

These Florida Farms!

A Florida Agriculture Literacy Day Book

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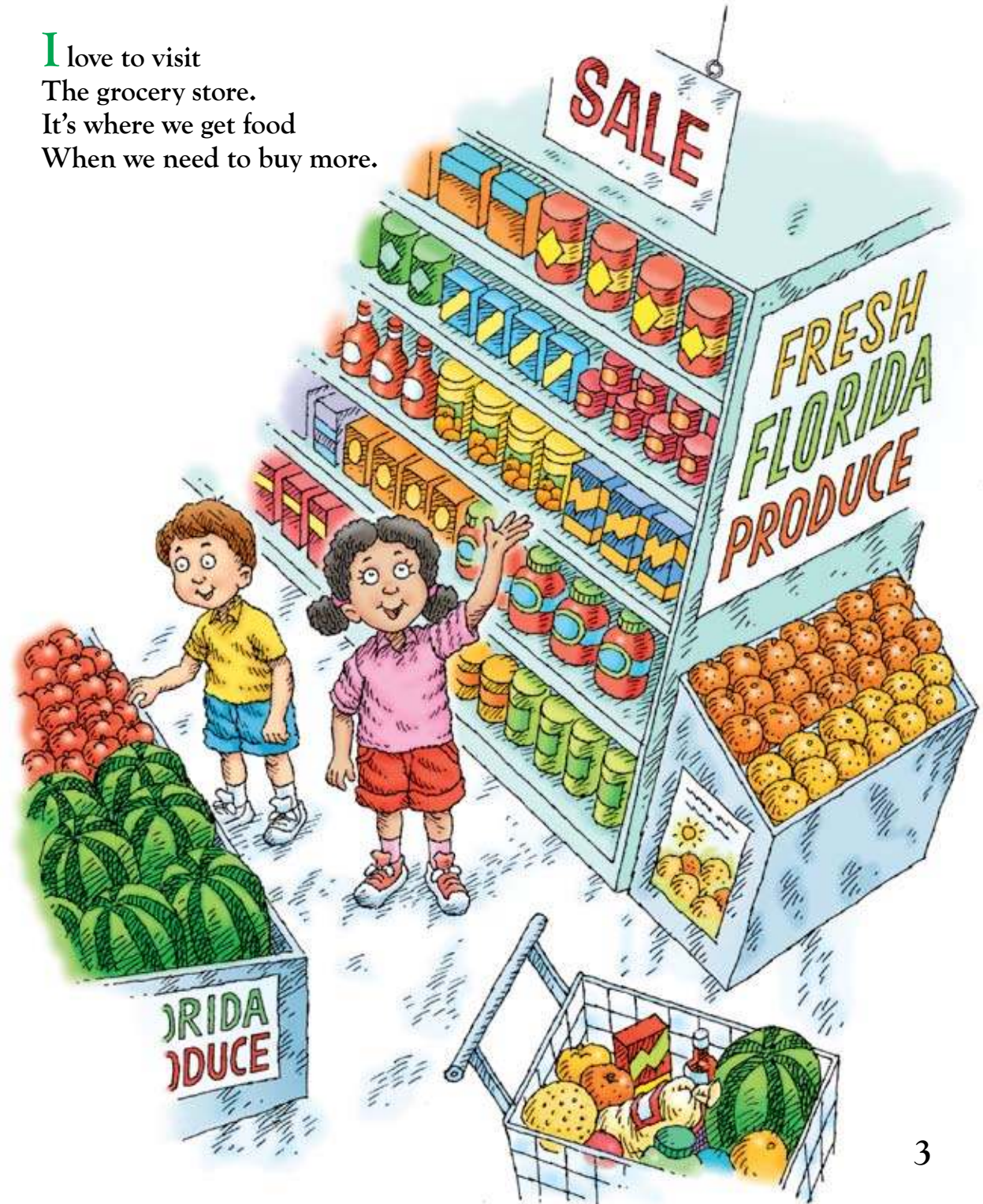
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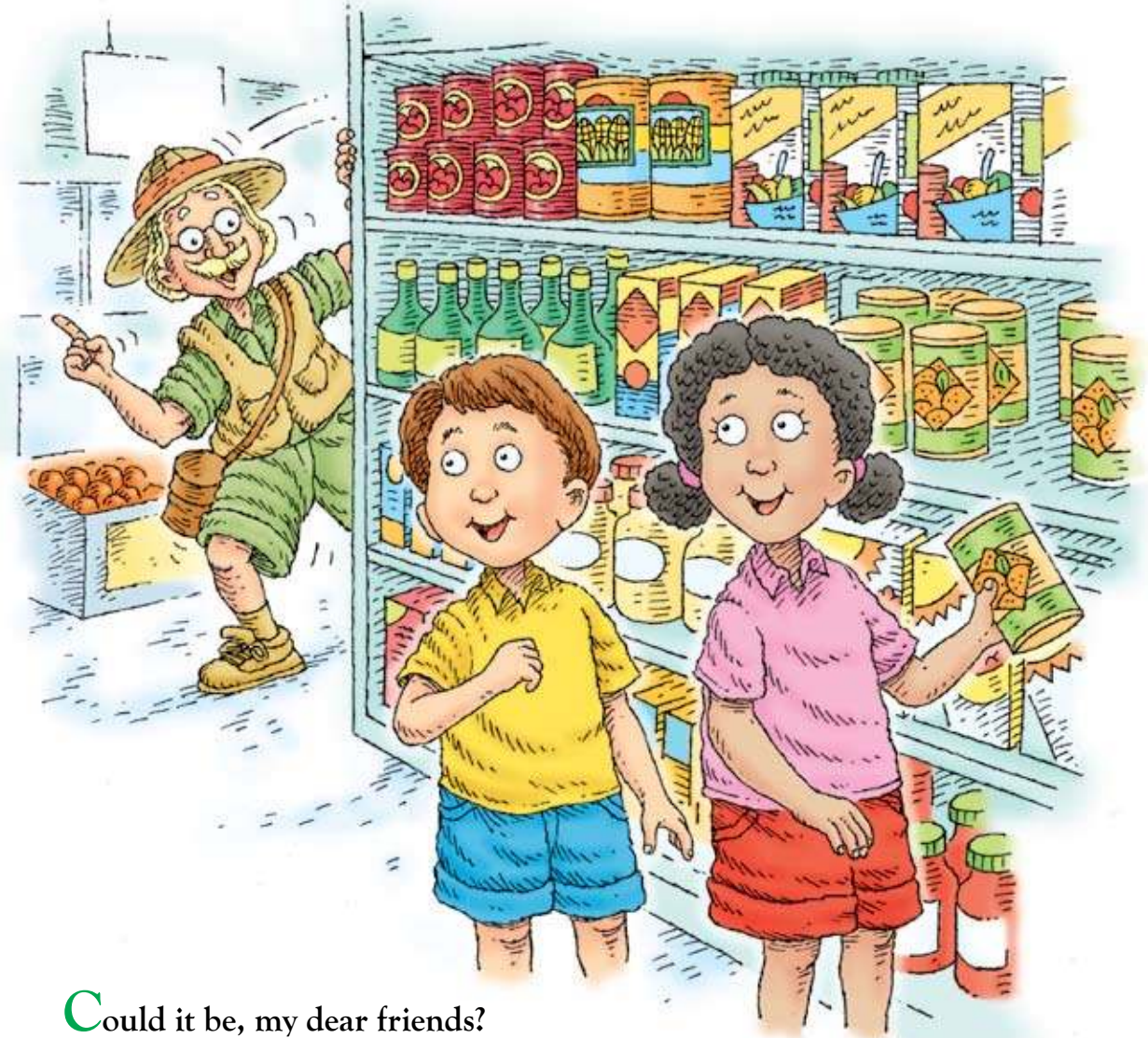
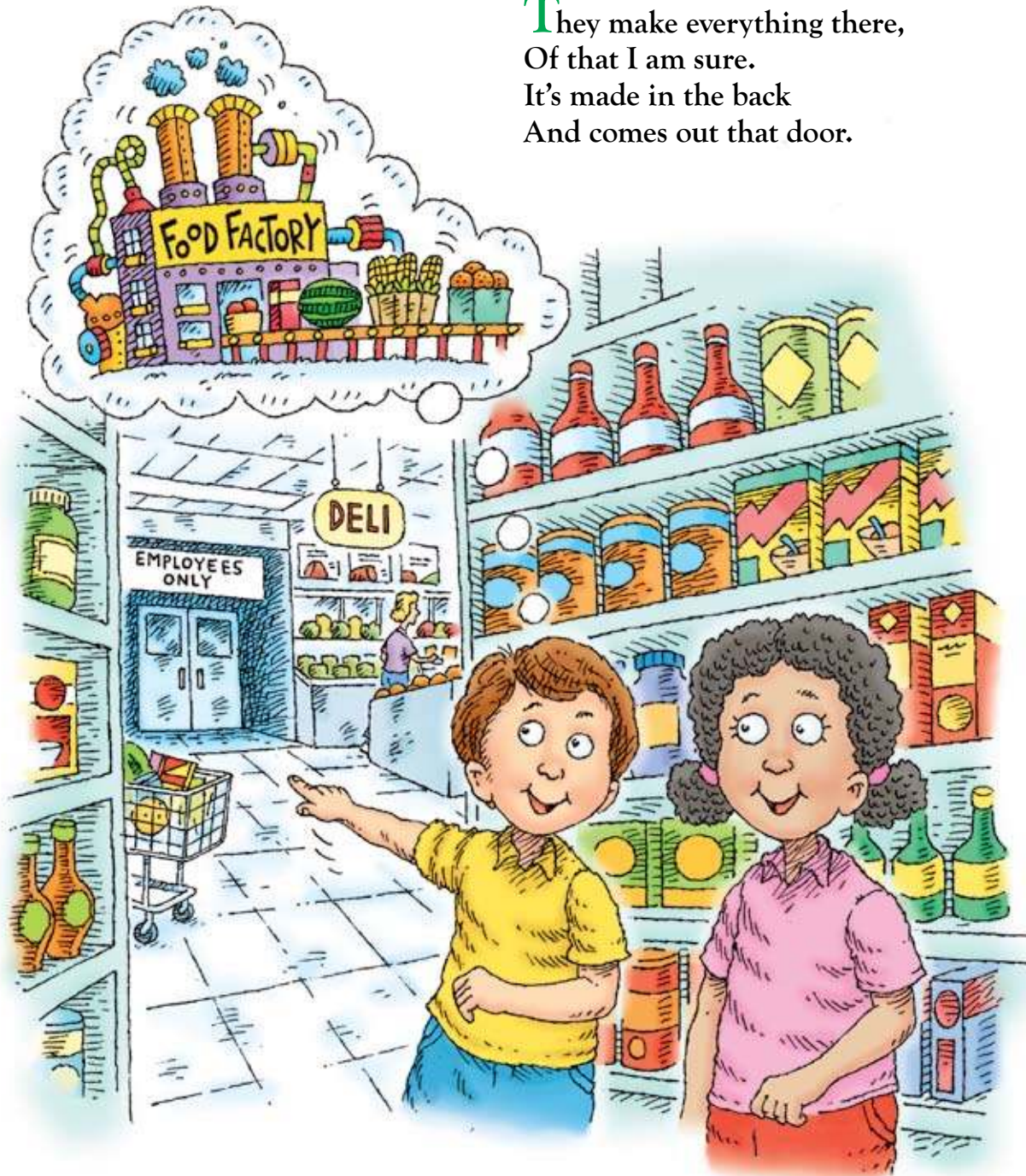
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*This book is dedicated to our hard working
Florida farmers who provide food, fiber and
other household goods to tens of millions of
people all over the world.*

I love to visit
The grocery store.
It's where we get food
When we need to buy more.

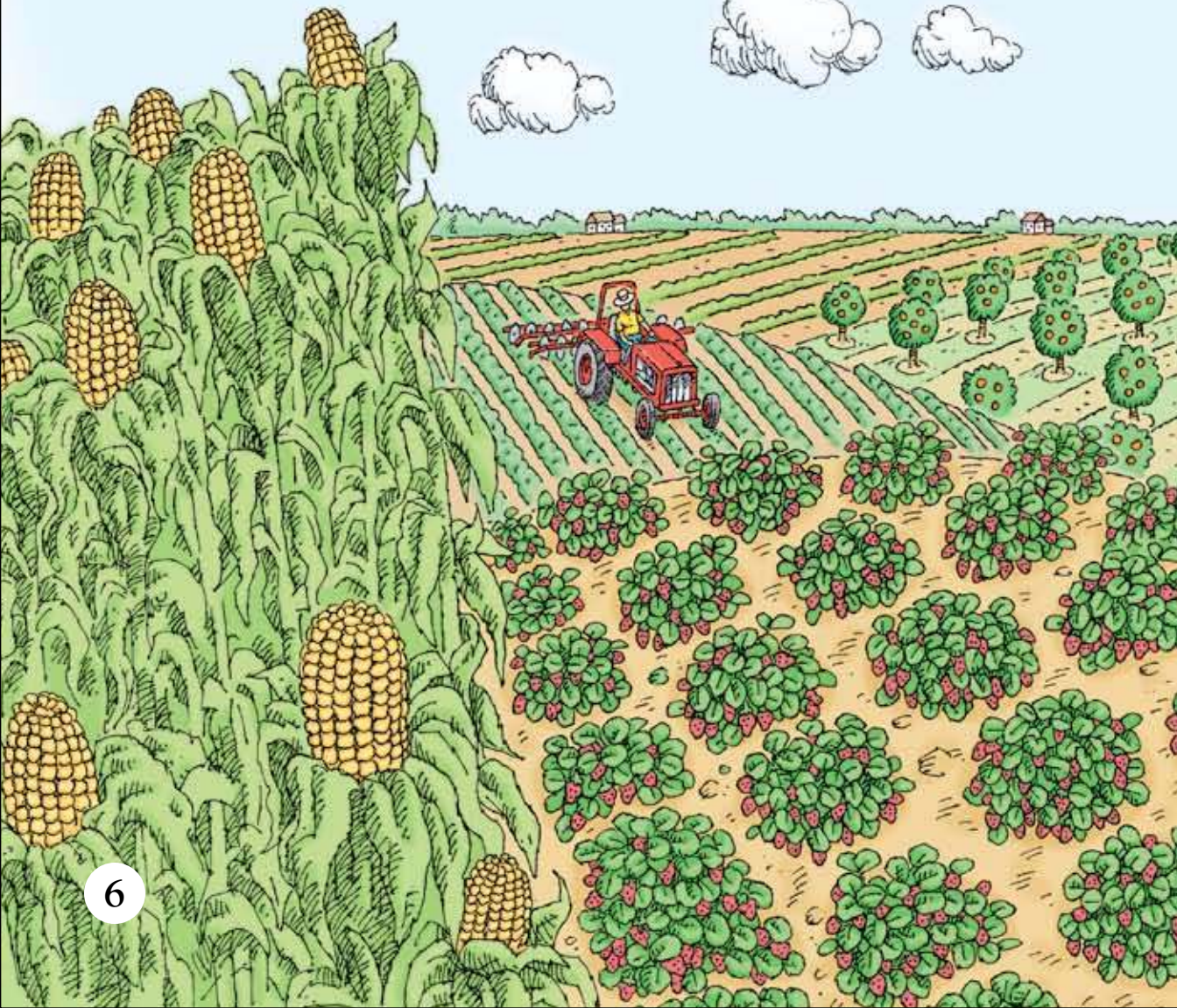


They make everything there,
Of that I am sure.
It's made in the back
And comes out that door.



Could it be, my dear friends?
Do you not understand?
Before beans are bagged
And carrots are canned,
They come from a farm
Or a ranch ... or the sea!
If you'd like to know more
Then please follow me.

For fresh fruits and veggies,
Nothing replaces
These Florida Farms –
Oh! such wonderful places
With plentiful plants
And wide open spaces,
Growing food for our bodies,
Putting smiles on our faces.



The plants on this farm
Make a colorful scene.
The peppers they grow are
Red, yellow, and green.

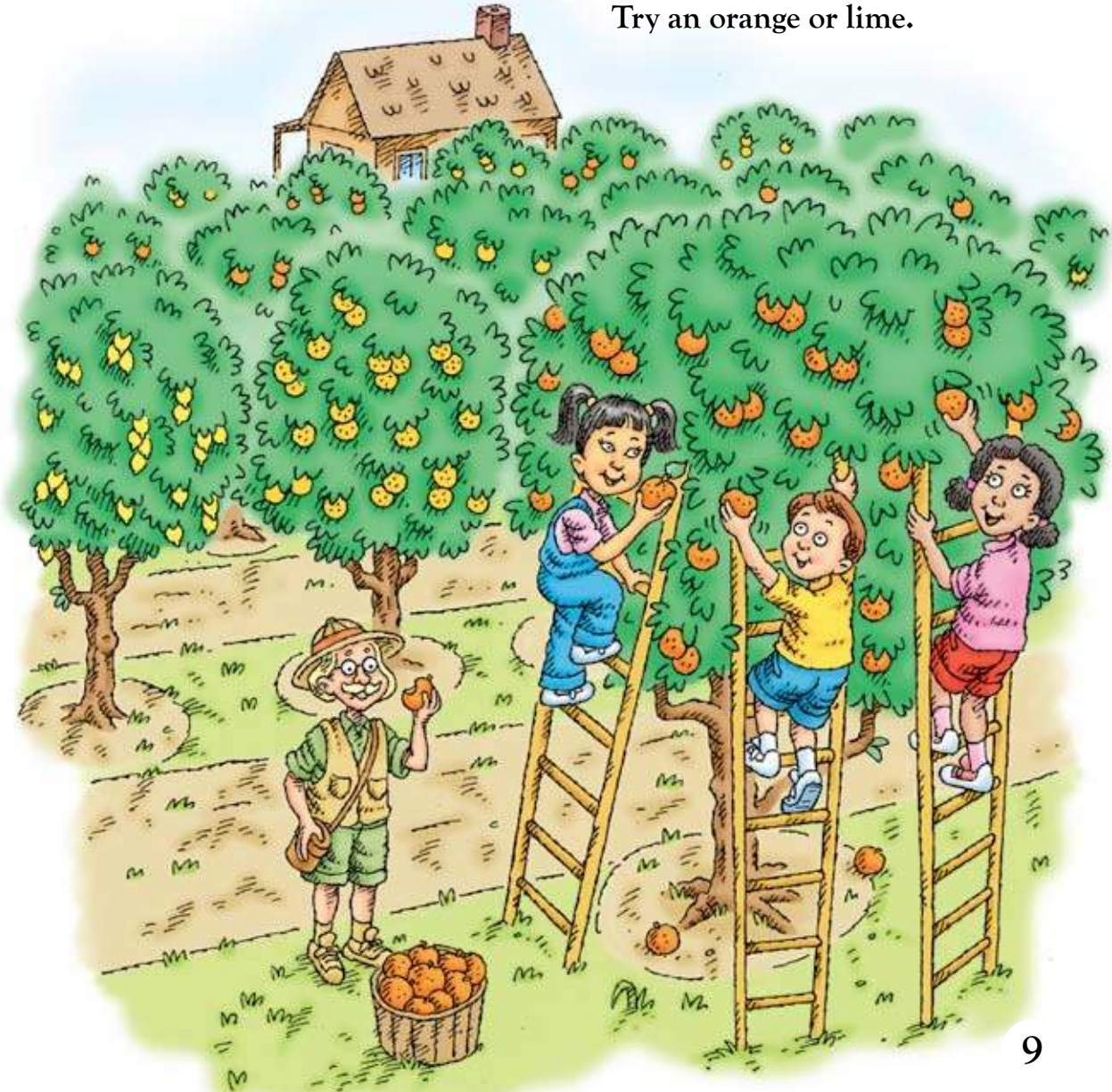


And some are quite hot
If you know what I mean!

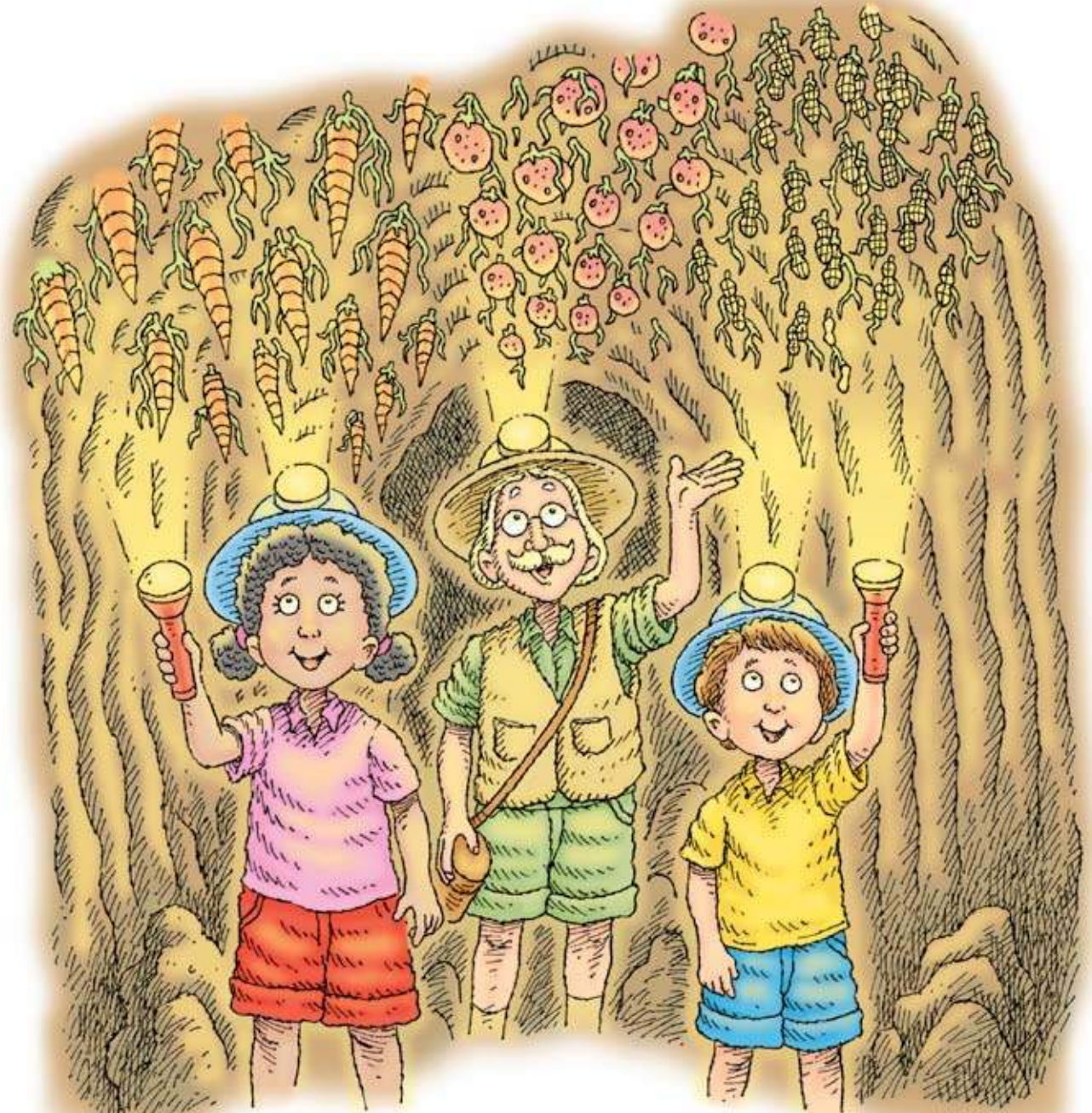
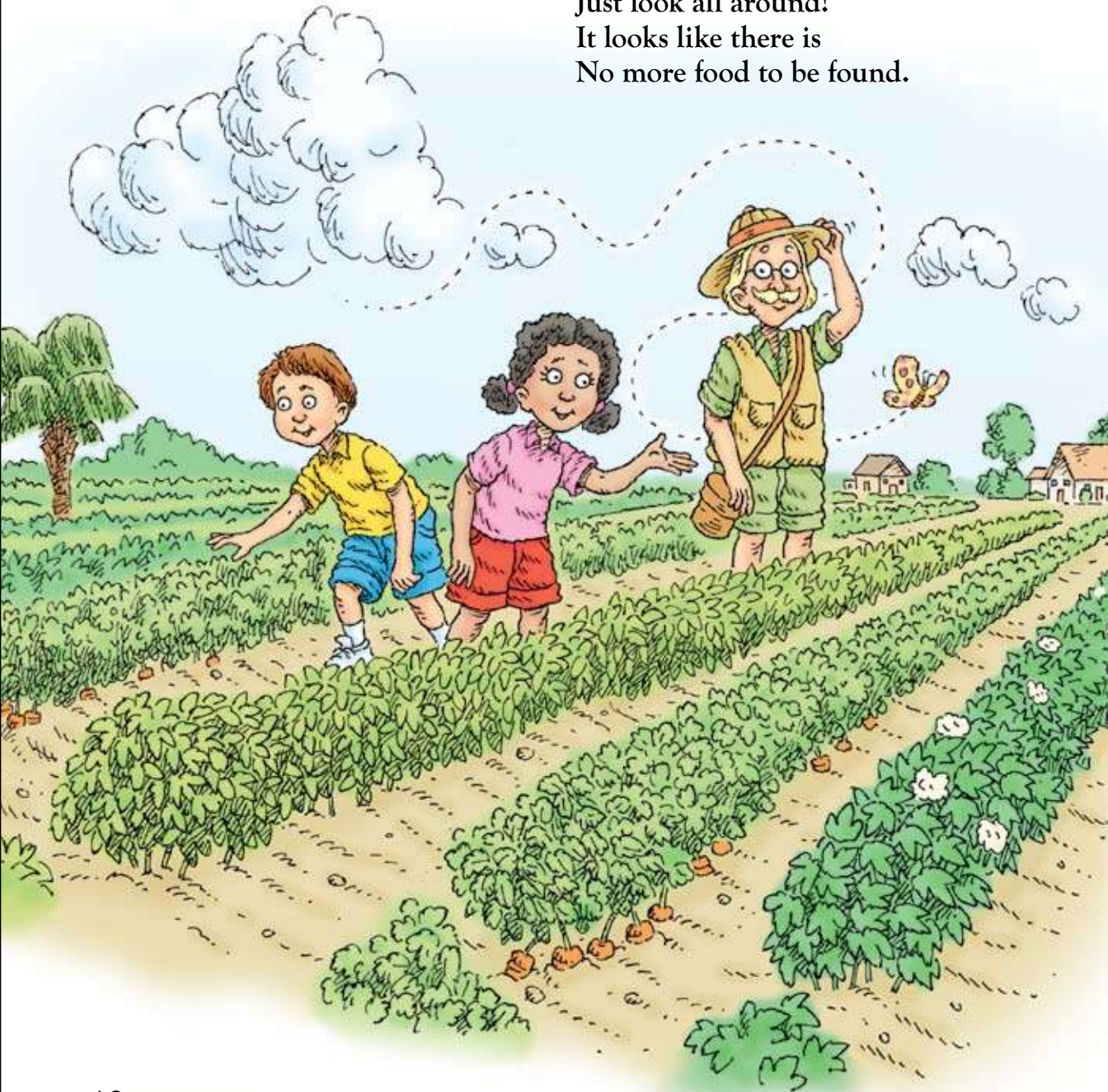


Our farm is a grove,
And come harvest time
The trees are so big that
These ladders we climb.

Pick a grapefruit or lemon,
Try an orange or lime.

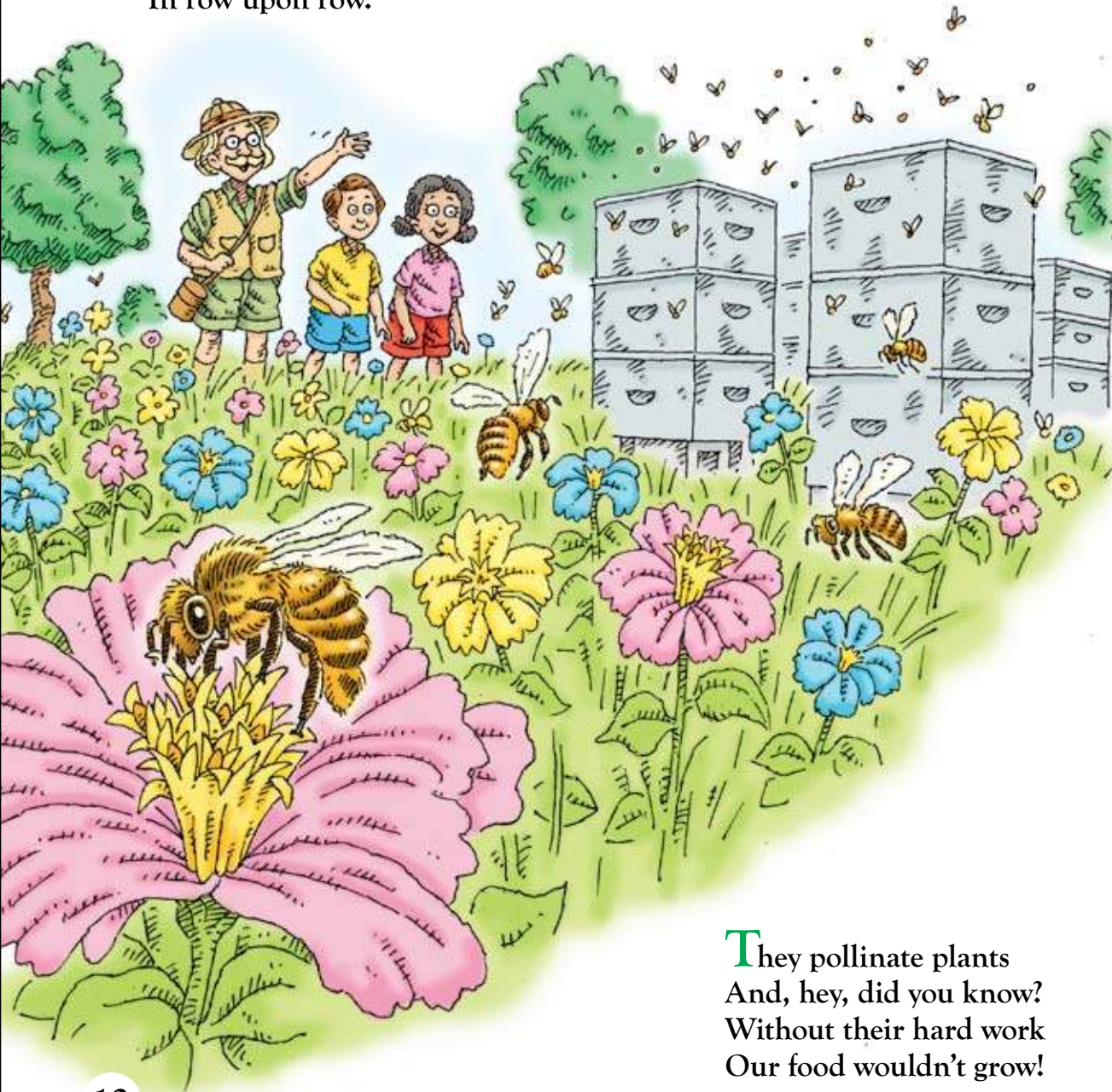


Can this be a farm?
Just look all around!
It looks like there is
No more food to be found.



But potatoes so red,
So ripe and so round,
Just like carrots and peanuts
They're found underground.

These boxes? Bee boxes!
Where honey bees go
After visiting flowers
In row upon row.



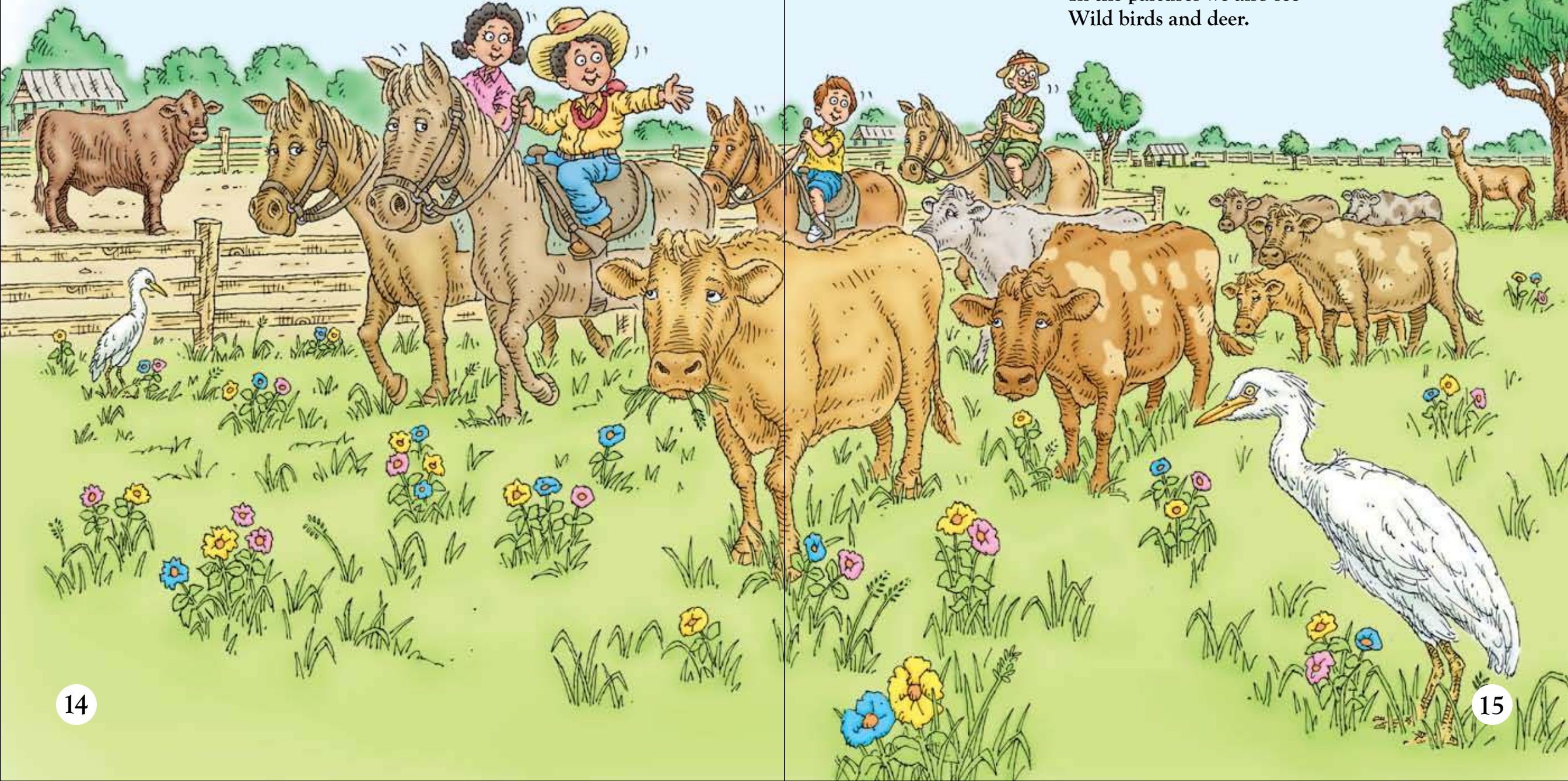
They pollinate plants
And, hey, did you know?
Without their hard work
Our food wouldn't grow!

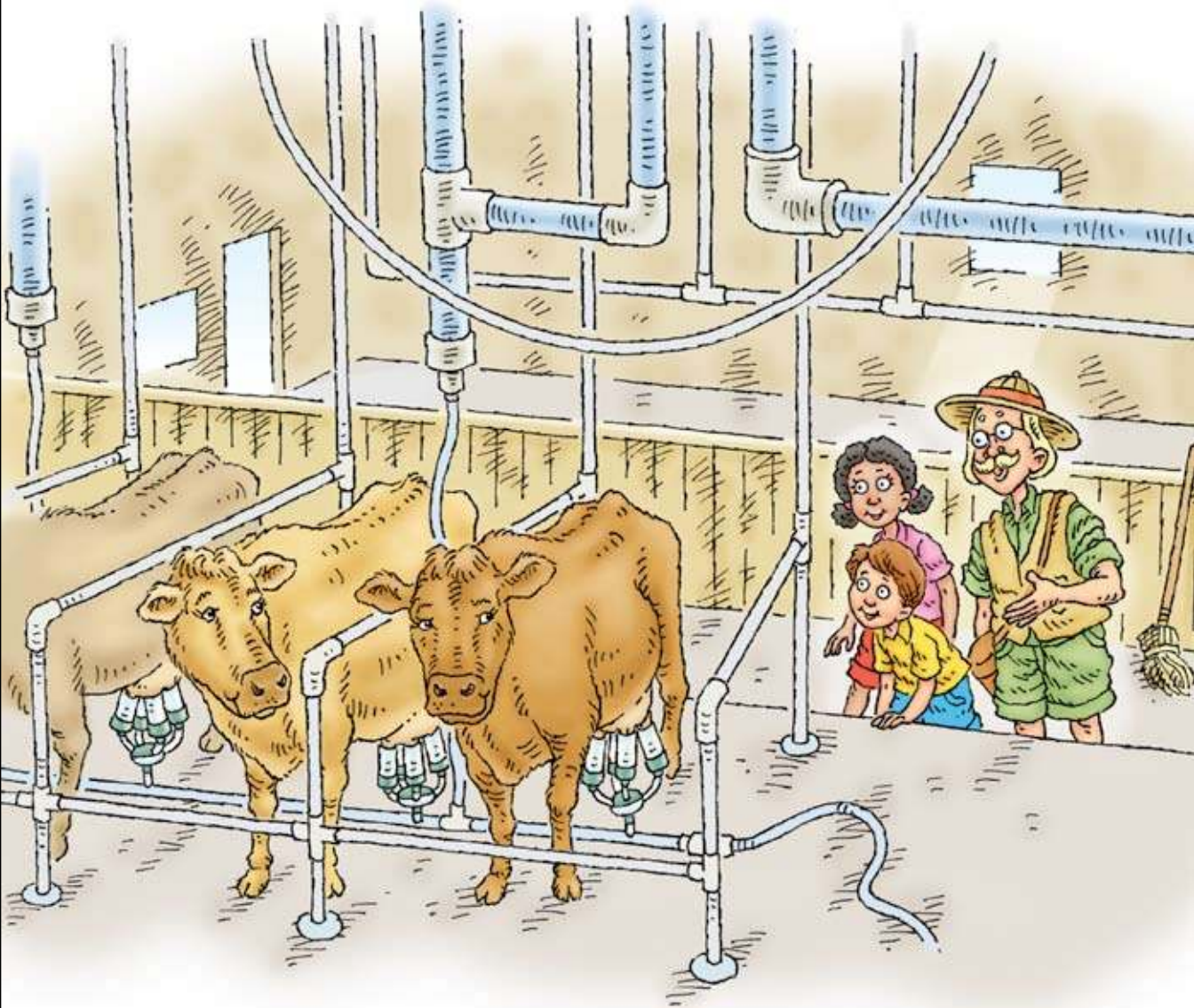
Sometimes the sunshine
And rain aren't enough
To help plants grow strong
In soil that is rough.

But Florida phosphate
Has just the right stuff
To fertilize plants
When the growing gets tough.



Our farm is a ranch,
With lots of cows here.
There's also a bull,
So don't get too near.
In the pastures we also see
Wild birds and deer.



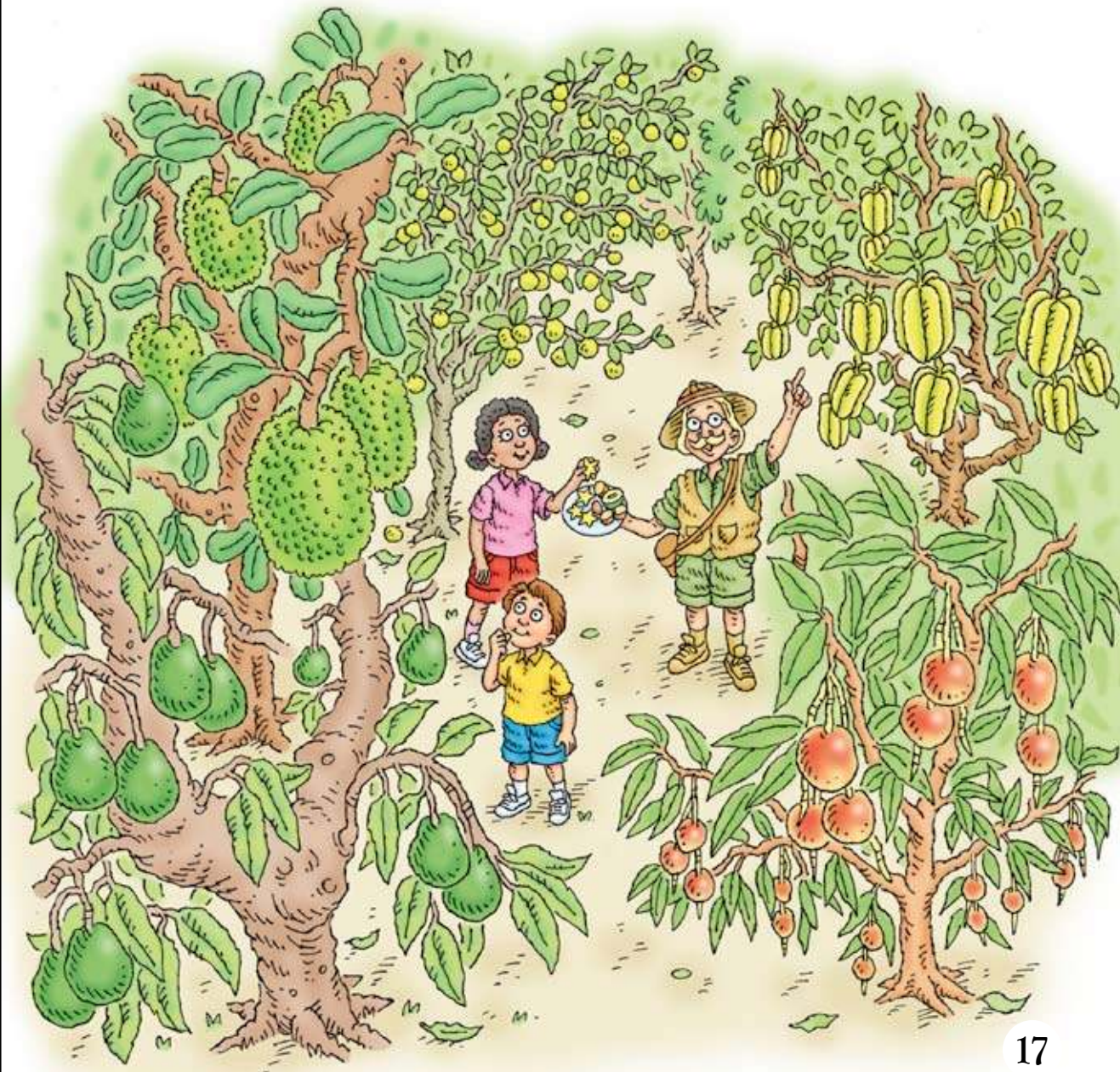


This farm is a dairy.
It has many cows, too.
But these cows have a different
Job they must do.

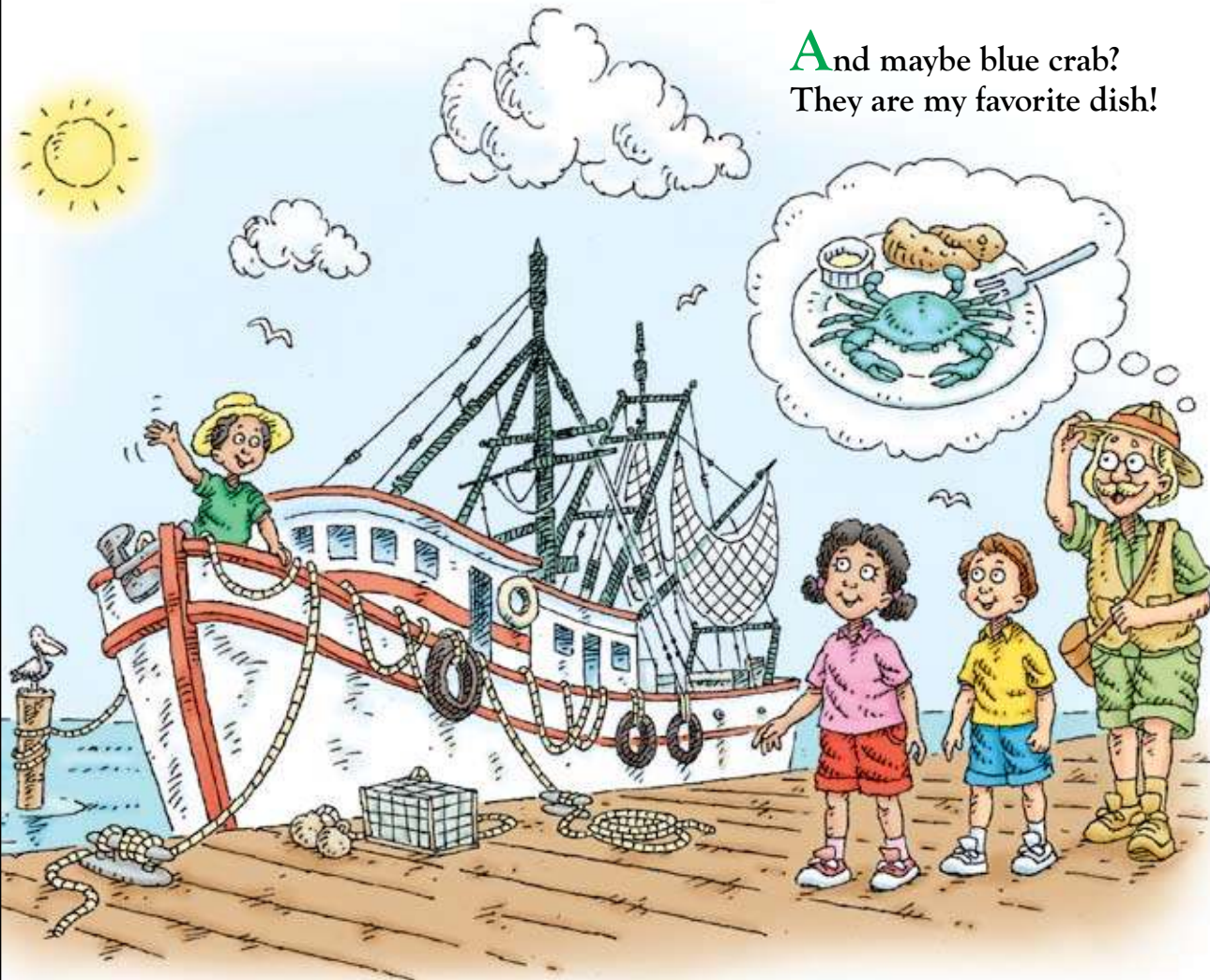
They graze upon grasses
And moo after moo,
Give gallons and gallons
Of fresh milk for you.

An adventure in farming
Is here – take a peek –
If tropical fruits
Are the flavors you seek.

Delicious! Nutritious!
And really unique!
They're Florida-grown
With an Old World mystique.



The sea is our farm,
Come aboard if you wish.
We'll get shrimp, clams and oysters
And scallops and fish.



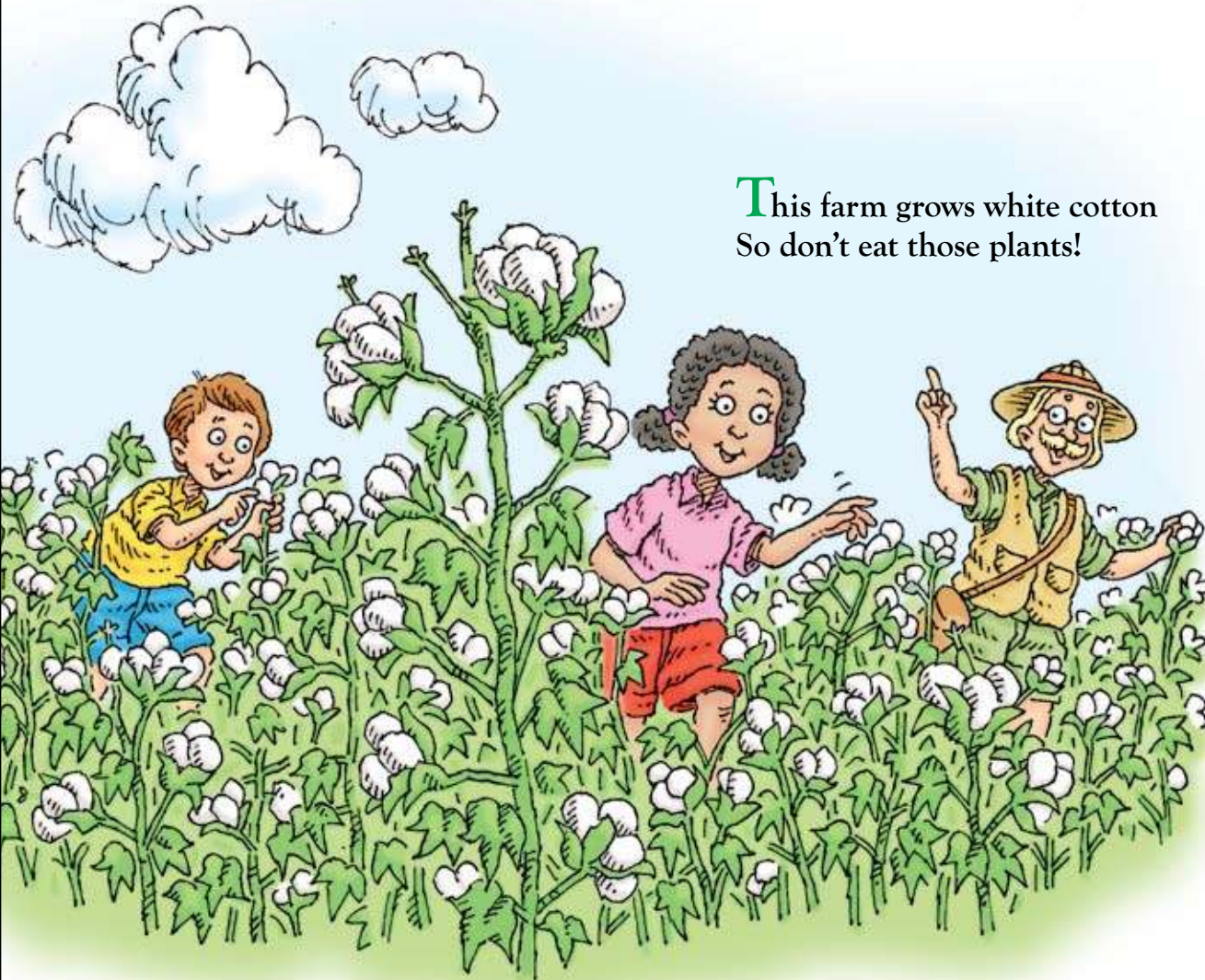
And maybe blue crab?
They are my favorite dish!



Sorry to rush you,
I don't want to be rude
But now that your dinner
Is thoroughly chewed,
We'll visit some farms
That do not grow food.

These white puffy flowers
Put me in a trance!

This farm grows white cotton
So don't eat those plants!



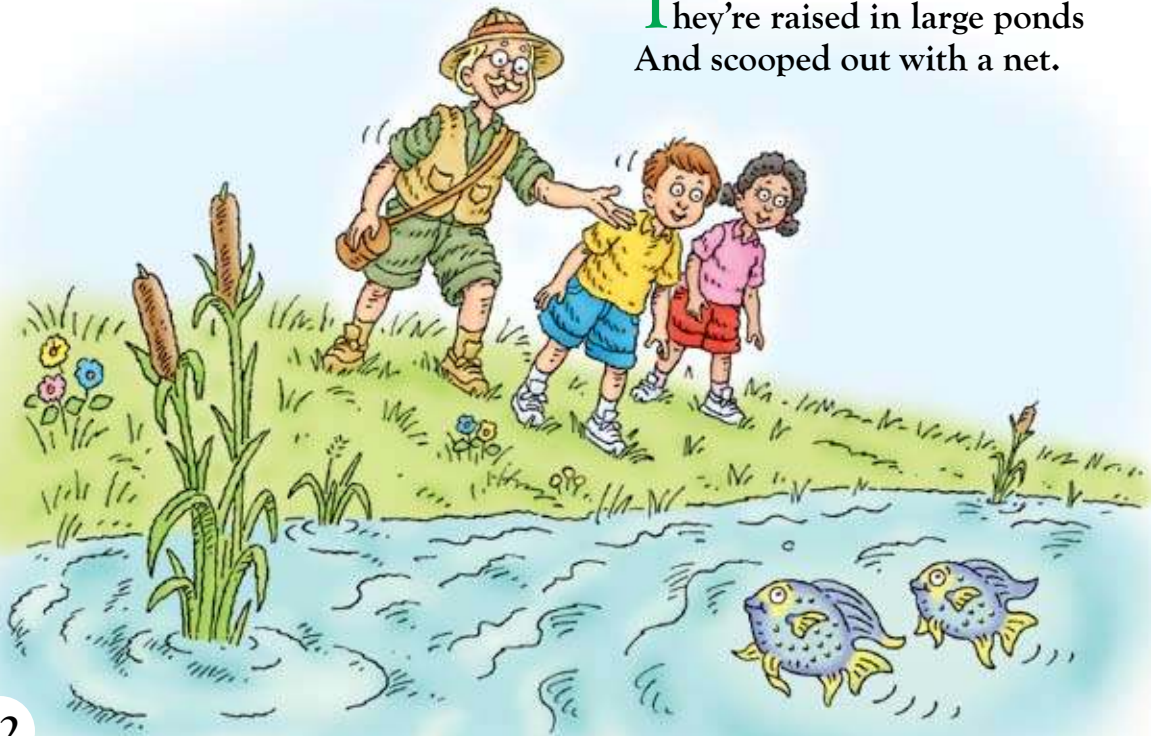
The fiber is used to make
Shirts, shorts and pants.
Clothes that feel cool
When we run, play and dance.



A tropical fish
Makes a colorful pet.



They're raised in large ponds
And scooped out with a net.

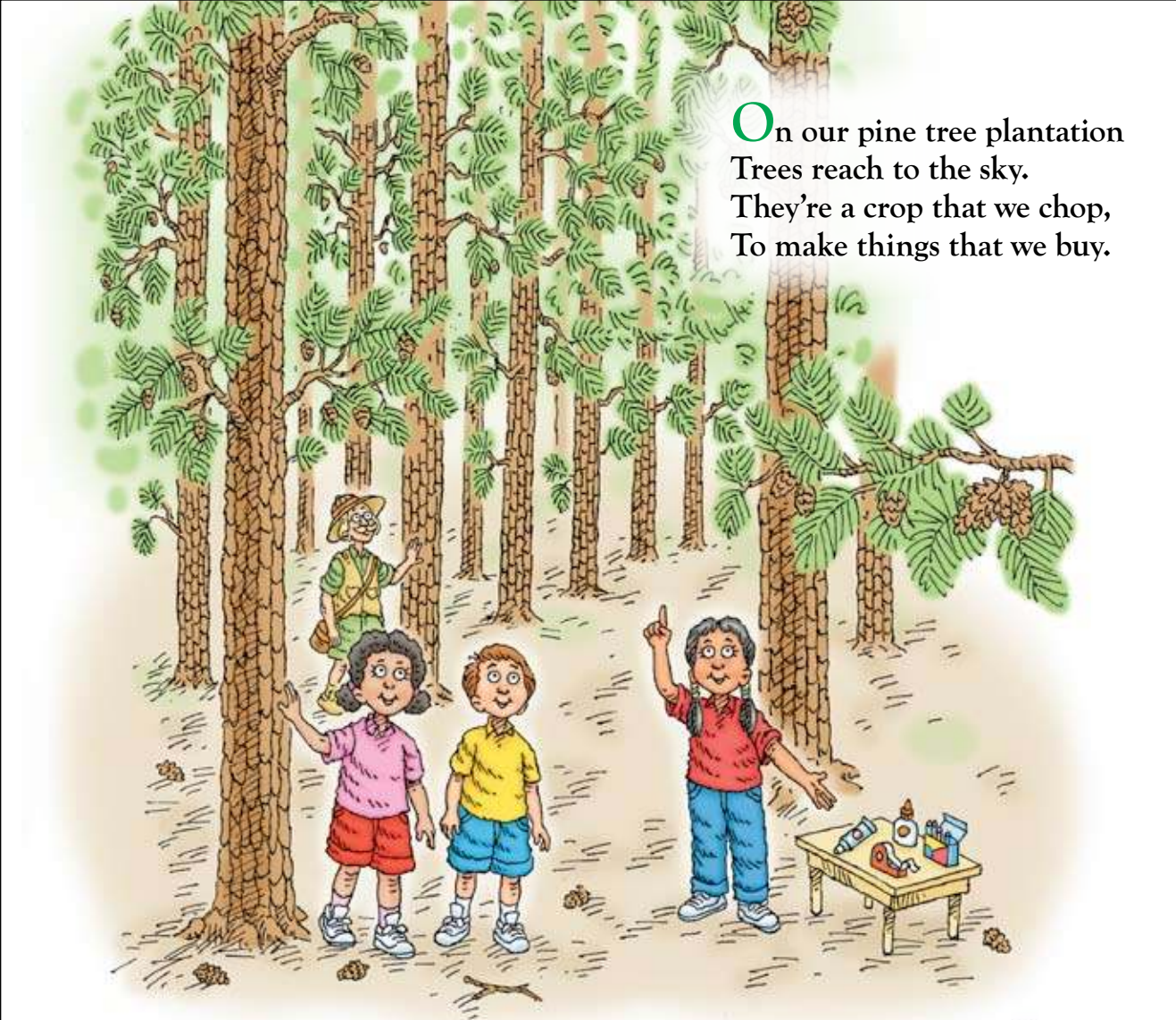


Get a grip, and don't slip
Or you'll end up quite wet.



Now this is a trip
That you won't soon forget!



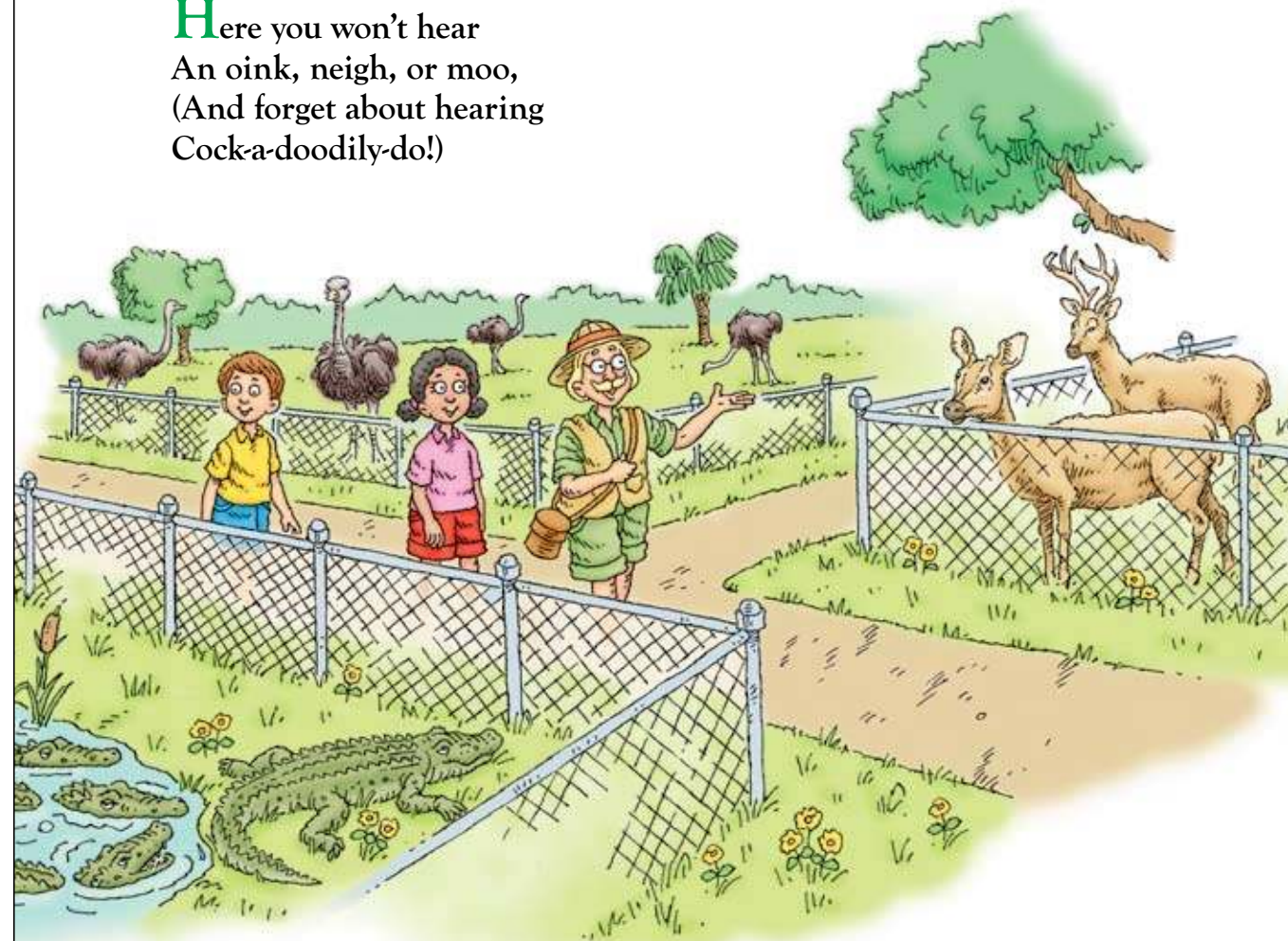


On our pine tree plantation
Trees reach to the sky.
They're a crop that we chop,
To make things that we buy.

But we plant plenty more
Want to give it a try?

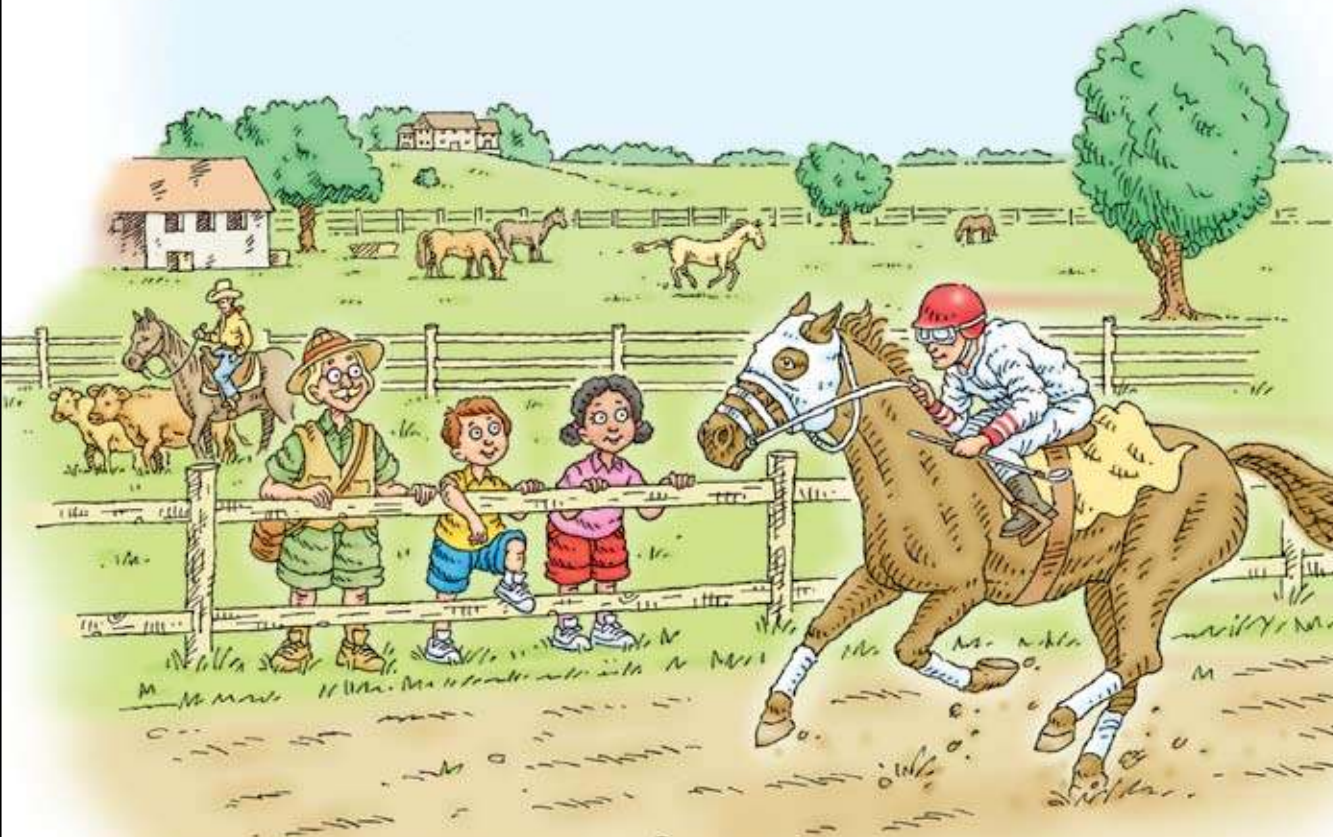


Here you won't hear
An oink, neigh, or moo,
(And forget about hearing
Cock-a-doodily-do!)

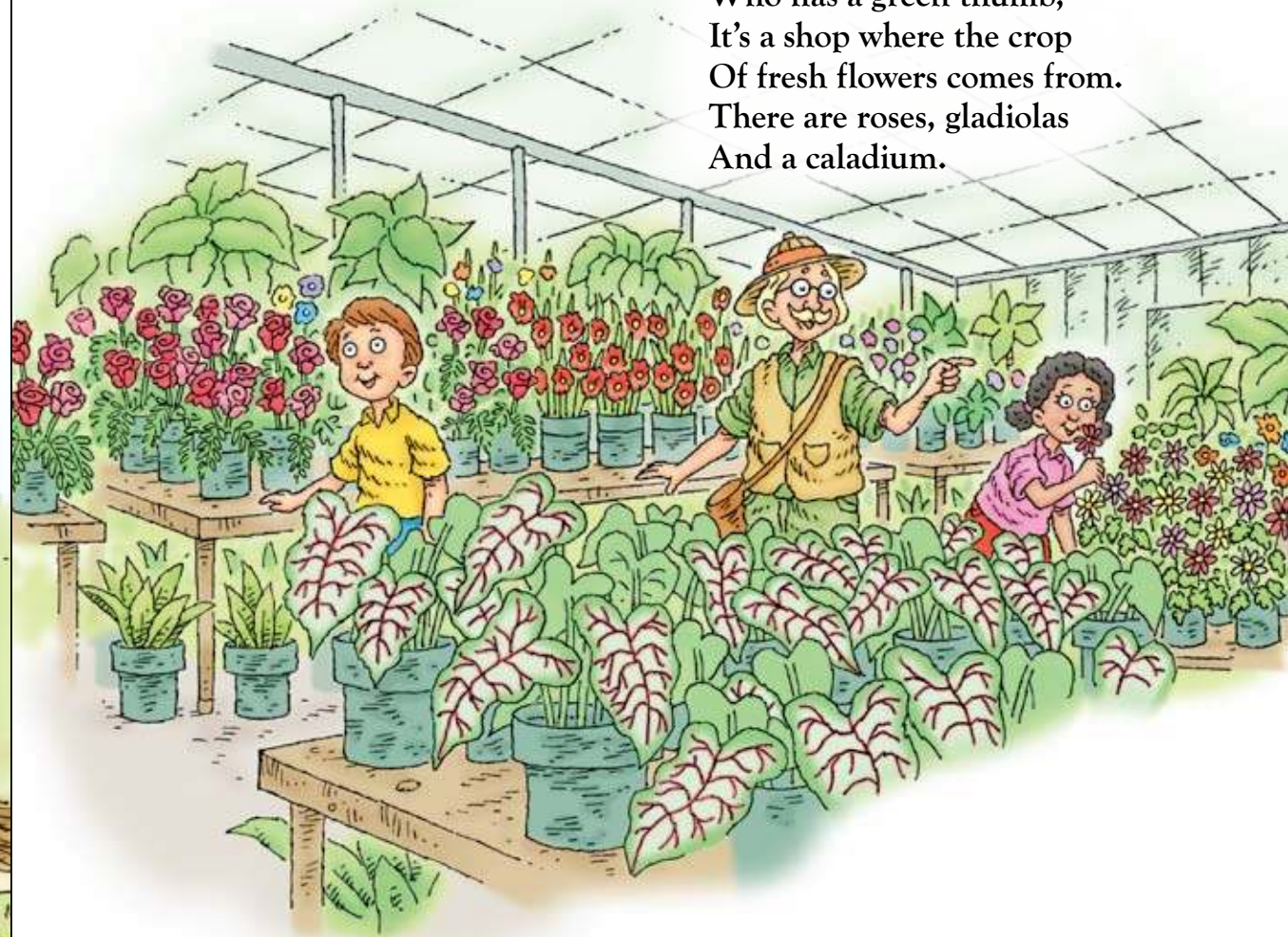


With gators or ostriches
Maybe deer too –
These Florida farms
Look more like a zoo!

This farm raises horses
To work or to ride:
Some help to move cattle,
Some show off their stride.
Some love to win races
And do it with pride.



There's a farm for our friend
Who has a green thumb,
It's a shop where the crop
Of fresh flowers comes from.
There are roses, gladiolas
And a caladium.



But please – don't make me say
“chrysanthemum”

It's time to return
From our fanciful tour.
To the place where the shelves
Go from ceiling to floor.

But remember the lesson
This visit was for:
That the food we enjoy –
And so very much more –
Comes from the farm
And not from the store.

