

1 Achoooo!

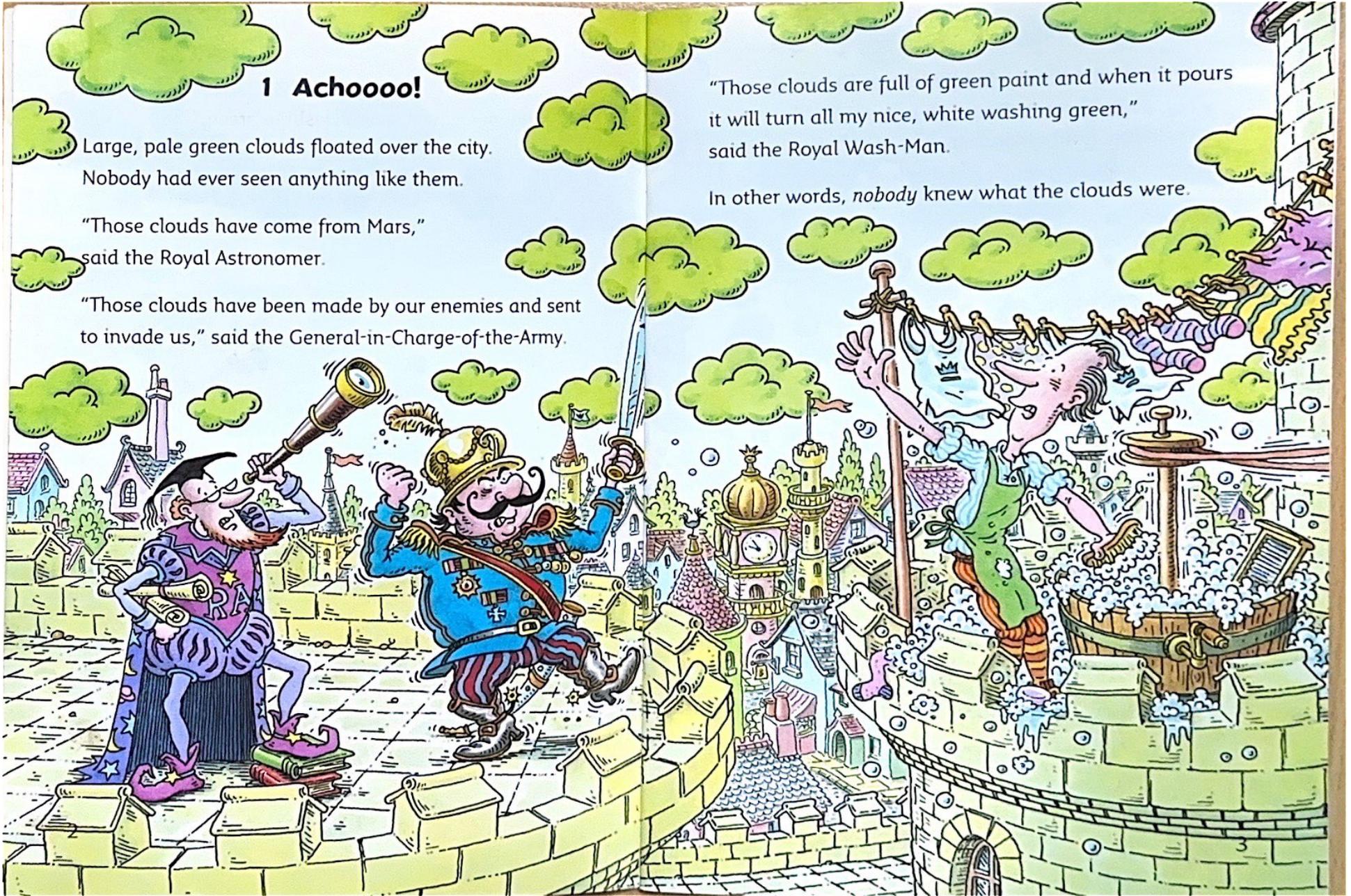
Large, pale green clouds floated over the city. Nobody had ever seen anything like them.

"Those clouds have come from Mars," said the Royal Astronomer.

"Those clouds have been made by our enemies and sent to invade us," said the General-in-Charge-of-the-Army.

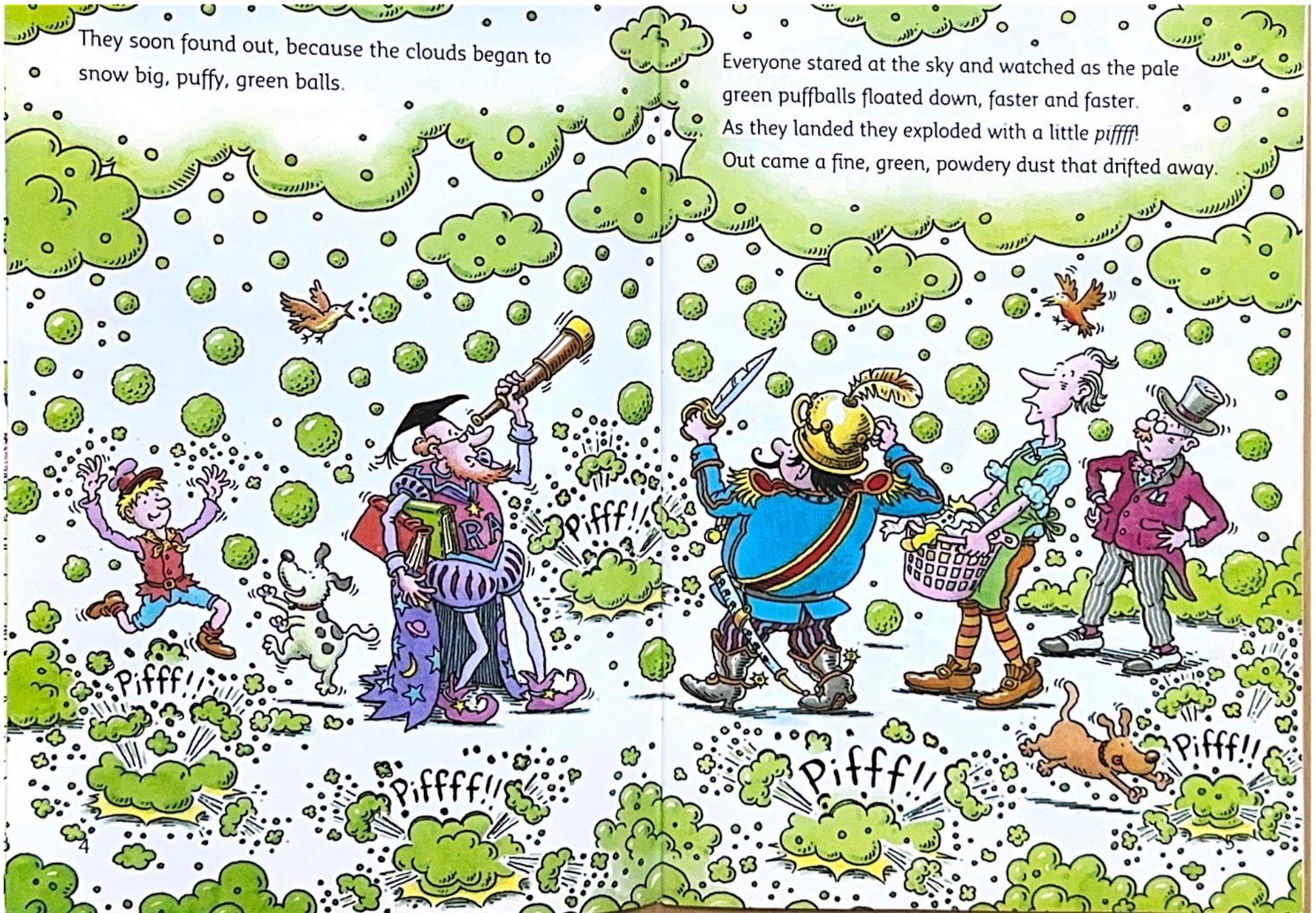
"Those clouds are full of green paint and when it pours it will turn all my nice, white washing green," said the Royal Wash-Man.

In other words, *nobody* knew what the clouds were.



They soon found out, because the clouds began to snow big, puffy, green balls.

Everyone stared at the sky and watched as the pale green puffballs floated down, faster and faster. As they landed they exploded with a little *piff!* Out came a fine, green, powdery dust that drifted away.



A bird sneezed.

"Achoooooo!"

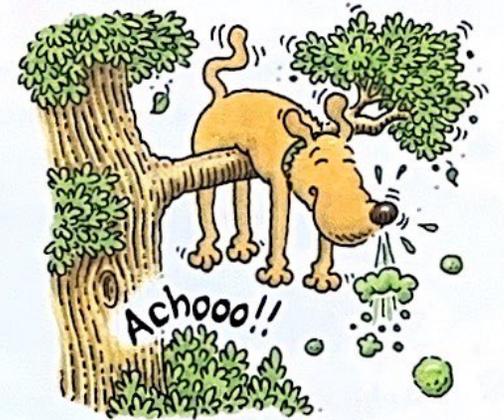
It was a *huge* sneeze!
It was so powerful that
the bird shot backwards,
straight into a hole in
a tree, where it stuck.



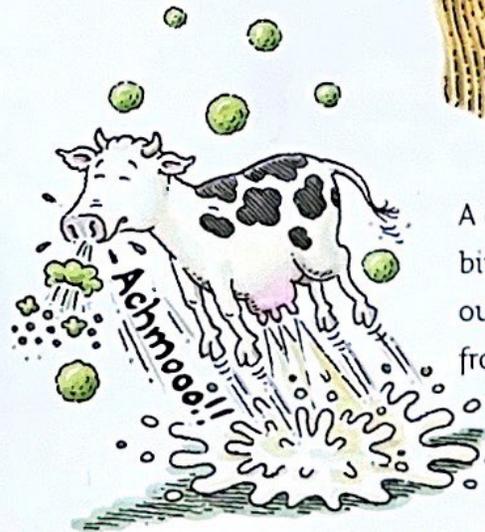
Everywhere, birds began
to sneeze. If they were
flying they went rocketing
backwards at high speed
- **whoosh!** If they
were sitting on a branch
they spun round and
round until at last they
fell off - **clump!**



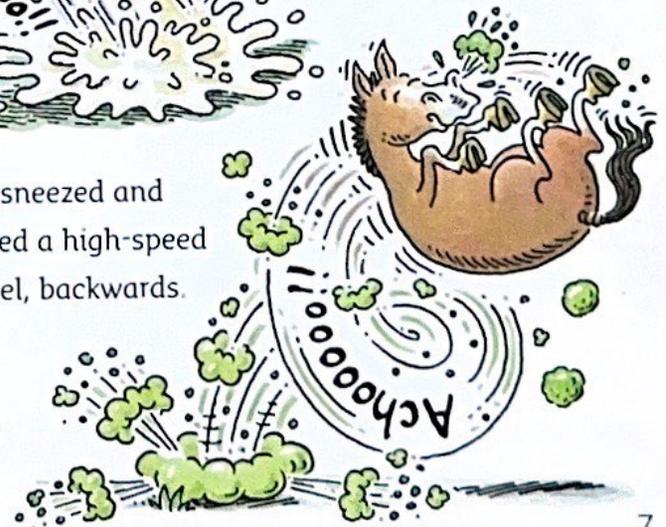
A dog sneezed so hard
it ended up in a tree.



A cow sneezed, and every
bit of milk came shooting
out of its udders like water
from a water pistol



A horse sneezed and
performed a high-speed
cartwheel, backwards.



Then the people started to sneeze.

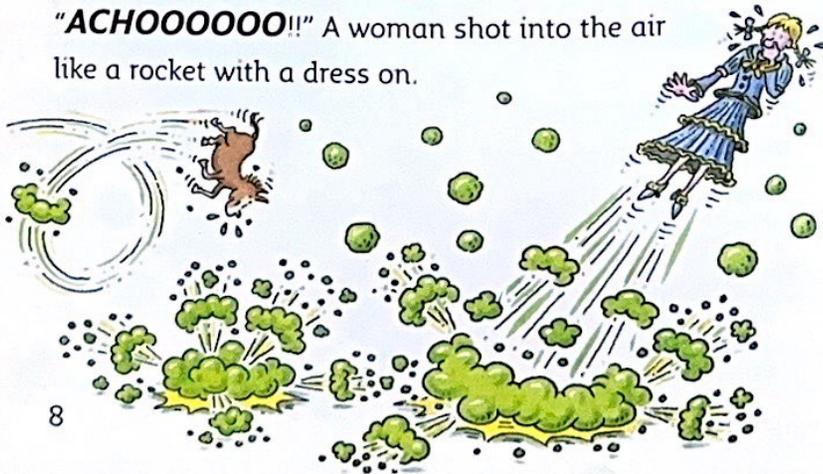
"Achoooo!!" One man sneezed his boots off.



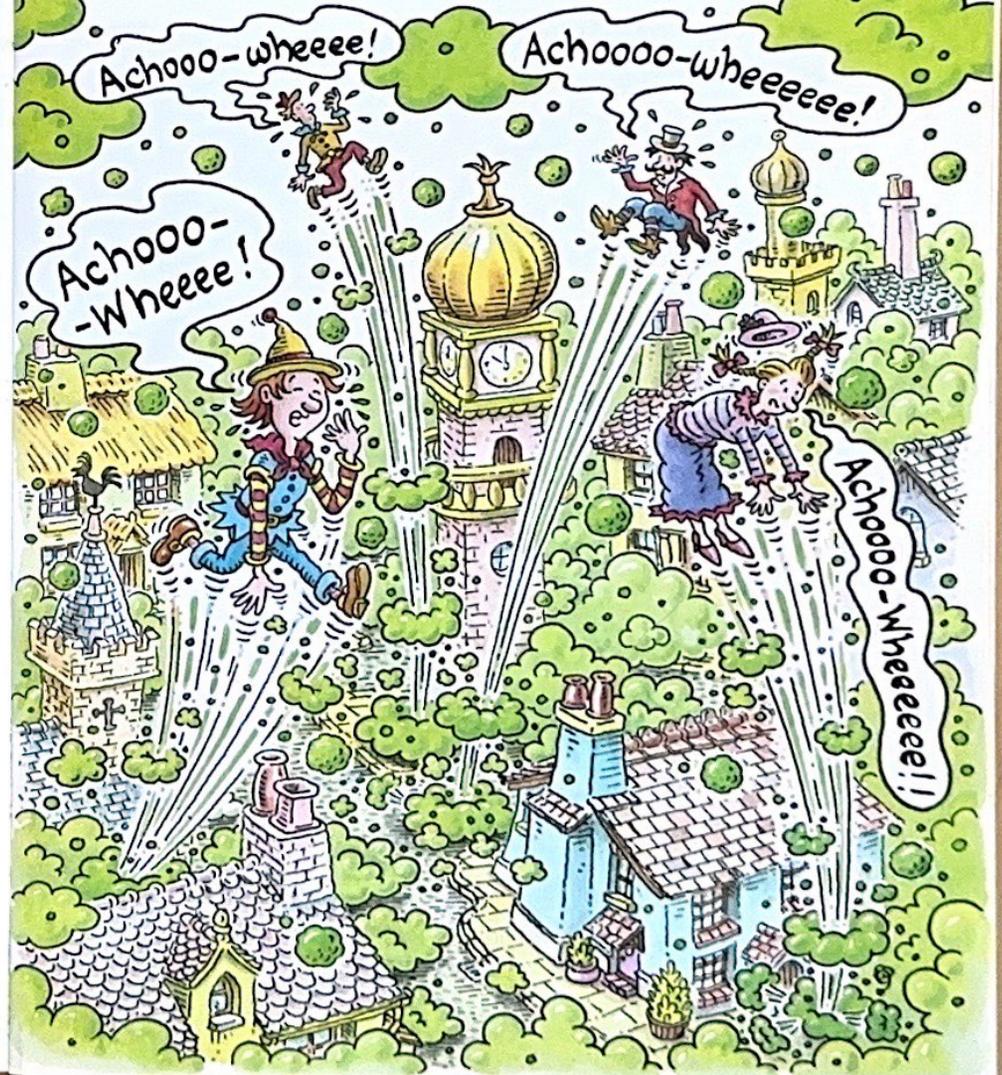
"**Achoooo!!**" Another came shooting out of his pyjama trousers and he had to run home very quickly, before anyone could see.



"**ACHOOOOOO!!**" A woman shot into the air like a rocket with a dress on.



Soon everyone was taking off into the air. Every time they sneezed they went shooting up, all over the city, as if they were on giant, invisible pogo sticks.



"We have all caught Martian Jumping Fever," said the Astronomer. "We must leap into the lake and hide at the bottom. Then we'll be all right."

"But we shall drown," the General pointed out. "What we need to do is attack the enemy."



"No, no," insisted the Royal Wash-Man. "We must make sure we are all wearing clean underwear. That will sort everything out."

In other words, *nobody* knew what to do.



1 In Trouble



Tig always *tried* to sit still. Tig always *tried* not to wriggle. But he just *couldn't* stay still.

It seemed as if his head was full of dreams and his pants were full of ants. And the school chairs really were very hard.



“Have you heard a word I’ve said?” asked Miss Simmons.

“Oh yes, Miss!” said Tig. “I heard every word.”

“Well, what did I say, then?”

Tig thought for a moment. “Can’t you remember, Miss?” he wondered.

Miss Simmons exploded. "Are you trying to be cheeky?"
"No, Miss!" Tig protested. "I'm not trying to be cheeky at all."



It was true. Tig never *tried* to be cheeky. He never tried to get into trouble. In fact, he always tried to be good.

But somehow, things just never worked out.

He had heard every word Miss Simmons had said. She'd said:

Tomorrow is
Book Day.

You can all dress up
as a book character.

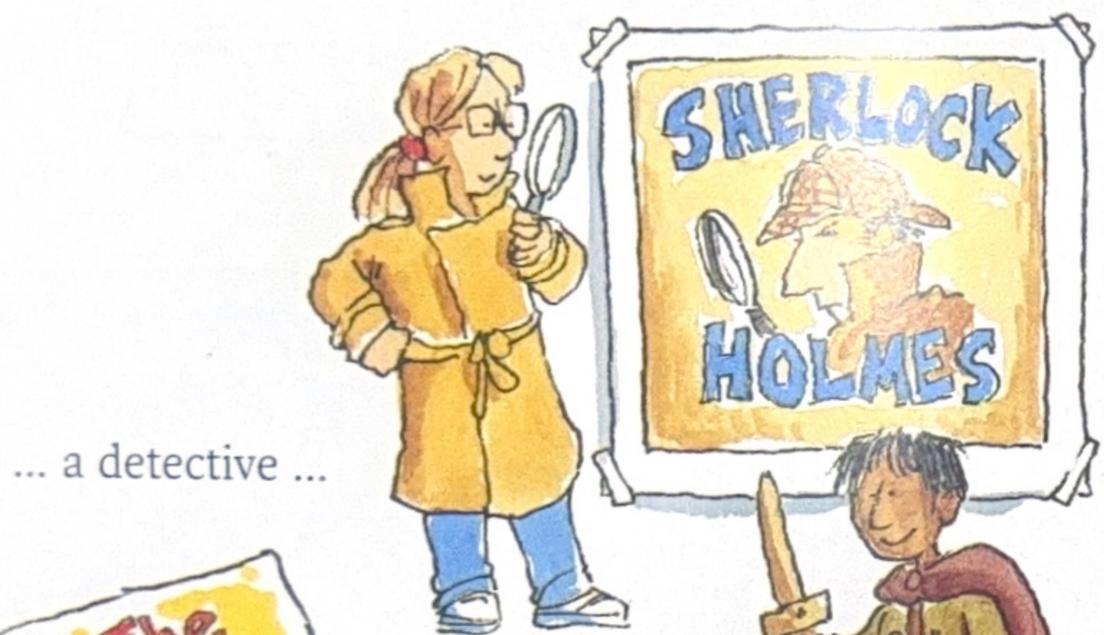
There is
a *fantastic* prize
for the best
costume.

And *please* think
carefully about your
costume.

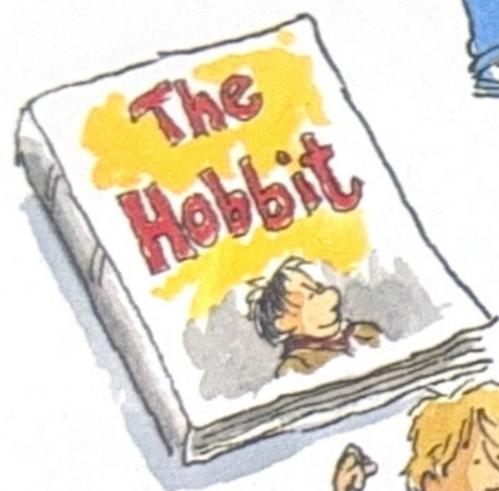
Last year
everybody came
as pop singers.
Try to be
different!



"Think of all the lovely books you've read in school. Look!" Miss Simmons waved her hand at a display of books and posters. "You could be a character from any of these books. You could be ...



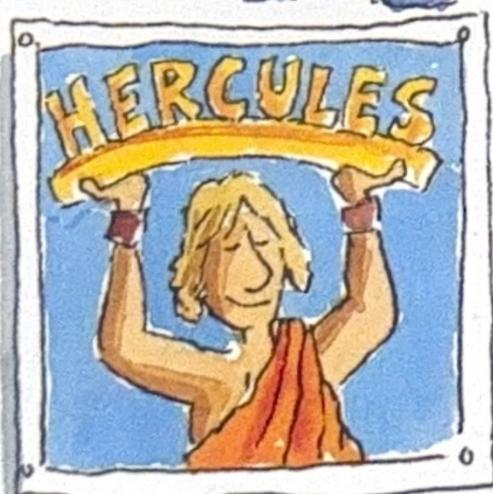
... a detective ...



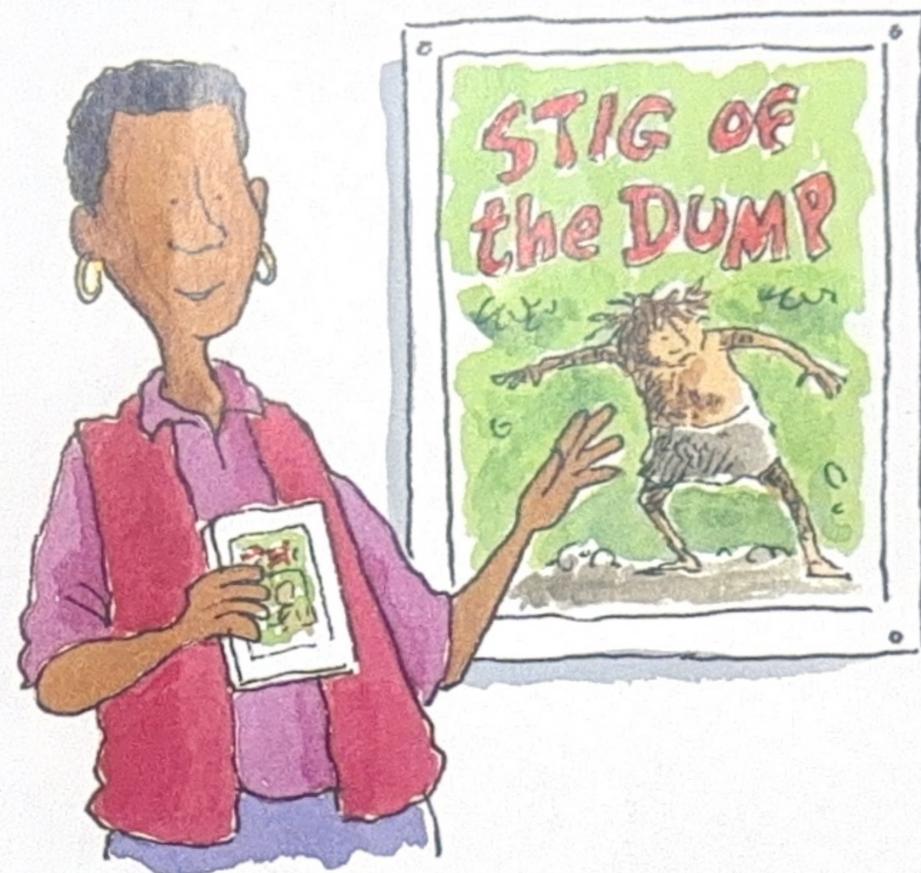
... or a hobbit ...



... or a superhero."



2 Little Boy Blue



All that day, Miss Simmons went on about Book Day. "You could dress up as a pirate. Or you could be my favourite character, Stig of the Dump. You all enjoyed *Stig of the Dump* when we read it, didn't you? It's about a boy who finds a real Cave Boy in a pit, remember?"

Miss Simmons sounded determined.

"There are lots of characters you could be.

I don't want to see you all dressed as pop stars this Book Day."

At playtime everyone decided which characters they were going to be.



Tig hoped nobody was going to remember the costume he wore last year.

He didn't need anyone to remind him. How could he forget? His mum had gone to lots of trouble to make his costume. She always tried her best at things. She'd made him a tiger costume. But she'd made one tiny mistake.

Can you spot it?



Kev and Katy had been quick to notice the mistake. They always picked on Tig.



Even Tig's friends gave him a hard time. All day long they went on about it.



That's how he got his nickname, Tig. But after a while, he started to like it.