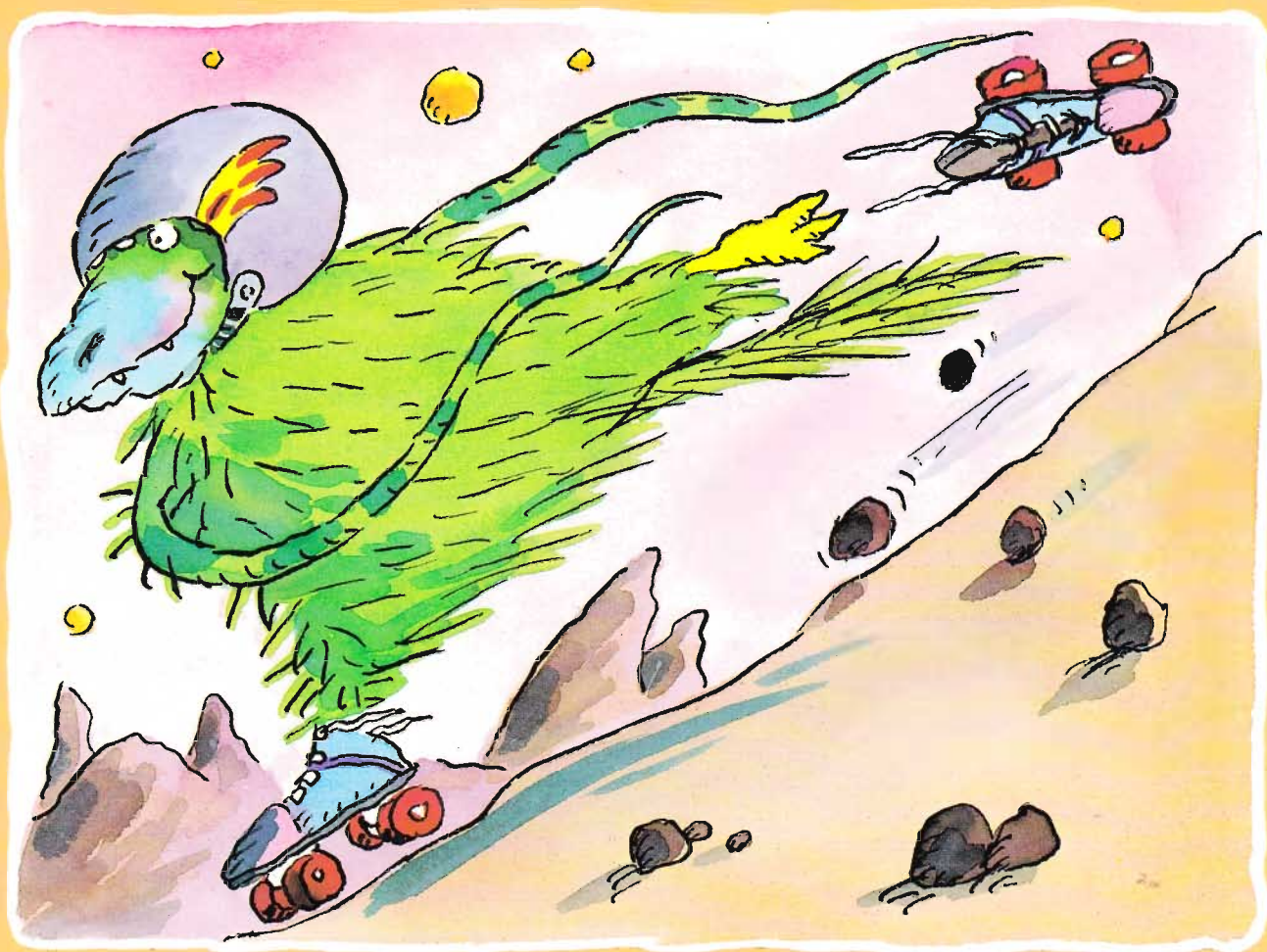


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EARTH MOBILES



as explained by
Professor Xargle

BY JEANNE WILLIS

ILLUSTRATED BY TONY ROSS

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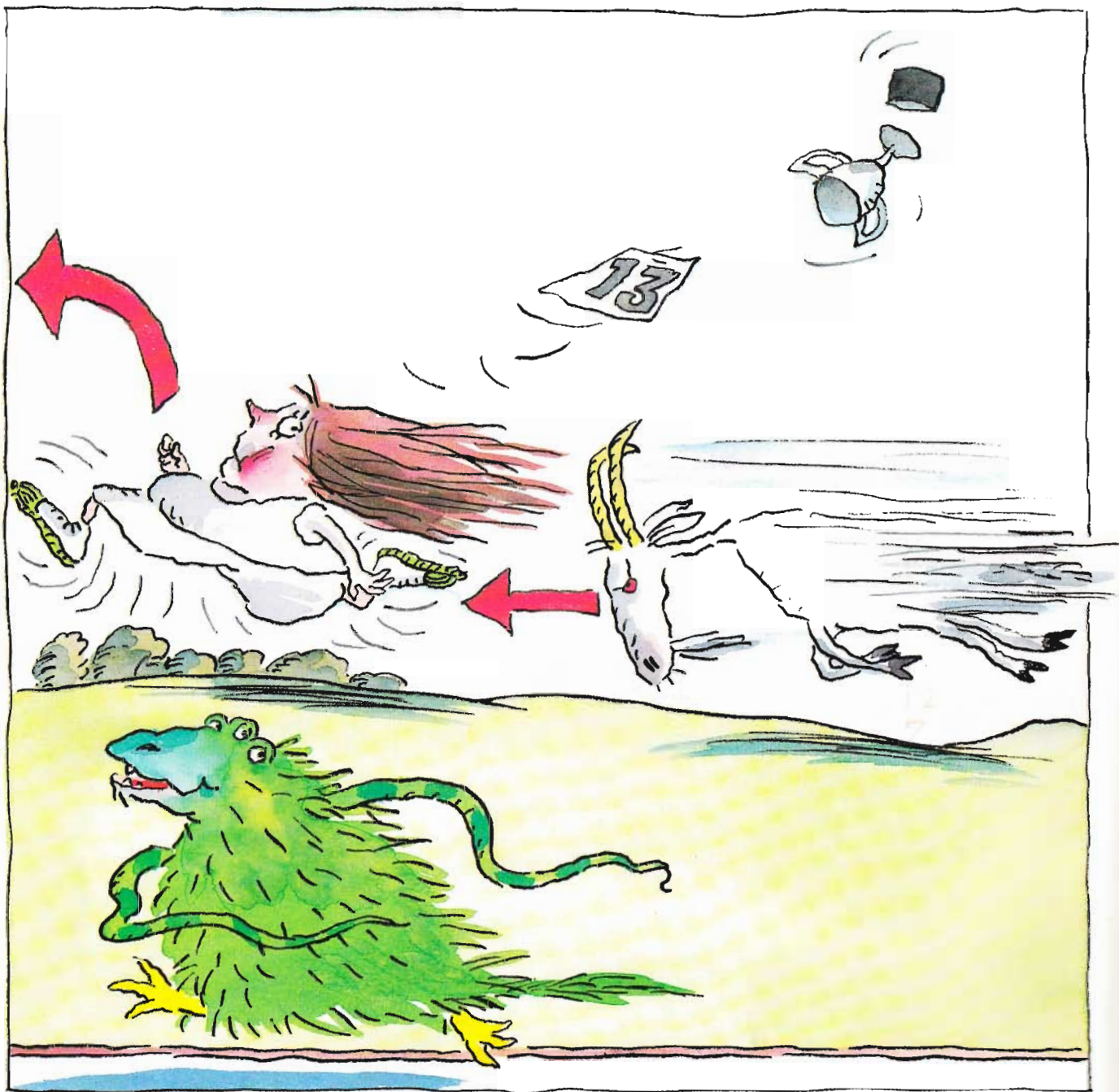
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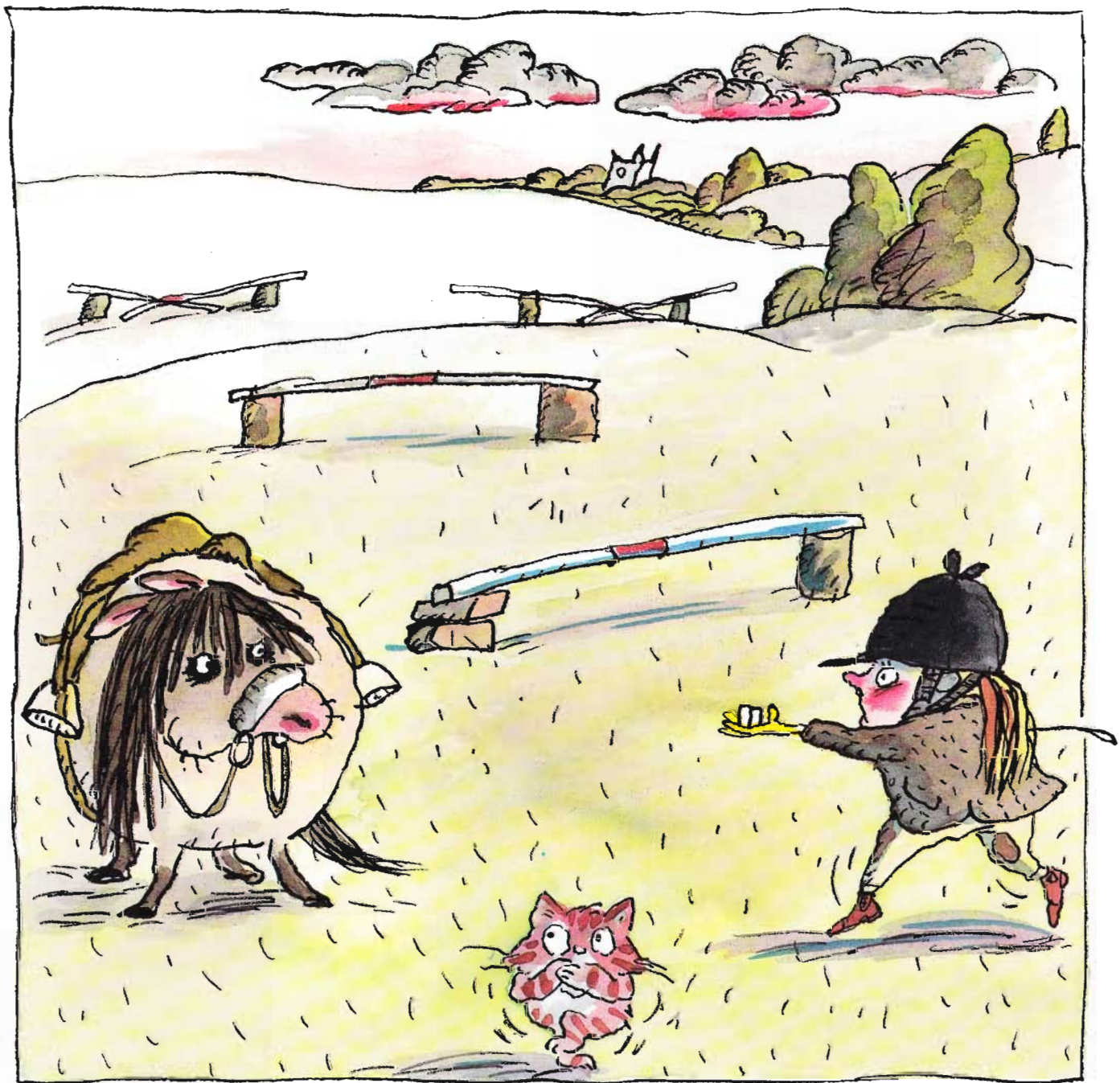
Good morning, class. Today we are going to learn how Earthlings travel. Notice my tentacle protector puffs. Earthlings wear these when they want to slide quickly across the ground.



To travel in an upright position, Earthlings swish their bottom tentacles back and forth. When they are in their undergarments, Earthlings can reach a top speed of one mile in three minutes.



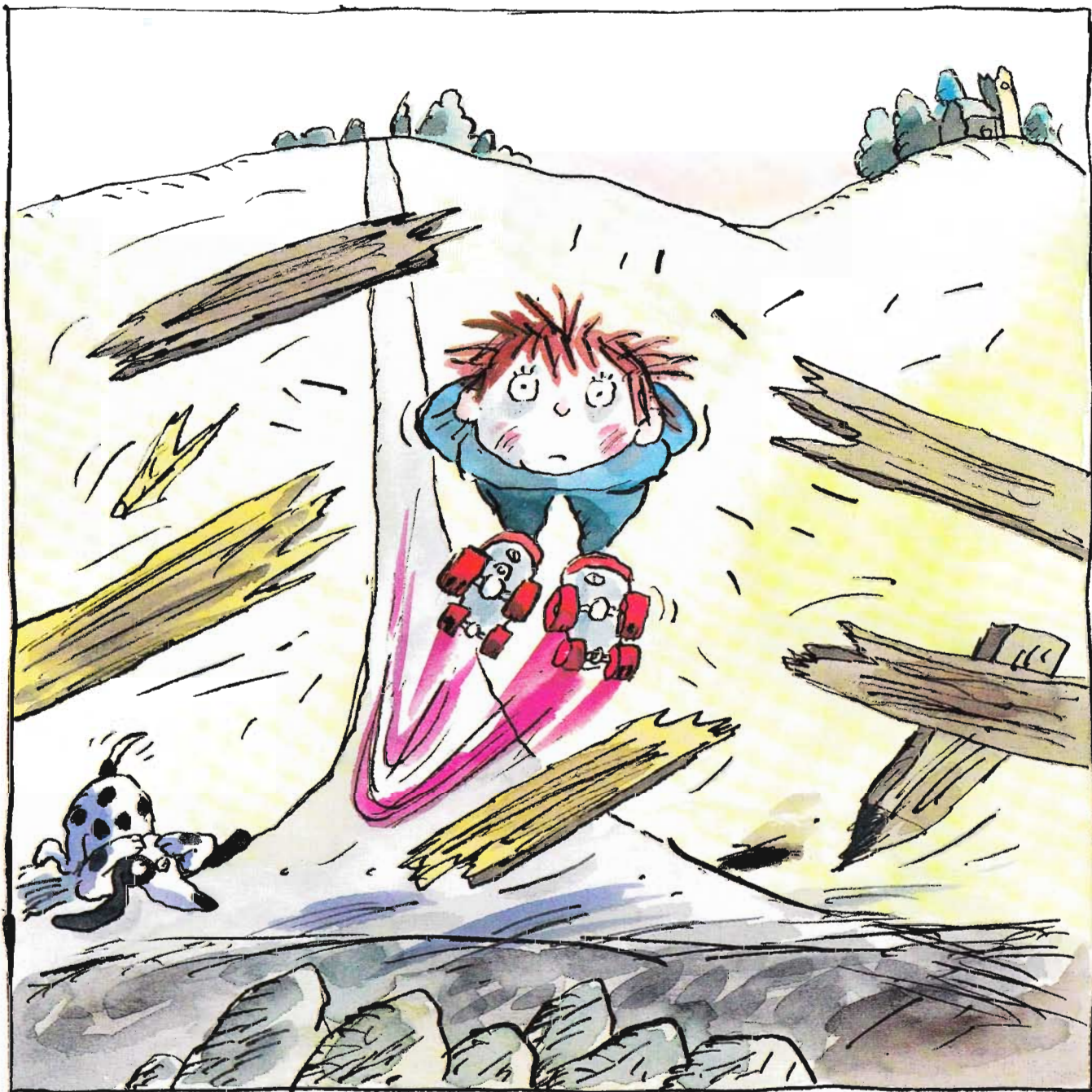
The oldest form of transport on Earth is the Bucking Bronco.



To catch a Bronco, put squares of sugar in your hand.
Creep toward the Bronco until you can grab its hairdo; then
kick your hind legs into the air and jump on its back.



Now watch as the Bronco imitates you.



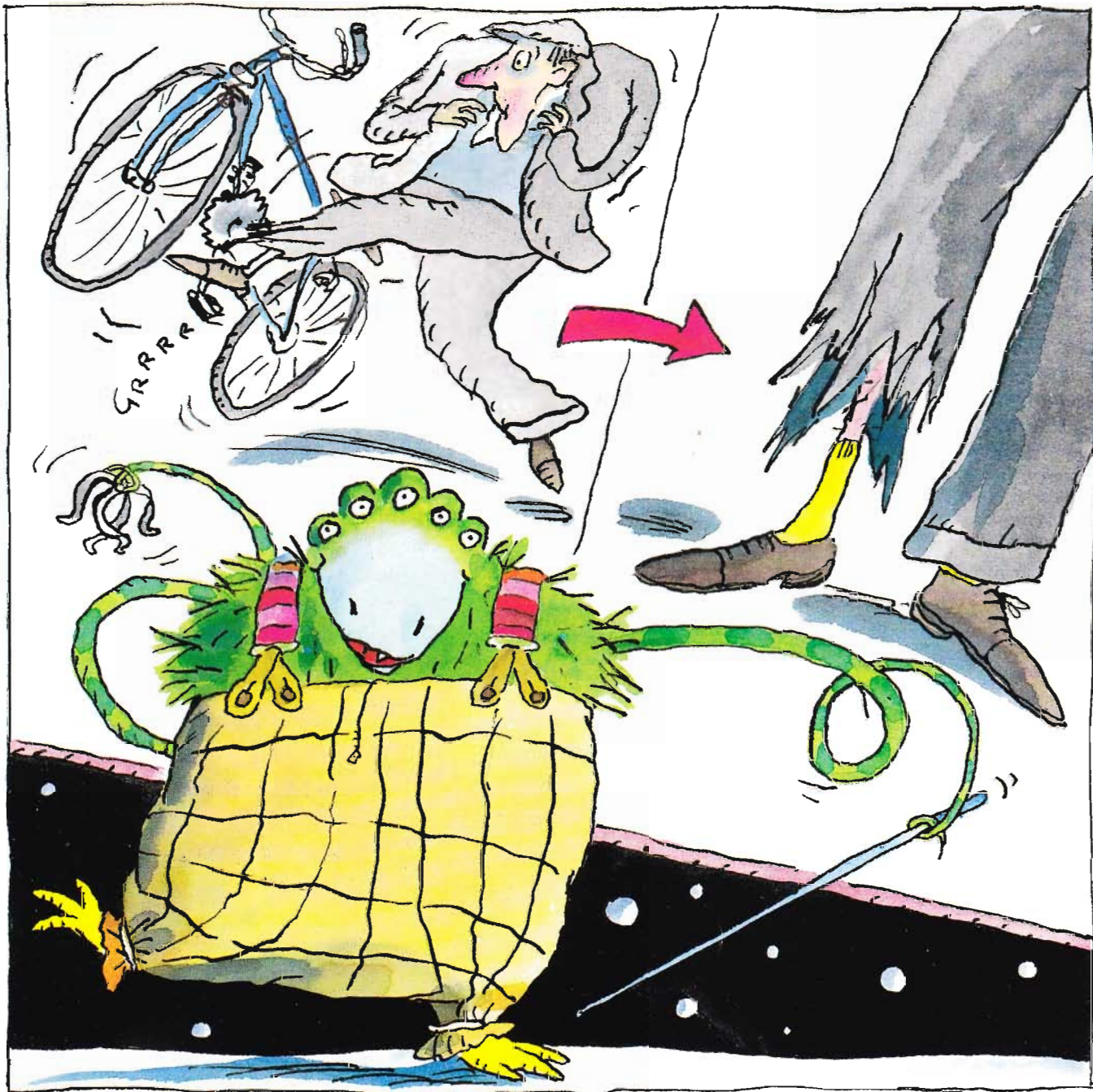
This Earthlet has attached wheels to his footwear. He travels many miles per hour on a steep slope without stopping.



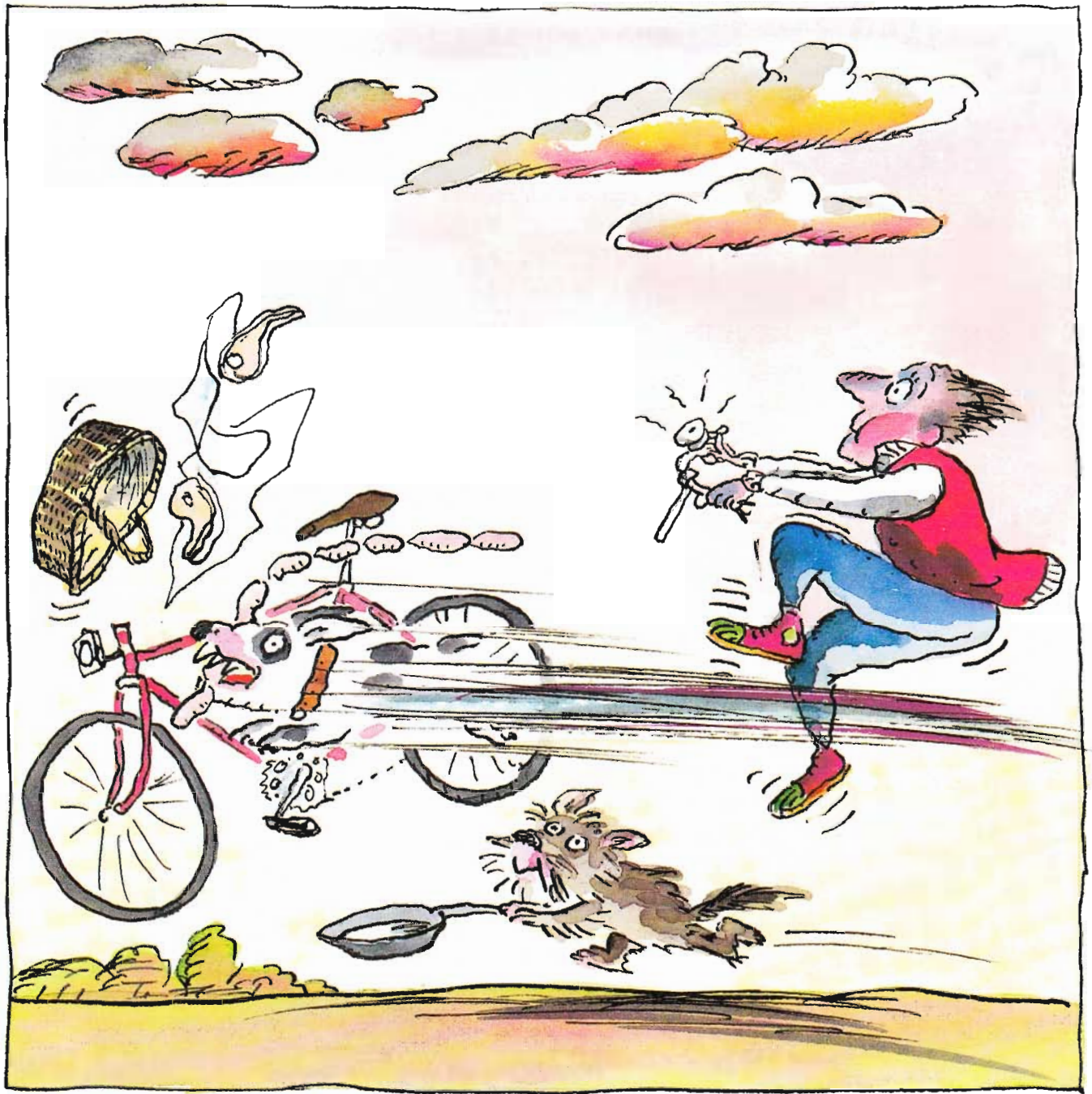
Here he is again, going down another type of slope.



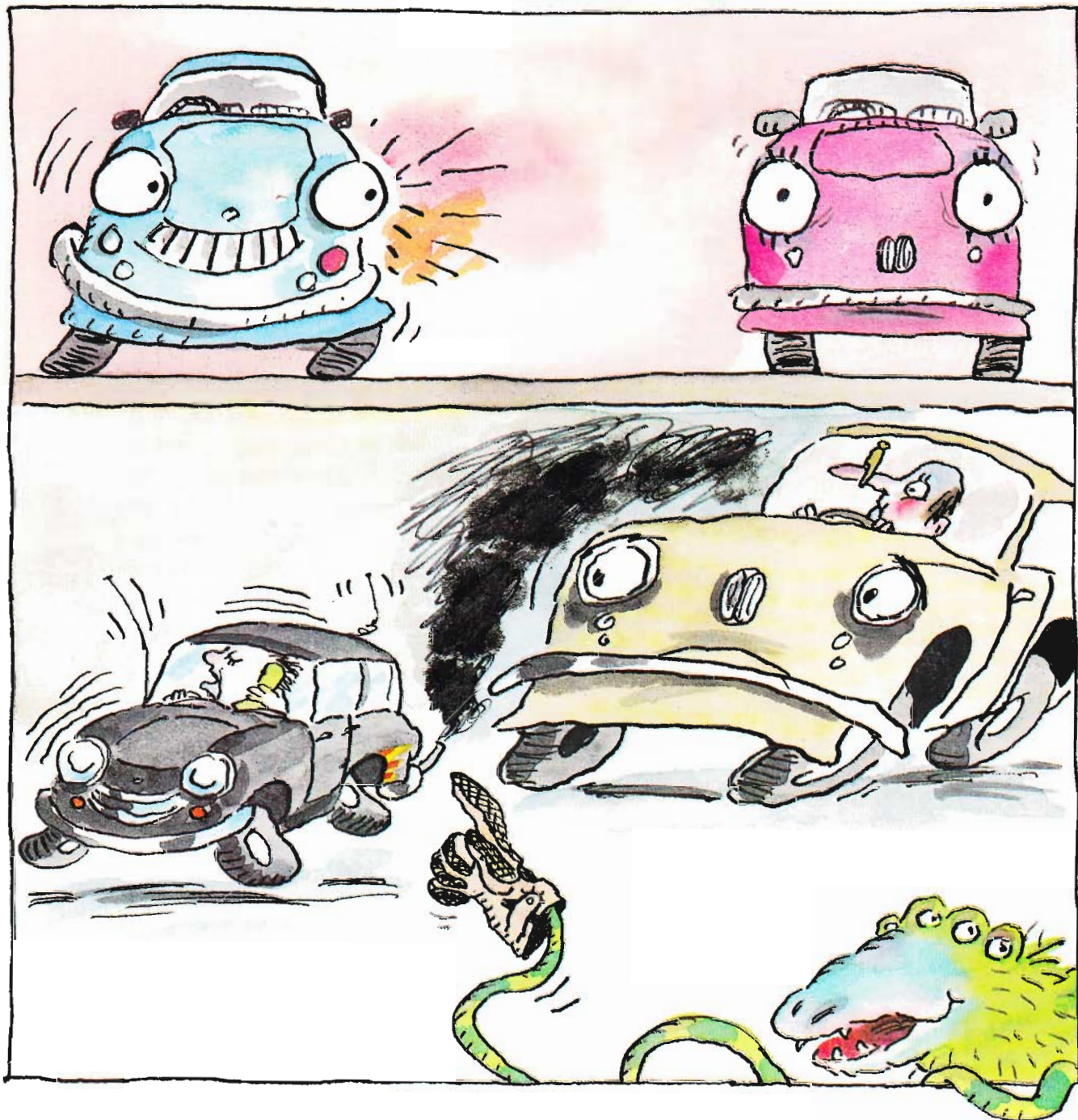
The two-wheeled spin mobile is a popular means of transportation. To operate one, balance yourself on the seat, grip the front prongs with your tentacles, and quickly bounce up and down.



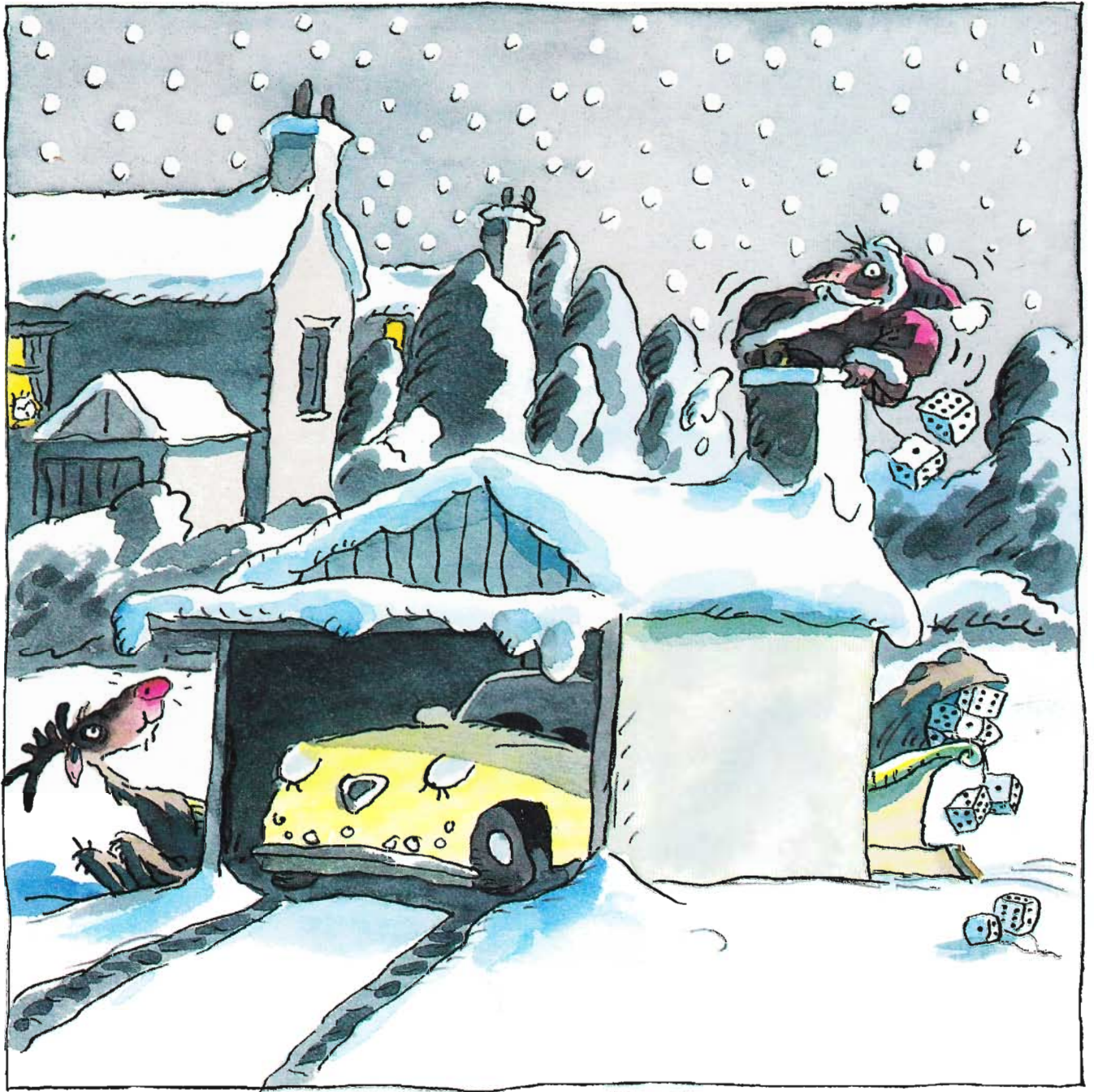
If you do not wear a metal collar around your leg, the spin mobile may mistake your pants for a tasty snack.



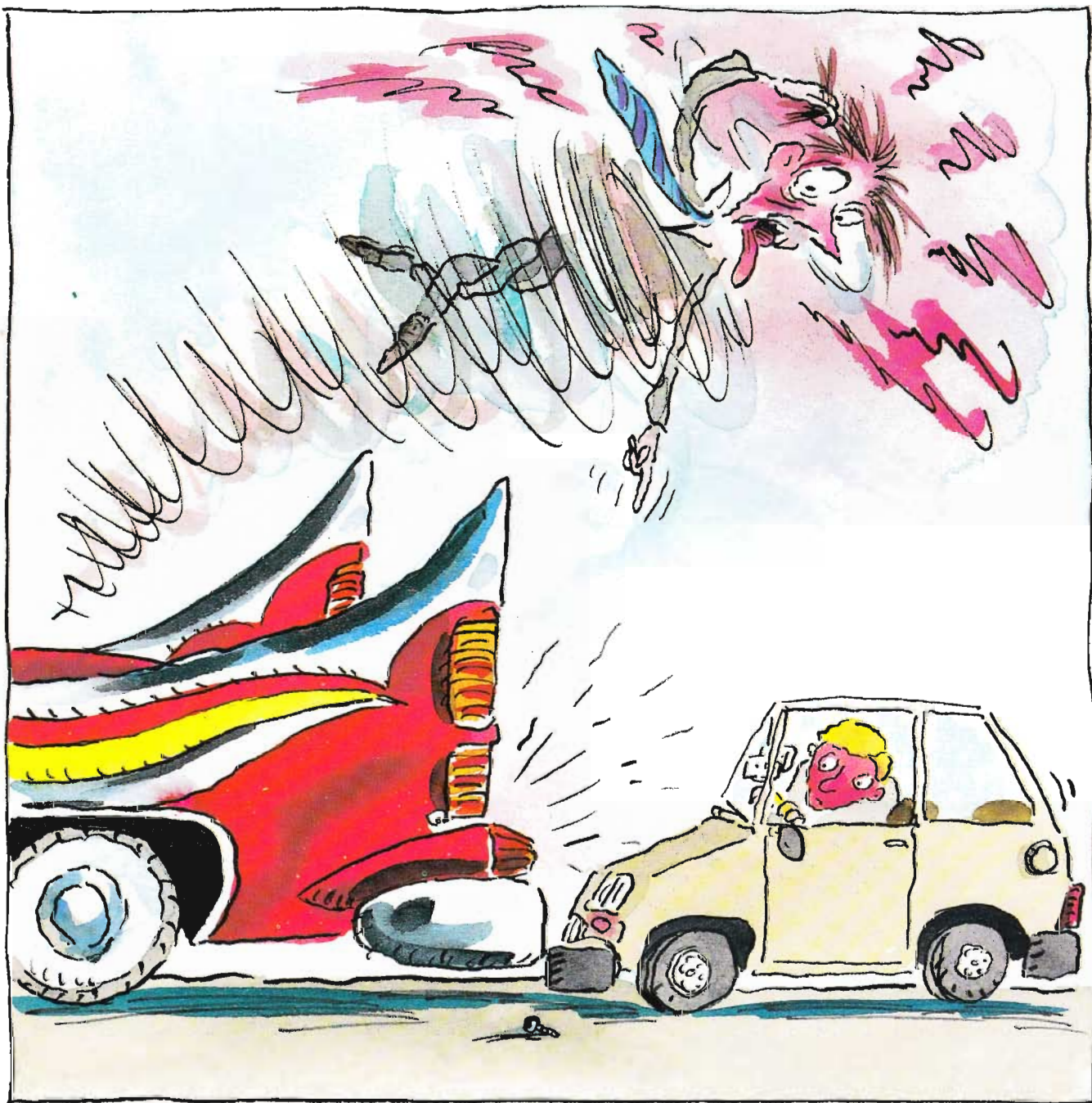
Earth Hounds can run as fast as a spin mobile with piglinks on it. If an Earth Hound approaches, press the ting-a-ling and prepare to eject. Leave the piglinks behind.



A stinkfumer has many eyes. It winks at its friends with these. It also has a tail, which sends out the stinkfumes.



Every Sunday, the Earthling rubs the stinkfumer until it shines. He lies underneath it and tickles its tummy with a metal fork. Inside, sometimes he hangs fuzzy cubes with dots on them.



If two stinkfumers hit each other, one Earthling must jump out. Then he must call the other Earthling a son of a baboon and insist that he buy a pair of glasses.



To travel on water, the Earthlet ties a bed coverlet to a stick with a piece of string. Then she attaches the stick to the bottom of a large wooden bowl and jumps in.



When the water is bouncy, the Earthlet turns green.



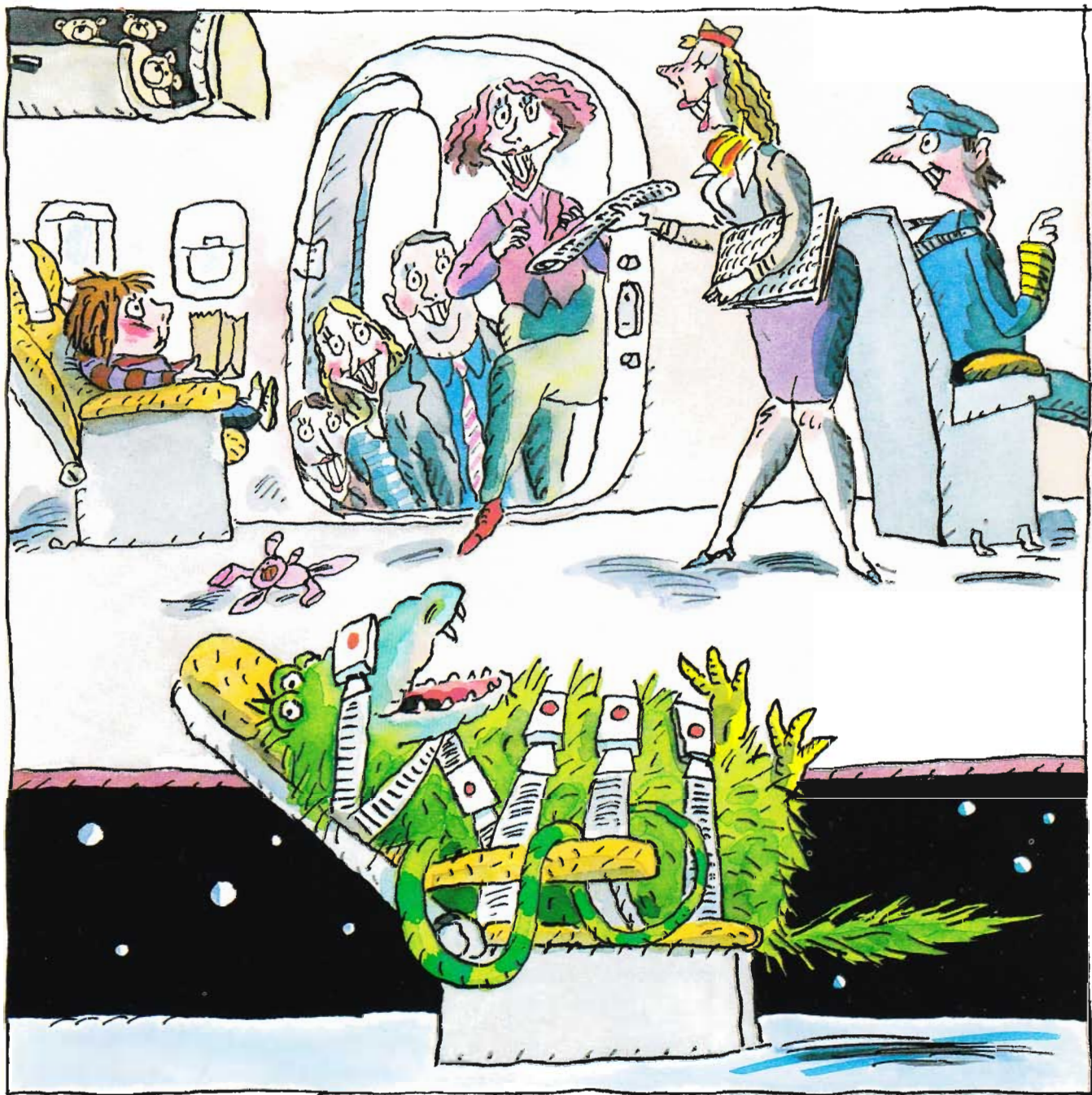
Repeat after me: "Hello, sailor!"

"Earthling overboard!"

"Yo ho ho and a glass vessel with rum!"



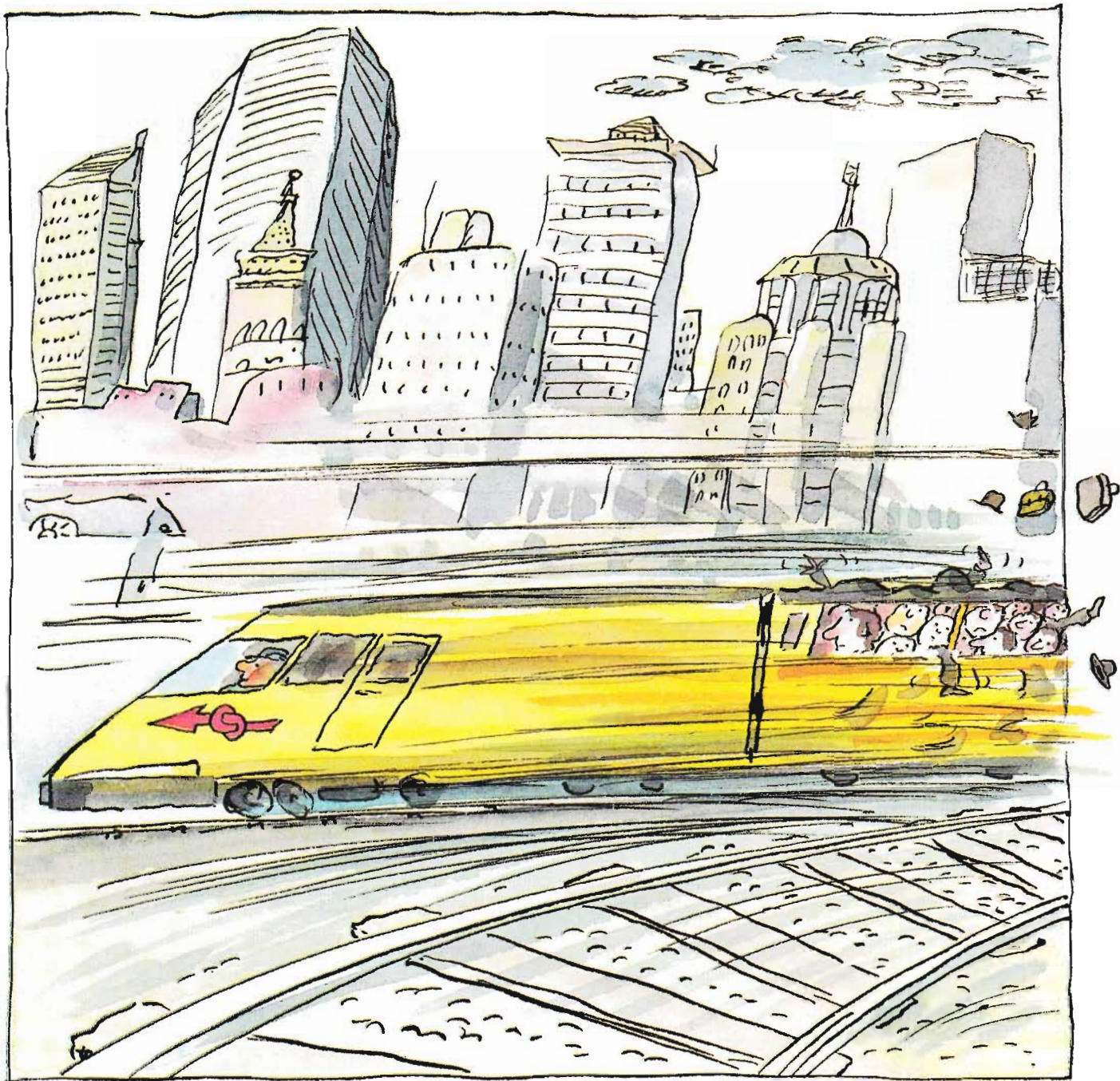
The magic silver flyingbird has a tail, a beak, and some wings but no feathers. It moves through the air but stays very close to Earth.



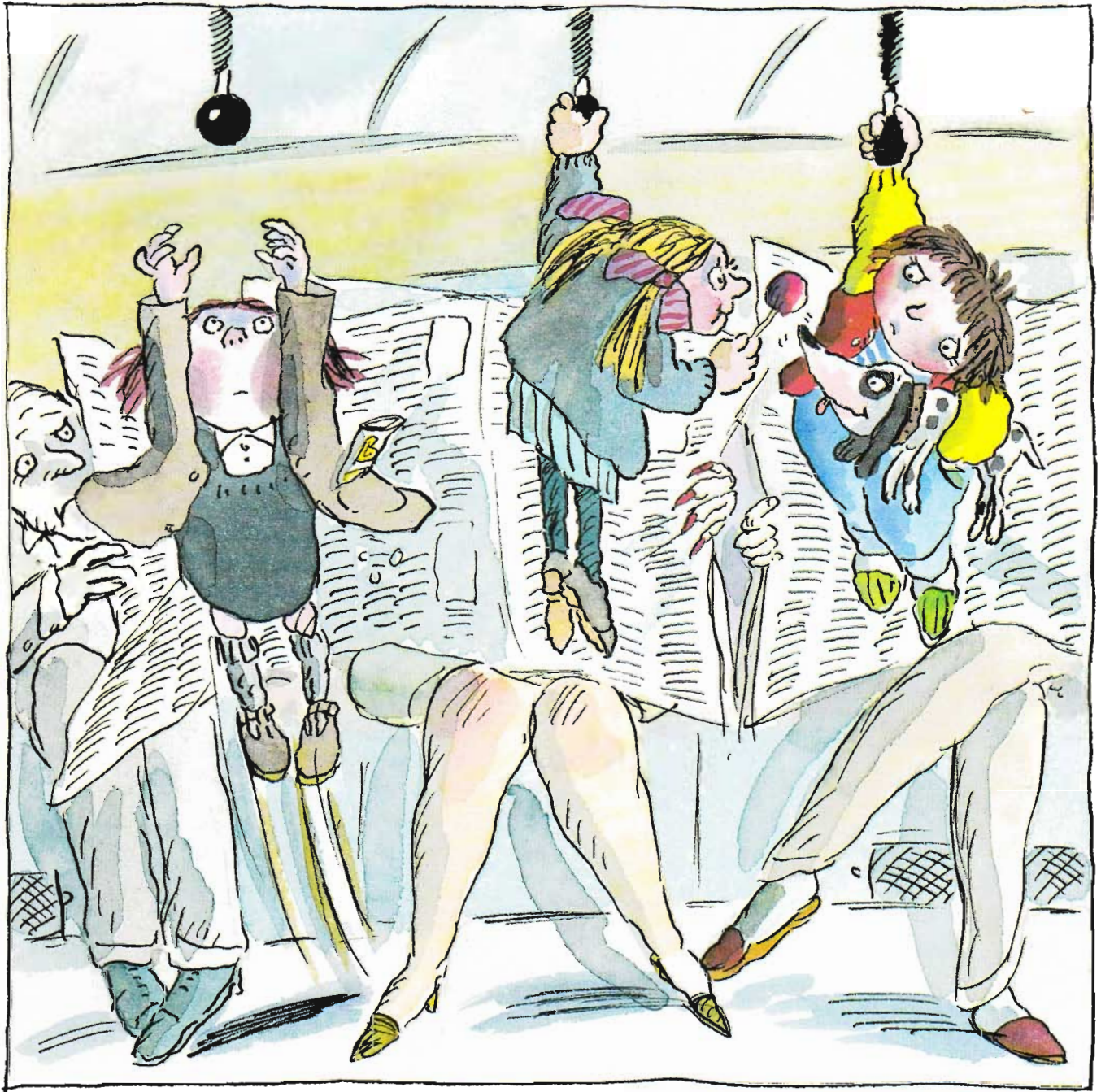
Earthlings are allowed to ride inside the silver flyingbird only if they smile at the uniformed doorkeeper. Then they are tied to chairs so they cannot climb off in the middle of the flight.



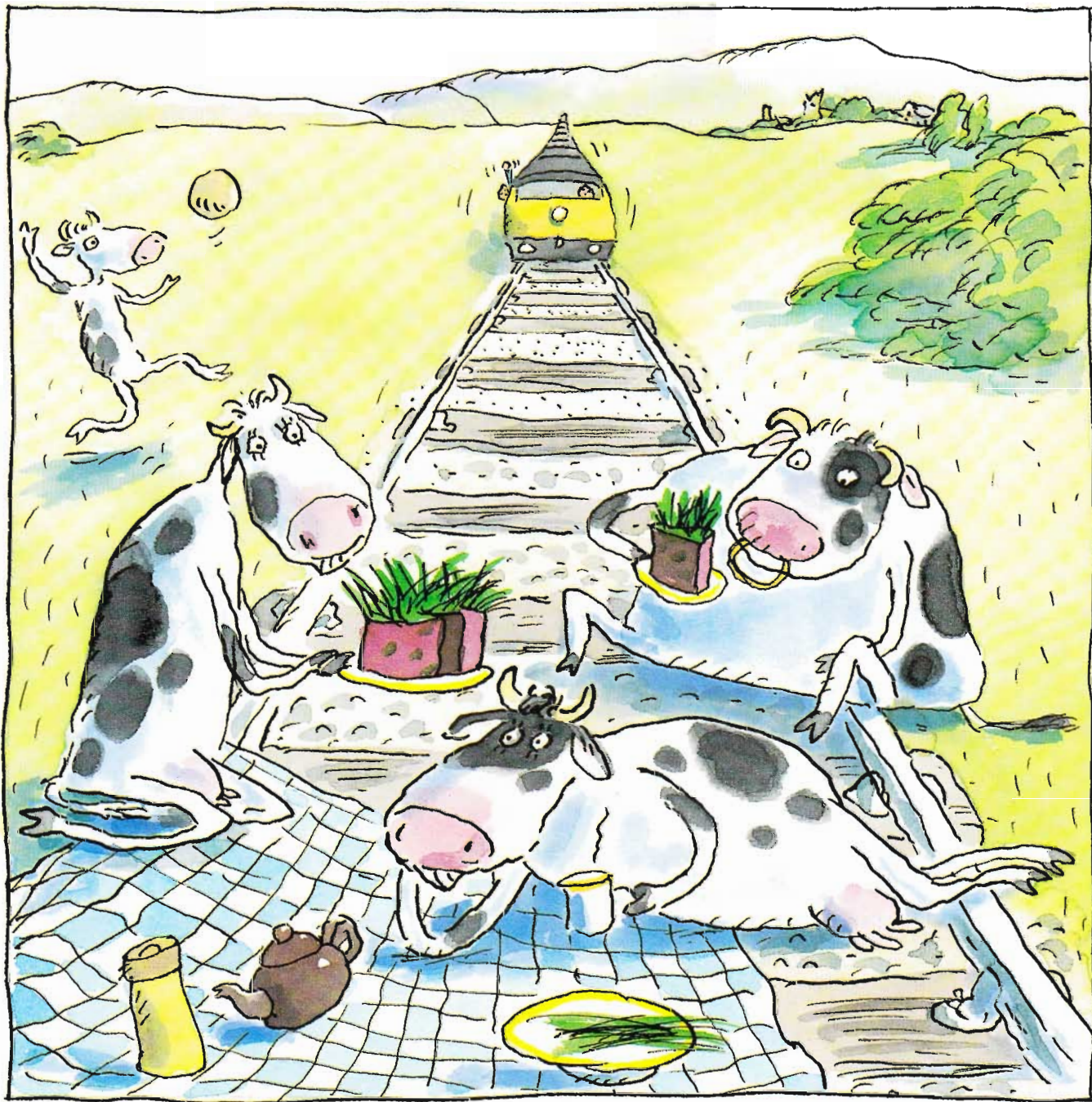
If the Earthling stops smiling, he must eat a toasted washcloth, assorted vegetable peelings, and cake with squashed flies in it. Next a cup of boiling liquid is poured into his lap.



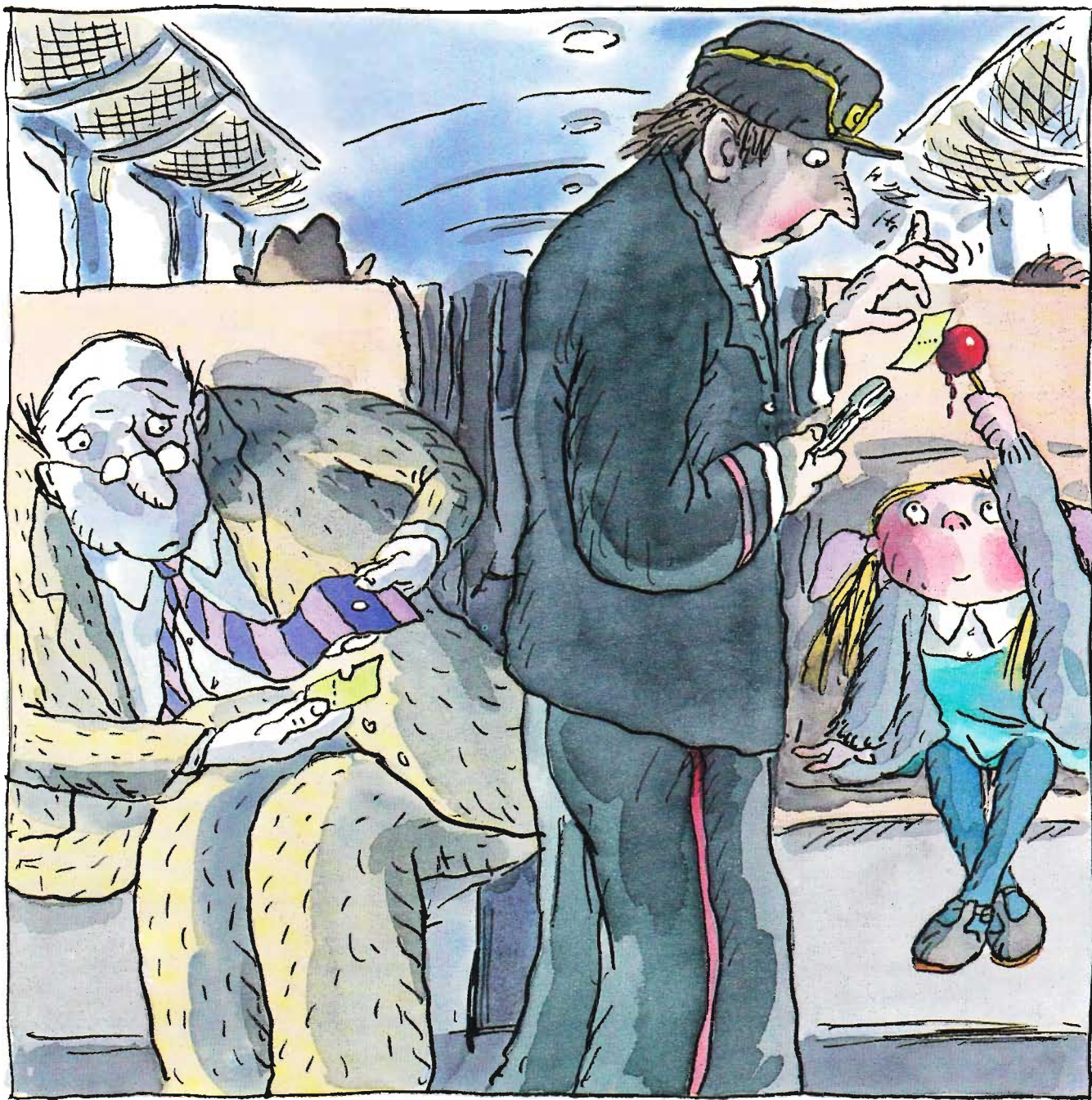
Sometimes Earthlings stuff themselves into a long metal tube that moves back and forth on a fallen ladder. The tube receives an electrical shock at one end and does not stop until the next town.



When the tube and ladder go underground, the Earthlings on the seats cover themselves with newspapers. Swings are provided on the ceiling so that Earthlets can play.



Sometimes a family of moohorns has a picnic on the ladder. Then the tube must stop. The Earthlings lean out and yell at the moohorns and at the tube driver.



On every tube, there is one Earthling who only knows how to say "Tickets, please." When the Earthlet gives him her ticket, he gets out his snipper and ruins it.



That is all for now. Put on your disguises and get into the spaceship. We are going to Earth to ride on a real tube and ladder.



I've gotten us tickets for the Nightmare Express.



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