

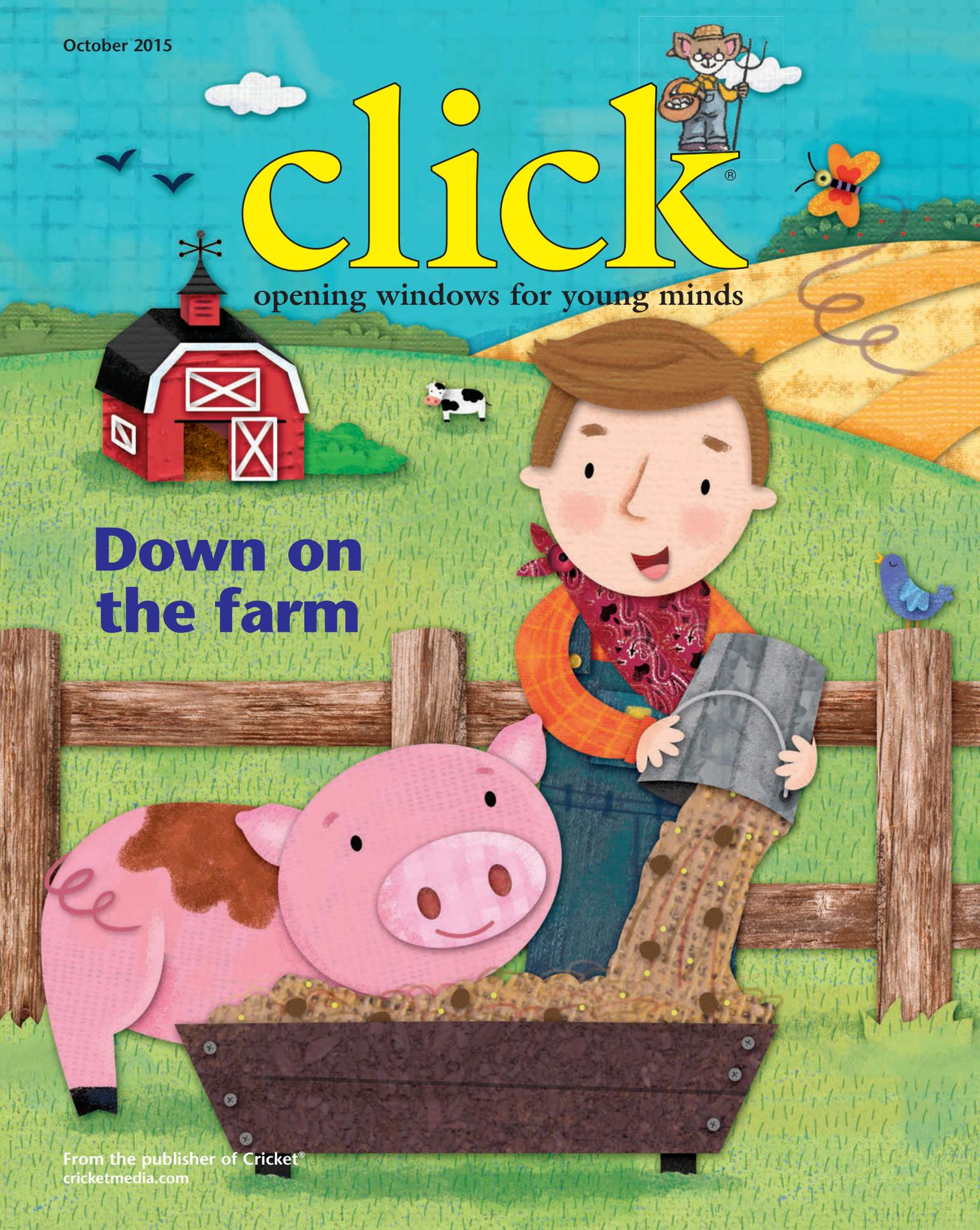
October 2015

# click®

opening windows for young minds

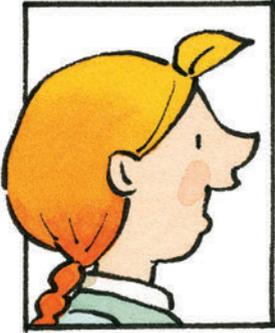
**Down on  
the farm**

From the publisher of Cricket®  
cricketmedia.com



# Click & the Kids

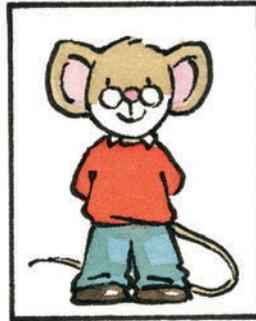
story and art by Betsy Page Brown



Amy



Martin



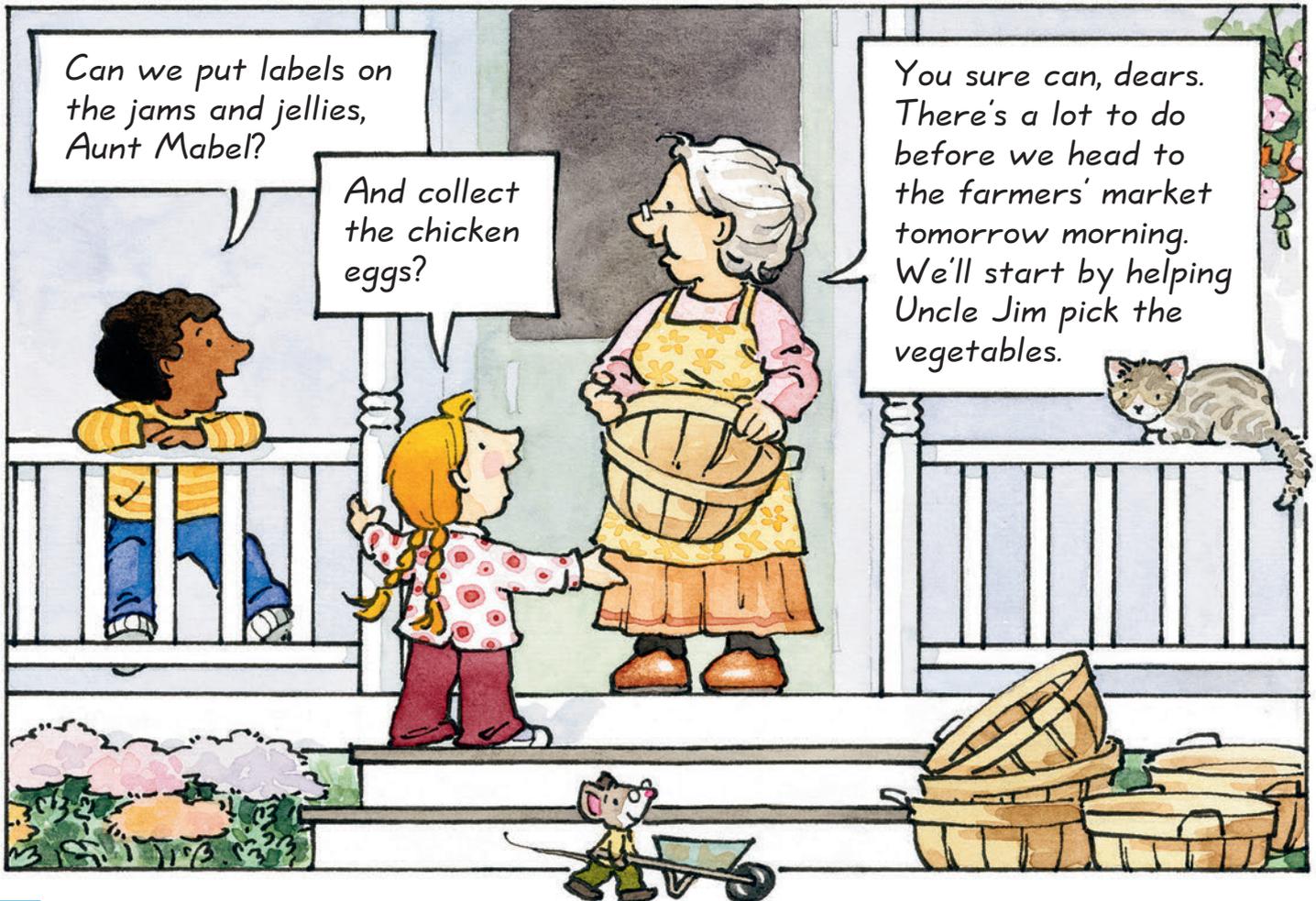
Click



Uncle Jim and  
Aunt Mabel



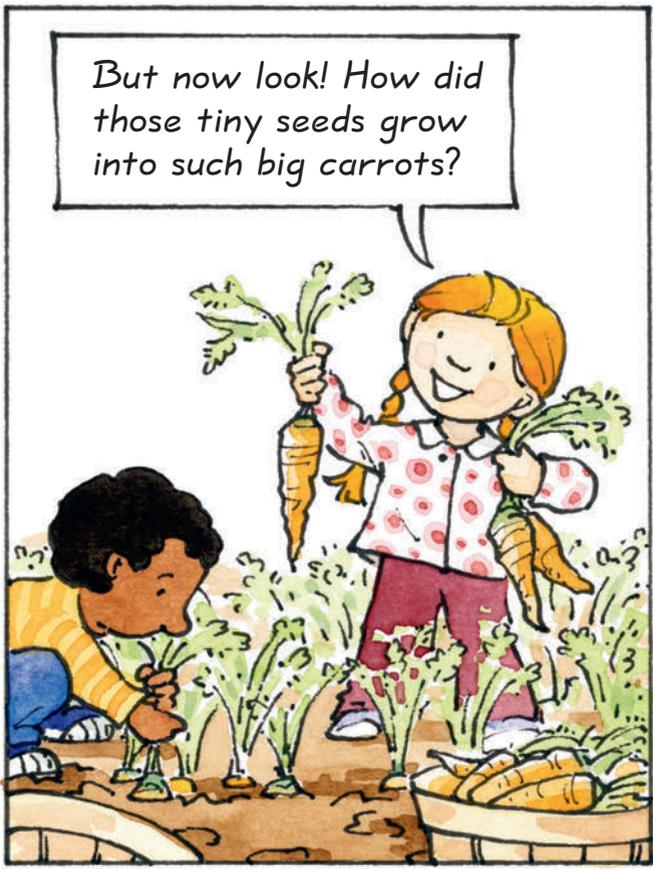
the farmers'  
market





Remember when we helped plant the carrot seeds?

We sprinkled them in long rows and covered them with dirt.



But now look! How did those tiny seeds grow into such big carrots?



Nature provides the sunshine. But the farmer helps too. Harvest time is when I know that all the tilling, hoeing, weeding, and watering were well worth it.

Carrots always taste better when you and Aunt Mabel grow them, Uncle Jim.



We sell every last jar of Aunt Mabel's jams and jellies when we bring them to the farmers' market.

Don't take all the jars. Save some for us.

People love my canned vegetables too.



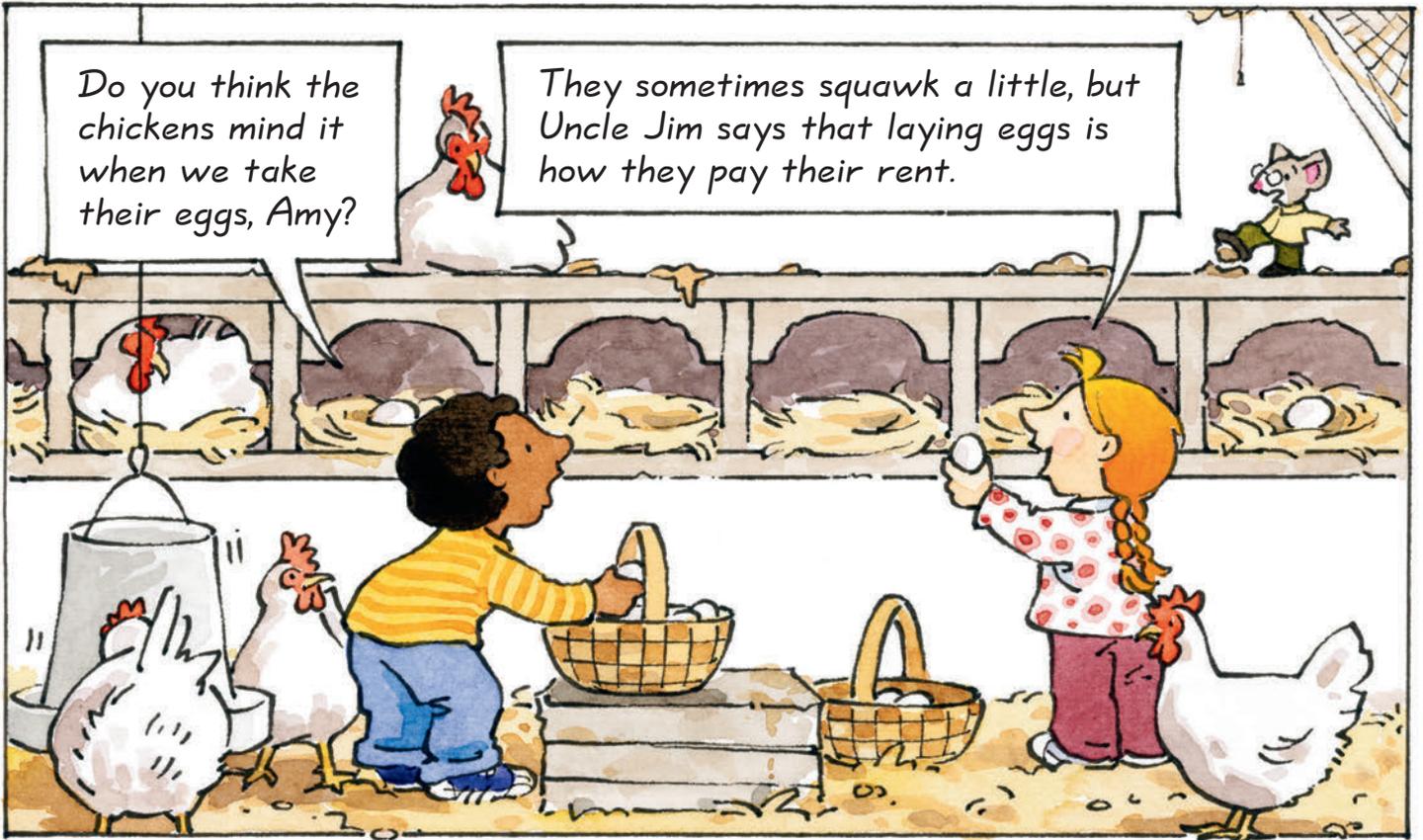
By canning part of the harvest, we can enjoy a little taste of summer all winter long.

**CRUNCH!**  
Pickles are my favorite vegetable.



Let's not forget to gather the eggs.

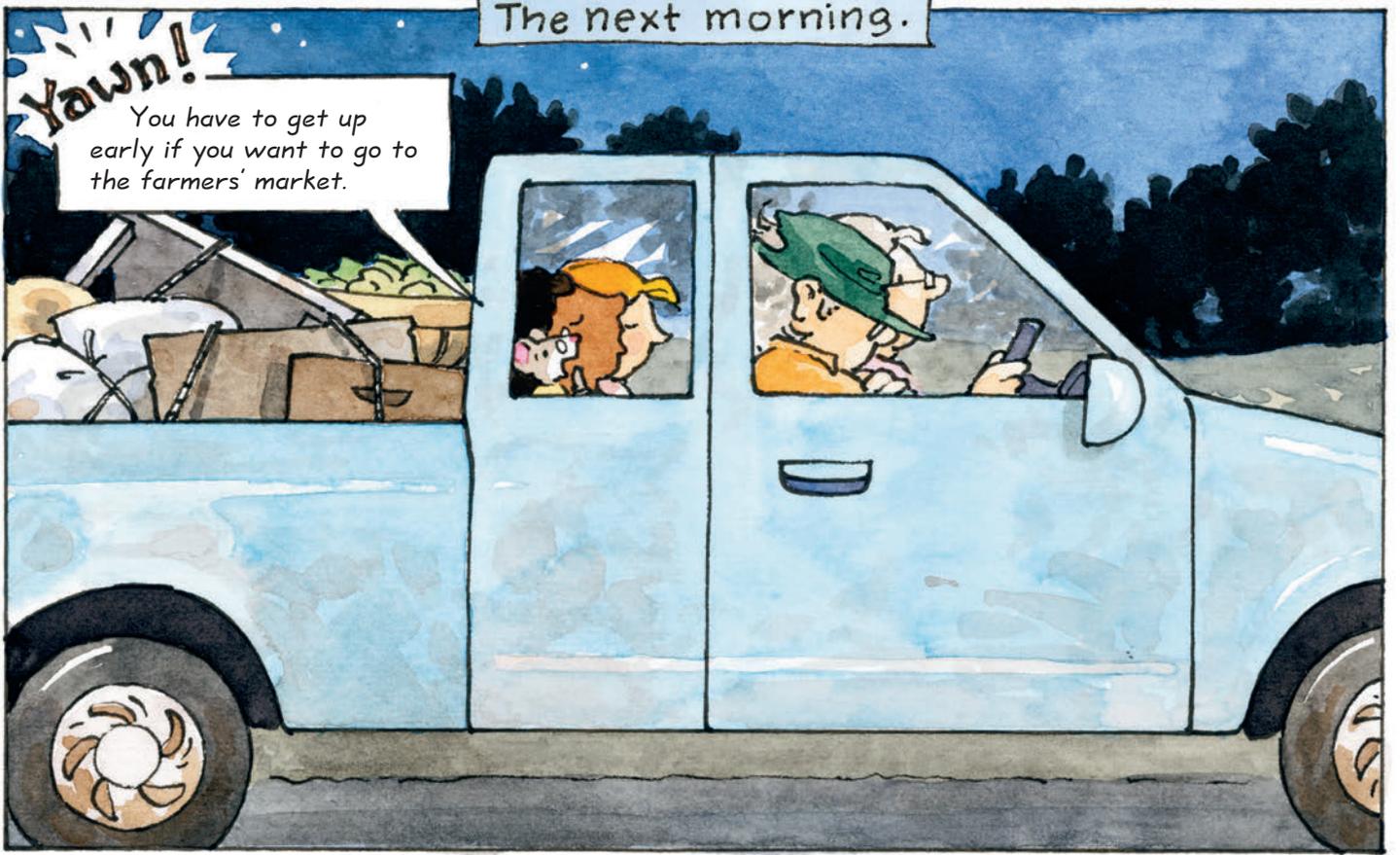
Race you to the henhouse, Martin.



Do you think the chickens mind it when we take their eggs, Amy?

They sometimes squawk a little, but Uncle Jim says that laying eggs is how they pay their rent.

The next morning.



Yawn!

You have to get up early if you want to go to the farmers' market.

# Farmers' Market

Saturday 8-2 Rain or Shine



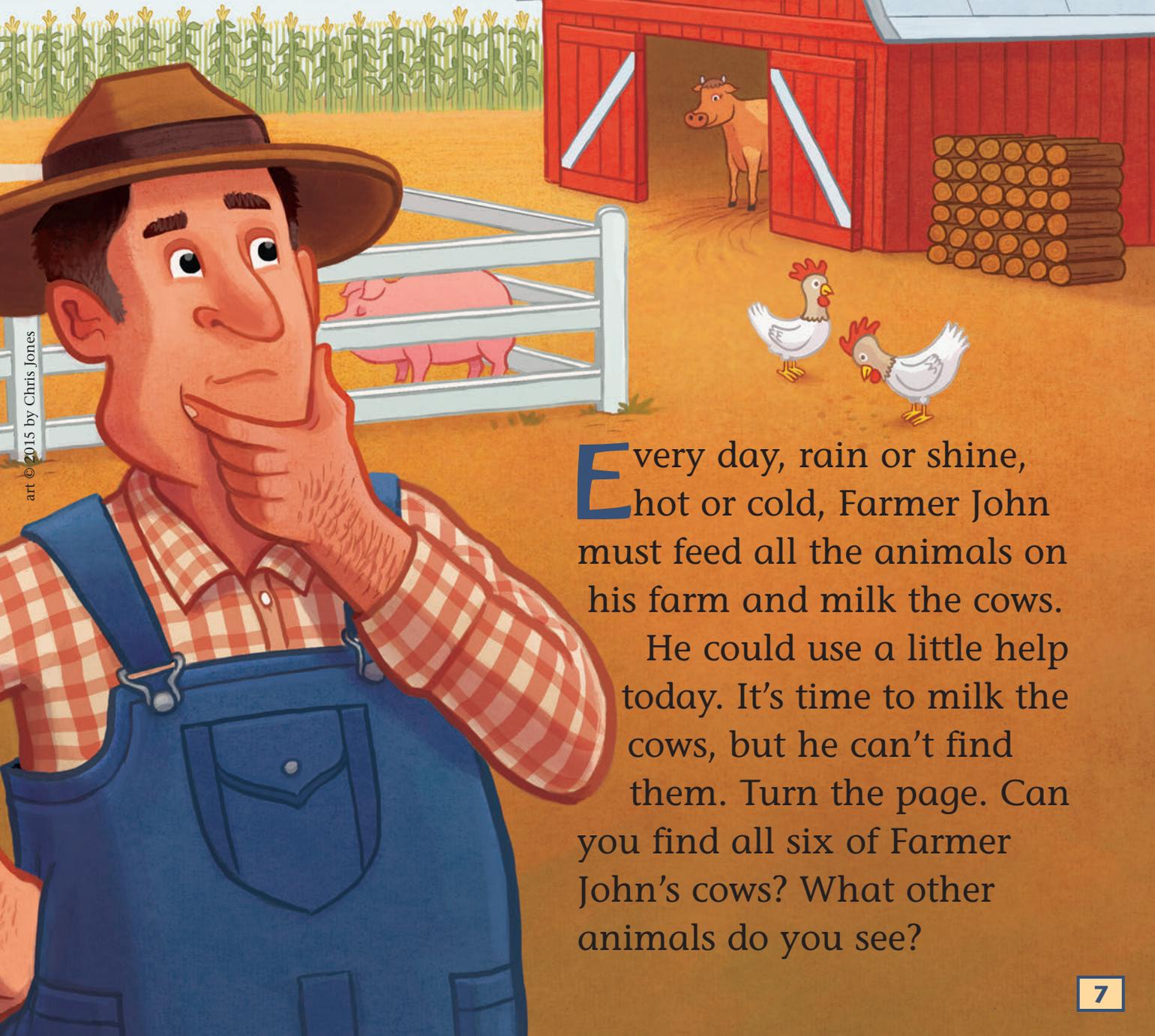
Fresh-picked  
carrots!

Try Aunt Mabel's  
raspberry jam!

FREE  
SAMPLE

# Help Farmer John

art by Chris Jones



art © 2015 by Chris Jones

**E**very day, rain or shine, hot or cold, Farmer John must feed all the animals on his farm and milk the cows.

He could use a little help today. It's time to milk the cows, but he can't find them. Turn the page. Can you find all six of Farmer John's cows? What other animals do you see?

What is stored inside a **silo**? Silage. That's food for the cows, made from grass or corn crops.

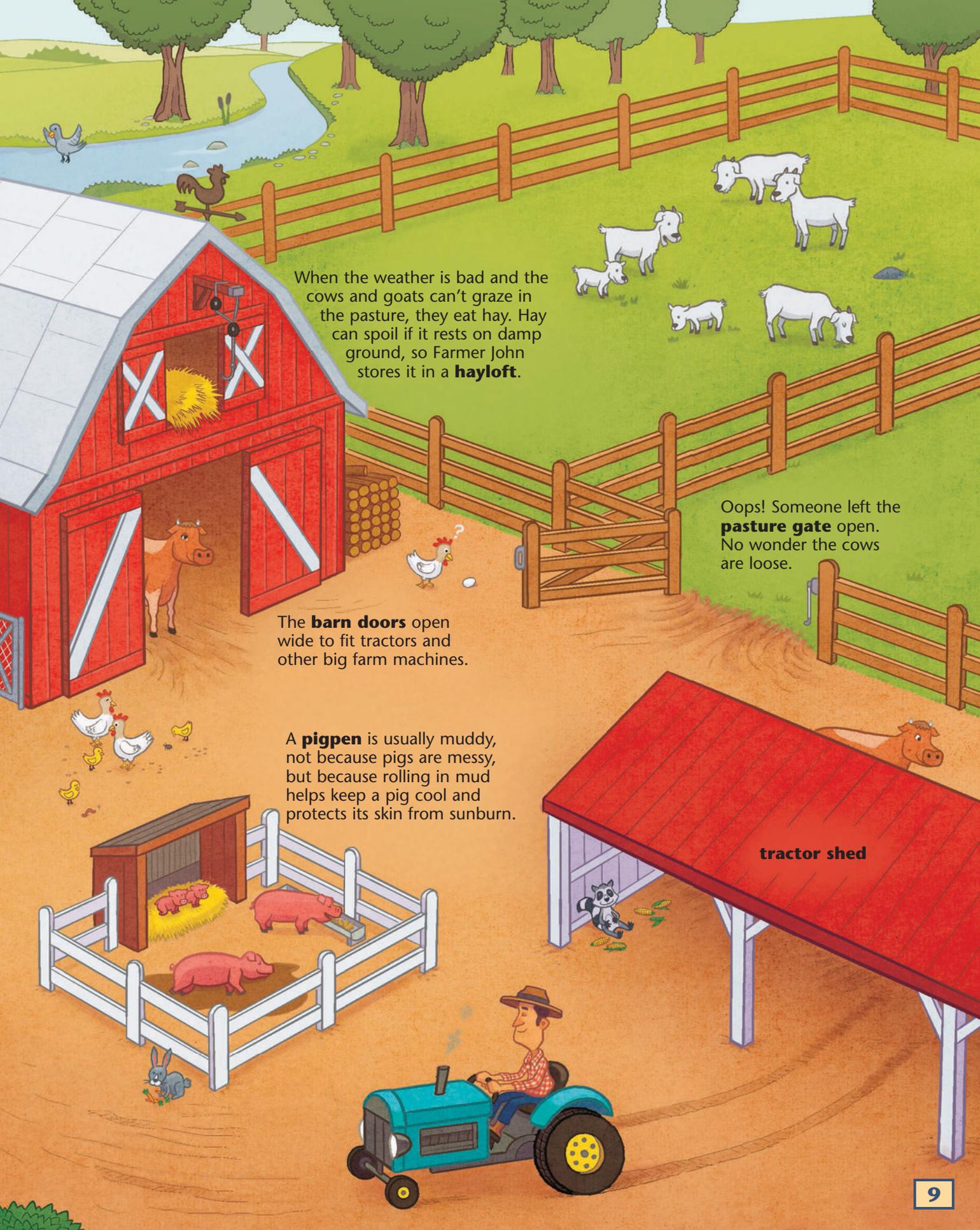
farmhouse

barn

Farmer John grows vegetables in the **kitchen garden** for his family to eat. In his fields, he grows vegetables that he sells.

At night the chickens are locked in the **henhouse** to keep them safe from foxes and raccoons.

cornfield



When the weather is bad and the cows and goats can't graze in the pasture, they eat hay. Hay can spoil if it rests on damp ground, so Farmer John stores it in a **hayloft**.

Oops! Someone left the **pasture gate** open. No wonder the cows are loose.

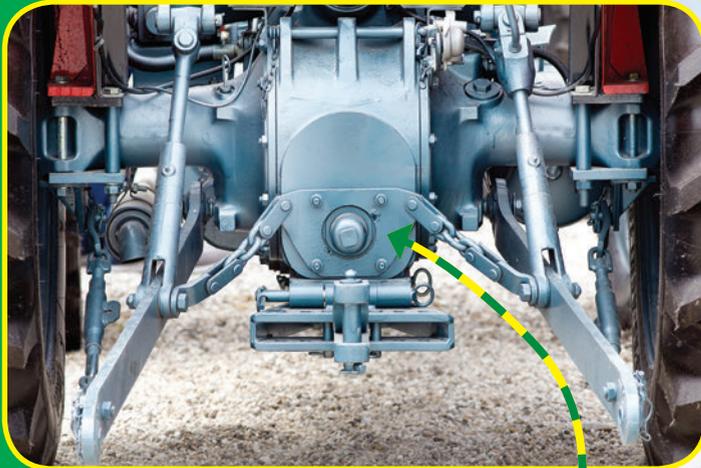
The **barn doors** open wide to fit tractors and other big farm machines.

A **pigpen** is usually muddy, not because pigs are messy, but because rolling in mud helps keep a pig cool and protects its skin from sunburn.

**tractor shed**

# TRACTOR!

Tractors do all kinds of work on a farm, but their main job is to **PULL!**



Equipment is attached to the tractor by a big hitch. The hitch has levers that can lift and lower the tool. Power from the engine is transferred to the tool by a spinning rod called the power takeoff.

A large green tractor with yellow wheels is shown in a field of harvested crops. The tractor is viewed from a low angle, emphasizing its size. The tires are Continental brand, with '710/70 R' and 'CONTINENTAL' visible on the sidewalls. The tractor is pulling a piece of equipment, which is partially visible in the background. A red barn is visible in the distance under a blue sky with light clouds.

Big, wide tires spread out the tractor's weight and keep it from sinking into soft, muddy ground. The ridges grip the ground, so the tractor doesn't slip.

A tractor's big, powerful engine works hard, not to go fast, but to pull heavy equipment. It can also supply power to the tools it tows.



In the past, tractor drivers sat in the open, but now the driver sits in a cab. Modern cabs have heat and air conditioning. Some tractors use computers and can even drive themselves!



Most tractors have four wheels—two big ones in back that get power from the engine to move the tractor and two smaller ones in front that steer. Some extra-big tractors have eight wheels, all huge.

**WHAT  
DOES A  
TRACTOR  
PULL?  
TURN THE  
PAGE TO  
SEE.**



A baler collects cut hay and rolls it into a big bale that can be easily moved and stored.

A plow or cultivator breaks up hard soil and turns it over, so weeds get buried. New crops will grow better in the loose, plowed soil.



Seeds drop from the bins of the planter in neat, straight rows.



The big yellow tank on this spreader holds liquid fertilizer. Can you see the fertilizer being sprayed on the field?





# A Visit from the Farrier

by Meg Moss  
photographs by Seth Mynhier  
and Mark Mynhier

When Mikey the horse needs new shoes, he doesn't go to the shoe store. His owner, Alyssa, calls Natasha. Natasha is a farrier. Her job is taking care of horses' hooves.

Natasha brings all her tools with her to Alyssa's farm. The first thing she does is check how long Mikey's hooves are. Horse hooves grow, just like fingernails. In fact, they are made of the same stuff as fingernails. It's called keratin.



Wild horses walk and run about 30 miles a day, and that wears their hooves down naturally. Pastured horses like Mikey don't run around as much, so Natasha has to trim his hooves to keep them healthy. Trimming doesn't hurt, just as it doesn't hurt when you trim your fingernails. But hooves that grow too long could make it hard and painful for Mikey to walk.



First Natasha uses a hoof pick to clean out the dirt that builds up around the frog. This frog isn't a little green animal that says *ribbit*. It's a triangle-shaped pad on the underside of the hoof. It cushions the hoof, and if there's too much dirt around it, a horse can't stand or walk properly.



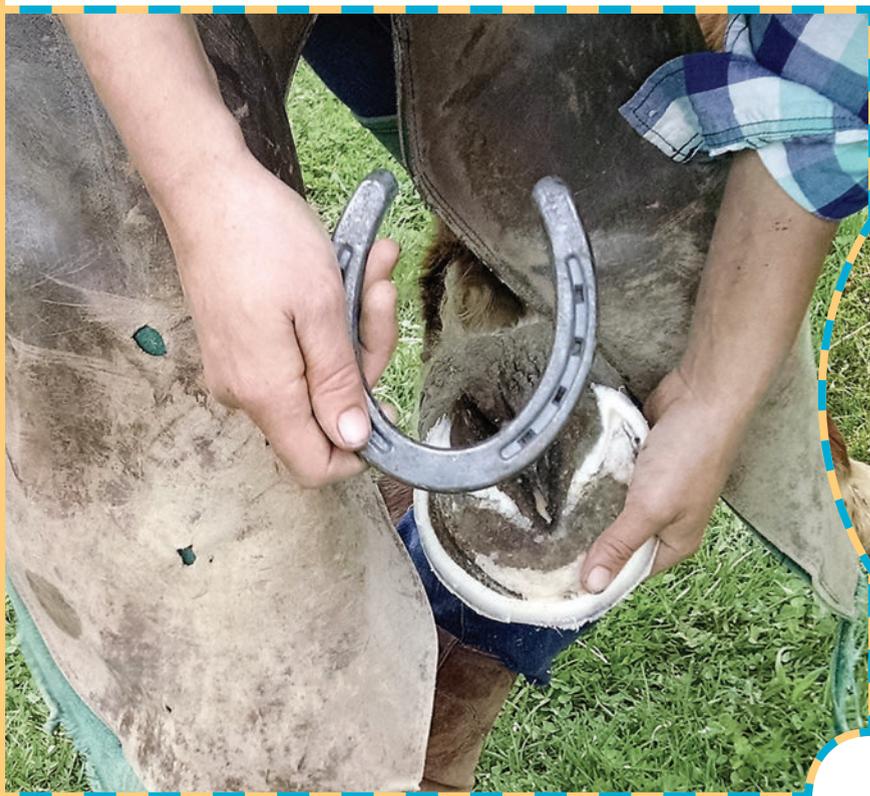
Next Natasha grabs her nippers. They do the same job that nail clippers do. Natasha uses them to clip off the extra growth around the wall of Mikey's hoof.



It's hard to make all the clips even, so Natasha must file any rough edges smooth. She has to hold Mikey's leg to file the bottom of the hoof wall. But she can use a hoof stand to support the leg while she files the sides of his hoof.



Now it's time for the shoes. Horseshoes are C-shaped pieces of metal. You can't tie them on like sneakers. Natasha hammers little nails through the horseshoe into the hoof wall. Don't worry. It doesn't hurt!



Mikey gets ridden a lot, so he wears shoes to protect his feet. Other horses wear special shoes to help correct problems with their hooves. And sometimes cleats are added to horseshoes to give working horses extra grip on snow or slippery ground. But most horses go barefoot, especially if they have strong, healthy hooves.

*I wear shoes to protect my feet too!*



The other horses on the farm don't need new shoes or a trim today, but Natasha stops by every two months or so to check on them. Here she is filing Sarah's big hoof.



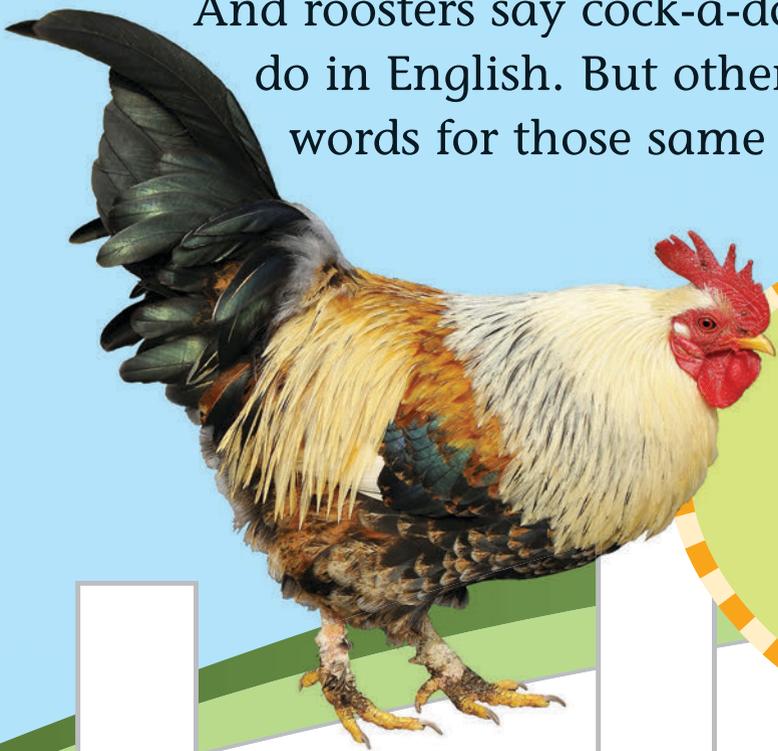
And here she is cuddling little Star after her first trim. Baby horses don't wear shoes, but their tiny hooves need trimming when they are only a few months old.

Natasha loves her job and her horse buddies. And they love her!



# MOO or BOO?

Cows say moo. Pigs say oink. Horses say neigh. And roosters say cock-a-doodle-doo! At least, they do in English. But other languages have other words for those same sounds.



## Rooster

Arabic **kuu-ku-kuu-ku**

French **cocorico**

Filipino **tik-tee-la-ock**

Igbo (Nigerian) **kokoroko**

Turkish **oo-oo-re-ooo**

## Pig

Hungarian **ruff-ruff**

Polish **khrum-khrum**

Japanese **buu-buu**

Swedish **nuff-nuff**

Vietnamese **oot-oot**





## Horse

Danish **p-r-r-ruh**

Russian **ee-go-go**

Icelandic **ho-ho-ho**

Korean **hee-hing**

Hebrew **hee-hee**



Spanish mice  
say yee.



## Cow

Dutch **boo**

Thai **mor-mor**

Finnish **ah-moo**

Hindi **mo-mo**

Mongolian **um-boo**

# Yo Wants to Know

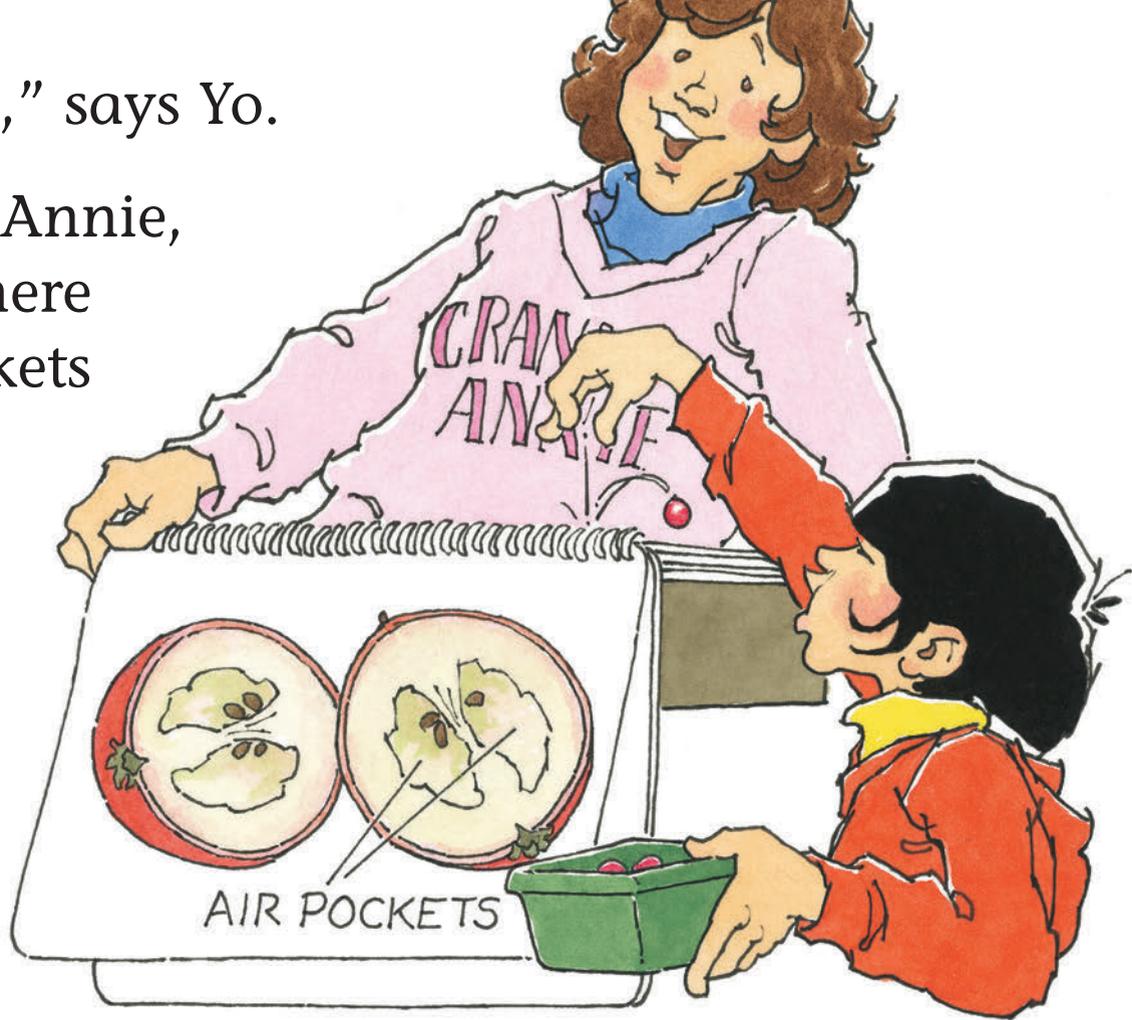
by Lea and Alan Daniel

“This cranberry grew in our bog,” says Annie. “It’s round and red and ripe. Who wants to drop it and see what happens?”



“It bounces,” says Yo.

“Yes,” says Annie,  
“because there  
are air pockets  
inside.”

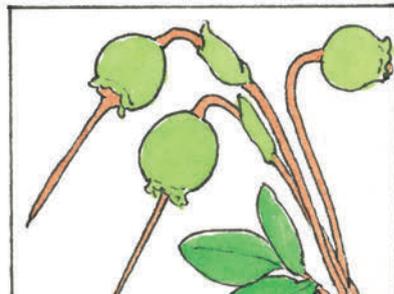
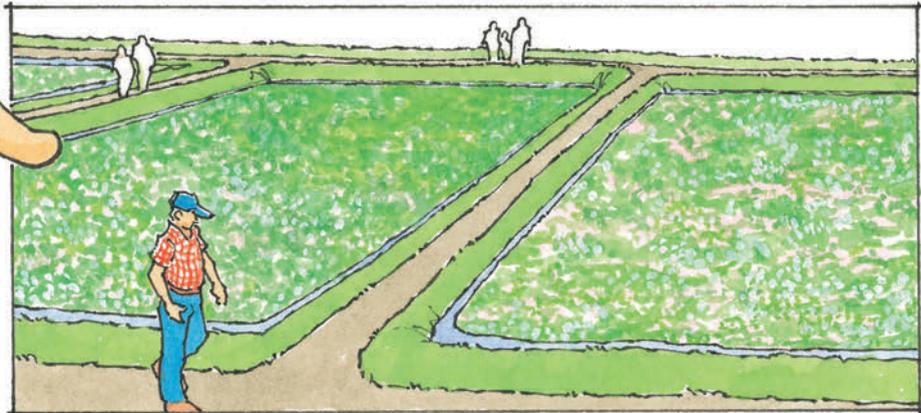
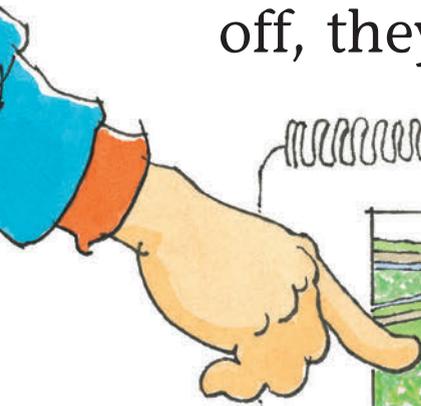


“Cranberries need soggy ground,” says Annie. “We grow our cranberries in fields of wet, spongy peat moss with sand on top.”



“What cranberries really, really need is sugar,” says Yo.

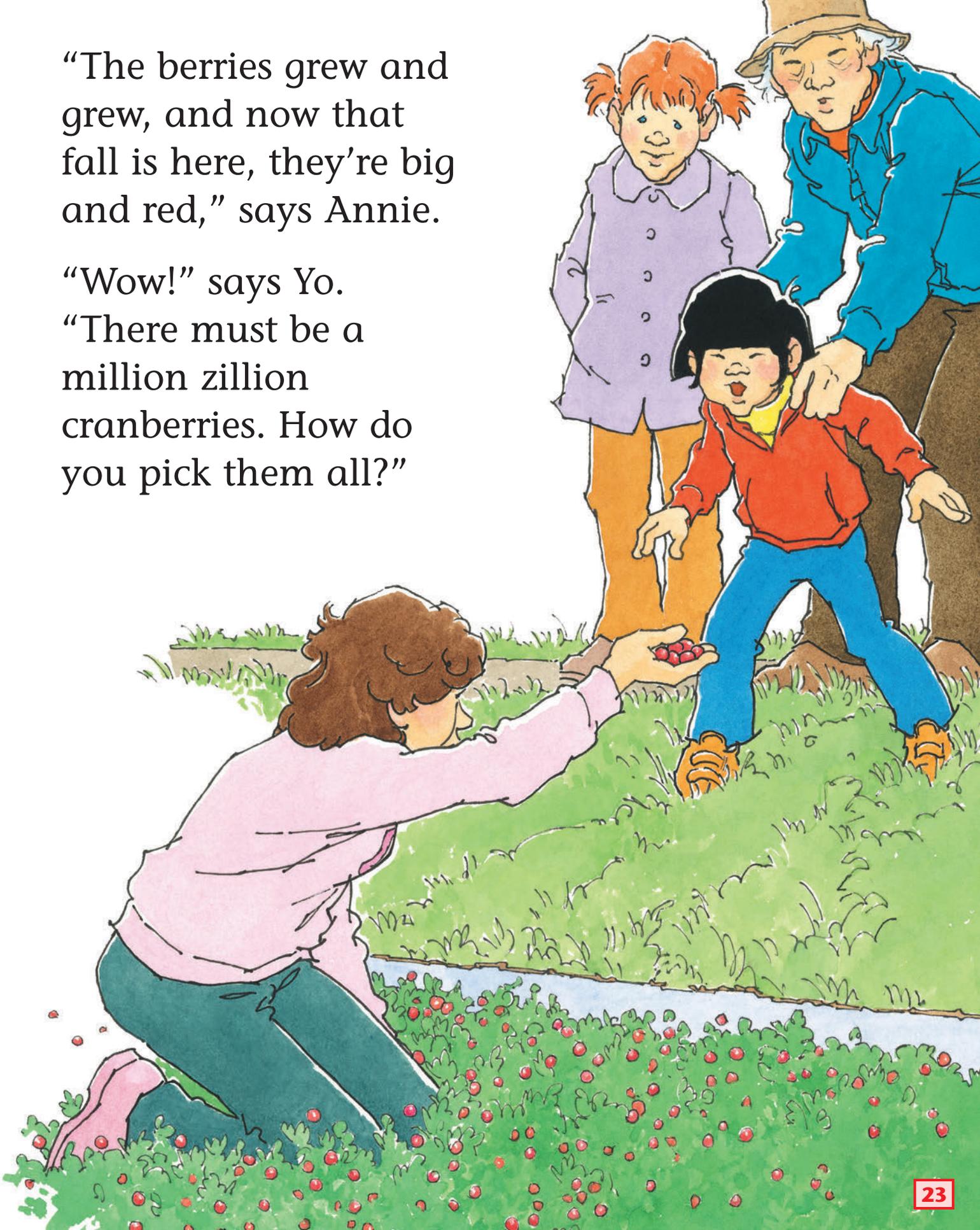
“Here’s the bog in June when the cranberry plants were flowering,” says Grandpa. “When the flowers dropped off, they left tiny green berries.”



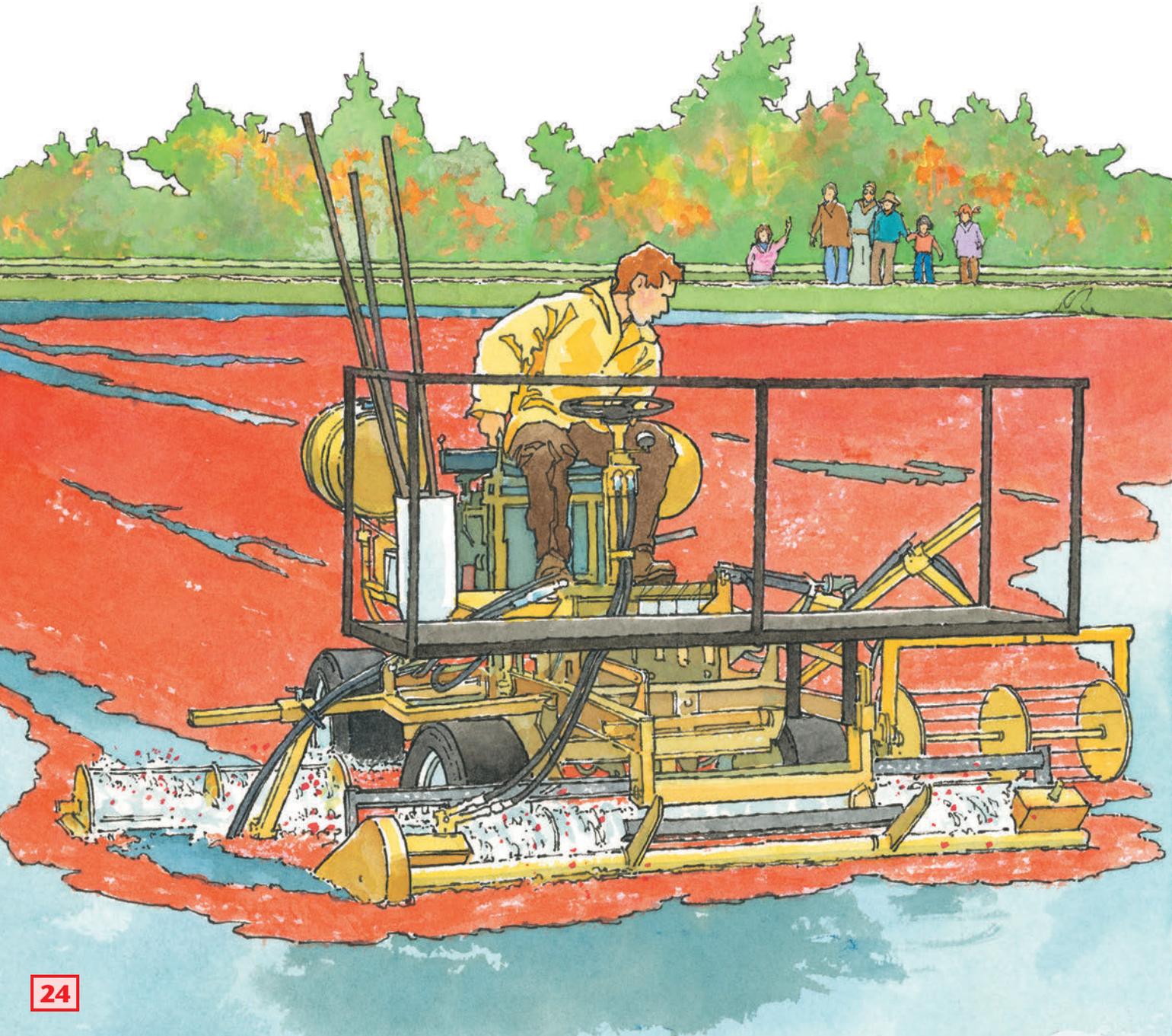
“The berries grew and grew, and now that fall is here, they’re big and red,” says Annie.

“Wow!” says Yo.

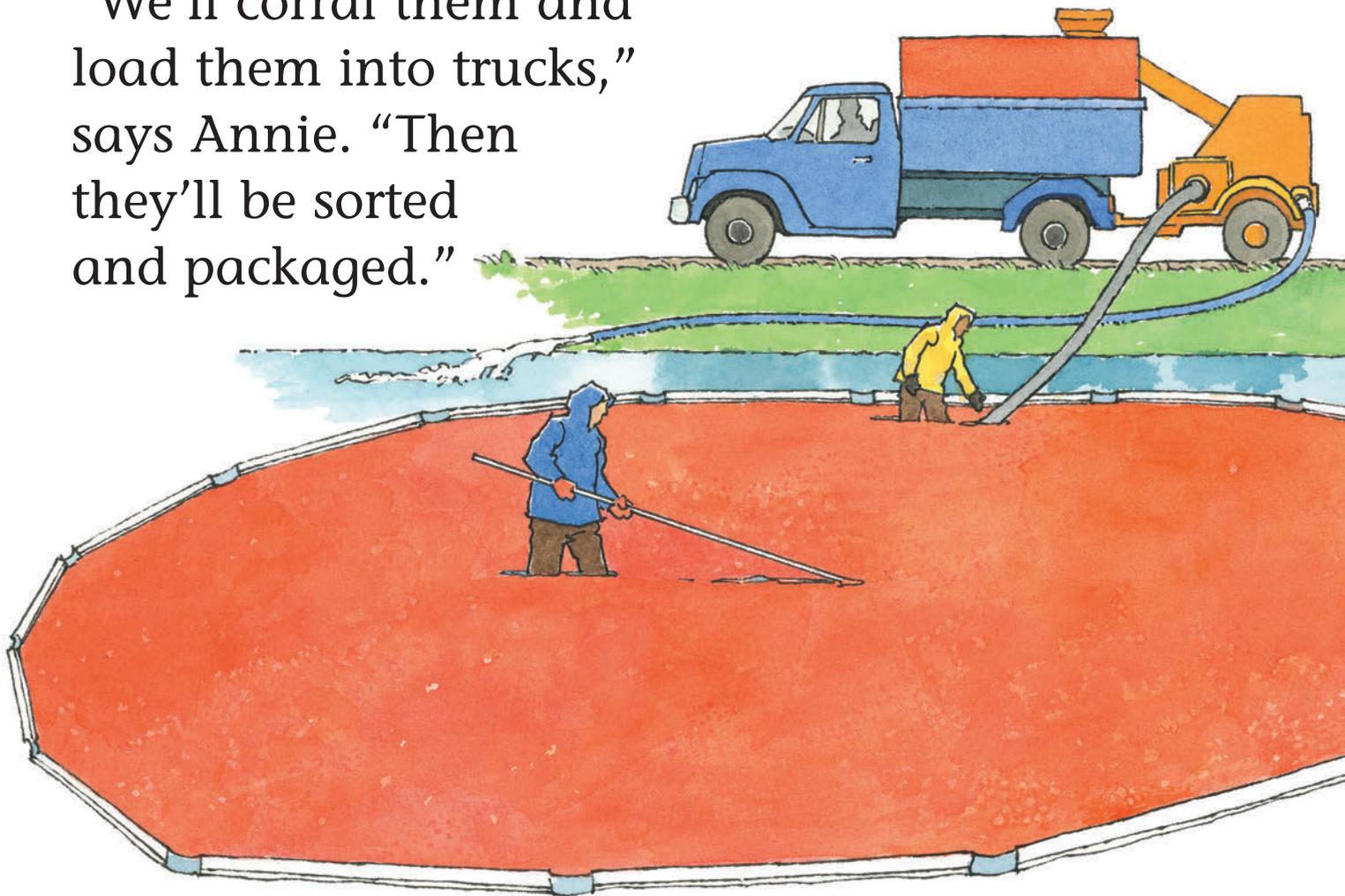
“There must be a million zillion cranberries. How do you pick them all?”



“Look behind you,” says Annie.  
“Yesterday we flooded that part  
of the bog so all the plants are  
underwater. The machine knocks  
the berries off, and their air  
pockets make them float.”

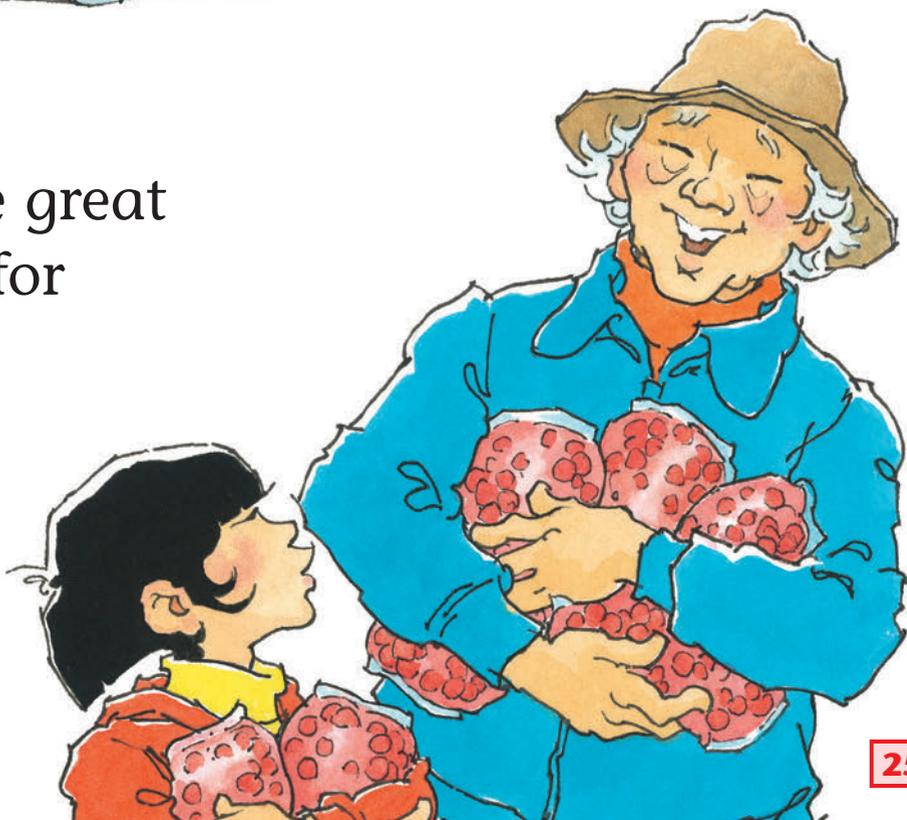


“We’ll corral them and load them into trucks,” says Annie. “Then they’ll be sorted and packaged.”



“These will make great cranberry sauce for Thanksgiving,” says Grandpa.

“Make sure you put in lots of sugar,” says Yo.



# Ant Farms

art by Paula Becker



art © 2015 by Paula Becker

More than 200 different kinds of ants grow their own food. What do they grow? **Fungi.**



People eat fungi too. Mushrooms are fungi, and so are the yeasts that make bread rise. But the fungi that most ants eat look like clumps of tangled white threads.

These ants cut pieces of leaves and carry them to their giant underground nest. They chew the leaves to make a spongy mix that the fungi grow on. Like human farmers, the ants fertilize their crops and protect them from pests.



Ants farm animals too. Just as people keep cows for their milk, ant farmers raise little insects called aphids for the sweet juice they make.



To make the juice, called honeydew, aphids need to eat fresh plants. Ant farmers help by herding their aphids to good feeding spots and chasing away ladybugs that would eat the aphids.



I think I'd rather eat ice cream.

To milk the aphids, the ants tickle them with their antennae. That makes the aphid squirt a drop of honeydew from its backside.

**Yum!**

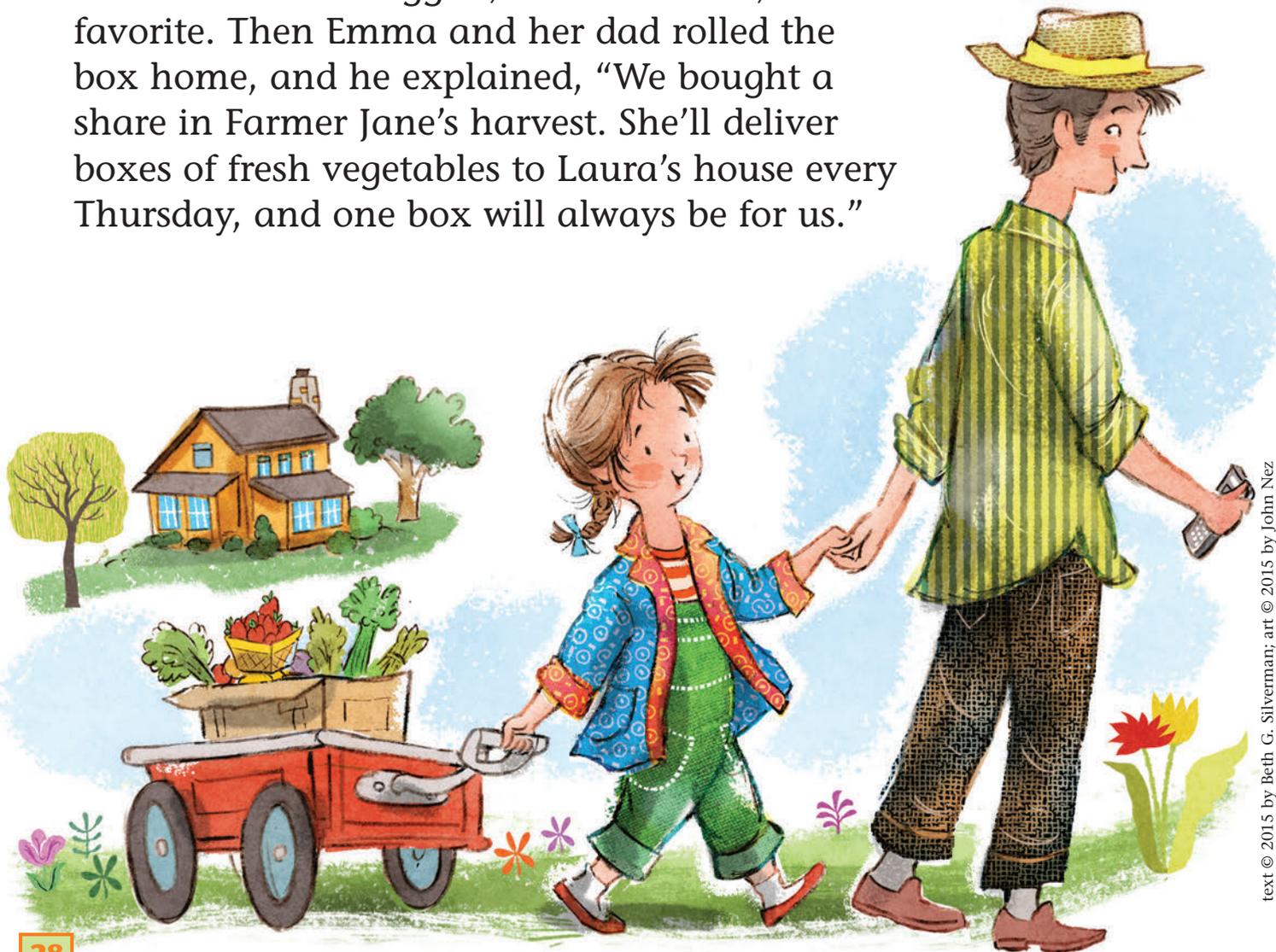


Emma loved Thursdays. That's when she and her dad pulled her wagon to her friend Laura's house. The first time they went, Emma thought it was to play with Laura. But Laura wasn't home, only her mom—and six big boxes sitting on the kitchen floor. "Choose one," said Laura's mom.

Emma looked inside the boxes. They were all filled to the brim with colorful vegetables, and—yum!—each held a little basket of ripe strawberries. Emma picked the box with the biggest, reddest berries, her favorite. Then Emma and her dad rolled the box home, and he explained, "We bought a share in Farmer Jane's harvest. She'll deliver boxes of fresh vegetables to Laura's house every Thursday, and one box will always be for us."

# Fresh from the Farm

by Buffy Silverman  
art by John Nez



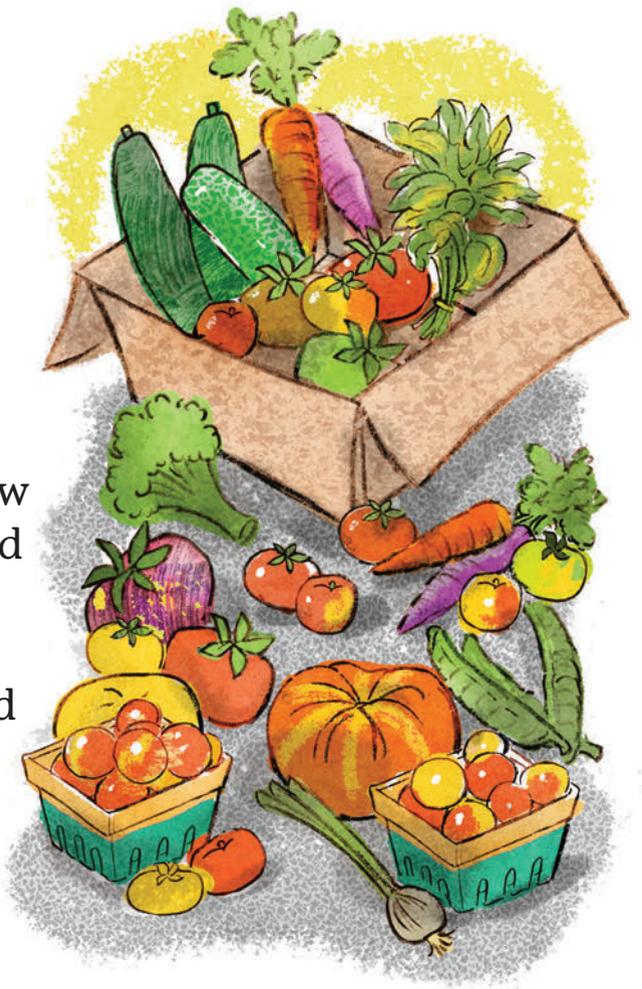
Each week Farmer Jane filled the boxes with whatever food was ready to pick at the farm. In June Emma munched on crunchy pods of sugar snap peas. She washed red and green heads of lettuce and tore the leaves up for salad. And she snacked on sweet, juicy strawberries whenever she had the chance.



Strawberry season was over too soon for Emma, but she loved the big bags of green beans that Farmer Jane packed in July. “Can I eat some green beans raw?” she asked her mom. Mom gave Emma and her little brother Derek a plate of beans. Derek stuck two beans under his lips and pretended to be a walrus. Emma laughed. One week she looked in the box and found a bunch of carrots with leaves on the top. “Look,” she said. “Some of the carrots are purple!”



In August Emma was excited to see tomatoes in the box. There were red ones, orange ones, yellow ones, purple ones, and even striped ones. Some were the size of grapefruits! “I like the tiny, red tomatoes best,” said Emma, and she popped one in her mouth. Farmer Jane had also packed long, skinny green zucchini and yellow summer squashes. Emma’s mom sliced and cooked them in a big pan with herbs from the box. She served them on top of spaghetti. Yum! Emma loved spaghetti with vegetable sauce.



Sometimes the farm box had vegetables that Emma had never tasted before. Would she like beets, Swiss chard, bok choy, or kale? Bravely, Emma took a tiny bite of a dark green kale leaf. “Yuck!” she said. “Kale is bitter.” But then Emma and Dad tore the leaves into pieces and baked crunchy kale chips. “They taste like potato chips!” Emma said, and she gobbled them up.

Every family that had bought a share in the farm's harvest took a turn helping Farmer Jane. All summer Emma asked when it would be her family's turn to help. The big day finally came in September.

At the farm Emma saw a tall boy wearing a cap. "Do you know Farmer Jane?" she asked. "We're here to help her."

The boy smiled. "I'm Luke, Farmer Jane's son. Follow me and I'll show you what we're going to harvest today."

Emma turned to her little brother. "That means picking the vegetables," she explained.



“That’s right,” said Dad. “Sometimes you need special tools to pick vegetables.” He carried a garden fork that Luke had given him.

Emma ran to Farmer Jane when she saw her in the field. “What are we going to harvest?” she asked.

Farmer Jane smiled. She had a fork in her hand like the one Dad carried. “We’re picking potatoes!”

Where were the potatoes? All Emma saw were pale, floppy plants. Then Luke showed them what to do. The potatoes were underground!

Dad dug carefully in the soil the way Luke had shown him. He lifted a plant. Round, brown potatoes hung from the roots, covered in dirt.

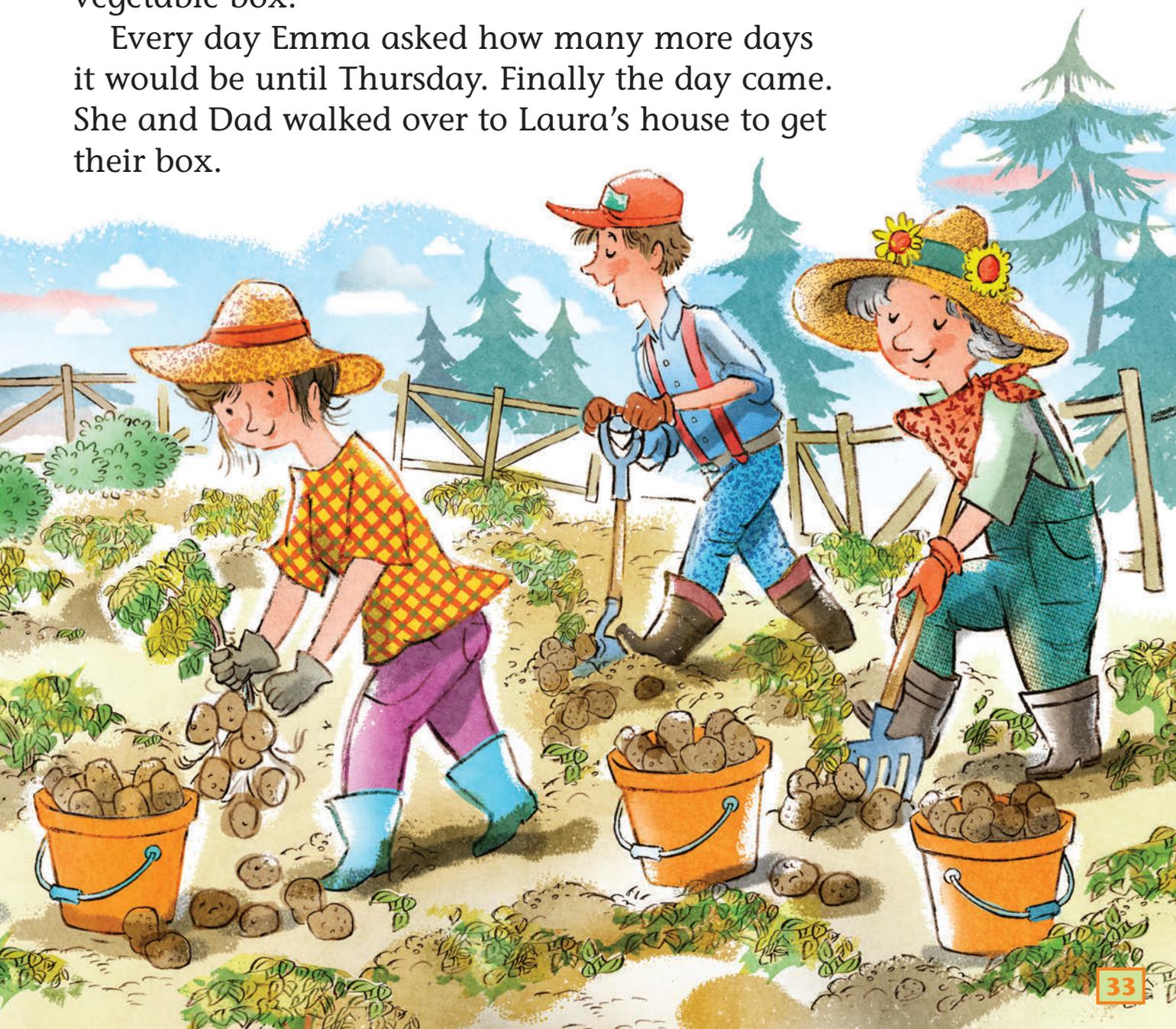


Emma and Derek felt in the soil and found more potatoes. It was like finding buried treasure! They put the potatoes in buckets. That afternoon they helped fill many buckets of potatoes.

“Can we bring a bucket of potatoes home?” asked Emma.

“The potatoes need to dry first,” said Farmer Jane. “Then we’ll brush off the dirt. But on Thursday you might find some potatoes in your vegetable box.”

Every day Emma asked how many more days it would be until Thursday. Finally the day came. She and Dad walked over to Laura’s house to get their box.



Six boxes stood on the counter. And one of them had her name on it! “Farmer Jane said this was your special box,” said Laura’s mom.

When Emma and her dad got home, they unpacked the vegetable box. Emma took out tomatoes, cucumbers, radishes, and zucchini. There were winter squashes and bags of lettuce.

At the bottom of the box was a special treasure—Emma’s potatoes! She found a note from Farmer Jane too. It said, **Thank you for helping harvest potatoes.** She and Dad washed some potatoes for dinner. Emma could hardly wait to eat them.



Do you have a little bookworm  
who loves storytime?

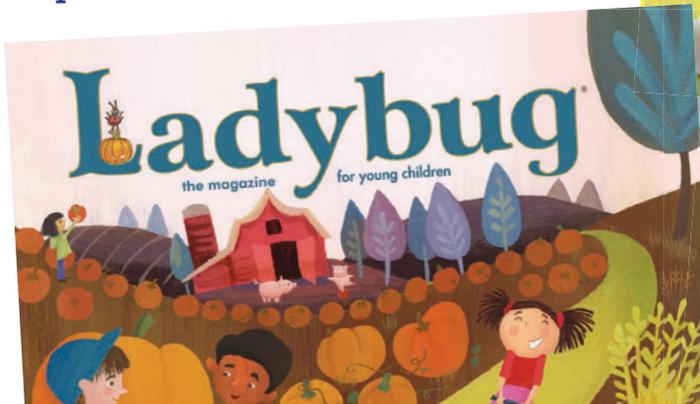
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Ezra W., age 4  
Chicago, IL

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WOW!



Scientists have counted more than 300 different kinds of corn, but most types fall into a few main groups.

You've probably seen sweet corn. It's the kind we eat fresh, straight from the cob, or frozen or canned.



**yellow**

**white**

**bicolor**

But have you ever seen these?

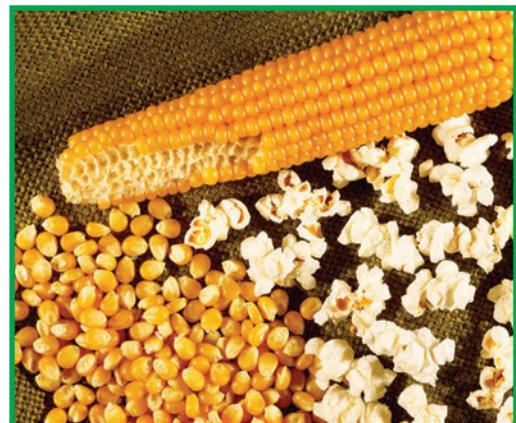


Dent corn gets its name from the little dent on the top of each kernel. It's mostly used as animal feed.



Flint corn, sometimes called Indian corn, comes in lots of different colors.

Popcorn is a kind of flint corn whose kernels explode when they get heated.





# Maize Maze

art by Susan Todd

The yummy yellow vegetable we call corn in the United States is known as maize in most parts of the world. Cornstalks grow as tall as walls, so some farmers grow fields of the plants just so they can cut mazes through them for visitors to walk through. Can you find your way through this maize maze?

art © 2015 by Susan Todd



# BEATRICE BLACK BEAR

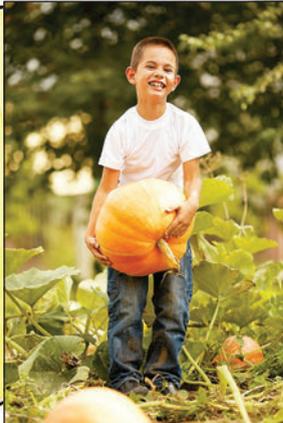
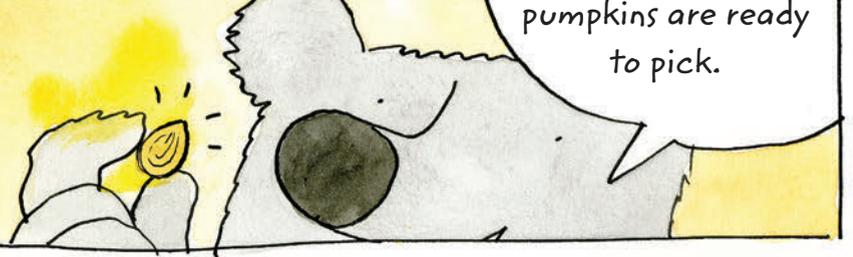
The World's Greatest  
Pumpkin Photographer

By John Grandits  
Illustrated by Brian Floca

I love Halloween. I like the costumes, the trick-or-treating, and the parties. But most of all I like the pumpkins!



Pumpkins are big vegetables that grow in fields. Farmers plant the seeds in late spring. By October, the pumpkins are ready to pick.



My friend Kyle and I went to a pumpkin farm. We each picked our favorite pumpkin.

He carved his into this awesome jack-o'-lantern.



I wonder what I should do with mine?

