

Quack, Quack

Take two steps back!



Matt Buckingham



Explorers

This book belongs to:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
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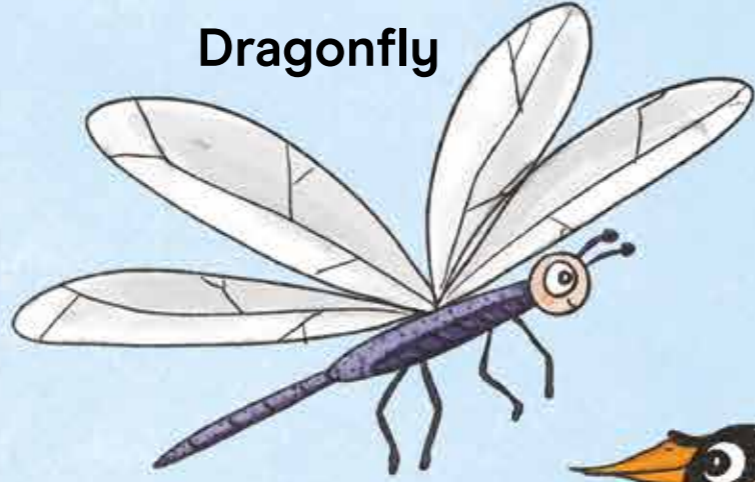
Once you have read this book and had your turn,
Pass it on to someone else so they have a chance to learn!





Acorn

Dragonfly

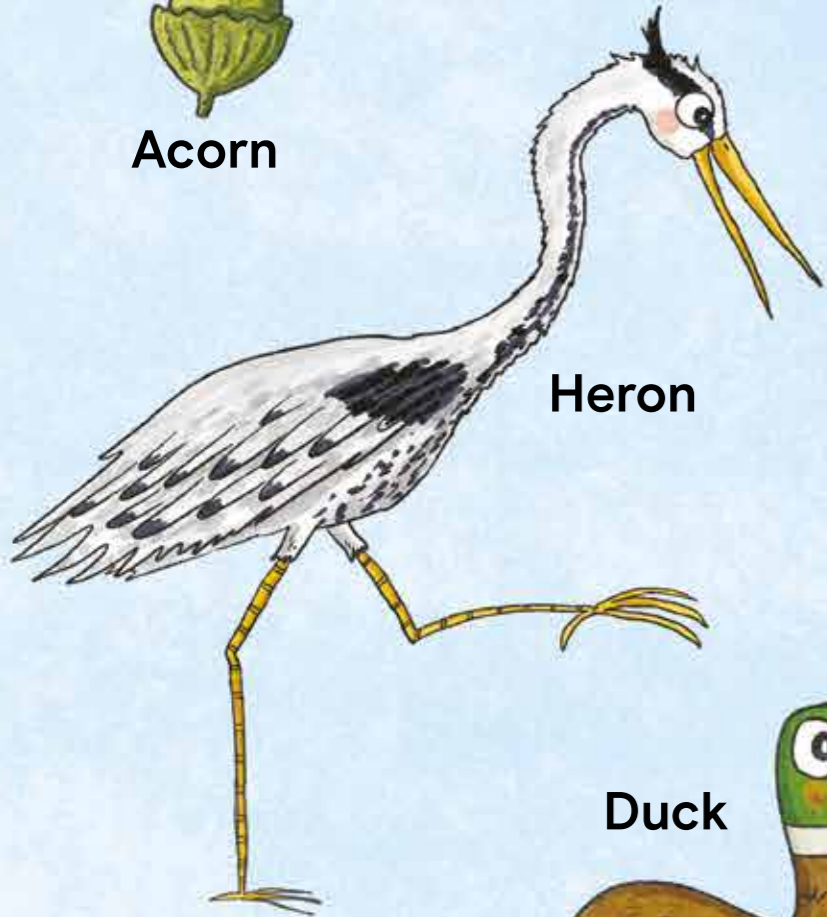


Flowers

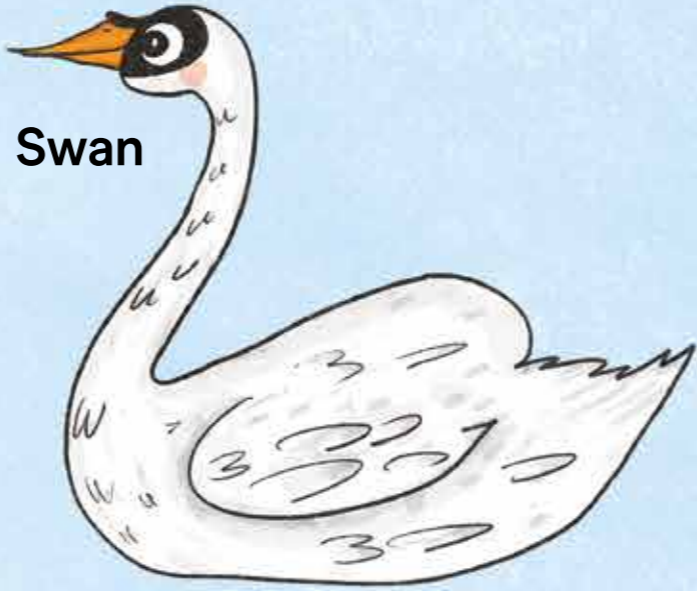


Lock

Heron



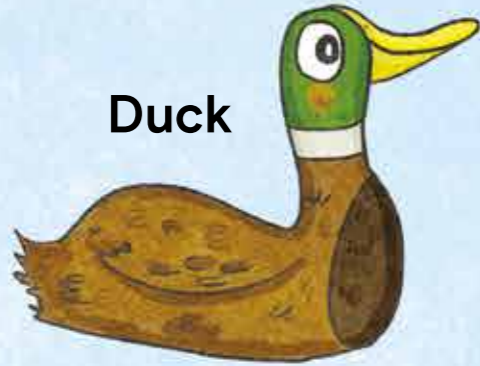
Swan



Coot



Duck



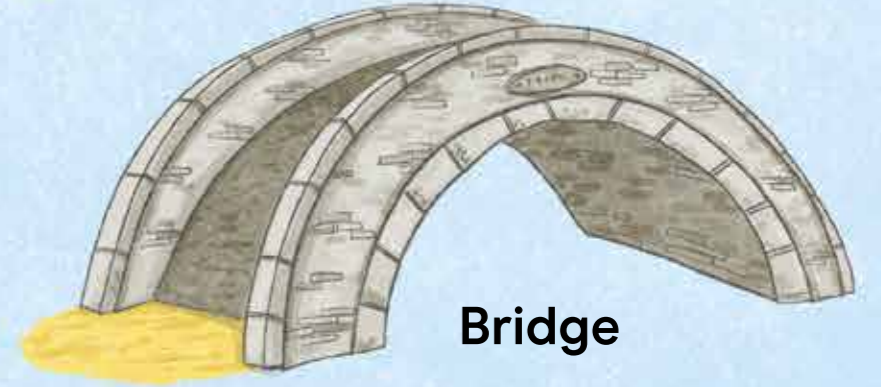
Bee



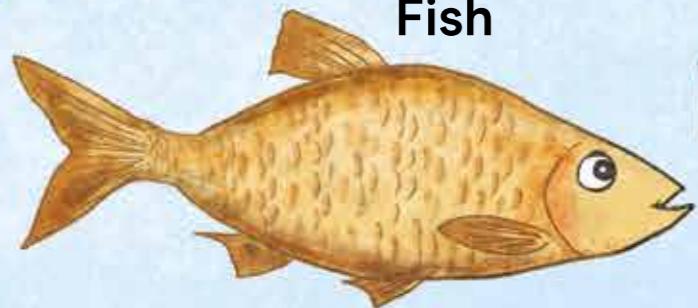
Kingfisher



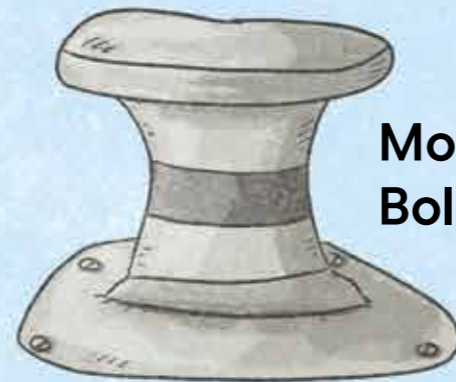
Bridge



Fish



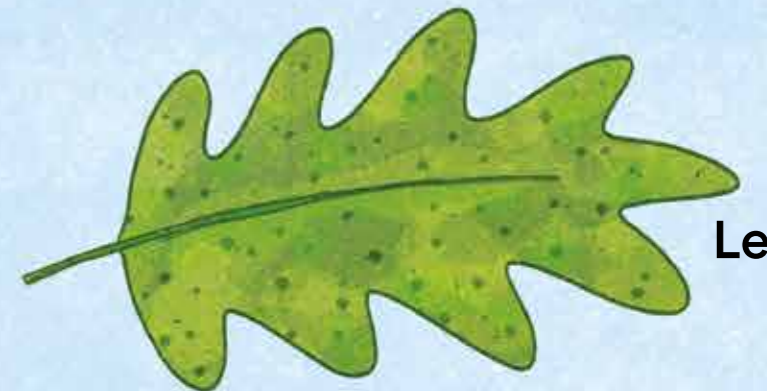
Mooring
Bollard



Narrowboat



Leaf



Feather



For all the Little Explorers who visit the canals.

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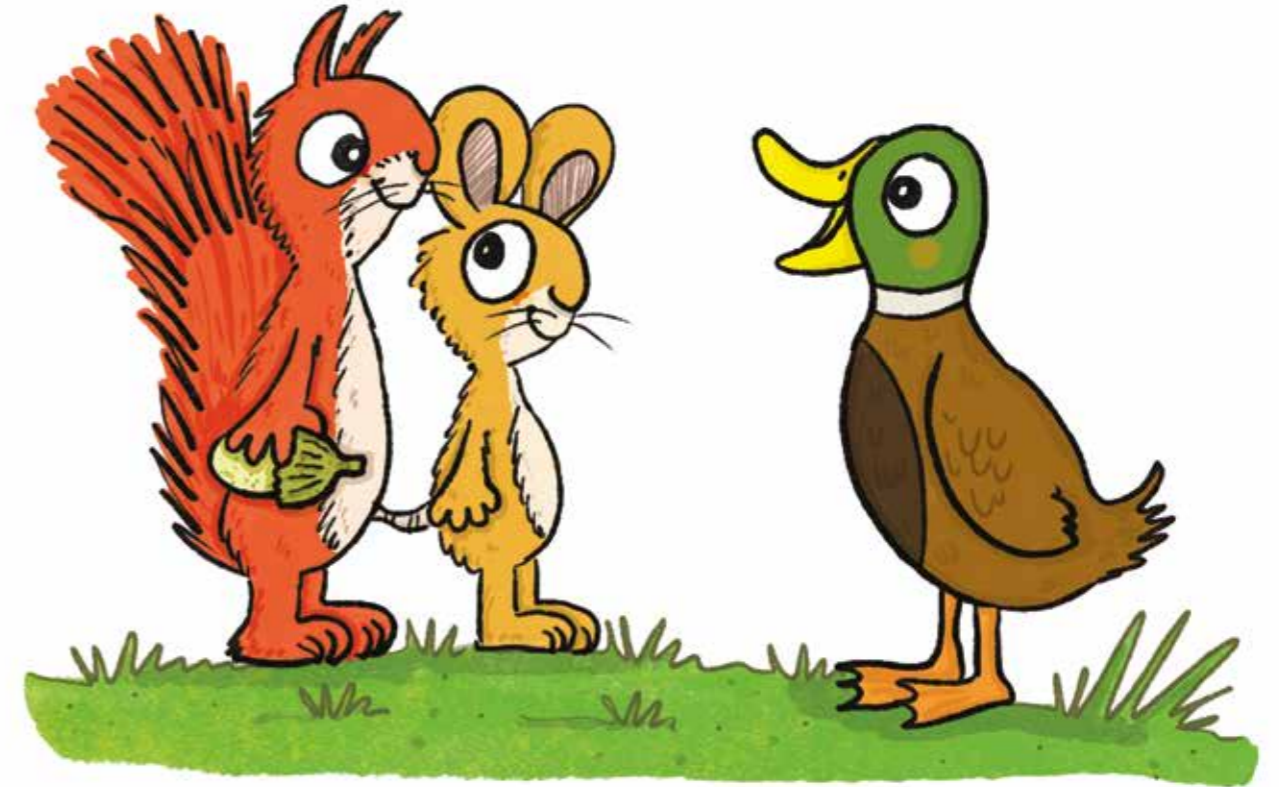
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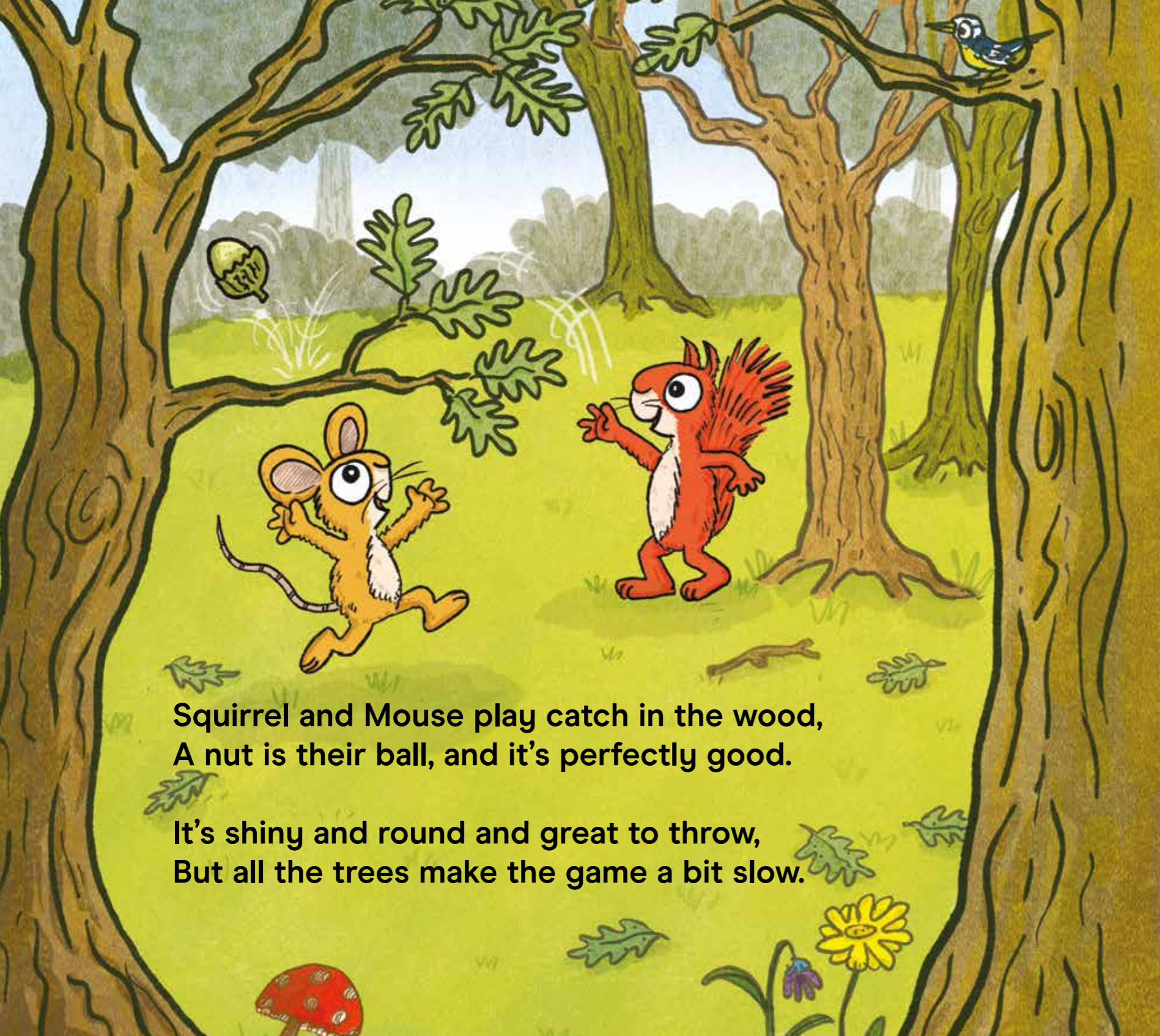
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Quack, Quack Take two steps back!



Explorers



Squirrel and Mouse play catch in the wood,
A nut is their ball, and it's perfectly good.

It's shiny and round and great to throw,
But all the trees make the game a bit slow.



Away in the distance, Squirrel sees a new place,
A beautiful spot with much more space.



By the canal, they continue to play,
Away from the bank, but their nut goes astray.



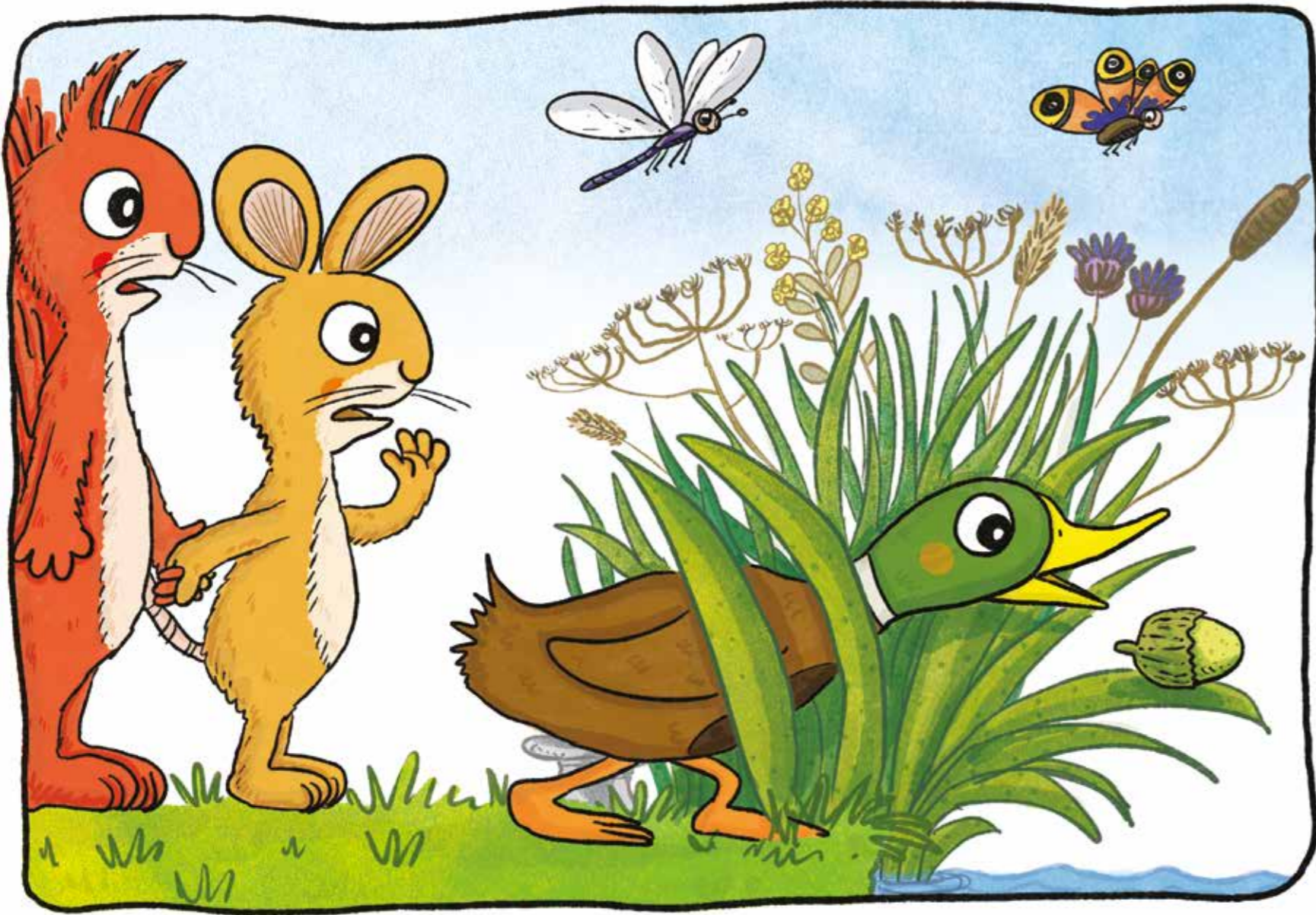
Squirrel goes over to see where it's landed,
When a voice calls out, "Step back!" it commanded.

*“Quack, quack!
Take two steps back”*



Duck had been taking a rest near the hedge,
“Be careful,” he says, “stay away from the edge.”

“The canal is cold and deep, quack, quack,
Please hold hands, take two steps back.”



Duck waddles across and reaches out with his beak,
“Your neck is too short!” says Mouse with a squeak.



Gliding along, Swan swims into view,
Seeing the nut, she pokes her head right through.



“Achoo!”

With her long, slender neck, she grabs it with ease,
But the grass tickles her nose, making her sneeze.

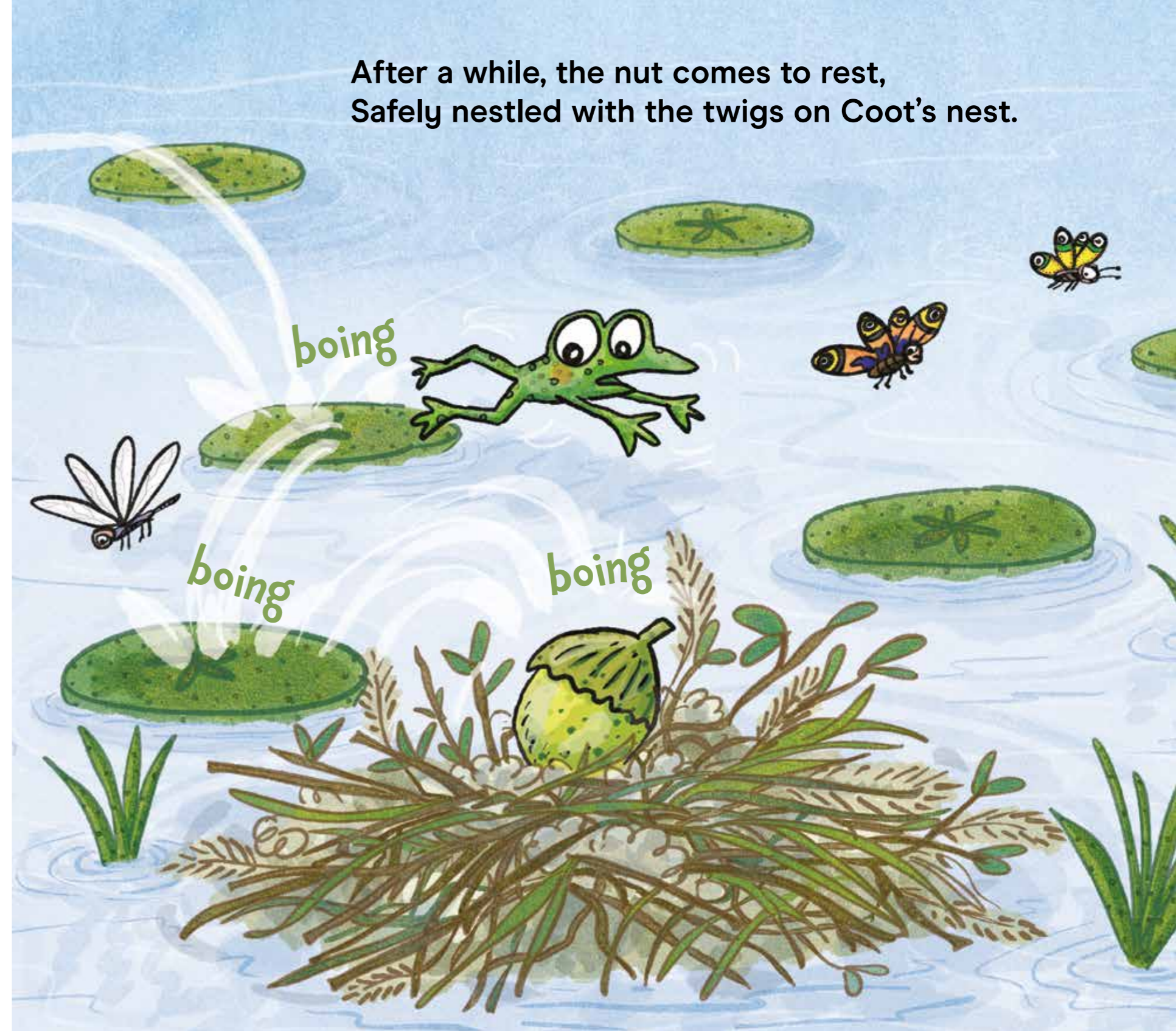
The two little friends watch on in surprise,
As their ball shoots away, flying back through the skies.



“No!
You might fall in!”

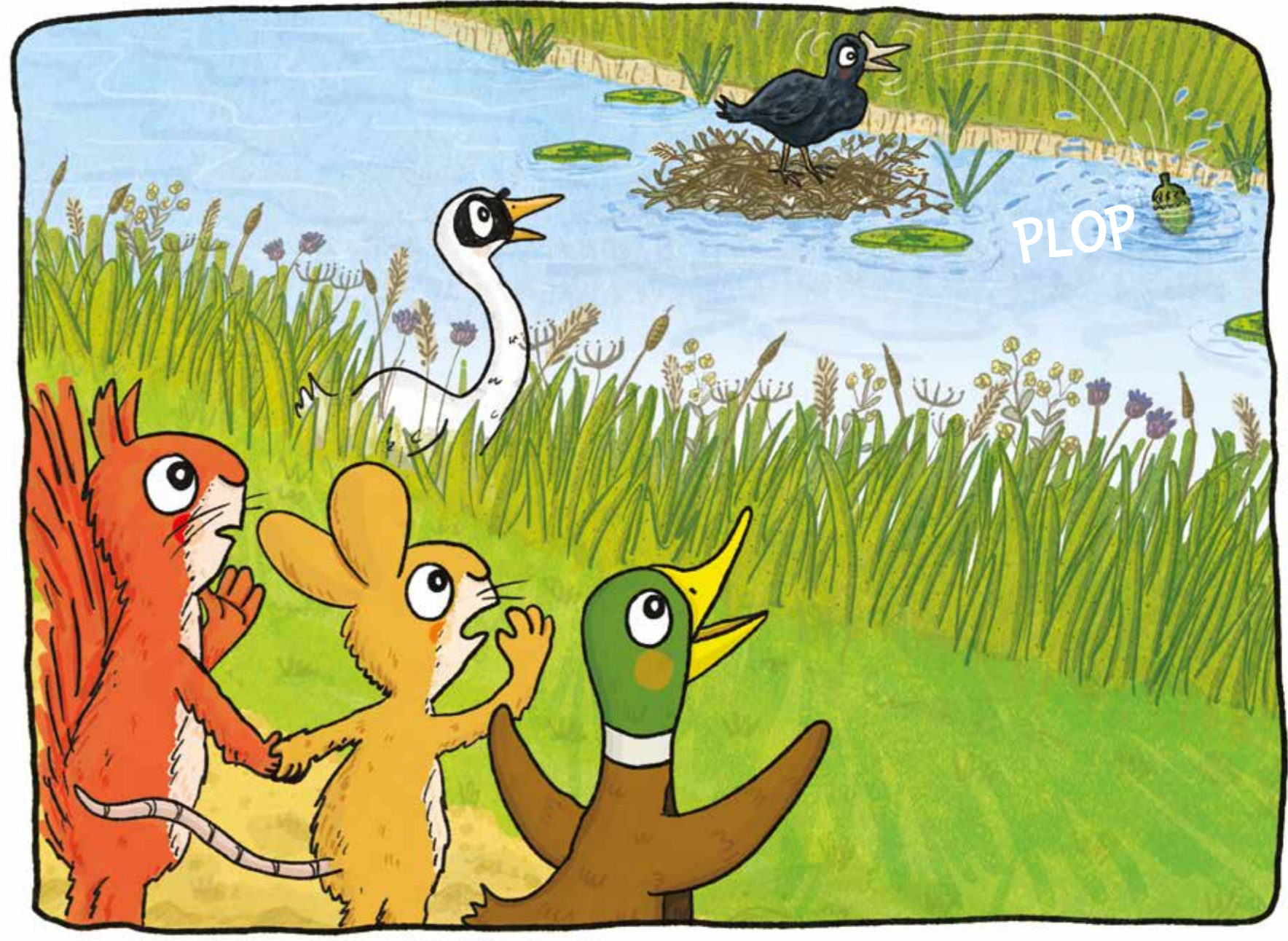
Mouse moves forward with a stretched-out limb,
“No!” yells Duck. “You might fall in!”

After a while, the nut comes to rest,
Safely nestled with the twigs on Coot’s nest.



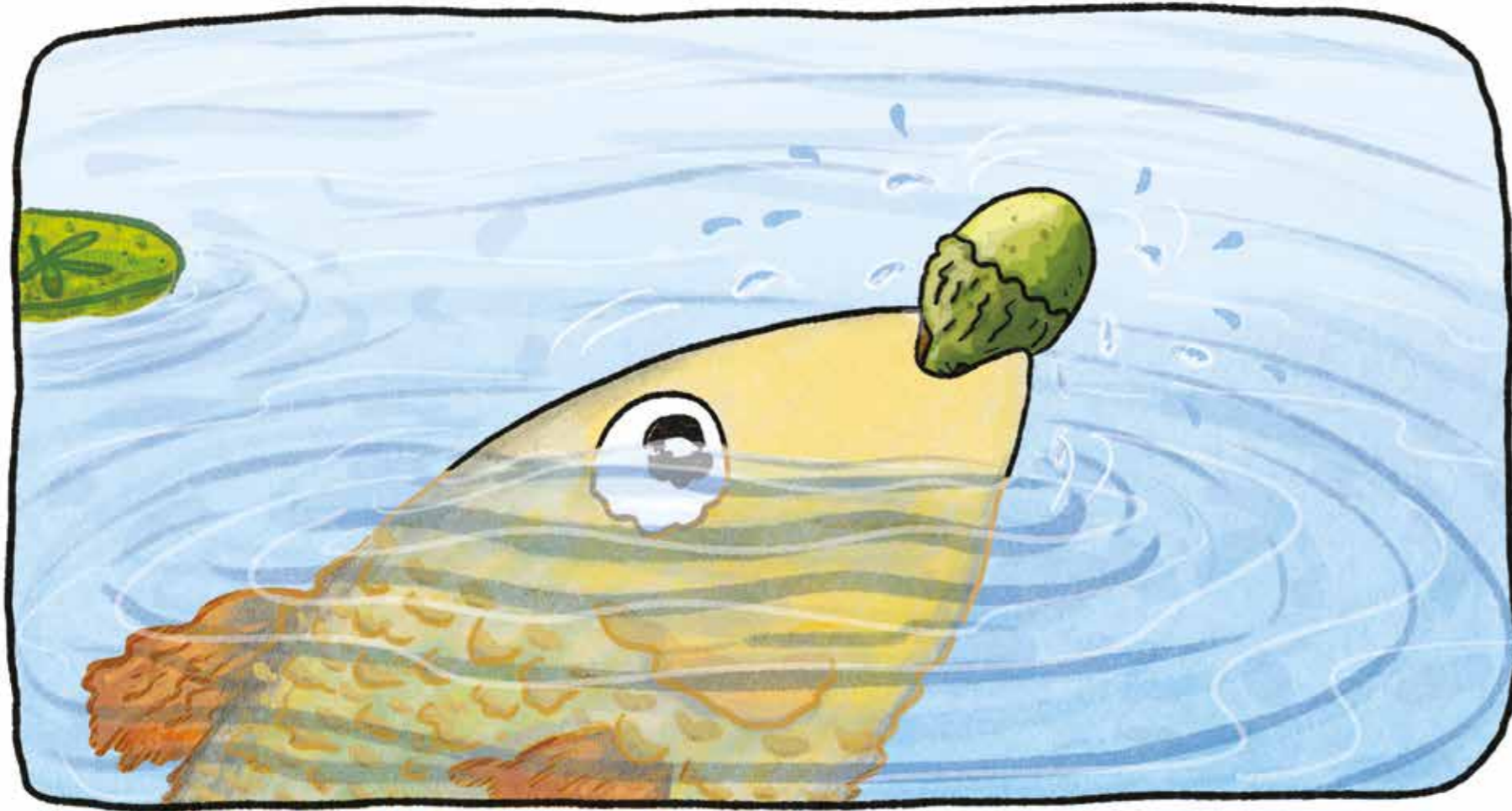


Coot spots the nut shining bright in the moss,
“What a strange egg!” she says, looking cross.

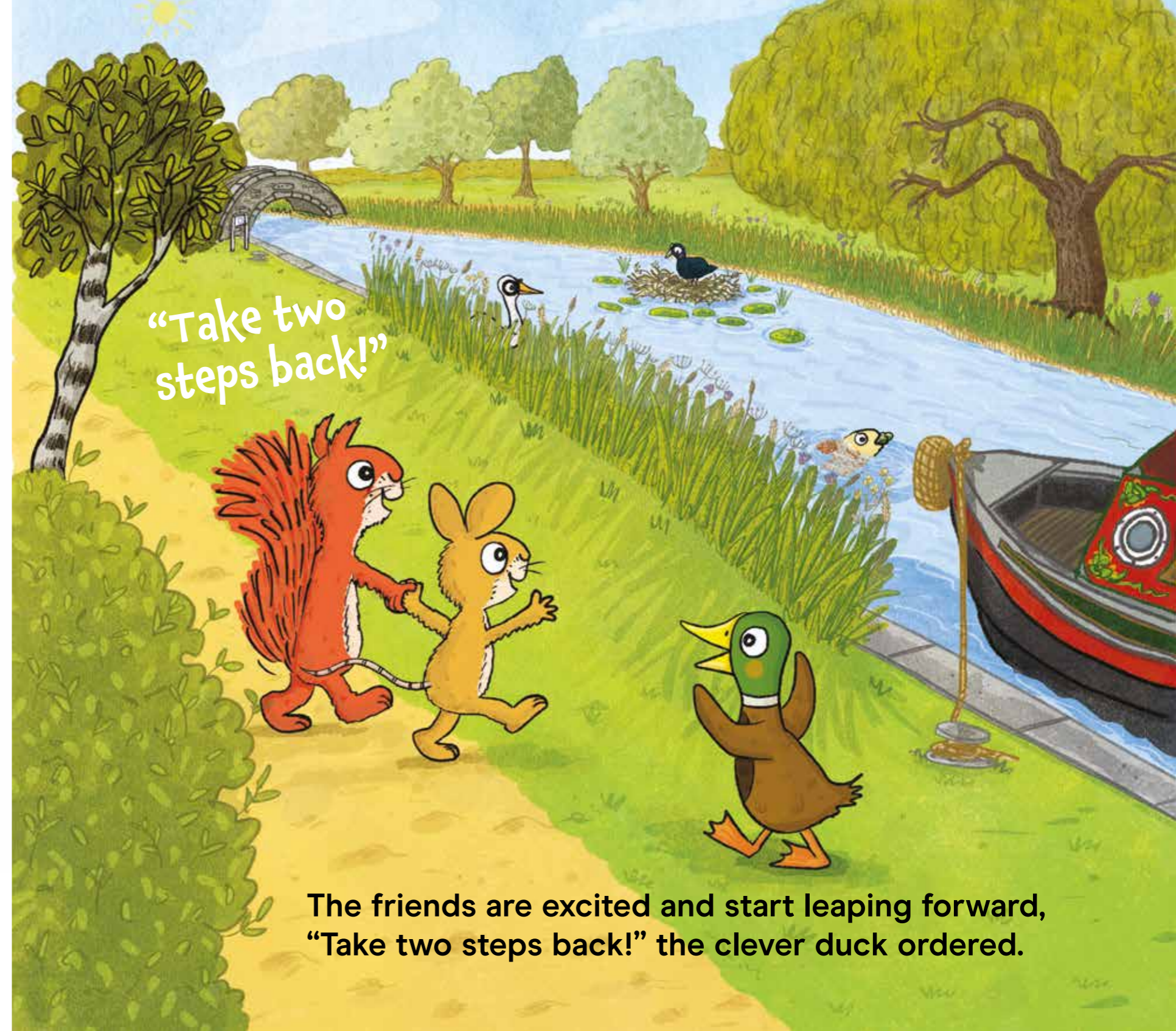


She grabs it and throws it away in a strop,
As the friends on the bank hear it fall with a PLOP.

**“That’s our very best ball!” cries Squirrel in grief,
But then something happens, to their disbelief.**

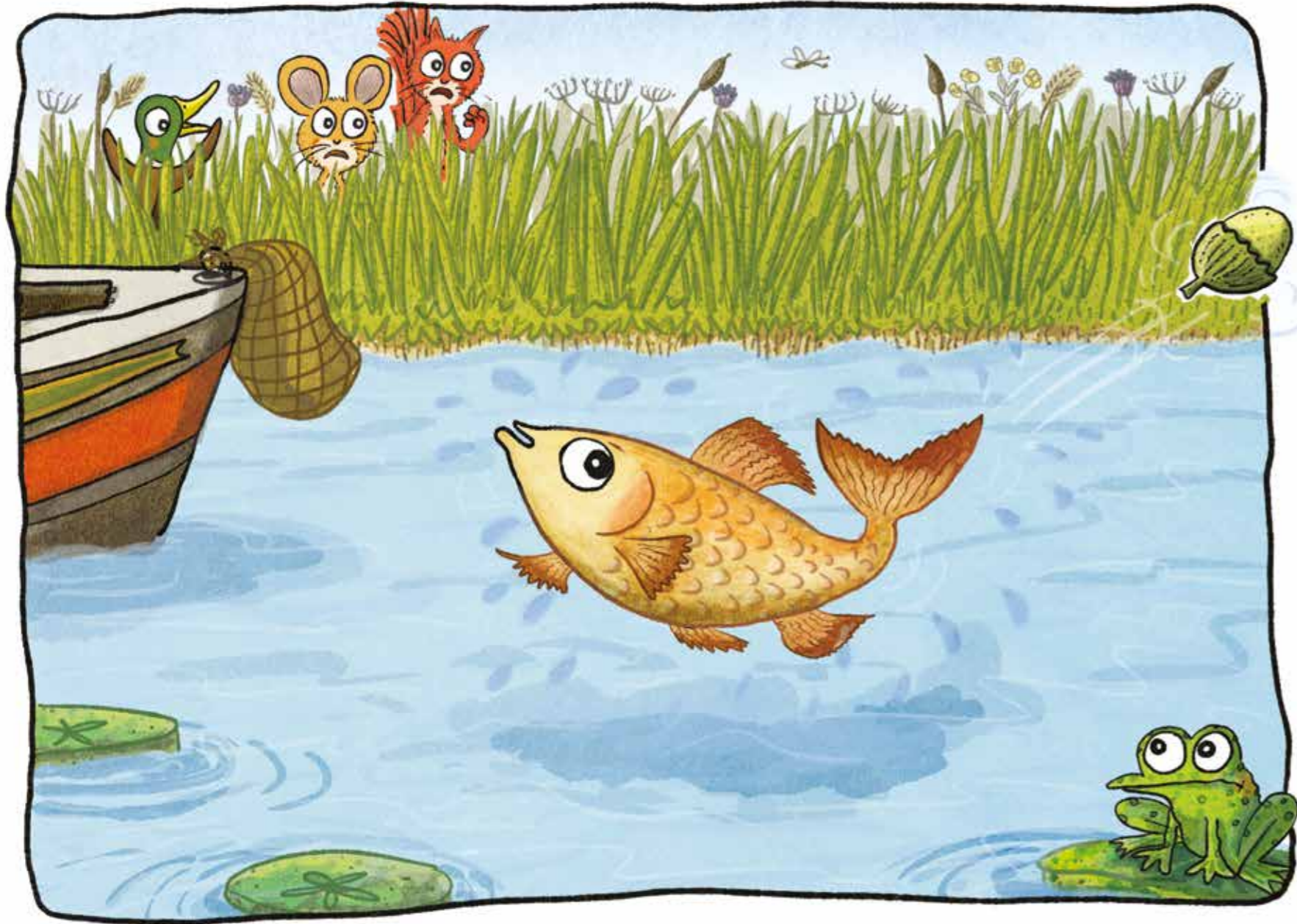


**Up from the water, pops Fish’s wet head,
“I think he’s got it!” the little mouse said.**



**“Take two
steps back!”**

**The friends are excited and start leaping forward,
“Take two steps back!” the clever duck ordered.**



With a huff and a grumble, clearly in a mood,
Fish is not happy, this nut's not his food.

Swish

With a swish of his tail, he knocks the nut with a thud,
Then it falls back down, landing SQUELCH in the mud.





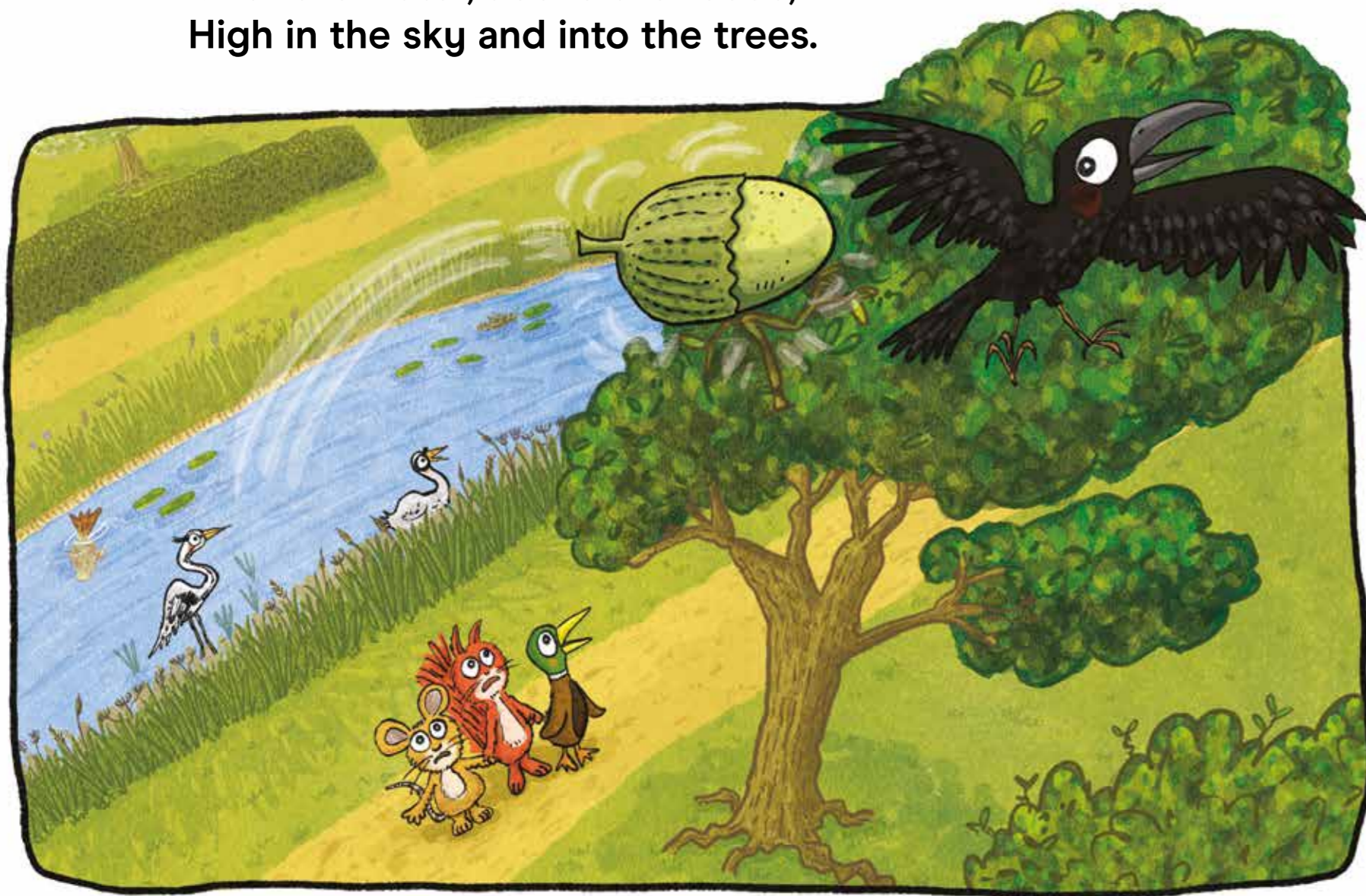
But here comes Heron, with legs long and tall,
“Don’t worry, everyone. I’ll get your ball.”

With an elegant stride, mud up to one knee,
He grabs the nut firmly, but it won’t come free.



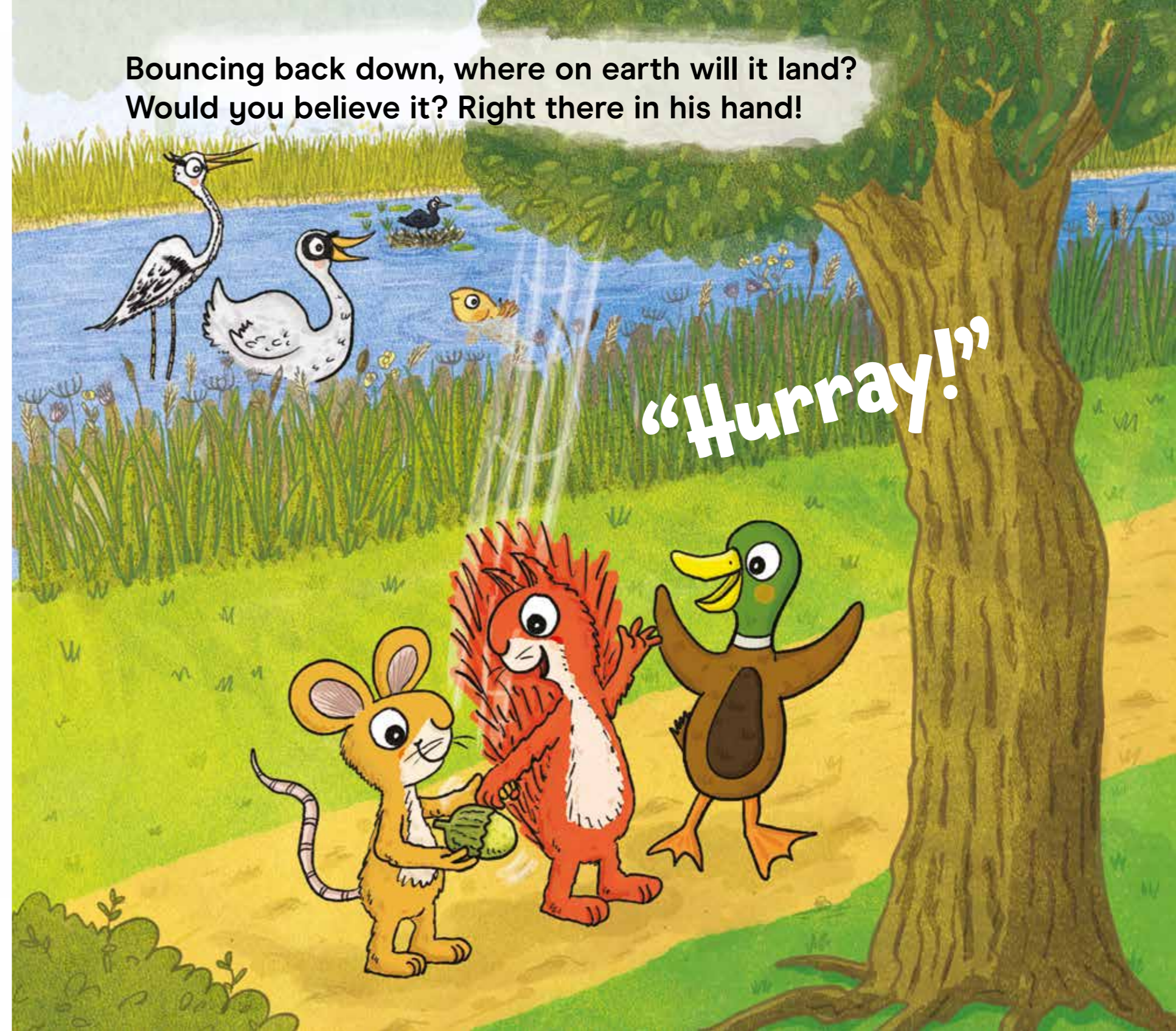
He pulls it and tugs it with all of his might,
Then all of a sudden, the nut takes flight!

Over the water, above the reeds,
High in the sky and into the trees.



Hitting a branch, it startles Crow,
The surprised little mouse looks up from below.

Bouncing back down, where on earth will it land?
Would you believe it? Right there in his hand!



"Hurray!"

The waterside is fun to go,
But there are things you need to know.

Let's stay safe and not be silly,
The water here is very chilly.

Find your grown-up, hold their hand,
Two steps back is where you stand.

Look out for bugs and ducks that quack,
But always do it two steps back.

*“Quack, quack
Take two
steps back!”*

Water Safety Song

“Hold hands, take two steps back.
Hold hands, take two steps back.
Hold hands, take two steps back.
Let's stay safe together.”



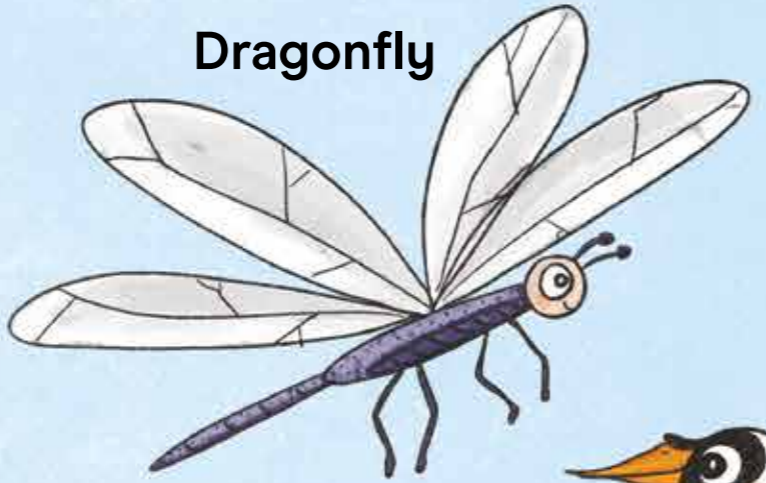
Scan this to
hear how the
tune goes.





Acorn

Dragonfly

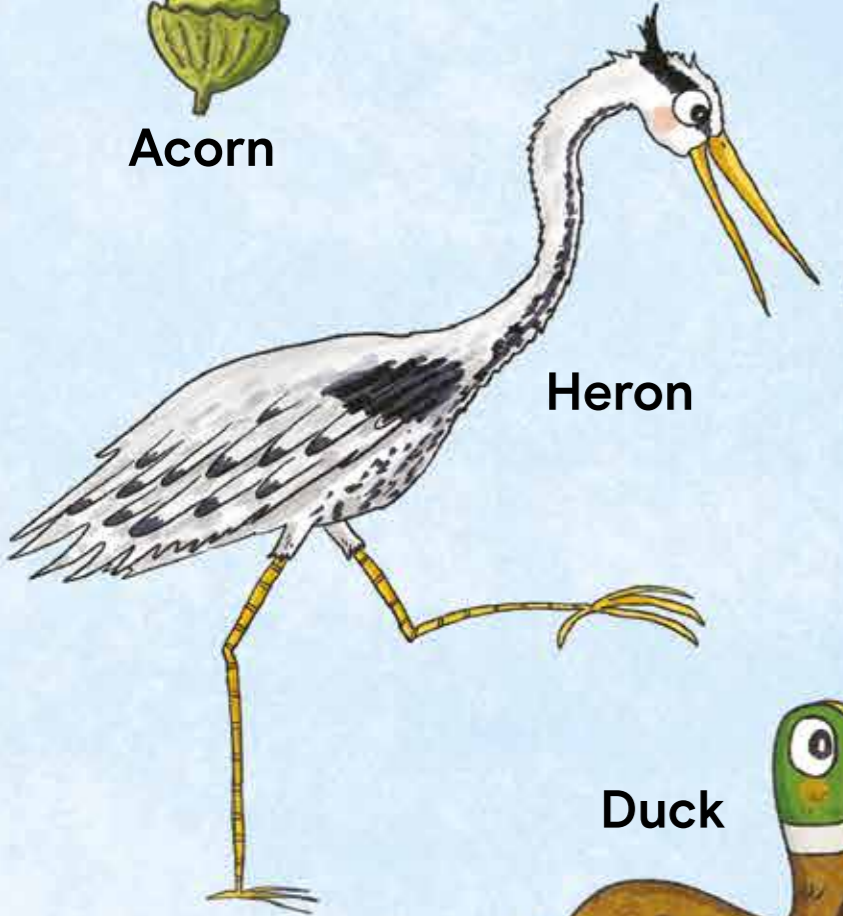


Flowers



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Heron



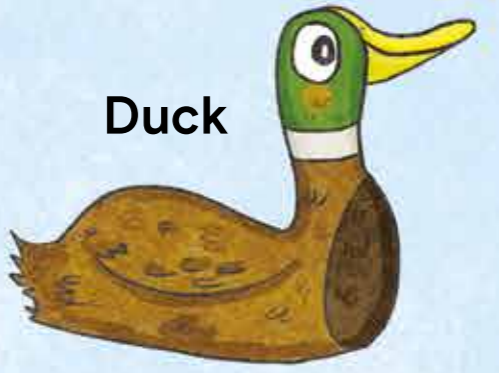
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Duck



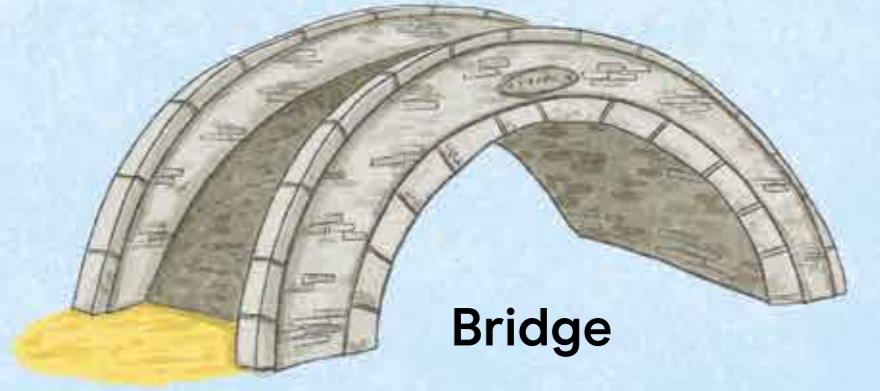
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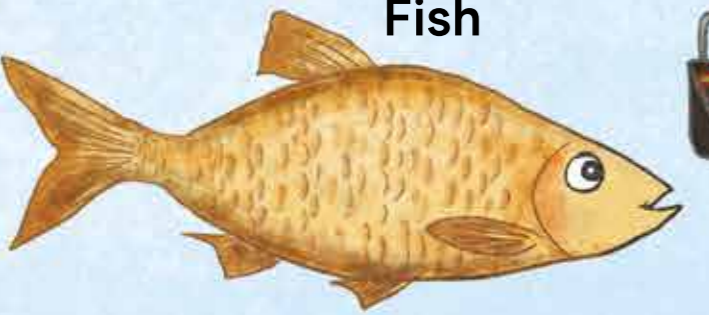
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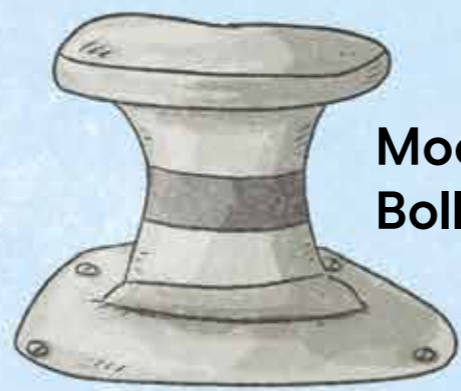
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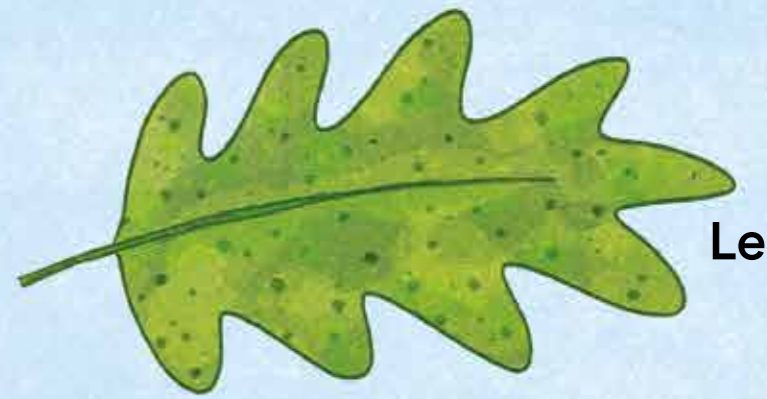
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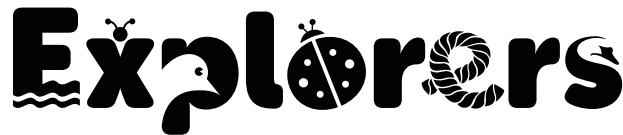


The Canal & River Trust is the charity that cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. We know how excited children can get by the water, enjoying time being active outdoors, and also how anxious it can make their parents, grandparents and carers about them being too close to the edge. We hope that by reading this storybook with your little ones it allows you to enjoy your visits even more.

Next time you head to the water with your children, practice taking two steps back while singing this song with them!



This water safety book is just one of our Explorers activities aimed at children under 12. We have lots more for families, schools and groups. Relax, have fun and spend time in the great outdoors. Find out more about your local canal or river and all the amazing things you can do there at canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers.



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