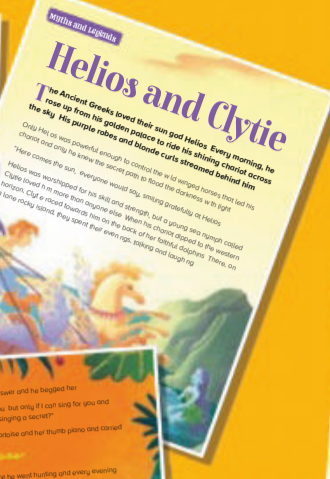
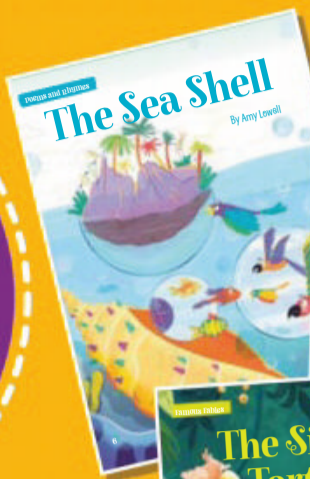


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TOM THUMB'S TIME OFF
It's a teeny, tiny holiday!



Mr Wolf's Candy House

The Singing Tortoise, Helios and Clytie,
The Kelpie, a Sea Shell poem and a **GAME!**

“Congratulations, you have completed your quest!”

Hands up if you love stories!

It's an all-singing, all-surfing, sandcastle-building, sweetie-eating, sun-worshipping kind of Storytime!

This issue belongs to:

SPOT IT!

I spy with my beady eye... Find me in your magazine!



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Francesca de Luca *Helios and Clytie*
Forrest Burdett *The Kelpie*
Giada Gatti *Clever Sister, Foolish Sister*

WITH TALES FROM BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, SCOTLAND, AFRICA & ANCIENT GREECE!

Read happily ever after...



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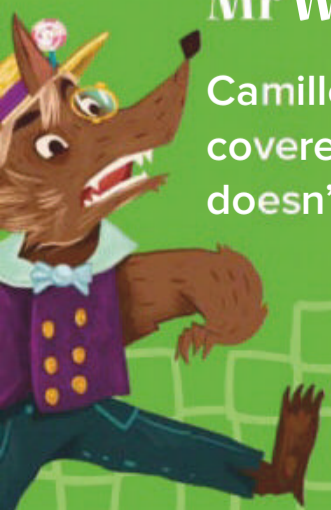
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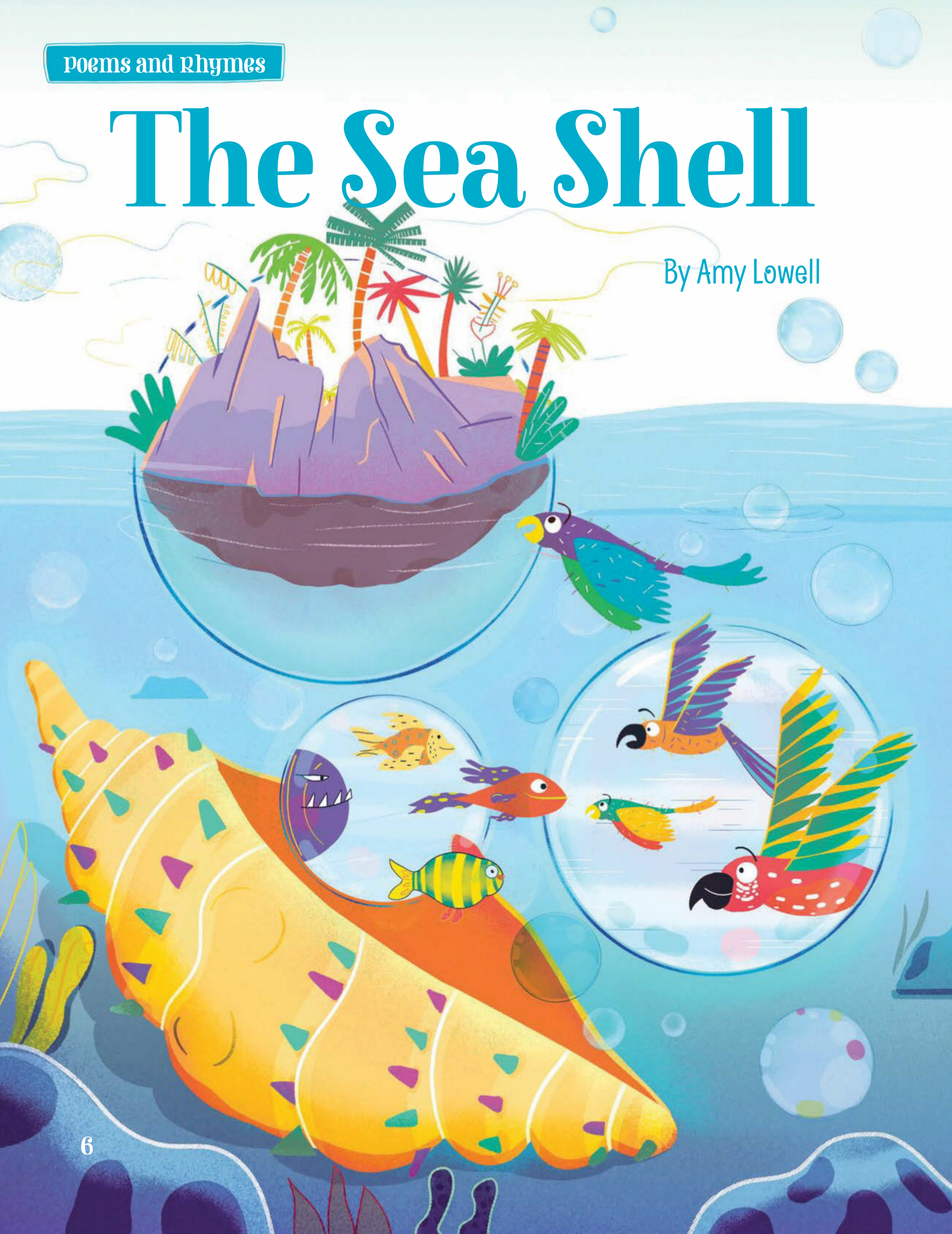
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The Sea Shell

By Amy Lowell



**SEA SHELL, SEA SHELL,
SING ME A SONG, O PLEASE!**

A song of ships and sailor-men
Of parrots and tropical trees.
Of islands lost in the Spanish Main
Which no man may see again,
Of fishes and corals under the waves,
And seahorses stabled in great green caves.

**SEA SHELL, SEA SHELL,
SING ME A SONG, O PLEASE!**



The Singing Tortoise



One day Ama was hunting in the forest when he heard a beautiful melody drifting on the breeze. He was so charmed, he followed the music deep into a part of the forest he had never visited before.

Soon he reached a grassy clearing where he found a tortoise singing to its heart's content and playing a thumb piano. Ama was stunned. How could a tortoise produce such rich and wonderful music? When the tortoise finished her song, Ama stepped into the clearing. He couldn't help cheering and clapping.

"You are truly talented," said Ama. "Please, let me take you home. I can think of nothing better than listening to your sweet music every day. You will never have to worry about food or being hunted – you can just sing all day."

The tortoise carefully considered Ama's offer. Life would certainly be simpler if she could sing all day and not have to worry about finding food, but she loved her forest home and knew she would miss it too much so she said no.



But Ama wouldn't listen and he begged her to join him.

At last the tortoise sighed and said, "I'll come with you, but only if I can sing for you and you alone. Do you promise to keep my singing a secret?"

"I promise!" said Ama, and he lifted the tortoise and her thumb piano and carried them back to his hut.



For the next few weeks, each day before he went hunting and every evening when he came home the tortoise greeted Ama with her magnificent music.

It lifted his spirits so much, he soon became desperate to tell his friends about her. It seemed a pity not to show off such an amazing discovery – perhaps the singing tortoise could even bring him fame and wealth.

The following day, unable to hold it in any longer, Ama boasted to a friend about his tortoise, and then another and another, until everyone in the village knew about her, including the chief! ➡



That night, Ama was summoned to a village meeting.

“What is this news of a singing tortoise?” asked the chief.

“It’s true!” said Ama. “I found her deep in the forest and brought her home. She sings like a goddess and even plays the thumb piano. It is the most wonderful thing you will ever see.”

The villagers laughed, but the chief stamped his foot angrily. Everyone fell silent. “Are you mocking me? No one makes a fool of the chief!”

“I am not,” cried Ama. “I promise you – it is true!”

But the villagers shook their heads. Nobody believed him and the chief was growing angrier by the second.

Desperate, Ama said, “I will bring the tortoise to perform for you tomorrow morning. You will be amazed! If I am lying, you may banish me from this village forever.”

“Then it is settled,” said the chief. “We will soon know whether you are speaking the truth or not.”



Ama went home feeling confident. Early the next day, he carried the tortoise and its thumb piano to the assembly place in the village.

“Where are we going?” asked the tortoise, but Ama didn’t answer. He was too busy thinking about how impressed the chief would be.

He set the tortoise down and waited for a crowd to gather round. When the chief was ready, Ama commanded, “Please sing for me, tortoise.”

But the tortoise remained silent.

“It is probably nerves,” he said. He whispered to the tortoise, “Please sing – nobody believed me when I told them what you could do.”

The tortoise’s lips stayed shut.

“I am begging you,” pleaded Ama. “They will banish me if you don’t perform for them.”

The tortoise closed her eyes and pulled her head into her shell.

At last, the chief lost patience. “How dare you lie and treat us like fools? Get out of here – you are banished!” →



Ama had no choice. He picked up his most valuable possessions and left the village to find a new home.

When he was out of sight, the tortoise popped her head out again and, much to everyone's surprise, she said, "If he hadn't broken his promise, he would still be here."

The chief gasped. "Was Ama telling the truth?"

"Yes," said the tortoise, "but he got what he deserved. I was happy in the forest, but he took me away from my home, told everyone my secret and tried to make a show of me. Why must humans do this? Why can't you protect nature instead of ruining it?"

The tortoise picked up her thumb piano and trundled back to her forest home, singing all the way. ★

DID YOU KNOW?

The tortoise plays a thumb piano in this story. In Africa, this is known as a 'sansa' or 'mbira'. Can you find out what a thumb piano sounds like? Investigate other African instruments and African music too.



Tom Thumb's Teeny Holiday

The sun was blazing in Storyland and there was excitement in the air. It was holiday season and almost everyone was getting ready to go away for their summer break.

The Three Bears were off on a camping trip to the Wild Woods, the Three Billy Goats were looking forward to their annual climbing trip, and Gingerbread Man was closing up his bakery for a food-tasting tour of a neighbouring kingdom.

“Where are you going for your holiday?” Pinocchio asked Tom Thumb as they shared a milkshake at Goldie’s Café.

“Nowhere,” said Tom miserably. “If Hansel hadn’t carried me in his pocket, it would have taken me ages just to get here. It’s not easy going to exciting, far-off places when you’re this small. What about you?”

Pinocchio understood. He wasn’t as tiny as Tom, but he was small. →



“I’ve built a canoe in my carpentry shop,” he explained. “I’m planning to paddle up Moon River to Whispering Falls. I’m leaving in a few days.”

“That sounds fun! I’d love to canoe, but I’m not sure I’d survive the rapids. The last time I was near water I was swallowed by a fish,” said Tom.

Pinocchio chuckled. “The last time I was near water, I ended up in the belly of a whale. But I don’t think there are any whales round here. I’d better get back – I’m finishing off a surfboard for Puss in Boots. He’s going to Mermaid Beach for his holiday.”

Tom Thumb looked glum. “Lucky him. I’d love to try surfing, but every time I go to the beach, I get trampled – and my sandcastles get squashed.”

“Oh no! Do you need a lift or is Hansel taking you home?” asked Pinocchio.

“No thanks, I’ll walk. I’ll stop at Lilypad Pond on the way back. It reminds me of the sea. Have a good holiday!”



Tom finished his milkshake and began the long trek to his house. He usually had to dodge everyone’s feet, but the square was empty today.

Tom sat by the pond for a long time, listening to the breeze ruffling through the trees and birds tweeting. “Who needs holidays when there’s peace and quiet like this?” he thought. But then he remembered Pinocchio’s new canoe and Puss in Boots’ surfboard and he felt jealous. Deep down, Tom yearned for adventure.



A couple of days later, Tom found a postcard on his doormat. It read: 'Pack a bag – you're going on holiday! See you by the bench at Lilypad Pond at 1pm.' The postcard wasn't signed.

Tom's tummy flipped. There was a sensation he hadn't felt for a long time... a tingle of excitement! He threw some clothes into his rucksack and packed swimming gear and a beach towel, just in case. Then he set off for the pond wondering what lay ahead.

When he arrived, his friends Hansel and Pinocchio were waiting for him. "Happy holidays!" they cried.

Pinocchio gasped. There was a beach along the edge of Lilypad Pond!

"How did that get here?"

"It's play sand from The Golden Ball Toy Shop. We got it just before Prince Frederick closed for his holidays. Now you have your own private beach," said Hansel. ➡



Tom grinned and ran onto the beach. He kicked off his shoes. The sand felt amazing between his toes.

“It’s perfect!” said Tom. Further along the beach, he spotted a wee wooden house. “What’s that?”

“I had some wood left from the canoe and surfboard,” said Pinocchio, “so I made you a little beach hut. You can sleep here if you like.”

Tom set off towards the hut. It looked brilliant. It had a deck with a mini deckchair and a colourful parasol.

“Goldilocks uses these umbrellas to decorate her milkshakes. We thought it would be handy for shade – and the deckchair came from a doll’s house at the toy shop,” said Hansel.

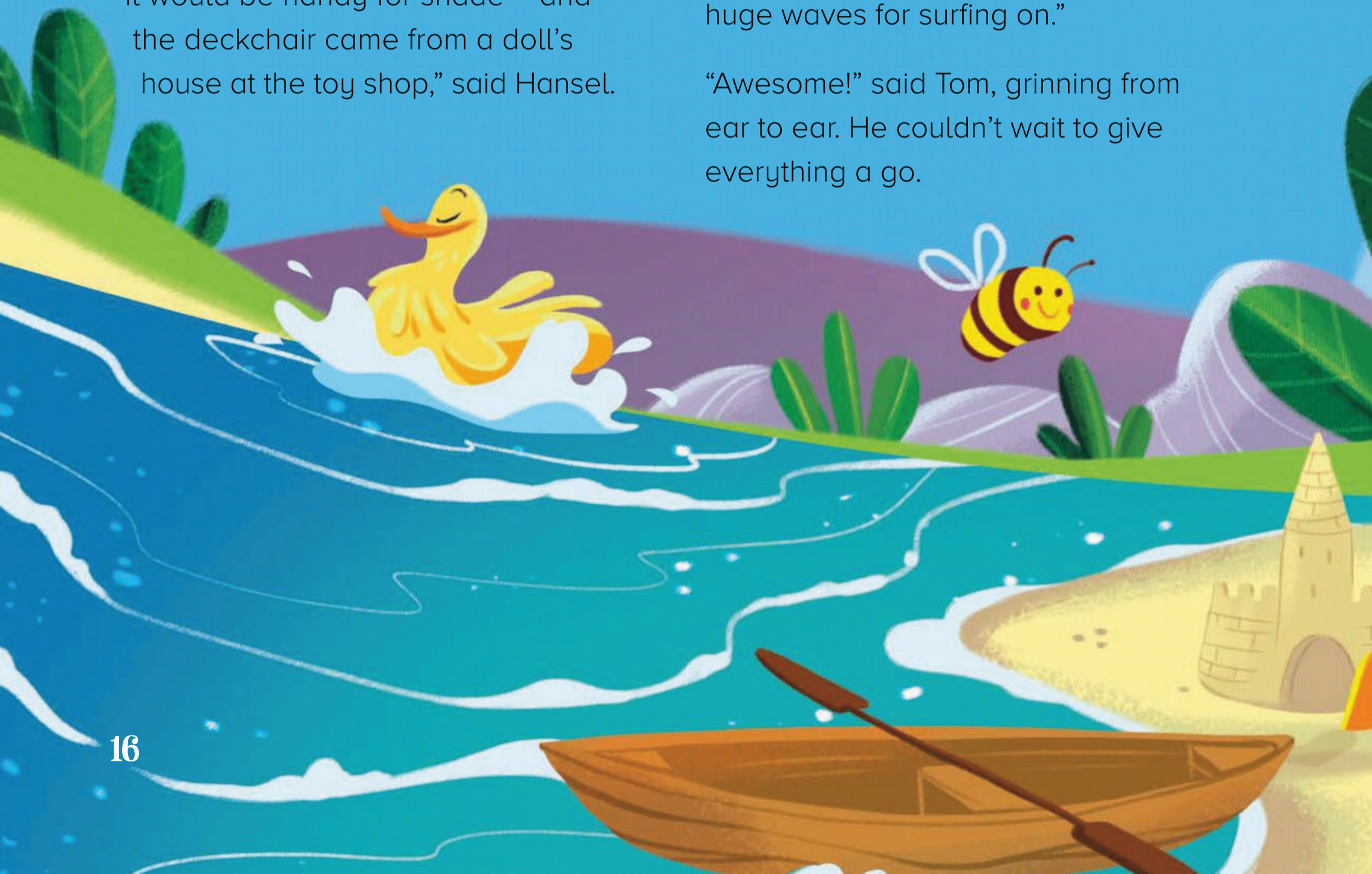
Inside the house, Pinocchio had built a tiny table and chairs for Tom and a bed. Tom couldn’t stop smiling.

But the best surprise was round the side of the house where a shiny canoe and paddles were leaning against the wall, right next to a Tom Thumb-sized surfboard.

Tom beamed and whooped for joy. “Thank you, Pinocchio.”

“You’re welcome,” said his friend. “It was better than letting the leftover wood go to waste. We’ve asked the Golden Goose to land on the other side of the pond every afternoon and flap about for a bit. She’ll make some huge waves for surfing on.”

“Awesome!” said Tom, grinning from ear to ear. He couldn’t wait to give everything a go.



“You can learn how to canoe here too. Then maybe we can go paddling up the river together next summer,” suggested Pinocchio.

“I’d love that!” cried Tom.

“We have a few more teeny surprises,” said Hansel. “Little Red gave us this thimble from her clothes shop so you can build sandcastles, and we thought these ice-cream spoons from Goldie’s Café would make good spades.”

“You’ve really thought of everything,” said Tom. “I can’t believe you’ve done this for me. I’m so grateful!”

“Well, you looked so down other day. We can’t have our little buddy going without a holiday,” said Pinocchio.

“Yes, and who needs adventures in faraway places when I can have so much fun right here in Storyland? Thank you so much!” said Tom.

Just then, the Golden Goose landed on the other side of the pond. She flapped her wings and big waves crashed onto Lilypad Beach.

“Looks like surf’s up!” said Tom and, waving to his friends, he grabbed his surfboard and ran into the water. ★

Post It!

Colour in our Tom Thumb Postcards to send to your friends. Download them from: storytimemagazine.com/free

Next time: Beauty’s school class gets a secretive new pupil.



Level Up

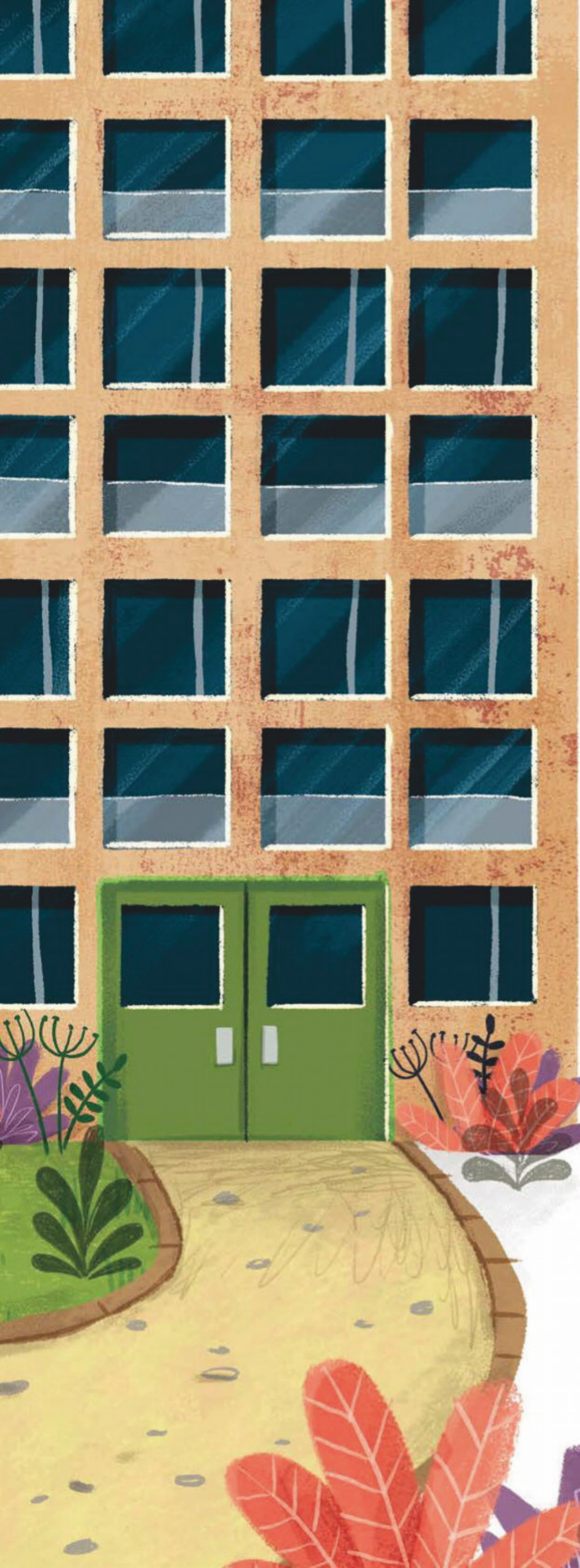
By Jenny Woods

Lucy stuffed her pyjamas into her bag and squashed everything down. She was only staying with Aunty Vee for a few days but she wanted to take her console and all her games.

Just as Mum walked into the room, Lucy's stomach gurgled loudly. "Do you want a quick snack before you go?" asked Mum.

Lucy shook her head. She wasn't hungry – she was just a little bit nervous. Well, more than a little bit.





Aunty Vee had recently moved into a flat at the top of a tall tower block and Lucy had never been anywhere so high up.

She tried to ignore the squirming feeling in her tummy as she said goodbye to Mum and climbed into Aunty Vee's car. Her aunt put on some music and soon they were both singing along loudly.



When they parked outside the tower block Lucy's stomach somersaulted like an Olympic gymnast doing a triple flip. She looked up to where Aunty Vee's flat perched, right at the top of the tower.

"It's a long way up," she said quietly.

Aunty Vee smiled. "Don't worry, getting to the top of this block of flats is a bit like playing a computer game."

Lucy looked puzzled, but followed Aunty Vee through the big doors to a flight of stairs that stretched up and up and then turned a corner.

"We're the heroes," she explained as they began to climb the steps. "And we have to reach the treasure at the top."

As they turned the corner, Aunty Vee put a finger to her lips. "Shhh!" she said. "Don't wake the sleeping dragon." ➔



Lucy tiptoed across the landing and helped Aunty Vee cast a spell of silence. This required lots of wiggly hand movements and a funny little dance that made Lucy laugh.

When they reached the next set of stairs Aunty Vee cried, “Level up!” and they raced to the next landing.

“Now watch out for the stink monster,” she warned. “It likes to throw rotten eggs and smelly socks at anyone who tries to pass.”

Lucy held her nose as she dodged and weaved across the landing.

“Phew! That was close,” she said as they reached the next flight of stairs. “I nearly got hit by a slimy sprout.”

“Well played,” said Aunty Vee. “Now let’s level up!”

The next floor was a big alien swamp. Lucy and Aunty Vee had to balance carefully on the lines around the floor tiles to get across safely.

“Level up!” cried Lucy when they got to the stairs.

As they climbed higher and higher up the tower block, Lucy danced, dodged

and ducked her way past grumpy goblins, snappy alligators and a sulky Sasquatch who wouldn't let them pass until they built him a snowman.

Lucy was having so much fun she couldn't believe it when they finally reached Aunty Vee's flat.

"Congratulations, you have completed your quest!" Aunty Vee smiled. "Now come inside and collect your prize."

Lucy followed her into the kitchen where Aunty Vee made two towering ice-cream sundaes with chocolate

sauce, sprinkles, flakes – and juicy cherries on the top!

Together they sat on the balcony and looked out across the rooftops of the city. Lucy felt like she was sitting on top of the world.

"I think I'm going to like staying in a tower," she said, as she slurped her ice cream. Perhaps she wasn't going to need her games console after all.

"Just wait till we pop to the shops later," said Aunty Vee, winking. "You won't believe what's living in the lift!" ★

DRAW IT!

What do you think lives in the lift? Print out our **Make Up A Monster Sheet** from storytimemagazine.com/free and draw an amazing creature for Lucy and Aunty Vee to battle.



Mr Wolf's Candy House

Once upon a time, Camille and Louis lived near a big wood, where they spent lots of time playing. Every day, they climbed trees, built dens and feasted on wild blackberries.



One day, they were playing at being nature detectives and following deer tracks through the woods, when they realised they had gone much further than usual. The tracks led them to a little red bridge which crossed a babbling brook. On the other side of the bridge, just through the trees, they spotted a colourful house with a brown roof. It was so bright and cheerful.

“Let’s see who lives there!” cried Camille and Louis.

They crossed the bridge and, as they drew near to the house, a delicious aroma filled the air. As they got closer, they saw the house was made from every sweet treat you can imagine.

The windows were pure sugar, the ledges were twisted candy canes. The front door was surrounded with jewel-like jellies in every colour of the rainbow and the roof was covered with chocolate-coated marshmallows. The walls were made from biscuits and two rows of swirly lollipops lined the garden path. The lollipops were as tall as the children!

Camille and Louis’s eyes grew wide. They ran to the door and knocked on it, but there was no answer. They tried again. There was still no reply.

“Perhaps nobody lives here,” said Louis, licking his lips. “It would be a pity to let these treats go to waste.” →



Before they knew it, the children were breaking off bits of marshmallow and chocolate and licking lollipops. It was a dream come true!

But somebody did live in the candy house – mean old Mr Wolf. Though he wasn't as fast or as strong as he was when he was young, he still had a mouthful of sharp teeth and a terrible temper. He especially disliked children.

Mr Wolf had been sound asleep when the children knocked on his door, but when he woke up and heard bits of his candy house being snapped off, he leapt to his feet and growled.

Camille and Louis were so frightened that they sprinted across the little red bridge and hid in the trees.

When Mr Wolf opened the door and saw that his puffy marshmallow roof, biscuit wall and lollipops had been nibbled he was furious. He howled, "Who's been eating my candy house?"

Quickly, Camille and Louis called out, "It must be the wind, so wild, so wild!"

It was indeed very windy that day. Satisfied with that explanation, Mr Wolf shrugged and went back inside.



The following day, Camille and Louis decided to go and play in the woods again. It wasn't long, of course, before they started to dream about the wolf's wonderful candy house.



“Perhaps if we tiptoe, he won’t hear us,” said Camille, and Louis agreed.

So they walked through the woods until they found the little red bridge, then they tiptoed up the lollipop-lined path. This time, they bit into chocolate buttons and snapped off candy canes. They were scrumptious!

When mean old Mr Wolf heard them, he jumped up and rushed to his door. Camille and Louis were too quick for him – they raced across the little red bridge before he could see them.

Once again, when Mr Wolf saw that somebody had nibbled his house, his fur bristled and he howled, “Who’s been eating my candy house?”

Camille and Louis called out again, “It must be the wind, so wild, so wild!”

But it wasn’t very windy that day, so Mr Wolf looked around suspiciously. When he couldn’t see anyone, he snarled and went back inside.



The next day, Camille and Louis were so eager to taste new treats, they set off straight for the wolf’s candy house.

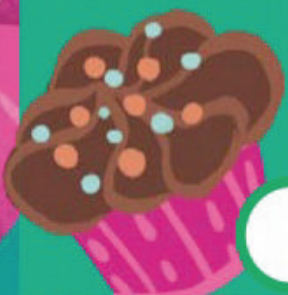
As before, they crossed the little red bridge and tiptoed up the lollipop-lined path. Just as they were about to break off some jewel-like rainbow jellies, Mr Wolf sprang out of his front door, baring his sharp teeth. This time, he had been lying in wait for them! ➔



“I’ll get you and I’ll eat



SPOT IT! Can you find these details hiding in the picture?



Answer: There are 5 strawberries.

you all up!" he howled.



How many juicy strawberries can you count? Write it here.



Camille and Louis sprinted down the garden path, raced over the little red bridge and hurried into the woods.

Mr Wolf may have been old, but he chased them as fast as his stiff legs could carry him. Very soon, he had almost caught up.

When the children realised he was so close, they ran deeper into the woods. They went further than they had ever ventured before and soon lost their way. Just ahead they saw a wide river blocking their escape. There was no bridge and the water was rushing by.

It was much too fast to swim across and the wolf was not far behind. For the first time, the children felt scared.

Camille spotted some ducks paddling along and called, "Please, little ducks, will you help us? Carry us across the river or the mean old wolf will eat us."

The ducks swam over and quacked, "We'll help you."

So Camille and Louis climbed onto their backs. The children balanced carefully and the ducks carried them safely across the river.



DID YOU KNOW?

This old fairy tale comes from the Flanders area of Belgium. How many bits of other fairy tales can you recognise in it?

When they jumped off, they thanked the ducks with all their hearts.

Mr Wolf arrived at the riverbank just in time to see Camille and Louis escape. “Little ducks, carry me across the river too or I’ll eat you all up!” he snapped.

“We’ll carry you,” quacked the ducks.

Four ducks swam up and the mean old wolf balanced a paw on the back of each one. They paddled into the middle of the river, where the current was strongest, then they dipped their heads beneath the surface and tipped Mr Wolf right into the freezing water!

“It serves you right for being so mean all the time,” they quacked.

The old wolf splashed and spluttered and was swept away – and he was never seen again.

After that, Camille and Louis were too frightened to visit the wolf’s candy house, so they made do with picking and eating wild blackberries.

However, some say the candy house is still there and, if you dare to find it, you might be able to nibble a sweet treat! ★



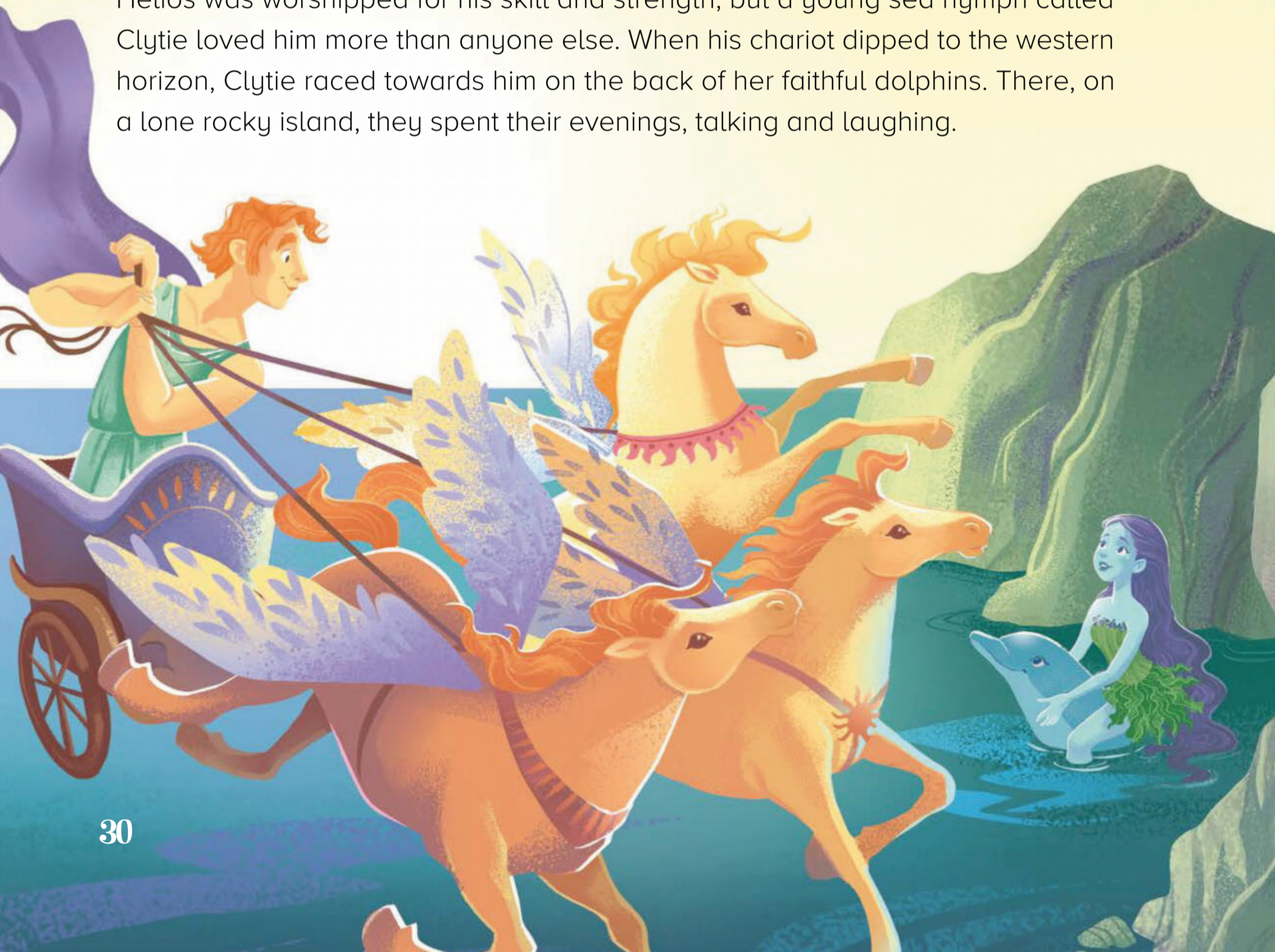
Helios and Clytie

The Ancient Greeks loved their sun god Helios. Every morning, he rose up from his golden palace to ride his shining chariot across the sky. His purple robes and blond curls streamed behind him.

Only Helios was powerful enough to control the wild winged horses that led his chariot, and only he knew the secret path to flood the darkness with light.

“Here comes the sun,” everyone would say, smiling gratefully at Helios.

Helios was worshipped for his skill and strength, but a young sea nymph called Clytie loved him more than anyone else. When his chariot dipped to the western horizon, Clytie raced towards him on the back of her faithful dolphins. There, on a lone rocky island, they spent their evenings, talking and laughing.





But Helios had a fickle heart and he didn't love Clytie as much as she loved him. His attention was soon drawn to a Persian princess called Leucothea who liked Helios too.

However, Leucothea's father, King Orchamus, didn't trust Helios. He forbade his daughter from seeing him, but she didn't listen and began to meet Helios in secret.



In the coming weeks, Helios forgot all about Clytie. Though she waited for him every evening at their special

meeting place, he passed by in his chariot and ignored her.

One night, Clytie felt so confused she decided to follow Helios. When she saw her beloved sun god embracing Princess Leucothea, she was wild with jealousy and confronted him. "How could you?" she cried.

Clytie told King Orchamus what she had seen. She knew the king didn't like Helios and hoped he would ban Leucothea from seeing him. With the princess out of her way, she thought Helios would love her again. ➔



Instead, King Orchamus was infuriated that Princess Leucothea had gone behind his back. His punishment was severe – he decided to bury his daughter in sand.

When Helios found out that Clytie had given away his secret and caused Leucothea to suffer so much, he blazed with anger. That day, he vowed he would never talk to or look at Clytie again.

Clytie was heartbroken. She visited the rocky island where they had once been so happy and she stayed there, pining for her lost love. She refused to move, even to eat or drink. All day long, she just gazed at Helios as he crossed the sky.

She stayed there for so long that eventually Clytie's feet rooted into the ground and she turned into a heliotrope – a plant with purple flowers that always turn to face the sun. And that is how this lovely flower came to be. ★



The sun god Helios had two sisters – Eos, who was the dawn, and Selene, who was the moon. His horses were said to breathe fire and their names meant 'sky changer', 'burning', 'blazing' and 'fiery'.

The Kelpie

If you've never heard of a kelpie then you probably don't live in Scotland, where they famously lurk in lochs and rivers.

What is a kelpie? It's a mischievous water spirit, which always transforms into a black horse when it appears before humans. It has the strength of ten horses and, as it gallops into the depths, the sound of its tail hitting the water is louder than the crash of thunder. It has magical skin and, if you touch it, you will never be able to release yourself from it. If a kelpie takes a dislike to you, you'd better steer clear because it will kick up a flood or drag you into its watery lair. However, some kelpies are good and have been known to save children from drowning. ➔



You can tell a kelpie from a real horse because it has strange backwards hooves, and its long mane is tangled with water weeds and silt. It will also wear a sparkling silver bridle.

A landowner called James McGrigor knew this last fact well because he was one of the few people to ever see a kelpie up close.



A bad-tempered kelpie had been causing trouble around the Loch Ness area for some time. Every night, the beast roamed the fields around the loch, dragging any sheep and cattle it could find into its watery home.

The landowners were desperate, but anyone who was foolish enough to try to stop the kelpie was also plunged into the freezing water. Soon, many farmers had disappeared attempting to protect their land.

Tired of the water spirit's troublesome deeds, one night James McGrigor set out to capture it.

He hid among the heather and when he saw the black horse emerge from the loch, he leapt out and quickly struck it with his sword. The kelpie's silver bridle snapped and fell to the ground, so McGrigor snatched it.

He expected the kelpie to fight back, but instead the horse bowed its head



and said, “How unfair of you to attack a creature that hasn’t harmed you. How cruel! I should drag you into the loch right now, but instead I’ll forgive you and let you go – as long as you give me back my bridle.”

“You forgive me?” answered McGrigor in disbelief. “You should be the one begging for forgiveness after all the trouble you’ve caused round here!”

The kelpie snorted angrily. “I’m just doing what comes naturally to me. Now be a good fellow and give me back my silver bridle before I lose my temper with you.”

McGrigor shook his head and flung the bridle over his shoulder.

“Please give it back,” begged the kelpie in a gentler tone.

“It must be very special for you to want it so badly. What does it do exactly?” asked McGrigor.

“I can’t tell you,” said the kelpie, stamping its hooves and snorting.

“I won’t give it back unless you tell me,” said McGrigor firmly.

“Very well,” grunted the kelpie. “My bridle gives me my powers. Without it I can’t change shape or control the water. I lose all my strength. With my bridle, I can beat anyone.” ➔



McGrigor realised he would be a fool to return something so powerful. Claspng it more tightly, he said to the kelpie, "I'm not sure you deserve such a powerful object. I think I'll take care of your bridle from now on."

The kelpie roared with anguish. "You can't!" it cried. "I can't live without it."

"Well, you'll have to find a way," said McGrigor, and he strode away.

The kelpie trotted beside him, wheedling and cajoling all the way.

"I'll make you rich! I'll teach you magic! I'll share the bridle with you," it promised, but McGrigor knew he couldn't trust a water spirit.

The kelpie threatened to punish the farmers with floods, but McGrigor said, "How can you, without your bridle? You just said you have no powers without it." The kelpie was enraged because it was true.



When McGrigor reached his home, the kelpie made one last desperate attempt to block his path. It reared up on its hind legs and threatened to crush him. “I’ll never let you pass,” bellowed the water spirit.

McGrigor’s wife heard the commotion outside and opened the door to see what was happening. Quick as a flash, McGrigor dodged round the kelpie and threw the silver bridle to her. She caught it and, as her husband sprinted inside, she slammed the door shut on the horse.

Because the kelpie belonged to the wild water, it couldn’t enter McGrigor’s house even if it tried – especially without the power of its bridle.

Wailing and cursing, it galloped back to Loch Ness and submerged itself in the water. It was never seen again. Ever since then the magic bridle has been passed down from generation to generation through the McGrigor clan. Today, it is said to be kept under lock and key in a little croft somewhere near Loch Ness. ★



DID YOU KNOW?

In Falkirk in Scotland, you can see wonderful 30-metre-high metal sculptures of horse heads, which are called the Kelpies and are inspired by kelpie tales.

Clever Sister, Foolish Sister

Tetan Buri and Boka Buri were sisters. They lived in Bangladesh, where they shared a small piece of land and a small house, a blanket, a cow and a field of crops.

Now Tetan considered herself to be the clever sister of the two, but truly she was selfish and scheming – and she knew that Boka was kind and trusting.

One day, she said to Boka, “Let’s share the blanket so that you have it during the day, and I’ll have it at night.”

“Good idea, sister,” said Boka.



Next, cunning Tetan said to Boka, “As we are sharing this cow, why don’t I have the back half and you can be in charge of the front half?”

“Okay, sister,” said Boka.

Finally, she said, “I think we should share our field of crops too. I will have the half that grows above the ground and you can have the half that grows below the ground.”

“Very well, sister,” said Boka.

Of course this arrangement was good for Tetan, but terrible for Boka.

In the daytime when it was hot, Boka had no use for the blanket. But at night when it was cold, she shivered as her sister slept snugly beside her.

Every morning, when they tended their cow, Boka looked after the front half, giving it water and food, while Tetan milked the back half and kept every creamy drop for herself.

Lastly, when they looked after their field, Boka ploughed and planted and weeded the soil, while Tetan harvested the tasty crops that grew above, and she didn’t share any of them with Boka – she ate it all!



Poor Boka was so hungry, she was forced to knock on her neighbours’ doors to beg for food. Eventually she came to the door of the village barber, who was well known for his wisdom. →



“Why are you cold and hungry when you share a blanket and a cow and a field of crops with Tetan?” he asked.

Boka told him all about the deal she had made with her sister.

“Ah, that is a bad deal, Boka. She is taking advantage of your kindness and treating you like a fool. Take my advice – for the next week, soak the blanket in water every day to keep yourself cool and give it to Tetan at night. Rather than giving the cow food and water, shout at it – and instead of sowing and weeding your field, dig

out the roots of your crops, but make sure you leave the tops there.”

So that’s what Boka did. Every day she dipped the blanket in the cool water of the well and used it to mop her brow. When she gave it to Tetan it was still damp and cold, so her sister shivered next to her all night.

Every morning, Boka shouted at the cow instead of feeding it. It put the beast in such a bad temper that it kicked out at Tetan every time she tried to milk it.



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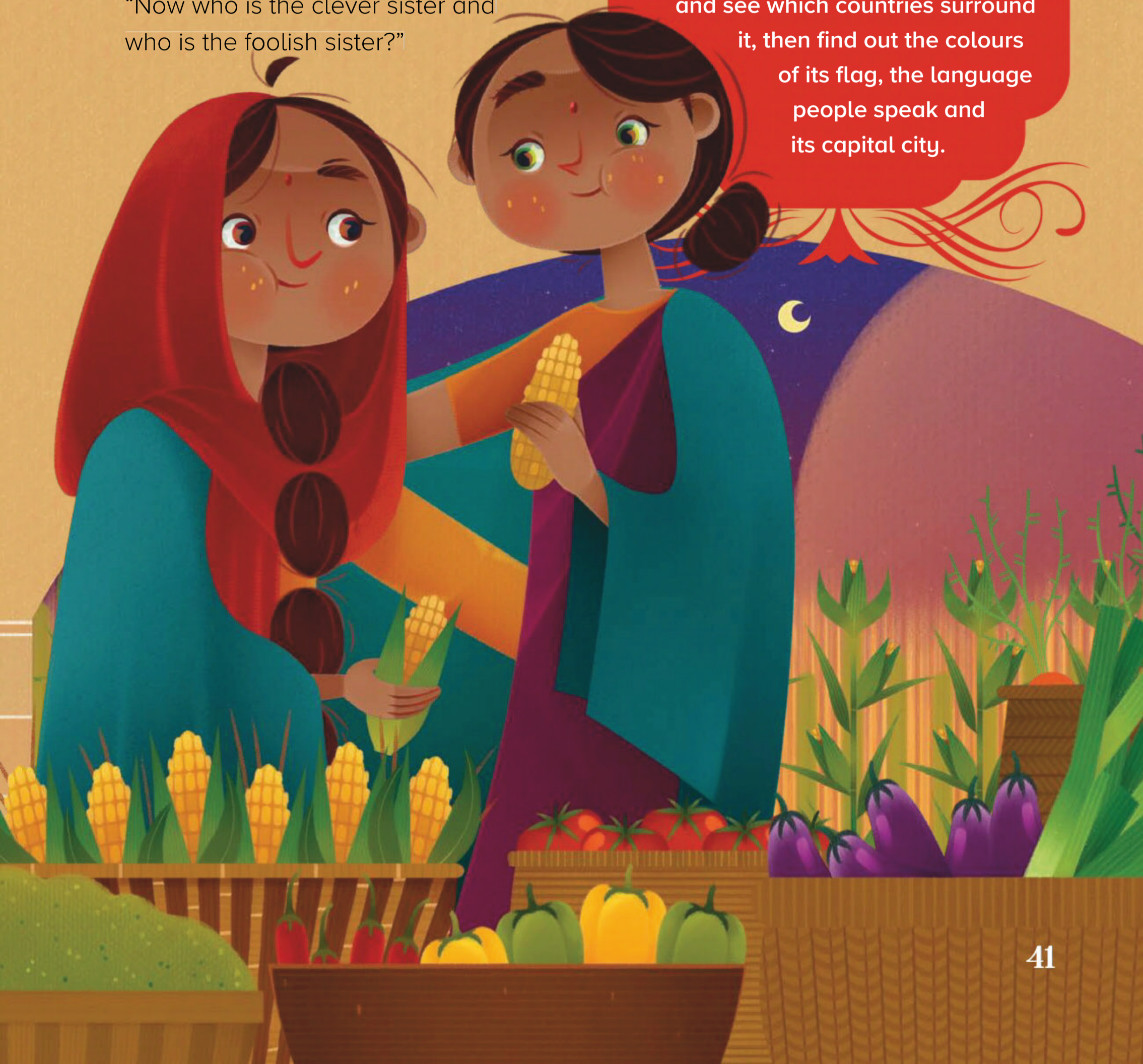
Finally, Boka dug up all the roots in the field so that when Tetan tried to harvest some crops for herself, she found they had wilted and died, so there was nothing to eat.

By the end of the week, Tetan was as tired and hungry as Boka had been. When her sister moaned, Boka said, “Now who is the clever sister and who is the foolish sister?”

Tetan had learnt her lesson. From that day on, the two sisters shared everything equally – their workload, the blanket, the cow and their field. ★

LOCATE IT!

Find Bangladesh on a map and see which countries surround it, then find out the colours of its flag, the language people speak and its capital city.





Storytime playbox

Develop your drawing skills, complete our crossword, make your own sundial, and race to the top of our towering board game!

1 CANDY MAZE

Mr Wolf wants to catch up with Camille and Louis and pick up as many of his treats as he can. Can you help him?



COUNT IT!

How many lollipops can you count in the maze?

Write your answer here.




2 SHELL SONG

The sea shell from our poem is singing a song. Look at the pictures to fill in the missing words.

Sail, sail, sail your  _____

Gently on the  _____

Can you spot a  _____?

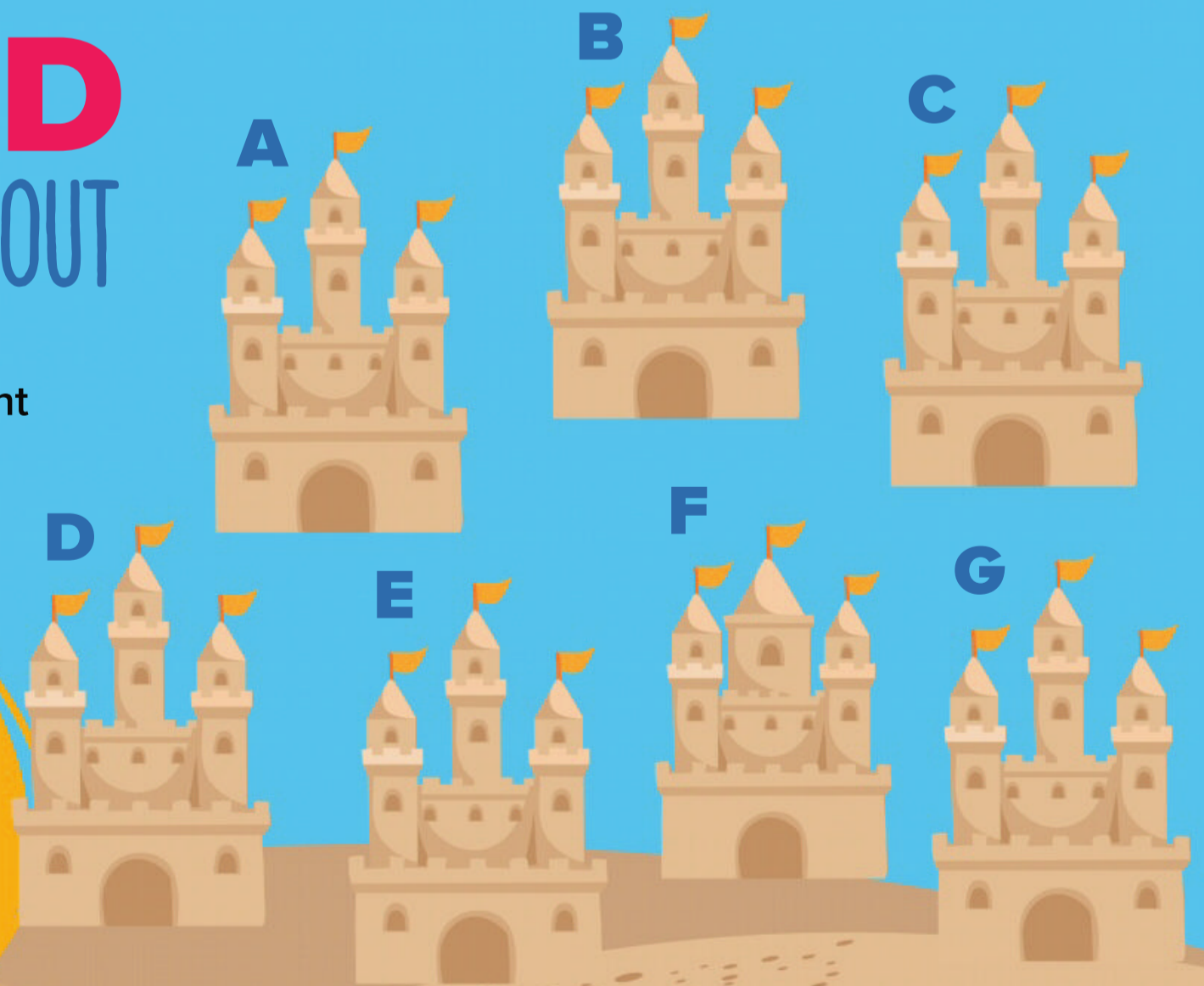
Sitting in a  _____!

CAN YOU WRITE A SECOND VERSE?



3 ODD CASTLE OUT

One of Tom Thumb's sandcastles is different to the others. **Spot it and circle it!**



FUN FACT!
The world's tallest sandcastle was built in Germany in 2017. It was 16.68m high – roughly the height of four double-decker buses on top of each other!

4

FAIR SHARE

Clever Sister is trying to take all the mangoes. **How many should you put in Foolish Sister's pile so they each get a fair share?**



5

MAKE A SUNDIAL

Follow Helios as he travels across the sky with the help of an easy homemade sundial. Here's how to do it.

- Stick a pen or pencil upright in a ball of Plasticine or play dough.
- Place it in the centre of a paper plate in a spot that will be sunny all day.
- Make sure the shadow of the pen or pencil falls onto the plate.
- Place a pebble or sticker at the end point of the shadow and mark down the time on the card.
- Every hour, go back to your sundial and see how the shadow has moved around as the sun moves across the sky.
- Write the time on or next to your marker each time.
- Now you have a clock that can tell the time. Go back tomorrow to check how accurate it is!

ASK A GROWN-UP!



TIP!

Start this project early in the morning, so you can check where the shadow falls every hour on the hour.



6

CREATE A KELPIE

Kelpies appear as horses on land, but nobody knows what they look like under water. Draw what you think the naughty spirit looks like here.

INVENT IT!

Make up some magic words to force a kelpie back into the water.
Write them here.

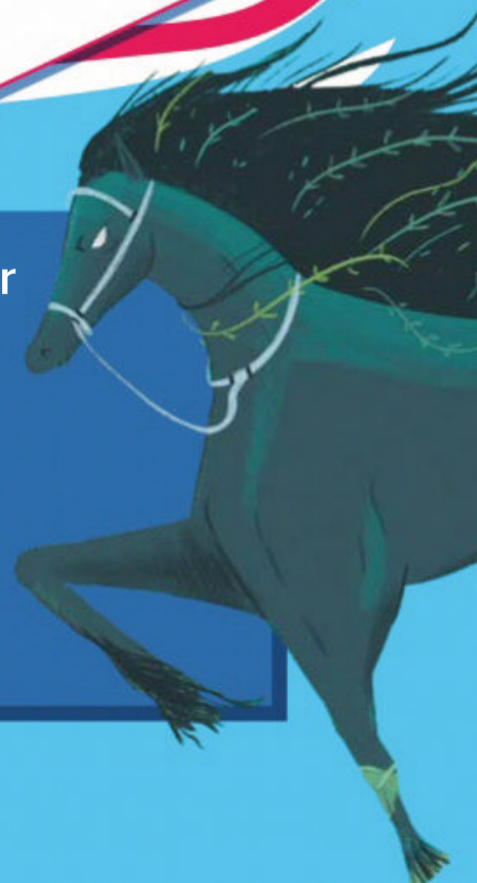
7

WHO AM I?



Can you work out which Storytime character we're talking about from the clues below?

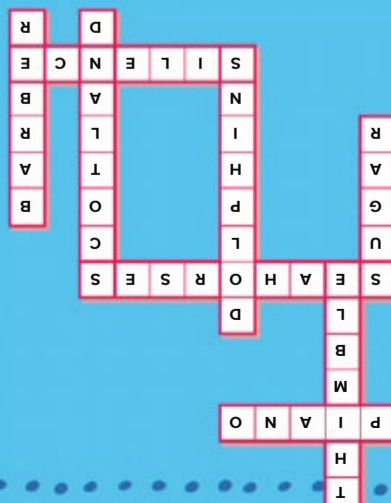
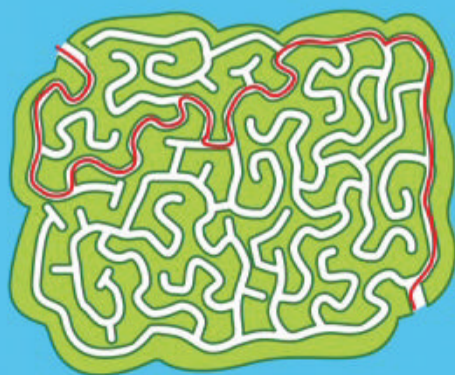
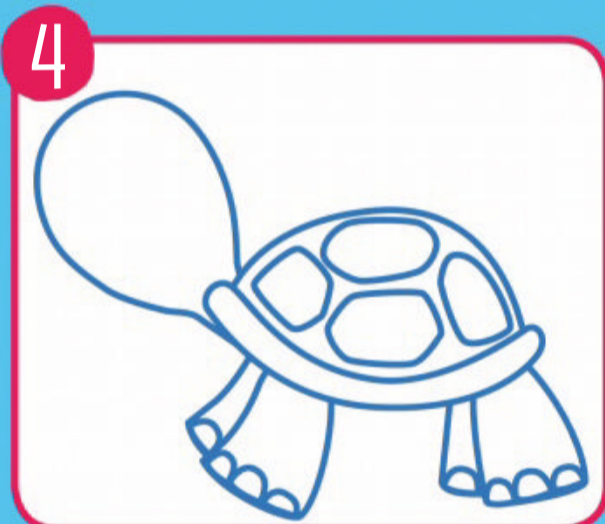
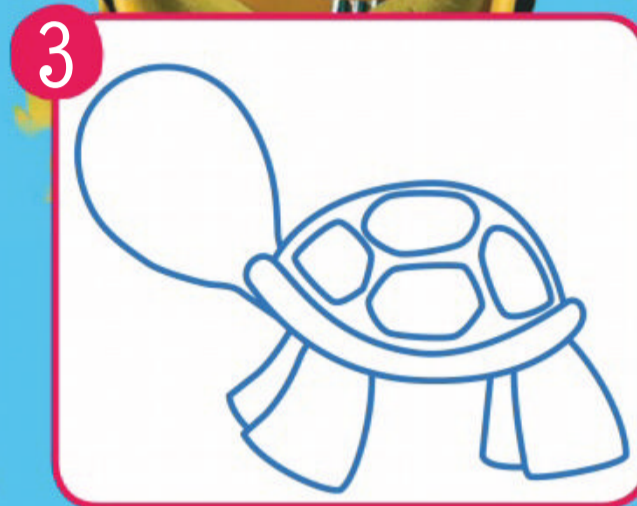
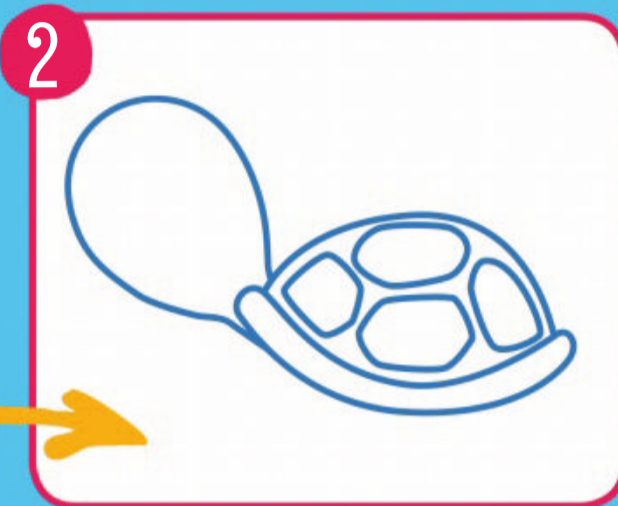
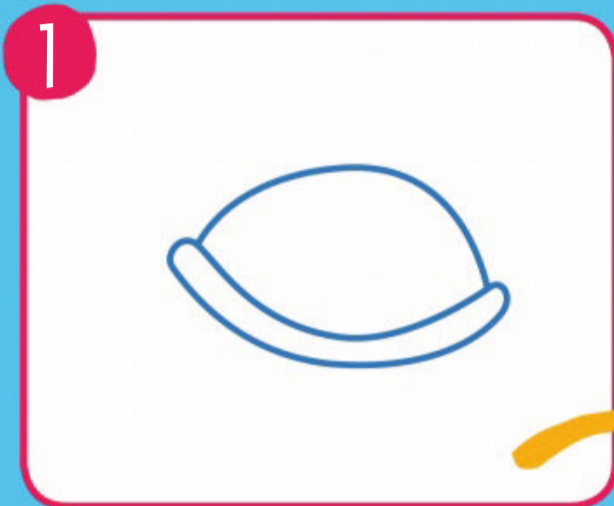
1. I like singing loudly
2. I live up high
3. I make good ice-cream sundaes



8

DRAW A TORTOISE!

Follow the easy steps to draw our super singing tortoise.



ANSWERS: 1. Candy Maze – see right. There are 4 lollipops; 2. Shell Song – Ship, Sea, Parrot, Tree; 3. Odd Castle Out – F; 4. Fair Share – 3; 7. Who Am I? Auntie Vee from Level Up; Storytime Crossword – see right. Which Animal? Goose.

storytime CROSSWORD

Find the answers to our crossword questions in this issue's stories.

DOWN

1. What does Tom Thumb use to make his sandcastles?
3. Which animals carried Clytie to Helios?
4. The windows in Mr Wolf's house were made from this.
5. The country where kelpies live.
7. Which villager gives Boka advice in **Clever Sister, Foolish Sister**?

ACROSS

2. The instrument played by the singing tortoise is a thumb....?
4. They are stabled in great green caves in **The Sea Shell**.
6. What spell do Lucy and Aunty Vee cast on the sleeping dragon?



WHICH ANIMAL?

Rearrange the letters in the tinted squares to spell the name of a Storyland character.

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RACE TO THE TOP!

Who'll get to the top of the tower first – the hero or the monster? Play now to level up and find out!

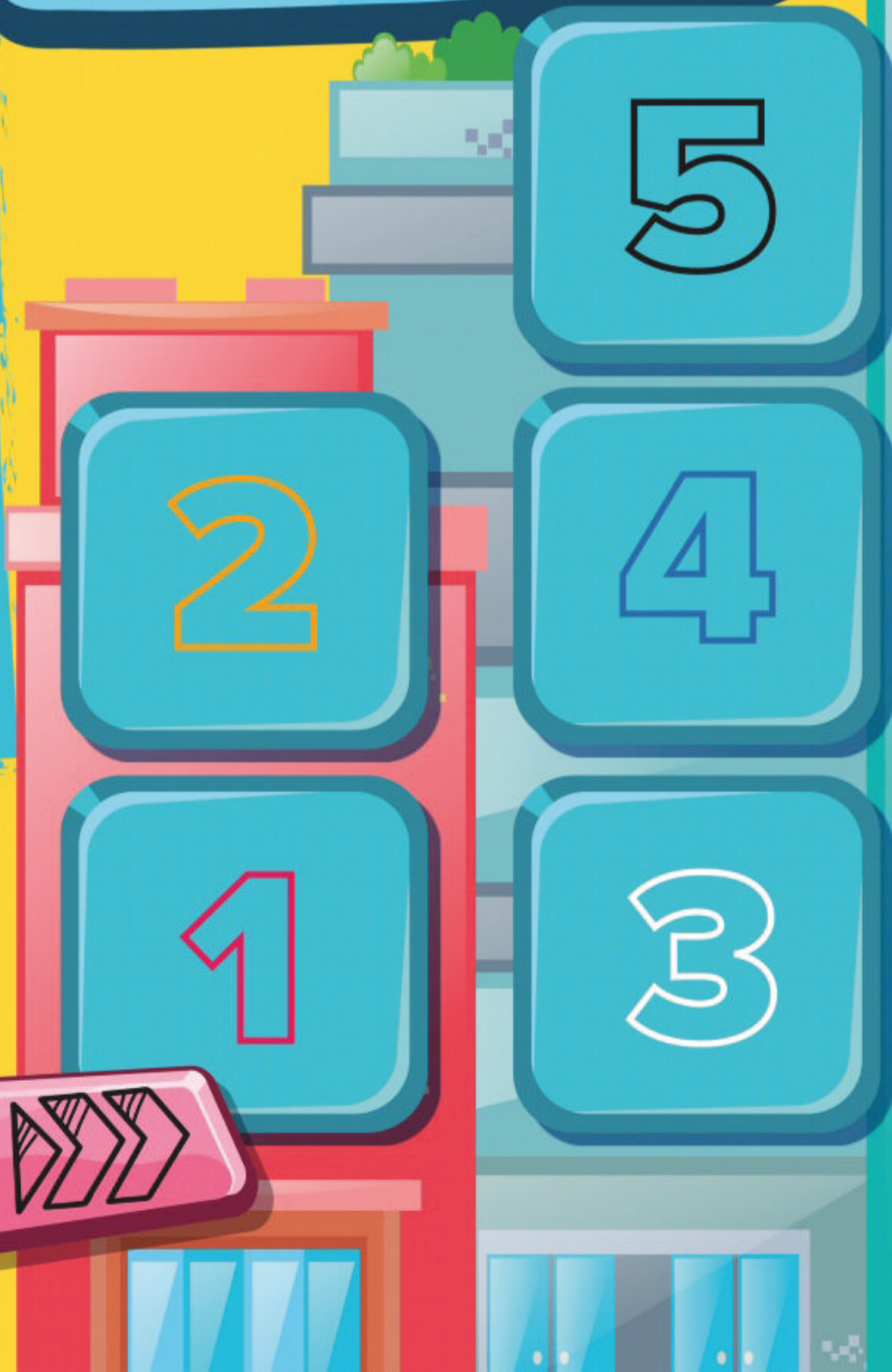
How to Play

To play, you'll need two players, one dice and our **Level Up Character Counters**. Download them and print them out from storytimemagazine.com/free

- ★ Both players roll the dice. The player who rolls the lowest number is the hero. The other player is the monster – and it's your job to catch the hero!
- ★ Roll again. Whoever rolls the highest number goes first. Now players take it in turns to roll the dice.
- ★ Follow the special instructions for your character. (See boxes.)
- ★ If the hero and monster end up on the same square, each player can only move if he or she rolls a 6.
- ★ The first character to reach the top of the tower wins the game! Treat yourself to an ice cream to celebrate. Download our **Ice Cream Colouring Sheet** to colour in. Visit storytimemagazine.com/free

MONSTER INSTRUCTIONS

- ROLL A 1** – Move back one space
- ROLL A 2** – Move forward two spaces
- ROLL A 3** – Smelly sock attack, hero moves back one space
- ROLL A 4** – Power nap for energy, move forward two spaces
- ROLL A 5** – Stuck in lift, miss a go
- ROLL A 6** – Fall downstairs, go back to the start. Bad luck!



HERO INSTRUCTIONS

- ROLL A 1** – Move forward one space
- ROLL A 2** – Move back one space
- ROLL A 3** – Cast a spell so the monster misses a turn
- ROLL A 4** – Dodge a rotten egg, land one square ahead of the monster
- ROLL A 5** – Monster tickles you, miss a go
- ROLL A 6** – Snoozing monster, move forward one space then roll again

FINISH



12

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17

STORY MAGIC

Make sure these books are on your Summer Reading Challenge list this year and check them out of your local library.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

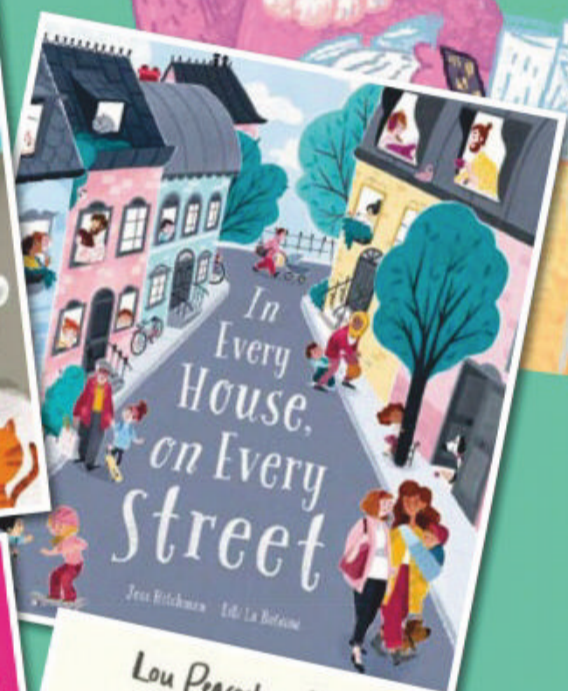
THE BIGGEST STORY by Sarah Coyle and Dan Taylor (Egmont) crams in more exciting characters than you ever thought possible. When Errol's mum is too busy to tell him a story, he's tasked with making up his own. The trouble is, everybody wants to be in it – even the dinosaurs! A brilliant read.

IN EVERY HOUSE, ON EVERY STREET by Jess Hitchman and Lili la Baleine (Little Tiger Press) peeks inside the rooms of an ordinary house and celebrates the simple joys of family life as well as the wonders of childhood imagination. Plus you can be a nosy neighbour because this gem comes with flaps to lift too!

PUGICORN by Matilda Rose and Tim Budgen (Hodder Children's Books) is 100% magical fun! Princess Ava dreams of owning a unicorn, but The Magic Pet Shop only has a stumpy little pugicorn left. Can Ava accept her new pet for who he is? Gorgeous art by one of our favourite Storytime illustrators!

NUTS! by Lou Peacock and Yasmeen Ismail (Nosy Crow) is perfect for very young readers. The vocabulary is super-simple – it uses just eleven different words throughout – and it delivers a fantastic lesson about sharing. Share this with any little squirrels you know who are prone to being possessive.

I'LL BE RIDING IN ON THE ROYAL TANDEM NEXT MONTH!



WIN!

Want to win these gorgeous new picture books? Make sure you enter our monthly competition: storytimemagazine.com/win

