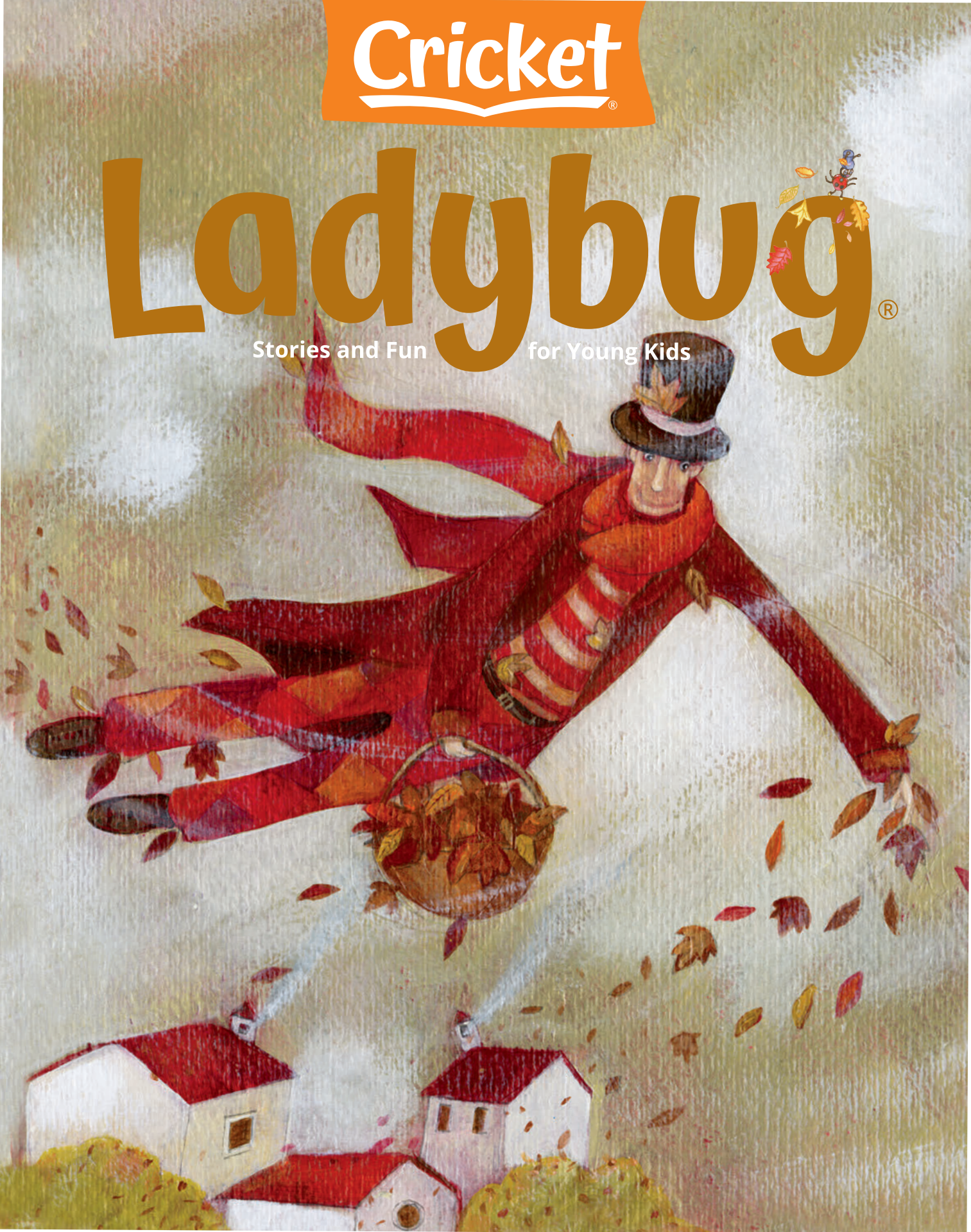


Cricket[®]

Ladybug[®]

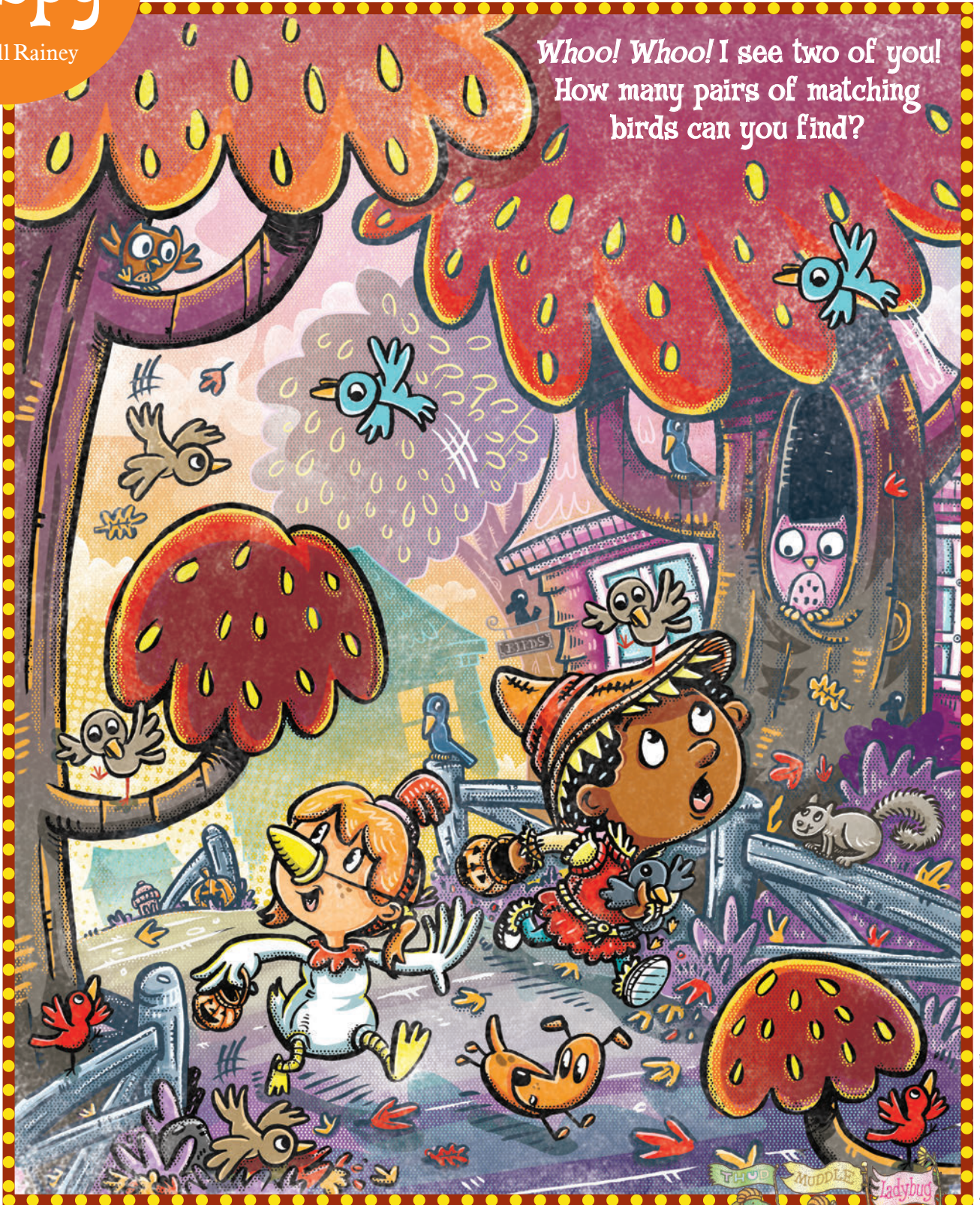
Stories and Fun for Young Kids



I Spy

Art by
Merrill Rainey

Who! Who! I see two of you!
How many pairs of matching
birds can you find?



Answer on page 35.

Keep an eye out for us! We are going to roll
through this magazine with you!



Max and Kate

Art by Brita Granström
Story by Mick Manning

Out in the woods, Max, Kate, and Charlie see beautiful fall leaves.



Is this
a leaf?

No,
Thud.



Why did someone
LEAVE it behind?

“This is the color of your coat, Max,” says Kate. She shows him a yellow maple leaf.



“You blend in with the yellow leaves, Max,” says Kate’s daddy. “That is called camouflage. See how that squirrel blends in with the red leaves up there?”



“Yes, lots of animals hide like that. Just look at that frog!” says Max’s daddy.

Suddenly, Max laughs. “Wait a minute.
Is that a moose?”



Kate grins and says, “Branches make good
camouflage, too.”

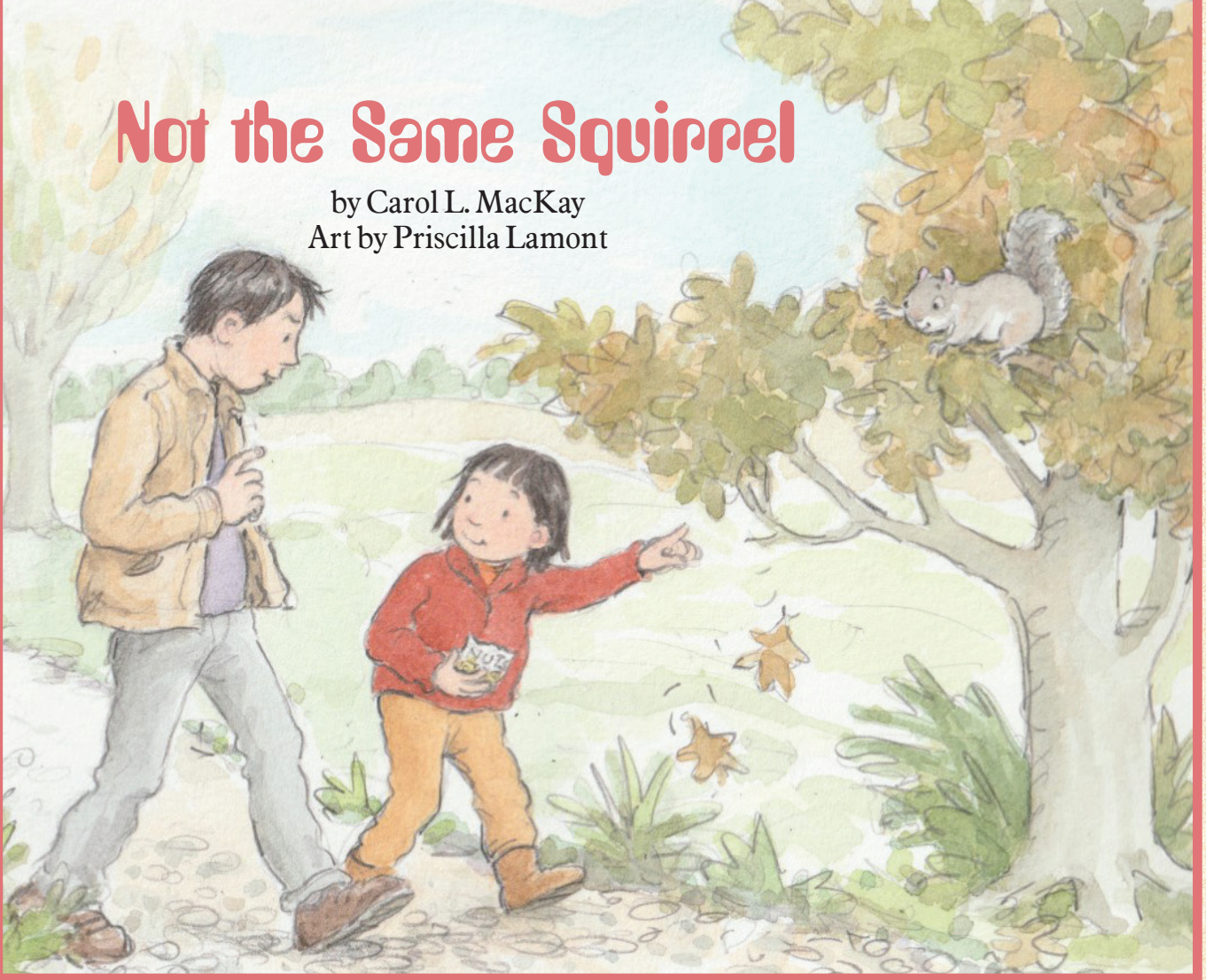


Found you!

Silly Charlie is peeking out from behind a tree. “Look at my antlers!” he yells.

Not the Same Squirrel

by Carol L. MacKay
Art by Priscilla Lamont



Jenny and her dad went for a walk on Sunday afternoon.

“Look, there’s a gray squirrel,” said Jenny.

“He’s probably hoping we will feed him,” said Dad.

“I have some nuts,” said Jenny. “I will throw him one.”

“No, it’s best not to feed wild animals,” said Dad.

“I’m sorry, squirrel. I can’t feed you,” explained Jenny.

The squirrel ran away.

Dad and Jenny walked some more.

“Look, there’s another squirrel,” said Jenny.

“Is it the same one?”

“This squirrel is also gray,” said Dad.

“But this squirrel is wearing a ten-gallon hat,”
said Jenny.

“That’s strange. Most squirrels don’t wear
ten-gallon hats,” said Dad.

“Yes, but this one does,” said Jenny.

“I guess this is not the same squirrel,” said Dad.

Jenny wanted to throw a nut to the squirrel in the
ten-gallon hat. But instead she said, “Sorry, squirrel in
the ten-gallon hat. No nuts for you, either.”

The squirrel in the ten-gallon hat ran away.

What about
peanut butter?





A mustache!



How
unusual!

Jenny and Dad walked some more.

“Look, there’s another squirrel!” said Jenny.

“Is it the same one?”

“We are seeing a lot of squirrels today,” said Dad.

“This one is also gray.”

“Yes, but this squirrel has a big black mustache,” said Jenny.

“Most squirrels don’t have big black mustaches,” said Dad.

“This one does,” said Jenny.

“Well then, this is not the same squirrel,” said Dad.

“Sorry, squirrel,” said Jenny. “I like your big black mustache, but no nuts for you.”

The squirrel with the big black mustache ran away.

Jenny and Dad were almost home.

“Look, Dad! Another squirrel!” said Jenny.

“Isn’t that the same one?” asked Dad.

“No, this squirrel is wearing a pom-pom headband,” said Jenny.

“Most squirrels don’t wear pom-pom headbands,” said Dad.

“This one does,” said Jenny.

“Then this is not the same squirrel,” said Dad.

“Sorry, squirrel,” said Jenny. “I like your pom-poms, but no nuts for you.”

The squirrel with the pom-pom headband ran away, but he didn’t go far.



“Did you see where he went?” asked Dad.

“He ran up that tree and into a hole in the trunk,” said Jenny.

“What is that on the ground under the tree?” asked Dad.

Jenny ran over to look.

“A ten-gallon hat, a big black mustache, and a pom-pom headband!” said Jenny. “He IS the same squirrel!”

“The same squirrel, full of tricks,” said Dad.

“The same funny, tricky squirrel,” said Jenny. And she and Dad laughed all the way home. 🐿️

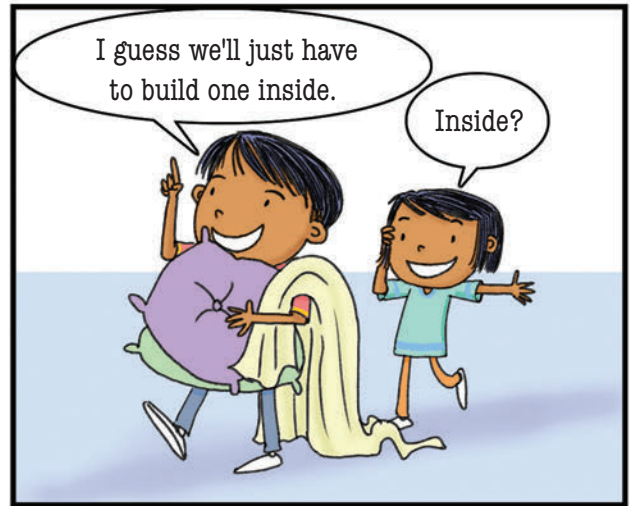
Squirrels are quite tricky.

Yes, quite.



Tip-Top Tree House

by Richard Torrey



Name That Pet

by Marilyn Kratz
Art by Tatjana Mai-Wyss

I can swim and splash and splish.

My bowl's a good home for a _____.

Do my ears seem long and funny?

They're just perfect for a _____.

I can bark and sit straight up.

I'm a frisky, soft brown _____.

I will purr while you pit-pat

And cuddle me, your favorite _____.

I'll sing the sweetest song you've heard

If you will feed this hungry _____.





cat

bird

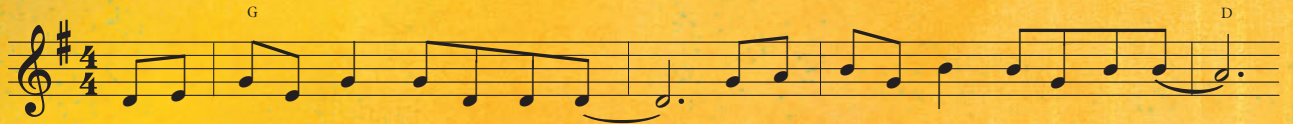
bunny

fish

pup

Cockatoo Calling

by Brian Gene Olson 🐣 Art by Simona Ceccarelli



There's a cock - a - too call - in' my name.____ There's a cock - a - too call - in' my name.____



But I don't know his and that's a shame. There's a cock - a - too call - in' my name.____



Ophelia?
Mae?
Ricky?
Bob?



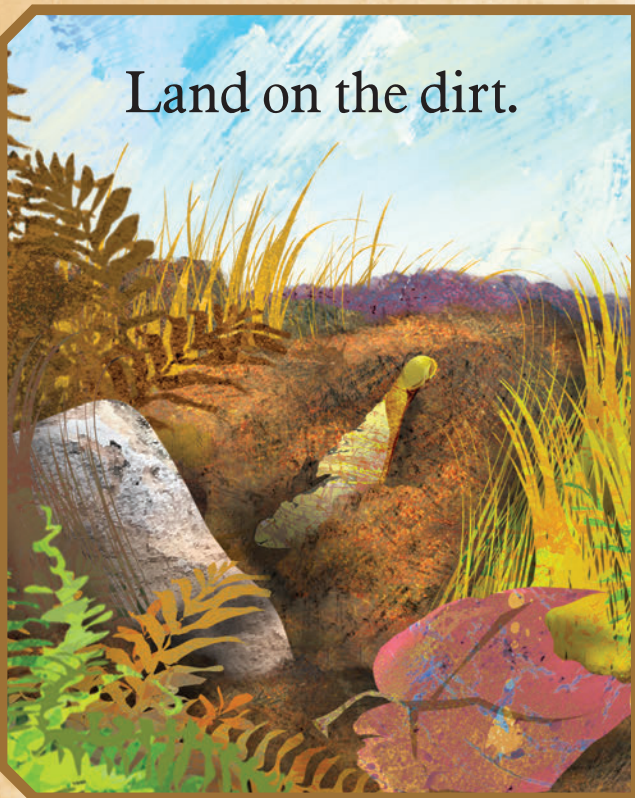
Seed Song

by Louise O. Young
Art by Susan Swan

Break from the tree.
Twirl in the breeze.



Land on the dirt.



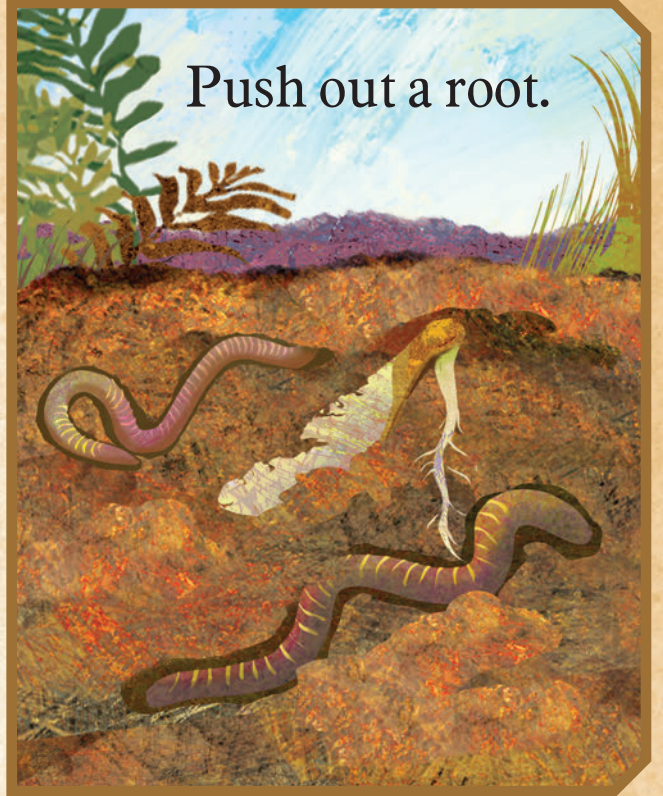
Tuck yourself in.



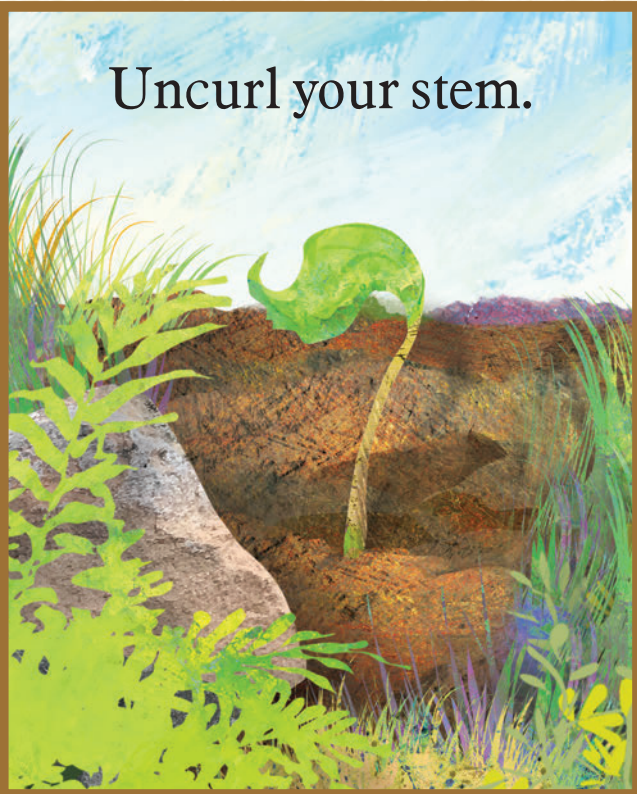
Swell with the rain.



Push out a root.



Uncurl your stem.



Open first leaves.



Grow.



A Friendly Owl

by Lisa Rose

Art by Anne-Marie Bourgeois

What You'll Need:

uncoated paper plate

paint and paintbrush, markers, or crayons

glue

construction paper

scissors

2 googly eyes (optional)

craft stick

string or yarn

tape



This is owl you need!



What to Do:

1. With a grownup, paint or color the back of the plate orange. Let dry.
2. Turn the plate over, and paint or color the front. This will be your owl's tummy, and you can give it colorful feathers. Let dry.
3. Fold the sides of the plate toward the center to make the wings. Don't let the edges of the sides touch. Glue them in place and let dry.
4. Fold the top of the plate down to make the head. Glue it in place and let dry.
5. Cut the beak and feet out of construction paper. You can cut out eyes, too, or use googly eyes or other art supplies.
6. Glue the beak, feet, and eyes in place, and let dry.
7. Would your owl like to sit on a branch? Draw leaves, flowers, or your name on a craft stick. Glue it to the back of the feet for a cozy seat.
8. Cut a 12-inch piece of string or yarn. Make a loop with it, and tape the ends to the back of the owl.



Hang it up, and enjoy your hooting friend!

Pumpkins Abound!

by Betsy Blake ❖ Art by Susan Miller

Pumpkins on the back porch,
A pumpkin at the door,
Pumpkins on the countertop,
The table, and the floor.
A pumpkin on the garden gate
And two beneath the tree.
A pumpkin in the window
And a pumpkin on me!

text © 2020 by Betsy Dusenske, art © 2020 by Susan Miller





I found a
purple one!



That's an eggplant.



How many pumpkins can you find?
Which one is your favorite?

The Halloween Costume Countdown

by Maggie Murphy 🐱 Art by Leslie Tryon



Cat and Mouse sat in Cat’s house talking about what costumes to make for Alligator’s Halloween party. They had a big pile of arts and crafts supplies . . . but no big ideas.

“We’ve got to decide soon, Mouse,” said Cat. “The party starts in two hours.” He shook out an old sheet. “I know. I’ll be a ghost!”

Ding-dong! The doorbell rang. The friends jumped up and hurried to answer it. As Cat opened the door, a ghost on the front steps yelled, “Boo!”

Cat glanced at the scaly feet peeking out from under the ghost’s flowing sheet. “Hello, Alligator,” he said.

“I couldn’t wait to show you what I’m wearing for my party,” said Alligator.

“It’s a great costume,” said Cat. “Come on in.”



“Thanks,” said Alligator, “but I’ve got to dip some candy apples. See you both soon. Whoooo!” And the green-footed ghost ran away.

Cat slowly shut the door. “I guess I won’t be a ghost,” he said to Mouse. “But what *will* I be?”

In a box of odds and ends, Mouse found a large silver button. “I’ll make a knight costume!” he said. “This button is the perfect size for my shield.”



The doorbell rang again. This time the visitor was Raccoon. He wore cardboard armor and carried a wooden shield.

“Hi, Cat and Mouse,” said Raccoon. “Alligator told me you were here. I stopped by so you could see my knight costume for the party.”

“It’s a great costume,”
said Mouse.

“Thanks,” said Raccoon.
“Well, I should go. I still
have to paint my shield
silver. See you later at
Alligator’s.”

Raccoon marched away,
holding his shield high. In
an even smaller voice than
usual, Mouse said to Cat, “I
guess I won’t be a knight.”

Cat twitched his ears
and whiskers, trying to cheer
his friend up with a funny
face. But Mouse just stared
at him.

“What is it?” said Cat.

Mouse’s little round eyes
grew rounder. He said, “Cat,
I have a *big* idea.”

After Mouse shared his
plan, Cat cried, “Hooray!
This is something completely
different.”



Soon they were hard at work. Cat snatched up the sheet, saying, “I’ll wrap a piece of this around my tail to hide the fur.”

Mouse grabbed a ruler and measured out a strip of fuzzy cloth. “And I’ll tie this to my tail to make it look furry.”



“Now for our ears,” said Cat. “Here’s orange paper for you, and gray paper for me.”

Cat traced big circles on his paper and cut them out. Mouse cut out small triangles.

They put on their costumes just in time and rushed off to Alligator's house. When they joined the party, everyone laughed.

"A tiny Cat and a giant Mouse have arrived," said Alligator.

"You really do look like each other," said Raccoon.

"Great costumes, Cat and Mouse!" 🐭



piles of Leaves

by Madeline Juran
Art by Ying-Fan Chen



We raked up piles
and piles of leaves,
and stacked them
neatly by the trees.



Then Ted came out
(that's our new pup),
and barked and yelped
and messed them up.



He loved the leaves
and dove right in,
covered himself
from tail to chin,
as if we raked them
just for him!

Can you do this?





New restaurants
are fun for us!

But sometimes
Chef Philbert

can be TOO
adventurous!

Ladybug, Muddle & Thud



Welcome to
Café Philbert,
bugs!



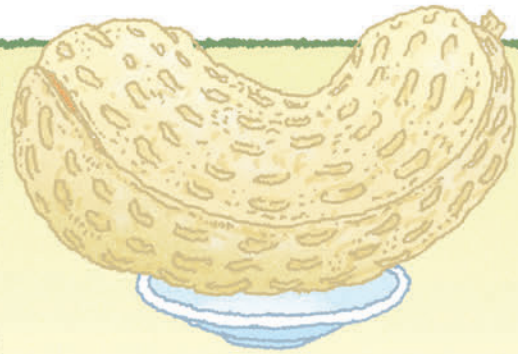
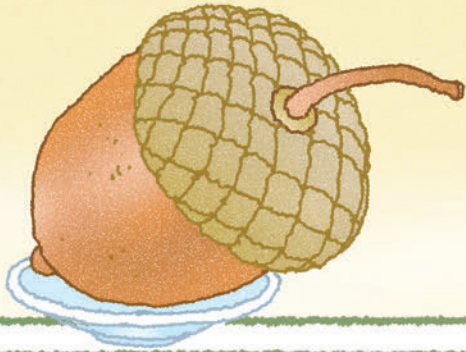
We serve delicious,
nutritious food!

Chef, what
should we
order?

Ahh! I will bring you the
Specialties of the House!



Buttered acorn harvested this morning from the oak tree in front of the restaurant.



Fresh hot-roasted peanut, salted to perfection, straight from the Fairbury ballpark.

And finally, our aged core of apple, discovered in this neighborhood.



Bon appétit!



Thank you, Chef. Your food was lovely. If we were squirrels, we might like it even more.

Ohhh! Do bugs eat different food than squirrels?

Yes, but it was fun to try something new.

Um, do you have pie?



Moon Cat

Moon Cat
prowls
the streets
at night.

She follows
her shadow
beneath
the moonlight.

She strolls
through dark
purring
her tune.

Then returns
to her home
by the light
of the moon.

by Charles Ghigna
Art by Brad Sneed

text © 2020 by Charles Ghigna, art © 2020 by Brad Sneed



Brad Sneed



Answer to puzzle on page 2. Did you find all 6 pairs of matching birds?



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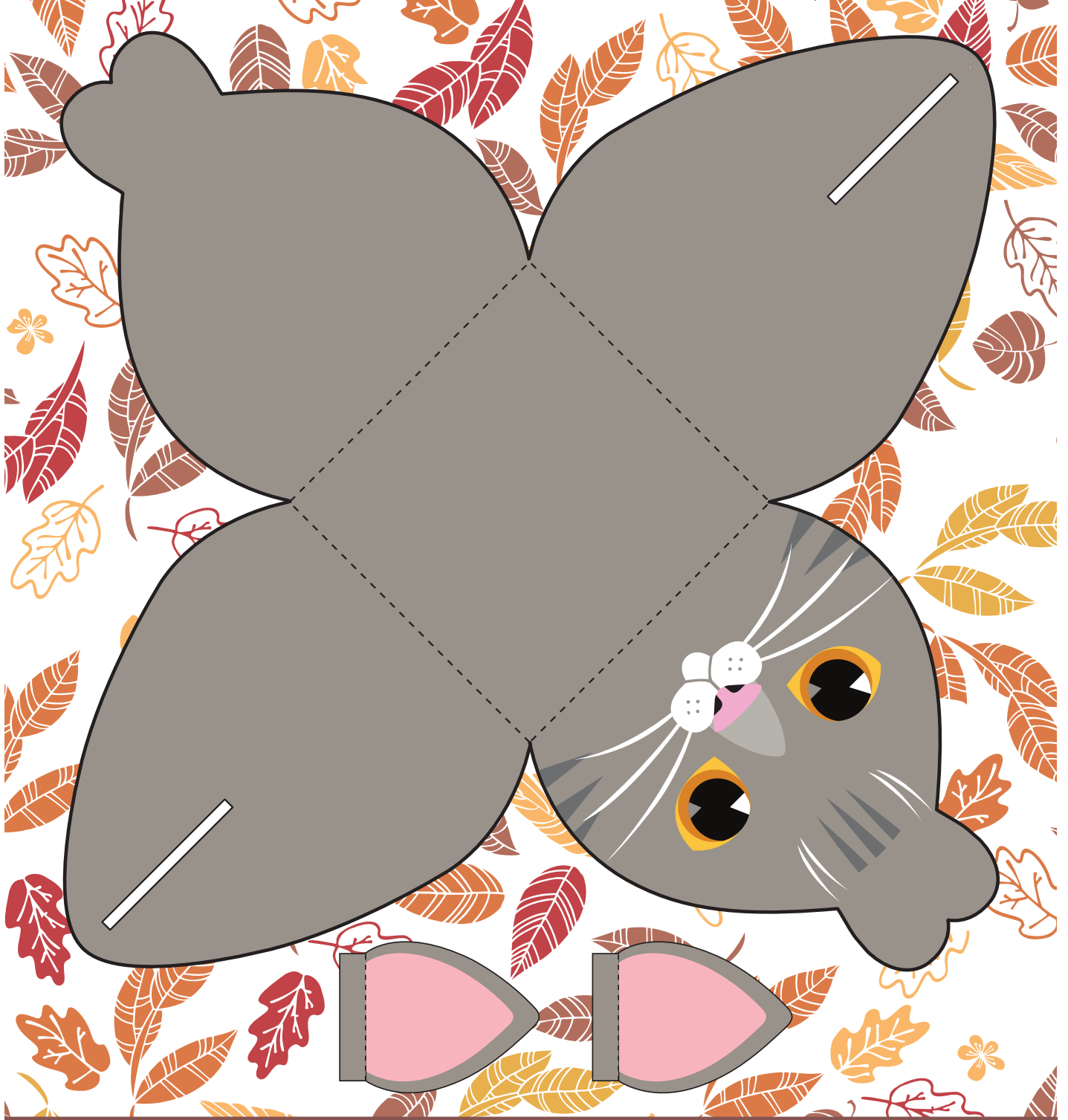
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Autumn Treasure Boxes

Art by Terry Yearwood

What You'll Need:

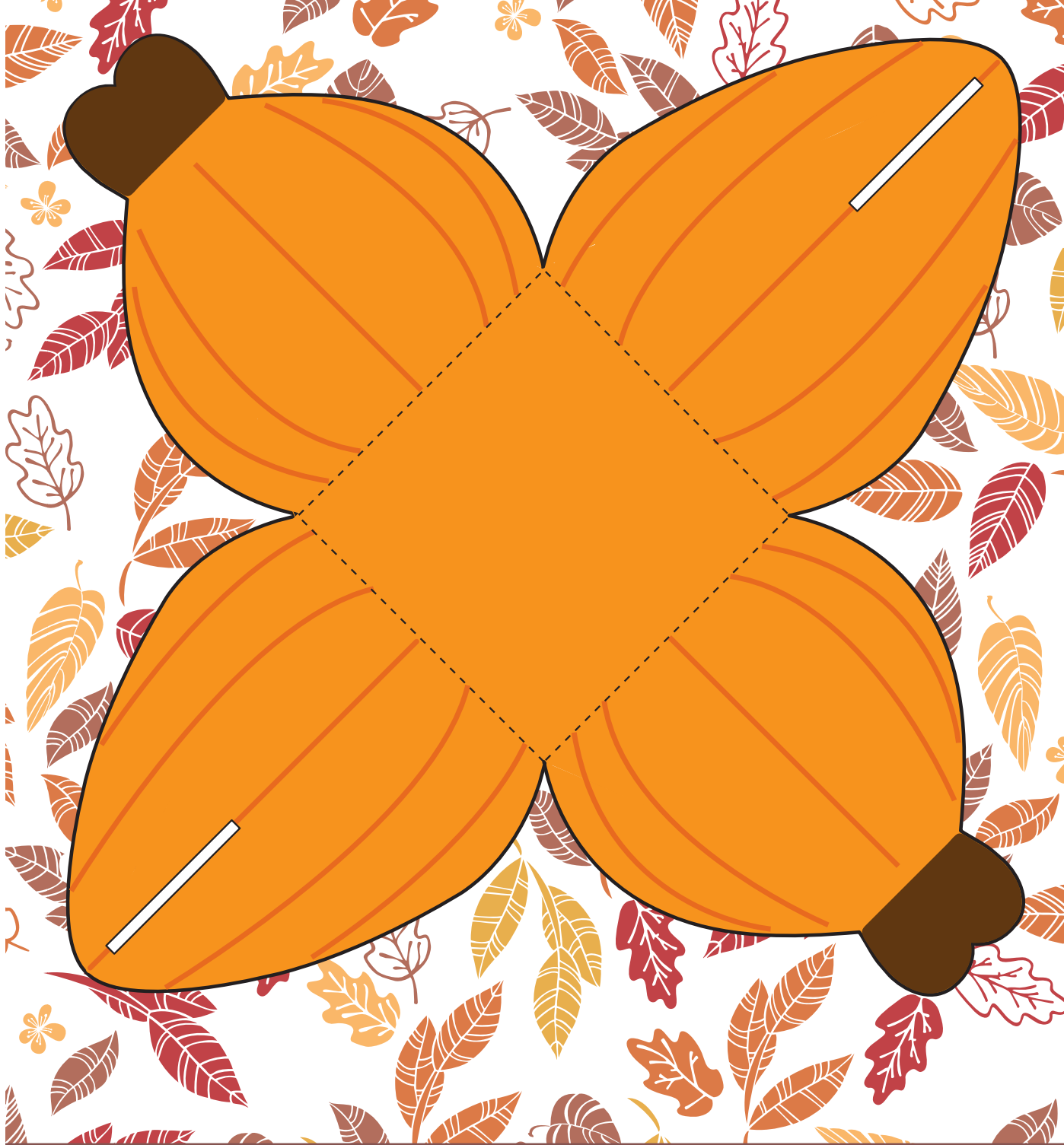
scissors glue or tape

What to Do:

1. With a grownup, cut out the boxes and cat's ears along the solid black lines. Carefully cut out the two slots in each box.

Now all we need
is treasure!





2. With the words facing up, fold the sides with tabs up. Fold the sides with slots up, and push the tabs through the slots.
3. To attach the cat's ears, fold along the dotted lines and glue or tape in place.

Now you can fill these little boxes with treasures—acorns from your nature walks, pretty rocks or beads, or even candies. You can keep your boxes or share them with somebody who is special to you.

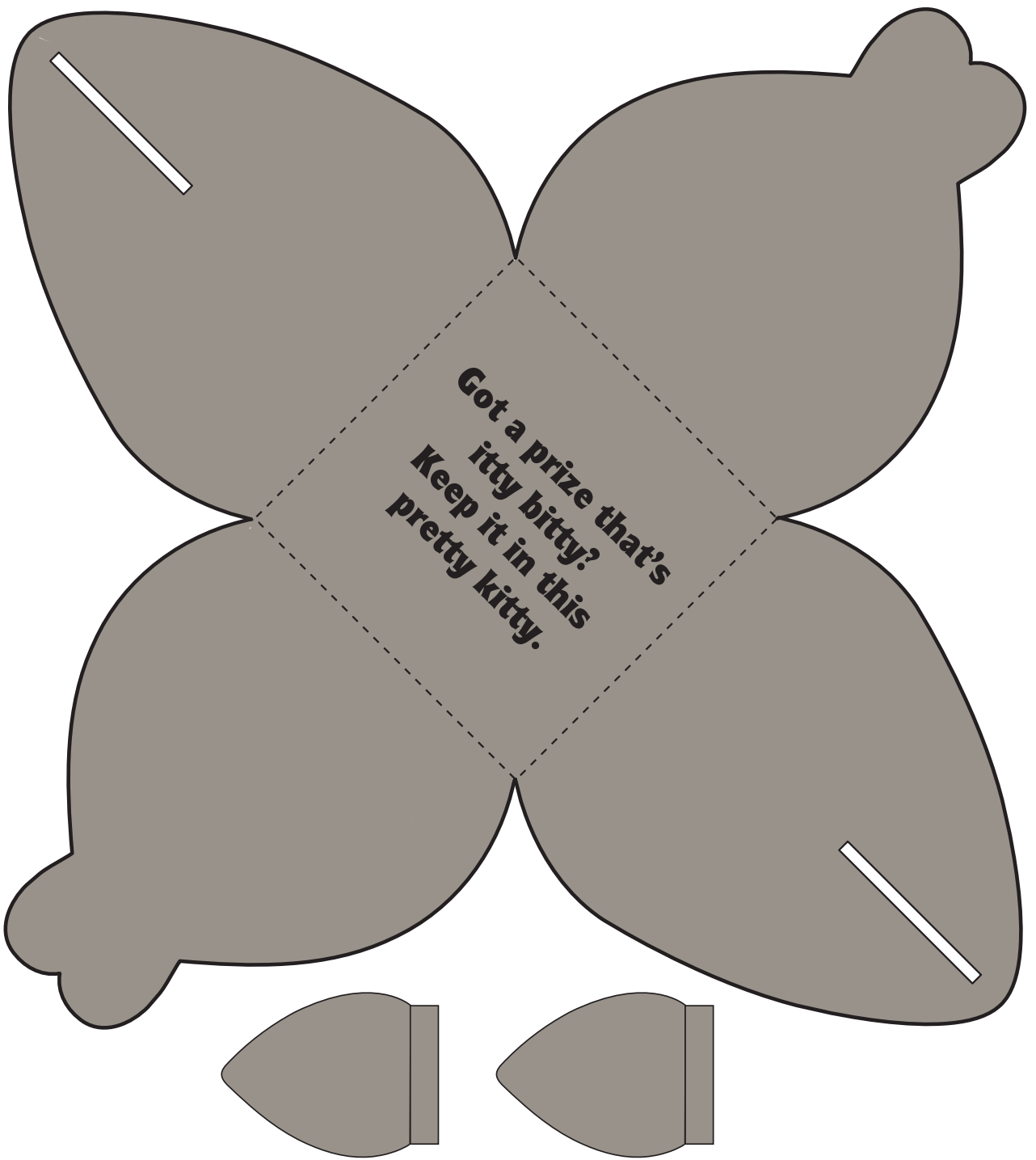


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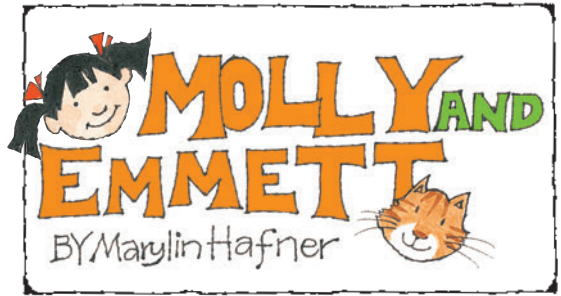




***It's this pumpkin's
pleasure to hold
your tiny treasure.***







**Got a prize that's
itty bitty?
Keep it in this
pretty kitty.**





MOLLY AND EMMETT

BY Marilyn Hafner




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