

Inky Mouse & Friends

The Bird House

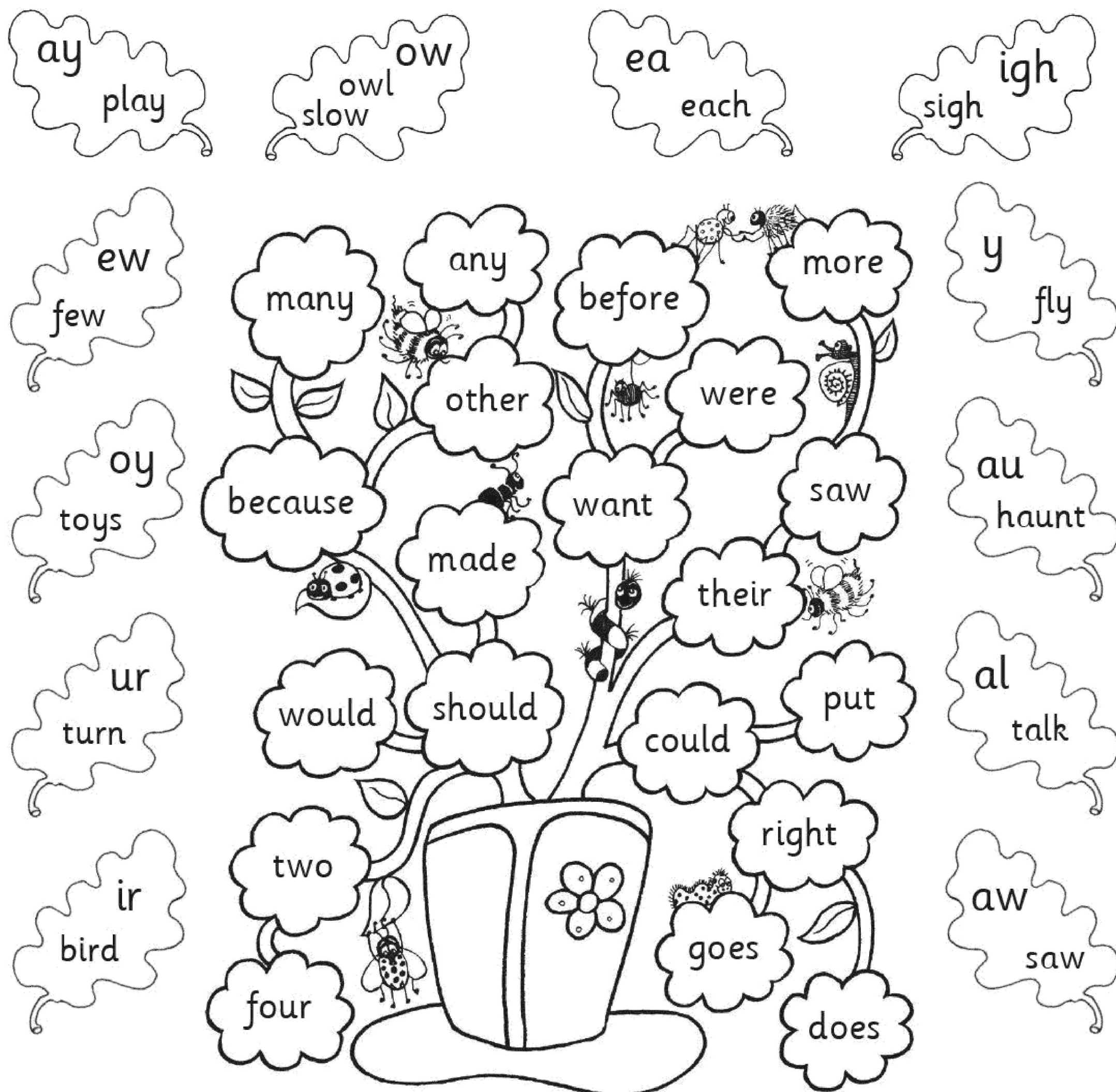


Jolly
Phonics

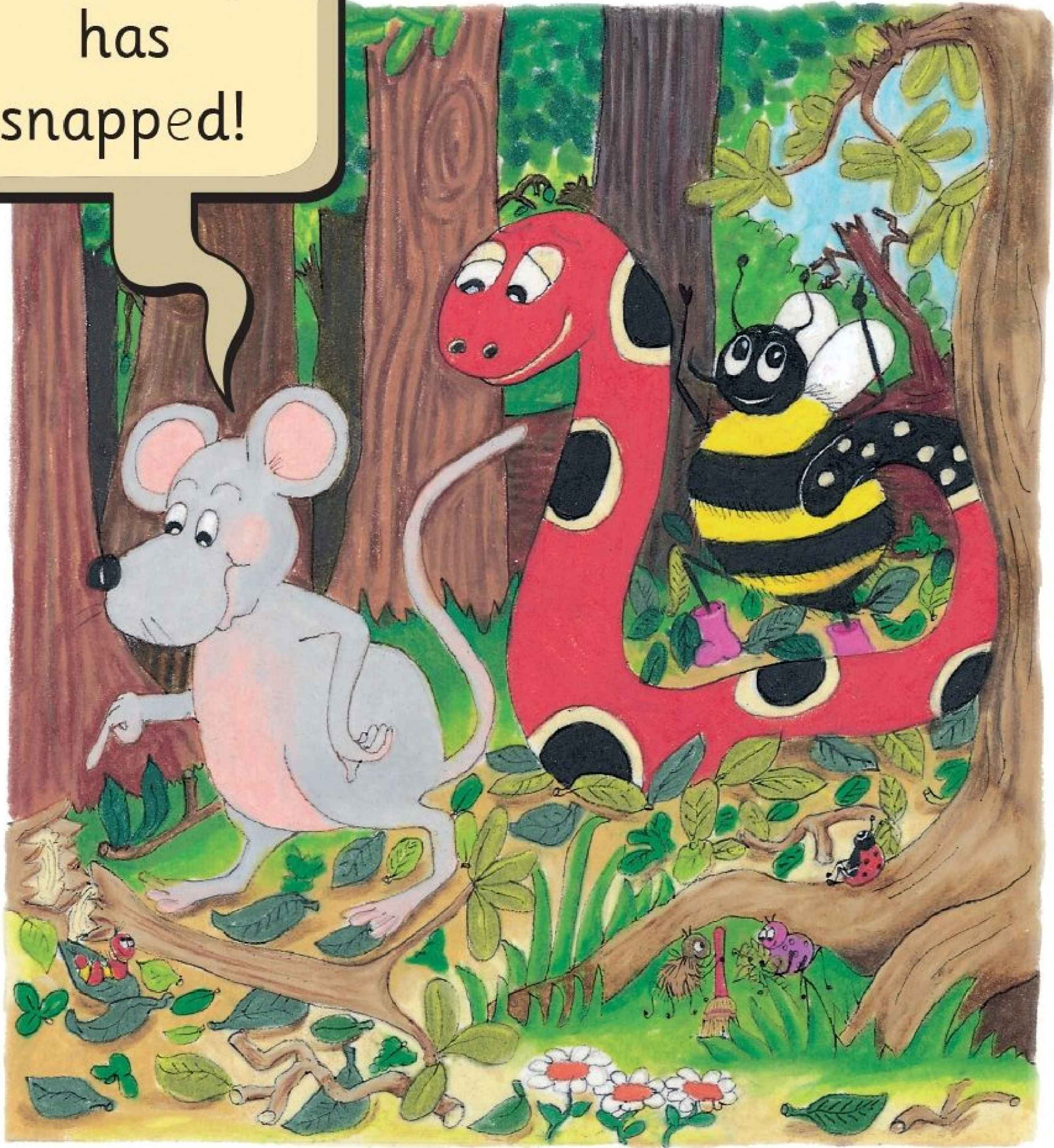
Teachers and parents

Before tackling these Blue Level Readers, a child will need to be able to:

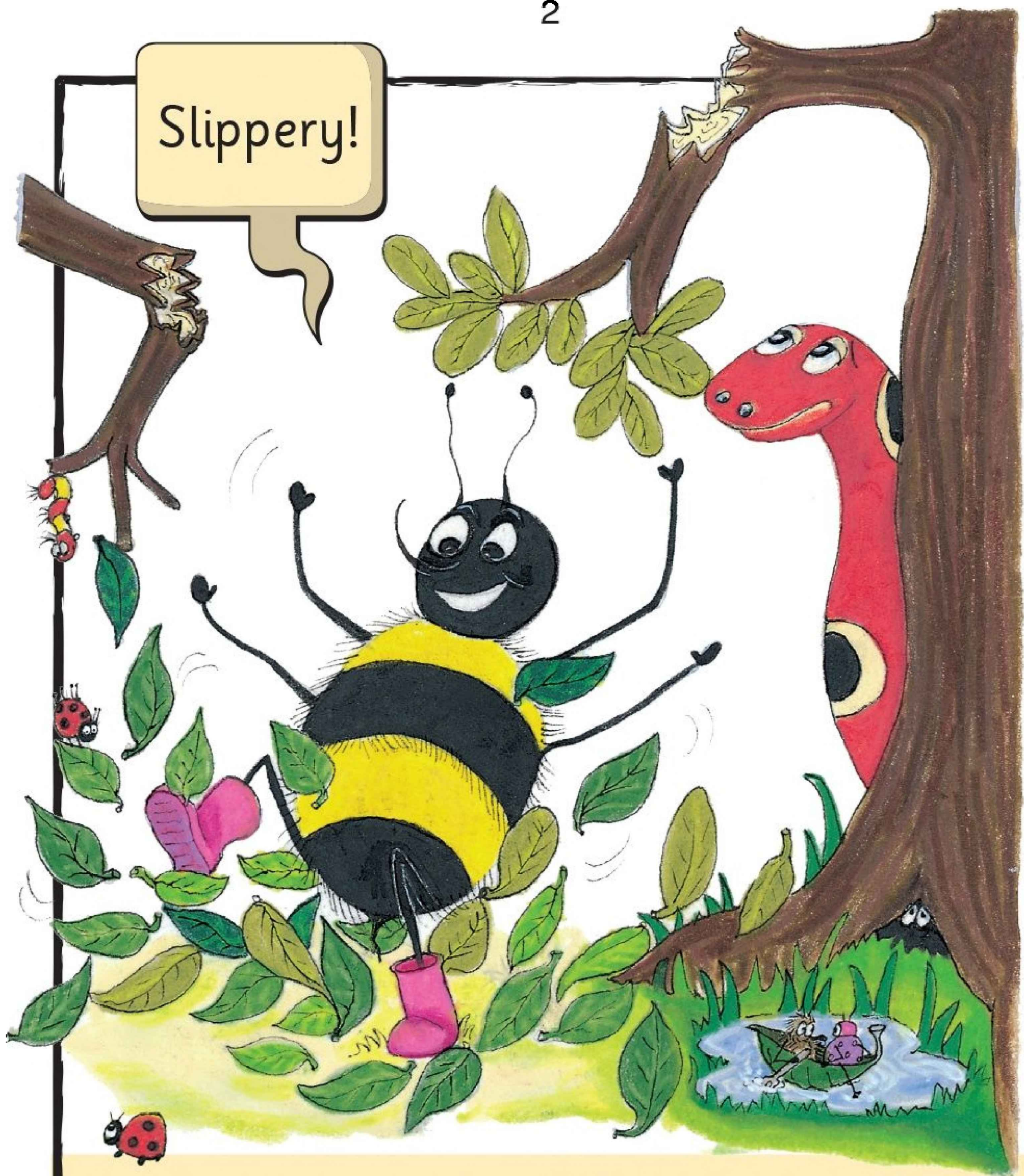
- Recognise the basic 42 letter sounds, <y> as in *happy*, the 'hop-over <e>' digraphs in words like *take*, *these*, *bike*, *code* and *mule*, and the other main alternative vowel spellings in the leaves below;
- Read (blend) regular words containing these letter sounds;
- Recognise the twenty tricky words shown in the flowers below;
- Recognise the names of the three main characters, as well as Phonic.



This twig
has
snapped!



Snake, Inky and Bee had gone for a walk in the Vowel Forest. It had been raining all day the day before, and there had been a big storm in the night. Twigs and leaves littered the forest floor.



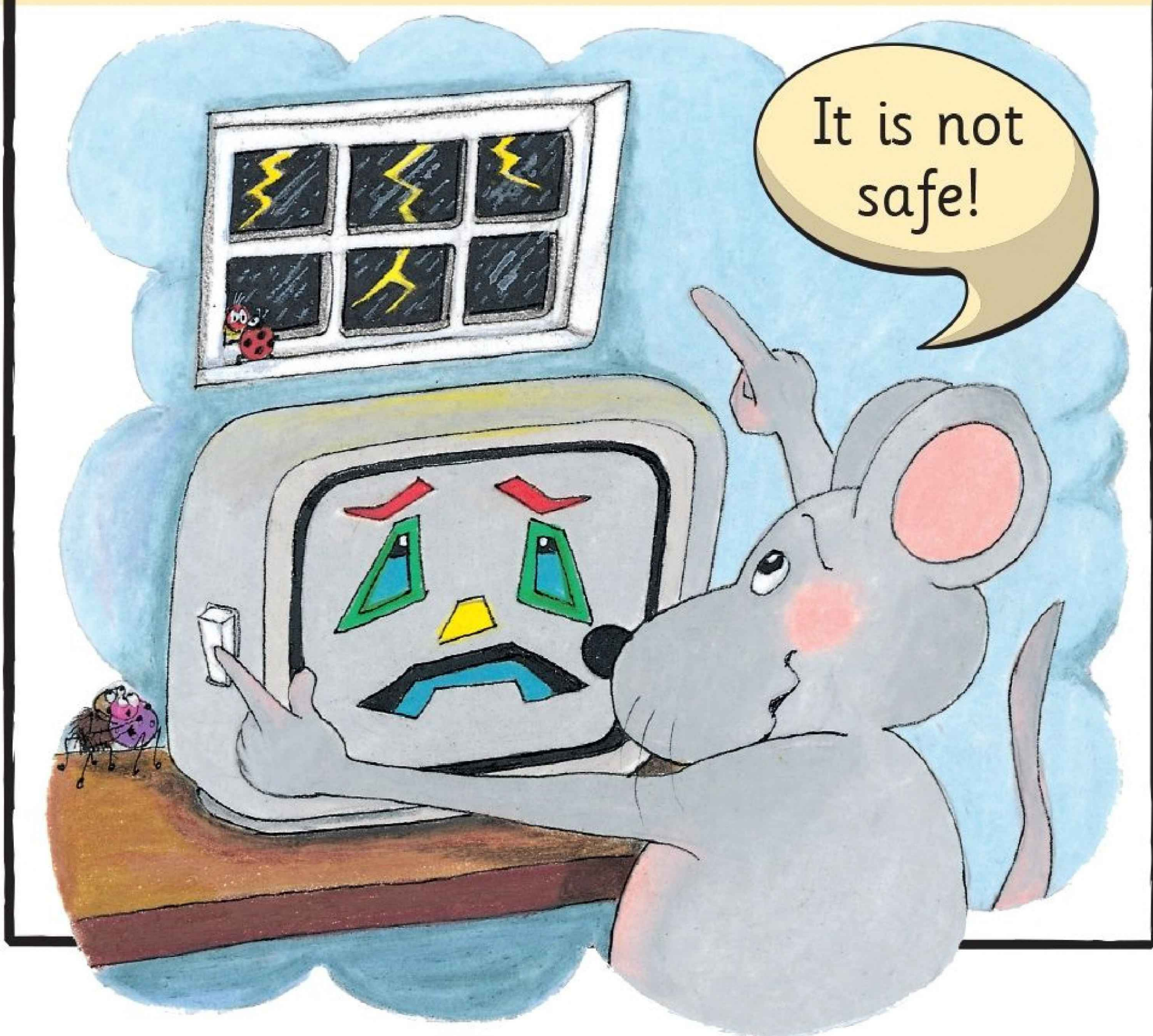
It was still very damp underfoot. Bee ran about and kicked at the piles of leaves.

"I am glad I was safe inside," hissed Snake, looking around.

“Yes,” agreed Inky. “I had to turn Phonic off. There was a lot of lightning.”

“Did he not want to come out with us today?” said Snake.

“No,” Inky shook her head. “He said it was still too wet, but he will want to know all about what happened while he was switched off.”



A bit further along, a tree had been blown down. There were leaves and twigs all around, and the trunk of the tree was lying on the ground.

“Wow!” said Snake, looking at the jagged tree stump. “What a mess!”

Wow!



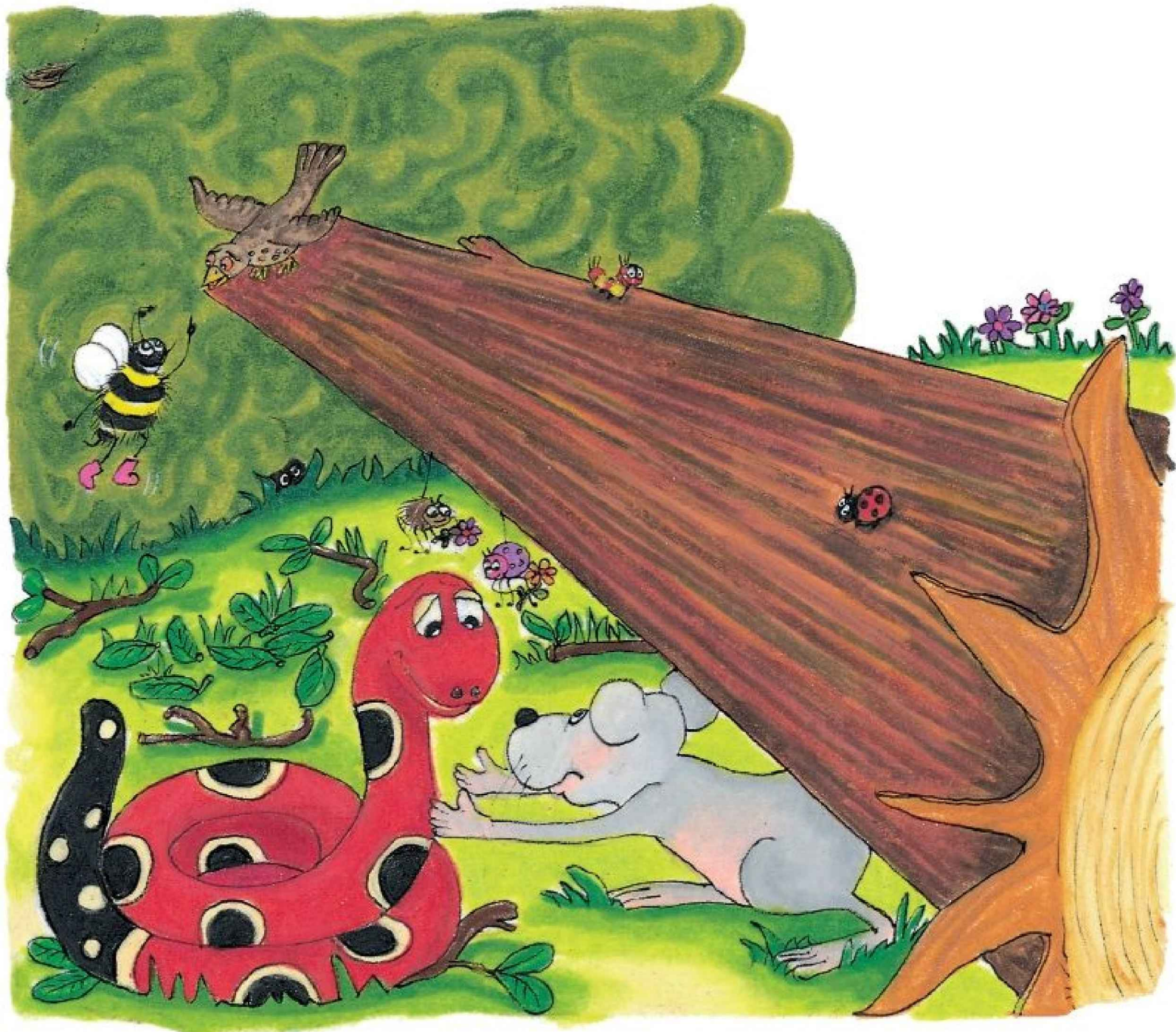


Snake started to slither along the fallen tree trunk. As he got to the middle, a small bird burst out from the leaves in the treetop. She started to dive bomb Snake, tweeting and shouting, "Go away, you horrid Snake!"



“Ow! What? Help!” cried Snake in surprise, ducking to avoid the little bird’s attack. As the bird continued to dive bomb him, Snake slipped off the trunk and landed in a heap.

Inky rushed to him to see if he was all right. Snake sat up, looking dazed, and said, "What did I do?"



Inky shook her head. "Perhaps the bird has a nest with some eggs in that tree. I expect she thinks you might want to eat them. Bee is chatting to her. Perhaps she can see what the problem is."



"What's the matter?" said Inky when Bee came back to them.

"The little bird has a nest and two chicks in the tree," explained Bee. "While the tree was still standing, they were safe. She is very upset," she added.

“Yes, I gathered that,” muttered Snake.

“Sh!” said Inky.

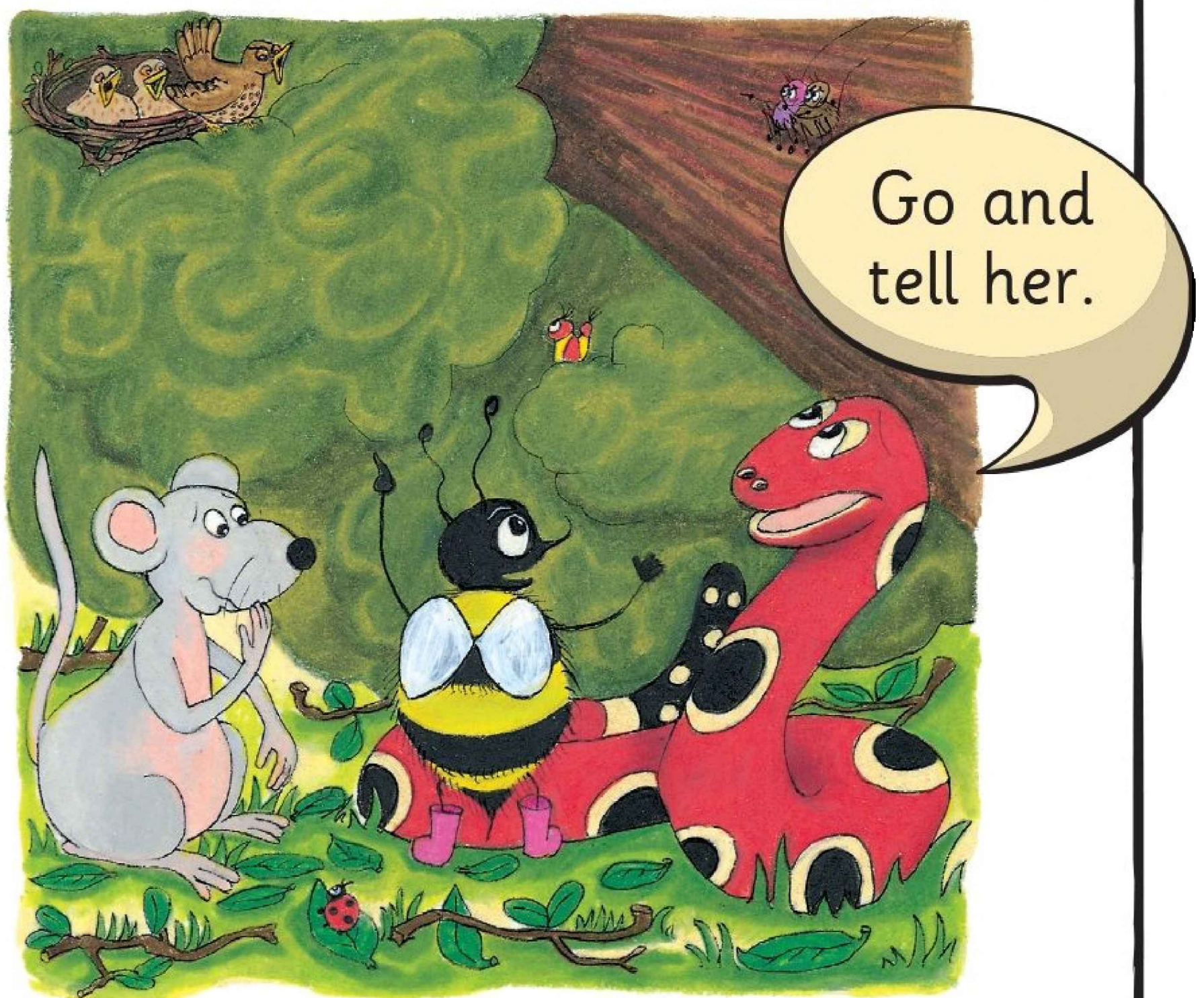
“She cannot leave her chicks to go and collect food because they are not safe on the ground,” Bee continued. “Then she saw Snake slithering along and she wanted to stop him getting as far as her nest.”

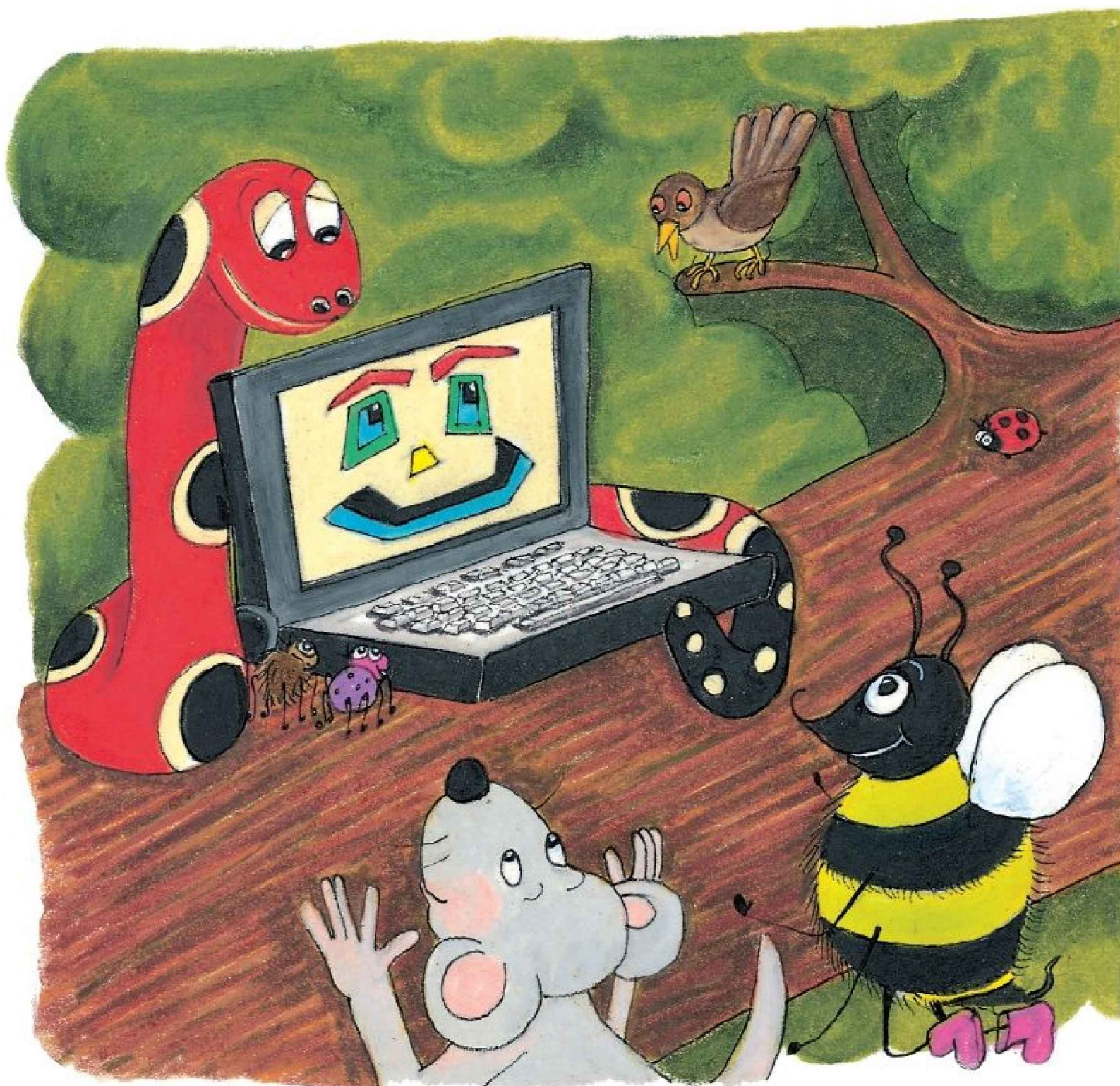


“I was not slithering up to her nest!” spluttered Snake, indignantly. “I was just looking around.”

“I know that, and Inky knows that, but she does not,” said Bee, pointing to the little bird.

“Well, go and tell her,” prompted Snake.

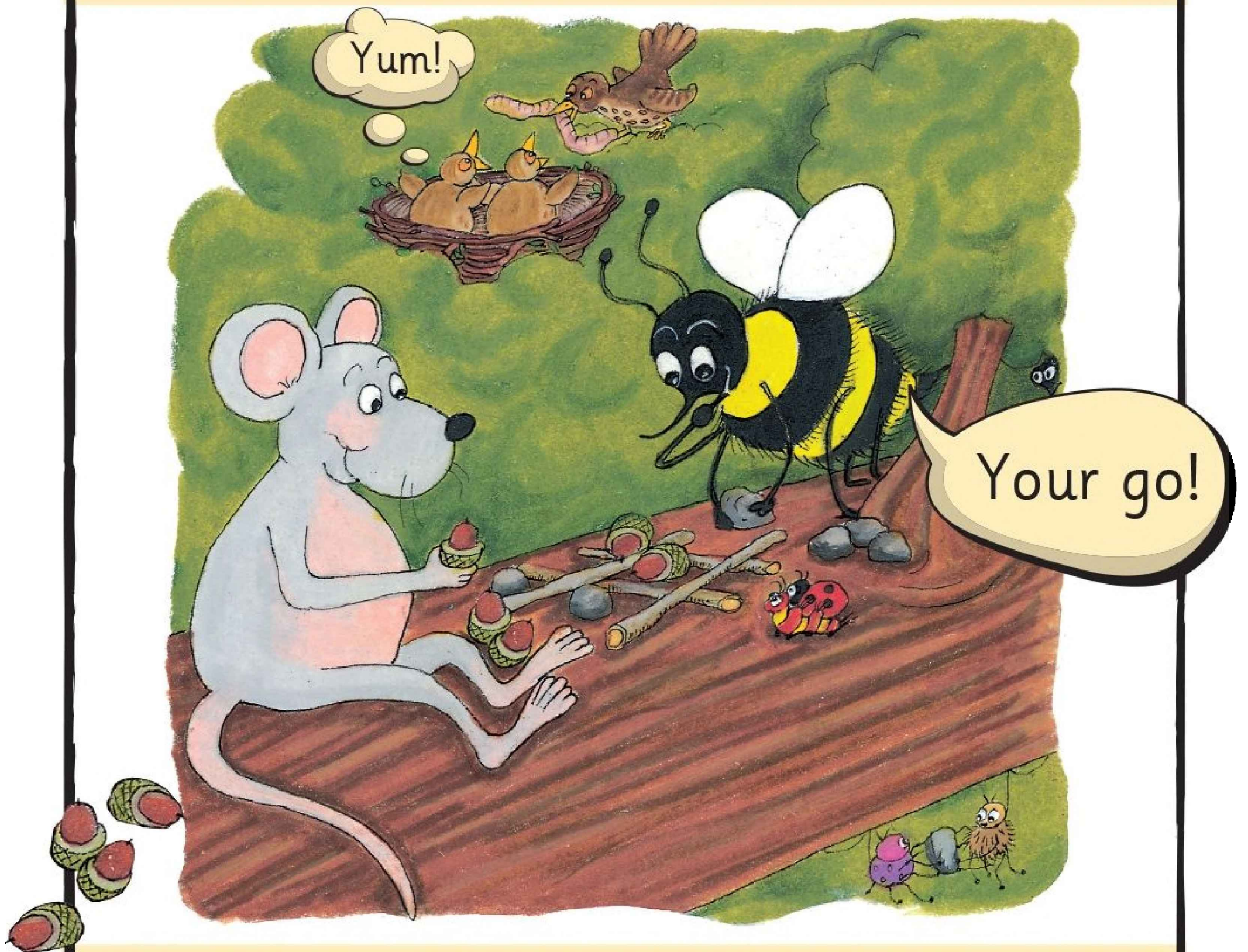




Inky ran back to get Phonic to see if he could help.

“Well,” said Phonic when it had all been explained. “We have two problems here. One, the chicks need to be fed and guarded from harm, and two, the bird needs to build a new nest in another tree.”

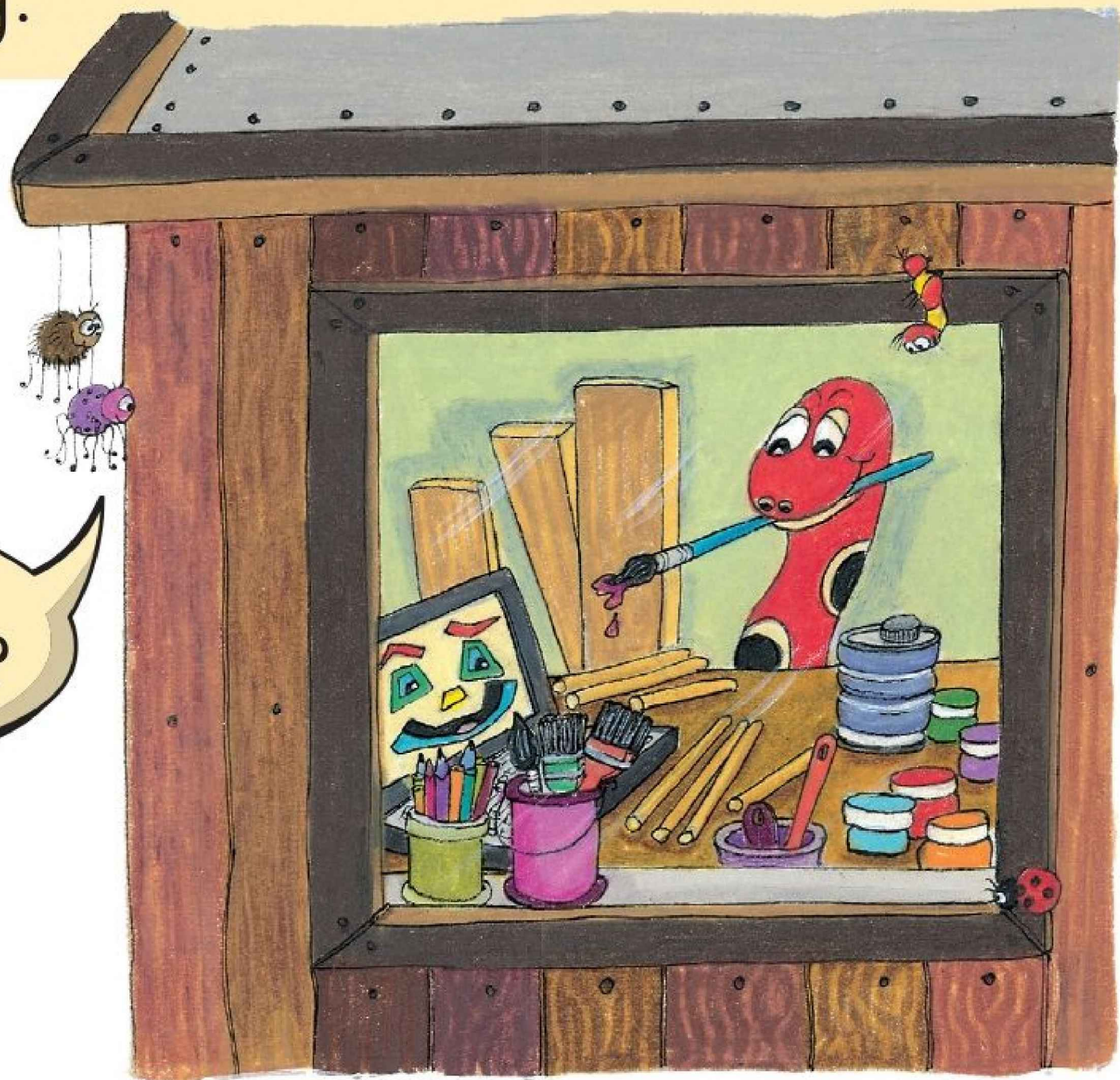
So, for the next week, Inky and Bee helped the little bird by staying with the chicks, while she went out and collected food for them.



Snake and Phonic shut themselves away in the shed and started building a new home for the bird and her family.

“I haven’t seen Snake and Phonic out in the forest collecting sticks and things for my new nest,” chirped the little bird one morning.

What are they doing?



“Buzz,” went Bee. “Before they began, they spent some time discussing how to make the ultimate birdhouse, and er... I do not think it will be quite the same as your old nest.”



“Good morning,” hissed Snake, slithering up. “If you are ready, you can settle into your new home today.”

“Goody,” twittered the bird, “but where is it? I haven’t seen you or a new nest anywhere in this part of the forest.”

“Well,” said Snake, “we have put your new home in the big tree in the garden. It should be safe there, and we can still help with your chicks.”

Inky, Bee, the bird and her chicks stood looking at the new home that Snake and Phonic had made.

“It’s very different,” said the bird.

“Try it,” said Phonic. “We tried to make it better than your old nest. It has a lot more room and it will stay dry in all weathers.”





They helped the bird get her chicks into the house.

“You have put lots of soft stuff inside,” she said, “and you are right. A roof will mean we will not get wet. It’s perfect! Thank you so much. I never dreamed I would ever live in a house like this one!”

Reading Comprehension

Teachers and parents

An important part of becoming a confident, fluent reader is a child's ability to understand what they are reading. Below are some suggestions on how to develop a child's reading comprehension.

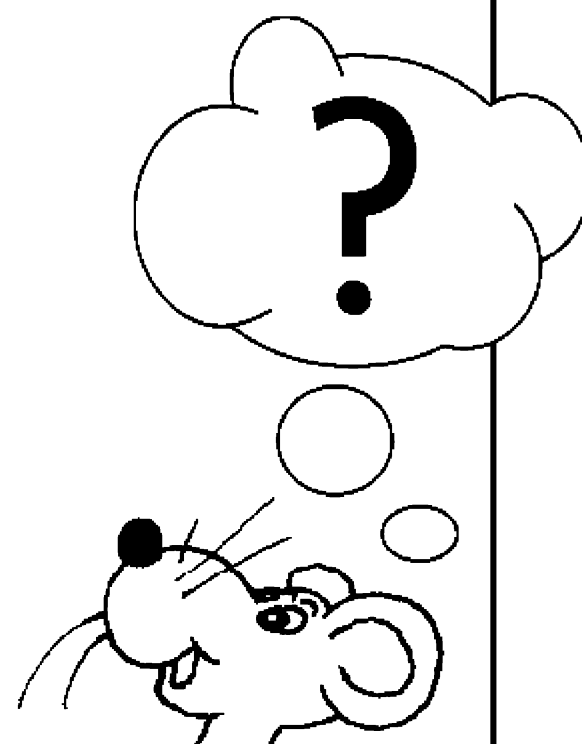
- Make reading this book a shared experience between you and the child. Try to avoid leaving it until the whole book is read before talking about it. Occasionally stop at various intervals throughout the book.
- Ask questions about the characters, the setting, the action and the meaning.
- Encourage the child to think about what might happen next. It does not matter if the answer is right or wrong, so long as the suggestion makes sense and demonstrates understanding.
- Ask the child to describe what is happening in the illustrations.
- Relate what is happening in the book to any real-life experiences the child may have.
- Pick out any vocabulary that may be new to the child and ask what they think it means. If they don't know, explain it and relate it to what is happening in the book.
- Encourage the child to summarise, in their own words, what they have read.

What's in the book?

- Why does Inky turn Phonic off?
- Why can't the bird go and collect food?
- Where is the new nest?

What do you think?

- Why does the bird attack Snake?
- What might happen to the chicks if they are left alone?





Jolly Phonics Readers are fully decodable books for new readers.

These Readers have been written with a **carefully controlled vocabulary**, and are specifically designed for children who are learning to read and write with *Jolly Phonics*.

- The text in these Blue Level Books (fourth level) uses only **decodable regular words** that use the letter-sound knowledge taught so far: the 42 main letter sounds, <y> as in *happy*, and the main alternative vowel spellings (the 'hop-over <e>' spellings of the long vowel sounds, <ay> as in *day*, <ea> as in *seat*, <y> and <igh> as in *fly* and *high*, <ow> as in *low* and *now*, <ew> as in *dew*, <oy> as in *joy*, <ir> and <ur> as in *bird* and *turn*, and <al>, <au> and <aw> as in *talk*, *pause* and *saw*), and a small number of '**tricky**' words (frequently used words that are not fully decodable at this stage).
- All new tricky words and alternative vowel spellings used are shown on the front inside cover; these can be used as a quick practice activity before starting the book.
- **Faint type** is used for silent letters, like the in 'lamb'.
- **Comprehension questions** and discussion topics are included at the end of the book. These ensure that children are not only able to read the text, but also get meaning from the stories.

Blue Level Readers



Inky Mouse & Friends	General Fiction	Nonfiction
The Bird House Daisy and Buttercup The New Kitten An Inter-Hive Match The Maize Maze Beach Rescue	The Enormous Turnip Rumpelstiltskin Puppets Many More Monsters The Pumpkin Party Town Mouse and Country Mouse	Soccer Mountains Henry Ford Sharks The Moon The Nile



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