tilly. "I was cooking."

"What about the gloves?" asked Peter.

"Yes, Nora," said Uncle Alistair. "Give them back."

"I haven't seen your gloves. I was busy taking the cat to the vet."



9. "Hm, look, footprints!" said Peter. "Fur hat, handbag, gloves, and cream. A-ha! I think I know who stole these things. Come with me!"

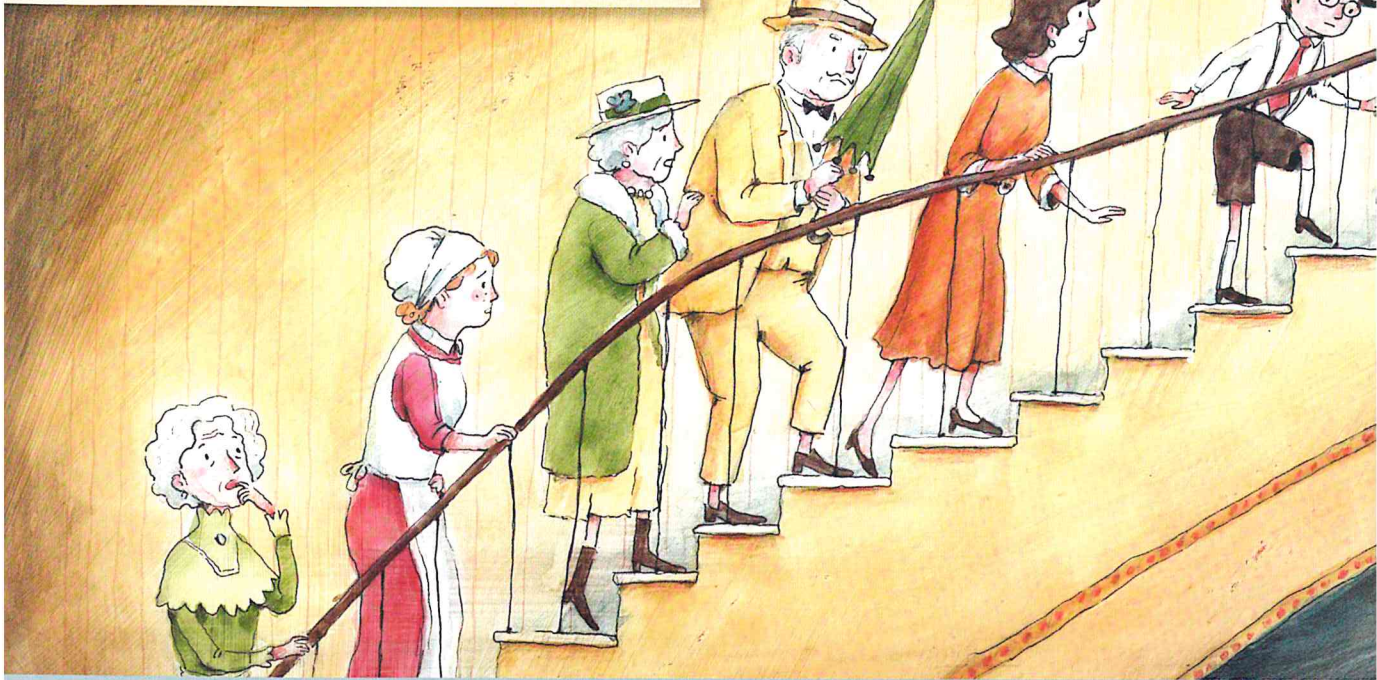


**10.** They went upstairs.

"Shh!" said Peter. "Be very quiet."

"Yes," said Uncle Alistair. "Don't let the thief escape."

Peter opened his bedroom door.



**11.** He tiptoed over to his dresser. The bottom drawer was open.

"Look inside," said Peter.

Inside, the cat was sleeping. Next to her were eight tiny kittens in a cozy nest made from a fur hat, some gloves, and a nice, soft handbag.

"There's your thief," said Peter. "Case closed."





# Chapter 8

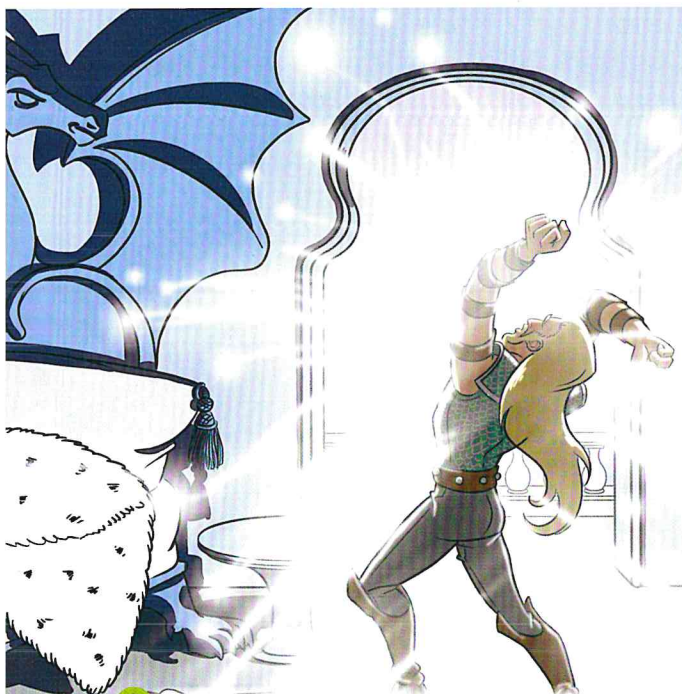
# THOR and the Stolen Hammer

1 The Vikings, who lived many years ago, believed in superheroes. One of the original superheroes was Thor. He could control thunder. His most important treasure was a beautiful hammer that was a gift from the dwarves. Every night, he hung the hammer next to him. The giants were scared of Thor and the hammer.



3 Thor went to his friend, Freyja, to ask for help. She had an unusual feather costume. The person who wore it could fly.

"Freyja, the giants have taken the hammer!" said Thor. "Give me your costume, so I can fly to the giants' land and bring back my hammer," he said.



2 One day, Thor woke up. His special hammer wasn't there. "The giants have stolen the hammer!" he shouted. His voice was like fireworks across the sky.





4

But Freyja thought someone who was smaller and smarter should try to get the hammer first. She gave her flying costume to their friend, Loki, who was very smart.



5

Loki flew to the giants' land. He could change shape, so he performed tricks for the giants.

"Give back the hammer that you stole," said Loki when he finished.

"I've hidden the hammer," said the giant king, Thrym. "Thor can have his hammer, but I want Freyja to live here with me. I want her flying costume, too."



6

Freyja didn't want to live with the giants or give them her flying costume. Smart Loki had an idea to trick the stupid giants.





- 7 Loki dressed Thor in the flying costume and jewels to make him look like Freyja. Then, Loki dressed as Freyja's maid. They flew to the giants' land together.





9

There was a big feast. Thor put a lot of food on his plate.

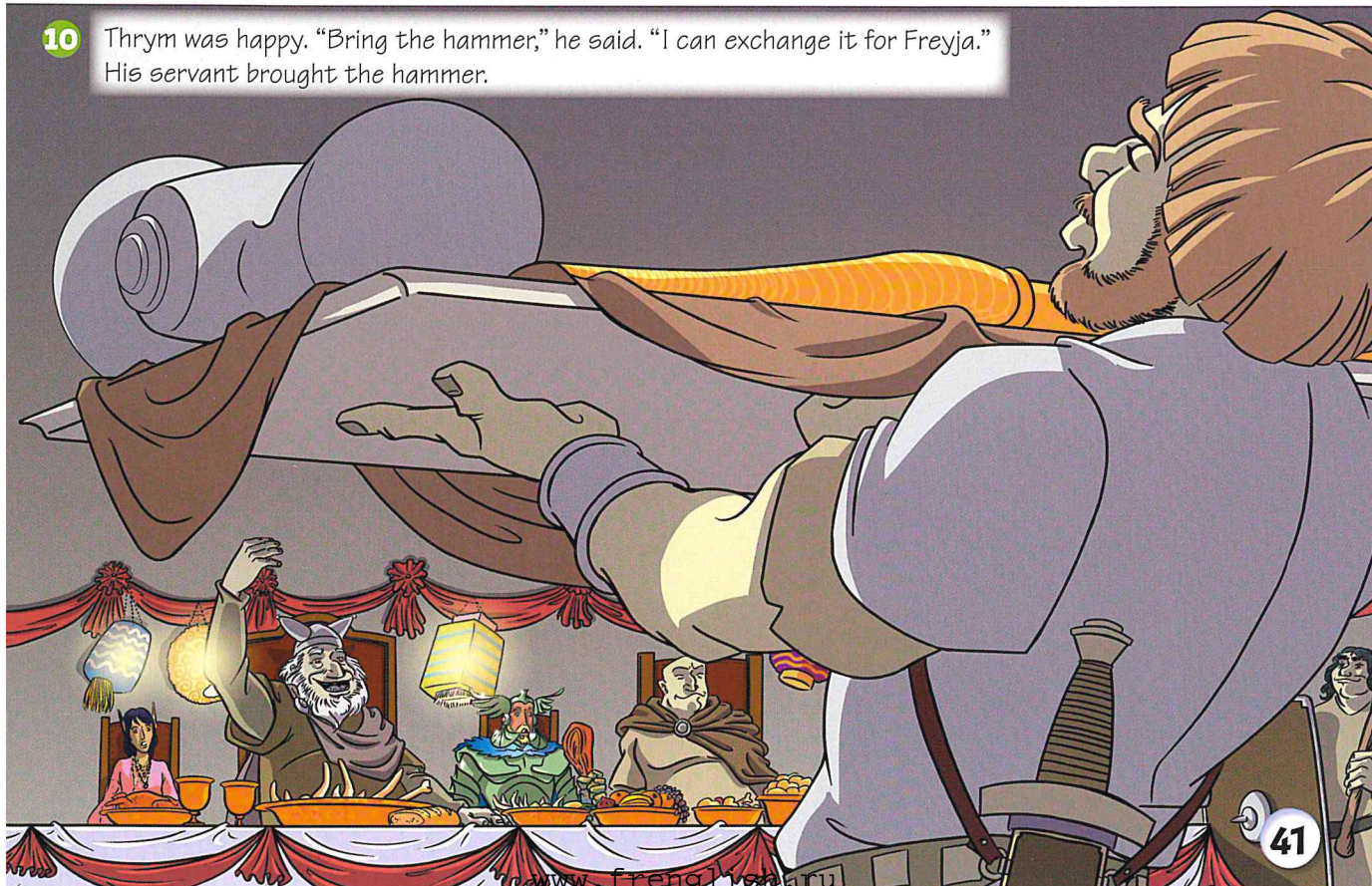
"What a woman! She can eat a whole ox!" Thrym said.

"That's because she's so happy to be here," said Loki.



10

Thrym was happy. "Bring the hammer," he said. "I can exchange it for Freyja." His servant brought the hammer.





11

Thor grabbed the hammer and threw off the costume. "Now I'm going to give you the gift that you deserve," shouted Thor. He smashed the giants' castle to pieces.

12

Thor was the first superhero. A day of the week is named after him. Thursday was first named Thor's Day.

42



# KAKAPO ADVENTURE

## Chapter 9

1

Ryan was visiting his uncle Jack, a park ranger. Jack was searching for a rare parrot in the New Zealand bush. Ryan was interested in nature and was going to help.

Have you ever flown in a helicopter?

No, I've never done anything that exciting before.

2

The helicopter took them to an island. Jack and his team were camping on the beach.

Have you ever climbed a mountain?

No, I haven't, but I'd like to.

We're going to climb that big one tomorrow.

3

First, they cooked their dinner over the fire. Then, they did some stargazing.

What are you doing with that thing?


Trying to text Mom.

Those city toys don't work out here. We have to set off early tomorrow so we can get back before dark.



4


The next morning, Ryan watched the sunrise. After that, they packed warm clothes, food, and water.



We have to be prepared.

5

They followed the track, watching for birds.



Those clouds look bad.

Should we go back?



6

They reached the top of the mountain. Suddenly, heavy rain started to fall. They couldn't see the track.

We can't go on.  
Have you ever built  
a den before?

No, I haven't.

7

Jack and Ryan leaned  
branches against a tree.

We need more  
branches.

8

Soon, they had a shelter. They  
climbed inside to keep warm.  
The rain continued, but they  
were dry inside the den.

We have to stay  
here until morning.

I didn't expect to  
sleep out here!



9

That night, they ate chocolate for dinner and slept in the den. In the middle of the night, there was a strange, deep booming sound. Ryan was scared, but Uncle Jack was very excited.

I've never heard anything like that before!

It's a kakapo. A night parrot. They are very rare.

10

The kakapo was sitting in a hole in front of the den.

Don't move. We shouldn't disturb him, he's calling a female. The others aren't going to believe this.

Yes, they are. I can video him with my smartphone.



11 Back at camp, the others were excited.

Have you ever seen one in the wild before?

No. What amazing footage.

I've tracked his location with my phone.

He'll come back to his hole again.

12 For Ryan, it was time to go home. He was sailing back with the supply boat.

I've never had such an exciting vacation. I've flown in a helicopter, climbed a mountain, and built a den!

And filmed one of the world's rarest birds. Have you thought about working with us next summer?

That would be great!

And bring that smartphone.



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