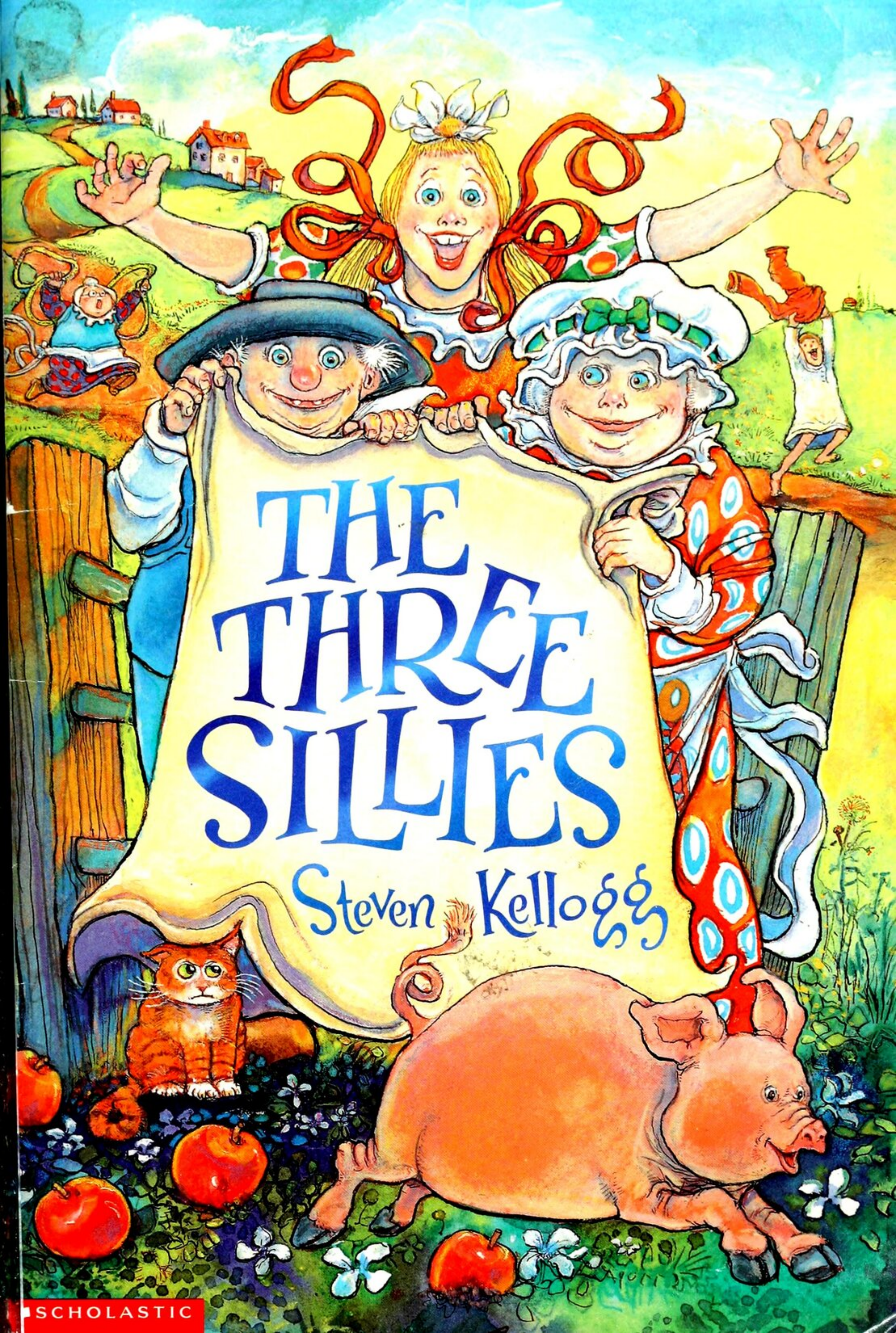
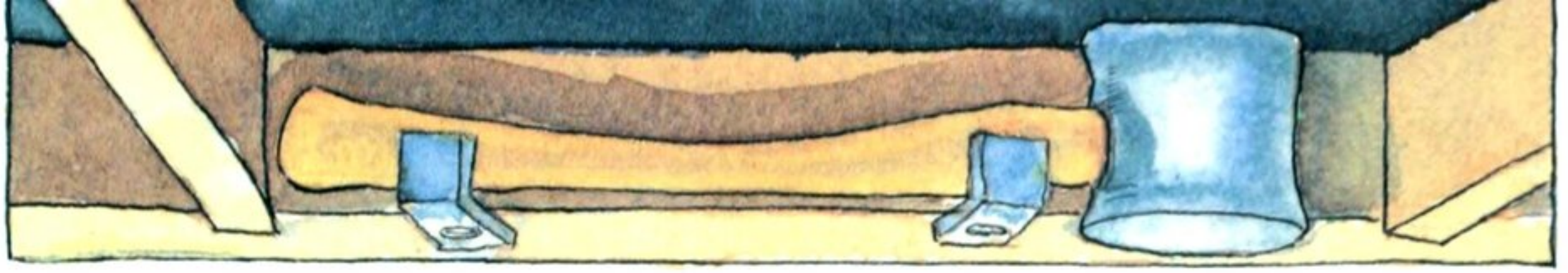




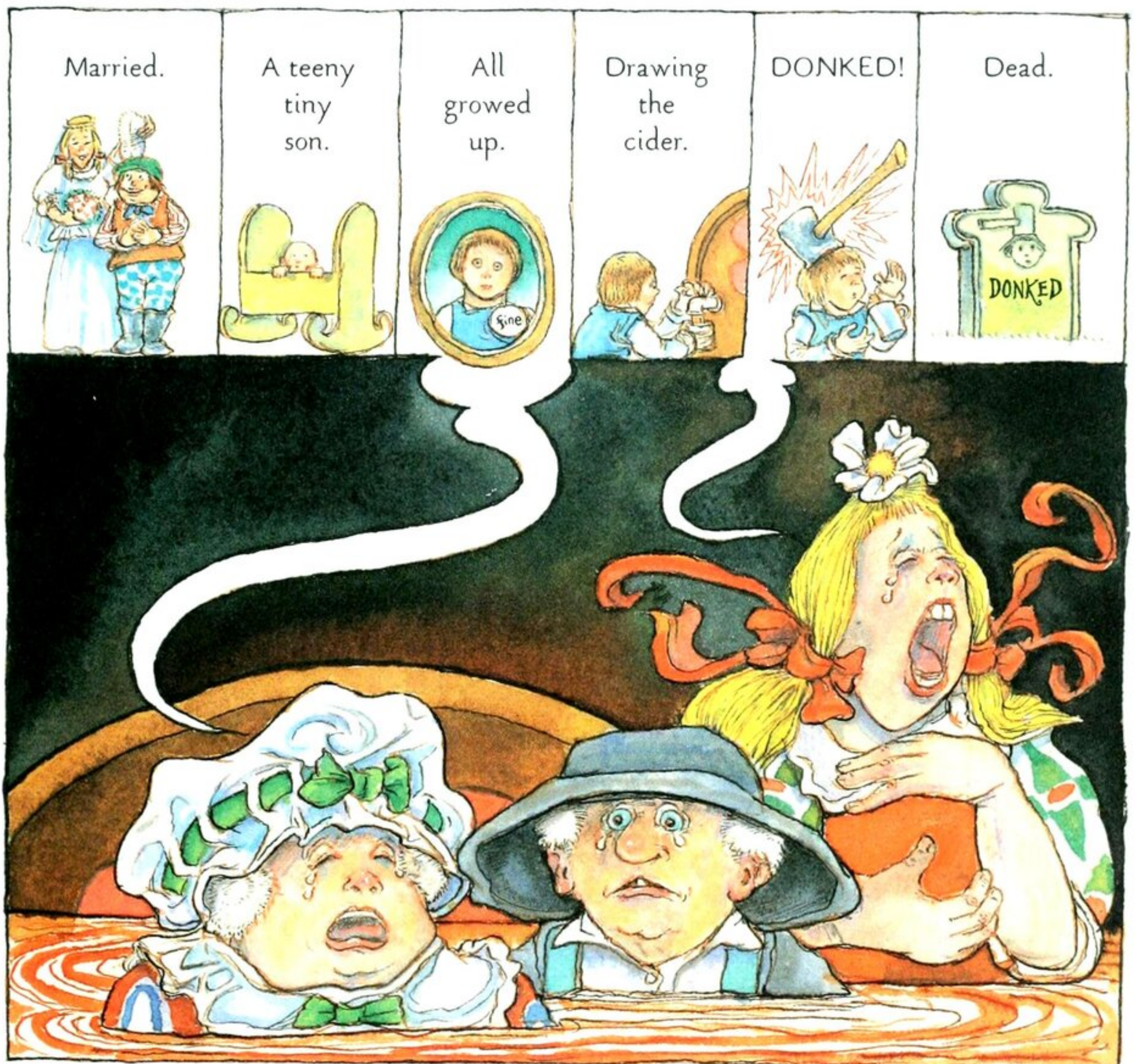
THE THREE SILLIES

Steven Kellogg



Then after a while the father went down to look for them.

"Look at that horrid mallet," screamed the mother, and she told him all that their daughter had been a-thinking.



"Dear, dear, dear!" said the father, and he started a-crying.



At last the gentleman got tired of waiting, and he went to draw a sip of cider for himself. And wasn't he surprised to find the farmer and his wife and daughter a-sobbing and a-screeching and a-swimming in the cellar full of cider.

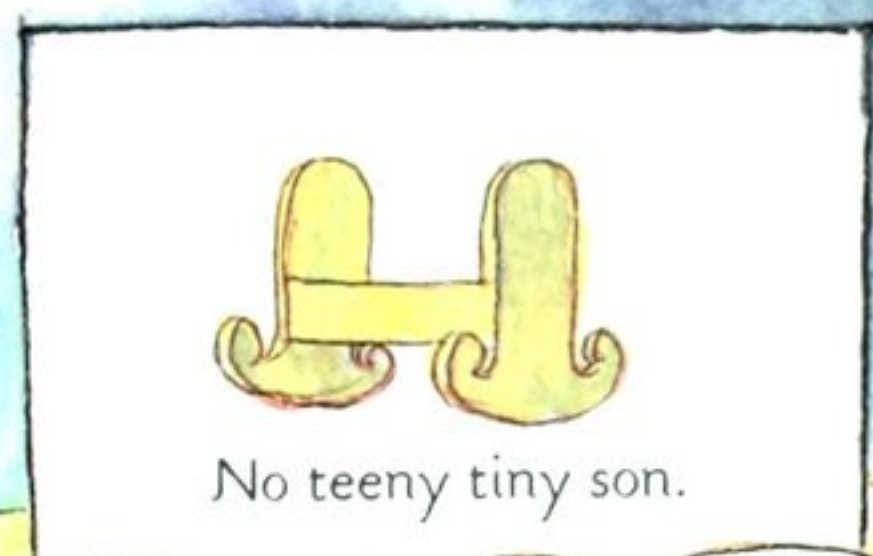
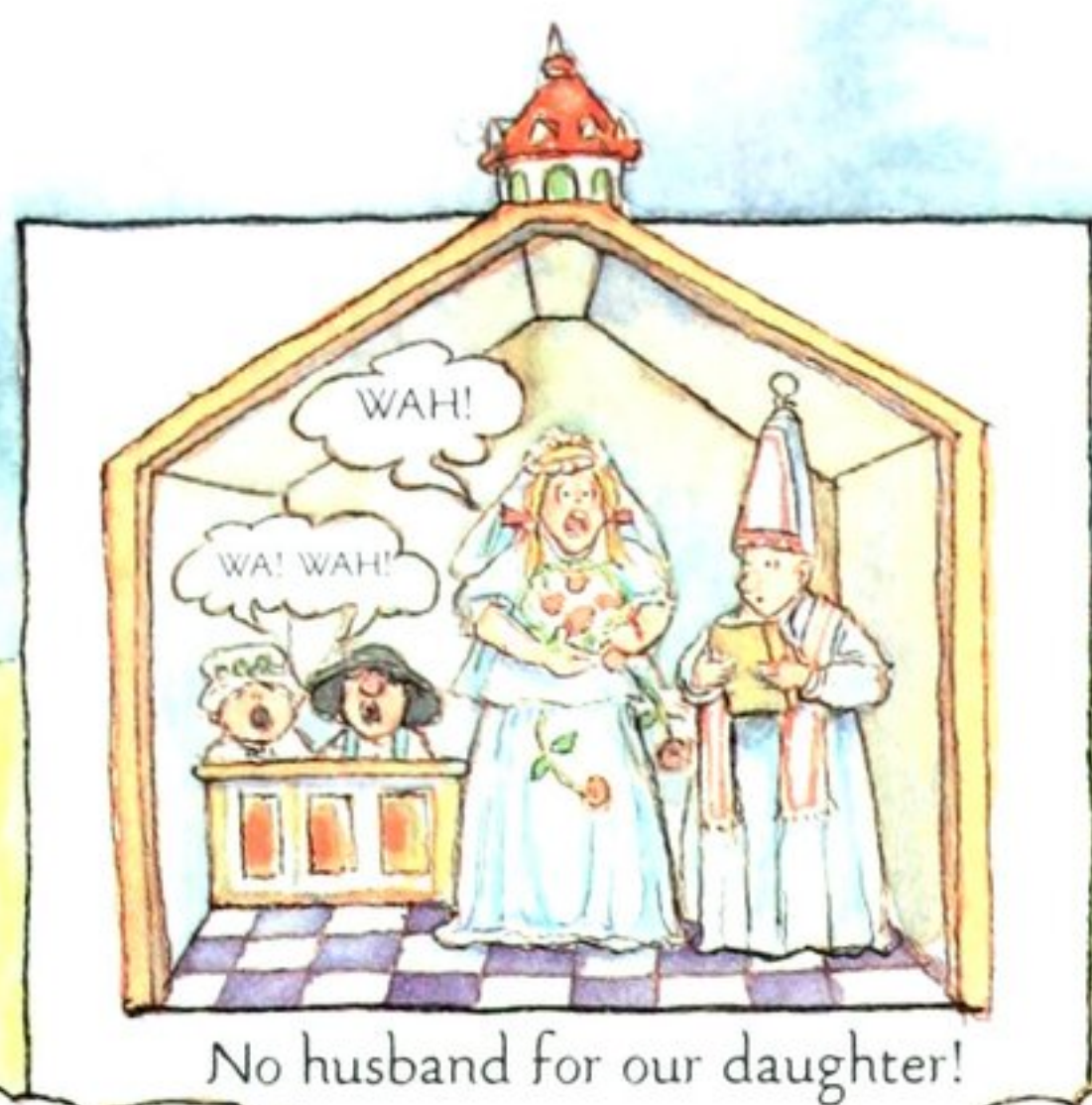
The gentleman burst out a-laughing.



"In all my travels I've never met three sillier sillies," said he.

"Now I shall set out traveling again, and when I can find three sillies who are even sillier than you three, I'll come back and marry your daughter."

And the gentleman left them all a-wailing worse than before!



THE SILLIER SILLIES LIST

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Get lost, bozo.



After traveling awhile the gentleman came upon an old woman who was teaching a cow to spring onto the roof of her cottage to eat the weeds that were a-growing there.

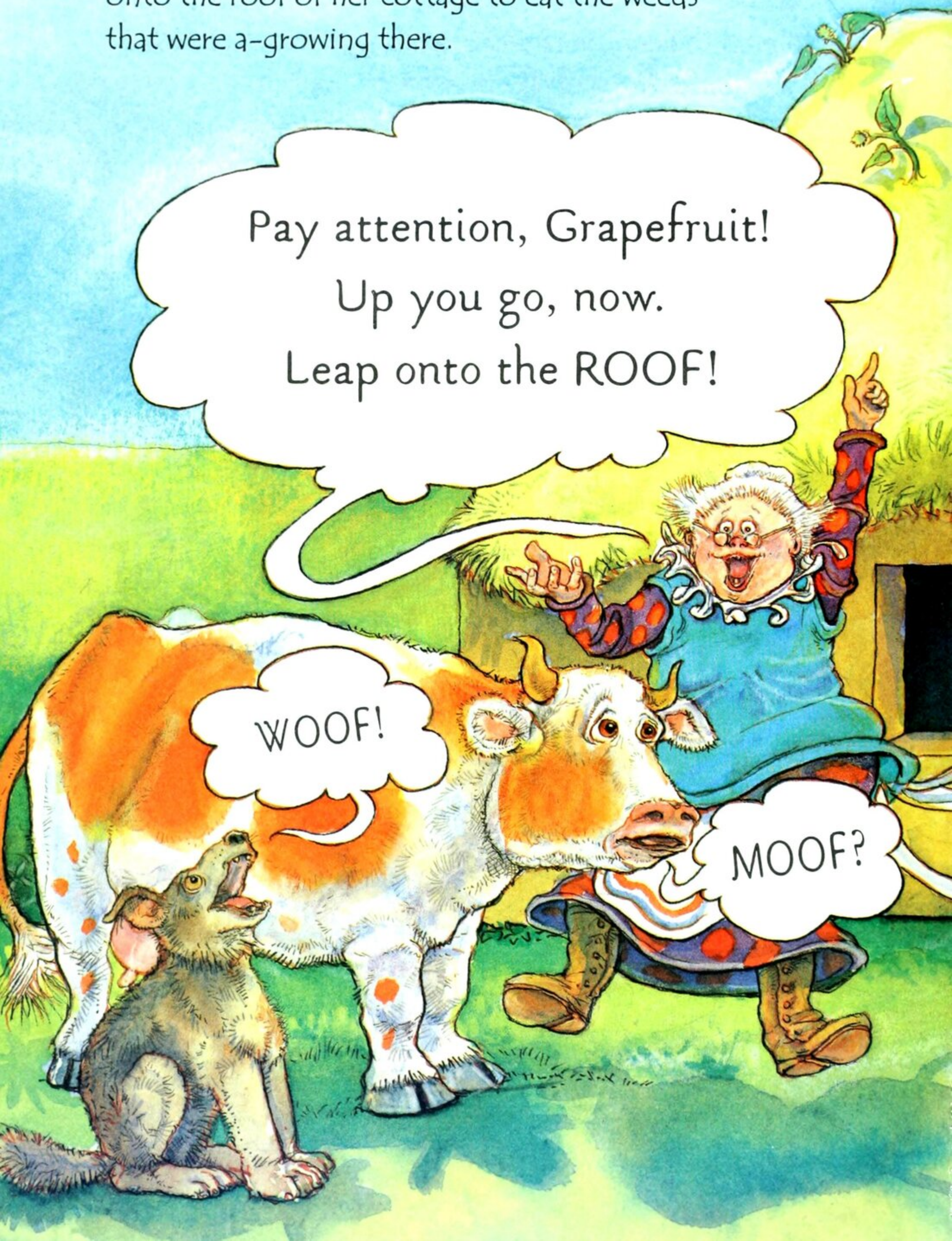
Pay attention, Grapefruit!

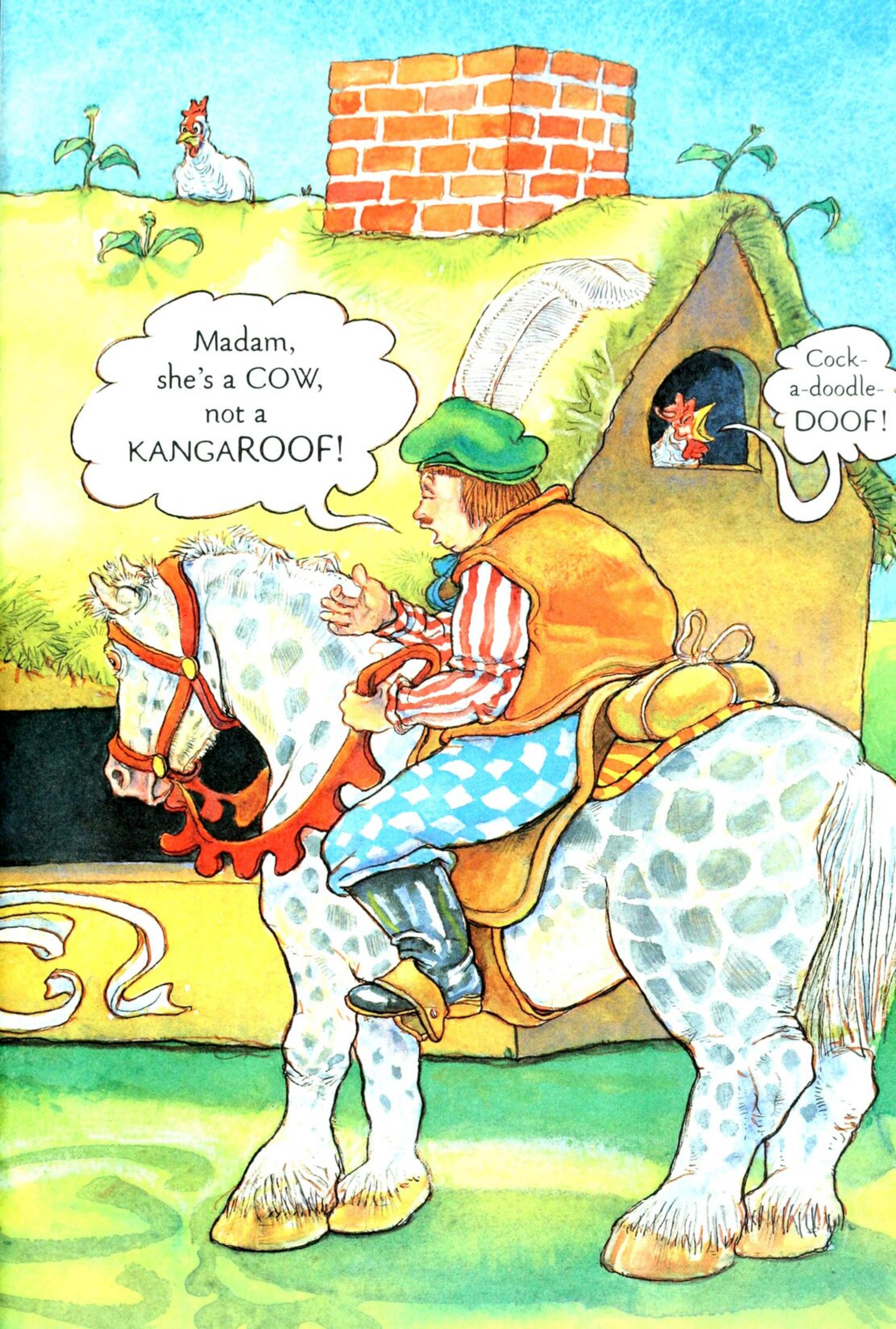
Up you go, now.

Leap onto the ROOF!

WOOF!

MOOF?



A colorful illustration of a man riding a white kangaroo with large blue spots. The man is wearing a green beret, a red and white striped shirt, a brown cape, and blue and white checkered pants. He is holding the kangaroo's ears. The kangaroo has a red collar with a yellow bell. In the background, there is a brick wall, a white chicken, and a small brown hut with a white chimney. A speech bubble from the man says, "Madam, she's a COW, not a KANGAROOF!". A speech bubble from the chicken says, "Cock-a-doodle-DOOF!".

Madam,
she's a COW,
not a
KANGAROOF!

Cock-
a-doodle-
DOOF!

The old woman insisted.

Listen,
you bovine
GOOF, I said,
PUFF... POOF
up on the
ROOF!

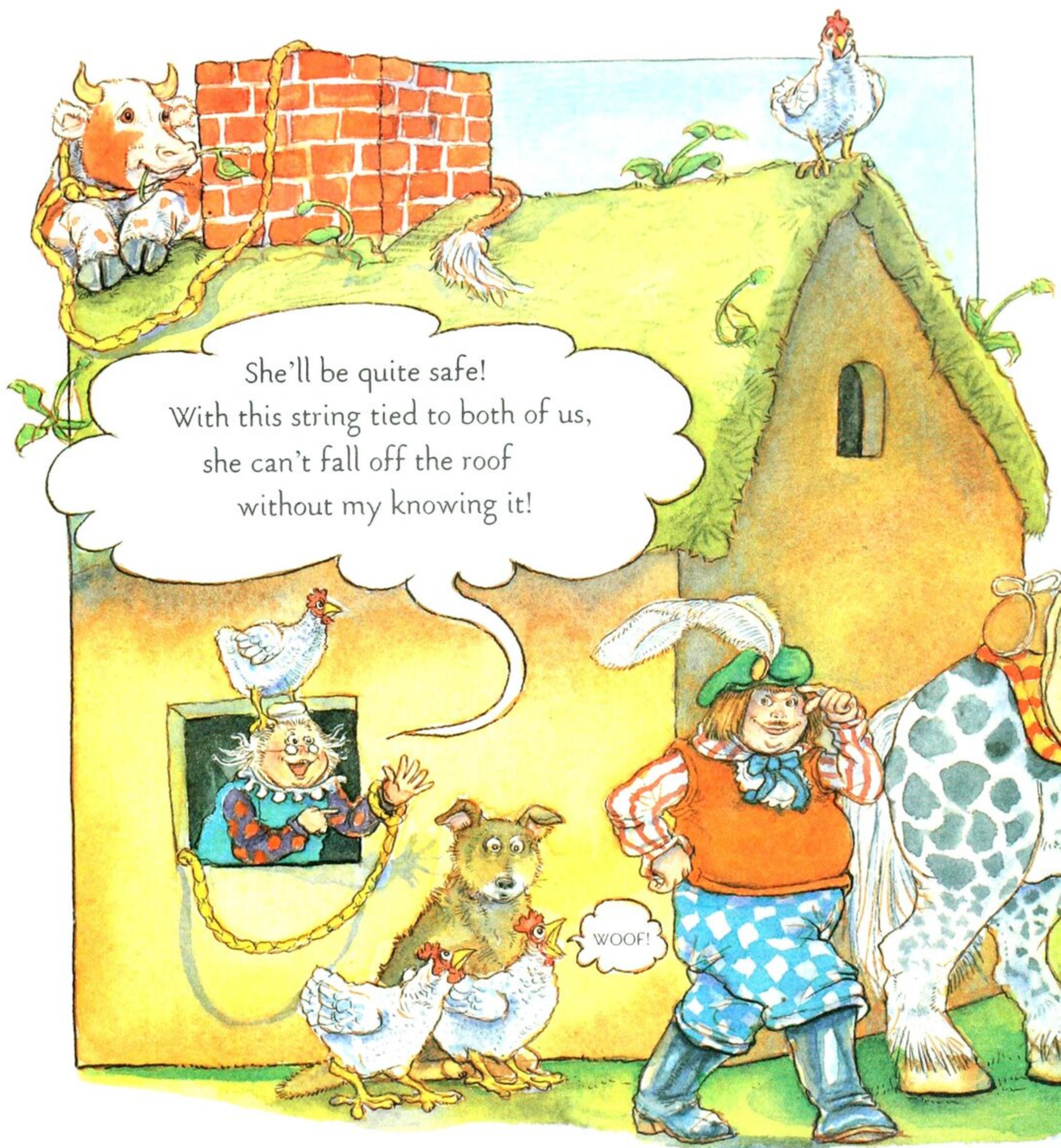
WOOF

MOOOOOOOF!

OOF!
Move
your
hoof!

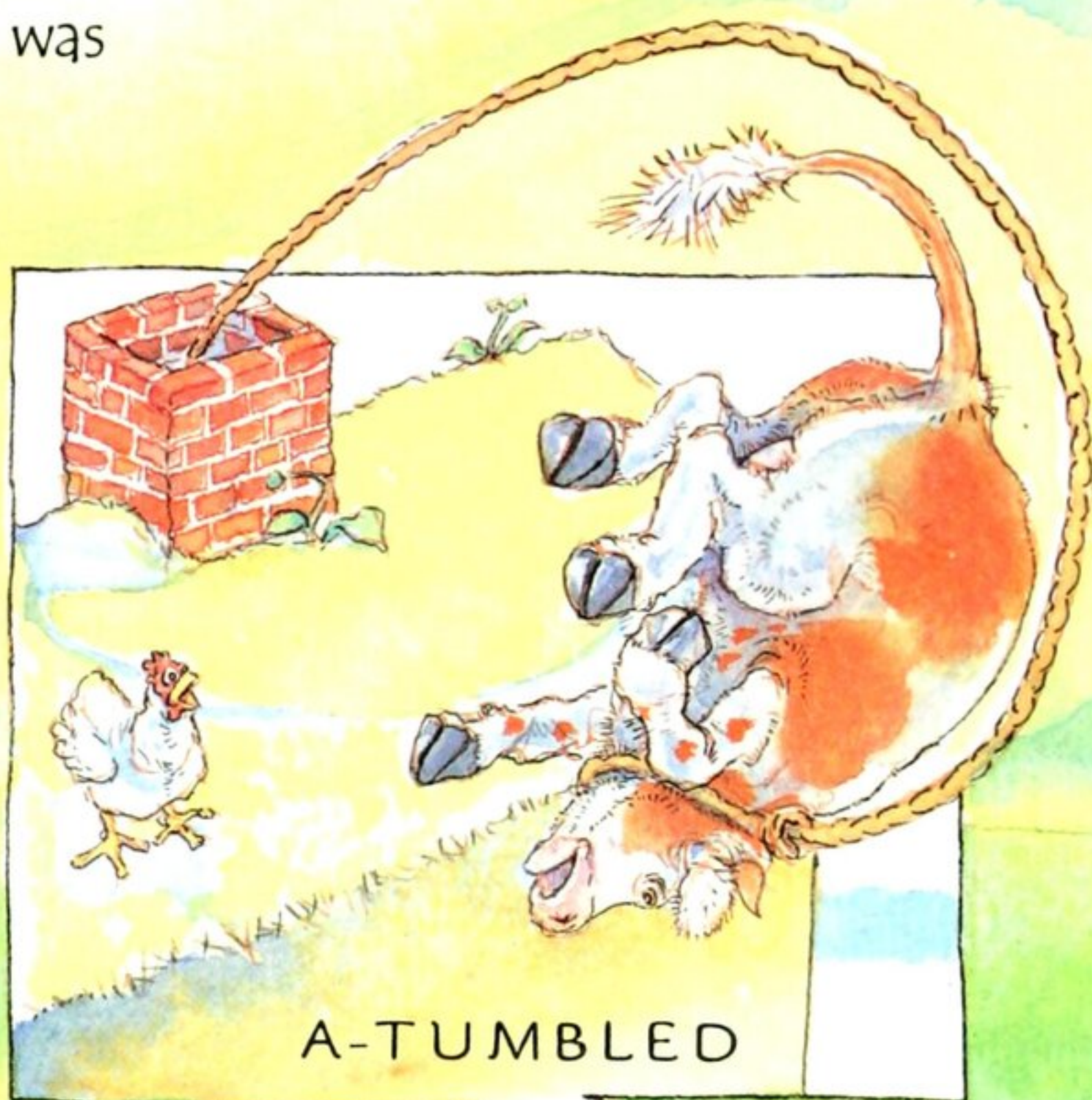
Finally
she
got
the
cow
up.

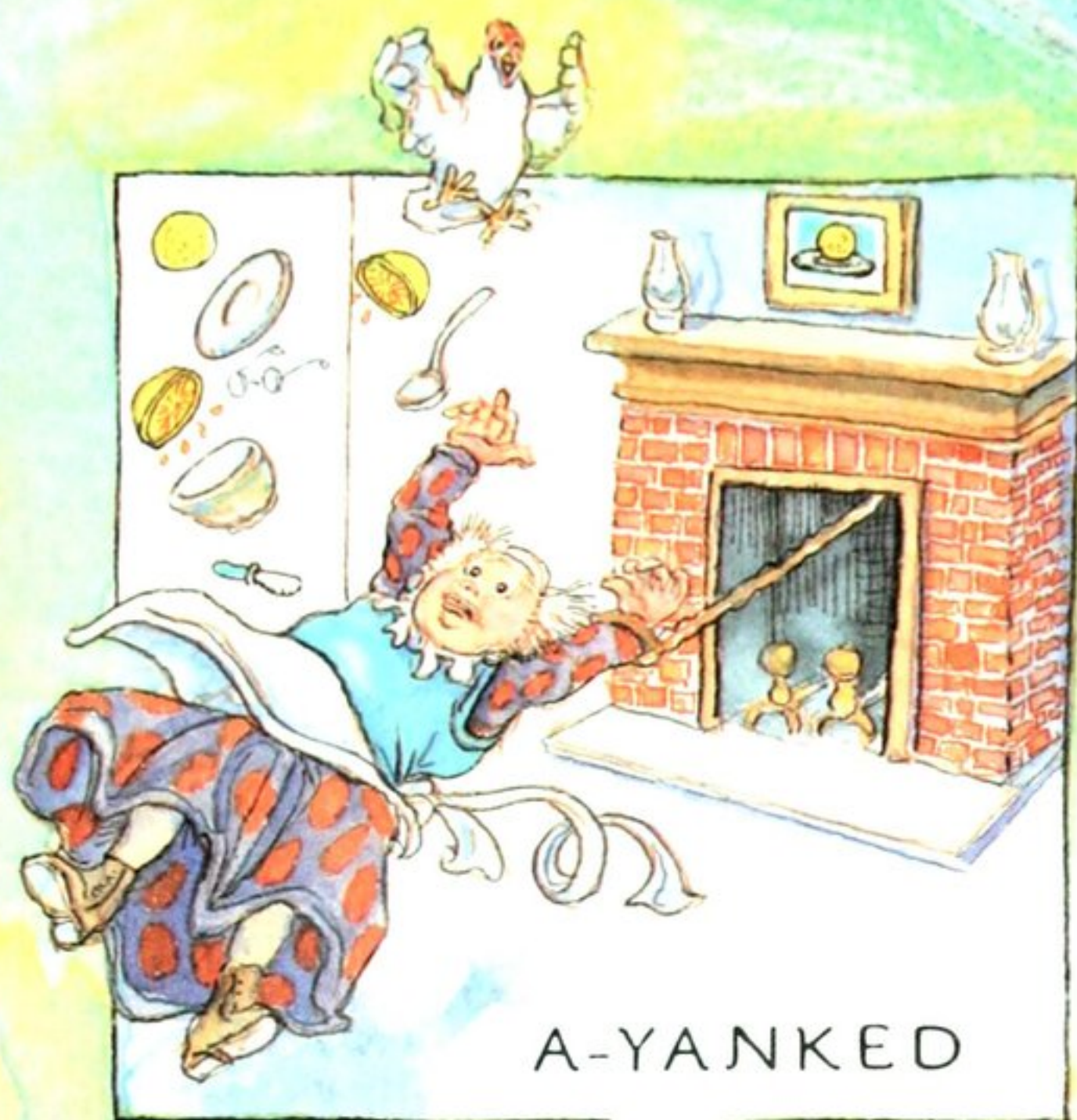
Then the old woman fastened a string around the cow's neck, and passed it down the chimney, and tied the other end to her wrist.



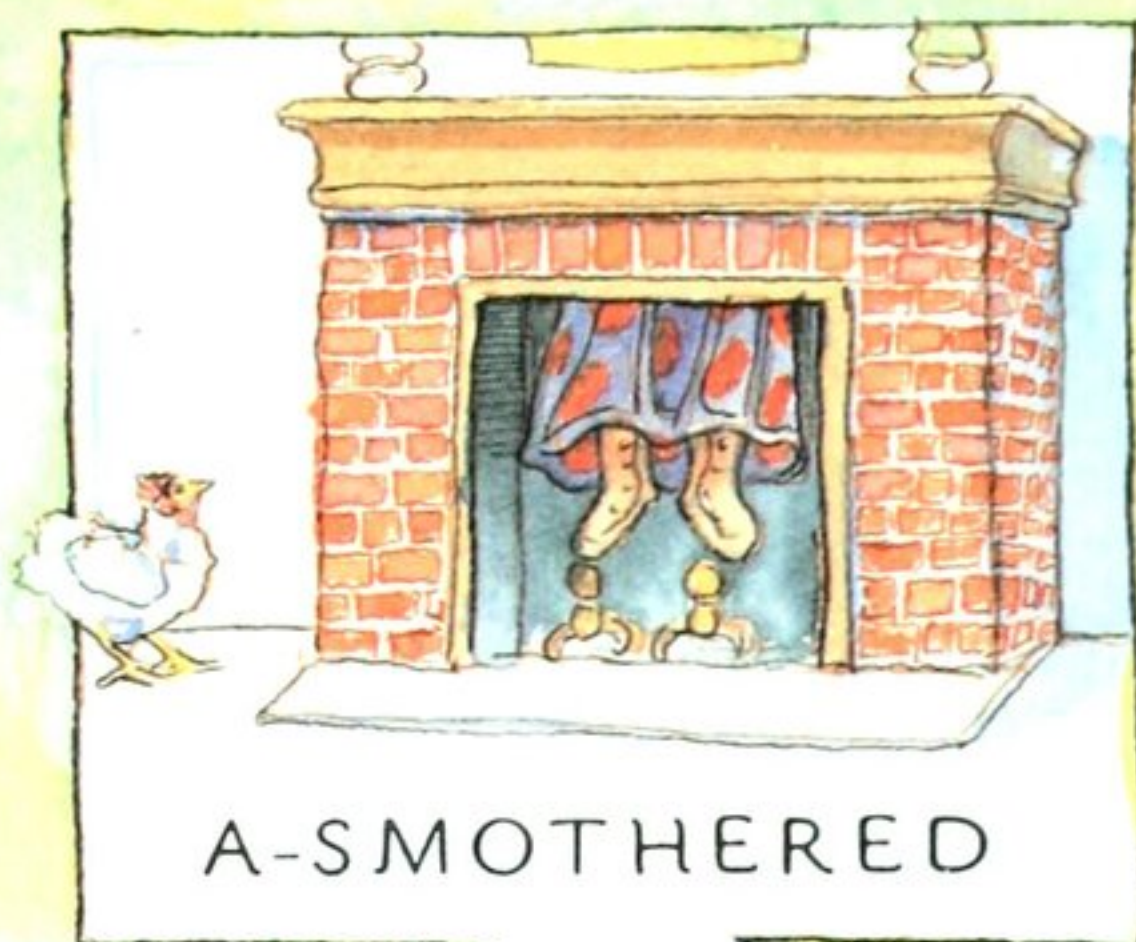
"Quite daft!" said the gentleman, and he took his leave.

The gentleman hadn't gone far when he was overtaken by a funeral procession, and he heard a dreadful tale. It seemed the old woman's cow had tumbled off the roof, and the weight of the cow had pulled the old woman into the chimney, and she got stuck halfway up and was smothered in soot.





A-YANKED



A-SMOTHERED



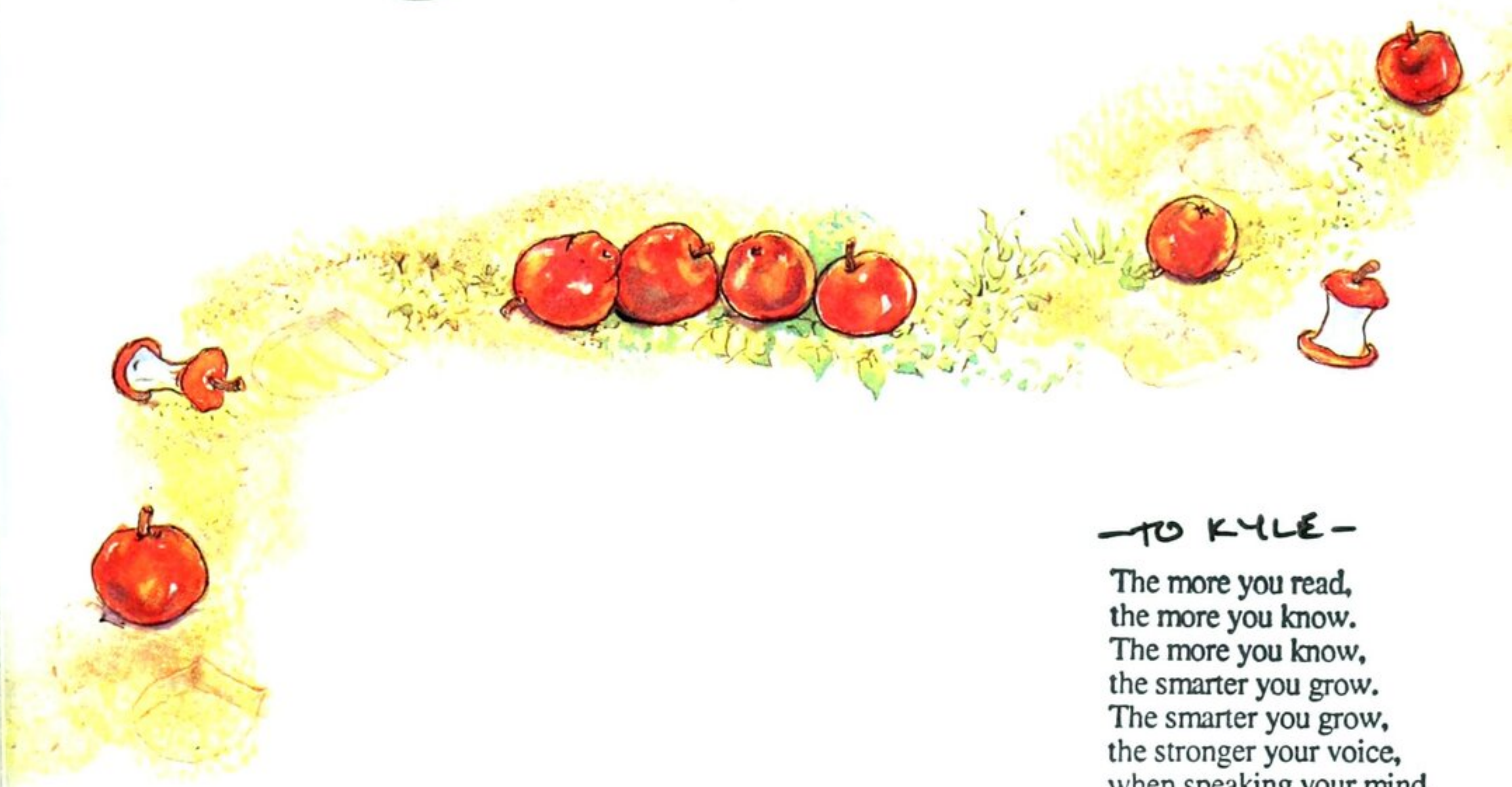
Well, that was the FIRST big silly.



THE THREE



Sillies

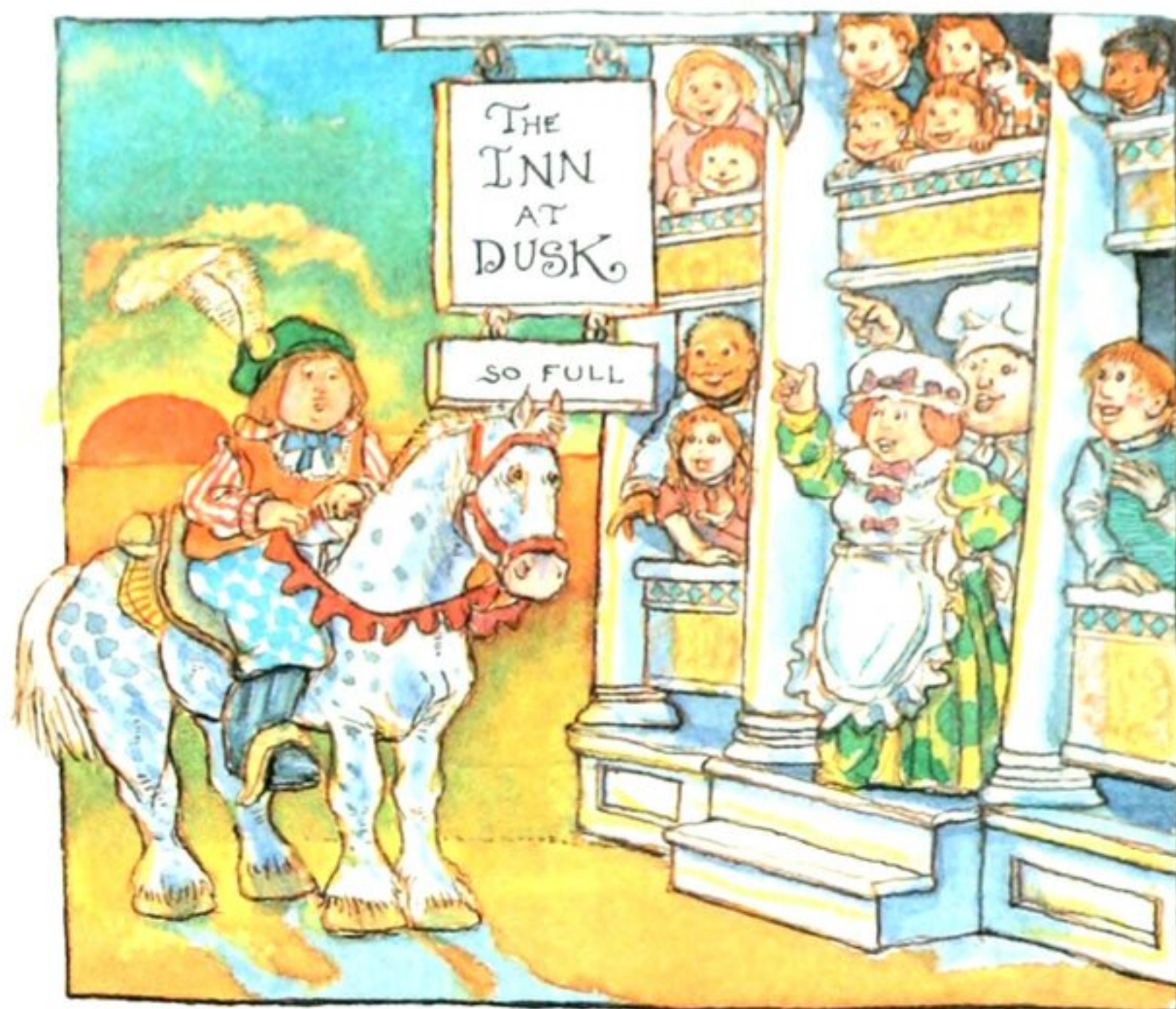
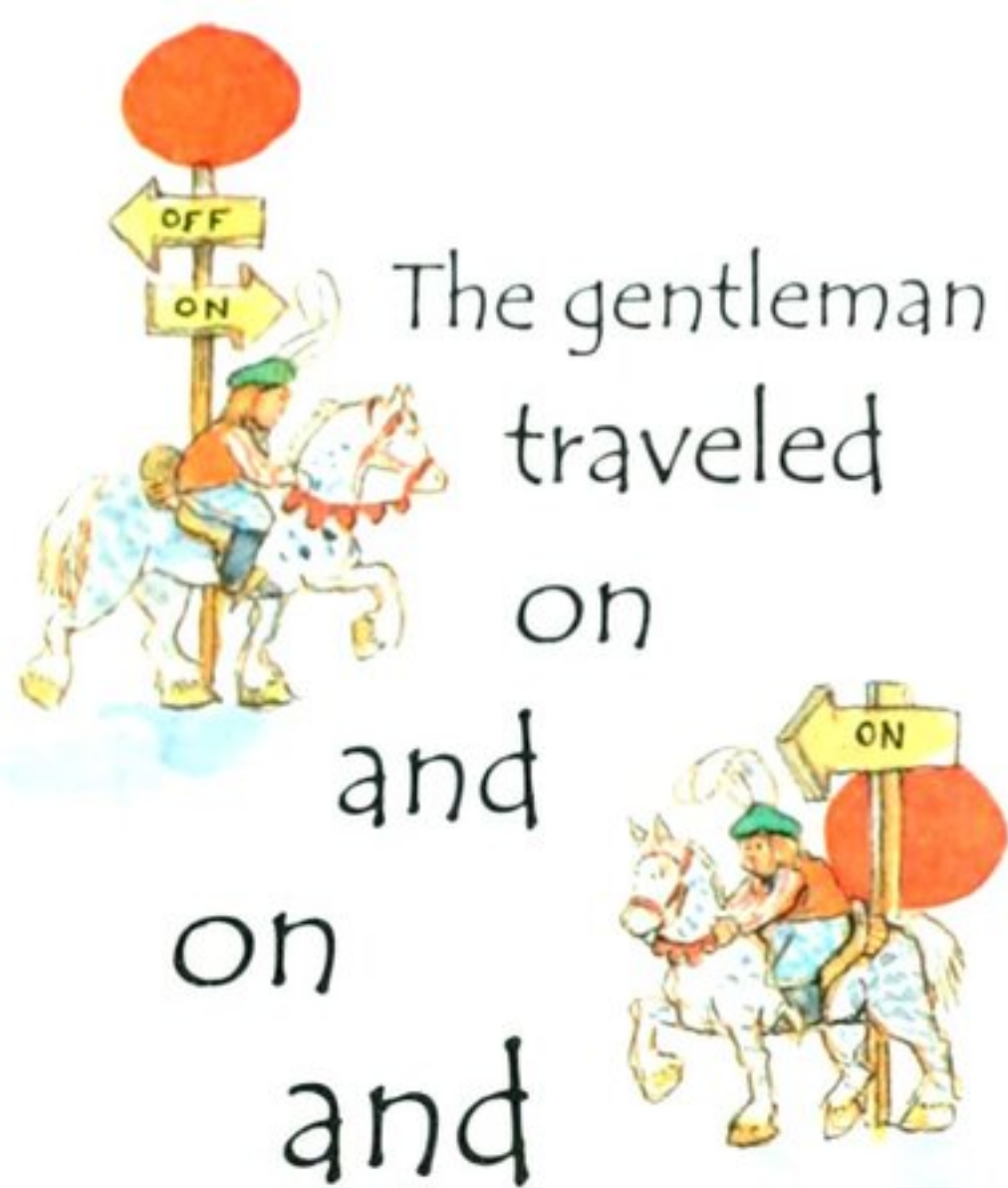


—TO KYLE—

The more you read,
the more you know.
The more you know,
the smarter you grow.
The smarter you grow,
the stronger your voice,
when speaking your mind
or making your choice.

Happy reading!

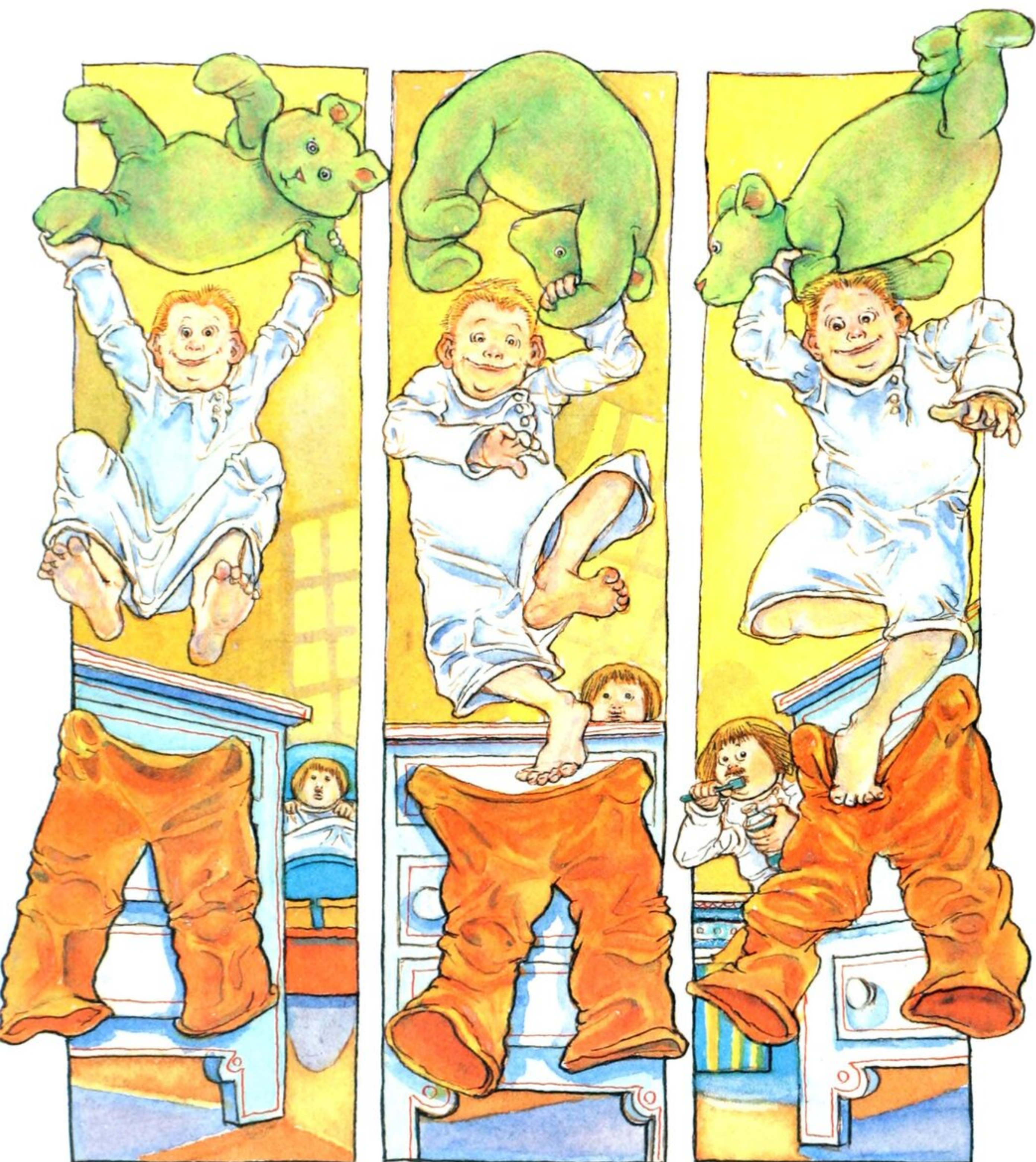
Mayor Thompson
May 2001



on until he came to an inn at dusk. The inn was so full that the innkeeper put him in a double-bedded room.



In the morning the gentleman was surprised to see his roommate hang his trousers on the knobs of the chest of drawers and try to jump into them.



He tried over

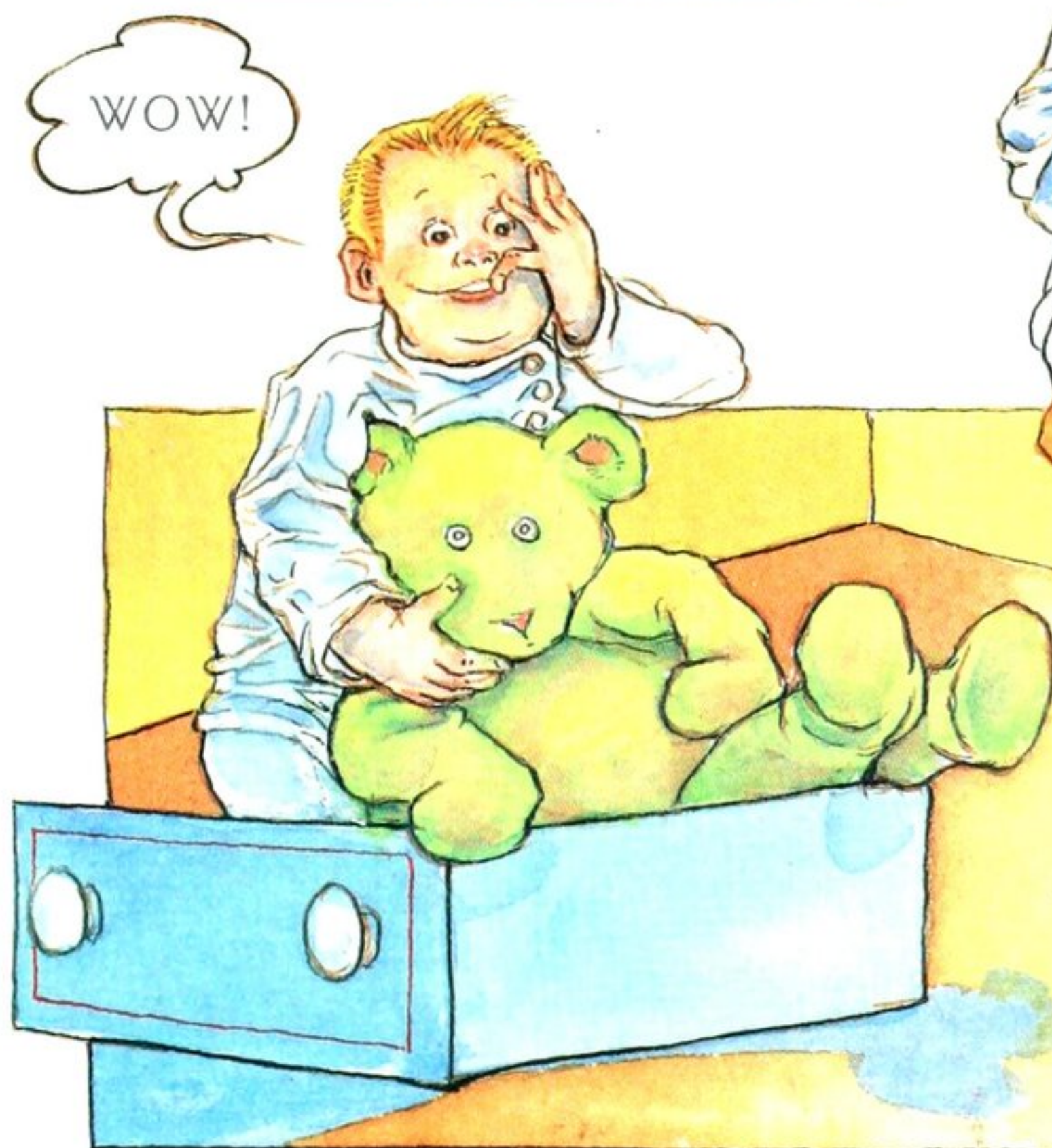
and over

and over again.



But he
couldn't
manage
it.

"Look, try it this way,"
said the gentleman, and
he showed the fellow how
to put his trousers on.



UP
is ON!



The fellow
proceeded
to pop
his trousers
on and off
and up and down
until he had
quite
mastered
the skill.

DOWN
is OFF!



Then he burst joyfully into song!

I sally forth with pants unfurled
to share my talent with the world!



When it comes to
getting dressed,
I'm the CHAMPION!
I'm the BEST!

That fellow's
mad! BERSERK!
POSSESSED!

Put him
under
ARREST!

He's a
public PEST!

Hee! Hee! Hee!

THE SILLIER
SILLIES LIST

1. Granny
MacRoot
2. Neddie
the Nut
- 3.

Well,
that
was the
SECOND
big silly.

The gentleman's travels soon brought him to a village,
and outside the village there was a pond, and around the
pond was a crowd of people with rakes and brooms
and pitchforks, a-whining, a-whimpering,
and a-wailing.



Whimper.

Wheeze.

Weep.

Whine.

Sigh.

Sob.

Sniff.

Snort.

Snuffle.

Well, that was
DOZENS of SILLIES!

But before the gentleman could
complete his list, the crowd became
a-restive, a-riled,
and a-riotous.



Giddyup, Hoofenheap!
Suddenly I long to see those sunny
sillies back on the farm!

PUMPKINHEAD!

LOUT!

And so he took his leave.



The gentleman was heartened by the joyous welcome that awaited him.

"Dear, sweet, simple-minded sillies," he said. "In my travels I have met dozens of sillies who are far sillier than yourselves. Therefore I shall keep my promise. Let us be married at once!"



They hastened to the chapel.



The more you read,
the more you know.
The more you know,
the more you grow.
The more you grow,
the more you choose.
The more you choose,
the more you live.



After the wedding all of the guests
were invited to celebrate at the farmhouse.

A-WOP-BOPPA-LOO-BOPPA-
LOP-BAM-BOOM!

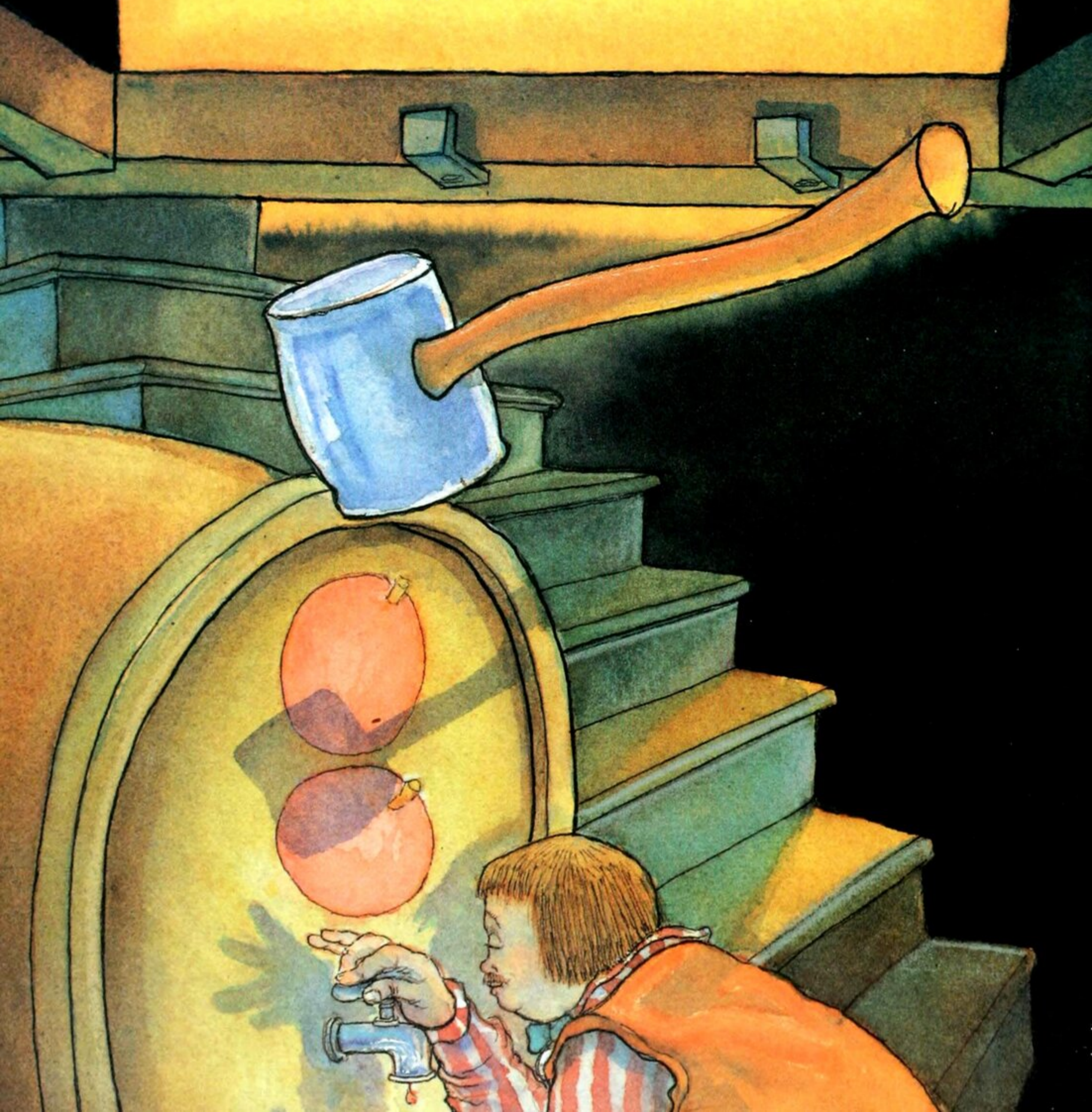


The gentleman went to the cellar to draw jugs
of cider so that all could toast his new bride.





Just as he turned on the tap, the
galumphing footsteps of the dancers
above joggled the mallet loose.

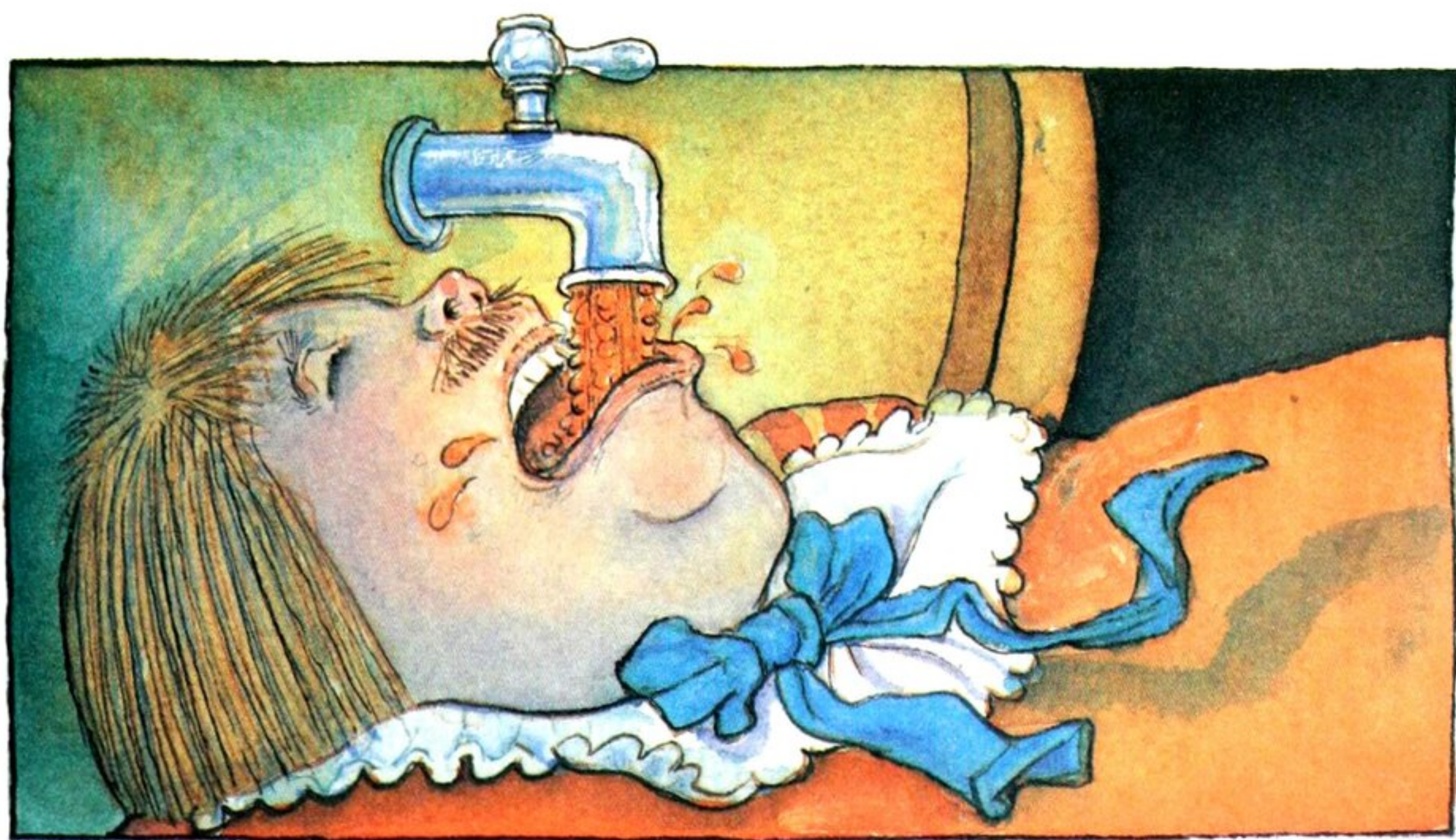


Down it fell, directly DONKING the gentleman.



Then it bounced back and settled itself on the very beam from which it had been dislodged.

Stunned, the gentleman keeled over and rolled under the flowing tap.



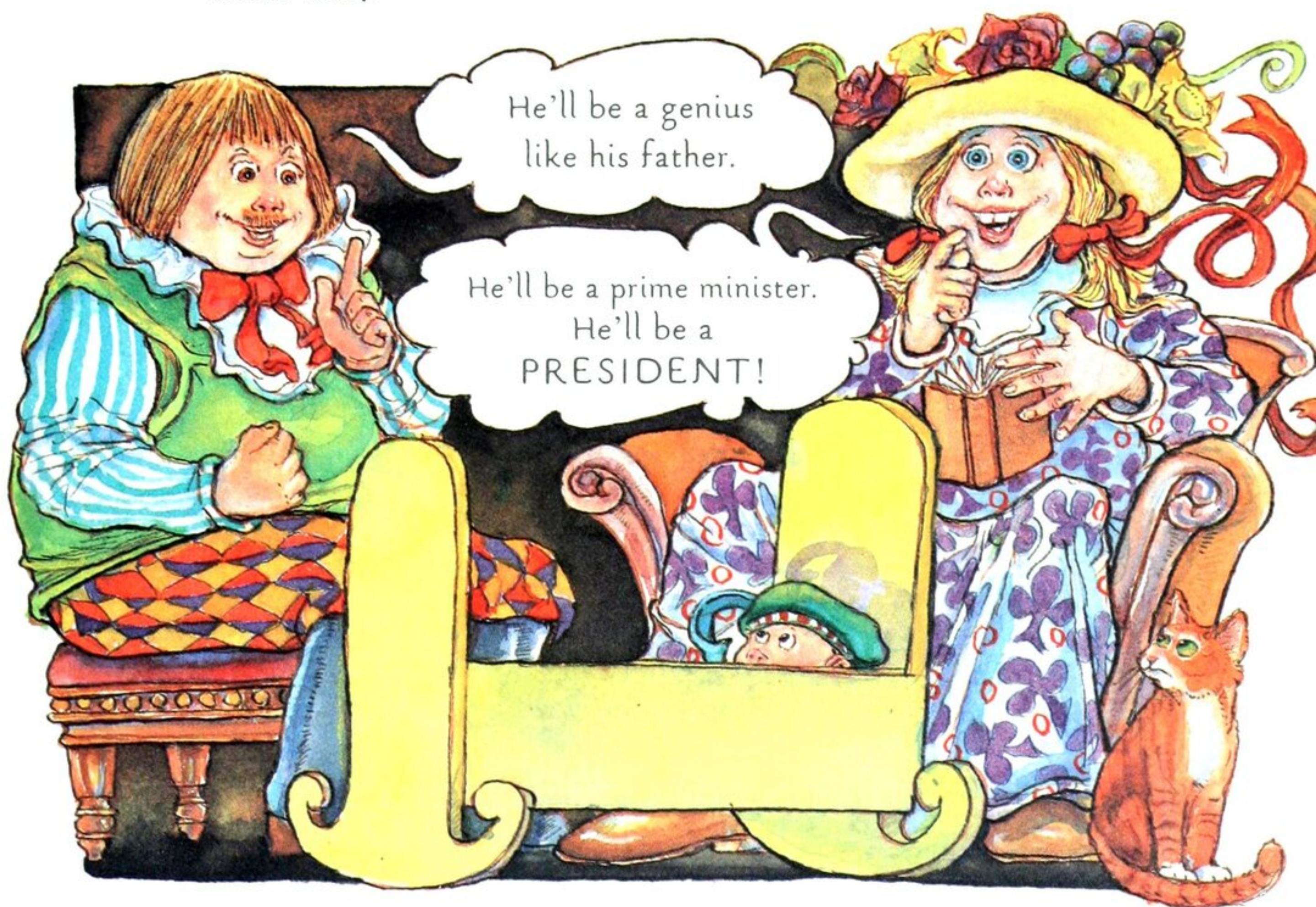
The entire keg of cider had drained into the gentleman before he was discovered by his bride. She hauled him back to the celebration.



It wasn't long before the gentleman and his wife were blessed with a child.



The proud parents imagined a brilliant future for their son.

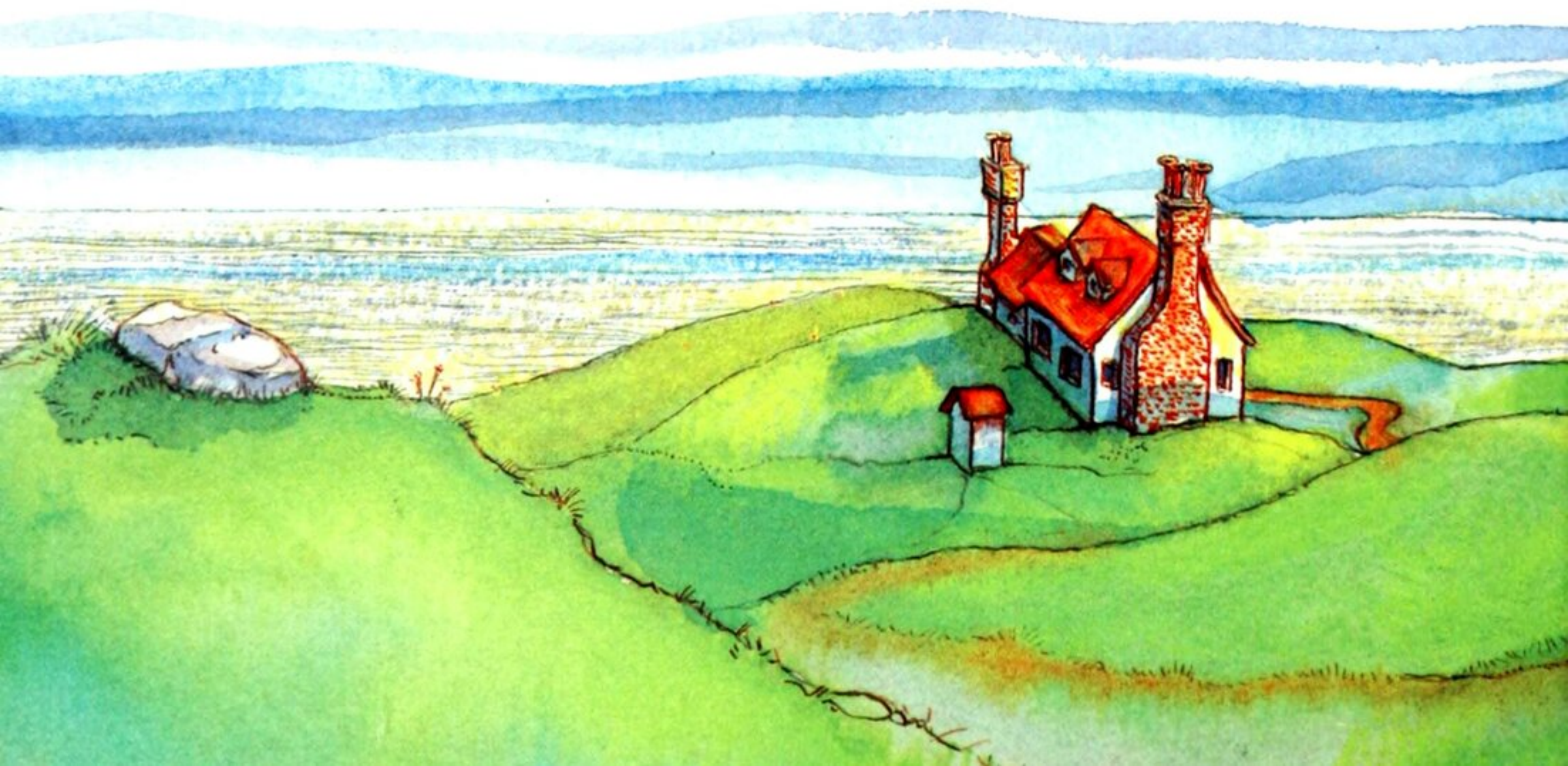


Finally the tyke spoke for himself.

When I grow up I want to be a
GREAT BIG SILLY just like my
MOM and
DAD!



And so those three sillies set off around the world in search of silly adventures, and they lived forever afterward in blissful silliness.

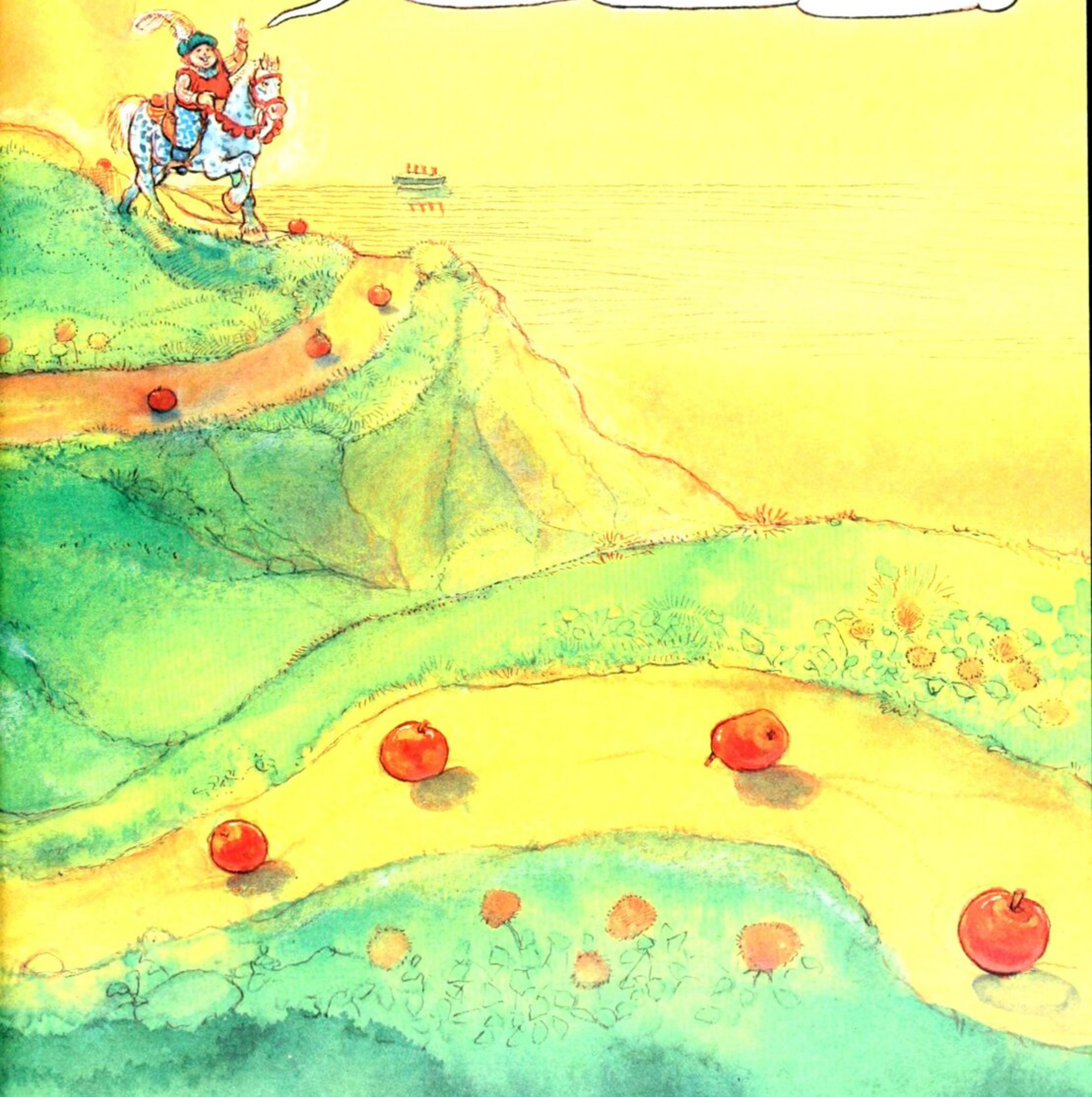






HEE! HEE! HEE!

HI, HO,
HOOFENHEAP,
A-COURTING WE WILL GO!







This edition is only
available for distribution through
the school market.

SCHOLASTIC INC.

0-439-27592-X

TO THE WONDERFUL
DELANEYS,
with love from the silliest silly in the land.

W

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The inspiration for this retelling of "The Three Sillies" was Joseph Jacobs's 1890 classic, *English Fairy Tales*. In his notes and references he gives credit to an earlier version from the journal *Folk Lore* that "was communicated by Miss C. Burne." He also mentions one that was "told in Essex at the beginning of the century," and another from the collection of the Brothers Grimm.

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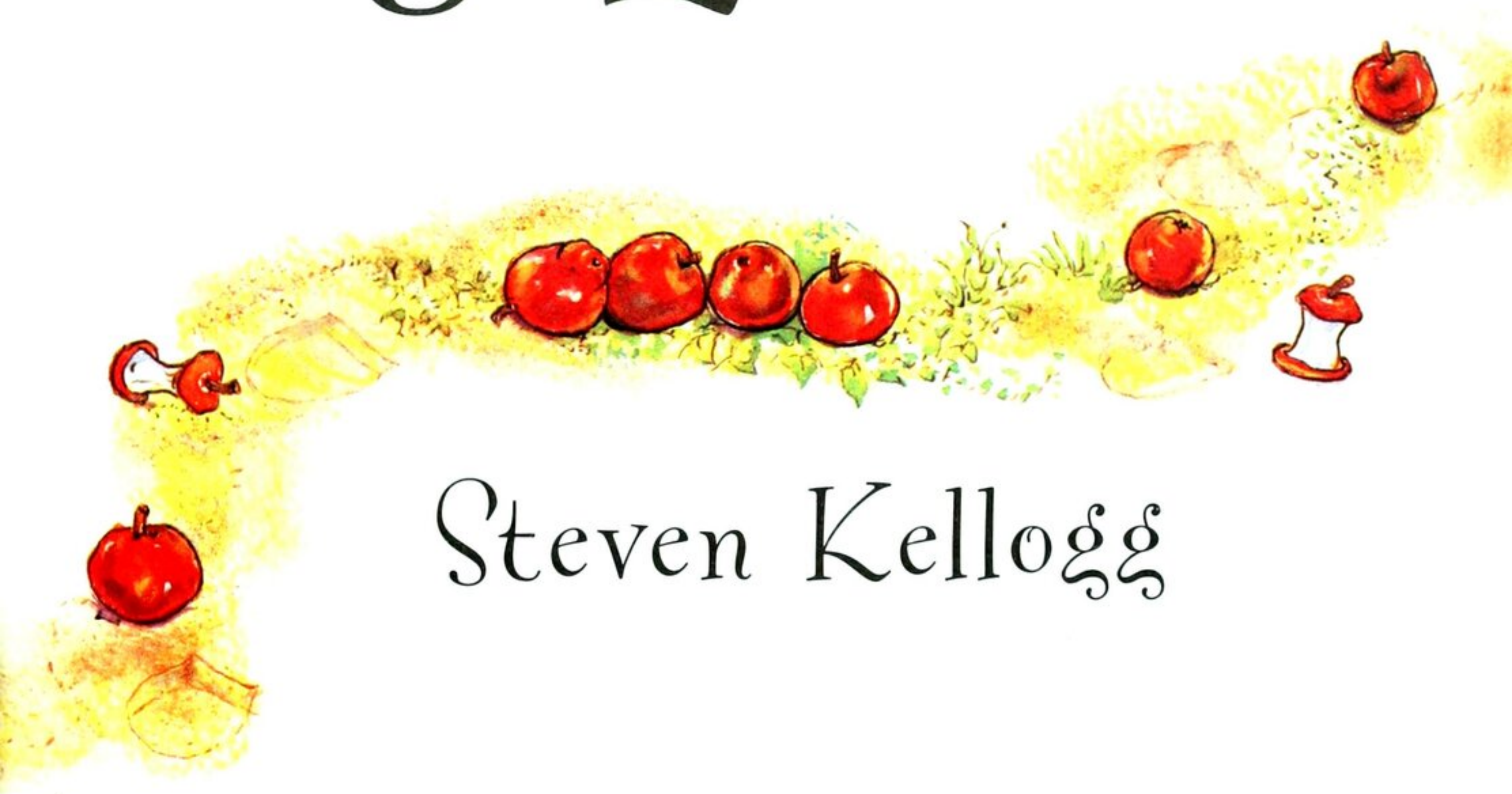
This book was typeset in Tempus Sans ITC and Gararond.
The illustrations were done in ink and watercolor.



THE THREE



SILLIES



Steven Kellogg

SCHOLASTIC INC.

New York Toronto London Auckland Sydney
Mexico City New Delhi Hong Kong

Once upon a time

there was a farmer and his wife who had one daughter, and she was courted by a gentleman.





Every evening he stopped to supper, and the daughter was sent to the cellar to draw the cider.

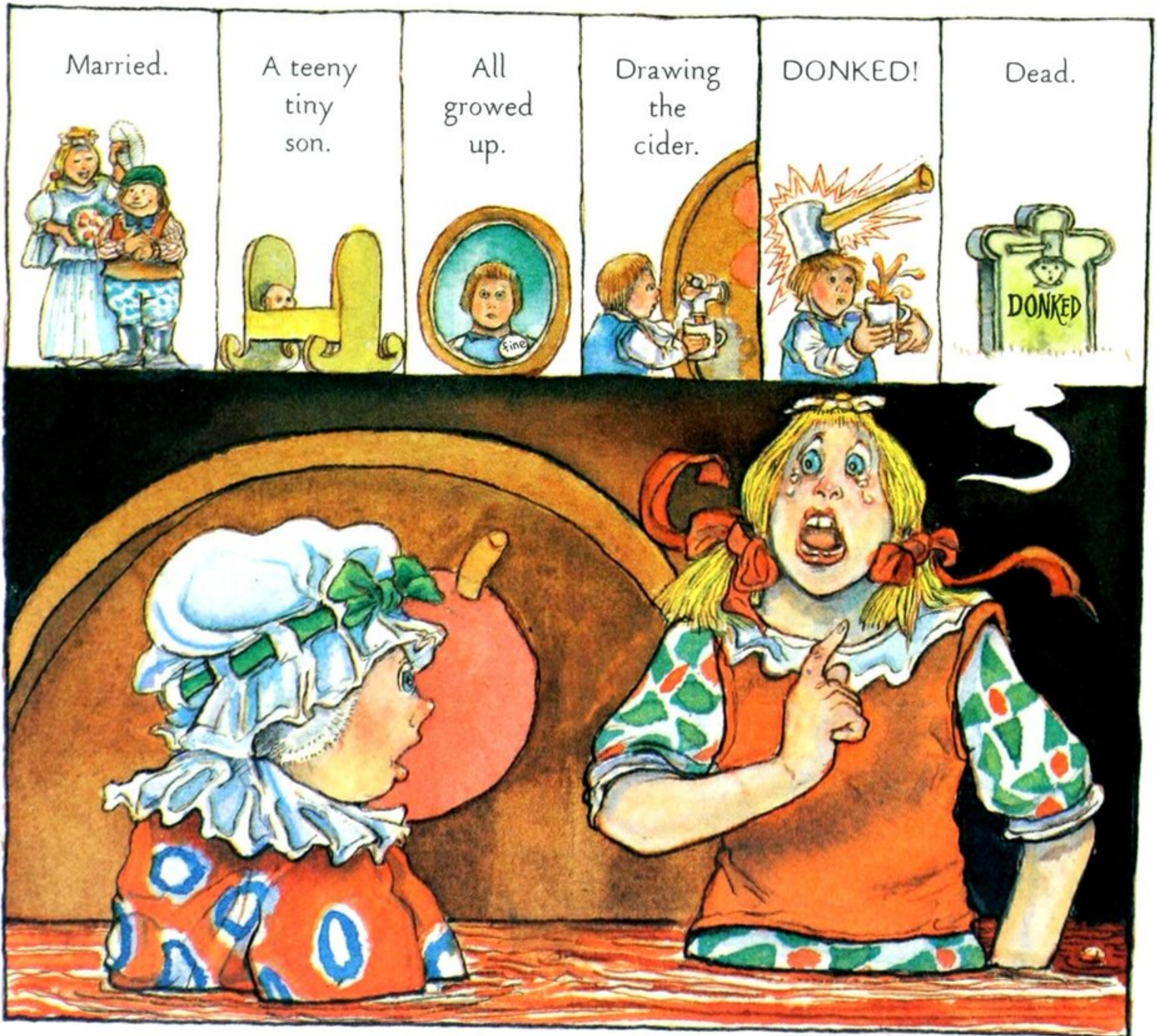
One night, just as the daughter turned on the tap, she noticed a mallet in the beams, and she began a-thinking.





Well, the girl failed to return with the cider, and finally her mother went down to see what was a-keeping her.

"Look at that horrid mallet!" shrieked the daughter, and she confessed all that she had been a-thinking.



"Dear, dear!" said the mother, and she began a-crying too.