

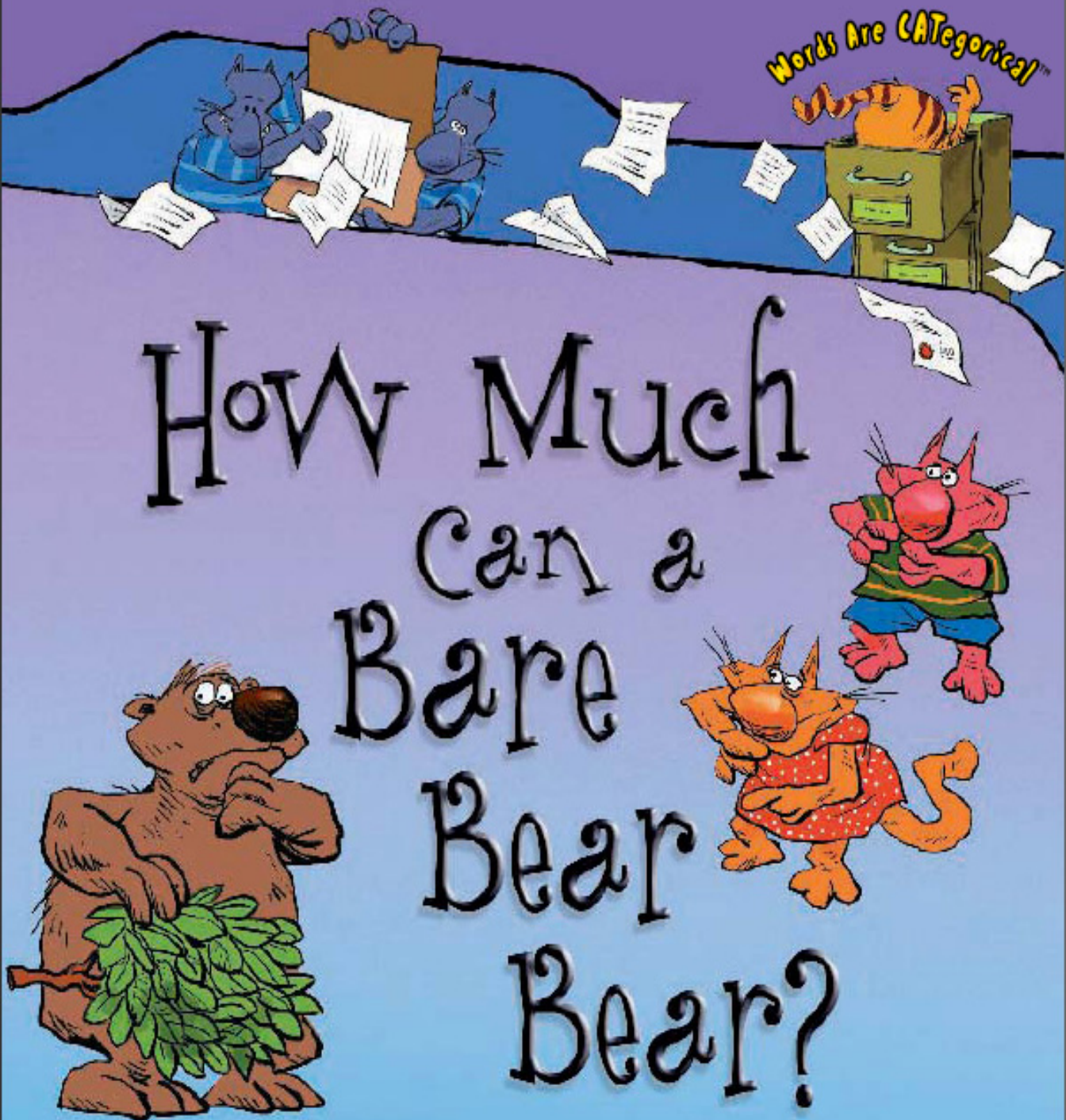
Words Are CATEGORICAL™

How Much Can a Bare Bear Bear?

What Are Homonyms and Homophones?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable



THIS PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT BLANK

How Much Can a Bare Bear Bear?



What Are Homonyms and Homophones?



To my sister Mary,
who was merry on the day
she was to marry
—B.P.C.

Homonyms:

Two or more words that
are pronounced the same
and spelled the same but
have different meanings

Homophones:

Two or more words that
are pronounced the same
but have different spellings
and different meanings





How Much Can a Bare Bear Bear?

What Are Homonyms and Homophones?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Brian Gable

MILLBROOK PRESS / MINNEAPOLIS

Homonyms

are words that sound
and also look alike.



But they have
different meanings, as in
"Can you pass that can, Mike?"



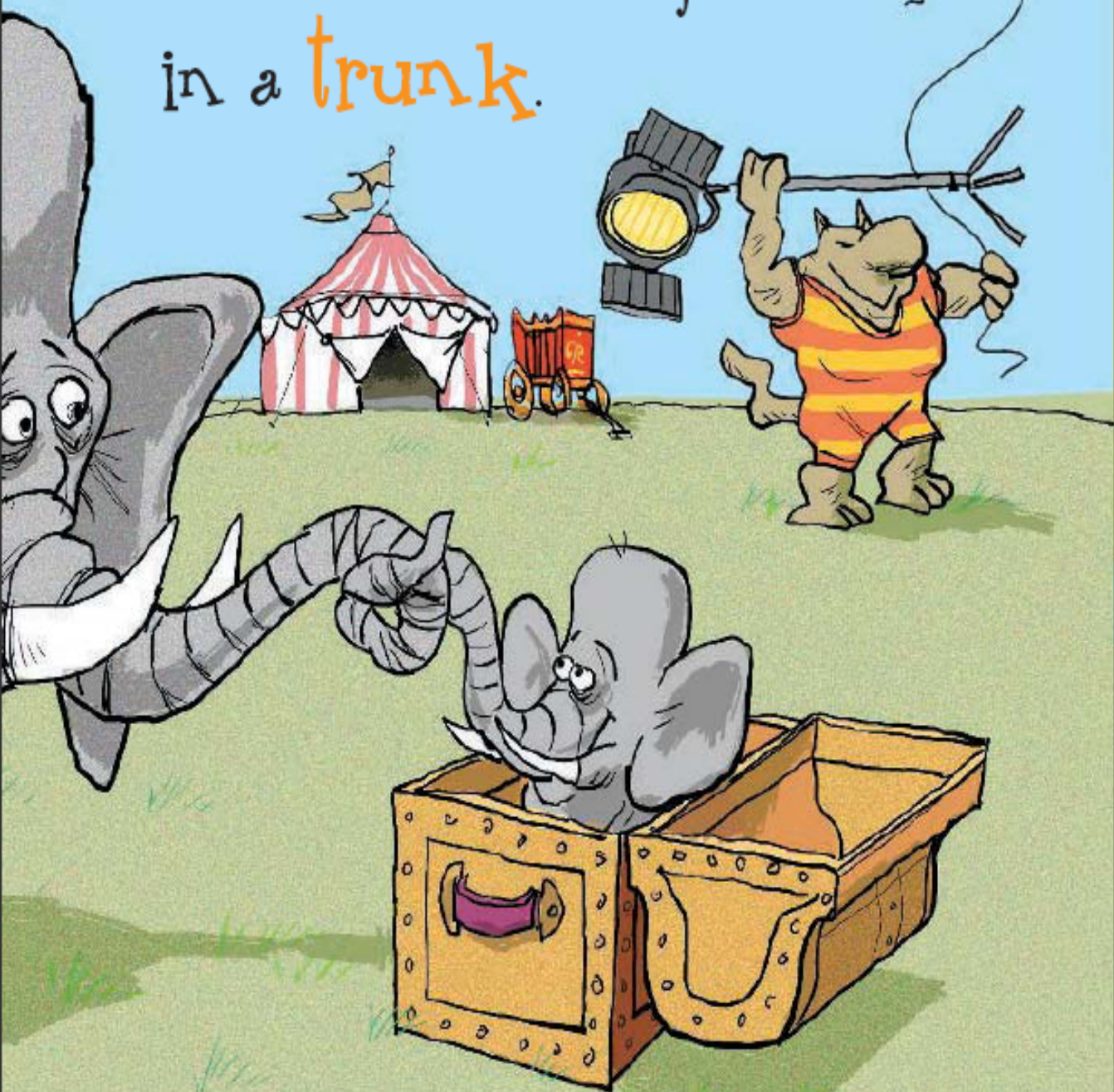
like

"Why don't we **toast**
with some **toast**?"



A **light** may be **light**,
like a small paper kite.

A **trunk** can be found
in a **trunk**.



An inchworm or snail could
scale a scale.



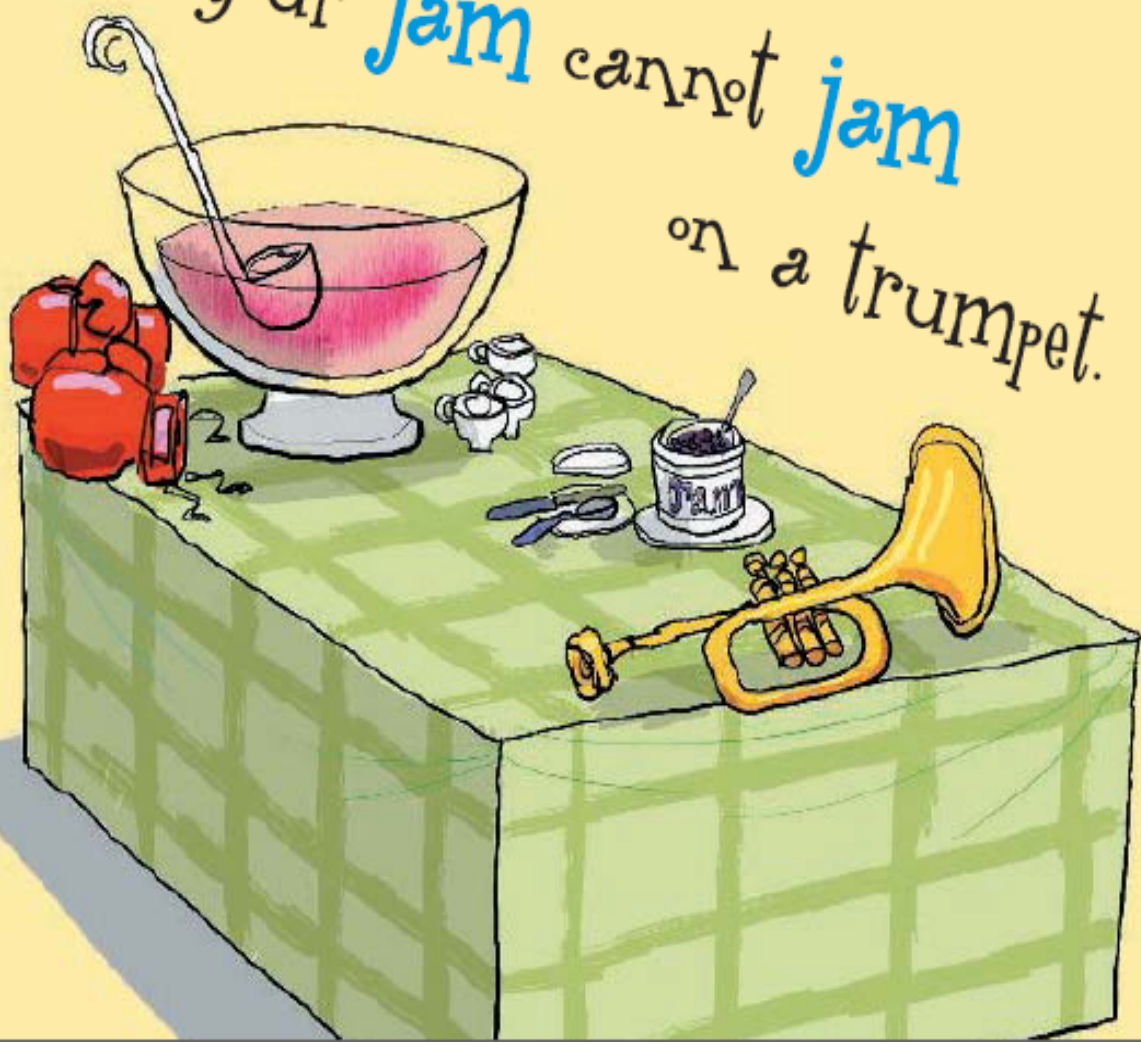
A lean cat could
lean on a skunk.



But **punch** cannot **punch**,
and at
breakfast
or lunch,



Your **jam** cannot **jam**
on a trumpet.

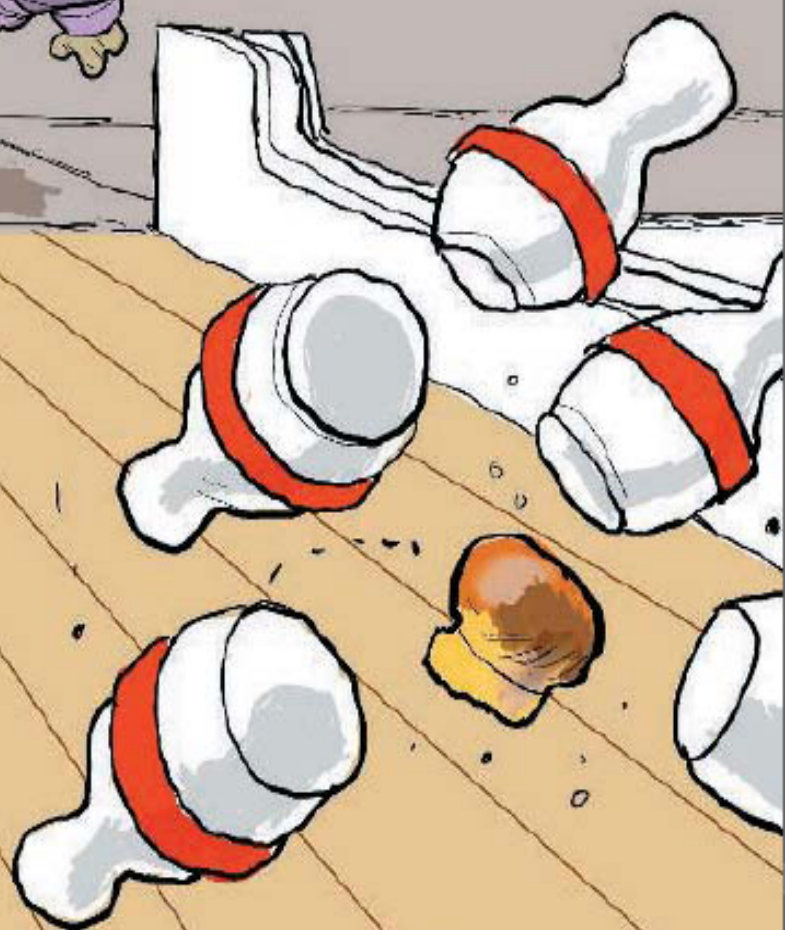


A bowl cannot bowl,

but a **roll**

might just **roll**

if it's not
made as flat
as a crumpet.



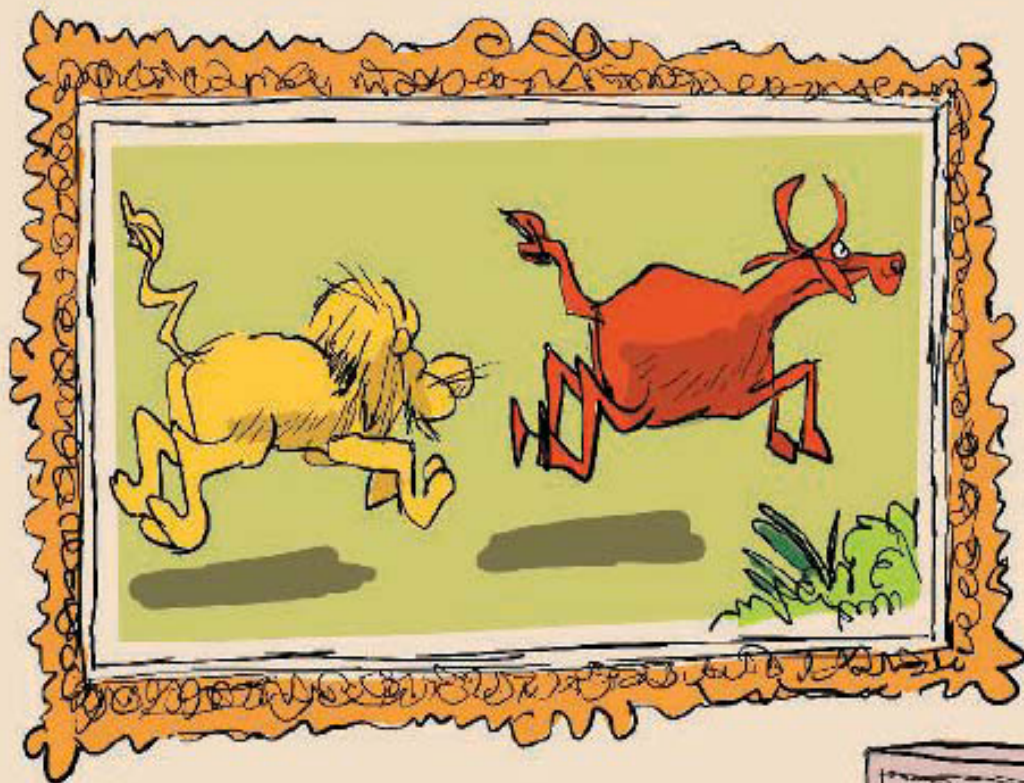
Now, some words sound identical
but are spelled in different ways.

These words are known as
homophones.

like
praise



and preys



and prays.



Though homophones
have matching sounds,
their meanings aren't
the same.





And **there** isn't any question,
they're as fun as any game.

A bee can be.



A flea can flee.



A burro
can burrow
a hole.

A horse can get hoarse
from talking, of course.

A ewe
could take you
on a stroll.



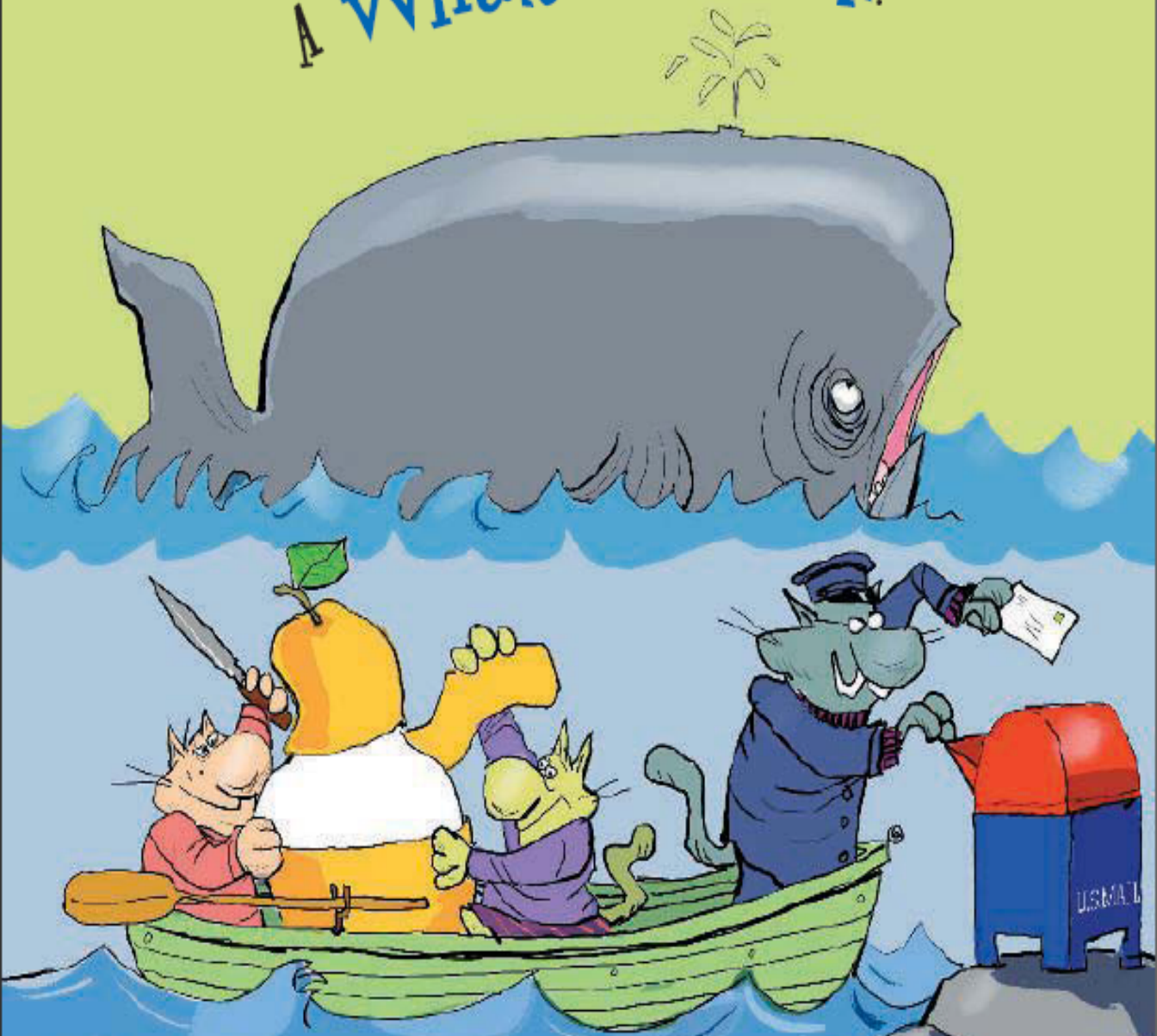
A **fowl** can be **foul**.

A **toad** can be **towed**.

An **heir** mustn't **err** in the **air**.



A whale can wail.

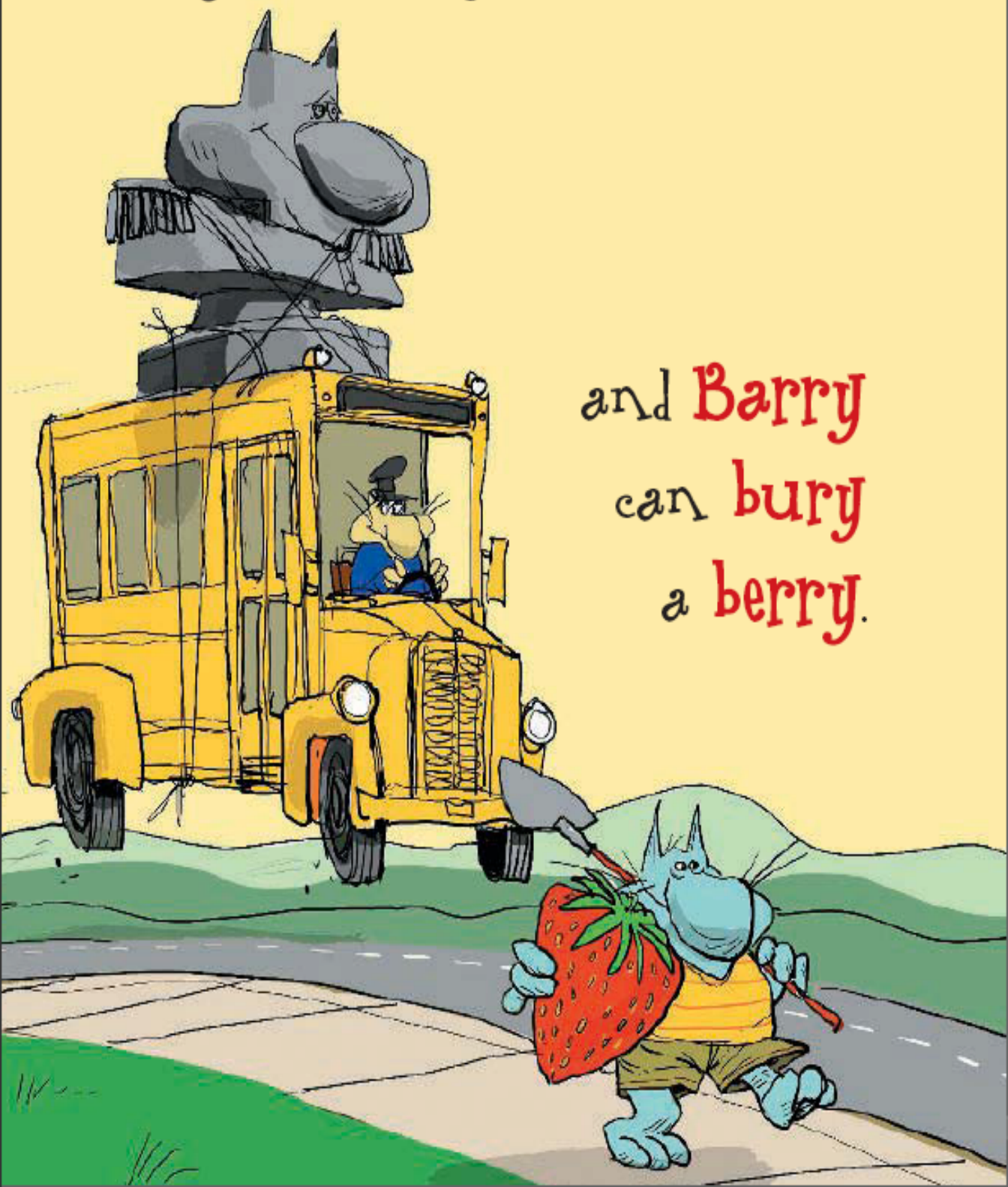


A male can mail.

A pair might just
pare a big pear.

A **bust** can be **bused**
by a driver you trust,

and **Barry**
can **bury**
a **berry**.



A **band** could be **banned**
if they get out of hand.



and **Mary** (who's **merry**)
can **marry**.

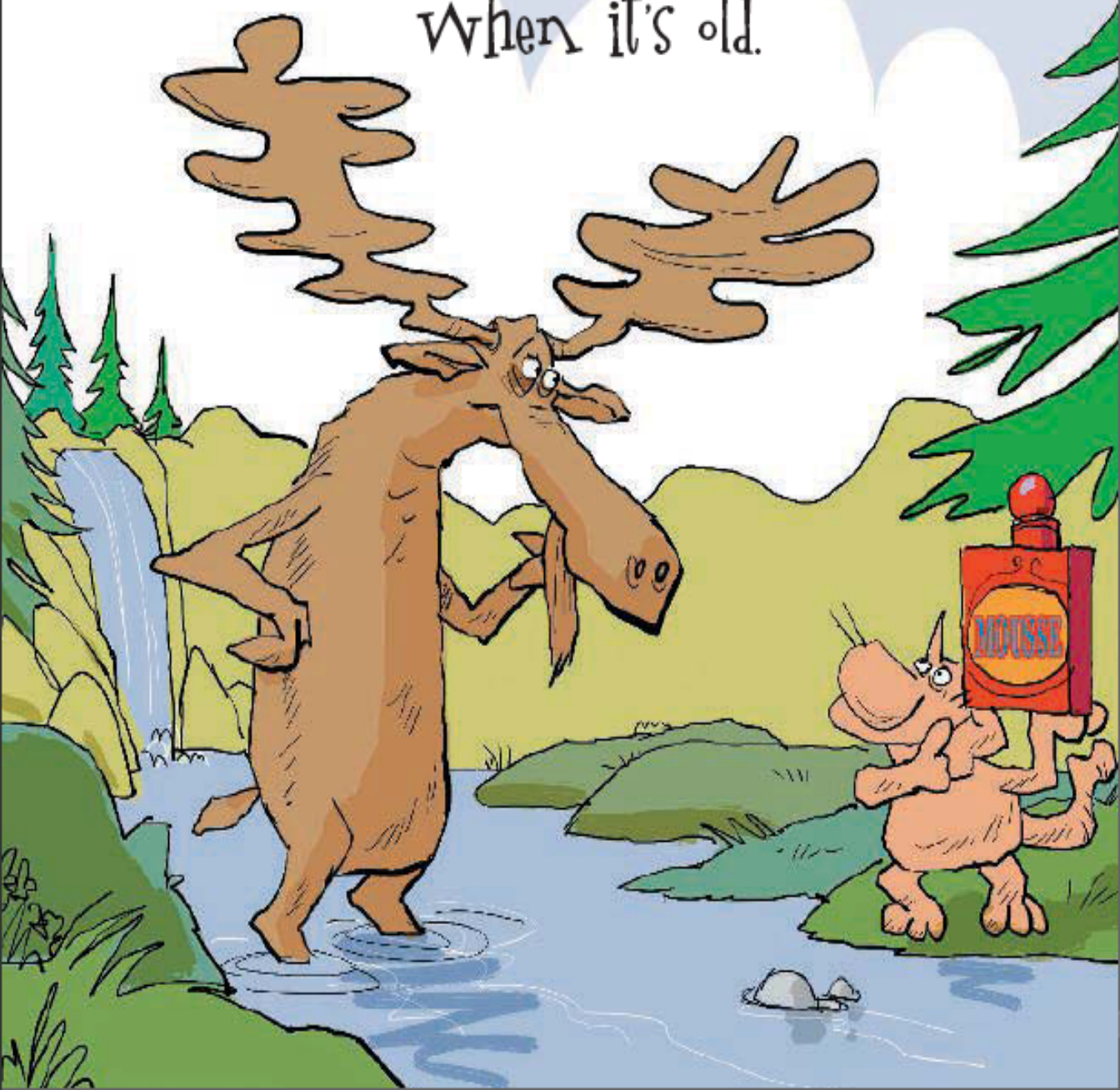
But the **Sea** cannot **See**,
and it's clear as can be
that

a ball
will not **bawl** when it's rolled.



A **mooSe** has no use
for a bottle of **mouSse**,

and a **creek** doesn't **creak**
when it's old.





But a **bear**
should be **bare**,



and it
wouldn't be rare
if **wood would**
be kept in a shed.

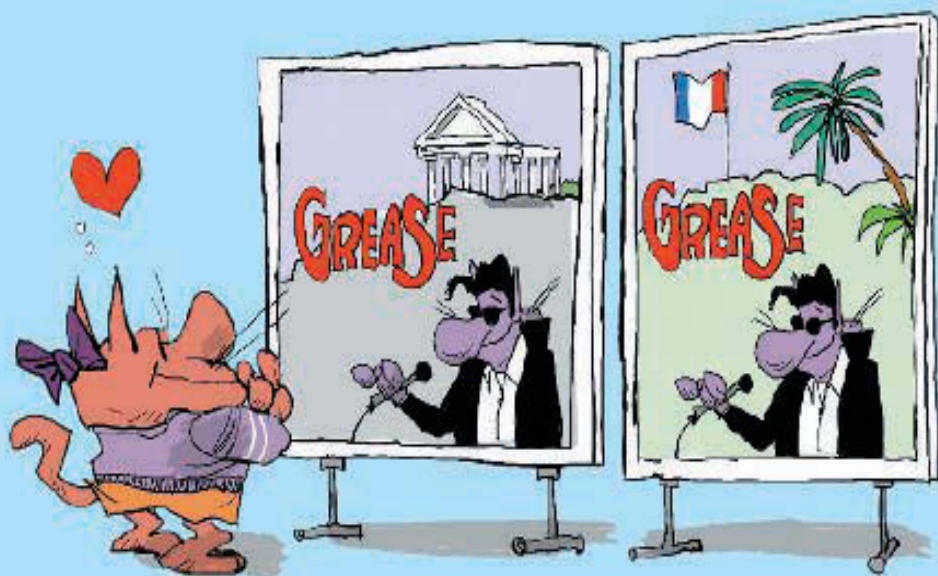
A **Sioux**
might not **sue**
if he **knew**
that the **gnu** that he bought
wasn't **new** like you said.



A **Sioux**
might not **sue**
if he **knew**
that the **gnu** that he bought
wasn't **new** like you said.



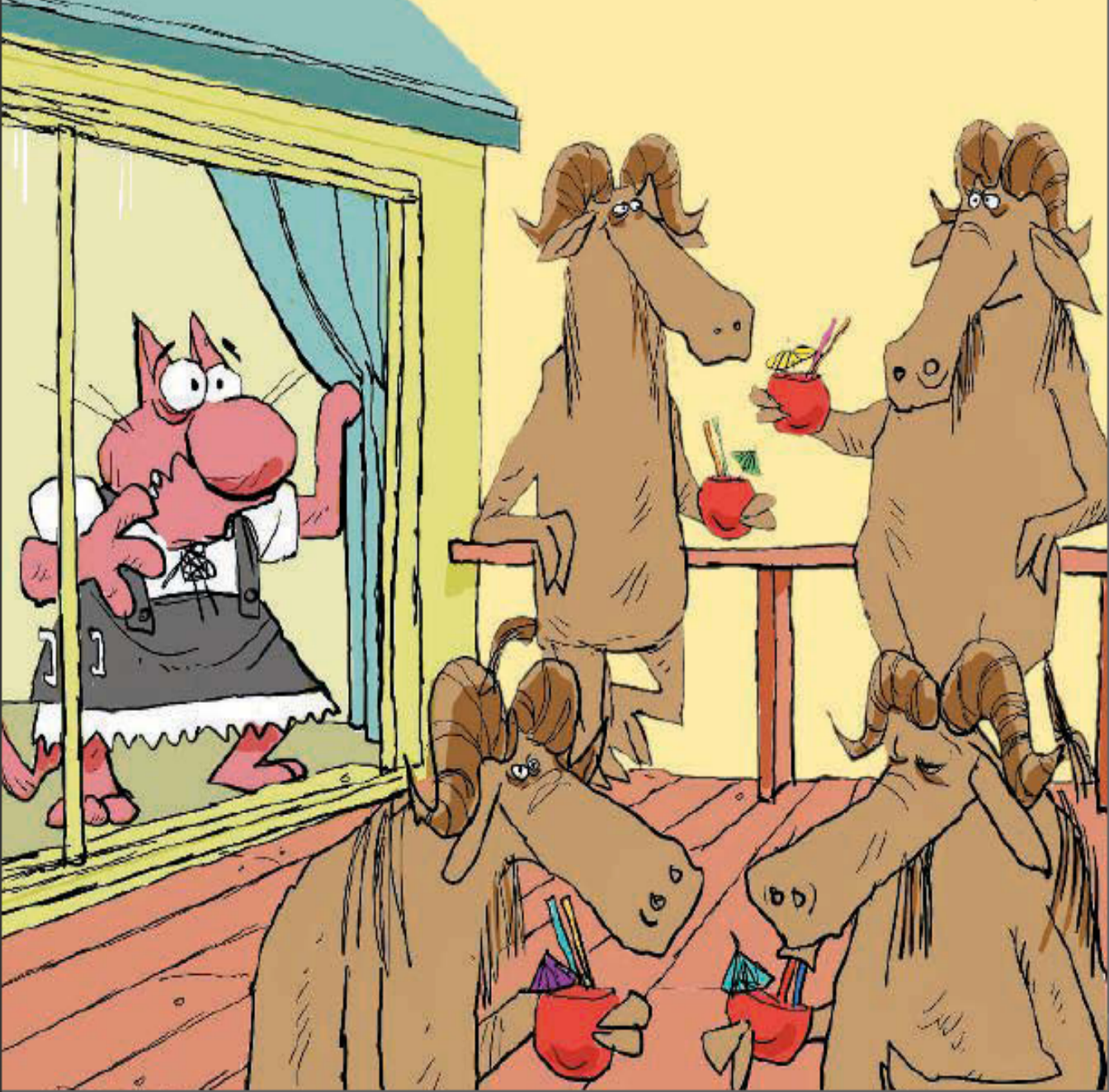
My niece could see *Grease*
both in *Greece* and in *Nice*.



A *Czech* could be
writing a
check.

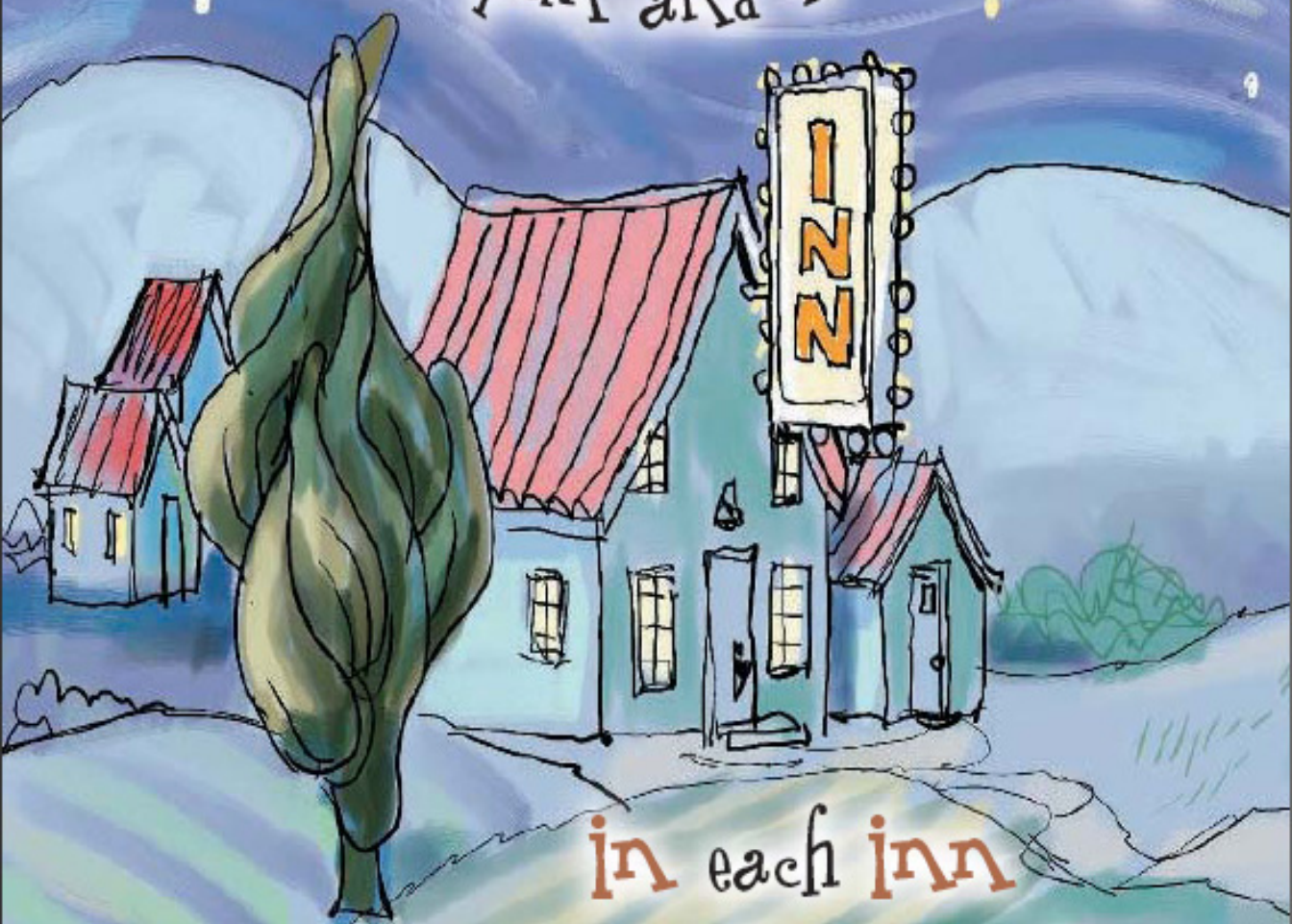


A **maid** could be **made**
to be very afraid
when she **heard**
a big **herd** on the deck.



You could search the whole **World**

while it spun and it **whirled,**



in each **inn**
and beneath every stone.

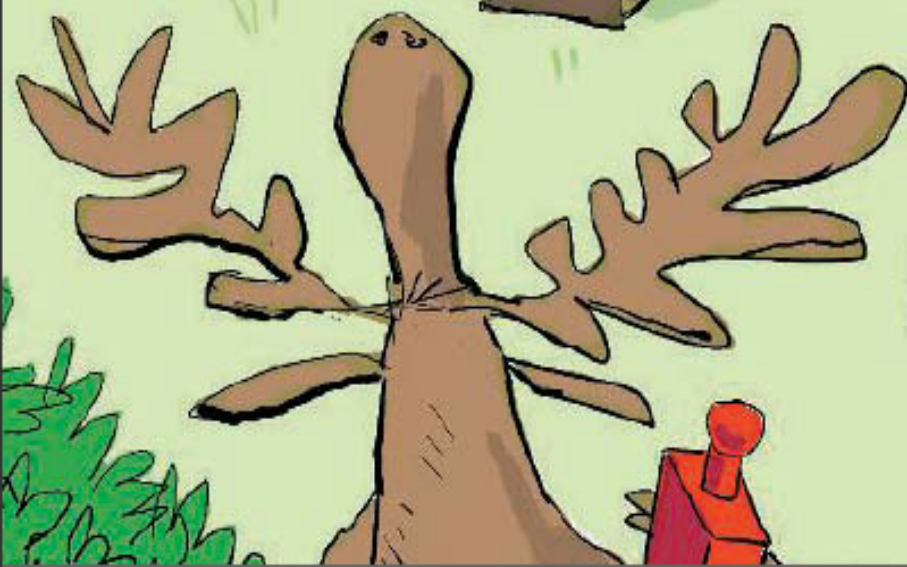
And you'd find no more pleasures
than these great verbal treasures—

the homonym
and homophone!



So, what are homonyms and homophones?

Do you know?





THIS PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT BLANK

ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

BRIAN P. CLEARY is the author of the Words Are Categorical™ series, including A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What Is a Noun? and Hairy, Scary, Ordinary: What Is an Adjective?, and of Rainbow Soup: Adventures in Poetry. He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

BRIAN GABLE is the illustrator of Under, Over, By the Clover: What Is a Preposition?, Pitch and Throw, Grasp and Know: What Is a Synonym?, and the Make Me Laugh joke books. He lives in Toronto, Ontario, with his wife and two children.

Text copyright © 2005 by Brian P. Cleary

Illustrations copyright © 2005 by Millbrook Press

All rights reserved. International copyright secured. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of Millbrook Press, except for the inclusion of brief quotations in an acknowledged review.

Millbrook Press

A division of Lerner Publishing Group

241 First Avenue North

Minneapolis, MN 55401 U.S.A.

Website address: www.lernerbooks.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cleary, Brian P., 1959—

How much can a bare bear bear? : what are homonyms and homophones? /

by Brian P. Cleary ; illustrated by Brian Gable.

p. cm. — (Words are categorical)

eISBN—10: 0-8225-6362-2

1. English language—Homonyms—Juvenile literature. I. Gable, Brian, 1949—

ill. II. Title.

PE1595.L58 2005

422.1—dc22

2004031106

Manufactured in the United States of America

1 2 3 4 5 6 — JK — 10 09 08 07 06 05