

# A NICKEL BUYS A RHYME

*Alan Benjamin*



*Illustrated by Karen Lee Schmidt*

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## MUD PIES A PENNY

Mud pies a penny,  
paper lace a dime,  
three cents for lemonade,  
a nickel buys a rhyme.



## MILLIE MUCHMORE

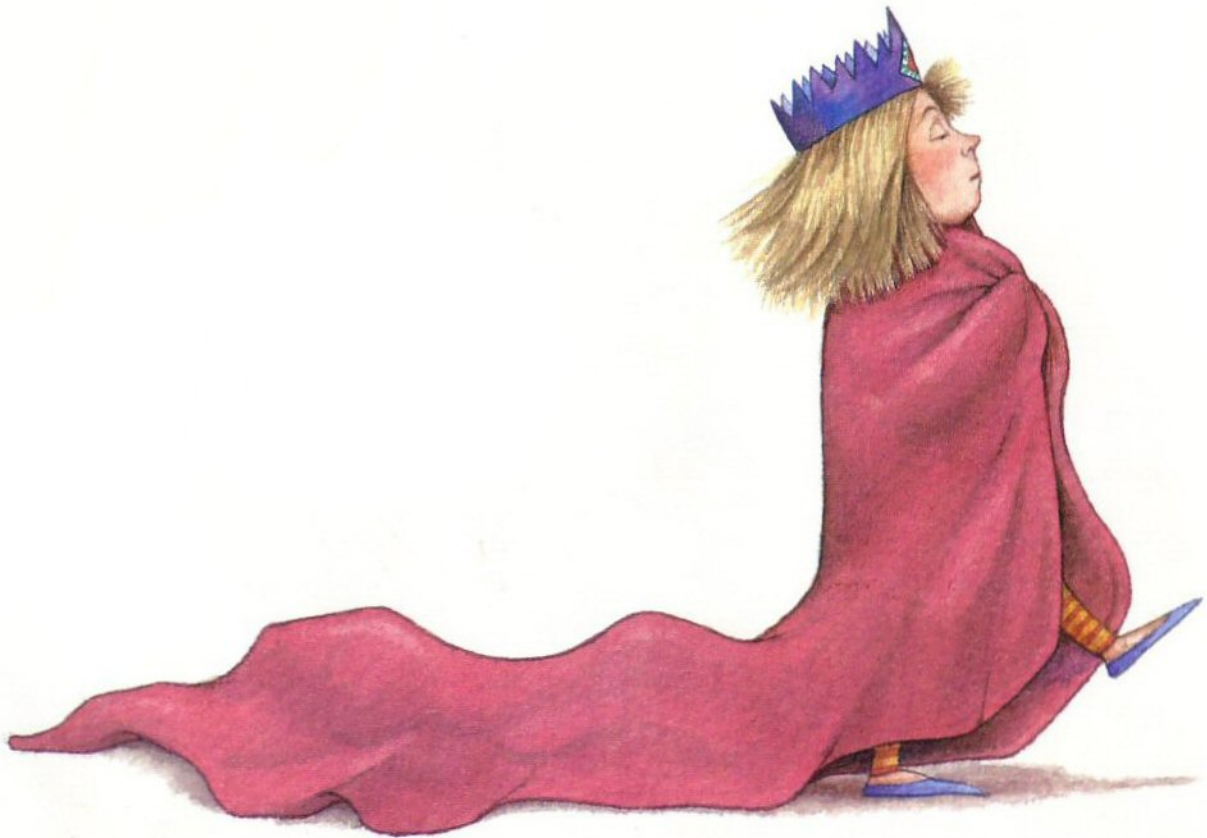
Millie Muchmore  
ate her lunch:  
pizza pie and  
party punch,  
franks and fries and  
grits and greens,  
jelly roll and  
jelly beans,  
after that a  
carrot cake,  
followed by a  
bellyache.





## LIZA LOTT

What should we do with Liza Lott?  
Claims to be what she is not.  
Says that she's the Queen of Spain.  
Really is a royal pain.

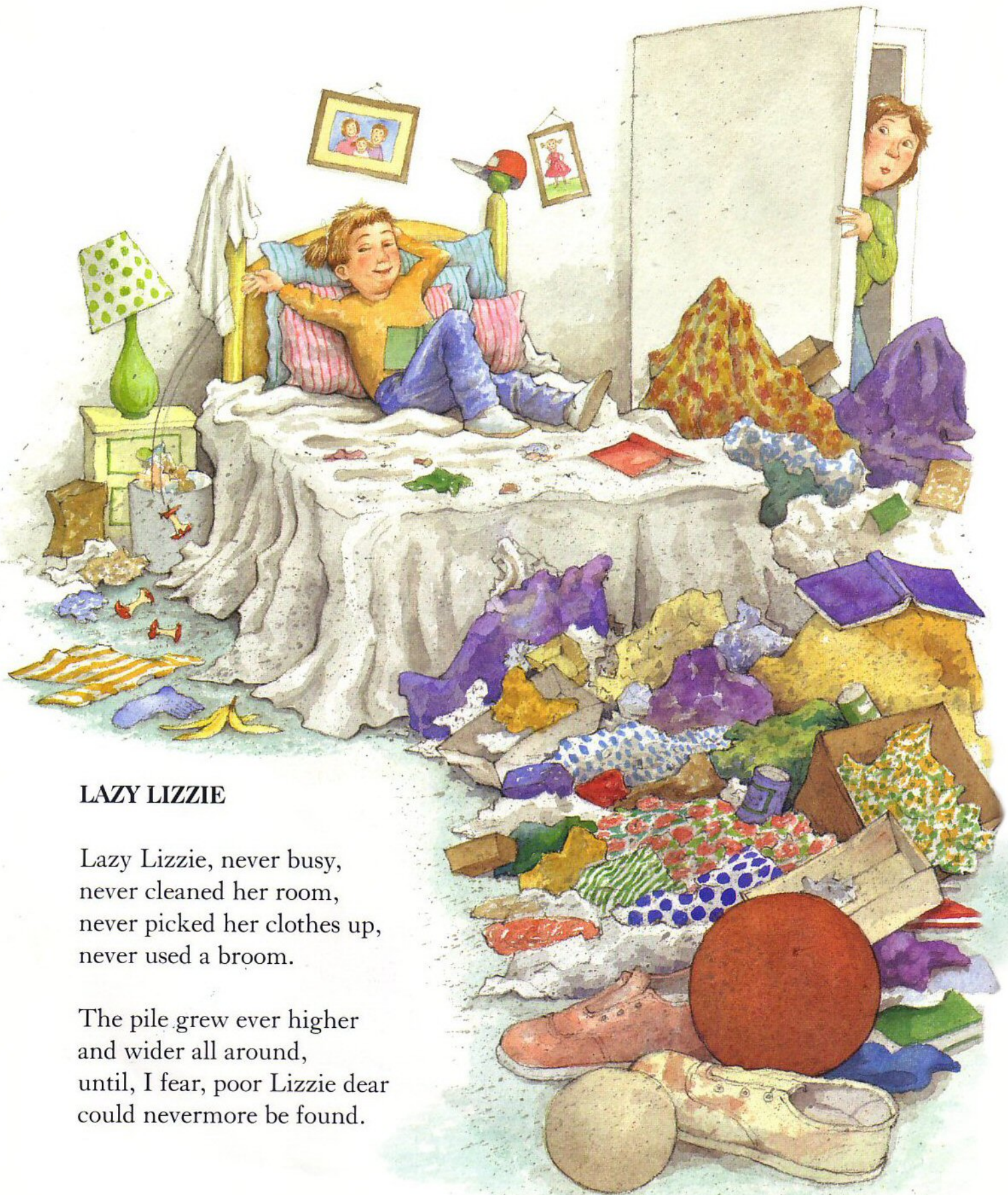


## HELEN HIPSWAY

Helen Hipsway  
did a dance,  
wiggled so much  
she lost her pants.







## LAZY LIZZIE

Lazy Lizzie, never busy,  
never cleaned her room,  
never picked her clothes up,  
never used a broom.

The pile grew ever higher  
and wider all around,  
until, I fear, poor Lizzie dear  
could nevermore be found.

## I'M GLAD TO SHARE

I'm glad to share  
my rubber duck,  
my xylophone,  
my fire truck.

There's just one thing  
I will not share—  
my raggy, saggy  
teddy bear.



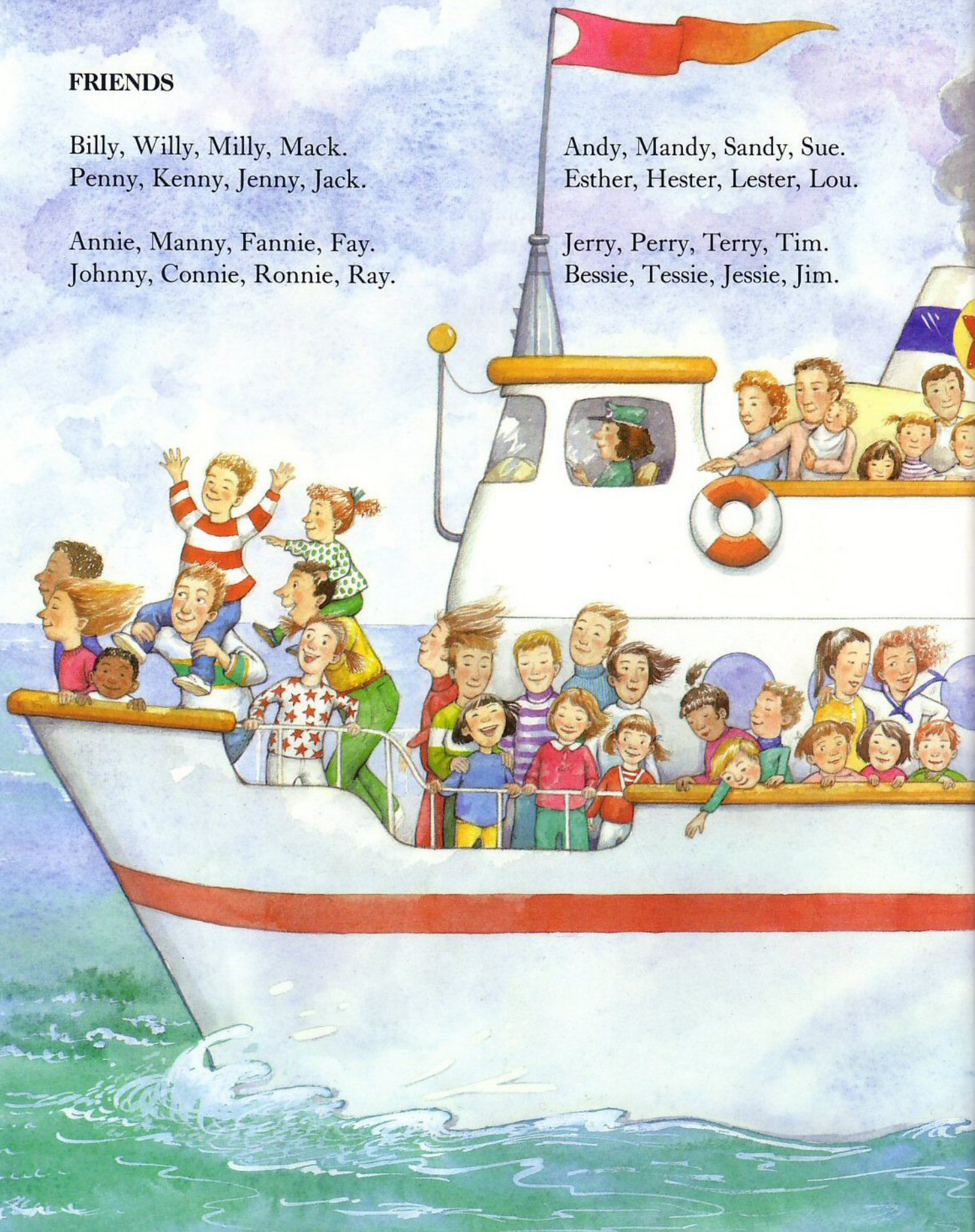
## FRIENDS

Billy, Willy, Milly, Mack.  
Penny, Kenny, Jenny, Jack.

Annie, Manny, Fannie, Fay.  
Johnny, Connie, Ronnie, Ray.

Andy, Mandy, Sandy, Sue.  
Esther, Hester, Lester, Lou.

Jerry, Perry, Terry, Tim.  
Bessie, Tessie, Jessie, Jim.



Eddie, Teddy, Freddy, Fran.  
Molly, Polly, Dolly, Dan.

Zoe, Chloe, Joey, Jane.  
Ginny, Minnie, Winnie, Wayne.

Lena, Tina, Nina, Nick.  
Cora, Nora, Dora, Dick.

Stella, Della, Bella, Ben.  
Harry, Gary, Larry, Len.



## LET'S HAVE A PICNIC

Let's have a picnic,  
with muffins and tea,  
just you and your teddy,  
my dolly and me.

We'll sit on a blanket,  
out under the trees,  
and act very grown-up  
with "thank you" and "please."



## RHYME TIME

Grouches grumble.  
Gymnasts tumble.  
Cookies crumble.  
Bees bumble.  
Halfbacks fumble.  
Stomachs rumble.  
Do *you* have any  
rhymes for umble?





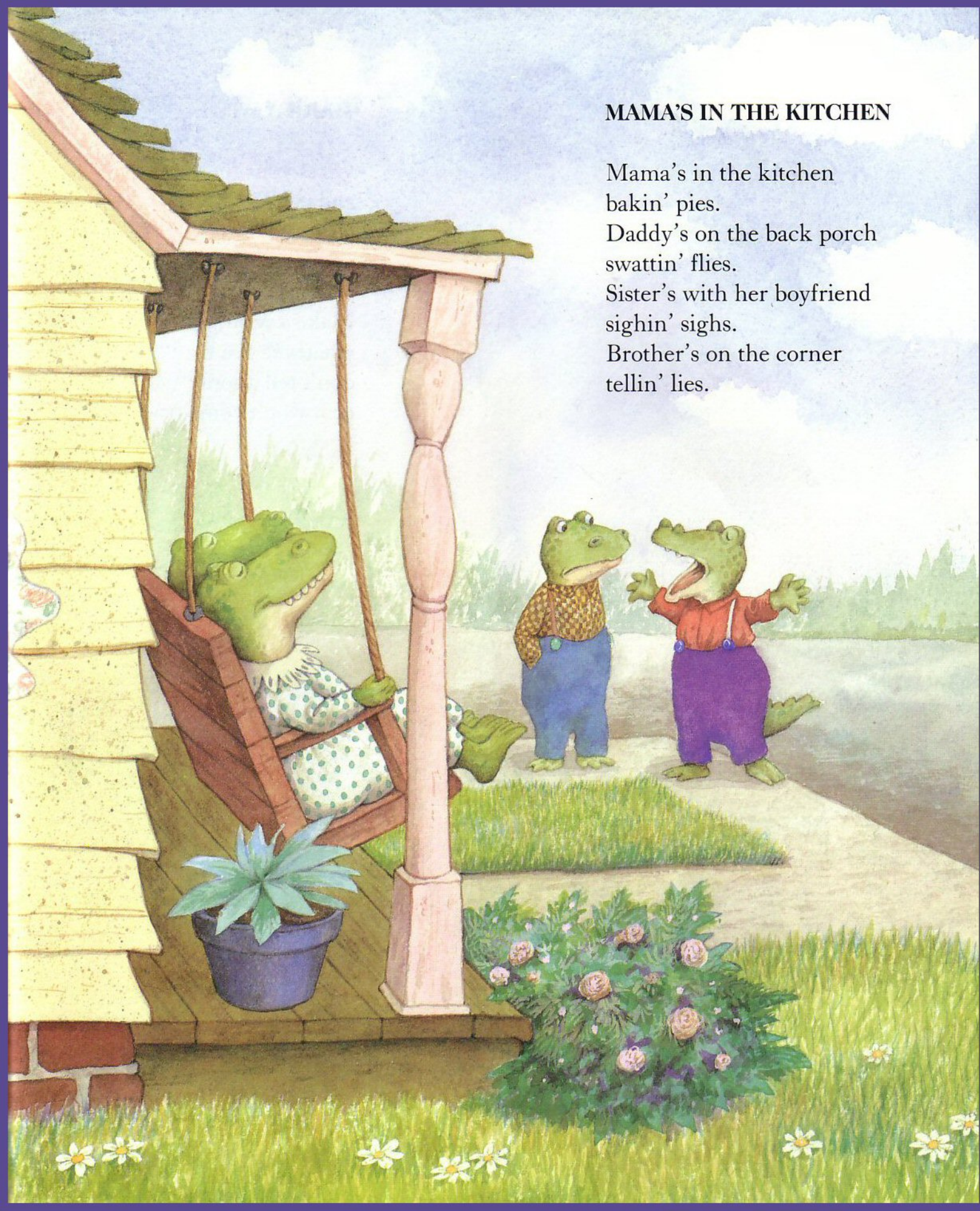
## MAMA'S IN THE KITCHEN

Mama's in the kitchen  
bakin' pies.

Daddy's on the back porch  
swattin' flies.

Sister's with her boyfriend  
sighin' sighs.

Brother's on the corner  
tellin' lies.







## MAKE A WISH

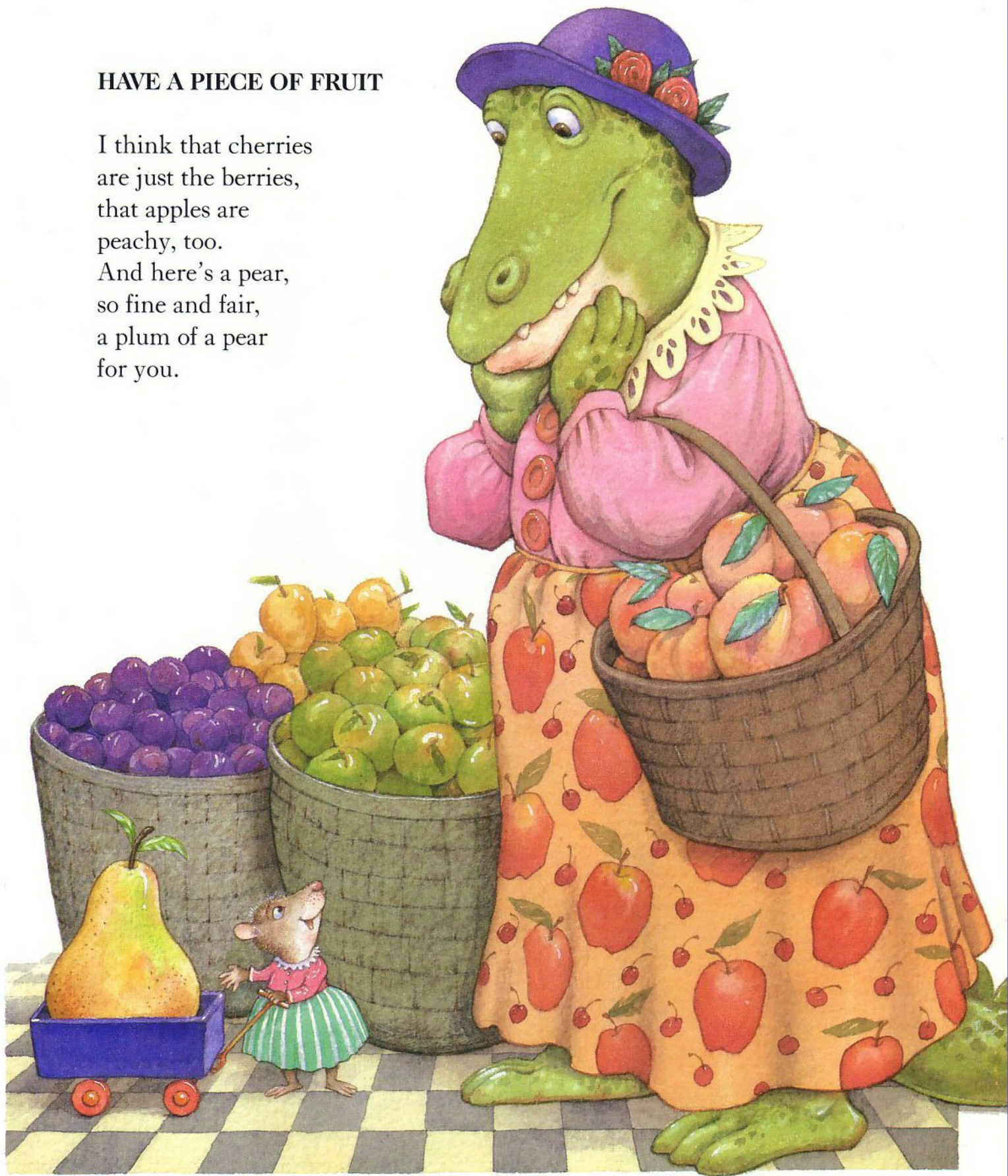
Cross your fingers  
and curl your toes.  
Close your eyes  
and wiggle your nose.

Make a wish, but  
whatever you do,  
don't tell a soul  
or it won't come true.



## HAVE A PIECE OF FRUIT

I think that cherries  
are just the berries,  
that apples are  
peachy, too.  
And here's a pear,  
so fine and fair,  
a plum of a pear  
for you.



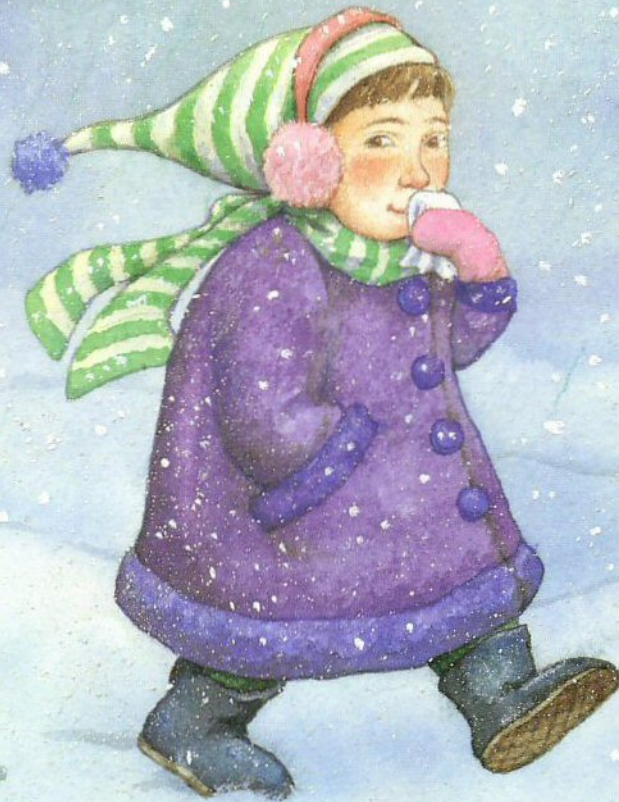
## EASY SEASONS

Spring's all buttercups  
and breezy.

Summer's hot and  
bumblebees-y.

Autumn's bright with  
colored trees-y.

Winter's snowy,  
sniffly, sneezy.





## ONE SUNNY MAY MORNING

One sunny May morning  
I planted some seeds.  
I watered them daily  
and pulled out the weeds.

I watered and weeded,  
till one July day  
I went to my garden  
and picked a bouquet.

**WHAT SHALL WE EAT?**

Mother, Mother,  
what shall we eat?  
Let's bake a pudding,  
warm and sweet,

with raisins and honey  
and day-old bread,  
some milk and eggs  
from Farmer Fred.

We'll mix it up  
and pat it down  
and bake it till  
it's golden brown.

Then, when it's time  
to sit and sup,  
we'll thank the Lord  
and eat it up.





**ONE. TWO.**

One. Two.  
The west wind blew.  
Three. Four.  
The thunder's roar.  
Five. Six. Seven.  
Rain from heaven.  
Eight. Nine. Ten.  
Sunny again.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Have a wonderful birthday,  
a day full of cheer,  
and when the day's done,  
have a wonderful year.





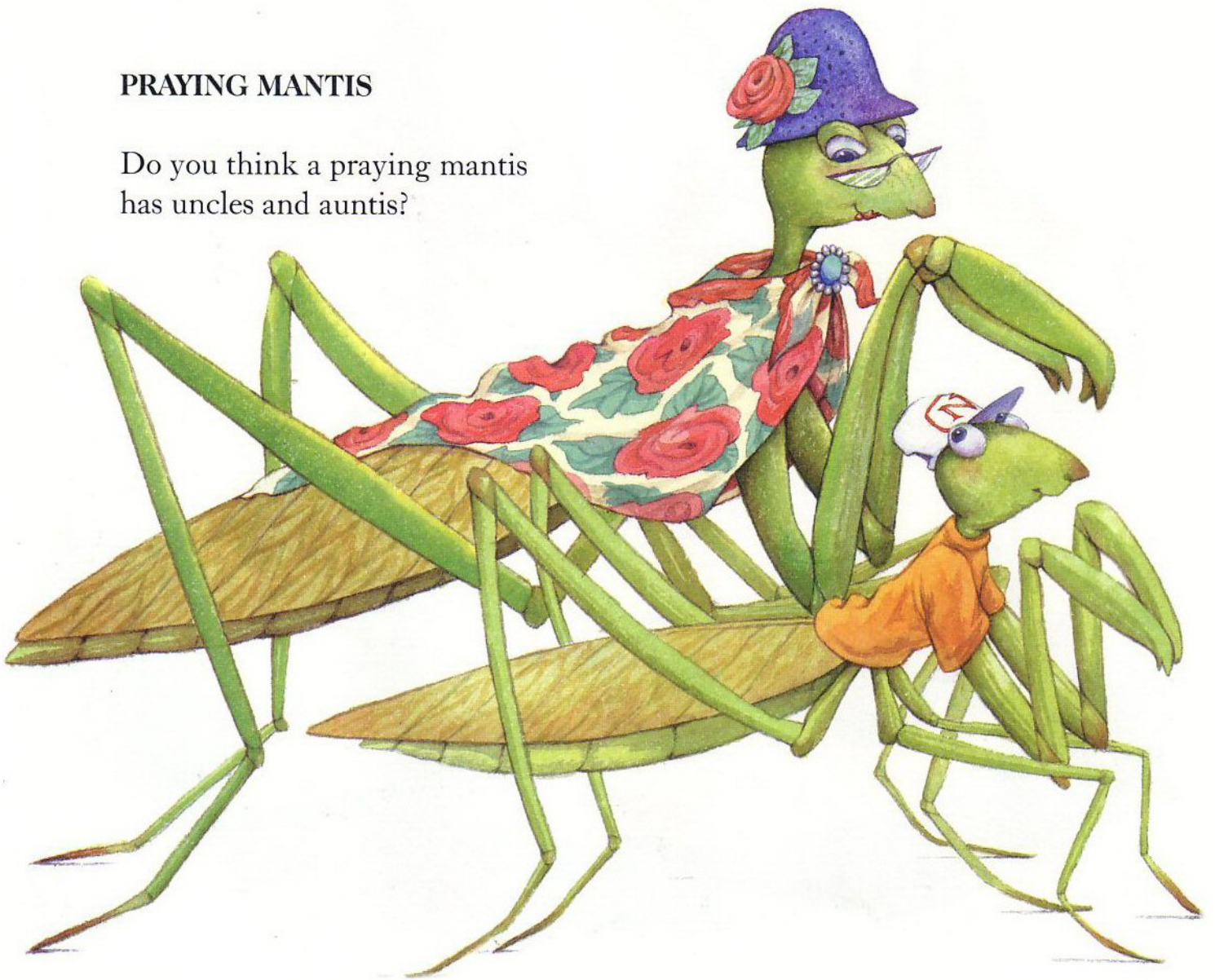
## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

A spider invited  
a fly for lunch.

Crunch.  
Crunch.  
Crunch.

## PRAYING MANTIS

Do you think a praying mantis  
has uncles and aunts?







## LET'S COUNT THE RAINDROPS

Let's count the raindrops  
as they pour:  
one million, two million,  
three million, four.

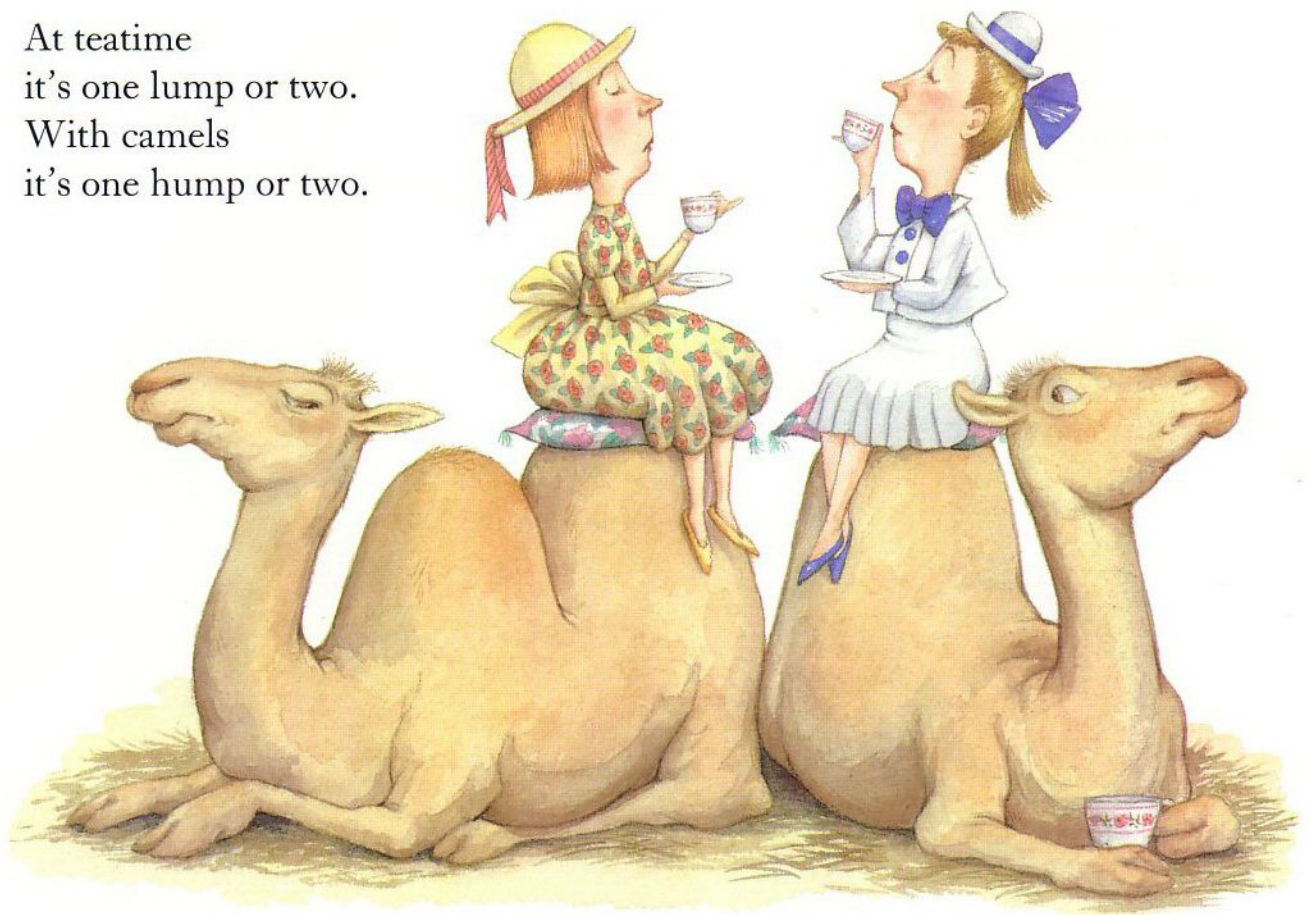
## ZOO'S WHO

Who's new at the zoo?  
I'll tell you who.  
The gnu is new,  
and the cockatoo, too.



That the elephant house  
has a very large smell  
should come as no surprise,  
for the wrinkly beasts  
who dwell within  
are of quite uncommon size.

At teatime  
it's one lump or two.  
With camels  
it's one hump or two.



When the lion stares at me,  
I have a dreadful hunch  
that he sees staring back at him  
a most delicious lunch.

## PLANT LIFE

The dogwood's barking  
in the woods.

The horse chestnut  
is neighing.

The lady slipper  
walks to church.

Jack-in-the-pulpit's  
praying.



## GUARDIAN ANGEL

Although you can't see him  
when you're in bed,  
a guardian angel floats  
over your head.

He stays through the night  
till you're awake,  
and keeps you from harm  
for heaven's sake.





## I'M GOING TO THE PALACE

I'm going to the palace.  
The queen's expecting me.  
We'll sit on silken cushions  
and share some talk and tea.

We'll eat leftover trifle  
and speak of foreign lands.  
If you would like to join us,  
you'll have to wash your hands.

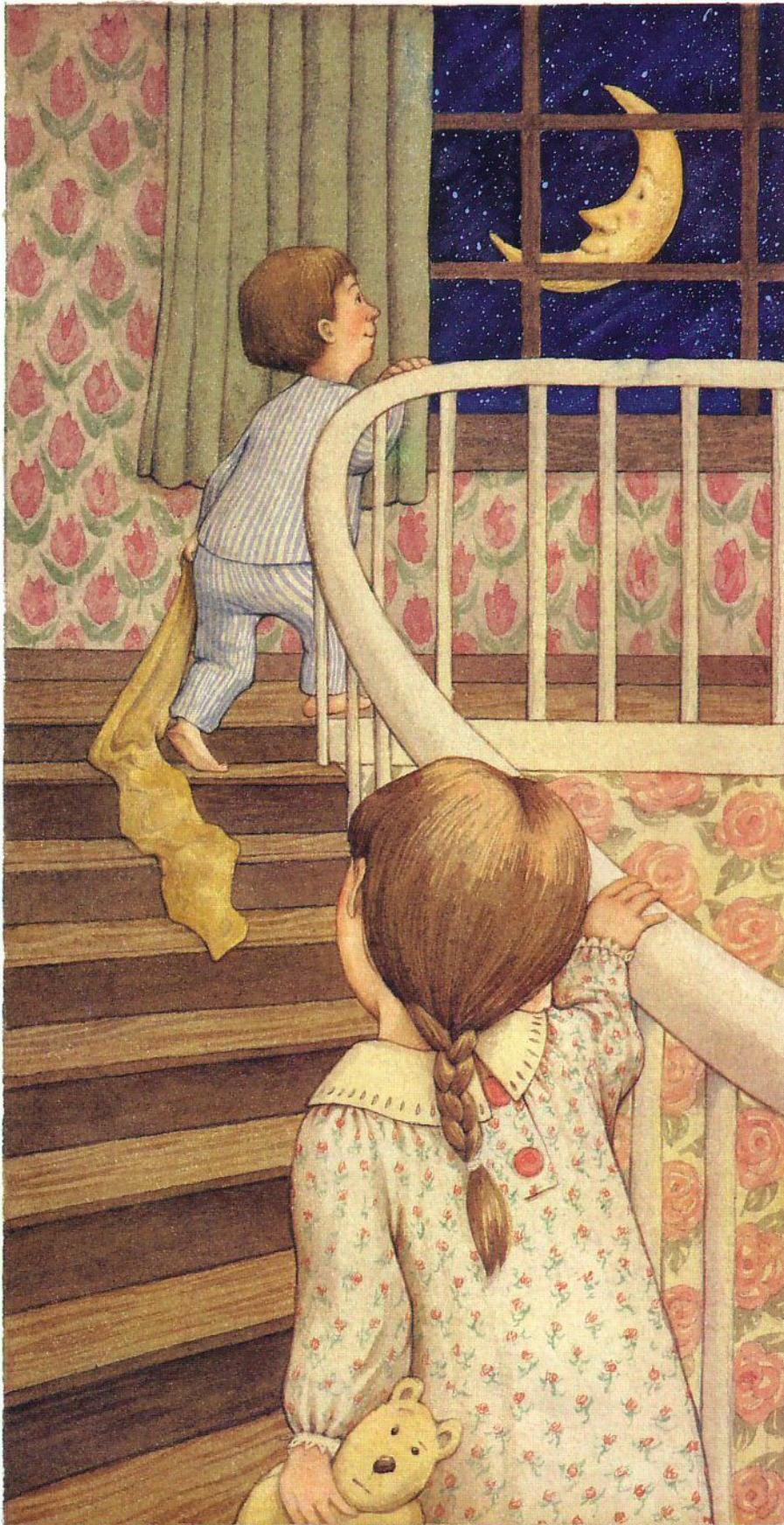
I'm going to the palace  
to have a royal chat,  
and if you want to come along,  
please do not bring your cat.

The king may join us later  
so if you'd like to come,  
I think it would be better  
not to bring your bubble gum.

I'm going to the palace.  
I'd love it if you'd come.  
But if you do, I must insist  
you do not suck your thumb.

## SUNSET

The sun has set.  
The moon is bright.  
Our dinner's done.  
We've said good night.  
We brush our teeth,  
then climb the stairs,  
hop into bed,  
and say our prayers.





## LULLABY

Under the covers,  
warm and deep,  
comfy and cozy,  
sleep, child, sleep.

Safe in your bed  
with nothing to fear,  
God's in His heaven,  
and Mama is here.





## I LOVE TO READ

I love to find a quiet nook,  
or sit beside a gentle brook,  
and read a favorite picture book.  
I *love* to read.

Sometimes I choose a fairy tale,  
at Christmastime a merry tale,  
or, if I'm brave, a scary tale.  
I *love* to read.

So if you're bored and need a smile,  
a trip to some enchanted isle,  
just choose a book and dream awhile.  
You'll *love* to read.



## I THINK I'LL NEVER FALL ASLEEP

I think I'll never  
fall asleep.  
I've said my prayers.  
I've counted sheep.  
I've tossed and turned.  
I've had a drink.  
I've . . .

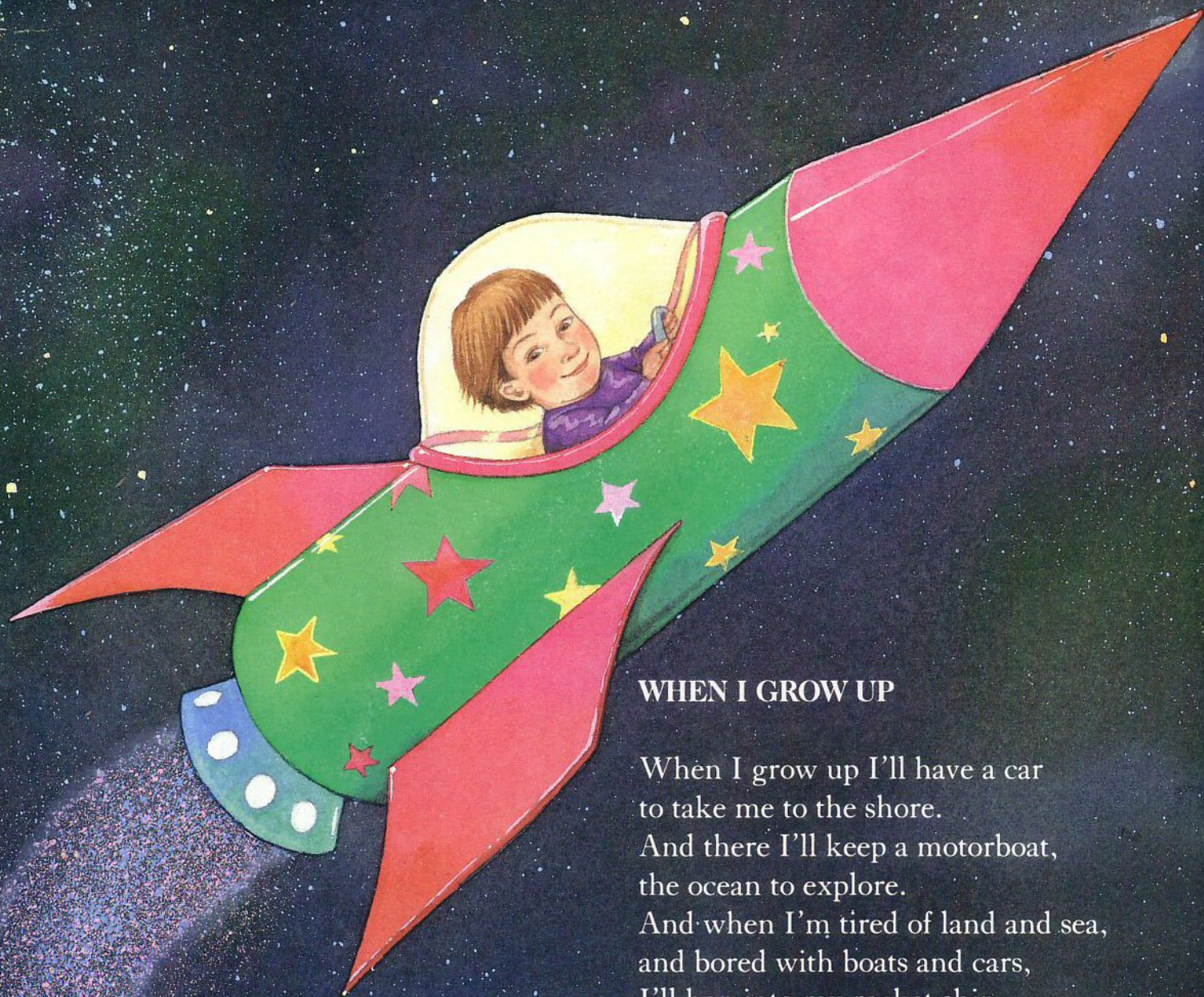




## I DREAMED ONE NIGHT THAT I COULD FLY

I dreamed one night  
that I could fly,  
and found such pleasure  
in the sky,  
soaring and sailing  
on the wing,  
that now I know  
why robins sing.





### WHEN I GROW UP

When I grow up I'll have a car  
to take me to the shore.  
And there I'll keep a motorboat,  
the ocean to explore.  
And when I'm tired of land and sea,  
and bored with boats and cars,  
I'll hop into my rocket ship  
and take off for the stars.



