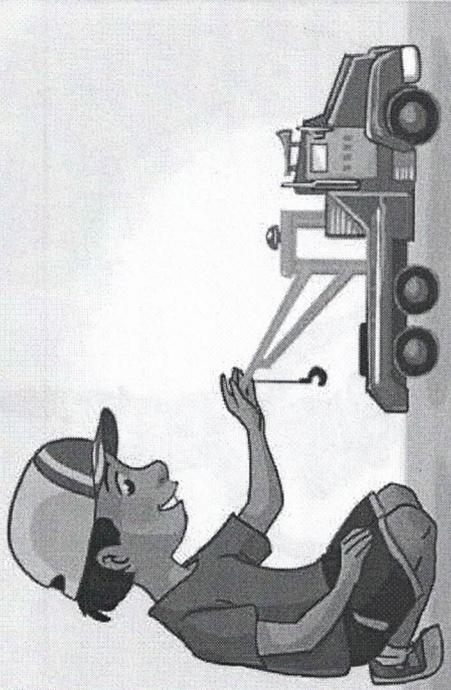


VUSD - English Language Arts

ORF Screener Student Materials

I see the
truck



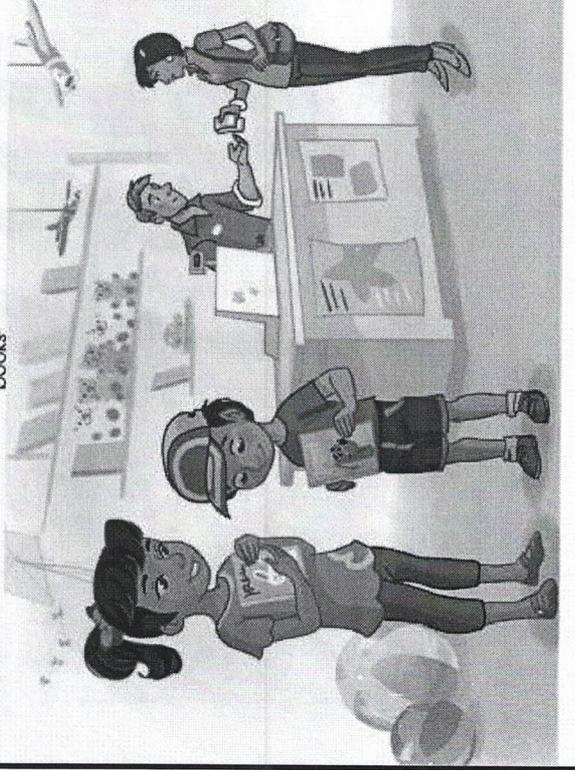
5

We see the
books



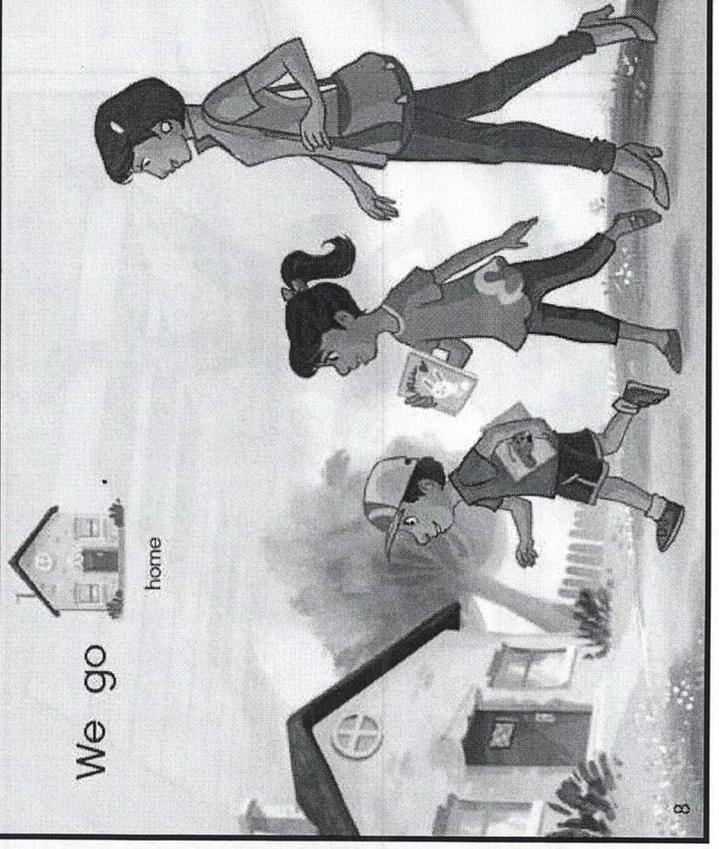
6

We like the
books

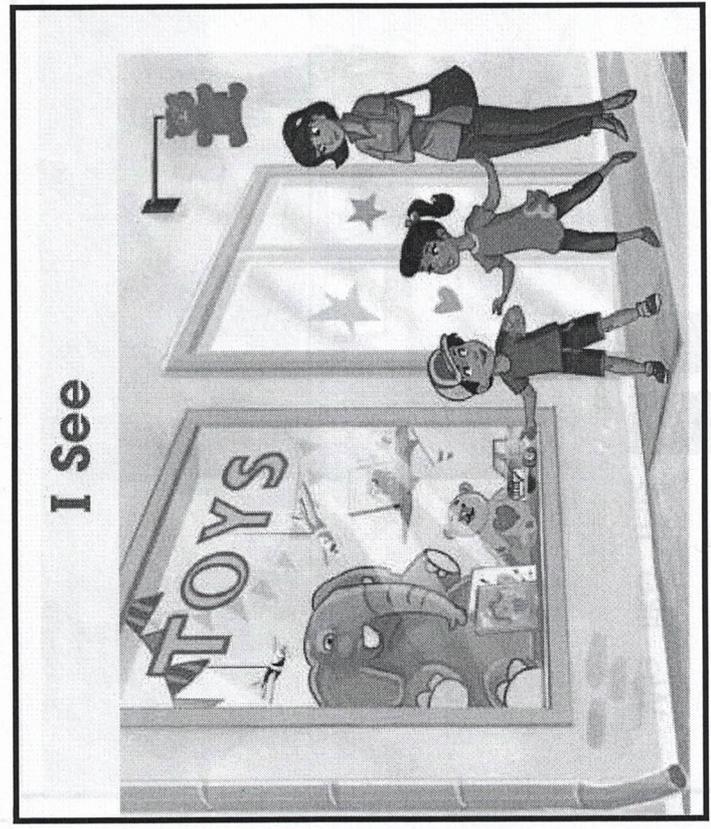
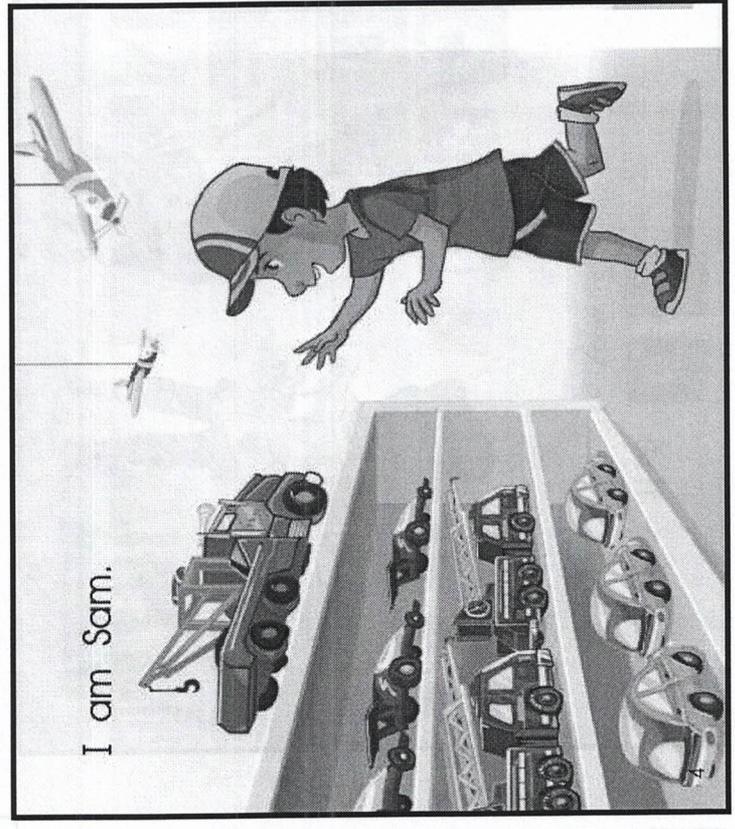


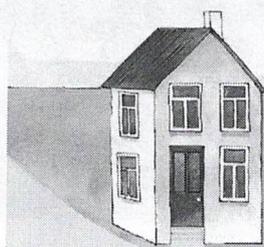
7

We go
home

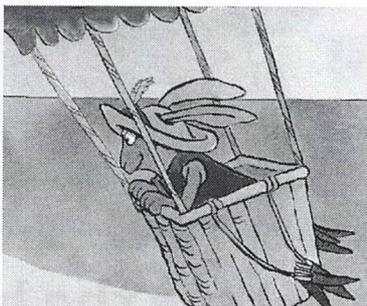
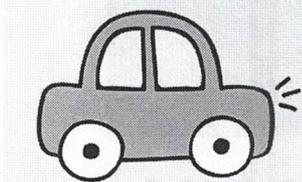


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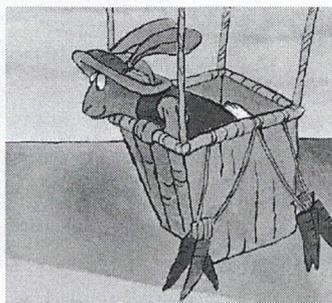
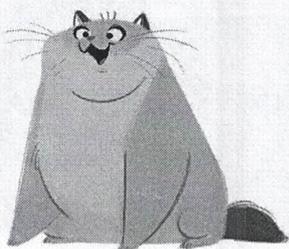




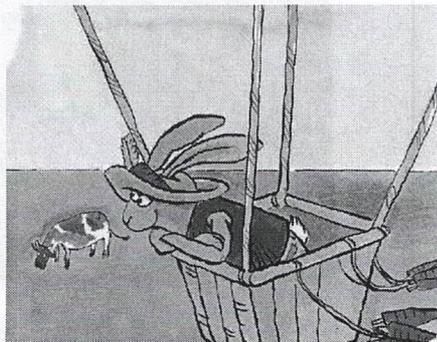
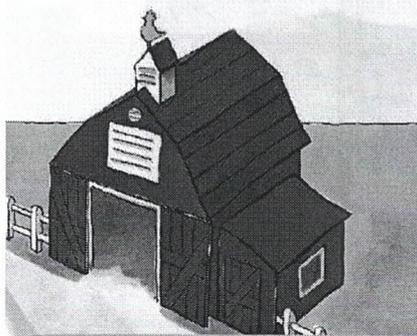
I see the nice house.



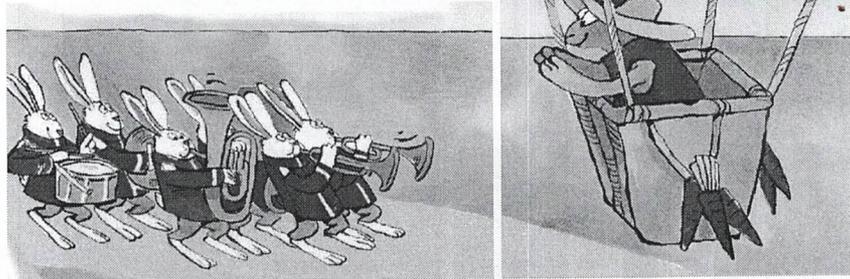
I see the fast car.



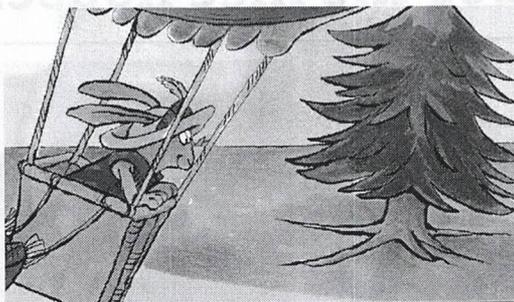
I see the fat cat.



I see the red barn.



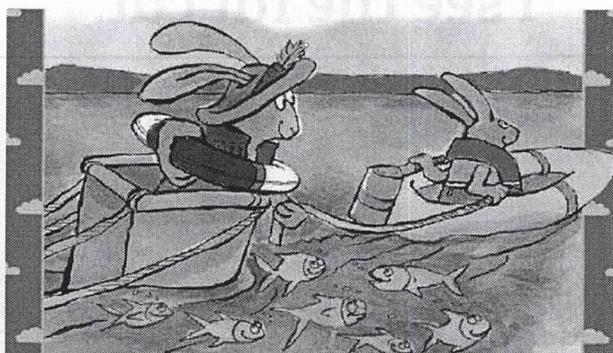
I see the fun band.



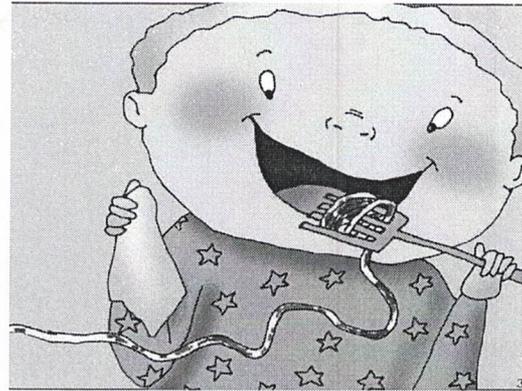
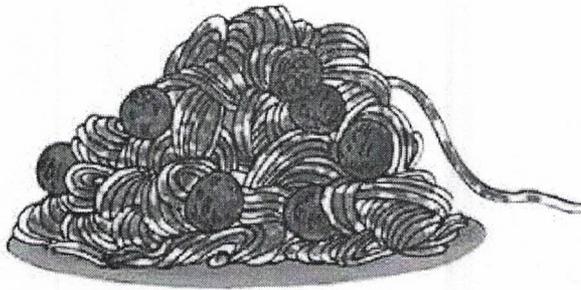
I see the big tree.



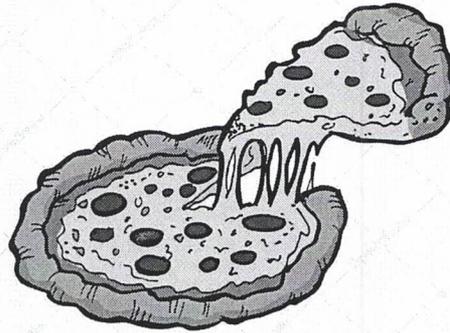
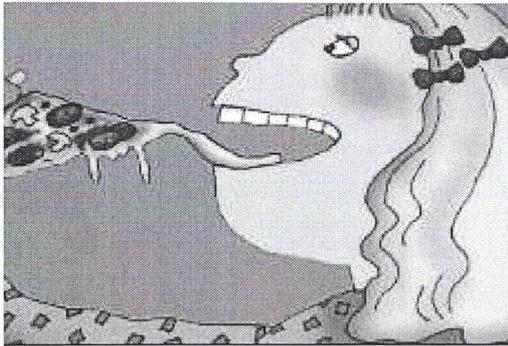
It is wet!



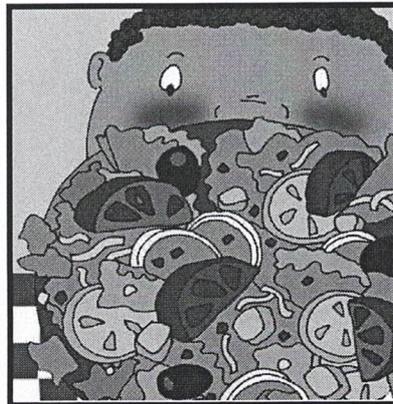
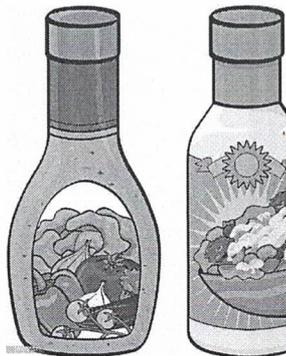
I see the boat! Yes!



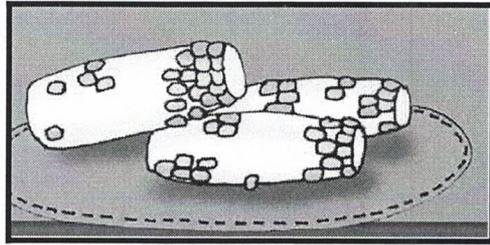
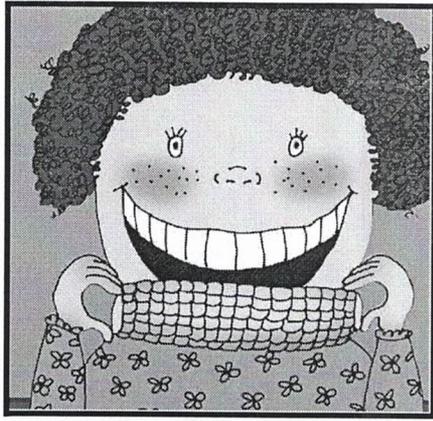
I like spaghetti. It is red.



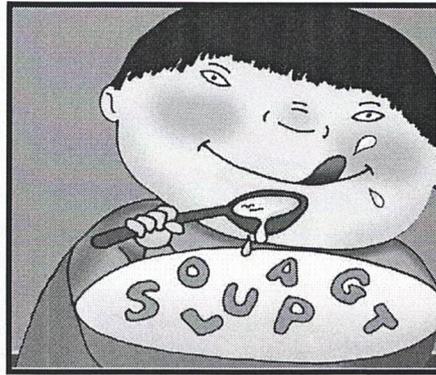
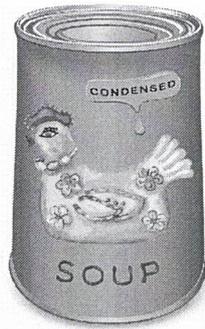
I like pizza. It is hot.



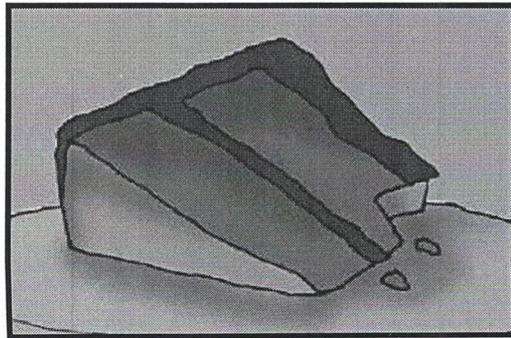
I like salad. It is big.



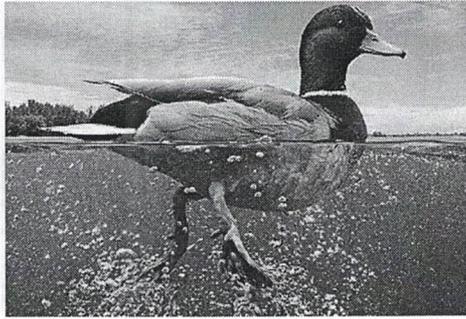
I like corn. I had a lot.



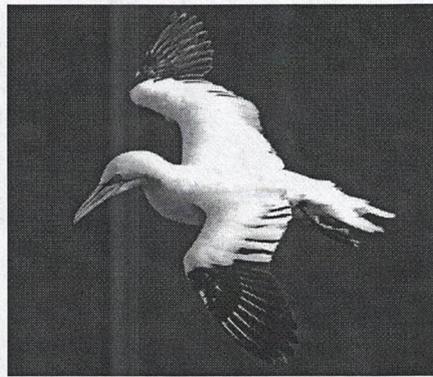
I like soup. I can sip it.



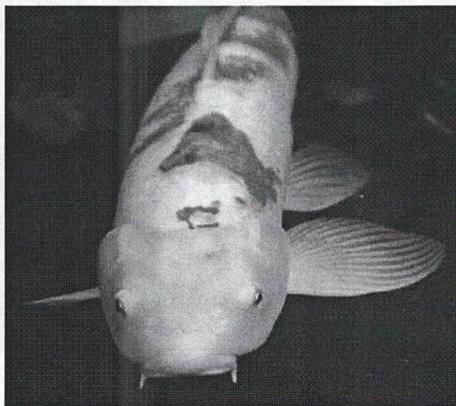
I like cake. Yum!



Look at the duck. It can swim.



Look at the bird. It can fly.



Look at the fish. It can go.



Look at the frog. It can hop.



Look at the deer. It can run.



Look at the boy. He can sit.



Tim said, "Can we have a pet?"



"Yes," said Mom. "But, it can not have fur."



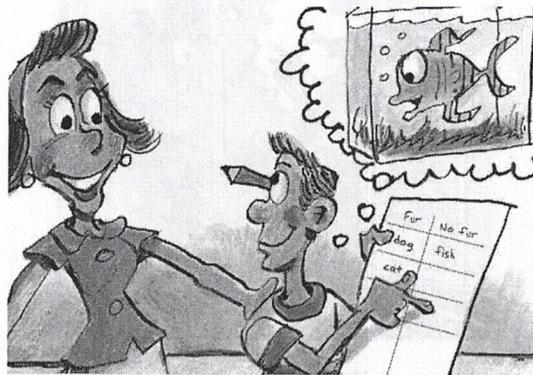
Tim said, "Can we get a dog?"

"No," said Mom. "We can not have a dog."



Tim said, "Can we get a cat?"

"No," said Mom. "We can not get a cat."



Tim said, "Well, can we have a fish?"

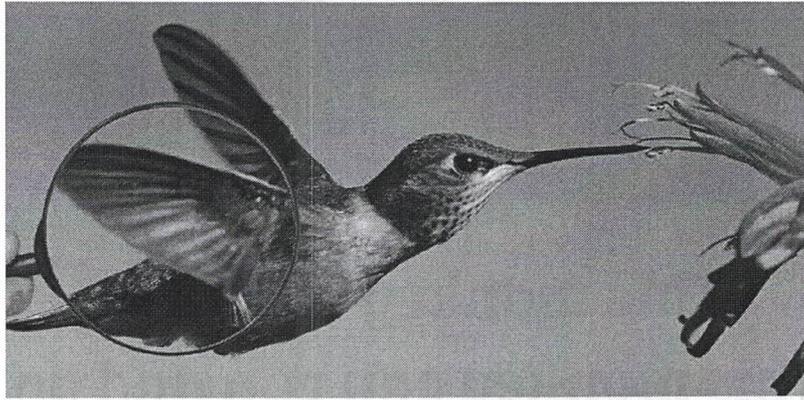
"Yes!" said Mom. "We can have a fish!"



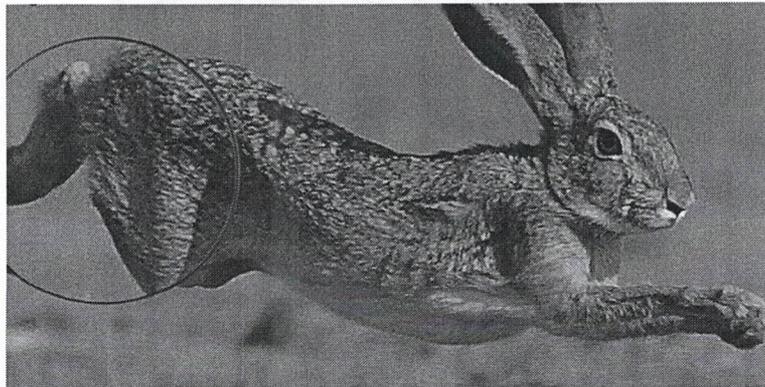
"We can have a pet!" said Tim and Mom.



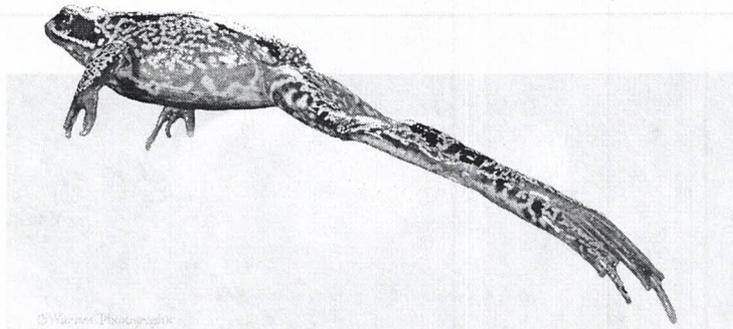
This cat has legs. This cat walks.



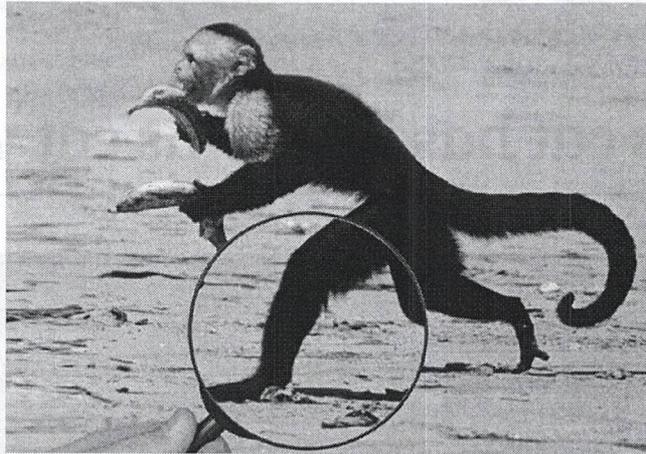
This bird has wings. It flies.



This rabbit has legs. It can hop and jump.



This frog has big legs. It can hop a lot.



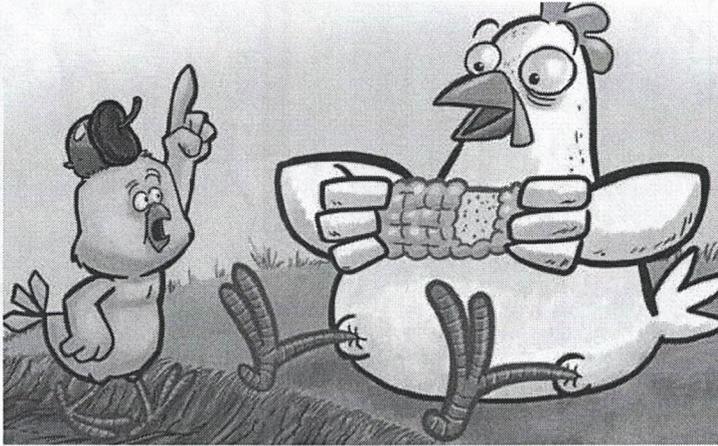
**This monkey has legs.
This monkey can run and go.**



**This girl has legs.
This girl runs and jumps and plays!**



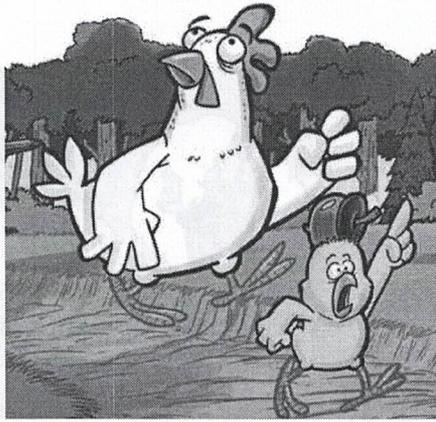
**A nut fell on Chicken Little.
"Oh no!" he said. "The sky is falling.
I will go to tell the King!"**



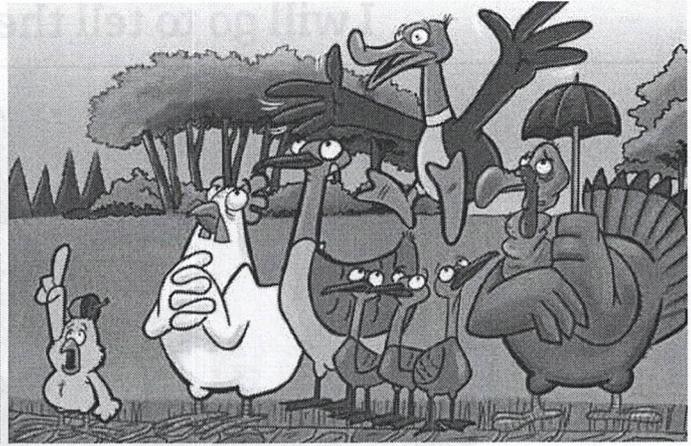
**Chicken Little sees Hen. "The sky hit me!
Come and we will tell the King!"**



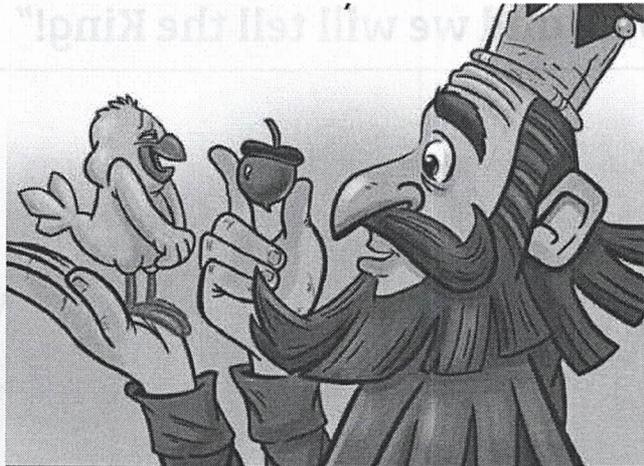
**Chicken Little sees Duck. "The sky hit me!
Come and we will tell the King!"**



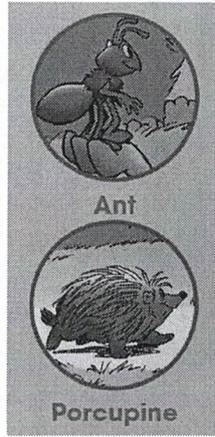
**Chicken Little sees Turkey. "The sky hit me!
Come and we will tell the King!"**



**Chicken Little sees the King. "King!
The sky hit me! Can you help us?"**



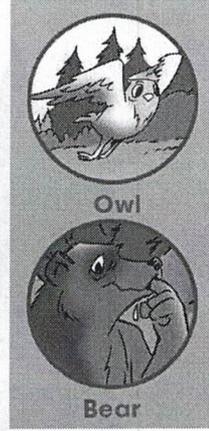
**"Yes, I can help," said the King.
"The sky did not hit you. It is a nut!"**



Ant

Porcupine

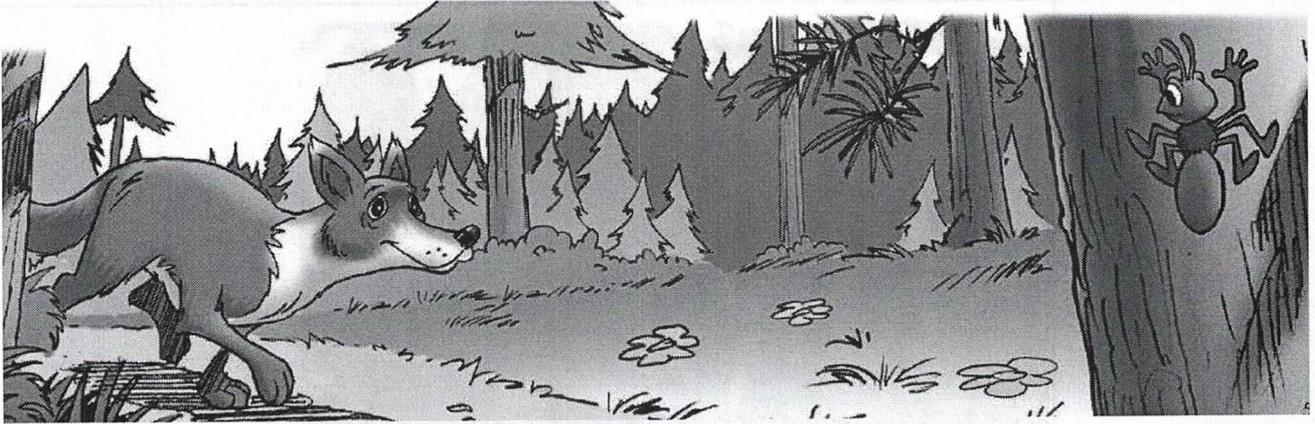
Fox in the Forest



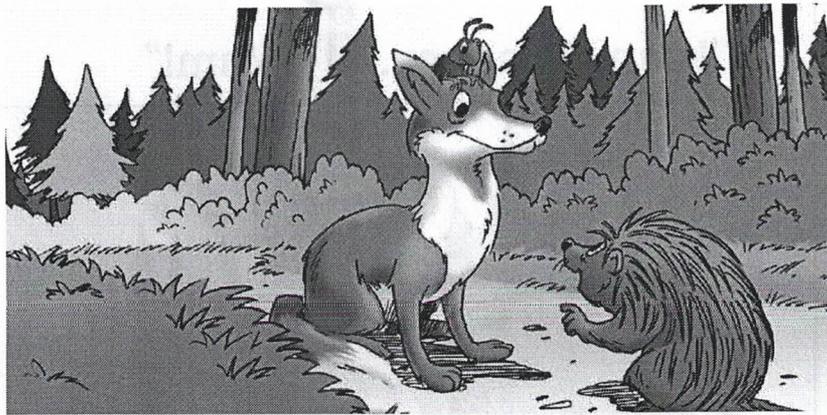
Owl

Bear

Fox is new to the forest. He meets lots of animals in the forest like Ant, Porcupine, Owl and Bear. Fox wonders if he will like the forest.



**Fox can go to the forest. Fox can see Ant.
"You will like the forest," said Ant.**

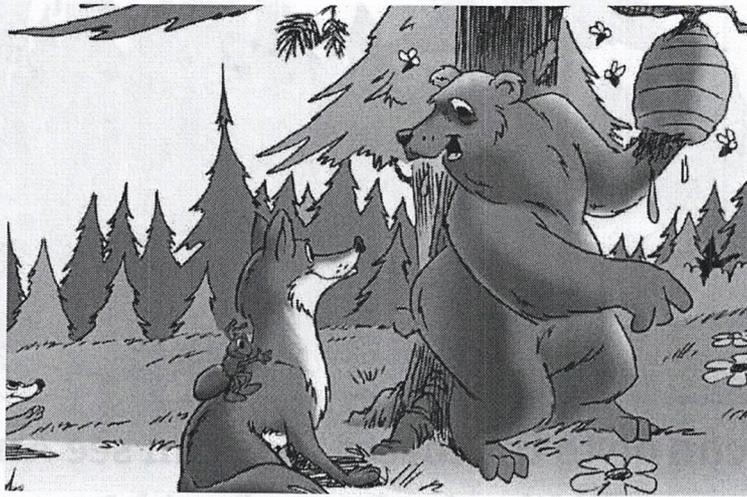


**Fox can go with Ant to the forest. Fox and Ant can see Porcupine.
"You will like the forest," said Porcupine.**



Fox and Ant see Owl.

"I like it in the forest," said Owl. "It is fun!"



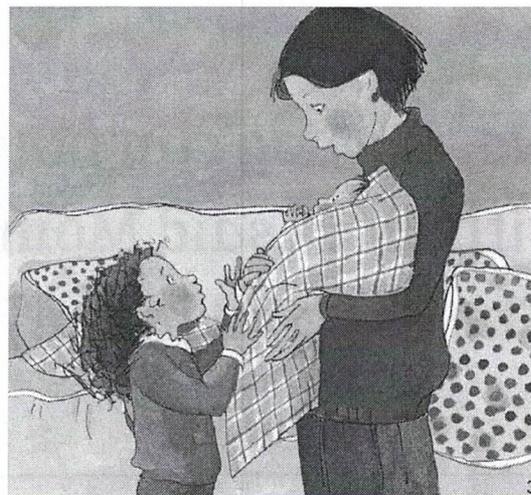
Fox and Ant see Bear. "I like the forest," said Bear.

"I can sip honey.  Yum!"



"I like this forest," said Fox. "Come! We can play!"

Mom said, "Ana, come meet your new baby brother, Jim!"



"I like Jim," said Ana. "I am glad he is here. I want to play with him!"



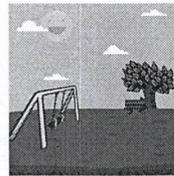
"Look! The dog wants to play with Jim!" said Ana. "Can the dog play with him?"



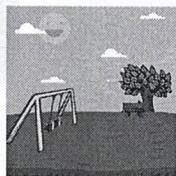
**“No, the dog can not play
with Jim,” said Mom.
“The dog will jump!”**

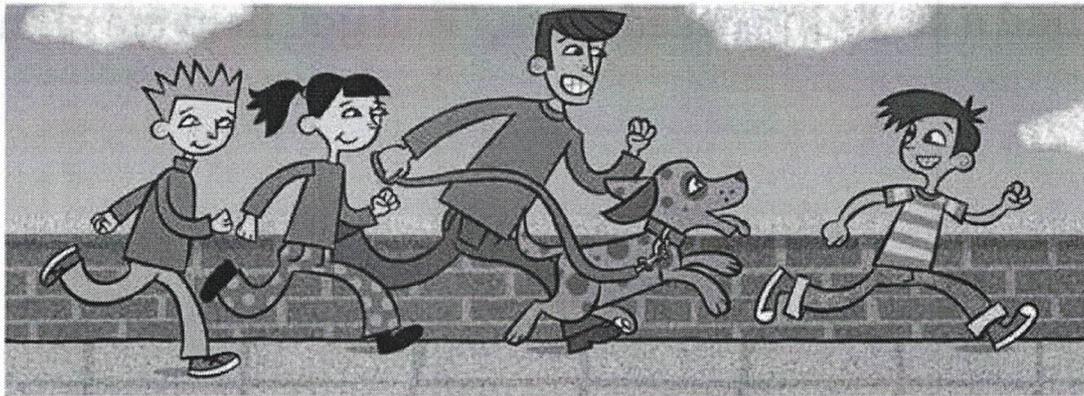


**“We will go to the park,”
said Mom. “You can play,
the dog can jump and
Jim will rest.”**



**Ana, Mom, Jim and the dog
went to the park
to have fun!**





Ben likes to run. Ben runs by himself. He runs with his dog. He runs with his dad. He runs with his friends.

When does Ben run? Ben runs in the morning. He runs in the afternoon. He runs in the evening.

"I like to see you run, Ben," Mom says.

"I *like* to run," Ben says, running around Mom.

"Do you know what time it is?" Mom asks.

Ben looks at the clock. He takes small, slow steps. His mother smiles. Ben stops running.

It is time for bed!

Hen had a seed. She asked Duck, "Will you help me plant this seed?"

"No," said Duck. "I am swimming."

She asked Dog, "Will you help me plant this seed?"

"No," said Dog. "I am resting."

She asked Cat, "Will you help me plant this seed?"

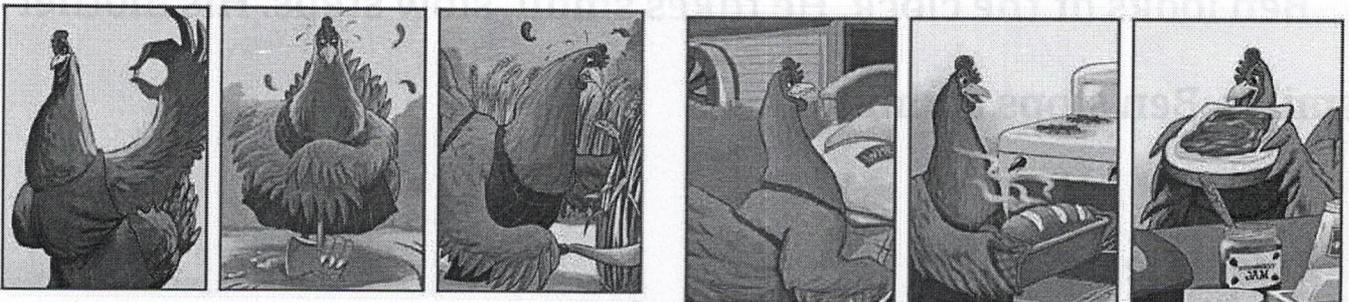
"No," said Cat. "I am sitting."

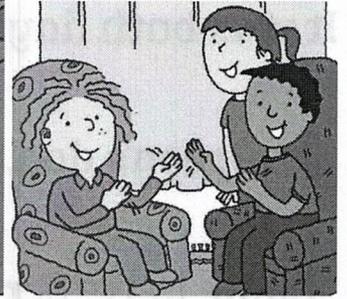
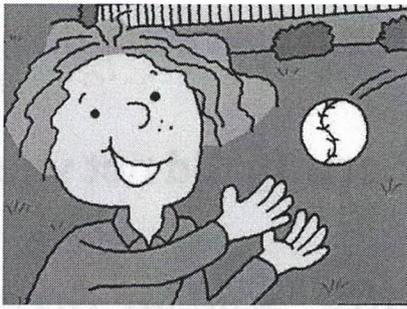
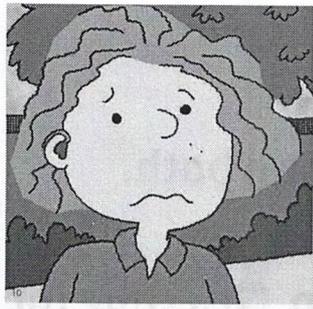
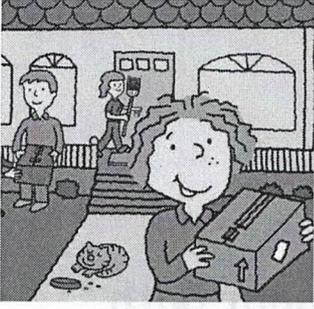
Hen planted the seed. Then she cut the wheat and made the flour. Next, Hen made bread all by herself.

"We will help you eat the bread," said Duck, Dog and Cat.

"No you will not!" said Hen.

She ate the bread all by herself!





Emma had a new home. She wanted to play but she did not see kids. "I wish I had some friends," she said.

Matt and Liz went to play. They saw Emma at her new home.

"Do you want to play?" asked Matt and Liz.

"Yes," said Emma. "I do want to play!"

"Let's play ball first," said Matt. "It will be fun."

Emma, Matt and Liz played ball for a long time.

"This was fun," said Emma. "I am glad to have some friends!"

"We are glad to have you here!" said Liz and Matt.

It was bath day for Mr. Green's dog.

Mr. Green's dog, Scruffy did not want a bath.

"Come here, Scruffy," said Mr. Green. "It's time for your bath."

Scruffy did not like to be washed with dog soap.

He did not like to be brushed with a dog brush.

He liked to be scruffy and dirty and smelly.

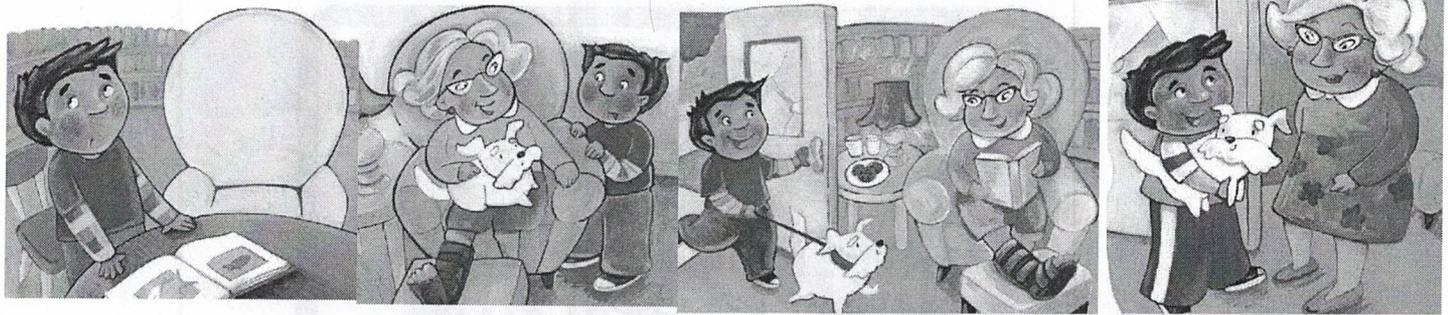
"Here I come, Scruffy," said Mr. Green.

"You can't run away from me this time. You need a bath!"

Scruffy ran into the yard and hid from Mr. Green.

But Mr. Green did not quit and now Scruffy is clean and fluffy!





Ben's reading buddy is Miss Keen. She is a helper at the library. Miss Keen sits in the big, soft chair. Today, the chair is empty. Ben goes to see Miss Smith behind the desk.

"Do you know where Miss Keen is?" Ben asks.

Miss Smith says, "Miss Keen hurt her leg."

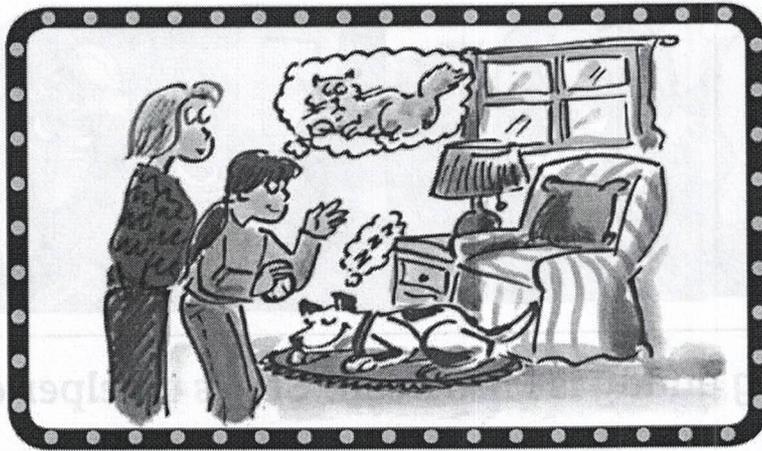
Ben says, "Maybe I can help Miss Keen!" Ben goes to Miss Keen's house.

"I am worried about you," says Ben.

Miss Keen says, "I am feeling better! But I wish I could walk my dog, Max."

Ben says, "I can help! I can walk Max." Ben walks Max every day. Miss Keen's leg gets better.

"Thank you, Ben!" says Miss Keen.



Sara had a cat, but she had always wanted to have a dog.

“Jump, Snowy, jump,” Sara said to her cat. The cat just went to sleep.

“Sit, Snowy, sit,” Sara said to her cat. The cat just went to sleep.

Sara’s cat just slept and slept all day.

Then Sara went with her mom to look after her grandpa’s dog.

“Run after the ball, Jack!” Sara said to her grandpa’s dog.

Jack didn’t run. He shut his eyes and went to sleep.

“Jack would make a very good cat!” said Sara as she laughed.

Jack just snored a little louder.

I can run fast and jump high. I can ride my bike and race with my friends. I can do these things because I take care of my body.



What does my body need to stay healthy?

My body needs sleep. I need about ten hours of sleep each night.



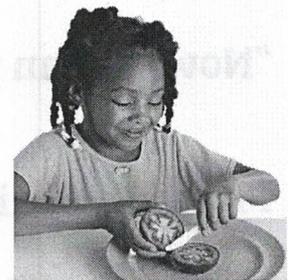
My body should be clean. I brush my teeth and wash my body with soap and water.

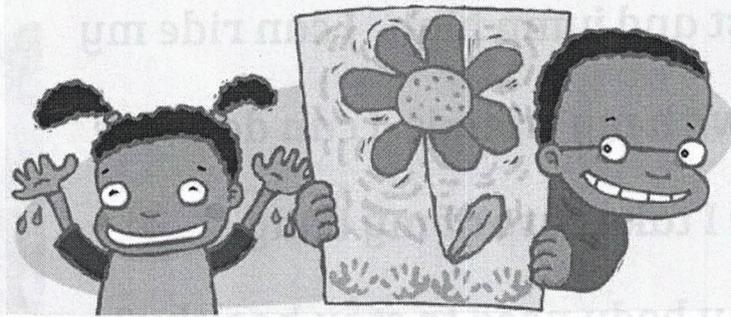


My body needs good food every day. I eat fruits, vegetables, grains and meat. My body needs water, too.



Having fun is also a good way to take care of my body. I like to dance to music, go for walks at the beach or skate with my friends.





The Painting

Matt likes to paint. Matt paints pictures of things he sees outside. He paints pictures of cars. He paints pictures of trees.

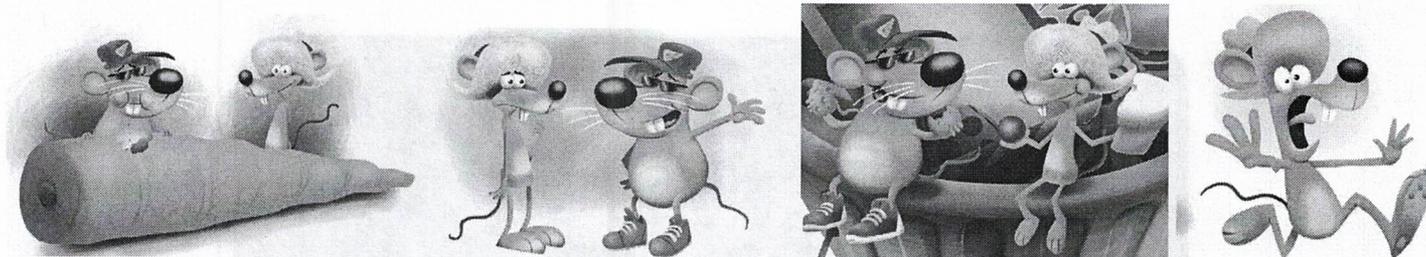
Meg is Matt's little sister. Meg watches Matt paint. "I want to paint, too," says Meg. "What can I paint?"

Matt gets a big piece of paper. Matt puts the paper on the table. He gets some finger paints for Meg. He puts the finger paints on the table.

"Now we can paint a picture together," says Matt.

First, Meg paints. Meg uses her hands. She makes green lines on the paper. "I see grass outside," says Meg.

Then Matt paints. Matt uses a brush. He paints a flower in the grass!



Town Mouse and Country Mouse each believed where he lived was the best place on Earth.

Town Mouse went to Country Mouse's farm. They ate big piles of carrots and beans Country Mouse had harvested.

"Town food is tastier," said Town Mouse. "Visit me and I will show you."

Country Mouse visited town. Town Mouse took him to a trash can and said, "Look! People leave pizza and cake. I don't even have to work!"

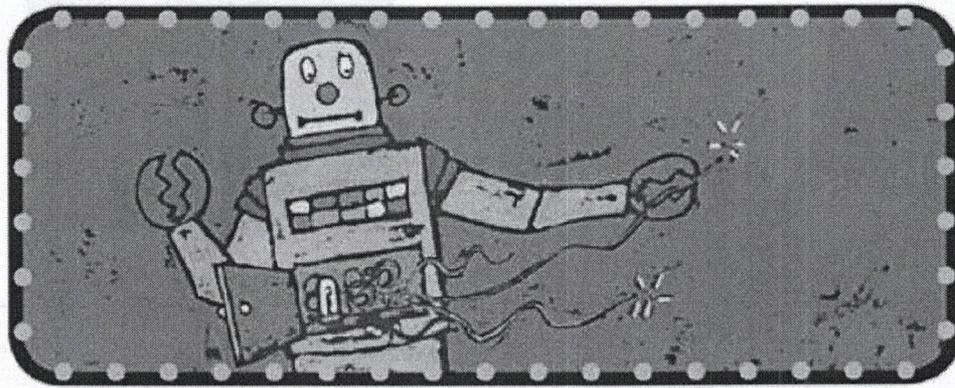
"Delicious!" said Country Mouse.

Suddenly the mice heard a noise. "What is that?" asked Country Mouse.

"There are many noises in town," said Town Mouse. "Don't worry!"

The sound grew closer.

"That is a cat! Town has good food, but in the Country I am safe," cried Country Mouse and he ran all the way home.



The Happy Robot

Robot sat down at the kitchen table.

"Would you like something to eat?" asked
Robot's owner.

"No, I'm not hungry," said Robot. But then it
ate 10 banana-nut muffins. "I
want to look at some of your wires,"
said Robot's owner. She gently opened
the door to Robot's tummy and looked
inside.

"Your wires are messed up, so you eat
when you're not hungry."

When Robot was fixed, it smiled and said,
"Thank you for fixing me. Now I will not feel
so stuffed."



The baby pink pig looked at the other pigs.

“You all need a bath,” she said. “I’m not smelly, and I don’t have mud all over me. I’m lovely, clean, and pink.”

The other pigs looked at the baby pig. Then they looked up at the hot sun and shook their heads. The baby pig got hotter and hotter. Her skin turned pinker and pinker. Soon it started to turn red.

The pigs said, “You’re lovely and clean, but you’re not pink. Your skin is red and burned. You should get out of the sun and go in the mud like us.”

The baby pig knew the other pigs were right. So she jumped into the brown mud and was never, ever pink or red again!

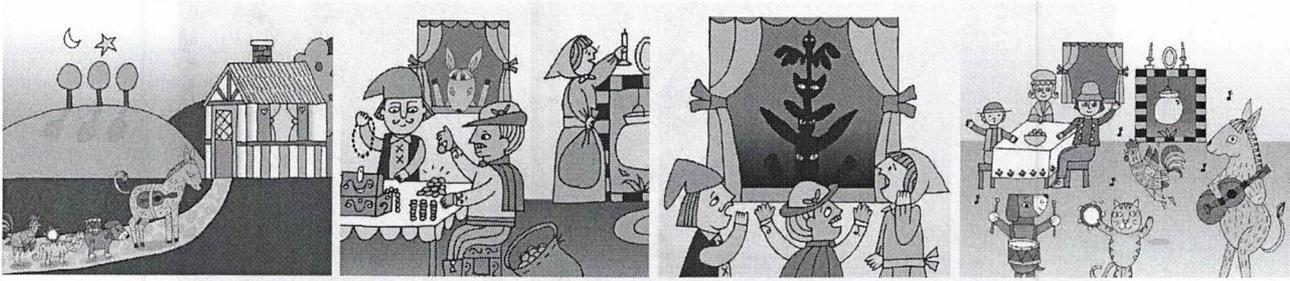


The Weather Watcher

The weather watcher watched the weather every day. He told people watching TV when it was going to be sunny, windy, rainy, or snowy.

One day the weather watcher got tired of watching the weather. He decided he wanted to watch other things. So he went on vacation.

He watched strong winds blow sailboats over in the sea. He watched heavy rain flood streets and sidewalks. Wherever he went, the weather caused problems. So he returned to watch the weather in order to warn people when bad weather was coming.



A donkey went to Bremen to make music. He brought his guitar with him. Soon he saw a friendly dog. "Hello, Dog. Would you like to be in my band?"

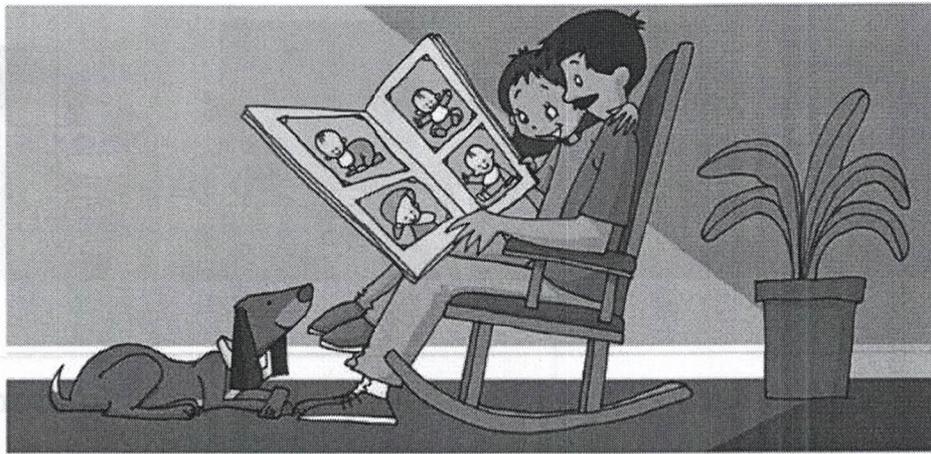
Dog said, "Yes. I play drums." Soon, they saw a colorful rooster. "Hello, Rooster. Would you like to be in our band?"

Rooster said, "I can sing."

They saw a house that looked warm and inviting. "Let's see if we can stay here tonight," said Donkey. He peeked in the window. "Oh no! There are robbers in there! We have to do something!"

Dog climbed on top of Donkey and Cat jumped on top of Dog. Rooster flew up and sat on the top. They all made a lot of noise! The robbers thought it was a monster and ran away.

Just then, the family came home and saw that the animals had saved them. The animals stayed with the family and played wonderful music together.



Lee's father was sitting in his favorite rocking chair. He was reading and smiling.

"What are you reading?" Lee asked.

"I'm reading a special book. The book is about a special person," said Lee's father.

"Who is it?" Lee asked. Lee went up to the rocking chair and climbed onto her father's lap.

Lee looked at the book. "The book has pictures of a baby," she said. "That baby is cute!"

Lee's father said, "That baby is smart, too. That baby could say lots of words before age two. That baby even learned to walk all by herself."

"Who is that cute, smart baby?" Lee asked.

"It's you!" Lee's father said with a laugh. He hugged Lee. Lee hugged him back.

Picture this: You're on a boat, floating out on the ocean. You look down into the water. Two enormous eyes are staring up at you. Eight snaky arms covered with suckers and hooks are reaching up. You are looking at a giant squid!

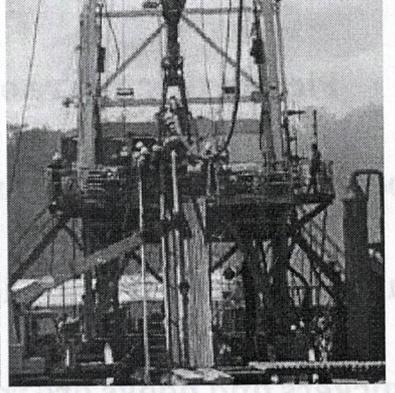
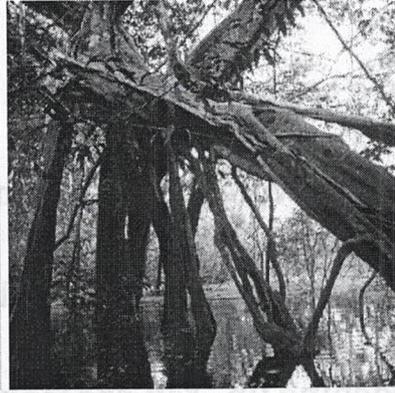
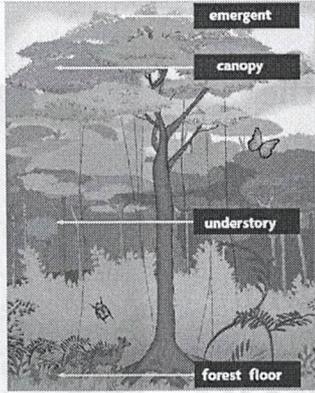
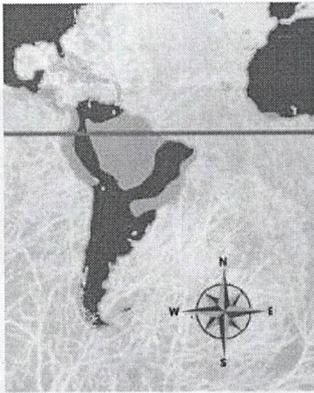


These creatures are real! With all its tentacles stretched out a giant squid can grow to be 60 feet long.

Its eyes are the size of dinner plates. One kind of squid, the colossal squid, has the largest eyes of any animal on earth. Its eyes are the size of soccer balls!

Scientists have known about giant squid for some time. This is because they have found dead ones. But no one had ever seen a live giant squid. Then, in 2007, a fishing crew accidentally caught a colossal squid that weighed over a thousand pounds. Sadly, the animal soon died.

We still have a lot to learn about these amazing animals.



What is the Amazon Rain Forest? The Amazon Rain Forest is the world's largest rain forest. It is in South America. It rains nearly every day in the rain forest.

The rain forest is home to about one-third of the world's plant and animal species.

The Amazon Rain Forest is home to more than one million kinds of insects. There are about two-thousand-five-hundred kinds of trees. There are more types of butterflies in the Amazon Rain Forest than anywhere else in the world!

The Amazon Rain Forest is a tropical rain forest. These forests are areas that have warm, wet weather throughout the year. Rain forests have four different layers: the forest floor, the understory, the canopy and the emergent level.

People use forest resources like wood, plants, minerals and oil. If people are not careful in the forest, they can destroy the habitats of many animals. Rain forests are too important to lose!



The old crows weren't afraid of Scarecrow Joe. Farmer Robin knew that she had to do something, so she dressed Joe in black clothes.

"That will make you look scary," she said to Scarecrow Joe.

But the crows thought that Joe looked like a big, black, friendly bird. They just kept eating Farmer Robin's corn.

One day an eagle flew over the field and saw the crows eating Farmer Robin's corn. The eagle decided to help poor, frightened Scarecrow Joe by swooping down and scaring the crows.

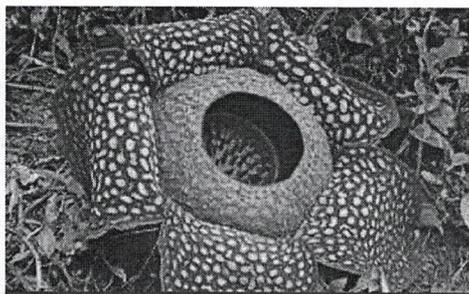
The eagle said, "I'm an eagle who scares crows," and sat on Joe's shoulder. From that day on, the eagle and the scarecrow kept Farmer Robin's corn safe together.

This text is about an amazing collection of plants. They are amazing for different reasons.

First, there are the giant, stinky plants! The biggest flower can grow to be three feet across. It can weigh more than fifteen pounds. This plant is also very stinky! The awful smell attracts insects that feed on dead things. The insects help these giant flowers grow new plants.

Second, there are the very sensitive plants. When touched, one plant instantly wilts. Its leaves suddenly fold up and its stalks droop. But ten to twenty minutes later, the plant appears normal!

Third, there are the killer plants. These plants catch and eat insects. One well-known killer plant is the pitcher plant. The pitcher plant has a sweet smell that attracts insects. Once inside, the insect slides down slippery walls into a pool of liquid and drowns.





A crowd watched from the shore. They gasped as a handcuffed man wrapped in chains jumped into a river. Minutes ticked by. Everyone was positive the man had drowned. Then, his head popped out of the water, and he waved his chains overhead. Harry Houdini (Hoo-dee-nee) had escaped again!

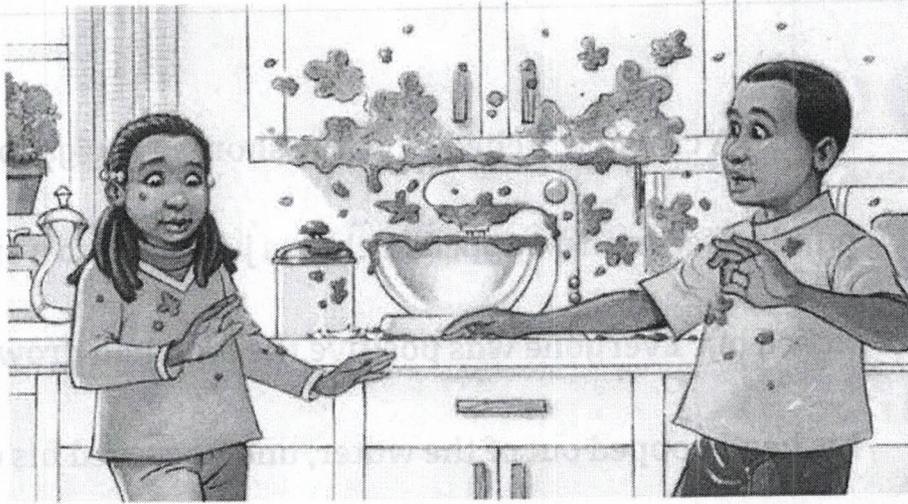
By the time he was thirteen, Houdini was performing magic tricks with his brother. After he married in 1894, his career as an escape artist took off. He would travel from town to town. He'd dare people to handcuff him. They would get one-hundred dollars if he could not get free. Houdini never had to pay!

Houdini would also escape from locked chains, wooden boxes nailed shut, jail cells and underwater.

Houdini never told how he made his escapes. All everyone knew was that he was always practicing. He kept himself in excellent shape. He could use his left hand nearly as well as his right.

The great escape artist died on Halloween in 1926.





Today was Mom's birthday, so Tammy and I got up early to bake a cake. Tammy read the recipe. I got out the flour, sugar, cocoa and cooking oil.

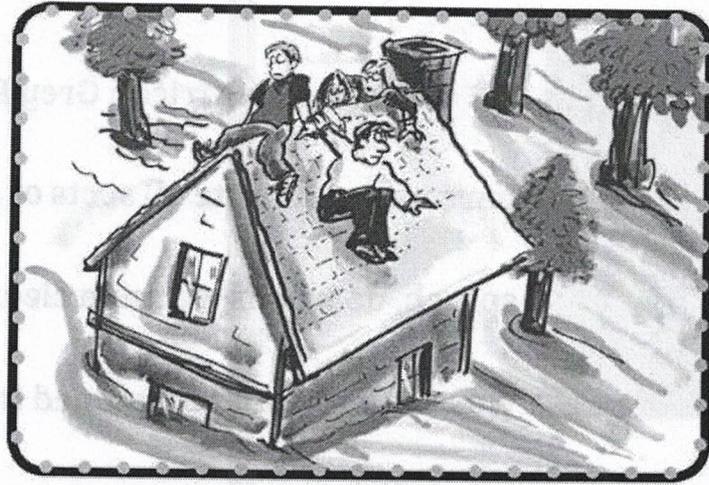
"We also need two eggs, Sammy," said Tammy. I put the eggs on the counter, but one egg rolled off.

"Oops!" I picked up the broken egg shell. "I'll clean the rest later," I said. Then we poured everything into a big metal bowl. We set the electric mixer on high.

"Oops!" I said again. Some of the cake batter flew out of the bowl. "I think we should put the mixer on *low*. We'll clean the walls later," I added.

We poured the rest of the batter into the pan and put the pan in the oven. We baked the cake before Mom woke up. She came into the kitchen just as we were frosting the cake.

Boy, did Mom look surprised--and happy!



“We’ll have to wait for the river to go down before we cross,” warned Mom.

“Look, the river’s rising and the water is getting near the cabin,” Jordan alerted the family.

As the water continued to rise, Dad and Mom became even more worried. They told Jordan and me to pack up and prepare to abandon the cabin. Dad then called the forest headquarters on his cell phone.

“The ranger told me that we should get to higher ground because the river will crest in about two hours,” said Dad.

But it was too late. The river had flowed over its banks and there was no escape route. We climbed onto the cabin roof and hoped the cabin would not float away.

We survived the night on the roof. The next morning we were relieved to hear the sound of a rescue helicopter hovering overhead.



Alex was an African Grey Parrot. These parrots can imitate all sorts of sounds--human speech, doorbells, vacuum cleaners. Alex's owner was a science student named Irene Pepperberg.

Irene wanted to see if she could teach Alex to do more than copy sounds. She wanted him to understand what he was saying.

Here's how most owners teach their parrots to speak: The owner repeats a word, "Hello, hello." The parrot copies and says, "Hello." Here's how Irene decided to work with Alex: She picked a concept for Alex to learn such as 'truck'. She would identify a toy truck and Alex would watch, learning along with her.

Irene worked with Alex for thirty years. He learned more than one hundred words! He knew more than fifty objects, seven colors and seven shapes. He could count to six. If asked to describe something Alex might say, "small, red, paper, triangle".

Alex died in 2007. Irene continues to work with parrots using all she learned from Alex. She still misses him.



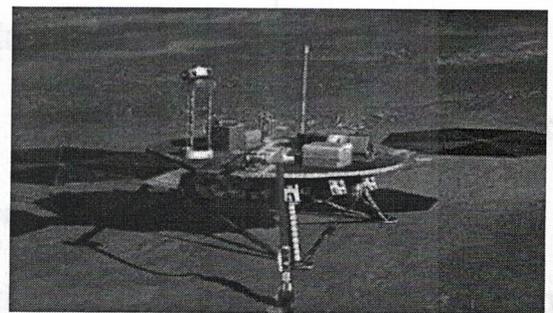


Are we alone in the universe? We haven't found life on other planets in our solar system. But what about life beyond our solar system?

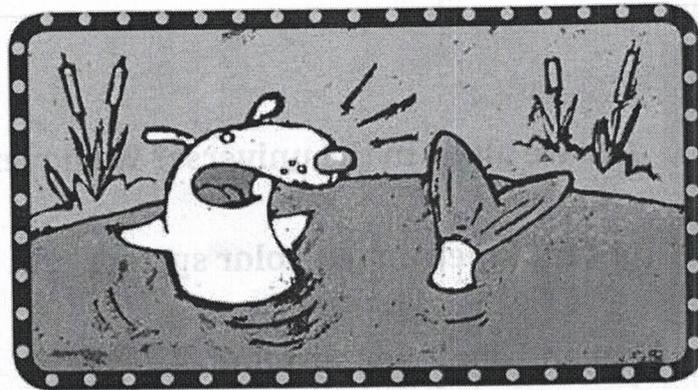
Other stars and their possible planets are light-years away. A light year is the distance light travels in one year. Light can travel about seven times around our whole Earth in one second! A light-year is amazingly far away. The closest star is four light-years away so it's unlikely we'll send probes there any time soon!

But what if someone out there is looking for us? If so, SETI (seh-tee) should hear about it first. SETI stands for "Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence". It is a group of scientists trying to find "thinking life forms" on other planets-- life forms smart enough to send out signals across vast distances.

SETI thinks aliens would use radio signals to communicate. SETI is looking for the radio signal that would mean someone is on the other end. They have been listening for fifty years. So far, nothing. The SETI team thinks we will make contact before 2030.



Who will be calling us?



Benson was a nosy guy and was always looking for interesting stories to write in the school newspaper.

“What are you doing, Martha?” asked Benson, looking over his neighbor’s fence.

Martha was just sitting by the garden pond.

“Go away, Benson. It’s top secret, and I don’t want you or anyone else to know about it,” said Martha.

“Oh, have you found something interesting for me to report in the school newspaper?” inquired Benson.

Martha thought for a minute, then smiled and said, “Don’t tell, but there’s a talking dogfish from Planet Dingo in the pond. It was delivered in this spaceship.”

Just then Martha pulled out a shiny silver machine used to clean the garden pond.

The following day, Benson’s newspaper report made the front page: “Talking Dogfish From Planet Dingo Lands in Garden Pond!”

Benson had forgotten that it was April Fools’ Day, so he didn’t know the joke was on him.



The Garage Sale

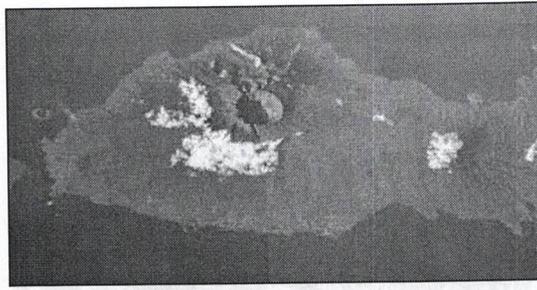
“Ok, everybody, we have too much stuff we never use. I’m declaring this week family clean-up week,” said Ryan’s dad. “I want everyone to clean the house and collect anything you haven’t used in the past year. On Saturday we’re going to have a gigantic garage sale, and the profits will be split evenly among the family.”

Ryan sorted through the stuff in his room and found many things that he didn’t play with or wear anymore. His sister found even more stuff than Ryan did to contribute to the garage sale. Saturday soon came, and early in the morning, people began arriving like a swarm of insects descending on a cornfield.

“It looks as if our old junk is everyone else’s treasure,” said Ryan as people purchased their stuff.

“Yes, selling your throwaways has been my pleasure!” said Dad as he gave Ryan his share of the money.

“And buying new treasure with the profits will be my pleasure!” said Ryan, smiling.



When Mount Tambora erupted in 1815, it caused the biggest explosion in history.

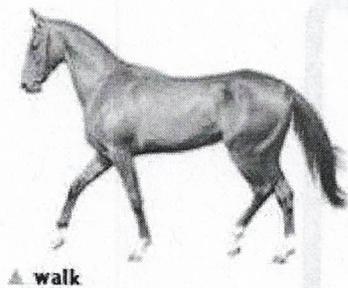
Why isn't the eruption of Mount Tambora better known? Well, it took place when there was no radio, TV, or Internet. No scientists were there to study the eruption. It took years for people to find out just how much damage this historic eruption caused.

In 1815, about 140,000 people lived near Tambora peacefully. Then, on April 5, the volcano began acting up. The explosions continued for days.

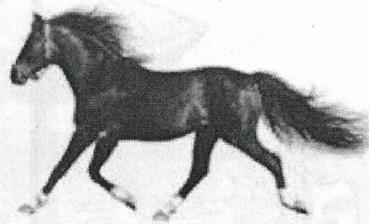
Some 10,000 people were killed right off. Many more deaths followed. The ash destroyed and buried all plant life within 250 miles. Plant life would not come back for five years. In that time, over 80,000 people died from disease and starvation.

Yet Tambora did even more damage. It hurled gas and volcanic dust high into the atmosphere. This affected the weather and growing season of food crops. In the United States, there were snowstorms in June, July and August! Many crops failed and people died.

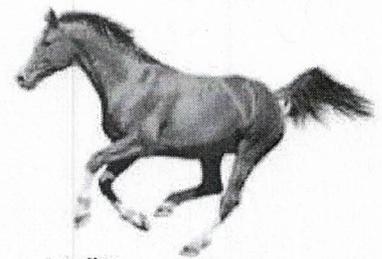
All because of a volcano you may never have heard of.



▲ walk



▲ trot

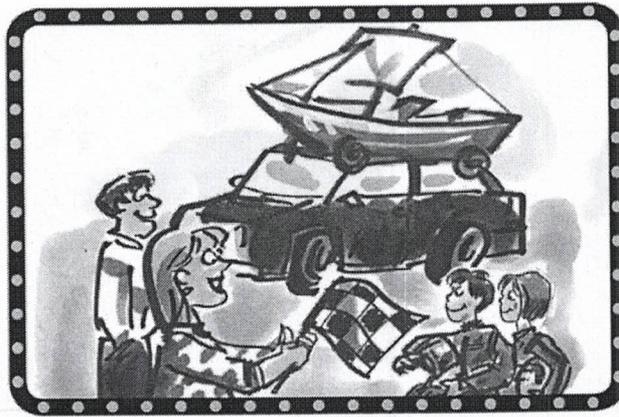


▲ gallop

Picture a horse galloping across a field. It gracefully leaps over a fence and keeps running, mane flying. It's a lovely image.

The modern horse's long legs and one-toed feet enable it to run swiftly over hard ground. A fast breed, like the thoroughbred horse, can run 40 miles per hour over long distances. But the real speedsters are the quarter horses. These are the hardy breeds that cowboys ride. They can sprint 50-55 miles per hour for short distances. By way of comparison, the fastest humans can manage maybe 23 miles per hour for about 10 seconds.

As a defense against danger, horses can sleep standing up. In a dangerous situation, the awakened horse can escape much faster if it's already standing! When a horse sleeps, the joint in the middle of its legs can lock in place to keep the horse from toppling over. But it does need to sleep lying down at least an hour or two a night. During this hour or two, a horse gets the deep sleep it must have to stay healthy. The rest of the time, "standing sleep" is fine.



Most weekends, Lara and her family go land sailing in dirtboats on the dry lakebed in a nearby desert. Land sailing is using wind power to make a four-wheeled cart or 'dirtboat' go.

"Remember your helmet and gloves, Lara. You got enormous blisters and rope burns on your hands the last time you went land sailing without gloves," said her dad.

Mom limped toward the car holding a black-and-white checked flag. She seriously injured her leg in a land sailing accident four years before, so instead of racing like she used to, she now waves the flag as the winners cross the finish line.

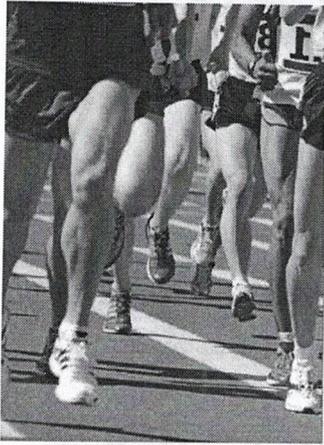
"I'm going to see if I can improve on my speed record from last weekend by at least a few miles per hour," said Lara's brother, Bob.

"I'm going to practice my favorite trick--lifting one side of my dirtboat off the ground while zooming along on just two wheels," said Lara.

"You kids are speedsters and tricksters, just like your mom," said Dad.

"You were the national dirtboat champion for two years in a row, Dad, so I think we take after you!" said Bob.

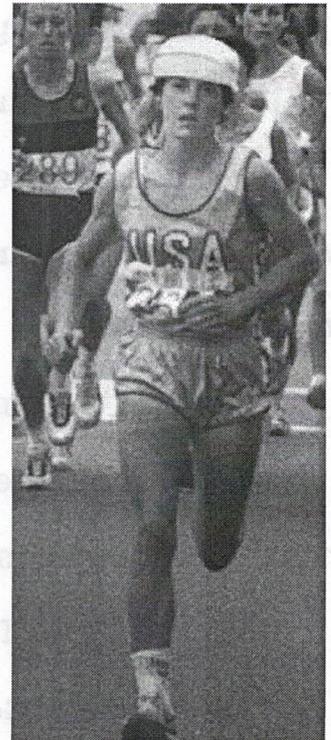
"Yes, but your mother taught me everything I know about dirtboats!" said Dad, laughing.



One foot reaches forward, the other pushes back--again and again and again. You can barely hear the crowd cheering over the sound of your breathing. There are runners all around you, but you only see the path ahead of you. You're running a marathon!

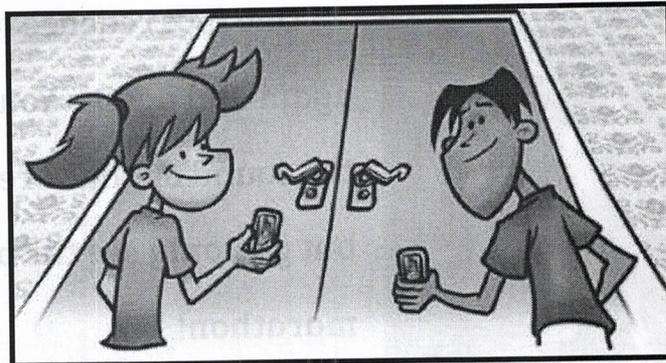
The marathon race is named after a Greek victory. More than 2,500 years ago, a small group of 10 Greek soldiers faced a Persian army of 150,000 near the city of Marathon. The overmatched Greeks were victorious! Supposedly, a Greek soldier was sent to bring the news to the city of Athens. He ran without stopping for 25 miles. After announcing the victory to the astonished people of Athens, the runner collapsed and died.

In 1896, the marathon race was run in the first modern Olympics. Over the years, winning times kept decreasing. This was due to various factors. Scientists learned more about the mechanics of running. Runners began to train more carefully. New, improved running shoes were developed.



The original marathoner died after running his race. But today's world-class marathoners know how to run the "longest race" and still be around to enjoy their victory.

When Tammy and Gary saw the rumor that Tom Marshall, the world's best hockey player, was at the hotel, they had to find out. Now, after hours of waiting, they were still more excited than tired.



There were people talking and laughing on the other side of the hotel ballroom door. Maybe Tom Marshall himself was in there! The young fans were desperate to find out and they weren't leaving until they did!

Finally, the door opened and a man glared at them. "You still here? Go home now or I'll call security!" The man closed the door with a bang.

"We're not really leaving, are we?" whispered Gary.

"No!" Tammy answered. "Let's hide behind those tall plants."

A while later the music stopped. The ballroom door slowly opened. Tom Marshall stepped through the doors holding the hand of a stunning woman in a long, white gown.

"It's Tom!" Tammy and Gary shrieked.

"Oh no!" said the man who had threatened to call the security guard. "I'll get rid of them so you and your bride can have some privacy!"

"No wait," said Tom. "Have you kids been waiting for me all this time?"

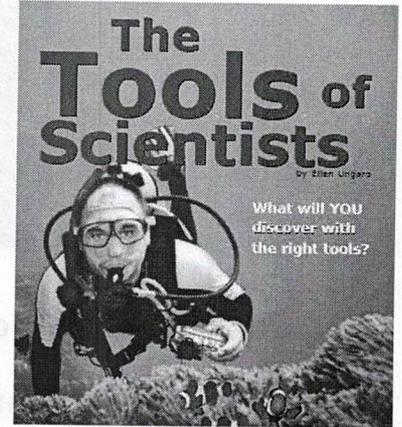
"Yes!" shouted Gary. "You're the greatest!"

"Can we get your autograph?" Tammy said.

"Sure," smiled Tom.

Tammy and Gary raced to their hero's side.

A scientific adventure at sea



The scientists on the research ship BPR were crowded around a video monitor. They were watching images taken at the bottom of the ocean. Suddenly, they spotted an unusual-looking sea creature. It was bright orange, about ten centimeters (3.94 inches) long, and had ten long tentacles. At first, the scientists thought it might be a squid or a shrimp. It wasn't. The scientists realized it was a new species--one never seen before! The scientists called it the "squidworm."

The discovery was just one of many from a scientific research expedition to the Celebes Sea in the Pacific Ocean. The scientists spent ten days exploring the sea. Their goal was to learn more about sea life and identify new species. How did they do it?

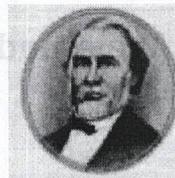
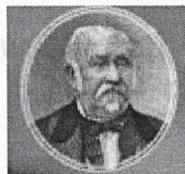
They used a variety of tools. They used scuba equipment to observe the marine animals in their natural habitat. They carried jars to capture specimens, or samples, of marine life. Twice a day, giant nets were used to scoop up plankton. Plankton are the tiny living things that form the bottom of the food chain in the ocean. On the ship, scientists used microscopes to examine, measure, and photograph the specimens. Tools made the scientists' work possible.

CALIFORNIA GOLD

John Sutter was a German-Swiss merchant who came to North America in 1834 with hopes of starting an agricultural settlement in the West. By 1839, he had received a land grant from the Mexican government and established a thriving farming community in what is now Sacramento, California. The settlement, with successful orchards, rose gardens, and large herds of cattle was called "Sutter's Fort" for its thick, sun-dried adobe brick walls, which rose as high as five meters (18 feet).

James Marshall was born in Hopewell, New Jersey in 1810. In 1844 he left Missouri, where he had been farming, and ventured west on the Oregon Trail and south from Oregon into California. Marshall found work as a carpenter at John Sutter's frontier settlement and was assigned with the task of building and operating Sutter's Mill, about 58 kilometers (36 miles) northeast of the fort beside the American River.

On a cold morning in late January 1848, during the construction of the mill, James Marshall noticed something in the river--there were bright, metallic, yellow flecks shimmering in the water. "It made my heart thump, for I was certain it was gold," Marshall said.



The article in the news said that every year thousands of people come to New York just to watch the New York City Marathon. I



don't have to go anywhere to watch the marathon race because the marathon comes to me. Every year, on the first Sunday in November, all I have to do is gaze out my window and the whole marathon runs right past my house.

I think my favorite part of the race is when people on the sidewalk turn around and squint up at me in my room and tell me how lucky I am that I don't have to stand in a crowd like they do. Sometimes, they ask me if they can come up and watch the race with me. There's no way Mom and Dad would go for that. Only my friends can come into my house on race day.

Dad rolls his eyes when I tell him I'm going to run the New York City Marathon one day. Dad says I'm too lazy to run the marathon because I play video games and sleep too much. It's going to happen, though. I might not beat the really fast runners, but I know someday I'll finish the race and I'll get that medal!

