Dekodiphukan

Bob Baratta-Lorton



DEKODIPHUKAN

Written by Bob Baratta-Lorton
Illustrated by Bob Larsen

Center for Innovation in Education
Saratoga, California

Dekodiphukan is a component of the
Baratta-Lorton Reading Program
which is available for the iPad
or as a free download from
www.center.edu

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In the mystical land / of Dekodiphukan
Lived a very old king / who was really quite grand.



But the king whose name, / by the way, was just "I"
Sat down one day / and began a long cry.

Oh, he cried and he cried; / he wouldn't be stopped,
And his tears made a flood / that couldn't be mopped.

"I'm embarrassed to say / I'm not fit to lead.
Should a person be king / who can't even read?"



"Why, king dear, you know / that by no real plan
No one can read / in Dekodiphukan.

"We've all tried to read / but can't handle the load
For in our special land / all's written in code.

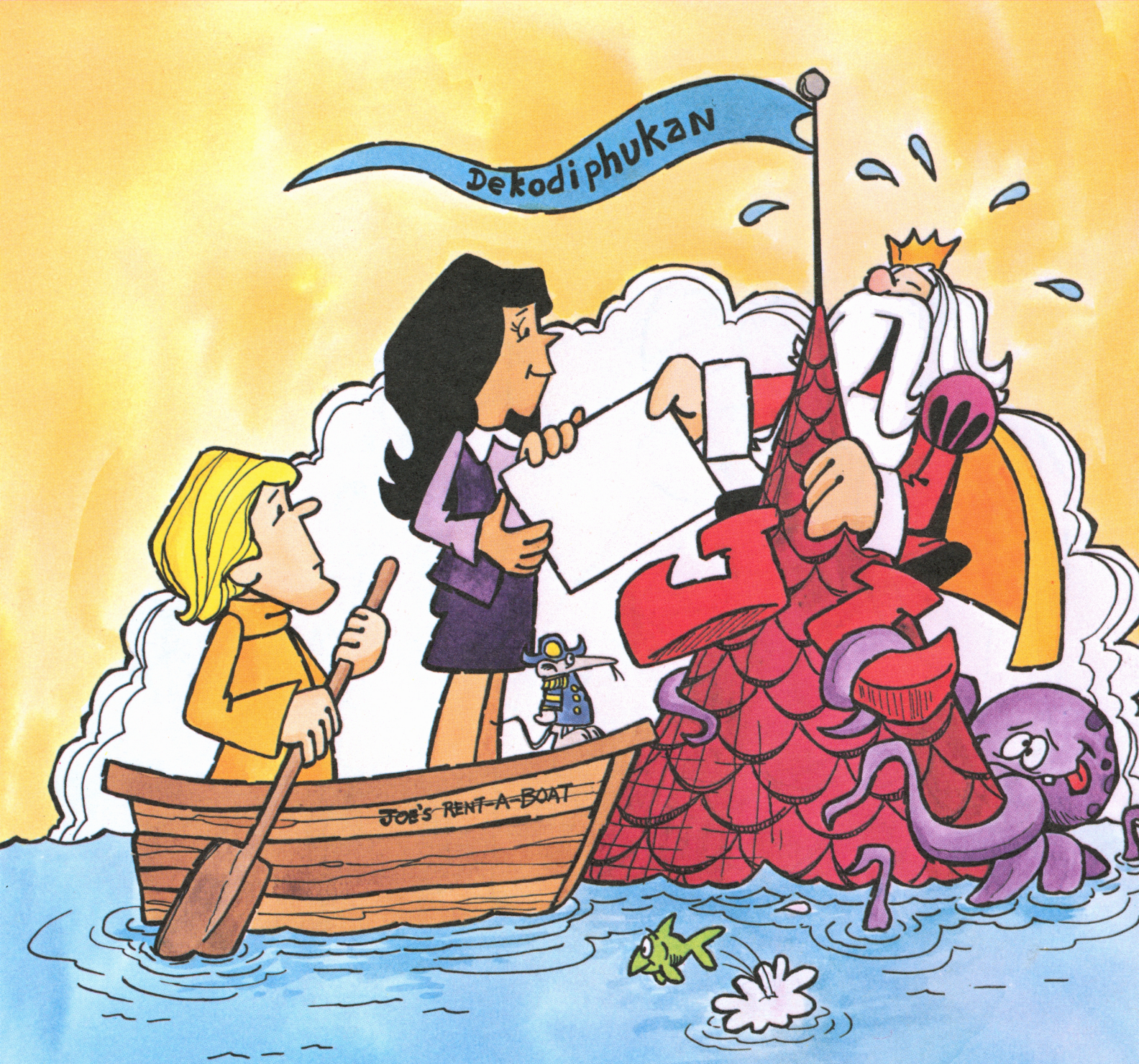
"Your father before you / changed all of our print,
Then went straight to heaven / and left us no hint.

"You've tried and you've tried / that code to reveal,
And each time you fail / the sadder you feel.

"So let's get another / who willingly tries,
And if they succeed, / we'll give them a prize.

"Since we have no children / of our very own,
The decoder could be / the next king on the throne."





It took three more weeks /'til two heroes were found
By which time the town / had all moved to high ground.

The king gave to each / a page of the code
To take along with them / wherever they rowed.



There are 44 pictures in all. / Forty-four?
Was reading from them / an impossible chore?



"Now what will we do?" / Neal knew he should ask.
And Tina replied, / "It's this page that's our task.

"What's the very first thing / we surely must do?
Why, look through the pictures / and search for a clue!

"The dog in this picture / I'm sure I did see.
As we came into town, / he was guarding a tree."





They rushed to that tree / to see the dog closer,
But the growl that he made, / made them say, "Closer? No sir!"

His growl was so fierce / they stayed where they were
While that dog bared his teeth / and kept saying .



"Hello," said a voice / from way up in the tree.
"Don't mind my dog; / he's protecting me."

"Well, tell him we're not / here to hurt you at all
And come down from that tree / you really could fall!"

"A tree's not the best place / I know to be livin',
But I ran here to hide / from a fright I was given.



"I was busily helping / my mother clean house
When out from a cupboard / there jumped a big mouse!

"I spied that big mouse / and screamed aloud, '  '
And ran from my house / and climbed this safe tree."



As he spoke, that old mouse / ran right where they were
And again he screamed  / while his pet dog growled 

 !  !  !  ! / were the sounds to be heard
And Neal looked at Tina / and said, "That's a word!"



"I think that the code / has just started breaking
For EAR is the word / in the sounds they are making.

"Two pictures together / can make a whole word
Like the  and the  / of the sounds we just heard.

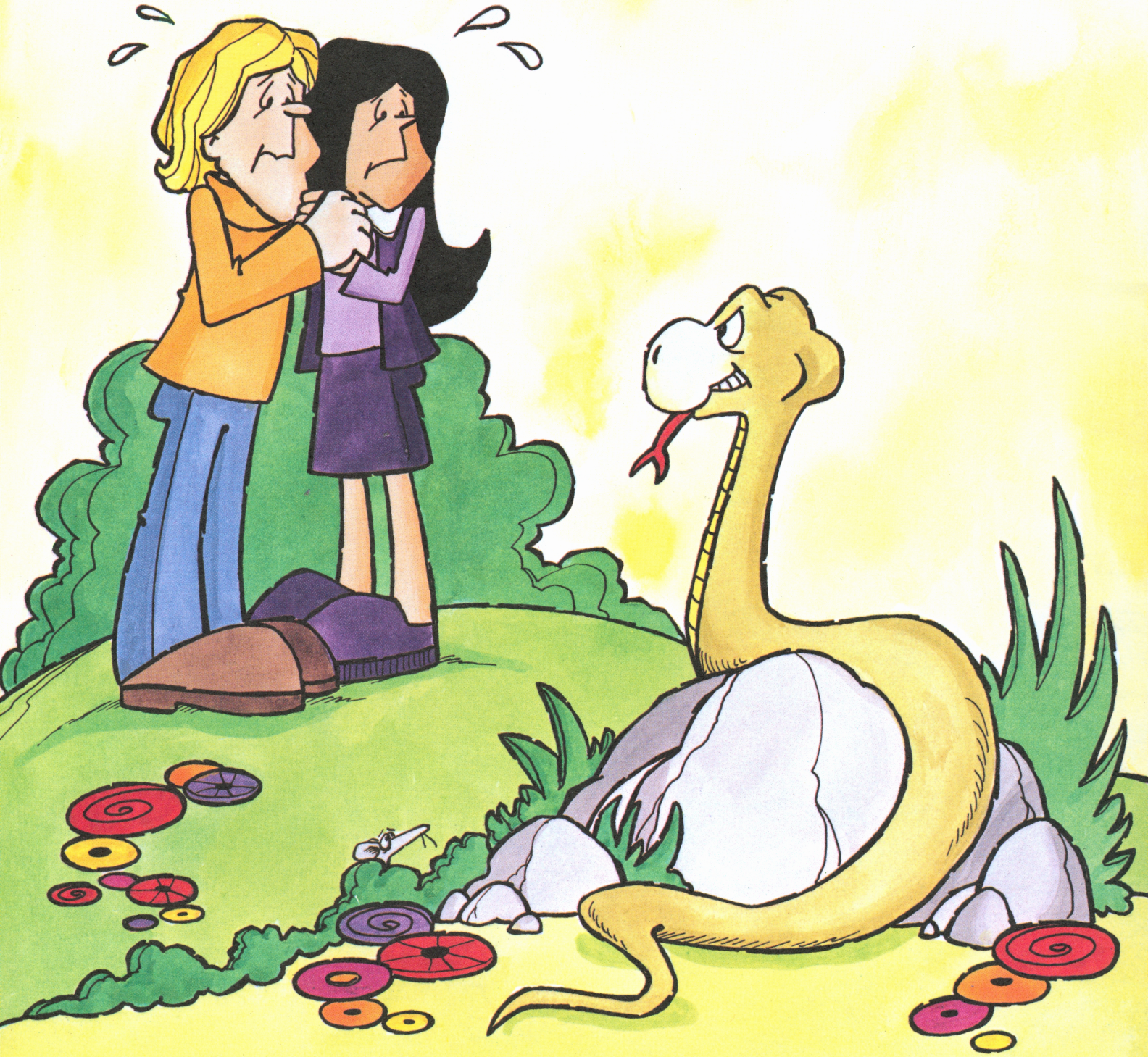
"So off to the king / we'll rush with great haste
To tell him his code / is on sounds wholly based."





The next sound they found / was right on their way.
They remembered the snake / from their journey that day.

The snake was quite big, / and he gave them a scare.
They wanted to hear him, / but which one would dare?





Tina said, "Watch me! / I'm a pretty good goer."
So she crept toward the snake / with steps that got slower.

In a minute she'd been, / come back and relayed
That she had discovered / the sound the snake made.

Tina said, "Really! / we made such a fuss
When we already knew / its sound was a  "



Now hearing a rumor / that he could be king
A pilot named Curly / had done a fine thing.

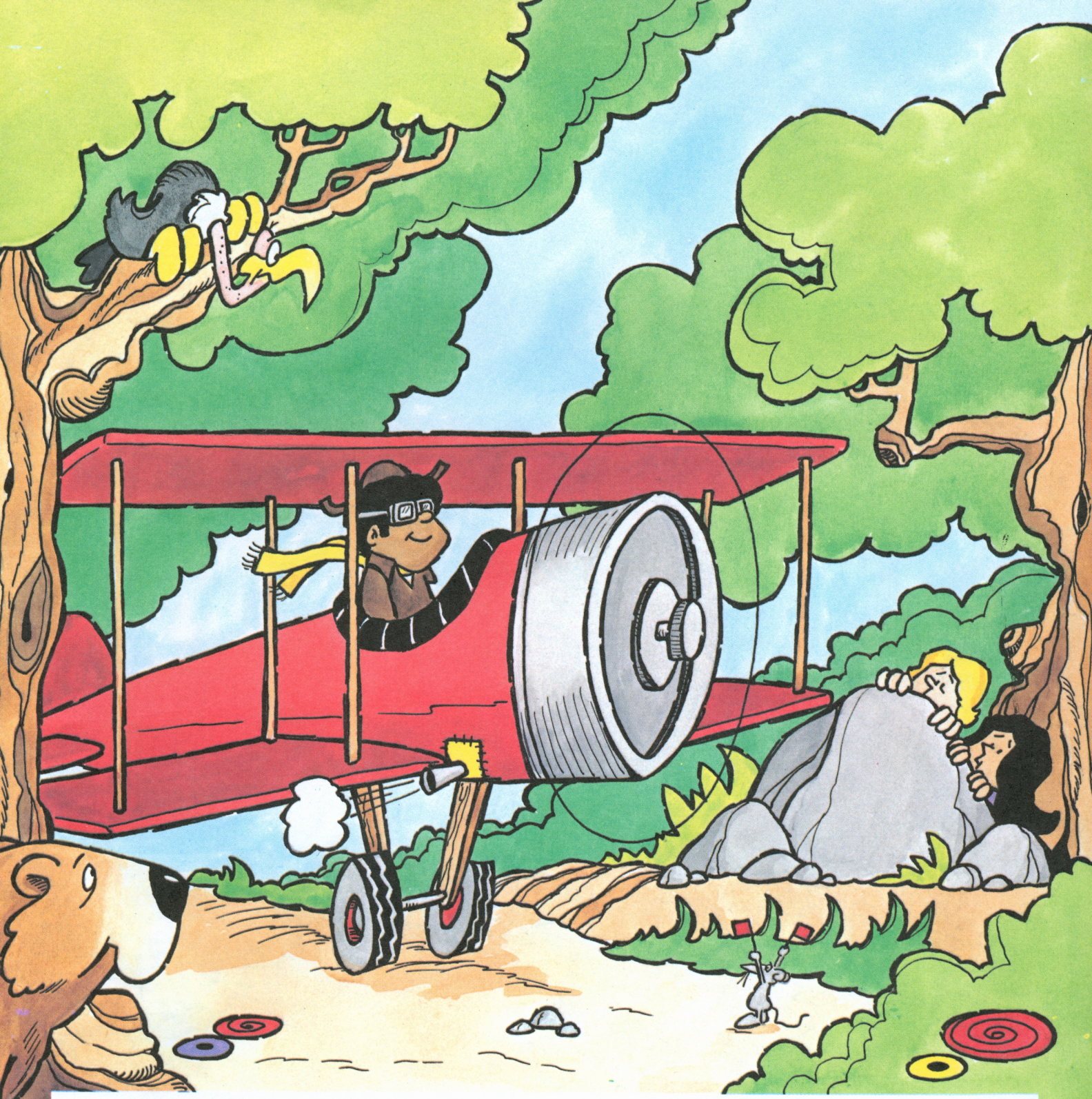
He'd flown from his home / which was quite far away
To help solve this code / might mean a long stay.

To be king of a land / could be more fun than flying,
And to solve a good riddle / was always worth trying.



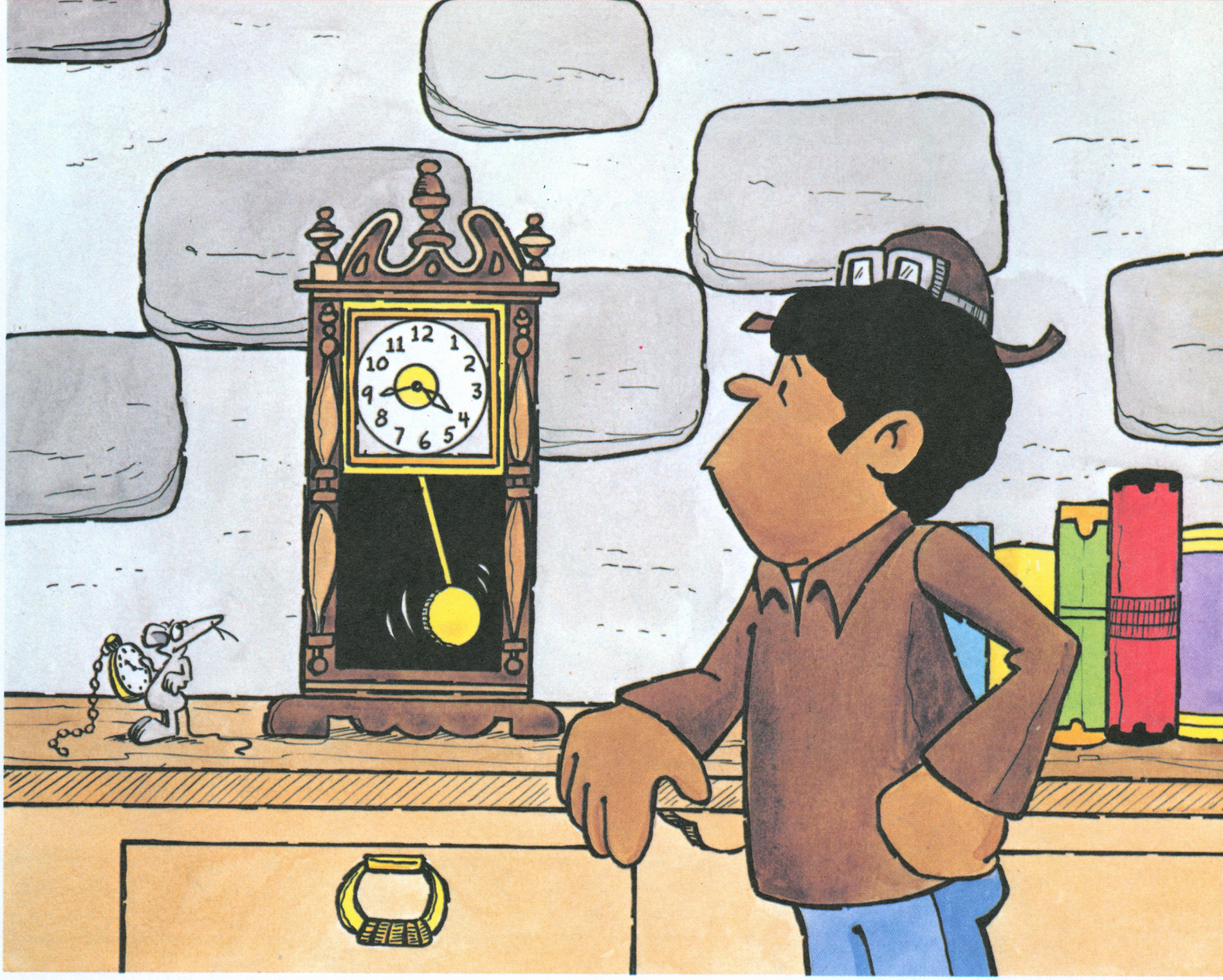
When Curly met Tina and Neal, / they all knew
'twas no harder for three to be king / than for two.

They decided to team up / while searching for laurels.
They knew that this plan / would eliminate quarrels.



The first thing this team / decided to do
Was to start Curly's plane / in hope of a clue.

Curly's plane wasn't his / it was only on loan
When they turned the key on / they heard a low

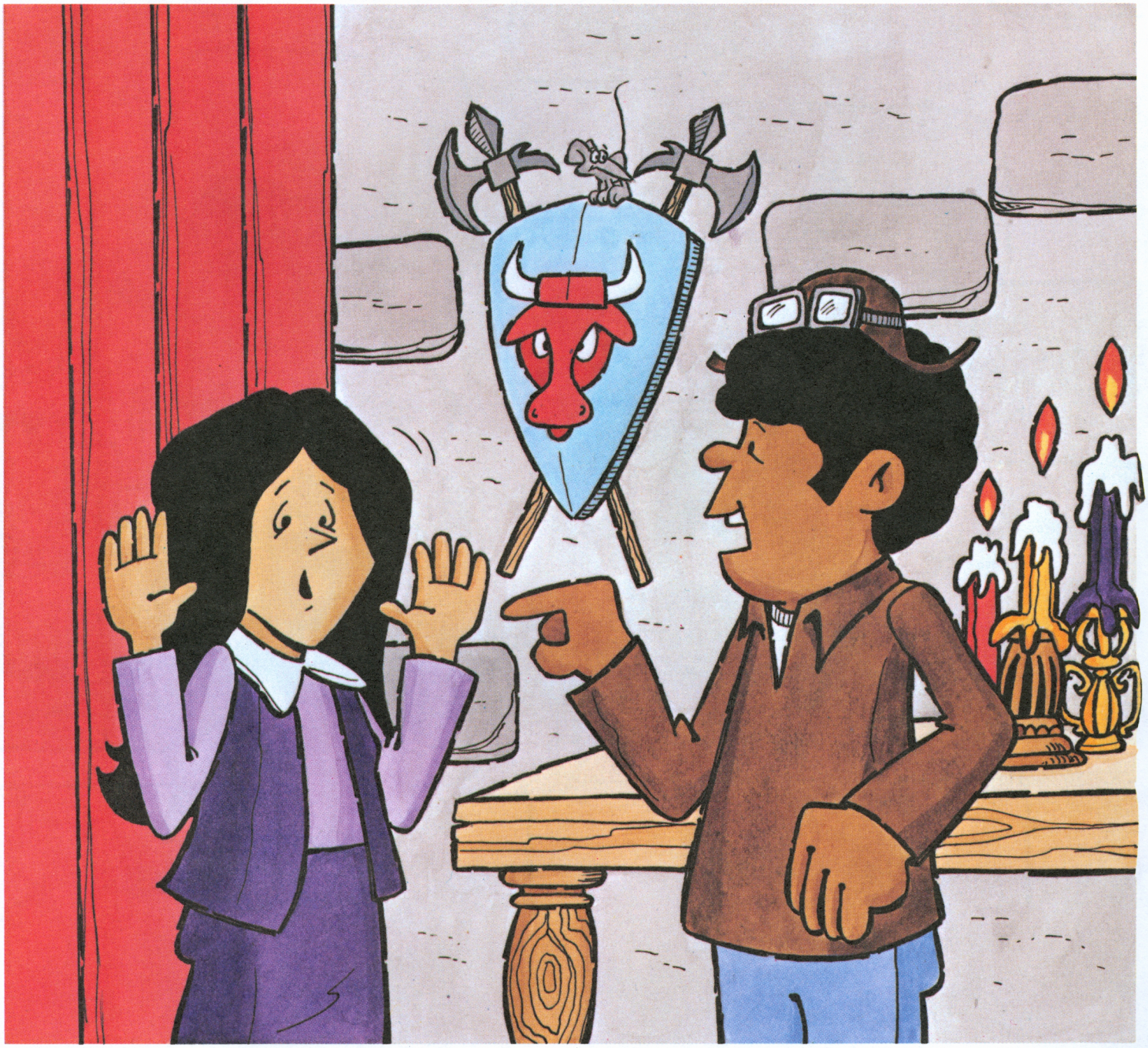


Once back at the castle / while patiently waiting,
They heard a new sound / from the clock they were facing.

They'd been watching the clock / on the wall just to see
How long it would be / 'til the king would be free.

This very same clock / on the code page they'd seen.
They all asked aloud, / "What does the clock mean?"

"Oh, listen!" said Curly, / "Though you'll think I'm a nut,
I can hear that clock's sound / and its sound is a  "



"Oh!" said Tina, / with a look of surprise,
"Who would have thought / we'd be getting so wise."

"But look here," said Curly, / "There's even more news.
That's another new sound / from this page of our clues.

"That sound was within us, / but we didn't know
A look of surprise / goes with the sound ."

"The next sound we make / should be easy to do
Let's pick up that stick / and break it in two."

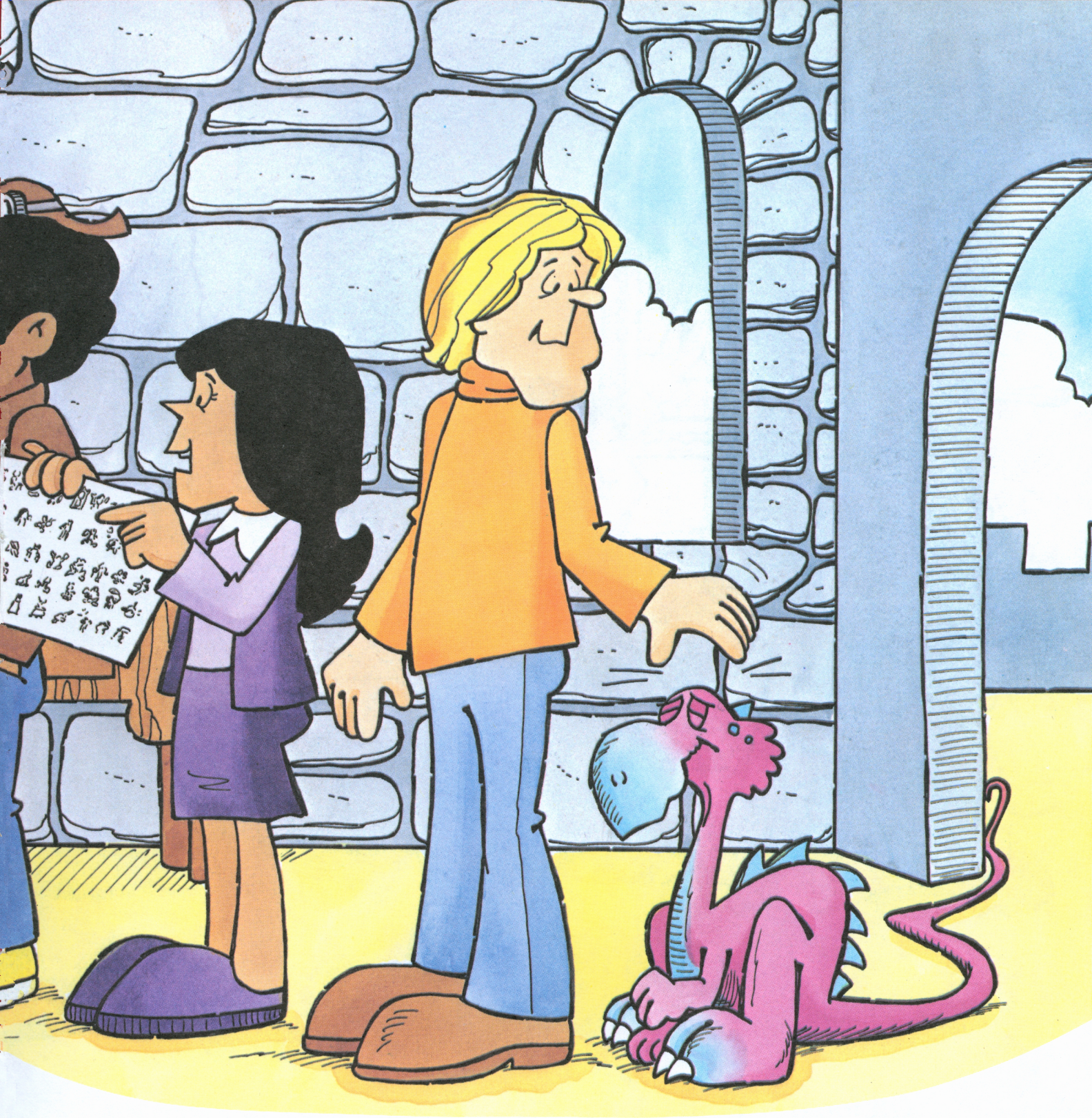
"The sounds are so easy / we're having good luck.
When Neal snapped the stick, / they could all hear a  ."



To the king when he came, / they told what they'd found
How each of the pictures / had made its own sound.

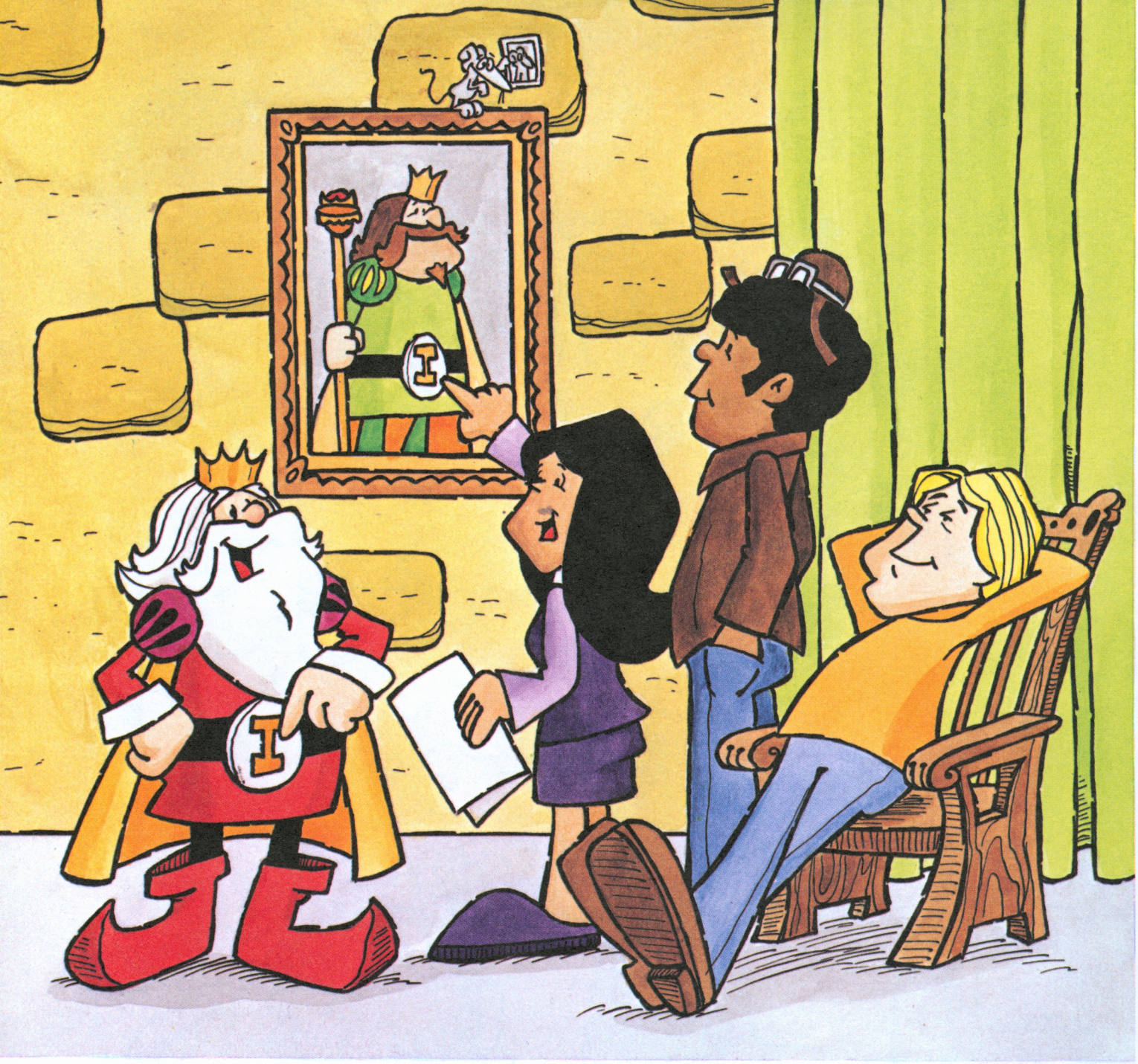
Each sound they discovered / and finally heard
Could be put with some others / to make a whole word.

"For example," they said, / "You can take only three
The  and the  and the  / and get tree.



"Or turn some around / a new word to hear
A  and an  and an  / would be tear."

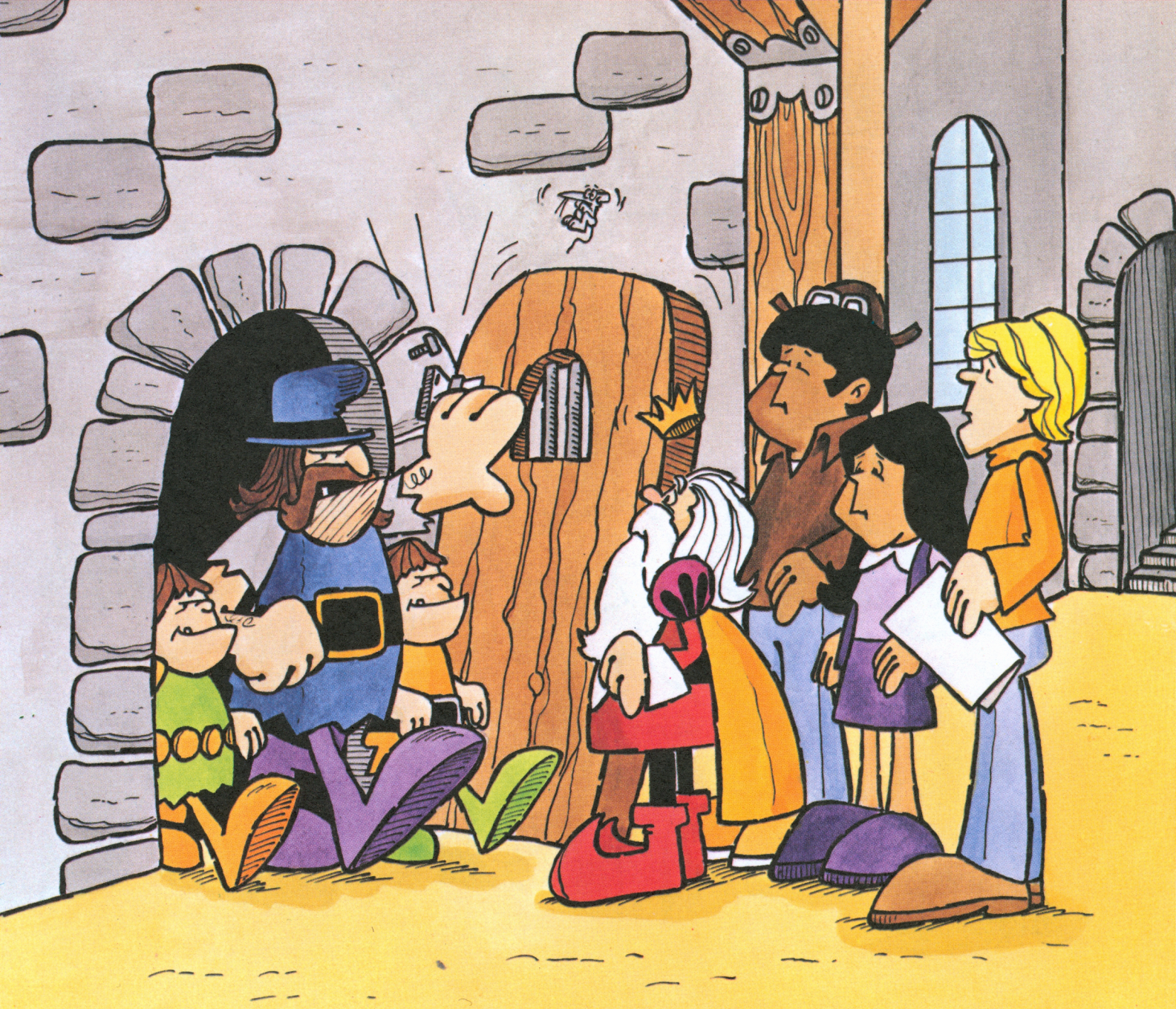
The king was quite pleased / as they told their successes.
King 'I' said, "You think / where I've only made guesses."



"Oh look!" said the king, / "The next picture's of me!
Now tell me what sound / you think that might be."

"You have the same name / as your very own dad,
And "I" was his name; / it's the one name you've had.

"So whenever a picture / of our king we see,
 is its sound; / that's the way it must be."

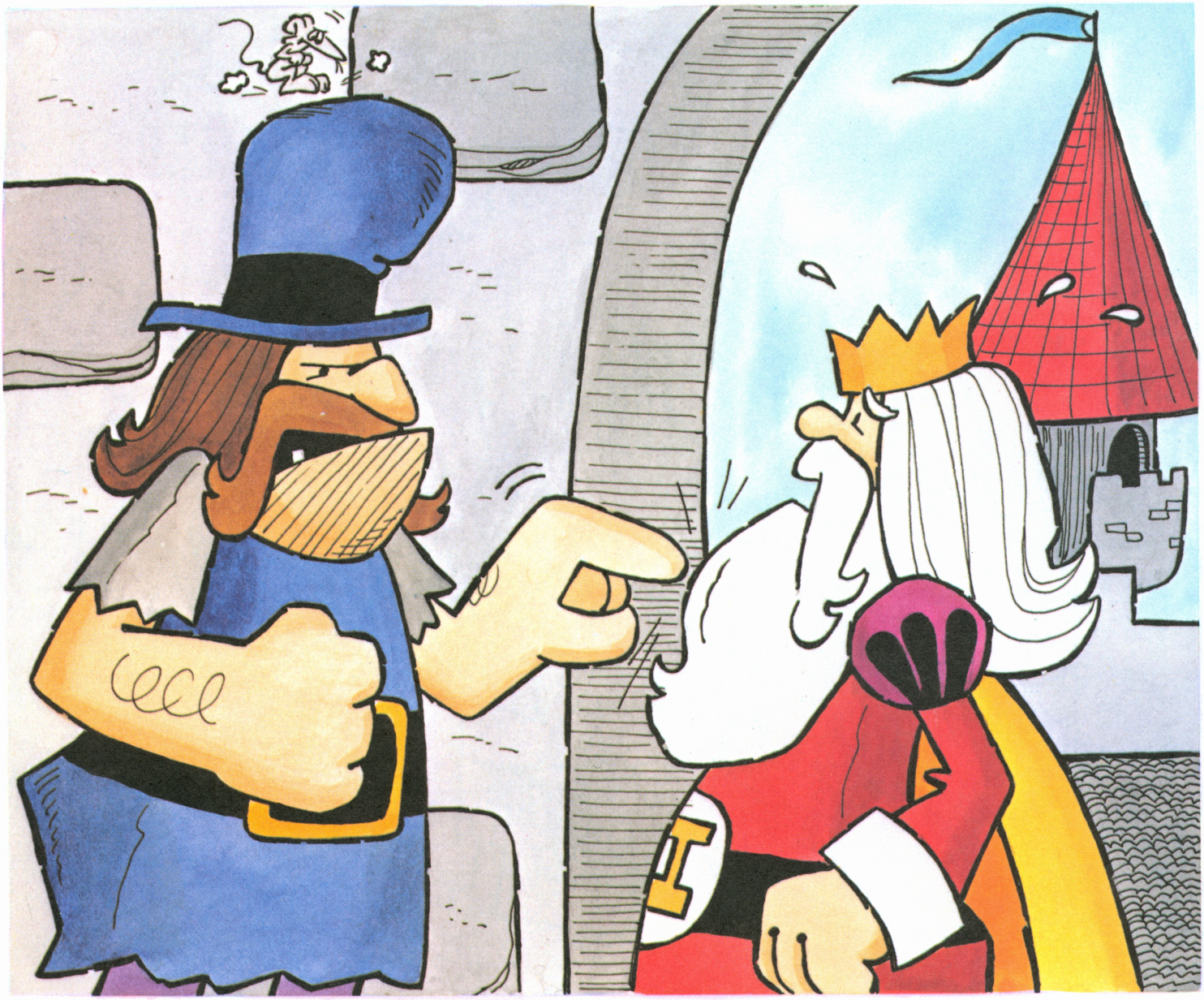


Then into this room / where moods were so happy
Burst three brand new faces / two boys and their pappy.

These three new people / who crowded right in
Said, "What you've been saying / is really a sin.

"Why should these three upstarts / be the next kings?
Why should it be they / who get the best things?

"It's really not fair / and we won't let it happen
So we'll solve the code first / You won't catch us nappin'!"



"If you win, I know / I won't like it at all,"
Said King  as his tears / again started to fall.

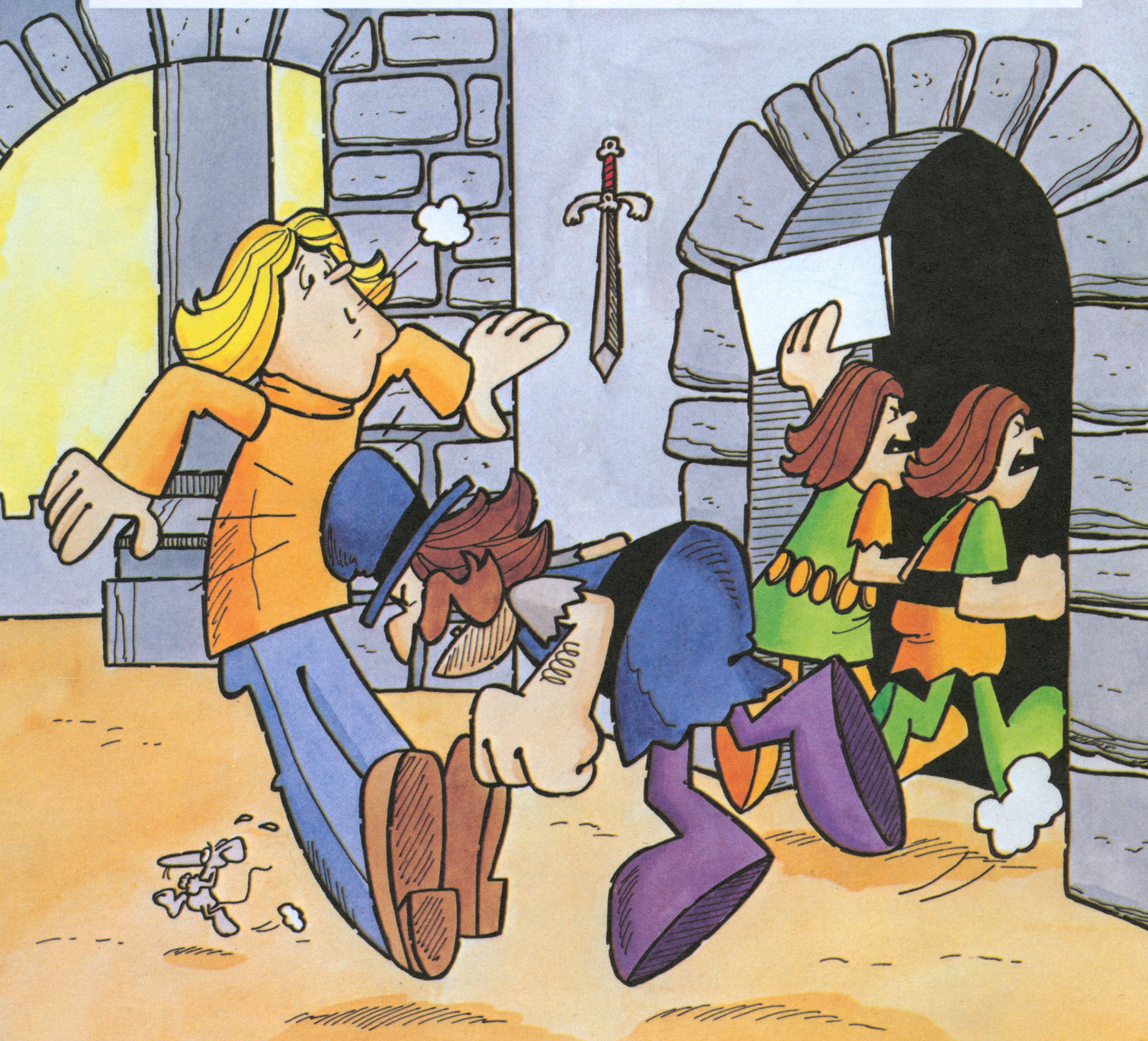
"You promised! You promised! / You know you can't veer
The first with the code / is to be the king here."

"Yes, that is so," / said King  with a sigh,
"But perhaps my three friends / will give the best try."

"Oh, no," said the new three, / "For we don't play fair.
To find all the sounds / they just wouldn't dare!"

These three new faces / they all could now see
Were Meanie and Moley / and their bad daddy Zee.

When bad daddy Zee / hit Neal in the tummy
His sons grabbed the code sheet / and ran off to their mummy.





"Oh! What can we do? / Zee's really not fair
For now we've no code sheet / we haven't a prayer!"

But the king piped right up, / "You've done so much work
To have Zee win now / would be really a quirk.

"I know if I thought / really hard in my mind
I could probably think / where most pictures you'd find.

"Since I really don't want / the next king to be Zee,
I'll make you a map / as good as can be."

And the king scurried off / to write what he could
So the king after him / might be somebody good.

While Neal and Tina / and Curly and we
Wondered if ever / they'd catch up with Zee.



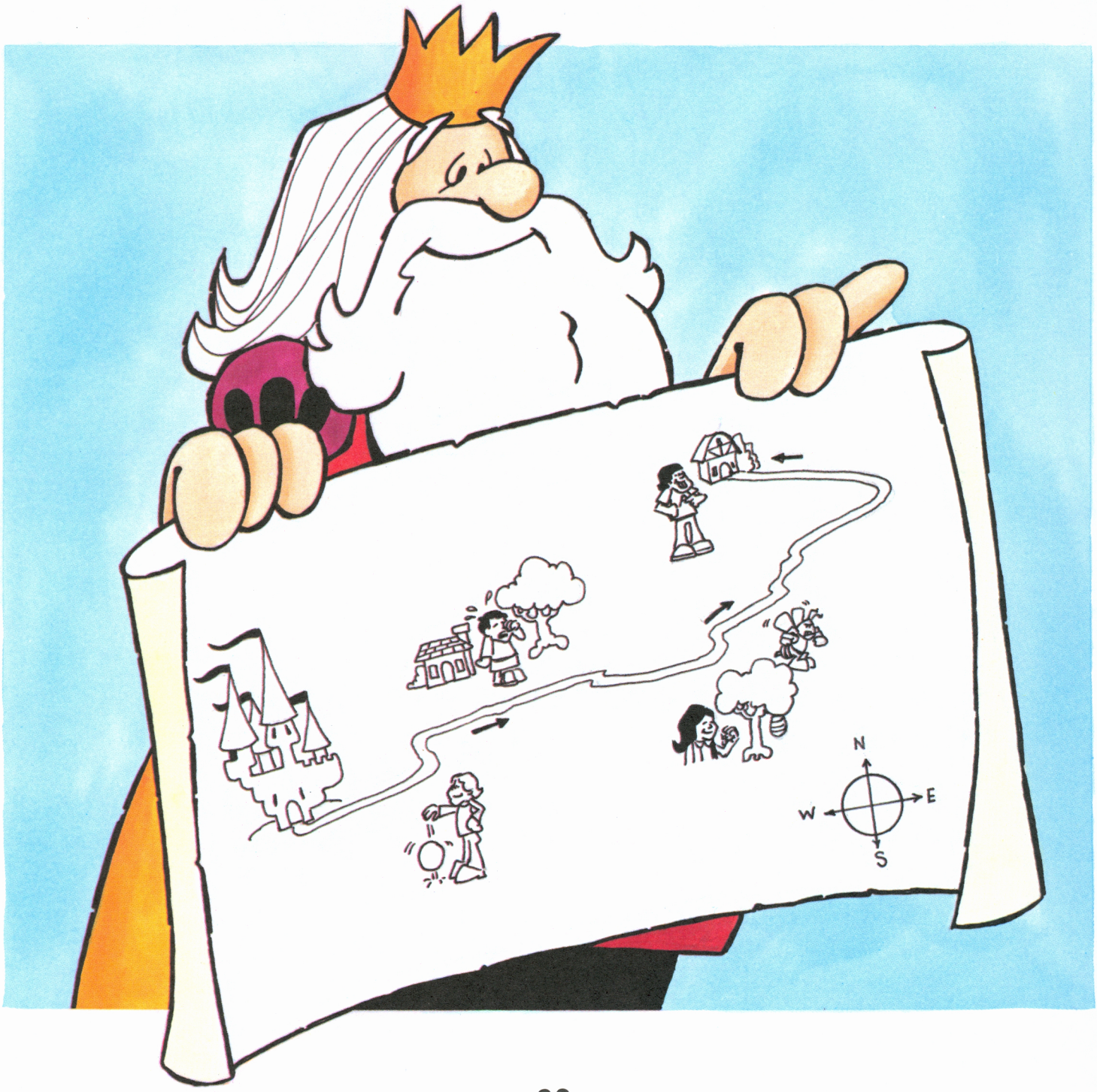
The king came back soon / with a smile on his face,
"With this well-drawn map, / you could win the whole race!

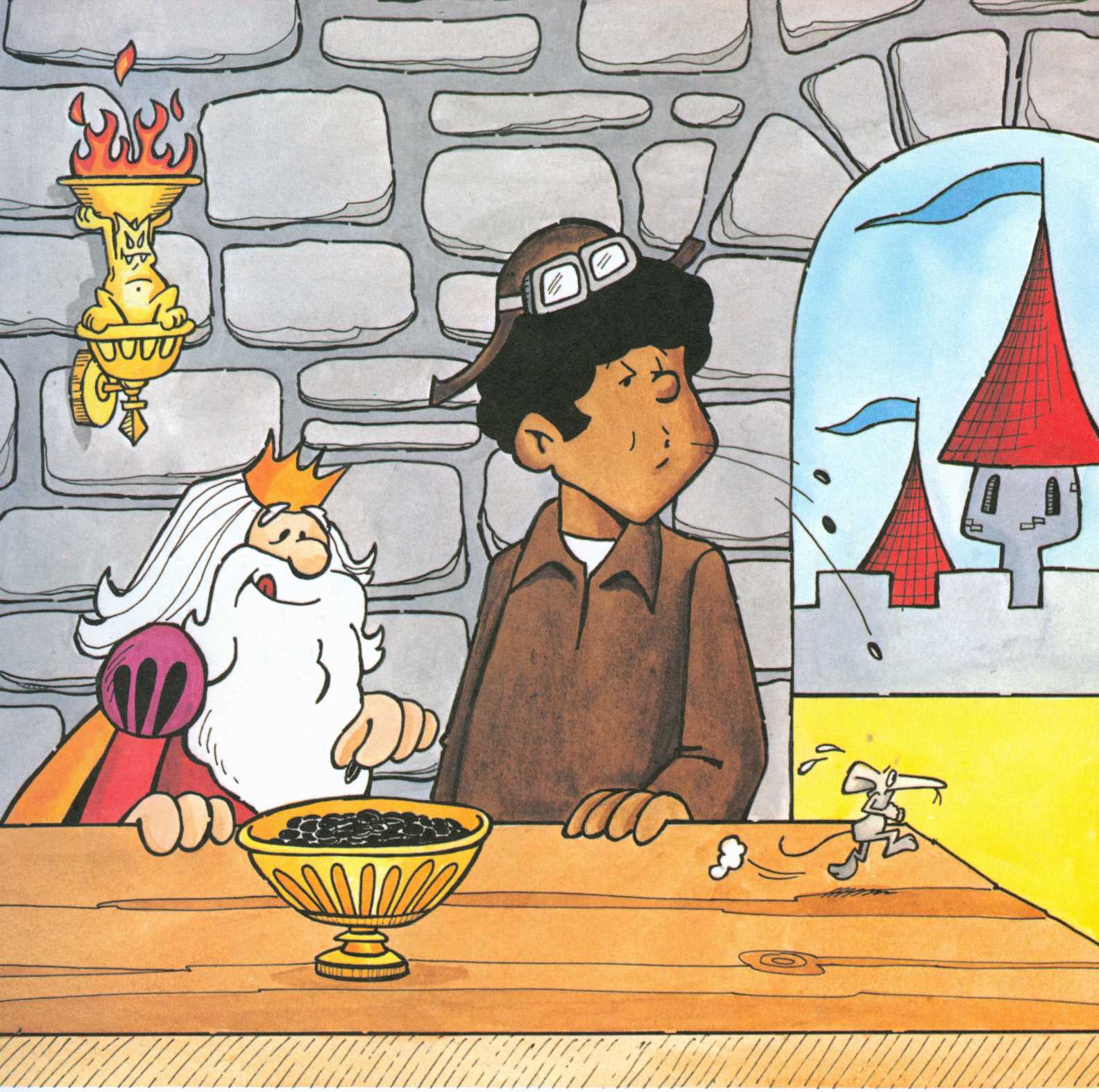
"The goal of this map / is the house of a man
Who's the smartest we've got / in Dekodiphukan.

"You see here the path / I've drawn to his home.
His house you'll find quickly, / it has a half dome.

"And if you will stay / on this well marked out trail,
The sounds from these pictures / you'll learn without fail."

The map of the trail / was marked out quite well
And the king drew five pictures / ...more sounds? Who could tell!





"But, first, from this bowl / some seeds you must take."
And Curly found out / that a sound they did make.

When he spit out the shells / from each seed in a heap
As each shell came out / the sound would be



So the three hurried off, / but what help was the map?
If they followed its path, / could they give Zee a zap?

"A boy with a ball / is the first thing to see."
"I don't see a boy, / but a ball's by that tree."

"Then I'll be the boy, / and we'll see what we learn;
And I'll bounce the ball / then I'll give you a turn."

So Neal bounced the ball, / and it hit with a thud;
And each time it landed, / its sound was a 

"This next one's quite tricky / so where shall we start?
It's a boy who is crying. / Look! He's broken his heart."

His house they found quickly. / That wasn't a chore.
But what would they do / when he answered the door?

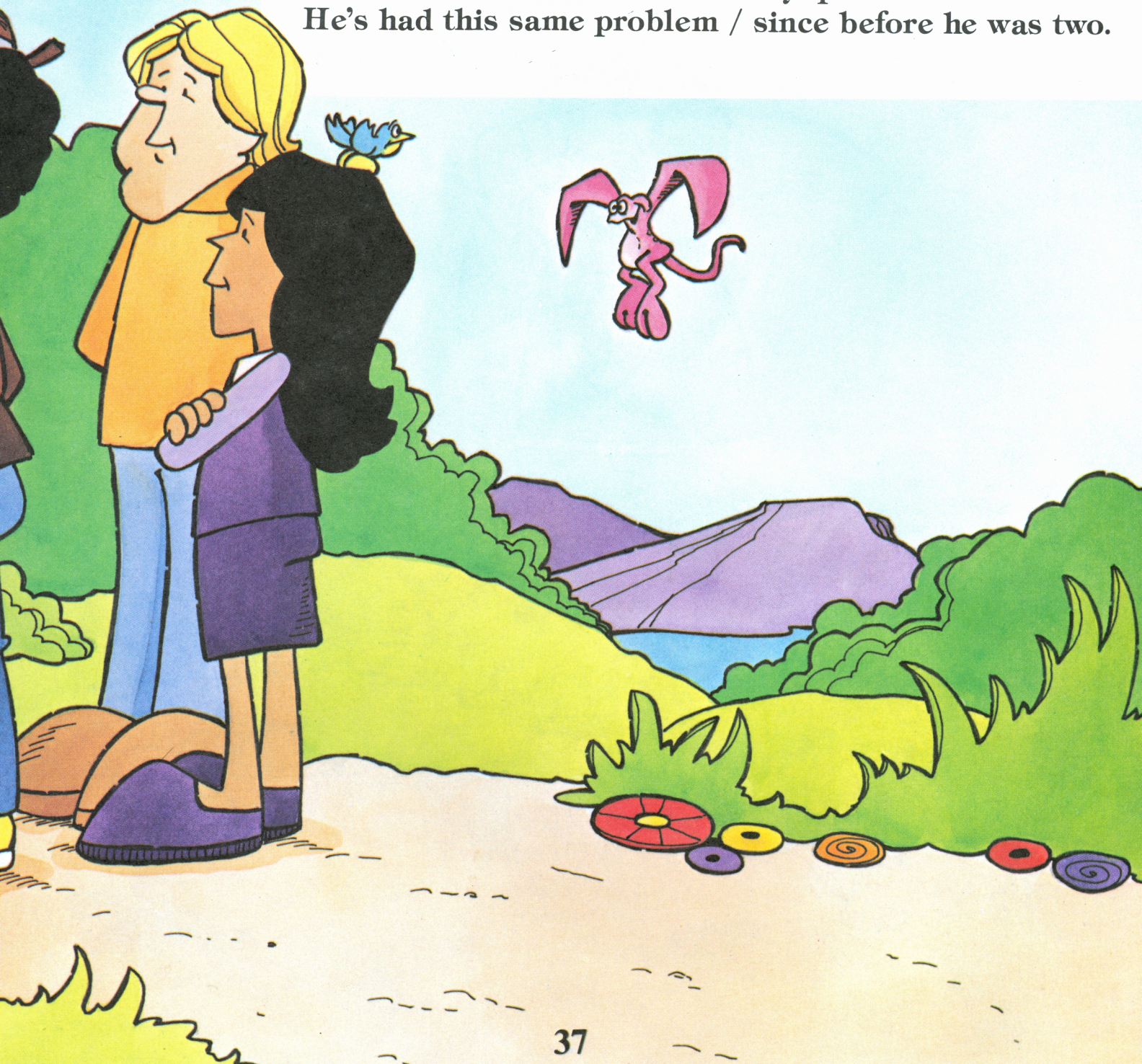




It was the boy's mother / who answered their tapping
She said of her son,/ "Right now he is napping.

"But if you must know / why his heart's always breaking,
I'll tell you his story / before he is waking.

"The tale is a sad one / but really quite true.
He's had this same problem / since before he was two.



"He can say every word / as can you and I,
But one word gets stuck / and that makes him cry.

To try breaks his heart / for he knows he will fail
When he starts to say love,/ he can only say  "





The next thing the map said / they really should see
Was a girl eating something / right out of a tree.

A tree they found quickly. /That was easy enough
But there wasn't a girl / who was eating its stuff.

So Tina said, "I'll be / the girl by the tree.
I'll eat what it offers / while you look at me."



From a low hanging branch / Tina pulled a big chunk
And started to eat it. / She ate the whole hunk.

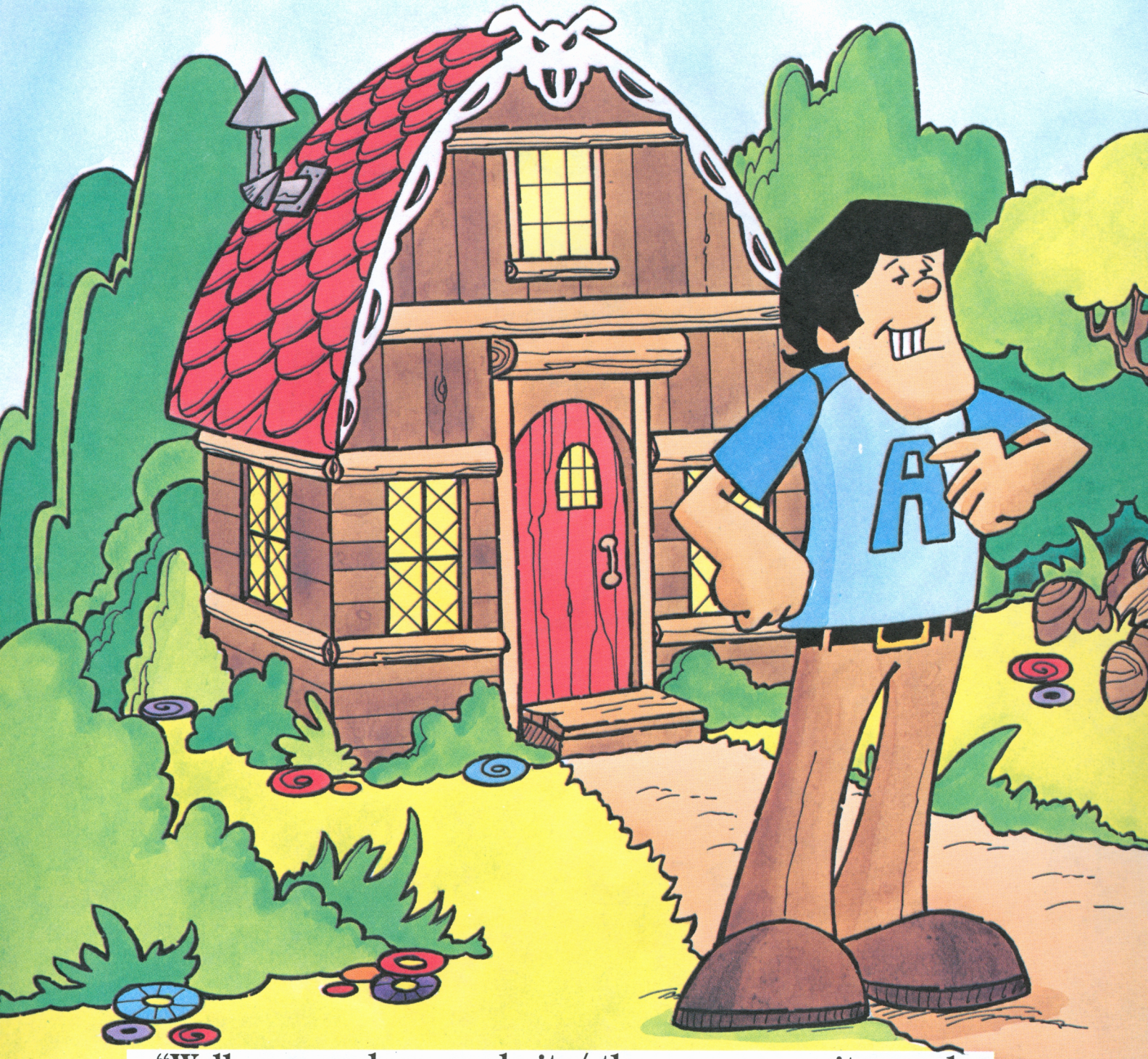
The tree's yummy taste / was a bee's honey comb
And the taste was so sweet / Tina's lips would go



The very next sound / quite soon they would see.
It came from the bees / in the hive in the tree.

The three of them ran / with their backs to the tree
While trying to miss / being stung by a bee.

As the fast flying bees / buzzed near to their ears,
The sound each one made / was easy to hear,

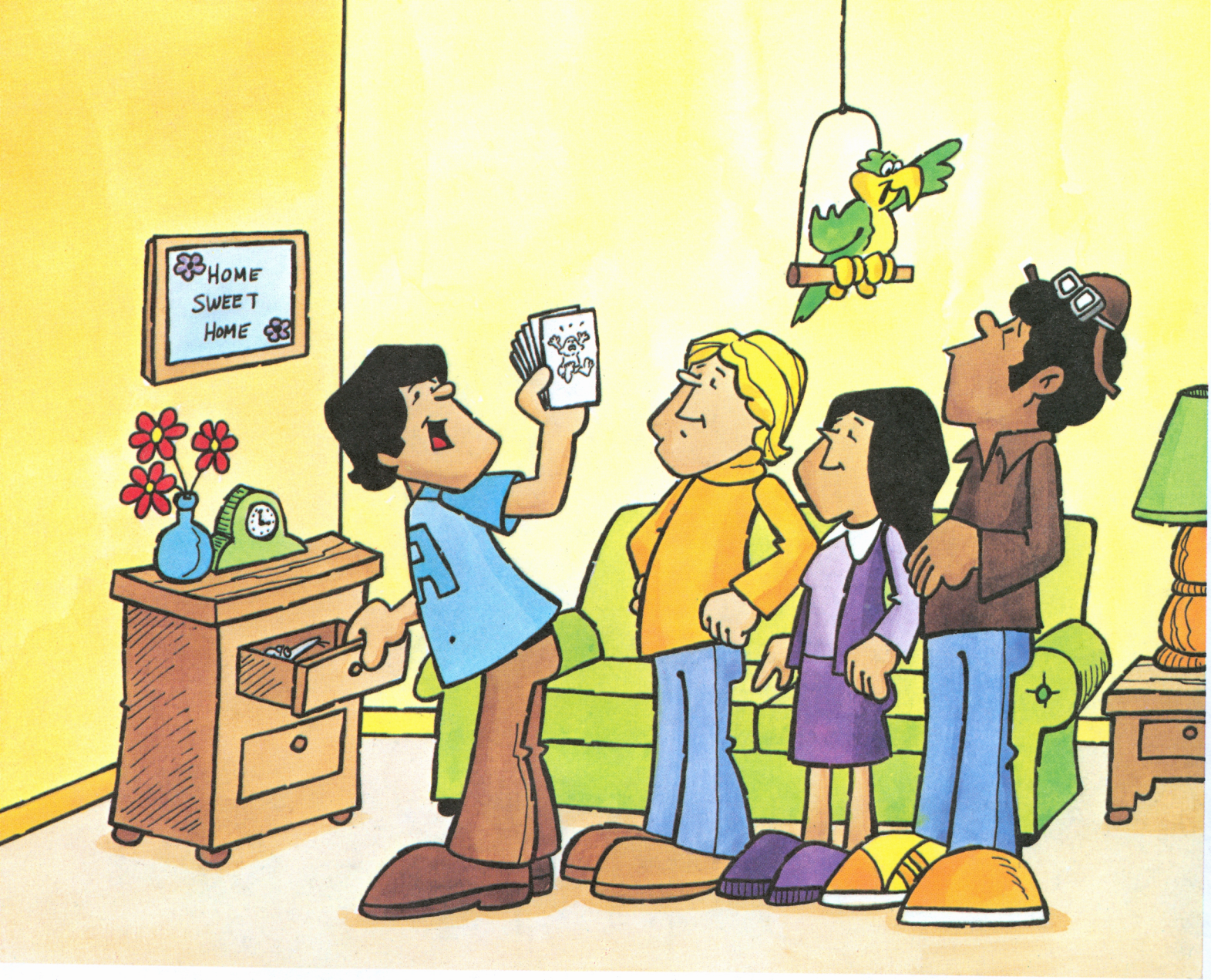


"Well, now we have made it, / the map was quite good.
This home has the dome / the king said it would."

The person who came / to the door they all knew.
His picture was last / on the map the king drew.

He said, "That's my picture / you have on display.
I'd like to say, 'Howdy,' / my friends call me





"Now that you're here / and sent by the king,
I really can help you. / I'll do the best thing.

"I'll tell you a tale / I learned long ago,
And from this old story / more sounds will you know."

He took out some cards / he had deep in a drawer
And said, "Stop your wondering, / you'll learn what they're for.

"On each card's a picture / that you'll need to know
For each sound in my story / a picture I'll show.

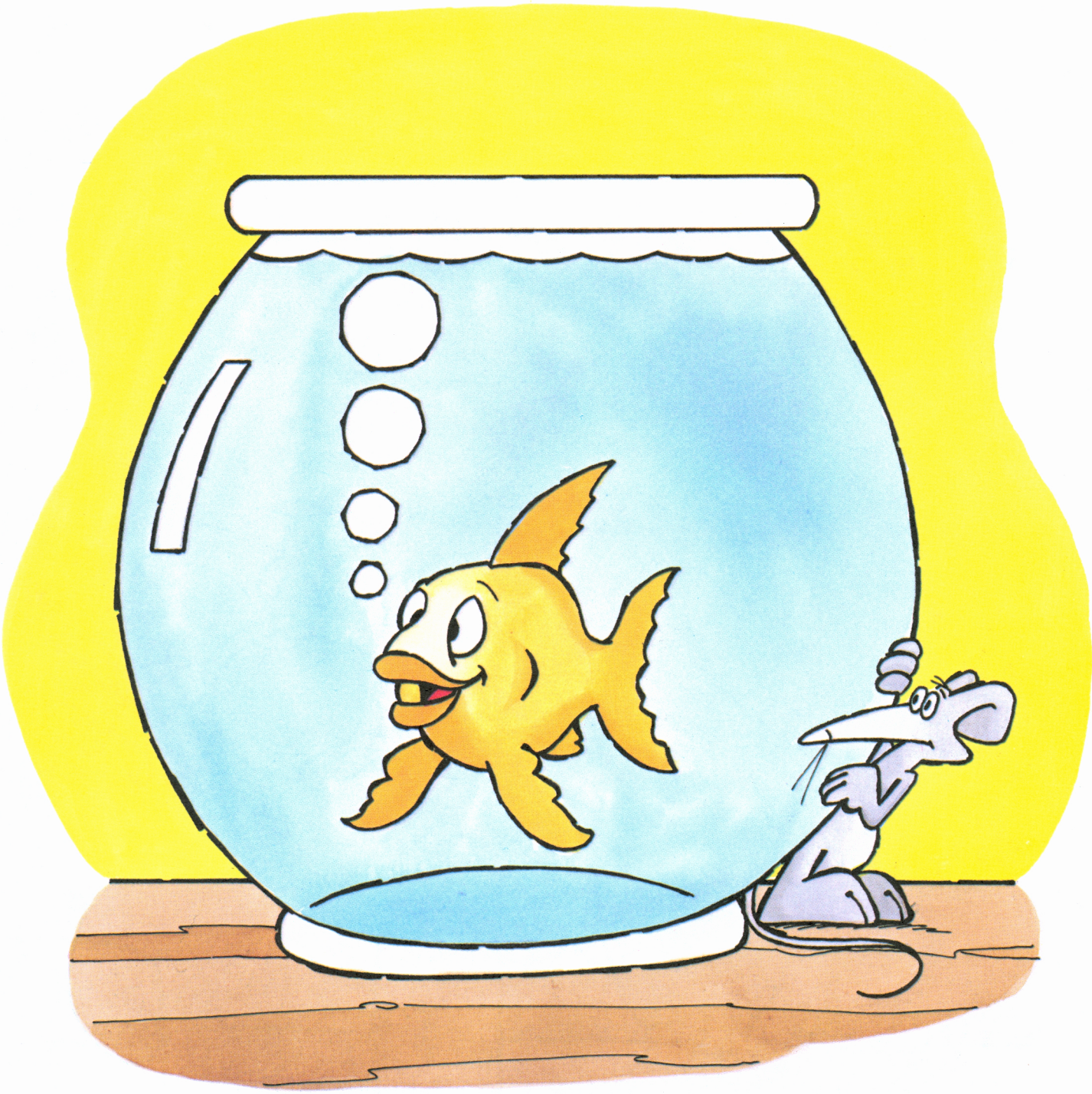


"Once long ago / in this land you now visit
A king had a worry / and no one to wiz it.

"All knew of this problem, / it was told with a sigh,
That the king's infant son / would do nothing but cry.

"My dad thought of something / that would end all that crying.
He had it at home. / It was surely worth trying.

"As he hurried right home,/ his haste made him huff
, was the sound / that he huffed with each puff.



"In his room he had kept / in a giant glass bowl
His favorite pet fish, / the one that had soul.

"He would watch it for hours / as it swam in its tub
And hear from each bubble / its sound was a

"To the king he would rush / his prized fish with great haste.
What baby could cry / when a cute fish he faced?

"But as he was rushing / his fish to the king,
He tripped on the carpet / which gave him a fling.





"The fling that it gave him / cracked open the bowl
And out on the floor / spilled the fish who had soul.

"Poor dad was so sad / when he looked up and saw
His favorite pet fish / on the floor, he said, "  "

"Dad scooped up his fish / and rushed it to water.
He cared for this fish / like a son or a daughter.



"'I must get some help / of ideas I'm out!
What else can I try?' / And he started to pout.

"While dad stood there thinking / of nothing to do,
There passed through the wall / a ghost who said, "  **"**

"'It's time I was leaving / and I'm leaving right now!'
Dad ran to escape, / bumped his shin and said, "  !"





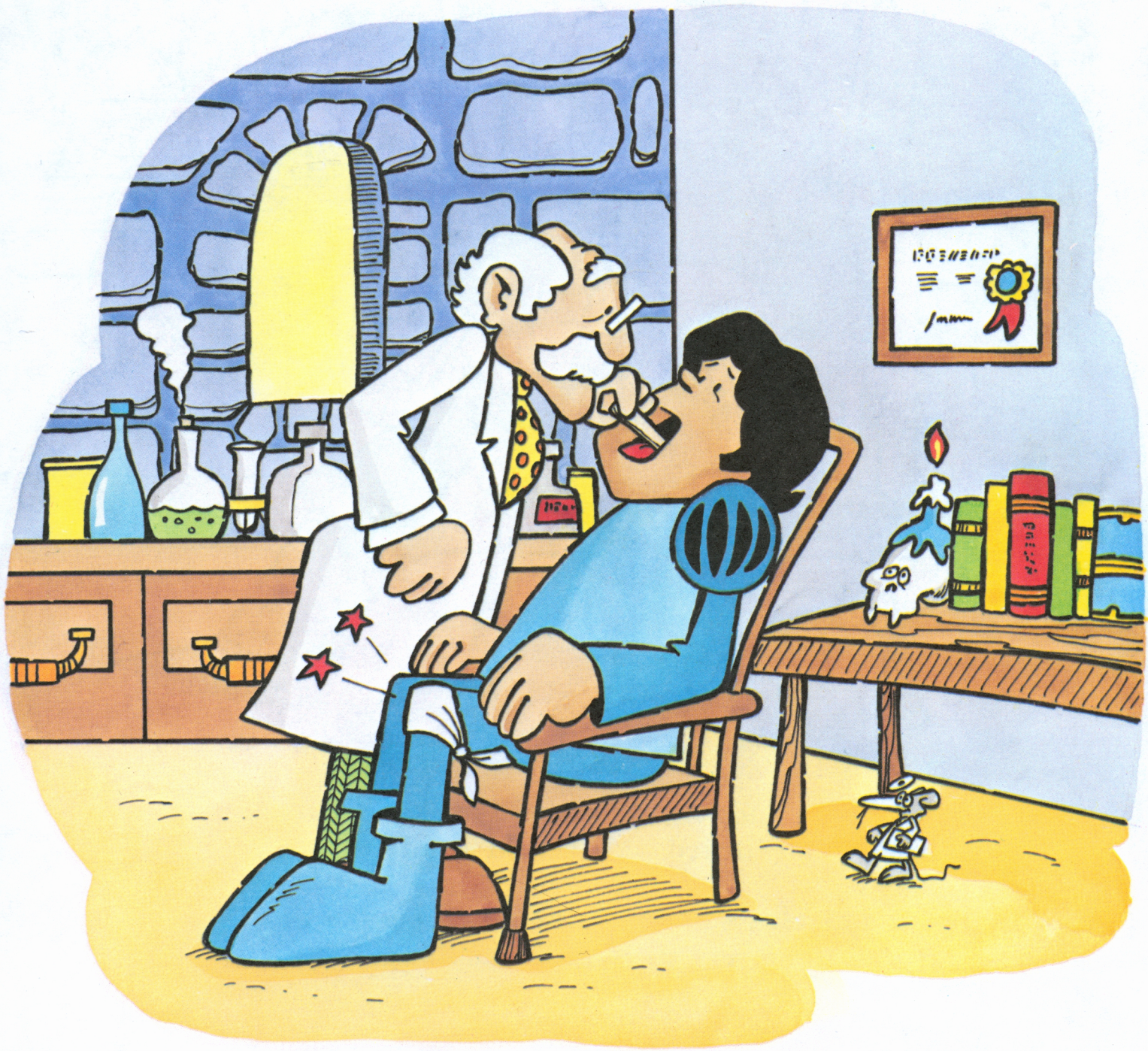
"The ghost said 'I'm sorry, / I don't want to scare you.
I came only to tell you! / To help you! Prepare you!

"'I'll fade out of sight / but heed my words, please!
Follow the trail / that winds through the trees.'

"And then the ghost left / without one more word.
Dad was still shaking, / should he trust what he'd heard?

Before any ghostly / advice he might heed,
Dad's leg was so sore / leg help was his need.

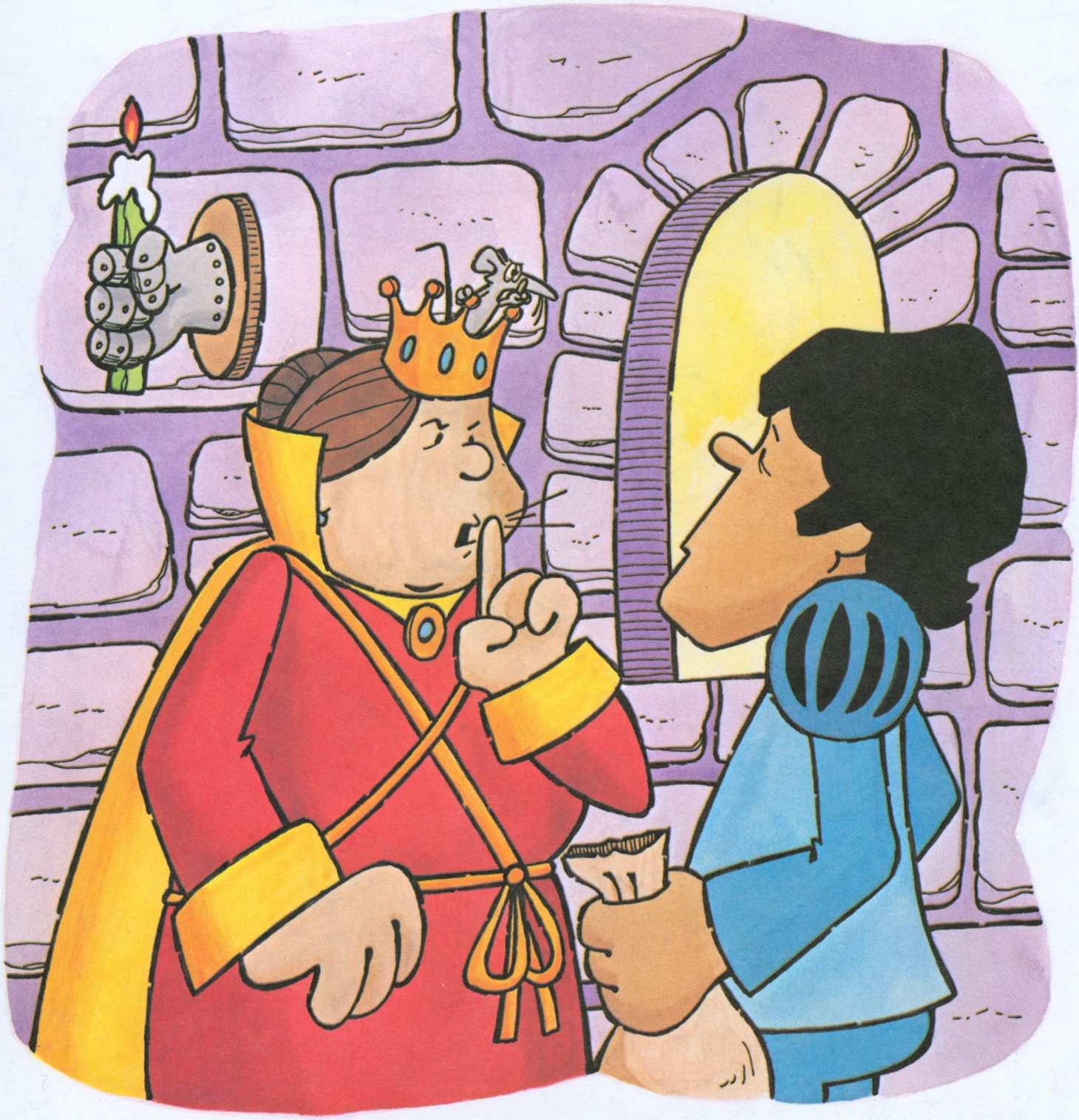
The doctor he knew / was a friend of his ma,
And no matter what hurt / he'd make dad say, ""





"The doc had a gadget / to make dad feel great.
This thing when turned on / would sooth and vibrate.

"With his muscles so sore / this machine dad did love
Its feel was a tingle; / its sound was a



"Dad got a new thought / for ending the tears,
'I'm sure it will work. / It's my best thought in years.'

"So off to the castle / he went with a rush.
When the queen saw him coming, / her mouth made a 



"'The baby is sleeping / which gives us a break
From those hours of crying / when he is awake.

"'To stop all his crying / we'll need an Aladdin.
Oh, I'd give anything / if you'll end that dull din!

"Dad showed them his plan / his little green frog
Who lived by dad's house / in his own private bog.

"Since the frog was so small, / it was easy to lug,
And its sound wasn't scary. / It was only a 

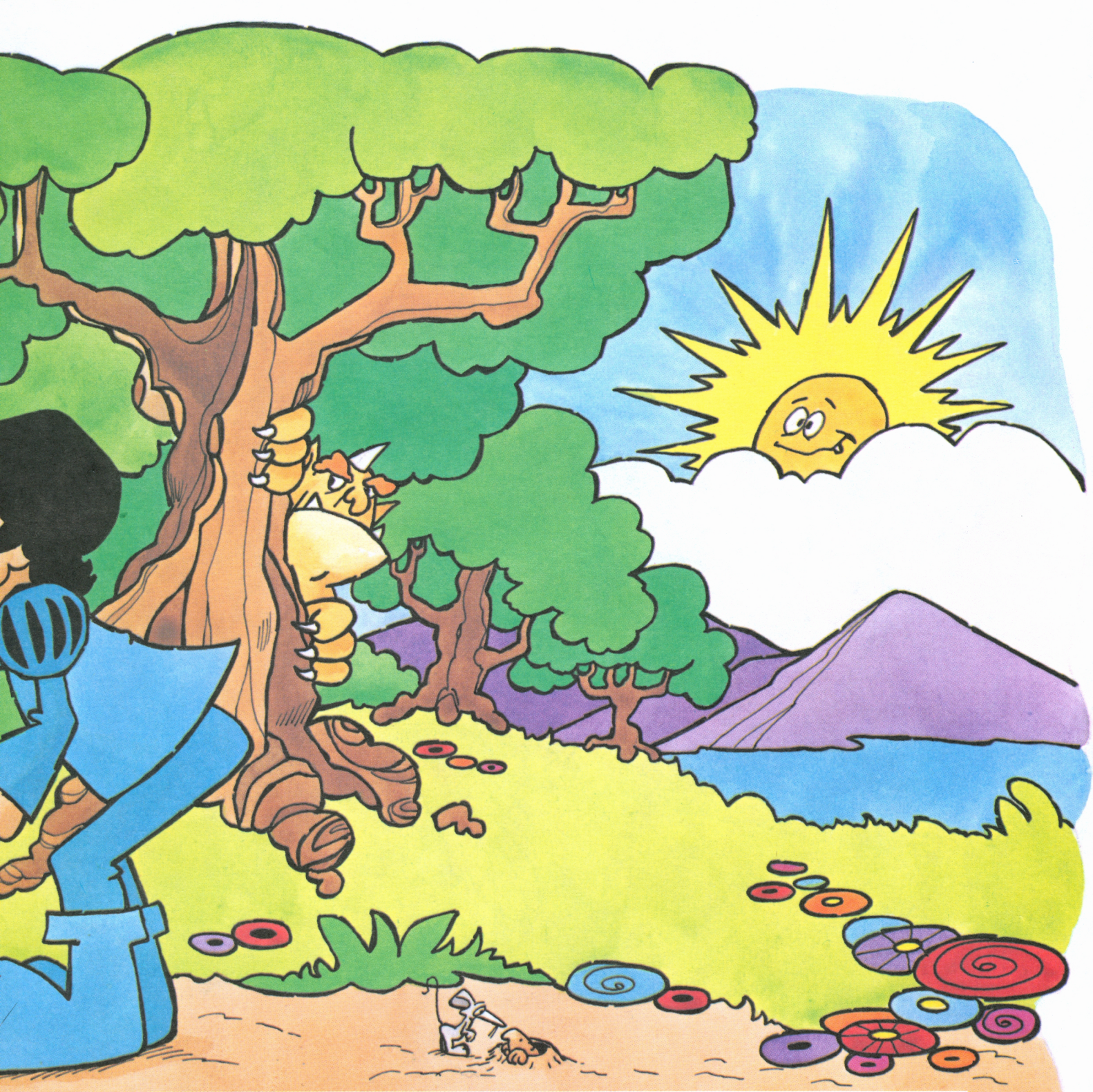
"Said dad, 'With a frog / the baby could play.'
But when dad called his frog, / the frog hopped away.





"Dad thought and he said, / 'I'll try something new.
I'll go through the trees / as the ghost said to do.'

"As he walked down the trail, / he met an old man
Who was old as the trees / in Dekodiphukan.



"The man put a horn / up next to his ear
Which made it so that / he almost could hear.

"But mostly whenever / Dad asked him a question,
He'd just barely hear / and answer back  son?'

"  as in said / as in bet / as in Jeff
 was the sound / of an old man / who's deaf.



"The next thing dad saw / was a fluffy sad dog
Who had caught her front paw / in the branch of a log.

"The dog's foot was hurt, / dad could tell from afar,
For the sound that it made / wasn't arf it was

"He set the dog free / and he bandaged its paw;
And when he was done, / can you guess what he saw?

"He knew as he saw it / the ghost had meant here.
There was no nicer thing / he'd have found in a year.

"He looked all around / for a box the right size
So that he could pack up / the baby's surprise.





"But while he was looking / he heard a boy say,
'He must be the one / who made our dog stray!'



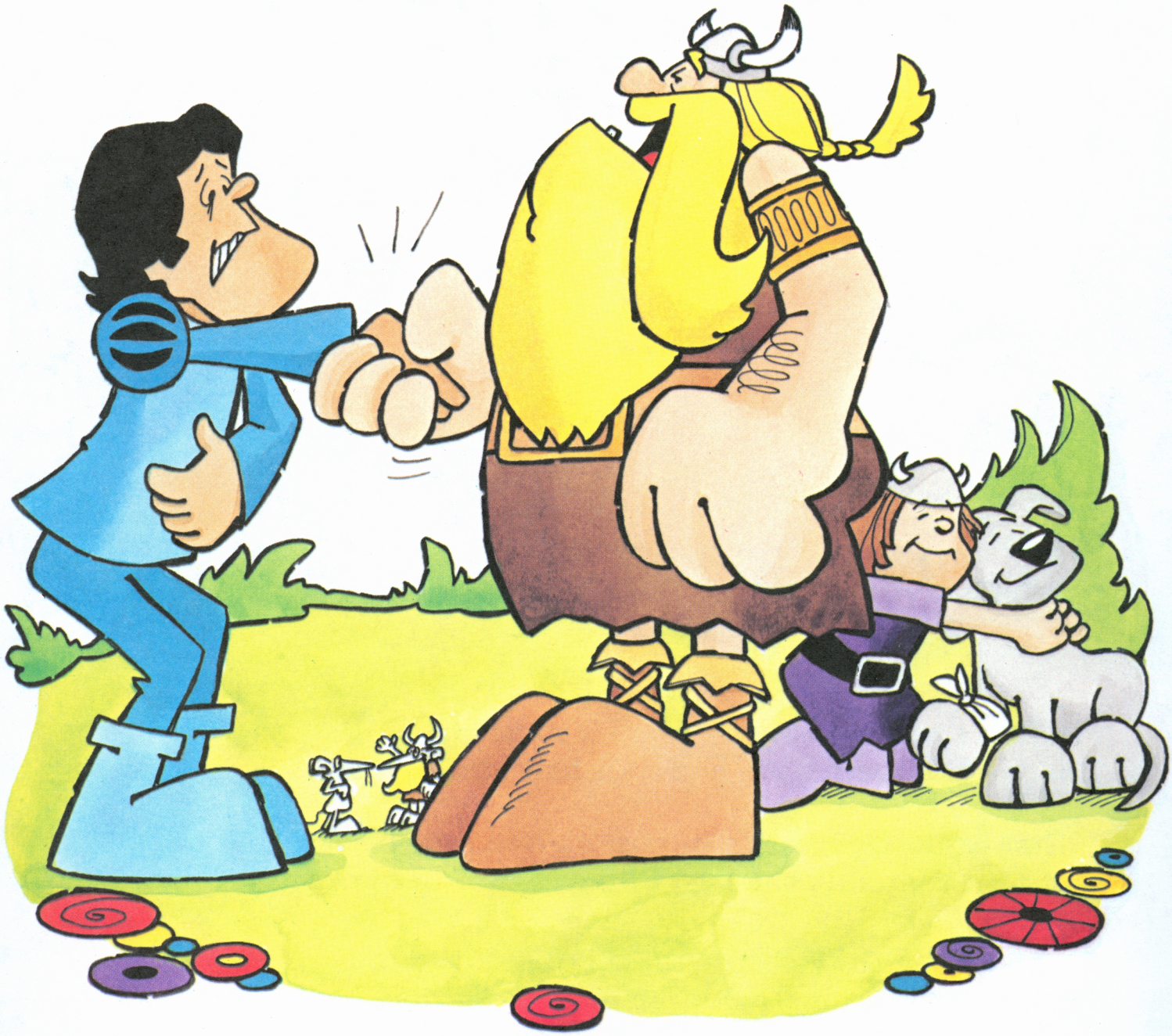
"Before dad could say, / 'Not I, I'm her friend!'
The boy's large papa / had knocked him on end.

"What came from dad's mouth / when punched by that papa?
I think I remember. / Yes, I know . . . out popped  !

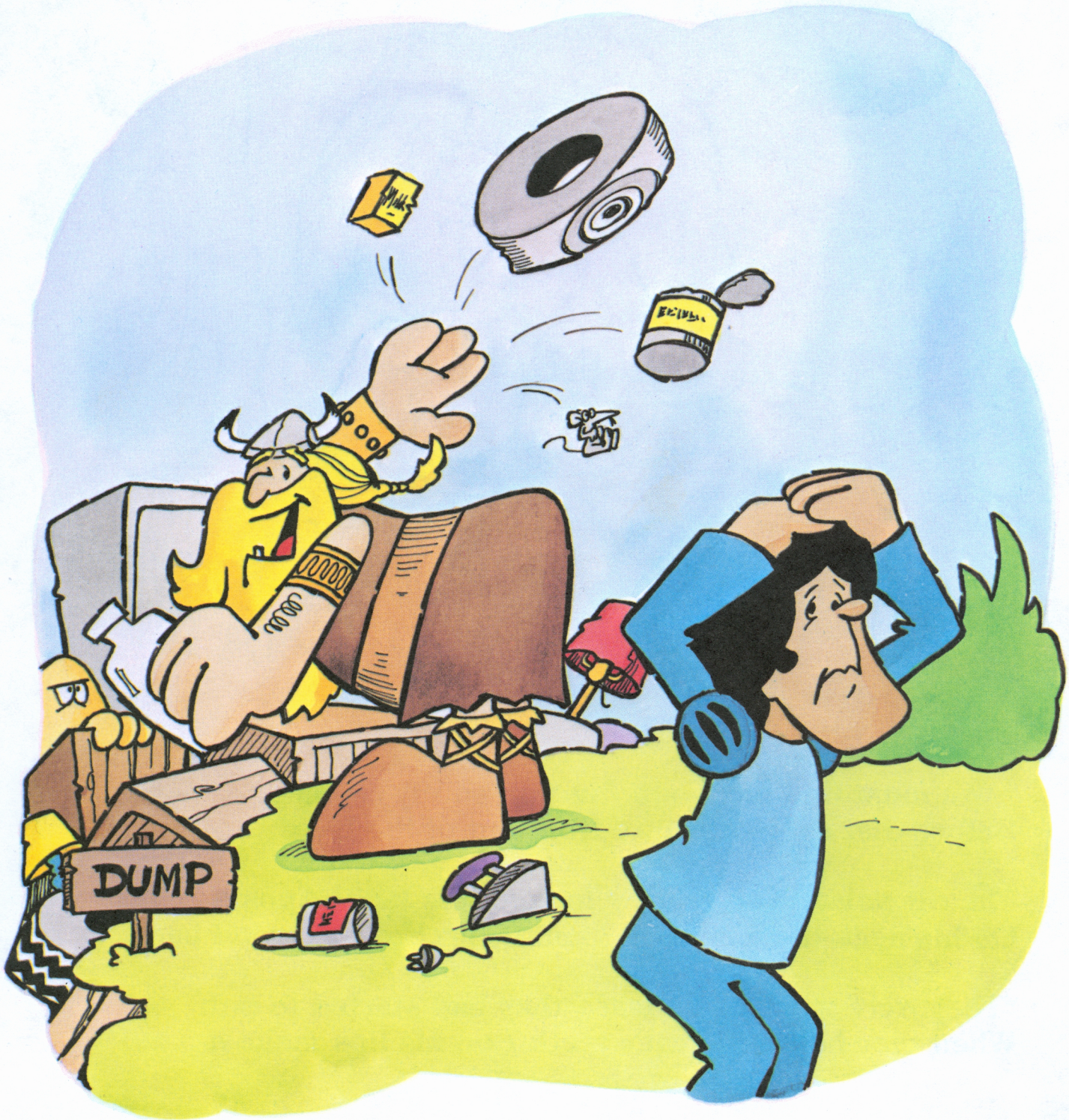
" 

like in the / like in us / like in nut
was the sound / that he got / from his gut.

"Tempers calmed down / when the bandage was seen,
And the papa said, 'Sorry, / I'm not always that mean.'



"'I'll make up for hitting / by helping you find
A box for your present. / You'll see that I'm kind.





" 'We must find one soon / as you surely can see
Before that cat jumps us / from out of the tree.'

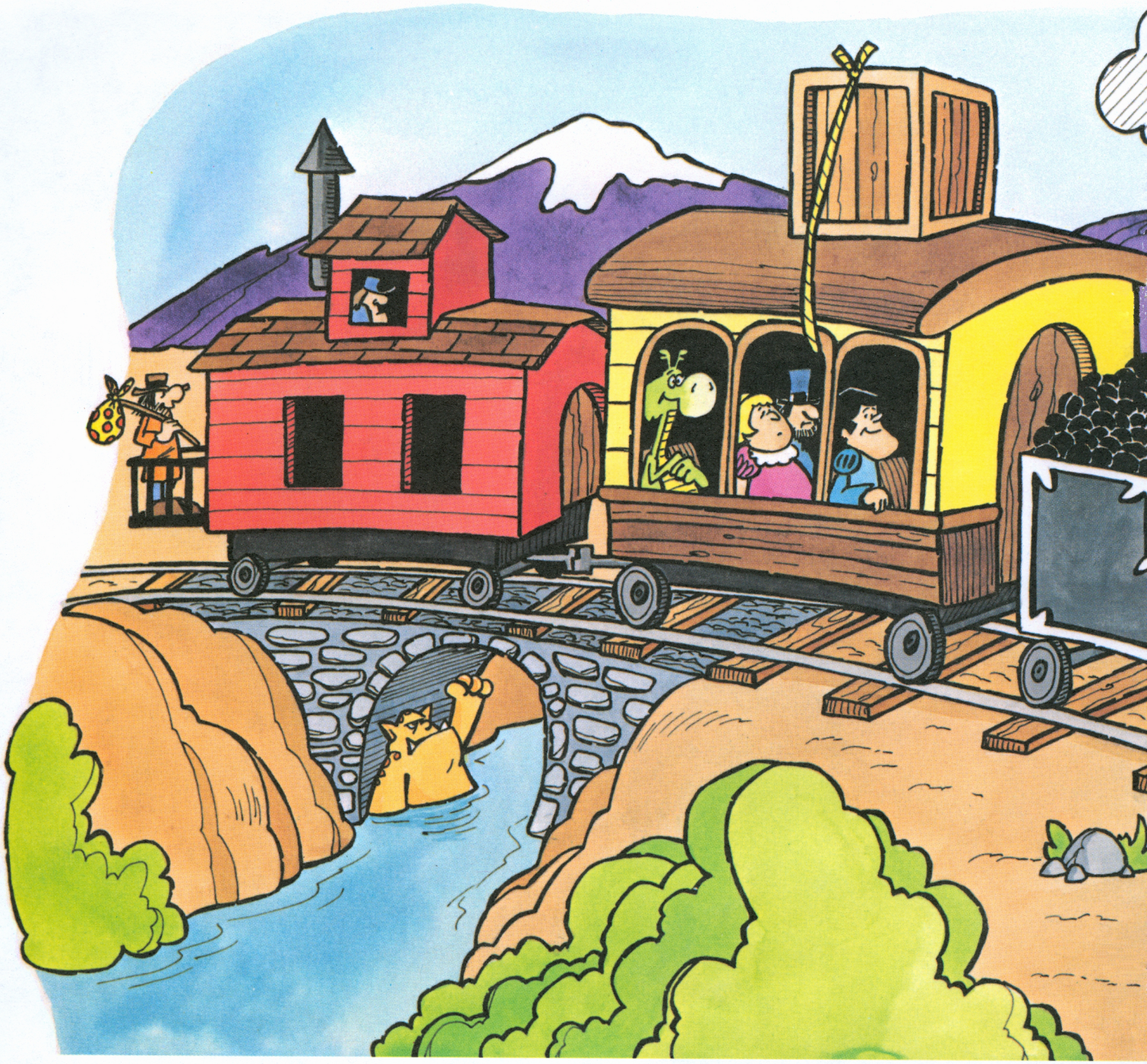
The cat poised and ready / looked like he'd attack.
On his neck the hair rose / and he arched his proud back.

"They were working so fast / they had started to puff
When they heard the cat's teeth / on his lips make a

"While packing the box, / dad stepped in a mess
And said, 'What's that odor? / Should I hazard a guess?

" this is icky / quick, pick it with sticks!'
this is icky.' / 'Sit still till it's fixed!'





"The box was so heavy / and the castle so far
It was too long a walk / and dad hadn't a car.

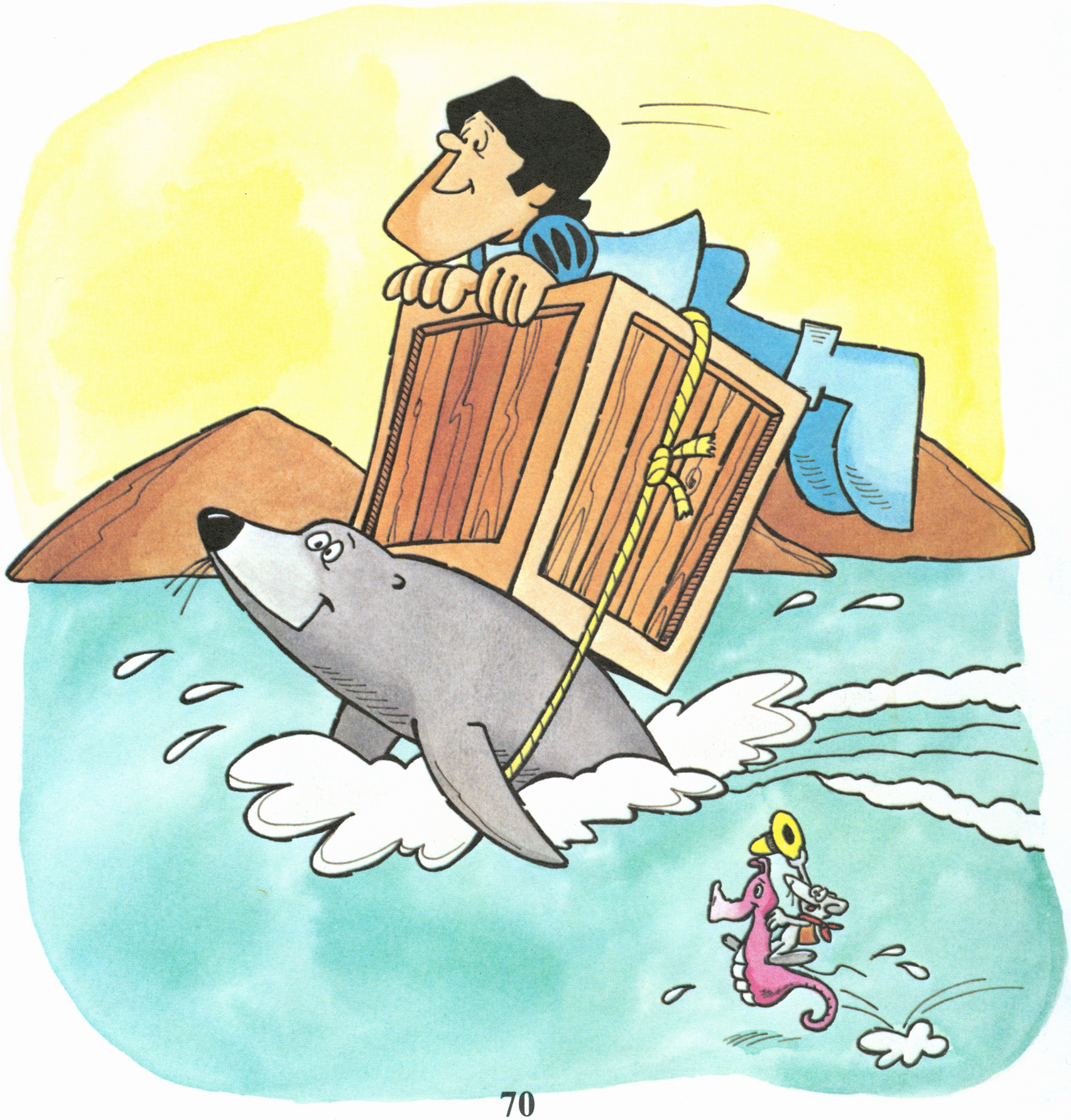
"But the train was quite near / so dad climbed right on board,
And the box he took with him / he tied on with a cord.

"Dad sat with the box / while thinking of lunch
And heard the train chug / its sound was a 



"When they got to the river, / the train wouldn't go.
Since there wasn't a bridge, / the driver said, 'No.'

"When water is deep / and a river is flowing,
A seal for travel / is a good way of going.





"While swimming, all seals / will jump with great joy,
And the sound that they make / when they jump is an



"Back on the trail / if he walked, he'd be late.
To speed up his journey / he decided to skate.

"To carry his present / on foot was a drudge.
The skates moved him faster / and their sound was a

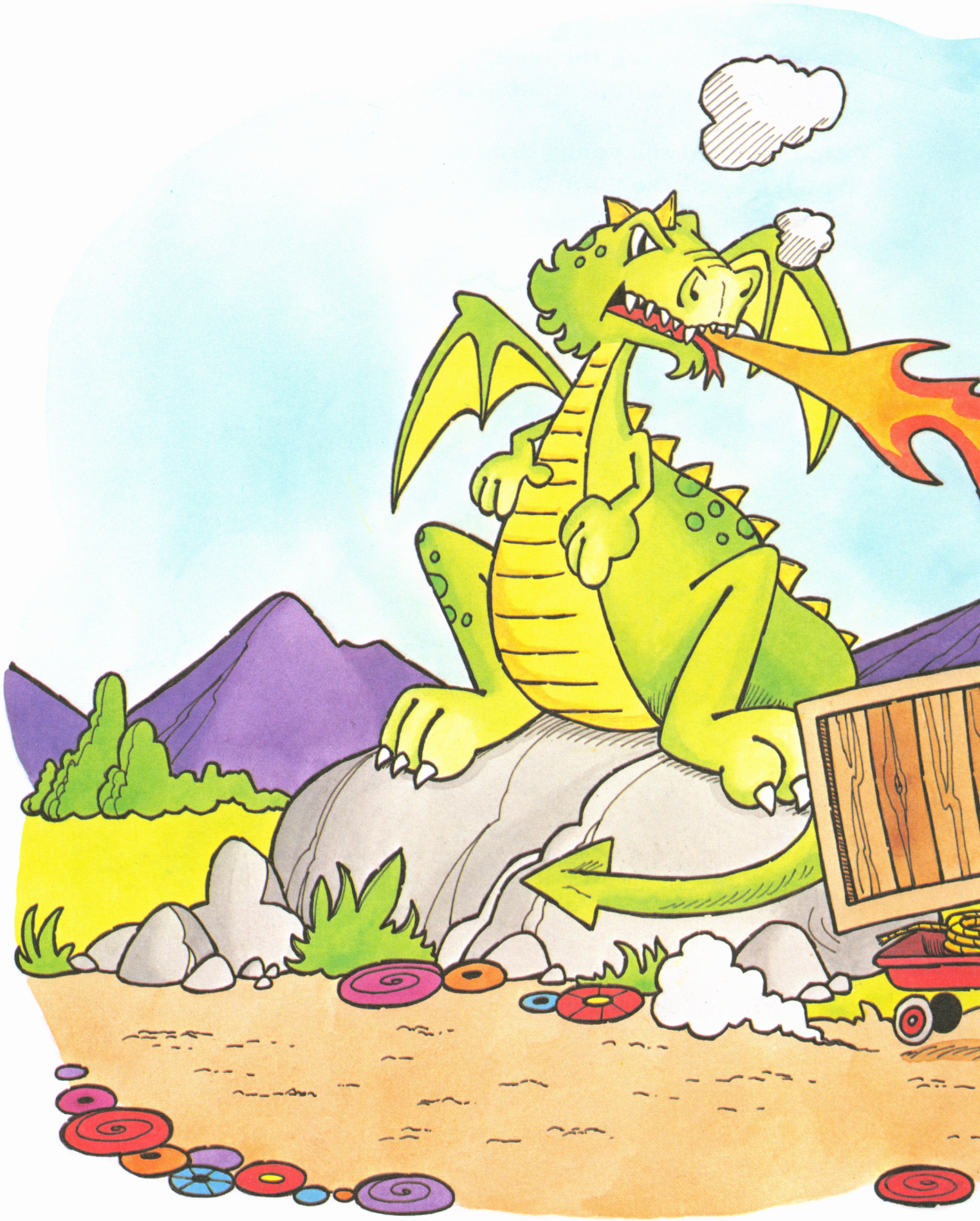
"As he rolled down the trail, / dad exclaimed, 'Oh, dear me!
A mad baby dragon / wants to bite at my knee!'

"Dad slapped the young dragon / on top of its snout,
Which scared the poor baby, / and it started to pout.



"Though pouting and scared, / it would try one more game.
It would frighten off dad / with its best dragon flame.

"The dragon was close / dad could feel its warm breath
When it tried to belch flame, / it could only go



"The small baby dragon / had a mother much bigger
Which made dad skate by / with speed and great vigor.

"When the dragon's long tongue / from her mouth darted out,
Flames belched from her stomach / smoke streamed from her snout.

"Though he cared more for skating / than for hearing it breathe,
When its sound came with smoke, / he could hear and see





"He needed a plan / to discourage this dragon
From chasing him home / and fixing his wagon.

"He took out a rope / that he used to send twirling.
He started it spinning / and soon it was whirling.



"When the dragon saw daddy / twirling his rope,
On chasing him home / she gave up all hope.

"'Well, wow, we are winning, / wap, wack, we have won!'
went his rope / as dad sung his fun.



"When dad reached the castle, / which didn't take long,
He rang the front bell, / the shiny brass gong.

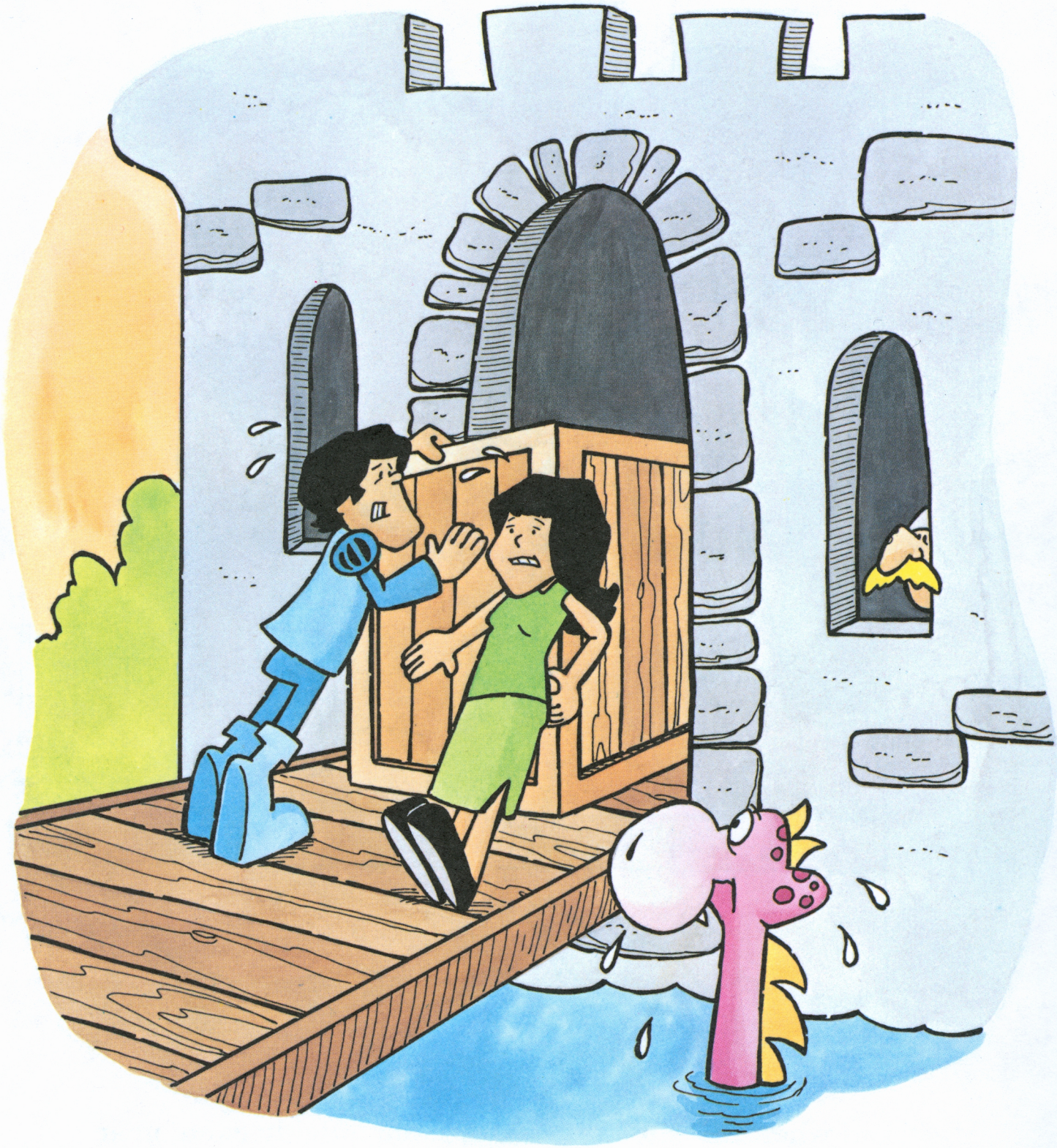
"This gong when struck lightly / made a sound as it rung
That wasn't quite bell-like / it was more like a



"And when the queen heard it, / she quickly came near
To see who had rung it / and why who was here.

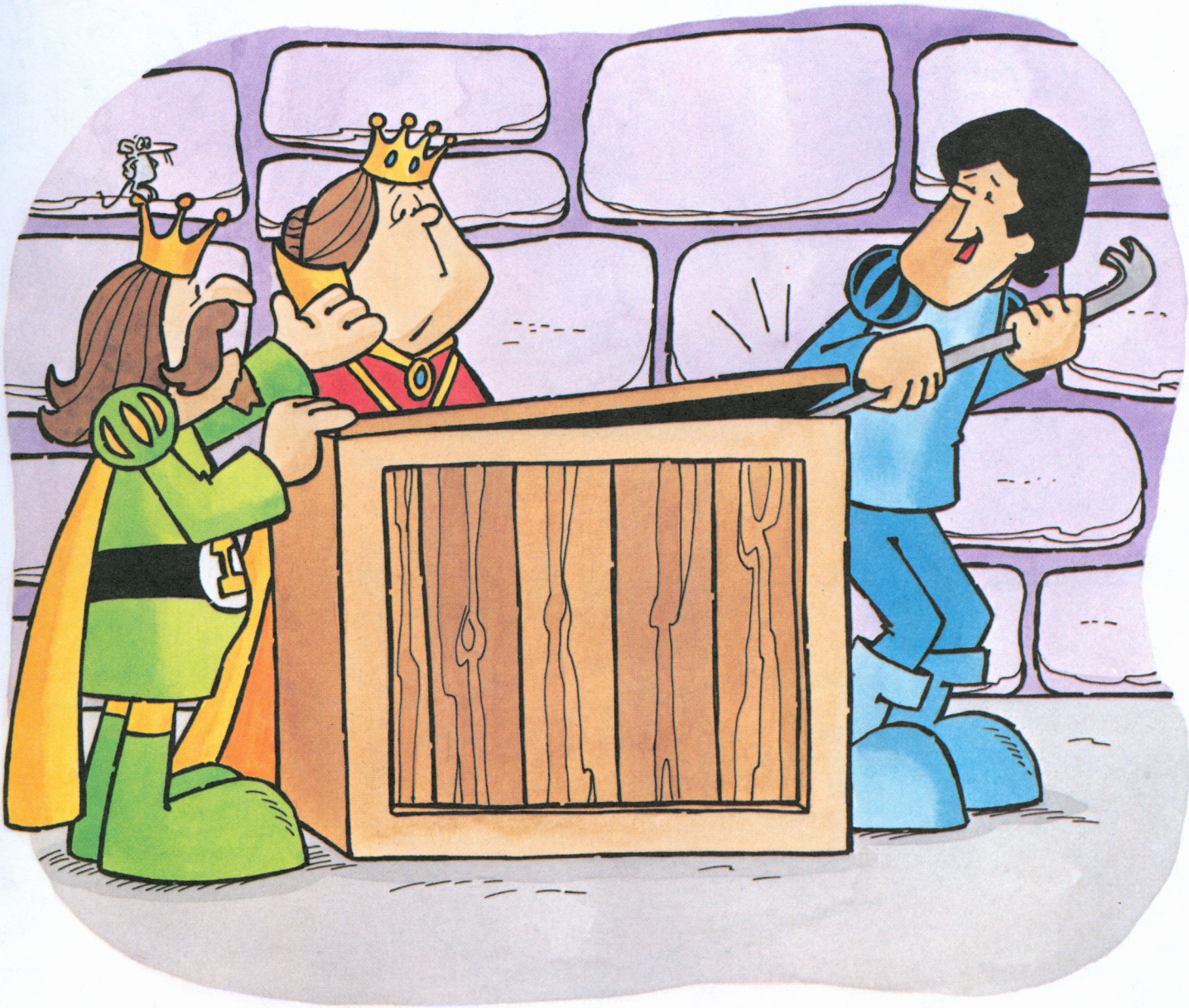
"'Oh, queen, wake the baby / and please call the king.
Outside is a box / that will end this whole thing.'

"'Well, I'll fetch the king / while you get your carton,
But I won't wake the baby / for his cries I'd be startin'.'



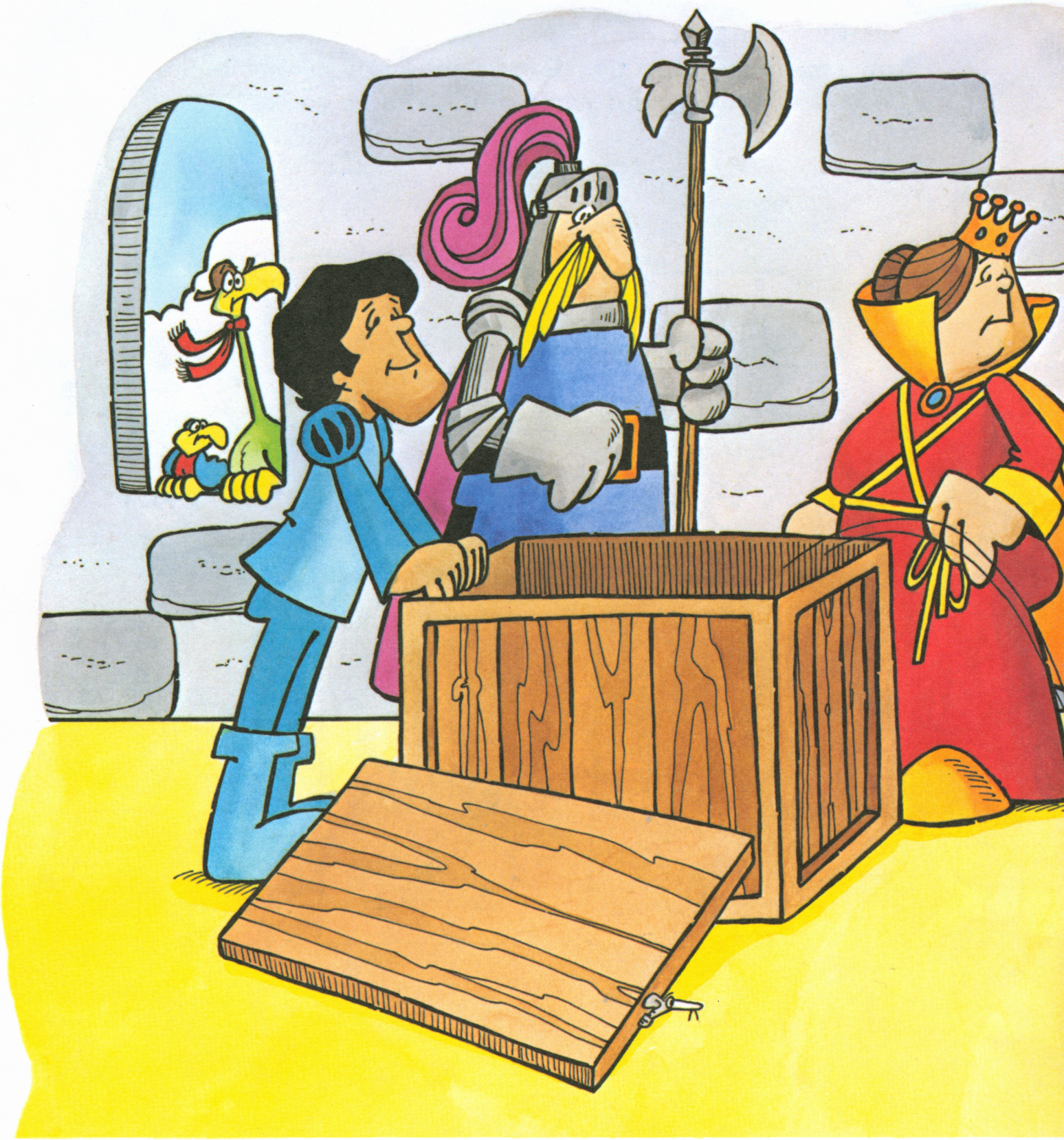
"'This box is quite heavy, / could you help me to push  ?
 ! Should push! Could push! /  Push, foot, push! Good!  !'

"'Now you must show us / what you've got in that box.
We see it is heavy, / did you bring us some rocks?'



"'No...I've found for your son / a most lovable pet.
I think she's the nicest / that I've ever met.

"'But since she's quite young, / she's still with her mother.
And the rest of the weight / allows for her brother.'



"'Are you through with your talk? / May we see her this year?
We can hear her small noise; / the sound is a  . . . hear?"



"Before they could peer / in the box to learn more,
A fluffy new puppy / bounced out on the floor.

" was the sound / that this ball of fluff made,
And she ran all around. / She was hardly afraid!



"They woke up the baby / so the pup he could see;
And he laughed and he giggled / and his eyes filled with glee.

"The queen said, 'That puppy's / so fluffy, gee whiz!
To blow on her fur / makes the sound that  is.'

"Then the king said to dad, / 'What's the very best thing
We could offer to you / besides being king?'

"'I'm really quite happy / just the way things are now,
But I'll give it some thought. / I'll make that my vow.'





"So dad thought and he thought / and finally he said,
'You know, there are these sounds / that I've got in my head.

"'They're the sounds that I heard / as I scurried about
As I searched for whatever / would stop that long pout.'

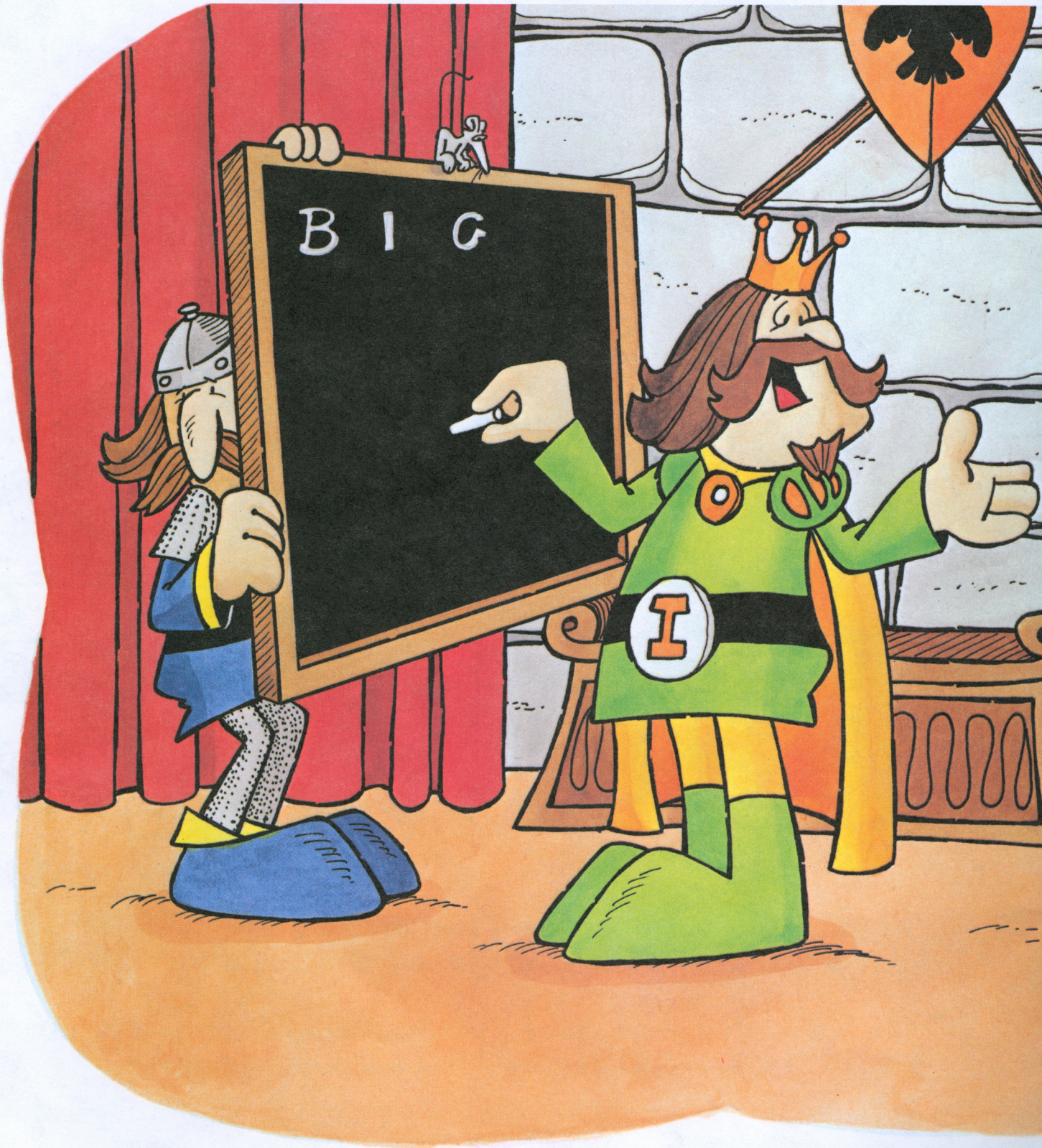


"'Could it be done? / Or am I too bold?
I'd like that each person / of my sounds be told.'

"'We'll do better than that / with those sounds in your head.
Why, we'll toss out all letters / and use sounds instead!'

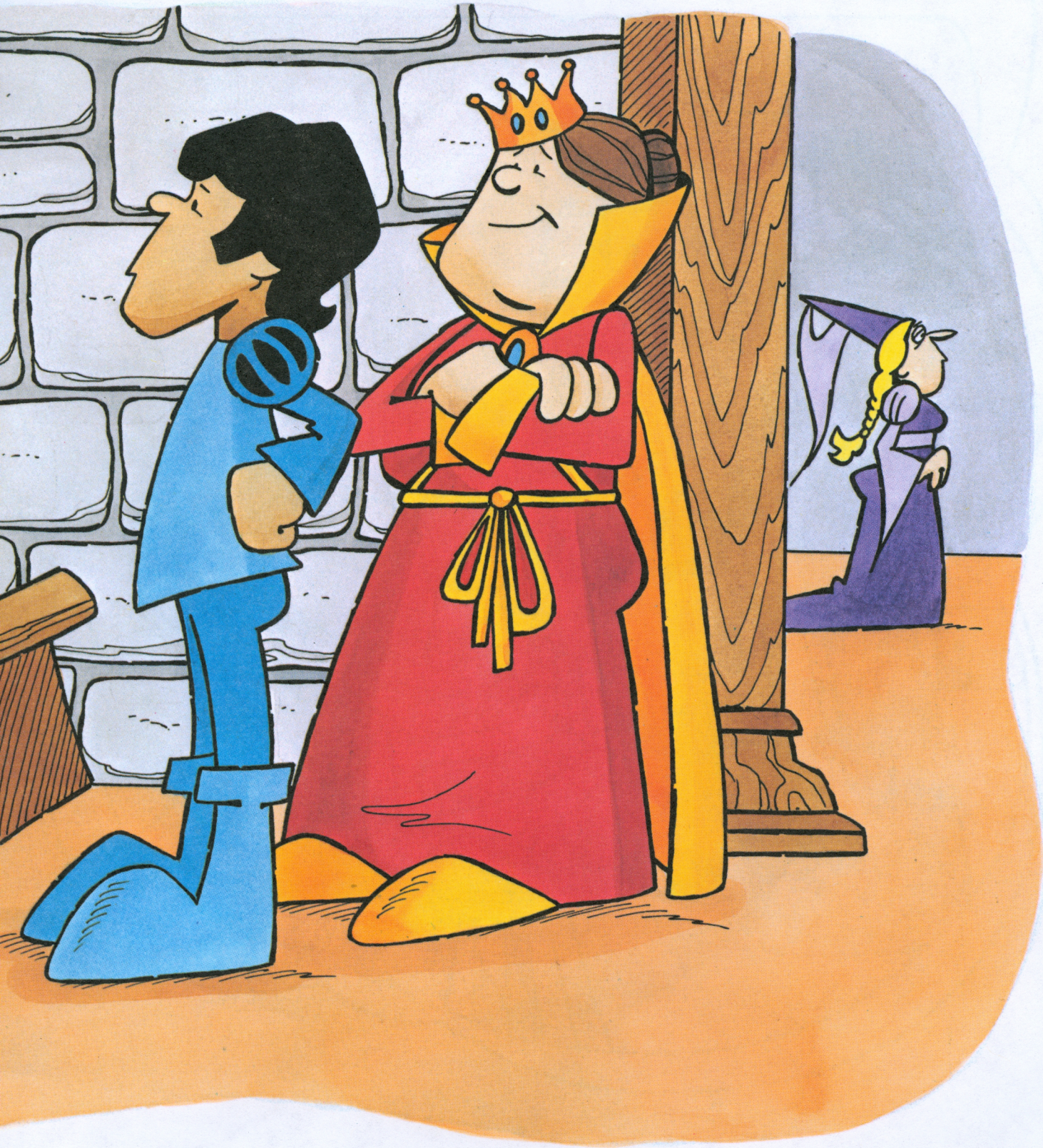
"'Where now we use letters / to make up a word,
We'll make up a picture / for each sound you've heard.

"'Each picture will show / how that one sound is said,
And we'll put them together / so that words can be read.



"'Some pictures we'll get / from the sounds in your tale.
Any more that we need / we'll find without fail.

"'I'm sure that we'll need, / oh, at least forty-four,
And from your adventures / we'll get twenty or more.



"'For each of the rest / we'll hunt out a sound
Until we are sure / enough sounds we have found.

"'And for each of the sounds / we'll draw up a picture
So people will know / all our sounds in the future.'



"Though their plan was quite good, / they made one mistake
Which is why this whole land / has its present heartache.

"As the king and his friend / were discovering each sound,
They forgot to let on / where each could be found.

"So now they're both gone / and as you of course know,
There's no one to tell us / much to all of our woe.

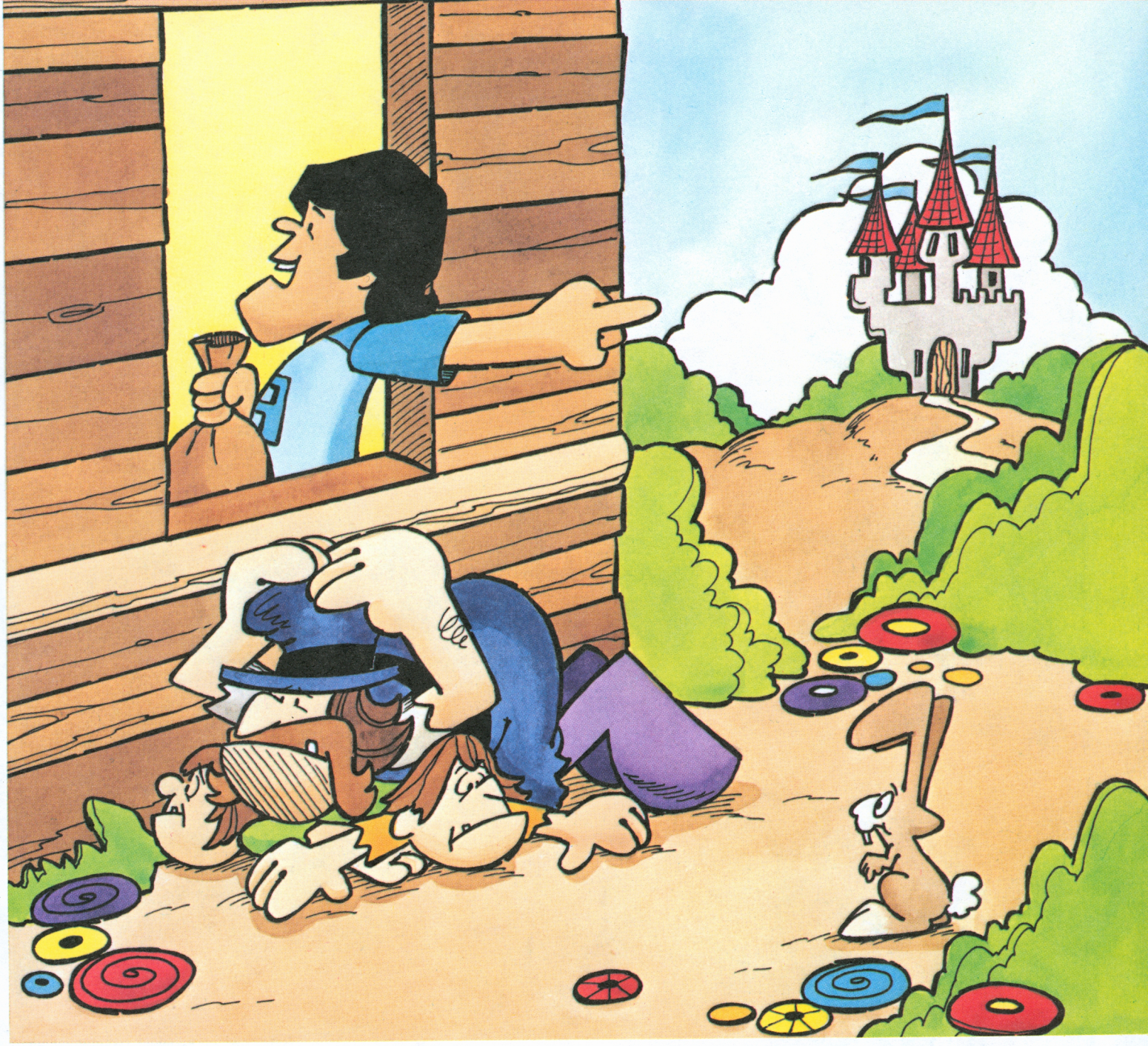




"And that is the story / you came here to learn;
But before you go back, / I'll add a good turn.

"I'll tell you all something / so lend me an ear."
Then  spoke so softly / each strained close to hear.

Then he gave them three cards / which he wrapped in a rag,
Said, "Wait here a moment / while I fetch you the bag.



"If you take the three cards / to the castle you'll see,
There's a sound for each one / which will help all you three.

"I've already whispered / what this bag will be for.
Please save it for last / when you search sounds no more.

"And now that you know / all that I have to tell,
Go back to the castle; / make sure this ends well!"

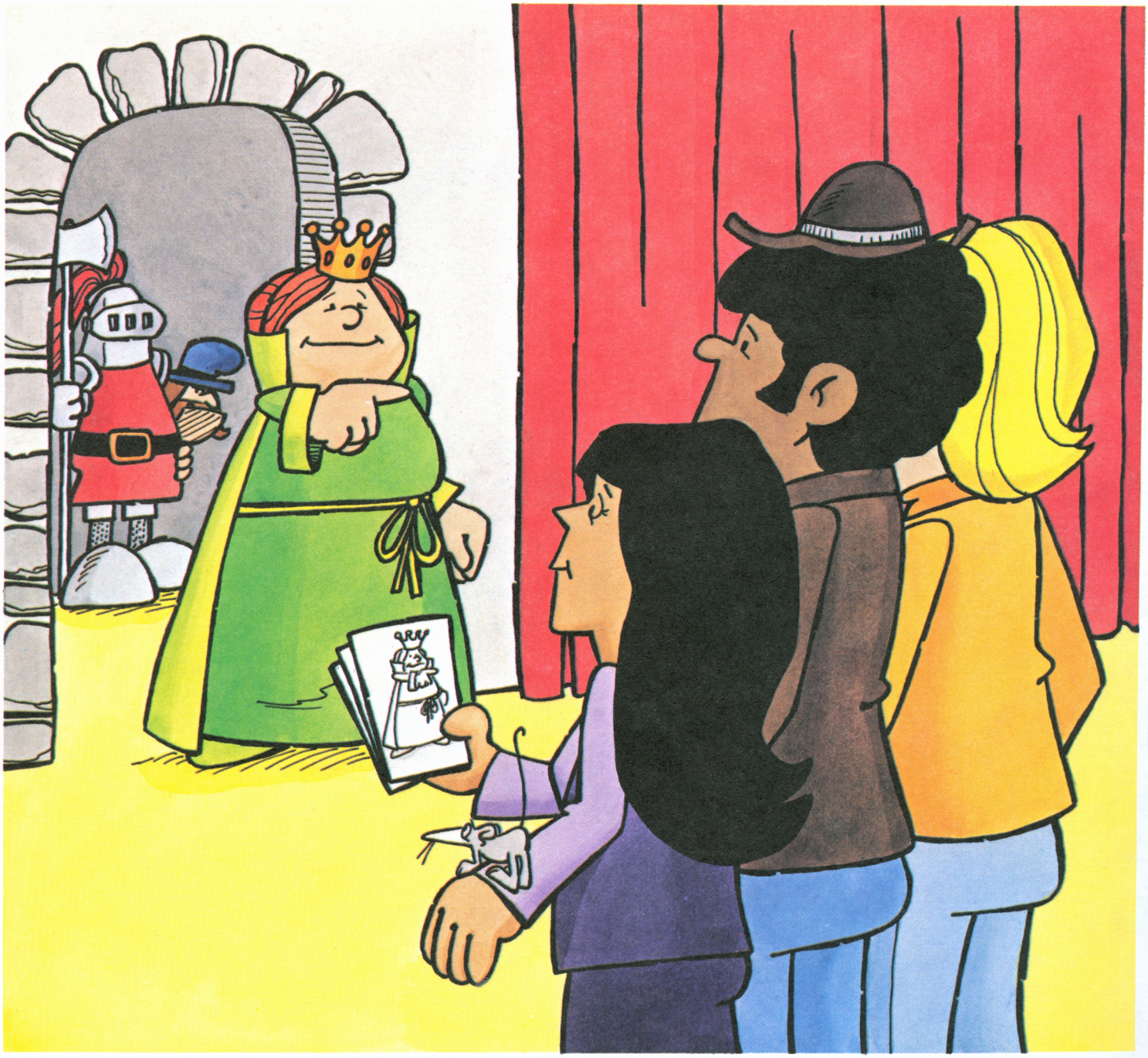


But secretly hiding / as our heroes went out,
Zee, Meanie and Moley / heard all without doubt.

As  told his tale / Zee heard each new sound,
And did he know now / where the next could be found?

Zee said, "There's no rush! / Let's continue to lurk,
We'll follow the others; / let them do the work!"


OZ



Our three reached the castle / with their pictures in hand
And they learned the next sound / from the queen of the land.

The very first picture / was her highness the queen.
Since they'd not met her, / to meet now would be keen.

"Please pardon our manners, / but we'd like to meet you."
"Well, consider it done / for you've said my name, "

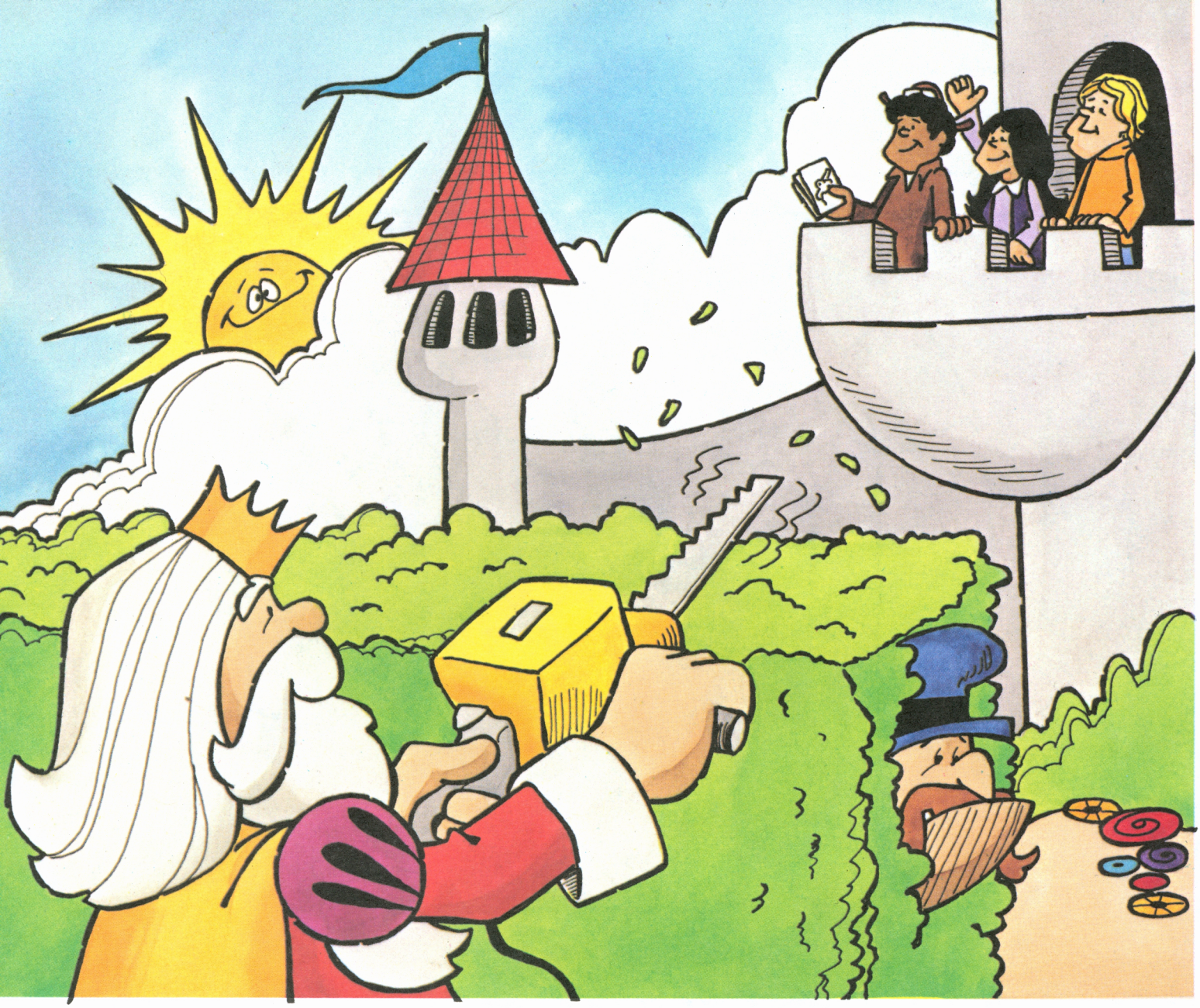


"Do you have on your stove / a big kettle that's black?"
"Why, I certainly do. / That pot's in the back."

They could hear the big pot / for within it brewed mush,
And that thickish brown stuff / would not cook in a rush.

As the queen's quiet quagmire / did quiver and quake,

was the sound / they could hear the mush make.



"Oh, queen, now please tell us. / May we find the king?
We need one more sound now / to solve the whole thing."

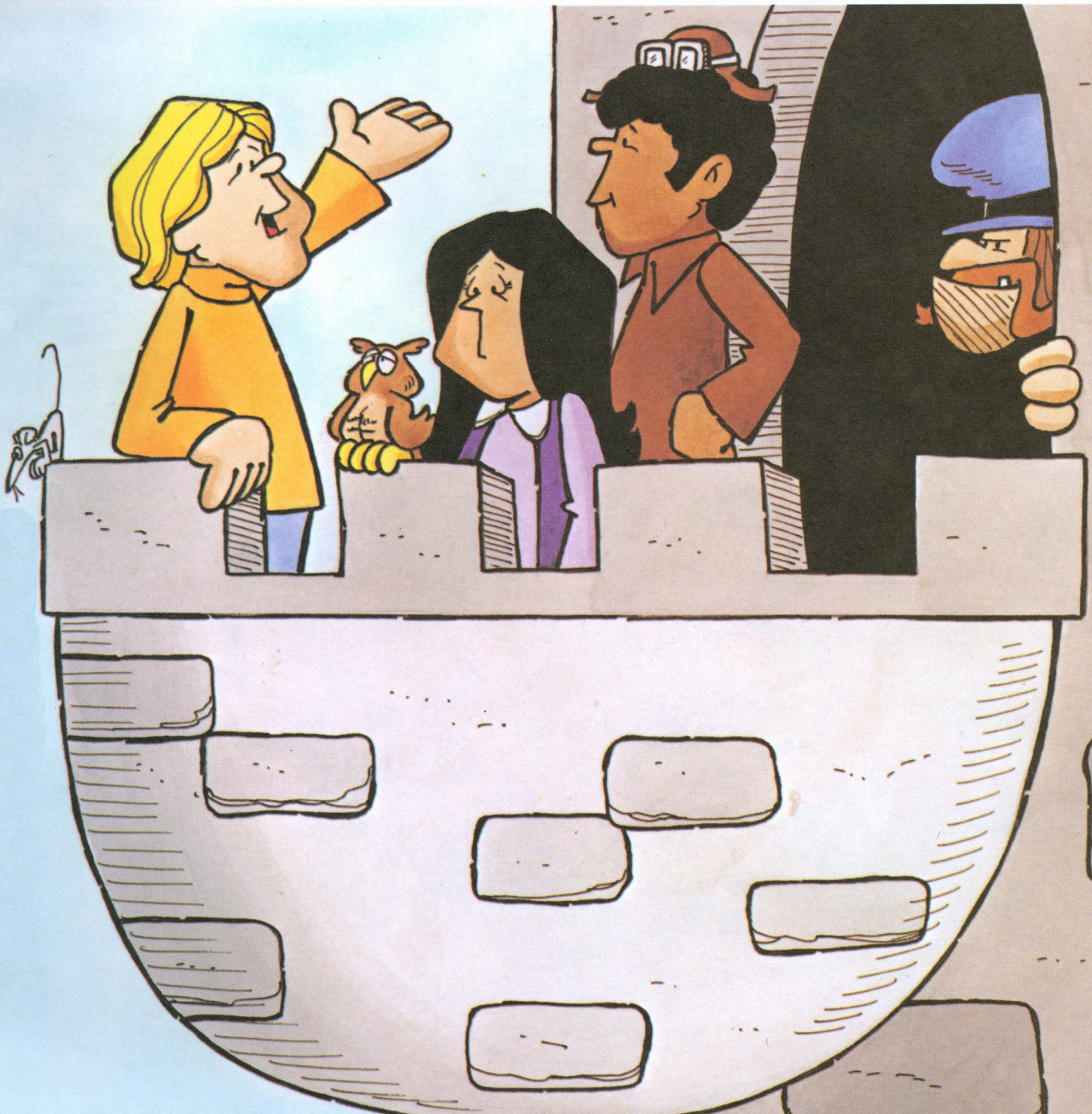
"He's out in the garden; / he's trimming the hedge.
You'll find him with ease / if you look from the ledge."

Our three went outside / with their pictures in hand.
Before long they saw him, / he was tending his land.

His clippers were plugged / to a cord that was beige.
The work from the trimming / made the clippers say

"Well, finally we've done it! / That's the very last sound!
Let's go to the king / and tell all that we've found."

But there in the shadows / lurked Zee and his friends.
They knew the sounds, too. / Can you guess how this ends?



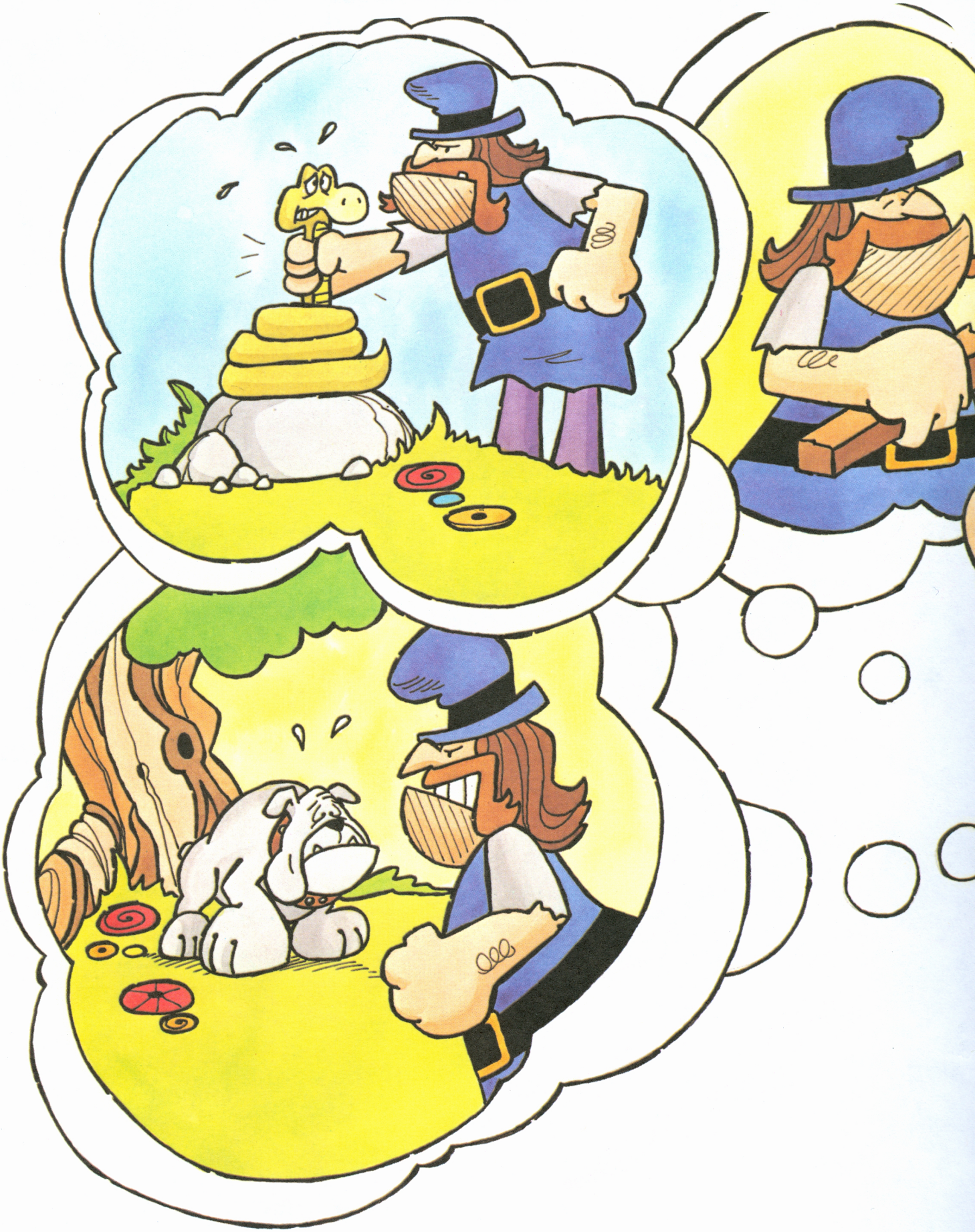


Like lightning with grease on / Zee's three darted by.
Would the next king be Zee, / the first to King ?



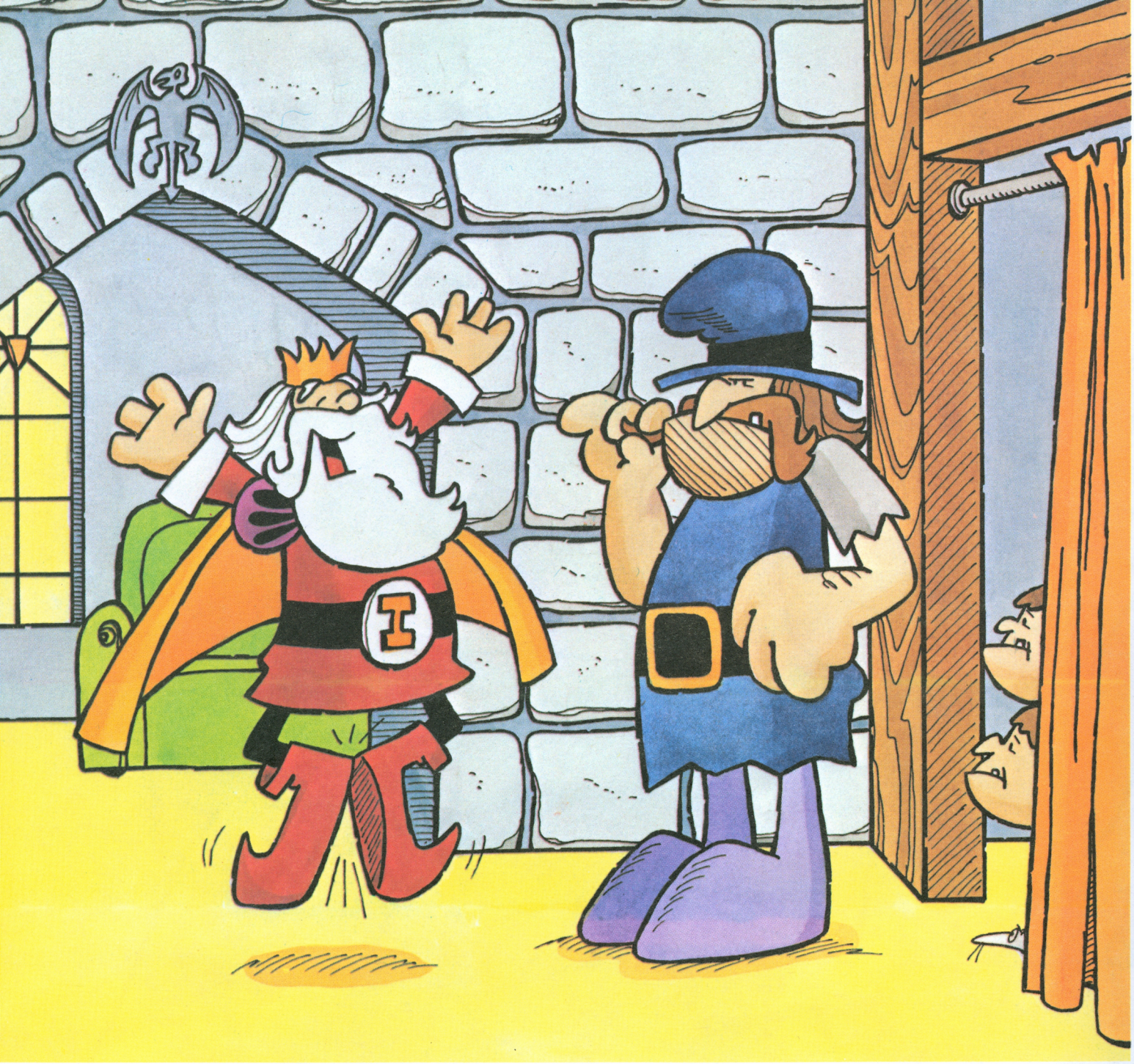
Zee said to the king, / "I've all the sounds now!"
The king looked so sick. / Would he honor his vow?

"As sad as I am, / I'm still a good sport.
Though I wish you had lost, / I will hear your report."





So Zee with much flair / told the king of each sound
Of how he had looked / 'til all he had found.

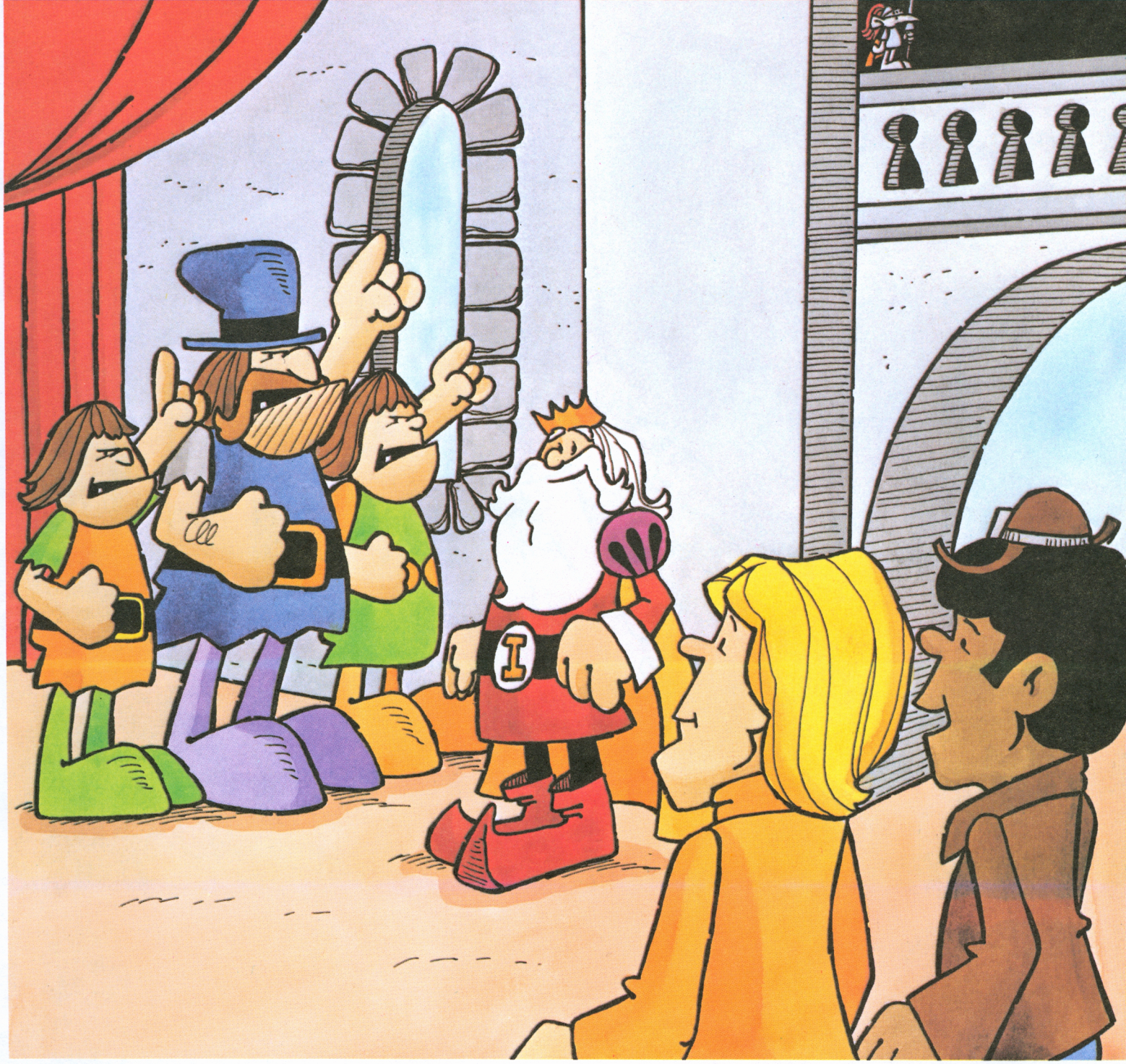


Zee's story was long, / but the king heard it through.
And when Zee was finished, / the king smiled... forty-two!

"You've forty-two sounds now, / and that's not enough.
You almost were king, Zee. / 'Twas a very good bluff.

Zee looked at the king, / eyes filled with surprise,
"Can it be your three friends / are all guilty of lies?

"We heard each one saying / they found the last sound.
We saw them all dancing; / they went round and around."



Then Neal and Curly / walked up to the king
And said, " gave us / one last little thing."

"Tina will bring it / she'll be here soon now.
That we'd save it for last /  made us each vow."

"Oh! That's really not fair!" / stammered Zee and his sons.
"You said it. We heard it. / We'd the very last ones."

"What we said was quite true / as you'll soon plainly see
For the sounds in the bag / won't be new to you three.



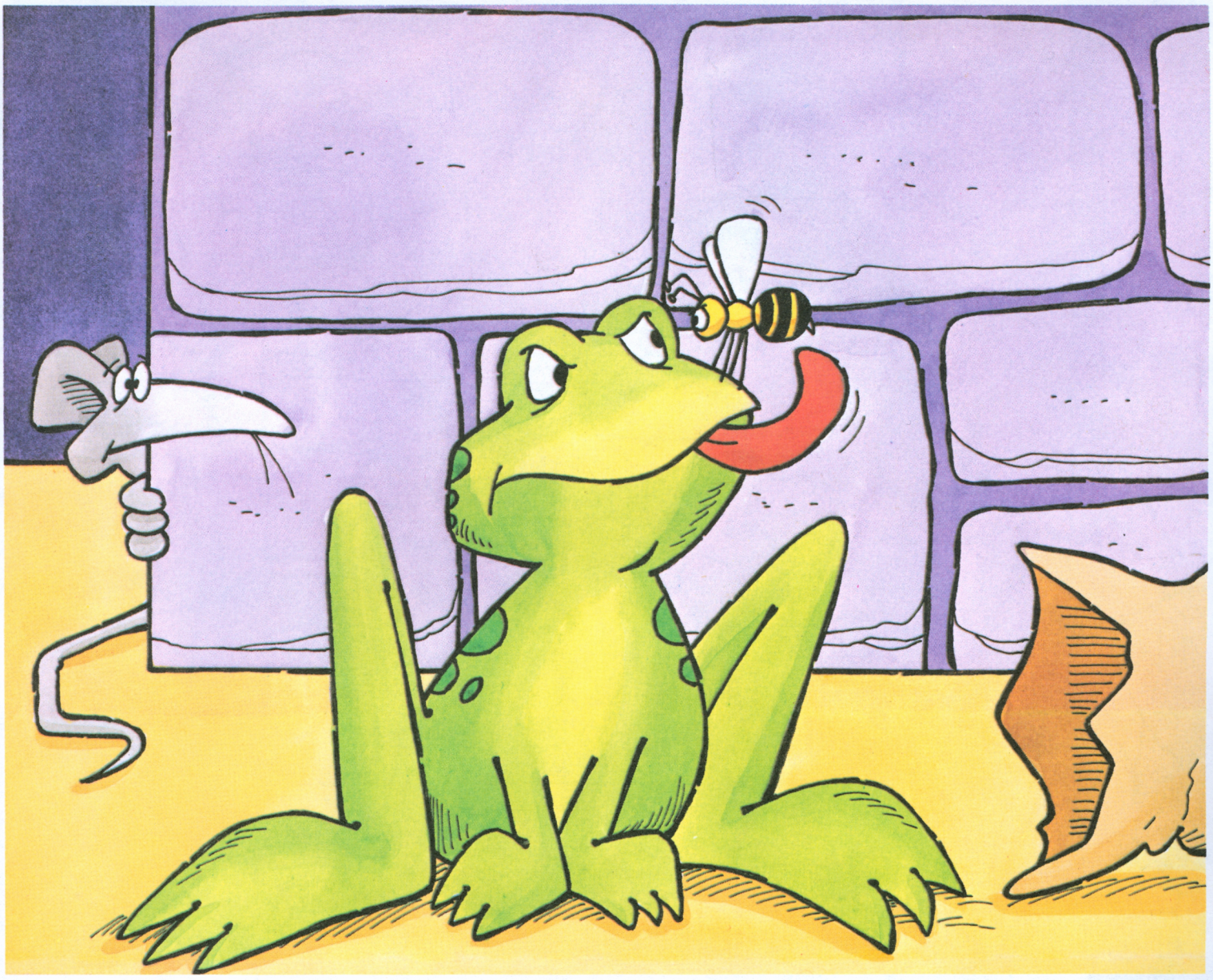
"Now that Tina is here / we can open the bag,
And we'll see what it was / that has made the bag sag."



Out slithered a snake / and he looked like he'd bite!
So they picked up a stick / and they gave it a smite!

 went the stick / as it broke on the snake.
 went the snake / as they made its head ache.

 was a new sound / the bag had revealed.
Dare they look in again? / What else might it yield?



The next thing they pulled out / didn't give them a fright,
But a bee on a frog / really made quite a sight.

The bee on the frog / was quite pleased where he was,
But the frog's thoughts were different; / he'd like some of that fuzz.

The frog made a  / and snapped its long tongue.
The bee made a  / 'til that tongue he had stung.

 was the sound / from the frog and the bee,
And at last Curly said, / "All the sounds we now see."

"My friends, you're the winners; / you finished the chore.
You found every sound; / you have all forty-four."

Zee said, "They have cheated! / It's not fair at all."
King  said with anger,/ "Get over that wall!"

Zee, Meanie and Moley / rushed off in great haste.
They had tried their best worst, / now a mad king they faced.



"At last you have done it, / but three can't be king.
Who is it to be? / Should you flip for the thing?"

"Yes, tossing a coin / is a good way of choosing.
It's such a fair way / that we won't get mad losing."

So the king tossed the coin / and when he was done,
There were two that had lost, / and Curly had won.

Then Tina and Neal / said, "Curly's the king!
And since we like Curly, / that's a very good thing."



So Curly is king now / but he's Curly no more.
His title is 'king' / and he thrives on the chore.

While King  showed Curly / the secrets of leading,
King Curly taught  / with the sounds about reading.



They all lived on happily / to wonder / no need
But the happiest of all / was an old king / who could read.


THE
END!