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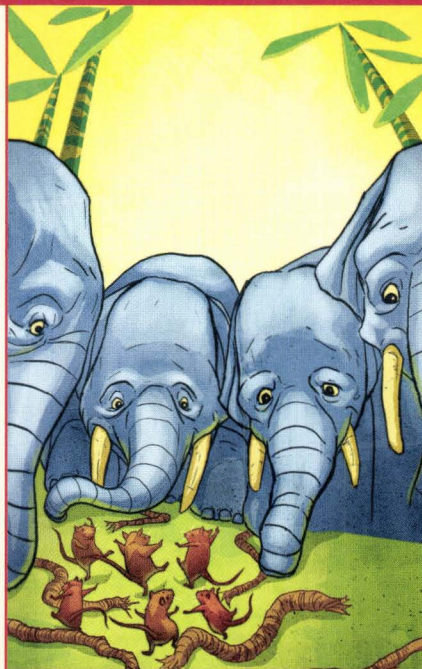
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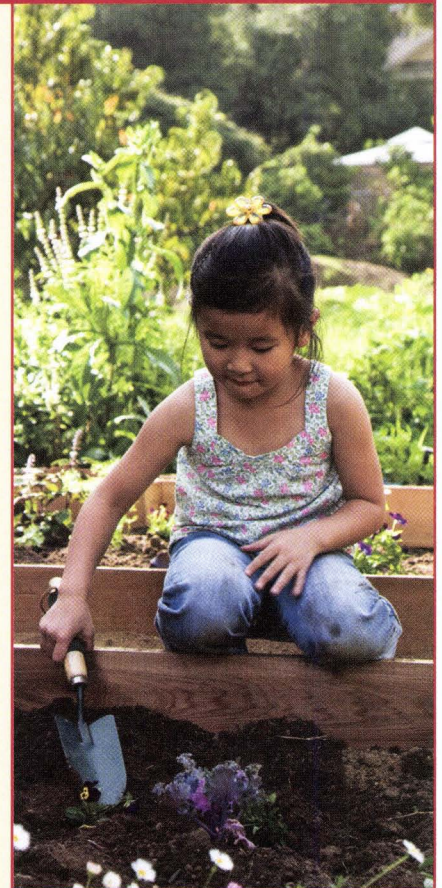
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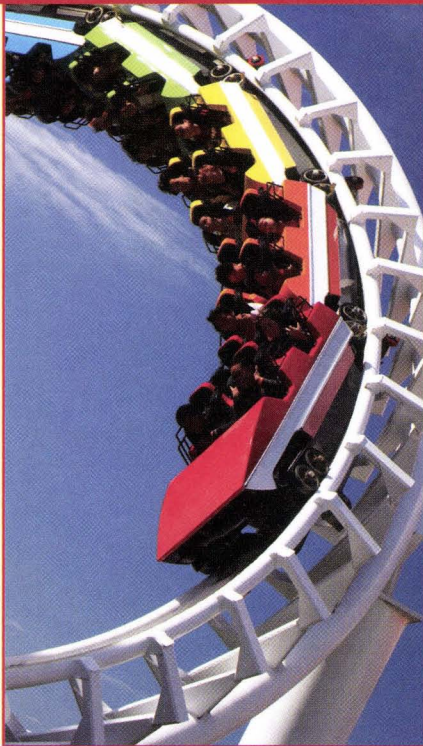


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Welcome to Nelson Literacy

Your *Nelson Literacy* book is full of fascinating stories and articles. Many of the topics are the same as those you will study in science, social studies, and health.

Here are the different kinds of pages you will see in this book:

Let's Talk

Here's a chance to have some fun and also show what you know.



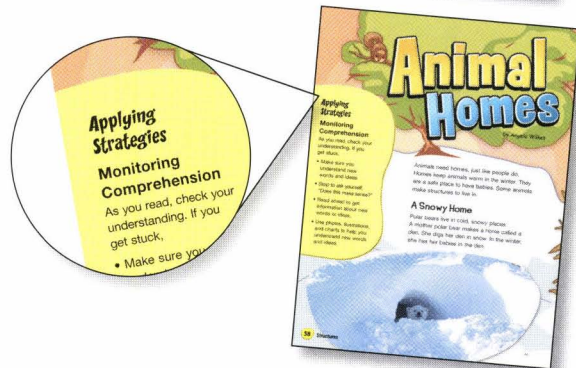
Understanding Strategies

These pages introduce you to reading, writing, speaking, listening, and media literacy strategies. Some pages have sticky notes with hints about the strategies.



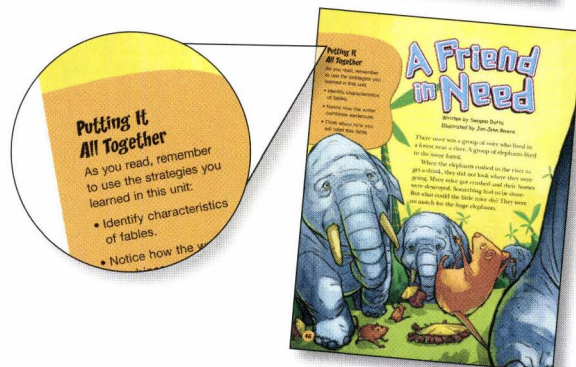
Applying Strategies

These pages give you the chance to try out the strategies you've learned.



Putting It All Together

At the end of each unit, you'll have the chance to use the strategies that you've learned.



FABLES



In this unit, you will

- identify characteristics of fables
- combine sentences in your writing
- retell stories
- express opinions about illustrations
- use tone and volume while speaking

Tell the Fable



These illustrations are from the fable “The Lion and the Mouse,” but they’re mixed up! Talk about what is happening in each picture. Figure out the order of the events. Then tell the fable.



The characters in fables are often animals. What animal characters are in this story?

Narrative: Identifying Characteristics of Fables

Fables have certain characteristics that make them fables:

- The characters in fables are often animals.
- All the events connect to the problem at the beginning of the fable.
- The characters are usually very clever or very foolish.
- Fables teach a lesson, which is often called the "moral."

All the events connect to the problem at the beginning of the fable. What is the problem at the beginning of this fable?

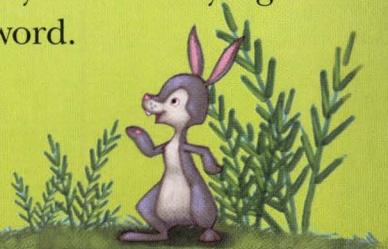
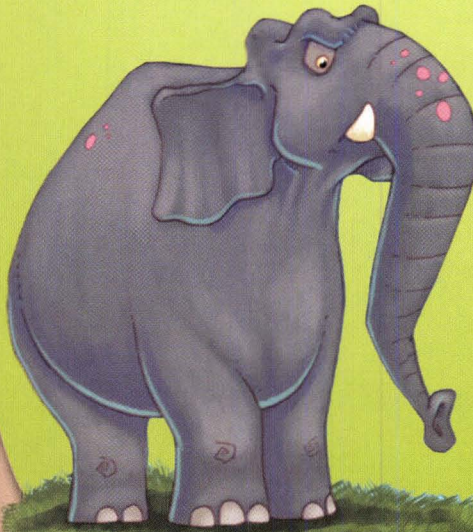
Rabbit Tricks Elephant and Whale

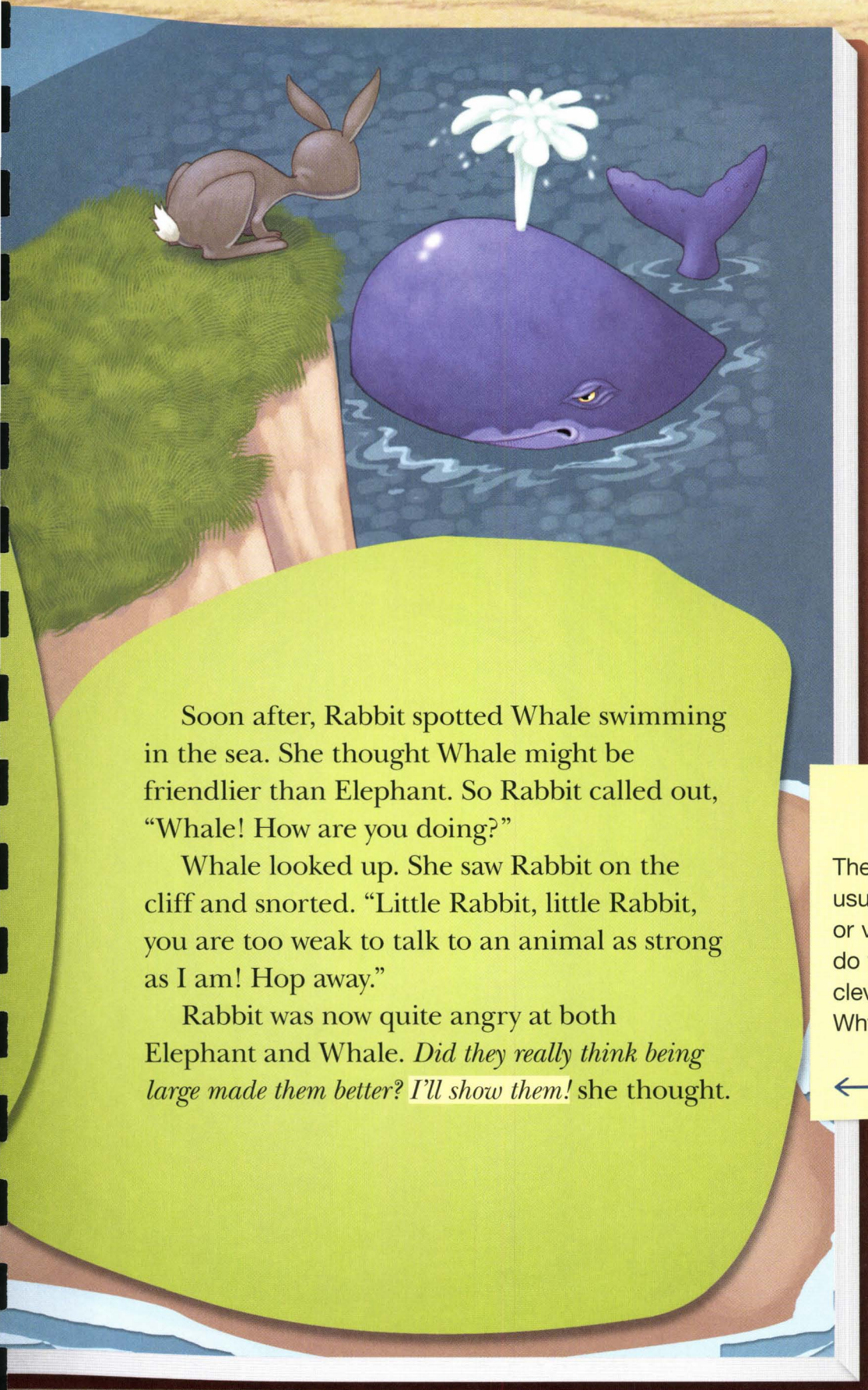
An African fable retold by Banji Chikezie
Illustrated by Andy Elkerton

One day in the jungle, Elephant passed Rabbit. "How are you doing, Elephant?" asked Rabbit politely.

Elephant looked down his trunk and snorted, "Hop away, little Rabbit! I don't talk to anyone as small as you."

Rabbit was shocked to be talked to that way. She was so hurt by Elephant's rudeness that she hopped away without saying a word.





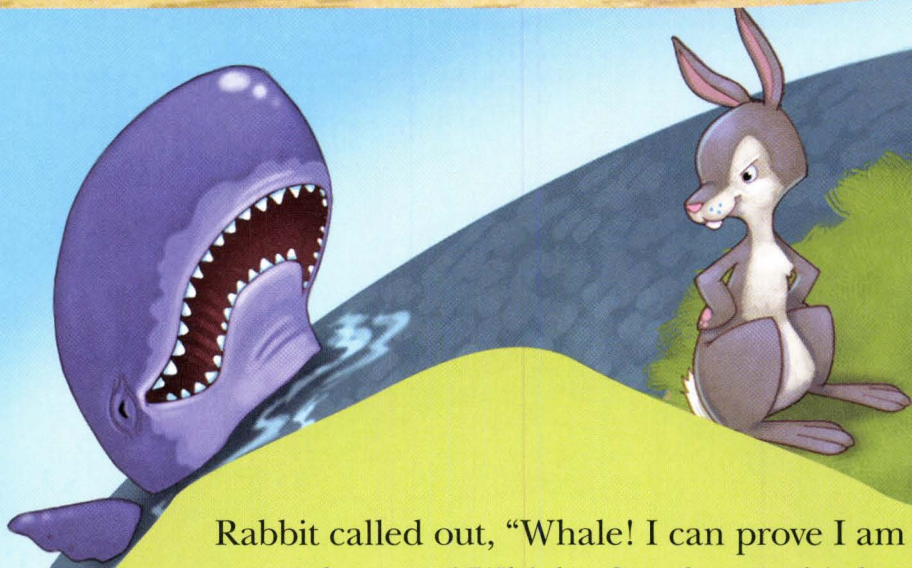
Soon after, Rabbit spotted Whale swimming in the sea. She thought Whale might be friendlier than Elephant. So Rabbit called out, "Whale! How are you doing?"

Whale looked up. She saw Rabbit on the cliff and snorted. "Little Rabbit, little Rabbit, you are too weak to talk to an animal as strong as I am! Hop away."

Rabbit was now quite angry at both Elephant and Whale. *Did they really think being large made them better? I'll show them!* she thought.

The characters are usually very clever or very foolish. Who do you think will be clever in this fable? Why do you think so?





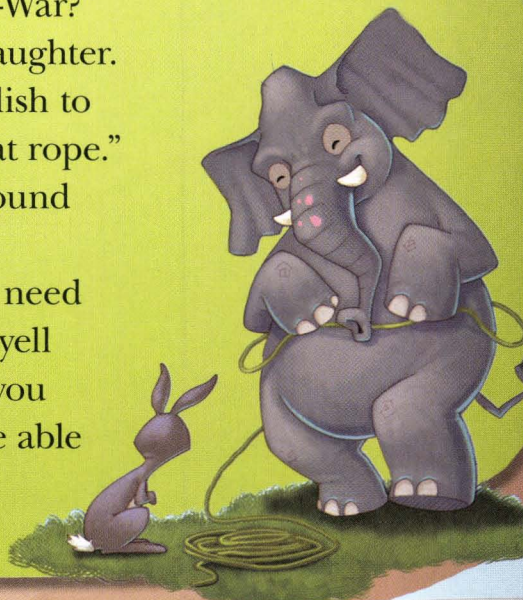
Rabbit called out, “Whale! I can prove I am stronger than you! Which of us do you think will win a game of Tug-of-War?”

Whale laughed so hard she snorted water from her blowhole. “Little Rabbit, little Rabbit, don’t be so foolish. You know I must win! Get a rope and I’ll show you.”

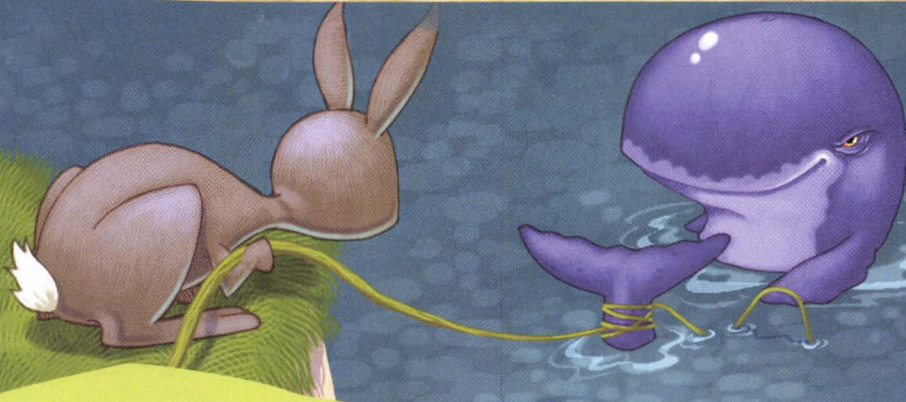
Rabbit hopped away to look for a thick, strong vine. After finding it, she went to find Elephant. “Elephant,” she said, “this morning you were so rude to me! You think because I’m small I’m not as strong as you. Do you think you can beat me at Tug-of-War?”

Elephant roared with laughter. “Little Rabbit, you are foolish to challenge me. Give me that rope.” Elephant tied the rope around his waist.

“Wait here, Elephant. I need room to pull you. When I yell ‘pull,’ you pull as hard as you can! I don’t think you’ll be able to move me.”



All the events connect to the problem at the beginning of the fable. Why does Rabbit challenge Elephant?

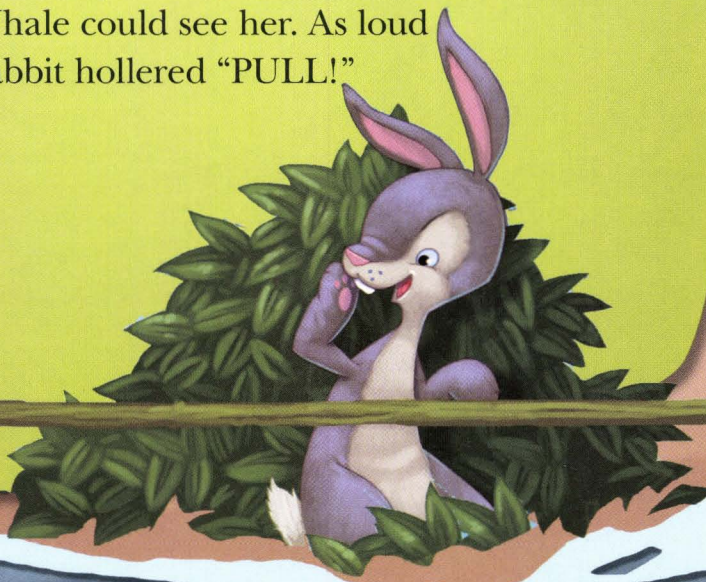


Elephant laughed as Rabbit hopped out of sight.

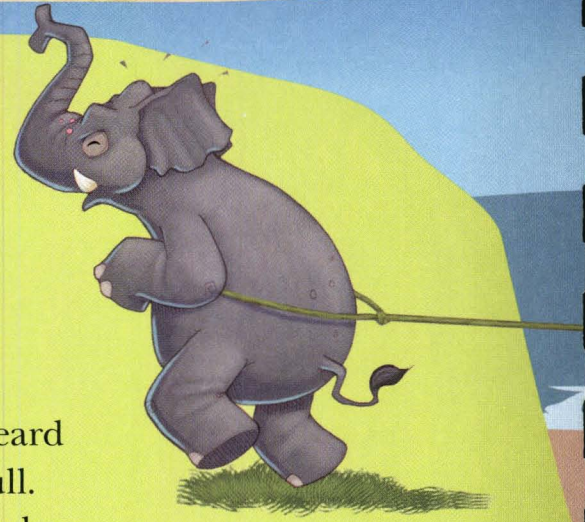
Rabbit hopped toward the sea and Whale. “Whale,” Rabbit called, “tie this rope to your tail. When you hear me yell ‘pull,’ you must try very hard to move me. I think you’ll find I won’t move at all.”

Whale laughed and tied the rope to her tail. “Tie the other end to your tail, Rabbit, and we’ll see who is stronger.”

Rabbit hopped away to a spot where neither Elephant nor Whale could see her. As loud as she could, Rabbit hollered “PULL!”



All the events connect to the problem at the beginning of the fable. Why does Rabbit tell Whale to tie the vine to her tail?

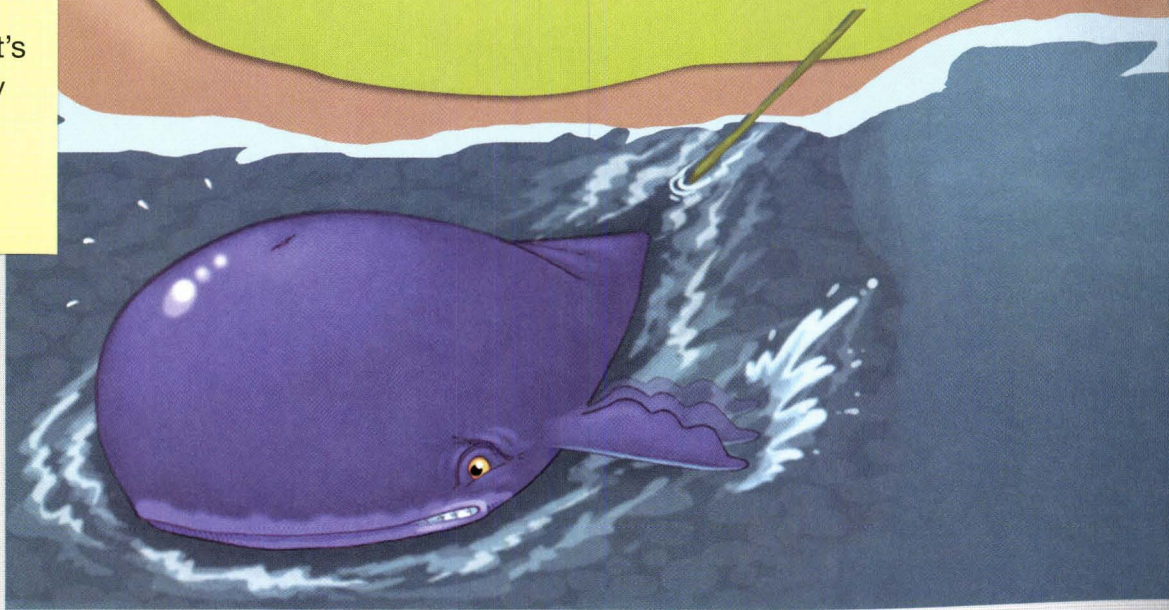


Far away, Elephant heard Rabbit and started to pull. He grinned at first, but when he couldn't move, he was very surprised. "That Rabbit is very strong!" Elephant tried harder to pull Rabbit but couldn't budge from the spot where he stood.

Meanwhile, Whale was also pulling as hard as she could. Her smile faded as she found she couldn't swim any further from shore. In fact, she felt like she was slipping backward just a bit. She pulled harder. "That Rabbit is stronger than she looks!"



The characters are usually very clever or very foolish. Do you think Rabbit's plan will work? Why or why not?



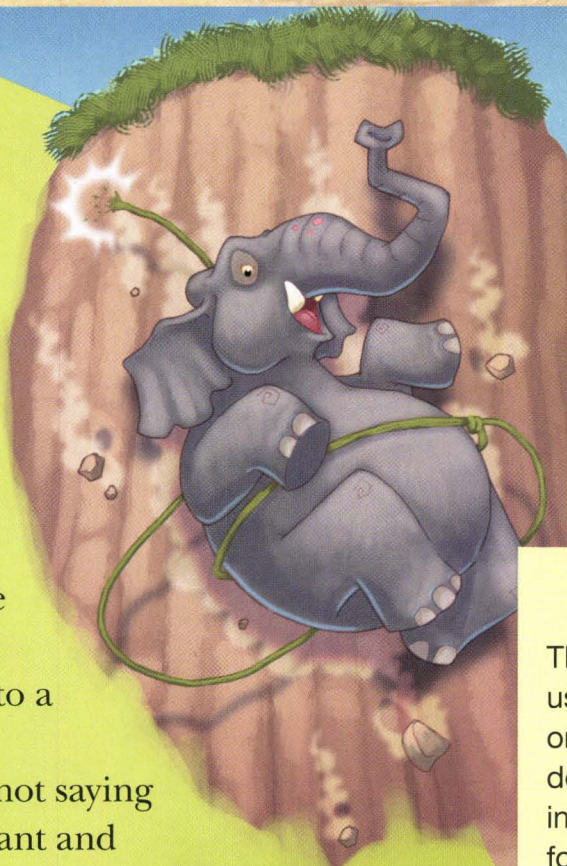
After a few more minutes of Whale and Elephant tugging at either end, the strong vine snapped. Elephant was pulling so hard on that vine, that when it snapped, he went crashing through the jungle and down a steep hill.

Of course, Whale was pulling just as hard. So when the vine snapped, she went spinning through the sea and smashed into a coral reef.

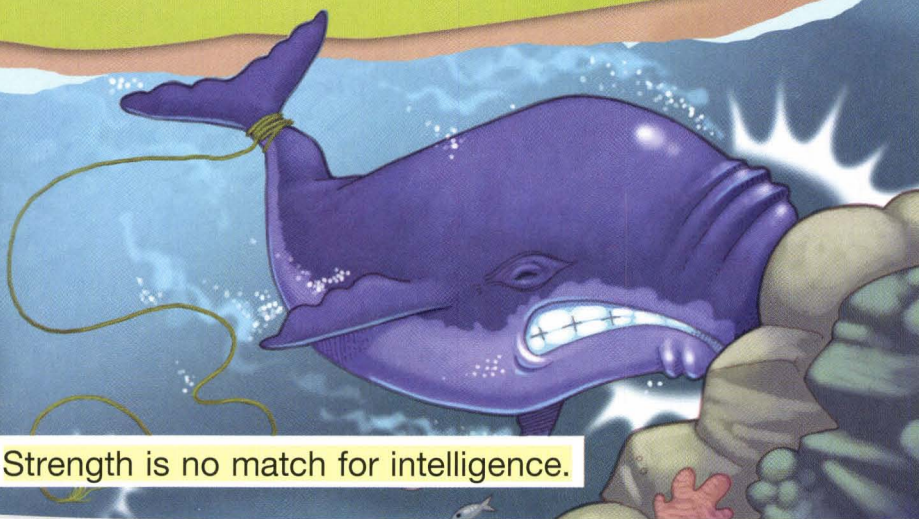
Rabbit quickly hopped away, not saying a word. From that day on, Elephant and Whale were always very polite to Rabbit and all other small animals.

Elephant and Whale never did figure out how such a tiny creature as Rabbit could have beaten the largest of the animals.

Moral: Strength is no match for intelligence.



The characters are usually very clever or very foolish. Who do you think is clever in this fable? Who is foolish? Why do you think so?



Fables teach a lesson, which is often called the "moral." What lesson does this fable teach?



Belling the Cat

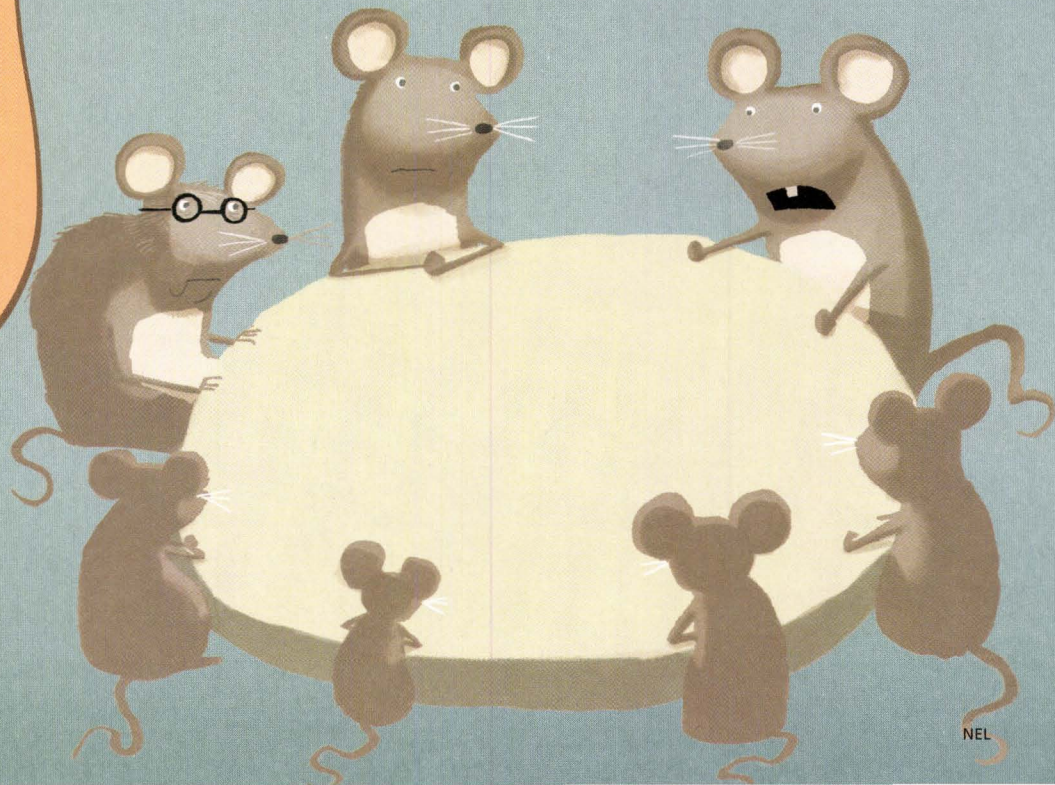
An Aesop fable

Illustrated by Kyle Aleksander

Mice and cats have been enemies forever. After all, it is a cat's job to chase, catch, and then eat mice.

In one farmhouse, the mice had been living for several years without any worries. The farmer kept the cat in the barn. There, the cat hunted the rats. Then one day, all the rats were gone. The farmer decided to bring the cat into the house.

The mice met to talk about the problem.



Applying Strategies

Narrative: Identifying Characteristics of Fables

As you read, look for these characteristics of fables:

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- Fables teach a lesson, which is often called the "moral."

A young mouse complained, "Every time I poke my head out of a hole, the cat is there."

"Something has to be done," another mouse said.

"The cat chases us one at a time," pointed out an old mouse. "Maybe if we all chased the cat, we would scare it."

The grandmother mouse shook her head and said, "Well, we might frighten it at first. But after a while it would be back. And it would be angry!" She was a very wise mouse.

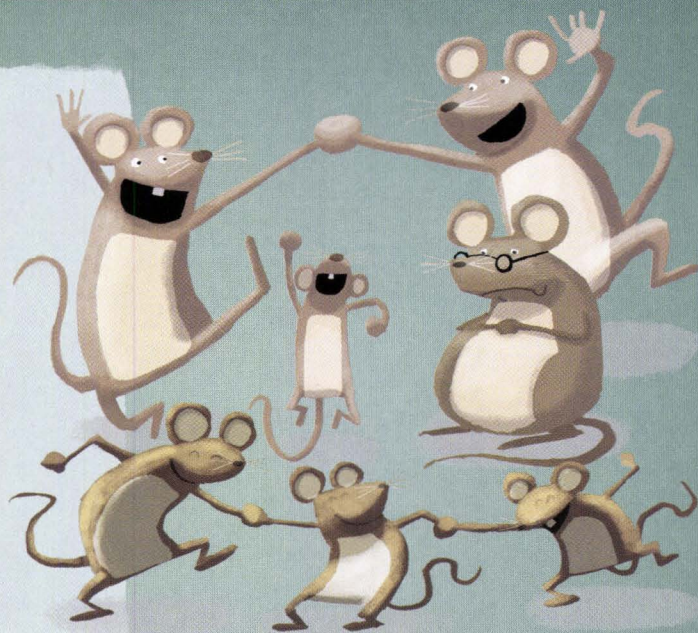


“You’re right!” agreed the youngest mouse. “But if we could hear the cat coming, we could run away quickly.”

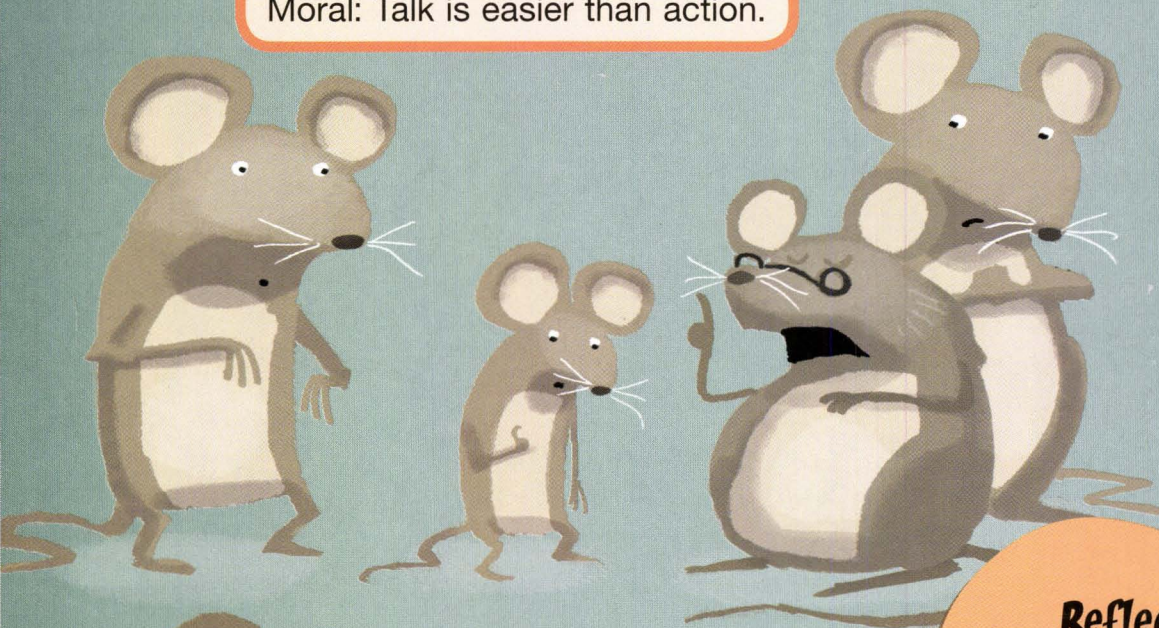
“We could put a bell on the cat’s collar. That way, we would always know where it was,” suggested the first mouse.

Most of the mice thought belling the cat was a great idea. They knew they’d never have to worry about the cat again, if it was wearing a bell. All the younger mice hopped around happily.

But the grandmother mouse shook her head. “Which mouse will be brave enough to put a bell on the cat?” she asked.



Moral: Talk is easier than action.



Reflect on

Strategies: How do you know that this selection is a fable? Give examples from the story to support your thinking.

Critical Literacy: How might this fable be different if it were told from the cat’s point of view?

THE CROW and the JUG

An Aesop fable retold by
Michael Morpurgo
Illustrated by Anton Petrov

Applying Strategies

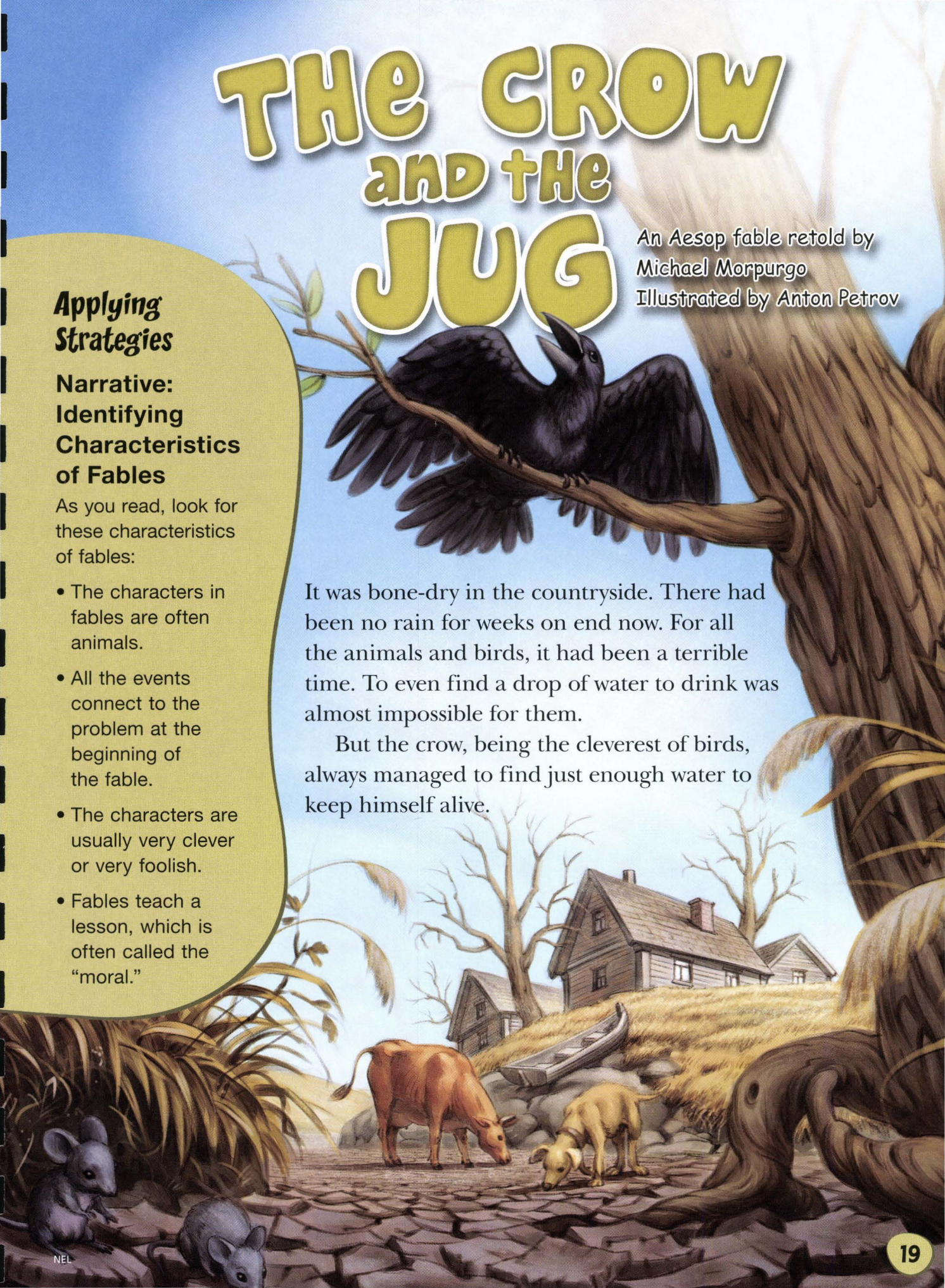
Narrative: Identifying Characteristics of Fables

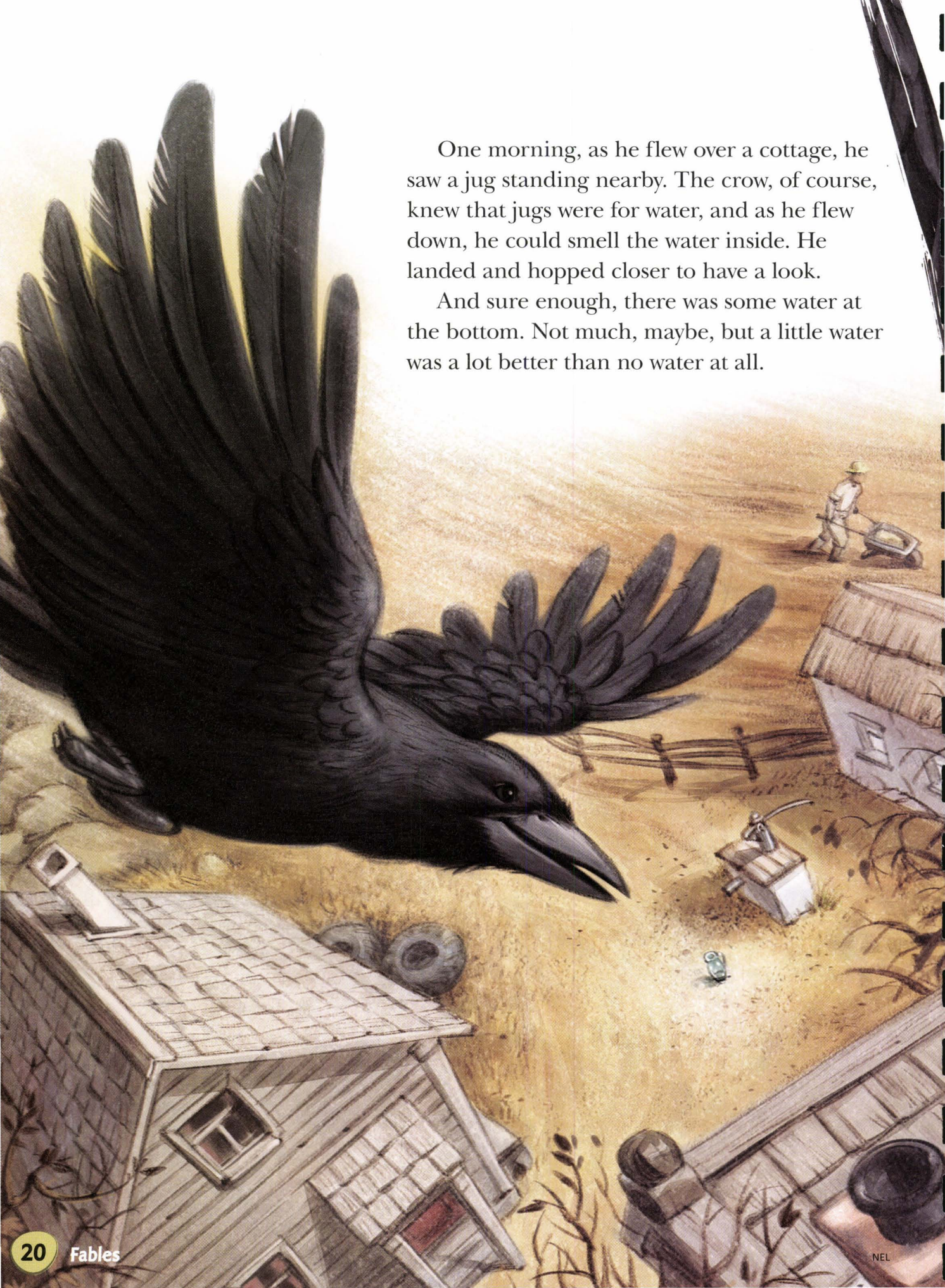
As you read, look for these characteristics of fables:

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- The characters are usually very clever or very foolish.
- Fables teach a lesson, which is often called the “moral.”

It was bone-dry in the countryside. There had been no rain for weeks on end now. For all the animals and birds, it had been a terrible time. To even find a drop of water to drink was almost impossible for them.

But the crow, being the cleverest of birds, always managed to find just enough water to keep himself alive.



A large, detailed illustration of a crow in flight, its wings spread wide, dominating the left side of the frame. The crow is dark and textured, with its beak pointed towards the right. Below it, a village scene unfolds in a hazy, golden-brown light. In the foreground, the corner of a wooden house with a tiled roof is visible. In the middle ground, a person is pushing a wheelbarrow across a dirt path. Another person is working in a field in the background. The overall style is that of a classic children's book illustration.

One morning, as he flew over a cottage, he saw a jug standing nearby. The crow, of course, knew that jugs were for water, and as he flew down, he could smell the water inside. He landed and hopped closer to have a look.

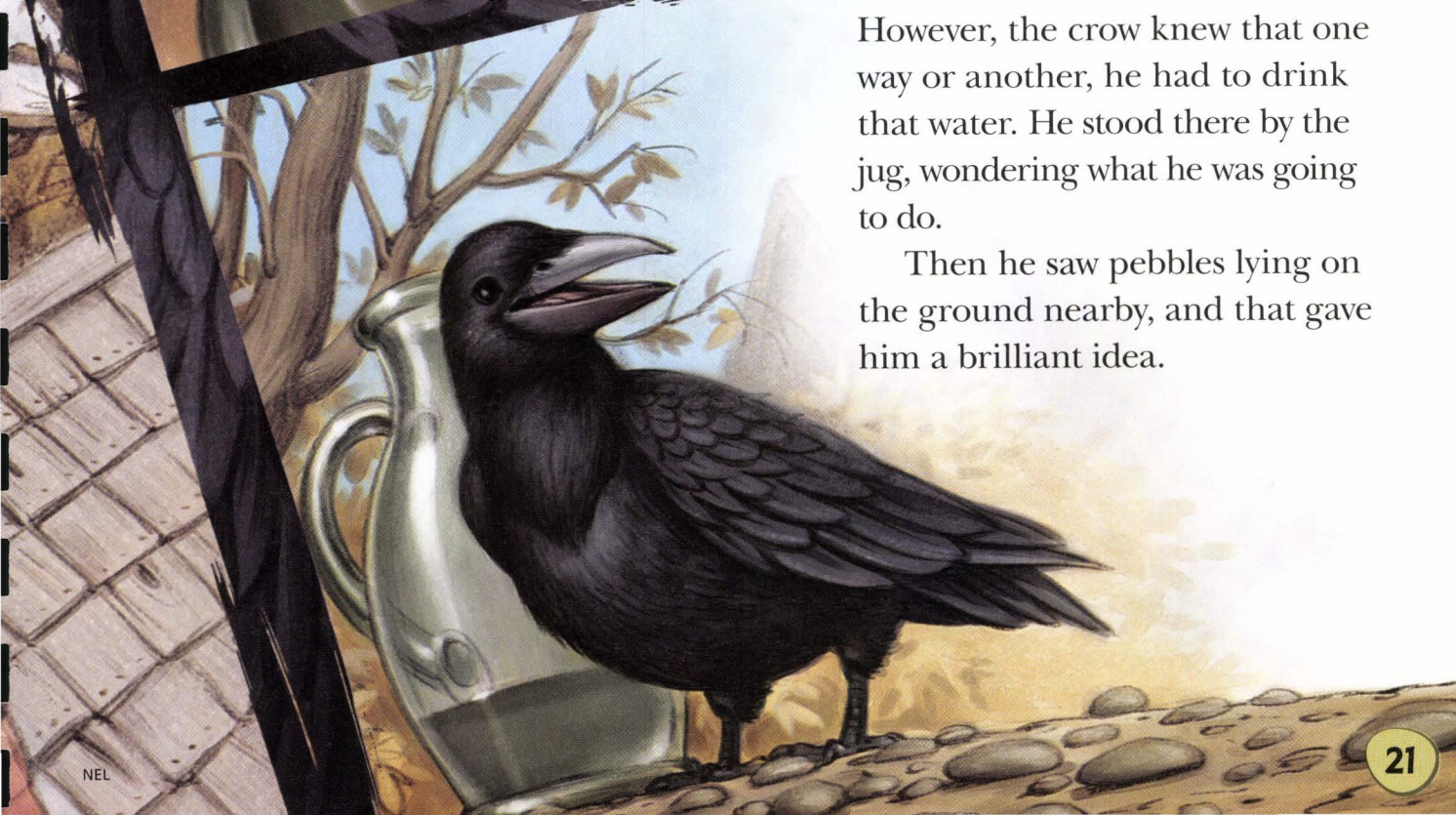
And sure enough, there was some water at the bottom. Not much, maybe, but a little water was a lot better than no water at all.

The crow stuck his head into the jug to drink; but his beak, long though it was, would not reach far enough down, no matter how hard he pushed. He tried and he tried, but it was no good.

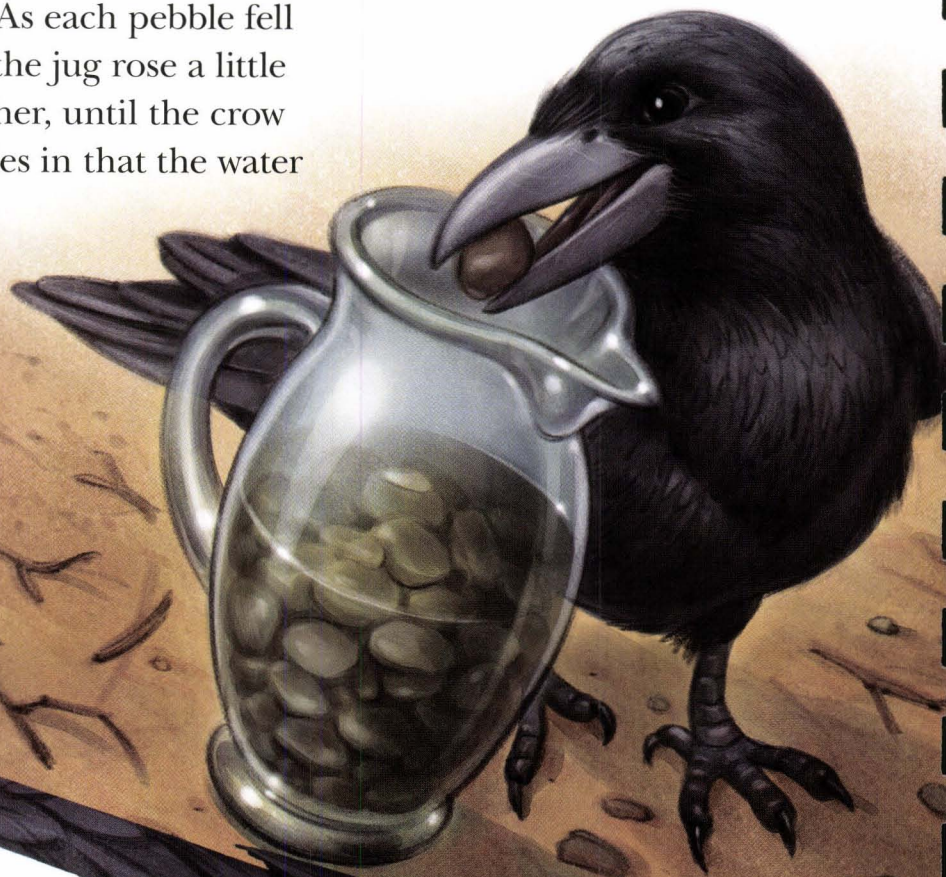


However, the crow knew that one way or another, he had to drink that water. He stood there by the jug, wondering what he was going to do.

Then he saw pebbles lying on the ground nearby, and that gave him a brilliant idea.



One by one, he picked them up and dropped them into the jug. As each pebble fell to the bottom, the water in the jug rose a little higher, then higher and higher, until the crow had dropped so many pebbles in that the water was overflowing.



Now he could drink and drink his fill.

What a clever crow, he thought as he drank. What a clever crow.



Moral: Where there's a will, there's a way.
But it helps if you use your brain.

Reflect on

Strategies: How do you know that this selection is a fable? Give examples from the story to support your thinking.

Your Learning: When might you use the trick the crow used in this fable?

Pig and Bear

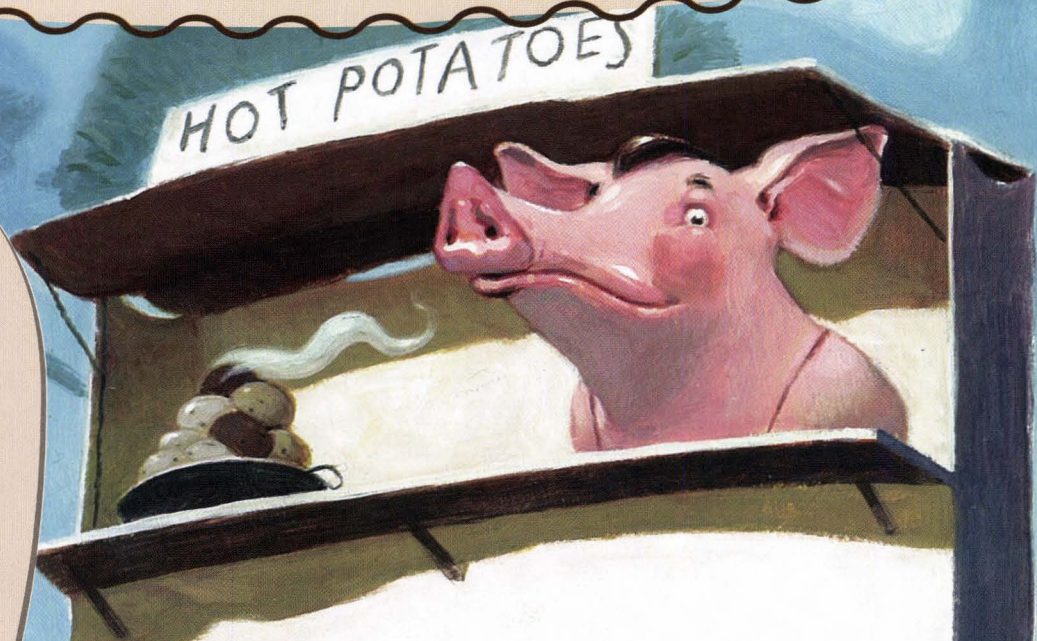
A Czech fable retold by David Kherdian
Illustrated by Daron Parton

Applying Strategies

Narrative: Identifying Characteristics of Fables

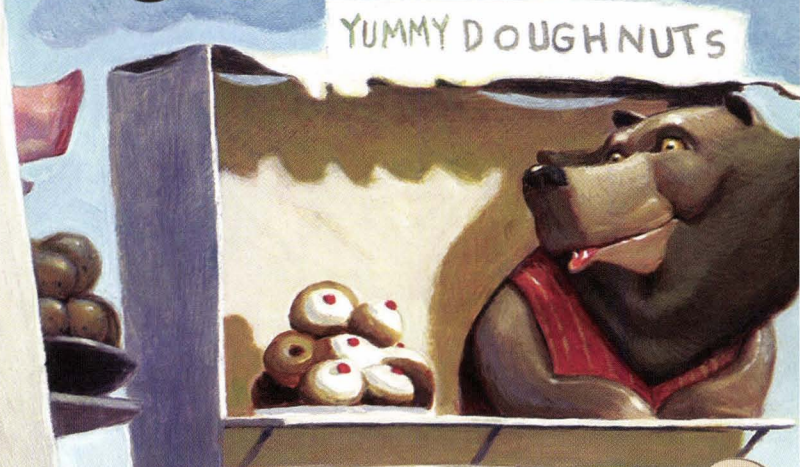
As you read, look for these characteristics of fables:

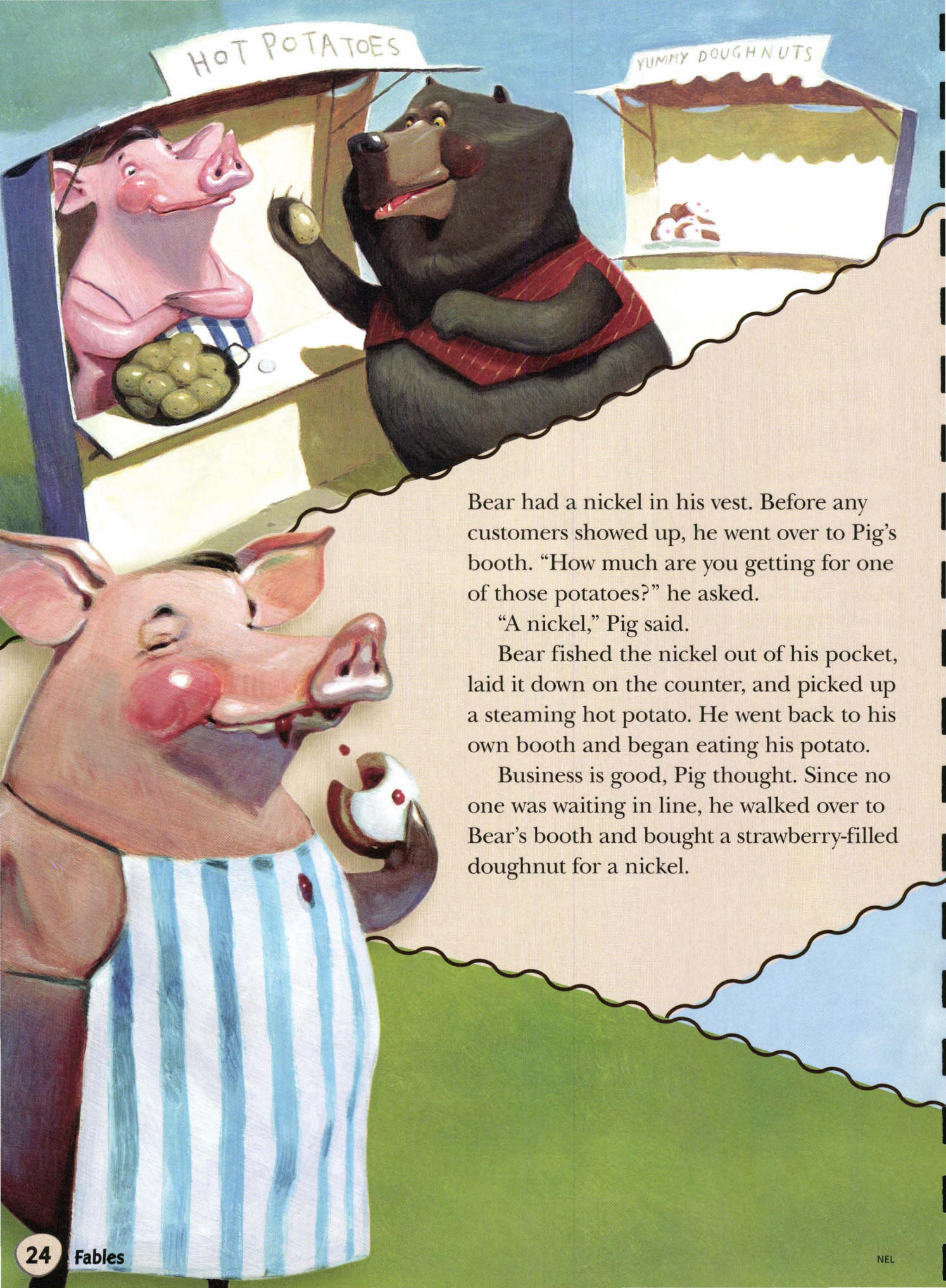
- The characters in fables are often animals.
- All the events connect to the problem at the beginning of the fable.
- The characters are usually very clever or very foolish.
- Fables teach a lesson, which is often called the “moral.”



There once was a pig and a bear who decided to go into business. They each rented a booth at the fair. Pig roasted a heap of potatoes. Bear fried up a batch of doughnuts.

They got to the fairgrounds early and set up their booths. It was a perfect day for selling steaming potatoes and fresh, warm doughnuts.





Bear had a nickel in his vest. Before any customers showed up, he went over to Pig's booth. "How much are you getting for one of those potatoes?" he asked.

"A nickel," Pig said.

Bear fished the nickel out of his pocket, laid it down on the counter, and picked up a steaming hot potato. He went back to his own booth and began eating his potato.

Business is good, Pig thought. Since no one was waiting in line, he walked over to Bear's booth and bought a strawberry-filled doughnut for a nickel.

Bear was pleased to have made a sale. Before another customer showed up, he thought he'd have something more to eat. He went over to Pig's booth and bought another potato.

The next thing Bear knew, Pig was over for another doughnut.

There wasn't any other business, until Bear bought another potato. Then Pig came over and bought a doughnut. Bear came back for another potato.

This happened several more times, back and forth, back and forth. Pig's and Bear's stomachs grew larger and larger.



It wasn't long before all the potatoes and all the doughnuts were sold and eaten.

"I think it's time to count our money," Bear said to Pig.

When they did, they found that Bear had a nickel and Pig had nothing.

They couldn't believe their eyes.

"But we both sold out!" Pig cried.

"Where's all our money?"

Bear looked down at his nickel and scratched his head. It wasn't until he had walked all the way back home that he realized it was the same nickel he had started with.

Moral: It's possible to be full of doughnuts and potatoes, and empty of common sense.



Reflect on

Strategies: How do you know that this story is a fable? Give examples from the story to explain your thinking.

Connections: What other stories do you know where characters do silly things that make you laugh?

Combining Sentences

Writers can make longer sentences by combining two or three short sentences. Using some longer sentences in your writing can give your work variety.

Short Sentences

Combined Sentence

This fable is short.
This fable is funny.
This fable is surprising.

This fable is short,
funny, and surprising.

Rabbit is clever.
Crow is clever.
Grandmother Mouse
is clever.

Rabbit, Crow, and
Grandmother Mouse
are clever.

Bear started the day
with a nickel.
Bear bought potatoes.
Bear sold doughnuts.
Bear ended the day
with a nickel.

Bear started the day
with a nickel, bought
potatoes, sold
doughnuts, and ended
the day with a nickel.

You can combine short sentences that tell different things about the same subject.

You can combine short sentences that tell the same thing about different subjects.

You can combine short sentences by using several action words in one longer sentence.

How to combine sentences:

- Look for two or more short sentences in a row.
- Read the sentences aloud. Think about what the sentences are saying.
- Try different ways of combining the sentences into one longer sentence.

Applying Strategies

Reading Like a Writer

As you read, identify places where the writer tells several things in one sentence.

The Owl and

An Inuit fable retold by David Kherdian
Illustrated by Aleks Sennwald

An owl saw a lemming feeding under a bush. "I must trick her into running so I can catch her," thought the owl. He flew down and said to the lemming, "Run! Two dog teams are coming!"

But the lemming knew what the owl was up to. She peered up at him from under the bush. Then she said, "You can have me to eat, Owl. I am quite plump and will make a good meal. But first, maybe you want to celebrate. I will be happy to sing while you dance."



the Lemming

The owl was overjoyed. He puffed himself up and began to dance to the lemming's tune. He looked up at the sky while he danced. Soon, he forgot all about the lemming. As the owl hopped from side to side, the lemming saw her chance. She dashed between the owl's legs and raced down her hole.

The owl called down to the lemming to come out, saying the dog teams had passed. But the wise lemming was safe now. So, she backed up in her hole and kicked dirt in the owl's face.

Moral: Do not be easily fooled.



Reflect on

Writer's Craft: Find a place where the writer told several things in one sentence. How did this add variety to the writing?

Your Learning: What qualities helped the lemming save herself from the owl?

Retelling

Retelling a story in your own words can help you understand and remember the story. After you've finished reading a story, retell it by thinking about

- the characters
- the problem
- the order of events
- the ending

Identify the characters in the story. Who is this fable about?

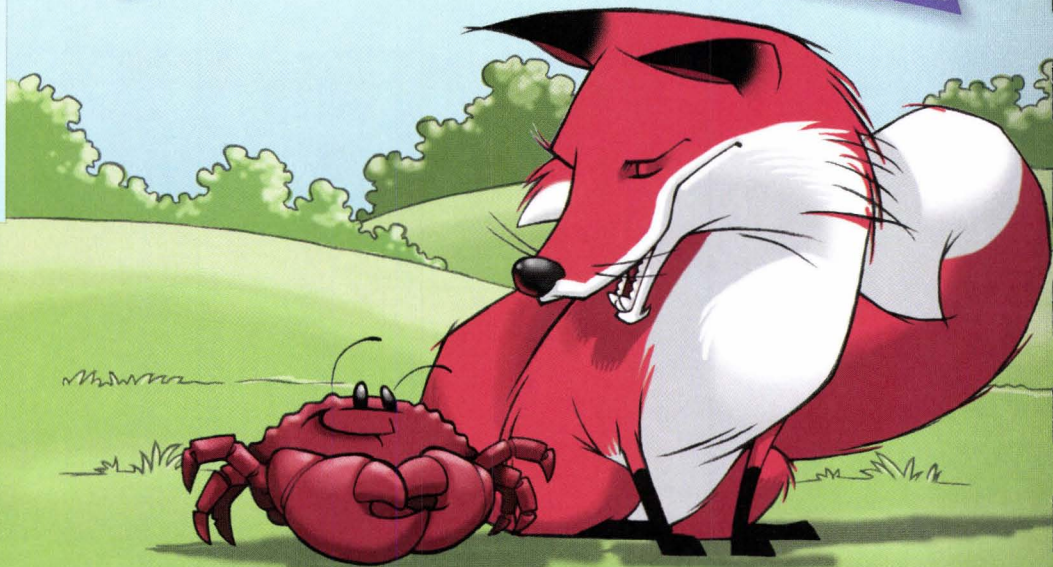
FOX and Crab Run a Race

A Chinese fable retold by Ling Ye
Illustrated by Bill Maguire

Fox was always boasting about how fast he was. "I'm the fastest animal around!" he told everyone.

To make it worse, Fox would say mean things to Crab about how slow she was. "Why do you crawl so slowly, Crab? You have twice as many legs as I do," Fox said with a cruel grin.

Identify the problem at the beginning of the story. What problem is at the beginning of this fable?



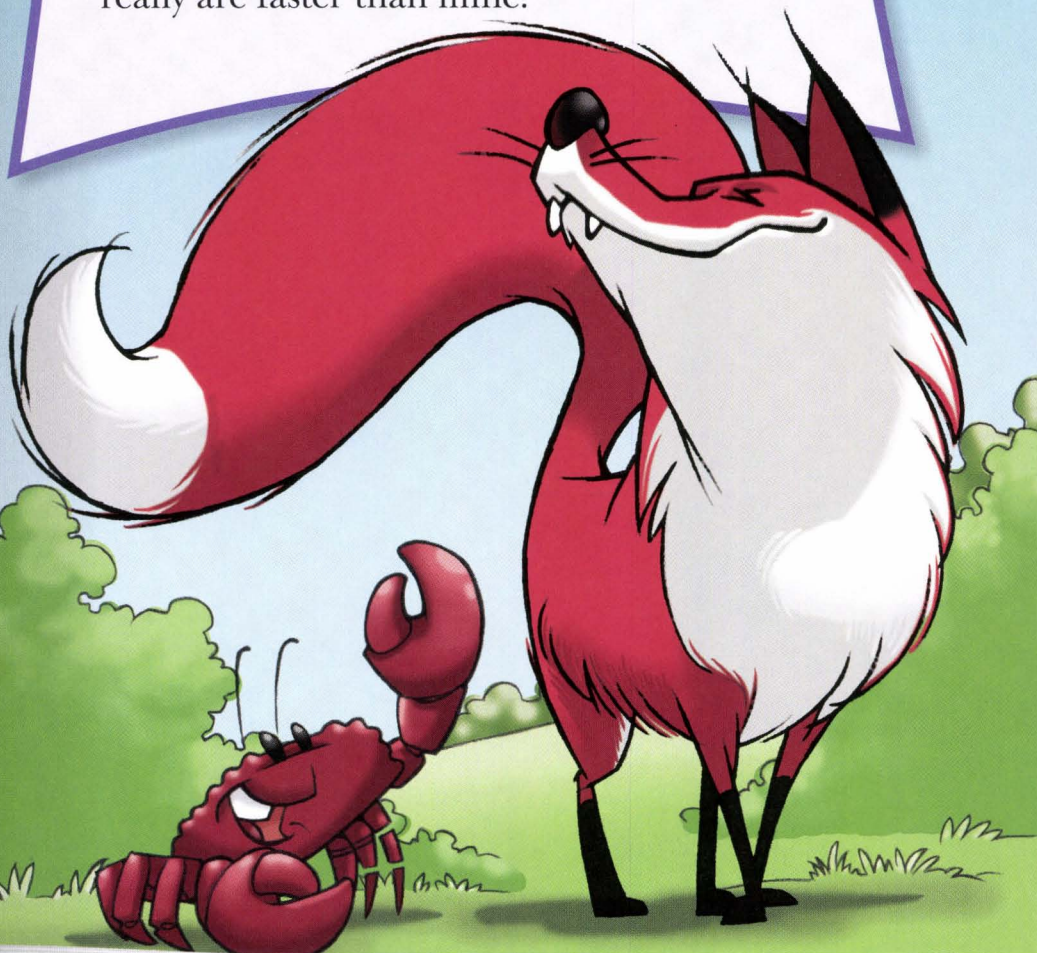
Crab became fed up. She thought of a way to stop Fox from boasting and teasing. “How would you like to race with me?” Crab asked Fox.

Fox looked at Crab in surprise. “Why would you want to race with me? I’ll win. It wouldn’t be fair.”

Crab nodded. “Well, Fox, I don’t think it is your legs that make you fast. Your tail is very big and it stands up straight in the air as you run. It catches the wind and acts like a sail. I think we should weight your tail down with something. Then we’ll see if your legs really are faster than mine.”



Identify events in the order they happen. What does Crab do because Fox makes fun of her?





Identify events in the order they happen. How does Fox react to Crab's suggestion?



Identify events in the order they happen. What does Crab do?

Fox agreed. "You can tie a weight to my tail if you want, but I still don't think you'll win the race."

Crab smiled to herself as she crawled behind Fox. "Fox, I'm just going to tie something to your tail now. When I say 'Go,' you run."

"Right," said Fox.

Crab grabbed Fox's tail in her large claws.

"GO!" shouted Crab as loud as she could.

Fox jumped forward and ran as fast as he could. He didn't know Crab was holding onto his tail. So as fast as Fox ran, Crab was just as fast.



After a while, Fox got tired. He stopped and looked around for Crab. He was surprised when he saw Crab right beside him.

“Well, Fox,” said Crab. “You keep on boasting about how fast you are and how slow I am. But I guess I’m just as fast as you after all.”

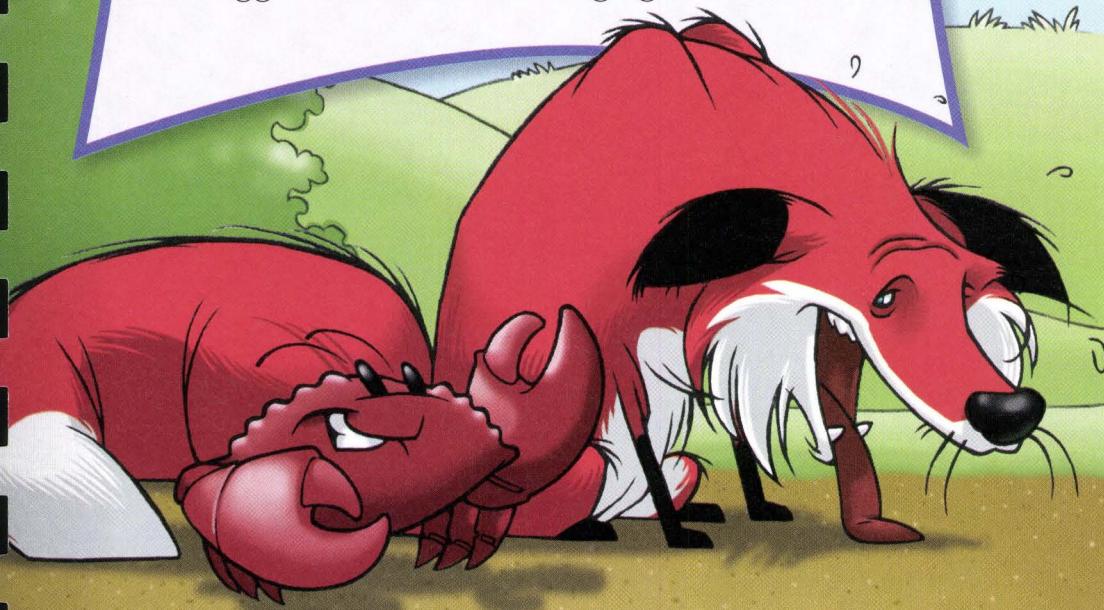
Fox couldn’t believe Crab had kept up with him. He’d always thought he could outrun anyone. He had no idea that he’d been tricked. After that race, Fox never bragged about his running again.



Identify events in the order they happen. How does the race end?



A story’s ending is about how the problem is solved. How did Crab solve the problem in this fable in a clever way?



Moral: Boasting does not make you a winner.

The Fox and the Stork

Applying Strategies

Retelling

Retelling helps you to better understand the story. To help you retell this story, think about these things as you read:

- the characters
- the problem
- the order of events
- the ending

An Aesop fable retold by Kendel Doyle
Illustrated by Jan-John Rivera

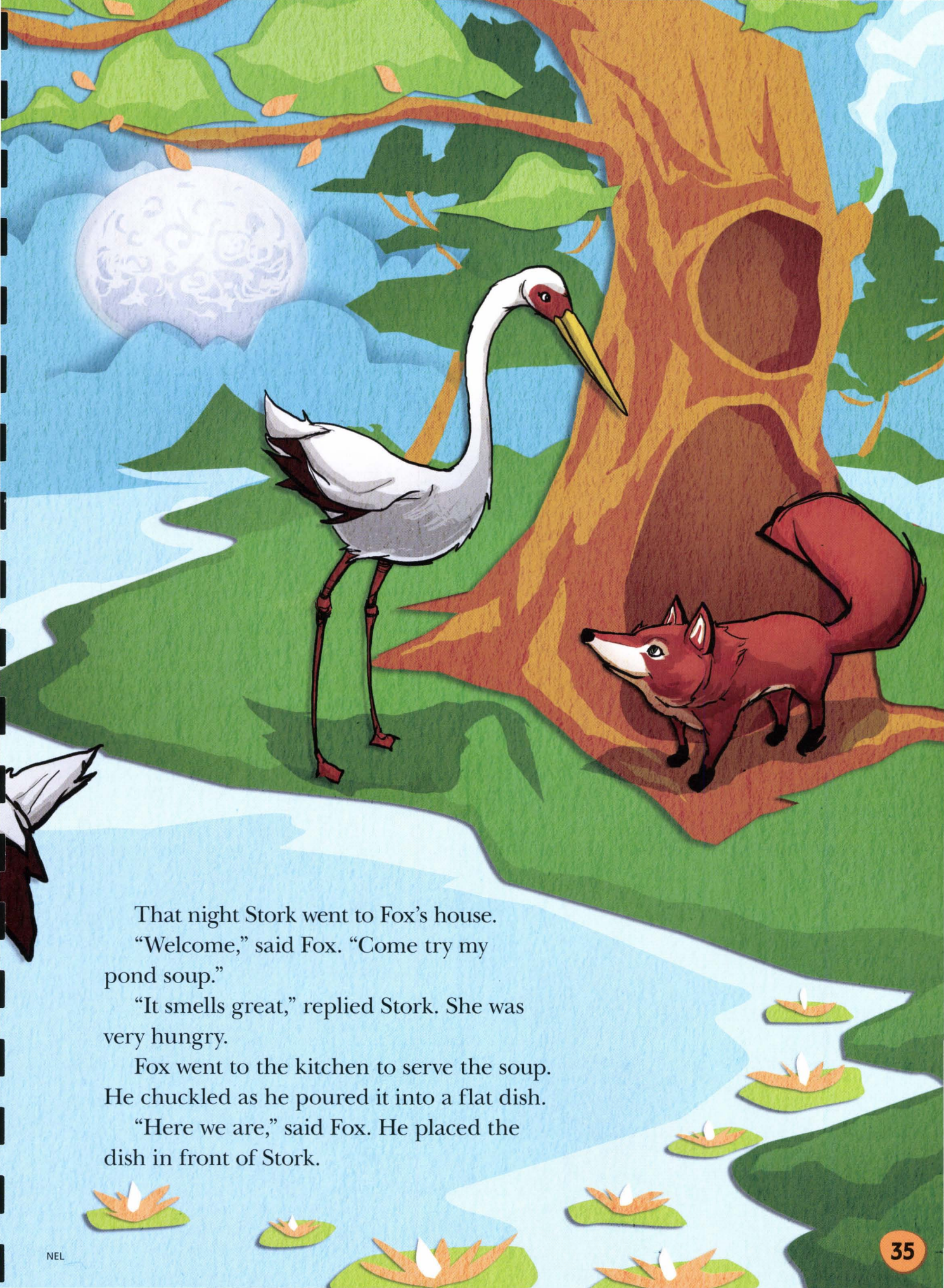
Fox liked to play tricks on his friends. One day Fox met his friend, Stork.

“Stork, would you like to have dinner with me tonight?” asked Fox.

“Of course! You are very kind,” Stork answered.

“Excellent,” Fox said. “I will make soup.”





That night Stork went to Fox's house.
"Welcome," said Fox. "Come try my
pond soup."

"It smells great," replied Stork. She was
very hungry.

Fox went to the kitchen to serve the soup.
He chuckled as he poured it into a flat dish.

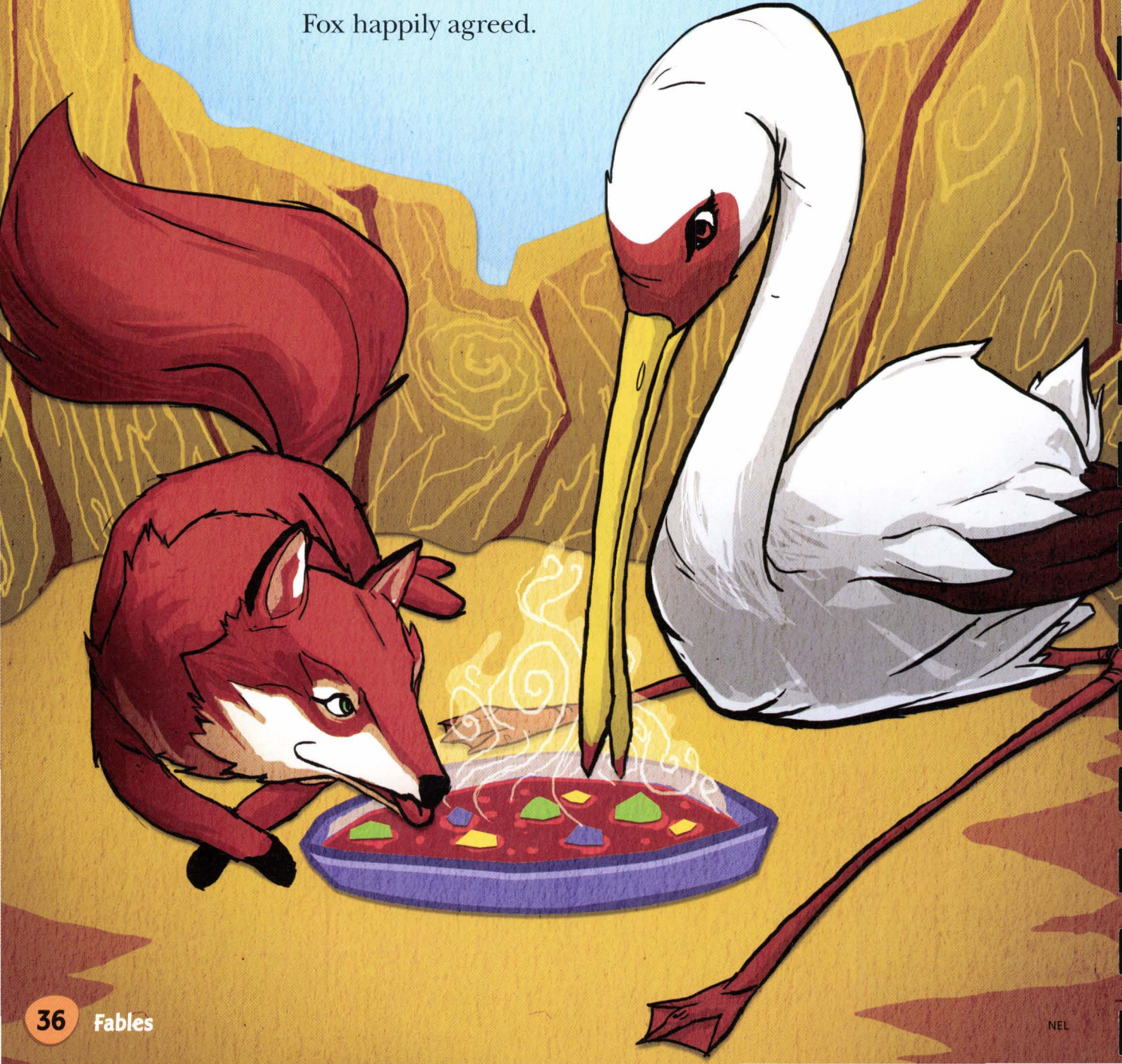
"Here we are," said Fox. He placed the
dish in front of Stork.

Stork sat down to eat. No matter how hard she tried, she couldn't eat the soup! The dish was too shallow for her long bill.

Stork didn't complain. She knew Fox had played a trick on her. As she was leaving she had an idea.

"Fox, I'd like to invite you to my house for lunch tomorrow."

Fox happily agreed.



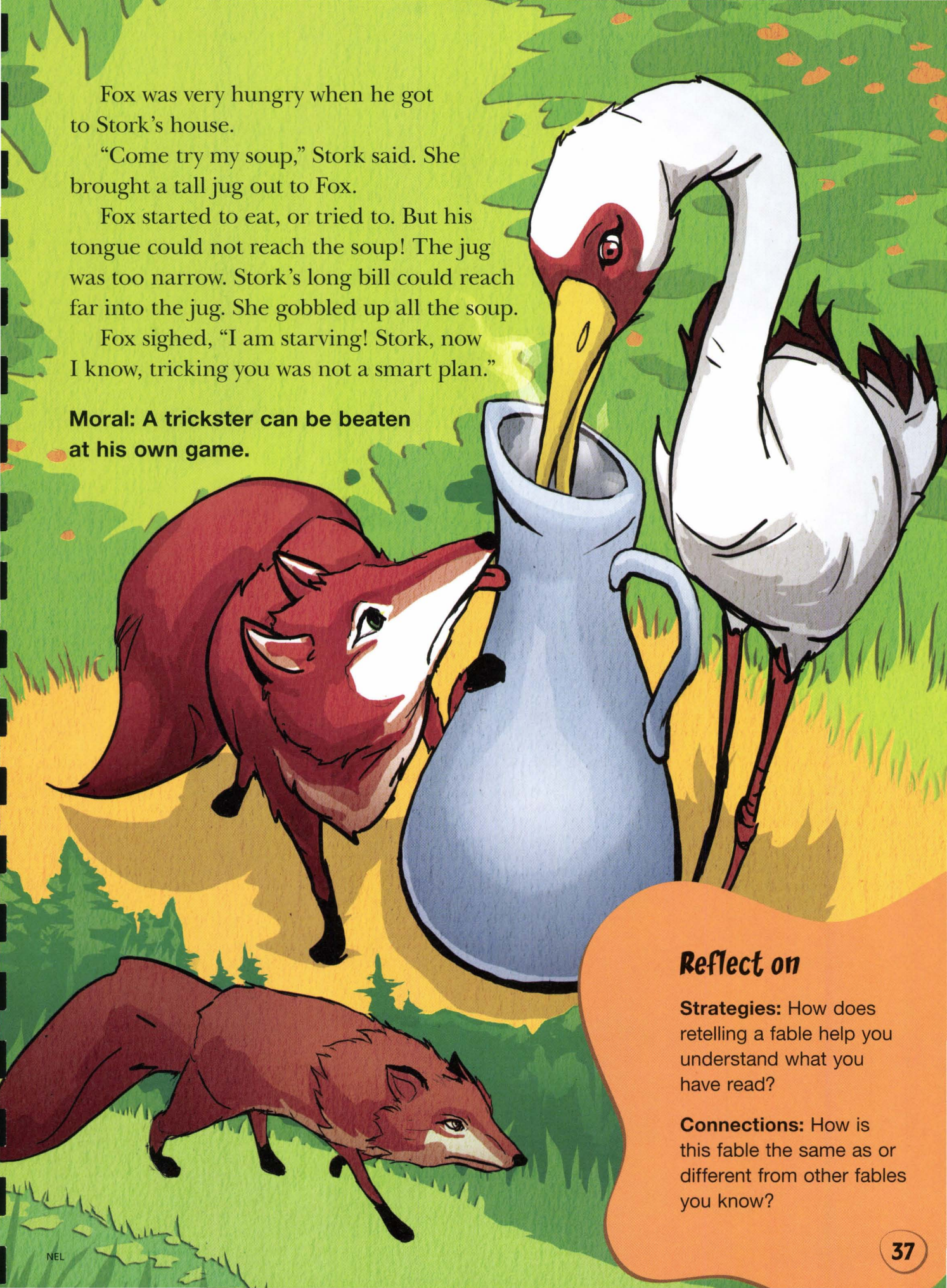
Fox was very hungry when he got to Stork's house.

"Come try my soup," Stork said. She brought a tall jug out to Fox.

Fox started to eat, or tried to. But his tongue could not reach the soup! The jug was too narrow. Stork's long bill could reach far into the jug. She gobbled up all the soup.

Fox sighed, "I am starving! Stork, now I know, tricking you was not a smart plan."

Moral: A trickster can be beaten at his own game.



Reflect on

Strategies: How does retelling a fable help you understand what you have read?

Connections: How is this fable the same as or different from other fables you know?

The North Wind and the Sun

An Aesop fable

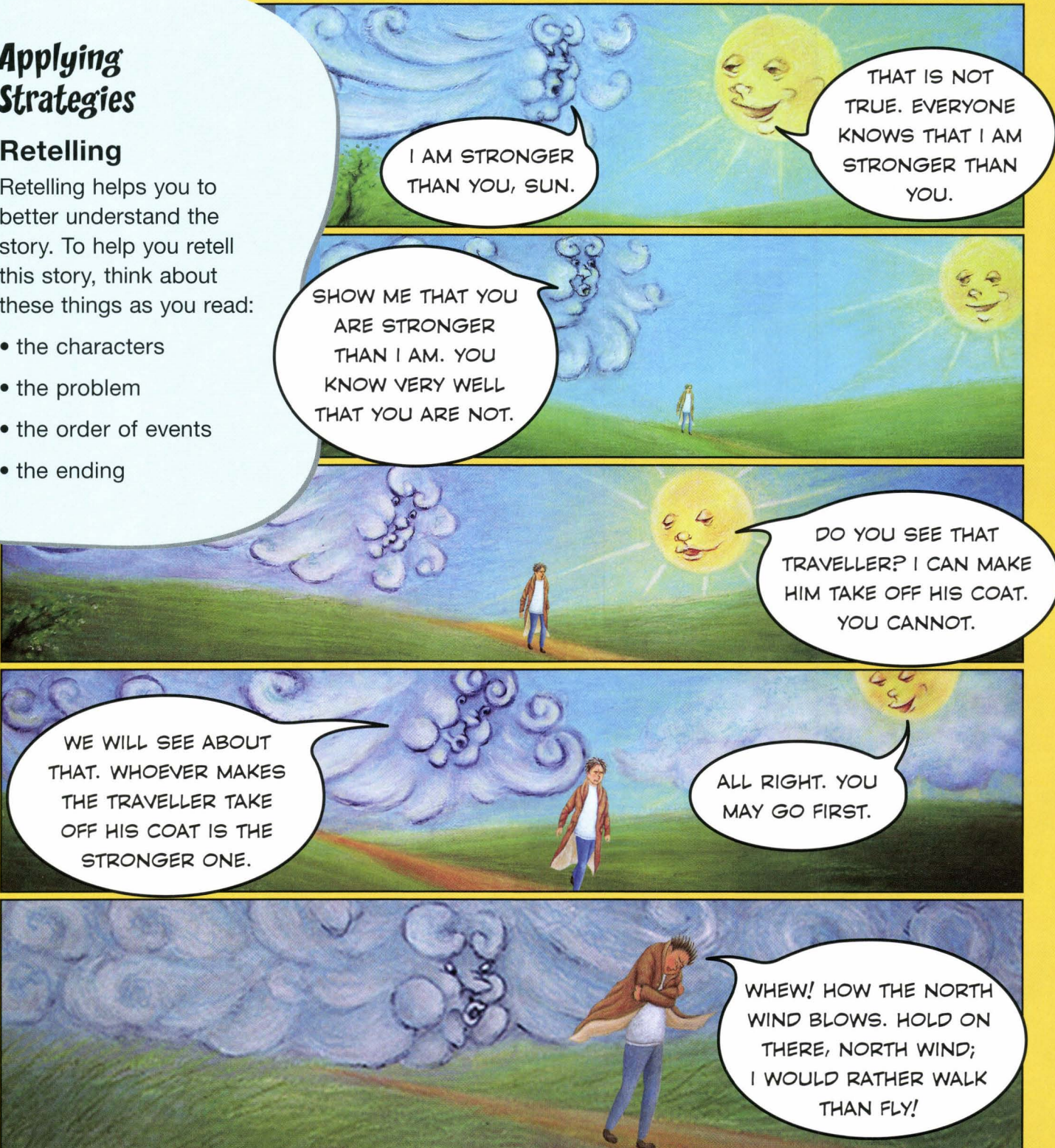
Illustrated by Noriko Senshu

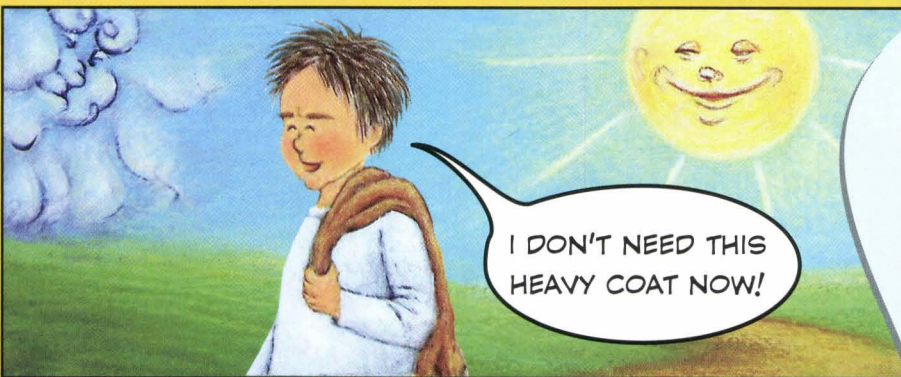
Applying Strategies

Retelling

Retelling helps you to better understand the story. To help you retell this story, think about these things as you read:

- the characters
- the problem
- the order of events
- the ending





Reflect on

Strategies: How does retelling a fable help you understand what you have read?

Connections: How is this fable the same as or different from other fables you know?

Moral: Often, gentleness works better than force.

THE RABBITS' TALE

A Chinese fable retold by Demi

Illustrated by David Hohn

Applying Strategies

Retelling

Retelling helps you to better understand the story. To help you retell this story, think about these things as you read:

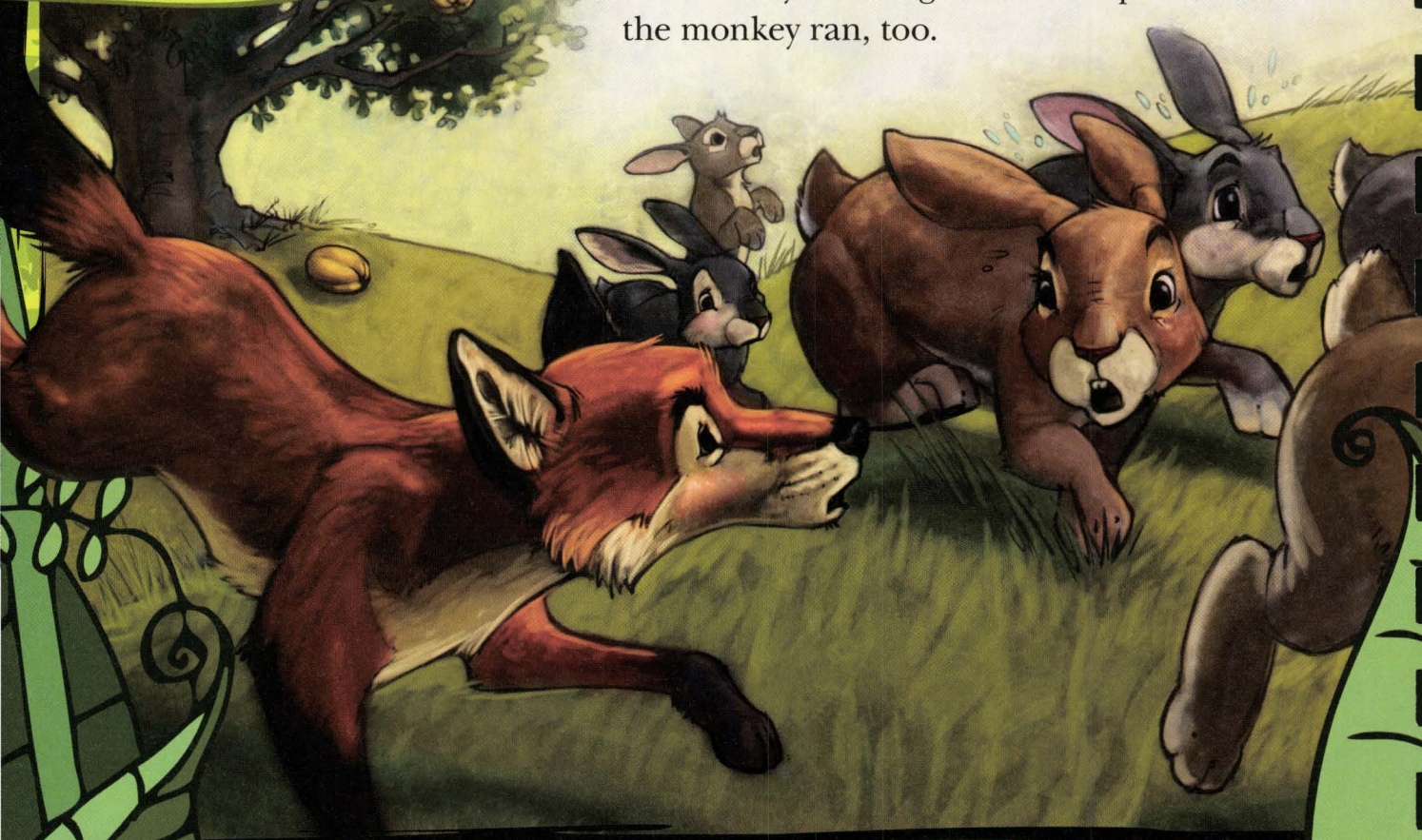
- the characters
- the problem
- the order of events
- the ending

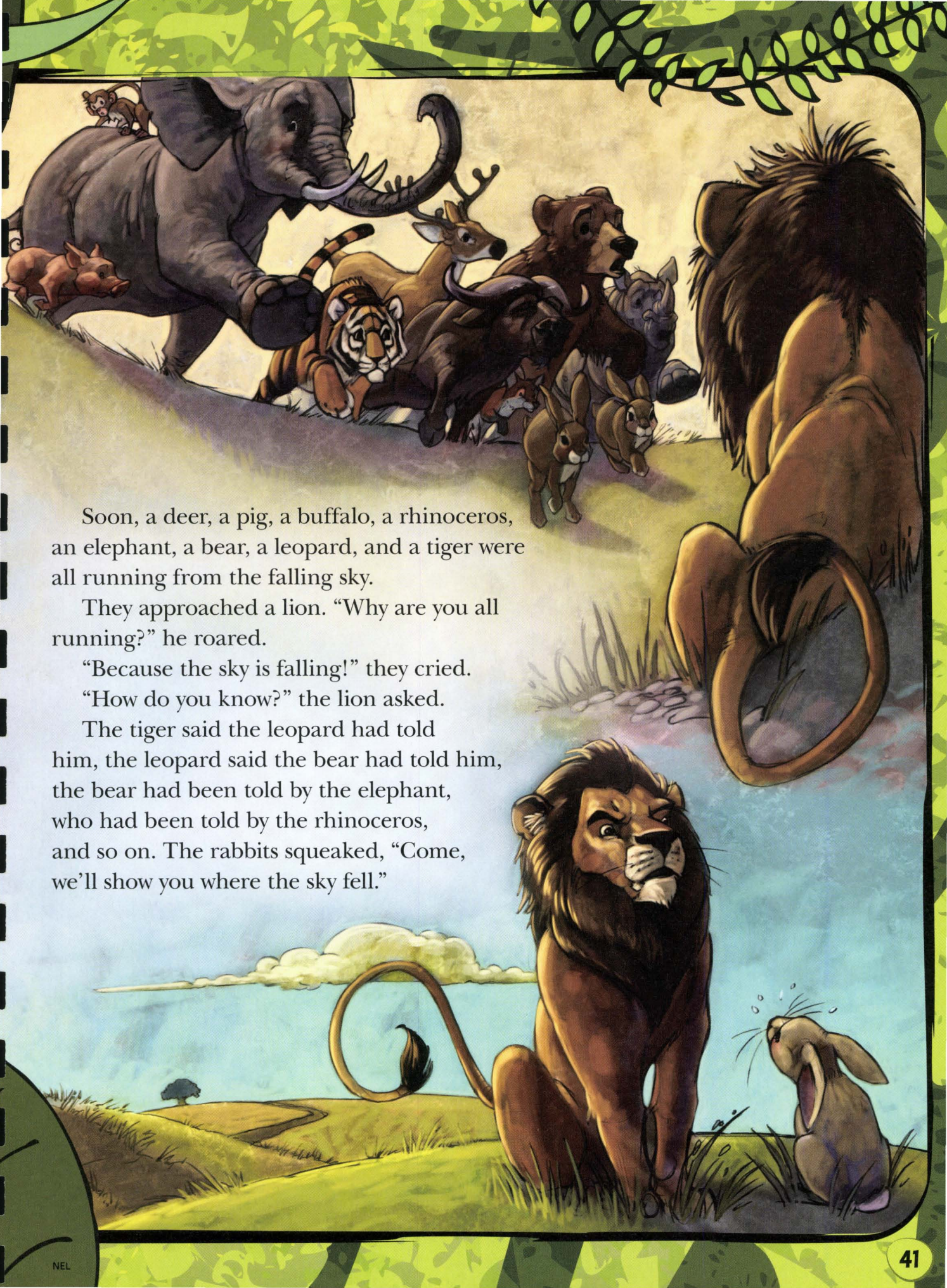
Once there was a family of rabbits who lived near a big fruit tree. One day, a large piece of fruit dropped off a branch, making a sound like thunder. The terrified rabbits ran away as fast as their legs could carry them. A fox asked, "Why are you running?"

"Because the sky is falling!" the rabbits replied, and so the fox followed them.

A few paces later, a monkey asked, "Why are you running?"

"The sky is falling!" the fox replied, and so the monkey ran, too.





Soon, a deer, a pig, a buffalo, a rhinoceros, an elephant, a bear, a leopard, and a tiger were all running from the falling sky.

They approached a lion. “Why are you all running?” he roared.

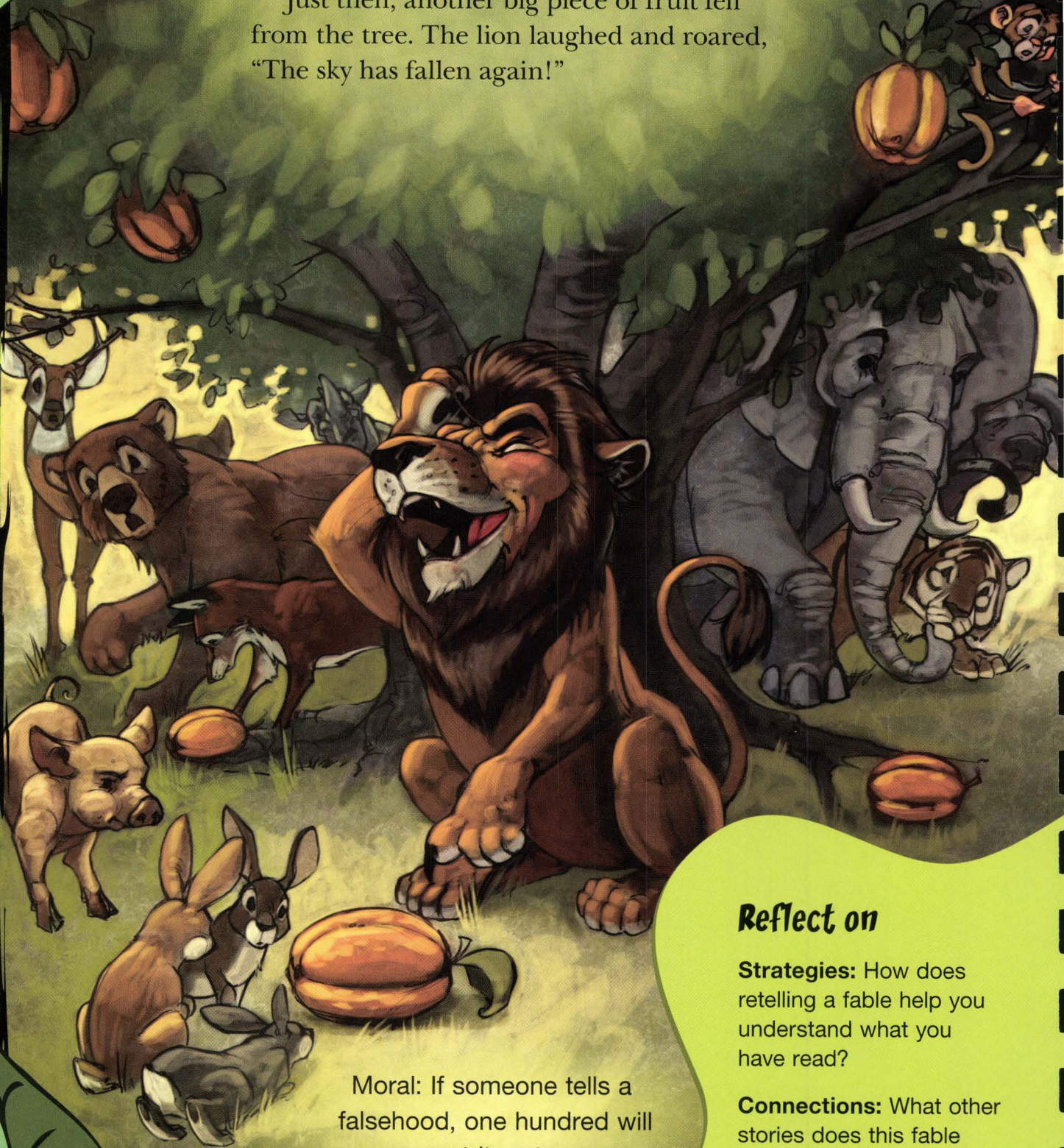
“Because the sky is falling!” they cried.

“How do you know?” the lion asked.

The tiger said the leopard had told him, the leopard said the bear had told him, the bear had been told by the elephant, who had been told by the rhinoceros, and so on. The rabbits squeaked, “Come, we’ll show you where the sky fell.”

They led the lion to the fruit tree and said,
“The sky fell here!”

Just then, another big piece of fruit fell
from the tree. The lion laughed and roared,
“The sky has fallen again!”



Moral: If someone tells a
falsehood, one hundred will
repeat it as true.

Reflect on

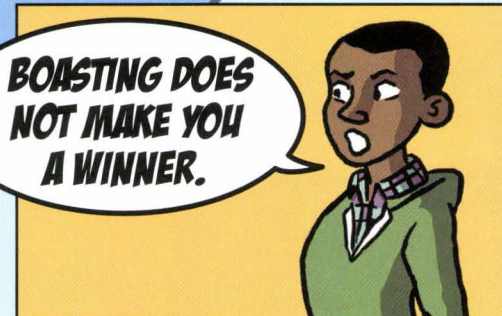
Strategies: How does
retelling a fable help you
understand what you
have read?

Connections: What other
stories does this fable
remind you of?

Using Tone and Volume

You can control your voice's tone and volume when you speak. Thinking about the tone and volume you use will make you a better speaker.

This student is practising a retelling of "Fox and Crab Run a Race." He wants to entertain his listeners. He tries different tones and volumes as he practises.



How to use tone and volume:

- ✓ Think about your purpose and your audience.
- ✓ Try out different tones and volumes. Listen to yourself.
- ✓ Choose the tone and volume that match the feeling you want to give your listeners.

Expressing Opinions

Expressing Personal Opinions about Illustrations

A story's illustrations can help you better understand the characters and events of the story. Readers don't always feel the same about an artist's illustrations. You can express your opinions about illustrations by describing what you like and don't like about them, and why.

These students are expressing their opinions about an illustration for the fable "The Tortoise and the Hare."

THIS ILLUSTRATION IS FUN TO LOOK AT BECAUSE OF ALL THE DIFFERENT PATTERNS AND STITCHES IN THE FABRIC.



Give your opinion. What different opinions do these students give?

Give reasons for your opinion. Why does one student dislike the illustration? Why does another student like it?

Listen to the opinions of others. How does listening help these students have a good discussion?



I DON'T LIKE IT BECAUSE IT LOOKS SLOPPY, LIKE A KID DID IT.

BUT LOOK AT THE DETAILS— A SNAIL WITH THE RABBIT AND A BIRD ON THE TORTOISE. THE ARTIST IS REALLY THINKING ABOUT THE STORY. COOL!



Look at these illustrations from the fable “The Lion and the Mouse.” What opinions do you have about the illustrations? What are the reasons for your opinions?



Putting It All Together

As you read, remember to use the strategies you learned in this unit:

- Identify characteristics of fables.
- Notice how the writer combines sentences.
- Think about how you will retell this fable.

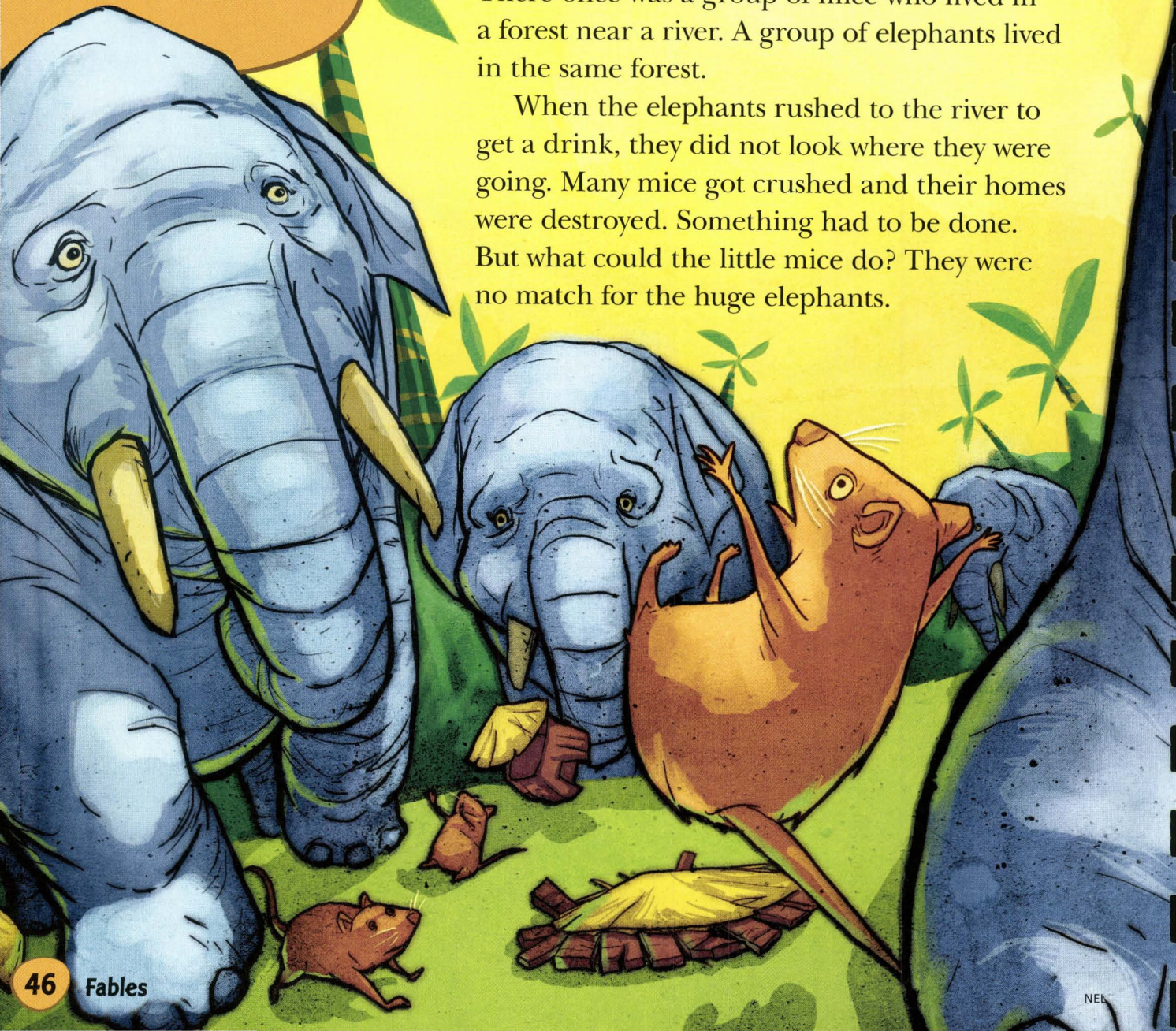
A Friend in Need

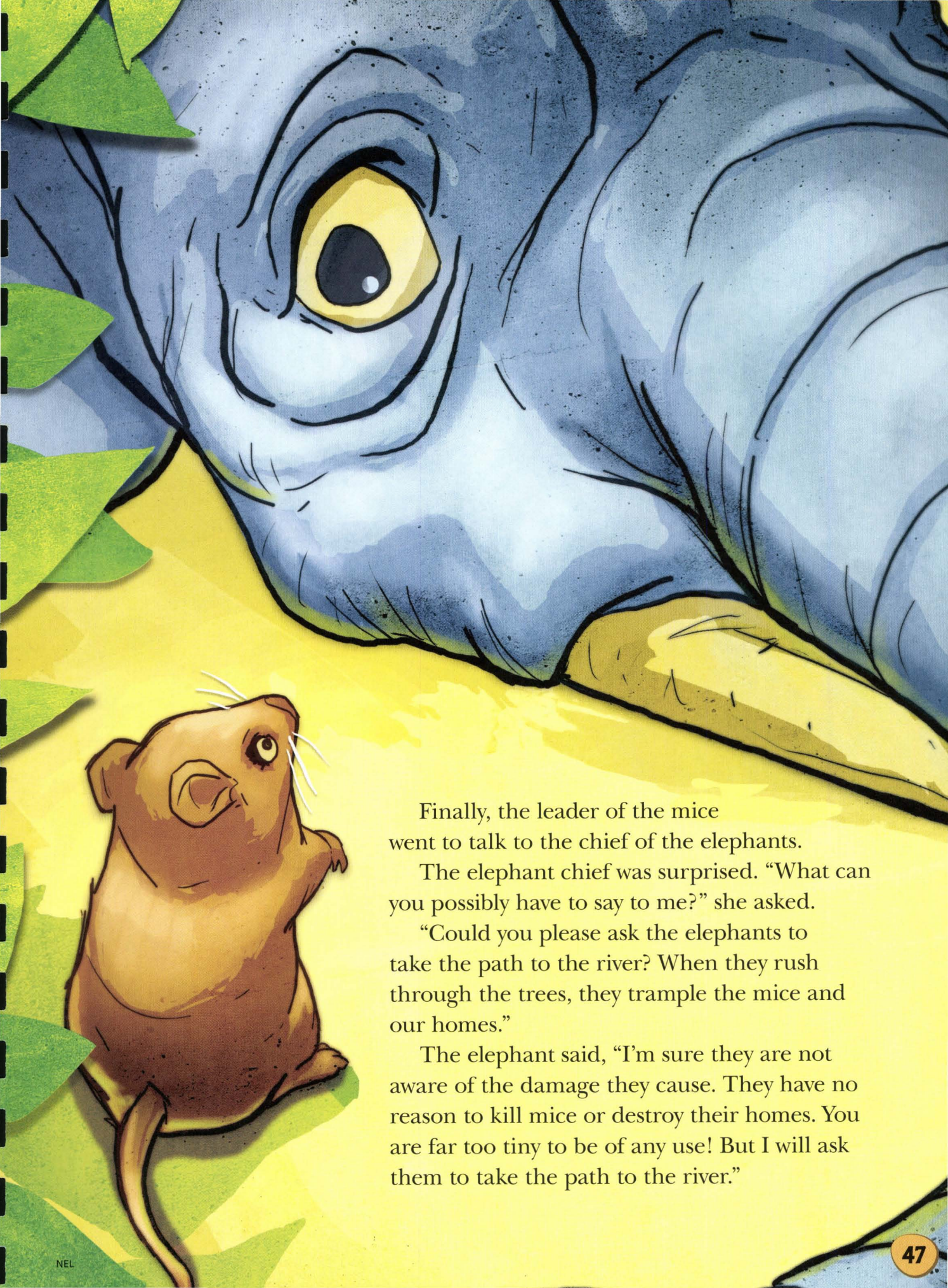
Written by Swapna Dutta

Illustrated by Jan-John Rivera

There once was a group of mice who lived in a forest near a river. A group of elephants lived in the same forest.

When the elephants rushed to the river to get a drink, they did not look where they were going. Many mice got crushed and their homes were destroyed. Something had to be done. But what could the little mice do? They were no match for the huge elephants.





Finally, the leader of the mice went to talk to the chief of the elephants.

The elephant chief was surprised. "What can you possibly have to say to me?" she asked.

"Could you please ask the elephants to take the path to the river? When they rush through the trees, they trample the mice and our homes."

The elephant said, "I'm sure they are not aware of the damage they cause. They have no reason to kill mice or destroy their homes. You are far too tiny to be of any use! But I will ask them to take the path to the river."



Then the elephant chief added, "I think you were brave to come to me, little mouse."

"Thank you, and if there is anything we can ever do to help you, we will do it," said the mouse.

This made the elephant burst out laughing!

"I can't imagine how a tiny creature like you can possibly help someone as huge as an elephant," said the chief, "but it was nice of you to offer."

The elephant chief kept her promise. She told the elephants to be careful and to go to the river without hurting the mice.





Then, one night, a band of elephant trappers snuck into the forest and trapped the elephants in huge nets. Even the elephant chief was caught.

The trappers had gone off to rest. They planned to take away the elephants the next morning.

“Can’t anyone help us?” asked the trapped elephants.

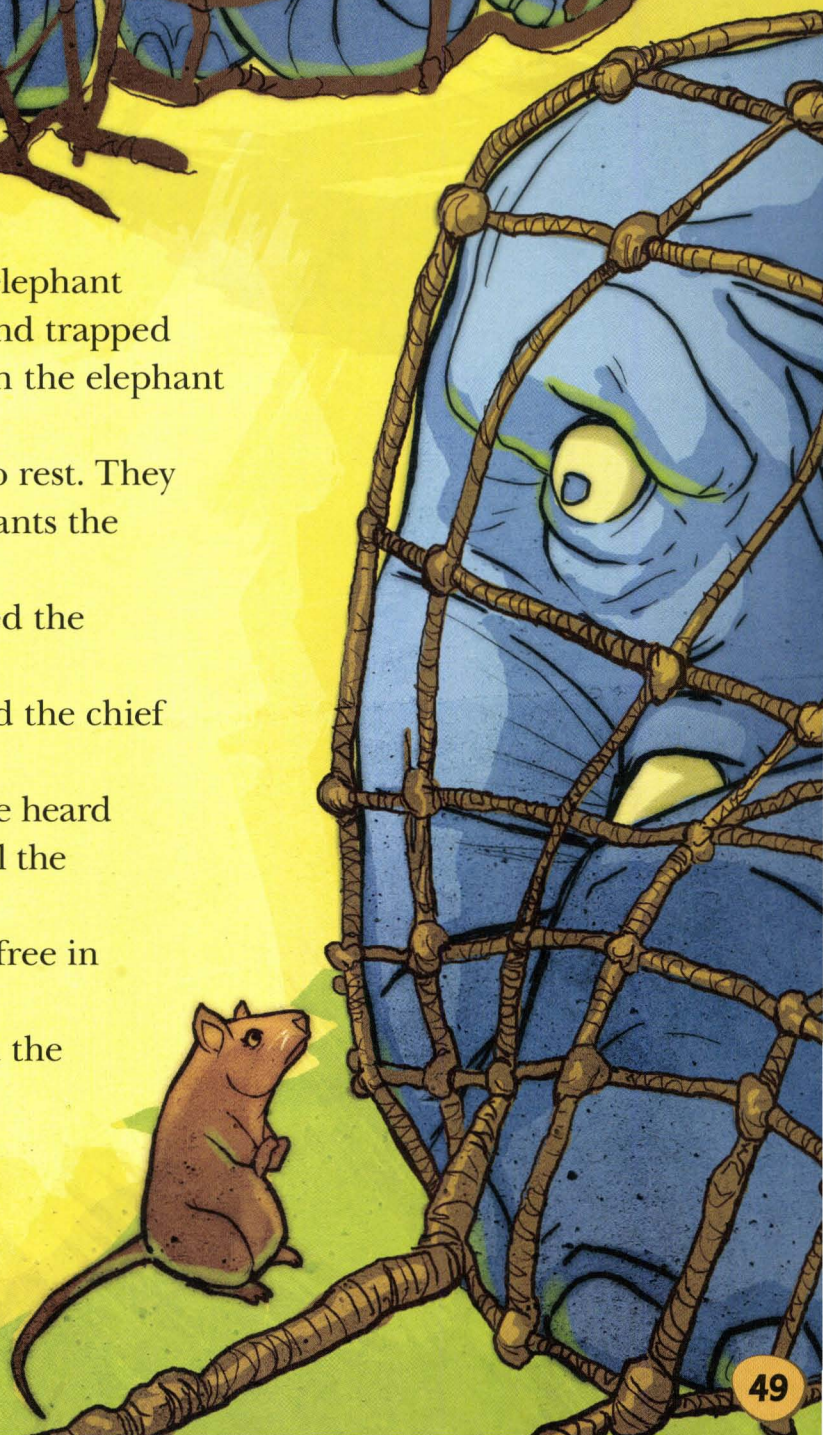
“I can’t think of anyone,” said the chief in despair.

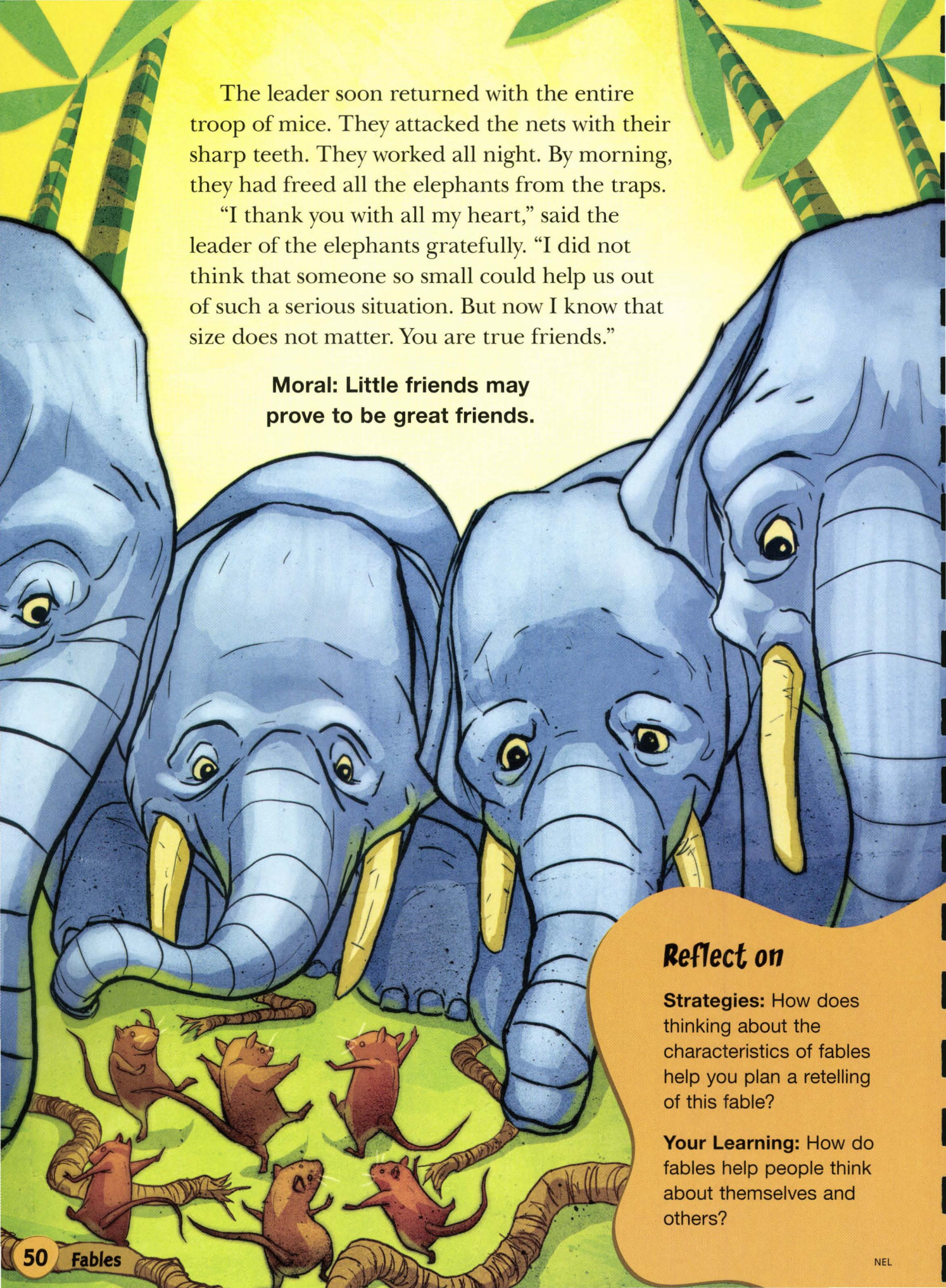
Luckily, the leader of the mice heard them. She was amazed to find all the elephants trapped.

“Don’t worry, we’ll have you free in no time,” she said.

“Can you really do it?” asked the elephant chief.

“Of course,” said the mouse. “I’ll go and get the others.”



A colorful illustration of a jungle scene. In the foreground, several large blue elephants with yellow tusks are looking towards the viewer. In the background, a group of small brown mice are gathered together, some appearing to be in conversation. The scene is set against a bright yellow background with green palm trees.

The leader soon returned with the entire troop of mice. They attacked the nets with their sharp teeth. They worked all night. By morning, they had freed all the elephants from the traps.

“I thank you with all my heart,” said the leader of the elephants gratefully. “I did not think that someone so small could help us out of such a serious situation. But now I know that size does not matter. You are true friends.”

Moral: Little friends may prove to be great friends.

Reflect on

Strategies: How does thinking about the characteristics of fables help you plan a retelling of this fable?

Your Learning: How do fables help people think about themselves and others?